

# First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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[www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org)

**April Newsletter 2013**

## An Update from the Ministerial Search Committee

Here's a quick recap of what we have done in the

past 12 months since being elected. We held a retreat, surveyed the congregation, held cottage meetings, created a beautiful website "packet" as well as updated the [firstparishmedfield.org](http://firstparishmedfield.org) website, hosted last fall's Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop, screened many candidates and interviewed several of them by phone, held marathon "precandidating" weekends involving interviews, church tours, neutral pulpits, driving in the snow, and many delicious meals at Louise's house. The group angioplasty is scheduled for later this year. After all that process, the group is very close to having news... but as of this writing, all we can tell you is, "We're really excited and things are going very well. We have every expectation that we will have exciting news for you soon." Contract negotiations, reference checks and CORI checks are keeping us busy in the meantime.

Save the dates of April 28-May 5 for what we anticipate will be out "Candidating Week." Provided that we do end up with a candidate, that person will preach on those two Sundays, with many meetings and gatherings in between, and with the congregational vote occurring immediately after services on Sunday, May 5.

We are eager to involve individuals and committees in the planning of the week's events. If you are a part of a committee that wishes to meet with or host the candidate, please be in contact with us to let us know. If you are an individual who wishes to be involved in the planning of the week (including social events, etc.), please also be in touch. Louise Rachin will be the coordinator for the week's events. You can contact her at [lrachin@comcast.net](mailto:lrachin@comcast.net).

By the time this newsletter is published, we may well have something more to tell you, so keep watching your email!



## Ministerial MUUsings...

"Don't you want to be saved?," I was once asked.

"Saved from what? For what?," was my reply.

"From damnation. Don't you want to be blessed by God?"

"But I have already been blessed by God," I continued.

We are in the midst of both the Christian Holy Week and the Jewish Passover holiday. It is at this time in centuries past that these two religions with a common heritage had their most tense relationship, if not outright hostility and violence. Christians having been taught that the Jews, as a group, were responsible for the death of Jesus were quite willing to believe in the rumors that Christian children were being murdered at Passover so that their blood would be used in the making of matzoh, the unleavened bread used during the Passover season. Part of this hatred came also from the disbelief of Christians that Jews would not accept Jesus as the Messiah.

I have never fully understood the need of one religious group to convert another. Yes, I know the New Testament calls upon the apostles to spread the gospel of Jesus. But if someone says, "Thanks, but no thanks," what is wrong with that? A Christian, Jew or Muslim acknowledges that God has given humanity free will. So why can't a person be free to choose their religion or experience their spiritual practice?

"Are you happy,?" I was asked.

"Most of the time," I replied.

"But how can you be happy without knowing Jesus?"

"I know a lot of happy Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and atheists; a good number of moral, ethical people leading positive lives without knowing Jesus as their personal savior" I said.

Passover is a holiday that celebrates human freedom, freedom not only from physical bondage but religious freedom as well. And that is a good thing. Easter is a holiday that celebrates the everlasting life embodied by love. That is a good thing as well.

The essence of these two holidays are not incompatible. They contain the best of the human spirit, God - given, if that is what you believe. If only the world could see the truth in the spirit of all the world's religions and dispose of the desire to convert others to their religion by way of physical, verbal or mental intimidation.

The good news of freedom and love would be wonderful presents to spread around during this holy season.

Peace...  
*Rich*



# Executive Board Notes

The Executive Board Meeting was held on March 21st.

- ❖ **Ministerial Search:** Jen Bartle reported that the Search Committee has selected a candidate and the process of finalizing the compensation and job requirements is underway. The selected candidate, assuming an agreement of terms is reached, will be at First Parish the week of April 28 to May 5 and will be in the pulpit both Sundays. A Parish Meeting is scheduled to follow the service on May 5 to vote on acceptance of the candidate to be the settled minister for First Parish.
- ❖ **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee (Julie DeSorger, Bill Wians and Rebecca Stephenson) recommend some clarifications in the Nominations section of the By-Laws. Also, the succession planning for the Board was discussed.
- ❖ **First Parish Annual Meeting** is scheduled for June 2. There will be elections for Chair, Treasurer and two At-Large positions on the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee Chair will also be open. If you are interested in a Board position, please contact Bill Wians or Julie DeSorger. The last service for the year is June 9.
- ❖ **New Sign:** The sign committee (Barbara Bunger, Duncan Glover, Don Rolph, David Stephenson, and Susan Stromgren) received tentative approval for the new sign and wayside pulpit from the Town Sign Committee. Signs are to be downsized about 15% and the wayside pulpit is to be located to replace the banner stanchions at the rear door of the Church. Fundraising to resume the end of April.
- ❖ **Policies and Procedures:** Fritz presented current status of FPUU Policies and Procedures. The Board will address Personnel Policies and Procedures. Liaisons will work with Committees on the P&P needing further development.
- ❖ **Fundraiser:** Thirty eight people attended the First Parish Historical Fundraiser held on March 9. Over \$2300 was raised to benefit the Church. It was a very enjoyable evening; good food, good conversation and fellowship. Thanks to Fritz Fleischmann and Sara Drumm for co-chairing this event.
- ❖ **Annual Fund Drive:** An evening of music and contra-dancing kicked off the Annual Fund Drive on March 23. Over 40 adults and children attended and enjoyed the dance instruction, lively music and good food. Thanks to Fund Drive Committee: Duncan Glover, Mark Samels, Marshall Sugarman and Louise Rachin for sponsoring this event. The Fund Drive information package was presented Sunday March 24 and stressed the importance of maintaining progress in a time of lower attendance and fewer pledge families.
- ❖ **March 30 Indoor Yard Sale & Ye Olde Antique Shoppe:** The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Indoor Yard Sale and Ye Olde Antique Shoppe will be held on Saturday, March 30.
- ❖ **Wireless News:** No change since the February report. Waiting for MetroPCS to file with the Town.

