



# January 2009

## Take Me Out To The Ball Game

### First Parish Auction February 28th

First Parish will be holding a fun Saturday evening February 28, 2009. 'TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME' will be a fundraising event with food, drink, entertainment and both live and silent auctions. A special draw will be Red Sox and Celtics game tickets, so plan to wear your favorite team's colors. Please put the date on your calendar, plan to attend and bring your friends.

All members of FPUU are asked to provide items for the auction. Whether you donate your time (yard-work, meal preparation, tax advice, etc.) your talent (writing a poem, painting a picture, singing a song, etc.), or your treasure (time at your vacation home, Aunt Meg's silver tankard, a dinner party in your home, etc.) Be thinking about what you can contribute. Letters will be sent out in January asking for your help.

Local businesses will also be asked to contribute items to the auction. Teams specifically set up to solicit these donations have already started their work. There should be a great variety of interesting items for auction.

Also we will need help during the event. Three committees have been set up:

1. Event (publicity, invitations, food, drink, decoration, entertainment, raffles, live auction and clean-up) Co-Chairs: Bob Luttmann, Rob Huntington.
2. Logistics (auction brochure, silent auction setup, bid tracking, payment and collection) Co-Chairs Brittish Miser and Bill Wians
3. Procurement (securing donations from FPUU members and local businesses, storing items until the auction) Co-chairs: Fred Bunger and Mike Taylor

If you would like to help or have great ideas in any of these areas, please contact one of the co-chairs to sign up as a volunteer.

Again, save the date and be creative in what your can contribute.

First Parish Executive Board

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Poetry Sunday - January 11th (See Page 4 for more)

From the Minister

Dear Friends:

Before I can begin a “New Year” full of new promises and new beginnings I find it useful to think about all that has transpired in the past year. Inspired by a poem entitled, “Against the Background of the Year” by Howard Thurman, I offer the following results of my reflection. This process doesn’t create a chronology of events but rather a deeper expression of some recent experiences and their accompanying feelings. Perhaps we have a few or many in common:

I recall moments of helplessness - when I could do nothing directly about the situation I faced.

I recall moments of decision - that required a suspension of my own ego and the incorporation of faith.

I recall moments of sadness - brought about by the death of loved ones.

I recall moments of enlightenment - when something I was confused about became crystal clear.

I recall moments of joy - specific occasions of laughter, hand-clapping and the sudden urge to sing.

I recall moments of peace - some that found me and some I felt were worth the effort to bring about.

I recall moments of reassurance - when I learned something I was fretting over wasn’t worth the energy expended.

I recall moments of reconciliation – by gaining a deeper understanding and a greater wisdom.

I recall moments of renewal –

that keeps my heart glad and my outlook optimistic.

I recall moments of connection – in listening actively to the stories of many.

Reflecting is a process that reminds us that our connection to life includes the good and bad, the highs and lows, the trivial and deep. It reminds us of the many skills that we have developed through our rich experiences. It provides us the basis for the courage we exercise as we begin a “New Year” full of new promises and new beginnings.

In faith,  
Bob McKetchnie

### First Parish Survey

The First Parish Executive Board is conducting a member survey to help the implementation of the Strategic Plan. We need your input to confirm our direction in the future.

If you have not returned your survey, please mail to Tracy Buckley at First Parish Church office (26 North St. Medfield)

If you have not received a survey, please e-mail Fred Bunger or Bill Wians and a copy will be sent to you.

Thanks for your help.  
Executive Board

## Social Action

### Social Action Sunday – Feb. 15

On Sunday February 15 the Social Action committee is organizing the Sunday service — “It IS Easy Being Green.” Members of the Social Action committee and Fred Bunger will share what Massachusetts and Medfield are doing to make our world greener, more energy efficient, and sustainable. We will talk about ways you can take action to be “green” and save energy and what we can do together to make First Parish greener.

After church we will host a special coffee time where you can enjoy locally grown or made treats (a challenge that we are trying to meet in February!). As we enjoy our coffee, we will have a talk-back time so that we can all express our reactions and thoughts about the service. We will also have materials and ideas to share in the format of a “green fair.”

We would love to have as many people involved as possible. If you would like to do a reading, or if you know of something that we can share after church, or if you have any ideas for coffee or access to locally grown products, please call or email Helen Beedy.

