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www.firstparishmedfield.org

March 2010 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

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| February 28th | Music Sunday and Intergenerational Service |
| March 20th | 5th Annual FPUU Indoor Winter Yard Sale |
| March 20th | Renewal House Reunion |
| March 21st | Annual Fund Drive Small Supper |
| March 26th | Annual Fund Drive Small Supper |
| March 27th | Annual Fund Drive Small Supper |
| April 3rd | North Street Coffee House |

From the Minister

Dear Friends:

Recently I came across a document entitled: "When to Call Your Minister." It was originally written by Rev. Peter Lee Scott many years ago. Since that time many ministers have written some version of it for use with their own congregation. I share mine with you below:

I want to be helpful when you face a spiritual crisis or think you might benefit from a chat. And I believe that as your minister I can perhaps help you navigate the challenges of life transitions, difficult choices, and grieving a loss. I may not have answers to all of life's persistent questions, and I'm not a therapist, but I am a pretty good listener and sometimes I find the right questions to ask or a good resource to point you toward. So don't hesitate to be in touch with me. And don't assume that I'm clairvoyant enough to know what's going on with you unless you tell me.

Given the relatively new federal rules designed to protect your privacy, hospitals won't necessarily call me if you are admitted. If they do, they probably won't tell me anything about your admission. Most of the time they won't even verify that you're there. So it is helpful for you to be proactive. You are not bothering the minister with your problems; you are not taking time away from more important things. You are important; one main reason you have a minister is to be of help to you; that is what my time is for. A minister cannot know when he is needed; you need to tell him.

So feel invited to call....

When someone is in the hospital or is going to be;
When someone is confined and would like to be visited;
When there is a death in the family (the minister should be called before the mortician);
When you wish to discuss funeral arrangements ahead of time;
When you have children to be named or dedicated;
When you have personal problems or family difficulties;
When you want to get married;
When you have marriage problems;
When you are arrested or in jail;
When you have an important choice to make - educational, job, etc;
When you are angry with the minister or upset with something in the church;
When you have prospective members for the church in mind;
When you want to talk about religion;
When you do not yet know the minister and would like to get acquainted;
When you simply want someone to talk with.

...And for the sake of a little humor one of my colleagues (Marilyn Sewell) had on her list that you should call her when you win the lottery and want to give the church a cool million or so.

In Faith,
Bob McKetchnie

Nurture Your Spirit and Help Heal Our World

But First... LET'S EAT!

SAVE A DATE!

Sunday March 21, Friday March 26 or Saturday March 27



WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD FAMILY?

**What does the First Parish community mean to you?
What nurtures you? What fills your cup?**

WHY ARE YOU A STEWARD OF FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD?

Is it Reverend Bob's thoughtful sermons & superb pastoral care? Our historic building? Our welcoming congregation? Our supporting and loving community? Coffee hour? Poetry Sunday, Music Sunday & Choir? Your family's ongoing religious education including Building Your Own Theology, Coming of Age, Covenant Groups, and O.W.L.? Community service opportunities including the Walk for Hunger, Medway House and food cupboards? Social and fundraising events? The North Street Coffeehouse? Our safe haven for sharing Joys, Sorrows and Concerns?

Chances are it's "all or most of the above."

The focus of our Annual Fund Drive (Canvass 2010-2011) will be our collective stewardship of First Parish Medfield. Adult members and friends will be invited to come together on one of these dates in the homes of host members for an intimate, small supper to share our stories of why we come to First Parish and to build our collective vision.

So mark your calendar for March 21st, 26th or 27th!

Our 2010-2011 Annual Fund Drive theme is **Nurture Your Spirit and Help Heal Our World**. Let's come together to dine, celebrate our First Parish Medfield family, demonstrate our stewardship and make our commitment of financial support.

You will receive your personal invitation shortly.

FPUU 2010-11 Annual Fund Drive Committee: Greg Beedy, Duncan Glover (Chair), Louise Rachin & Marshall Sugarman

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

**5th Annual FPUU Indoor Winter
Yard Sale – Saturday, March 20**



The FPUU Indoor Winter Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, March 20 from 9:00 to 1:00. We will be in the vestry to accept your donations on Friday, March 19 from 4:00 to 7:00. Please be sure your items are usable and in good “yard sale” condition. Good sellers include books, CD’s, DVD’s, small appliances, games, puzzles, toys, kitchenware, electronics (not too old!), knick knacks, jewelry, etc. We can NOT accept clothing, shoes, car seats, bicycles, old software, homemade cassettes or CD's, furniture, or any item too large for us to move easily. Any particularly valuable items left over after the sale will go into our virtual yard sale on ebay!

If you would like to volunteer to accept items and set up on Friday or to sell, clean-up or make dump runs on Saturday, email Janet McKetchnie at imjanetm@gmail.com. This is a good fundraiser and we always have a lot of fun!

