



# ***First Parish Unitarian Universalist***

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

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



## **October Newsletter 2012**

### **Ministerial MUUsings...**

My first New England autumn was in 1973. Nancy and I moved to Concord, New Hampshire as she entered law school. That Columbus Day weekend we got up early and headed up I-93 toward the Kangamagus Highway for the foliage. In North Conway we came upon a cemetery where a huge oak tree was spectacularly dressed in gold and red. That image has stayed with me for almost forty years. On the street where we lived in Concord,

was another tree. It was a sugar maple and it too was awe-inspiring. That image also is still with me.

A couple of years ago I had to meet Nancy in Concord for dinner. I drove to where we lived to look at the house where we spent those years...and to look at the tree. It was summer and I expected to see the tree in full green leaf. But it wasn't there. Only a stump remained. As it happened, the new owner of the house was just getting out of her car and she told me the tree had

been taken down about five years earlier. I was heartbroken.

I am not a tree hugger, but I love trees. It saddens me to see a tree die or be cut down or uprooted during a storm. I understand the spiritual quality of trees that is held so profoundly by many past and present.

What other living thing grows so deep into the earth and reaches toward the heavens?  
Trees provide shelter for animals, including us; they provide food for insects; they change carbon dioxide into oxygen for us to breath. They provide

shade from the heat and glorious color for us to marvel as they go into hibernation for the winter.

No, I'm not a tree hugger but every once in a while I give one a loving touch...and yes, maybe even a little hug. Try it.

Peace

Rich Stower

## Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives (OWL) for 8th and 9th graders begins on Sunday, 10/14, from 7-9 in the vestry. We still have space if you know of an interested family. This year our facilitators are Chris Flaherty, Renee Lloyd and Cissy Hull-Allen, and the group so far has 9 participants from FP and 4 from our community. Contact Cissy ([mecha60@comcast.net](mailto:mecha60@comcast.net)) if you need info!



*Our Whole Lives* helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. It equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. (from the UUA website)

### Coming of Age Reunion!

All Coming of Age graduates and their mentors are invited to our Contra COA Reunion. We will be going to Rehoboth on a Friday night in October to contra dance! Email Cissy ([mecha60@comcast.net](mailto:mecha60@comcast.net)) for details!

## News and Views from the RE Desk

Patricia Hatch, Interim Director of Religious Education



Hello First Parish Members and Friends,

Here is one of my favorite quotes from Thich Nhat Hahn: "People usually consider walking on water or in the air a miracle. But I think the real miracle is not to walk either on water or in thin air, but to walk on earth. Every day we are engaged in a miracle which we don't even recognize: a blue sky, white clouds, green leaves, the black, curious eyes of a child -- our own two eyes. All is a miracle." I like to keep this in mind in my life, as well as in my work as a religious educator. We don't need "supernatural" miracles; our everyday lives are full of miracles. My hope is that the young people of First Parish will remember this throughout their lives.

I have had a good first month as your interim Director of Religious Education. Here are some of the things I have been doing: I am enjoying starting to get to know the young people. I work with Joyce and the RE guides on Sunday morning programming. I have been meeting regularly with Rich, and I meet with Joyce and the RE Committee. I attended a meeting of LREDA, the organization for UU professional religious educators, as well as a meeting of the Executive Board. I also had a good time at Medfield Day and the excellent original Chamber Opera "Emily."

There are lots of exciting things happening this fall in RE. On Sunday mornings, the children are continuing with a "story and activity-based curriculum" for the early part of the fall, and then will focus on Day of the Dead, Thanksgiving, and the annual children's Solstice Service. OWL (Our Whole Lives), the UUA human sexuality education program, will be starting for the eighth and ninth graders in mid-October, with a mandatory parent orientation night on September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the First Parish vestry. I hope many of you can make it to the "Meet the DRE" potluck and games night for all ages on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the vestry. Apples to Apples, anyone? Oh, and if you are interested, I'll show you how to draw a finger labyrinth like the one at the top left of this page!

