

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

Welcome Back

September Newsletter 2012

Ministerial MUUsings...

Welcome Back!

It will be good to see all of you again. I hope you all had a restful summer. Nonetheless, life goes on. For some of us it has been a happy time; for others, not so. Babies have been born, friends and relatives have married; friends and relatives have passed on. Whatever event has touched your life this summer you are able to share it with your First Parish family as we gather once again.

This is an important year in the life of First Parish Medfield! Next spring you will choose a new minister. The search committee has been busy this summer creating a survey to understand how the congregation sees itself and what its hope for the future are. In addition to the survey I encourage you to share with the search committee any

comments about the church's strengths and challenges that cannot be squeezed into a survey format. It is imperative that all of you give HONEST feedback to the committee. Your comments will present to ministerial candidates a portrait of First Parish Medfield, with its strengths and challenges, that will help them decide if you are right for each other. As in a marriage, honesty and open communication, are the best policies.

I am so pleased that Patricia Hatch has joined us as our DRE. You will have a chance to meet her this Sunday.

See you in church!

Peace,

Rich Stower

DRE Search Committee & RE Committee

The DRE Search Committee and the RE Committee are pleased to announce -- and welcome -
- Patricia Hatch as our interim DRE!

She comes to us with experience as a DRE in the Canton church for 5 years. She left there to pursue a Masters of Divinity from Boston University which she received last year. Right now she's waiting for her appointment from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, the credentialing body of the UUA which isn't scheduled until December of 2013.

The RE Committee is looking forward to working with Patricia as she awaits a permanent position.

Joyce Fetteroll
for the RE Committee and DRE Search Committee

Our Whole Lives

Our Whole Lives....

...will be offered again this year for 8th and 9th graders! This awesome sexuality and spirituality focused curriculum was developed by the UUA and the UCC. The facilitators this year are Chris Flaherty, Cissy Hull-Allen, and Renee Lloyd. We'll be having a parent orientation in late September and plan to start with our group sessions in October. It's two - three Sunday evenings each month, 7p-9p, in the vestry. We will still have lots of opportunities for our young people to continue to connect with the larger First Parish community on Sunday mornings!

Director of Religious Education



Hello Members and Friends of First Parish Medfield,

I am excited to be your new Director of Religious Education. I love working with children and youth and those of older ages as well.

I have a background in religious education. I have served as a settled DRE and have worked as a children's group leader at Ferry Beach RE week. I also have my Master of Divinity degree from Boston University.

Last year, I completed my ministerial internship at the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson. I love poetry, art, nature, and creativity in general. I look forward to working together with you in this year!

Warmly,
Patricia

P.S. The picture was taken during a BU seminar trip to Turkey last year.

Message from Membership

"It's another opening of another year" at First Parish Medfield. Welcome back everyone!!

It will be good to see you all after the summer break and hear about your summer. We hope you are rested and refreshed, and looking forward to resuming programs in First Parish Community.

This year will be full of challenges and discovery as we embark on the journey to find a new minister to inspire and guide us in the coming years. Let's embrace this opportunity openly, fully and with all the positive energy we can garner. This is an exciting time!!

The tasks of the Membership Committee for 2012-2013 are to:

- Meet and greet before service,
- Coordinate Coffee Hour,
- Offer Clocktower Tours at Medfield Day, Sept. 15.

- Sponsor the 5th Annual Pancake Breakfast, with the Social Justice Committee, (date TBD).
- Assist Rev. Stower with New Member Activities/Classes.
- Complete work on installation of a new church sign.
- Coordinate outreach efforts to newcomers.

The Membership Committee welcomes any suggestions to improve the quality of the service we provide to the church. Anyone wishing to volunteer to work with us can contact a member of the committee. We would be grateful for additional help with Sunday greeting. We are also looking for a co-coordinator for Coffee Hour.

Membership Committee: Barbara Bunger, Mike Donovan, Katrin Fischer, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph.



FLOWER DECORATIONS FOR THE SANCTUARY NEEDED

We still have many Sundays that we need flowers for. The months of November and February are spoken for. If you are interested in donating a fresh or silk flower arrangement to the church sanctuary this year, please contact Deb Carbarnes (debra.carbarnes@gmail.com or 781-956-2901).

