

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

26 North Street, Medfield, MA
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www.firstparishmedfield.org



June Newsletter 2013

Ministerial MUUsings...

I can't say often enough how pleased I am at the May 5th congregational vote to call the Rev. Meg Soens as the settled minister of the First Parish of Medfield. The vote represents the culmination of the period of interim ministry. At the beginning of my ministry with you I said that it was my purpose to hold up a mirror to the congregation so that you could look into the image, decide who you are, what you want to become and what kind of minister you want to help you achieve what you want, both in terms of your individual and collective spiritual life and First Parish's social community life. In calling Rev. Meg I believe you have done that.

Many of you have been kind to ask me what's next for me. As of this writing it looks like I will end my full-time ministry come August 1. This is not really of my own choosing. The number of interim ministries open this spring in the Eastern

Massachusetts were less than a handful and the number of ministers looking for a pulpit far exceeded the vacancies. At this stage of our lives, Nancy and I are not willing to move far away from our beloved New England, let alone the Massachusetts coast. So the future is unknown and I face the possibility of being unemployed for the first time in 40 years. Still, I am hopeful that some transformative work lies ahead.

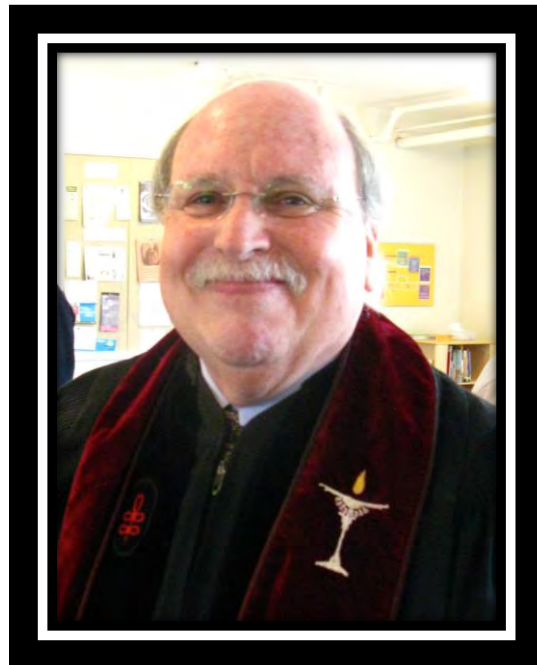
These past two years with you have been a joy. Your warmth and generosity of spirit have fed me in ways you cannot imagine. I hope I have been able to do the same. The children of this congregation, though small in number, are amazing in their intelligence, creativity, and spirit. I will miss all of you. I have already conveyed to Rev. Meg the truth that First Parish Medfield is not just a one night stand.

Thank you and be well.
Rich Stower

COME ONE! COME ALL!



**A FAREWELL PARTY WILL BE HELD FOR
REV. RICHARD STOWER
ON SUNDAY, JUNE 9TH DURING COFFEE HOUR**



**PLEASE JOIN US TO BID RICH A FOND FAREWELL AND THANK
HIM FOR HIS WISE COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE DURING THE
PAST TWO YEARS.**

News and Views from the RE Desk

Patricia Hatch, Interim Director of Religious Education



It's the time of year when spring is moving into summer, and the church year is winding down. As I took this job on an interim basis, it is likely that I will not be back in the fall. I have really enjoyed my time with you, and I will miss you.

You have been friendly and helpful to me and to the RE program. I am looking forward to thanking the teachers on June 2nd. I especially want to thank a few people in this article. Thanks to this year's two RE chairs, Joyce and Clayton, for all you've done. Thanks to Chris C. for helping out in RE all year. And thanks to our three dedicated OWL teachers: Cissy, Renee, and Chris F.

