



First Parish Unitarian Universalist

**26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594**

www.firstparishmedfield.org



May Newsletter 2012

Ministerial MUUsings...

After last Sunday's service Dan Bibel and I were talking about one of the stories I used in my sermon. For those of you who were not in church on Sunday this is the story:

Ibrahim was a great spiritual leader of the Sufis, who chose to live in much pomp and splendor, surrounded by a large number of servants. As a sign of his wealth his tents were pitched with golden pegs. A wandering dervish once happened to pass by his tents, and was enormously surprised at this display of wealth by a Sufi. So he went, begging-cup in hand, to Ibrahim and questioned him: "It is strange that you call yourself a Sufi, and yet you are

surrounded by luxury and material wealth of a kind, that even your tents are fixed with golden pegs."

Ibrahim welcomed him into his tent, and bade him to rest awhile and asked his servants to feed him well. After some time he asked the dervish if he would like to go along with him to Mecca, and the dervish readily agreed. They both set out on their pilgrimage, the princely Sufi leaving all his wealth and luxury behind him without a thought. They had not walked far, when the dervish suddenly remembered that he had left his begging cup in Ibrahim's tent and wanted to go back to fetch it. Ibrahim smiled and said, "My friend, I left all my wealth behind without the least worry. Yet, you are so much attached to a cup of practically no value

that you cannot proceed to Mecca without it. The golden pegs, which so much surprised you, were driven into the earth, not into my heart."

My purpose in using the story was to illustrate the Buddhist idea of "non-attachment." The Sufi prince gave no thought to leaving his riches behind in order to go on a spiritual pilgrimage of Islam's holiest place. But Dan pointed out to me that there was another way to look at the story. The prince chastised the dervish for wanting to go back to retrieve his wooden begging bowl, "a cup of practically no value," while he left his valuables behind. Dan interpreted this story from the dervish's point of view. Other than his clothes the bowl was his only possession. Of course it was important to him and he needed to bring it along. How else would he collect alms? The prince had servants to look after his wealth and possessions and in all likelihood those servants would have tossed away the worthless bowl.

Our two different interpretations of the same story reveal the richness of the story. The story has a truth that is fractured by its light going through the prism of Dan's and my individual experience and purpose. A story may not have one meaning or interpretation but any number of those interpretations may be true.

Thank you, Dan.

At the last Worship & Music Committee meeting there was a discussion about the statement at the bottom of the front page of the Order of Service. It says, "This church embraces diversity and welcomes gay, lesbian and bisexual persons."

From what I understand that statement was placed on the front page of the Order of Service as part of the Welcoming Congregation certification process

that First Parish Medfield went through a number of years ago. Several questions arose in the conversation: "Is this outdated?" "Is First Parish, Medfield about this...and more?" Does this statement truly define us or is it limiting us in the minds of visitors?"

The committee discussed several alternatives such as a broader inclusionary statement to be placed in the "Welcome to First Parish" section of the Order of Service or a frequently changing statement that begins, "First Parish is...", and parishioners would be invited to offer suggestions to finish the phrase. The committee and I want to hear what you think about this. E-mail Karin Wians (wianskbad@verizon.net) or me (rstower@comcast.net) with your comments. The committee will then make its recommendation to the Executive Board.

Peace,

Rich

A Call for Nominations for First Parish

The Nominations Committee is planning the slate of officers for the next church year. We are looking for volunteers for following positions:

1. Vice Chairperson
2. Member at Large
3. Communications Clerk
4. Treasurer- 1 yr position
5. Nominating Committee

Please contact Rebecca with any questions. The congregation will vote on the slate in our June meeting.

Nominations Committee
Rebecca Stephenson 508 740-0663
Jeanne Capachin
Julie DeSorgher

FIRST PARISH MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE ELECTED

The Ministerial Search Committee was elected in a Parish Meeting held Sunday April 22nd. Jen Bartle, Dan Bibel, Kirstin D'Abate, Fran Kingsbury, John Kornet, Louise Rachin and David Temple were elected to serve. Barbara Bunger and Pat Clark were named as alternates. 39 FPUU members attended the meeting.

The Committee will begin the Search process which will culminate with the hiring of a settled minister for FPUU to begin in August 2013.

