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## April 2010 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events:

<b>April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>North Street Coffee House</b>
<b>April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Worship Service</b>
<b>April 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Margaret Fuller at 200 Celebration</b>
<b>April 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Earth Day Worship Service</b>
<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>North Street Coffee House</b>
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Walk for Hunger/Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger</b>

## From the Minister

*—We, bearers of the dream, affirm that a new  
vision of hope is emerging.  
We pledge to work for that community in which  
justice is actively present.  
We affirm the struggle yet ahead.  
We affirm the unity of all persons:  
the brotherhood and sisterhood that allows us to  
touch upon each other's humanity,  
a unity that opens our eyes, ears, and hearts to see  
the different but common forms of suffering and  
pain.  
Affirming that hope, publicly expressed, energizes  
and enables us to move forward,  
As we work to make our tomorrows become our  
todays.”*  
Loretta F. Williams from *—Been In  
The Storm Too Long*”

Dear Friends:



On Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Bread will be sponsoring the 42<sup>nd</sup> Walk For Hunger. The Walk For Hunger is the oldest continual pledge walk in the United States and as its website ([www.projectbread.org](http://www.projectbread.org)) points out, it is one of the few walks dedicated to a social justice issue. Elsewhere in this newsletter, Louise Rachin provides the details for joining the First Parish Team of walkers; where and when to meet, how to prepare and how to register and get sponsors.

Today, Massachusetts estimates that over 500,000 people in this state alone are struggling to put food on the table. Project Bread is dedicated to finding creative ways to take measures that reduce hunger across the state. Project Bread has developed and supports four distinct programs for identifying and responding to people at risk.

First, Project Bread educates people about food stamps and the requirements for receiving them.

Second, Project Bread has set up and advertises a “Food Source Hotline” which is

available in 140 languages and also accommodates those with loss of hearing. Food source hotline counselors refer callers to sources for food in their local communities and also offer guidelines on good nutrition

Third, Project Bread has instituted the Pediatric Hunger Prevention Project. This project trains health care providers to identify families at risk for hunger, and how to help them. In 2005, Project Bread began partnering with community health centers to show that hunger screening can be incorporated into a health care setting easily. Community centers were chosen because they are very effective at reaching out to low-income families.

Fourth, Project Bread has been involved with improving the quality and supply of meals available to children through school breakfast programs, after-school programs, and at children's summer recreation sites. This is work that I have been involved with myself through the Tuckerman Coalition and Promise Mass. Children and I know first hand of the great influence that Project Bread's funding has and of the great effect of the compassion they demonstrate in their work.

Whether you walk one or five or twenty of the miles of this Walk, I encourage you to participate if you can. You can of course also participate by sponsoring someone in our community who is walking. The Walk For Hunger supports Project Bread that understands that the systemic cause of hunger is poverty. They recognize that many of the hungry in Massachusetts are either children who are facing diminished health because of their lack of proper nutrition or elderly singles and couples on fixed-incomes who are in a constant struggle with whether to buy heat or buy food. No one should have to start their life with improper nutrition or end their life with a worry of how they will eat tonight.

In Faith,  
Bob McKetchnie

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

**Come to hear Christiana Gerstner  
perform at the North Street  
Coffeeshouse, Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Bring in the spring with some live music!! April's North Street Coffeeshouse will feature Boston-area singer/songwriter Christiana Gerstner. "Never let the truth get in the way of a good song," Christiana Gerstner has said of her 2009 CD, "My Own Little Heaven." Imagine a voice like velvet, singing songs that Joni Mitchell and Jerome Kern might have co-written, with the Roches singing backup, and you'll be pretty close. The CD features a talented lineup of supporting musicians, including Steve Rapson, Charlie Koch, Brad Meyer, Sandra Haddon, Jackie Damsky, Shellie Rapson James, Steve Salmon, Emily Gerstner and Paulina Gerstner.

For more information on Christiana, and to hear some audio samples of her songs, visit her website at <http://christianagerstner.com/>.

