



# November 2008

## Come Join Us!!

First Parish Newsletter

Upcoming Events and Activities at First Parish

Mary Patterson Features at North Street Coffeehouse Saturday, November 1

The North Street Coffeehouse will host an open mic evening on Saturday, November 1, 2008, from 7 to 10 pm at the First Parish U.U. Church, 26 North Street, Medfield.

Our featured performer is Mary Patterson, a Massachusetts native currently living in Somerville, MA. She performs regularly with a folk/bluegrass band called The Sand Dollar Four with Matt Saraca and Peter Dotson-Westphalen and also plays at local coffee houses, weddings, and friendly gatherings with just her acoustic guitar and her smooth captivating vocals. Inspired by the sounds of Kris Delmhorst, Patty Griffin, and Patty Larkin, Mary brings her own quirky view of the world into her original songs. She will be playing with Matt Saraca on November 1.

The rest of the evening is open mic hosted by Janet McKetchnie. We welcome music of any genre, prose, poetry or comedy. Advance signup for open mic at [imjanetm@gmail.com](mailto:imjanetm@gmail.com) is encouraged, as we do tend to fill up. Refreshments will be available. Admission is \$10 at the door, \$5 for open mikers. Come see why we are becoming known as one of the best open mics around!

Take Back Your Time Day Friday, November 7th at 5:00PM

This fun night will be filled with games and a potluck dinner in the Vestry.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, November 25 at 7:00PM

First Parish is hosting this year's annual Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. This service is open to all ages. We need a volunteer to coordinate the coffee hour that follows. Please see Rev. Bob for more information.

Adult Religious Education:

Facilitated Bible Reading Wednesday, October 29th, from 7:00 PM- 9:00 PM

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and First Parish Medfield Sunday November 2nd and November 9th

See Rev. Bob for more information

Save the date! February 28, 2009. - First Parish Auction

From the Minister

*"Give Thanks"*

*Give thanks, give thanks  
All life is this  
What shall our thanks be?  
How shall we frame them?  
Love and laughter  
Ready smiles  
Joy in the heart  
To make our thanks live,  
How shall we shape them?  
Gentle touch  
Steady voice  
Persistent step.  
Whom shall we thank?  
Who is it we seek?  
God and Allah  
Jehovah, sun  
Cloud and rain  
And one another.*

*(Libbie Stoddard)*

Dear Friends,

It is our great privilege to host the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, here at First Parish this year. What a great opportunity for us to share the beauty of our newly painted church with many of the greater Medfield community.

The Rev. Libby Berman of the Church of the Advent has agreed to preach. Michael Olbash, minister of music at the UCC, will lead the choir for this service. Choir rehearsals will be Thursday, November 20, at 8 pm, and Tuesday, November 25, at 6 pm (just prior to the service itself) at First Parish. There will also be involvement in the service by our children as well.

Please make it a priority to come to this service as a family. You are invited to bring your relatives who may be visiting from out of town. There are many benefits to participating in Interfaith services which include:

Promoting respect and diversity, bridging social divides, developing a more cohesive community, discouraging consolidation of culture and cultural monopoly, discouraging cultural subordination or superiority, and promoting mutual and reciprocal appreciation for each other's faith practices.

I hope to see you there!

In faith,  
Bob

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*Thanksgiving Choir  
Members Needed*

First Parish will be the host for the annual interfaith Thanksgiving service in Medfield this year. The service will begin at 7pm on Tuesday, November 25.

Michael Olbash, minister of music at the UCC, will lead the choir for this service. Choir rehearsals will be Thursday, November 20, at 8 pm, and Tuesday, November 25, at 6 pm at First Parish.

Let's have a good choir turnout...especially since First Parish is the host church!

## Social Action

### Social Action News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Medway House by donating items for the move-on kits. On October 20 we delivered five complete kits and some other household items, which they will distribute to families when needed. Each kit included a laundry basket filled with various items such as tools, a frying pan, cleaning supplies, shower curtain with hooks, an extension cord, a small appliance, plus more! We even had a donation of a gift bag with lavender shower soap and a poof, for the "lady of the house." The RE classes assembled dish drainers with all kinds of useful items like dish towels, soap, can opener, even salt and pepper shakers! Thank you also to everyone who donated cash. We used the cash donations to fill in some gaps and to buy the items for the RE classes to assemble. Check the Social Action area of the bulletin board for pictures!

