

# The Parishioner

News of the First Parish in Bedford  
Unitarian Universalist  
On the Common, Bedford, Massachusetts

*"Forge connections within and across generations  
and share our work to change ourselves and the world."*

Volume 45, Issue 3

November 9, 2011

**Rev. John E. Gibbons**, senior minister  
**Rev. Megan Lynes**, parish minister  
**Rev. Jack Mendelsohn**, minister emeritus  
**Rev. William F. Schulz**, affiliate community minister  
**Joe Cleveland**, ministerial intern  
**Lisa Rubin**, director of religious education  
**Dawn LaFrance-Linden**, religious education assistant  
**Joan Bowen**, parish board president

**Sandy Boczenowski**, volunteer coordinator  
**Meredith McCulloch & Mercedes Kane**, editors  
**Brad Conner**, music/choir director  
**Janet Welby**, youth choir director  
**Carol Hamilton**, organist/kidsing director  
**Joan Petros**, parish administrator  
**Libby Hanna**, bookkeeper  
**Joe Perriello**, sexton

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## Upcoming Services

Sunday, November 13 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**"You, Who Are On the Road, Must Have a Code That You Can Live By"**

*Rev. John Gibbons preaching*

Including the Welcoming of New Members

Sunday, November 20 at 9:00AM

**"Two Reflections on the poem, 'Family Reunion,' by Jeredith Merrin"**

*Revs. John Gibbons and Megan Lynes*

at 11:00AM

**Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service**

*Joe Cleveland and Lisa Rubin, coordinators*

Join us as we celebrate the joys of community. The youth choirs and KidSing will perform, and we will remember our neighbors in need as we fill the Food Pantry box with your contributions of canned food and non-perishable dry goods.

Sunday, November 27 at 10:00AM (ONE SERVICE ONLY TODAY)

**"Getting Unstuck,"** *Rev. Lorrie Dunham preaching*

Sometimes it takes sand to get unstuck on ice, sometimes it takes something else to get unstuck from sand. Sometimes we're in over our heads and can't seem to get stuck at all without something more than our own materials and skills to help us. Sometimes it takes someone or something else... even when we'd rather simply remain stuck.

Sunday, December 4 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

*Rev. John Gibbons preaching*

Sunday, December 11 at 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

**"Advent Week Three - The Week of Joy"** – *Rev. Megan Lynes preaching*

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## Common Thoughts

### We Are the 99% (in the 19<sup>th</sup> century)

From 1980-1990 I was minister of the Unitarian Congregation of Mendon and Uxbridge. In Mendon, my most famous predecessor was Adin Ballou, a 19th century reformer, abolitionist, advocate of Christian non-resistance (now called non-violence) and founder of the utopian commune and town he named Hopedale. Ballou is said to have been an influence on both Tolstoy and Gandhi. He was, as well, an “early-adopter” of Christmas, a holiday theretofore scorned by Puritans.

In 1849, Ballou also published a hymnal, called *The Hopedale Collection of Hymns and Songs for the Use of Practical Christians*. In it are hymns devoted to Temperance, Anti-Slavery and The Glorious Future. In a section called The New Social State, is this hymn adapted, unusually, from a poem by a British woman, Eliza Cook. It remains – 160 years later – a perfect anthem for today’s Occupy movement. (*For those of you singing along at home it works well with tunes like Amazing Grace or O God, Our Help in Ages Past*).

243. C. M. ELIZA COOK.

- 1 WHILE thousands move with aching head  
And sing the ceaseless song,  
‘We starve, we die, oh give us bread!’  
There must be something wrong.
- 2 When toiling millions work to fill  
The wealthy coffers strong;  
And hands are crushed that work and till,  
There must be something wrong.
- 3 When from a thousand, one alone  
In plenty rolls along—  
The others left in want to moan,  
There must be something wrong.
- 4 Until this system be undone,  
The burden of our song  
Shall be this one, this only one—  
There must be something wrong.

If there is any steady message in the inspiring but mystifyingly diverse, idealistic and as-yet amorphous Occupy movement, it is this:  
***There Must Be Something Wrong.***



John Gibbons

## The Bedford Lyceum

*A Forum on the Arts, Spirituality, Science, and Justice*  
Sunday mornings from 10:00 – 10:50 in Room 202 at First Parish

**November 13:** “What the Duck?” A script reading of Paul Turner’s comic one-act play, set in the present, about a 30- or 40-something who is looking for work. The cast includes David Lance, Art Smith, Corinne Doud, DJ Prowell, Dot Ellis, Ellen Munoz, & Holly Hosmer.

**November 20:** “JustWorks” Experiential Learning Opportunities & the Haiti Program by Evan Seitz. Evan is the Assoc. for Experiential Learning and Youth Services in the newly formed College of Social Justice at UUSC. His responsibilities include managing the Just-Works Service-Learning Program and developing volunteer opportunities for UUs in Haiti. (See p. 6 for a related program.) Prior to joining the UUSC, Evan worked as a community planner helping neighborhoods in the US rebuild after catastrophic natural disasters.

**November 27:** NO Bedford Lyceum - Thanksgiving weekend.

**December 4:** “The Keystone Pipeline and Civil Disobedience.” Come hear Bedford environmentalists Roger & Susan Shamel tell of their September arrest in front of the White House at a sit-in opposing the Keystone XL Pipeline. That day over 1253 religious leaders, scientists, indigenous people, doctors, and students participated in a civil disobedience action to urge President Obama to nix the development of the pipeline. This pipeline would carry oil from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada to the Gulf of Mexico to be refined. Protests are ongoing with an estimated 10,000 people surrounding the White House on November 6. A decision is expected by the end of the year.

### *The Parishioner and the Fridge List*

We have now moved to our new schedule of publishing *The Parishioner* once a month (instead of bi-weekly).

The deadline will continue to be at noon on **the first Sunday of each month**, with publishing on the following Wednesday.

*A note from  
the Parish  
Administrator*



We also send out periodic updates that we are calling the “Fridge List.” These will have brief announcements, a list of upcoming events, and links to the current newsletter and full calendar.