The evening will consist of both a featured performer and an open mic session. Janet McKetchnie will host the open mic portion of the evening. The event will be held 7 – 10 pm. If **you** would like to perform at the open mic session, please contact Janet at [imjanetm@gmail.com](mailto:imjanetm@gmail.com). Music of any genre, prose, poetry, or comedy is welcome. 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.

See for yourself why the North Street Coffeeshouse, held at our church, is becoming known as one of the best open mics around!

**MEDFIELD TOWN MEETING  
VOTE on WIRELESS BYLAW**

**Steeple to Hide Cell Antennas**

As most are aware, a wireless company has a lease option with First Parish to hide cell antennas in the steeple. This is a common strategy for creating invisible cell sites, especially in New England.

The wireless carrier was denied a zoning permit to install the antennas. They can go back for permission again if Town Meeting approves wireless bylaw changes on April 26th. Additional wireless companies are also interested in the First Parish steeple.

The Medfield Wireless Communications Study Committee advised the Planning Board on amending the wireless bylaw. The Planning Board has published recommended changes to the bylaw that are on the Town Meeting Warrant.

To help assure passage of the amendment, we are asking Church Members and friends who live in Medfield to attend the Medfield Town Meeting at 7 PM April 26 at the High School Auditorium to voice your support.

This amendment is expected to have the support of the Planning Board and other Town officials. However, citizen support is needed to insure passage.

The rental of space for cell phone antennas could be a significant income generator for the church. Your support at the Medfield Town Meeting would be much appreciated.

Thank You  
FPUU Board of Directors.

## Earth Day 2010

Come celebrate Earth Day 2010 here at our First Parish on Sunday April 25 with a multi-generational worship service  
**"40 / 40 / 40"**

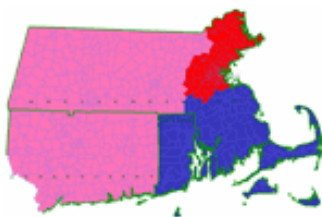
**Forty years, Forty days, Forty (at least) people--  
Comittments and actions, small and large**

Clues and hints about 40/40/40 will be given out on April 18 in announcements at church and through e-mail so we can prepare for April 25.



## MASS BAY DISTRICT--What is it?

All of the congregations that make up the Unitarian Universalist Association of congregations are located in nineteen districts across the United States. Our congregation is in the Mass Bay District-- an area that surrounds Boston and contains 55 UU congregations. The mission of the UUA Districts is to serve as a resource for local congregations and to help extend Unitarian Universalist influence in the larger community.



*Mass Bay District is the area in red*

**MASS BAY DISTRICT UPCOMING EVENTS -  
- check [www.mbduuu.org](http://www.mbduuu.org) for more information**

- April 7, Wednesday -- Webinar on "Introduction to Social Media for UU Leaders." This free webinar is currently full

but you can sign onto a waiting list. (It is actually a prelude to the Spring Conference on May 1. See below)

- April 11, Sunday -- The MBD Annual Meeting and dinner, held at First Parish in Needham -- Rev. Bob McKetchnie, Janet McKetchnie, and Jeanette Ruyle are attending from FPUU Medfield.
- April 15, Thursday -- Webinar on "The Green Sanctuary Movement." No fee. *Register for this online.*
- May 1, Saturday -- MBD Spring Conference, "Using Social Media to Fuel Congregational Mission." At First Parish Church of Weston 9-4:30 p.m. "MBD's Spring Conference will introduce participants to a host of new technology and expand our imagination about how to use social media to support our faith. We'll identify and reflect on the potential and limitations of social media to nurture spiritual depth, faith development, and community building, and we'll explore the theological and ethical implications of this media." *Register for this online.* \$35 by April 11, then \$45.



## Thank You from the UUSC

We received the following letter from the UUSC:

–Dear Friends:

Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the Guest at Your Table gifts of \$1,555,000, which we received on February 4, 2010.

Since 1939, supporters like you have helped UUSC become a leading voice in advancing human rights worldwide. We pledge to honor your commitment to us through our efforts to defend the human right to water, to restore and protect our civil liberties, to

ensure workers' rights, and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

You can learn more about our work, our courageous program partners, and ways you can become involved in the struggle for human rights at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Thank you again for your generous contribution to our work promoting human rights and social justice. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of people in the United States and around the world.