PLEASE NOTE: In case of severe weather, check the First Parish website for a possible date change.

**Renewal House Reunion, Saturday,
March 20.**

FPUU Medfield will be helping sponsor a reunion for current and previous residents of Renewal House, one of the oldest domestic violence shelters in Boston on March 20. Renewal House is a program supported by the U. U. Urban Ministry in Roxbury. It provides material support, advocacy and spiritual healing for women, men and children. For this reunion, we’ll be providing gift bags for adults and children, lunch for all participants and possibly child care. If you’d like to assist with this event and/or its preparation, please get in touch with Debbie Gaines <dgg1106@aol.com>, Pat Clark <patclarkmillis@comcast.net>, or Barbara Bunger <bbunger@verizon.net>.

**Ferry Beach 2010 “...where friends
are gathering on the sand!”**

Ferry Beach is a great camp to attend, but have you ever thought of working there? Longing to spend a summer at the ocean? Looking for an exciting new challenge? Love to work hard AND have fun too? Join the Ferry Beach Crew! Visit www.ferrybeach.org and look in “About Us” or check out the information on the bulletin board in the Vestry.

**Are you receiving UU World
Magazine Each Season?**

–UU World: The Magazine of the Unitarian Universalist Association aims to help its readers build their faith and act on it more effectively in their personal lives, their congregations, their communities and the world.” It is free to all members of the congregation. If you are not currently receiving this magazine, please contact us at admin@firstparishmedfield.org so that we may add you to the list. For more information, please see www.uua.org.

News From Our Committees

News from the Social Action Committee

We had a very successful service on February 7 when we welcomed Rev. Kate Wilkinson from the UU Urban Ministry to the pulpit. This was a service sponsored by the Social Action committee and part of the purpose of the service was to collect funds to help sponsors "camperships" for inner-city children.

The children are matched up with camps that are a good fit for them—Nature camps, Art camps, Outdoor Activity camps—and the UU Urban Ministry also provides the children with transportation. Working closely with each camp, the UU Urban Ministry negotiates rates for children in their programs who would otherwise never get the opportunity to go to summer camp.

Summer camp partners include:

- Creative Arts at Park in Brookline, MA
- Charles River Creative Arts in Dover, MA
- Summer Arts at Derby in Hingham, MA
- YMCA Ponkapoag Camp
- YMCA Boys Camp in New Hampshire (overnight camp for 1-2 weeks)

We collected a total of \$931 for the campers! If you missed the service, but you would like to contribute, please send your donation directly to the UU Urban Ministry at the following address. or donate online at www.uuum.org. Just note on the donation that it is for a campership and that you are from First Parish Medfield.

UU Urban Ministry
10 Putnam Street
Roxbury, MA 02119

Get Involved with the Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee is looking for more members who are interested in becoming actively involved with various activities with the Medway House, the UU Urban Ministry, or an area of your

personal interest. Please call Helen at 508-359-2760 if you would like to talk about Social Action initiatives at First Parish.

Memo From Membership

Newcomer's Welcome Brochure

Take a moment to check out our new tri-fold "Welcome Brochure" on the welcome table. We think you'll like it. Jim Stetson deserves a big thank-you for putting it together.

New Member Welcome—Allison Bryant Family



Allison, her son, William (Skilly) and daughter, Elizabeth began coming to First Parish this past fall. At the time, Allison was beginning to look for a religious home for her family that wasn't dogmatic and didn't have a strict faith-based creed. Then, in September, William attended FPUU with Evan Springer and afterwards, came home very enthusiastic about his experience. The next Sunday the whole family attended worship service. Allison felt very comfortable with the service, philosophy and with the welcome she received from the church community. The decision was made, this was where they wanted to be and they have been coming regularly ever since.

Allison was raised in Connecticut as a "reluctant" Presbyterian/Congregationalist. Eleven years ago she moved to Medfield from Wellesley. As a single parent, her primary focus is to raise her children to the best of her ability. Catherine is a student at

Blake Middle School and William is at the Dale Street School.

Allison enjoys the FPUU community and really appreciates the insight, depth and sense of humor that Rev. Bob's weaves into his wonderful sermons. She signed the book and became a member in December.

Please welcome Allison, William and Elizabeth when you next see them!

From the D.R.E.



“Stewardship” – the Word, the Idea, the Action

Stewardship is a word we are introducing in RE this month through the first Spring Workshop Rotation (also known as Rotation III) which begins on March 7. Although not a word I have used very often at all with the children, we are all certainly familiar with the idea behind stewardship.

This is a definition I like– it fits well in both secular and theological contexts:

Stewardship is taking responsibility for the survival and well-being of something that is valued.