You can bring in flowers for one Sunday or more. This would be a wonderful way to celebrate or memorialize an occasion, event, or person.

Flowers from the florist or from your own yard are welcome.

Please consider in participating in the sanctuary's decorations this year - especially if you've never considered it! All of the flower arrangements are always welcomed and appreciated by church members.

Ministerial Search Committee News

Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee! We have been busy since the end of the last church year.

We kicked off our work in June at a weekend retreat at the Bullard Memorial Farm in Holliston, MA, where we learned more about the search process and the Committee's responsibilities.

Jen Bartle is our fearless leader as Ministerial Search Committee Chairperson. She keeps us in line at meetings and keeps the Board informed of our progress.

Dan Bibel and **Kirsten D'Abate** are our Survey Coordinators. Over the past two months, with extensive input from the rest of the Committee members and other First Parishoners (thank you!) they have compiled a questionnaire for members of the congregation and friends. The survey is our data-gathering tool for you to tell us what you value about First Parish and in a minister. It also asks for demographic information that will allow us to paint an accurate portrait of First Parish for ministerial candidates.

We will use the information we collect to create a "packet" -- in the past it was a real packet or binder, but now it is a webpage about First Parish for ministerial candidates. **John Kornet**, as Packet Editor, will create the webpage. To get to this step in the process, we need you, FPUU members and friends, to complete the survey as soon as possible. Because of the personal nature of some of the questions, it is completely anonymous. It will take about 15 minutes to complete, and we would like all members and friends, including youths (16 years or older, or who have completed the Coming

of Age program) to fill it out. Find it online at this address: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fpuu> Anyone who wants a paper copy to fill out should contact **Dan Bibel**.

When pre-candidates who have seen our packet express interest in First Parish, our Arranger **Louise Rachin** will coordinate the Committee's meetings with pre-candidates and our final candidate. **David Temple** is our Reference Checker, vetting candidates and representing the Committee on the negotiating team. **Kirsten D'Abate** is also our Treasurer; she tracks expenses related to the search (which, to protect the identities of the candidates, must be kept confidential).

I am the Committee Secretary, so you will see me in church most Sundays making announcements about our progress. Please ask any of us questions and let us know your opinions; the more open, honest information we have from you, the better we can do our jobs. The Committee must maintain complete confidentiality about the identities of the prospective ministers, but we will be updating you frequently about the work we have been doing.

On **October 28** we will have a special facilitated Sunday service and post-service workshop for the entire congregation called [Beyond Categorical Thinking](#), which is designed "to promote inclusive thinking and help prevent unfair discrimination in the ministerial search process." We hope you can attend.

Fran Kingsbury, Ministerial Search Committee Secretary

Executive Board Notes

BOARD NOTES JUNE AND AUGUST 2012

2012-2013 Board members welcomed:

- Cissy Hull-Allen, new member-at-large will serve as liaison with Religious Education and Social Justice.
- Sara Drumm, new member-at-large will serve as liaison with Worship and Music.
- Ann Cunningham, new Communications Clerk.
- Glen D'Abate, new Treasurer.
- Duncan Glover returns as Vice Chair.
- Fritz Fleischmann returns as member-at-large and will serve as liaison with Lay Pastoral Care and will be working on Policies and Procedures.
- Fred Bunger returns as Chair.

Ministerial Search - Jen Bartle reported on the status of the Ministerial Search Committee. Member Survey is underway and Cottage Meetings are planned. See newsletter article.

Recruiting RE Director - We welcome Patricia Hatch as our new Director of Religious Education!

Educational Facility - Duncan Glover and Dan Bibel reviewed a plan to start the design process for a state-of-the-art educational facility to replace the UHouse. A Capital Campaign appeal for \$25,000 preliminary design funding will start this fall.

Medfield Day - Plans for Medfield Day were discussed. See separate article.

