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June 2010 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

June 13th

**Bridging Ceremony and
Closing Service**

June 13th

Annual Meeting

From the Minister

–Sunday Morning”

*I declare a Sabbath day – to walk in the wilderness
of enlarged perceptions.*

*I declare a release from work – to nourish the
stamina
to pursue ideals.*

*I declare a special hour – to help cherish life’s joys
and combat life’s sorrows.*

*I declare a reign of holiness – to deepen our
grounding
in the sustaining mystery.*

*I declare a time for simply being and letting go,
for rediscovering great foreign truths,
for basking in the arts of the ages,
and for learning how to live again.*

David O. Rankin

Dear Friends,

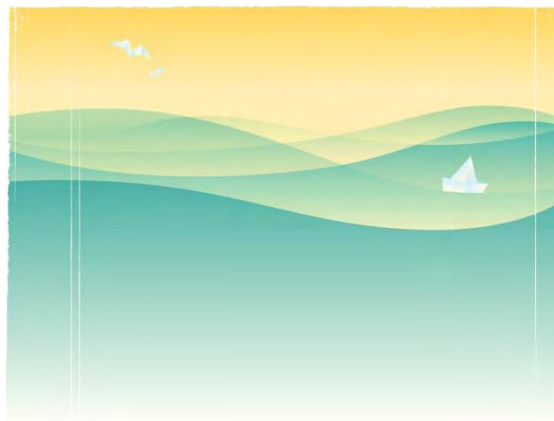
After June 13th our Sunday services conclude for this church year. For many Sunday mornings between September and June offer a respite from the hectic pace of our daily lives. I invite you (as David O. Rankin reminds us) to declare a time of Sabbath over the summer while we are not meeting regularly; ~~to~~ declare a time for simply being.”

As you travel or relax at home I encourage you to collect some small sampling of water from a place that is spiritually significant to you. When we reconvene in September (on the 12th) during our Homecoming Service we will collect this water into a communal bowl as we gather again into one religious community.

Please note that you are invited to call me over the summer. If I am going to be away for more than twenty-four hours I will be sure to let members of the Board know how to reach me. I will also arrange for a minister to cover emergencies when I am out of state. Be safe and have a wonderful summer.

In Faith,

Bob McKetchnie



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

Save the Date:

Annual Meeting June 13th

Our Annual Meeting will be held following the Service on June 13th. Please make every attempt to attend as we need a quorum to vote on the budget, new officers and other business.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven Class



For five Mondays in March, 15 to 20 women in the FPUU church met to have lively discussions about status of women in Western theology. This course comes in two parts and our class concentrated on Part I, which starts in ancient times, examining the archeological evidence of Goddess worship in prehistoric cultures. This covers their early power and loss of power as patriarchy became the established social structure. We examined these issues through mythology, art, poetry and other literature. In each of the first four sessions, there was also a visual presentation. We talked about the psychological and social importance to women today in finding and reclaiming our female religious heritage -- how the realization of the early prominence of women in our religious heritage empowers us. The major topics we explored are:

- the sacred female -- giver of life and nurturer of growth and peace
- mother daughter relationships
- political and economic power of women in the past and present
- the shift in emphasis from Goddess to God

- the reclaiming of women's heritage of peace

We plan to offer Part II either in the Fall of 2010 or early in the Spring of 2011. The name of Part II is "On the Threshold." Part II explores female images and voices in Judaism and Christianity, the oppression of women in patriarchal religions, present day feminist spirituality, and hopes for the future.

Thank You First Parish Friends And Members!

On Sunday May 2, 2010 forty-two thousand walkers and two thousand volunteers turned out for the forty-first Project Bread Walk for Hunger raising more than \$3.8 million dollars for hungry families and individuals across Massachusetts.

Thanks to generous people like you, Team First Parish Medfield raised **\$3,756.00!** As always, we are most grateful for your support.

Team First Parish Medfield: John Kornet; Louise Rachin; Sally, Walter & Henry Rose

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day

Fred Bunger, Barbara Bunger, and Pat Clark joined UU's across the state to talk with our representatives in the State House. We gathered at the UUA Headquarters next door around 10:30 AM to hear presentations on the issues about which to talk to legislators. Then following a lunch of delicious vegetarian sandwiches, we walked to the State House to meet our senators and representatives. Mostly we met with their aides. UU's are asking legislators help prevent homelessness, protect civil rights for transgendered people, eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities, and foster a future of sustainable energy. Also, we were hoping to influence their voting on the Casino bill. The Senate had not yet approved it and although the House had, there would be room for changing the bill to at least eliminate slot machines if the bill goes to "reconciliation." Slot machines are particularly regressive toward low-income workers.

