

## NEWS & VIEWS



### NEW CONNECTOR

#### 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,

I write this on the shortest day of the year. Since we often leave home in the dark, and return home when it is dark, we are especially attentive to the things that add light to our lives. Perhaps in this Christmastide season, we can reflect a bit on how Jesus is Light to our world, remembering our Advent/Christmas themes.

We started with the candle of Hope..... I think Jesus gives us hope because he was so often speaking of the future. The Kingdom of God, as he called it, was always near, or "at hand," so that you get the feeling that around Jesus, something new was often about to happen. Perhaps the closer we walk with Jesus, we shall indeed see new creation all around us.

The next candle was the candle of Peace. Indeed we speak of Jesus as the Prince of Peace. And he was clear in his sermon on the mount that peacemakers are blessed. We know that conflict is not necessarily a bad thing, but often a vehicle to a greater peace. It is often the work for justice, or fairness, that ultimately lets everyone rest with more peace between people. So Jesus clearly worked for peace, by speaking the truth to all, even when it meant he'd be in conflict with norms of his day.

The candle of Joy was the third Advent Candle, to remind us to Lighten Up! Garrison Keillor recently noted that some of the internet's most used sites are the ones on comedy. I hope we can get some comedy going at Belleville (yes, the clean kind!) and I'll be looking for a date in winter or spring for a fundraiser (yes, fun raiser!) Yes, Jesus said he came that our joy might be full. Jesus certainly laughed often; his wit was so keen. Think of Pharisees

Continued on Page 2

"straining out gnats," or camels going through the eye of a needle!

Finally, the candle of Love (the Sunday we had a blizzard!) reminds us that Jesus himself is Love Incarnate. And something about the incarnation reminds us about particularity..... how we are all particular individuals with particular histories, and somehow God loves us all, each in our own way. This is perhaps the greatest gift and task we could have..... to find the ways to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of each person we encounter. I think that nations would do well to consider particularities also..... how can we help rebuild any war torn nation if we are not well acquainted with its particular culture?

This new year, let's Love and respect all that God created, in its particularity, Hopeful for the new, working for Peace, and being surprised by Joy when God's Spirit does break into our midst! A blessed New Year to all, and may fruits of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love carry over into each new day.

Pastor Ross

## COFFEE HOUR

December 27<sup>th</sup> No Coffee

January 2010

3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson, Marsha Kinnear

10<sup>th</sup> Nancy Canali, Kathy Raywood, Jane Thomas

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.

## Box Tops for Education Update

Thanks to all of the Belleville coupon clippers who have donated Box Tops for Education during 2009. A total of 431 coupons magically appeared in the donation box. These coupons equal a total donation of \$43.10 which goes to the Newburyport Elementary PTO. The PTO supports projects in the Brown, Bresnahan and Molin schools here in Newburyport. Caroline, Elise and I will continue collecting and counting throughout 2010. If you buy products that have Box Tops for Education coupons, please clip them and bring them to church. The donation box is on a table in the Bannister Room. If you'd like to know what products have the coupons, there are photocopies of the list attached to the donation box. Feel free to take a copy. Thanks for supporting the local public schools, Maria Niswonger

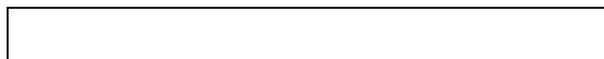
## Book Discussion

Next book discussion will be "Kneeling in the End Zone" by Josh Tinley  
Held on Tuesday February 2, 2010.

Kneeling in the End Zone takes the often overlapping worlds of sports and religion and turns them upside down. Athletes, coaches, fans and broadcasters often bring faith into the world of sports, whether through on-field prayers, post-game interviews, biblical bleacher signs or using faith language or scriptural metaphors to describe an incredible play or performance. Kneeling in the End Zone aims to do the exact opposite, using sports as a lens through which to look at the Christian faith. It uses sports as a metaphor, drawing parallels between scriptural stories and memorable tales from the field or court, and looks at those transcendent moments in sports history that reveal larger truths about life.

Come join us for a lively discussion with some light refreshments. Great opportunity for fellowship.

Worship and Education Board.



# Belleville Congregational Church

January 2010  
News and Views

## Belleville Church Calendar

January 2010

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	2 Thrift shop closed
3 Worship 10a  Chapel	4 Woman's Disc. 4 pm	5	6 Thrift shop 9-noon S/F 7 pm Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7	8	9 Thrift shop 9-noon
10 Worship 10a  Chapel	11	12W/E 7 pm	13 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14	15	16 Thrift shop 9-noon
17 Worship 10a  Chapel	18 Woman's Disc. 4 pm	19 Ex. Board 7pm	20 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc. 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm <b>DEADLINE News &amp; Views</b>	21	22	23 Thrift shop 9-noon
24 Worship 10a  Chapel	25	26Men's supper	27 Thrift shop 9-noon Bible Disc 6:15pm Choir 7:30 pm	28	29	30 Thrift shop 9-noon
31 Worship 10a  Chapel						



## Peace On Earth

Sit right down today and make your New Years resolutions. There is no time like the present to seek out some solutions. Try to be a good neighbor to everyone on your street. Resolve to smile more often; Be a friend to all you meet. Let go of all your old grudges; leave no room in your heart for hate. Help build a world that is friendly; Your peace of mind will be great. Look around for people with problems, far greater than your own, and then reach out to help them, so they won't feel all alone. If Jesus came to your house, would he find a welcome there? In houses that are full of love there is peace and joy to spare!

Anna May Guyette

**NEWS & VIEWS DEADLINE  
JANUARY 20**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE  
FEBRUARY 7**

**BIRTHDAYS**

**January**

1 Robert Locke  
4 Betty Madden  
5 Kip Tyler  
7 David Wood  
11 Isaac Butler  
11 Nancy Salvage  
12 James Guyette  
13 John Richards  
15 Jennifer Locke  
21 Erika Kamp  
23 Robert Crofts  
28 Ken Codin  
28 Meg Marshall

**February**

1 Rebecca Whitney  
3 Peggy Utterback  
4 Robert Gould  
5 Jane Thomas  
10 Carlton Brown  
13 Emery Rice  
16 Nancy Brown  
22 George  
Beauparlant  
27 Anna May Guyette  
27 Peggy VanAmburg

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



# Belleville Congregational Church

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Newburyport, MA 01950  
Permit No. 105

Email: [bellevillechurch@verizon.net](mailto:bellevillechurch@verizon.net)

## Pastor's office hours:

Tues. 11 am—12:30pm

Wed. and Thurs. 10:30 am to noon.

Please call to assure the pastor is available

Church Office 978-465-7734

Office Administrator, Joyce Dumais

## Office hours :

Tuesday through Friday 9a.m.—12 noon

## 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)

Bob Locke

Helen Hatcher

## Contact Persons:

### Board of Fellowship and

### Outreach

Diane Crofts

### Board of Worship and Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

### Board of Stewardship and Finance

Mary Lou Tyler

### UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Belleville Church Website is:

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

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### Sunday School Coordinator

Nancy Tsakirgis

### Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

### Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson

### Sexton

Bob Locke