



# *First Parish Medfield*

26 North St.

Medfield, MA 02052

(508)359-4594

[www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org)

## March 2011 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

March 5

Mardi Gras Auction

March 19

First Parish Winter Yard Sale

March 26

Appliance Recycling/Parking Lot

April 2

North Street Coffee House

## From the Minister



Dear Friends:

Over the past two months we have made significant progress in the IF Justice Study group. I hope you like our new logo as Marcia Trahan took a concept agreed upon by the study group and turned it into a beautiful reality. But we are more than the pretty face our logo affords us. We have developed a mission statement and a set of goals. Here they are:

### **IF (Initiatives For) Justice**

**Mission:** To identify and act on humanitarian service opportunities that will educate FPUU participants, empower recipients, and build bonds of friendship and respect.

**Goals:**

1. Educate FPUU about social, economic, and political inequities.
2. Establish an enduring relationship with a community by way of a reliable, established agency.
3. Perform service that is meaningful, measurable, needed, and lasting, on a scale appropriate for our time and resources.

On a daily basis we are bombarded with images and stories that make us feel we could do more. We know that our participation in a service activity won't change the frequency of the images and stories that break our hearts. So, we do what we can do. We establish relationships in a community that we can engage with year over year. We learn first hand why things are as they are and we ask, "What can we do to help empower you."

If this sounds interesting to you, I invite you to join the IF Justice study group. Expect that doing so will facilitate the opportunity to come to new understandings and integrate them into your faith and life. This group will offer some time for reflection on the work we choose. When reflection is minimal or missing—when those involved in short-term missions do not ruminate on their experiences, ponder the situations of those served and relate them to their own understanding—a precious opportunity is lost.

Such encounters disturb our spiritual status quo. It is one thing to work alongside people living in humble circumstances; it is quite another to ask why the prosperity of a relative few is predicated upon the existence of a permanent global underclass. That is an example of something explored by reflection.

We meet again on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. until 12:15 in the sanctuary as we continue our exploration of agencies we may partner with. Hope to see you there.

In faith,

Bob McKetchnie

## From the Director of Religious Education

### LIVING THE DREAM

So many wonderful things are happening in and around Religious Education it's hard for me to know where to start. The Visioning session was amazing—we had a great turnout, and everyone who participated deepened and enriched the conversation. We created a veeeerrrry loooooong list of the many qualities, traits, skills and ideas we wanted to foster in our children. There were several suggestions made at the visioning, and we are already acting on them—living the dream, as it were.

For example, Rev. Bob suggested the idea of having youth on committees. Subsequently, the Religious Education Committee has invited Lizzie Bryant and Jack Kornet to become members. Lizzie has already attending one meeting (unfortunately Jack was sick), and her perspective was incredibly helpful. She came with many ideas for adjustments we could make to our RE programming that would provide for deepening relationships between the children and fostering thoughtful reflection on the themes raised in the stories and activities. She spoke strongly in favor of increased youth participation in Sunday worship service, and said that lighting the chalice and collecting the offering were things that made her feel acknowledged by the church as a budding leader.

Several people have asked me how they can increase youth participation, and I have one suggestion for all of them: talk to the older youth during coffee hour, the same as you do the adults.

Ask them questions, run your ideas past them. Get to know who they are, what their skills are, what they enjoy. A lot of committee work is informally addressed over coffee hour, and including a youth perspective can be a part of that work. This informal survey of the youth and children makes it possible to include their many, excellent, ideas into your committee's plans. Maybe you will have some new ideas that will invigorate your committee, and possibly you get an energetic new committee member out of the deal as time goes on!

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](mailto:dre@firstparishmedfield.org) to share them!