Specifically we asked our legislators to:

- At least level fund the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program, which helps tenants with

low incomes pay their rent in private apartments, thus preventing them from having to move into shelters. (FY11 Budget Line Item 7004-9024 \$35.4 M)

- Stabilize neighborhoods by bringing foreclosure relief. This bill has six strategies, but primarily among its other features, the bill provides eviction protection to tenants in foreclosed properties. (S. 1370, H. 3571)
- Protect transgendered people by adding the category "gender identity or expression" to gender-based discrimination and hate crimes laws (H.1728, A. 1687)
- Eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities by establishing a permanent Office of Health Equity in the Office of Health and Human Services. (S. 810) This bill would also create a statewide grant program to support community-based interventions that reduce health disparities. Unfortunately, this did not pass when brought up later after our meetings with legislators.
- Create a Repower Massachusetts Emergency Task Force. This bill, which is at no cost, would establish a 12-member task force to examine how the state could achieve 100% clean electricity by 2020. The task force will report specific policy recommendations to the Governor and legislature within six months of its founding.

This was a great day of social action and UU solidarity and I would recommend this event to anyone wanting to see our church in action.

Let's Laugh Today – June 28th

Let's get all the health benefits of a good belly laugh at the Let's Laugh Today Laughter Club on Monday, June 28th at the First Universalist Society in Franklin Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut Street in Franklin, MA at 7:15pm to 8:30pm. They meet on every fourth Monday of the month. There is no need to attend regularly, but you will probably want to!! There is a \$5 donation per person and \$10 maximum per family. We laugh in a group and initiate laughter as a form of exercise. Through eye contact and child-like playfulness, laughter then becomes contagious and real. It is based on the

scientifically proven fact that the body cannot tell the difference between fake and real laughter. You get the same benefits to your health, even from the first session! All physical abilities can do this. Ages 10 to 110 are welcome. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Leaders. See www.letslaughtoday.com for more information and other laughter opportunities.



Memo From Membership

Coffee Hour Volunteers



Thank you to all who have volunteered to do coffee hour this year. By so generously stepping forward when asked, Membership has only had to ask you each to volunteer once this year. Coffee hour is an important aspect of our Sunday experience at First Parish and is enjoyed by adults and children alike. The volunteers are too numerous to list, but you know who you are, and you are much appreciated.

shutterfly[®] Photo album

Membership is creating a password-protected Shutterfly photo album as an aid to matching names with faces. David Temple has generously volunteered to take photos after our services. If you have a favorite photo of yourself and/or your family that you would prefer to include in the album, please e-mail it to Sara Drumm, bongo_8@msn.com.

New Member Welcome —Susan Stromgren



You have probably seen Susan over the past couple of years. She usually quietly slips into worship service on Sunday just as the service is beginning. Her duties as property estate manager for Blue Stone Farm often keeps her busy up to the last moment on Sunday morning. If time allows, she will join us for coffee hour afterwards.

Susan moved to Medfield four years ago from Portsmouth, N.H. Prior to that she had lived and worked in Cambridge for 9 years, so she is not unfamiliar with the Boston area. However, Susan has discovered that she prefers a less confined environment and that she thrives by living near nature and the outdoors. Living in Medfield suits her perfectly.

Originally from Minnesota, it's not surprising that Susan was raised with a strong Lutheran background. When she was a teenager her mother began attending the Baptist church and the family followed. Susan quickly became an ardent

member of that congregation. She loved everything about it: the music the Minister, and the religious teachings. Susan's curiosity about other religions developed when she left for college. At that time her mother cautioned her about becoming involved with any "Catholics". To help understand why she was given this admonition, she decided to take a course about Catholicism, and subsequently did an independent study by spending several weeks at a convent. From this experience Susan's religious ideas and long held beliefs began to shift.

What brought Susan to First Parish? After she arrived in Medfield she began looking for a church. At Medfield Day she gathered information about First Parish, and she decided to give us a try. What she found was a place to worship where she loved the energy and caring between the people of the congregation; a place where she could explore the questions she had about traditional religious doctrine; and she has found tenets of a faith with which she can relate. Susan recently participated in the "Cakes for Queens" class. She signed "The Book" in March.

You will likely see Susan at church or walking her dog, Ty. When you do, please welcome her to First Parish.



New Member Service

Reverend Bob McKetchnie welcomed five new members to First Parish Medfield on Sunday, May 16. In attendance for the ceremony were Allison Bryant and her son "Skilly", and Mary Dieter. Unable to attend were Susan Stromgren, Sara and Mike Drumm and their daughters, Samantha and Molly. Rebecca Stephenson, chair of the Executive Board, presented Allison and Mary with a book of meditations, and Barbara Bunger, chair of the Membership Committee gave each member a yellow rose.

From the D.R.E.

Leaving and Staying

Hopefully all of you have heard by now, I will be leaving my current place of employment—First Parish of Medfield, and staying as a member of this congregation—First Parish of Medfield. As a few people have been quick to point out, my staying as a member does not quite make up for my leaving as your DRE. Since I plan to be a DRE with another UU congregation, I will be busy, away, and out of sight on Sunday mornings. Even if I were not to become a DRE somewhere else, I would be away for a good piece of time. This is so you and your new DRE can get to know each other without the distraction of me, the old-timer. However, there are ways we can fashion a new relationship, over time, which I will be exploring with the wise counsel of consultants, colleagues, and the leaders of First Parish.

