

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.

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Dear Friends,

On February 14, would we rather receive a lecture on love, or some act of loving kindness? Beliefs or actions?

I will be away that Sunday, visiting my brother in Pennsylvania, and will play for his church one of my favorite songs about love, called "The Greatest Love." It refers to Jesus' love, and has the words "but if I give my life to save you, this is the greatest love of all!" The Good News is about self-giving love.

I happened to have just returned educational DVDs that a group from Texas was promoting. First of all it was too expensive, but more importantly, it had heavy emphasis on conversion, on the basis of a rational argument that Jesus is the "Only Way" to heaven. The concluding scene has the speaker standing next to the Valley of Armageddon, sure of a literal battle there, and also very sure that all those who "believe" Jesus is the only Way to God will be on the winning side. Those who don't believe that way will be on the "wrong side of the battle." So the efforts to convert the listener to Christ were part rational arguments, and partly an appeal to fear, in my opinion.

Again, is having a relationship with God more about what we think, or about what we do? While both are important, I put more emphasis on the latter, and Jesus himself said that it is "by our fruits" we are known. I think God may care more if we are loving and just toward our neighbor, than exactly what we believe about paths to achieve such love. One of the foremost New Testament scholars, Dr. Bruce Metzger, when I was his student at Princeton, once made a comment to me regarding the red-letter versions of Bible, "Isn't it more important what Jesus DID than what Jesus said?" Sure, both beliefs and actions do have their place, but Jesus' life (and giving up his life due to his great love) says the most in my opinion, just as actions speak louder than words.

So I will close here, lest I betray my thesis with many words. I will simply say that, particularly between Christmas and Easter, we have a great opportunity to study Jesus LIFE, who he is, how he loved people and also what he taught. It's a great chance to invite people to church to hear about Jesus' life and his teachings, especially how he put his teachings into practice. Let's follow this great leader and find salvation/wholeness in the ways that we follow, in the ways that we put words into action, and put "love divine" into our very being and attitudes. Amen?

Yours in Christ's love, Ross Varney

**NOTICE: Please notice the newly updated website with pictures and events!
Special thanks to our web designer, Tania Harrison of Line by Line Web Design, for donating her time and talents to make all of these updates.**

Service Club

On Sunday February 13th the Service Club will be holding this year's "Bakeless Bake Sale" during coffee hour. This year will be a little different. We will have a table filled with the favorite recipes of our Service Club members. For a donation (of any amount) you can pick up a new recipe. If anyone, not in the club, would like to donate a recipe (5 copies please) please give them to Sue Wolfendale anytime before the 13th. Any would be greatly appreciated.

The women will not be meeting again until March 15.

The spring rummage sale will be held on Saturday, April 16 and setup will be on Friday, April 15.

The outside yard sale will be June 18.

See you in the spring.

February

1 Rebecca Whitney
3 Peggy Utterback
4 Robert Gould
5 Jane Thomas
10 Carlton Brown
13 Emery Rice
15 Dot Williamson
15 Marion Spark
16 Nancy Brown
22 George Beuparlant
27 Anna May Guyette
27 Peggy VanAmburg

March

3 Patrick Harrison
3 Douglas Heine
5 Linda Farmer
5 Lily Delong
9 Cathie Gould
15 Hunter Anderson
19 Barbara Colten
19 Phoebe Lanham
21 Diana Bondar
23 Heather Brown
23 Steven Locke
26 Emily May
28 Diane Crofts
30 Alexandra Gould

Happy Birthday

Please let me know of any birthdays that are not included in the list. Thank you.

Brenda Marshall

Women's Discussion Group

The Women's Discussion Group is looking for new members. We meet twice a month for fellowship and meaningful discussion on a variety of topics from science to religion to ethical issues to current events to everything in between. Currently we are meeting the first and third Monday of each month but would be willing to do another day or time if there is enough interest. If you are interested, please email or call Cathie Gould at 978-463-0507 or catherine_gould@hotmail.com and include what day and time works for you.

It's a new year in service to Belleville. 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

SCRIPTURE READERS LIST 2011

Jan. 30 Jim Marshall

Feb. 6 Cathy Morrow

13 Maria Niswonger

20 Geoff Raywood

27 Bill Silsby

Mar. 6 Nancy Smith (978-358-7098)