I would like to offer a few suggestions for your consideration for religious education in the future at First Parish Medfield. If these ideas are interesting to you, I encourage you to discuss them with whoever is leading RE next year and with Rev. Meg. Here are some of my suggestions (in no particular order):

1. Involve the children in RE visioning for the future. They have good ideas!
2. Make ways for the children to be involved in Green Sanctuary initiatives. We are leaving our planet in their hands in the future.
3. Sing the children out after the Moment for All Ages. (Something to discuss with Eva, Rev. Meg., and the Worship and Music Committee.)
4. Continue the Neighboring Faiths and Coming of Age Programs. In my experience, young people are usually excited about learning about and visiting other places of worship.
5. Continue and expand the OWL offerings. The K-1 (kindergarten and first grade program) would be good. It provides a great way for parents to talk to their young children. A child sexual abuse prevention workshop is also important, as part of that program or as a stand-alone event.
6. Consider having a real youth group for the high school students. Perhaps a combined youth group with another small congregation?
7. Have more intergenerational events. These events are really good for building community. I fondly remember the fun game night we had in the fall.
8. Remember to look back as well as forward. First Parish Medfield has a rich history, and it is good for the children to know some of it. I am looking forward to telling the Horseshoe story sometime soon.

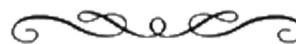
I wish you all the best as First Parish Medfield moves into an exciting new era. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Warmly,
Patricia

Executive Board Notes

The Executive Board Meeting was held on May 16th

- ❖ **Meg Soens Settled Minister:** At the Special Parish meeting on May 5, Meg Soens was unanimously elected (59 -0-0) settled minister for First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church at Medfield. Meg will begin at First Parish on August 1, 2013.
- ❖ Many thanks to the Ministerial Search Committee for their work. The unanimous vote is a clear measure of the great job they did.
- ❖ There was a tremendous enthusiasm for Meg when she returned to the Church after the election. That enthusiasm and energy needs to carry over the summer to start off next year on a high.
- ❖ **Rich Stower Appreciation:** The FPUU Executive Board greatly appreciates and thanks Rev. Stower for all that he has accomplished as our interim minister over the past two years. From having the Congregation reflect-on and define who we are to establishing the Search Committee to helping us through challenging changes, Rev. Rich was a calm, steady presence. His experience and warm, open manner were a blessing to all of us. We wish him all the best in whatever is next for him.
- ❖ **First Parish Annual Meeting** is scheduled for June 2. There will be elections for Chair, Treasurer and one At-Large position on the Executive Board. The 2014 Budget, annual Committee reports will be presented and a proposal to amend the Nominating Committee provisions in the FPUU By-Laws will also be considered. The meeting will be held at 11:30 AM following coffee hour.
- ❖ **Annual Fund Drive:** Pledges to date have been received from 55 of the 58 Pledge Units, including 7 zero pledges. It is estimated that the pledge total for 2014 will be \$111,000 which is a 5% decrease from 2013 pledge total. The life of First Parish depends upon everyone contributing their fair share.
- ❖ **Pledge Collections for 2013:** To date, only \$95,900 of the \$117,500 pledged in 2012 has been received. **If you are behind in your pledge, please catch up.**
- ❖ **Wireless News:** No change since the February report. Waiting for MetroPCS to file with the Town.
- ❖ **Note from the Chair:** It is with some regret these are my last Board Notes after 3 years as Chair of the FPUU Executive Board. I have enjoyed serving the Church and helping to navigate the changes we have experienced. First Parish is moving on to a new beginning with a vibrant, energetic minister. She will need all your help and support to move the Church forward. Good Luck to all.



Message from Membership



What a year this has been!! We're completing our two-year transition period with our very wise and appreciated interim minister, Rev. Richard Stower. At the same time we're preparing to welcome our unanimously selected new minister, the Rev. Meg Soens. We are very hopeful about the future for First Parish.

In some ways it has been a difficult couple of years. We are going to miss those who have moved away and others who have left our faith community. Although our membership numbers are down, those of us who remain share a strong commitment to our church and faith. We will meet our challenges and prosper under the spiritual guidance of our new minister

As we enthusiastically look forward to next year, we in Membership are re-energized about serving and growing First Parish. We expect to work closely with Rev. Meg and would like your continued support. We want to hear your ideas and, perhaps even a few of you would like to help with greeting, serve on the committee, or help with a project that's still unknown. We've got a lot to do if we want to spread our good news! Please let a member of the committee know if you'd like to join us in some way.

