



First Parish Medfield

26 North St.

Medfield, MA 02052

(508)359-4594

www.firstparishmedfield.org

September 2011 Newsletter

WELCOME BACK

Upcoming Events:

September 11

Water Communion Service

September 17

Medfield Day

September 18

Religious Education Begins

Ministerial MUUsings...

Dear New Friends,

I am honored to have been selected to be your interim minister and I look forward to working with church leaders and all of you as you begin the process of transition and then the search for a new called minister. For many of you this is unknown territory since Reverend Bob was the only minister you have known. The way I envision my role as interim minister is to hold up a mirror to you, the congregation, for you to see what has worked well for you in the past, what can improve and what new ideas can be brought forth to bring a new energy and vision to your congregation. I will, of course, continue the fine pastoral work Bob McKetchnie has done over the years with worship, joys and concerns to share, dedications, weddings, and celebrations of life to mark. But my main task is future oriented, helping you prepare the way for a successful search for a new minister who will be in the pulpit at the beginning of the church year in 2013, the church's 362nd year.

For the first few months I want to get to know you; hear what is on your mind (both hopes and fears) and that goes for the young people of the church. For those of you with children please encourage them to tell me about their First Parish Medfield experience. These first months will be information gathering time for me, then after the holidays, our work will begin in earnest. Actually, even now, the board is scheduling a retreat for late October to talk

about FP Medfield issues and structure a schedule. We also have a transitions team made up of members Dan Bibel, Margaret Rolph, Becca Kornet, Kirsten D'Abate, Allison Bryant, and Jim Stetson. I have already met most of them earlier this summer. I have also met with Sandra Andreassi, Eva Kendrick, the Worship Committee as well as the Board. Already I am impressed by the dedication and work of these people which will make my task more enjoyable, if not easier (which it will.)

Until July I was the minister for nineteen years of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Scituate, Massachusetts, a coastal community on the South Shore, best known for being a place where television news reporters park themselves during storms. But not so with the recent Irene. Fortunately there were no homes flooded (my wife, Nancy, our dog, Gimli, a Bernese Mountain Dog and our two cats, Cookie and Wicket live a mile and a half from the shoreline; our adult son was in the safety of his apartment in Brighton) but most of the town lost power. In fact, I am writing this at a Barnes and Nobles bookstore in Hingham since we haven't had power for the past forty-nine hours.

See you in church.

Peace,

Rich Stower



From the Director of Religious Education

SUMMER-TIME SPIRITUALITY

Welcome back from your hopefully restful yet adventurous summer activities! This fall will be a busy one for Religious Education. We will continue our dynamic and intergenerational approach to integrating children's worship with age-appropriate stories and activities.

This year, we will continue to work with Tapestry of Faith curricula, beginning with *Faithful Journeys*, a spiritual exploration of the meaning of each of the Seven Principles in each of our lives and the ways we enact them. Children from first grade to sixth grade are welcome to participate; younger children may participate with a parent present to assist them with activities. We welcome volunteer facilitators to assist with physical activities, arts and crafts, and discussion groups—and let me tell you—these discussion groups go *deep* so you won't be bored!

Our middle school youth will begin the *Neighboring Faiths* curriculum, one of the older UU sources but a well-loved tradition among this age group. They will explore various world religions, including an experiential component as they make mini-pilgrimages to various religious sites in the Boston area, such as the Buddhist temple, the Hindu temple and a mosque. Seventh and eighth graders are welcome to participate. They will be responsible for selecting a faith tradition to research and for presenting their research to the group. We are seeking volunteers willing to facilitate an open and respectful dialogue about other faith traditions, willing to hold the youth accountable for honoring their commitments to the group, and willing to assist with field trips.

High school freshman and sophomores will begin *Coming of Age*, graciously facilitated by Cissy Hull-Allen and David Maxson. More details to follow!

HERE IS OUR SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER:

September 11th, 2011: Water Communion
Intergenerational Worship in the Sanctuary

September 18th, 2011: Opening Children & Youth
Worship~Outdoors,
weather permitting

September 25th, 2011: Beginning of *Faithful Journeys* and *Neighboring Faiths*

WHAT'S THE STORY?

THIS MONTH'S THEME: RECONNECTING

Our last session of Religious Education will be on June 5th. That's a loooong time ago! The children and youth will need a little time to get reacquainted. And, as the saying goes, you can't step in the same river twice because the river's always changing. The same applies to the rest of life as well. They have each changed over the summer, and RE will be changing as well, in order to continue to meet them where they are. Because of these ongoing shifts, it's important to reconnect after long absences.

BRINGING IT HOME:

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

What makes you most excited to come back to First Parish? What types of things would you most like to do with your time there on Sunday mornings? Are there other parts of the church that you would like to be more involved in? For example, would you like our family to volunteer to be greeters together, or maybe to be service managers or coffee hour hosts?

