



First Parish Unitarian Universalist Of Medfield

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

www.firstparishmedfield.org



June Newsletter 2014

From the Minister

Dear FPUU friends,

It's hard to believe that this is the June newsletter – the last one of the 2014 church year! And then it's summer, with all the changes that entails for the church and for members. After the June 15 service I will be away at Ministry Days and General Assembly, and then on study leave and vacation; I will resume leading services at the beginning of September. (In the case of serious pastoral emergencies, though, I will be available over the summer.)

This summer we will have some lay-led worship services (check the website later in June for the schedule). This is important, because although the minister may be away, spiritual and pastoral needs, the need for fellowship – none of these disappear during the summer. Members *and* visitors and newcomers have times of sorrow and

joy, regardless of the season, and during these times they especially need the church. In addition, many families move into the area during the summer before school starts. If our doors are closed, we cannot welcome and help people who are beginning to look for a spiritual home. For these reasons in the fall I want to begin exploring with you and the executive board how and why we might become a fully year-round church. I'd love to hear your thoughts and ideas about this.

In terms of *this* summer, we would welcome some additional lay leaders who would be bold enough to offer to lead a simple service. If there is a topic that especially concerns or interests you that you could build a very informal worship service around, please get in touch with myself or Becca Korner, chair of Worship and Music Committee. I'd be happy to coach or otherwise help anyone who is considering leading a service; we also have some

good written guidance for putting together and leading such a service. And do come to the services when you can, to support your fellow parishioners who are giving of their time and energy to lead one, and your fellow congregants who are coming for the comfort and joy of being together.

This year just finishing up, though, has been wonderful. I've never had another first year of ministry with which to compare it, but it seems to me to be as good as one could possibly have hoped for:

- You were so welcoming, to myself, to your new director of religious education and to the visitors and newcomers who came to our church throughout the year.
- You were excited about a new beginning and responded with energy and commitment to the new fellowship, social justice and enrichment opportunities. And what an installation!
- You were flexible as we tried out different tweaks to the worship service.
- You were forgiving when I made the inevitable mistakes that I did.
- And most importantly, you have been willing to speak with and write to me to share your thoughts and feelings about all of the above, and more, even when it felt hard or risky to do so. That direct communication is so important – when we deal directly with each other, we can feel vulnerable, but by trusting in the loving care and good intention that is the foundation of our faith community, we also honor each other and live according to our best values. This is good!

Finally, I can only name a few people here but I owe many, many of you thanks for all you have done for the church this year, including:

The Transition Team (formerly known as the Search Committee) -- Jen Bartle, Dan Bibel, Kirsten d'Abate, John Kornet, Louise Rachin, and David Temple -- who worked for an additional year, organizing the installation, advising me and giving me constructive feedback and working with myself and the executive board to set up their successor, the Committee on Ministry.

Margaret Rolph and Duncan Glover, for leading a caring, responsible and diligent Executive Board during a year that saw a number of challenging, unforeseen budgetary events.

Duncan Glover, for leading the most successful annual fund drive in our history.

Barb Bunger, who stepped down this year as chair of the Membership committee after many years of extremely hard work helping us learn how to better welcome a wide variety of visitors.

Fred Bunger, who assumed chair position of the Buildings and Grounds Committee in a year when numerous physical plant surprises, small and quite big, had to be dealt with.

Denise Flaherty, for leading the Pastoral Care team in helping to meet the pastoral needs of our congregation.

Fritz Fleischmann, who led the new Green Sanctuary Committee in an active year that had an important impact on our church, including getting nearly half our households signed up for green-sourced energy.

Cissy Hull-Allen, who led the Religious Education Committee as they worked with our new Director of Education to rebuild the elementary and support the strong Coming of Age and Neighboring Faiths religious education programs.

Becca Kornet, who, as the new chair of the Worship and Music Committee, did a wonderful job of supporting and leading all the work of that very important committee.