Sincerely,

Constance Kane  
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer"



## **MINNS 2010 Lecture Series – A Theology of Personal and Societal Transformation**

*The Bicentennial Legacy of James Freeman Clarke*

Delivered by the Rev. Dr. Paul S. Johnson  
Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist  
Congregation at Shelter Rock, Manhasset,  
New York

### **Lecture 1: Wednesday, April 14 James Freeman Clarke and the Theology of a Practical Transcendentalist**

In 1885 Clarke summarized Unitarian theological tenets as (1) the Fatherhood of God; (2) the Brotherhood of Man; (3) the Leadership of Jesus; (4) Salvation by Character; and (5) the Continuity of Human Development in All Worlds, or the Progress of Mankind Onward and Upward Forever. These became a normative expression of Unitarianism well into the twentieth century. This lecture will examine the rationale behind them and their relevance to us today.

*First Church in Boston, 66 Marlborough Street, Boston; 6:00 pm reception and 6:30 pm dinner (\$10 fee for dinner), followed by 7:30 pm lecture.*

### **Lecture 2: Tuesday, April 20 James Freeman Clarke and the Church of the Disciples: Religious Community as an Agent of Personal and Societal Transformation**

Clarke's principal life work was founding and leading Boston's Church of the Disciples which he served from 1841 until his death in 1888. Dedicated to the practice of Jesus' teaching, the congregation was guided by three basic principles: (1) financial support through voluntary contributions rather than the sale and rental of pews; (2) development of close personal relationships among congregants by means of a wide range of activities engaging intellect, affection, and will; and (3) widespread congregational involvement in worship and governance. Their fascinating story holds lessons for building successful congregations today.  
*Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston Street, Boston; 6:30 pm reception followed by 7:00 pm lecture.*

### **Lecture 3: Wednesday, April 21 James Freeman Clarke's Concept of Self Culture: Physical, Intellectual, Moral, and Spiritual**

Clarke's life and ministry were undergirded by his belief that religion was not only a means of attaining heaven at death, but also a means of attaining joyful eternal life in the here-and-the-now through development of God-given physical, intellectual, emotional, aesthetic, and spiritual capabilities. His book on self culture went through twenty-three editions by 1898 and continues to have an instructive, inspiring message for us today.  
*King's Chapel House, 64 Beacon Street, Boston; 6:30 pm reception followed by 7:00 pm lecture*



## 2010-11 Annual Fund Drive - Nurture Your Spirit Help Heal Our World

Recently we came together in the homes of host members for intimate small suppers where we enjoyed great food and each others company. We shared our stories of why we come to First Parish Medfield – because of the community, covenant groups, Sunday sermons, coffee hour, Coming of Age, Moment with the Children, North Street Coffeehouse, religious education, social action, O.W.L., pastoral care, the historic building ... and so much more. During a Moment with the Children we heard a young FPUUer say he comes because “my friends are here” and during our Why I am at First Parish service, one member said that the church is not only *a* sanctuary, it is *the* sanctuary.

We not only enjoy our programs, we organize them and support them. They are the programs, activities and events that make our community unique. We all are stewards of these programs and of First Parish. Are you proud to be part of a community that offers so much to so many? Are you proud to be part of a community that can pull together to support each other in good times, in hard times and in tragic times?

