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September 2010 Newsletter

Upcoming Events:

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| September 12 th | Intergenerational Service and Water Communion |
| September 19 th | Religious Education Begins |
| September 25 th | Medfield Day |
| September 29 th | Facilitated Bible Reading |

From the Minister

“Standing On the Side of Love”

Dear Friends:

In my backyard is a small fenced in area where my sons, when they were toddlers, were imprisoned when they played so that they wouldn't wander off into the woods nearby. This small area of my yard is a sanctuary of sorts. It is where I plant a few vegetables some years, some years flowers, and it is where my bird feeders reside.

As I was mowing the grass in this small area I tapped against the pole from which my bird feeders hang and when I did the squirrel baffle shook ever so gently. Suddenly, there were dozens of bees swarming around the baffle with a deliberate and determined rush of activity. Apparently I had disturbed the bees that had gathered inside the baffle for the summer.

As I have been thinking about the church a lot over these past few weeks I saw some similarity between the beehive and our church. They are both a focal point of a community and are both the recipients of a “deliberate and determined rush of activity.”



This summer there has been a lot going on at FPUU. In July we took delivery of a beautiful new organ that was generously donated by Buck Buchanan in memory of Kay who loved singing in

our choir for many years. The high quality of this instrument was demonstrated when Eva Kendrick masterfully played it at the August 14th wedding of Esther Kingsbury to Eric Stewart. This wedding was historically relevant as Esther is a direct descendant of one of the founding families of First Parish. It was a beautiful wedding on a magnificent day and it was wonderful to see a congregation gathered mid-August at the church.

David Maxson and Renee Lloyd have been continuing to work out the details involved with our wireless project which has consumed many hours of their time. David Stephenson has been repairing our steps and preparing the church and U-House for our opening service.

On September 12th we will gather as many have gathered at this spot for 358 years. This year we will hang a banner that reads: “Standing on the Side of Love”. The standing on the side of love campaign's mission is to harness the power of love to stop oppression, exclusion, and violence based on people's identity.

Rested from our summer we are ready 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.

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 19th, our Religious Education groups will begin.

I look forward to seeing each of you again where we share common ideals and “stand together on the side of love.”

In faith,
Bob McKetchnie

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

**Please welcome Sandra Andreassi and
Shelley Dennis, M.D.**



Our new administrator, Sandra Andreassi is from Walpole and began working at FPUU on Tuesday September 7th. Her regular hours will be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Our new DRE, Shelley Dennis, M.D. graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. Shelley is enrolled in Andover-Newton Theological School where she begins her seminary education this week. Shelley is a member of the Flagstaff AZ UU church where she has been involved with religious education for many years. She begins her work at FPUU on Wednesday September 8th.

My thanks to the hardworking DRE Search Committee made up of Kirsten D'Abate, Chair, Jen Bartle, Joyce Fetteroll, John Kornet, and Laura Wing. My thanks also to Glen D'Abate and Bob Luttmann for their assistance in hiring our new administrator.

The Organ at First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Medfield, Massachusetts

Who among us knew much if anything about the great organ which has lived in our Sanctuary for the past 98 years? Most of us have heard it being played, although over the years the quality and quantity of sounds coming from the organ have diminished. In addition, although meaning no

disrespect for our Music Director, Eva Kendrick, First Parish has not had a professional organ player for many years. As a result, we have not heard the full range and capacity of the organ.

But the organ as we knew it is no more. After a number of years of declining health, the Executive Board voted to allow it to be removed, and replaced with a modern all-electronic organ generously donated by Buck Buchannan and family.

David Temple was able to find a new home for our former organ, and it is presently being carefully taken apart and will be lovingly restored by Mr David Szacik of Belmont, New Hampshire.

The organ was built by the Esty Organ Company of Brattleboro, Vermont in 1911. It is known as an 'Opus' organ, and is number 847 of that line. Esty was a well-known maker of fine organs which was in business from the late 1800's until it closed its doors in the 1950's. In its day, it was considered one of the largest manufacturing facilities in the world.