On Sunday April 27, the Search Committee will be introduced to the congregation and a brief installation ceremony will follow.

The Ministerial Search Committee will be reporting their progress monthly in this newsletter space.



Message from Membership

Help us keep you informed!

In an effort to update our files we would like your most recent mailing address, phone numbers - including cell phone, and email address for the updated Spring Membership Directory.

Please send any changes in your contact information to the church office via admin@firstparishmedfield.org.
Thanks a bunch!



Religious Education

FIRST PARISH KIDS HIKE NOON HILL



This month some of our First Parish kids, parents and even dogs enjoyed an easy hike on a beautiful spring morning at Noon Hill Reservation here in Medfield. After gathering input from the kids, we're working on incorporating some of their ideas into our RE programs, with the goal of making religious education a fun and interesting experience for all. Next project will be creating an outdoor worship space close to the U House, and many more to follow, so stay tuned!



Executive Board Notes

Meeting held on April 12th

Ministerial Search

Ministerial Search Committee has been elected. See article in Newsletter. Budget for Search was established.

May 5 Evening Fundraiser

Fritz and Bob reported on plans for the \$100/person dinner and entertainment planned for May 5. A wind ensemble with Becky Flaherty, a story telling time with Buck Buchanan, catered dinner and wine will be the highlights of the evening. This event replaces the Auctions held for the past 3 years and it is budgeted to net \$2500. The 3 Auctions rose over \$20,000 for the Church, but the volunteer time commitment was excessive. The Evening Fundraiser has only a small need for volunteer time, but, hopefully will help fill the budget hole. It is hoped that people who cannot attend will still make a contribution.

Education Center

Duncan presented a 3 year capital campaign plan for building a new education center to replace the UHouse. A new education facility could attract new members, increase rental income and would be especially attractive to a new minister. Medfield T.V. could be very interested in sharing a new facility (Dave Maxson). Bids have been solicited from two architects including Paul Fermano who designed the elevator and David Sharff (\$8K estimated cost for plans). Jim Stetson suggested costs would be ~\$275 psf. Which at 3,600 sf would = \$1 Million. Goal of campaign

would be to raise \$200K and borrow the \$800K from bank.

Plans for Finance Committee

Tentative plans are to establish a Finance Committee consisting of the following elements: Audit, Investments, Annual Fund Drive, Pledge Accounting, Alternate Income, Fundraising and Treasurer. The Finance Committee would convene quarterly to address FPUU financial concerns. The Alternate Income and Fundraising responsibilities would be assigned to two of the At-Large Executive Board members. The other elements are currently functioning. Volunteers are needed.

Annual Fund Drive

Duncan reported that the \$100 gift certificate encouraged 30 people to get their pledge cards in early. No report yet on status of Fund Drive.

Lay Pastoral Care Grant

The \$2,000 grant that was approved last year to provide funding for training the Lay Pastoral Care Team was rescinded by Mass Bay District because FPUU had not spent it nor made plans. Fritz will work with the Care Team to make plea to MBD for reestablishing the grant.

PLEDGE STATUS: 83% of 2011-2012 pledges have been collected. Please check to see if you are up-to-date on your 2011-2012 pledge.

FIRST PARISH FUNDRAISER MAY 5th



Please join us on Saturday, May 5, for an evening of conversation and fellowship, dinner and entertainment -- and to support First Parish. Dinner will be catered; music provided by the King Philip Woodwind Quintet, and storytelling by Buck Buchanan. Price of admission is \$ 100.



We hope to see many of you at this jolly event, which this year will replace the annual fundraising auction. And we hope you'll bring a friend!

Please RSVP no later than May 1 by sending an e-mail to Sandra at admin@firstparishmedfield.org, and state which entrée option you would like:

Chicken Marsala, or
Eggplant Parmesan

If you have questions, please write to Fritz Fleischmann (fleischmann@babson.edu) or Bob Luttmann (rluttman@robertluttman.com).

A Call to Choir from Our Music Director....



Dear FPUU-ers,

I am starting to plan the Music Sunday service, which will be held on May 13th (Mother's Day). I am looking for participants of all ages from our congregation to perform a piece or two for this special service! I especially know that we have some talented young people in our congregation who are musically inclined, and I would love to have them involved! Please let me know if you are interested. I hope to hear from you soon!