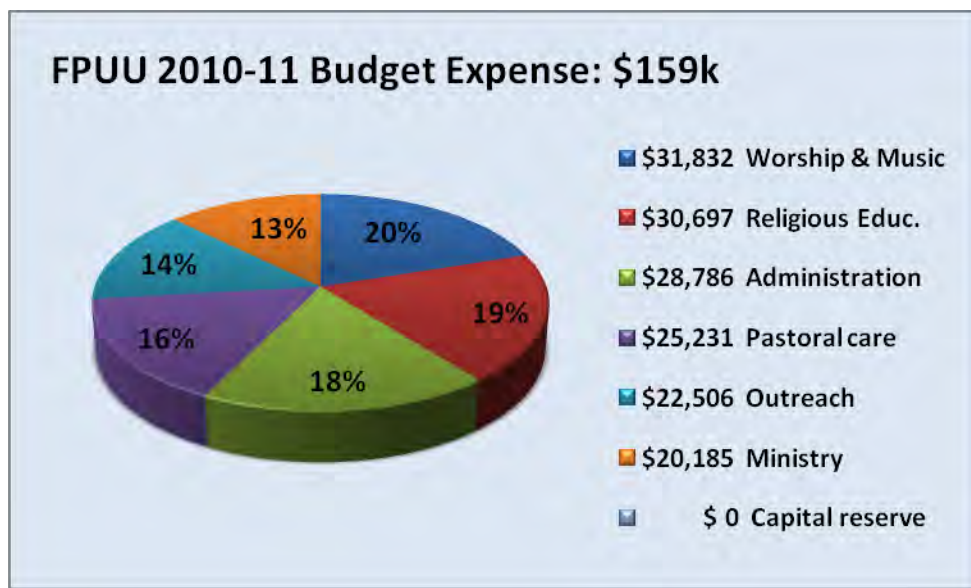
In the same way that we are proud of our First Parish programs, we can all be proud to own the responsibility of financial stewardship. At First Parish we don't ask members to pay dues; we don't require a tithe, we don't ask for tuition or fees for programs.

But at First Parish, all of us share the opportunity to financially sustain these programs and help them – and others to come – to flourish and to grow.

### Now more than ever First Parish needs your generous financial support.

During our 2010-11 Annual Fund Drive we ask you to consider what First Parish means to you as you make your commitment of financial support. To understand the need, the following pie charts illustrate our financials.

The following pie chart shows the preliminary 2010-11 budget currently with expenses for our major programs. Note that expenses for the historic building are allocated across all categories. Because the budget is so tight, again this year there is no money for Capital Reserve – no rainy day fund for future painting, roofing or large system repair/replacement. This preliminary 2010-11 budget exceeds last year's budget by 8%.



Notes:

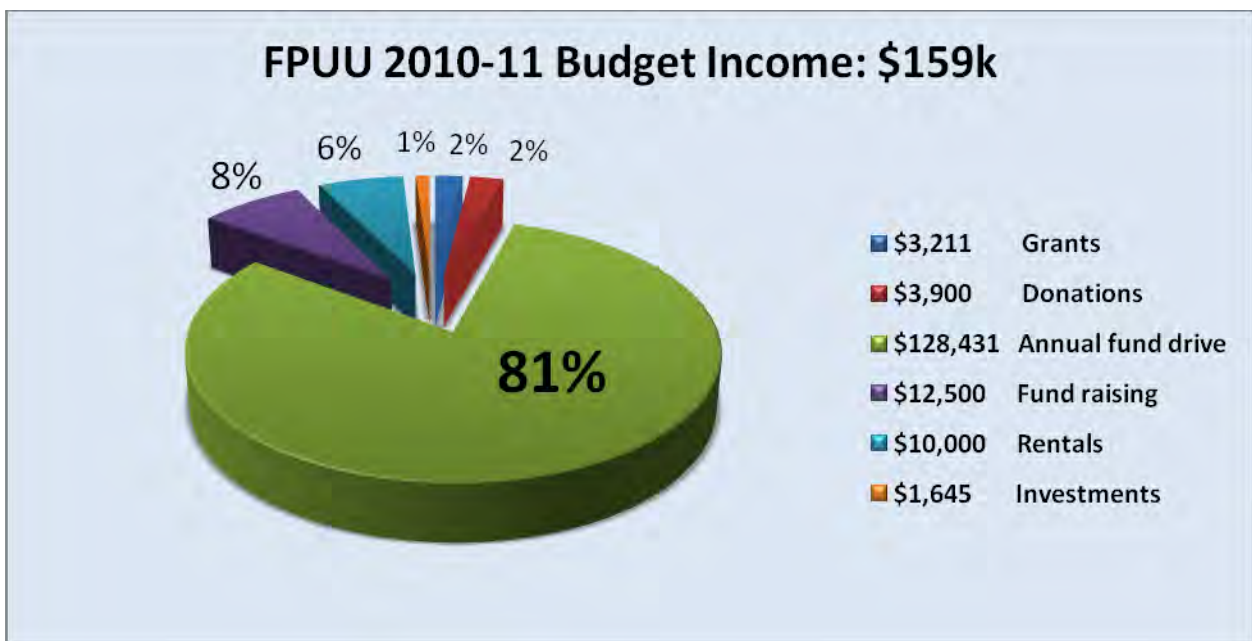
- **Religious Education** includes all ages
- **Outreach** includes social action, UUA, MBD, UUSC, UU Urban Ministry, etc.
- **Ministry** includes minister's activities to strengthen the congregation from within
- **Historic building** expenses are allocated across all categories
- **No Funding of Capital Reserve for Buildings and Grounds**

