

# First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

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



## October Newsletter 2013

### From the Minister

Dear First Parish friends,

First: some unfinished business from Sunday ...

During the service I neglected to ask you all to pray together for the people killed in the past week in Nairobi because of a political agenda. I neglected to ask you, when we gathered, to remember all those who lost their lives or loved ones in the Washington DC Navy Yard, for what agenda we may never know. I neglected to ask you to hold in your hearts the families and friends in Canton who lost a loved one when a young driver went over the middle line while driving, and I forgot to ask you

to remember the Walpole family and friends of the driver, and he himself— what he has done can never be undone.

So I ask you to take a moment and hold all these people in your hearts: may they have peace, may they know comfort. Our thoughts may not be synchronous, but they will be shared.

This incident reminded me of how easy it is to get caught up in things that we think are important, only to remember later that they are just details, really. The important thing, which I missed for my focus on the details, was extending our hearts together in compassion, for this is one of the most important aspects of the shared spiritual practice that we call worship.

Stepping back a bit, it also reminded me of how easy it is to get caught up in the cycle of trying to be 'the best', letting ego guide what we do rather than the spiritual needs of others, and then judging ourselves when we 'fall short'. In fact, I am the minister that I am -- just as you may be the parent you are, or the spouse you are -- each with our strengths and weakness, desires and illusions. And sometimes we will forget things and do things we wish we hadn't. That's OK, that's the way it is. We are promise-making, promise-breaking, and promise-renewing people.

Thank goodness, life has a way of showing us reality, no matter what we want to believe. And reality is, paraphrasing Rev. Wayne Muller that we

are not so important after all, but if we are lucky and listen to how things move, we may be graced with the gift of helping something good and wonderful be born.

I love being here with you all. Thank you!  
Many blessings,  
Meg

**Office hours:**  
**Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30 – 2:30**  
**And by appointment**  
**Work cell: 781-767-7663**  
**Pastoral emergencies: 781-850-3307**

**Lunch Bunch meets on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Bring a brown bag lunch and meet at the church office building for lunch with Rev. Meg on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.**

## Upcoming Adult Classes

### Who are We? Who Are Our Neighbors? Learning to Speak Christian Classes starting October 16th



The foundational source of Unitarian Universalism is what we might call the alternative Judeo-Christian tradition. It informs our Unitarian Universalist assumptions about the nature of the universe, of human beings, of the human predicament and our best responses to it, and the nature of what lies beyond and within all that is. Yet many of us are reluctant to embrace or acknowledge this -- we mistakenly identify "Christianity" solely with a particular

contemporary form of Christianity that is not our primary heritage. But reality is richer than that.

This class will explore two great divergent streams in Christianity, and place them in historical and theological relationship to our contemporary Unitarian Universalist movement.

Course Reading: *Speaking Christian*, by Marcus Borg; *Saving Paradise*, by Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Parker. Led by Rev. Meg Soens. 6 weeks, Wednesday, October 16 - November 20, from 7:00 pm-8:30 pm in the Vestry. *To register, sign up in the vestry or email Rev. Meg at [minister@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:minister@firstparishmedfield.org).*

## From the Director of Religious Education

Everything I needed to know about religious education, I learned at Medfield Day!

Well, not really, but I did notice some things:

That kids love to paint pumpkins, and they love it when grownups take their artwork seriously, and give them lots of choices about what to do.

That kids really want to donate their pennies (sometimes more!) to shelter animals, feed the hungry, and take care of trees. (In that order!)

At Medfield Day this year, we charged \$2.98 for pumpkins, and put jars out so people could donate their \$.02 in change to the Medfield Animal



Shelter, the Medfield Food Cupboard, and Medfield Green (See side box). People really liked it. Some kids had a hard time choosing, and we had some conversation about that, because it's a real-life challenge: what do you do when you have only two pennies but three different issues that that need attention?



Of course, kids also got to choose pumpkins, and then which table to sit at, and which materials to use, and again there were challenges and constraints: someone else used up all the googly eyes! There's no purple paint left! Mom doesn't want me to use the really messy paints! These scissors don't work! We have to go soon!



And there were the usual assortment of parents and other family members. Some were very involved and gave a lot of suggestions to their kids about what to do. Others hung back and let the kids do whatever they wanted. I like to think that if my own kids were there, I'd have been the do-what-you-want sort, but I'd more likely have been the "suggesting" one ("wouldn't this look excellent? ooo, look at this cool yarn!").





I did, by the way, do a couple of my own pumpkins, ostensibly to inspire others, but also because it was fun. And one of the main things I noticed at Medfield Day was that somewhere on the way to adulthood, lots of us seem to have learned that pumpkin decorating is just for kids. Unless I missed it, not a single adult got their own pumpkin.



