



January 2012
Communion

The Night the Angels Sang

A Christmas Cantata Presented by
Union Congregational Church
And Church School Families

Christmas Sunday December 18





CANTATA CAST

Annie Henry, Irv Richardson, Becca Jennings, Tracy Messer, Danielle & Karlee Sell, Ashley Newcomb, Fiona Pieterse, John Matthews, Martha Dahl, Simon and Ethan Chui, Tyler Newcomb, Lilly Grisafi, Emma Holgate, Ben Henry, Gwyneth & Rowan Inglis, Bethany Holgate, Megan Millbauer, Dick Fernald, Kathy and Larry Schongar, Kelly Kent-Kiburis, Paul Seguin, Laura Gingras



***Celebrating
Christmas
at
Union
Church***

Lighting Advent
Candles:

Sarah Pope
Megan Millbauer

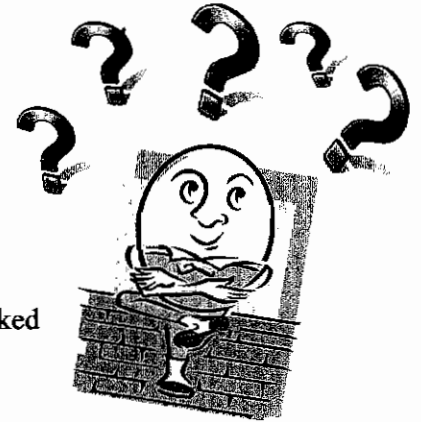
Children's
Choir:

Rowan Inglis
Gwyneth Inglis
Ethan Chui
Megan Millbauer
Emma Holgate
Bethany Holgate

OFF THE WALDO

by
Professor Waldo Whatsname

WALDO ANSWERS THE QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED BY SENIOR CITIZENS IN 2012



1. WHAT DID I COME HERE FOR? Actually not the question most frequently asked by senior citizens. The most frequently asked is:
2. WHAT'S FOR LUNCH? (or breakfast, supper or a snack?) Sometimes the answer to this question is "Get it yourself."
3. I'D LOVE TO DO THAT FOR YOU, BUT IT'S NAP TIME? This does not sound like a question, but it means—"What are you asking me to do? Don't you realize that this is nap time?" Some things are important like "Dancing with the Stars" and naps.
4. WHEN DID I START TO LOOK LIKE THIS? (Asked when stepping out of the shower.) Senior citizens develop selective vision with age. First comes denial—"That obviously is not me." Then comes rationalizing: "That shape can be reversed any time with a little exercise and fewer snacks." Then comes affirmation: "That obviously is the image created by an aging mirror."
5. WHO IS THAT IN THIS BLACK AND WHITE PICTURE? This question asked by seniors when looking through old photograph albums.
6. WHAT HAPPENED TO NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE? It's now being published by "cool" high school kids.
7. WHAT HAPPENED TO TV NEWS AFTER 7:30 PM? It's now the gossip you missed if you went to bed early the last two nights.
8. WHAT DID I REALLY COME IN HERE FOR? Asked by seniors when distracted by something other than what they actually came in here for. You may never remember what it was.
9. WHAT DID YOU DO WITH MY MEDS? (or cane or remote or hearing aids) They are right over there where you put them! What did you do with your glasses?
10. HOW LONG CAN YOU STAND ON ONE FOOT? Up to seventy five years. After that you have to stay on both feet or you will fall down.
11. NO, THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEANT. I know what you meant. What happened to your sense of humor? If you can stand on one foot for ten seconds—now— you are a Senior Athlete.
12. WHAT DID YOU SAY? I WISH YOU WOULD STOP MUMBLING.
13. WHEN IS OUR NEXT DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT?
14. DO YOU REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS?



Altar Flowers and Coffee Hour



These are two traditions that our congregation enjoys every Sunday. The lovely altar flowers are the first place our eyes go as we sit down in our pew before the service. And after the service coffee hour is a lively time to catch up on the news with old friends and welcome visitors. To keep these traditions alive we need everyone to take a turn making coffee and bringing flowers or a plant.