Eve Potts and Alison Galley, who have been working diligently to bring our Farmer's Market back again this year.

Julie deSorghur and Bill Wians, who did a wonderful job of finding good-fitting folks to fill the Board vacancies.

Nancy Kingsbury, for coordinating our after-church social hour.

Rebecca Stephenson, for making sure we had lovely flowers on Sundays.

From the Director of Religious Education

Umm, where did the year go? Many of us are asking this.

And yet I know when I see the kids again in September, they will be so very different from how they were last September when we came together for the first time!

Life is like that. Years are like that. Kids are like that. That's why it's so important to pause and remember and appreciate.

It has been a joy to work with the young people and the parents and the staff and the board and everyone else at First Parish this year. It has been wonderful to work with Chris Conley as a co-facilitator almost every week, and we all owe him thanks! Thanks also to others who helped facilitate RE this year: John Kornet, Clayton Springer, Renee Lloyd, Sarah Zitoli, Alison Galley, Kirsten D'Abate and Mike Drumm.

And finally, Sandra Andreassi, Alison Baron and Eva Kendrick for their work as the staff of this church – they are all highly talented, hard-working and committed people. This church has an incredibly competent and caring staff in Sandra, Alison and Eva.

I know that I have omitted many, many *thank yous* to good people who put in many hours of labor and caring to lead or help out in all kinds of ministries – forgive me for that and know that you are all loved and valued.

Many blessings, and with gratitude and love,
Rev. Meg



The backbone of this year's Religious Education has been "gifts," not the kind of gifts that come in a box (though we do have a gift-wrapped box in RE, to remind us that they are gifts just the same): the gifts of imagination, of friendship, of forgiveness, of caring, of community, of commitments, and the gifts of each of us.

We celebrated holidays like the Winter Solstice, Day of the Dead and Samhain, which some kids had never heard of. We celebrated people like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Pete Seeger. We collected money for local organizations like the Medfield Animal Shelter, the Medfield Food Cupboard, and Medfield Green. We took a Little Red Wagon Walk for Hunger with other area churches.

In Neighboring Faiths, Becca Kornet and Glen D'Abate introduced 7th & 8th graders to Hinduism, Catholicism, Islam, the Bahai faith, Jainism, and Zen. Many adults in First Parish wish they could take Neighboring Faiths! Thanks so much to Becca and Glen for facilitating this learning for FPUU youth. Now will you teach the rest of us?

In Coming of Age, Cissy Hull-Allen and David Maxson worked with FPUU's 9th & 10th graders to articulate what they most care about or what they "give their heart to" (as the etymology of the words "credo" and "creed" suggest). As Unitarian Universalists, we don't have a set of beliefs we all subscribe to, so the idea behind Coming of Faith is to explore what values we hold and how we live out those values. (Again, many adults tell me they'd like to take Coming of Age!) Several adults served as mentors to the youth in COA this year: Jeff Lloyd, Bill Wians, Chris Conley, Renee Lloyd, Chris Flaherty, and Dan Bibel. Thanks to all of

them and to Cissy and David for the enormous amount of time and energy and love it took to make this program happen.

All year, in every religious education program, participants lit the chalice of our Unitarian Universalist faith, followed each other's joys, sorrows, and concerns, and practiced being together as a group, with many disparate impulses and desires for attention and control and self-expression. That's an ongoing practice, for all of us humans! May we continue to practice together.

-- Alison Streit Baron



New Wayside Pulpit Replica

The new Wayside Pulpit Replica is now located in front of the north entrance of the church along North Street. The installation was completed in April by Frank Iafolla - Sea Street Signs Inc. The Replica is double sided, allowing views of the messages from both directions along North Street. All components are new except the chalice. Per Frank, restoring the chalice was a "labor of love". After removing many coats of white paint, he discovered that the original color of the chalice was gold, and he has re-gilded it to top off the Replica. The Sign Committee is grateful for Frank's skilled craftsmanship.



