

first parish
medfield

Starting May 3rd

Services

will begin at

10:00AM

May 2009 Newsletter

North Street Coffee House - May 2nd

Saturday, May 2nd, the North Street Coffeehouse, held at our church, will host a night of live music. The evening will consist of both featured performers and an open mic session. The event will be held 7 – 10 pm.

The featured performers of the evening are a duo known as Kirsten and Dave. Their diverse musical backgrounds are the key to their success at performing a variety of styles. Whether they are playing acoustic pop, country, acoustic blues or folk/bluegrass, their love for music is obvious. Playing many instruments, Kirsten & Dave swap off melodies and harmonies as they play a mix of covers and original tunes. They

have many decades of performing experience between them and they have been playing together for over five years. Kirsten & Dave have opened for Chris and Meredith Thompson, Paul Rishell & Annie Raines, and most recently, Guy Davis. Their music can heard at the website www.kirsten-dave.com.

The evening will also consist of a celebration of Pete Seeger's 90th birthday. This event will be one of many celebrations as people around the country host a "For Pete's Sake, Sing!" evening.

Music of any genre, prose, poetry, or comedy is welcome. If you would like to perform at the open

mic session, please contact Janet at imjanetm@gmail.com. Please contact her in advance as the performer list fills up quickly. Refreshments are available. Admission is \$10 at the door, \$5 for open mikers.

First Parish Contact Info:

Church Phone: .508-359-4594

Church Admin Email:

admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Web site:

www.firstparishmedfield.org

From The Minister

Dear Friends:

From June 24 to June 28th we Unitarian Universalists will be holding our General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City, Utah. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. "General Assemblies shall make overall policy for carrying out the purposes of the Association and shall direct and control its affairs. Voting at each regular and special General Assembly shall be by accredited delegates from certified member congregations, certified associate member organizations, and trustees." (from the UUA bylaws)

If you are planning to attend please let me know, as there is paperwork necessary to give you voting powers at the assembly as a delegate from First Parish. If you are not attending, that does not mean that you can't participate in all that's going on. The UUA is making some of the proceedings and events available to on-line viewers.

This year there are several topics of interest that you may want to become more familiar with regardless of your availability to participate in Salt Lake City. First, this is an election year for three important positions: UUA President, Moderator, and Financial Advisor. The two candidates for President are Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales. Much can be learned about them by visiting their websites, reading some of their sermons, and

listening to them speak about their plans for the UUA.

This year's General Assembly will also present for an initial vote some changes to the UU Principles and Purposes. If the changes are voted in they will be subject to a final vote at the 2010 GA in Minneapolis. You can learn more about these proposed changes and their significance by attending our service on May 31st when Jeanette Ruyle will present them to us.

In addition, this year's General Assembly will put to a vote the "Statement of Conscience" that we have been working on over the past three years regarding Peacemaking. Peacemaking calls for action at all levels of human interaction. To be effective, our actions must be incorporated into existing structures and institutions, and new systems must be created. Areas of peacemaking included in this statement include: International peacemaking, Societal peacemaking, Congregational peacemaking, Interpersonal peacemaking and Inner peacemaking. For a full definition of these various areas and for an official transcript of the Statement please refer to "social justice issues" at the uua.org website.

In Faith,
Bob McKetchnie

Social Action

2009 Walk for Hunger is Sunday, May 3

Whether you choose to walk or sponsor a walker, your support will help provide nutritious meals for those who would otherwise go without, right here in Massachusetts. This is the year to come back to — or to start — participating in The Walk for Hunger, the country's oldest continual pledge walk and the largest one-day fundraiser to alleviate local hunger. Stay tuned for more information via email and order of service announcements or visit www.projectbread.org. Pledge sheets, walk maps and information will be available in the vestry.

Medway House Receives Loads of Diapers!

Thank you to everyone who brought in diapers and wipes for the Medway House! We far exceeded our goal of collecting 50 packages in March! Marcia Trahan delivered a full carload of diapers and wipes to Medway House at the beginning of April. And, in addition to the diapers and wipes that everyone contributed, we received a generous donation from members who attended the Canvass Dinner and bought a raffle ticket for the autographed baseball -- \$136 toward the diaper drive! Debbie Gaines shopped the sales and used the money wisely, resulting in another carload of diapers that she delivered to Medway House. Janet at the Medway House responded to our generosity with this quick e-mail, "The diapers have arrived.

