

# First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

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

*As a Welcoming Congregation,  
First Parish invites everyone  
into our faith community*



## March Newsletter 2013

### Ministerial MUUsings...

The Ministerial Search Committee has been hard at work interviewing candidates. If all goes well an offer will be made to a candidate on March 21st. Once a candidate accepts an offer from the search committee plans for Candidating Week will get underway. I want to share with you my role during that week.

First, I will disappear. I will not share the pulpit with the candidate for the two Sundays she/he preaches and I will not have office hours that week. Only in a pastoral emergency shall I be called.

Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, I will not entertain any questions or concerns about the

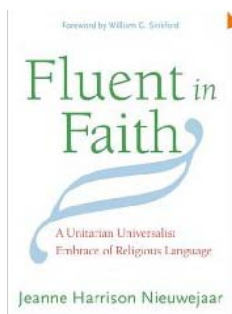
candidate. You have entrusted the search process to the search committee and the final decision is yours - the people of the First Parish in Medfield - and yours alone without any input from me.

Just let me say that Candidating Week is a two-way process, for the candidate is interviewing you as well. Confirm for them what they may already have heard: that First Parish is a warm, welcoming and caring congregation. Make her/him feel as much at home as you made me feel on my first day here in Medfield.

Peace.

Rich Stower

## Fluent in Faith Class



We appear to have enough people interested in the "Fluent in Faith" Class that Patricia Hatch and I will lead. There is still time for others to sign up. We are hoping to have the class following church services on Sundays 12-1 pm with people bringing lunch along with them.

Please let Richard Stower ([rstower@comcast.net](mailto:rstower@comcast.net)) know if you'd like to join the discussion based on Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar's book, *Fluent in Faith*. The Kindle edition of the book can be purchased from Amazon for \$9.60. The UUA Bookstore's hardcopy is priced at \$12.

Here is a description of the book: Discussion about a "Language of Reverence" in the Unitarian Universalist community was propelled into energy and creativity in 2002, following a sermon by Rev. William Sinkford, then president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The conversation since then has been both wide and deep. *Fluent in Faith* continues that conversation, calling us to embrace our religious language in all its diversity and wide range of meaning. Jeanne Harrison Nieuwejaar sets forth a vision for Unitarian Universalism in which we can confidently and gracefully express our faith.

## News and Views from the RE Desk

### Patricia Hatch, Interim Director of Religious Education

In the nineteenth century, Rev. William Ellery Channing proclaimed that "the great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own," to awaken their souls. He was ahead of his time, as most religious education of that time consisted in catechisms to be memorized. I think the best religious education inspires more than instructs, asks questions more than provides answers.

In that spirit, we need a few more guides/ helpers for our children's religious education classes this spring. Religious education at First Parish is a co-

operative effort. You could be a guide and help facilitate RE classes, or a helper who assists with games, crafts, and other activities. Please let me know if you are interested and we can talk about how you might help. You might be surprised at how much you could learn.

Also, stay tuned for a fun intergenerational RE activity in April entitled, "Who Am I?" Based on clues posted at coffee hour, children and adult congregants will try to figure out each other's identities. Watch for more details in March.

The RE Committee is in need of people to join the DRE Search Committee. The time involved will be mostly interviewing candidates. Please email Cissy ([mecha60@comcast.net](mailto:mecha60@comcast.net))

# Executive Board Notes

The Executive Board Meeting was held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

- ❖ **Ministerial Search:** Jen Bartle reported that the Search Committee is interviewing 3 candidates. A final selection will be made by the Committee on March 21. The selected candidate will be at First Parish the week of April 28 to May 5 (tentative) and will be in the pulpit both Sundays.
- ❖ **Wireless News:** MetroPCS is in the process of engineering for installation of antenna and equipment at First Parish. The Board approved \$10,000 for engineering of structural reinforcement of the existing steeple and connection to a new spire. Engineering will commence when MetroPCS files their plans with the Town.
- ❖ **New Sign:** The sign committee (Barbara Bunger, Duncan Glover, Don Rolph, David Stephenson, and Susan Stromgren) is awaiting better weather to make a final decision on sign placement.
- ❖ **March 9 Historical inSpireation :** Richard DeSorgher, Town Historian and our own Buck Buchanan will be presenting First Parish historical perspectives Saturday evening March 9. Tickets are \$100 each and include refreshments, dinner and dessert. This is a FUNDRAISER so attend or donate as you are able. Thanks to Fritz Fleischmann and Sara Drumm for co-chairing this event. See flyer in this newsletter.
- ❖ **March 23 Contra Dance Evening:** The Annual Fund Drive will kick-off with an evening of music and contra-dancing including instructors. All ages are encouraged to attend. The event is being sponsored by the Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Marc Samels, Marshall Sugarman and Louise Rachin. See flyer in this newsletter.
- ❖ **March 30 Indoor Yard Sale & Ye Olde Antique Shoppe:** The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Indoor Yard Sale and Ye Olde Antique Shoppe will be held Saturday March 30. Save your items to donate. Pick-ups can be arranged or deliver the items after 4PM Friday March 29 and join the wine and cheese party. See flyer in this newsletter.
- ❖ **RE Director Search:** Patricia Hatch may be leaving us this fall, so FPUU has posted the position of RE Director. Rev. Rich, the RE Committee and volunteers will begin reviewing candidate applications in the Spring. If you are interested in helping with RE Director search, please contact RE Committee Chair, Clayton Springer.





