

Belleville Congregational Church



MISSION OF BELLEVILLE CHURCH

Centered in the inclusive love of Jesus Christ, we seek to be a welcoming, affirming, and healing congregation. Led by the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to grow and be renewed through our worship, fellowship, Scripture study and the sharing of our gifts. Strengthened by God's love and guidance, we strive to serve with compassion those in need, both near and far.

Ponderings	1
Roots Music	2 & 3
Boston String Quartet	4
Calendar	5
Birthdays, Service Club, Thrift Shop &	
Coffee Hour, Scripture Readers & Ushers	7
Book discussion, Advent Candle Lighting & Help Decorate the Meeting House	8
Contacts	9

Dear Friends,

Our Holy Season has come once again, and with it an abundance of opportunities and plans... perhaps an "over-abundance!" How can we possibly do all the things we would like to do? Christmas concerts alone can make for a few more outings every week. Add the decorating and the shopping, and that can fill all available "free time" in early December..... oops, I mean the day after Thanksgiving!

Christmas is a time when it is difficult to try to simplify our living. In my bachelor days, I know I tried to simplify and shorten decorating time, hence a miniature three foot tree, lights on only part of the bushes in front of the house, and candles in only some of the windows! Such a conundrum, how to simplify, yet not be a Scrooge!

While marriage seems to have multiplied social opportunities and involvements, I still have this inner voice that calls me to simplify, to follow the inward journey that is part of this Holy season. Advent is traditionally a time of waiting, a time for some introspection, and our wintry nights assist this mood with longer nights and more time indoors.

The "excesses" of Christmastime also have to do with the insistence on "cheer," when we know that the mood cannot be conjured up, nor is it pervasive for a full month! Indeed as the nights lengthen, many can easily get depressed, especially if there have been family losses during winter months. Accordingly the Holidays can be for many a time where introspection can help to heal, where slowing down (rather than trying to do everything) can be the way to wholeness, the way to peace and love.

The refrain to a song I wrote a few years ago is as follows: "We need another song to sing this Christmastime, not about gifts or toys, but more about love divine!" The verses point us to the need for compassionate love: "Have you seen the hungry one, who has no place to stay? No room was there at the inn that first Christmas day!" "Have you seen the lonely one whose tears often flow? The one who sits at home alone with no place to go?"

Yes, we need another song at Christmastime, about "love divine all loves excelling," about the babe in whom the "fullness of God was pleased to dwell," about the one whose life teaches us the way, the truth, and the life! Let us choose carefully among all the opportunities before us. Please don't consider Advent worship another obligation, but an opportunity to focus on what really matters, to focus on the Christ of Christmas, and invite his Spirit to dwell within us once more. Please call me if you would like to meet for coffee, etc, to share more about this season, its meaning and memories.

In Christ's Spirit and Love,
Ross



We are thrilled to announce the 2012-2013 season! We have amazing artists coming to grace our stage. Hope you can join in the fun and please help spread the word! Tickets go on sale September 5th. For more information, visit the church website or email us at bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com.



#3 Soul and Blues Concert

Ruthie Foster

Thursday, December 6, 2012, 8 pm

Ruthie Foster has an eclectic music history which produces a combustible blend of soul, blues, rock, folk and gospel. Ruthie was a Grammy Nominee for *The Truth According to Ruthie Foster* (Best Contemporary Blues Album). *The Boston Globe* states: "... when someone with real chops like Ruthie Foster steps up, attention must be paid." *Keyboard Player Magazine* says: "...she is definitely a singer from the old school, whose huge, full-bodied voice has drawn frequent comparisons with such legends as (Aretha) Franklin and Ella Fitzgerald." www.ruthiefoster.com



#4 Mardi Gras Dance and Dinner

Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys

February 8, 2013, 8 pm

This annual event at Belleville has sold out the past two years. This year features the accordion mastery and soulful vocals of front man, Jeffery Broussard. His range, seldom seen in Zydeco, includes traditional songs of the old masters, original tunes, single-note and triple-note accordion, and fiddle. Although accordion is his main instrument, Jeffery plays guitar, bass, fiddle and percussion instruments. *The New York Times* states: "Mr. Broussard and the Creole Cowboys are fabulous. You start moving in your seat as soon as their rhythmic, rich melodies, both joyous and mournful, start filling the theater." www.jefferybroussard.com



#5 St. Patrick's Day Concert & Dinner

Goitse (*Direct from Ireland!*)

March 15, 2013, 8 pm

Goitse is a flourishing, highly-talented, five piece band making a name for themselves as one of the most sought after bands amongst connoisseurs of Irish traditional music. Their fast-paced, energetic playing has seen them enjoying a growing fan base through show stopping performances in Ireland, America, Germany, Finland, Denmark and Africa. <http://goitse.ie/>

Boston String Quartet to Perform at Belleville as Fundraiser!