13 Marion Spark

20 Peggy Utterback

27 Kelly

Apr. 3 Karen

10 Gail

17 Carolyn (call)

24 Jim

May 1 Cathy

8 Maria

15 Geoff

22 Bill

29 Nancy (call)

June 5 Marion

12 Peggy

19 Kelly

26 Karen

July 3 Gail

10 Carolyn (call)

17 Jim

24 Cathy

31 Geoff

Aug. 7 Bill

14 Nancy (call)

21 Marion

28 Peggy

Sept. 4 Kelly

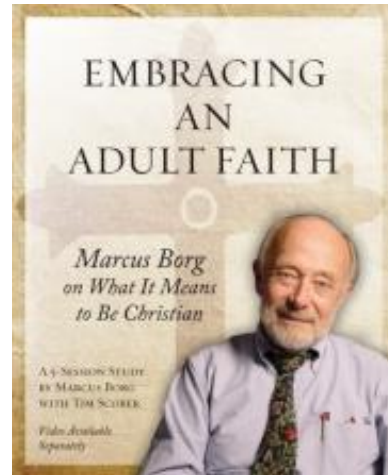
11 Karen

18 Gail

25 Carolyn (call)

Oct. 2 Jim

Upcoming Adult Education Series Thursdays in Lent at 7:15 p.m.



Through the DVD series, "Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What it Means to Be Christian", author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg invites us to join him in revisiting Christianity's most fundamental questions:

- Who is God?
- What does salvation mean?
- What place does Jesus hold in contemporary Christian faith?

In this five-session, faith-formation resource, participants witness Marcus in dialogue with a small, diverse group of adults as they honestly -- and sometimes painfully -- confront the big questions and work together toward authentic answers.

Meetings will be March 10, 17 & 24 and April 7 & 14. There will not be a meeting on March 31.

Dr. Scott Smith to Speak at Belleville

Dr. Scott Smith will be speaking on "Circular String Theory: Beyond Einstein and Relativity" on Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Belleville. Dr. Smith will be focusing on time and energy not as imaginary or a "fourth dimension" but as actual spinning momentum.

2011-2012 Coffee Hour List



Feb	6	Sue Wolfendale, Anna Guyette, Brenda Marshall
	13	Diane Crofts, Pam Ellis, Nancy Canali
	20	No Coffee Hour School Vacation
	27	Janet Woodman, Irene Bradford, Jean Kirkpatrick
Mar	6	Mardee Beuparlant, Diana Bondar, Helen Mantarian
	13	Nancy Tsakirgis, Karen Conway, Marcia Samuelson
	20	Peggy Utterback, Rita Vreeland, Kelly Burke-Anderson
	27	Sue Wolfendale, Shirley Locke, Jane Thomas
Apr	3	Sue Heersink, Marion Spark, Bill Silsby
	10	Gail Gandolfi, Maria Niswonger, Norma Dean
	17	No Coffee Hour School Vacation
Apr	24	
Easter		Audrey Clarkson, Diane Crofts, Marylou Tyler
May	1	Kathy Raywood, Jean Kirkpatrick, Helen Hatcher
	8	Nancy Canali, Brenda Marshall, Cynthia Peirce
	15	Janet Woodman, Helen Mantarian, Pam Ellis
	22	Audrey Clarkson, Debra Moore, Bob Gould
	29	No Coffee Hour Holiday Weekend
Sept	4	Holiday Weekend No Coffee Hour
	11	Audrey Clarkson, Diana Bondar, Carolyn Kyle
	18	Lori Wiswell, Dorothy Williamson, Marylou Tyler
	25	Nancy Tsakirgis, Gail Gandolfi, Irene Bradford
Oct	2	Mardee Beuparlant, Pam Ellis, Marge Killam
	9	Shirley Locke, Karen Conway, Brenda Marshall
	16	Sue Wolfendale, Kathy Raywood, Marion Spark
	23	Diane Crofts, Ben Heersink, Debra Moore
	30	Janet Woodman, Rita Vreeland, Jean Kirkpatrick
Nov	6	Gail Gandolfi, Anna Guyette, Sue Heersink
	13	Nancy Canali, Kelly Burke-Anderson, Diana Bondar
	20	Audrey Clarkson, Marcia Samuelson, Jim Marshall
	27	Bob Locke, Nancy Tsakirgis, Irene Bradford
Dec	4	Sue Wolfendale, Kathy Raywood, Marion Spark
	11	Peggy Utterback, Marge Killam, Mardee Beuparlant
	18	Audrey Clarkson, Debra Moore, Lori Wiswell
	25	No Coffee Hour
Jan 2012	1	No Coffee Hour
	8	Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson, Carolyn Kyle
	15	Nancy Canali, Gail Gandolfi, Jane Thomas
	22	Shirley Locke, Karen Conway, Marcia Samuelson
	29	Marylou Tyler, Diane Crofts, Cynthia Peirce

The first person listed is asked to please take charge of the coffee hour for that week and can notify the rest of the committee if needed. This schedule is included in the News and Views and is 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.

Anyone can bring something for coffee hour even if it is not your week. You do not have to be listed to donate. All donations gratefully accepted.

