



*First Parish Unitarian
Universalist Medfield*
26 North Street, Medfield, MA 02052
(508)359-4594
www.firstparishmedfield.org

Newsletter

October 2011

Ministerial MUUsings...

The doorbell rang on Saturday. The dog barked. The door opened and there were two nicely dressed women at the door with Bibles in their hands. I knew what I was in for. They warmly said hello and I would have invited them in, but our 130-pound dog would have been too friendly a host. So there we stood on the landing and for fifteen minutes we talked about religion.

I like talking about religion. Shouldn't be a surprise, but I always have. So in such a situation when I am asked about my religious beliefs I readily engage in conversation. I once invited two Mormon missionaries into my living room and we talked for an hour.

In such a conversation I am always respectful. I tell people that I don't care what their religion is as long as it makes them live a righteous life. But when I tell people I am a Unitarian Universalist minister, the conversation turns and gives me an opportunity to teach and talk about the gospel of Unitarian Universalism. By the end of the conversation, we parted pleasantly with a "God be with you."

As we approach Association Sunday, I ask you to think about how you would explain to someone what it means to you to be a Unitarian Universalist.

Peace,

Rich

Rev. Richard M. Stower's office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm and by appointment.

Religious Education

INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY

Years ago I had a co-worker from India, Jyothi. At a work retreat she shared the story of her birth—she'd been born in rural India, on a banana leaf under the moonlight. This was such a romantic picture that I easily overlooked the fear her mother must have felt giving birth in a completely remote area with no one to look after her or her baby.

The reality of childbirth for mothers in developing countries is not romantic at all; their needs are underserved and mortality rates are higher as a result. For example, the maternal death rate in Haiti is 65 times the rate in the US! A friend of mine, Jocelyn Brown, is just finishing her training as a midwife and will be volunteering as a midwife for MamaBaby Haiti, a position that she must fund herself to the tune of at least \$150/week.

Since the IF Justice group has considered Haiti a possible destination for a service mission trip, I thought we could direct the children's RE fundraising efforts to paying for at least one week of Jocelyn's stay with MamaBaby Haiti. That way we are ~~Children & Youth~~ ~~congregation to learn more about Haiti and developing relationships with organizations there as well. Who knows? Maybe someday someone in our congregation Oct~~ ~~October 16th Oct~~ will meet one of the babies born during the week we sponsor.

Our fundraiser will be facilitated by the women from Hearts for Hope, a non-profit organization that assists school and church groups with fundraising, who will join us for Children's RE on October 16th. They will guide us in making beaded sun catchers with Swarovski crystal hearts that we will sell during coffee hour, so be sure to bring some money to buy these beautiful sun catchers made by our very own children and youth!

For more information on these organizations please check these links:

<http://www.mamababyhaiti.org/> and <http://www.hearts4hope.org/Index.html>

HERE IS OUR SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER:

October 2nd, 2011: *Faithful Journeys:* Children will select either a game or an arts and crafts activity that explores the theme of life as a journey, and how our principles influence the type of journey we take.

Neighboring Faiths: Service Sunday—participants will either remain in service with their parents or serve the church in a volunteer capacity.

October 9th, 2011: *Faithful Journeys:* Children will engage in a lively retelling of stories from the childhood of beloved Universalist minister Hosea Ballou, learning about how he developed his theology of God as unconditional love.

Neighboring Faiths: Service Sunday—participants will gather for Neighboring Faiths, topic to be arranged.

Coming of Age: Parents' Meeting 7pm in the Vestry

October 16th 2011: *Faithful Journeys & Neighboring Faiths:*

1st-8th grade are invited to participate in a fall fundraiser, as described above.

October 23, 2011: *Faithful Journeys:* The children will contemplate what makes a person "worthy" as they learn story of Christopher Reeves in our rendition of "Welcoming Superman" from the Tapestry of Faith curricula.

Neighboring Faiths: Service Sunday—participants will gather for Neighboring Faiths, topic to be arranged.