So many! Thanks so much. You guys are awesome!"

Now is the time to join Social Action!

The next meeting of the Social Action committee will be Wednesday May 6, in the U-House at 7:00. If you are interested in Social Action, please join us! We will be discussing our ongoing efforts and planning for next year. Call Helen Beedy at 508-359-2760 to confirm the date, time and place.

Medfield Food Cupboard

The Medfield Food Cupboard requests the following for May:

canned fruit, canned chicken, jelly, canned pasta

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PROJECT BREAD WALK FOR HUNGER MAY 3, 2009

Question: Why are these soggy walkers smiling?

Answer: Because with the support of generous people like you they raised a combined total of \$3,604.00 at the 2008 Project Bread Walk for Hunger!



Team First Parish Medfield: Louise Rachin and the Kornets (Becca, Jack, Rachel & Sam) -
Walk for Hunger - 05/04/2008

**Your support of the Sunday, May 3, 2009
Project Bread Walk for Hunger
is needed more than ever...**

Please join Team First Parish to help alleviate hunger in Massachusetts. We will gather in front of the State House and start walking at 8:00 am. Walk guides, registration forms and pledge sheets are available on-line at www.projectbread.org.

I am predicting temperatures in the mid-70's, a cloudless sky and contributions exceeding last year's total!

If you have any questions, please contact me.

See you at the State House!

Louise Rachin
Team First Parish
Walk Coordinator
508-528-8456
lrachin@comcast.net

Around First Parish

North Street Coffeehouse, May 2nd

The North Street Coffeehouse will host a night of live music on Saturday, April 4, 2009. The evening will consist of both a featured performer and an open mic session. The event will be held 7 – 10 pm.

The Wippets are the featured performer of the evening. They describe their music as “a little bit jug band without the jug and a little bit skiffle band”. They are a high energy trio that performs both originals and covers of the familiar and the obscure. To preview their music, visit <http://www.myspace.com/thewippets>.

Band members include Matt Martin on guitar & vocals; Sally Sisto, mandolin, guitar, banjo & vocals; and Tony Depoto, washboard, harmonica, kazoo.

Janet McKetchnie is the hostess for the open mic portion of the night. Music of any genre, prose, poetry, or comedy is welcome. If you would like to perform at the open mic session, please contact Janet at imjanetm@gmail.com. You must contact her in advance as the performer list fills up quickly. Refreshments are available. Admission is \$10 at the door, \$5 for open mikers.

For more information visit the North Street Coffeehouse website at <https://sites.google.com/site/northstreetcoffeehouse/Home>.

First Parish Admin - Tracy Buckley

Tracy joined FPUU as the Administrator in October 2008. Prior to this, Tracy had over 12 years of corporate sales, marketing and training experience. She has a BS in Elementary Education from the University of Vermont and an MS in Elementary Education from SUNY Cortland. After graduating, she taught elementary school for 3 years.

Tracy and her husband, Jim have two daughters. Kathryn, 2.5 years and Evelyn, 11 months, that keep her on her toes and laughing (most of the time!). Jim is a computer programmer at Harvard Medical School. As the girls get older, they would love to travel (and sleep) more!

Tracy grew up in Skaneateles, NY, one of the Finger Lakes and visits there often with her family. Tracy enjoys being outside as much as possible and is trying to motivate to run a half marathon before she turns 40. She has enjoyed meeting many in the congregation during her time here so far.

Introducing the Yellow Sandwich Board

It belongs to First Parish. Any congregant who needs to advertise an FPUU event that is open to the public-- yard sale, concert, movie, etc.-- is welcome to use it. The YSB is stored in the first floor kitchen of the U House. The letter inserts are in a marked cupboard. It is for FPUU events only.

Medfield Food Cupboard

The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested these items for May:

canned fruit, canned chicken, jelly, canned pasta

Don't Cook Dinner on Mother's Day Weekend!

Friday, May 8 at 6pm, we invite all families with children in grades K - 7th to come to Papa Gino's for pizza and fellowship. Each family will buy their own food and we will ask the kids to fill out a brief survey about their RE experience this year. Call Kirsten D'Abate with any questions at 508.359.9914.

We Need Your Pictures for the Church Directory

David Temple will be available most Sundays this spring and next fall to take your photo for inclusion in an updated membership directory. Please help us with the directory by having your photo taken, and thank you.