NEW SIGN PROJECT

We're ready to start!! We just need some additional donations to make this project a reality.

Project Cost—Two signs (New sign and replacement Wayside Pulpit)	\$7025
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Donation status.

Money committed	\$4250
Money received	\$2700

We will be collecting donations at the Annual Meeting on June 2 and at the final church service on June 9th. Please help if you can. Any amount will be gratefully appreciated.

Thanks,
Membership Committee, Barbara Bunger, Katrin Fischer, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph.



Thanks to everyone who hosted coffee hour this year. I won't name the list, but you know who you are, which is just about everyone. With First Parish in an introspective mode during this interim period, and with several serving on the Ministerial Search Committee, that left several others working harder at their committee and Board duties. So your willingness to go the extra mile and host is appreciated even more.

Coffee hour is important to adults and children alike. I did not realize this a few years ago until it was pointed out to me how much the children enjoy it. Think back on your early memories of happy times in your lives and why they were meaningful to you. I'll bet the memory of coffee hour will draw our children back to a Unitarian Universalist church as adults because it represents one of many things in their religious upbringing which is part of a meaningful anchor in their lives.

See, you didn't realize how much your hosting coffee means, did you? 😊

Thanks!
Nancy Kingsbury
Membership Committee and Coffee Hour Coordinator

Social Action Committee

Day of UU Advocacy April 23, 2013



On a rainy Tuesday in April, Barbara Bunger, Margaret Rolph and Pat Clark attended the annual Day of Advocacy sponsored by UU Mass Action. This is always an inspiring day where UUs from all over the state gather at the State House to meet with legislators or their aides to discuss the legislative priorities of our denomination. This year's event was especially meaningful because of our witness at 1 o'clock on the steps of the State House in response to the aftermath of the Marathon bombings. Led by Rev Fred Small and holding "Standing on the Side of Love" signs, we witnessed against bigotry and hatred as responses to the horrific events of the previous week. Rev. Fred led us in song and word. This witness was very powerful for all that took part.

The day started at the First Parish Boston UU Church with a beautiful worship service during which we were addressed by Sister Simone Campbell from "Nuns on the Bus" fame. She spoke about how to deal with an

adversary so that you can find commonality to work together to alleviate social pain and release the hope for justice. Nuns on the Bus travel together to address social justice problems including the effects of poverty and the need for health care for all. They have since launched the bus campaign anew. Sister Simone came from DC to be with us in our day of advocacy. She's amazing.

After a couple of other presentations and a box lunch, we walked to the witness. Then, after the witness, we distributed letters to our representatives. We also were in groups to talk to key legislators about specific issues. These are:

- Climate change as an environmental justice issue
- Secure Communities (S-Comm) deportation program (Trust Act)
- Gun control legislation
- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Act (H. 135)

The FPUU of Medfield's delegation spent time with the chief aide to Sen. Timilty where we talked about the importance of passing the Act to Restore Community Trust in Massachusetts Law Enforcement (H. 1613 & S, 1135), best known as the Trust Act. This bill is absolutely necessary because Immigration Custom & Enforcement (ICE) has co-opted Mass. Law Enforcement into enforcing the "Secure Communities" (S-Comm) deportation program.

ICE implemented S-Comm in Mass. in May 2012. This federal program has a chilling impact on the relationship between Mass. law enforcement and local immigrant communities by making it easier for ICE to deport law-abiding immigrants and thus separating immigrant families. The Trust Act will make our communities safer by:

- Providing that individuals ordered released by Mass. judges and magistrates will not be detained for ICE in spite of the court's release order
 - Clarifying that Mass. law enforcement agencies are not responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws or arresting, detaining or transporting individuals for federal immigration.
- Even though ICE claims S-Comm is about deporting criminals, over 60% of those deported in Mass. since May 2012 have committed no crime. ICE detention requests misuse local resources and ICE does not reimburse communities for the cost of detaining individuals. But most of all, these detentions and subsequent deportations tear apart Mass. families and communities often leaving US citizen children and spouses without providers and caregivers.

