



The Messenger

The First Parish of Bolton

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE, OCTOBER 2011

One of Alfred Hitchcock's least known films is "The Trouble With Harry." The "Harry" in question is a dead body. "Harry" died of natural causes, but before that fact is established, three residents of the small Vermont town in which the film is set become convinced that they are responsible for his death. Each in turn attempts to hide the body, with amusing results.

When I first saw the film, I found the story line hard to follow. Audiences in 1955 agreed. "The Trouble with Harry" was not a box office success. What did hold my attention was the scenery. Hitchcock filmed in the tiny town of Craftsbury, Vermont during the fall foliage season. There is such a thing as a perfect fall day, and Hitchcock seemed to capture it. The colors are stunning.

As it turns out, the visual effects were, in some cases, manufactured. Hitchcock arrived in Craftsbury on September 27, 1954 and was shocked to discover that the fall colors were nearly past their prime. For several scenes Hitchcock actually wound up having to glue leaves back onto trees.

Thus I come to my annual October admonition. In these parts, October is one of the loveliest months of the year. The light still lingers. The days remain warm. And Mother Nature is putting on her biggest show and inviting us to revel in it.

Accept her invitation. Go on long drives (and pick up some of John Stephenson's donuts to take with you.) Wander in the woods. Climb a nearby mountain. Have one last barbecue on the deck. Take an afternoon off — you'll know which one. Skip a committee meeting — you'll know which one. Turn off the computer and the television. Go outside. There's not much time. Winter is coming.

Don't arrive at the end of the month wishing there was some way you could glue the leaves back on the trees.

Blessings,

Richard (and Christi)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 2 October: Pentecost XVI * World Communion Sunday

8:30 a.m.: Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

10 a.m.: Worship and RE

Sermon: "Two Vigils. Two Executions" *On September 21, two men were executed, one in Georgia and one in Texas. We heard about the execution in Georgia. Less was said about the execution in Texas. But both have much to teach us.*

Anthem: "Holy Art Thou," *Handel*

Sunday, 2 October, 1 p.m. The Blessing of Animals, St. Francis Xavier Church

Bring your feathered or four-legged friends (suitably leashed, of course) to St. Francis Church as we celebrate the annual blessing of animals with our brothers and sisters from the Parish of the Holy Trinity.

Saturday, 8 October, 5:30 p.m.: "Soulful Saturday" II

*The response to our first "Soulful Saturday" was enthusiastic. Today we feature the music of guitarist/singer **Sandy Haddon and Kathryn Kaufman**, harmonica. Bring your children and enjoy this relaxed and informal thirty-five minute service.*

Sunday, 9 October: Pentecost XVII

8:30 a.m.: Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

10 a.m.: Worship and RE

Sermon "Don't Worry! Be Happy!" *As W.H. Auden writes, "Through the chaos and the confusion comes an absurd command --- rejoice!" Now, just how do we do that?*

Anthem: "I Waited for the Lord," *Mendelssohn*

Sunday, 16 October: Pentecost XVIII * International Children's Sabbath

8:30 a.m.: Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

10 a.m.: Worship and RE

Sermon: "What They've Taught Me" *In seventeen years of ministry, some of the biggest lessons I've learned have been taught to me by the children of our church. Today, I share a few.*

High school senior Amy Donato will also talk with us this morning.

Anthem: "The Heavens Are Telling," *Haydn*

Sunday, 23 October: Pentecost XIX * "Love Your Neighbor" Sunday

8:30 a.m.: Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

10 a.m.: Worship and RE

Today, we will have special guests. *In September, thanks to your generosity, members of our small group ministry assembled backpacks for young people in Lowell who are refugees from many countries. Some of them will join us this morning to share their stories, along with their teacher, Jan Barrett.*

Sunday, 30 October: Pentecost XX

8:30 a.m.: Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

10 a.m.: Worship and RE

Sermon: "The Cultivation of Awe" *There is something beyond the streets where we live. There is something beyond the rituals of the temple where we worship. There is something beyond what we know, and we are part of it.*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS On 18 September, we “officially” welcomed six new members to First Parish. We are grateful for their presence in our “beloved community.”

Matthew and Valerie Beyranevand: Matthew and Valerie both went to Ithaca College, and met a year after graduation through a mutual friend. They were married in 2003 and lived in Westford, MA until moving to Bolton just over two years ago. They both work in the field of education and enjoy traveling, reading, being outdoors, working around the house and listening to music. Their children Emily and Alexander enjoy books, puzzles, balls, swimming, running, drawing, and singing. All four enjoy time with family and friends. They live on a quiet street off South Bolton Road.

