



First Parish Unitarian Universalist

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



November Newsletter 2012

Ministerial MUUsings...

Last week Barbara Bunger, Dawn Amaral, Fred Bunger and I met to discuss membership figures. The number of members of a church is an important topic. For one thing, the UUA and the MassBay District currently assess First Parish \$77 for each member. If the count is not accurate this could result in the church overpaying for people who are no longer associated with the church. The number of First Parish members is also important to the Ministerial Search Committee, for it gives them information that they in turn pass on to candidates who may prefer a small church, or not.

For the past year Barbara and I have been trying to get as realistic a number of First Parish members as possible. In some cases Barbara and I have reached out and contacted members who have not been in church or contributed financially in quite some time. Oftentimes this reaching out results in a conversation about the nature of membership at First Parish. To me, being a member of a church is being active in the life of the church. It means attending worship services and social gatherings. It means having your children participate in religious education. It means volunteering to serve on a committee, to sing in the choir, or to donate flowers for Sunday worship. And yes, it means to financially contribute to the church. Although First Parish receives income from various sources, it's

prime source of income is from the pledge you make to First Parish in the spring and the payments you make throughout the succeeding year. Frequent donations are fine but the Executive Board can only develop a realistic budget based on pledged income from members.

One of the primary reasons someone becomes a member of First Parish is community. People can find a safe place of like-minded people or a place that can challenge them. It's also a place where people are asked to look deeply into their being and find an aspect of their life they can improve or transform. Having been in ministry for over twenty years I also know how often a member's ties to the church are affected by his/her relationship with the minister. When First Parish Medfield calls a new minister next year there may be new people who come because they have heard good things about the new minister. But the opposite may be true as well. For some of you it may turn out that the new

minister is not your cup of tea. In my previous ministry there was a person with whom I had several difficult moments. We didn't see eye-to-eye on a few things. Yet just before I left I spoke with her and thanked her for continuing to be an active member of the church. She didn't move to the fringes. To her, the church community was more important than the minister. To her, there were other elements of the church vital to her and that gave her what she felt she needed. And she gave back in return. Ministers come and go, and even parishioners do the same, but the institution remains. If you love First Parish, no matter what the future holds, First Parish needs you and will love you in return.

Peace,

Rich

Welcoming Statement Meeting

On November 11, following coffee hour, I will be facilitating a meeting to discuss what the congregation would like to do regarding the present statement on the front of our Order of Service. Last spring, as a result of email exchanges, the Annual Meeting agreed to hold a meeting in the fall to have a discussion solely on the statement. Over the past several days more emails have been exchanged and the interest in this subject is clear.

What I want to do at the November meeting is this:

To have a meeting from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm to discuss the issue.

Anyone will have a chance to be heard and no one will be able to speak until everyone has a chance to speak at least once.

At ten minutes before the hour we will wrap up and at the end of the hour it is my hope that we will select three people to craft a statement to present to the Mid-Year Parish Meeting on December 18th for action.

If you have any questions or concerns please talk with me at coffee hour or contact me at rstower@comcast.net

News and Views from the RE Desk

Patricia Hatch, Interim Director of Religious Education

Dear First Parish Members and Friends,

I am eager to hear stories from First Parish. Two tantalizing things I've learned in my first month and a half as interim DRE are: the longevity of the congregation (founded in 1651!) and something about a lucky horseshoe. More on that later.

This week, I returned from the fall LREDA (Liberal Religious Educators Association) conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. The theme of the conference was UU History and the Stories We Tell (my paraphrase). The keynote talks were "Do We Need a New Story?" by Paul Rasor and "Religious Educators as Curators" by Nicole Kirk. We reflected on how the stories from our faith tradition help us form our identities and inspire us as we move forward into the future. My professional expenses supplemented by a LREDA

scholarship made it possible for me to attend this conference. Thank you!

I see part of my role at First Parish is to lift up some of the stories of our faith during the "Moment for All Ages" and in religious education classes. By highlighting stories from our Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian-Universalist heritage, my goals include imparting knowledge and inspiring children and others to make connections. Connections can enable us to grow, develop, and envision our lives and our community. And I look forward to listening to you: What are your favorite stories from our denomination's history and from First Parish?

Grace and Peace,
Patricia

Notes from the Church Office



Information needed: Has your address, telephone number or cell phone number changed? Please email the office with updated contact information so that we can keep the church database up to date.

