

# first parish medfield



October 2009 Newsletter

## Take Back Your Time Day

**When:** Friday October 16th  
beginning at 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** First Parish Vestry

**What to bring:**

- Yourself and friends of all ages.
- Something to play outdoors on the green if the day is nice.
- Something for our potluck dinner.
- Your favorite board game or playing cards for our games night.
- Your favorite snacks and drinks.

More Details Inside...



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual First Parish Family Breakfast and Social Action Event!

**Sunday morning Nov. 1,  
2009 in the Vestry  
Breakfast served 8:30  
to 9:30 a.m.**

More Details Inside...

## From The Minister

*"It is today that our best work can be done."* W.E.B. DuBois

Dear Friends:

This month we will be celebrating our third annual Association Sunday. Association Sundays are a request by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for all congregations to recognize and support, both in spirit and financially, the national work of the Association. The UUA is asking all of our congregations to schedule a Sunday service and special collection to affirm our connection, and to bring our resources together for greater effect. These Sundays are an opportunity for us to come together to grow our faith and our influence in the world.

The UUA has never been more focused on delivering "specific" services to our churches than they are right now. I say specific because the UUA is responding quite specifically to the issues and concerns raised by thousands of congregants who took the time to answer their surveys. Over the past three years the UUA has conducted extensive research on the growth and development challenges before us. They sought to understand what outcomes our members and congregations want to achieve, what they will support and how much money we need in order to accomplish these goals.

Association Sunday is different from The Annual Program Fund (APF) and Friends of the UUA; those help to pay for the operating budget of the UUA. Special projects, like national marketing and growth outreach work, and funding scholarships for ministerial candidates require additional money, and that's the purpose of Association Sunday.

As you may remember the UUA's original target was fifty million dollars; twenty million in immediate funding and thirty million in legacy grants (pledges to be collected over time). On Sunday October 4th I will give you a full accounting of our progress and bring you up to date on what initiatives have been accomplished and what is yet to come.

In faith,  
Bob

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

## Golden Opportunity

Here is a Golden Opportunity to participate in a Church fundraiser that has that Midas Touch. You are probably aware that the price of gold is at an all time high, reaching up to \$1,0000 per ounce.

If you search your jewelry boxes, you surely will find 12k or 14k plus gold that you can contribute to this fundraiser....old earrings without a match, crinkled gold chains from the 70's, pins, items you know won't become heirlooms. etc. If each member puts even one small gold item into our treasure chest, it will add up quickly when sold at a reputable dealer. Maybe we can come up with a pound!!

Holliston Jeweler is a dealer I have used personally and found them to be fair, but if anyone else has a suggestion, we can research what's best.

I will be available in the vestry for collecting gold , along with my partner in this venture (tbd, come forward to help). Let's fill the treasure chest! LOOK FOR US AT COFFEE HOUR OCTOBER 18th AND 25th. We will turn gold into cash for church by the end of October.

Time is of the essence with gold worth what it is now. So let the Gold Rush begin!!! (Sorry, couldn't resist).

Ann Cunningham

## Tri-Valley Habitat for Humanity

Tri-Valley Local Partnership Committee (LPC) is part of South Shore Habitat for Humanity. Tri-Valley includes representatives from Medway Community Church; St. Thomas the Apostle, Millis; Millis Church of Christ (UCC); Church of the Advent, Medfield; United Church of Christ in Medfield; Franklin Federated Church, and now from First Parish Medfield. I am acting as the liaison from our church to the Tri-Valley Committee. For more information on the group, visit

<http://www.sshabitat.org/lpcs/trivalley.php>

The Tri-Valley LPC has made great strides in its fundraising efforts, and is now making progress toward building its first Habitat home at 9 Walker St, Medway. The hope is to have a foundation poured in early November. Construction and other support teams will be set up soon. I will keep you updated on opportunities to participate in the project.