Haunting French carols, all new stories, and a multimedia adventure through “la ville lumiere” the City of Lights featuring the Boston String Quartet at Belleville Church, 300 High Street, Newburyport, MA, on Sunday, December 16 at 2pm.

The Boston String Quartet returns this holiday season for their 3rd annual Christmas series entitled “Christmas in Paris”. With over 40 showings of their last two series, “Christmas in Buenos Aires” and “A Celtic Christmas Extravaganza”, the Quartet will be exploring Parisian Life by presenting music from hit movies such as Scorsese’s “Hugo” and the French award winning “The Illusionist”, music from the beloved Edith Piaf, and traditional French carols. NEW in 2012 will be soaring videos of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Louvre to accompany the music.

The Boston String Quartet is one of very few string ensembles forging new territory in the string world by writing all original music and arrangements. Contemporaries and collaborators with the Boston String Quartet include ensembles such as the GRAMMY Winning Turtle Island and Kronos Quartets, and string celebrities such as Mark O’ Connor and Edgar Meyer. “By writing original compositions for string quartet, we are paving a way for our traditional instruments in a world of contemporary music” says cellist, Christina Stripling.

Adopting a daring approach to music entertainment, the Boston String Quartet is a high-energy ensemble with an unconventional emphasis on rhythm and beats. Since its formation in 2004, the Quartet has been a creative leader in fusing contemporary music with classical tradition, and the Boston Globe credits them with continually "exploring different ways of sparking musical interest." The members of the Quartet specialize in retelling modern music with original arrangements of rock, jazz, and world music, and have redefined the twenty-first century classical musician with a complete approach to artistry through composition/arrangement, storytelling, theatrics, and performing.

In addition to its solo work as an ensemble, the Quartet has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to music education through the establishment of mentoring relationships with dozens of secondary schools and colleges throughout the country. To this end, the Quartet has developed three highly sought-after outreach programs and residencies; The Xibus Tour, The Ethno-Urban Orchestra, and The Xibus World Orchestra, through which the ensemble teaches contemporary music techniques and improvisation to music students around the country. Collaborative public performances featuring the Quartet and the student musicians feature compositions and arrangements commissioned for the unique combination of string quartet and orchestra.

Under 18 FREE! Concert tickets are \$20 to the general public. For more information, or to schedule interviews please call (617) 875-7851 or visit www.bostonstringquartet.com.

Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help make the shows a success. Opportunities include: Beforehand: help to spread the word, selling tickets, other planning Day of show: help to set up Stage Room chairs, sell refreshments (benefits Belleville), ticket taking, ushering, etc. If you are interested, please contact Marcia Samuelson at marciasamuelson@msn.com or 978.462.2280.

2012 Calendar

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
2 10:00am Worship 4pm Visionary Book Group.	3 7pm CODA	4 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team	5 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg	6 NO CHOIR 8pm Ruthie Foster Concert	7	8 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
9 10am Worship	10 7pm CODA	11 1:30pm Service Club 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm Stewardship & Finance 7pm Worship & Education	12 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 2pm Roots set-up	13 Recycling 7:30pm Choir Practice	14	15 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
16 10am Worship 2pm Boston String Quartet Concert	17 7pm CODA	18 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 8pm Executive Committee	19 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg	20 7:30pm Choir Practice	21 News & Views deadline	22 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
23 10a m Worship	24 7pm CODA	25 Christmas	26 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	27 7:30pm Choir Practice	28	29 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
30 10a m Worship	31 7pm CODA					



Service Club

The December 11th meeting of the Service Club will be held in the Bannister Room at 1:30.

We will be having our annual Christmas party with refreshments, a Yankee Swap, and carol singing with Ross playing the piano.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

December

- 1 Jim Marshall
- 2 Stephen Middler
- 12 William Webber Jr.
- 20 Jean Kirkpatrick
- 20 Stacy Baratelli
- 22 Scott Smith 90th!
- 24 Jennie Delong

January

- 1 Bob Locke
- 5 Kip Tyler
- 7 David Wood
- 12 James Guyette
- 15 Jennifer Locke
- 23 Robert Crofts



**Open every Wednesday and Saturday
9am – noon.**

Scott Smith's 90th Birthday Celebration

Please join us at the Atria Merrimack Place's country kitchen on Saturday, December 22 from 2 – 4pm here in Newburyport. Please contact Karen Conway at 978-465-5719 if you have any questions.