In faith,  
Patricia

## Executive Board Notes

BOARD NOTES September 2012

New RE Director Patricia Hatch was introduced to the Executive Board. See Patricia's article in the Newsletter.

Ministerial Search – Recommended Offer- the FPUU Executive Board recommended to the Ministerial Search Committee that FPUU seek a part-time minister at 4/5 salary (32 hours a week or 80%).

The decision was based on an attempt to balance the budget for 2014 and following years. Offering a full-time position would require an approximate \$17,000 a year deficit until the new minister was able to grow First Parish membership. FPUU would need to dip into endowments or take out loans to finance a full-time minister. Church finances are transparent to prospective ministers, so running a deficit might be unattractive to them.

The MSC will be seeking a settled minister that would start at 80% time and would work to grow the church and grow the position to full-time.

Educational Facility - Duncan Glover presented a letter asking for funds to start the design process for a state-of-the-art educational facility to replace the UHouse. A Capital Campaign appeal for \$25,000 preliminary design funding will be mailed to all members. The appeal is also in this month's newsletter.

Medfield Day - Medfield Day was a great success. Wonderful weather, lots of visitors, and lots of FPUU volunteers working hard. The Bake Sale cleared \$650, pumpkin painting and spin art cleared over \$300 and the Farmers' Market table made over \$450 much of it thanks to Jeanette Ruyle's Bee Happy honey.

Thanks to all of you for your help.





## From the Music Director



Thanks to the Worship & Music Committee for coming out in full force to help support the performance of Eva Kendrick's one-act opera "Emily," about a day in the life of Amherst poet Emily Dickinson. The concerts were held on September 21st and 22nd, in order to help raise funds for the general fund of FPUU and also the Worship & Music Committee. In total, there were about 130 people in attendance, including many church members, friends and walk-ins from the community, thanks to a lovely article from the Medfield Press.

Performers included FPUU's own Becca Kornet in the title role, John Kornet as a family friend, Rebecca Stephenson as Emily's mother and Fritz Fleischmann as Emily's father. Other cast members included Medfield teen Kelly McManus, Mike Myers and John K. McElroy II who have both received awards from the NATS Musical Theatre competitions, and Boston operatic sopranos Anney Barrett and Noell Dorsey.

All of the performers were amazing and a complete delight to work with! After expenses, we raised approximately \$950 for the church from the event!

**Congratulations to Eva Kendrick on the well-received concert featuring her opera "Emily". We are so proud to have Eva as our music director. First Parish cast members John and Becca Kornet, Fritz Fleishchmann and Rebecca Stephenson earn our "Bravo" as well.**

## FLOWER DECORATIONS FOR THE SANCTUARY NEEDED



We still have many Sundays that we need flowers for. The months of November and February are spoken for. If you are interested in donating a fresh or silk flower arrangement to the church sanctuary this year, please contact Deb Carbarnes ([debra.carbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:debra.carbarnes@gmail.com) or 781-956-2901).

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

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

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

## Ministerial Search Committee News

### Beyond Categorical Thinking: an important step in our search for a new minister

Mark your calendars: **October 28** is an important service and one of First Parish's next steps on the ministerial search process. Experienced UUA facilitators will run a special Sunday service, [Beyond Categorical Thinking](#), at 10 AM, and a workshop for all First Parish members and friends from 12-3 PM. Lunch and childcare will be provided! As described by the UUA, "The Beyond Categorical Thinking program creates opportunities for conversations and reflection for the congregation to identify issues related to identity. In the process, congregations explore some of these biases, learn more about the search process, and begin to think about next steps, such as further consultation, education, or training beyond the BCT program." Please let us know that you are planning to attend here: <http://tinyurl.com/fpuubct> so that we know how much food to get and what kind of childcare to arrange.

**Want to continue the conversation about the Ministerial Search process? Sign up for a Cottage Meeting.**

THE MINSTERIAL SEARCH SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN!!!!!!  
And 99.9999% of all survey respondents agree that, although it would be nice, it is not imperative that our new minister be a good dancer!



## THANK YOU FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD MEMBERS & FRIENDS!

Your Ministerial Search Committee is delighted to report an impressive **80%** Congregational Survey return. Your strong response energizes us **AND** will send a powerful message to ministerial candidates. We will share the survey results via upcoming newsletters and emails.