Mike and Liz Cook: Michael Alexander Cook (Mike to his friends) is a professional actor who spends most of his days studying lines, getting ready for auditions, auditioning, working out, taking classes, and occasionally even acting for money. He’s currently in the midst of shooting an independent, low-budget feature film called “The Killing Business,” in which he stars as a sociopath murdering his way up the corporate ladder. Liz, Mike’s wife and “best friend,” was born in Acton and is happily back in Massachusetts pursuing a law degree, They preside over a family of two dogs, three cats, and one fish. They live at the Regency.

Gary Somers and Susan Hurley: Gary is director of training for a software company and travels about 50% of the time, so he looks forward to his time at home! Susan is in sales in the healthcare section of Phillips Electronics. She enjoys her hobby of nature photography. Gary and Susan both enjoy gardening, walking/hiking, and traveling together. They have been married for one and a half years and live at Ridgefield.

OUR NEW BRIDGE IS FINISHED! We shared a happy moment on Sunday, 25 September when we dedicated and blessed the new bridge from the parking area behind the church to Davis Hall. This bridge makes our church fully accessible to the physically challenged. We thank the members of our board of property and maintenance, Chris Blake, Mike Drabik, Bob Johnson, Kim Joly, Jeff Nichols, and Michelle Tuck for their work on this project. Jeff and Bob did much of the prep work themselves, and Michelle Tuck and her husband Chris were the architects. We also thank all who contributed to the capital campaign for the funds that made this important accessibility project possible.

SPEAKING OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: Although the capital campaign was supposed to end in 2010, there are still projects that await completion because there are still outstanding pledges. The most significant project is a new accessible bathroom on the Davis Hall level, which will be constructed in part of the current pantry area. Although Davis Hall is now accessible, the only accessible bathroom lies at the end of a long journey through the sanctuary and onto the elevator to get to the first floor. We hope that those who pledged to the capital campaign but have not yet fulfilled their pledge are able to do so at this time so that this project and others can go forward

PLEASE TAKE BETTER CARE OF THE PLAYGROUND! Our children make good use of the playground outside Davis Hall during coffee hour on Sunday mornings, but we need to remember that the playground is the property of Children’s Horizons, the day-school that rents part of our building. The staff of Children’s Horizons often arrives on Monday morning to find the playground in disarray, with cups and food lying about, and some of the playground toys removed to the lawn. CH is kind in allowing us to have access to the playground. Please respect this privilege and make sure your children do as well. Thank you!

DAVIS HALL CLEAN-UP MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER, 1-3 P.M. On Saturday, 8 October a ceremony will take place in Davis Hall naming the 495 bridge in memory of Bolton native Harold Brown, Jr. We expect the Governor, Lt. Governor, state representatives and senators, and representatives of the federal government. We are honored to have Davis Hall chosen for this ceremony and want to make sure the hall looks as good as it can.

If you have time between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday, 3 October free, please come to Davis Hall armed with cloths, paper towels, and Windex so we can clean the windows and woodwork. Thank you!

THANKS TO SHIRLEY! In preparation for the distinguished visitors we will receive on 8 October, Shirley Sefton has spent about twelve hours taming the wildness of the garden by the back door. It looks beautiful now! Thank you, Shirley! And a reminder that gardens do need tending, and we welcome the gardeners in our parish to drop by whenever they have an hour or so and help us keep our gardens in good order.

THE WHEEL OF LIFE

Our sympathy to:

- *Mark Curry and his family on the loss of Mark's grandmother.
- *David Campbell, Melissa Campbell, Aileen Roberts, and Martha and Jim Ford on the loss of David's daughter, Wendy.
- *Duncan Robertson and his family on the loss of Duncan's mother.
- *Margaret and Kathleen Cachel on the loss of Andrew, husband and father.

Our congratulations to:

- *Rebecca, Adam, and Eamon Duffy on the birth of Eamon's brother Finn Morris.
(Congratulations to proud grandparents Alan Moyer and Terrell Clark, as well!)

WILL YOU HELP PLAN FUTURE "SOULFUL SATURDAYS?" Richard is looking to assemble an ad hoc committee of people interested in helping put together our "Soulful Saturday" services. He is particularly seeking people with good contacts with musicians or musicians themselves as the services are designed primarily to feature music. Please contact Richard if you are interested. Thank you!