The method that we now use to mail out these electronic communications is via a web service called Mail Chimp. We have subscribed anyone who is on our mailing list for whom we have an email address to receive these. Please watch your Inbox for emails from First Parish with *The Parishioner* and *The Fridge List* in the Subject.

We are encouraging all who are able to receive our communications electronically. If you are still receiving the newsletter by mail and are willing to discontinue this printed version and read it electronically, please contact the office (office@uubedford.org /781-275-7994). This will help cut down on printing and mailing costs, and we’ll be ‘greener’!

If you do not have computer access and would like to receive a copy of the *Fridge List* by mail, please also let us know that. Thanks!

~Joan Petros

## Occupy Boston - a Joint Statement

John Gibbons, Megan Lynes, Jack Mendelsohn, Joe Cleveland and more than 100 other UU clergy and seminarians in the Boston area have signed this statement:

*As clergy and people of faith, we applaud the Occupiers in Boston and elsewhere who are reigniting American democracy from the grassroots. We join them in the vision of a society where all people enjoy a fair shake, with equitable access to education, healthcare, housing, and other basics necessary to achieve a dignified life. We are appalled that the nation's poverty rate today is higher than when Martin Luther King Jr. organized the "Poor People's March" back in 1968.*

*Dr. King inspired people of all races and classes to walk for "Jobs and Justice." The national Occupy movement asserts the same goals. These protests are occurring for a reason. In the more than four decades since King's death, middle-class incomes have stagnated, the jobless rate has soared, and the super-rich have managed to manipulate financial regulations and tax rates to claim an ever growing share of the nation's wealth. The richest 400 people in the country now have more assets than the poorest 150 million of their fellow citizens combined.*

*The vast majority of Americans - the 99% and many of the other 1% - are angry when some of the biggest businesses in the country pay no taxes. We see banks that brought the country to the edge of economic ruin being bailed out with public money, while millions forfeit their homes in the mortgage meltdown these same banks created. We feel increasingly powerless when mammoth corporations, invested with all the rights of "persons" to spend limitless amounts of money in electoral politics, hand-tailor legislation to benefit shareholders and CEOs at the expense of citizens and workers.*

## Fall Parish Council Meeting

**IMPORTANT!**

The fall Parish Council meeting (which was postponed due to the snow storm on October 30) will happen on Sunday, November 20 at 1:00 pm. Committee chairs and fundraiser chairs (or designee) should plan to attend to represent their respective committee. The Parish Board president will share highlights from the board retreat. Committees are encouraged to review their charters and goals for the year, and to review the Strategic Planning Frameworks with a view to coming up with initiatives in the context of the framework. If you will need childcare during the meeting, please notify me by November 13. To facilitate communications, I also ask each committee to provide me with an updated list of members and contact information for the current chairs.

Mike Boczenowski, Parish Council Chair  
boczenowski@comcast.net

## Megan's Corner

*For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'*

—Deuteronomy 15:11

On Friday, Diane Martin lit an online candle for her foster son, William, who received at long last the liver transplant that he so desperately needed. His six years of waiting was not in vain, and his hope for a healthy life takes flight once more. How can we thank enough, the person and the family of the person who gave this anonymous gift of life? In Judaism, one of the highest forms of "tzedakah," which means charity, or more literally justice or righteousness, is to give something anonymously to an unknown recipient. I try to picture the family who had just lost their beloved, most likely to tragedy. Within minutes of this news they made the decision about organ donation. Out of death, rose life.

Later in the week, I was overwhelmed with amazement again at the Dedication Ceremony for the last of the six *Habitat for Humanity* houses being built just up the street from the church. Our First Parish friends, the Shames-Aldeen family, political refugees from Iraq, are the recipients of this house. I began the house blessing in what little Arabic I know, then concluded in English, as the entire family and scores of volunteers heaved a wall into place. The crowd cheered in support, sealing the commitment to all the good hard labor to come. The family alone will put in at least 400 hours of service in the coming months. I do so hope many of us will join in before this last project is complete. "A hand up, not a hand out..." the Habitat Motto declares.

Later, the children signed their names on the fresh timbers, and the sun danced on the roofs of all the little homes. So often I feel at my wit's end about the state of the world. Thinking of our ten year war in Iraq brings tears to my eyes. Yet somehow, in that moment, everything became tender for a little while. Like a phoenix rising from the ruins, we begin again in love.

Mav it be so.

*Megan*



## BOARD MATTERS

The Semi-Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Sanctuary this coming Sunday, November 13, starting at 12:45PM.

In the course of this meeting we will provide you with updates on several decisions we will be making either at a special meeting on January 29 or at our June Annual Meeting. You will have the opportunity not only to hear reports, but also to ask questions and provide guidance on what information you need to inform your vote. (*The warrant articles can be found on page 11 of this newsletter. The Warrant is also posted at the church.*)

Based on our conversations at this meeting, the Parish Board will schedule open forums for further discussion. During December and January, the focus of the open forums will be on the question of whether or not we will continue offering two services most Sundays. Additional open forums will be scheduled during the spring to discuss the Safe Congregations Policy and the budget for next fiscal year.

In addition, the Parish Board will establish a Long-term Financial Planning Task Force to evaluate our long-term financial plan and to recommend policies that will maximize our capacity to be the community to which we aspire. This is a continuation of the work we have already completed on the development of a strategic plan. If being part of this task force is of interest to you, please contact a member of the Parish Board listed below.