### WHAT'S THE STORY?

THIS MONTH'S THEME: LOVE CONNECTS US

This month we begin using the Love Connects Us curriculum in earnest. We will select two stories from the curriculum. One possibility is the story of Joseph Tuckerman, one of the founders of the Benevolent Fraternity, which is now known as the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. Joseph Tuckerman was a minister who was more interested in serving the poor than impressing people with academic papers. He believed that the best way to help people was by talking with them to find out what they need most. I'm bringing this story to the forefront in this newsletter because several of the children have expressed an interest in doing social actions that involve both direct contact and developing relationships with those they are

serving. Joseph Tuckerman's story illustrates the benefits of becoming involved with those we serve.

The story can be found here:

<http://www.uua.org/religiouseducation/curricula/tapestryfaith/loveconnects/session5/sessionplan/stories/161801.shtml>

### **BRINGING IT HOME:**

#### QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

- Think about times when people have helped you. Were there times when having someone help you felt bad? Why? Were there times when having someone help you felt good? Why?
- Think about times when you have helped someone else. Why did you want to help them? How did helping them make you feel? How do you think it made them feel? How could you tell?
- How can we help other people while preserving their "inherent worth and dignity?"

### **FAMILY TRADITIONS:**

#### CREATING A UU HOME

Way back in November, which seems soooooo long ago, the RE committee and I were engaged in deep discussion over emails regarding family-based spiritual practices. Initially, some of us weren't sure we had any family-based spiritual practices. Then we realized that any family ritual that draws us into deep, authentic connection can be seen as a spiritual practice. Practices which deepen

authentic intimacy brings to life the words of the First Principle, tangibly demonstrating our deep honor for our children's worth and dignity.

For my family, mealtimes were always an important time to connect. Like other families, our schedules didn't always lend themselves to nightly dinner together, but we made a commitment to having Family Dinner at least twice a week. At dinner, we played "Three Goods and a Bad," each of us sharing three good things and one bad about each day. We each took turns, and listened attentively to the ups and downs of each other's days, sharing in the joys of the "goods" without trying to fix or change the "bads." Mindfully connecting to each other was the only purpose of the game. Including the bad things sent a clear message that neither life nor my children had to be perfect in order to be worthwhile. Now that we are miles apart, we play this game via text, and still feel connected.

What meal time rituals does your family share that helps you connect more deeply to one another in ways that reflect your Unitarian Universalist values?

### FPUU Board Notes:

- **NEW SPIRE APPROVED:** At a Special Parish Meeting on February 13, 2011, a quorum (30+) of the congregation unanimously authorized the FPUU Executive Board to:
  - Conclude negotiations and sign the contracts with T-Mobile and MetroPCS.
  - Design, engineer and construct a new 50 ft. spire to replace the existing spire at a cost not to exceed \$110,000.
  - Arrange for financing to secure funds to build the spire (the 2 wireless carriers will be expected to pay for 50% of the cost of the spire).
  - Finalize a design for the new spire.

All of the above is to be accomplished in the best interest of the Church.

Both contracts must be signed before proceeding with the project. The financial analysis indicated that the \$60,000 invested in the new spire would provide a 23.1% rate of return assuming a potential for up to 4 carriers over 4 years.

Please go to website to view the information presented at the Special Parish Meeting.

- A sincere **THANK YOU** to the more than 15 church members who helped to build the \$25,000 “Bridge”. Their commitment to pay part of their 2011/2012 pledge early allowed the Church to cover the 2010/2011 unexpected expenses and income shortfall. We exceeded our goal of \$25,000.
- The Nominating committee will be seeking candidates for upcoming Board vacancies for Chairman, Treasurer and At-Large Board member.
- Fritz Fleishmann, Mark Samels and CB Doub are working together to apply for grant funding to help First Parish.





## **Mardi Gras *Charity Auction*** **Saturday March 5th 7 PM First Parish Vestry**

Get ready for another evening of food, wine, music, fun and fund-raising. The plans for **Mardi Gras Charity Auction** are in full swing. The musicians are tuning up, the chef is warming the stove, the wine is selected and the auctioneers are in voice training. The Medfield High Jazz Combo will entertain us. Members and merchants are donating an international variety of items and services, from Fenway Park to New Orleans, weekend getaways and restaurant meals.

