

The Bell-Ringer

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331

DECEMBER 15, 2009

Marge McLean, Editor

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 20: "The Candlelight Holiday Pageant" - 4 pm (No morning Worship) in which the children of the Church School will present the story of the birth of Jesus. There will also be songs of Hanukkah, a celebration of Santa Lucia, music by the Bell Choir and the Junior Choir, and carols for all to sing. (see RE pg. 3)

Dec. 21: "Winter Solstice Ritual for Women" - Join us from 7:30-9 p.m. in the parlor. Bring goddess food to share.

Dec. 24: "Our Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:30 p.m." - Traditional service of lessons & carols. Our musical prelude will begin at 5:00 p.m.. Bring your children, neighbors, out-of-town guests, and let's all share the joy of the holiday season!

Dec. 27: "Annual Sharing Service" Morning worship in the Parlor. - This will be a sharing service in the round led by Michael Gardner. You are invited to share a story, a poem, a song, a memory, or a friend. December 31st At midnight, we will ring the big bell in the Meetinghouse attic to welcome the Year 2010.

Jan. 3: "Questions of Faith"- Your opportunity to ask your ministers Rev. Catherine Cullen all those burning questions of faith that have been on your mind!

Coming Events

SUNDAY DEC 20

No Worship/Church School
Choir Rehearsal 9:30-12 p.m.
Nominating Committee 12 pm
All cast rehearsal 2 pm
Annual FPC Holiday Pageant 4 pm

MONDAY DEC 21

Labyrinth Walk 6-8 p.m.
Womens Winter Solstice Ritual 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY DEC 23

Church office closes at 12 p.m.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

THURSDAY DEC 24

Prelude Service 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm

FRIDAY DEC 25

OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY DEC 27

Worship/No Church School 10:30 a.m.

MONDAY DEC 28

Office Hours 9-12:30 pm

TUESDAY DEC 29

Office Hours 9-12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY DEC 30

Office Hours 9-12:30 pm

THURSDAY DEC 31

Office Hours 9-12:30 pm
Ringing in the New Year at midnight

FRIDAY JAN 01

Office Closed - HAPPY NEW YEAR!

SUNDAY JAN 03

Worship/Church School 10:30 am
month)

(cont. on pg. 5)



*Warm greetings of the season
from the staff at First Parish Church!*



Elaine Bryant

Gregory Brooks

Rev. Catherine Cullen

Sunsue Fleming

Marty Kearns

John Russo

Edwin Swanborn

May we all take the time this holiday season to remember the gifts we receive from each other. Best wishes for a peaceful holiday and a blessed New Year!



First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

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Website: www.duxburyuu.org



A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice. We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

Rev. Catherine Cullen, Minister
Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education
Edwin Swanborn, Music Director
Elaine Bryant, Bell & Junior Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus
Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita
Marty Kearns, Church Administrator

AHOY FROM THE BRIDGE **by Marty Kearns, your Church Administrator**

I hope that everyone has a joyous and peaceful holiday season. As I approach my third year here at the First Parish Church, I will continue to express my appreciation to you folks for this job. Equal to that, I thoroughly enjoy working with each of you and look forward to many more years to come serving as your church administrator. Happy Holidays!

Now for some news from the office:

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday, Dec. 23 - Church will close at 12 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 – Office is closed.

Monday, Dec. 28 - Thursday, Dec. 31 - Office is open **9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** only. Phones will be covered graciously by volunteers, but email will not be accessed.

Friday, Jan. 1, 2010 – office is closed.

Monday, Jan. 4 - Office is open, **9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** only. Phones will be covered, but email not accessed.

Tuesday, Jan. 5 – Office will resume normal hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.. This is Bell-Ringer day as well. Submissions are due by 9 a.m..

NEW ADDITION TO THE STAFF

We would like to welcome **GREGORY BROOKS**, our new Assistant Sexton. Gregory comes to us with over 32 years in the custodial business and currently holds a position as the Pembroke Public Library custodian. He is here Friday afternoons and Sunday evenings, so if you see him, be sure to welcome him!

NEXT: Bell-Ringer deadline – January 5, 9:00 a.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

HOLIDAY PAGEANT – DECEMBER 20

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this beautiful candlelight service. Throughout the ages, people have paused, at this time of the year, when the days grow shorter and nights grow longer, to tell stories of hope. Our service will include the birth story of Jesus as well as songs of Hanukkah and the celebration of Santa Lucia. The service, which begins at 4:00 p.m., will include music by our Bell Choir, Junior Choir, and the congregational singing of carols. Join us for this very special celebration.

PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Angels meet at 1:00 pm on Dec. 20
 Santa Lucia dancers at 1:30 pm on Dec. 20
 Jr. Choir meets at 1:45 pm on Dec. 20
 Entire cast meet at 2:00 pm on Dec 20

MITTEN TREE THANKS

Thanks to everyone who helped decorate our beautiful Mitten Tree. We gathered 28 hats, 69 mittens/gloves, 11 scarves, 1 poncho, 1 fleece baby Suit, 4 Blankets and 1 jacket! They were taken to the Plymouth Area Coalition for the Homeless.