October 30, 2011: Dia de Los Muertos Celebration for children in 1st-6th grade

Neighboring Faiths: Service Sunday—participants will either remain in service with their parents or serve the church in a volunteer capacity.

WHAT'S THE STORY?

THIS MONTH'S THEME: WHAT ARE PRINCIPLES?

Ours is a creedless faith, a source of both joy and consternation. We are so diverse we are often hard pressed to answer the question "What do UU's believe?" Nonetheless, we *do* have the Seven Principles, with which most of us agree. This month we will be embarking on an exploration of the various ways of enacting our First Principle—the promotion of the worth and dignity of each person.

BRINGING IT HOME:

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

It is easy enough to say that each person has dignity and worth, but this can be challenging to enact as we go through our busy days. Furthermore, it's quite possible that each of us has different twists or spins on this principle and that each of us feels moved to different actions in response to it. During a family dinner, or at bedtime, take a few minutes to reflect with your child on the following questions: What did I do today to show that I respect each person's worth and dignity? What's one thing I can do tomorrow to build on that? How did other people show me that I am worthy? When people behave in ways that make me, or someone else in the room, feel small, how can I stand up for myself? These questions are just some of the questions that may arise, and there are no right answers. The goal is to get you thinking, and get you talking, alongside your children.

FAMILY TRADITIONS:

CREATING A UU HOME

Pay extra attention to times when your child shows respect for other people through acts of kindness and consideration. Point out instances of your

child acting faithfully, that is, in a way that reflects the Principle of inherent worth and dignity. Also, notice when you demonstrate this behavior yourself and let your children know that you are not merely "being polite" by holding open a door, saying hello to a neighbor, or donating to charity, but you are acting on your deeply held conviction that all people have worth and dignity.

As always, I am very open to suggestions and comments. If you have ideas or questions to share, please contact me at dre@firstparishmedfield.org to share them!

SPECIAL ADULT RE OPPORTUNITIES:

I am willing to facilitate a bi-weekly or monthly group study of world religions with a group of 6-12 adults provided you are all willing to agree to facilitate at least 2 Sundays of *Neighboring Faiths* for our middle schoolers. You will also have the opportunity to participate in all of the field trips to various religious sites throughout the Boston area. Please contact Shelley at dre@firstparishmedfield.org to express your interest in participating.

Your children may be the best spiritual teachers you will ever have, but in order for you to learn all you can from this experience you have to cultivate the right mindset. If at least 6 parents are interested in a Covenant Group focusing on spiritual parenting I will be happy to facilitate the group or prepare materials and supervision so that you can facilitate your own group. Please contact Shelley @ dre@firstparishmedfield.org to express your interest.

Yours in faith,

Shelley

Executive Board Notes

- Wireless Update: On September 18, the Congregation voted to proceed with the installation of a new spire. A \$50,000 gift plus the \$25,000 from T-Mobile leaves only \$35,000 to be financed by FPUU. David Maxson provided a thorough financial analysis of the project.
- The Medfield Zoning Board of Appeals is considering T-Mobile's application for permission to install an antenna in the FPUU spire. Engineering will begin when a completed contract is signed with T-Mobile.
- Planning Retreat: A retreat for FPUU Executive Board, Committee Chairs and interested Church members is being planned for Saturday October 29 9:30 to 3 PM. The purpose of the retreat is to begin the transition process that the Church will be experiencing over the next two years. Rev. Stower will be facilitating the day. Members of the Executive Board, committee chairs or their representatives are asked to attend. Any other member of First Parish who is interested in participating is asked to talk with Rev. Stower.
- Treasurer's Advisory Board: Glen D'Abate, Peter Gaines Steve Rose, and Michael Taylor have agreed to serve on a Treasurer's Advisory Board to:
 1. To make arrangements for, and schedule audits of the Church financial reports.
 2. To provide advice on the handling of the Church endowment funds
 3. To provide advice and help to the Treasurer as needed.

