



First Parish Unitarian Universalist

**26 North Street, Medfield, MA
(508) 359-4594**

www.firstparishmedfield.org



June Newsletter 2012

Ministerial MUUsings...

This past Sunday on Memorial Day weekend I got up at 6 am and left Yarmouth, Maine for Medfield. The two hour plus drive was smooth. No traffic. Nothing to worry about except for a few state police cruisers in Maine and New Hampshire (Massachusetts state police seem to be only on the South Shore).

Ever since I was able to drive I have enjoyed it. My high school girlfriends always seemed to live at least an hour away either on Long Island or in Northern Westchester County. Whenever General Assembly is in an area of the country I am visiting for the first time I rent a car after the last session and sightsee. When GA was in Phoenix I went to Sedona, the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley,

Santa Fe and Taos; after the 1999 Salt Lake City GA I went up to Yellowstone, then across Wyoming to Devil's Tower and into Deadwood, South Dakota. In 2006 I drove to St. Louis and in 2010, to Minneapolis. To state the obvious this is a beautiful country with great variety and wonderful, friendly people (although I think Canadians beat us by a hair on friendly.) The other day I met Dayton Duncan, the author of *Out West*, his account of his retracing the journey of the explorers Lewis and Clark from St. Louis into the Northwest. I told him that Nancy and I would like to take a summer to do the same. He kindly offered to give me some advice when the time came.

All this is to encourage you to take a leisurely road trip this summer. It may be a day trip or one that last a couple of weeks. Enjoy the scenery and the people. Go off the beaten path in true UU fashion. Forget the interstate. Leave a state or county road for a bit to discover something different. Once I went off a state road, travelled a few miles on a dirt road and came upon a magnificent alpine lake. Exploring is good for the soul.

One more bit of advice and one caveat. Leave the GPS behind. Trust The Force. And drive carefully.

As the song goes, "See you in September." Be well.

Peace,

Rich



Religious Education Committee

The RE Committee would love to thank the volunteers for all their time and effort given to the kids this year.

- Leaders
 - Chris Conley
 - Kirsten D'Abate
 - Sara Drumm
 - Trilby Spring
 - Fran Kingsbury
 - Nancy Kingsbury
 - Clayton Springer
 - Amelia Steeger
 - Joyce Fetteroll
 - and the Neighboring Faith kids for helping out on their off weeks
- RE committee youth volunteers
 - Lizzie Bryant
 - Jack Kornet
- Solstice
 - John Kornet
 - Debi Nicholas
 - Alison Galley
 - The Kids
- Neighboring Faiths
 - Becca Kornet
- COA
 - Cissy Hull-Allen
 - David Maxson
 - and Mentors
- Sitters
 - Becky Flaherty
 - Kelsey Chatterton

Coming of Age Service

Please join us for the Coming of Age Service June 3rd

It's been years in the making! Our RE teachers, parents, mentors, and especially our young people have worked hard to reach this important marker. We hope you will be there to affirm the hard work of our group and support them as valued contributors to our community.

In this group of 5, most have grown up at First Parish, going through our RE program. They participated in Our Whole Lives last year and met with mentors this year. Some of the varied activities were discussing death and making tombstones, a night hike sans light up Noon Hill, meeting with FP Committee members and Rev. Stower, participating in Seder, visiting the Lucy Stone House, planning and participating in a sermon, looking at spirituality in art at the MFA, attending a drumming workshop, and a zip line trip. Plus, they talked and talked. And talked. We talked a lot!

We look forward to seeing you all!



Mentors and mentees:

Eva Conley: Kelsey Chatterton

Glen Capachin: Zach Cusanno

Chris Conley: Michael Elder

Jenifer Bartle: Becky Flaherty

Bill Wians: Jake Lester

Executive Board Notes

May 5 Evening Fundraiser

45 people enjoyed dinner and entertainment at the May 4 Fundraiser. The wind ensemble played beautiful music and the laughs were plentiful during Buck Buchanan's story telling time. The event netted almost \$3000 for the Church budget. Similar events are being considered for next year.

New Church Sign

Barbara Bunger presented the Membership Committee proposal to install a new sign to more clearly identify our Church. The \$6000 to \$8000 sign would be paid for by voluntary contributions from members. The sign proposal will be included on the Annual meeting Warrant.

Director of Religious Education

The Board approved the RE Committee to make an offer to a candidate to fill the 20 hour per week Religious Education Director position.