Cleaning Contractor - After 10 years of faithful service, David Stephenson has decided not to continue cleaning the Church and UHouse. Many thanks to David for his work. Larry Benesi of Today's Butler has been contracted to take over cleaning services as of August 27th.

Farmers' Market - The market has been successful this year with more vendors and more shoppers. The Market runs 2 to 6:30 every Thursday through October 26.

From the Music Director



Thanks to a scholarship awarded by the UUMN and the generous contributions of many members of First Parish Medfield

(spearheaded by Jen Bartle), I attended the 30th annual UUMN Conference this summer in Tulsa, Oklahoma! I wanted to express my appreciation for your support and to tell you how valuable the experience was for me as a musician, a composer, and your Music Director. I had attended the

conference in Boston four years ago, but I still felt in many ways like a first-timer.

I attended wonderful workshops, participated in the Conference Choir led by the dynamic Tim Seelig (conductor of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus), and met many other amazing musicians. The host city of Tulsa was friendly, hospitable and gracious in all aspects (despite the 100+ degree weather every day!), and the staff and organizers of the conference were extremely welcoming and

professional. Some of the outstanding workshops I attended included Involving Children in Worship, Conducting Seminars with Tim Seelig, and a workshop about lyrics with UU composer Elizabeth Alexander.

Although I was a little shy and new to networking during my first conference, this time I was excited to make the most of the experience! I was able to share my original music in several ways during the conference. I sang original songs in two of the Luncheon Recitals, where I performed along the amazing songwriter and harmonica player extraordinaire Hal Walker, whose choral music you will soon be hearing at our church, and Scott Roewe, band member of the Wild Colonials. I also participated in the annual Conference Choir and attended services held by the host church.

All Souls Unitarian Church is very interesting in that they have two styles of services. The first is a more traditional service and the second involves a Praise Choir, multimedia screens and sometimes dancing too! They have a very diverse and energized community, and impressively large and modern facilities.

The trip expanded my horizons, but also reinforced the idea of community. The local chaplain's fiancée was mentored at Andover-Newton by our former minister Rev. Bob McKetchnie. I met the new Music Director at the Sherborn church, the director of Arlington St. Church, and I was also happy to see Eric Stetson, FPUU member Jim Stetson's son, who is now a UU Music Director himself in California!

I have already seen direct results in my musical activities, thanks to attending the choir. Music Directors from several states including Kansas, Arizona, and Oklahoma have bought some of my scores to perform at their own churches. I also had a wonderful experience at the UU church in Hawaii. At the conference, I met Karen Valasek, the Music Director at the UU church in Hawaii where Chris and I were married five years ago, and we hit it off instantly! She loved the song "Be On Your Own Side" (co-written by Kelsey Chatterton) which I performed at one of the conference recitals, and since we were coming to Hawaii in August, she invited me to perform it at her church. It was performed at her church on Oahu with her band, which consisted of flute, bass, drums, cornet and singers as well as me on piano! One of her young singers from the church did a beautiful job singing the piece. She invited me back again in the future, and it is wonderful to feel like I have UU friends now in so many states!

I want to thank Jen Bartle, the Worship & Music Committee and the generous support of you, the FPUU community, for helping to make this amazing experience a reality for me! I am excited to share some new, beautiful music with the choir and congregation! I have learned more about the UU Music Director credentialing program, which I am interested to pursue more in the future, and I plan to make a point to attend next year's conference in Dallas! I am excited to share all I have learned, and hope to give back to you in music what you have helped me to experience!

Eva Conley Kendrick

Social Action/Social Justice

The end of summer is fast approaching bringing with it another challenging year. Gratefully the election madness will soon be past us and “things” can settle down for at least a little while. While the search for our new spiritual leader picks up, the basic work of the church continues and it’s time to think about the social action of the church.

The committee needs members to help plan how FPUU will direct its attention in social action endeavors. We normally meet one evening a month for an hour and 1/2 to talk about how we can direct our attention and which of the many worthy projects will benefit the most by our limited time and resources. Each year we try to help the local community, the wider area (metrowest) community and the urban community and act globally as well.