*Joan Bowen, Parish Board President*

MEMBERS: *Mike Boczenowski, Sandy Ferreira, Margaret Jackson, Bob Johnson, Diane Martin and Dave Packer*

## Childcare for the Parish Meeting on November 13

Childcare will be provided for RE kids as well as those in the nursery. It is recommended that parents provide a lunch or snack. The parish meeting will last 1 to 1½ hours. Reservations should be made with the Childcare Committee:

childcare@uubedford.org



## MUSIC NOTES

*"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without."*  
– Confucius

### *Music for upcoming Sunday services:*

**Nov. 13:** This will be the last time this calendar year where First Parish will pay tribute to the Hungarian pianist/composer Franz Liszt during the bicentennial year of his birth. For both services, Liz Connors and I will be playing a transcription for clarinet and piano of the first of three of Liszt's "Liebestraum" piano pieces. Did you know there is more than one? Most people only know the famous "Liebestraum" and that's a shame since the one Liz and I have chosen is equally lovely. During the 11AM service, the adult choir will sing a Liszt choral work, "Ave Maria." In the spring, the choir sang another of Liszt's "Ave Marias," but this one is different and much shorter, more along the lines of Mozart's sublime "Ave Verum." Like the "Ave Verum," the "Ave Maria" the choir will be singing has just the right amount of notes in order to achieve perfection.

**Nov. 20:** Carol Hamilton will be playing organ for both services. For the 11 a.m. service, the Senior and Junior Youth Choirs, under the direction of Janet Welby, will be singing. Also at the 11 a.m. service, KidSing, under the direction of Carol Hamilton, will be making parents proud of their cheery message and delightful voices. This will be the first time all 3 choirs will be singing for us this year. The Senior and Junior Youth Choirs were supposed to appear on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> but that didn't happen because of the snowstorm. This will be an important Sunday for all the youth singers of our church, come and support them.

**Nov. 27:** This is a rare Sunday where Steve Sussman, and Steve alone, will be playing for the single service at 10AM. Those who have come to services where Steve plays will understand when I say this will be a fulfilling musical morning.

**Dec. 4:** The music for both services will be the same. The adult choir will be singing "Like a River Glorious" with BOTH Carol Hamilton on organ and me on piano accompanying them. Janet Welby will be conducting the choir since I will be playing piano. It's a truly uplifting piece of music and should fill the sanctuary with harmonious and pleasing sounds. The choir will also be singing John Lennon's "Imagine" with Creationdance returning to interpret in dance the message of Lennon's thoughtful and profound song.

Choir rehearsals for the adult choir are on Thursdays at 7:30-9:00 p.m. The adult choir sings on average a couple of times a month. Have you thought about joining the adult choir? We've got some terrific plans for this coming year including an "Italian" Christmas Eve service and a Music Sunday that will be a salute to the music of "The Beatles Join us?"

*Brad Conner, FP Music/Choir Director*

## Weaving the Tapestry of Faith –Teachers needed



Our young Unitarian Universalists learn to weave their tapestry of faith with the guidance and support of adults in their home and in their UU community. At First Parish in Bedford we have been incorporating the Unitarian Universalist Association's new "Tapestry of Faith" online (and downloadable) series of programs and resources "that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth a transforming faith, and a vital communities of justice and love." Wonderful teams of adults like you take time out of their own lives to help First Parish's children gain the skills to weave their own tapestry of faith—and not so quite miraculously, their own tapestry is made stronger by doing so.

Teaching teams of three create their own rotating schedule, and there are no classes during long weekends and public school vacations. The following classes are in need of a few more teachers to help round out their term 2 Sunday morning teaching teams (Jan 8 – Apr 29):

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <u>2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class:</u> | <u>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class:</u> |
| 9AM - two teachers  | 11AM - one teacher                                      |
| 11AM - one teacher  |   |

Please consider joining us. You may contact someone on the RE Committee, or me to learn how easy it is for you to help our UU Kids weave a tapestry of faith.

*Lisa Rubin*, Religious Education Director  
dre@uubedford.org

## The Power & Purpose of Small Group Ministry

- ♦ Intimacy: Helps build community and provides opportunities for friendship.
- ♦ Ultimacy: Provides an opportunity for deeper spiritual exploration and the search for meaning.

Small Groups currently meeting:

*Monday Afternoon Group* - facilitated by Maureen Oates

*Friday Morning Group* - facilitated by Merc Kane

*Women in Mid-Life Group* - Weds evenings - facilitated by Terri SooHoo

*Caregivers Group* - Weds evenings - facil by Laurie Groves

*Open to all Group* - Meets at Carleton Willard Village - Tues afternoons - facilitated by Megan Lynes

The *Parents of College Bound Teens* group is no longer meeting as a small group, but convenes occasionally for support and collaboration. If you'd like to be on the list serve for this group, contact Dawn LaFrance-Linden.

If you're interested in checking out a group or creating a new one with a particular theme, please speak to Megan. Some people have asked for a 20's and 30's group, anyone in?

## Save the Date! Installation of Rev. Megan Lynes January 22

On Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 3 pm we will gather to install Megan as our Parish Minister. Following the vote of the Parish last June to "call" Megan, and her acceptance of this call, this celebration is our way to publicly announce the shared covenant between minister and congregation. Local clergy and community members will attend, a guest minister will preach, our choirs will sing, we will make promises with one another, and afterwards we'll eat and drink in First Parish style! Don't miss out on the joy!!



## Shawl Ministry



A prayer shawl, (or comfort shawl,) can be anything from a knit wrap, to a baby blanket, to small quilted lap cover, - anything that can physically cover the receiver as a symbol of support and love. Prayer shawls are given to people in our community who might be in need of comfort. Perhaps someone is having cancer treatments, a baby is born, or someone loses their beloved. If you would like to make one, help or patterns are available. Speak to Gaye Carpenter for details. 781-275-0921. If you know of someone in need of one, speak to a minister or a member of the Lay Pastoral Care Team.

## Artists Potluck

Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:30PM All welcome!!  
Meeting at Sue Ellis' NEW house  
101 Old Billerica Road in Bedford

Among us at First Parish we have painters, fabric artists, photographers, dancers, sculptors, crafty people, and people who just love the arts... Many of us will gather on Dec. 1 to brainstorm ways to have the Visual Arts become a ministry at First Parish. For example, we could have more art as "focal points" on Sundays, Nancy Daugherty would love help with design covers for Orders of Service, we know a painter who can offer an oil painting class or demo at church, we could have an art show in the Common Room, go on "art outings" to museums, bring more art into R.E classrooms, or have Saturday art workshops. What ideas do you have? Bring a dish to share. All welcome!!