Sign up today on the charts in the hall. Thank you.

ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
UNION
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
WILL BE HELD
SUNDAY, JANUARY 22
11 AM
CHURCH SANCTUARY

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

We are truly blessed with abundance! We have reached 96 Estimate of Giving Cards—only four away from our goal of 100! Our emphasis is on participation, not on dollars. Each one of us has an important role to play in the financial health of our church. Thank you to everyone who has given so generously to support of programs and outreach for 2012.

It is not too late to make your gift. Please consider what you might be able to do on a weekly or monthly basis to help sustain our church. Please drop your card in the collection plate or mail it to the office. If you have lost your card, you can simply state your intentions on a piece of paper with your signature. Remember—this is an “estimate” of your intentions. It is not a binding commitment.

Thank you very much for your support.

The Stewardship Committee



Because Christmas is a busy season we decided not to meet in December. We will continue on January 31 at 1 PM in the parlor when we will discuss Anna Quindlan's traumatic novel “Every Last One.” The book is a mesmerizing read so find it, read it, and join our group.

If you would like to read ahead our next choice will be “The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane” by Katherine Howe. This best selling novel is based on the Salem witch trials in the 1680's and the search for

Circles

Tuesday Niters will not be meeting in January or February due to unpredictable weather. Put on your thinking caps about your ideas for spring. We could do some joint circle meetings. We'll plan around your wishes. Ideas? Call Kathy Schongar at 924-0120.

In the meantime have a blessed Christmas celebration in your heart that last all through 2012.

Wednesday Afternoon Circle meets January 11 at 1:30 PM.

Thursday Morning Circles will not meet in January.

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Norman dePuy—1
Luke Schoel—8
Dick Fernald—9
Joe Lessard—12
Tom Blakeman—12
Cindy Woods—14
Fiona Pieterse—16
Mary Reis—19
Mike Stiefel—21
Stan Fry—21
Doris Heckbert—24
Dolores Webb—28
Virginia Baker—30

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

John and Jean Westaway—22

NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

During December the church school group learned about the meaning of Advent by making their own wreaths, discussing the theme each week and relating it to their own lives.

Many thanks to Ginger Nielson, Nancy Lefko, Ellen Smith, and Ellen Stiefel for teaching this month.



CHOIR RECOGNITION

Sunday, December 11

On behalf of a grateful congregation Music Committee Chair Keith Matthews thanked seven members of our choir who together have sung for us for 550 years!

Those recognized were Holly and Dick Sanders, Flora Smith, Dottie and Harold Capron, Judy Fernald and Doris Heckbert.






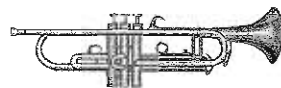
Union Congregational Church Choir on Christmas Sunday
 Director and Accompanist—Mary Ann Fleming

Choir members are Dottie Capron, Judy Fernald, Katie Fernald, Dotty Graham, Doris Heckbert, Carolyn Peacock, Sarah Pope, Janet Brown, Karen Loudon, Holly Sanders, Phyllis Scott, Anne Thompson, Carele Mayer, Dick Chamberlain, Mark Fernald, Keith Matthews, Randy Brown, Dick Loudon, Jim Murphy, and Dick Sanders.

Friday
 January 13
 7 PM
CHICK FLICK



Take an evening off on January 13 at 7 PM to join the ladies as we watch an entertaining movie in the chapel. We will serve diet coke and popcorn in a relaxed atmosphere as we enjoy a film geared to us. Tell Carolyn Grisafi if you have a favorite choice.



TRUMPETEERS



Once again our youth group assisted the life-sharing communities with their annual production of "The Shepherds' Play." The young people handed our programs, sang Christmas carols and cleaned up after the performances. David Stiefel helped by playing his Brahm's piece when the regular pianist was late.

Next month we will be meeting on January 9 when our "college kid alumni" will be telling us about their travels and experiences: Katie Fernald about traveling in the Far East; Lizzie Grisafi about college life in Florence, Italy; Carolyn Matthews on her planned semester in New Zealand; and Drew Manning-Osborn about his work in an orphanage in Africa.

