

first parish medfield



June 2009 Newsletter

What's Left for Children's Religious Education

May 31-- RE UU Principles Field Day-- outside, weather permitting!

June 7 -- Children's Worship Service 10 a.m. and all-age activities

June 14 -- Inter-generational Worship Service, Last Sunday-- clay communion

Medfield Day Volunteers Needed

Medfield Day is September 26th and takes place in and around our historic meetinghouse grounds.

Volunteers are needed to plan, organize, and staff events on that day.

It's a great way to meet and greet people and showcase ourselves and our building.

See inside for information on how you can help.

Annual Meeting June 7th

First Parish's Annual Meeting is June 7th at 11:30AM. All members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

Next Year

Enjoy your Summer. Coming up at the beginning of the church year in September:

First Service: September 13th
Medfield Day: September 26th



From The Minister

“Summer”

Happiness and summer days are made of

*peepers breaking the silence of the night,
mourning doves cooing in the early dawn,
wildflowers hidden along a forest path,
and a child presenting a bouquet of dandelions.*

It is through such gentle and often quiet nudgings from nature

That we commune with the sustaining forces of life.

It is through such gentle and quiet communion with family, friends,

And occasional strangers that we encounter the divine.

Charles J. Stephens

Dear Friends,

Once again the summer is approaching and we are beckoned by the “gentle and quiet nudgings of nature” to take our recess. I hope you will be intentional about communing with the outdoors and with family and friends.

As you travel or relax at home I invite you to collect some small sampling of water from a place that is spiritually significant to you. When we reconvene in September (on the 13th) during our Homecoming Service we will collect this water into a communal bowl as we gather ourselves again into one religious community.

Please note that you are invited to call me over the summer. If I am going to be away for more than twenty-four hours I will be sure to let members of the Board know how to reach me. I will also arrange for a minister to cover emergencies when I am out of state. Be safe and have a wonderful summer.

In Faith,

Bob McKetchnie

Walk for Hunger May 3rd

Medfield Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger



Children and adults from First Parish about to leave for the Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger, held on May 3. They met up with other walkers from the Church of the Advent and First Baptist Church of Medfield. Donations of food were collected and given to the Medfield Food Cupboard.

Greater Boston Walk for Hunger

Team First Parish participated in the Greater Boston Walk for Hunger on May 3rd

Around First Parish

Parenting Group

The "Parenting Group" has begun to discuss the book, How To Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish. Whatever parenting challenges you may have are also up for discussion. Contact Joyce Fetteroll for questions at jfetteroll@verizon.net. All are welcome. Meetings are in the UHouse, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on these Tuesdays:

June 9 -- Chapters 3&4

June 23 -- Chapters 5-7

Medfield Food Cupboard

For May, the Medfield Food Cupboard has asked our church for canned fruit, canned chicken, jelly, canned pasta. Please bring your donations to church and leave them in the basket in the vestibule upstairs. The Social Action committee will deliver the food to the food cupboard, which is located at the UCC church on Main Street. The Food Cupboard is grateful for all of our efforts. They ask for specific items from each church so that people know what's really needed, but, as always, any donations are greatly appreciated.

Enjoy the Summer. September's Events

Enjoy your Summer. Coming up in September to begin the new church year:

First Service: September 13th

Medfield Day: September 26th

Annual Meeting June 7th

First Parish's Annual Meeting is June 7th at 11:30AM. All members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

First Parish Contact Info:

Church Phone: .508-359-4594

Church Admin Email:

admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Web site:

www.firstparishmedfield.org

Bridging Ceremony Celebrates First Parish Graduates



Greg Mcketchnie, Ryan, McKetchie, and Kathryn Fetteroll are our high school seniors this year who will be moving on, "bridging" to adulthood.

Greg and Ryan McKetchnie, with the "Edible Bridge Cake" after Bridging Sunday service on May 17. Bridging Sunday honors high school seniors in our congregation.



Religious Education

From the D.R.E

Last month in the May newsletter I wrote about our “smaller small” children’s RE population, compared to recent past years, and pondered about what being smaller means for RE. In terms of program, the RE Committee and I have decided that we can continue to use the workshop rotation model (WoRM) that was started this year. We will have three aged-based groups of children doing the workshop rotations in the fall and spring. The older group of 7th and 8th graders will be exploring World Religions for the year. Children who are kindergarten age and younger will be in Little Lights in the vestry. We will also continue our social justice efforts which are now built into the RE program at all levels.

When it comes to energy, dedication, and courage to try something new, the word “small” does not adequately describe our religious education program for children and youth. Members of the RE Committee looked for and then implemented a new model for children’s religious education not out of any sense of desperation but to make a good program even better and improve what we could offer to children and families. The change to WoRM is currently being evaluated through surveys and other feedback.

Another significant change took place this year– the premier offering of Our Whole Lives for 10th - 12th graders, otherwise referred to as “OWL for senior youth.” This marks an expansion of our RE program to include offerings for children and youth of all ages. The days of RE “ending” at 8th grade are in the past. As has been stated many times in this column, from the pulpit, and in our brochures, religious education is a lifelong endeavor.

Whether people of all ages put this into actual practice, with older ones serving as role models and guides, choosing to take advantage of what is offered to facilitate the process– this is always an open question. As one of my professional colleagues puts it, “We strive to offer excellence to those who come.”

Finally, one more healthy change I have noticed over the past few years is a steady increase in numbers of two groups of volunteers in RE: 1) fathers, and 2) people who do not currently have children in RE. This latter group includes older high school youths and adults with grown children. To me, this reflects support-beyond-words from the congregation. At the same time, it is further evidence that RE is lifelong– we all learn by teaching and teach by learning.

There is a “Drive Time Essays” CD from the UUA that focuses on smaller congregations. In it is a comment that many small congregations “survive and thrive.” I know that at First Parish we can survive. Do we thrive? Speaking about religious education, I think thriving is less a matter of numbers and more about interest and commitment. In that sense, we do thrive, for the time being, and are well-poised to keep on thriving. Surviving, thriving, growing, developing, deepening– all are action words, not end points, and they indicate journey rather than final destination or accomplishment. Shall we keep on keeping on?

Thank you for this year.

Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education

Thank You RE Volunteers!

Workshop Leaders

Blanche Teyssier, Brittish Miser, Chris Conley, Clayton Springer, Deb Carbarnes, George Lester, Glen D'Abate, John Kornet, Joyce Fetteroll, Kirsten D'Abate, Sally Rose, Sarah Bibel and Marissa DeLuca, Susan McCafferty

Group Guides

Alison Galley, Denise Sullivan, Don Rolph, Jean Bousquet, John Bergland, Jeff Lloyd, Kirsten D'Abate, Rhonda Kivlin, Paul Dilanni, Rob Huntington, Ryan McKetchnie, Susan McCafferty, Steve Rose, Trilby Sekula

Winter Solstice Service helpers

Brittish Miser, John Kornet, Rhonda Kivlin, Paul Dilanni, Sally Rose, Sarah Bibel and Marissa DeLuca, numerous parents

Winterim Peace Guides

Frank Cusanno, Nancy Norris, Nancy Kingsbury, Clayton Springer

Our Whole Lives - 8th and 9th graders

Cissy Hull-Allen, David Maxson, Jen Bartle

Our Whole Lives - senior youth

Chris Flaherty, Renee Lloyd

Child Care (we pay them *and* thank them)

Corinne Coveney, Kelsey Chatterton, Marissa DeLuca, Sarah Bibel

2009 - 2010 Draft Church Calendar

Aug

1 North Street Coffee House

Sept

13 First Service
26 Medfield Day

Oct

16 Take Back Your Time Potluck and Games Night
25 Member Breakfast

Nov

7 North Street Coffee House
13 Pizza and Movie Night
24 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Dec

6 Semi Annual Meeting
6 Hanging of the Greens
20 Winter Solstice Service
24 Christmas Eve Service

Jan

23 First Parish Birthday Dinner

Feb

6 North Street Coffee House
7 Social Action Sunday
27 First Parish Auction

Mar

20 Yard Sale
27 Canvass Dinner

Apr

2 Seder Supper
3 North Street Coffee House
25 Earth Day

May

1 North Street Coffee House
2 Walk for Hunger (Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger)
23 Coming of Age
TBD Newcomer's Welcome Sunday

Jun

6 Last Service
6 Bridging Ceremony
6 Annual Meeting

Please send any corrections or additions to Tracy at admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Medfield Day Volunteers Needed

Medfield Day is Saturday September 26th and takes place in and around First Parish's historic grounds. It is an important day in the Medfield social season (such as that is), and a wonderful opportunity to showcase ourselves and our beautiful historic building and grounds.

Volunteers are needed for a busy but short period of time to organize and/or help with the various activities we have planned for the day.

Children's activities and games - Always a fun time. If you can help contact Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education.

Other Traditional Activities:

1. Church Tours - give group tours of the church.
2. Bake Sale - Baked goods such as cookies, breads, cakes, and pies. (If you an idea for something else we could sell, let us know). The organizer needs to solicit baked goods and organize the day (drop-off, set-up, sellers, clean-up, etc.).

New / Potential Activities:

1. Raffle - Thousands of people will stroll by the church that day. Any ideas for a raffle are welcome, but we are looking for a low cost (\$1 - \$2) raffle of one item. Pro sports memorabilia and tickets, or cultural tickets such as the BSO or Boston Pops, do well. The organizer needs to get the item and print the tickets.
2. Vestry Activity - We normally close the Vestry on Medfield Day. However, we are interested in doing something like a movie that we could do in the Vestry once or twice during the day, and leave it closed the remainder of the time. The organizer would decide on the activity and solicit one or two others to staff the event.

Anyone interested in organizing or helping on Medfield Day should contact Tracy before the end of the church year at admin@firstparishmedfield.org.

Again, these are activities that require a short burst of organizing (with help from Tracy available) for 2 - 3 weeks in September. Or, helping for an hour or two on Medfield Day itself.

If you have any questions contact Bob Luttmann at rluttmann@robertluttman.com, or call 508.359.9577.

Services and Events

June 7th "Our Culture of Redemptive Violence"

This sermon will examine our tendency as humans to seek redemption through violence. Every culture has its media icons of redemptive violence. Where did this idea come from and how do we cope with it as compassionate, feeling people?

June 14th "The Vessel of our Being"

"Man is called upon to live by the sea so that maybe a wave of grace will fill his little vessel." - Rumi
Today's service is our final service until September and will include a meditation using a self-created clay vessel.

June 7th, 11:30AM - Annual Meeting

first parish medfield

FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MEDFIELD
26 NORTH STREET
MEDFIELD, MA 02052