

First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



November Newsletter 2013

From the Minister

Dear FPUU friends,

There's a lot of energy at church now, and it is great to be a part of that! On October 20, after a sermon on the centrality of covenant (i.e., mutual promises) in our Free Church tradition, a group of seventeen of us met to work on some possibilities for a church covenant. Folks did a lot of work in a relatively short time, and I thank them for that.

The tradition out of which we come, the Puritans and Pilgrims of the 1600's, gathered as free people joining together to make a church (this was *totally*

radical!), and they gathered around a mutual promise about how they would live together. *Covenant – an explicit mutual commitment – is at the heart of our tradition.* I am hoping that you, the members of this church, will agree that it is desirable for us to make explicit now the things that bind us together as a church, which aren't theological beliefs, or obedience to a religious authority, or faith in the transforming power of confession or sacrament. The things that bind us together as a church are embodied in how we want to be together, how we want to act towards each other and the world beyond our doors.

I encourage committees and task forces to create their own covenants as well, oriented toward their areas of responsibility as well as how they want to bring our values to life in their interactions. Thus far, the executive board has written an excellent covenant of their own, and staff has brainstormed a draft covenant.

Over the next few months, there will be up to three workshops for the congregation so that as many people can participate as possible in working together toward an all-church covenant. My thought is to take the output from these three workshops and draft two or three versions of a church covenant. We could meet to look at these and discuss them, giving me more information to help tweak them. Finally, at a parish meeting you would vote on whether or not one of these (or none of these) would be your covenant. I would regularly include the covenant as part of our worship service, to remind us of what we are promising to each other and what is beyond us when we become part of this faith community.

I am also excited about the new series of all-church potluck suppers starting up in November!

The Pastoral Care Committee is hosting the first one, on Friday evening November 15. Members, new and long-time alike, had such fun at the two fellowship opportunities we've already had — Medfield Day and Le Bistro Café — that it was clear we want more chances to have fun together and get to know each other better. So we'll have childcare, and some entertainment, and I think some games as well... Whatever the organizers end up planning, I know we will all have a good time. So see you there, as well as in church!

Many blessings,
Rev. Meg

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

From the Director of Religious Education

Coming of Age

Last night marked the beginning of this year's Coming of Age (COA) program for First Parish youth, facilitated by Cissy Hull-Allen and David Maxson. Parents and youth came together to talk about their hopes and expectations for the program. The attached photo, of the COA 'altar,' shows the kinds of questions that might come up in COA.

Every UU congregation does COA a little differently, but what generally characterizes COA

is the growing self-definition and expression of spirituality by the youth participants. COA often



marks the end of classroom religious education (at FPUU, that path goes from Little Lights to elementary RE to Neighboring Faiths to Our Whole Lives, culminating in COA). For some youth, coming of age might mean the choice to identify as UU not because it's their parents' religion but because Unitarian Universalism means something to them personally, and they can say what that is. An important part of COA is the development by youth participants of their own credos, or statements of belief – not for now and all time, but at this time in their lives. The Latin roots of the word suggest that "credo" means "what I set my heart to." COA is a time for youth to come together with one another, with their program leaders, and with other adult mentors – usually from the congregation – to ponder and explore and articulate their credos, in words or images or movements or actions.

You might be thinking, "I wish I had such an opportunity!" Well, you do! As UU's, we are always exploring, and as a congregation, we can be "mentors" and partners to one another in our explorations. Just like in COA, our statements of belief may be explicitly spiritual or religious, or they may simply be about "what we set our hearts to" in our individual and collective lives. Just like in COA, our credos are expected to grow with us. If they didn't, we wouldn't be UU's! We are dedicated to forever asking questions, even if the answers change. We are all "coming of age," throughout our lives. As long as we learn and as

long as we live.

Try this out during our next social hour, or as a check-in during your next committee meeting... or around your family dinner table: instead of asking "How are you?" ask one another "What are you setting your heart to these days?" Let me know what you learn.

Alison Baron Streit



Religious Education collected money at Medfield Day to give to the Medfield Animal Shelter. This is the photo the Shelter took of us when we presented the gift.



