

The Bell-Ringer

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

JANUARY 19, 2010

Marge McLean, Editor

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Jan. 24: Visiting Minister, Rev. Bill Clark - We are thrilled to welcome this amazing preacher back into our pulpit (Bill delivered the Ordination Sermon for Tim Temerson last spring). Please join us.

Jan. 31: "Why Bad Things Happen to Good People" - Using the Biblical account of Job and William Blake's famous illustrations on the Book of Job, we will explore this question of the ages (Catherine's sermon will include her first-ever attempt at PowerPoint!). Our young people will be rehearsing their play in the Meetinghouse, so worship will be held in the Harvey Assembly Hall.

Feb. 7: "Church School Play" - Each year during the middle unit of our church school, the children in grades 2-6 explore a theme and then prepare a play on that theme for the congregation. This year our play "The Seed of Creativity" will be based on the seed of creativity that lives within each of us.

Coming Events

SUNDAY JAN 24

Worship/Church School/Play
Rehearsal 10:30 a.m.
Dancers Rehearsal 12-12:30 p.m.
HIP Bingo 5 p.m.

MONDAY JAN 25

Small Group Facilitators 7 p.m.
"Camp and Conference Centers" 7 p.m.

THURSDAY JAN 28

Jack Hill's Book Group 9 a.m.
Parsonage Task Force 7 p.m.
Trustees 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY JAN 30

Stage goes up
South Shore UU Food Drive 10 a.m. -
12 p.m. (see article on pg. 3 for more
details)

SUNDAY JAN 31

Worship/Church School/Play
Rehearsal 10:30 a.m.
Dancers Rehearsal 12-12:30 p.m.

TUESDAY FEB 2

Bell-Ringer due 9 a.m.

THURSDAY FEB 4

Jack Hill's Book Group 9 a.m.

SATURDAY FEB 6

Dance Rehearsal 9 a.m.
Jr. Choir 9:30 a.m.

Play Rehearsal 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SUNDAY FEB 7

Play Rehearsal 9-10:30 a.m.
Worship/Church School Play 10:30
a.m.

ON-GOING CHURCH EVENTS

SUNDAY

Music Committee (1st Sun. each
month) 11:45-12:15 p.m.
Social Justice 9:30 a.m. (2nd Sun.
each month)
Welcoming Congregation 9:30 a.m.
(3rd Sun. each month)
Announcement Sundays (every 3rd
Sun. each month) (cont. on pg. 6)

Message from your Minister...

"In his essays, Emerson said there is 'a crack in everything God has made.' I submit that one of the central missions of the Unitarian Universalist movement is trying to fix these cracks, repairing the world and creating the Beloved Community of Love and Justice. The inner urge to work in the service of this vision I call the prophetic imperative, the sewing together of spirituality and social action as a seamless garment."

(Rev. Dick Gilbert in The Prophetic Imperative)

Dear Friends,

What an honor it was to share the pulpit with Martha Thompson on Sunday. Martha is the program director for Humanitarian Crises for our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (she came to that position after decades of work for human rights in Central America and Cuba). On Monday of last week, when Martha and I were making plans for our worship, she asked if the reading could be a piece from our hymnal by Adrienne Rich (this happens to be one of my favorites as well):

"My heart is moved by all I cannot save: So much has been destroyed. I have to cast my lot with those who age after age, perversely, stubbornly, and with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world."

And, my friends, your compassionate hearts were *indeed* moved by the needs of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Martha and I were astounded that our Special Collection for Haiti realized just under \$4500! Sunday was also Announcement Sunday, and as I listened to the announcements you made and read the others in our Order of Service - I was struck by how much work we at First Parish Church are doing to help "reconstitute" our world. On *just this one Sunday*, Bob Hughes invited us to share hats, gloves, socks and other warm things for our homeless neighbors in Brockton, Jennifer asked for help with a letter-writing campaign to let Senator Kerry know more about persecution of Buddhists in Vietnam, (cont. on pg. 2)

First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

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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

Carie told us we have a family who needs a Box Project sponsor, and Jim invited folks to join their minister (me!) on Beacon Hill for Transgender Lobby Day.