- Farmers' Market: The Market continues to attract a good crowd on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 6:30 and will run through Oct. 27 FPUU will be applying to the Planning Board to extend the Farmers' Market through the winter months.
- Medfield Day: FPUU had a fun and successful Medfield Day.

The Historic Clock Tower tour attracted 43 intrepid climbers who donated \$47.



The Bake Sale headed up by Jen Bartle, Queen of Cakes, made \$ 556.



The children's pumpkin painting sold out 150 pumpkins and brought in \$150.



A Farmers' Market table was set up to provide Market information and sell tomatoes and potatoes. Vegetable sales netted \$70.



Hearty thanks to all of the volunteers who made Medfield Day successful.



Notes from the Church Office:

Please remember the following deadlines: **Church Newsletter:** Third Sunday of the month. **Order of Service:** Wednesdays by 5:00 pm. If you miss this deadline but have an announcement to be made at the church service, please submit a typed announcement to the service manager for that given Sunday and send a copy to the office.

Church Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Telephone: 508-359-4594

Sandra Andreassi, Administrator.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Among Ourselves

Congratulations to Buck and Jacqui Buchanan on their marriage. Rev. Stower presided over the wedding on September 16th.

Our condolences go to Alison Galley and her family upon the death of her father Charles H. Pretti.

MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

October is in the air. October brings a sense of calm after the madcap rush of September. Daily routines have found their own special rhythm and, the vibrant fall colors are a reminder of nature's ongoing constancy and change. Could it be that October is one of our very best months!

In the few short weeks of September, a lot has been accomplished at First Parish.

- FPUU gave a heart warming welcome to our new interim minister, Rev. Stower on In-Gathering Sunday. It was a moving and

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com and Equal Exchange

There are many ways to support First Parish - becoming a member is one, volunteering is another.

But you can also help by buying things through Amazon.com or by getting your coffees, teas, and chocolates through Equal Exchange.

Getting the things that you would ordinarily order anyway, but using the links available on our website will let you do your part in supporting the work of this congregation, helping our social action agenda, and preserving our historic Meeting House.

Go to our website www.firstparishmedfield.org. and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!

inspirational worship service for all who attended.

- We had a very successful presence at Medfield Day with the Bake Sale, Clock Tower Tours, Pumpkin Decorating, and a mini Farmers' Market.
- Children's R.E. kicked off the year by enrolling 6 new children in its program.

The Membership Committee cannot take credit for the above achievements, but wants to highlight and applaud the success of the various people involved.

In so doing, we would like to build on these successes by calling on the congregation to spread the word to your friends and neighbors about what a good thing we've got going here at

**First Parish. Invite them to join us, try us out!
You might be surprised that they like what they find.**

Within the next week or two, Membership, will be sending out welcome post cards to new home purchasers in the five-town area inviting them to attend First Parish. This is an initiative suggested by Rev. Stower. Wish us luck. We hope it will bear some fruit.

**SAVE THE DATE: 4TH ANNUAL PANCAKE
BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY
MORNING THE 30TH OF OCTOBER. Details to follow.**

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



The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church for the month of October:

Cereal, Juice, Tuna in water, Jelly, Canned vegetables, Canned fruits, Cookies, Crackers and Canned pasta.

Thanks for your efforts. The Food Cupboard tries to be specific so that people know what they really need, but as always, any donations are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the basket in the narthex.

Special thanks to Sam Flaherty who will be delivering all the donations from the FPUU to the Food Cupboard.

Metrowest Pet Pantry



"Two and a half years ago, I lost my job and became desperate, yet too ashamed to ask for help. Before I eventually went on food stamps (which do not cover pet food), the dogs, cat and I were eating cooked plain spaghetti twice a day for quite some time. I didn't know a place like yours existed. Well, I finally found work, am off food stamps and we are all eating much better. Now that I know what it's like, I will help whenever I can." –A grateful pet owner, now a Metrowest Pet Pantry volunteer

My name is Brianna Cusanno (daughter of Frank and Nancy); I am a lifelong Medfield resident, longtime member of FPUU, and a Girl Scout. When I decided to earn my Girl Scout Gold Award I knew I wanted to do something that would help both families and animals in need. I knew that especially because of the recession, many families are dealing with economic struggle. I realized that people facing financial difficulties might need to choose between feeding themselves or feeding a beloved pet. They might even have to give up a pet to a shelter. For families already suffering under the burden of financial trouble, giving up a pet that can provide so much comfort might be a crippling blow. Furthermore, as I began researching for my project I found out that the Humane Society estimates that between three and four million cats and dogs are euthanized each year. After learning about the effects of the recession as well as investigating how the economic climate has affected animal care, I became determined to help.