Executive Board Notes

Meeting held on October 17

- **Semi-Annual Parish Meeting:** has been scheduled for Sunday December 8, starting at 11:15 am after an abbreviated coffee "hour". The status of the church including a Treasurer's report will be presented. There will also be a presentation by the New Education Center Committee and by architect David Sharff.
- **Financial Update for FY 14**
Pledges: \$50K (45%) out of \$111,063 (budget) collected
Fundraising: \$6K (60.6%) out of \$9.9K (budget) raised
Rentals: \$2.7K (18%) out of \$15K (budget) collected
Cash on hand (Rockland Trust Account): \$58.6K
- **New Life Home Refurnishings:** Ron Yates, head of this new organization, is scheduled to participate in the November 3 service and lead a discussion after the service on how FPUU might get involved.
- **Fund Raising:** Fritz Fleischmann offered the following ideas for future fundraisers: (1) Beer Garden; (2) Art Show; (3) New Steeple/Historic Building Fund (get Medfield businesses involved); (4) Craft Fairs and Concession Stand; (5) Green Energy Program offered by Veridian.

Duncan Glover
Executive Board Vice-Chair

Message from Membership



I have to pinch myself when I think about the past two months. We've had a wonderful start to the church year with much congregational fellowship and community spirit. The glorious fall weather has allowed us to have coffee hour on the church grounds, perform work around the U-House and in the gardens, and extend the enjoyment of time outdoors with our family and friends. How blessed we have been.

From a membership perspective, we've noted an uptick in the number of seekers who have passed through our front door this year. As always, we, the members of the church, have done a terrific job of welcoming newcomers and visitors alike. Thanks guys!

The warmth and spiritual gifts of our minister, Meg, and our Religious Ed. Director, Alison, are quite evident when you meet them. Let's spread the word so others can benefit from the love and wisdom these awesome women have to share. Reach out and bring your friends and neighbors to church!

Finally, membership will be involved with the following events:

- November 15th, Friday--Family Potluck (sponsored by Pastoral Care)--details to follow.
- January 11th or 18th--Family Potluck, music theme, details to follow.
- February 2, Sunday--Superbowl Pancake Breakfast.

We'll see you on Sunday!

Membership Committee: Barbara Bunger, Kirsten D'Abate, Katrin Fischer, Nancy Kingsbury.



Notes from the Music Director

Dear Friends,

I had a very busy summer this year with all of my UU-related activities. I wanted to share some of those with you in these reflections.

First, I wanted to give you a report on my participation in General Assembly this year in Louisville, Kentucky. Last fall, I answered a call for GA Musical Leadership and was invited to perform. This was the first time that I had attended GA, thanks in part to my professional development budget and a Matching Grant scholarship awarded by the UUA. I was selected to be a delegate by the FPUU Executive Board, so in addition to my participation as a guest musician, I was also an official delegate.

During plenary, we voted to adopt the "Immigration as a Moral Issue" Statement of Conscience put forth by the Commission on Social Witness. Other issues which passed adopting an Action of Immediate Witness that condemns institution racism and another AIW that calls for delegates to "begin a denomination-wide conversation within their congregations about divesting from fossil fuels or exercising shareholder influence." I heard some wonderful speakers including Kentucky poet laureate Frank X Walker, authors Eboo Patel and Wendell Barry and environmental activist Tim DeChristopher.

I sang in the GA Choir, led by Dallas Bergen, played piano and sang for the Worship & Witness service, and sang in a quartet for the Sunday Morning Service and the Closing Ceremonies. Videos of the services can be found on the General Assembly website at www.uua.org/ga. I was happy to have the opportunity to work with the enormously talented GA Music Coordinator David M. Glasgow. We met at last year's UUMN Conference (Unitarian-Universalist Musicians Network) and he performed one of hymns earlier this year with his choir in Boiling Springs, PA.



I also attended the UUMN Conference in Dallas, TX in July, where I began my first year of the three-year UUA MLCP (Music Leadership Certification Program). I was one of twelve candidates this year, and it was an enriching experience to learn about so many different churches and music programs. It gave me some fantastic ideas for our own music program. Very soon you will be receiving a request to take an FPUU Medfield Music Survey (available online or in paper) as part of one of my homework assignments, and I hope you will all take the time to complete it. My mentor for the program is Shawn McCaan of the First Parish Church of Groton, and my congregational sponsor is Greg Beedy.

In addition to workshops and classes for the MLCP, I performed in one of the annual luncheon recitals, had a booth in the UUMN Bookstore for my original compositions and had one of my hymns, "Awake, Arise!" performed by a couple hundred UU Music Directors at one the Choral Reading Session featuring UU Composers. I also heard some wonderful new music, which I am excited to share with you all.