# News and Views from the RE Desk

Patricia Hatch, Interim Director of Religious Education



## RE Updates:

1. On Easter Sunday, please join us for a special, intergenerational service. After the service, the children will be having an Easter Can Hunt to benefit the local food pantry. There will be **surprises** for the children as well! **Everyone:** Please bring in canned goods for the Can Hunt. There will be a box in the narthex where you can put the cans on your way into church. Please give cans to benefit local neighbors in need, and to help make the children's Easter Can Hunt a success! Thank you!
2. In April, watch for a "Who Am I?" bulletin board at coffee hour. Children and a corresponding number of adults will have clues to their identity posted on the board. It will be a fun way for congregants of all ages to get to know others a little better. Thanks to the RE Committee for working on this!
3. The children in RE have been learning about our Unitarian Universalist Principles this month. Starting in April, we will be doing a little Bible literacy as a goal. We will read and/or act out a few of the major Bible stories from funny or interesting viewpoints. Thanks to Clayton Springer and Chris Conley for the RE help this month, and thanks to Joyce Fetteroll for her idea and work on the upcoming Bible literacy unit.

Here is a great quote from William Ellery Channing: "Beauty is an all-pervading presence. It unfolds to the numberless flowers of the Spring; it waves in the branches of the trees and in the green blades of grass; it haunts the depths of the earth and the sea, and gleams out in the hues of the shell and the precious stone. And not only these minute objects, but the ocean, the mountains, the clouds, the heavens, the stars, the rising and the setting sun all overflow with beauty. The universe is its temple; and those people who are alive to it can not lift their eyes without feeling themselves encompassed with it on every side."

Happy Spring!  
Patricia



## Annual Fund Committee

Dear First Parish Members & Friends:

The search for meaning in our lives is central to us all. So is belonging to something bigger than ourselves. Those basic human needs, for meaning and community, come together in First Parish.

We tend to think of ourselves as *members* of First Parish. But aren't we really *owners* of First Parish? No distant body controls our fate, or dictates our direction. We are, in Emerson's words, a remarkable example of self-reliance.

Each year, the ties that bind us, and the responsibilities we all share as a congregation, are embodied in our Fund Drive. It is a time to reflect upon what our lives would be like without First Parish, and to remember moments that we treasure. It is also a time to look ahead to a new chapter in our shared history, one that holds great promise.

That promise will be shaped in large part by the pledge of financial commitment we each make to the church. For the current fiscal year, 2012-13, here is how our 56 pledges divide into four parts, or quartiles. Each quartile contains 14 pledges:

First Quartile	\$2,500 - \$10,000
Second Quartile	\$1,700 - \$2,475
Third Quartile	\$800 - \$1,500
Fourth Quartile	\$200 - \$700

For the new fiscal year, we are asking that you consider moving up within your quartile—or, even better, moving up to a higher quartile. We ask that you think of your pledge not as an annual membership fee to a club, but as your fair share of a community. As an owner, what is First Parish worth to you?

We also ask that you take into consideration a troubling fact: our pledge rolls are down more than 20% since 2010—something not unusual for a congregation between ministers, yet cause for concern. We ask that you recall what we have experienced together in recent years: a tough recession, Rev. Bob's departure, and the frustrating delay of cell phone revenue. Above all, though, we urge you to reflect on all that First Parish brings to your life, to your own search for meaning and community.

**We still enjoy each other's company. We still laugh, and occasionally cry, together.  
We are still here—and Buck's horseshoe still hangs above the door.**

Let's keep it that way. In the coming days, your Fund Drive leader will be contacting you to accept your pledge of financial support for First Parish. You can discuss any questions or concerns with either your Fund Drive leader or anyone on our Annual Fund Drive Committee. And please accept our sincere thanks in advance.

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



Photos of the March 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Fundraising Dinner  
Submitted by Sara Drumm





## Message from Membership

### Welcome New Member ~ Shirley Riga

After considerable thought and attending First Parish Medfield for over a year, Shirley signed "The (membership) Book" in mid-March. What a joy it is to welcome her to our congregation.

Shirley has already made an impression on our community. She participates in the church choir, and recently produced for our February 24th Sunday Service the wonderful play "We Did It For You," which chronicles the women's rights movement. She is gathering a cast for a full production.

