

# The Gloucester Universalist

The First Universalist Church in America: Organized 1779

THE REVEREND WENDY FITTING, MINISTER      Worship Service: 10:00 am every Sunday



## Words from Wendy

### “Clapping in Church”

Well. Children's Sunday last month was wonderful, but I, your pastor, was way off base that lovely day. Here's why.

My timing in expressing, on that day, of all days, that I believe applause in the worship service is inappropriate was just wrong, wrong, wrong! And so, for any of you, dear readers, who thought I meant, "Resist heart-felt, spontaneous applause for our kids," please accept my mea culpa.

When David Bergeron became our Music Minister 16 plus years ago, I knew we had an artist on our staff. It was important to me then, as it is now, that we honor

his artistry by remaining present for the postlude, rather than leaving/talking, etc. during his closing musical offering.

I had to convince David that this was the right thing, because in his experience, the postlude was the congregation's signal to get up, talk, gather gloves, coats, etc. and head out or to coffee hour. Plus, he told me, "Well, I'll just have to add hours to organ practice." And he did, much to the delight of us all.

At some point spontaneous applause for the postlude turned into an every Sunday thing and that's when my liturgical alarm bells went off.

This is important: The model of what we do every Sunday is

worship, the celebration of the Sabbath, an hour of rest, welcoming the stranger. In too many religious institutions the Sabbath has become a fundraiser, an entertainment, a performance, far removed from its ancient and healing and sacred intent. Rote applause every Sunday at the close of our service is inappropriate by my lights, and I'm sure, David Bergeron's as well.

But by all means, clap, cheer, and make all manner of joyful noise spontaneously and with abandon as the spirit moves you, for our children, for ourselves, and for those over-whelming moments of amazing grace, whenever and wherever they call your name.

## We're Going to be GOOD and HORRIBLE!



Alison Rowell and Shep Abbott led a workshop during and after our Annual Church Picnic on June 27th to make

banners and signs for our float in the Parade of Horribles, which will be held on Saturday, July 3rd! This event promises to be a fun time for us to let the community (and visitors in town) know a little bit more about the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church. There's still time for you to make your own sign and walk along side the float as it passes by you along the route: *families are especially encouraged to do this!* If you want to start at the beginning, meet at the high school parking lot at 5:00 pm on Saturday, July 3rd.

### What's Inside?

- WORKS & PROGRESS
- LIFESPAN LEARNING
- BIRTHDAYS & FLOWERS
- SUPPORT ATHLETES AND OUR CHURCH
- A CAPPELLA MUSIC IN OUR SANCTUARY
- OPEN DOOR MEAL

## Works and Progress

### Balusters



Newt Fink says: "The balusters are going back in. We're about half done. We'll have some paint touch

up and cosmetic work to do - and then hope we can find someone to scrub all the rest with TSP in preparation for a complete paint job." Helping Newt with this restoration project are Gary Green and Don Ruzecki.

### Annex Roof Replaced

Many of you were in church on a Sunday in February when we discovered leaks in the library, among other places. Those heavy rains *and winds* of late winter tore off shingles on our Annex. A new roof was put on in one day -- June 15th!



### Curbing and Sidewalks Installed

On that same day (June 15th) the company doing the CSO project poured the concrete for the sidewalk.



The granite curbing had been placed the week before. We were a very noisy and "hopping" place that day!

### SO .... What's Next?

Well, with the help of many people and the grant writing leadership of Jerry Ackerman, we're applying for some of the Community Preservation funding that's available. It will be used to make our building ADA compliant; therefore handicapped accessible. This would help us to install a lift of some kind, and expanded restrooms.

This is a very exciting time for us; we look forward to more noise of construction and preservation.

## News from the Care Committee



As many of you may know, **JoeAnn Hart** is in cancer treatment and should be back on her feet later in the summer. She

thanks everyone for all the good wishes.

**Deb Hardy** continues to keep us posted on her progress through the Caringbridge website: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/debhardy](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/debhardy).

Deb and JoeAnn both recently received care shawls. As Deb Hardy said on her Caringbridge site — her shawl is "full of hugs."

Tracy Bowen sends us word that **Ruth Woodbury** would love to have visitors from the church. You can find her contact information in the church directory.

We have two graduates this spring. **Sophie Hagberg** graduated from Manchester-Essex High School and **Elizabeth Bergeron** officially graduated from Smith College, though she finished classes last semester. Congratulations to both! (Please let me know if we have missed anyone.)

Long time church member, **Howard Blatchford** died at age 89 on May 15th and was laid to rest with military

honors at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. For many years Howard served as usher, every Sunday, welcoming folks to church. He also served on the Board of Managers and as Moderator. Our hearts go out to Howard's children and his wife, Priscilla, who was a faithful member of the choir for many years.

**Care Committee members** enjoyed hosting coffee hour this Sunday (June 20th) and talking with everyone. Keep in touch.

## June Flowers

**June 13:** Given by the Religious Education Committee to express joy for the gifts children bring to our lives.

Note: *If you would like to give flowers in memory of someone or to mark an occasion, please call the church office at*

978/283-3410.