This write-up is based on a UUMass Action fact sheet. For more information, visit www.uumassaction.org/trustact

On a personal note, I picked up my New Yorker dated April 29 and the first article, "Annals of Immigration, The Deportation Machine" by William Finnegan documents a US Citizen getting caught in the morass of deportation and what he goes through, which is unjust and outrageous. I recommend that if you have access to this article, please read it. It calls attention to why the Trust Act is one important way to begin to alleviate these injustices.

A call from the Music Director...



Dear All,

I wanted to let you know that I have decided that the musical fundraiser for this fall will be a dinner theatre production of my original, jazz-influenced musical comedy "Le Bistro Cafe." This will be the East Coast Premiere of the musical, which premiered in Los Angeles in 2003, thanks to the aid of a Subito Grant from the American Composers Forum. The show is light-hearted and funny with lots of memorable, singable tunes.

While the Worship & Music Committee and I have been brainstorming for the event, which will take place the week after Medfield Day, I would like to put out an early call for volunteers. Please note that there are a variety of positions. We are starting with two confirmed dates, September 27 & 28, although we are considering a Sunday matinee as a possibility.

You can respond to me by e-mail if you are interested in any of these positions at evakendrick@comcast.net

If you have other theatrically inclined friends who may wish to participate, please feel free to forward the attached document to them too!

I am very excited to present this musical. I actually wrote it the year after I had written and produced "Emily." While "Emily" held a very dear place in my heart, the subject matter was fairly serious, so in writing "Le Bistro Cafe," I just wanted to offer something that was somewhat silly and fun! I hope you will all enjoy it!

Take care!

Eva





THANK YOU FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!

On Sunday, May 5th, 30,000 people walked 20 miles and raised \$3.1 million to support community based programs that assist hungry people across Massachusetts.

Thanks to generous people like you, Team First Parish Medfield raised **Four Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight Dollars!**

As always, we are most grateful for your support.

Louise Rachin & Duncan Glover





Medfield Farmers' Market Now Open!

The Market, located on the grounds of the First Parish UU Church at 26 North Street, will be open from 2:00 to 6:30 pm every Thursday through **August 29th**.

We are pleased to welcome back **Ward's Berry** and **Langwater Farms, Garden Farms** with jams, jellies & relishes and **Wild Daisy Soap**. We are thrilled to announce that **Jordan Brothers Seafood** and **Bark Back Bakery** will be joining us this season! More vendors to follow.

More information can be found by visiting our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. You could also email us at admin@firstparishmedfield.org. Check us out on Facebook!

Come by and do your shopping. Provide your family with healthy nutrition, support local agriculture and strengthen your community ties.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday afternoons.

First Parish Medfield Farmers' Market
Eve Potts, Market Manager



Other Announcements



Notes from the Church Office:

Please note that from June 13th until September 1st, the church office will be open on Thursday afternoons only. I can be reached via email and will be collecting the mail and messages weekly throughout the summer.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org
Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

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!



Thank you Sam Flaherty!

Sam delivered all those collected food items from First Parish to the Medfield Food Cupboard this year!

Time and the Bill Collector Wait for No One

Even though First Parish will be "off" for the summer the bills still keep coming. If you haven't already done so, please complete your pledge for this fiscal year which ends June 30th. Thank you.

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

June 2, 2013

Religious Education Sunday

In this service we recognize the students and teachers of our Religious Education program. We also acknowledge those in the First Parish family who are graduating high school and moving on with the next chapter in their life story.

Following the service the 362nd Annual Meeting of First Parish will be called to order to conduct the business of the church.

June 9, 2013

"Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow"

Rev. Richard Stower

The closing service of the church year before the summer hiatus features a Flower Communion and Rev. Stower's last sermon as interim minister of First Parish in Medfield.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 2	Annual Meeting/11:30 am/Sanctuary OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, June 9	Last service of the church year Farewell reception for Rev. Stower
Monday, June 17	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Wians' home
Tuesday, June 18	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's

Have a wonderful summer!
Our next service will be held on September 8, 2013

To see what is happening at First Parish during the summer months, 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