Thanks,
Eva Kendrick

Music Sunday is a special annual service which interweaves live performances and readings about music. This year will feature the musical talents of many of the younger members of First Parish on a wide range of instruments, from flute to double bass and more. The First Parish Medfield Choir will also perform a new hymn by Music Director Eva Kendrick. We hope you can join us for this special event!



2012-13 Annual Fund Drive-The Sky's The Limit

Reverend Stower delivered a rather remarkable sermon during the March 25, 2012 Annual Fund Drive service. For those who did not have the opportunity to attend, we present his sermon here in its entirety. For those who did attend, it is well worth a review.

Respectfully,

The Annual Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Louise Rachin, Mark Samels, and Marshall Sugarman

What If There Was No FPUU in Medfield
Given at
First Parish Medfield
Medfield, MA
March 25, 2012
Rev. Richard M. Stower

READING

Cathedral Builders
By John Ormond

They climbed on sketchy ladders towards God,
With wince and pulley hoisted hewn rock into heaven,
Inhabited sky with hammers, defied gravity,
Deified stone, took up God's house to meet Him.

And came down to their suppers and small beer;
Every night slept, lay with their smelly wives,
Quarreled and cuffed the children, lied,
Spat, sang, were happy or unhappy.

And every day took to the ladders again;
Impeded the rights of way of another summer's
Swallows; grew greyer, shakier, became less inclined
To fix a neighbour's roof of a fine evening.

Saw naves sprout arches, clerestories soar,
Cursed the loud fancy glaziers for their luck,
Somehow escaped the plague, got rheumatism,
Decided it was time to give it up.

To leave the spire to others; and stood in the crowd,
Well back from the vestments at the consecration,
Envied the fat bishop his warm boots,
Cocked up a squint eye and said, "I bloody did that."

SERMON

On our last visit to Europe three years ago, my wife Nancy and I went to Egerton, a small village in Kent to see St. James parish, a 13th century church where First Parish in Scituate's minister, the Rev. John Lothrop, served as vicar before he became the leader of an illegal Separatist Puritan congregation in London in the 1620s. The church has a bit more square footage than here at First Parish in Medfield but not much. The altar was a simple table. Along the walls are beautiful, but modest stained glass windows and memorial plaques with the names of men and women who have made significant contributions to the life of the church. There is also a

crypt where a knight lays in rest. The pews have cushions that have been lovingly decorated in petit point by the women of the church.

The next day, Nancy and I went to Canterbury, to see the Cathedral, 200 years older than St. James in Egerton. Considerably larger and more elaborate than St. James, Canterbury Cathedral has high soaring vaulted ceilings, and magnificent stained glass windows. The Quire, the area between the nave and sanctuary, has beautifully carved wooden seats where we sat later that day for an Evensong Service, where the voices of the boys choir seemed to echo in the heavens. As we walked inside the cathedral I noticed graffiti, names scratched in modern times by knives, pens and pencils along the walls. I asked a guide if there might be graffiti left by the stonecutters, masons, carpenters who built the cathedral. He took us into a room and showed us some shallow scratching, that when you looked closely, you could see the faint outline of a scene of a knight coming home from a crusade. There were other pictures as well, left by builders, long since gone.

Along the South façade, scaffolding was up as that part of the cathedral was being restored. Nancy and I can't seem to visit a cathedral whether it is Salisbury or Notre Dame in Paris without some major restoration project obscuring part or all of the exteriors of the buildings. But in its way, it made the point to me that a church is constantly being restored, always being renewed whether it is the building itself or the congregation within. People who constantly work on renewing a house of worship, be it a church, a cathedral, a temple, or a mosque have a common purpose: to keep their religious home and their community alive. The work of an 11th century stonecutter and a 21st century parishioner is the same: they are acts of faith.

This sermon, to begin this year's Annual Fund Drive, is essentially about having faith... It's about believing... It's about giving of ourselves in service to something that we cannot see fully – of which we may catch only glimpses in our brief lifetimes; of something we are building but will never see finished. This sermon is about building cathedrals.

