

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,

Keep Christmas all the year long? Yes, it is very difficult to keep the mood, keep the spirit..... of peace on Earth, goodwill to all! Granted, those very songs and ideals often seem such a contrast to our actual lives that we can feel a cloud of despair as well.

To keep the spirit of Christmas, the spirit of Christ himself, the hard truth is that we do need to put in the effort, take responsibility for our part of bringing peace, and making peace on earth. God's part is to make it possible, make it available.....yes the "gift" of love, unconditional love, divine love. But our part is to accept and embrace that fully, then do our best to share it.

Howard Thurman, former dean of the Chapel at Boston University, speaks of the "sacrament" of Christmas. A sacrament is an act or action that carries in it divine grace. Yes, we have to "do" something. Thurman puts it this way:

*I make an act of love toward friend and foe,
Where trust is weak and hate burns bright.
I make an act of trust toward all of life,
Where fears preside and distrusts keep watch.
I make an act of strength toward feeble things,
Where life grows dim and death draws near.
I make an act of joy toward all sad hearts,
Where laughter pales and tears abound.
I make a deed to God of all my days - -
And look out on life with quiet eyes.*

I'm fascinated that he closed his thoughts on Christmas with "quiet eyes." Something of the stillness of Christmastime is advocated. It speaks to me of receptivity, yes, the waiting time, yes, the acknowledgment that we must receive much of this as sheer gift. Then we also must act, and put plenty of energy into good works. Then we watch, with quiet eyes, for the fulfillment that only God can bring. The theological emphases of grace and good deeds are nicely balanced!

So let us all put energy into "Keeping Christmas," so that love and peace may increase everywhere. And let us acknowledge that we begin by humbly, quietly receiving love through Christ, our "Love Divine."

Yours in faith,
Ross



Building Community through Music

2012 Belleville Roots Music Concert Series

Upcoming Concerts



Friday, February 17, 8 pm

Mardi Gras Concert and Dance with Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys

<http://mamouplayboys.com>

Cajun French music from the backwaters of Southwest Louisiana. Their third release garnered them a Grammy nomination in the worldwide field of traditional folk music, another in 2004, and then another in 2009.

We will also be hosting a Catered Cajun Dinner before the concert from 6:00-7:30pm. The dinner will be catered by Karen Kelly Dardinski. Tickets are \$15. There is limited seating so please be sure to get your tickets in advance.

Contact

For more information about the Roots Music Concert Series, please contact

bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com or call the church office at 978/465-7734. To join our concert email list for regular updates on upcoming concerts, please send an email to

bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com

Belleville Roots

Belleville Congregational Church has longstanding roots in the Newburyport community as a gathering place and supporter of local service organizations. The Roots Music Series, founded in December of 2010, has two important missions: First, the series brings a variety of high quality Roots Music concerts to the Newburyport area for all to enjoy. The series celebrates music ranging from a cappella to zydeco and includes a diverse range of blues, bluegrass, Cajun, Celtic, country, folk, gospel, Irish, jazz and world music. The second mission of the Roots Music 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. Our objective is that the Meeting House and adjacent complex will continue to serve as a gathering place for many generations to come.

2012 Calendar

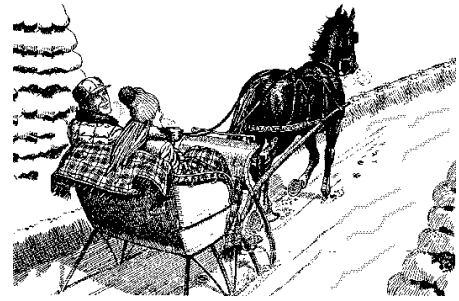
January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 7pm CODA	3 4:30pm Brownie Troop 5pm Swim team meets	4 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	5 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	6	7 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
8 10am Worship	9 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	10 5pm Swim team meets 7pm Worship & Ed meeting	11 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	12 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	13	14 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
15 10am Worship	16 4pm Women's Fellowship 7pm CODA	17 4:30pm Brownie Troop 5pm Swim team meets 7pm Executive Board	18 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	19 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	20 News & Views deadline 7-9:30 Family Game Night	21 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
22 10am Worship	23 3:30pm Girl Scouts 7pm CODA	24 5pm Swim team meets 7pm Men's Fellowship	25 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	26 4pm Swim team meets 6:15 Bible Study 7:30 Choir	27	28 9am 3MB Fencing 9am Thrift Shop
29 10a Worship	30 7pm CODA	31 5pm Swim team meets	Feb 1	2	3	4

Newly Re-organized Thrift Store!

Have you seen the changes in the thrift store? If not, you must come down and take a look.

Thank you to Norm Hansen, Jim Marshall and Bob Locke for all of their hard work in building new shelving for our shop!



January

- 1 Robert Locke
- 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 Meg Marshall

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 Beauparlant
- 27 Anna May Guyette
- 27 Peggy VanAmburg

A Winter Eden by Robert Frost

A winter garden in an alder swamp,
Where conies now come out to sun
and romp,
As near a paradise as it can be
And not melt snow or start a dormant
tree.

It lifts existence on a plane of snow
One level higher than the earth
below,
One level nearer heaven overhead,
And last year's berries shining scarlet
red.