Annual Meeting June 8th-- Discussion and voting (by members) on the 2015 budget, Board vacancies and other business -- will take place **June 8** at 11:30 in the Sanctuary. Come, participate!

Church Picnic



JUNE 15TH End of the Year Pot-luck Picnic

(After the service)



Bring whatever
you want to eat
and share.

We'll all help set
up and take down
and clean up.

Bring your picnic
chairs and a
Blanket!



In case of rain,
we'll stay in the
vestry.

First Parish UU
26North Street
Medfield, MA 02052

Farmers' Market to Start on June 5th -with exciting new vendors!



The Medfield Farmers' Market will return to the grounds of the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church for a 4th season on **Thursday, June 5th from 2:00 to 6:30 pm and will continue each Thursday through September 25th.**

Ward's Berry Farm, Garden Farms, Jordan Brothers Seafood and Bark Back Bakery will all be returning to the market this season.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that Foxboro Cheese, Tabors Closet, Amir's Natural Foods, Annie's Just Desserts, Newton Street Designs and some others will also be joining the market this season.

This is what you can expect to find at the market this season:

- *Fresh fruit and vegetables
- *Fresh Seafood
- *Grass Fed Beef & Veal
- *Fresh Cheese
- *Eggs
- *Maple Syrup
- *Gourmet Jams, Jellies and Relishes
- *All-natural Mediterranean and Middle Eastern foods
- *Cakes and other desserts, including Gluten Free products!
- *Handmade Dog Collars
- *Handmade Totes and Purses
- *Handmade Jewelry
- *All Natural Dog Treats

More information can be found by visiting our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org. You could also email us at admin@firstparishmedfield.org.

Check us out on Facebook!

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday afternoons.

Eve Potts, Market Manager
Alison Galley, Co-Manager

Building & Grounds Help Needed

SUMMERTIME SPRUCE-UP



With Church services ending in June, a long, lazy summer stretches before us. Ah, the luxury of time to do nothing. What? Nothing to do? We have a solution!

YOU CAN HELP. The tiny, but hard-working Buildings and Grounds Committee needs your input and your help.

- First, let us know what needs attention, what work would improve FPUU buildings and grounds
- Second, be willing to join a work crew to take on a project or two
- Third, be willing to **LEAD** a project that you have a special interest in.

Here are some exciting summer work activities that will help FPUU shine:

- Painting exterior of U-House – at least complete the North side
- Sand and touch-up paint vestry door
- Paint walls of vestry and vestry hall
- Varnish vestry floor
- Power wash Church front steps
- Repoint and paint block at front of Church
- Power wash and touch-up paint lower parts of church building

The full B& G work-list is available on the web-site.

Call, text, e-mail, or talk to Fred Bunger, Eve Potts or David Maxson to help us.

Thanks,

Buildings and Grounds Team

Thank You!

Thank you to all our flower volunteers this year whose arrangements graced our vestry table. I will be planning next year's calendar soon. Perhaps there is someone special or a date that you would like to share with our church community? If you know a particular date that you would like to reserve, please let me know now so I can get it on the calendar. I'll be sure to remind you in advance.

Best

Rebecca Stephenson

rgspt1@gmail.com



THANK YOU TO OUR COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



Thanks to all of you who have hosted coffee hour this church year. Some have hosted more than once; some have consistently been present to help in the cleanup effort. A special thanks to the new members who hosted twice in a row as a group, with support from Eve Potts: Fay and Arnold Kalmbach, Mary Corthell, Karen Mortimer and Ann Midttun. Your volunteer efforts are warmly appreciated by all.

Next year Membership Committee is trying a new approach to coffee hour. We are personally asking people to volunteer to be responsible for a month of coffee hours. The responsibility includes asking others to volunteer for a Sunday during their month and, if there are no volunteers for a particular Sunday, hosting a beverage-only coffee hour. Much to our delight, people have been very generous, and all months from September through March are taken. If you would like to take April, May or June, please contact Nancy Kingsbury for details.