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

Executive Board Notes

BOARD NOTES OCTOBER 2012

- **“Town Meeting”**

The discussion of First Parish Welcoming Statement date has been moved to Sunday November 11. The Ministerial Search Committee recommended the date change to follow the “Beyond Categorical Thinking” workshop planned for October 28. Rev. Stower will facilitate the meeting and will provide an agenda in the next few weeks.

- **Mid-Year Parish Meeting set for December 16th**

The semi-annual meeting will review the financial situation, approve a Welcoming Statement, consider the proposal for a new Church sign and other business.

- **Membership Review**

A process for maintaining accurate membership rolls proposed by the Membership Committee was approved by the Executive Board. The process clarifies the minimum member financial contribution and provides follow-up on inactive members.

- **Lowell Mason Cards**

The Executive Board agreed that a fundraising appeal for the Lowell Mason House could be scheduled after an upcoming service

- **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service November 20th**

First Parish will be hosting the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service scheduled for Tuesday November 20th at 7PM

The Medfield Farmers' Market



The Medfield Farmers' Market Committee would like to issue a sincere thank you to all of our Farmers' Market volunteers for helping to make this a successful season and an anticipated weekly event for both Medfield residents and community members alike!

We couldn't have done it without the efforts of many including **Eve Potts, CB Doub, Dan Bibel, Pat Clark, Louise Flatley, Jay Bibel, David Temple, David Stephenson, Eileen Sullivan, Kornet Family, Adam D'Abate, and Evan Springer.** Thank you to all of you!

We would also like to thank our customers for your participation and support for the Medfield Farmers' Market.

The farmers' market is now closed for the season.

Message from Membership

Change is in the air. We've headed into fall and next comes the Holiday Season. My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. No mad shopping and gift giving, just a special time to be together with family and friends and be grateful for our many blessings.

And while we are talking about *change and blessings*, why not pause a moment and ponder what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist in these times. Have you lately thought about your "Elevator Speech" and how you describe your faith to your inquiring friends? Maybe we can give you a few ideas. Below are a couple of examples of Elevator Speeches from "To the Point", a U.U. brochure edited by Alicia LeBlanc. Do any of these fit for you? Can you create your own?

"Unitarian Universalists have different religious beliefs but share a common faith. We know that life is holy, that each person is worthy, and that, when we join together to plant the seeds of love, the world blossoms."
Erik Resly

"This is a place where you're welcome, where you're invited into a fuller relationship with yourself, with the spirit of life, with other people, to build a better world and to build a better you."
Rev. Shana Lynngood

"The Unitarian side of our family tree tells us that there is only one God, one Spirit of Life, one Power of Love. The Universalist side tells us that God is a loving God, condemning none of us and valuing the spark of divinity that is in every human being. So Unitarian Universalism stands for one God, no one left behind."
Rev. William Sinkford,
former UUA President

In faith,
The Membership Committee, Barbara Bunger, Katrin Fischer, Nancy Kingsbury, Margaret Rolph



Notes from the Social Action Committee

So far this year, the Social Action Committee is dormant. We are still carrying on with our current projects but we have so few active members, that we have not scheduled a meeting to explore other opportunities.

We are still looking for more volunteers to work with **Family Promise Metrowest**. Opportunities to help include working on a team that serves dinner to the guests. We try to do this about four times a year, mainly when the UU church in Sherbourne is the host church. There are many other tasks people can do.

We are continuing to tutor ESL at the UUUM once a week during the school year. See the Social Action section of the website for more information on these programs. And our collections of food for the food pantry and the pet pantry continue.

We are looking for someone to assume leadership of the UUSC's **Guest at Your Table** this year. This

program raises funds for the wonderful social action projects as well as introduces children to the importance of sharing.

This year we are not going to provide Christmas Tree Gifts to benefit Food Pantry people. We have done this several years in a row now, and believe that it should pass on to another church.

We are looking for FPUU members or people who are active in FPUU activities or other charitable organizations to come forward and tell us your story. We know that everyone in this generous congregation contributes time and energy to worthy causes. We would like to hear these stories.

If you want to become involved in planning Social Action projects, please contact me at church, or home. home phone: 508-376-5832, email: patclarkmillis@gmail.com.