The auction proceeds will help continue the work of the church, to maintain our historic building and support local charities. Twenty percent of auction earnings will be given to the Food Pantries in Medfield, Millis, Medway, Norfolk and Walpole. Your participation in the Auction will help support these great programs.

Tickets go on sale February 13, but you can put your order in now. To make a reservation, email Duncan Glover ([duncanglover@comcast.net](mailto:duncanglover@comcast.net)) or our church administrator Sandra Andreassi ([admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)).

Now is the time for members and friends of First Parish Medfield to get a group together and encourage friends to join them at the auction. To attract new people, if you bring a friend, they will get in FREE! (Regular admission is \$20 per person). Child care will be provided at the auction.

If you have an item, a service, time or a talent to donate, please let Duncan Glover or Fritz Fleischmann know. Auction letters and donation forms are being sent out to everyone on the Church mailing list. If you did not receive a letter, please let Duncan or Fritz know. (Duncan 508-528-8456) (Fritz 508-242-523). Or call Sandra in the Church Office at 508-359-4594.

**FPUU Announcements**

Our GAYT program began on November 21, 2010, and officially ended January 9, 2011.

\$1,125 in donations were collected from First Parishioners, eight qualifying for matching gifts from Shelter Rock Congregation (\$825); one qualifying for a company match (\$100) for a total of \$2,050 so far.

This compares with last year's amount of \$2,855 total, which includes matching gifts and a company match.

A hearty thanks goes out to all who donated to First Parish's Guest at Your Table program.

Guest at Your Table fosters understanding and awareness of UUSC's human-rights work and our shared belief in social justice, while building UUSC membership at the same time. For more information about the UUSC and GAYT program, please visit [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Nancy Kingsbury

GAYT coordinator for First Parish First Parish's Guest at Your Table program.

### **WISHES:**

- **If anyone has a surplus desk and desk chair, our new Director of RE would appreciate having them. The current table and chair is not adequate.**
- **Vestry Stove: A 2000's era electric range to replace the 1980's model would spruce up the Vestry kitchen.**
- **A working all-in-one printer, scanner, fax, color copier for the office.**

A Free Invitation to Laugh Together on Monday, March 14th!



Please join us to smile, be joyful, and laugh with our wonderful interfaith community on Monday, March 14th at 7:15pm at the First Universalist Society in Franklin Meetinghouse, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin ([www.fusf.org](http://www.fusf.org)). Come and enjoy this unique exercise of simulated laughter combined with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being. Any age and any level of physical ability can participate in this uplifting experience! Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers and the founders of the monthly laughter club, "Let's Laugh Today", Linda and Bill Hamaker. [www.letslaughtoday.com](http://www.letslaughtoday.com) The vision of Laughter Yoga is to achieve Health, Joy and Peace through Laughter. All ages can attend.



**FPUU ANNUAL INDOOR WINTER YARD SALE- Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

The FPUU Annual Indoor Winter Yard Sale will be on Saturday, March 19 in the vestry from 9:00 to 1:00. Please start putting aside things you are willing to donate. We will price them for you.

Good sellers include books, CD's, small appliances, games, toys, kitchenware, knick knacks, etc. We do not take outdated electronics or software, clothing, shoes, car seats, bicycles, furniture, or items too large for us to move easily.

Please make sure all items are usable and in good condition. Any valuable leftovers will be sold after the yard sale on eBay.

We will be in the vestry on Friday, March 18 between 4 and 8 p.m. to accept your donations. We will need volunteers to help accept, sort and price donations on Friday as well as on Saturday from 8:30 to 3:00 to sell, clean up, and make trips to the dump (you'll need a Medfield dump sticker). Just a couple of hours of your time would be much appreciated and it's fun!

Contact Janet McKetchnie at [imjanetm@gmail.com](mailto:imjanetm@gmail.com) with any questions and happy pre-spring cleaning!