WINTER SOLSTICE RITUAL FOR WOMEN - Monday, Dec. 21, from 7:30 - 9:00 pm

Please join us in the Parlor. All women are welcome and please bring along some Goddess food to share after the ritual.

UNIT I ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the following young people who had “perfect” or “super attendance” during Unit I! (Sickness and visits to other churches are excused absences).

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Freddie Clifford	Thomas Clifford
Sophie Bulman	Tucker Welch
Nicholas Clifford	Vika Schweitzer
Miranda Moore	Clara Bulman
Leah Campbell	Sally Jernigan-Smith
John Murphy	Griffin Wagner

SUPER ATTENDANCE (1 Absence)

Conor Clark	Oliver Worsh-Farnum
Kate Mullen	Justin Conner
Josephine Cunningham	Sophie Worsh-Farnum
Caitlyn Egan	Audrey Howerton
Julia Geder	Sam Clifford
Emilia Wagner	Callie Brandeis
Andrew Bulman	Robbie Egan
Abby Egan	

Please let us know if you know of omissions or corrections. We want to recognize everyone!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If you have any questions, please call Sunsue Fleming 934-6532, ext 4. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside the church office.

SACRED WRITING BY WOMEN - This course will be based on the text *Women in Praise of the Sacred* edited by the poet and translator, Jane Hirschfield. We will read selections from the book and keep a journal of our reactions to the poetry and, if so inspired, write poetry based on one or two of the poems read. We will discuss the readings and share our thoughts and poetry, if desired. Teacher: Carrie Meier - A teacher who has taught several poetry classes from World and Contemporary American poetry, as well as Sacred Poetry by Women. **Please bring the text to class. Leader: Carrie Meier, 10 a.m. in the Parlor on the following Wednesdays in Jan.: the 13, 20, and 27, the following Wednesdays in Feb.: the 3, 10, 24, and the following Wednesdays in Mar.: the 3, and 10.**

MINDFUL PARENTING - This class will be for parents of children of all ages and will use a Buddhist approach to developing a calm center as we care for our children and support each other in this challenging work. We will draw on two great books on this subject: *Buddhism for Mothers: A Calm Approach to Caring for Yourself and Your Children* by Sarah Naphali and *Everyday Blessings: The Inner Work of Mindful Parenting* by Myla and Jon Kabat-Zinn. **Leader: Heidi Conner, 7-9 pm on the following Thursdays in Jan.: the 5, 12, 19, and 26.**

UU CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS - Within a few hours of First Parish there are several wonderful UU Camps and Conference Centers. Come learn about Star Island, Ferry Beach, Rowe Conference Center, and Cedar Hill. **Leader: Sunsue Fleming, 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25.**

BOOK GROUP - Jack Hill will lead another ever popular book group based on the book, *Many Mansions - A Christian's Encounter with other Faiths* by Harvey Cox. This book is a fascinating personal look at the great religions of the world today and how they relate to one another- and how all of those who follow a spiritual path are connected. **Leader: Jack Hill, 9 a.m. in the Parlor, on the following Thursdays in Jan.: the 7, 14, 21, 28, and the following Thursdays in Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25.**

ON-GOING CHURCH EVENTS**SUNDAY**

Music Committee (1st Sun. each month) 11:45-12:15 pm
 Social Justice 9:30 am (2nd Sun. each Month)
 Welcoming Congregation 9:30 am (3rd Sun. each month)
 Caring Connection 9:30 am (4 th Sun. of each month)
 Buddddhist Book Group/DVD 6pm (1st Sun. & 3rd Sun. only)
 Bddhist Meditation 7pm

MONDAY

Membership 7 pm (1st Mon. each month)
 Personnel 7 pm (3rd Mon. each month)

TUESDAY

Hand Bells 7 pm
 Worship Committee 7:30 pm (1st Tue each month)
 Memoirs 7:15 pm (2nd Tues. each month)
 Recorders 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Buildings & Grounds 9:30 am (1st Wed each month)
 Staff Mtg 1:00 pm
 Small Group Ministry Steering (1st Wed each month) 7 pm
 DRE Relations 7 pm (2nd Wed. each month)

THURSDAY

Book Group 9 am
 Sewing Group 10 am
 RE Committee 7 pm (1st Thurs of each month)
 Agenda Setting 2 pm (2nd Thurs. each mo.)
 Finance Committee 7 pm (2nd Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7 pm (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Stewardship 7 pm (3rd Thurs. each month)

SATURDAY

Brockton Soup Kitchen 9:15 am (4th Sat. each month)

CARING CONNECTION:

There are many caring members of our church community who are willing to lend a hand to those having a difficult time! The Caring Connection can coordinate meals, transportation, babysitting or visits to shut-ins. For the remaining days of **DECEMBER**, please contact **MARJORIE HANLON** at 934-5075 or mjhanlon@msn.com. For the month of **JANUARY**, please contact **BONNIE JERNIGAN** at (781)834-4399 or bonnie@heypayattention.com.