*Megan Lynes* (mlynes@uubedford.org)





### **-Bility Campaign Year-end Reminder**

We have a new elevator, the Sanctuary structure is more sound with a complete cement basement (replacing all the old dirt basement), all the Sanctuary windows now open, there are two new bathrooms available on the second floor, the walls and woodwork are painted and soon carpeting will be installed to integrate the second floor rooms surrounding the Sanctuary. All of this is due to the generous pledges of parish members and friends.

Some pledges have been completed but others have chosen to spread our payments over a longer period of time. For those with balances due on pledges, this is a reminder that December, the end of the tax year, is the month many of us forecast for a significant payment.

*Joan Bowen  
-Bility Campaign*

### **The Kitchen Shower**

Thank you to those who attended the eventless kitchen shower! We are in the process of outfitting the new kitchenette to support events and meetings on the second floor. For those unable to attend, additional financial contributions will be welcomed!

*The Hospitality Committee*



### **All Ages Potluck & Games Night Saturday, November 19, 5:30PM**

This is a great all community evening! If you plan to come, please bring a dish to share for the potluck, your favorite games, your family and your friends. We will collect \$1 per person to cover soft drinks and bread and butter. Contact Sandy Boczenowski (sandyboz@gmail.com) or Carla Bradford (carlajbradford@yahoo.com) to sign up to help with setup or cleanup.



**Family  
Games  
Night**

### **Holiday Card Collection for the Billerica House of Correction**

It's that time of year again to bring your unused holiday cards to First Parish. Each year we collect these cards and send them to the men at the BHOC, so that they can have them to send to their families. There is a box to drop them off in the first floor back hall. Cards must be brought in by noon Sunday December 4. Your participation in this project is much appreciated.

*Joanne Glover for MCPCC*



### **Work in Haiti - Learn about Justice**

Come hear UUSC Assoc. for Service Learning Evan Seitz discuss opportunities for UUs to get involved in the fight for justice in Haiti. Seitz will provide an overview of the newly released UUSC curriculum exploring justice issues in Haiti, "Beyond the Mountain," and the JustWorks Haiti Program. Join us at one of two events on the UUA-UUSC JustWorks Haiti programs, both at First Parish in Bedford:

- ♦ Wednesday, Nov. 16 *JustWorks* Haiti Program, 7PM
- ♦ Sunday, Nov. 20, Bedford Lyceum *JustWorks* Haiti Program 10AM

The UUA-UUSC JustWorks Haiti Program brings American UUs to Haiti to work and learn with our partner, the Papay Peasant Movement (MPP). Delegations assist MPP on their Eco-Village project or on similar sustainability projects. Participants also reflect on power structure roles in poverty in Haiti — and around the world — and how those structures are being challenged by grassroots organizations such as MPP in Haiti.

Hosted by Ivy Pompei, Jamie Young and the Peace & Justice Group. Evan Seitz is the Associate for Experiential Learning and Youth Services in the newly formed College of Social Justice at UUSC. He manages the JustWorks Service-Learning Program and develops volunteer opportunities for UUs in Haiti. Before joining the UUSC, Seitz worked as a community planner helping neighborhoods in the U.S. rebuild after catastrophic natural disasters. In 2009, Seitz cycled from France to the Black Sea coast of Romania, visiting Unitarian churches in Transylvania along the way. Seitz has a bachelor of science in environmental design from UMass Amherst.

### **Social Responsibility Council**

The SRC supports social outreach projects of education and awareness, service, and social action. It offers public support, funding, and/or guidance for sponsored projects.

We invite those interested to submit proposals to the SRC for specific Social Action projects. We recommend that major projects involve teams of two or more parishioners who take direct responsibility and that any others who commit support be identified as well. Suggested "Proposal Formats" and helpful "Points to Consider" in its formation can be found on the church website ([www.uubedford.org/social-action.html](http://www.uubedford.org/social-action.html)).

### **New Members**

We rejoice with new members:

Geoff Speare, Prameela Burugu, Mollie Gorman, Carla Bradford, Paul Bradford, Clarise Patton and Hilarie Jutras. We will recognize all new members on Sunday morning, November 13. If you have questions about membership or want to be included, please let us know!



# Sunday Morning Tasks

Here are the assignments for the next four weeks. Tasks through January 22 are now posted on the rolling bulletin board in the Common Room. Please note the dates that have openings – subs should step in. Sharing in the tasks of ushering and/or providing coffee and tea is very much appreciated; thank-you! Please notify the office (office@uubedford.org) if someone is stepping in to take your place.

| Date   | Ushers  | Coffee   | Subs for Either Service                                       |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Nov. 13<br/>9:00 AM</b>                         | Janet Breslau<br>Dan Breslau<br>Alice Leightheiser<br>Sophie Zacharakis     | Delsey Sherrill<br>Dorothy Africa<br>Patrick Oates           | Christine Dudley-<br>Marling<br>Heather Black                 |
| <b>Nov. 13<br/>11:00 AM</b>                        | Fred Levenstein<br>Ron Reynolds<br>Mark Bailey<br>Carol Reynolds            | John McCulloch<br>Luisa Granitto<br>Jacqui Baer<br>Bailey D. |   |
| <b>Nov. 20<br/>9:00 AM</b>                         | Joanne Glover<br>Ted Carlson<br>Lee Vorderer<br>Caryn Johnson               | Carla Bradford<br>Jeffrey Carter<br>Mike Signorello          | Irene Gravina<br>Kathy Kemperman<br>Doug Townsend             |
| <b>Nov. 20<br/>11:00 AM</b>                        | Diana Archibald<br>Joan Turnberg<br>Joel Parks<br>Véronique Meyer           | Dane Netherton<br>Lin Fields<br>Ed Fields                    |   |
| <b>Nov. 27<br/>10:00 AM<br/>(one svc<br/>only)</b> | Kristina Philipson<br>Margot Fleischman<br>Julia Bosomworth<br>Cynthia Mork | Lisa Tohline<br>DJ Prowell<br><b>OPEN Slot</b>               | Abbie Seibert<br>Mike Seibert<br>Nathan Kimball<br>Nancy Hair |
| <b>Dec. 4<br/>9:00 AM</b>                          | Rich Daugherty<br>Nancy Daugherty<br>Marcia Ellery<br><b>OPEN Slot</b>      | Sandy Haynes<br>Hank Haynes<br>Christine Bennett             | Diane Martin<br>Doris Smith<br>Caryn Libbey<br>John Harris    |
| <b>Oct. 30<br/>11:00 AM</b>                        | Hank Haynes<br>Sandy Haynes<br>Sue Baldauf<br>Gene Clerkin                  | Sandy Ferreira<br>Mary Hyatt<br>Chris Lanich                 |   |