You've heard it from me before, and you'll hear it again: "religious education" isn't just for kids either. I've now done a few Moments for All Ages during our Sunday services, and a whole lot of adults have told me they've valued those Moments, which is good, because that's the intent.

Sometimes the simplest things, the ones we learn early on in life, are the ones we need to keep practicing throughout our lives. How to make art. How to enjoy getting messy and then clean it up. How to act on what we care about. How to share our wealth (even if our wealth is pennies). How to discern the gifts in our lives, how to give the gift of ourselves to others, and how to receive others as gifts to us, especially when they don't feel like gifts at all!

This month in RE, in the Moments for All Ages and the youth worship services, the theme has been gifts. We'll continue this theme throughout the fall. If you are interested in the curriculum that we are (loosely) using, it's on the UUA website under Tapestry of Faith. It's called "Wonderful Welcome."

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/index.shtml>

Thanks to everyone who's been teaching this term, or providing child care, or helping with pumpkin painting or spin art. I won't list everyone because I'm still learning names and I don't want to leave anyone out! But I will give a shout out to all the kids in RE who helped clean up the U House and the grounds after Medfield Day: Rachel, Sammy K, Sammy D, Molly, Declan, Najia, Lian, and Gabe C-T.

What gifts these young people are!

**At Medfield Day, we collected**  
**\$14.48 for Medfield Green**  
**([www.medfieldgreen.org](http://www.medfieldgreen.org)),**  
**\$20.02 for the Medfield Food Cupboard**  
**([www.medfieldfoodcupboard.com](http://www.medfieldfoodcupboard.com)), and**  
**\$43.91 for the Medfield Animal Shelter**  
**([www.medfieldshelter.com](http://www.medfieldshelter.com)).**

## First Parish Shines on Medfield Day!



A big THANK YOU to all the First Parish adults, youth, kids and friends, who baked, cleaned, sold baked goods, helped kids with pumpkin painting and spin art, tended the farmers' market and gave steeple tours. What fun it was.

It was a big day for First Parish. We met many of our neighbors and enjoyed the fellowship of working together (several of us coming Medfield Day for the first time ever!) We also put our best foot forward with our signs, our spiffy new aprons and fabulous baked goods, and our genuine enjoyment at meeting so many folks.



AND, the Church netted over \$1000 from all YOUR efforts.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.



## Farmers' Market Closed for the Season



Sept. 26th was our final day for the Farmers' Market this year. Our third year has been a successful one. Jordan Brothers Seafood and Bark Back Bakery were new additions this year, joining Ward's Berry Farm and Langwater Farm with their fresh fruits and vegetables, Garden Farms with their jams, jellies & relishes, and Wild Daisy Soap, all who have been our regulars for the past three years.

Each week during the season, two church volunteers have represented the church at the market. Kudos goes to:

Jay Bibel  
Dan Bibel  
David Temple  
Alison Galley and her daughter  
Dawn Amaral

Susan Stromgren  
Kay Bennett  
Fred Bungler  
Ann Bullock Midttun, our newcomer to the church

We are looking forward to next year especially since Needham Bank will be our sponsor. They will provide us with new Farmers' Market signs as well as money for advertising. Wonderful! We also hope to expand with two to three more vendors.

Exciting times! Hope to see you next year.  
Eve Potts

*Special thanks to Eve Potts who has done a wonderful job as Market Manager this year and CB Doub who did a fantastic job with publicity. The Market would not have been possible without the efforts of both of you.*

## Coming of Age



### Haunted Lights Out Adventure at 5Wits October 5th

The older youth (past and present COA-ers) and parents are invited to participate in a Haunted Lights Out adventure at 5Wits 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea [on Saturday, October 5th](#). This special show, only offered during Halloween season, promises smiles and screams for all! Contact Cissy for info ([mecha1030@gmail.com](mailto:mecha1030@gmail.com)) and visit <http://www.5-wits.com/20000leagues.aspx>.

### The Coming of Age Program Starts on October 20th

The Coming of Age potential youth participants and parents will meet [Sunday evening, Oct. 20, at 7pm](#) in the vestry. The facilitators are David Maxson and Cissy Hull-Allen and is for young people usually in 9th and 10th grade.