PEOPLE NEWS

Our condolences to **MARY SHIRLEY** and the **SHIRLEY FAMILY** as we learn of the passing of **SHIRLEY SHIRLEY**. Shirley passed away on Saturday Dec. 12. There will be a memorial service here at First Parish Church, Thursday, **Dec. 16, at 9:30 a.m.**

Congratulations to **ROBERTA SIMON** who signed our membership book on Dec. 13. Welcome, Roberta!

Congratulations to **DAVE HAMMOND** who signed our membership book on Dec. 13. Welcome, Dave!

DECEMBERFEST THANKS

Many thanks, on behalf of the Decemberfest committee, to everyone who supported our holiday fair held Saturday whether you shopped, ate lunch at the café or were one of the wonderful team of workers who lent your time and talents to make the day very enjoyable and profitable. The early report from our treasurer is a gross income of over \$8000, which surpasses last year's figure. Net proceeds will help support a breadth of First Parish programs.

Meredith Lehman, Decemberfest Coordinator

REMINDER – POINSETTIAS TO PURCHASE

The cost is \$9.00 for 6" and \$5.00 for 4 1/2 " plants. These plants are purchased in effort to decorate our lovely sanctuary during this holiday season. After the Christmas Eve service, members who purchased a plant may take it with them if they choose. Please contact Sheri Wyman at (781)834-4728 or sherwyman@yahoo.com or Jean Whalen (781)934-5420 to let us know which plant you choose. **Orders must be in no later than Thursday, Dec. 17** or use the sign-up sheet outside the church office. Checks can also be brought to the church office or left in the designated envelope located on the counter in the church office.

COMMUNICATIONS QUIZ: IS IT the Bell Ringer, Bell Ringer, or Belleringer?

Answer: It's "The Bell-Ringer." The Communications Committee has devised a Style Guide to answer this and other questions pertaining to written communications at First Parish Church. If you've ever had a question about style, format, etc., while writing on behalf of the church, the Style Guide can help. Paper copies of this guide are available in the church office, or you can request an electronic copy from the office or from Cindie White-Weiss at dresdenisfree@yahoo.com. Any suggestions or corrections you would like to make can be sent to Cindie as well. Happy writing!

WINTER SOLSTICE LABYRINTH WALK - Monday, Dec. 21, 6-8 pm

Come and ease your holiday stress and take just a few moments for yourself to center and gain some inner peace. Join us **Monday, Dec. 21, 6-8 p.m.** in the Harvey Assembly Hall for our beautiful, candle-lit Winter Solstice Labyrinth walk. No experience necessary! Please allow yourself at least 20 minutes to walk. Additionally, the Winter Solstice Ritual will be the same evening at 7:30 pm in the Parlor. Hope to see you there.

FIRST PARISH PERSON TO SPEAK AT LIBRARY

Colin Clark, son of Nancy Landgren and Bob Clark, has just returned from a six-month study in Beijing, China. He will be speaking at the Duxbury Free Library Sunday Salon on **Sunday, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m.** His topic will be the Uighers, Muslims in western China who have recently been thrust into the international spotlight for conflicts over independence and human rights movements.

ADULT EDUCATION COURSE REMINDER

A reminder to those taking Jack Hill's course about *Many Mansions - A Christian's Encounter with other Faiths* by Harvey Cox to please read the introduction and the first chapter before the first day of the course. We meet on **Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE POTLUCK DISCUSSION – Friday, Jan 8, 2010

Please join us on **Jan. 8** to discuss and answer some of these questions: What do you think social justice is? What do you think charity is? What is service? Are you comfortable writing a check, but not speaking out? What types of projects would you like to see First Parish fund? A lot to discuss so please join us 6:30 p.m. and bring something to share. If you have questions please, call Nancy Landgren (781) 934-6006 or via email at clarkland@verizon.net.

WELCOMING A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE SUPPORTS UUSC!

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world, envisioning a world free from oppression and injustice, where all are entitled to basic human rights.

Through advocacy, education, and grassroots partnerships, UUSC promotes [economic rights](#), advances [environmental justice](#), defends [civil liberties](#), and preserves the rights of people during [humanitarian crisis](#). Anyone wishing to support human rights and social justice is welcome to [join us](#).

UUSC is an associate member of the [Unitarian Universalist Association \(UUA\)](#), but receives no general financial support from the UUA or from federal or state governments, ensuring our independent voice.

Learn more at uus.org. And ask FPC Social Justice Committee members about UUSC. Thanks for supporting UUSC through the *Guest at Your Table* program. Become a member! Defend Human Rights!

CLASSIFIEDS/LOST AND FOUND

Lost: Does anyone know what happened to a set of three Christmas houses that light up? They were in a large oblong box that was left next to the Mrs. Kringle's Boutique basket in the hallway on Dec. 1. If you know what happened to them, please contact Marty in the church office. Thank you, Karen Sankey

Lost: Dark green, striped, tablecloth used on Dec 6 in the Assembly Hall. Any information, please call Lois Wood or Doug Friesen at (781) 934-9070. Thank you.

House for Rent: Small, One bedroom house near Marshfield Center. \$800/month, plus utilities. Interested, call Tara (617) 645-1662.