The spiritual life is about both growing our souls and helping repair the world. We at FPC are at the beginning of an exciting conversation about how we do the latter. For the last several years, you have voted to dedicate cell-tower funds for “outreach.” Now we are unpacking just what that means: what exactly do we mean by “outreach” and how will our funding process operate?

The conversation began with a very productive potluck discussion last month and it will continue with an after-church congregation-wide conversation sometime in late March or early April (this will be led by an outside facilitator). In the meantime, I invite you to think about what it means to you to “put your faith into action,” as we say in our Mission Statement and I also invite you to attend a terrific workshop with me - Dick Gilbert, one of our UU ministers I most admire, will be at Channing Memorial Church in Newport on **Saturday, Feb. 27**. His workshop “Unitarian Universalists Walking the Talk” will explore the spiritual roots of our concern for social justice and the unique UU mission to translate concern into action. Come and be my guest - you register and tell them it’s on my “*tab!*” And I will even drive you there - at least the first six folks who contact me for a ride!! (I will help coordinate rides for others as well).

May you be blessed---and may you also be a blessing to the world!

P.S. If you receive your Bell-Ringer electronically, here is a link to a very interesting survey Dick Gilbert provides for his work-shop: [Congregational Self-Analysis \(Word Doc\)](#). Folks who are not on e-mail may pick up a copy in the Church Office!

Catherine

Next Bell-Ringer Deadline: Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 9:00 a.m.



Ringling Out Justice!

News of social justice activities at First Parish Church



Welcome to **Ringling Out Justice!**, the Social Justice Committee's new column. Our mission is to provide opportunities for social action at the local, national and global level while providing information about the need for such action. We hope to script equality and stewardship into every aspect of church life and relationships within the church and in the world.

Justice Sunday Service: The Jan. 17 service with UUSC's Martha Thompson was a singular success, and we raised over \$4,400 in the special collection for Haiti. Thanks to all who gave.

Social Justice January Potluck: The theme of the Potluck was where can we go if we reach and stretch and be the best we can be? Acknowledged was the need to: consistently be aware of our commitment to being a Green Sanctuary, a Welcoming Congregation and a Partner Church; educate the entire FPC community about our initiatives that include local, national and global causes; provide different and concrete ways for different people to help that includes hands-on work. We felt it was important to be part of a church that's involved in the world. Peter Nappellio came up with a wonderful image of Social Justice as the hub of a wheel that had spokes going out to all the activities and initiatives and programs.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE LOCALLY:

Saturday, Jan. 23, 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - St. Paul's Table at St. Michael's Church, Brockton

Sally Jernigan-Smith anchors the "Soup Kitchen," where volunteers prepare and serve a free hot lunch to scores of people on the fourth Saturday of the month throughout the year. In 2009, First Parish provided approximately 1,200 meals. Sign up at Coffee Hour. In February, John Murphy will take over the organization of our Soup Kitchen effort. Thanks to Sally and her family for all their time and effort over the past few years!

Sunday, Jan. 24 - Plymouth Food Bank food drive

We will be collecting food for the Plymouth Food at church. Please bring one or more of the following items with you to church: peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish, canned chicken, canned fruits, canned vegetables, cereal, diapers, wipes. Please leave your donations in the box in the hallway marked "Plymouth Food Bank" (not to be confused with the boxes that will receive your donations of hats, gloves, scarves and mittens for the Brockton homeless census). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sunday, Jan. 24 - The Box Project Collaborative with Head Start of Plymouth

Carrie Meier leads teams of over 60 volunteers who buy groceries, household and cosmetic needs, and clothing for 10 local families chosen by South Shore Head Start based on need. The "boxes" are collected on the fourth Sunday of each month and delivered the next day. New volunteers are always welcome. Contact Carrie Meier at carriemeier@comcast.net to learn more.

Sunday, Jan. 24 - Support the Brockton Homeless

Bob Hughes, Carol Nappellio and Linda Pelham will take part in the Brockton census of people living without proper shelter. They invite you to bring warm socks, hats, gloves, mittens and scarves for census takers to distribute. **Please bring your donations to church by Sunday, Jan. 24 or before.** Boxes for donations are located outside the church office and are marked accordingly.