Annual Fund Drive

Replies have been received from 60 of the 67 pledge units. 7 pledge units have not yet responded. Based on the replies received, the

pledge income is estimated to be only 5% above 2011, well below the requested increase.

Budget for 2013

The Board reviewed and approved a budget for 2013. There was much discussion on how to reduce the \$157,000 of budgeted expenses. Largely because of the \$6,000 budget for Search (a one-time expenditure) the budget will show a deficit of \$7395. The 2013 Budget will get one more review by the Board then be presented for member approval at the June 3 FPUU Annual Meeting.

June 3 Annual Meeting Warrant

The articles for the June 3 FPUU Annual Meeting were agreed to. The warrant was posted on Sunday May 20 as required in the By-Laws and sent via e-mail to all members. There are three recommendations for revision to the By-Laws.

- **Revise Article 2: delete the Purpose and insert a Mission Statement**
- **Revise Article 3: to vote on whether or not a defined monetary contribution is required for membership**
- **Revise Article 7: to increase the required majority to call a new minister from 2/3 to 90%**

Expiring Board Member Terms

The 2 year terms are up for At-Large Board members Bob Luttman and Denise Sullivan-Flaherty and for Vice-Chair Duncan Glover and for Communications Clerk Marshall Sugarman. Also, Susan Stromgren has asked to step down from the Treasurer position.

They are all to be commended for their service on the Board and we owe them sincere thanks for all the time, energy and passion they have put into their work on the Board. It has been a great pleasure to serve with them. Duncan Glover has stepped forward to serve another two year term as Vice Chair and the Nominating Committee has candidates to fill the other positions. The names will be posted prior to the election at the Annual Meeting.

Thank You to All Our Coffee Hour Hosts

By Nancy Kingsbury, Coffee Hour Coordinator



*(See interactive thank you gift at the end of this article)

A heartfelt thank you to all who have volunteered to host coffee hour this church year. Coffee hour is an important part of the life of First Parish, a place where children and adults come together to strengthen the bonds which support our church community, and it is not possible without our volunteers. When so many volunteer, you are only needed to host once a year, and your effort is appreciated by all.

So thank you personally to Jen Bartle and Clayton Springer, the Beedys, Alison Bryant, the Bungers, Deb Carbarnes and Mark Samels, Pat Clark, Ann Cunningham, the D'Abate family, Julie DeSorgher, Mike and Karen Donovan, the Drumm family, Fritz Fleischmann and Katrin Fischer, the Galley family,

Duncan and Louise Glover, Cissy Hull-Allen and the Coming of Age group, Dan Henderson and the Coming of Age parents, the Kingsbury family, the Kornet family, Darline Lewis and Marshall Sugarman, George Lester and Blanche Teyssier, Bob Luttmann and Mary Finlay, Diane Maxson, Debi Nicholas and Larry Schwartz, Eve Potts, Don and Margaret Rolph, the Rose family, David and Rebecca Stephenson, Denise Sullivan and Chris Flaherty, Trilby Spring, the Stetsons, Susan Stromgren, David Temple, Ron Texera and Don Bowden, Marcia Trahan, Karen and Bill Wians, and the Zarker family.

*Enjoy these Coffee Cantata Web sites!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVzvX9oQVCY&feature=relmfu>.

<http://www.bach.org/bach101/cantatas/cantata211.html>.