Our congregational records indicate that the organ was purchased in 1912 for the sum of \$2,400. How much would that amount be in today's world? Depending on what source you use for calculations, that original price would be about \$56,000 today – not a huge amount, but certainly a significant sum of money. The notation about the purchase also included the sum of \$71.12 for 'removing and packing the old organ.' Unfortunately, the records do not give any further information about the purchase.

We don't have any records or documentation about the 'old organ.' However, there is an item in the 'Minutes' of the 69th annual meeting of the General Association of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts of 1871 which has the following item:

The church at Medfield reports the Sunday School larger and more interesting than formerly; an increase of religious interest; a new chapel built, and the meeting-house

repaired and refurbished, and supplied with a new organ.

So we have evidence that the church had a ‘new organ’ in 1871.

Mr. Szacik has indicated that the Opus 847 is (or was) a very fine organ, although he did indicate that there were some major components which were missing.

Thank You

Dear First Parish Medfield,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me to your staff as Administrator during the 2009/2010 year. I feel very fortunate to have met and worked with you. I joined your staff at a time when I needed not only new employment but also a fresh, positive experience. I found that and much more at FPUU.

As life continually engages us in “new adventures”, it is with many mixed emotions that I decided in August to resign from my position as your administrator. I now find that I need to dedicate more time to my children, thus limiting my ability to work consistently at the UHouse.

Thank you for the help, patience and friendship you have given me during this past year. As many new and exciting things are happening at First Parish, I wish the best for all of you.

Sincerely,

Linda Rondeau



Executive Board Notes:

WELCOME BACK!

We hope everyone had a restful, rejuvenating and spiritual summer. There are many things happening in the upcoming year. The Executive Board met in June and August to wrap-up the 2009/2010 Church year and start planning for the 2010/2011 year.

Here are some things going on:

The RE Director Search Committee has been interviewing candidates to fill the Religious Education Director position. Jeanette Ruyle has already started her position as DRE at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton (UUSGU). We wish Jeanette well on this advancement to her career.

The Administrator position opened up as Linda Rondeau will be leaving FPUU early in September. Reverend Bob advertised for the Administrator position and interviewed a number of candidates.

Wireless antenna planning work continues, thanks to all the efforts of David Maxson. In August, the Zoning Board of Appeal approved the FPUU application to replace the current spire with a taller one to a height of 120 feet. The structural study needed for replacing the short spire with a taller spire is underway. Metro-PCS is considering how to fit equipment in the vestry boiler room area. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Attorney General approved the new Medfield wireless antenna by-law, so the way is clear for T-Mobile to proceed with their plans to use First Parish space for their wireless antenna and equipment.

Medfield Day is Saturday September 25 from 9 AM to 3 PM. We hope take advantage of this year’s theme of “MEMORies” by highlighting First Parish history. Of course we will have children’s activities, a fabulous Bake Sale and Clock Tower and belfry tours. Volunteers are welcomed and loved!

We are preparing a Church Calendar to show all Church activities for the year. It will be maintained

live on the website. We will publish current and following months in the Newsletter and also post them in the vestry. Calendar entries are made through the Administrator.

Church Finances are tight, as usual. The 2009/2010 Budget showed a loss of \$14,000, but with deferred maintenance, reduced Administration costs, successful fundraising and a slight increase in pledges, we ended up with a surplus of \$5,000. For the coming year the budget is balanced as we have assumed income from the wireless antenna contracts will begin in January. The Board will be working on the most effective way to allocate this new source of income and present a plan to the Congregation in December.

Message From Membership

We are looking forward to seeing you and welcoming you back to First Parish on September 12th. After what has been a beautiful summer in New England, we hope you have taken time to relax, reflect, and spend time with friends and family.

The Membership Committee is currently making plans for the upcoming year.

- We will have a presence at Medfield Day and are deciding how that will unfold.
- We will again have our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning, October 24th to support Medway House. We co-sponsor the breakfast with the Social action Committee.
- We have set up an online photo album for FPUU through Shutterfly. You can access the album at the following website:

<http://firstparishmedfield.shutterfly.com>

This is a great place to post that summer family photo! If you have any questions, please contact Sara Drumm bongo_8@msn.com.