Saturday, Jan. 30 - Unitarian Universalist South Shore Food Drive

Sharon Nabreski is First Parish coordinator for this effort to encourage customers at 3 area grocery stores to help restock local food pantries so that families do not go hungry. Please sign up outside the Church Office door to help with this effort! (cont. on pg. 4)

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN - MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**Saturday, Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Walking the Talk: Engaging a Congregation in Social Justice Work**

UU Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert leads an exploration of spiritual roots of social action, action tools for congregations, and planning for change. Registration - \$20. Location:

Channing Memorial Church, Newport, RI. Check the office or www.bcduuu.org for registration information.

Saturday, Mar. 13, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Claiming Our Joy: Spiritual Leadership for Social Justice

UUs work hard against systems of domination and oppression. Needs are enormous and strategies for dealing with them are complex. How do we remember and nurture our spirit as we work for change?

Location: First Parish Church, Weston MA. Go to <http://www.mbduuu.org/> or call (617) 393-4216.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

BINGO NIGHT

Sunday - January 24, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

COME ONE! COME ALL!



On **Sunday, Jan. 24, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**, your favorite youth group, H.I.P., will be sponsoring a fun-filled spectacular night of Bingo and food! You could enjoy a spaghetti dinner and some top-rate **BINGO** action while supporting the H.I.P. Youth Group! The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. (Family maximum = \$25). Be advised that prizes will not be cash. So bring the family and be prepared for an evening of food, **BINGO** and entertainment! Tickets will be on sale during Coffee Hour in January.

H.I.P. Youth Group

CHURCH SCHOOL PLAY

“THE SEED OF CREATIVITY”

Each year during the middle unit of our church school, the children in grades 2-6 explore a theme and then prepare a play on that theme for the congregation. This year our play “The Seed of Creativity” will be presented on **Sunday, Feb. 7, 10:30 a.m.** and will be based on the seed of creativity that lives within each of us.

Attendance during this unit is very important

Sunday, January 24: Play rehearsal – Scenery
Dancers – 12-12:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 31: Play Rehearsal – Scenery
Dancers – 12-12:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 6: Dress rehearsal 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Dancers 9 a.m./Jr. Choir 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 7: 9 a.m. rehearsal
The Play starts at 10:30 a.m.

PAGEANT DVDS FOR SALE

DVDs of the Holiday Pageant are for sale for \$10. If you would like one, please contact Sunsue.

BINGO PRIZES NEEDED

Bingo prizes are needed. **NEW** or **NEARLY NEW** items, appropriate for all ages, are needed for this popular event. Questions, please call Sunsue.

ON-GOING CHURCH EVENTS
(cont. from pg. 1)

Nominating Committee 12 p.m.
 (3rd Sun. each month)
 Caring Connection 9:30 a.m. (4th
 Sun. of each month)
 Buddhist Book Group/DVD 6 p.m.
 (1st Sun. & 3rd Sun. only)
 Buddhist Meditation 7p.m.

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

Recorders 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

Book Group 9 a.m.
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.
 RE Committee 7 p.m. (1st Thurs of
 each month)
 Agenda Setting 2 p.m. (2nd Thurs.
 each mo.)

Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd
 Thurs. each month)

Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs.
 each month)

Stewardship 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs.
 each month)

FRIDAY

Governing Board reports due 2 p.m.
 (3rd Fri. each month)

Committee on Ministry (4th Fri.
 each month)

SATURDAY

Brockton Soup Kitchen 9:15 a.m.
 (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 month of **JANUARY**, please contact **BONNIE JERNIGAN**

PEOPLE NEWS

Our condolences are extended to **THE CARVER FAMILY**. Doug's father passed away in Estero, FL on **Saturday, Jan. 9, 2010**. He was 85.

We received good news about **RYAN SCOTT**, the son of **KAREN & RON SCOTT** and grandson of **SHERRI & KIM WYMAN**. He is doing well and his recovery is coming right along!