And then I learned about the Metrowest Pet Pantry and its founder, Shelley Goes. Metrowest Pet Pantry's mission is to "keep pets together with their families" by providing food and supplies for families in need. Ms. Goes decided to open a pet food pantry because she'd "been volunteering for animal rescue for over 10 years.

Over those years, I realized just how many people/families have to give up their beloved pet(s) because they can't afford to care for them. [I] thought [that] even if I could help a few people, it'd be worth it." After nearly five years of considering opening her own pet food pantry, Shelley took action in April 2010. Metrowest Pet Pantry Ms. Goes says she now receives inquiries about the pet pantry almost every day.

My goal and Shelley's goals can't be realized however, until Metrowest has a strong volunteer base to help with fundraising and donations. My role is to create awareness about Metrowest Pet Pantry, set up a system of donation bins, and most importantly to provide the pet pantry with a strong volunteer base. At the end of July I put up my first donation bin, which is located at Shaws in Medfield. So far the response to my project has been overwhelming. Every week the bin has been filled with donations, and one young girl and her father volunteered to build and decorated the gorgeous donation bin that has replaced my original Rubbermaid box. I plan to have two to three more boxes set up before the end of August.

I have now also set up bins at the Center for the Medfield Council on Aging, and at the Medway Starmarket. **I am pleased to announce that a fourth bin has been established at First Parish. The pantry accepts all donations of pet food and supplies (including used or unused pet beds or leashes, as well as new and opened bags of pet food). Metrowest especially needs cat food and kitty litter.** The pet pantry greatly appreciates whatever you can donate, whether this been in the form of material food in supplies or in the donation of your time as a volunteer.

The quote at the beginning of this article came in an email I received after the Shaws collection bin had been in place for only one week. This project is really helping people, to learn more visit www.metrowestpetpantry.org or e-mail me at breecusanno@yahoo.com. I appreciate all of the support Medfield and FPUU has given me so far, and know I can continue to expect donations and volunteers from this generous community.

Call to Choir from our Music Director

Dear FPUU members,

I wanted to extend my annual Call to Choir to all of you! I have the schedule laid out through the end of the year so you can plan ahead. I am planning to have choir anthems performed on the Thanksgiving Service (November 20), the Solstice Service (December 4) and for Christmas Eve (December 24). I have put together a list of dates I would like to hold choir rehearsals for the fall. Rehearsals will be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the Sanctuary unless otherwise noted. The material for the year will include pieces written by other UU composers such as Cliff Hardin, Elizabeth Alexander and one of my own students, as well as some reprises of popular songs from the past, such as Chris Eastburn's rousing arrangement of "For the Beauty of the Earth."

Last year we had the greatest consistent choir attendance since I began as Music Director in 2006, and I am hoping to keep the momentum going.

Choir schedule for 2011

10/23 Thanksgiving/Xmas
11/06 Thanksgiving/Xmas
11/13 Thanksgiving
11/20 Thanksgiving (THANKSGIVING SERVICE)
12/4 Solstice
12/11 Solstice/Xmas
12/18 Solstice/Xmas (SOLSTICE SERVICE)
12/21 Solstice/Xmas
12/24 XMAS EVE SERVICE

Director of Music,

Eva Kendrick



There are three choral hymns, written by Eva and sung by the choir of First Parish Medfield. Did you know that you can listen to them by visiting our website? Just go to firstparishmedfield.org. and click on the "Music at First Parish" tab on the left of the screen.



