



## 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.

Ponderings	1
Calendar	2
May Day Celebration	3
Church Picnic & Children's Sunday & Poem	4
Thrift Shop, Service Club Annual Spring Outing, & Men's Fellowship Supper	5
Birthdays	6
Scripture Readers & Ushers	7
Coffee hour	8
Contacts	9

Dear Friends,

Because you might not read the Daily News every Saturday for the "In the Spirit" column..... or because I'm trying to make sure everyone sees these ponderings at least once, or OK, because I'm running behind schedule(!), this is what I wrote for my turn for the Daily News spiritual column. I hope you note the interfaith aspect! Actually, as I write this, I'm getting ready to have a dialogue with a Rabbi at Brooksby village regarding Passover and Easter; I'll let you know what I learn!

### EVIDENCES OF RESURRECTION SPIRIT

After the Holmes Brother's concert at Belleville, one of my colleagues quipped to me: "three old guys who could barely move, play on stage with the energy and enthusiasm of young kids, then have trouble moving off the stage .... talk about resurrection!" ... well., at least for two hours of singing blues and gospel! One could argue that it's just the energy of good music, yet the brothers themselves attribute their zest for life to their faith. One of the brothers told me all about his bouts with cancer and how "Doctor Jesus" helped him heal and thrive.

This time of year, Christians have just remembered and celebrated Easter. Often resurrection is spoken of in terms of new life in nature, in things like the emergence of butterflies from cocoons, frogs from tadpoles, new sprouts from seeds, flower bulbs, things that appear dead but have new life within. Or we might focus on Jesus himself, and the recorded appearances to his followers. Like Thomas, we may wish we could see or touch him to believe the news is true. The things that convince me most that he was victorious over persecution and death, however, are instances of "resurrection spirit," or perhaps an "overcoming spirit" in human life, both before and after Jesus.

Where does the power come from to live as fully as possible in the face of illness, or to forgive someone who tried to assassinate you, as with Pope John Paul II? Or the power to hold steadfastly to your vision while in prison like Nelson Mandela? On and on we could go, mentioning Gandhi, Victor Frankl, Martin Luther King Jr., and hosts of others with amazing courage. Many would claim the Spirit of Christ as the source of such power, some claim a Higher Power, and some nothing beyond the self. I am too well acquainted with my own limits and failings to think I can follow in their steps on my own, even with the best of my intentions and willpower. It is the very focus on a power greater than ourselves that connects us with such power.

For the Holmes Brothers and many of the above, they did indeed focus on Jesus, and thus found his resurrecting hope, courage and strength. Jesus and his transformed followers act as "evidence" of resurrection, and give us hope for the possibilities of resurrection in our own lives. One of the most amazing examples of resurrection spirit is the new life that comes through peacemaking and forgiveness. Think of all the power struggles and abuses of power in the world, from the personal to the political. They are death-dealing. Peace, love and understanding are truly powerful evidences of new life, of a resurrection spirit; and our inability to live consistently with peace, love, and understanding in all relationships is evidence of our need to "tap into" a power or God greater than ourselves, by whatever path we may choose.

Ross Varney, Pastor, Belleville Church

# 2014 CALENDAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 8pm Holmes Brothers Concert	3 Newburyport Choral Society Concert 8pm
4 10am Worship Newburyport Choral Society Concert 2pm	5 7pm CODA	6 1:30pm Service Club	7 9 am Thrift Shop	8 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 6:15pm Lenten Book Discussion 7:30pm Choir practice	9	10 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
11 10am Worship	12 7pm CODA	13 1:3pm Service Club Annual Luncheon at the Poet's Inn	14 6:30pm Worship & Education 7pm Stewardship & Finance	15 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7:30pm Choir practice	16	17 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3MB Fencing
18 10am Worship	19 7pm CODA	20 7:30pm Executive Board	21 9am Thrift Shop	22 1pm Gentle Chair Yoga 7:30pm Choir practice	23	24 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing
25 10am Worship	26 7pm CODA	27	28 6:30pm Men's Fellowship Dinner	29	30	31 9am Thrift Shop 9am 3 MB Fencing



## **May Day Celebration Sunday May 4th**

Join the festivities as we Celebrate May Day by dancing around the May pole, eating strawberry shortcake and making May baskets to deliver to friends.

This fun event will take place during coffee hour on Sunday, May 4th.

If you are scheduled for Coffee hour please come to give the Sunday school teachers a hand setting up.

The following list is what is needed and the people whose last name begins with

- A-H bring prepared strawberries
- I-K whipped cream
- L-N ginger ale
- O-R Angel food cake or shortcake
- S-V Vanilla ice cream or raspberry sherbet
- W-Z more strawberries or angel food cake

Thank you!