See you soon!

The Membership Committee, Barbara Bunger, Sara

Drumm, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph, Jim Stetson.

UUMAN Benefit Concert, September 24th

Come one, come all to the UUMAN Benefit Concert featuring Matt Meyer, Fred Small, Justine Sullivan, Jim Scott and Dean Arvidson. This night of amazing folk and world music will be on Friday, September 24, at 8 p.m. at First Parish in Framingham (UU), live from the folks who brought you gay marriage! Help UUMAN mobilize more UUs for a more just, equitable and compassionate Commonwealth. Advance tickets are \$15 adults, \$5 children, at www.uumassaction.org, or \$20/\$10 at the door. For directions, go to www.firstparishframingham.org and click on Directions in the menu on the left.

Let's Laugh Today Anniversary, September 27th

Let's all celebrate the one-year anniversary of *Let's Laugh Today* on Monday, September 27th at 7:15pm to 8:30pm at the First Universalist Society in Franklin; 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin. Join us in this unique, uplifting experience of a group session of guided interactive laughter and relaxation. Any level of physical ability can do this! We begin with a fake laugh that always turns into a real one! There will be an anniversary cake and a gift for everyone! There is a \$5 donation per person and \$10 maximum per family. Since laughing is dehydrating, please bring your water bottle. Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Leaders. More information and other laughter opportunities are at www.letslaughtoday.com or call 508-660-2223.



Seeking Community Service Volunteers

Norwood Hospital is seeking mature, compassionate volunteers for several patient oriented programs. Volunteers in the *Here to C.A.R.E. (Caring for And Reaching out to Elders)* Program assist older patients in maintaining spiritual well-being, avoid confusion, and have a better stay in the hospital. Volunteers visit with patients, provide companionship and assistance at mealtimes, and therapeutic activities to keep the mind and body sharp. Training is provided and a commitment of two to four hours per week for a minimum of six months is requested.

Do you like to sew and volunteer from home? We are looking for volunteers interested in sewing reusable tote bags and teddy bears for patients from recycled hospital 'blue wrap'. Help us keep the environment green and provide comfort items for patients at the same time. Patterns and materials are provided.

For more information, please call the Volunteer Office at (781-278-6322).

Columbus Day Weekend on Martha's Vineyard



The Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard invites you to join us over the Columbus Day Weekend, October 9-10-11, for a weekend of Island activities and warm UU fellowship. Fall really is the best season of all on the Island. Just ask any year-rounder. The crowds are gone, that air is crisp, the water still plenty warm for a swim. There's no better time to hike and bike our unspoiled trails and back roads. Or to stroll our

grand beaches, tour our 5 lighthouses, discover classic New England coastal towns. Maybe even catch that big striper or bluefish. So come on over. We'll put you up with host UU families, treat you to a seafood supper and entertainment, offer an Island tour and welcome you to Sunday service at historic Stevens Chapel. For complete information, see our website at www.uusmv.info (see B&B Weekend link), email us at jhkobran@yahoo.com or give us a call at (508)693-7083.

From the D.R.E.

Note from Jeanette

Dear Folks at First Parish,

Toward the end of last church year I let you all know that I was resigning from my position as Director of religious Education and looking for a position in another UU congregation. I told you I felt it was time for me to gain some more experience and face varied professional challenges by moving on. Unexpectedly, I found this new position relatively quickly. On August 23 I started working with the Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton as their Lifespan Director of Religious Education. I am happily excited about the change and also sad to be leaving all you good people.

As I have said before, I am still a member of your congregation and will be continuing my support in other ways. Other members of my family will still be coming on Sunday mornings and other times. The Bibel/Ruyle family still lives in Medfield; you will still see me walking our dog around town. I made a commitment to help out with Medfield Day this year (Sept. 25), so you will see me there. Otherwise, I am going to be busy working with more of your fellow Unitarian Universalists about 45 minutes away in Grafton, MA.