### Christmas Gifts

This year 27 families took one or more gift tags to fulfill the Christmas wish of a client of the Medfield Food Cupboard. The church donated 44 gifts this year. Many thanks to Deb Carbarnes, Brittish Miser, and Janet McKetchnie for their organization of the gift collection.

### Christmas 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 Medfield, Millis, Medway, Norfolk, and Walpole.

### Food Cupboard

For January, the Medfield Food Cupboard has asked our church for juice, cereal, macaroni and cheese, canned pastas, applesauce, canned chicken, tuna, crackers, cookies, Kleenex, jelly, and peanut butter. Please bring your donations to church and leave them in the basket in the vestibule upstairs. The Social Action committee will deliver the food

## Membership

After this past wintry weekend I’m looking out my window, the sun is shining brightly and the snow is glistening on the branches of the nearby trees. It is a beautiful and magical sight. It couldn’t be a more fitting scene as we approach Christmas Day and the beginning of the New Year.

From the Membership Committee I want to wish all of you a Happy New Year.

As we ring in 2009, we are facing a year of uncertainty and one with many challenges. With the blessings of our faith and our loving church community may we find the strength to endure and overcome the hardships that might confront us. May we, also, take comfort in the words from Bill Sinkford “This is the day that I have been given; I did not create it. Let me rejoice in it, and find ways to live it well.”

As we look forward to 2009, I am happy to report that our congregation has grown by adding five new members. In November the Lloyds and the Berglands signed the membership book. And in December Pat Clark also signed “the book”.

Renee and Jeff Lloyd of Norfolk, along with their 2 children, Najia and Declan began attending First Parish last year. Renee helps with the Religious Education program and Jeff is a member of the Men’s Group. The family has participated in many of the family functions at the church since they arrived.

Michelle and John Bergland of Medfield began attending First Parish last year. They have three children, Caroline, Catherine and Matthew. Michelle was active on the Membership Committee and is on the Chancel Committee. Their family has also participated and enjoyed many of the family events at the church.

Pat Clark of Millis began attending First Parish Medfield this November. A friend of the Stetsons, and a Unitarian, Pat quickly felt comfortable at First Parish. Pat attended the Social Action Committee in December and has already begun helping with social issue programs supported by the church.

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## Worship and Music

Poetry Sunday set for January 11, 2009

Our annual Poetry Sunday service will be January 11. The leader will be Dan Bibel, who introduced Poetry Sunday at First Parish some 15 years ago.

Members and friends of all ages from the congregation are invited to read or recite poetry or prose. It may be your original composition or that of another author -- something heartfelt, spiritually meaningful, of special importance, a kind thought or beautiful passage that you would like to share.

To help Dan in planning the service, please send an e-mail about what you plan to read to [dbibel@verizon.net](mailto:dbibel@verizon.net). Children are also invited to read a poem in the Moment with Children; please send e-mail to [jruyle23@verizon.net](mailto:jruyle23@verizon.net).

As time permits after the preregistered readers are done, we'll have more participants...kind of an open mike. In any case, the worship committee respectfully requests that all participants be mindful of the following guidelines:

1. Select a presentation whose language and content are appropriate for an intergenerational audience within our sanctuary of worship.
2. Limit your presentation to five minutes or less.

Committee Sharpens Service-Leading Skills

"So what?" should be the litmus test for lay-led worship sermons and services, according to the Rev. Sue Phillips, acting director of program development at the Mass. Bay District. She made the comment as she presented a five-hour workshop called, "Creating and Leading Dynamic Lay-Led Worship."

Three members of the FPUU WMC -- worship and music committee -- David Temple, Becca Kornet, and Glenn Capachin -- participated in the workshop at Bentley University on Nov. 15. The worship committee is responsible for nine of the 42 services each church year. Most of us have presented worship services, but none of us had had any actual professional training in how to do it. We all felt the training will help us present better services going forward.

Rev. Phillips meant that a lay-led UU service must have a purpose that is transparent and relevant to the congregation, so no one leaves asking, "So what?"

Among the topics considered were:

- What is the purpose of worship?
- What makes a worship service meaningful and memorable? Unworthy?
- The four acts of the worship drama
- The different modes of intelligence in the pews and how to connect with them
- Creating service content and avoiding common pitfalls

The sense from the participants is that the workshop was very valuable (exceeding expectations) and that we will plan and deliver better lay-led services as a result.