**Congratulations to Eva Kendrick, writer and director, and the cast and crew of Le Café Bistro for its successful performances on Friday, September 27, Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29, 2013!**

*(More to follow in next month's newsletter....)*

## **Executive Board Notes**

An Executive Board meeting was held on September 19, 2013

- **New Ministry Workshop** –This workshop, which is for the entire congregation, has been scheduled for Sunday October 27, starting at Noon and will include a potluck meal.
- **Semi-Annual Parish Meeting** – has been scheduled for Sunday December 8, starting after the service.
- **Pledge Collections for 2013 and for 2014:** Fiscal year 2013: \$112,087 of the \$117,500 pledged has been collected (95.4%). Fiscal year 2014: \$46,000 of the \$111,063 pledged has been collected (41.4%).
- **Website upgrade** – The website has been revamped and reoriented, thanks to the work of Rev. Meg, Dan Bibel, Katrin Fischer and John Kornet.
- **Vacancy in Clerk Position** – Ann Cunningham has resigned from the Communications Clerk position due to health issues. In accordance with our By-laws, the Board will appoint a Communications Clerk to serve for the remainder of church year.

Duncan Glover  
Executive Board Vice-Chair

## Message from Membership



FPUU has created a wonderful beginning to the church year!

The new church sign provides First Parish with a striking presence and identity in the community that has been lacking.

Medfield Day was a huge success, with our name and logo on aprons and signs in prominent positions at all of our activities...and we exceeded expectations at all events.

We have gotten good publicity in local media about our new minister, Meg Soens and R.E. Director, Alison Streit Baron.

And our Café/Theatre event "Le Petite Bistro" was Sold Out!

But our work isn't done. Let's carry this energy and our message forward to introduce friends and neighbors to FPUU and our loving community. And let's grow the R.E. program!!

For those who haven't contributed to the Sign Project, make a donation, large or small, so we can move ahead with reconstructing the Wayside Pulpit. Let's bring this project to completion. We still need to raise \$1900.

Please join us as we move forward.

Membership Committee

## 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.

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

Email: [admin@firstparishmedfield.org](mailto:admin@firstparishmedfield.org)

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

Spoletto, Italy







## From the New Education Center Committee

We are pleased to announce that Architect David Sharff has completed Phase 1 of a two-phase proposal as follows:

### Phase 1: Programming:

- Work with planning representatives from First Parish Medfield to develop the current needs assessment and then translate that into a final working document of space usage, room size and required adjacencies.
- Site Plan Review – check compliance with Town of Medfield bylaws.

#### *Deliverables:*

- Site plan and approximate building footprint to scale.
- Up to 3 planning meetings with First Parish Medfield
- Draft a written/graphic program

*Fee: \$1,800*

During Phase 1, it was confirmed that First Parish owns two-thirds of the land behind the church.

The Committee plans to present the results of Phase 1 (including the objectives of a new building, the site plan and a building footprint) at the Semi-Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Sunday December 8, 2013.

Following the December 8 presentation, the Committee plans to meet with the Executive Board and seek the Board's approval to execute Phase 2 of Mr. Sharff's proposal, as follows:

### Phase 2: Preliminary Design

#### *Deliverables:*

- Floor plans and exterior renderings, drawn to scale indicating proposed exterior materials
- Review with representatives of First Parish Medfield and MCAA (Medfield Community Cable Access Corporation or "Medfield TV"), who is a potential renter of the new facility.
- Prepare approximate budget estimate.
- Preparation of final master plan.

*Fee: \$5,000 (potential cost sharing with MCCA)*

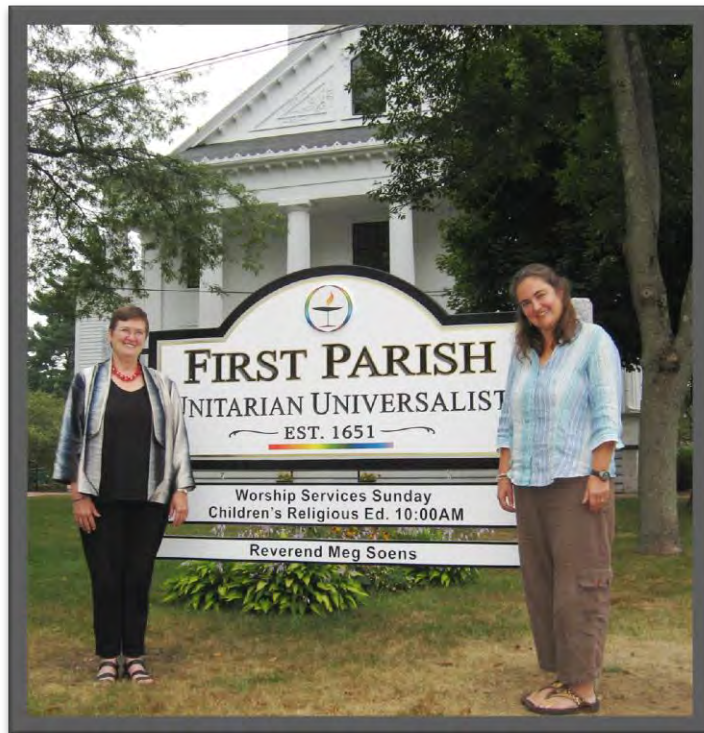
Thanks to generous donations from members of the Congregation, sufficient funds have been raised to execute both Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Respectfully,

