

# 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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September 2003

## **Next Meeting**

**Sunday, October 5  
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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Newsletter Editor: Lynn Gordon Hughes  
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## **Bylaws**

***“The Council would respectfully suggest that the time has now arrived when it is necessary for the Community to enact certain important By-Laws...”***

*Report of the Executive Council, Hopedale Community,  
August 1841*

Adin Ballou appreciated the need to formalize the ways people join together. The people who would become the Hopedale Community developed and approved the “Constitution of the Fraternal Communion” in January 1841, over a year before the first person moved onto the old house in The Dale. Ballou later expanded these ideas, laying out a constitution for the Practical Christian Republic. His document provides fundamental articles to structure and govern a just society, well-organized for the common good.

***“The proposed plan of organization ... was examined, article by article, section by section, discussed in all its details, and, after successive adjournments, unanimously adopted...”***

*History of the Hopedale Community, p. 27*

This first constitution was not perfect. It was amended several times, and finally completely re-written in 1847. But it was good enough to allow the Community to survive, avoiding the perils of authoritarian dictatorship on one hand, or quarrelsome disorder on the other, that caused so many other communities to fail.

***“As we were all human, possessed of the frailties and imperfections ... of our common nature, we had within us the elements of unrest, disorder, confusion...”***

*History of the Hopedale Community, p. 87*

Following in the footsteps of the Hopedale Community, at our meeting on October 5, we will begin discussions of how to organize and govern our own little society, the



## *Streets of Hopedale*

by Marcia Matthews

Social's a virtue,  
Chapel's a peach,  
Union is gathered  
together.

He never knew riches  
but struggle and strife.  
Now Adin has mansions  
in worldly life.

Heirloom roses,  
Hope and Peace.  
Will they still grow  
in the spring?

Freedom is steep,  
an arduous climb.  
Goal within reach,  
time out of mind.



## **Bylaws**

*continued from page 1*

Friends of Adin Ballou. This will be the first step in the development of our organization's bylaws. We especially need to focus on the guiding principles (what Ballou called "cardinal objects") of our group and the organizational structure.

The sidebar on page 1 of our newsletter offers a preliminary statement of our purpose for us to consider. Please come to this meeting prepared to discuss this and other important matters.

For guidance directly from Adin Ballou, and to get into the spirit of the evening, you might want to read the Constitution of the Practical Christian Republic. It's on pages 81-95 of *Practical Christianity* (Blackstone Editions, 2002) and on our web site, [www.adinballou.org](http://www.adinballou.org) (click "Works by Adin Ballou" on the sidebar).

## **Day in the Park**

Saturday, September 20 was the annual "Day in the Park" sponsored by the Hopedale Cultural Council. Friends of Adin Ballou was on the scene with a table at which we sold books, pamphlets and postcards, distributed copies of the Hopedale Community Walking Tour and Declaration, added names to our mailing list, and talked to young and old about Adin Ballou and Hopedale's communitarian heritage. Many thanks to Liane Speroni, Marcia Matthews, Lynn and Peter Hughes for staffing our table.

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

Items added to our web site since the last newsletter:

- ❖ Minutes of last two FAB meetings, April and July 2003. We intend to post minutes of all meetings from now on.
- ❖ The Constitution of the Practical Christian Republic.

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

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**DO YOU WANT TO EXTEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ?  
(It's free, but we need to hear from you.)**

Anyone who attends a meeting or event sponsored by Friends of Adin Ballou, signs our mailing list, or buys a product from our web site gets an automatic one-year subscription to the *Vine and Fig Tree*. After that, we're happy to keep sending it to you. All you have to do is let us know that you enjoy our newsletter and would like to receive it for another year.

**TO EXTEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO VINE AND FIG TREE**

E-mail [editor@adinballou.org](mailto:editor@adinballou.org)

or

Complete this form and mail to **Friends of Adin Ballou**  
c/o Lynn Hughes, 60 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Providence, RI 02906

**THANKS!**

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