There is more to hosting coffee hour than the very worthy volunteer tasks for a Sunday morning. By hosting coffee hour with others, you have an opportunity to work with someone at First Parish who is new or whom you do not know well; and by so doing, you form new bonds, strengthen longtime ones, and perform a valuable service to First Parish, our supportive community. Please consider it, and please volunteer for a single Sunday next church year when asked. Thanks.

Nancy Kingsbury
Coffee Hour coordinator for Membership



UU Mass Action Celebrates 10 Years of Marriage Equality

UU Mass Action held its tenth annual Advocacy Day at the State House on May 13. There were nearly 100 participants from Massachusetts UU churches. At breakfast we heard David Wilson, a plaintiff in the 2004 marriage equality case. After hearing speakers on each of this year's issues: raising the minimum wage, immigrant rights and ending mass incarceration, people spoke with their state representatives and senators to advocate for these issues.

To celebrate 10 years of marriage equality in Massachusetts, we delivered to all 200 Representatives and Senators a cupcake in a box with the message "Thank You for 10 Years of Marriage Equality". It was a great day with lots of positive feedback and discussion.

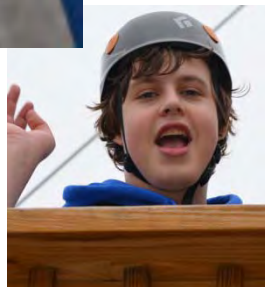
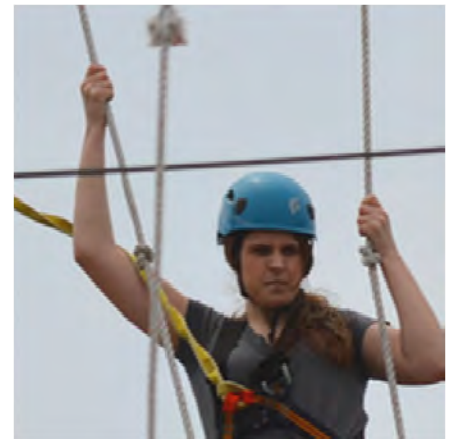
Margaret Rolph

Coming of Age Program



A great big thank you to all our mentors in our 2013-2014 Coming of Age program! Besides making the time to meet with their mentees separately, the mentors participated in trips to the MFA, the Lucy Stone House, NewLife Home Refurnishings, and a trip to Take flight Adventures (a high ropes course) in Kittery, Maine, as well as monthly meetings with the COA group. Pictured is the entire COA group at lunch in Maine: Mentors Dan Bibel, Chris Conley, Chris Flaherty, Jeff Lloyd, Renee Lloyd, and Bill Wians; Facilitators Cissy Hull-Allen and David Maxson, and Mentees Lizzie Bryant, Will Bryant, Adam D'Abate, Alice Galley, Jack Kornet, Nathaniel Schwartz, and Evan Springer. Action shots can be found here:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/97070319@No3/sets/72157644632199535/>



**THANK YOU FIRST PARISH MEDFIELD
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS!**



Duncan Glover, Louise Rachin & John Kornet

On Sunday May 4th, forty-thousand people walked twenty miles and raised \$3.5 million to support community-based programs that assist hungry people across Massachusetts.

Thanks to generous people like you, Team First Parish Medfield raised **Four Thousand One Hundred and Eighty Seven Dollars!**

As always, we are most grateful for your support!
Project Bread 2014 Walk for Hunger
Team First Parish Medfield



Other Announcements



Notes from the Church Office:

Please note that from June 19th until September 1st, the church office will be open on Thursday afternoons only. I can be reached via email and will be collecting the mail and messages weekly throughout the summer.