We believe that if everyone pledged 2% of their household income we would balance the budget. During the last five years, the average pledge has remained relatively flat in the range of \$1,538 to \$1,663. Last year the average pledge was \$1,621. This year our goal is to increase this average by 15% to \$1,864.

As a financial steward of First Parish, please consider a commitment of financial support to sustain our programs:

- **If you are able, pledge 2% or higher**
- **If you are unable to pledge 2%, increase your current pledge by 15%**
- **If you are making a pledge for the first time and unable to pledge 2%, pledge the goal for this year's average: \$1,864.**

The chart below shows the preliminary income that is projected for 2010-11. Collections from our Annual Fund Drive need to total \$128,431 to balance the budget, which is a 28% increase above 2009-10 pledge collections. As shown, 81% comes from our commitments of financial support.



The focus of our Annual Fund Drive is our collective stewardship of First Parish Medfield. Members and friends value our diverse, enriching programs as well as our historic church building.

Now more than ever First Parish Medfield needs and greatly appreciates your generous commitment of financial support.

Thank you from the Annual Fund Drive Committee (Canvass): Greg Beedy; Louise Rachin, Marshall Sugarman; and Duncan Glover, Chair on behalf of First Parish Unitarian Universalist Medfield.

## PROJECT BREAD WALK FOR HUNGER MAY 2, 2010

**Question:** Who are these men and why are they so happy?

**Answer:** With the support of generous people like you they helped raise \$3,931.00 at the 2009 Project Bread Walk for Hunger!



**Team First Parish Medfield Members: John Kornet and Duncan Glover  
Walk for Hunger - 05/03/2009**

Your support of the Sunday, May 2, 2010 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](http://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



## News From Our Committees

### Bistro du Monde – A Great Success!

The First Parish Charity Auction Bistro du Monde was a great success. Over 85 people participated in a lively evening of music, wine, food and serious bidding on fabulous items and services.

The Trillium Trio ( flute , violin & cello) played for the first hour while the ticket holders sipped wine, sampled hors d'oeuvres, and viewed the tremendous variety of auction offerings. A 10 foot Eifel Tower constructed by Jeanette's RE students illuminated the room. The 109 silent auction items were cleared by 8:45 and Bill Wians ran a fiendishly difficult French history trivia quiz.

The live auction main event was run by Bob Luttmann (Robért) and Cissy Hull-Allen (Babette) to the delight of the crowd.

In all, the Charity Auction raised \$8800 net of expenses. Twenty percent of auction proceeds were promised food pantries, so \$1760 will be split among Medfield, Millis, Medway, Norfolk and Walpole food pantries. The remaining \$7040 will go toward maintaining the historic building and supporting Church programs.

Thanks to all those members and friends who donated items and thanks to the people who helped with the soliciting of items from local merchants. Thanks to Alison Galley for producing the attractive Auction Program, to Marshall Sugarman for running the raffle, to Barb Bunger for running the grab-bag, to Rebecca Stevenson and Gaby Harrison for operating the Bistro Bar and to Joyce Fetterol for the artistic graphic designs.

Finally, thanks especially to the winning bidders and ticket holders for their generous financial support. It was truly a community effort.