New Education Center Committee: Dan Bibel, Duncan Glover, David Maxson, Chris Conley, Sarah Zitoli & Bill Wians

## New Sign at First Parish

*Reverend Meg Soens and RE Director Alison Streit Baron at our New Sign*



### Our New Sign

We are grateful that our new sign was installed on August 24, 2013 well in advance of our Ingathering Service. The installed cost was \$4,225. Thanks to generous donations from members of the Congregation, funds have been raised and the final bill is soon to be paid. In the words of one of our members: *"I just saw our new sign this morning-- it took my breath away it is so beautiful! Thank you, thank you."*

### Wayside Pulpit Replica

A sign permit, contractor (Sea Street Signs), and contractor's proposal (\$2,800) to construct and install a Wayside Pulpit replica have all been obtained. We plan to install the replica at the location of our temporary sign (near the north entrance of the Church along North Street). We are just \$1,900 away from replacing our cherished Wayside Pulpit. Your donations are needed.

### ***WON'T YOU HELP US REACH OUR GOAL?***

Respectfully,

The Sign Committee: Barbara Bunger, Duncan Glover, Don Rolph, Susan Stromgren and David Stephenson

Help Make Our New Ministry with Rev. Soens  
A Resounding Success  
Come to the UUA's Mass Bay District's

**New Ministry Workshop**  
**October 27, noon to 3:30**  
**In the church vestry**  
(Potluck lunch, followed by workshop led by District staff)



The Unitarian Universalist Association offers every church with a newly-settled minister a start-up workshop to help the new shared ministry get off to the best possible beginning. This important workshop will:

- Explore dimensions and challenges of shared ministry
- Articulate structures and boundaries necessary for effective ministry, and
- Identify the best ways for the new minister's strengths to shine forth.

The workshop uses a combination of group exercises and discussion to brainstorm important priorities for the first year in the new ministry and to explore areas in which the shared ministry between the congregation and its new minister needs clarification and focus. Make time for this valuable conversation as FPUU Medfield moves into the future with Rev. Meg.



## 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 "shopping at Amazon" link at the bottom of every page. For coffee or tea, talk to Dan or email him at [dbibel@verizon.net](mailto:dbibel@verizon.net)

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



- Peanut butter
- Jelly ( no grape please)
- Cookies
- Juice - boxes and jugs
- Canned chicken
- Pasta sauce
- Canned pasta

Please double check your food items to ensure that they are 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 Evan Springer who is the coordinator for our church this year.*

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

**October 6**

**"Beyond Loneliness and Stigma"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

We will honor National Mental Illness Awareness Week by exploring the prevalence and impact of serious mental health issues in our world, and what our just and loving responses to these realities might be.

**October 13**

**Guest minister Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen**

**October 20**

**"The Music Director Who Taught Us to Sing"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

The Lowell Mason Community Singers will grace us with their singing this Sunday, as we hear the story and examine the heritage of this Medfield man who brought European classical music into church hymnody of early 1800s, and changed worship services all over America, including ours.

**October 27**

**"All Souls Day/Samhain"**

**Rev. Meg Soens**

Have you ever felt the presence of someone you loved who had died? How did you understand that experience? How did it affect you? How do we talk about these sorts of experiences?



## FPUU Calendar of Events

Thursday, October 3	Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Tuesday, October 8	Lunch Bunch with Rev. Meg/12:00 pm/Church Offices
Thursday, October 10	Worship & Music Committee Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Monday, October 14	Columbus Day-Church Offices Closed
Wednesday, October 16	Who Are We Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, October 17	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, October 20	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Coming of Age Begins/7:00 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, October 23	Who Are We Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, October 27	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary New Ministry Workshop/12:00 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, October 30	Who are We Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 3	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary
Wednesday, November 6	Who Are We Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 10	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary
Monday, November 11	Veteran's Day/Church Offices Closed
Tuesday, November 12	Lunch Bunch/12:00 pm/Church Offices Membership Meeting/7:15 pm/Bunger's
Wednesday, November 13	Who Are We Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, November 14	Worship & Music Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 17	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary

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)