## Religious Education

### From the DRE

All that is left of the Winter Solstice Worship Service, "A Gift of Light," is some glitter on the floor of the chancel. It was probably the most complex and least-rehearsed winter solstice service we have ever done. The participants—narrators, silent actors, props makers, artists, musicians, and singers— were all amazing and wonderful. And the congregation deserves a round of applause for showing up on that snowy Sunday morning. Thankfully, we did not have to postpone it like last year! If you would like a printed copy of the story on which this was based, please pick one up from the vestry bulletin board.

Children and teens of all ages helped assemble and wrap plates of cookies and then place them in new reusable bags for the folks at the Framingham Meals site. Eighty bags were sent over for their holiday celebration. Thank you to all who donated money and/or cookies for this effort! The "Giving Tree" will remain standing in the sanctuary for the next few of Sundays. We need a few more dollars to cover costs. It is not too late to add a cookie decoration to the tree!

I am very happy to report that for the RE Peace Winterim, which begins on January 4, I only need four more volunteer "peace guides" – one more person for each of the Sundays in February. Being an RE volunteer for Winterim is relatively easy. The activities are all planned and you get to go to the whole coffee/social time because we are right there in the vestry. Please sign up on the snowflake sign-up sheet in the vestry or contact me.

What is Winterim? As it says in our First Parish RE brochure: "The theme and activities of Winterim have to do with peace and peacemaking. There are many aspects of peace to explore experientially, from how to reach inner peace, to learning peaceful

conflict resolution, to imagining peace in the world. Peace and the necessary condition of social justice are integral to our Unitarian Universalist values and the building of a loving community as well as enhancing care and acceptance of self." Winterim, happening in the vestry during January – February, is an opportunity for children to be in their "RE community" together as a whole group and in smaller groups of varied interests and ages. May peace be with you this season as the days lengthen despite all snow and ice.  
Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education

### Medfield Youth Community Collaborative (MYCC) and Youth Substance Abuse Initiative

A little over a year ago, I began attending the monthly MYCC meetings, partly as a parent of two teens, and partly as a representative of "the faith community," as the group refers it to. MYCC is a grass-roots organization of parents, teens, and various persons from the schools, board of selectmen, police department, religious institutions, Park and Rec, the library, and town outreach workers. The focus is to provide a supportive network that facilitates communication, education, and activities promoting the well-being and safety of our youth. While I am fully aware that our congregation includes a number of families from other towns, I am finding that what I am learning from the MYCC experience is useful for people living anywhere.

An offshoot of this group is the Medfield Underage Drinking Forum, started in 2007, which has led to the hiring of a Youth Substance Abuse Initiative grant coordinator. Discussions about underage drinking and substance abuse prevention have been particularly thought provoking. With the holiday season upon us, I would like to share something that was developed, after much discussion, by the Medfield Underage Drinking

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Forum. Even if you are not the parent of a teenager, you probably know someone who is. You may or may not agree with the following guidelines, but I think they are useful for us all to think about. As you will see, these guidelines reflect a belief in the importance of parents communicating with other parents, as well as their teenaged children. To me, this type of communication, and the commitment to practice it, is a hallmark of a caring community.

### PARENT GUIDELINES FOR TEEN SOCIAL EVENTS

- Teens will be told that they are not permitted to be at a party without adult supervision.
- Prior to a teen party or event, parents will call the host parent to find out if the host parents will be home and what the supervision will be.
- Parents who host a party will be present and adequately supervise the teens in their home. Host parents will arrange for additional adults when there are more than 8 teens in their home.
- If alcohol is discovered to be present, the parent host will confiscate the alcohol and immediately call parents of all guests (including those who drove to the party), requesting that they pick up their children.
- Teens will be told that parties are not permitted in your home when you are not there. Agree on how many friends your teen will be allowed to have over without you there. Decide together what your son or daughter will do if more teens show up.
- Make an agreement with your non-driving teens to call you to pick them up if there is alcohol or drugs at a party. Inform the host parent, or call the police if you are unable to contact the host.
- If parents become aware that there is a party with no adult supervision, they will call other parents to inform them. If they learn that there is alcohol or drugs at the

party, and they cannot contact the hosts' parents, they will call the police. Teens will be told that this will be done in order to protect the safety of all.