Fred Bunger – Auction –ezar”

## News from the Social Action Committee

### What a remarkable day!!

Nine members from First Parish Medfield journeyed into the U.U. Urban Ministry in Roxbury on March 20, a beautifully warm and sunny Saturday. We celebrated a reunion with current and returning mothers and children, the staff and interns from Renewal House, a domestic violence shelter. It was truly an uplifting experience to connect with one another through singing, dancing, creating pantomimes and sharing together the lunch that we provided. Later we joined the children and shared the art that they had created. Some of the adults jumped in too, and displayed their artistic talents. Finally, we distributed the much appreciated gift bags to both parents and children.

It was thrilling, during those 2 short hours, to see barriers of unfamiliarity, gender, race, age, and language (many spoke Spanish) quickly dissipate. We learned to laugh and communicate in simple but elegant ways.

Attendees included: Debbie and Peter Gaines, Pat Clark, Alison Galley, Rev. Bob McKetchnie, Laura Wing, Sarah Bibel, Zoe Luft, and Barbara Bunger.

Thanks to everyone who supported this endeavor. We collected over \$500 from the congregation; and R.E. made the yummy cookies for the dessert. We also received assistance from Shaws Supermarket and CVS Medfield.

Social Action Committee Members: Debbie Gaines, Pat Clark, Barbara Bunger

## News from the Membership Committee

### Please Welcome The Drumm Family



One Sunday this past October, the front door of First Parish opened and in walked a smiling, energetic family with two young girls (their hair pulled back in pony tails),—the Drumms had arrived! They greeted us enthusiastically, Sara noticeable with her Australian accent. According to Sara, they ” immediately” felt comfortable with our faith and community. The Drumms, within a short time, have become an integral part of the life at First parish. Molly (9) and Samantha (7) love coming to church and actively participate in the R.E. program, Mike and Sara attend church regularly, and both helped with the fundraising auction. They are grateful to have found FPUU and the wonderful sense of community that exists here. And they truly value Rev. Bob, his presence, his insight and sermons.

Mike and Sara moved to Medfield from Brookline in 2001, when Molly was 7 months old. Like many folks, they didn’t think about attending church until they agreed it was time for the girls to have some type of spiritual/religious experience. Although Sara had been brought up Jewish in Australia, and Mike a Catholic (from Albany,NY), neither had a strong religious affiliation. Therefore

they thought that Unitarian Universalism might be a good fit for them. Within a short time they decided FPUU would be their religious home. In January they signed the membership book and took the ”Introduction to Unitarian Universalism” Class with Rev. Bob.”

The Drumms are an active family. They love exploring—getting out and doing things, whether it’s going to the beach, skiing, or taking trips. In April they will be going to Australia to visit family.

### Message from Membership

#### What a terrific welcoming congregation we have become!!

On March 7<sup>th</sup>, eleven first time visitors attended our worship service. It was quite a challenge for us on the Membership Committee, to greet so many new people. As we were hustling to keep up, members of the congregation ever so naturally and warmly welcomed the newcomers and helped them feel “right at home”. Afterward, at the coffee hour, several of the visitors commented on how much they enjoyed being at our church and thanked us for being so hospitable. Some even mentioned how much they’d like to return, if they didn’t live so far away!

Thanks to all of you in our wonderful First Parish Family for making the job of the Membership Committee easier and so gratifying.

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

## **Work and Play Week at Ferry Beach**

### **An Affordable Week for the Whole Family**

**June 20 – June 26**

Come to this first conference of the season at Ferry Beach for the deep sense of camaraderie and satisfaction that only shared projects and good times can bring. You and your children, too, can learn carpentry, landscaping, gardening and sewing skills. This is the week not only of doing, but of learning as well. The week begins on Sunday and runs during our staff training week. What better way to break in our summer crew and to help get our buildings and grounds in shape for the summer season!

In exchange for working on Ferry Beach projects each morning, Work and Play Week participants pay for meals ONLY – this is a discount from previous years' low pricing! Work and Play Week is truly our most affordable week!