Email: admin@firstparishmedfield.org

Sandra Andreassi-Administrator



Evan

Thank you Evan Springer!

delivered all those collected food items from First Parish to the Medfield Food Cupboard this year!

Among Ourselves....

Deb Carbarnes father, Thomas Carbarnes, passed away in May in Wisconsin. He lived a wonderful, happy life and appreciated every day. Deb's mother and a sister were with him when he died. Prayers and loving thoughts for Deb, Mark, her mother and her four sisters and their families at this tender time.

Supporting FPUU through Amazon.com & 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.

Just go to www.firstparishmedfield.org and click on the link at the bottom of any page! It's easy!



Time and the Bill Collector Wait for No One

Even though First Parish will be "off" for the summer the bills still keep coming. If you haven't already done so, please complete your pledge for this fiscal year which ends June 30th. Thank you.

Executive Board Notes

An executive Board Meeting was held on May 15th

Financial Update for FY 14

Pledges: \$102.5K (92%) out of \$111,063 (budget) collected

Fundraising: \$6.7K (68%) out of \$9.9K (budget) raised

Rentals: \$10.1K (67%) out of \$15K (budget) collected

Cash on hand (Rockland Trust Account): \$34.3K

Wayside Pulpit Replica: Installation of the Wayside Pulpit is now complete. A quotation for a drop-down sign for the summer has been requested from the contractor.

Annual Fund Drive: As of May 15 the total pledge amount is \$119,840 from 50 pledge units.

Nominating Committee Report: A slate of candidates for the Executive Board was presented for church year 2014-2015. Vice-Chair: Fritz Fleischmann, Clerk: Debi Nicholas, At-Large#1: Cissy Hull-Allen, At-Large#2: Richard Mastronardi, At-Large#3: Susan Stromgren. A vote will be taken at the June 8 Annual Meeting. Chair Margaret Rolph and Treasurer Mike Drumm will serve the second year of their 2-year terms.

UUA General Assembly: Rev. Meg, Alison Streit Baron, Eva Kendrick and Margaret Rolph will attend GA, held in Providence this year June 25-29. Margaret will be a delegate.

New Education Center: Duncan reported on a meeting with architect David Sharff on phase 2 - preliminary design. Duncan will present a brief report on the architect's proposal at the June 8 Annual Meeting.

Margaret Rolph
EB Chair

Please collect your Kitchen Items

After all of our delicious dinners this year, dishes, containers etc. have been left in the kitchen without names.



I will put them all out on the counter and hopefully they will be picked up before our church services end for the season. We don't want to keep them over the summer so PLEASE pick them up.

Eve, the kitchen lady!

Save the Date: Medfield Day will be Saturday, Sept 20.

Activities will include:

- ❖ Bake Sale - need to name a queen of cakes (or King)
- ❖ Pumpkin painting and children's games - RE committee
- ❖ Clock tower tours - Membership Committee
- ❖ Farmer's market table –
- ❖ Meet the Minister with Rev.Meg and UU information available

More information will be sent out in September regarding sign ups. For more information please contact Fred Bunger.

FPUU Calendar of Events

Wednesday, June 4	Living the Welcome Committee Meeting/7:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 5	First Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6pm/Grounds
Sunday, June 8	Annual Meeting/11:30 am/Sanctuary Chalice Circle/4:00 pm/U-House RE Retreat/Dinner/6:00 pm/Vestry
Thursday, June 12	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6pm/Grounds
Sunday, June 15	Last service before summer hiatus Church pot-luck picnic Father's Day
Thursday, June 19	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6pm/Grounds Executive Board Meeting/7:30 pm/U-House
Saturday, June 21	NewLife Home Refurnishings Volunteer Day
Thursday, June 26	Medfield Farmers' Market/2-6pm/Grounds

Have a wonderful summer!
Our next service will be held on September 14, 2014

To see what is happening at First Parish during the summer months, visit our website at www.firstparishmedfield.org.