Membership

Katrin Fischer
and
Fritz Fleischmann



First Parish Welcomes Katrin Fischer and Fritz Fleischmann

Fritz has lived in Massachusetts since 1977. Raised as a Lutheran in Bavaria, he became a UU when he joined First Parish of Sudbury in the late 1980s. A scholar of American literature, he has been teaching English at Babson College for the last 25 years. Among his publications is an edited collection of essays on Margaret Fuller (1810-1850), one of the most important voices in the Unitarian tradition of democratic humanism.

Katrin grew up in East Germany in a non-religious environment but knew about Unitarianism through her studies of American history and literature. She is currently teaching English at Bentley University and writing a book about German immigrants in Indian captivity. Fritz and Katrin moved to Medfield in 2007, where they enjoy the sights and sounds of nature around their house. They are grateful to have found a welcoming community at First Parish and look forward to getting to know everyone.

Membership Sunday

Our New Member Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 10. This will be a wonderful service because it is also Music Sunday and Mother's Day. During the ceremony we will welcome ten new members to our congregation. In order to help everyone recognize and welcome these members we will have a poster with their pictures and names in the Vestry after the service. We hope everyone can stay following the service for the Coffee Hour to be held in their honor.

Membership Info

For information on joining
First Parish contact
Membership Chair Barbara
Bunger at

bbunger@verizon.net

U.U. Mass. Action Network Lobby Day on April 1 Raising UU Voices for Justice

U.U. parishioners gathered together to meet with state representatives and senators to ask them to support legislative initiatives to prevent homelessness and combat global warming. In the morning at the UUA headquarters, we received information on issues of housing, homelessness, and clean water. Nancy Banks, the executive director of Mass Action presented advocacy training.

After presentations, we walked to the State House and listened to a presentation on how to combat black carbon emissions from diesel engines. After lunch, we looked up our assigned state officials and presented the requests for support on specific issues as follows:

Housing and Homelessness

1. Preserving Publicly Assisted Affordable Housing (S.666/H.3673). As homelessness is increasing, the availability of low-income units is not keeping up and many units are due to expire as low-income units. This legislation would notify tenants when their units are set to expire and modestly protect them by giving Massachusetts the chance to buy these units to keep them affordable. We are asking representatives and senators to support this bill.
2. Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) - FY10 Budget request of \$35.8 million to level fund the program and maintain vouchers for 5,100 low income households (7004-9024). MRVP helps low income families, persons with disabilities, and seniors pay their rent in private apartments. There is an urgent need and even at this funding level, no new households will be added to this program. Currently, Massachusetts spends \$3,000/month each to shelter homeless families. The average voucher provides \$600/month.
3. Protecting Tenants from Eviction in Foreclosed Properties (H.1232, S.1609). This bill lets renters stay in apartments and pay rent while owners go through the period (average 11 months) between foreclosure and resale. This bill would thus keep people in their homes and help stabilize

neighborhoods by preventing abandoned, blighted properties.

Global Warming

1. The UUA is asking the legislature to fully fund public transit. We are asking the legislature to keep rates reasonable, expand routes and improve service. We believe this program is best financed by raising the gas tax, which has not been raised for a very long time. Lower income people especially need to be able to rely on public transportation. This is a matter of transportation and "climate justice."
2. We are also asking representatives and senators to support the reduction of emissions through the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2009 (S. 404, sponsored by Sen. John Hart and Representative Sheryl Coakley-Rivera). This bill will cut black carbon emissions by 90 percent! Unlike CO₂, black carbon is not a long-lasting pollutant. So if diesel vehicles use the technology available to reduce black carbon, the quality of air will recover from this pollutant in a short time.

The annual U.U. Mass Action Lobby day was very well organized and a great example of effective lobbying for social action. Legislators and their aids were very attentive to what we had to say and seemed very receptive to our message. The advocacy training we experienced went far to provide confidence to effectively speak out in behalf of these issues of social justice. We would strongly encourage people in our congregation to participate next year's event, which is an inspiring and fulfilling way for our Social Action voices to be heard.

Pat Clark
Barbara Bunger

Religious Education

From the D.R.E.

It is May, a little more than a month from Annual Meeting time, and what I have to say here is a bit of a preview to my annual report—something that is required yearly of me as Director of Religious Education. My hope is that this will give you all more time to cogitate on these matters.

As many of you know after being canvassed recently, next year my hours as DRE will be reduced from 20 to 15 hours per week. The reduction makes sense for two main reasons. First, the number of children in our religious education program has been slowly declining over the past few years. Next fall, I expect a total of 19 children, preschool through 6th grade, to be continuing in RE. Coming of Age will be offered to all 9th and 10th graders (a potential of 10 youth), and there will be an offering of an upper-level high school theological program. Apparently, we have had a demographic bubble of youngsters traveling through our RE program and that bubble is aging out. This trend is also reflected in the town of Medfield's elementary school population (I do not know how it is in the surrounding towns.) Even with the desirable possibility of new families joining us in the fall, our children's RE program will probably be a smaller small one, notwithstanding the size of our youth programs. The adult numbers, by the way, have stayed steady at the least and have grown by percentage.

Is "small" bad? Definitely not. A children's RE program can be vibrant and offer excellence at any size. The same goes for congregations, for that matter. The determining factors have to do with people and their committed involvement in their religious community. Our expected numbers of children in the fall do mean that I, as DRE, need to plan an adjustment to the program design. The Religious Education Committee and I are working on this right now. As my job is currently defined, a reduction in DRE hours is, as I would put it, within the realm of "appropriate

enough." It will maintain a quality program for its current size.

This brings me to the other reason for the reduction of my hours, which is, of course, the church's current financial situation. Plain and simple. Our financial situation is subject to change, hopefully in an upward direction. We shall see.

I admit that I have struggled personally with what "smaller" means in terms of the whole picture—past, present, and future—for religious education for children and youth at First Parish. My thoughts lead to a larger discussion beyond the scope of this article. I hasten to add that my thinking includes much that is positive! Hopefully many of us will join in this discussion together in the near future—a discussion that will take place over time, in meetings both formal and informal. I welcome any and all of your thoughts, as I welcome the chance to share mine with you.

Blessings,

Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education

What's Happening in RE for Children and Youth in MAY

May 3 – Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger; come to church at 9:55a.m. 8th&9th OWL, usual time.

May 10 – Music Sunday for all ages – inter-generational worship. 8th&9th OWL party, 6-9pm.

May 17– Bridging Sunday in honor of our oldest youth – inter-generational worship.

May 24 – Memorial Day Sunday RE trip to a cemetery to decorate graves.

May 31 – RE UU Principles Field Day, outside!

Little Red Wagon - 2009

The 6th Annual Medfield Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger

Sunday, May 3, 2009, will be a glorious day for a walk. While 40 thousand people join the Walk for Hunger in Boston, in Medfield, we can encourage the same compassion and involvement among the little tykes on a scale they can manage. So, get out those little red wagons, fill them with food cupboard goodies, and join us in a walk to Metacomet Park.

Last year, we had fantastic participation from within our church and from the other churches in Medfield. The Medfield Food Cupboard volunteers where thrilled with the quantity of donations and the kids had a great time.

The basic plan is to meet near the front steps of First Parish, after the Moment with the Children in worship service. We will load the food donations into a few wagons, and walk over to Metacomet Park. At the park, we deliver the food to the Food Cupboard volunteers, and play briefly with children from the other congregations from Medfield.

We will probably leave about 10:30 a.m. and be finished well before 12 noon. While this activity is particularly suited for young children, all ages enjoyed the walk last year.

If you have any questions, you may call Kirsten D'Abate at 508-359-9914.

Please bring in food donations to First Parish!

Services - NEW Time 10:00AM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

May 3rd "Greeting Yourself At Your Own Door"

"Too many people overvalue what they are not and undervalue what they are." (Malcolm Forbes). Are you a self-confident person? Are you limited by a low self-esteem? Today's sermon will look at what Unitarian Universalism teaches us about self-confidence and its relationship to spirituality.

May 10th "Music Sunday"

Please join us for one of our annual favorites of the church year, Music Sunday. Come be inspired by various music and the joy with which it is shared. Eva Kendrick, Music Director and David Temple, Worship Committee Chair, will lead today's service.

May 17th The First Parish Bridging Ceremony

Today we will acknowledge and celebrate those members among us that are graduating from high school in 2009. This year's graduates include: Katherine Fetteroll, Ryan McKetchnie and Gregory McKetchnie. This will be an Intergenerational service.

May 24th Worship Committee – Glenn Capachin - *"Ruminations on the "Good War", WW II - Why Iwo Jima?*

May 31st Jeanette Ruyle - *"Don't be afraid of some change..." -- Revisioning Our Purposes and Principles*

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