- Parents will stay up until their teen has returned home after a party or event.
- Parents who want to be told if their teen has been involved in any illegal activities will let other parents know this with the assurance that there will be no ill feelings.
- Parents will tell their children that they expect them to respect and support their peers. If someone is harassed or made a scapegoat by other teens for "blowing the whistle," you expect your child to stand up for and support that person. If the harassment continues, teens should be told to inform an adult.

Something more to consider that is not directly addressed by these guidelines-- What if the parents of the hosting teen and perhaps other adults at the party are drinking, even if the teen partygoers are apparently not? What would you as a parent do? How would you advise your teen? What if this was a "pre-party" (party before a school dance) and one or more of these adults were then driving teens to the dance? These questions are based on a real-life scenario brought to my attention by a couple of concerned parents. Think about it. If you would like to discuss this and related issues, please let me know. We could even invite the new initiative coordinator to meet with a group of us.

Jeanette Ruyle

In Our Parish ...

... Around Our Community

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Thanks for your help.  
Executive Board

### Medway House January Diaper Drop

The Social Action Committee hopes to do a large collection of disposable diapers and baby wipes for Medway House to help them begin the new year with plenty of supplies. The need at Medway House is growing in these hard economic times and our contributions are much appreciated by parents struggling to provide for their little ones.

There is a box for your generous donations in the front entry of the church. Thank you for all your assistance last year and for helping the smallest residents of Medway House once again.

The Social Action Committee

### Guest at Your Table

Our Guest at Your Table program closes January 11. At that time, please bring your Guest at Your Table boxes to church. There will be a collection area at the back of the Sanctuary. It is appreciated if you convert your cash to a check made out to the UUSC, (that is, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). If you prefer to bring the cash you have collected in the boxes, please convert the coins to bills. Please fill out the information on the side of the box so that you may be credited for your contribution, and so that First Parish may be credited as a congregation. Gifts totaling

more than \$100 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar through a matching grant from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, NY. If you prefer to place a check in an envelope on Jan. 11, there are envelopes for that purpose on the table in the Sanctuary where the Orders of Service are kept. There are also extra GAYT boxes and information sheets. Thank you for your participation in this program. Last year we surpassed ourselves as a congregation. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you. Nancy Kingsbury, GAYT coordinator.

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### *Social Action from Page 3*

to the food cupboard, which is located at the UCC church on Main Street.

### From the Social Action Committee

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.

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### *Membership from Page 3*

If you haven't already met the Berglands, the Lloyds or Pat Clark, please take a moment, introduce yourself and welcome them to the congregation!!

It's been a pleasure for us to serve as your Membership Committee in 2008. We hope that we can continue to enrich and grow our community in 2009.

Our blessing to you all in this New Year,  
Barbara Bunker, chair, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson



(left) Devon Dilanni as a Crow, with Catherine Bergland and Rachel Kornet as Inuits. While, right, Evan Springer adds some music to the festivities.



"A Gift of Light"

**Winter**

**Solstice**

**2008**



Jane D'Abate and Najia Lloyd - by the river



Children and Adult Choir



# Worship Services

All Services at 10:30AM, unless otherwise noted

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**January 4<sup>th</sup>**

## **“Holding the Keys”**

January is a typical time to make your traditional New Year’s resolutions. Today’s sermon will suggest a different approach to finding fulfillment in your life. I encourage you to bring a friend as we celebrate the start of 2009.

**January 11<sup>th</sup>**

## **Poetry Sunday led by Dan Bibel**

**January 18<sup>th</sup>**

## **“Where Hate Flourishes....”**

In commemoration of Martin Luther King’s birthday we will look at another important leader of the civil rights movement, Whitney Young, Jr. Though he lived only 50 years, his contributions were significant as he pursued socioeconomic equality for the disenfranchised.

**January 25<sup>th</sup>**

## **“For the Love of Water”**

The issues surrounding the privatization of water moved from the abstract to the concrete as I tried to do meaningful work with poor children in Mexico while on sabbatical last year. Today’s sermon will introduce the topic of this highly controversial topic which has been the source of violence, all around the world.

**February 1<sup>st</sup>**

## **The Separation of Church and State”**

The question “Is the United States destined to be a Christian Commonwealth or an Empire of Liberty?” has been a focus of debate since our country’s founding. Today, we review the debates history and contemporary implications.