



December 2008

Come Join Us!!

First Parish Newsletter

- Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, *November 25th*, 7:00 p.m
- 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!
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, *5:30PM*. Our traditional night of candles, carols, and celebration. College students are invited to participate in the service. See Page 2 for more information.



Save the date! February 28, 2009. - First Parish Auction
(more inside)

From the Minister

Dear Friends,

December is a special time! It is a time of excitement and high anxiety for most. We live these weeks with intensity. Sometimes it produces happiness, sometimes sadness. The holiday season will evoke the whole range of memories and meanings and no matter what I can suggest to you now; we will all be exhausted by January 2nd.

At this time of year I try to take heed of these words from Richard Gilbert:

Let us take more time to build a snowman than to shovel a walk.

Let us lift our face to the heavens

And let the snow caress our eyes and tantalize our tongues,

While we forget its treacheries underfoot.

Let us learn to smile when we are tired with the work we have to do.

Let us laugh when our tensions give rise to anger.

Let us learn to be merciful when we want to be judgmental.

*Let us play in the fields of myth and legend,
For news and facts will always be there.*

*Let us sample the whimsical words of the poets
More than the studied words of the scholars.*

*Let our thoughts roam in realms of imagination
Rather than linger in quagmires of reality.*

*May hope find its way into our hearts
Even when our minds tell us there is no hope.*

May charity speak to us even when we have nothing to give.

May loving kindness be with us when our store of love is exhausted.

I wish for you peace, joy and warmth during this holiday season and always. As you live with the intensity of these Advent, Christmas and Hanukkah weeks, as you observe the Winter Solstice on

December 21st and think to other times during the past when your lives were dark and light promised to return, remember that I am here to talk if you are in need of deeper support.

In faith,

Bob McKetchnie

Calling All College Students!!!

I would like to be in touch with all college students whose families are part of our congregation. Specifically, I am going to invite them to participate in First Parish's Christmas Eve service. Please consider submitting an address or e-mail address to me for those individuals who make up this vital and sometimes forgotten part of our church family. Submissions may be made to me directly at:

uuketch@comcast.net.

If you gave me this information last year please re-submit it. Many people change their internet providers or dormitory addresses over the course of a calendar year. Thank you.

Rev. Bob

Social Action

Guest At Your Table

On November 23, 2008, we opened our Guest at Your Table program by passing out the familiar Guest at Your Table boxes at our intergenerational service.

When we bring home our Guest at Your Table boxes, our families and friends will learn about real struggles for justice in the United States and around the world.

With each box comes a copy of Stories of Hope, written to teach children, youth, and adults how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee helps to change our world for the better. The stories introduce you to human-rights champions, like Serafina, the South African grandmother who partnered with UUSC and others to restore the constitutionally protected water rights of marginalized people.

When we share our blessings with our guests, we ensure that UUSC and people like Serafina can continue their important work.

And thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling your good works!

If you miss picking up your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope, you can do so in subsequent Sundays through December or by talking with Nancy Kingsbury, our UUSC local representative. The boxes will be collected in early January. In the meantime, please watch for occasional informative e-mails about First Parish's Guest at Your Table effort or visit uus.org and click on the Guest at Your Table link.

Welcoming a Guest at Your Table

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in the UU tradition of Guest at Your Table. By bringing home a beautiful Guest at Your Table box, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared principles into action in the United States and around the world. Through

a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC promotes economic rights, advances environmental justice, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of people in times of humanitarian crisis.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human-rights work continues, while building UUSC membership. UUSC members are vitally important, as UUSC is an independent, membership-based organization that receives no funding from the UUA or the U.S. government. Through the booklet Stories of Hope we connect with people in the United States and around the world who are working hard to advance human rights - and protect their own rights - in partnership with UUSC.

In each household, the Guest at Your Table box is placed in a prominent spot, often at the family meal table. When family and friends gather to enjoy their blessings, they can reflect on the contributions of their Guests and share generously. Each week, we can choose a different story to read, bringing our Guests to life and helping to celebrate our own rights.

If you would prefer not to bring home a box, you can take a donation envelope or support UUSC directly online at www.uusc.org.

Nancy Kingsbury,
First Parish's GAYT coordinator

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 Carbares.

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Social Action, from Page 3Christmas Eve Collection

On Christmas Eve we donate half of the collection plate to a charitable cause. This year we are going to split our donation between the food pantries in the nearby towns where our members live.