Thank you to the Coming of Age Group, for the donation of the rainbow flag which is now hung proudly at the front of First Parish.

## Message from Membership

What a success! The 5th Annual Pancake Breakfast was amazing this year. There was terrific community spirit generated by all those in attendance. And we served a delicious breakfast to over 60 members and guests. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Super Bowl theme and the young people had fun tossing around the inflated footballs--no touch downs were made that we were aware of!!

The generosity of the attendees exceeded our expectations. Donations of \$524.00 were collected to support Summer Camperships for youngsters sponsored by the U.U. Urban Ministry. This is a very worthwhile program that we, at First Parish Medfield, have supported before.



Many thanks go to all who supported the breakfast and to the team of First Parish adults and youth who worked so hard to make this event possible. The Membership and Social Justice Committees are grateful for all the support we have received to make this annual breakfast popular and a highlight of the church year.

Membership Committee: Barbara Bunger, Katrin Fischer, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph

## Among Ourselves...

- ✚ Our condolences are extended to Ron Texera and his family upon the death of Cathy Texera, Ron's former wife. Cathy died on February 10th after a courageous battle with cancer.
- ✚ Sally Adams continues to recover from her broken hip at the Upham House. Visitors are welcome to see her for a short stay.
- ✚ Jeff Lloyd is recuperating well from his recent cancer treatment.



# Ministerial Search Committee

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **So, we haven't seen the Search Committee in church lately. Where have you been?**

The Search Committee is having "pre-candidating weekends" in February and in March. This is an exhaustive (and exhausting!) interview process with applicants involving three days, at least three meals, two hours of formal interview time and about seven hours of informal getting-to-know-you-time, a tour of First Parish and a church service in a "neutral pulpit," where neither the committee nor the applicant knows the congregation.

### **How did you decide which applicants to invite to be pre-candidates?**

We evaluated the packets of ministerial candidates, conducted group phone interviews, and checked their references.

### **What churches have been your neutral pulpits?**

Sorry, we can't say.

### **But why not? If it's a neutral pulpit, it is not the applicant's home church.**

That's right, but most UU churches give information about upcoming services and guest ministers on their websites. As in any job search, the identity of the applicants, as well as information that could identify them, must be kept confidential. In addition, pre-candidates are not allowed to talk to members of prospective congregations who are not on the Search Committee.

### **What will you be able to tell us about the pre-candidates?**

We will be updating you frequently about the work we have been doing while maintaining confidentiality. If and when we have narrowed the search to one candidate, the Executive Board will present that finalist to the congregation in April or May.

### **What happens if none of the pre-candidates work out?**

We are excited about the potential in all of our pre-candidates. However there is a possibility that we do not feel that any of them is the right fit for First Parish. In that case we would inform the board and the search would have to be continued next year. We wouldn't want to present a candidate to the congregation unless we had full confidence that he or she would be a successful minister.

### **And what happens if you do find an applicant that you think will be successful at First Parish?**

We will make that person an offer via telephone. If he or she accepts, a three-person negotiating team would work with the candidate to write a contract. You will get to meet the finalist during Candidating Week, during which he or she will lead two Sunday services and participate in small group activities during the week. After the second Sunday service, the congregation will vote by secret ballot on a motion by the Committee to call the minister.

# We Did It For You!

 WOMEN'S JOURNEY THROUGH HISTORY

## A message from Shirley Riga

A big Thank You to everyone who participated in the We Did It For You play reading!

Greg Beedy started the play reading by opening up the service as the UU does, lighting the chalice light, reading a wonderful quote and making announcements for the community and then the play started.