Le Bistro Café

I also wanted to offer a huge THANK YOU to the many, many members of the First Parish Medfield community who helped out with the musical fundraiser *Le Bistro Café*, from performers to ticket takers. I especially wanted to thank Becca Kornet for helping produce and coordinate the volunteer elements for the show, David Maxson for his Lighting Design which created a more intimate ambiance, and Louise Rachin, who went above and beyond as Food Coordinator, offering not just amazing food but also aprons for the staff as well as tablecloths and table decorations for the vestry.

Thanks to three sold-out performances and the help of all of the volunteers, were able to raise a net total profit of \$2,459 for FPUU Medfield! Two-thirds will go to the General Fund, and one-third will go to the Worship & Music Committee. Thank you all so much for making this fundraiser possible!

In music & fellowship,
Eva Kendrick



Pierre (Daniel Oullette) in "Le Bistro Cafe."



Tom receives a surprise visit from the Doowop girls

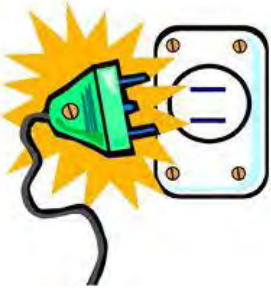


Chloe (Kelly McManus) and Jorge (Nino Ruggieri) sing "I Fell For You" (Le Bistro Café)



Tom (John Kornet) and Maxine (Becca Kornet) finally share a moment. Tom (John Kornet) and Maxine (Becca Kornet)

Purchase your electricity from a green source and support First Parish!



As I was walking around Meeting House Pond on Medfield Day with our FPUU sandwich board (advertising clock tower tours), I

came across an info stand for a “green energy” company called Viridian. This company provides electricity from renewable sources to utilities like NStar and National Grid, allowing consumers to choose between conventionally produced energy and two different blends of “green” energy it calls “Everyday Green” (currently 58% renewable) and “Pure Green” (100% renewable). Consumers who choose one of these options stay with their utility and continue to receive their regular bills; all they need to do is enroll with Viridian to indicate their choice of energy source.

What does it cost? Rates for “Everyday Green” are competitive with those for conventional energy. For example, as an NStar customer you are paying 7.51 cents per kwh on the fixed rate plan; with Viridian, you would pay 7.49 cents/kwh. (Pure Green is more expensive: 8.99 cents/kwh.) So why not switch and feel better about your energy use?

But here is what got my attention: there is a special fundraising deal for nonprofit organizations (like First Parish), the “Residual Fundraising Program.” For each member household that switches to Viridian for its electricity, the organization gets a monthly donation of \$ 2; for each member household that switches to Viridian for natural gas, the organization gets \$ 1. So imagine: if 50 households from our community switched to Viridian’s green electricity, First Parish would get \$ 100 a month, or \$ 1,200 a year of virtually painless income! (And of course more if some of these households also changed their gas supplier.)

There is also a one-time cash bonus for signing up as a community: \$ 250 for the first 25 electricity customers, for instance. During the months of October and November, there is an additional sign-up bonus, based on the number of households enrolled.

The Green Sanctuary Committee has researched this opportunity and encourages all First Parish households to sign up for one of Viridian’s options through the Residual Fundraising Program. I have also presented this plan to the Executive Board at its October meeting, where it met with enthusiastic support.

Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee will be staffing a sign-up table during coffee hour on Sunday, November 10. Please join us in this “green” initiative and help support First Parish!

Fritz Fleischmann



Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 3rd.
Don’t forget to set your clocks back.

Newlife Home Refurnishing

Recycling furniture, Rebuilding lives.

What is New Life Home Refurnishing?

We are a brand new non-profit organization that accepts tax-deductible* donations of “gently used” furniture and household items, warehouses them and then makes them available at no charge to those in need. The household goods are donated by people who no longer have a need for them.

**501(c)3 status pending.*

Who does New Life benefit?

New Life helps individuals and families in transition from the Metro-West area: victims of fires or floods, those escaping domestic abuse, people coming out of homelessness, veterans of war and recent refugees. In order to qualify, clients need to provide a letter of referral from a social service agency or clergy member. Donors also benefit through this local opportunity to recycle furniture and household items that they no longer need.