First Parish—you, the congregation of children, youth, and adults—each of you will be held close in my heart. My time as your DRE has truly been a most transformative time in my life. I treasure it and am deeply appreciative. Thank you for being you.

Peace,

Jeanette Ruyle



While You Were Away.... A Recap of the Search for a New DRE

Your Search Committee for our next Director of Religious Education has been hard at work. On June 1st the DRE Search Committee chaired by Kirsten D'Abate and made up of members Laura Wing, John Kornet, Joyce Fetteroll, Jen Bartle, and Bob McKetchnie met for the first time and began following the UUA guidelines for forming a search committee and for bringing the best possible candidate to First Parish. In addition, Deborah Levering of the newly combined Clara Barton/Mass Bay District office was assigned to us to answer our questions and direct us to the materials we would need to begin. She has been very responsive and we appreciate her counsel.

As you would expect, the committee has been involved in activities that include: Familiarizing ourselves with the UUA's guidelines for best practices for DRE Search Committees, writing a job description and an advertisement for job posting, posting same on the websites of the neighboring UUA districts and divinity schools, sharpening our skills for conducting interviews, screening and interviewing applicants, checking references, and many other details involved with finding a professional church leader.

Our efforts paid off as we got closer and closer to offering a position to one of our candidates. This is not something we could rush for the sake of making this newsletter deadline or for that matter the deadline for the new church year start. This is a serious decision we are making as we engage in a professional relationship with a person properly vetted and best suited to the families of First Parish.

Guided by Deb Levering, the entire congregation will be asked to participate in a visioning process later this year, several months after a new DRE has been hired. This visioning will help to unify and

articulate FPUU's mutual goals for the RE program, and it will enable the new DRE to focus on whatever we as a congregation most value. The search Committee sees it as the last very important step in the process of finding and installing a new DRE for the congregation.

We appreciate your patience and we hope you will join us in welcoming our new DRE, Shelley Dennis, M.D.

Thanks,
Kirsten D'Abate, DRE Search Committee Chair and
Rev. Bob
On behalf of the entire committee

Religious Education schedule for this fall

The RE committee has been busy over the summer, and we have great stories and workshops planned for this fall. **September 19th is the official kick-off for the children's WoRM (workshop rotation model) RE program, and we are hoping for 100% participation on September 19th.** We find that when the kids all begin together on that first day of orientation with their guides, they bond as a group, and it is easier for children and guides alike to forge yearlong friendships with one another. The fall theme is the ancient roots of religious freedom, and the story of King John Sigismund from Transylvania will be explored. The September plan for 2nd to 7th graders is as follows:

September 12th - Intergenerational service, including a 'water communion.' No RE program this first Sunday. (Remember to bring a small vial of water that has special meaning to you)

September 19th - After beginning in the sanctuary, kids are dismissed down to the Vestry for all ages group activities. We'll also confirm that all RE registration forms have been submitted, and make our own name tags. Attendance by all participating children is strongly encouraged.

September 26th - Children go directly to Vestry for children's worship, Hear the dramatic telling of the King John Sigismund story, and then head to their first workshop rotations in the U house.

Our youngest children from preschool to 1st grade are cared for every Sunday in the 'little lights' program in the vestry, starting with the first intergenerational service on Sunday, September 12th.

Last, Jeanette has now officially retired as our DRE, but the following people are available to help you with any questions or concerns this fall: Contact Kirsten D'Abate with questions about little lights or 2nd to 7th grade RE, at kk@dab8.net Contact Cissy Hull Allen with any questions about the OWL program for grades 8-9 mecha60@comcast.net Contact Chris Flaherty for questions on 10th -12th grade OWL at deniseflaherty@comcast.net

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

September 25: Medfield Day on the church green from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

September 29: The Facilitated Bible Reading begins again. We will meet from 7-9 p.m. at the U-house. This year's readings begin with 1&2 Chronicles. Please see Bob McKetchnie if have never come before so he can answer your questions. Hope to see you there!

Services (All Services Begin at 10:00AM)