**FAMILY TRADITIONS:
CREATING A UU HOME**

One of the most radically transformative things we can do in the lives of our children is to take the time to listen carefully to what they are saying without any attempt to create a teachable moment—to just be present. This is the heart of many of our Seven Principles—acceptance and encouragement to spiritual growth, a free and responsible search for truth and meaning, and the democratic process. As a mother, I've found that times of transition are the times children are most likely to share what's on their mind. Times like the first few minutes after they get back from school and bedtime for example. Whether you are already doing this type of deep listening or not, when you make yourself available for such an activity you are practicing your Unitarian Universalist values in a tangible way that will make a difference in your child's life—creating a UU home for your child outside of FPUU.

As always, I am very open to suggestions and comments. If you have ideas or questions to share, please contact me at dre@firstparishmedfield.org to share them!

In Faith,

Shelley

SPECIAL ADULT RE OPPORTUNITY:

I am willing to facilitate a bi-weekly or monthly group study of world religions with a group of 6-12 adults provided you are all willing to agree to facilitate *Neighboring Faiths* for our middle schoolers. You will also have the opportunity to participate in the field trips to various religious sites throughout the Boston area. Please contact Shelley at dre@firstparishmedfield.org to express your interest in participating.



Please remember the following deadlines: **Church Newsletter:** Third Sunday of the month. **Order of Service:** Wednesdays by 5:00 pm. If you miss this deadline but have an announcement to be made at the church service, please submit a typed announcement to the service manager for that given Sunday and send a copy to the office.

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Telephone: 508-359-4594

Sandra Andreassi, Administrator.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Executive Board Notes:

- Rich Stower: The Board welcomed Reverend Richard M. Stower to First Parish UU as our Interim Minister. Rich will lead the congregation through the next two years to define who is First Parish and prepare us for the process of settling a long-term minister.
- Wireless Update: T-Mobile has applied to the Medfield ZBA for permission to install wireless antenna in the First Parish steeple. A hearing is scheduled for 21 September. MetroPCS has withdrawn their expansion plans leaving only one wireless carrier. Thanks to \$50,000 of anonymous gifts toward installing a new spire, the Board will recommend to the Congregation that First Parish proceed with a new spire despite having only one wireless carrier. T-Mobile will contribute 25% of the estimated \$110,000 cost of the new spire. The Congregation will be expected to come up the remaining \$25,000 either through contributions or loans. A meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday September 18 at 11:30 AM in the sanctuary to discuss and vote on the matter.
- Calendar: It is recommended that all committee meetings and events be posted on

the website calendar through church Administrator Sandra. Rev. Stower will be scheduling office hours on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm and by appointment.

- Medfield Day: Medfield Day will be held Saturday September 17 from 9 to 3. We expect to hold the same events as in previous years;
 - Steeple & Clock tour coordinated by the Membership Committee
 - Coffee & baked goods sale organized by the Worship Committee(?)
 - Games and events for children organized by the RE CommitteeAgain, it would be great to conduct a raffle or other fundraising event, BUT, so far, no volunteers have come forward to run this.
- Farmers' Market: The market continues to be a highlight for Thursday afternoons. There are 4 permanent vendors: Langwater Organic Farm, Ward's Berry Farm, Blue Moon Bagel Café and the Green Medfield non-profit table. Other non-profits have been invited to attend. There has been other vendor interest. Many thanks to Sandra Andreassi, our Church Administrator, and Steve Catanese for all the time and effort they have put into making the Medfield Farmers' Market a success.



The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 pm in the U-House

Message from Membership

WELCOME BACK TO FIRST PARISH!! In many ways it feels like we're coming home after the long summer sojourn. And that's a good feeling! We hope your summer was a good one and that the recent unfortunate weather events didn't disrupt your plans for long.

Sept. 11 is "Ingathering Sunday"—the first Sunday of our new church year. It is significant this year because we are welcoming our Interim Minister, Reverend Richard Stower. His presence will have an important impact on us as our congregation progresses and changes over the next two years. Let's give him a big welcome!!

Also, Sept. 11 is the 10th anniversary of the attack on the Twin Towers— How can we forget how the world changed on that day. Sunday will surely be a day of reflection and renewal.

The Membership Committee has sketched out

a few plans for the upcoming year:

- Medfield Day, Sept. 17th. We will be organizing Meetinghouse Clock Tower Tours. Please contact Barbara Bunger if you'd like to help. 508-359-4058.
- Halloween Pancake Breakfast. Sunday, Oct. 30th. Details to follow.
- Second Annual UUA Book Fair---date to be determined.
- Coffee Hour Sign-up sheet is in the Vestry. We're very appreciative of those who do their part by hosting a Sunday each year.

We're always eager for new ideas and are looking for members for the Membership Committee. Please speak to any committee member, if you'd like to serve.

Membership Committee: Barbara Bunger, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson.

The next Membership Committee Meeting will be held on October 12th at 7:15 pm.

Around First Parish...Around Medfield...Around the UUA



FLOWER DECORATIONS FOR THE SANCTUARY NEEDED

If you are interested in donating a fresh or silk flower arrangement to the church sanctuary this year, please contact Deb Carbarnes (debra.carbarnes@gmail.com or 781-956-2901).