Shirley is a native New Englander, having grown up in East Longmeadow, MA. After marrying, she continued to live in Western Mass with her husband and two daughters. Her oldest daughter, Marcy, is married and has a 2 year old son and a 7 month old daughter. Lindsey, her youngest, was born with chronic liver disease which has been an ongoing challenge for the family. Shirley is the author of the upcoming book *Tools for the Exceptional Parent of a Chronically Ill Child*.

After Shirley and her husband divorced, Shirley married Lizzie. They lived happily together with their blended family of four daughters for 15 years.

Sadly, in 2006, Lizzie was killed in a car accident. Wanting to make a change, Shirley moved to California where she met Thea, a poet and playwright. Together they collaborated to create the play "We Did It For You." The play has been performed for state conventions, women's organizations, colleges, universities and museums in the State of California. It was featured at the California Women's Suffrage Centennial in Sacramento. Through the play, Shirley discovered she loved to sing and act.



In 2010 Shirley became a grandmother. In 2011, Shirley returned from California because her mother was ill and soon thereafter passed

away. Since then she decided she wanted to remain in MA to be near her family. During this time, Shirley has left the court reporting profession and is currently the office manager for a counselor in Newton. Thea will be moving to Massachusetts in 2014.

What initially attracted Shirley to First Parish Medfield was the Rainbow Flag. Even though she was a student of the "Science of Mind" philosophy, a movement that explores the power of thought, she continued to attend First Parish. She soon made friends within our church community. She eventually decided to remain with FPUU because of its interest in Social Action/Justice issues.

We are blessed to have Shirley as one of our newest congregants. Please welcome her warmly!



## Other Announcements



### Annual Pot-luck Passover Seder – Friday, April 5th in the Vestry, at 5:30pm.

Passover is a celebration of the freeing of the Israelites from Egypt - you remember the story (The Ten Commandments, Charlton Heston) - the Passover Seder is a retelling of that story, accompanied by food and wine - grape juice for the kids. All are invited - members, friends, and of course children. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Dan Bibel, Becca Kornet or Louise Rachin.

### 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](http://www.firstparishmedfield.org) and click on the "Support First Parish-Amazon & Equal Exchange" link on the left. It's easy!

The Medfield Food Cupboard has requested the following from our church

For the month of April:



- ✓ Applesauce cups
- ✓ Raisins
- ✓ White tuna in water
- ✓ Juice
- ✓ Jelly, no grape please
- ✓ Cereal

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.

Thank you to Sam Flaherty for delivering these items to the Food Cupboard on behalf of FPUU.

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

April 7, 2013

"Art and Religion"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

The arts are a pathway to the sacred. We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy a painting of a sunrise or sunset over a luxuriant landscape, to hear or read words that conjure up image of a life that is or that is hoped for; to be moved by words or notes or pictures that provoke feelings of compassion within us and call us to action. If religion is necessary for life, it follows that art is also necessary, for the expressions of art from the simplest to the grandest have always given form to the contemplation of what is despaired of, feared, ignored, praised and glorified.

April 14, 2013

"Take Fate by the Throat"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

The writer, David Applebaum says "fate flows in the hidden form of things and events. Fate simply is what happens, and what happens is ineffable", beyond description. That is one answer. "Fate is out of our control," we often hear. The story of our life has already been written and we are merely acting out the play. It is predestined. What happens to us, we say, is our fate. But, then, there is fortune, a moment in time when it is possible that our fate, our destiny, is changed by a random act or circumstance. Life is like this. Sometimes things that happen to us seem incredible, because the odds against them are so huge. However, we live in a vast turbulent sea of endless happenings, and within that sea all kinds of people experience all kinds of events. These events are not signs of divine intervention, but instead just part of the random universe in which we live.

April 21, 2013

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Rev. Richard M. Stower

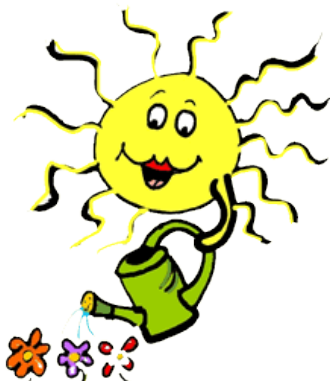
On this Earth Day Sunday we celebrate our Mother Earth from whom we have been given much. How can we repay her?

April 28, 2013

First Candidating Sunday

May 5, 2013

Second Candidating Sunday - Congregational Vote



## FPUU Calendar of Events

Friday, April 5	Passover Seder/5:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 7	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 11	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, April 16	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Thursday, April 19	Green Sanctuary Movie Night/6:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, April 21	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, April 25	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, April 28	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Sunday, May 5	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Thursday, May 9	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Thursday, May 16	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, May 19	OWL Meeting/7-9 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, May 21	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's

For a complete listing of events, please visit our website at [www.firstparishmedfield.org](http://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](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

### 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: Mondays & Thursdays from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.  
Email: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org) Sandra Andreassi-Administrator