It lifts a gaunt luxuriating beast
Where he can stretch and hold his
highest feat
On some wild apple tree's young
tender bark,
What well may prove the year's high
girdle mark.

So near to paradise all pairing ends:
Here loveless birds now flock as
winter friends,
Content with bud-inspecting. They
presume
To say which buds are leaf and
which are bloom.

A feather-hammer gives a double
knock.
This Eden day is done at two o'clock.
An hour of winter day might seem too
short
To make it worth life's while to wake
and sport.

**Still looking to buy a copy of the
Belleville Cookbook?**

**Copies are still available! See Sue
Wolfendale for more information.**

2011 Year End Contribution Statements

Tax deductible contributions will be reported on an Annual Contribution Statement sent out as early in January 2012 as possible. For the IRS, the date of the check and the date that the church receives the contribution determines the IRS deduction year. In the case of a mailed check, the postmark determines the date of receipt. For instance:

- Checks dated in December 2011 and received in 2011 deductible in 2011;
- Checks dated in December 2011 and received in offering in January 2012 deductible in 2012;
- Checks dated in January 2012 and received in offering in December 2011 deductible in 2012;
- Checks dated in December 2011, postmarked in 2011, and received by church in January 2012 deductible in 2011;
- Checks dated in December 2011, postmarked in 2012, and received by church in January 2012 deductible in 2012.

The monthly Extra Mile Collections are NOT reported on the Belleville Annual Statements. Your checks should be used to substantiate a deduction to these charities.

Any questions, please contact Mary Lou Tyler, 978-462-9272, tylerfam@comcast.net

Notice of By-Laws Amendment

The Church's By-Laws have been amended in response to questions arising during the year regarding incorporation, acting on behalf of the church, signing contracts, etc. There will be a vote during the February Annual Meeting to accept these amendments, which will require a two thirds vote of Active Members. The amended By-Laws are available for review now, outside the Administrator's (Heather's) office.

Changes of significance are in the areas of membership, voting rights of active members vs. inactive members, voting by proxy allowed, and an indemnification clause that addresses the membership's concern when acting on behalf of the church.

Questions you may have can be addressed to any member of the ad hoc By-Laws committee:

Kelly Burke-Anderson , Nancy Canali, Bob Locke, Jim Marshall, Jim Samuelson, Mary Lou Tyler.

Building and Grant Update

The year 2011 was a great year for Belleville. For those of you who have not noticed the restored porches on the Fiske Parish Hall, you are invited to do so.

The Capital Campaign funded the Connector between the Meeting House and the Fiske Chapel providing a pleasing and much needed handicap access to both buildings. The handicap toilet facilities, the new office, new kitchen location, and other improvements funded by the Capital Campaign have provided support to the many activities that have taken place during the past year. The Capital Campaign is still ongoing and some pledges are still forthcoming.

There were many initiatives originated and completed during 2011. The floors of the Stage Bannister and Parlor rooms were restored and finished using \$10,000 grants provided by the Institution for Savings and the Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank. Three porches attached to the Fiske Chapel were restored using \$40,000 provided by the Newburyport CPA Funds. Thank you to Jim Marshall and Bob Locke who coordinated and supervised these projects.

**SCRIPTURE READERS
LIST 2012**

Jan.

- 1 Bill Silsby
- 8 Emery Rice
- 15 Nancy Smith
- 22 Marion Spark
- 29 Peggy Utterback

Feb.

- 5 Lynn Varney
- 12 Cathy Morrow
- 19 Emery Rice
- 26 Gail Gandolfi

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

- Jan** 1st No Coffee Hour
- 8th Sue Heersink, Dorothy Williamson, Carolyn Kyle
- 15th Nancy Canali, Gail Gandolfi, Jane Thomas
- 22nd Shirley Locke, Karen Conway, Marcia Samuelson
- 29th Marylou Tyler, Diane Crofts, Cynthia Peirce

- Feb** 5th Sue Wolfendale, Anna Guyette, Jean Hansen
- 12th Diane Crofts, Pam Ellis, Nancy Canali
- 19th No Coffee Hour – School Vacation Week
- 26th Janet Woodman, Irene Bradford, Jean Kirkpatrick

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.

Ushers

- Jan.** 1 Kathy Raywood & Michelle Burke-Anderson
- 8 Rita Vreeland & Hans Erwich
- 15 Jean Kirkpatrick & Ann Guyette
- 22 Norma Dean & Kelly Burke-Anderson
- 29 Ben & Sue Heersink

- Feb.** 5 Gail Gandolfi & Shirley Locke
- 12 Jon Pearson & Bob Locke
- 19 Jean Kirkpatrick & Ann Guyette
- 26 Kathy Raywood & Carolyn Kyle



**Family Game Night!
Friday, Jan. 20th 7-9:30pm**

Please join us for a family game night! Bring your favorite game, a snack and/or a drink to share.

For more information or if you need transportation please contact Lori Wiswell at 508-633-1527.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Belleville Congregational Church

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**

Heather Ryan, 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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

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Newburyport, MA 01950

Permit No. 105

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

Bob Locke

UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson