

# 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,  
The New Year is upon us and I've been thinking about "resolutions," with the full knowledge that they can be hard to keep... One news story says that the most common resolution has something to do with more exercise or less food, or a combination of the two. It says health club attendance peaks in January, then falls off noticeably by the end of February! The reporter then gives a psychological explanation that does seem to make some sense; people set goals and expectations that are unrealistic! Realistic expectations are better motivators. Naturally, I think of spiritual parallels..... attendance peaks at Christmas or Easter, the "high holidays," and if expectations are too high, we can overlook the real fruit of what we experience. One Christmas eve a few years back, I had the good fortune to listen to the best trumpeter in our high school jazz band play Hark the Herald Angels and O Come All Ye Faithful, with notes that seemed to soar to heaven itself and carry the listeners there as well. If that were our norm or expectation, we'd spend a lot of Christmases disappointed and not come back.  
Perhaps a better road to spiritual growth is the path of realistic expectations and hard work. With the New Year, we could introduce a new spiritual practice into our lives. As with physical disciplines and new goals, we could ask ourselves, what is realistic? What is doable? I think in the exercise world, people often think of trying to find an HOUR to work out, and find it difficult. A coach might suggest finding realistic goals and length of exercise, maybe start with 30 minutes, split into 3 exercises of 10 minutes each. So it is with spiritual growth: we may not feel we have that "sweet hour of prayer" sung of in the famous hymn. But we may be able to commit to 30 minutes a day.... say 15 minutes of sacred reading (Bible or devotional book), then 15 minutes for prayer and silence. Still too much? Perhaps just 10 minutes for reading, and 10 for prayer/silence.  
A New Year's resolution for inner spiritual practice usually leads to outward practices as well..... time to worship in community, and to serve in community....if not every Sunday, then perhaps twice a month.  
A resolution is often simply making time for something. Won't you join me in keeping spiritual growth high on the list of New Year resolutions? We can make time for inward and outward spiritual practices, if we keep goals realistic. We remember that of Jesus it was said that in Nazareth he grew in wisdom and in stature. Even in Jesus, the Christ light was not seen in its full brilliance, that we know of, until age 30. Let's resolve to grow in His light this new year, perhaps in small steps after opening our hearts again at Christmas time.  
Yours in His service, Ross



We are thrilled to announce the 2013-2014 season! We have amazing artists coming to grace our stage. Hope you can join in the fun and please help spread the word! Tickets go on sale September 5<sup>th</sup>. For more information, visit the church website or email us at [bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:bellevilleconcerts@gmail.com).



**#4 Mardi Gras Dance and Dinner**  
**Jeffery Broussard and the Creole Cowboys**  
**February 8, 2013, 8 pm**

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



**#5 St. Patrick's Day Concert & Dinner**  
**Goitse (Direct from Ireland!)**  
**March 15, 2013, 8 pm**

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

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# 2013 Calendar

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## January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR!	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:30pm Choir practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
<b>6</b> 10:00am Worship 4pm Visionary Book Group.	<b>7</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	<b>8</b> 1:30pm Service Club	<b>9</b> 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 7pm Stewardship & Finance 7pm Worship & Education	<b>10</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
<b>13</b> 10am Worship	<b>14</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 2pm Roots set-up	<b>17</b> Recycling 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
<b>20</b> 10am Worship	<b>21</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	<b>22</b> 8pm Executive Committee	<b>23</b> 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg 6pm Men's Supper	<b>24</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>25</b> News & Views deadline	<b>26</b> 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
<b>27</b> 10a m Worship 4pm Meditation "Rest in the Spirit"	<b>28</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7pm CODA	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9am Thrift Shop 1pm Roots Mtg.	<b>31</b> 5pm Dragonfly Swim Team 7:30pm Choir Practice		

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## Service Club

The January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Service Club will be held in the Bannister Room at 1:30.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

### January

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

### February

- 3 Peggy Utterback
- 4 Robert Gould
- 5 Jane Thomas
- 13 Emery Rice
- 15 Dot Williamson
- 15 Marion Spark
- 22 George Beuparlant
- 27 Anna May Guyette



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

**Rest in the Spirit** (Meditation: Christian and beyond)  
Sunday, January 27, 4-5pm, Belleville Chapel

Rev Ross Varney, will lead those gathered in various modes of meditation, teaching practices that use words, music, and silence. Come, sit quietly, and let go of some of the stress too often experience in our culture. There will be opportunity for discussion as well as meditation time.

**Men's Supper - Wednesday, January 23, 6:00pm-7:15ish**

Ray Pike, Salisbury Harbormaster, and Jane Thomas' nephew, will share with us current issues and stories from our waterways, as well as his experience on a mission team in Ipswich that is "Building Bridges" between church and community.

Please let Ross know if you will attend and if you can offer to bring anything for the meal (food or cash).  
[rossvarney3@gmail.com](mailto:rossvarney3@gmail.com) 978-462-4899.



## SCRIPTURE READERS

### January

- 6 Gail Gandolfi
- 13 Carolyn Kyle
- 20
- 27 Cathy Morrow

### February

- 3 Hunter Anderson
- 10 Bill Silsby
- 17 Nancy Smith
- 24 Marion Spark

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

### January 2013

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

### February

- 2/3 Sue Wolfendale, Anna Guyette & Jean Hansen
- 2/10 Diane Crofts, Pam Ellis & Nancy Canali
- 2/17 No coffee hour – School vacation
- 2/24 Janet Woodman, Irene Bradford & Jean Kirkpatrick

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

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



### January

- 6 COMMUNION Gail Gandolfi & Kathy Raywood
- 13 Bob & Shirley Locke
- 20 Jean Kirkpatrick & Jon Pearson
- 27 Norma & Timothy Dean

### February

- 3 COMMUNION Hunter & Michelle Anderson
- 10 Carolyn Kyle & Ann Guyette
- 17 Jean Kirkpatrick & Rita Vreeland
- 24 Ben & Sue Heersink

# Belleville Congregational Church

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

## Church Staff & Contact Information

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

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

Please call to assure the pastor is available

**Church Office** 978-465-7734

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

Church Email: [bcchurch@worldpath.net](mailto:bcchurch@worldpath.net)  
Website: [www.bellevillechurch.org](http://www.bellevillechurch.org)

David Morrow, Organist/Choir Director  
Bob Locke, Sexton

## Newsletter Submissions:

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

If so, please submit your article to the  
church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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)

[Vacancy](#)

## Contact Persons:

### Board of Fellowship & Outreach

Diane Crofts

### Board of Worship & Education

Kelly Burke-Anderson

### Board of Stewardship & Finance

Jim Samuelson - Hans Erwich

### UCC Delegate

Emery Rice

### Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

### Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

### Hospitality Coordinator

Audrey Clarkson