Now that the survey is completed, we welcome the opportunity to host **Cottage Meetings** (intimate focus groups) to discuss our church vision and the qualities that we desire in our next settled minister. Please contact us here: <http://tinyurl.com/fpuumed> if you would like to attend a Cottage Meeting. Cottage Meetings will be scheduled based on the congregation's collective response.

Please email us at [search@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:search@firstparishmedfield.org) if you have any additional questions or comments. We are most grateful for your support!



Ministerial Search Committee: Jen Bartle, Dan Bibel, Kirsten D'Abate, Fran Kingsbury, John Kornet, Louise Rachin & David Temple

## Capital Campaign

### Start-Up Funds for a State-of-the-Art Educational Center UHouse Replacement Goal: \$25,000

The Executive Board is pleased to announce a Capital Campaign for start-up funds to replace the UHouse with a state-of-the-art educational center. At the February 2012 Executive Board meeting, the Board voted to request architects' quotations to provide the following: (1) an approximate cost estimate to raze the existing UHouse and replace it with a new educational center; (2) preliminary design of the new center; and (3) an architectural rendering of the new center. Since then, a proposal to provide Master Planning Services for Design of the new center has been received from local architect David Sharff.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Sharff's services will provide a preliminary design and an approximate cost estimate for the new educational center to replace the existing.

It is intended that our new educational center be:

- (1) Used for religious education classrooms, church offices, meetings, and events.
- (2) Barrier Free in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- (3) Energy Efficient and Environmentally Green
- (4) Cost Effective
- (5) Architecturally Commensurate with the Church Building and other structures in the Historic District
- (6) A desirable rental option for nonprofit organizations and small commercial enterprises

It is the Executive Board's opinion that beginning a Capital Campaign now will increase our opportunities to attract a settled minister during our ongoing ministerial search. The design will also explore the possibility of joint use with Medfield Community Cable Access ("Medfield TV").

Mr. Sharff's proposal is presented in two phases:

#### Phase 1 - \$1,800

- Prepare site plan and approximate footprint drawn to scale
- Up to 3 planning meetings with First Parish Medfield
- Draft a written/graphic program

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<sup>1</sup> A second proposal has also been received from Paul G. Fermano & Associates for preliminary design & presentations (\$6,400).



Phase 2 – \$5,000

- Submit floor plans and exterior renderings drawn to scale
- Review with representatives of First Parish & Medfield TV
- Prepare approximate budget
- Prepare a final Master Plan

The goal of \$25,000 for this Capital Campaign is to fund the above-referenced architect's Master Planning Services and to initiate a reserve fund for subsequent design services including a land survey and engineering (civil, structural, mechanical & plumbing, electrical & fire-alarm) services.

It is anticipated that a larger capital campaign to raise funds to build our new educational center will take place after hiring our settled minister.

Your support of this Capital Campaign in the short term begins the process of replacing the UHouse with a state-of-the-art educational center while enhancing our appeal to ministerial candidates. In the long run, such an educational center will significantly improve our Buildings and Grounds, attract new members, and serve a growing congregation for several generations to come.

Please make your donation payable to First Parish Medfield identifying "New UHouse Start-Up Funds" on the memo line of your check.

Thank you.

Executive Board: Fred Bunger, Ann Cunningham, Glen D'Abate, Sara Drumm. Fritz Fleischmann, Duncan Glover & Cissy Hull-Allen

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Yes, you can count on my support of the Capital Campaign! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to "First Parish Medfield" and write "New UHouse Start-Up Funds" on the comment line. Return to First Parish Medfield, 26 North Street, Medfield MA 02052

## Notes from the Church Office

Information needed: Has your address, telephone number or cell phone number changed? Please email the office with updated contact information so that we can keep the church database up to date.



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: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

## Other Announcements



The Medfield Farmers' Market will  
run every Thursday until October 11<sup>th</sup>  
From 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm

*Come by and see us!*

Save the date for Sunday October 14 11:30AM, Parish "Town Meeting" to  
discuss FPUU statement of welcome.