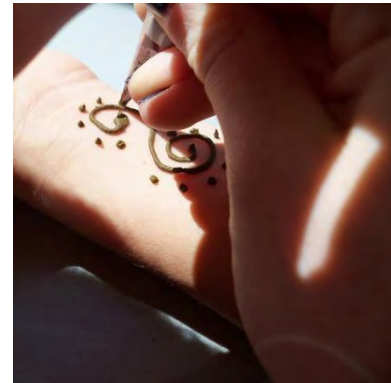
In the meantime, I am confident all of you, with your wonderful and committed leadership, are able to see my resignation as a unique opportunity to re-examine what you want to do for and about “religious education,” which has come to mean, actually, *nurturing spiritual growth and faith development* throughout life. I hope you see it as I do-- an area of rich exploration, communal discovery, and meaning-making. When I told the small group of children who were present on May 16 about my plans to leave as DRE, the first response from some of them was, —“Who is going to take your place?” Very forward thinking! We all need to look ahead, while also saying a kind of good-by.

Many times I have marveled at how important this place-that-is-really-its-people has been to me, my life, my development as a human being. I value every minute-- from the joyful to the frustrating moments. It has all been what I consider the best thing ever: a learning experience. With all my heart, thank you.

Jeanette Ruyle

RE Field Day May 16, 2010

While the adults listened to Rev. Bob's sermon about Unitarianism in the Khasi Hills of India, children in RE had a Field Day with a couple of activities popular in India, and started making a card to send to our student partner, Dari-yoo-ka ("Yori"), a 14 year-old girl attending secondary school in the Khasi Hills region.



A closeup of a henna design being applied to someone's wrist at RE Field Day. Henna, a plant material, is used to make a traditional "temporary tattoo" in India, usually on hands and wrists



In addition to football (soccer) and cricket, badminton is a popular sport in India.



Note how our photographer has captured the orange shuttlecock in midair in each badminton picture.

There was enough time to have a quick "Container Redemption Relay Race" and learn about the intricacies of which beverage containers in Massachusetts have a "deposit back." (This relates to Earth Day rather than India)



*All photos by Jay Bibel



THANK YOU TO RE VOLUNTEERS OF 2009-2010

We could not do it without you!

Workshop Leaders

Chris Conley, Clayton Springer,
Emily Rose* Fran Kingsbury, Jen Bartle,
John Kornet, Joyce Fetteroll,
Kirsten D'Abate, Sally Rose, Steve Rose

Group Guides

Allison Bryant, Alison Galley,
Clayton Springer, **David Wians**,
Jean Bousquet, **Jeanne Cooke**,
Kirsten D'Abate, **Jeremy Stephenson**,
James Sugarman, John Kornet,
Michelle Bergland, Reneé Lloyd

World Religion/Neighboring Faiths

Ann Cunningham, Blanche Teyssier, Chris Flaherty,
Nancy Norris Cusanno, Nancy Kingsbury, Paul Dilanni, Steve Rose

Coming of Age Leaders

Cissy Hull-Allen, David Maxson

Coming of Age Mentors

George Lester, Jen Bartle,
John Kornet, Marcia Trahan,
Steve Weinstock

Faith In Action Sundays

Carl Fetteroll, Chris Conley,
Don Bowden-Texera, Fran Kingsbury,
Glenn D'Abate, Kirsten D'Abate

Winter Solstice Service helpers

Becca Kornet, James Sugarman, John Bergland,
Kirsten D'Abate, Cindy Zarker

“Building Peace” Winterim Peace Guides

Frank Cusanno, Nancy Norris, Fran
Kingsbury

RE Field Day

Becky Flaherty, Kelsey Chatterton,
Ryan McKetchnie, Jay Bibel, Sarah Bibel

Childcare

(we pay them *and* thank them)

Michaela Luttman, Kelsey Chatterton, Becky Flaherty

*Dark teal font indicates middle and high school students.

2010 First Parish Calendar and Events outside of Sunday morning

June

13 Bridging Ceremony and Closing Service

13 Annual Meeting – following the service – *SAVE THE DATE*

Services (All Services Begin at 10:00AM)

June 6th –Reflections on Religious Education”

Jeanette Ruyle will be sharing her "Reflections on Religious Education" during the worship service. Everyone of all ages is invited, i.e. *it is multi-generational worship service*. Immediately following her remarks, and before the service ends, *Jeanette will lead all children outside to play Bocce Ball* (she has never played this before but there will be knowledgeable people there).

June 13th Bridging Ceremony and Closing Service

This service marks the closing of our church year and will include a Bridging Ceremony for our graduating high school seniors. We will also be working on a piece of art that will be presented to Jeanette Ruyle at a later time.