Patterns, connections, contact. What is a house of worship, a sacred community, but a place where we form the patterns of our lives? What is the church but an environment where we connect with those who share a vision of life with us and help us realize it? What is the church but a point of contact - with the Ultimate, however we name it - and with those people with whom we make the religious journey? It can be lonely out there in the world. We seek to overcome the isolation within a beloved community. How important is this community to you?

In the end, that is probably the number one reason people need the church. We need relationships. Like the old sitcom, *Cheers*, the bar where everybody knows your name, church is where people know your name and they genuinely care about you if you give them half a chance. Like the characters in *Cheers*, we might have quirky people here, but we accept them, warts and all, because church is where we help each other deal with life's ups and downs. We care for each other, we pray for each other, we teach each other, we are here when a family member dies or a serious illness hits. We make meals for each other to transfer the care and love from one to another. We sing as a choir together to share the joy of rehearsing music. We gather around a dinner table to share a bit of our lives with each other. People need other people to care, and we need to serve others to really discover, deep down, satisfaction in life.

The question before us is what sort of cathedral are we building here? – and I’m not talking about a stone-and-mortar building. I’m asking, “What kind of legacy are we building, what cathedral-like work are we engaged in, what we will be able to look back on and say like, John Ormond’s cathedral builder, ‘I – we – bloody did that!’?”

We recognize one of the truths of all the world’s great religions: that generosity is central to a healthy spiritual life. We believe in the ancient practice of giving as a spiritual exercise, used like any other meditation practice to deepen and strengthen the soul. In our tradition, the spirit of generosity is its own intrinsic reward. We do not give to guarantee a ticket to heaven. It does not guarantee wealth or happiness in this life. It does not provide a life of luxury for the object of a cult of personality. But it does offer the deeper satisfaction of nurturing the Web of Life, which is bigger than we can ever imagine and more mysterious than we can ever describe. The spirit of generosity means giving back to a Source we cannot easily name and contributing to the welfare of brothers and sisters we will never meet. And yet it is deeply rewarding. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger at the door, to share our resources with others in need, and to care for our planet. This is the meaning of Stewardship. But what about ourselves and our community?

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe it is the right and responsibility of each local congregation to govern itself. There is no centralized authority that supports us financially, nor does it tell us what to do or what to believe. Each UU congregation is self-sustaining: our primary source of financial support comes from our members who make financial gifts to the church. As a group of people covenanted together into a church, we believe that a financially healthy church is the responsibility of all members. We also know that if this church and this faith are to live into the future for our children and grandchildren, we must care for this institution, and keep it strong.

The money you give to First Parish should be a reminder that the income we earn does not define who we are. It is the work that we do professionally, and in the volunteer work we do. We live out our Unitarian Universalist values as best we can in all we do. And to whatever person or organization we give to, teaches us to place our trust in something other than money, to understand that our security does not lie in material things but rather in community.

Although the economy seems to be getting better, we are still living in a time of uncertainty about our personal finances. We are beginning, I think, to reconsider how we spend our money and what is truly important in our lives. If once we felt the urge to fill the void from the outside in, now we are realizing that whatever void we feel the need to fill, whatever reassures us, whatever encourages us to lead a meaningful life, follows the path of inside out; from a fear of scarcity to a spirit of generosity, from a sense of what we don’t have, to a commitment to what we want to share, from holding on to letting go.

From ancient times people would bring offerings to a place of community, often a temple where people worshipped. They would bring whatever was of value to them. It was a sacrifice, an act to appease the gods to protect not just an individual but also a community. Our modern version of the offering is carried out each Sunday morning when we pass the plate and once a year, as we do today, to ask you to make a pledge to the church that you will keep for the coming year. Our offerings are less tangible than in ancient times – we offer checks and currency instead of livestock, but still it is the product of the work of our hands, nonetheless. It is our hard work made into currency. And those hours of work have power: the power to provide, to grow, to

shape our world, to build things that will outlast generations.

So, what gift can you give that will be meaningful to you – let me repeat that important word – meaningful. What gift can you give that will give you strength and clarity in the months ahead? What gift would be exciting and nourishing to your own spirit? This is how we should give.