My smile just makes me feel giddy. Watching the participants read their lines; watching the audience absorb the words of the We Did It For You character women past and present, watching their faces, listening to them laugh and witnessing their silence. Alice Paul talking about her hunger strike and being force fed through a tube in her nose strikes silence in the audience. Singing the National Anthem and mashing into You Don't Own Me is priceless with the looks on faces young and old. Billie Jean King reminiscing about beating Bobby Riggs and Hillary Clinton giving her famous speech about women's rights are human rights!

Presenting this play reading to a UU parish was a great idea. The congregants are the characters. It didn't matter whether they were men or women, young or old. As long as they can read it works! Two young boys ran the audio visual; Sam Kornet followed the script being prompted to change the pictures projected digitally. Jack

Kornet was in charge of filming a master shot of the reading.

Radical 60's woman was played by Chris, Eva Kendrick's husband. He was adorable letting his shoulder length Hawaiian black hair down, wearing sunglasses, a headband, an "I Love the Beatles" T-shirt and a tie-dyed skirt. He played the part beautifully. A picture was taken of him and I for posterity. Eva accompanied us in the four songs. Thank you Eva for your patience!

After we sang I Am Woman, I got back up on the stage and grabbed the hand mic and thanked everyone. I spoke about where the play has been and where it can go, where it needs to go. Afterwards everyone was so enthusiastic. The Peace and Justice Committee at other UU churches were there and they want to do it. I started a cast list for volunteers wanting to be in a play production.

The young woman who played Bella Abzug told me afterwards she just experienced discrimination in her job. She was amazed how she felt, because she's a women's studies major and knew about discrimination but never really felt it. The play had a big impact on her. Two young sisters under 10 y/o came up to me and said they loved it, especially the beginning.

I feel we are on our way. I handed out lots of postcards. Everyone in the audience has become an agent marketing the play and their enthusiasm will sell it. It's all very exciting.





## **Annual Spring Fundraising Dinner Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Open Bar, Live Music and Richard DeSorgher, Historian As Featured Speaker**

On Saturday, March 9, First Parish will hold its annual spring fundraising dinner, which is open to the public. Medfield Town Historian Richard DeSorgher will be the featured speaker at the dinner, with a presentation on the history of the 1789 meetinghouse, the anchor of Medfield's historic center.

For the congregation at First Parish, 2013 will be the "Year of the Steeple," as plans are getting under way to restore the meetinghouse steeple to its original shape and height, 75 years after it was blown down by the hurricane of 1938. Although some visitors to Medfield have been known to wonder if the building is still in use, our church is, in fact, the oldest public building in the town center in continued use, an irreplaceable part of Medfield's civic identity – symbolized not least by the fact that the steeple also houses the Medfield town clock. Richard DeSorgher will speak about these and other fascinating tidbits of Medfield history at the dinner, which raises funds for the operation of the church, including the maintenance of its historic building.

**The March 9 dinner starts with an open bar and live music at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$100 per person (payable at the dinner). Please reserve your seat, no later than March 1, by writing to Sandra Andreassi: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org). For questions, write to Fritz Fleischmann ([Fleischmann@babson.edu](mailto:Fleischmann@babson.edu)) or Sara Drumm ([bongo\\_8@msn.com](mailto:bongo_8@msn.com)).**



## Social Action

### The Fourth Family Promise Walkathon to End Homelessness



The original date for the Walkathon at Natick Mall was February 9th. But who could go anywhere on that stormy day? So the walk was rescheduled to February 16. Because of previous commitments, several FFUU'ers were unable to attend. However First Parish of Medfield team made a good showing: Helen and Greg Beedy, Eve Potts and Pat Clark. Pat had set the goal for the team to collect at \$500 and we exceeded that goal by 131% with some pledges still pending. The team combined brought in \$655. When the pending donations are accounted for, the final tally will be \$765 with an achievement of %140.

People gave generously to this cause. The total brought in by the event hasn't been posted yet. We all had a great deal of fun starting with a total group workout and then walking around the perimeter of the mall. A raffle and silent auction followed the walk and coffee and snacks were offered, donated by many companies. The annual walkathon is the major fundraiser for the organization. And now that we have participated and learned the ropes, we'll be better organized to attend the fifth.

### Pancake Breakfast Donations for Urban Children

The Breakfast was well attended and raised \$524 for camp scholarships for urban children served by the Unitarian UU Urban Ministry (UUUM).