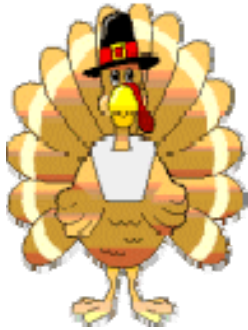
Other Announcements



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 4th.
Don't forget to set your clocks back.

Veteran's Day, November 11th *Thank you to all our veterans for your service to our country!*

Save the date for Sunday November 11th at 11:30 AM, Parish "Town Meeting" to discuss FPUU statement of welcome.



Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November
20th at 7 PM here at

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church
of Medfield.

Representatives from all the churches in
Medfield, as well as Temple Beth David in
Westwood, will take part in the service.

Please join us at First Parish for this
community event featuring a combined
choir.



**LET'S LAUGH TODAY in
Franklin is on Monday,
November, 26th !**

Trade all your holiday stress for
laughter (and burn some of those extra
Thanksgiving calories!) on Monday, November
26th from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at the Meetinghouse
of the First Universalist Society in Franklin, 262
Chestnut Street, Franklin. Come and enjoy this
unique exercise of simulated laughter combined
with gentle breathing that brings more oxygen to

the body's cells. This oxygen boost gives enhanced
vitality, energy and a feeling of real well-being.
Any age and any level of physical ability can
participate in this uplifting experience! New
laughers are always welcomed! \$5 donation to the
church, \$10 maximum per family. Please bring
your water bottle because laughing is dehydrating.
Led by Certified Laughter Yoga Teachers, Linda
and Bill Hamaker. www.letslaughtoday.com. If you
have any questions, just call them at [508-660-2223](tel:508-660-2223)
or e-mail billandlinda@letslaughtoday.com.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO
DECEMBER MEETING FOR LET'S LAUGH TODAY
IN FRANKLIN, but there will be sessions in the
other towns.

Wishes Granted!

Thanks to the generosity of
Louise Rachin & Duncan
Glover and Christy Bailey &
Herb Shumway the vestry has two beautiful new
rugs. Thank You!



Barb Bunger, Eve Potts and Fred Bunger
rearranged the furniture, laid down the new rugs,
and took the old rugs and some extraneous play
equipment to the Swap. Thank you!

Thank you Duncan Glover for having the rugs and
the couches cleaned and to Barbara Bunger and
Eve Potts for having the floors steam cleaned.
What a wonderful improvement!



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



pasta sauce
juice- plastic jugs and juice boxes
cereal - please no corn flakes or cheerios - kid cereal please
cookies
crackers
kleenex
rice - white and flavored
jelly - no grape please

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.

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)

November 4

Election Day Sermon "Of the People"

Rev. Richard Stower

It was a tradition in colonial and early America for ministers to preach about the issues of the day from their pulpit. Faith is not merely beliefs and values. Faith is embodied. Faith is lived, and so it is appropriate to speak about the actions we take in our lives and those of our government who acts in our name. This sermon will touch on some of the issues in the current election campaign.

November 11

"Self-Culture"

Rev. Richard Stower

The Rev. William Ellery Channing, an early 19th century Unitarian minister in Boston, believed it was in the power of every individual to grow and nurture one's moral view; to live a life of good deeds; and that our genius and strength would come from inside of ourselves, from our character. This sermon looks into Channing's believe that human character development is a dynamic process, always evolving.

November 18

"For All That Is Our Life"

Rev. Richard Stower

This Thanksgiving service will offer us an opportunity to express our gratitude for the wonderful things in our life.

November 20

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Rev. Richard Stower

First Parish is pleased to host the Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service once again. Please join us at 7pm for this community event.

November 27

TBA

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, Nov 4

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary
OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry

Thursday, Nov 8

Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House

Sunday, Nov 11	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary "Town Meeting" /11:30 am/Sanctuary
Monday, Nov 12	Veteran's Day/Office Closed
Thursday, Nov 15	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, Nov 18	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, Nov 20	Medfield Interfaith Thanksgiving Service/7:00 pm/Sanctuary Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, Nov 22	Thanksgiving/Office Closed
Sunday, Nov 25	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, Dec 2	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary
Sunday, Dec 9	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Sanctuary
Thursday, Dec 13	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, Dec 16	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Semi-Annual Meeting/11:30 am/Sanctuary OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, Dec 18	Membership Committee Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, Dec 20	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, Dec 23	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary
Tuesday, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Service/Sanctuary
Wednesday, Dec 25	Christmas Day

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