On January 23 we will play games or see a movie.

Help Wanted

The stage extensions used for the children's theater camp performances need a new home. Their current home at The River Center is being converted to another use in the spring. An ideal location would be dry with space approximately ten feet by ten feet or the equivalent of a car bay. Anticipated access would be twice in the summer.

Please contact the church office or Mary Ann Fleming at 525-4764 if you can help or know about an available space.



WARMING TREND IN PETERBOROUGH

The donation basket at the Variety Show garnered \$111.00. Last week David Stiefel, President of the Trumpeteers, presented to Assistant Town Treasurer Nicole Macstay with a check for the Keep Peterborough Warm Fund. Thank you for your contributions.

Thoughts for the New Year

“Cheers to the new year and another chance to get it right.”
Oprah Winfrey

“A New Year’s Resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.”
Anon

“Be always at war with your vices,
At peace with your neighbors,
And let each new year find you
A better man.”
Benjamin Franklin

“Many years ago I resolved never to bother with New Year’s Resolution, and I’ve stuck with it ever since.”
David Beard

“I think in terms of the day’s resolutions, not the year’s.”
Henry Moore

“New Year’s Day is every man’s birthday.”
Charles Lamb

The Variety Show of the Year !

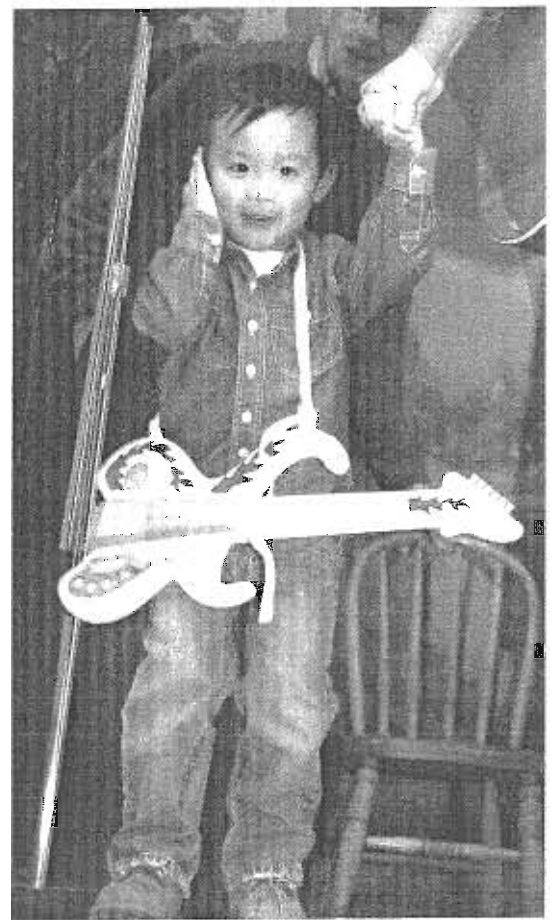


December 2



Written and Directed by
Ann Lessard
Master of Ceremonies
Dick Sanders

Featuring
pianists
singers
poets
actors
story tellers
guitarists
flutists





“Made for Goodness and Why This Makes a Difference” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu

This book will be the basis of discussion for the Tuesday Morning Adult Study Group beginning January 3 at 10:30 AM. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 and former chairman of South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and his daughter Mpho, Executive Director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage in Washington, D.C., state that murder and greed are not the norm for human behavior: the norm is goodness. These two Episcopal ministers set out to make a case that goodness changes everything: the ways we see ourselves, the world and others.

“Made for Goodness and Why This Makes a Difference” is very readable and also very moving. The size of the chapters and the prayer at the end of each one make it ideal for a study group. Copies are available in the office beginning Sunday, December 11 for \$12.00.



ART IN THE CHAPEL

Many thanks to Roger Block for his pastels and oil paintings of the New England landscape.
Ann Munn’s Folk Art is on display in the chapel during January.