OIL AT A DISCOUNT Ever seeking to minimize our prodigious oil bill, the board of finance and governing board have voted to switch to **Juniper Oil** which has offered the church a discount. Juniper has also offered a discount to parishioners as part of the deal. If you want this discount, you must act immediately. Please email the church office if you are interested.

OUTREACH NEWS

Soup Kitchen Update On the second Monday of each month, we serve a delicious dinner of American chop suey, salad and dessert to about 50 to 60 people at the Community Café at 242 High Street in Clinton. The meal is served from 4 to 6 p.m. The food preparation may be done on the weekend before. During these challenging economic times, these services are in much demand and are much appreciated. In September, the meal was prepared by Karen Dorhamer-Fadden, Susan Membrino, Kim Joly and Elaine Griffith. It was served by Kim Joly and Jeff Nichols. If you would like to help out in an upcoming month, please sign up on the sheet in Davis Hall of contact Karen Dorhamer-Fadden at 978-897-5088 or Karen.Dorhamer@hp.com. Thanks!

Learn About Volunteering With Habitat for Humanity North Central Mass. These sessions are held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Habitat ReStore on Route 117 in Leominster. You'll get an overview of Habitat and an outline of the many opportunities available for you. If you're ready to sign up, applications will be available. For more information about how you can help, contact **Tracy Spiegel** at 978-345-2749 or tracy.spiegel@ncmhabitat.org to learn of the many ways you can support Habitat for Humanity. **We especially need volunteers able to support us with a regular commitment of their time and skills —weekly, bi-weekly — on our construction sites, in the Restore and office.**

Book Donations for Cottage Hill Academy's Library The Board of Outreach has learned about a need for books for the library at Cottage Hill Academy in Baldwinville. Cottage Hill is a residential program that provides care, treatment and education for troubled youth. They are in need of **new or gently used books that are age appropriate for grades two through twelve.** They are only able to accept items that fit these criteria. If you would like to donate some books, please leave them in the green storage bin on the front steps of the church during the month of October. If you would like to learn more about Cottage Hill, please see their website at <http://www.youinc.org/Programs?Residential/CottageHill/CHA.ASP>

WHEAT Community Services Seeking Donations WHEAT is a multi-service agency that offers resources to community members who need help with food, clothing, referrals, transportation, and assistance getting back on their feet. They support the residents of Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster, and Sterling. In the past year, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of people seeking help, while at the same time, donations have decreased significantly. If you would like to help, you can send donations to WHEAT, c/o Jim Sheehan, 500 Main Street, Clinton, MA 01510. The phone number is 978-365-6349. If you would like to donate furniture, clothing or household items to the Hidden Treasures Thrift shop, you can drop them off at 180 High Street, Clinton, or call 978-365-3085 to arrange for pick-up. Donations of non-perishable food items may be dropped off at the Main Street address. If you would like to volunteer your services, please contact Phyllis Farrell, Volunteer Coordinator at 978-365-6340, x11.

OTHER NEWS

Small Group Ministry Sessions Begin in October – Registration Still Open We are excited to be planning for the fourth year of our Small Group Ministry program, which will be starting up in October. There will be an evening session from 7 to 9 p. m. on the fourth Monday of each month, starting on October 24th. A daytime session will be held from 12:30 to 2:30 on the fourth Wednesday of each month, starting on October 26th.

Small Group Ministry is a wonderful way to connect with other church members and nurture our spirits. We meet once per month in groups of at most ten people to share experiences about a specific topic. For more details about the program, and to register, please see our new website at <http://www.firstparishofbolton.org/sgm/>. We also have printed copies of our brochure available at church, so you can register in person, by mail, or by telephone if you prefer. Please contact Karen Dorhamer-Fadden (978-897-5088, Karen.Dorhamer@hp.com) if you have any questions.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS: Chris Ware 10/ 1; Sandra Tripp 10/2; Iris Berdrow 10/3; Anita Scheipers 10/4; Elaine Griffith 10/5; Stacy Kirkland, Kelly Rickard 10/7; Dick Tuft 10/9; Matthew Child 10/10; Greg Childs, Brooke James 10/11; Penny Dickson 10/12; Brenda Baum, Liz Pekkala, Eric Vinnaco 10/13; Nancy Federspiel, Jo Jo Smith 10/14; Eric Ming Miu 10/16, Brandon Proteau 10/16; Dale Parda 10/18; Ethan Conklin, Adam Read 10/19; Tom Magazu 10/20; Stephen McCormick 10/22; Rob Parda 10/24; Thomas Parda, Karen Dorhamer-Fadden, Jean Henry, Susan Taeuber 10/25; Bryan Harvey, Wesley Legare 10/28; Dick Hines, Karen Hoeffler, Sallyann King 10/29; Emalee Fenner 10/30; Martha Ford 10/31