## Holiday Helpers (Are you an elf?)

December will soon be upon us with all of the holiday events and rush. Our community is a great place to restore your spirits. On December 18 there is a Carol Sing at 10AM and a special celebratory bash at 4PM. We will have a 10AM service at First Parish on both Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. This may be a very lively or a very peaceful place to be, but always a great place to restore your spirits. If you are feeling elfish, let me know if you will come forth to make coffee and greet/usher for any of these dates.

*Sandy Boczenowski (sandyboz@gmail.com)*

## Pull Out the Stops!

Coming up on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 4PM will be the second in the 2-concert celebration of our own Hook and Hastings pipe organ! Organist/pianist Terry Halco is returning (he played for us on Good Friday last April) to give a holiday-themed concert in two short halves, including 4 Christmas Carol arrangements for piano 4 hands (with “guest artist” Janet Welby playing the other 2 hands) by Franz Liszt, some Mozart Church Sonatas for organ and string quartet, and ending with a good ole fashioned sing along of 3 favorite Christmas Carols. Watch the church website music page for updates. Suggested donations: Adults \$10, Seniors/Students \$5, Age 12 and under free. Proceeds to benefit First Parish.



*Cynthia Mork and  
Donna Cole*

## Order your ‘Best of First Parish Choir’ CD!

Don’t miss this opportunity to purchase this very special collection of highlights from Music Sundays and other special events between 2006 and 2010!

Brad Conner writes in the liner notes: *“We are very lucky to have recorded these musical events to remind us of the passage of time in our lives and in those around us. More than that, this CD documents other important aspects of life (both musical and non) at First Parish, including the chime of the beloved clock in our Sanctuary, the bell that hangs in our tower, the sound of dancing feet, and the laughter and appreciation that fills the air during our varied musical services.... This is indeed a unique and valuable document that will hopefully continue to remind us of how fortunate we are to be part of the community that is First Parish.”*

CD’s are \$17 each, with proceeds to benefit First Parish. To order, visit the MuComm table at select coffee hours, where you can also hear a sample, OR contact the church office with your name, email/phone and # of CD’ s you want. Delivery will be in time for the holidays.

*Cynthia Mork and Donna Cole  
(Co-chairs, Music Committee)*

## Blood Pressure Clinics

As part of the First Parish Wellness program, we hold a blood pressure clinic on the first Sunday of each month. Look for Nurses Gaye Carpenter and Diane Brown-King to be set up between services – 10:00 to 10:50. Please bring a list of the medications you take. Mark your calendar for December 4.



## Coming to First Parish – “*Inside Job*”

**Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m.**

The Peace & Justice Group presents its first film of the church year: *Inside Job* - the 2011 Academy Award winner for Best Documentary. *Inside Job*, a film for our times, provides a comprehensive analysis of the global financial crisis of late 2000's, which at a cost over \$20 trillion, caused millions of people to lose their jobs and homes in the worst recession since the Great Depression, and nearly resulted in a global financial collapse. Through exhaustive research and extensive interviews with key financial insiders, politicians, journalists, and academics, the film traces the rise of a rogue industry which has corrupted politics, regulation, and academia.

The film is described by Director Charles H. Ferguson as being about “the systemic corruption of the United States by the financial services industry and the consequences of that systemic corruption.” Divided into five parts (How We Got Here, The Bubble (2001-2007), The Crisis, Accountability, and Where We Are Now), the self proclaimed ‘economic horror film’ explores how changes in the policy environment and banking practices helped create the financial crisis. *Inside Job* was made on location in the United States, Iceland, England, France, Singapore, and China. Come learn a bit more about how we got in this economic mess; enjoy some good company, great refreshments and an after film conversation.

*Common Room ~ Runtime 120 minutes ~ Rated PG 13)*



### November 15 at 6 p.m.

Third Tuesday Dinner is a catered meal held each month. It is a time to forge connections within and across generations. The meal is vegetarian; the cost is \$9 adults/\$5 kids under 14.

Please RSVP to the office (office@uubedford.org) by Monday November 14 and let her know the number attending and whether the adult members of your party will be on set-up or clean-up crew. (We are always short of clean-up crew- please, please, please pick that one!)

If you don't like being surprised by the catered meal and/or have food allergies, please feel free to bring your own meal (including dessert, if you wish), but still contact Joan to make sure our headcount is accurate for chairs.

*Christine Jesensky Bennett*



Our Sunday Service is broadcast each week  
on Bedford Cable TV:

Comcast Channel 10; Verizon Channel 40

On Wednesdays at 6:30pm; and Sundays at 12:00pm

## Partner Church News - A few items...

#1). New Life School in Uganda: Cathy Cordes is recently back from a week in Uganda where she, in her capacity of Executive Director of the UU Partner Church Council, visited with the teachers and students of the New Life School. Last Spring, the congregation voted to partner with the Fifth Grade class of that school and follow their progress for the next two years until they graduate after seventh grade. Cathy took over with her a banner that we made with signatures of as many people who wanted to sign it. She has returned with a banner made by the children of that class with letters and photos for all to see. We will hang this banner in a prominent location for all to see. It is charming! Please let members of the Partner Church Committee know if you would like to become involved in working with this project.

#2). Summer Trip to Transylvania: The Partner Church committee is planning another church-sponsored trip to our partner village in Abasfalva this summer. Probable dates will be the first 10 days or two weeks in August. Please let John Gibbons know if you are interested in going. Our partner church minister has requested that we take his villagers on a tour of the Unitarian “high holy” places in Transylvania. Should be fun!

*Sarah Dorer*  
for the Partner Church Committee



## November & December

If you or someone you know at First Parish needs short term urgent help with meals, rides to medical appointments or a few errands, please call us. The Caring Network is made up of Coordinators and Volunteers. The monthly Coordinators receive the requests for assistance and organize help through our list of Volunteers who cook and drive and do errands. During November call Jeannie Balfour, 781-275-4556. During December please call Julia Bosomworth 781-275-7079.

*Jean Balfour (jebalfour@verizon.net)*



## From Sylvia Stocker And the UU Church of Brunswick, Maine

Sylvia writes in appreciation for the First Parish contribution of \$719 for assistance following a fire at the UU church in Brunswick,  
*Dear Good People of Bedford,*

*Thank you so much for your generosity! Sending much love, Sylvia*

## Celebrate the *Guest at Your Table*

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, we will open our *Guest at Your Table* program, sponsored through a cooperative effort of The Peace & Justice Group and the R.E. program. *Guest at Your Table* is an annual Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) fundraiser in which families take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are our 'guests' and we are asked to share our blessings with them. Along with the box, a booklet called '*Stories of Hope*' is provided, giving inspirational information about each of our Guests. We are asked to place this box in a prominent spot, often at the family dinner table, and when our family and friends gather to enjoy our blessings we are asked to make contributions to our guests as we reflect on the contributions these guests have made to the movement for universal human rights.

Through the *Stories of Hope* booklet, we can learn more about how the UUSC puts our shared values into action in the US and around the world. Through a combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human-rights leaders, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis. Since UUSC is an independent organization that receives no funding from the government or the UUA, our individual support is vital. Please consider taking a box and actively participating. If you prefer to simply make a donation, envelopes will be available at any time during the fundraiser. Look for the displays throughout the church after the Nov. 20 kick-off.

Ivy Pompei & Jamie Young  
UUSC Local Representatives

## Meet the Sheriff - Thanks

To all who helped with and attended our "Meet the Sheriff" afternoon on Oct. 16, a very BIG thank you. We had about 75 attendees, and I think we all learned the impact and importance of who Sheriff Peter Koutoujian is, what he does, and how it affects us here in our communities. Our State Rep. Charlie Murphy stopped by, as did candidate Elizabeth Warren, who spoke to us also. The Sheriff brought his "100 Day Report." If anyone would like to read it, let me know and I will get you a copy.

Joanne Glover for the sponsors:  
MCPCC, NAMI central Middlesex,  
United Church of Christ, and First Parish

*P.S. from the Editor: Warren spoke briefly about her experience of rising to meet challenging circumstances, a skill first honed when her pastor asked her to teach 5th graders in Sunday School, a class so querulous that it was accustomed to scrawling on walls and cutting off one another's pigtails.*

## Cuppa Joe

You won't get a poem from me often, but now and then I use writing poetry as a meditative practice. Here I use a form called a sestina and it resulted in this:

*Everything keeps calling for my attention,  
the paper to write, the rapidly cooling cup of tea, the rhythm  
of rain on the pavement. Everything seems to have a melody,  
even the howling of the neighbor's leaf blower. Fall's chilly  
truth*

*is going to get colder, and says what I will risk  
in the attempt for shelter is the quality of my connection*

*to what's around me. All the sages say connection  
is the nature of what is. The quality of my attention  
to what isn't me constitutes me. The risk  
is love. The kid next door learning saxophone, the rhythm  
of my wife's breathing, the clumsy truth  
in my nephew's first steps, a neighborhood of melody.*

*We are called to hear melodies.*

*It doesn't matter the scene. Just connect  
the muddy boot to the young man's eyes: Truth.  
Pup tents plus corporate boardrooms. Even the attention  
that the chair pays to the table, the table to the rhythm  
I drum out on it. Reaching out my hand isn't the risk.*

*The risk is in not reaching out. The risk  
is forgetting that even silence is part of the melody.  
I need more space than I allow in the rhythm  
of my heartbeat. Just sit. Everything here is connected  
to the urgency I fear a fear that, if I pay attention,  
I'll see is a fear of connection. That's the truth.*

*The dirty dish is part of the meal. What truth  
I can discover is in between things, where risk  
feels like a high-wire act. But if I attend  
to my balance, I become part of the melody  
that, together, we sing. One note connects  
to another, calls it forth, with the rhythm*

*of my hand on the guitar strings. I love the rhythm  
of the old-time banjo. It's an old song singing truth  
out of pain plus creativity making a celebration of connection.  
The old is in the new. We can't leave anyone behind. Risk  
Isn't what it seemed. It's an urgent melody  
sung by an occupation we can't help but attend.*

*Attention reveals the world's rhythm  
and the melody, some great sweet din. The truth?  
We make it together when we risk connection.*

Joe Cleveland,  
Ministerial Intern

## Parish Nose

In the sick bay: *Hilda Swartz*, recovering well following recent surgery... *Merc Kane*, acclimating to her new hip in rehab in Wilmington... *Jack Mendelsohn*, home and doing well following a stroke and seizure last week... *Laurie Groves*, recovering well at home following surgery on her foot and elbow.... After a bout with pneumonia, *Chuck (and Donna) Cole* found shelter in a hotel during the recent power outage... *Diane Martin and Ron Moulton's* foster-son, *William*, underwent a successful liver transplant this week, after 6 years of severely declining health.... *Ed Bruckert*, our resident clock guru, spent a few days at Mass General recently for a heart condition... On Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, a few ministers and parishioners gathered in our Memorial Garden to honor "Hallotak Napja, the Day of the Dead," in solidarity with our Hungarian Unitarian friends... On Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, Megan provided the house-blessing as keys were given to the newest residents of a Bedford Habitat home... On Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, John and Megan, with Rabbi Susan Abramson, officiated at the annual Kristallnacht observance, commemorating the "night of broken glass" in 1938 when the Holocaust began... Transylvanian Bishop *Ferenc Balint* with *Rev. David Gyero* visited Bedford last week as they visited partner churches and prepared for international meetings in Boston... A joyous Celebration of the Life of *Peg Schwerin* was held at the church on Oct. 23. People came from far and wide to sing Peg's music, share recollections, and honor her legacy... *Maya Tanden* reports that her daughter *Neera* (who used to come to our church school years ago) has been named Director of the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank... A full busload of parishioners went to Occupy Boston on Nov. 6, delivering necessities and holding signs... With flying colors, *Joe Cleveland* was approved as a ministerial "candidate" by the UUA Regional Sub-committee on Candidacy, meeting in Chicago. (Joe went there by train!) Congratulations! --tpn

## SHORE LINES: Life Lessons From The Sea

A new book by Rev. Edwin Lynn, Minister Emeritus of the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers is available at Concord BookShop and Amazon.com. His book is based on years of living in the seaside town of Ipswich where he served as minister for 33 years, William Schulz, past president of the UUA, writes about the book: "What could be better than wisdom lyrically expressed when it is derived from an appreciation of Nature's abundance combined with the distillation of a lifetime's savvy? That's exactly what Ed Lynn has given us and it is a precious gift worth seeking out and savoring."



Congratulations to Matt Foster and Nancy Roberts who have announced their intention to marry!

Our thoughts are with the Dorer Family after the recent death of Bob's mother, Elizabeth. Bob says, "She was a good soul, loved all her family dearly, had a special place in her heart for animals, enjoyed politics and history, and just plain laughing. I don't think she had a mean bone in her body." There will be a memorial service on November 19 at the Newton cemetery.

Sadly, we note the death of Paul Lawrence. Paul was a philosopher, a guru of organizational management, and a great Darwinian humanist. A professor at the Harvard Business School, his most recent book was *Driven*, in which he articulated four primal human motivations:

*The first is the drive to acquire, to possess, to own things that are necessary, resources for our very survival and things that go even beyond survival, to enhance our status as individuals. The second is a drive to defend our resources, to protect them from hazards, not only... obviously we are protecting our body, but also our possessions, our loved ones, even our beliefs when they are under attack. The third is the drive to bond in long term, caring, mutual-caring relationships with other humans—this is essential to our survival as acquiring food to eat. And the fourth is the drive to "comprehend," to understand, to create, to make sense out of the world and to be able to build the, kind of knowledge that allows us to cope with out everyday life.*

Several parishioners attended Paul's memorial at Mt. Auburn where John Gibbons officiated at the internment.

Pennie Logemann, who passed away in October, was a faithful participant in the UU discussion group held at Carleton-Willard Village, a gardener and a lifelong learner. She was never without her pen and notebook...always taking notes about everything she heard and saw. She is already missed.

## Please Join Us To

## Celebrate National Adoption Month !

J.P. Licks and A Full Circle Adoptions will sponsor an ice cream social in The Common Room on Sunday Nov. 13 from 2-4 PM to celebrate the joy that child adoption has brought to so many families. Free ice cream and lively conversation will be provided. The event is open to all interested parties. Many thanks to Rev. John Gibbons and Megan Lynes for their support for this event. Please contact Carla Bradford (carlajbradford@yahoo.com or 781-275-6395) with any questions or for further info.

## THE WARRANT

THE FIRST PARISH IN BEDFORD, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
BEDFORD, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX SS:

To the Clerk, First Parish in Bedford

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts you are hereby authorized and instructed to notify the legal voters of said First Parish in Bedford in the County of Middlesex to meet at the Meeting House of said Parish on Sunday, the thirteenth day of November, 2011, at twelve-forty-five o'clock in the afternoon and then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

- I. To appoint a Minutes Committee. This group of three people will be responsible for reviewing the Clerk's minutes of the meeting in a timely manner, prior to being presented for a vote by the parish.
- II. To hear and act upon the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on June 12, 2011.
- III. To hear the reports of the Ministers, Parish Board President, Treasurer, and the Director of Religious Education.
- IV. To hear a report from the Endowment Committee.
- V. To hear a report from the Personnel Committee.
- VI. To hear a report from the Physical Plant Committee.
- VII. To decide whether First Parish will be a teaching church, hosting a ministerial intern, in the 2012-2013 church year.
- VIII. To hear a report on the Safe Congregation Policy.
- IX. To act upon such other matters as shall be deemed appropriate by the Moderator under the provisions of the by-laws.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy thereof at the Meeting House eight days, including two Sundays, before the thirteenth day of November, 2011 and to return this warrant with your doings thereon at said meeting.

Witness our hands this 13<sup>th</sup> day of September in the year 2011.


The Parish Board:

*Joan Bowen, President*  
*Mike Boczenowski, Bob Johnson, Sandra Ferriera*  
*Diane Martin, Margaret Jackson, Dave Packer*