### Medway House Diaper Drop

Medway House shelters up to 12 families at any given time, and often the family includes at least one baby or toddler still in diapers. As you can imagine, it is difficult to keep up with the required diaper and wipe supplies.

To meet this need, we have a "Diaper Drop" box in the entry of the church, next to the Food Pantry collection box, for donations of diapers and baby wipes. The shelter's director has asked for any and all sizes, as they are never sure how many babies will be in residence, or what their ages will be.

So, next time you find yourself in the market or at BJ's, take a turn down the diaper aisle and help Medway House to stock up. We will make deliveries when the box is full, and with your help we'll keep the collection going for the rest of the year.

### Christmas Gifts

This year we will be helping the Medfield Food Pantry by taking gift tags to fulfill Christmas wishes for the Food Pantry clients. Gift tags will be available after Thanksgiving and you can take

one, or you can take a whole family! Gifts will be returned, wrapped with the tag attached, to church and then we will deliver them to the Food Pantry. Thanks in advance! If you would like to help, please contact Deb Carbarnes.

### From the Social Action Committee

Helen Beedy, chair, Kay Bennett, Barbara Bunger, Nancy Kingsbury, Marcia Trahan, and Margaret Rolph. The Social Action Committee will meet once a month. Everyone is welcome to join. Please call Helen Beedy at 508-359-2760 if you are interested, and to confirm the time and place of our meeting.

### Food Cupboard Donations Needed

Each month the Medfield Food Cupboard sends out a list of foods that are needed to stock their shelves. For the month of November First Parish has been asked specifically to contribute these items:

cereal, canned chicken, canned tuna, 4 packs of toilet paper, kleenex

You can leave your donation in the basket in the vestibule of the church anytime. A member of the Social Action Committee will do the delivery to the Food Cupboard.

The Food Cupboard has a great need for contributions right now. Their client list has increased during the last year. Although these items are the ones asked for from our church, any donation is welcome, including cash. Thank you for your support, Helen Beedy (508-359-2760).

## Membership

As I write this note to you I am reveling in the final days of this year's glorious month of October. The crisp air and vibrant colors make one feel so bright and alive. But soon the air will turn sharply colder and we will hunker down and turn more inward. It will be a time to seek warmth, friends, safe haven, and spiritual comfort. For many of us it is the time to renew our bond with First Parish. We can seek our comfort by reuniting with friends and reignite our spirit with the faith that sustains us.

We are pleased to inform you that in the past six weeks, we have welcomed 8 new adult visitors to First Parish. Five of those eight have returned for at least a second time. I want to thank everyone for welcoming our visitors so graciously and making them feel at home. You've reflected the genuine warmth and hospitality of our congregation. I think you can feel confident that as you reach out and bring family and friends to First Parish, they will be met with the same gracious hospitality.

Kick-Off Event: The Pancake Breakfast was a great success! More than 65 members of the congregation attended our first jointly sponsored event. It was wonderful to see the vestry filled with individuals and families of all ages, engaged in lively conversation while eating a wonderful breakfast prepared by members and spouses from the Membership and Social Action Committees. In addition, we also succeeded in filling 5 "Move-In Kits" for the residents of Medway House, one of our Social Action initiatives.

### Upcoming Events:

- *Introduction to Unitarian Universalism:* Nov. 2 & 9

Open to those wanting to know about U.U. history, and ideas. See sign up sheet in Vestry or call Rev. Bob.

- *Take Back your Time Day* - Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 5pm  
Potluck Games Family Fun  
No sign-up. Just come.

## Ideas In the Hopper:

### *Movie Nights*

We're exploring how to set up equipment for a regular movie night. We want to run films of interest to adults in our congregation. Look for further details.

### *Group Sing*

We recognize that there is a desire for more music at First Parish. We're looking for a way for individuals to participate in a less structured musical setting. Stay tuned.

We welcome your ideas, suggestions and offers of support.