ALLIANCE OLDE TYME VARIETY SHOW –
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2010

Calling all those with hidden (or not so hidden) talents who would like to perform on **Saturday, Jan. 23** after the 6 p.m. pot-luck supper. Think "Major Bowes", "Ted Mack", or "America's Got Talent." Acts already lined up include Irish Step Dancers, a Junior Choir Percussion Ensemble, a Junior Choir "Kazoo Consort", a vocal duet, and we're planning a tambourine line! If you have any ideas or want to perform, please call Elaine Bryant. We need a few more acts! All are welcome and we hope to see you there!

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - A
Day in the Life, Monday, Jan. 25, 2010

Join us in working with the "Chronicle" show on WCVB Channel 5 "Chronicle" life in our community. On **Monday, Jan. 25**, they want to experience a "Day in the Life" of our church and its members. Grab your cameras. Take some photos. Shoot some videos. Then log on to the uLocal section of TheBostonChannel.com, upload your stuff and show us what a day in **your life** is like. Record something heartfelt, touching, funny or just your plain-old day to day activities. Think of it as a video time-capsule. Post this on your Facebook page and see if you can get your friends involved. **The only thing we ask is that you record video or take**

pictures on January 25. They may use what you share on an upcoming episode of Chronicle on WCVB Channel 5. So... mark your calendar. January 25. Get ready to share a Day in the Life.

HAVE YOU SIGNED OUR MEMBERSHIP BOOK?

Unitarian Universalist minister, Jack Mendelsohn, reminds us, "Inscribing your name does not transform you into an instant or born-again Unitarian Universalist. Our religious way of life is not so much an arriving as a becoming - an ongoing process of thought and life experience. Joining for you may mean fresh steps along a familiar path. It may mean venturing in uncharted territory. In either case, the initiative is yours. You do not sign on someone else's dotted line of spiritual development, and there is no fine print. Your signature is your affirming symbol of commitment to an open-minded, inclusive, reasoned, seasoned, compassionate and contemporary approach to life."

If First Parish Church feels like your church home and you have not as yet become an “official” member by signing our historic Membership Book, contact Catherine (TheRevCatherine@aol.com or (781) 934-6532 ext. 3) and make an appointment to sign our book. **You must sign by the end of this month to be included in our 2010 census!**

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS 101 – Sunday, Jan. 31, 12 p.m.

Join us on **Sunday, Jan. 31, at 12 p.m.** for an informational session led by our Denominational Affairs Committee and special guest, our own Rob Molla, who is director of Human Resources for the UUA. Come learn everything you always wanted to know about your denomination, your district, and all those crazy acronyms that begin with “UU”! Hope to see you there!

NEWS ABOUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010:

The UUA has announced some changes for GA this year. Workshops will be held on Thursday and Friday (no weekend workshops), and most of the plenary business sessions will be held on Saturday and Sunday. About 190 workshops will be offered this year. Other changes being proposed for GA include reducing the number of authorized delegates and making it a biennial event, rather than yearly. Read more at <http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/154573.shtml>.

Denominational Affairs Committee.

COMMUNICATION ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Your committee is hard at work on several initiatives. Among other things, we are working on a new format for the newsletter, and an improved Facebook page.

Sometimes you may notice slight changes in your articles. These changes do not affect any core information you are sending, but rather are the result of proofreading by the committee chair. Most changes are small things like punctuation or spelling. Occasionally we may add a few words to clarify your intent. For example, we may note a relationship (“Sam’s son”) or other connection (“also a graduate of Tufts”) if that information helps the reader better understand what you’re saying. (We will contact you first if there are privacy concerns, and we will respect your decisions.)

If you would like assistance in writing something for the Bell-Ringer or Parish Distribution, or just want to hash something out, please feel free to contact Cindie White-Weiss at dresdenisfree.com or call her home number.

We welcome your input as we continue to work on improving and perfecting First Parish Church’s communications. Thanks so much!

Cindie White-Weiss, Chair

CLASSIFIEDS

Childcare needed: 15 hours of affordable childcare, 3 afternoons a week urgently needed for 2 children (ages 9 and 4) in Duxbury. Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m.- 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 12:30 p.m. – 6 p.m. and would require preschool pickup in Marshfield. You are more than welcome to bring your own children. Please respond as soon as you are able to: Kate Pevzner .