The –something that is valued” can be a building, some land, a natural resource, an institution, and so on.

The story the children will hear reflecting this idea is from the Hebrew scripture– the story of King Solomon Building the Temple. After his father King David died, Solomon is asked by God what he

wishes for. Young Solomon wishes for ~~an~~ “understanding heart” that he might be a wise ruler of his people. He goes on to build a magnificent temple for what he most values. It is our hope and goal to show a connection between the message of this story and the message of our upcoming Canvass at First Parish which happens this month.

Canvass?? I said we were talking about ~~–stewardship.~~” How does this connect? Canvass is another term, one that we have used for a long time at First Parish to mean, in part, the time of making a financial pledge to the church. If you think about it, what is firmly behind a pledge-drive is the notion of stewardship. We at First Parish are responsible for the survival and well-being of...First Parish. How much do we value what First Parish is, does, can do, and will do? It goes way beyond the building itself, although that is important too. How do we show our responsibility, our perception of value, our caring?

These are questions the children will explore, at their own developmental levels. We adults can and should explore them too for ourselves and for First Parish Unitarian Universalist.

In faith,
Jeanette Ruyle
Director of Religious Education



Eiffel-Peace Tower made in RE Winterim for an auction decoration

More RE News



2010 RE Winterim “Building Peace” Finishes

Kindergartners through 6th graders once again explored the many sides of peace and peacemaking this past January and February. As many of you noticed, we had a peace building center going on every Sunday, as well as a “tiled” peace wall. We expanded our economic and social justice learning to include fair trade *bananas*, along with the now usual fair trade chocolate. We wrote a letter to Shaw’s and Roche Bros. Supermarkets asking that they consider selling fair trade bananas, just as they now offer fair trade chocolate, cocoa, coffee, and tea.



Making bookmarks for the recipients of the HUUGS boxes

Additionally, we joined forces with the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council who helped us partner with a secondary school Unitarian student in India. So far, we only know her name and that she lives with her parents and older brother. She is Dari-yoo-ka Pariat and attends the Government

Girls’ Higher Secondary School in Jowai, India. Jowai is in the state of Meghalaya where the Khasi Hills are. This year, the proceeds (after expenses) of our annual Fair Trade Chocolate Sale are going to support our new partnership. This, plus the money we made on our Bingo Night, is enough to pay back FPUU for extending the required amount– \$126 for this year (school in India begins in February). Our commitment is to partner with Dari-yoo-ka for three years; she and we will be communicating soon, we hope. Thank you everyone for your support!

THANK YOU,
WINTERIM PEACE GUIDES!!

Chris Conley
Frank Cusanno
Nancy Norris Cusanno
Fran Kingsbury



2010 First Parish Calendar and Events outside of Sunday morning

March

- 20 Yard Sale
- 20 Renewal House Reunion, U.U. Urban Ministry
- 21 Annual Fund Drive (Canvass 2010 – 2011) Small Supper
- 26 Annual Fund Drive (Canvass 2010 – 2011) Small Supper
- 27 Annual Fund Drive (Canvass 2010 – 2011) Small Supper

April

- 2* Seder Meal
- 3 Coffee House
- 4 *Easter Worship Service* – inter-generational
- 25 *Earth Day worship service* – 40th anniversary

May

- 1 Coffee House
- 2 Walk for Hunger/ Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger
- 9* *Poetry and Prose Sunday worship*
- 22 Habitat for Humanity Workday, Medway
- 23 *Coming of Age Worship Service* – inter-generational

June

- 13* *Bridging Service & last service* – inter-generational

*Needs confirmation

Services (All Services Begin at 10:00AM)

February 28th Music Sunday

This is our Annual Intergenerational music service led by our own Eva Kendrick.

March 7th –Weaving Spiritual Practices into Daily Living” the Rev. Dr. Paul Hull

Today’s sermon will emphasize the importance of having a spiritual practice in one’s life. We will take a broader look at the meaning of spiritual practice to inspire us to find or continue a personal spiritual practice that is meaningful for each person, and to bring humor and perspective to what is often a much too serious subject.

March 14th –Embracing Resurrection All Year Long”

In our moments of grief, disappointment and despair how do we make room for that which is most deeply nourishing? With only a week to go to the start of Spring, today’s sermon will ponder the meaning of resurrection in our lives.

March 21st –Why I am at First Parish”

Today we will hear from members, Margaret and Don Rolph and Renee Lloyd about why they attend First Parish. This service has been a tradition at First Parish for many years. I encourage you to bring a friend to church today!

March 28th –Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World”

Today is the official start of our annual budget drive that funds the church’s operations for the coming year beginning July 1st. This sermon will reflect on some of the benefits we personally derive from the free-church tradition and the hope it can offer the world!

April 4th Our Intergenerational Easter Service