They are called:

"Awake, Arise"

"Sharing Carol"

"When Christ Came In"

News from UU Mass Action

Holly Near: a fundraising concert to abolish hunger

Friday October 14, 2011

Concert at 8 p.m.

Pre-Concert Talk by Holly Near 7:15**

Holly Near is a powerful and consistent voice for the abolition of fear, hatred, injustice and war. Can you think of a better way to work to end hunger than enjoying a concert with Holly Near.

For nearly 40 years she has been "singing for our lives". Not only has she continued to develop her vocal instrument, she has become a teacher for peace in the most complex sense of the word. She does not settle for simplistic we-can-all-get-along songs but digs deep down to find the difficult and spectacular path to change. Working first as a film actor, Near's voice took her to the concert stage. However, it was her heart and her curiosity that drew her into social change activism.

Holly Near tells and sings her story. It is the story of an artist studying her craft, making her way through Hollywood and the bright lights of Broadway, embracing unusual opportunities, traveling from Viet Nam to Botswana and becoming one of the most experienced social change activists/artists of our time. Social change movements were the "university" where Holly Near studied issues of race, gender, class, and culture. She brings vibrancy to historic and current events with great charm and humor.

Joining Holly Near for this special concert will be John Bucchino and special guest Linda Tillery.

Friday Oct. 14

Pre-concert talk by Holly at 7:15 p.m.

Concert 8 p.m.

Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson

80 Main Str.

Hudson, MA

Tickets go on sale Sept 7.

Pre-Concert Talk and Concert: \$35 (only 100).

Advance Purchase, Concert Only: \$25 general seating.

At door, Concert only \$30(if available)



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

October 2

"Association Sunday: For the Future"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

In this service, we acknowledge and affirm our part in the larger Unitarian Universalist liberal religious community. In this, the Unitarian Universalist Association's 50th anniversary, we look at the past but more importantly we think of our denomination's future. A second collection will be taken to support scholarships, continuing education, and a comprehensive assessment of our ministries and their needs for the future. Grants from Association Sunday 2011 funds will also help religious professionals get ongoing training to support thriving congregations.

October 9

"In the beginning..."

Jennifer Coleman

A reflection on cosmology, creativity and creation of a meaningful life, based on artwork exploring this theme. Jennifer Coleman is a student at the Boston University School of Theology, studying for the UU ministry.

October 16

"Speak, Memory"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

We are coming to the time of year when preparations are being made for Thanksgiving and Christmas family gatherings. As with all such family events, it is a time when we reflect on the changes in our lives and those close to us. In this sermon we look at memory, memories, and ask a question: if there was one memory, and only one you could keep, what would it be?

October 23

"The Stillness in Movement"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

In the not so distant past, Far Eastern culture was described as "inscrutable." Inscrutable to western thought, at least. This may have come about because of the teachings of Lao-tzu, the purported author of the *Tao Te Ching*. Many passages of the Tao contain paradoxes, thus the inscrutability. The lessons of the Tao are to accept the paradoxes life presents to us rather than trying to overcome them.

October 30

"The Thin Veil"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

The week ahead is a time of festivals and feasts acknowledging death. The Christian world has its All Souls and All Saints days. Mexican native culture, blended in with Christianity, celebrates the Day of the Dead. Marking these days is when the veil separating us from our departed loved ones is the thinnest.



FPUU Calendar of Events

Tuesday, October 4	Social Justice Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 9	Coming of Age Parents Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 10	Columbus Day – Office closed.
Tuesday, October 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, October 12	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Sunday, October 16	Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, October 20	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/ U-House
Sunday, October 23	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, October 25	Pastoral Care Meeting/6:30 pm/ U-House
Sunday, October 30	Annual Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, November 5	North Street Coffee House/7:00-10:00pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 6	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, November 8	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, November 9	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Sunday, November 13	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary
Sunday, November 20	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Coming of Age/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, November 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Tuesday, November 22	Pastoral Care Committee Meeting/6:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, November 24	Thanksgiving – Office Closed.