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES: Curtis and Leslie Harvey 10/1; Tom and Rhonda Magazu 10/3; Adam and Rebecca Duffy, Lauri and Liz Pekkala, Jack and Carolyn Read 10/7; Dave and Tammy O'Connor 10/9; Alan Moyer and Terrell Clark, Steve and Jean Bond 10/11; Stephen McCormack and Leah Lamson 10/17; Joe and Barbara Donato. Jeff and Mary Nichols 10/18; Gerry and Janet Smith 10/25.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR: SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER

There are many ways to help make the bazaar a success!

Linda Skinner Austin and Brenda Baum will again co-host the church bazaar. Please keep in mind how you have helped in the past and how you might help this year! We will be in touch to secure "chairs" for each department and we will welcome any and all support! You can reach Linda at boltonpan@verizon.net with any questions or suggestions.

The Bake Shop - Contact: Shirley Sefton - 978-779-2216

Homemade goodies of all kinds, all donations gratefully accepted. Please deliver wrapped and ready to sell. Apple pies and dumplings are made on Friday in the church kitchen, helpers needed.

Kitchen Nook—Contact: Lyn Slade - 978-779-5005 or lyn@charlotteshousebandb.com

Donate homemade jelly, jam, pickles, relish, etc. Joan Smith is in charge of selling the famous church knives. There are mixes for baked goods, homemade granola, freshly baked beans, Vermont Cheddar Cheese etc.

Basket Boutique - Contact: Karen Skinner - 978-779-6997 or skipskinner@verizon.net

This is a raffle of gift baskets. If your family would like to shop and fill a themed basket just ask for an idea! All items should be new. Baskets and lists of ideas will be available at coffee hour.

Gingerbread Houses - Susan Taeuber [mail to: Carolyn.read@yahoo.com](mailto:Carolyn.read@yahoo.com)

The Ginger Bread House making for kids during the bazaar is a big hit. The Junior High Youth Group kids will help with assemblies the day of the sale.

The Candy Shop - Contact: Holly Ventura - 978-840-1073 theventuras@yahoo.com

Fudge of all kinds, brittles and barks. Any homemade sweet treats are eagerly accepted at the candy shop.

The Gallery / Handicrafts - Nancy Skinner-978-779-5021 nan1367@verizon.net

Our parish is full of gifted artisans. The Gallery is where you can donate your art and it receives an appropriate price. Last year there was framed art and photos, wood working, needle work, jewelry, antiques and more. Please let us know what you are working on. If you have smaller crafted items, we'd love those as well.

The Café - Contact: Maureen Evans - 978-779-8293

This is the place to get coffee and pastry early, and an excellent lunch later. Home made chili and chowder are traditionally on the menu - maybe something new as well!

The Cookie Jar - Pat Huckery - 978-779-0403

A very popular and successful addition for the past several years — parishioners donate extra large batches of their favorite holiday cookies. Customers fill a tin with their own choice of an assortment for a flat fee. Freeze for the holidays or eat them on the car ride home! We'll need your contributions!

Holiday Greens - Linda S. Austin 978-779-6076-boltonpan@verizon.net

Do you have a holly bush, red berry, Scotch Pine in your yard? We'd love to take a handful so we can assemble some nice door swags and the like. They sold like hot-cakes last year!

Costume Jewelry Table - Contact: Carolyn Read - 978-779-0075 or carolyn.read@yahoo.com

Once again the Junior High Youth Group would love your jewelry cast-off's for this very popular table at the bazaar. A basket for any contributions will be left at coffee hour starting on 2 October.

If you have a talent to share but don't know where it will fit, ask us. We are aiming for 100% parish participation in some way! We are grateful to the Women's Guild again this year for giving us seed money. If you need to defray your costs, please see either of us. With everyone's help this will be a fantastic bazaar! Brenda Baum 978-779-6483; Linda Skinner Austin 978-779-6076 or boltonpan@verizon.net.

First Parish of Bolton Religious Education Newsletter

Rotation Workshops: On September 25, we kicked off the first Rotation Workshop of the year, “Creation”. The children have been having a wonderful time learning about the story of God creating the earth by taking pictures of God’s creations, using Play-dough to create something God has created and going on a scavenger hunt.