# Pot Luck and Games Night

Come eat. Come play games. Come meet the new DRE, Patricia Hatch.

Date: Saturday, October 13

Time: 6-8:30 PM

Bring your favorite games.

Bring a pot luck dish.

Bring yourself and, if you have them, any kids that might be about your house.

We hope to see you there!

RE Committee



YOU'RE INVITED!

OPEN HOUSE 3-5 PM Church Vestry  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21st

Join us in saying good-bye to CB Doub who is moving to Concord, N.H.  
at the end of October.

Members and friends of First Parish as well as many community organizations want to wish her the best of luck and also express their gratitude for her many contributions over the years.

R.S.V.P. Eve Potts 508 359 6581  
[evampotts@gmail.com](mailto:evampotts@gmail.com)



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



**pasta sauce**

**juice- plastic jugs and juice boxes**

**cereal - please no corn flakes or cheerios - kid cereal please**

**cookies**

**crackers**

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](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org) and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!

### **Metrowest Pet Pantry**



FPUU now has a donation box set up for the Metrowest Pet Pantry. The pet pantry, located in Millis, provides a variety of pet food and supplies for families in need, some of whom would have to surrender their pets to shelters without the pet pantry's assistance. 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)

**October 7**

**"On Friendship"**

**Rev. Richard Stower**

The author, C. Raymond Beren, has written, *"Friends are people with whom you dare to be yourself. Your soul can be naked with them. They seem to ask of you to put on nothing, only to be what you are. They do not want you to be better or worse. When you are with them, you feel as a prisoner feels who has been declared innocent. You do not have to be on your guard. You can say what you think, so long as it is genuinely you. They understand those contradictions in your nature that lead others to misjudge you. With them you breathe freely."*

The sermon is a meditation on friendship and the joys that life-long friends bring.

**October 14**

**"The Wisdom to Know the Difference"**

**Rev. Richard Stower**

The twentieth century theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, is the purported author of the well-known Serenity Prayer. Using the prayer as a text, the sermon will explore that deeply desired, but often elusive, feeling of serenity.

**October 21**

**"Wanted: A Minister"**

**Rev. Richard Stower**

On October 28th, two people from the Unitarian Universalist Association will visit First Parish, offer a sermon and facilitate a workshop which is meant to expand the congregation's notion of what and who a minister is. Rev. Stower offers what he describes as an "appetizer" to the following week's full course meal.

**October 28**

**"Beyond Categorical Thinking"**

**Ministerial Search Committee**

As we continue our search for a new minister, now is the time for a little self-reflection in order to make sure we are prepared to hire the ministerial candidate who best suits First Parish's needs. We will have a special facilitated Sunday service and post-service workshop for the entire congregation called [Beyond Categorical Thinking](http://tinyurl.com/fpuubct), which is designed to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process. The 10 AM Sunday service will be led by experienced facilitators from the UUA. Then lunch will be provided from 11-12, and the workshop will be from 12-3 pm. Childcare will also be provided! Please let us know that you are planning to attend here: <http://tinyurl.com/fpuubct> so that we know how much food to get and what kind of childcare to arrange.

## FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, Oct 1	Medfield Historical Society/7:00/Vestry
Wednesday, Oct 3	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, Oct 4	Medfield Farmers Market/2:30 pm/Grounds
Monday, Oct 8	Columbus Day/Office Closed
Thursday, Oct 11	Last Farmers' Market/2:30 pm/Grounds
	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Saturday, Oct 13	Potluck & Game Night/6-8:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, Oct 14	Parish "Town Meeting" /11:30 am/Sanctuary
	OWL meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, Oct 16	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's.
Thursday, Oct 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, Oct 21	Farewell Open House/3-5 pm/Vestry
Sunday, Oct 28	Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop/12-3 pm/ Vestry.
Sunday, Nov 4	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Thursday, Nov 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Monday, Nov 12	Veteran's Day/Office Closed
Thursday, Nov 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Tuesday, Nov 20	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, Nov 22	Thanksgiving/Office Closed

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)