SCRIPTURE READERS

December

- 2 Bill Silsby
- 9 Emery Rice
- 16 Nancy Smith
- 23 Marion Spark
- 24 Hunter Anderson
- 30 Peggy Utterback

If you cannot read on the date that you have been assigned, no worries, just call the next person on the list or send out an email and trade.

Peace,
Gail



Coffee Hour

December 2012

- 12/2 Sue Wolfendale, Marge Killam & Anna Guyette
- 12/9 Mardee Beuparlant, Norma Dean & Lynn Varney
- 12/16 Diane Crofts & Jean Hansen
- 12/23 Audrey Clarkson, Lori Wiswell & Debra Moore
- 12/30 No Coffee Hour –Holiday Weekend

January 2013

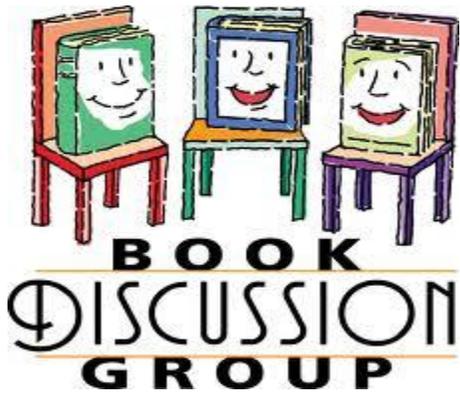
- 1/6 Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson & Carolyn Kyle
- 1/13 Nancy Canali, Gail Gandolfi & Jane Thomas
- 1/20 Shirley Locke, Karen Conway & Marcia Samuelson
- 1/27 Mary Lou Tyler & Diane Crofts

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and notify the rest of the volunteers. This schedule is also posted on the bulletin board. Please feel free to swap around with anyone if the assigned week is a conflict for you.

The church will supply the napkins, cups, plates, coffee, cream, sugar and juice.



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|------------------------|----|--|
| <u>December</u> | 2 | Shirley Locke & Ben Heersink |
| | 9 | Gail Gandolfi & Bob Locke |
| | 16 | Jean Kirkpatrick & Audrey Clarkson |
| | 23 | Ann Guyette & Rita Vreeland |
| Christmas Eve | 24 | The Anderson Family – Kelly, Bill, Hunter and Michelle |
| <u>January</u> | 6 | COMMUNION Gail Gandolfi & Kathy Raywood |
| | 13 | Bob & Shirley Locke |
| | 20 | Jean Kirkpatrick & Jon Pearson |
| | 27 | Norma & Timothy Dean |



Adult book discussion: Marcus Borg, *Speaking Christian* will begin on December 2nd in the parlor at 11:15 after worship. Sign-up sheet will be available at coffee hour or see Kelly or Gail.



The Christmas season is upon us! Worship and Education is looking for Advent readers for Hope, Peace, Joy (Love has already been spoken for by Lynne and Ross Varney) and the Christmas Eve lighting. If you would like to volunteer this year please let us know. The first Sunday of Advent is December 2nd.

Kelly Burke-Anderson, Gail Gandolfi, Sue Heersink and Lynn Varney
Board of Worship and Education

Advent Candle lighting



Help decorate the Meeting House for Christmas on Sunday December 2 after coffee hour. Many hands make light work!

Belleville Congregational Church

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Church Staff & Contact Information

Pastor Ross Varney **978-462-4899**

Office hours: Tuesday 11 AM - Noon;
Wednesday-Thursday 10:30 AM - Noon;
or by appointment, suggested Wed/Thur.
evenings

Please call to assure the pastor is available

Church Office **978-465-7734**

Valerie Gates, Office Administrator

Office hours: Tuesday Thursday, and
Friday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Church Email: bcchurch@worldpath.net

Website: www.bellevillechurch.org

David Morrow, Organist/Choir Director
Bob Locke, Sexton

Newsletter Submissions:

Do you have an article that you would like
to include in the monthly newsletter?

If so, please submit your article to the
church office by the 20th of each month.

Thank you!

Church Officers:

Moderator

William Silsby

Clerk

Jean Hansen

Treasurer

Mary Lou Tyler

Collector

Assistant Treasurer

William Silsby

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Auditor

Jim Samuelson

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Brenda Marshall

[Vacancy](#)

Contact Persons:

Board of Fellowship & Outreach

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship & Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship & Finance

Hans Erwich

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson