

first parish medfield



September 2009 Newsletter

Medfield Day September 26th - 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 Page 2 for information on how you can help.

First Service September 13th

*First Parish begins the new
church year on
September 13th.*

Services are begin at 10AM



MEDFIELD DAY Sept. 26, 2009

We are in the middle of it!
Come and help make it a joyful, playful, and delicious day!

Ye Olde Traditional Bake Sale

Ways to join in:

- 1) BAKE something and bring it in. Last year we ran out of goods early on. We can't let that happen again.
- 2) Sell the baked goods– sign up for a shift.

Contact Jen Bartle if you can do either or both of these things.

CHILDREN'S GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

We have our usual games. Tickets are sold and prizes are given:

- Knock the bottles over
- Rainbow volcano
- Fish pond

We have Decorating pumpkins, and, new this year:

SKY BLUE bags for a CLEAN GREEN Earth

Contact Jeanette Ruyle if you can help with any of these for any length of time. All ages can help!

THE ALL ABOUT FIRST PARISH TABLE

There will be a raffle for tickets to Lion King the musical.

Contact Rebecca Stephenson or Rev. Bob if you can help with this.

2009 - 2010 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

From The Minister

“Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World”

Dear Friends:

As August completes itself, Janet and I are settling in to a way of life we haven't known these past eighteen years. Our sons, Ryan and Gregory have left for college and we are “suddenly” alone again. Just as they busily prepare for their new studies we all make a transition from the slower paced days of summer to the busier routines of autumn.

On September 13th we will gather as many have gathered at this spot for 358 years. Rested from our summer we return renewed and better prepared to offer each other strength. We arrive to welcome and engage one another, to share the news of our experiences, some of it sad, some of it great, all of it revealing a deeper understanding of who we are as a caring and loving religious community.

At the deepest level, we are aware that what each of us shares of ourselves matters greatly in this world. Just as we observe the ripples from a pebble thrown into a pond, we sense that something as simple as a smile or a supportive word has a similar effect in the greater community. At the heart of this sharing is the mutuality we discover, the work we make real, the graceful ways we respond to that which calls us forth and enables us to move beyond the boundaries we had previously set for ourselves.

We will begin our church year with an intergenerational ingathering that will include a Water Communion, so I remind you to bring a small vial of water from a place “near or far” that can be collected in a communal bowl. The following week, on September 20th, our Religious Education groups will begin.

I look forward to seeing each of you again. I want to know how you are and hear what you have to share about our time apart. I see much of my purpose as being present to support you as you contribute your time, energy, and vision to this place where my hope is that First Parish provides you a sanctuary to: “Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World”.

In faith,
Bob McKetchnie

Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World

Seven members of First Parish posed as David Maxson secured a new banner to signal the Sunday, September 13, 10 am, reopening of the church at 26 North Street, Medfield. Shown in the photo are Dan Bibel, Jeanette Ruyle, Rebecca Stephenson, Julie DeSorgher, David Stephenson, Janet McKetchnie, and the Rev. Bob McKetchnie.



Our minister of eight years, Rev. Bob McKetchnie, says "What we cherish is the spirit of compassion and justice. There are many times in life when we know we've made a real difference in the lives of others. Perhaps you feel that way when you contribute money to those in need, or by lending your name to a cause or volunteering some time, all of those can be significant.

"But I am inviting you to look inward--nurture your spirit and share the peace you find with others. First Parish offers a welcoming community, a place of safety, support, and sanctuary as you discern how to integrate your beliefs into ways of living and thriving in the world as you know it.

"If you haven't been religiously active before, or no longer subscribe to religious dogmas from your past, I invite you to visit a faith community where you don't have to discard what you believe to belong. You are welcome here!"

Around First Parish ... Around Medfield... ... Around the UUA

Medfield Food Cupboard

For September, the Medfield Food Cupboard has asked our church for juice, cookies, crackers, canned chicken, canned pasta, rice (white, flavored, and brown), pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, and cereal. Please bring your donations to church and leave them in the basket in the vestibule upstairs. The Social Action committee will deliver the food.

Thanks,
Coleman Toomey

New President of the UUA -- General Assembly Election Results

The Rev. Peter Morales was elected president of the Unitarian Universalist Association at the June 2009 General Assembly held in Salt Lake City. He received a total of 2061 votes (combined onsite and absentee ballots). He ran against the Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman who received a total of 1481 votes. See www.uuworld.org/news/ga/labels/election.php for some election coverage and www.uua.org for more information about General Assembly.

Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee, chaired by Julie DeSorgher, met for the first time this church year, Tuesday, September 1st. This year, the Committee members are: Jen Bartle, Greg Beedy, Glenn Capachin, Julie DeSorgher, Eva Kendrick, Becca Kornet, David Temple, Karen Wians, AND hopefully a few new faces ... maybe yours! If you are interested in working with the Committee to help organize and manage the Sunday church services, please contact any of the current members.

September 13th: As is our tradition, on our first Sunday of the Church year, we will have our Homecoming Water Communion ceremony. Please bring in some water from your summer adventures to share in the ceremony. This could be water from a lakeside or oceanside vacation, a favorite local pond or stream, or your kitchen sink.

Thanks Julie and Barbara

Thanks to Julie DeSorgher and Barbara Bunger for catering the September 8th Executive Board retreat with Mass Bay District Executive Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley and MBD Director of Program Development Rev. Sue Phillips.

First Parish Contact Info:

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MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP



Welcome back to first Parish Medfield after the summer break! We are so looking forward to seeing all of you again on Sept. 13th. We hope you have had a restful and fulfilling summer vacation.

If you've recently

passed by the church via North Street you will notice the terrific banner that was recently hung there. "Nurture Your Spirit, Help Heal Our World" kicks off our new campaign to increase visibility in the community and attract newcomers to our wonderful faith community. This statement certainly encapsulates the message of what we're all about, and may make it easier for us to talk about who we are.

Upcoming plans for this year:

Soon we will have an up-to-date Membership Directory available for members and friends. Once the transition is made to a new administrative assistance we will get this work accomplished.

Again this year we are planning a Pancake Breakfast for the congregation. We are collaborating with the Social Action Committee to sponsor the breakfast as a social activity for the church community as well as a fundraising event for the Medway House. The date and fundraising event are yet to be determined, but will occur this fall.

We'll be sponsoring a couple of movie nights about timely topics. We welcome suggestions about titles for the films to be shown.

We are looking for volunteers to serve on the membership committee, to act as greeters and to help with membership functions. You can volunteer on an ongoing basis or for one activity or for just one activity. We will appreciate anything you can do. Please contact Barbara Bunger bbunger@verizon.net

Religious Education for Children and Adults

From the D.R.E.

This is my 10th September at First Parish as a religious education professional. I figure it is time for me to encourage an exchange of thoughts about what it means to attend religious education and worship services on a regular basis. How is this for starters?

The following are two hypothetical Sunday morning at-home scenarios during our church year:

#1– Someone, usually a parent, says, “It’s time for all of us to get ready to go to church. Let’s get moving. Who needs help?” [in a cheerful yet firm tone of voice]

The response to this from other family members of any age could range from “OK, yes, I am ready!” to “Aww, do we have tooooo?” [with a whine]. There may be varying degrees of energy and willingness, but all the responders recognize that going to church is the plan for the morning. Once the family gets underway, arrives at church, and enters the building, everyone is relatively all right.

#2– Someone, usually an adult, says, “Do you want to go to church today?” [in a tone of voice ranging from tentative to doubtful to non-committal]

Responses to this question may vary from, “Do we have toooo?” [again with a whine], OR... “Yay, let’s stay home,” OR... “I’ll go if you go. It’s up to you.” The responders recognize they are being presented with an open-ended, unguided choice. The ambivalence reflected in the question has been easily detected by those whose first inclination is to stay right where they are. The family stage is set for staying at home.

In reality, there are many other possible scenarios. But do either of these strike a chord of recognition for you? You may be thinking that despite your best efforts, getting your children ready for church is like pulling teeth and

who wants to do that on a Sunday morning? For many people of any age there is always a certain amount of inertia in the morning– it can be hard to get going, or to change direction if one is already up and moving. One way to reduce the effort involved is for church-going to be a family routine or custom– a “this is what we do” kind of event. Parent-initiated direction is needed in order for this routine to evolve. There it is– parents are key players.

I see religious education– spiritual growth and faith development– as a three-legged stool. Parents and family are one of the legs. They give encouragement, show interest, and facilitate the participation. Another leg of the stool is the religious education program itself– the staff, the content, the methods, all of which should be the best they can be. The third leg is the religious community– the congregation of adults, youth, and children. The community needs to make certain that a person feels welcome and that they belong, both in church and in any RE activity.

Difficulties can arise with any of these three equally essential “legs.” If your child is having a problem with some aspect of the RE program, then I, as Director of RE, need to hear about it so we can work on a solution. The sooner, the better.

For quite a while, I have realized the importance of the social or community element for children in RE. Many children want to feel that they have a friend or friends at RE. If this social connection is not made, a child’s interest in RE may diminish. We have endeavored to continually work on building community in the religious education program. Children’s Worship Service and our Winterim program were started for that reason. The RE Committee and I think that the Workshop Rotation Model enhances children’s interactions with each other. More can be done, including outside of Sunday mornings. We welcome your suggestions.

This is your church. This is your religious community. Your children are our children. I

have made the assumption, as I wrote this, that religious education is of value to parents who come to First Parish. I realize that can be interpreted in different ways. Let's talk and listen and talk some more.

Blessings,

Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education

Changes in Children's Religious Education

Children here at First Parish in elementary grades and early middle school grades have spoken, and the RE Committee and I have responded. This year in Children's Religious Education, we have instituted some changes that were identified through the RE surveys conducted near the end of last church year. Everyone should come and find out for themselves what this means!

One change: whenever the children and adults are at Coffee Hour together, after multi-generational services and during Winterim, there will always be a children's food table. This is an idea that came from children and adults.

Adult Education and Programs

"An intelligent understanding of the Bible is indispensable to anybody in the Western world who wishes to think wisely about religion. By no possibility can any one of us be independent of the Bible's influence. Our intellectual heritage is full of its words and phrases, ideas and formulas. Ignorance of it constitutes a hopeless handicap in the endeavor to understand any great Western literature."
(Harry Emerson Fosdick 1925)

"Oppressive interpretations of the Bible do kill, literally. Massive injustice has been and continues to be done in the name of the Bible. But the problem is that all of us allow the powers and principalities of both secular and spiritual oppression to usurp the spirit of the Bible and use it to legitimize such clear sins as

economic and environmental exploitation, racism, sexism, homophobia, and more. Meanwhile the Bible is about the beauty and goodness of creation itself; about the ancient human struggle for freedom and liberation; about frustration with violence and injustice throughout the generations; and about experiences of exultation, expectation, and inspiration that can sustain the human quest for wisdom, justice and peace.
(John Buehrens: "Understanding the Bible", 2003)

First Parish is continuing the Facilitated Bible Reading with our minister, Bob McKetchnie. on Wednesday, September 30th. We will begin this year with the Book of Ruth. Beginning a new book always provides a great opportunity for you to join us even if you never have before. In particular Bob is beginning with this book because it can be covered in a single evening and provides the newcomer a chance to experience the format of the class before making a longer commitment. All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and run no later than 9:00 p.m.

The text we will be using is as follows: "New Revised Standard Version of the Bible with Apocrypha" ISBN # 0195283805

If you do not own one please consider buying this through Amazon.com after first logging on to the firstparishmedfield.org website and clicking on the bookstore.

To sign up for this class please drop an email to: uuketch@gmail.com

Unitarian Universalist Position on Healthcare

The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations affirms the worth and dignity of every individual, and thus affirms access to quality healthcare as a basic human right. It is the responsibility of the public— through government—to meet this and other basic human needs in a just, equitable, and compassionate manner. In particular, the Association supports the following:

- Equitable access, cultural sensitivity, and basic treatment for all people, regardless of age, economic, racial, geographic, immigration, or other status, to affordable, quality healthcare, through a national, single-payer plan, including the following:
- Full coverage for mental healthcare;
- Adequate preventative care, including prenatal and holistic health;
- Comprehensive treatment for long-term care and catastrophic illness;
- Access to medications and prosthetics;
- Family planning and reproductive healthcare; and
- Freedom for individuals to choose their health providers.
- Medicare, Medicaid, and other programs which meet the healthcare needs of the elderly and those who cannot afford health insurance.
- Federal support to state for providing home health services, homemaker services, medical supplies for use in the home, and nutritional counseling.
- The right to self-determination in dying, including access to hospice care and legal recognition of living wills, and the release from civil or criminal penalties of those who, under proper safeguards, act to honor the right of terminally ill patients to select the time of their own deaths.
- Medically-accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education in public schools, that encompasses heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender orientations and includes a focus on sexual responsibility and the emotional aspects of relationships and crises.
- Eliminating social stigma and discrimination for people living with HIV/AIDS, and adequate funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, both domestically and internationally.
- A ban on smoking in all closed places of public meeting.

Since 1961 the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) has issued fifteen General Resolutions and numerous Actions of Immediate Witness on Health. In 1992, the Association affirmed that comprehensive health care is a basic human right, demanding the development of a system which guarantees quality health care to every individual in the United States. Three other statements on health call for the adoption of a national, publicly funded, comprehensive system of universal health care. At least four UUA statements on economic justice also cite the need for a universal health care system and declare its establishment necessary to the creation of a just economic community.

Live Opera Social Event

This October 10, New York's Metropolitan Opera begins its fourth season of live high-definition telecasts to area movie theaters. Karen and I have attended several previous broadcasts (as have some other First Parish members) and they are fabulous—full high-def images, digital sound, close-up camera work, subtitles in English, back-stage tours (a highlight!), and of course great singing. It's a great opportunity for everyone, opera lovers and opera novices alike. For a bit more than \$20, you can have a better seat than the most expensive ticket at Lincoln Center. You can read about the Met's Live in HD telecasts here: http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/broadcast/hd_events_current.aspx.

We've discovered in talking with members and friends during coffee hours and elsewhere that many at First Parish would be interested in seeing a Live in HD broadcast. So here's what Karen and I would like to do. We'd like to buy a block of tickets for the October 10 broadcast of Puccini's *Tosca* at Patriot's Place. The opera begins at 1. There is no reserved seating, and seats fill quickly, so we should meet at the theater by 12:15. The broadcast will last about 3 1/2 hours.

Afterwards, Karen and I will host an *Après-Opera* party at our home in Walpole to share the experience over good food and wine. Party plans to follow.

Tickets go on sale on or about September 8, so we'd like to order tickets as soon as possible. We're asking for a firm commitment. We'll let you know the exact price of the tickets as soon as we've purchased them. We're guessing it will be about \$50/pair with service charge and tax.

We'll order tickets Sunday afternoon, September 13.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Bill and Karen Wians

Remembering Kay Buchanan

In July First Parish lost one of our oldest and most beloved members, Kay Buchanan. Kay, with her husband Buck, was a member and an integral part of the church for nearly 60 years.

Among her many accomplishments and activities:

- Member and clerk of the Prudential Committee
- RE program teacher
- RE Director
- Member and President of the Women's Alliance
- Delegate to the Annual Meeting of UUA
- Teacher at Ferry Beach
- Creator of innovative RE projects requiring hands on student activities
- Chairperson and or actively engaged in rummage sales, Emperor Onion Country Store.
- Member of the Choir
- Member of pulpit search committee
- Member of canvass committee
- Member of the First Parish Planning Committee
- Creator and manager of the chancel decorating group

Our condolences to Buck, the Buchanan family, and Kay's many friends.

Services (All Services Begin at 10:00AM)

September 13th

Intergenerational Ingathering

This Sunday is our Intergenerational Ingathering. Today's service will include a Water Communion so don't forget to bring a small sample of water from a spiritually significant place (near or far) to add to our communal bowl. I invite you to bring a friend!

September 20th

"Creed and Covenant"

William Ellery Channing once wrote: "In all churches individuals are better than their creeds." Today's sermon will make you feel proud to be a Unitarian Universalist as it attempts to deepen your understanding of what it means to belong to a covenantal faith. I encourage you to invite people you may know that are curious about who we are and what we believe.

September 27th

"Love and Forgiveness"

Today at sundown the Jewish holy day Yom Kippur begins. Yom Kippur can be a time of deep reflection for all people to examine their relationships. Today's sermon will reflect on what this holy day can mean to Unitarian Universalists.

October 4th

Association Sunday

This Sunday marks the third annual appeal from the UUA to fund the growth and diversity of our association. Today I will report on the UUA's progress and future plans.

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