We are, like the grandest cathedrals, always renewing our purpose and ourselves. Any congregation, in the largest cathedral or in the smallest and unadorned chapel, is always the gift of those common people who love it and who work for it and who support it, as they are able. It is the love of its congregation that ultimately sanctifies a church or a temple or a meetinghouse and makes of it a sanctuary, a holy place, and a community that transcends time.

Rev. Patrick O'Neill, a Unitarian Universalist minister, reminds us that a church is, when all is said and done its people, and what they bring to it – their faith, their vision, their collective hopes and dreams, their memories and their customs, their history and their prayers, their good works and their values. And what community we are able to create here for ourselves is like that stained glass window behind me, pieced together always with painstaking love and unending patience, each one of us – shoemaker, candlestick maker, weaver, doctor, lawyer, teacher, engineer, mother, father, sales rep, archivist, painter, poet, accountant, businessman or woman, bringing one more piece of stained glass, one more stone, one more carving, in sum, one more piece of ourselves

Like those ancient stonecutters and masons who built Canterbury Cathedral a thousand years ago, people want to leave their mark on a church. I ask you this morning to leave your mark on this church, on this congregation, by being generous – generous to yourselves and to your church home, so we can say loudly, in one voice, I bloody did that!"

This morning I ask you to imagine what it would be like if First Parish in Medfield one day decided to get up and move out of town like some factory moving down south, or equally as bad, it shut its doors because no one came inside. If this were to happen in Medfield I would hope that the selectman and other community leaders would rush up North Street and plead with me and the Executive Board to stay.

We stand tall in the middle of Medfield. Still, what arguments would the selectman use to keep us here? I would plead for this church to stay because it has been here for 361 years. Town leaders would understand how important we are to the community and surrounding towns. Think of how many of us have been a part of town governments. How many of us volunteer in town programs? We bring our Unitarian Universalist values to this town. There might not be a Farmer's Market, or a meeting place for the Medfield Historical Society or the Garden Club to make its Christmas decorations, or a place for the Medfield Singers to rehearse and a place for AA to offer each other support.

If I were a community leader I would plead for this church to stay because there is no other religious community in this town, which as its defining characteristic, understands the individual search for meaning and truth and celebrates it within a community of faith. I would plead for this church to stay because it is the voice of conscience in this town. And in a religiously conservative area there would be no religious community standing on the side of love, opening its doors to people for who they are, not what they are. No other

religious community in this town openly proclaims itself as a welcoming congregation to all no matter ones race, color, national origin or sexual identity.

The church needs money to do and be these things. It needs money for RE supplies and music. It needs money for our outreach programs. It needs money to attract a high quality Director of Religious Education. It needs money to pay Eva for her wonderful music, and yes, it needs money to pay the minister. And one other thing: I'm not one who has an edifice complex...but. There are many houses of worship that are beautiful buildings but there is no activity, no life within and about their walls. Our church building says something about us, just like our individual homes. How we take care of it says something about ourselves as a congregation. It is clear to just about all of us that we need to do something about the U House. This takes money.

On that same European trip that took us to England we went to Krakow, Poland to walk the streets of the ghetto my great-grandparents walked. We searched for the Isaac synagogue where my ancestors probably worshipped. This synagogue was funded by one of the wealthiest merchants of 17th century Krakow, Isaac Jakubowicz, at the wish of his wife, Brandla, and it was built just a few years after the gathering of First Parish in Medfield. The synagogue was intended to be an expression of thanks for the good fortune and luck enjoyed by his family.

There is a legend tied to the synagogue. The first revolves around a miraculous dream that Isaac Jakubowicz had when he was young and impoverished in Krakow. He dreamed that there was a treasure buried under a bridge in Prague. He eventually found a way to make it to Prague, but the bridge about which he had dreamed was surrounded by soldiers and there was no way to go about looking for the treasure. Young Isaac decided to tell a soldier about his dream. The soldier burst into laughter, and replied that he, too, had dreamed of a treasure, but that in his dream the treasure was located under the stove of Isaac, some poor Jew from Krakow. Isaac returned to his home, moved his stove, and found an enormous treasure. Inspired by this dream Isaac expanded his business, but he also builds the most beautiful synagogue in the city.