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

## **Restorative Justice: A Whole Community's Response**

Please join us for one or both of the following events sponsored by Renewal House, a domestic violence shelter and program of the UU Urban Ministry

**Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm**  
**Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry**  
**10 Putnam Street, Roxbury MA**

A panel discussion featuring Dr. James Ptacek who will highlight his work in his recent book *Restorative Justice and Violence Against Women*. There will be responders from the domestic violence and sexual assault fields, individuals doing restorative justice work in the Boston Public Schools, as well as in homicide bereavement programs and within the healthy fathers initiative. A light dinner will be provided. *Open to the public. Free of charge.*

**Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-3:30pm**  
**Harvard Divinity School**  
**45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA**

A daylong event focusing specifically on domestic violence and sexual assault. Dr. Rhea Almeida will give a keynote as well as provide a workshop on the practicalities of her work with families who have experienced intimate partner abuse. The day will end with a panel discussion featuring Dr. Jim Ptacek, Dr. Rhea Almeida and other panelists

representing both the research/academic and ractical/social service/social justice fields. A continental breakfast and a light lunch will be provided. \$25 *registration fee*.

For more information, or to register, visit us at [www.uuum.org](http://www.uuum.org)

---

## **WhaleCoast Alaska 2011:**

Have you always dreamed of visiting Alaska? Do you enjoy meeting other UUs? Do you enjoy getting to know your fellow travelers? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2011** is for you! Four Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer as we celebrate our 15th year! See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs with homestays, wildlife experiences, and tour activities in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer. Programs led by Dave Frey and Bre Griffin, members of the farthest north UU congregation, with 36 years of Alaska living between them. Visit [www.WhaleCoastAK.org](http://www.WhaleCoastAK.org) or email [dfrey@whalecoastak.org](mailto:dfrey@whalecoastak.org) or information, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!



*March 20th*

## The Annual Fund Drive

**Back by Popular Demand - Small Suppers – Season II  
Voted 2010 People’s Choice/Zagat in Fine Dining Category**

**SAVE A DATE!**

**Sunday March 20, Friday March 25 or Saturday March 26**



**Disclaimer: Any Resemblance to Members of First Parish Medfield Purely  
Coincidental**

## **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 2011-2012) will be our collective stewardship of First Parish Medfield. Adult members and friends will be invited to come together on one of these date 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 20<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>!**

Our 2011-2012 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 2011-12 Annual Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Mark Samels, Marshall Sugarman, Jeff Zark

## Medfield Food Cupboard



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

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

- Juice
- Jelly
- Cookies
- Crackers
- Beef Stew
- Canned pasta
- Kleenex

Please double check your food items to ensure that it is undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. Any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex. All items will be delivered to the Food Cupboard by James Sugarman and Sam Flaherty.

Don't Forget!



Daylight Saving Time Will Begin on March 13, 2011



## FPUU Calendar

Saturday, March 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual FPUU Auction/Vestry
Sunday, March 6	IF Justice 11:30-12:15 pm /Sanctuary Intro to UUism 4:00-5:30 pm/Vestry OWL Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30-9:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 13	OWL Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, March 17	First Parish Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, March 19	FPUU Winter Yard Sale/Vestry
Saturday, March 26	Appliance Recycling/9:00–2:00 pm/ Parking Lot
Sunday, March 27	OWL Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm/Vestry
Saturday, April 2	North Street Coffee House 7:00-10:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 3	IF Justice Committee Meeting 11:30-12:15/Sanctuary OWL Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 5	Social Action Committee Meeting 7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 10	OWL Meeting 7:00-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30-9:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 14	First Parish Board Meeting 7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, April 17	IF Justice Committee Meeting 11:30-12:15 pm/Sanctuary
Thursday, April 22	Earth Day
Sunday, April 24	Easter Sunday
Wednesday, April 27	Facilitated Bible Reading 7:00-9:00 pm/Vestry

For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at [www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://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](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)