How can I help?

Volunteer your time at our new site at **106 Adams Street in Medfield**. (Opening anticipated in mid-October.)

Participate on our team to help with organizational development and community outreach.

Donate your furniture and household items. Send us an email describing your items. We will respond with specific information on what we currently accept and hours of operation.

To donate or volunteer, contact us at info@newlifehr.org.

Sunday, November 3rd after the service

Join Rev. Meg in a conversation with Ron Yates, founder of the new Medfield non-profit organization, *Newlife Home Refurnishing*. Come learn more about this local ministry that recycles furniture and household items from its new site at 106 Adams Street in Medfield, making them available at no charge to individuals and families in transition: victims of fires or floods, those escaping from domestic violence, people coming out of homelessness, veterans of war, and recent refugees. Is this a place where we can help heal our world?

Veteran's Day, November 11th

Thank you to all our veterans for your service to our country!

Psssst...LOOK WHO'S TURNING 362!

You're ALL invited to the party, so please save the date:



POTLUCK DINNER

**Friday, November 15th
5:30 till 8pm in the Vestry**

First Parish is 362 years old this year, but we all agree she doesn't look a day over 350!

To celebrate our church's birthday, the Pastoral Care Committee is hosting a festive, pot luck celebration for all ages. Childcare will be provided and birthday cake will be served.

Entertainment provided by The Ocean Winds (formerly known to us as the KPMA Chamber!)

Potluck dish signups and other details to follow soon.

Donations Still Needed to Replace Our Wayside Pulpit



Our Wayside Pulpit – Removed from Grounds in September 2013
(Photo Taken on 02/15/12)

The Sign Committee reports that we have secured the following:

- The sign permit from the Town of Medfield
- The contractor: Sea Street Signs
- The contractor's proposal (\$2,800) to construct and install
- The location: at our temporary sign near the north entrance of the Church along North Street

The only item that stands in the way of replacing our cherished Wayside Pulpit is the funding: we still need about \$1,800. If you have not already done so, please make your donation payable to First Parish Medfield (with "New Sign Fund" on the memo line of your check).

We are most grateful for your donation.

Respectfully,

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

Notes from the Church Office:



Information needed: Has your address, telephone number or cell phone number changed? Please email the office at admin@firstparishmedfield.org 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.

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator

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

Note: Sandra will be away on vacation from November 7-13th

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 "Shopping at Amazon" link in the footer of every page. It's easy!



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



Canned vegetables
Canned pasta
Canned fruit
Household cleaning products

Ziplock bags
Juice - bottle or boxes
Canned chicken
Crackers
Cookies

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)

November 3 "Have Some Cake" Rev. Meg Soens

In a sermon at the UUA's General Assembly in 2012, the Rev. John Crestwell proclaimed, "I am a First and Seventh Principle preacher." In other words, he usually either preaches on the inherent worth and dignity of each person or the interdependent web of life. Sometimes, though, opportunities to support both other peoples' dignity and worth *and* the interdependent web of life fall into our laps.

November 10 Fritz Fleischmann and the Green Sanctuary Team

November 17 "Good or Bad, All or Nothing, Male or Female" Rev. Meg Soens

Our culture habitually uses binary thinking, evaluating objects or situations as good or bad, A or B, black or white, 0 or 1, even male or female. This has significant implications, though, for our understanding of the possibilities in our own lives, and our responses to others.

November 24 Thanksgiving Rev. Meg Soens

We'll celebrate the holiday in a multigenerational service, breaking bread together and acknowledging the multiple meanings of this day. Please bring your favorite homemade or bakery-supplied bread.



Photograph taken by John Kornet

FPUU Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 3	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Daylight Savings Time ends Ron Yates to speak
Wednesday, November 6	Learning to Speak Christian 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	Learning to Speak Christian Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, November 14	Worship & Music Meeting/7:30 pm/Vestry
Friday, November 15	Potluck Dinner/5:30 pm/Vestry
Sunday, November 17	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Coming of Age/7-9:00 pm/Vestry
Wednesday, November 20	Learning to Speak Christian Class/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, November 21	Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Sunday, November 24	Choir Rehearsal/9:00 am/Sanctuary Coming of Age/7-9:00 pm/Vestry
Tuesday, November 26	Choir Rehearsal/
Thursday, November 28	Thanksgiving/Office Closed