For the next two weeks we will be continuing our workshop on Creation. Kim Joly and Susan Membrino will be running the Arts & Crafts workshop where the children will use Play-dough to create something God created. Liz Schoepke will be running the games workshop where the children will go on a scavenger hunt to look for interesting things God has created. Finally, our community service project for this workshop is the photography and scrapbooking workshop. Children in grades K-5 will take pictures of God’s creations and children in grades 6-8 will make scrapbooks with these pictures. These scrapbooks will be included in the Epiphany baskets that are delivered to our shut-ins after Christmas. Here is the schedule:

	Photography/ Scrapbooking	Games	Arts and Crafts
October 2	3-5	6-8	K-2
October 9	6-8	K-2	3-5

Recruiting for the next Rotation Workshop: We are currently recruiting for teachers for the next three 3-week rotations. Following is a description of each workshop. We will pick three of the five listed.

Session 2: The Greatest Commandment – Love: Workshops from which to choose:

Science: Through two fun and easy Science experiments, the children will learn about God’s love.

Cooking: Learn about God’s love and loving your neighbor by making heart shaped cookies and sharing them with the congregation during coffee hour.

Games: Play a variety of games to learn the story concepts, especially about loving God with all you’ve got.

Video K-5: The children in grades K-5 will watch the Veggie-Tales movie, “Are You My Neighbor?” [There will be another workshop for K-8 – undecided as of yet]

Nature Art: To show the children that God loves everyone by identifying the blessings that God has made available to all God’s children. The children will use items created by God to create pictures of their blessings.

Session 3: Mary and Martha: Workshops from which to choose:

Arts and Crafts: The children will create kaleidoscopes. They will see that through the process of assembling many parts, a unique and wonderful gift will be made. Each piece of the kaleidoscope needs the other piece in order to create a working, whole unit (body).

Cooking: The children will prepare a “smoothie” for refreshment. They will discuss all the ingredients that go in and something whole and totally different results when it is blended together. Discuss hospitality at home (how it relates to the Mary and Martha story).

Cooking 2: Develop understanding of the importance of hospitality in Jesus’ day and the types of food Martha may have prepared for her guest.

Science: An experiment and a game of telephone

Games: Discuss story and play a decision-making game.

Session 4: The Birth of Jesus Through the Eyes of Mary We are still looking for ONE more workshop to be chosen. Following are the workshops that have already been chosen:

Music: (Being taught by Kathryn Kaufman and Sandra Haddon) - Teach the children the song "Mary Did You Know?" – Talk about the prophecies that were fulfilled when Jesus was born.

Banners/Textiles (Being taught by Laura Pelletier) – Think about ways that Mary prepared to be a new mother while making no-sew fleece blankets to give to new babies.

We would like one more workshop of the following to be chosen:

Cooking: Associate six segments of Mary's story with foods for the participants to sample.

Cinema: Watch The Nativity Story and reflect on the key words accept, magnify, and ponder as illustrated by the scenes of the film.

Creative Writing: Learn prophecies about Jesus' birth and life and compose a poem or a prayer of commitment to explore what these prophecies mean for us today.

If you are interested in helping with any of these workshops, please contact Holly Ventura at fpbrecoordinator@yahoo.com or 978-840-1073.

This Year's Children's Fund

Many of us don't remember where we were on June 1st ... that is, unless you remember that was the day that a tornado hit the western part of Massachusetts, specifically in the Monson, Brimfield, and Sturbridge area. The First Congregational Church of Brimfield, United Church of Christ opened its doors the next day and vowed to "help all who needed to be helped and serve hot food every day until there was nobody who needed it". They are upholding their vow still today. They are providing shelter for those who have lost their homes, hot meals, internet service and so much more. When I wrote to the church, I originally asked if there was one family in particular that we could help. Their response was that there were SO many families in need of help that it would be very hard to choose just one. Therefore, the RE Committee decided that we would just ADOPT the church! All church school collections will be given to the Brimfield church to help them with the costs for supporting all of these families most affected by the tornados.

Junior and Senior High Youth Group

The Junior High Youth Group had a bon fire on Sunday, September 25th. Lots of fun was had and lots of ideas were discussed. If your child is in grade 6-8 and would like to join the group, please contact Carolyn Read (Carolyn.read@yahoo.com) or Tammy O'Connor (toc2ya@comcast.net).

The Senior High Youth Group will be having their bon fire some time in October at the Evans' house to decide what fun activities they'd like to do. If your child is 14 years old or older and would like to join the group, please contact Holly Ventura at theventuras@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER:
OCTOBER 20.