### Food Pantry

The manager of our donations to the food pantry, Sam Flaherty is requesting items for the food pantry. The need is great especially in these hard times. Sam posts the items most needed every month in the announcements in the Order of Service every week, but other items you would like to add to the baskets in the Narthex are very welcome. So when you are grocery shopping, remember the people served by the food pantry. Recently when Denise Flaherty announced that the baskets had been empty for a few weeks, donations poured in. So, again this is an opportunity to make a difference in a family's life.

**So great job, FPUU. We have been able to make a difference in people's lives.**

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### Social Action Sunday

Don't forget to attend the FPUU Social Action service on **March 17**. This year's service is called "How we Serve" and features projects and the people devoted to them. This year Social Action decided to feature the ways people in our congregation are making a difference. Many members of this congregation have projects that they work on other than or as well as those sponsored by the Social Action committee. If you have a story to tell, please let Pat Clark know. We are eager to hear about what you are doing, and will feature your story in future newsletters.

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## SAVE THE DATE!



**FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD INTERGENERATIONAL  
2013 ANNUAL FUND DRIVE CONTRA DANCE PARTY  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 7:00 - 10:00 PM - VESTRY**

Contra Dance is a communal-style folk dance that is fun and easy to learn. No partner or experience is necessary. Please join us on March 23 at 7:00 pm in the vestry for an evening of good company, good food and questionable choreography for all ages.

**But Wait! There's More!! Showcase Your Talents!!!**

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

Most Enthusiastic Dancer

Best Get-Up Adult Division, Best Get-Up Youth Division

Best Bouffant Hairdo

Best Fruit Pie, Best Food on a Stick or in a Blanket

Most Creative Use of Mayonnaise in an Appetizer or Dessert

(Contest Participation Optional)

Requested Donation to Cover Band Costs: Adults \$10, Children Free

RSVP by March 16: [duncanglover@comcast.net](mailto:duncanglover@comcast.net)



SATURDAY, MARCH 30th, 9am-1pm  
8TH ANNUAL  
FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD INDOOR YARD  
SALE &  
Ye Olde Antique Shoppe  
Start saving your stuff!!

TOYS, KITCHEN, YARD, GARAGE, CHINA, BOOKS, PICTURES, TOOLS, DVDS,  
CDS, FURNITURE, BIKES, EXERCISE EQUIPMENT, ETC.

We do not take outdated electronics or software, tube TVs, mattresses, clothing,  
shoes or car seats

Please make sure all items are usable and in good condition

DROP-OFF DONATIONS: FRIDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> 4-8PM  
OR TO SCHEDULE A PICK-UP  
CALL 508-359-4594

## Other Announcements

### 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!

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



- ✓ Juice-boxes and bottles
- ✓ Raisins
- ✓ Single rolls of paper towels
- ✓ Cereal
- ✓ Salad dressings
- ✓ Zip Lock bags- all sizes

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.

### Notes from the Church Office:

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



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

**March 3, 2013**

**"There's A Lion in the Street"**

**Rev. Richard M. Stower**

Given the choice who wouldn't want to stay in bed? But sloth, or laziness, is one of the Seven Deadly Sins and there is good reason for that. We are called to live our life, not make excuses for inaction, or worse, to waste our lives.

**March 10, 2013**

**"Time and Memory"**

**Rev. Richard M. Stower**

There are functions of our memory that we need to understand and confront if we are to move forward in our own internal time. Memory is where we most apply extremes. It is at times underestimated, at other times relied on too much. Without an understanding of our own past we feel marooned in the present and often feel the need to reinvent ourselves even if it is for a brief moment. We often look back at our past with some alienation, even disbelief perhaps, as though someone else had lived it.

**March 17, 2013**

**"How I Serve at FPUU: Social Action"**

**Worship & Music/Social Action**

The First Parish Social Action Committee will share their observations about First Parish's social action activities on behalf of the church and what it means to them.

**March 24**

**Canvass Sunday: "For the Future"**

With a new minister arriving in the fall, First Parish is at a critical juncture. What does First Parish need to do for the next chapter in its long history?

**March 31**

**Easter Sunday**

**Rev. Richard M. Stower**



## FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 3	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 9	FPUU Historical Fundraising Dinner/Vestry
Sunday, March 10	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry Daylight Savings
Thursday, March 14	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, March 17	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, March 19	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, March 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, March 23	Annual Fund Drive Evening Event/ 7:00 pm/ Vestry
Sunday, March 24	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Saturday, March 30	FPUU Great Indoor Yard Sale/9-1 pm
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 7	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 16	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Sunday, April 21	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 18	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, April 28	OWL Meeting/7-9 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)