This summer's projects will be focused on the Grove – we will be upgrading the tent sites, building tent platforms, installing grills, rehabbing the trails, and clearing a lot of downed trees and brush. We will also focus our efforts on landscaping the new staff village behind Rowland and painting the 5 Morris Ave. building (along with other needed painting projects). Of course, our existing landscaping and gardens need tending, our sewing team will have several exciting projects (If you want to be part of the sewing crew, please bring your own sewing machine) and because this takes place during the crew training week, there will be a lot of general cleanup.

New this summer, we will offer an afternoon children's program for those parents who would like extra time with friends, or to take advantage of the new afternoon programs, such as cooking classes and conversations on ethical eating; spiritual growth opportunities through interactive

conversations and teaching by our minister of the week; body work opportunities such as massage and yoga; and new eco-programs. There will also be intergenerational activities both in the afternoon and evening.

All of the Ferry Beach traditions – chapel services (held in the evening during Work and Play Week), friendship circles, hospitality, vesper service, camp fires, and cookout night - are a part of Work and Play Week. So pack up your tools for a week of satisfying projects, a great vacation, and especially the camaraderie that is unique among people who work together.

We will mail you a list of projects before the conference begins. You can decide what tools you might want to pack, and we have lots stored in the tool-shed.

Coordinators: Jude Lamb, Craig Lentz, and Dave Ruitenber

Minister of the Week: Rev. Susan Kingman

Musician of the Week: Nick MacDonald



## **Rowe Camp & Conference Center**

UU Rowe Camp has been in Rowe, MA since 1924, and since 1974, UU Rowe Conference Center has provided a place for adults and families to come for a wide variety of programs that offer relaxation, education, community, and spiritual nurturance.

For further information, please see the new Spring & Summer catalogs in the Sanctuary or go to [www.rowecenter.org](http://www.rowecenter.org).

## From the D.R.E.

From Stewardship to Sand could be the title of my newsletter piece this month, considering the children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger. We just finished a rotation about King Solomon's temple wherein the notions of stewardship, having an "understanding heart," and values were explored via that ancient biblical story. As I stood listening outside the doors of each workshop, or popping in for a visit, I was fascinated by the variety of activity, sharing, and thinking going on.

*Emily Rose*, a high school sophomore, led an Art Workshop on choosing and depicting elements of a town or city that reflected what the participants valued. As you might imagine, this ran the gamut from elegant buildings and roads to video games to houses for various animals and the animals themselves.

The Drama Workshop was the scene of dramatic storytelling by *John Kornet* who created several alternate versions of the temple story by highlighting the choice made by young King Solomon. What if, instead of an understanding heart, he had asked for something else? What might have happened??

And in the Games Workshop, *Joyce Fetteroll* and *Fran Kingsbury* co-led the game of "UU Feud," an adaptation of the TV game, Family Feud. As the name implies, it was competitive, although cooperation was needed from both teams. Joyce and Fran gathered the congregational responses to several questions they had sent out via e-mail ahead of time, and children guessed what the top responses might be. Besides cooperation, this activity involved imagining another's perspective, listening to each other (both interpersonal skills), dealing with feelings around having fewer points than the other team (an intra-personal skill), and math and logic. Understandably, abilities varied across the developmental span; the co-Leaders and Group Guides gave support as needed. Thank you to the three Groups Guides of Rotation III—*Reneé Lloyd, Clayton Springer, and Allison Bryant!*

"Sand" is the story for Rotation IV—a different story from all the others in that it is science-based and does not have the usual plot with characters. It



connects to our 7<sup>th</sup> Unitarian Universalist Principle, "Respect of the inter-dependent web of all existence of which we are a part" and launches an exploration of a common geological part of our existence. Rotation IV is intersected by the April school vacation so the schedule is a bit different than usual (note elsewhere in this newsletter). Fittingly, Earth Day will be celebrated during this period with a multi-generational worship service on April 25.

But wait, there's more to Children and Youth RE—middle school and early high school. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about various world religions by doing short presentations to their peers and going on field trips and/or using audio-visual media. Thank you to all parents who have supported this group's activities, and to *Nancy Kingsbury*, our congregational guest discussant for Christianity.