Locally, we contribute to the **food pantry, the pet pantry**, and provide gifts to the food pantry at Christmas plus “share the plate” from the Christmas Eve service with area food pantries. For the latter, our contributions have gone for fuel assistance.

For the **metrowest community**, we have worked with other churches to provide temporary shelter including three meals a day for homeless people with children. This organization is now operating nationwide and is growing. This project has many

needs and there are all sorts of ways we can help contributing whatever time we have to share.

Serving the urban UU community, we volunteer for special events at the **UU Urban Ministry** as well as teach English as a second language once a week during the Boston school year and during the summer. For those who are fortunate to do this, we find this effort extremely rewarding.

Other projects come up from time to time and we are willing to support anyone who wants to take the lead on a special project. Please let us know and we will help publicize your social action event.

For more information, please contact me Pat Clark, at 508-376-5832 (HM), 774-993-9436 (cell) or email patclarkmillis@gmail.com.



MEDFIELD DAY SEPTEMBER 15th

On September 15, from 9 AM to 3 PM, FirstParish will have THOUSANDS of visitors. Medfield Day is a great opportunity to make a good impression on our community.



- For the kids, the RE Committee and students will be sponsoring pumpkin painting and, perhaps, games.



- For the historical-minded, the Membership and Buildings and Grounds Committees are sponsoring tours of the Historical Meeting House clock tower.



- For the hungry and thirsty, willing and creative FPUU volunteers will be making and serving baked goods and coffee.

- For the chefs wanting fresh local produce, a mini farmer's market will be set up.

- For people interested in knowing more about FPUU and Unitarian Universalism, brochures and information will be set out and Rev. Rich will be available all day.

- To demonstrate our commitment to community, The Social Justice Committee will set up a list of the projects supported by FPUU.

- Celtics Tickets are available for raffle if willing salespeople can be found.

TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL MEDFIELD DAY, FPUU NEEDS YOUR HELP.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER AS YOU ARE ABLE TO BAKE, BREW (coffee), SELL AND SUPPORT FIRST PARISH.

Thanks in advance for your help and your commitment to First Parish.



A Chamber Opera by Eva Kendrick
In Concert

Based on the Life of Emily Dickinson

~ *Plus Art Songs, Arias & Showtunes* ~

Friday and Saturday

September 21 & 22, 2012 at 7:30 PM

First Parish Medfield, 26 North St., Medfield, MA 02052

(Handicapped accessible)

Dessert reception during intermission

Featured Singers

Becca Kornet

Boston Cecilia & Medfield

Fritz Fleischmann

First Parish Choir

John Kornet

Boston Cecilia & Medfield

Rebecca Stephenson

First Parish Choir

Kelly McManus

Medfield High School

General admission \$12. Reserve tickets at
music@firstparishmedfield.org

June 2012 Annual Meeting Summary

- Election of Officers, Board Members and Nominating Committee:
 - o Cissy Hull-Allen and Sara Drumm - At-Large Board, 2-year terms.
 - o Duncan Glover - Vice-Chair, 2-year term
 - o Ann Cunningham – Communications Clerk, 2-year term
 - o Buck Buchanan – Treasurer, 1-year term (Buck resigned in August and Glen D’Abate was appointed to finish his term).
 - o Julie DeSorger and Bill Wians co-chairs nominating committee, 1 year terms.

- A budget for the 2012-2013 Church year was presented, discussed and passed. Expenses of \$157,041 against income of \$150,440 resulted in a \$6,601 deficit. The budget was bare bones plus 2.7% salary increases for staff.

- The Membership Committee proposed that a new sign be installed for First Parish. A lively discussion of the Wayside Pulpit ensued so no decision was reached. The new sign proposal will be revised to include the relocation of the Wayside Pulpit to an appropriate location. The sign is to be paid for by donations from the membership.

- By-Law amendments were proposed as follows:
 - o - Article 2 – PURPOSE was replaced with Article 2 – MISSION:
 - Article 2.1 To affirm and promote the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism.
 - Article 2.2 To maintain and support a dynamic and welcoming congregation.
 - Article 2.3 To provide opportunities for spiritual growth, religious education and pastoral care to our congregation.
 - Article 2.4 To serve and contribute to surrounding communities and the world with compassion, charity and good citizenship.
 - Article 2.5 This congregation affirms and promotes the full participation of persons in all our activities and endeavors including membership, programming, hiring practices, and the calling of religious professionals, without regard to race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, physical or mental ability, affectational or sexual orientation, class or national origin.”