The Membership Committee

Barbara Bunger, Chair, Nancy Kingsbury, Nancy Norris Cusanno, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson

## Newsletter Goes Digital

First Parish will no longer distribute a paper copy of the newsletter. Eliminating the paper newsletter saves time, money, and a few trees.

First Parish will make paper copies for guests and visitors available on the Welcoming Table in the church lobby.

Please contact Bob Luttmann with any questions or concerns.

## Religious Educationx

From the D.R.E.

A religious educator colleague of mine wrote these words in her congregation's newsletter recently:

*I wanted to say a few words this month about the importance of attendance and consistency for families with young children and teens. Each Sunday during the religious education time we endeavor to create a sense of community within each group of children/youth. Since our families come from [several] different communities, many of our children see one another only once a week on Sunday mornings. This makes it challenging to establish friendships, which we know, make a difference in whether or not our children want to come to church... Kudos to those of you who make attendance a priority—please keep it up!*



"Animal mobiles adorn the U House Arts and Crafts workshop room, made by each children's RE group. They relate to our first rotation's story about nature and respect for our environment"



I could not have said this much better myself. Feeling a connection and having a relationship with others is so important for children in RE. It is important for every one of us at First Parish, if you think about it. How long would adults keep coming to church if they did not feel they were part of the community? Program, whether for young or old, is important, no question about that, but it is only one aspect of our religious community. What works, clicks, makes sense, or feels best, is a little different for each individual, and is a lot alike for most of us, including children and youth.

If something in RE is not "working" for your  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, Medfield MA

child, I would like to know about it. Please talk with me. It is so much easier to address these kinds of issues early on rather than later on. Children may express reluctance to go to church on a Sunday, and then be fine once they are there. This is a common kind of inertia—it is hard to get going on a Sunday morning sometimes! However, if that reluctance does not go away and your child is unhappy at church or religious education, then you, the parent, and I should get together and figure out what can be done to make it a better experience. This

is part of being a loving community. It is also part of my job. Let us be together on this.

Workshop rotation II begins Oct. 26. The theme is "Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage." The story for this rotation is about the flaming chalice as a symbol for Unitarian Universalism, and is also about the service organization that first employed our symbol. It is a particularly appropriate time of year for this story. The Sunday after

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



this rotation ends, our annual Thanksgiving Worship Service features the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, whose predecessor created the flaming chalice design. Guest at Your Table boxes—a major social justice fundraising effort organized by the UUSC—are handed out at the service. Our children will have learned something of the history behind all of this.

At the very end of November, we in RE begin working on the annual Winter Solstice Service. This year the service will be on the actual date of the winter solstice, Dec. 21. So, of course, there will be an actual winter solstice story and legend told and heard... more to come through emails and signs!

Something that I should have put in last month's newsletter, yet is good for you to know: The Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) is the professional organization for DRE's and other UU religious educators. I will be away at the LREDA Fall Conference Oct. 24-27. As always, I expect to learn a lot from colleagues from all over the country. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Rebecca Parker, a renowned UU theologian with a religious education slant. I know I will return refreshed and reenergized. In my absence, the faithful RE Committee members will be conducting the Children's Worship Service on Oct. 26 at 10:30. Please give them your support and appreciation.

May the shortening of daylight hours help us to better appreciate the warmth of community.

Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education

## Fabulous First Parish Auction

Save the date! February 28, 2009.

We are planning to hold an auction in February to support the activities of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church in Medfield. It isn't too early to begin thinking about it and making plans.

We hope to:

- Raise \$5500 to continue our work.
- Get everyone together for a fun evening.
- Raise the profile of the Church in the community.
- Introduce the Church to new people

It would be great if everyone in the First Parish community would be involved in and committed to this event. Everyone will be encouraged to bring friends.

We need a theme for the auction. Any ideas?

Three committees:

- \* Procurement
- \* Event
- \* Auction Logistics

have been formed to begin the planning.

All would welcome volunteers.

Please contact Fred Bunger

(508-359-4058 or [fbunger@verizon.com](mailto:fbunger@verizon.com))

to give us your ideas and/or to volunteer.

## Thanksgiving Choir Members Needed

First Parish will be the host for the annual inter-faith Thanksgiving service in Medfield this year. The service will begin at 7pm on Tuesday, November 25.