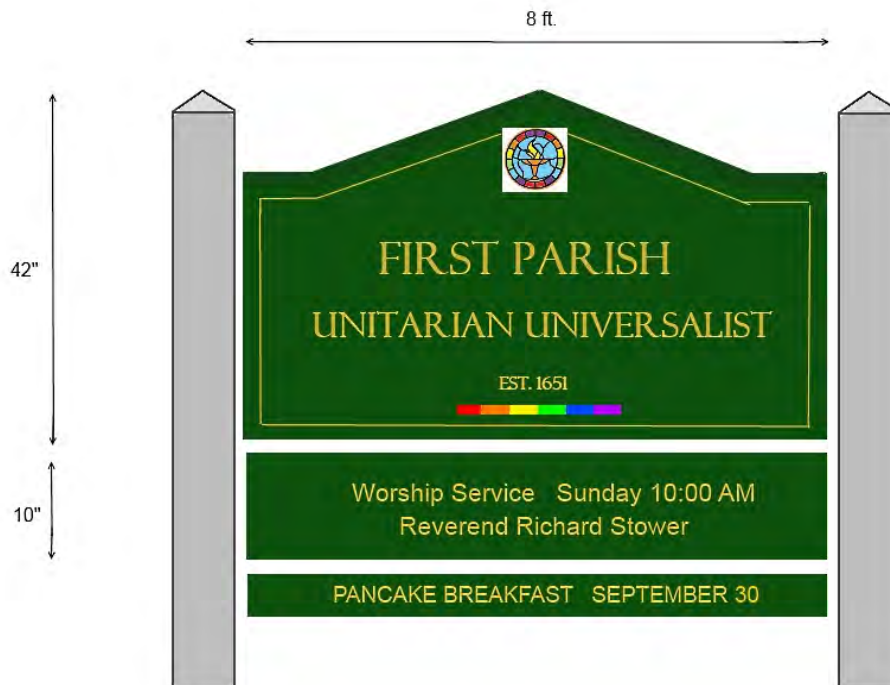
MEMBERSHIP MEMO

We're winding down the 2011-2012 church year and the Membership Committee is very grateful to EVERYONE who has stepped up to help us this year. We have called upon you to serve as greeters on Sunday morning, provide refreshments for coffee hour, cook and assist with the Pancake Breakfast, and decorate and prepare for the Pot Luck-Movie Night. The willingness of all who have been asked has been heartwarming. Through the willingness of so many member volunteers we have accomplished much this year. THANK YOU!!

New First Parish sign

To increase our visibility in the Medfield and larger community, the Membership committee has researched and developed a proposal for a new church sign. With the approval of the church membership, we hope to move forward with our recommendation and have the new sign installed by the start of church in September. The cost of the sign should not exceed \$6500. Payment for the sign will be achieved via donations (it is not a budgeted item.) The Wayside Pulpit will be retained and moved to an alternate location.

Below is a general rendering of the proposal. Final changes will be made based on recommendations and approval from the congregation at the Annual Meeting.



Annual Fund Drive 2012-2013

Here's a 2012-13 Annual Fund Drive status update as of May 23, 2012.

2011-12

A total of 65 households pledged last year. The total 2011-12 Pledge was \$118,540. The average 2011-12 pledge was \$1,824.

2012-13

This year we have been seeking pledges from 67 Pledge Units, including 2 who did not pledge last year but have pledged in the past.

Pledges to date have been received from 61 of the 67 Pledge Units, including 7 zero pledges.

The total pledge amount as of May 23 is \$116,415.

A total of 6 Pledges remain outstanding.

Results to date are as follows:

61 PLEDGES out of 67 PLEDGE UNITS [05/23/2012]

INCREASE or DECREASE	NUMBER
Increases	29
0% (FLAT)	14
Decreases	11
Zero Pledges	7
Total Pledges Received To Date	61

61 PLEDGES out of 67 PLEDGE UNITS [05/23/2012]

	2011-12 PLEDGE	2012-13 PLEDGE	% Increase
TOTAL TO DATE	\$111,840	\$116,415	4.1%

If the 6 outstanding Pledge Units contribute what they did last year (\$6,700), then the 2012-13 Pledge Total will be \$123,115 - a 3.9% increase over last year's total.

We are continuing to follow up with the 6 outstanding households.

The Annual Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Louise Rachin, Mark Samels, and Marshall Sugarman

Social Justice Committee

UUUM Annual Meeting, May 16 2012

Barbara Bunger and Pat Clark served as delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Urban Ministry in Roxbury. Every year delegates meet with Directors, Staff, and Board Members to review the programs, events, activities, and the financial status of the Urban Ministry. The day starts mid-morning with a worship service and then proceeds after coffee and networking to the luncheon and formal meeting. During the meeting we heard a report from the Senior Minister and Executive Director Rev. Catherine Senghas that the overall state of the organization is strong and accomplishing life-changing happenings and opportunities for the community but because of lack of funding, some things have been cut, such as the afterschool program for middle-school children.

We got program glimpses from presentations by leaders and participants of the Roxbury Youth Program, the Renewal House, which is a shelter for victims of domestic violence, and also the ESL program that a number of us work in. Sam Williams introduced the Jericho Road Project that the Urban Ministry hopes to initiate with three UU

congregations (First Parish in Brookline, First Parish in Milton and First Parish in Boston) and community non-profit agencies to match volunteers in the Boston area who have professional and pertinent skills to serve the needs that the non-profits are attempting to fulfill within the Roxbury community. In the greater Boston area there already are other Jericho Road projects established and in operation in Lowell, Lawrence, Worcester, and Lynn. The approach is underway and looks very promising but there is much to do especially in fundraising and hiring leadership.