 - o Article 3.2.1 Member Current By-Law states a member “..makes a minimum financial contribution set by the Executive Board.” The Board proposed that it be decided by vote to either require members make a minimum financial contribution of \$77 (UUA + MBD dues) or no financial contribution After much discussion and counter proposals, the motion was tabled and referred back to the EB. In the June EB meeting, in accordance with the existing By-Law, the Board voted to set the minimum financial contribution at the UUA plus MBD dues which for this year will be \$77. No further action is required.

 - o Article 3.3.4 Absences was amended to clarify the time of inactivity to 24 months before removing from the membership rolls.

- Article 7.1.1 Staff was amended to increase the vote for calling a new minister from 2/3 to 90%.
- A discussion of a statement affirming FPUU as a Welcoming Congregation was held. The EB was directed to schedule a "Town Meeting" for discussion in October. The agreed statement would be subject to approval at a later Parish meeting.

Draft minutes of the Annual Meeting are available on the website.

Notes from the Church Office



Please note that the church office hours have been changed. The new office hours are now Mondays and Thursdays from 8-2:00 pm.
 Rev. Stower's office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1-5 pm.
 Patricia Hatch's office hours will be posted soon.

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: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Other Announcements



The Medfield Farmers' Market will
 run every Thursday until October 11th
 From 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Come by and see us!

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



Juice - plastic jugs or juice boxes
cereal
jelly - no grape please
pasta sauce
macaroni and cheese

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 again this year!***

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)

Sept 9, 2012

"Ingathering"

Rev. Richard Stower

Our first service of the church year brings us together again from our summer hiatus. You are invited to bring a cupful of water (actual or representative) from a place you went to this summer. Your water will be collected and joined with others' from this summer and commingled with water from past years as a symbol of the interdependence of life and this congregation's continuity.

Sept 16, 2012

"Turning Over a New Leaf"

Rev. Richard Stower

As people of faith and commitment to high values, we need from time to time to take stock of ourselves; to come clean with ourselves and those we love; to make amends and seek the pardon of those whom we have wronged; to commit ourselves to redirecting ourselves and changing our ways; to seek forgiveness from ourselves and to offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us. Refreshed by the summer and the beginning of a new year at First Parish during the High Holy Days of the Jewish faith, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, it is a good time to take on this spiritual cleansing, this changing, this return to what we are meant to be.

Sept 23, 2012

"On the Path"

Rev. Richard Stower

We are all on a spiritual journey. We make walk on the same path, or different paths; or walk together and then diverge. Nevertheless, we are all on a journey together. We Unitarian Universalists understand this and celebrate it. But if we understand that people in the First Parish, Medfield congregation have different theological perspectives, or no theology at all, what is it that holds us together?

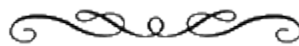
Sept 30, 2012

"Poetry Sunday"

Bill Wians

FPUU Calendar of Events

Monday, Sept 3	Labor Day
Thursday, Sept 6	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Saturday, Sept 8	Recycle Event/9:00-2:00 pm/Parking Lot
Thursday, Sept 13	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Thursday, Sept 13	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Saturday, Sept 15	Medfield Day/9:00-3:00/Grounds
Sunday, Sept 16	Religious Education Begins
Monday, Sept 17	Medfield Community Singers/Sanctuary/ 7:00 pm
Thursday, Sept 20	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds
Thursday, Sept 20	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Friday, Sept 21	Opera Fundraiser/7:30 pm/Sanctuary
Saturday, Sept 22	Opera Fundraiser/7:30 pm/Sanctuary
Monday, Sept 24	Medfield Community Singers/Sanctuary 7:00 pm
Thursday, Sept 27	Medfield Farmers' Market/2:00-6:30 pm/Grounds



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