## **Children's Sunday and Annual Picnic! June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**

Sunday June 1st, will be the last day of Sunday school before the summer break. The Children of Belleville Sunday School will be celebrating with a special Worship service. It will also be the day the confirmation class will decide to be confirmed and become members of our congregation. We will be moving with the Spirit in our Meeting House on that day! We will have our picnic on the lawn (weather permitting) or indoors in the stage room. Sunday school will provide the luncheon foods. We will also provide the lemonade and of course the Ice Cream Sunday bar! Great way to kick off the summer! Side dishes such as potato salad, cole slaw etc... will be welcome.

Thank you to the congregation for all of your support throughout the year and have a great summer! The teachers and children of Belleville Sunday school.

*The following poem was set to music and was used during the Easter Sunday worship service.*

### Look and See Gods' Colorful World

There are Silver gems hidden in the snowflakes  
and Gold glows in the sunsets that God makes!  
On a pleasant summer day, bright Azure in the sky,  
butterflies of every color gaily flutter by!  
There are Diamonds in the raindrops, as they sparkle in the sun  
and what about a rainbow to show the storm is done?  
Rich and poor together, God blesses every one.  
Rich and poor together, God blesses every one.

Anna May Guyette - March 20, 2014



The thrift shop is open every Wednesday and Saturday 9am – noon.  
Come by and see what's new.

## **SERVICE CLUB ANNUAL SPRING OUTING**

On Tuesday, May 13 the Service Club will be meet at The Poet's Inn at 11am for our annual spring outing.

### **Service Club Rummage Sale Part II Saturday June 21, 9am to 1pm**

While doing your spring cleaning please think about donating items you may no longer use or need to the Rummage Sale. Donations can be left in the downstairs dining room. All clothing donations still go to the Thrift Shop drop off.

## **Men's**



# **Fellowship**

## **Supper**

Wednesday, May 28, 6:30pm

Our topic is Richard Rohr's writings from his book *"From Wild Man to Wise Man (Reflections on masculine spirituality)"*.

We are looking at a few selected chapters that have been photocopied. If you do not have and would like copies of the readings, please contact Ross or the church office.



*May*

- 2 *David Morrow*
- 8 *Robert Gandolfi*  
*Chapel Allard*
- 9 *Hans Erwich*
- 12 *Jean Hansen*  
*Jeanne Mantarian*  
*Tayla Ipbuken*
- 13 *Daryl Fay*
- 16 *Jen Lovejoy Gandolfi*
- 30 *Norma Dean*

*June*

- 3 *Bill Silsby*  
*Judy Moore*
- 4 *Taunya Till*
- 7 *Shirley Locke*
- 9 *Karen Conway*
- 10 *Yvonne Cedras*
- 13 *Ben Tyler*
- 17 *Marcia Samuelson*
- 20 *Andrea Samuelson*
- 25 *Marcia Peirce*
- 29 *Rita Vreeland*  
*Hazen Brown*



*Scripture readers*

*May*

- 4 Barbara Colten
- 11 Gail Gandolfi
- 18 Barbara Habelt
- 25 Carolyn Kyle

*June*

- 1 Lynn Varney
- 8 Bill Silsby
- 15 Sue Heersink
- 22 Hunter Anderson
- 29 Gail Gandolfi

**If you are not available to read on the date that you have been assigned, just call the next person on the list or send out an email and trade.**



*May*

- 4 Ben Heersink & Jon Pearson
- 11 Ataan Kurgun & Keri Pennell
- 18 Jean Kirkpatrick & Norma Dean
- 25 Mardee Beauparlant & Audrey Clarkson

*June*

- 1 Rita Vreeland & Hans Erwich
- 8 Hunter Anderson & Peggy Utterback
- 15 Jean Kirkpatrick & Carolyn Kyle
- 22 Judi Smith & Kathy Raywood
- 29 Gail Gandolfi & Anna Guyette



### *May Hosts*

- 4 Audrey Clarkson, Jean Kirkpatrick & Helen Hatcher
- 11 MOTHER'S DAY Bill Silsby, Bob Locke & Ben Heersink
- 18 Janet Woodman, Rita Vreeland & Pam Ellis
- 25 MEMORIAL DAY No Coffee Hour

**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 posted on the bulletin board. Please feel free to swap around with anyone if the assigned week is a conflict for you. Please let the office know if there is a change.**

**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 are gratefully accepted.**



## *Belleville Congregational Church*

*United Church of Christ*

300 High Street

Newburyport, MA 01950

978-465-7734

[bcchurch@worldpath.net](mailto:bcchurch@worldpath.net)

[bellevillechurch.org](http://bellevillechurch.org)

### 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: Rita Vreeland

Treasurer: Mary Lou Tyler

Memorial Fund Treasurer: Kelly  
Burke-Anderson

Auditor: Kathy Raywood

Members-at-Large (Ex. Board)

### Contact Persons

Board of Fellowship & Outreach:

Diane Crofts

Board of Worship & Education:

Kelly Burke-Anderson

Board of Stewardship & Finance:

Hans Erwich, Jim Samuelson

UCC Delegate: Emery Rice

### Sunday School Coordinator

Pam Ellis

### Flower Coordinator

Shirley Locke

### Hospitality Coordinator

Steve & Lori Wiswell