History has not been kind to Isaac and his synagogue. Over the centuries it has been robbed and vandalized, and then on December 5, 1939, the Gestapo came to the temple and ordered the caretaker to burn the scrolls of the Torah. When he refused, he was shot dead. What remains of the synagogue today are bits of the original walls plastered into their original places. Where once frescos, ornate calligraphy and the names of benefactors were on those walls, now it is mostly blank plaster except for those few original fragments. Once it was among the largest of the synagogues in Krakow. Now it is a museum.

There are two lessons for us in this story of Isaac's synagogue. One is that our treasure is right here within these walls. It is in this place; it is within us and we are its stewards. The other lesson is that, as much as I love history, I don't want this place, this sacred space, to become a museum. First Parish is a living, breathing being. It gives us all breath.

First Parish in Medfield is at a crossroads. Soon you will begin to search for a new minister in earnest. You want to present an honest picture to ministers so that they will want to part of this community. One way you can present yourselves is by showing you generously support your church and that it is on a strong financial foundation. The Annual Fund Committee, the Executive Board and I ask you to be as generous as you can be

– and maybe a bit more. We are not – repeat, not - asking you to balance the church’s budget. We are not – repeat, not – asking you to give to First Parish as you would the American Cancer Society, Amnesty International, the Nature Conservancy, or even the UU Urban Ministry and Renewal House. These and other charities may along the way help you but we give to them so that they may help others. But, let me say again, - and I am honored that Buck Buchanan quoted me last week - this church is not a charity. It is your home. We come here to learn, to grow, to seek, to find. The other day one of the candidates we interviewed for the DRE position said that teaching our children transforms the teacher as much as it educates the children. One of teachers of the Neighboring Faiths said the other day that it was the best thing she ever did. Lives are changed, celebrated, and mourned in this place.

Again, when considering how much to pledge to First Parish for the coming year, I ask that you give serious thought to what First Parish is, what it means to you, and what it can become. We want to ensure that the fruits we enjoy today are enjoyed by generations to come. Please be generous.

Here, in this place, we lay stones for a building that we will never see finished. We plant the seeds of trees we will never see grow to their full height.

Here, in this place, we share the breath of life, our spirit, our soul.

Here is the place that holds the lamp of truth high, leading us on our journey.

Here is the place where the flame of justice never waivers; where the glow from the warmth of those within these walls never cools but radiates out from this building and is felt well beyond the borders of this town.

So be it.

AMEN

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.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator



Today Chronic Hunger is the Fate of More Than 700,000 People in Massachusetts.

**Your support of the Sunday May 6, 2012
Project Bread Walk for Hunger
is needed more than ever.**

Please join Team First Parish to help alleviate hunger in Massachusetts. We will gather in front of the State House and start walking at 8:00 am. Walk guides, registration forms and pledge sheets are available on-line at www.projectbread.org. You may also mail a donation using the form below.

I am predicting temperatures in the mid-70, a cloudless sky and contributions exceeding last year's total of \$4,240.

See you at the State House!

Louise Rachin
Walk Coordinator
2012 Team First Parish
508-528-8456
lrachin@comcast.net

Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

_____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Please return your contribution made payable to Project Bread along with this form to Louise Rachin in the enclosed envelope.



We're Back!

The Medfield Farmers' Market will
open for the season on Thursday, May 31st!

The market will run every Thursday until October 11th
From 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm



Other Announcements



May 13th!



LET'S LAUGH TODAY IS ON MONDAY, MAY 21st

Trade all your stress for laughter on Monday, May 21st from 7:15pm to 8:30pm at the Meetinghouse of the First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. 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! New laughers are always welcomed! \$5 donation to the church, \$10 maximum per family. Please bring your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating. Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda and Bill Hamaker. www.letslaughtoday.com. If you have any questions, just call them at 508-660-2223 or e-mail billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com. Please note this is on the third Monday this month instead of the usual fourth Monday because of the holiday



*Memorial Day observed Monday, May 28th.
Thank you to all our veterans!*

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

Cereal
Juice - bottle or boxes
Jelly
Canned pasta
Kleenex
Snacks



Please double check your food item 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.

Special thanks to Sam Flaherty who will be delivering all the donations from the FPUU to the Food Cupboard.

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange



There are many ways to support First Parish - becoming a member is one, volunteering is another. But you can also help by buying things through Amazon.com or by getting your coffees, teas, and chocolates through Equal Exchange.