You can bring in flowers for one Sunday or more. This would be a wonderful way to celebrate or memorialize an occasion, event, or person.

Flowers from the florist or from your own yard are welcome.

Please consider in participating in the sanctuary's decorations this year - especially if you've never considered it! All of the flower arrangements are always welcomed and appreciated by church members.

Social Justice Committee

New England UU Gathering/Training on Congregation-Based Community Organizing

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, 11am-3pm

UU Church of Nashua NH, 58 Lowell Street, Nashua NH

[Registration](#) is now open for this workshop and gathering on Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) and how this model empowers us to put our UU faith into action for social justice. CBCO is coalitional, multi-issue, and grounded in faith, congregations, and democratic principles. CBCOs are grassroots led, non-partisan, and funded by member organizations. Now more than ever we need a non-partisan organizing movement, rooted in our faith and our communities, that can build power for social change.

This four-hour workshop includes lunch and will provide training from [InterValley Project](#) organizers on:

- How to build relationships through one-on-one interviews—the core element of this approach to organizing--and how to develop a process for conducting a relationship building campaign in your congregation and community.
- The role of story telling in organizing, in our culture and faith tradition, and as a tool for leadership development.
- Why, what, and how to organize? We will learn about the cycle of organizing from conducting one-on-one listening campaigns, to choosing issues, researching the issues, to developing an action plan.

We will hear testimonials and learn from UUs and others about what they have achieved in their organizing campaigns and how it has strengthened their faith community.

Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director, will share information on resources and funding and help coordinate a UU organizing network.

[Registration is \\$25 per person.](#) Congregations are encouraged (but not required) to send teams. Checks can be made payable to the UUA (put "CBCO Workshop" in the memo line) and sent to Susan Leslie, UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston MA 02108.

Please register by **September 1st**. (We will allow registrations after September 1st but for our planning purposes, please let us know as soon as possible.) Once you register we will send you

driving and parking instructions, along with a workshop packet.

We look forward to seeing you at a gathering that will provide training and help build an organizing culture and community grounded in our faith tradition and values.

In faith,

Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director

Rev. Steve Edington, UU Church of Nashua

Ken Galdston, Director/Lead Organizer, InterValley Project

***If anyone is interested in attending this seminar, please contact Pat Clark at patclarkmills@gmail.com.**

The next Social Justice Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:00 pm in the Vestry.

Other Announcements

Let's Laugh Today's Two-year Anniversary is on Monday, September 26th

Let's Laugh Today Laughter Club will be laughing on Monday, September 26th at 7:15pm to 8:30pm at the First Universalist Society in Franklin; 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. Anyone can do these easy, healthful breathing techniques along with simulated laughter that always turns into real laughter since laughter is so contagious! There are no fancy poses at all and you can sit or stand. You will certainly enjoy this fun, uplifting experience!

This will be a special celebration of the two-year anniversary of the club! Everyone is invited! Milk and cookies will be served to remind us to be child-like and to laugh for no reason at all! There is a \$5 donation per person and \$10 maximum per family to the church. Since laughing is dehydrating, please bring your water bottle. Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers. For more

information and other laughter opportunities, call 508-660-2223 or see www.letslaughtoday.com

Emma's revolution

Emma's Revolution will be performing on Friday, September 30, 2011 at the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn and on Saturday, October 1 at the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. For more information regarding the concerts, please visit the church's websites.

Medfield Food Cupboard



The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church for the month of September:

- Canned green beans
- Fruit cocktail
- Pasta sauce
- Coffee
- Tea
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Kleenex
- Juice
- Cereal

Please double check your food items to ensure that it is undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. The Food Cupboard tries to be specific so that people know what they really need, but as always, any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Services (All Services Begin at 10:00 AM)

September 11th

“In Gathering”

Rev. Richard M. Stower

We begin our new church year with the traditional Water Ceremony. You are invited to bring a sample of water from your summer travels (Its can be a symbolic sample). We will also reflect on the tenth anniversary of the attacks on New York and Washington, its meaning for us and for tohers around the world.

September 18th

“Hello, I Must be Going”

Rev. Richard M. Stower

First Parish in Medfield is beginning a period of transition and change. What is the process and why are we doing it?

September 25th

“Ad Astra Per Aspera”

Rev. Richard M. Stower

No one likes to hear the words “suffering makes us stronger” but adversity often does just that. As a nation we are struggling and individuals and families are having hardships as well. Working through the platitudes, what do we gain from pain?

FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, September 6	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, September 11	Water Communion Service-Intergenerational Worship 11:00 am
Tuesday, September 13	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, September 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, September 17	Medfield Day/9:00 am-3:00 pm/Grounds
Sunday, September 18	Opening Children & Youth Worship Special Meeting after Sunday service/11:30 am/Sanctuary
Tuesday, October 4	Social Justice Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 10	Columbus Day – Office closed.
Tuesday, October 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, October 12	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, October 20	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/ U-House
Saturday, November 5	North Street Coffee House/7:00-10:00pm/Vestry



For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. If you would like to book the Sanctuary, Vestry or U-House for an event or meeting, please check availability and then contact the church office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org