

Vine and



Fig Tree

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid. – Micah 4:3-4

January 2003

Next Meeting

Sunday, January 26
7:00 p.m.

Hopedale Unitarian Parish

Friends of Adin Ballou honors the life and legacy of Rev. Adin Ballou (1803-1890). Best known as the founder of the utopian community at Hopedale, Massachusetts, Ballou was a minister and theologian, a tireless reformer, and a leading nineteenth-century exponent of pacifism.

The goals of Friends of Adin Ballou are to research and study the words and deeds of Adin Ballou and the Hopedale Community, and to find ways to keep their legacy alive in the modern world.

Drama Group to Present Work in Progress at Next Meeting

At a meeting last summer, we discussed the possibility of producing a play about Adin Ballou and the Hopedale Community as part of the celebration of the Bicentennial of Adin Ballou's birth.

A number of members have taken up the challenge and begun writing scenes portraying aspects of the Hopedale experience. These include young Adin's attempt to convince his father to let him go to college, Adin and Lucy's courtship, the early days of Community life, Adin instructing his son about Non-Resistance, a Community meeting, the Draper family's arrival in Hopedale, Adin addressing a veterans' group after the Civil War, and the Hopedale strike of 1913.

At the Friends of Adin Ballou meeting on January 26, we plan to present a few of these scenes, "readers' theater" style. Your reactions and comments will be most helpful as we shape this material into a unified whole.

New Publications

"Practical Christianity," three booklets now available on Friends of Adin Ballou web site

This fall saw the publication of *Practical Christianity*, the first in Blackstone Editions' projected series of books by and about Adin Ballou and the members of the Hopedale Community. Other works in preparation include *Christian Non-Resistance* and the *Autobiography of Adin Ballou*.

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The 2002 Adin Ballou Peace Lecture

Dick Scobie Presents

Songs of Peace, Justice, and Hope

Dick Scobie led the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee for 27 years in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. During that time he brought his love of folk music to bear in his work for peace and justice in the U.S. and overseas. On November 10, he brought it to the 2002 Adin Ballou Peace Lecture with a rousing program entitled “Songs of Peace, Songs of Justice: a thirty-year retrospective.”

The program included songs by activist singer-songwriters Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, and Holly Near. Many of the lyrics were written by Dick himself – some updated with references to recent political events. The topics ranged from prison reform and the fight against capital punishment to poverty, aging, civil liberties, and peace. He had the audience up and singing – at one point, in three-part harmony, in Spanish!

An active member of the Wellesley Friends Meeting, Dick also retains his affiliation with Unitarian Universalism. Now retired, he and his wife, Jill, live in Waltham, MA, where he is active working for affordable housing.

... paz, queremos paz, y libertad, en este mundo ...

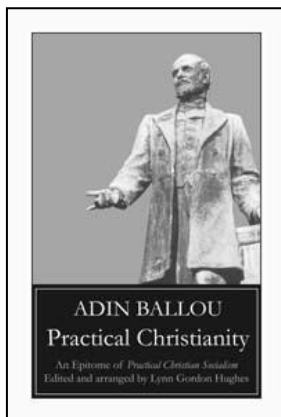
New on the Friends of Adin Ballou Web Site

www.adinballou.org

- **On-line shopping.** The book *Practical Christianity* (\$20.00) and three booklets (\$3.00 each) may be purchased on-line. Click “Bookstore” on the sidebar.
☞ See “New Publications” below for details about these publications.
 - **Walking Tour of Historic Hopedale.** A two-mile loop takes you to seven locations of historical interest. A great resource if you plan to visit Hopedale – or a virtual tour for those living at a distance. Click “Walking Tour” on the sidebar.
 - **Full text articles.** “A Child of My Own Begetting: Adin Ballou as an Educational Reformer” by Lynn Gordon Hughes, and “Adin Ballou and America's Wars” by James D. Hunt. Click “Works on Adin Ballou and Hopedale” on the sidebar and follow the links.
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New Publications

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Practical Christianity is an abridged edition of Ballou’s *Practical Christian Socialism*, edited and arranged by FAB secretary Lynn Gordon Hughes.

In *Practical Christian Socialism* (1854) Adin Ballou set forth his plan for a new, more just and compassionate society. Drawing on the experience of twelve years of community life, Ballou presented his fundamental principles and their application to topics ranging from theology and political theory to the everyday details of work, nutrition, marriage, child-rearing, and a surprisingly frank discussion of sexuality.

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New Publications

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The purpose of *Practical Christianity* is to make the work shorter and more accessible without compromising the integrity of Ballou's ideas or style of expression. In condensing Ballou's 655-page treatise to 267 pages, the major change was to eliminate the dialogue form in which it was originally written. All of the language is Ballou's own, and nothing is omitted except the final section in which he compared Practical Christian Socialism to competing varieties of utopian socialism that flourished in his day. Two introductory essays place the work in historical context and discuss in detail the principles guiding the adaptation of *Practical Christian Socialism* for this new work.



Three booklets contain short works by Adin Ballou:

On Non-Resistance contains two of Ballou's most important short works on Christian Non-Resistance. In "Learn to Discriminate," Ballou addresses common misconceptions about his form of pacifism. "Christian Non-Resistance in Extreme Cases" takes up a type of challenge often put to pacifists: "Suppose a robber attacks you in some lonely place on the highway? Suppose you and your family are attacked by a gang who design to commit rape, robbery and murder?" He argues that in such cases non-resistance is "on the whole is best for us, best for our offending fellow creatures, and best for all mankind."

On Race and Slavery tells the story, taken from Ballou's autobiography, of how he was converted to the abolitionist cause, and how his life changed when he began to preach against slavery. This is accompanied by excerpts from his Fourth of July address in 1837, in which he described the horrors of slavery, proposed specific steps to be taken to admit African Americans to full citizenship, and answered some common objections to immediate emancipation. To those who would send free blacks to "colonize" Africa, he retorted, "They are as much in their own country as we are. Their ancestors came from Africa, ours from Europe; and here we are in the red man's country. If there is to be any shipping off without consent, we had better let the Indian say who shall be sent home."

Capital Punishment and The Superiority of Moral over Political Power consists of two of Ballou's pamphlets. In "Capital Punishment" Ballou argues that capital punishment "will preserve no one's life, that could not just as surely be preserved by the judicious confinement of the criminal. It will not help God's administration of justice. It will not restore the murdered person to life ... Many have been put to death who were afterwards ascertained beyond doubt to be innocent. Then their judges and executioners would have given worlds for the power to reverse the fatal sentence. But there was no remedy."

In "The Superiority of Moral over Political Power" Ballou contrasts moral power, "which operates on the affections, passions, reason, and moral sentiments of mankind," with political power, the power of the state which rests ultimately on the recourse to coercive force.



All of these publications may be purchased on-line at the Friends of Adin Ballou web site, www.adinballou.org.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? E-mail editor@adinballou.org