Medway House

Thank you to Margaret Rolph who organized a sumptuous dinner for the residents of Medway House in October! Margaret organized, cooked and served dinner to the residents, with the help of Deb Carbarnes (cooking) and Jeanette Ruyle and Jay Bible (cooking and serving). They served turkey breast, ham, mashed potatoes, veggies, and cupcakes. A big success!

Green Sanctuary

The Social Action committee is organizing a team to investigate the Green Sanctuary program from the UUA. Here's a little information extracted from the UUA website:

"A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that...is committed towards creating a religious community that has a fundamental, bottom-line, commitment to living in harmony with the Earth. The Green Sanctuary Program, originally managed by the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, is designed to give roots and wings to the vision that, together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth that is central to our lives."

If you are interested in being part of this team, please call or email Helen Beedy.

Food Cupboard

For December, the Medfield Food Cupboard has asked our church for canned chicken, canned tuna, and crackers. Please bring your donations to church and leave them in the basket in the vestibule upstairs. The Social Action committee will deliver the food on the second Sunday of the month.

*From the Social Action Committee,
Helen Beedy, Kay Bennett, Barbara Bunker, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, and Marcia Trahan. We meet monthly and everyone is welcome. Please call Helen Beedy at 508-359-2760 if you are interested, and to confirm the time and place of our meeting.*

Thank You to All of the Fall RE Workshop Leaders and Group Guides

Rotation I

Workshop Leaders were Brittish Miser, Clayton Springer, John Kornet, Joyce Fetteroll.

Group Guides were Densie Sullivan, Jean Bousquet, Susan McCafferty, and Trilby Sekula.

Rotation II

Workshop Leaders were Chris Conley, Glen D'Abate, Joyce Fetteroll, and Sarah Bibel & Marissa DeLuca.

Group Guides were John Bergland, Kirsten D'Abate, Paul Dilanni, and Steve Rose.

Thank you for getting our new model of RE off to a good start !! Your talents, skills and patience are much appreciated.

Jeanette

Reverse Trick-or-Treating -- Something new for First Parish RE

This news got a bit lost. Between the last day of October and the month of November, it missed the last newsletter. Reverse Trick-or-Treating for Halloween is an effort to spread information about Fair Trade chocolate and the plight of many cocoa farmers and workers. On Halloween, participating children gave pieces of Equal Exchange fair trade chocolate and information cards to people as they did their traditional trick-or-treating. This effort was sponsored by several human rights organizations including the UUSC. We will do it again next year! Fair trade hocolate is a big interest of our RE program -- watch for more on this around Valentine's Day.

Jeanette

Religious Education

From The D.R.E.

We have completed our second Workshop Rotation, "Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage." Children in kindergarten through 7th grade explored the meaning behind a story about how the flaming chalice became a symbol for Unitarian Universalism, and the organization that "invented" it: the Unitarian Service Committee. This human rights group that strived for peace and justice during and after WWII, is now the group that brings us the Guest at Your Table Boxes and other social justice efforts around the globe— the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. By the time you read this, you will hopefully have a GAYT

and me know.

After December comes our RE Winterim for January and February – small groups for mixed ages in the vestry, all learning about Peace. More about this will appear in your emails and in the next newsletter.

Many of our youth, 8th grade and older, are involved in their respective groups for Our Whole Lives. Both of these meet on Sunday evenings. We may not see them often on a Sunday morning, but they are still part of our congregation-of-all-ages. Some of them will be helping Rev. Bob with the Thanksgiving Service. We encourage parents

RE Volunteers For Winter Solstice Are Needed As Follows:

- 1 adult for Nov. 30 (activity in the vestry)
- 4 adults for Dec. 7 and Dec. 14 (activities in the U House), and with assisting during the worship service on Dec. 21.

See Jeanette Ruyle

box sitting on your dining room table, procured during our Thanksgiving Worship Service or on a following Sunday. If you have children, they may be able to tell you something about the chalice symbol on it and/or the work that it represents. During this rotation, we had acting— skits and puppets; art— cartoons, political cartoons, and symbol drawing; games— custom-designed; and cooking + water as a human right.

to encourage their youth to attend Sunday worship services when they can— they are an important part of us!

With the warmth of light and the quiet of dark, blessings for this season—

Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education

The focus of children's RE in December is getting ready for the winter holidays, and in our particular case, the Winter Solstice Worship Service on Dec. 21. Traditionally, this service is presented by the young people of our congregation. An Inuit myth— new for us— about darkness and light is the central story of the service this year. Children may choose to take part in at least one of three groups: narrators and two sets of players (silent actors) with props or costumes. As always, there is a very simple part for the youngest children, and any child can opt to sit with the congregation on the day of the service. As always, any child or youth who would like to play a seasonal musical piece in the service is most welcome— please let Eva Kendrick

Membership

With the Holidays almost upon us, I want to wish you all the blessings and good tidings that come to us all at this time of year. They're not measured by the material things that we give and receive but by the joy in our hearts and the love that we share with one another. We celebrate in the goodness around us. And, we celebrate the spiritual guidance and love we receive from our church community.