# First Parish Upcoming Events



| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <p><i>November 6</i></p> <p>9:00 am + 11 Church Service (S)<br/>10:00 am Bedford Lyceum (202)<br/>10:00 am FP BP Clinic<br/>12:00 pm Sign-making for Occupy Boston (202)<br/>6:00 pm -9 Coming of Age (COM+K)<br/>7:00 pm -8 Sr Youth Grp (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204)<br/>Daylight Savings--set back 1 hour<br/><i>Newsletter deadline</i></p> | <p><i>November 7</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 SMART Recovery (L02)</p>  | <p><i>November 8</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Parish Board (204)<br/>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>  | <p><i>November 9</i></p> <p>7:00 pm [Social Resp Council @ Nancy W's]<br/>7:00 pm Peace &amp; Justice Grp<br/>[Kristallnacht Observance - 7:00pm on the Common]<br/><i>Parishioner published</i></p> | <p><i>November 10</i></p> <p>9:30 am -11 Short Stories Grp (202)<br/>3:15 pm -4:15 Jr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>3:45 pm -4:30 KidSing (202+204)<br/>5:30 pm -6:30 Sr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>7:30 pm -9:00 pm Choir Reh (S)</p>   | <p><i>November 11</i></p> <p>5:30 pm [FP serves at Lowell Trans Ctr]<br/>7:00 pm -9 The Qur'an Study Grp (202)</p>  <p>Veterans Day</p> | <p><i>November 12</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Peace &amp; Justice film (COM)<br/><i>"Inside Job"</i></p> |
| <p><i>November 13</i></p> <p>9:00 am + 11 Church Service (S)<br/>10:00 am Bedford Lyceum (202)<br/>12:45 pm Semi-Annual Mtg (S)<br/>7:00 pm -9 Sr Youth Grp (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204)</p>  | <p><i>November 14</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 SMART Recovery (L02)</p> | <p><i>November 15</i></p> <p>6:00 pm 3rd Tues Dinner (COM)<br/>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)<br/>7:30 pm Phys Plant Com</p>                     | <p><i>November 16</i></p> <p>2:30 pm [FP disc group @ CWV]<br/>7:00 pm -9 Small Group Mtg<br/>7:00 pm -9 UUSC "Just Works" presentation (202)</p>  | <p><i>November 17</i></p> <p>9:30 am -11 Short Stories Grp (202)<br/>3:15 pm -4:15 Jr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>3:45 pm -4:30 KidSing (202+204)<br/>5:30 pm -6:30 Sr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>7:30 pm -9:00 pm Choir Reh (S)</p>   | <p><i>November 18</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -9 The Qur'an Study Grp (202)</p>   | <p><i>November 19</i></p> <p>5:30 pm Family Potluck (COM)<br/><i>Sandy Boz</i></p>              |
| <p><i>November 20</i></p> <p>9:00 am + 11 Church Service (S)<br/>10:00 am Bedford Lyceum (202)<br/>1:00 pm -3 Parish Council (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9 Sr Youth Grp (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204)</p>   | <p><i>November 21</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 SMART Recovery (L02)</p> | <p><i>November 22</i></p> <p>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>  | <p><i>November 23</i></p>  | <p><i>November 24</i></p>  <p>Thanksgiving - Office Closed</p>   | <p><i>November 25</i></p>  | <p><i>November 26</i></p>   |
| <p><i>November 27</i></p> <p>10:00 am Church Service -one service only (S)<br/>7:00 pm -9 Sr Youth Grp (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204)</p>   | <p><i>November 28</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 SMART Recovery (L02)</p> | <p><i>November 29</i></p> <p>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>  | <p><i>November 30</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 Memb Com<br/>7:00 pm -9 Small Group Mtg</p>   | <p><i>December 1</i></p> <p>9:30 am -11 Short Stories Grp (202)<br/>1:00 pm Leadership Team (COM)<br/>3:15 pm -4:15 Jr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>3:45 pm -4:30 KidSing (202+204)<br/>5:30 pm -6:30 Sr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>7:30 pm Partner Church Com<br/>7:30 pm -9:00 pm Choir Reh (S)</p> | <p><i>December 2</i></p> <p><b>POTLUCK</b> 7:00 pm<br/>First Friday Potluck (COM)</p>  | <p><i>December 3</i></p>  |
| <p><i>December 4</i></p> <p>9:00 am + 11 Church Service (S)<br/>10:00 am Bedford Lyceum (202)<br/>10:00 am FP BP Clinic<br/>5:30 pm -8:30 OWL (BR)<br/>6:00 pm -9 Coming of Age (COM+K)<br/>7:00 pm -9 Sr Youth Grp (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204)<br/><i>Newsletter deadline</i></p>   | <p><i>December 5</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 SMART Recovery (L02)</p>  | <p><i>December 6</i></p> <p>7:00 pm Parish Board (204)<br/>7:00 pm RE Committee<br/>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)<br/>7:30 pm Endowment Com</p> | <p><i>December 7</i></p> <p><i>Parishioner published</i></p>   | <p><i>December 8</i></p> <p>9:30 am -11 Short Stories Grp (202)<br/>3:15 pm -4:15 Jr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>3:45 pm -4:30 KidSing (202+204)<br/>5:30 pm -6:30 Sr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>7:00 pm Tree Lighting on the Common<br/>7:30 pm -9:00 pm Choir Reh (S)</p>                          | <p><i>December 9</i></p> <p>5:30 pm [FP serves at Lowell Trans Ctr]</p>  | <p><i>December 10</i></p>   |
| <p><i>December 11</i></p> <p>9:00 am + 11 Church Service (S)<br/>10:00 am Bedford Lyceum (202)<br/>4:00 pm FP Music Event (S+BR+202)<br/>5:30 pm -8:30 RE Teacher Bridging Dinner (COM+ classrooms)<br/>7:00 pm -9 Sr Youth Grp (202)<br/>7:00 pm -9:30 FP Bridge Grp (204)</p>  | <p><i>December 12</i></p> <p>7:00 pm -8:30 SMART Recovery (L02)</p> | <p><i>December 13</i></p> <p>7:00 pm [FP Holiday Program at Bedford V.A.]<br/>7:30 pm -9 Al-Anon Mtg (202)</p>                                 | <p><i>December 14</i></p> <p>7:00 pm [Social Resp Council @ Nancy W's]<br/>7:00 pm Peace &amp; Justice Grp</p>   | <p><i>December 15</i></p> <p>9:30 am -11 Short Stories Grp (202)<br/>2:30 pm [FP disc group @ CWV]<br/>3:15 pm -4:15 Jr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>3:45 pm -4:30 KidSing (202+204)<br/>5:30 pm -6:30 Sr Youth Choir (COM)<br/>7:30 pm -9:00 pm Choir Reh (S)</p>                               | <p><i>December 16</i></p>  | <p><i>December 17</i></p>   |

Bracketed events happen off-site -- All other events happen at the church