Feel free to contact me if you are interested in this project – 508-668-1392 or rolph@110.net.

Margaret Rolph  
Social Action Committee

## Executive Board Meetings 2009-10

All meetings are open to members and begin at 7:30PM in the Vestry:

October 15	January 21	January 21
November 19	February 11	February 11
December 17	March 18	March 18

## MESSAGE FROM MEMBERSHIP

We've had a wonderful beginning to the church year. The sanctuary was almost full for Ingathering Sunday and our traditional water ceremony. There was a palpable feeling of joy as members and friends greeted one another after the long summer break and this feeling carried into a lively coffee hour.

We're particularly happy to report that we've had a lot of newcomers visit these past couple of weeks. Please take a moment to say "Hello" and welcome anyone new that you might see.

If you get a chance, take a look at the First Parish website and check out the "Newcomer Welcome" tab on the left side Menu. I hope you'll like what Membership created to introduce visitors and newcomers to First Parish Medfield.

We're looking ahead to upcoming events in November—so please mark your calendars!

Family Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1  
Movie-Pizza Night will take place on Friday night Nov. 13th.

Membership Committee  
Barbara Bunger, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson

## Social Action News

The next Social Action meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 7:00 PM in the U-House. The meetings are lively, fun, and end promptly at 9:00 PM. Please join in to find out more about FPUU Social Action activities. Call Helen Beedy 508-359-2760 to confirm the time and place.

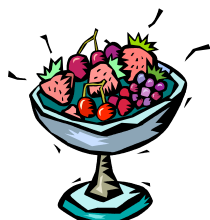
In November we will do a diaper drive for Medway House. Medway House shelters up to 12 families at any given time, and often the family includes at least one baby or toddler still in diapers. As you can imagine, it is difficult to keep up with the required diaper and wipe supplies. To meet this need, we collect donations of diapers and baby wipes., which someone from the church delivers to the Medway House. The shelter's director has asked for any and all sizes, as they are never sure how many babies will be in residence, or what their ages will be. If you would like to volunteer to pick up the diapers and wipes from our donation basket and drop them at Medway House (off 109), please contact Helen Beedy 508-359-2760.

Our Food Pantry coordinator for this year is Coleman Toomey. Thank you Coleman! Please watch for Coleman's announcements about how we can help the food pantry. Let's keep the food pantry basket in the vestibule as full as possible!

There are many other ideas for ways that FPUU can engage in socially conscious activities, and we will send out more information as the year progresses. If you have any questions or ideas, contact any one of us,

Sincerely, the Social Action committee (Helen Beedy, Barbara Bunger, Pat Clarke, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph)

# **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual First Parish Family Breakfast and Social Action Event!**



**Sunday morning Nov. 1, 2009 in the Vestry  
Breakfast served 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

*Sponsored by the Membership and Social Action committees*

What better way to start off our new year than to eat breakfast together and help residents at the Medway House at the same time!

Volunteers will cook and serve pancakes, bacon, fruit, juice, and coffee starting at 8:30 and serving until 9:30 a.m. Just leave for church early Sunday Nov. 1 and bring the family for a great meal and a good time!

**Breakfast is free! The ticket for admission is a package of diapers (any size), or wipes to support residents at the Medway House, a family shelter in Medway.**

If you know that you and your family can come, please RSVP to Margaret Rolph (508-668-1392 or [rolph@110.net](mailto:rolph@110.net)) so we can get an idea of how many to serve. Everyone welcome, whether you RSVP or not!

# Religious Education for Children and Adults

## Children in Religious Education to Sponsor a Student in India

Beginning sometime this church year, children in our RE program will have an opportunity to get to know a student in India by making the commitment to sponsor his or her education. This will be done through the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC), an affiliate organization of the UUA.