This is, also, a time to think about whether one may want to make the commitment to become a part our church community. Many of you may think, "AM I READY TO BECOME A MEMBER OF FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST OF MEDFIELD?"

What will this mean for me?

It means you will sign "the Book" and become an official member of the church—that's the easy part!

It means you will embrace the principles of our liberal faith, promote love and freedom in religion, and the search for spiritual growth.

- It means you will act for social justice.
- It means you will participate in the stewardship of the church by attending and voting at Annual meetings, possibly, holding an administrative and /or committee position; and by making a financial contribution to sustain the viability of the church.
- It means you will receive the UU World, the journal of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- And finally it means you will become an integral part of our unique loving community!

If you are interested in becoming a member, please talk to Rev. Bob.

Have a blessed Holiday Season,

The Membership Committee,

Barbara Bunker, Chair, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson

2009 First Parish Auction

MYSTERY?

What will happen in the First Parish vestry the evening of February 28, 2009?

Will there be fun and games?

Will there be music and entertainment?

Will there be eating and drinking?

Will there be bidding and spending?

It is a mystery.

It is no mystery that First Parish UU members are a fun-loving group, dedicated to and responsible for the success of our Church.

It is no mystery that a fun event to raise funds and make new friends would be a good thing to do.

Some questions to ponder:

- How many people will attend?
- How many members will bring friends?
- How many people will offer their time, treasure or talents for bidding?
- How much money can we raise?
- Can we achieve 100% participation?

The Board makes a plea to all to participate:

- Offer a service, provide a bid item and/or solicit a local business for a donation.
- Get involved with planning and putting on the event.
- Attend the auction and bid generously.
- Get in the spirit and have a good time.

To offer a service, to provide an item or help with procuring items, contact Fred Bunker or Mike Taylor.

To help with logistics, record keeping, setting up and conducting the auction, contact Brittish Miser or Bill Wians.

To help with entertainment, fun & games, food and drink, contact Chris Conley, Bob Luttman or Rob Huntington.

Will the mystery continue?

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).

Christmast Wish List

Once again the church will be participating in fulfilling "wishes" by purchasing Christmas presents for the Medfield Food Pantry. The wishes will be printed on tags which will be posted on a board at church for several Sundays at the end of November. You may choose a tag and when you return the gift, please fasten the tag to the present. It is your choice as to whether you want to gift wrap it. Wishes in the past have included everything from a gift card to a box of legos. Please consider making a donation to the clients of the Medfield food pantry in this way.

Debra Carbarnes
781 956 2901

Condolences to Marcia Trahan and Family

Alfred Samways, age 91, father of Marcia Trahan, passed away Saturday October 25 at Rhode Island Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Mildred (Cousins) Samways for 63 years. Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Alfred

G. and Elizabeth (Boyd) Samways. Alfred was a design engineer for Brown & Sharpe before retiring in 1982, and was a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy Seabees during WWII. Besides his wife he is survived by one son, Peter Samways and wife Maureen of Portsmouth RI, daughters, Marcia Trahan and husband Ronald of Medfield and Deborah Blake and husband Steven of Hopkinton RI, and seven grandchildren, including Rory and Zack Trahan.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Newman Congregational Church Scholarship Fund in memory of Kayleigh Raposa 100 Newman Avenue, PO Box 4764, Rumford, RI 02916.

And Condolences to Louise Rachin and Duncan Glover

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.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is the Third Sunday of December, December 21st.

Worship Services

All Services at 10:30AM, unless otherwise noted

November 25th “Interfaith Thanksgiving Service”, 7:00 p.m.

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 30th “Just when you thought the presidential campaign was over...”

A Worship Committee service.

December 7th “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.

December 14th “Deciding Isn’t Easy”

Today we will look at the work of Barry Schwartz, the author of “The Paradox of Choice: Why More Is Less”. In this season of making choices, not just what to buy for Christmas, but life’s everyday choices about clothing, food and healthcare for example, I think Schwartz give us much to think about.

December 21st Our Intergenerational Solstice Service

December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:30 p.m.

December 30th “Hope for the New Year” led by Fred Bunger

Special Events

Mid-Year Church Meeting, November 23rd, after church services