Leap Back in Time



An Evening of Oldies but Goodies
Singing or Listening or Dancing
February 25 6 PM
The Music Committee

You are cordially invited to a

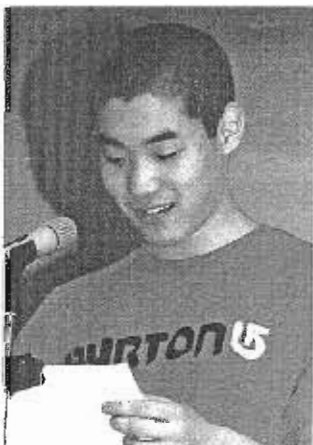
Valentine Tea

February 7
7 P.M



The Women’s Fellowship

FACES FROM THE VARIETY SHOW



Union Congregational Church
Income and Expense as % of Annual Budget
As of November 30, 2011
92% of Year

	November 2011	Annual Budget	92% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Church Use	\$7,430.31	\$9,000.00	82.56%
House Management	\$2,318.69	\$7,500.00	30.92%
Loose Offering	\$7,541.50	\$15,350.00	49.13%
Pledges	\$125,866.00	\$145,000.00	86.80%
Total Income	\$143,156.50	\$176,850.00	80.95%
Expense			
Total Administration	\$37,985.68	\$43,732.00	86.86%
Total Christian Education Committee	\$3,440.58	\$6,141.00	56.03%
Total Christian Service Committee	\$400.20	\$400.00	100.05%
Total Diaconate	\$384.46	\$1,375.00	27.96%
Total Finance Committee	\$5,055.25	\$9,500.00	53.21%
Total Maintenance Committee	\$44,999.48	\$50,910.00	88.39%
Total Music Committee	\$18,606.41	\$21,424.00	86.85%
Total Outreach	\$13,679.70	\$14,525.00	94.18%
Total Pastor	\$67,815.64	\$75,608.00	89.69%
Stewardship	\$14.00	\$300.00	4.67%
Total Expense	\$192,381.40	\$223,915.00	85.92%
Net Ordinary Income	-\$49,224.90	-\$47,065.00	104.59%
Other Income/Expense			
Total Other Income	\$37,260.70	\$43,243.00	86.17%
Net Income	-\$11,964.20	-\$3,822.00	313.04%



**NEEDED:
COATS & HATS
GLOVES**



to send to
Boston on
January 23 with the
Catholic youth
group. Please
leave items in
Fellowship Hall on
the coat rack.

Many Thanks.

The Trumpeteers



**REMINDER TO ALL
COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

It's that time of year—time for annual
meetings and annual reports. Please give your
report to Nancy so it can be included in the
church annual report.

DUE DATE IS JAN 9



Start your new year by keeping a journal of your life.

You will need:

- ✍ a spiral notebook
- ✍ contact paper
- ✍ permanent marker



How to make and use your journal:

- Use the contact paper to cover the front of the notebook.
- Put your name and a name for the journal on the cover.
- Decorate the cover with drawings or stickers.
- Each day (or once a week) write down your thoughts, prayers, poems, dreams and the date. You can also make drawings to go along with your writings.



New Year's Resolutions

Use the code to read some important words to live by.

CODE:	A=1	D=4	H=8	L=12	P=16	T=20	X=24
	B=2	E=5	I=9	M=13	Q=17	U=21	Y=25
	C=3	F=6	J=10	N=14	R=18	V=22	Z=26
		G=7	K=11	O=15	S=19	W=23	

8 1 22 5 14 15 15 20 8 5 18 7 15 4 19

2 5 6 15 18 5 13 5

8 15 14 15 18 25 15 21 18 6 1 20 8 5 18

1 14 4 13 15 20 8 5 18

4 15 14 20 13 9 19 21 19 5

7 15 4 19 14 1 13 5

11 5 5 16 20 8 5 19 1 2 2 1 20 8

8 15 12 25

12 5 1 18 14 20 8 5 20 5 14

3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Answer: Have no other gods before me. Honor your father and mother. Don't misuse God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy. Learn the Ten Commandments.