Getting the things that you would ordinarily order anyway, but using the links available on our website will let you do your part in supporting the work of this congregation, helping our social action agenda, and preserving our historic Meeting House.

Go to our website www.firstparishmedfield.org and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!

Tight Rope Walk over Niagara Falls



You may have heard that there will be an attempt to walk over Niagara Falls on a tight rope this summer. Our Church is located almost within sight of this event. There is a new website page explaining what we are planning. The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is offering UUs the opportunity to personally see this once in a life time event. Check the web link to find out more: www.firstuunf.org/TightRopeWalk.html

Thank you for your help! We promise to take good care of your members who join us.

If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to contact:

Peter Diachun, Event Chair
tightropewalk@firstuunf.org
Phone (716) 754-2830

Registration open for 2012 Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage

The next Living Legacy Civil Rights Pilgrimage is scheduled for October 6-13, 2012, and registration is now open. This unique bus trip is much more than a Civil Rights history tour through Alabama and Mississippi. We will be visiting historic sites and meeting veterans of the Civil Rights Movement, and but will also be spending time together and with guests exploring what racism, white privilege, and barriers to equality look like today in Southern towns we visit---and in our own hometowns.

Beyond experiencing first-hand the civil rights legacy, our goal is to develop commitment, vision and mechanisms within our group to work on issues of race, injustice and inequality that still bedevil our congregations and our society. The Living Legacy Pilgrimage is hosted and organized by the Reverend Gordon Gibson and Judy Gibson; the Reverend Hope Johnson; the Reverend James Hobart; Janice Marie Johnson; Annette Marquis; and Donna Sequeira, and co-sponsored by the Southeast District of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

For more information and to register, please visit www.uulivinglegacy.org. Don't miss your chance to be on the bus! Register early – costs are discounted for those who register before May 15th.

Metrowest Pet Pantry



FPUU now has a donation box set up for the Metrowest Pet Pantry. Donations of opened or unopened food are accepted, as well as all manner of supplies. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the pet pantry feel free to talk to Brianna Cusanno, who is working with the pet pantry to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Upcoming Services (All Services Begin at 10:00 AM)

May 6, 2012

"Something Blurred and Indistinct"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

Taoism emphasizes the idea of adaptability, acceptance, harmony and tranquility. Some believe Taoism is a passive religion. But Taoists would see it as the art of being what comes naturally--without any push, without a purpose. The world just happens, naturally, without doing anything. It just is. For many of us in the West this is a difficult concept to grasp, for we see passivity as something negative. Our whole civilization is based upon action and reason. We believe that if progress is to come about, we must be the means of that progress, for if we don't do it, nothing will change. If we don't bring it about, there will be no progress.

May 13, 2012

"Music Sunday"

Music Sunday is a special annual service which interweaves live performances and readings about music.

This year will feature the musical talents of many of the younger members of First Parish on a wide range of instruments, from flute to double bass and more. The First Parish Medfield Choir will also perform a new hymn by Music Director Eva Kendrick. We hope you can join us for this special event!

May 20, 2012

"A Word to the Wise"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

Our Wayside Pulpit often has words that are proverbs; some ancient, some modern. As people walk or drive by I wonder how much people reflect on these sayings. How can we put these few words, fraught with meaning, into our daily activity; how can we make them a part of our life?

May 27, 2012

"Remembering"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

Memorial Day is, for me, not only a day to remember fallen soldiers and the cost of war but it is also a day to remember those loved ones, family and friends, who have died. The question for me on such occasions is, "Why do we remember?"

FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 1	Pastoral Care Team Meeting/7:30 pm/ U-House
Saturday, May 5	FPUU Fundraiser/Vestry
Tuesday, May 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, May 9	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15pm/Bunger's
Saturday, May 12	Recycling Event/9:00-2:00pm/Parking Lot
Sunday, May 13	Mother's Day/Music Sunday
Thursday, May 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, May 19	Medfield Garden Club Spring Sale/Vestry
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day/Office Closed
Thursday, May 31	Farmers' Market Opening Day
Sunday, June 10	Last Sunday Service until September
Tuesday, June 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, June 17	Father's Day
Thursday, June 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House



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