The Coming of Age group of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders is, well, coming along. They meet almost every Sunday later afternoon, so the rest of us Sunday morning people do not get to have much interaction with them. COA individuals have quietly joined us for occasional worship services and coffee hours and even a committee meeting. The Coming of Age Worship Service is planned for May 23; mark your calendars. Participants are: Cody Ballard-Ballentyne, Jay Bibel, Bree Cusanno, Sam Flaherty, Amelia Steeger, and Jeremy Stephenson.

Finally, there are some high school juniors and seniors who have been in our midst, helping out in various ways, various times, at First Parish: Coleman Toomey, James Sugarman, Michaela Luttmann, David Chatterton, and Sarah Bibel. Thank you!!

Hoping you all experience a joyous celebration of spring,

*Jeanette Ruyle, Director of Religious Education*

## 2010 First Parish Calendar and Events outside of Sunday morning

### April

- 3 Coffee House
- 4 *Easter Worship Service* – inter-generational
- 25 *Earth Day worship service* – 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### May

- 1 Coffee House
- 2 Walk for Hunger/ Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger
- 9 *Poetry and Prose Sunday worship*
- 22 Habitat for Humanity Workday, Medway
- 23 *Coming of Age Worship Service* – inter-generational

### June

- 13 *Bridging Service & last service* – inter-generational

#### **Updated Children's Religious Education dates:**

- April 11 -- Children's Worship Service and the beginning of Rotation IV workshops, Session #1
- April 18 -- An all-age RE activity in the vestry after the Moment for All Ages, related to the rotation story and theme
- April 25 -- Multi-generational Earth Day Worship Service
- May 2 -- Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger after the Moment for All Ages (this is a walk to nearby Metacomet Park)
- May 9 -- RE Workshops, Session #2 after the Moment for All Ages

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

April 4<sup>th</sup> –Morning Has Broken”

Today we celebrate our Intergenerational Easter Service where we will consider the question – “What is our response to the promise of Easter?”

April 11<sup>th</sup> –Haiti – Will Justice Emerge?”

Thousands of well-meaning people are going to Haiti as volunteers and are serving in the critical role of helping Haitian’s recover. Today’s sermon will take a deeper look at what we can do to ensure that justice accompanies our charity.

April 18<sup>th</sup> –Margaret Fuller at 200: An Inspiration for Her Time and Ours” Fritz Fleischmann

After Fuller died in a shipwreck off Fire Island, Ralph Waldo Emerson noted in his journal, "I have lost in her my audience." His sense of loss was felt by many: Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) was the leading feminist thinker of the emerging women's movement, a path-breaking social critic and journalist, translator, editor, foreign correspondent, and historian of the Italian Revolution of 1848. She charmed, inspired, and outraged her contemporaries -- one of them categorized humanity into "men, women, and Margaret Fuller" --, and she continues to inspire new generations of women and men today.

Today’s sermon is part of the year-long, nation-wide celebration of the 200th anniversary of Fuller's birth; since Fuller was a Boston Unitarian, many of these events take place in our area. Celebrations include a conference at the Massachusetts Historical Society (April 7-9); the keynote on Thursday, April 7 at 6 p.m. is free and open to the public. For further information, see <http://www.masshist.org/events/conferences.cfm>.

First Parish member Fritz Fleischmann teaches English at Babson College and has spent many happy years in the company of this extraordinary woman.

April 25<sup>th</sup> –40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Earth Day Celebration” Jeanette Ruyle

Earth Day was founded by Wisconsin Senator, Gaylord Nelson back in 1970. His intention was to enter the subject of the environment into the national debate. He was quite successful as today’s service will commemorate and celebrate Earth Day’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This service will be intergenerational.

May 2<sup>nd</sup> –Letting the Tears Flow”

It often happens that people weep –for no reason” and they apologize to others for it. Sometimes a hymn, a poem, a thought, or something we can’t explain moves us to tears. This sermon will address that phenomena and encourage that you invite such moments into your lives.