Michael Olbash, minister of music at the UCC, will lead the choir for this service. Choir rehearsals will be Thursday, November 20, at 8 pm, and Tuesday, November 25, at 6 pm at First Parish.

Let's have a good choir turnout...especially since First Parish is the host church!

## "Living With Sam" November 9th

On Sunday, November 9, "Living with Slim" will be shown during the church service at First Parish. This film is highly recommended for people of high school age or older, but it is not considered suitable for younger children. "Living with Slim" is a powerful film featuring seven African children who talk about what it's like to be HIV positive. Three of the children have lost both parents and three have lost one parent to AIDS.

"Living with Slim" was made in 2004 by Medfield resident Sam Kauffmann, who is an associate professor of film at Boston University, where he teaches film and video production and digital editing classes.

In the last 30 years Sam Kauffmann has made 17 films, with a recent emphasis on films about Africa. He has written one of the most popular digital editing guidebooks in the world, now in its third edition, as well as numerous published articles. A former Fulbright scholar, he has won many awards for his films and his teaching. His work has been screened at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and aired on network television, PBS, and local stations throughout America.

## In Memoriam

Dear Friends,

My thoughts, prayers, and love go out to Louise

and Duncan as I report to you the recent death of Robert J. Rachin.

Mr. Rachin was the father of Louise Rachin and father-in-law of Duncan Glover. Expressions of sympathy may be made to Project Bread as specified below.

The full obituary:

Robert J. Rachin

RACHIN, Robert J. Of Brighton, formerly of Randolph. Entered into rest October 15, 2008 at the age of 93. Beloved husband of Eva (Tracht) Rachin. Devoted father of Joseph Rachin & his wife Nicky of Phoenix, AZ, Barry Rachin & his wife Anne of Attleboro and Louise Rachin & her husband Duncan Glover of Norfolk. Cherished grandfather of Leah, Daniel, Michael, Lana & Hannah Rachin. Dear great-grandfather of Owen J. Ardell. Expressions of sympathy in his memory may be made to Project Bread - The Walk for Hunger, 145 Border St., Ea. Boston, MA 02128.

In faith,  
Bob

## New Parish Administrator / Sexton

Tracy Buckley joins First Parish as an Administrator / Sexton. Tracy will manage the church member database, email lists, financial information, and other administrative duties. She is meeting with various church committees to implement new processes.

Her office hours are Monday and Wednesday mornings. You can email her at

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

The position is funded for the current church year with a Woburn grant from the UUA.

Tracy is a Medfield mother of two.

Welcome Tracy!

# Worship Services

All Services at 10:30AM, unless otherwise noted

## **November 2<sup>nd</sup> “Helping Dad Die”**

Today’s sermon will be a personal reflection about some end of life issues that Bob encountered when his father died.

## **November 9<sup>th</sup> “Living With Slim” - Sam Kauffmann**

On Sunday, November 9, “Living with Slim” will be shown during the church service at First Parish. This film is highly recommended for people of high school age or older, but it is not considered suitable for younger children. “Living with Slim” is a powerful film featuring seven African children who talk about what it’s like to be HIV positive. Three of the children have lost both parents and three have lost one parent to AIDS.

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## **November 16<sup>th</sup> “Feeding the World”**

Giving from our abundance is something that most of us have been taught to do from a very early age. But is it always welcome? Today we will examine other things to consider in order to make our giving more meaningful.

## **November 23<sup>rd</sup> “Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service”**

## **November 25<sup>th</sup> “Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service”, 7:00PM**

This year First Parish will host all the other Medfield communities of Faith and the Temple Beth David of Westwood for our annual interfaith service. The Rev. Libby Berman of the Church of the Advent will be preaching. All ages are welcome!

## **November 30<sup>th</sup> Worship Committee**

## **December 7<sup>th</sup> “I’ve Got a Secret”**

During the time that German theologian, Dierich Bonhoeffer was in prison for trying to overthrow Hitler he was interrogated many times. After returning to his cell he would reflect on what part of the things he said were truth and what were lies. Today, we will examine what he learned and what it means for us.