The UUPCC has started a new program that makes it very easy for a small group to sponsor the education of a student in India, the Philippines, or Transylvania. All these places have congregations of Unitarian Universalists or Unitarians and the UUPCC has created relationships with these communities over the years. Below is a description of the program, with words from the Rev. Ruth Gibson who is active in the partner church work:

Anyone can become a Student Sponsor, but we designed this program with RE directors and participants in mind. RE classes, youth groups, and even families can use this simple program to get engaged internationally. For too many of our children, people in other lands seem impossibly distant and foreign. By putting a name and a face to a UU friend overseas, our UU children and youth can make a personal connection that begins to bridge these cultural differences. By choosing to sponsor a student, our UU children and youth get a chance to grow a friendship and make a real impact on the world. And by investing in other UU children's education, our young ones can explore - in real life terms - what it means to live the 6th UU principle: world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

The most modest cost is to sponsor a secondary student in India for 3 years at \$126 per year. I am confident that the RE children can raise this amount of money. This effort will be a major focus of our Winterim and some of our Faith in Action Sundays. The youth (7th graders and older) may decide to join in on this effort as well. You as a congregation can be very supportive. Watch for more information!

Submitted by Jeanette Ruyle, DRE



Does this woman look familiar? "Mary Potter," wife of Thomas Potter, appeared at the Children's Worship Service on Sept. 20 to tell the story about the chapel her husband built, the boat that stranded John Murray in America, and Universalist ideas.



# 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

## Nov

1 2nd Annual Family Breakfast and Social Action Event  
7 North Street Coffee House  
13 Pizza and Movie Night  
24 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

## Dec

6 Annual Midyear Church 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 Bridging Ceremony  
6 Annual Meeting  
13 Last Service

*Please send any corrections or additions to the Church Administrator at [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)*

**Put this in your calendar and post this on your refrigerator!!!**

## **First Parish Medfield's Eighth Annual Take Back Your Time Day.**

**When: Friday October 16th beginning at 5:00 p.m.**

**Where: First Parish Vestry**

**What to bring:**

**Yourselves and friends of all ages.**

**Something to play outdoors on the green if the day is nice.**

**Something for our potluck dinner.**

**Your favorite board game or playing cards for our games night.**

**Your favorite snacks and drinks.**

**Ask your boss for the day off or at least some part of the day off.**

**Use the earlier part of the day to do something for yourself. Go for a walk or bike ride, for example.**

**Raise awareness that we overwork in this society to the detriment of our health and relationships. (We work 9 weeks more per year than our European counterparts).**

**For inspiration:**

**Visit the website [timeday.org](http://timeday.org)**

**E-mail Rev. Bob at: [uuketch@gmail.com](mailto:uuketch@gmail.com) with any questions.**

**Relax and have fun!!**



# Services (All Services Begin at 10:00AM)

**October 4**

## **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.

This service will include a special collection to help with the work of the UUA.

**October 11**

## **"You Just Can't Myth"**

Michael F. Hall, Andover Newton Theological Seminary Senior and Support Minister to the Mendon and Uxbridge UU Congregation

**October 18**

## **"Not Hell, But Hope"**

2009 marks the 500th year of John Calvin's birth. In response, I feel compelled to do a little old fashioned Universalist preaching. Today's sermon will look at James Rely, John Murray, Hosea Ballou and others who "saved" us from the doctrine of damnation.

Our religious education program will be finishing up its "rotation" on Universalism today. So, this sermon will give some of you something to discuss with your children.

**October 25**

## **"Are You An Atheist – Really?"**

On occasion people will tell me in conversation that he/she is an atheist. They describe "Gods" of their religious past that I would want to deny also. But after they get around to telling me what they believe, I sometimes discover that "atheist" isn't quite the label that fits their theology. Today we will look at religious labels and attempt to measure their relevance and applicability.

**November 1**

## **"Being Present"**

Today's sermon will look at some practical and spiritual ways of being present with others in a way that is healing, nurturing, and potentially even transforming. Discover what is both natural and surprising about this process, including how it affects your life as well.