## a cappella Music Series in July

### "Overboard" Vocals

On every Friday evening in July — at 8:00 pm — our sanctuary will be alive with a cappella music. *Overboard* is a group of 6 singers who met while attending college in Boston. They have performed in Boston, the North Shore, and around New England and were nominated for 8 awards in 2010. Their latest album is "Help." If you didn't hear them when they stopped by our picnic to give us a "taste" ... check out their website ([www.overboardvocals.com](http://www.overboardvocals.com)) and take a listen to their work. We're sure you'll be impressed and will be among those who can't wait to hear them in person.

Admission is \$10 -- \$5 for students and those over 65



## Spotlight on August ... Raising \$\$

"Gloucester Fisherman's Triathlon" [August 8] Starts at 7:30 am

"Run Gloucester" [August 22] Starts at 8:00 pm

This information is early ... but we will need time to plan. We are among a small number of non-profits that have been given the privilege of being able to raise some funds in both races. For now, we're in the idea stage.

- we could support runners from our church by pledging a certain \$ amount per mile
- we could work with St. John's Church and hold a pancake breakfast right after the "Tri"
- we could ..... you supply an idea

One way of raising our image in the community might be to volunteer as a group (large or small) and help with a task either the day before the race, during the race on Sunday -- or even after the race.

Our imaginative leader, Rev. Wendy, suggests we might hold our service out on the front lawn on August 8th and cheer the athletes on as they run past our church on the last leg (running portion .... PUN intended) of the Gloucester Tri.

*Call the church office to take part and/or to make a suggestion. 978/283-3410*

July 1 Corryn Ulrich  
 July 2 Maxine Fuller  
 July 4 Gordie Baird, Jay McLaughlan  
 July 5 Dick Prouty  
 July 6 Barbara Friberg  
 July 7 Elaine Bleau Richards  
 July 8 Brenda Enslow



July 9 Christa Sammons, Cynthia Lang  
 July 13 Rufus Collinson  
 July 17 Stanley Marchant  
 July 22 John Culp  
 July 24 Judy Warrington  
 July 26 Judy Williams

## July Birthdays

## Lifespan Learning Religious Education

### FROM THE DRE...

We all remember the allure of that last bell of the school year, marking the beginning of summer regardless of what the calendar or the weather says. Well, that time is upon us and the RE program and yours truly take advantage of this time to step back and survey the landscape. We look back on the year past and look forward to the one ahead of us. Academic calendars are in a temporary state of limbo and we find ourselves breathing more slowly, even as we gear up with new plans and new dreams of the days ahead.

One of my dreams is to have a full summer program at the Gloucester UU, with workshops and short-term focused day programs for youth and adults alike. And while that dream is a ways off yet, this summer will be

dedicated to making the dream take shape, planning a program and seeking funding and other support.

### Two Special Day Programs

Although our regular church school will not meet again until September, this summer we plan to have two special RE Day programs. The first will be July 18<sup>th</sup> and the second on August 8<sup>th</sup>. These will be activity-focused days with hands-on fun and games. We'll be joined by special guests and the youth will have an opportunity to see one another and reconnect before summer's end.

There will also be an adult RE class this summer. The dates are yet to be determined, but look for

notices and an opportunity to sign up via email, or in the church announcements.



Finally, we'll end summer and kick off another successful year with the return of the *Gathering of the*

*Waters* ceremony we enacted last fall.

On September 19<sup>th</sup> bring in a small amount of water that you've gathered during your summer, whether from travels far and wide, or from your own back yard. We'll use this water to mark our return, share something of our time away and offer a blessing to the year ahead.

With peace,  
Mark LaPointe, DRE

## It's Our Turn to Cook on July 17th

### Community Meals

The Open Door is a community-based, non-profit organization that is committed to feeding the hungry on Cape Ann. Community meals are provided at no cost, in a clean, pleasant, and friendly atmosphere. Volunteers from a variety of organizations around Cape Ann cook and serve these meals. The Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church (ICC-UU) is one of many churches that participate in catering for the Open Door Community Meals Program.

### Volunteers

Volunteers are responsible for providing and preparing the food, serving the meal, and cleaning the kitchen and dining room. In planning the meals, the focus is on providing nutritious, healthy choices for the guests. After the meal is served, the volunteers join the guests for dinner.



**Save These Dates ...  
they're when we are  
scheduled to serve a  
meal during 2010.**

- Saturdays
- July 17
- October 16

Meals are open to anyone who is hungry or lonely. There are no eligibility requirements for guests. Meals are served on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Sunday meal is served from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Doors open one hour before meal service.

### Want to Help?

Peggy Kimball, who coordinates our participation, invites anyone to come and enjoy good company for a good purpose. She will need 4 to 8 people. If you don't know how to cook, but want to help, there are other tasks that need doing.

Contact Peggy at 978-282-6534 or send an e-mail to [kimball@alum.wellesley.edu](mailto:kimball@alum.wellesley.edu)