



# Vine and

# Fig Tree

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*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*

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July 2003

## Next Meeting

Sunday, July 27  
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 theorist of non-violent resistance to evil.*

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

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## Hopedale Community Spring Festival

On Saturday, April 26, the town of Hopedale celebrated the addition of the Hopedale Village Historic District to the National Park Service's Register of Historic Places – not to mention Adin Ballou's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. As our contribution to the festivities, Friends of Adin Ballou presented a historical re-enactment of the Hopedale Community Spring Festival from 1848. Though pouring rain dampened the festivities, there was much to amuse and inform those hardy souls who made it to Hopedale Unitarian Parish for the show.

The climax of the event was a performance of the short play "Journey to the West" by a troupe from First Unitarian Universalist Church of Milford. "Journey to the West" was written for the occasion by Peter Hughes, based on this description of the play presented at the original *continued on p. 2*



*The cast of Journey to the West joins in the chorus of a temperance song. Left to right: Laura Hughes, Peter Hughes, Ted Kempster, Christine Conran,*

# ***Spring Festival***

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event in 1848: “a rather affecting piece representing Charity, Faith, Hope, Patience, Remorse, Penitence, Childhood, and Old Age. A friendless child is adopted, and a fallen youth restored to virtue, usefulness, and peace.”

In addition to the play, the entertainment included several comic recitations, a temperance song, and a speech by Adin Ballou on “Amusements.” Even so, it was only a sample of the original program, which lasted for 6 hours and included a picnic dinner, games, and a number of acts by children.

Several of those who attended expressed surprise at how funny some of the material was – whether taken from actual nineteenth-century sources, or reconstructed based on descriptions of lost originals. We were happy to be able to make the point that there was room, even in so serious-minded a community as Hopedale, for joy, frivolity, merriment, and laughter – “in happy accordance,” as Adin Ballou put it, with “the genius of our Social System.”

## ***Rev. Victor Carpenter Receives Adin Ballou Peace Award***

The Unitarian Universalist Peace Fellowship presented its Adin Ballou Peace Award to Rev. Victor H. Carpenter at the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly in June. The award is presented annually to recognize individuals and organizations for “their deep commitment to peace and justice.” Previous honorees include former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, American Friends Service Committee Middle East Programs, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and peace educator Elise Boulding (who delivered the Adin Ballou Peace Lecture for FAB in 2001).

Accepting the award, Rev. Carpenter recalled, as the “defining moment” of his life, his ministry to a tiny Unitarian congregation in Cape Town, South Africa in the 1960s. He told of reading Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” to his congregation and thinking, “This is how the early Christians must have felt when they received a letter from Paul.” In South Africa, in those days when “all progress seemed utterly frozen,” Rev. Carpenter and his congregation did what they could, carrying messages and money and providing legal counsel to those accused of political crimes.

Rev. Carpenter and his family returned to the United States in 1968, in time to participate in the “race relations revolution [which] continues to trouble our sleep” in the country and in the denomination. He worked for racial justice and police reform, participated in the sanctuary movement, opposed U.S. military intervention in Central America and the Middle East, and worked for civil rights of people with disabilities. In all his work, he has been encouraged by the successes achieved in various times and places by non-violent activism, and especially by the determination of the new government of South Africa to “create the conditions that encourage alternatives to revenge.”

In conclusion, Rev. Carpenter exhorted his hearers, “Wherever you are in your life, do what you can” for peace and justice, no matter how small, how limited, how undramatic, or how seemingly futile. Quoting Robert F. Kennedy, he said:

Let no one be discouraged by the belief there is nothing one man or one woman can do against the enormous array of the world's ills – against misery and ignorance, injustice and violence... Each time [a person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

“Look around and see what needs doing,” Rev. Carpenter said. “That’s justice work. That’s peace work.”

## New Publications

Two new volumes in Blackstone Editions' Hopedale Collection are now available via the Friends of Adin Ballou on-line bookstore at [www.adinballou.org](http://www.adinballou.org).

**Christian Non-Resistance.** Last published in 1974 and long unavailable except through fortunate finds at used book stores, *Christian Non-Resistance* is Adin Ballou's classic exposition of his philosophy of non-violence. In this work he set out his vision of a world in which nations would glory not in military might but in "superior justice, forbearance, meekness, forgiveness, charity," and beneficent order could be maintained without violence. Once dismissed as a relic of the naïve and sentimental optimism of pre-Civil War America, it is now recognized as an important contribution to the theory of nonviolent resistance. Ballou's combination of the utmost moral resistance to evil with the uninjurious physical restraint of evildoers provides a conceptually simple, flexible approach to the problem of resisting evil without becoming evil oneself. This edition includes Ballou's essay "Christian Non-Resistance in Extreme Cases" (1860).



**To Live a Truer Life.** This picture book presents the Hopedale Community through the eyes of one of its youngest members, eight-year-old Susie Thwing. Her job is to deliver the mail to everyone in Hopedale and sell the special pink Hopedale Penny Post stamps. In this book, young readers can join Susie as she makes her rounds and shows what makes her town so special.

The book explains "non-resistance" in language a child can understand: "Resist means *fight back*. Non-Resistant means we don't fight back – no matter what! Everyone who lives in Hopedale has to promise never to kill, hurt, or hate anybody, even their worst enemy."

*Adin Ballou reminds children of their manners*  
*Illustration by Lindro from To Live a Truer Life*

All books in Blackstone Editions' Hopedale Collection (*Practical Christianity*, *Christian Non-Resistance*, and *To Live a Truer Life*) are now available at a **10% discount** when ordered from the FAB on-line bookstore.

## New on [www.adinballou.org](http://www.adinballou.org)

Items added to our web site since the last newsletter:

- ❖ Declaration of the Hopedale Community (1847) – the pledge that was signed by each new member on joining the community
- ❖ Pamphlets, "Learn to Discriminate," "Losing Influence," and "Consistency with a Vengeance" by Adin Ballou

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Questions? Comments? Suggestions? E-mail [editor@adinballou.org](mailto:editor@adinballou.org)

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