The last part of the meeting comprised the Business Meeting. After that there was a Benediction by Rev. Kate Wilkinson, who coordinates the volunteer activity that the 50 churches in the area provide the UUUM. She has accepted a settled position in Provincetown, MA starting August so we will all miss her very much as those of us providing ESL tutoring have worked with her for a few years.



Did you know?

The church and grounds will be a busy place this summer! Two different youth camps have booked the vestry until late August and the Farmers' Market will be on the grounds until October



We are thrilled to announce our vendors for this market season:

Ward's Berry Farm
Langwater Farm
Wild Daisy Soap
Big Sky Bread & Café
Garden Farms

The Medfield Farmers' Market is
open for the season starting on Thursday, May 31 and will run every Thursday until
October 11th
from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm

*Vendors will be updated on our church website
You can also follow us on facebook*

Stop by and see us!



Other Announcements



Let's Laugh Today is on Monday, June 25th

Laugh to get your heart pumping and the positive energy flowing! This is an excellent way to start the week! Laugh on every fourth Monday of the month at 7:15pm at the Meetinghouse of the First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin, MA. They laugh in a group and initiate laughter as a form of exercise. Through eye contact and child-like playfulness, laughter then becomes contagious and real. There is a \$5 suggested donation per person with a maximum of \$10 per family. All ages and all physical abilities are welcome. Since laughing is dehydrating, please bring your water bottle. Linda and Bill Hamaker are Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers who were trained by Dr. Madan Kataria, the creator of Laughter Yoga. See www.letslaughtoday.com or call 508-660-2223 if you have any questions.



HOST FAMILIES NEEDED: Headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, EF Foundation (EF) for Foreign Study is the leader in high school exchange. EF is currently accepting applications for host families for the 2012-13 school year.

Host families open their homes to a 15-18 year old from one of 25 countries around the world. Students come for one or two semesters and attend the local high school. Through the exchange experience, both student and family get the chance to learn about a new culture and promote global understanding, right here in this community. Host family applicants undergo a screening process to ensure that they are well suited for an exchange experience.

EF host families represent the diversity of American culture - with varied economic, religious and social backgrounds. Among those who embrace the exchange experience are parents looking to give their children a glimpse of the world, without having to travel the globe. In addition, there are many successful host families who have no children, or adult children who no longer live at home, who are looking for new ways to connect to their communities, while gaining fresh perspectives on the world.

Committed to promoting international understanding and global awareness for over 30 years, EF Foundation brings more students to the United States each year than any other high school exchange program. Since 1979, the organization has matched over 100,000 enthusiastic students from around the world with caring host families across the United States. EF Foundation is designated by the United States Department of State as an Exchange Program Sponsor.

To learn more contact Sheryl Sourkes by phone 508-816-7888 or by email at sheryl.sourkes@effoundation.org.

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

Juice - plastic jugs or juice boxes
cereal
jelly - no grape please
pasta sauce
canned pears
snacks



Please double check your food item to ensure that it is undented, unopened, and unexpired. Thanks for your efforts. 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.*

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!

Metrowest Pet Pantry



FPUU now has a donation box set up for the Metrowest Pet Pantry. The pet pantry, located in Millis, provides a variety of pet food and supplies for families in need, some of whom would have to surrender their pets to shelters without the pet pantry's assistance. Donations of opened or unopened food are accepted, as well as all manner of supplies. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the pet pantry feel free to talk to Brianna Cusanno, who is working with the pet pantry to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award.

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

June 3

"RE Sunday"

Rev. Richard Stower

With this service we celebrate our Religious Education program; we acknowledge our teachers and we honor members of the Coming of Age class.

June 10

"Flower Communion"

Rev. Richard Stower

We close the church year with a Flower Communion, a service created by the Czech Unitarian minister, Norbert Capek in the 1930s. You are invited to bring a flower from your garden or a store to exchange with another parishioner. This service will also recognize our graduating high school seniors.

Our next service will be on Sunday, September 9th.

Have a wonderful summer!



FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, June 3	Annual Meeting/Sanctuary/11:30 am
Sunday, June 10	Last Sunday Service until September
Tuesday, June 12	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, June 17	Father's Day
Thursday, June 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Thursday, August 23	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House

For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. If you would like to book the Sanctuary, Vestry or U-House for an event or meeting, please check availability and then contact the church office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org