Audrey Clarkson

Diane Crofts

Carolyn Kyle

Nancy Canali

Sue Wolfendale

February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	3 Dr. Smith String Theory 7:30	4	5 Thrift shop 9-noon
6 Worship 10a	7 Women's Discussion?	8 W/E Board	9 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Thrift shop 9-noon
13 Worship 10a Bakeless Bake sale	14	15 Executive Board 7pm	16 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	17	18	19 Thrift shop 9-noon
20 Worship 10a	21 Women's Discussion?	22	23 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	24	25	26 Thrift shop 9-noon
27 Worship 10a	28					

Roots Music Concert Series

A Mardi Gras Celebration, featuring C.J. CHENIER & THE RED HOT LOUISIANA BAND will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011 at 8:00 pm at Belleville Congregational Church. This concert is the kick-off event for the new Belleville Roots Music Concert Series. Concert tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 on the day of the show. A Cajun dinner, including a choice of entrees, beverage, and dessert will be held from 6:00-7:30. Dinner tickets are \$15, and advance purchase is required.

C.J. Chenier, son of the 'King of Zydeco' Clifton Chenier, joined his father's Red-Hot Louisiana Band playing saxophone at the age of 21. After Clifton's death in 1987, C.J. picked up the accordion and took charge of his father's ministry - to spread the word of Zydeco music to the world. Since then, Chenier has pushed the genre to new heights with his virtuosity. The Boston Globe has called him "the crown prince of zydeco," and Living Blues magazine hails him as "the best living zydeco singer and accordionist." His musical style ranges from the traditional zydeco of Clifton Chenier right on up to modern funk with healthy doses of blues, R&B, swamp pop and even country. C.J.'s total mastery of the accordion combined with his rich, satisfying voice are the driving forces behind this power-house zydeco band.



Belleville Congregational Church has longstanding roots in the Newburyport community as a gathering place and supporter of local service organizations. The Roots Music Concert Series, founded in December of 2010, has two important missions. First, the series will bring a variety of high quality Roots Music concerts to the Newburyport area for all to enjoy. The series celebrates music ranging from a capella to zydeco and could include many things in between such as blues, bluegrass, Cajun, Celtic, country, folk, gospel, Irish, jazz, and world music. The second mission of the Roots Music Concert Series is to raise funds to restore and maintain the historic 1867 Belleville Meeting House and adjacent Fiske Chapel complex at 300 High Street in Newburyport, MA. It is hoped that the Meeting House and adjacent complex will continue to serve as a gathering place for many generations to come.

Tickets are available at Dyno Records, 1 Middle Street, Newburyport, MA, at Belleville Congregational Church on Tuesday through Friday mornings from 9 AM -12 noon, online on the church website at www.bellevillechurch.org/music.php or, if available, at the door. For more information, e-mail bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com or visit www.bellevillechurch.org/music.php.

1 Corinthians 13 (Amplified Bible)

⁴Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

⁵It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

⁶It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.

⁷Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

1 Corinthians 13 (New International Reader's Version)

¹ Suppose I speak in the languages of human beings and of angels. If I don't have love, I am only a loud gong or a noisy cymbal. ² Suppose I have the gift of prophecy. Suppose I can understand all the secret things of God and know everything about him. And suppose I have enough faith to move mountains. If I don't have love, I am nothing at all. ³ Suppose I give everything I have to poor people. And suppose I give my body to be burned. If I don't have love, I get nothing at all.

⁴ Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not want what belongs to others. It does not brag. It is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude. It does not look out for its own interests. It does not easily become angry. It does not keep track of other people's wrongs.

⁶ Love is not happy with evil. But it is full of joy when the truth is spoken. ⁷ It always protects. It always trusts. It always hopes. It never gives up.

⁸ Love never fails. 1 Corinthians 13 (New International Version, ©2010)

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13 (The Message)

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,

Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

In the spirit of the upcoming Valentine's Day, and to memorialize all of our departed loved ones, I thought I would share some versions of I Corinthians 13. This Scripture is most often associated with love and probably is one of the best known passages in the Bible. Note how each of these versions differs, and how they are similar.

James Marshall

Belleville Congregational Church

News and Views

300 High Street

Newburyport, MA 01950

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 or Saturday mornings

Please call to assure the pastor is available

Office Administrator Kristy E. Taylor

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to noon

Church Office **978-465-7734**

David Morrow, Organist/Choir Director

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Church Officers:

Moderator

James Marshall

Clerk

Kathy Raywood

Treasurer

Mary Lou Tyler

Collector

Assistant Treasurer

William Silsby

Memorial Fund Treasurer

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Auditor

Jim Samuelson

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

Helen Hatcher

Contact Persons:

Board of Fellowship and

Outreach

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship and Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship and Finance

Bob Locke

Church email address:

bcchurch@worldpath.net

Website:

<http://www.bellevillechurch.org>

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Belleville Church Website is:

<http://www.bellevillechurch.org/>

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson

Sexton

Bob Locke