

The Steeple



VOL 1 NO.10 June 1, 2009

First Parish in Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Summer Services

Hurray! A group of parishioners have stepped up to the plate and we will have summer services! Services will be at 10:00 AM in Scott Hall beginning June 21st. There will be no services July 5th and September 6th, Independence Day and Labor Day weekends. Contact person is Paul Witherspoon, 508-788-3427, pwitherspoon@aclara.com.

Staying In Touch

DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING, STAND THERE! (OR SIT THERE, OR LAY THERE, OR FLOAT THERE, OR LOLLY GAG, OR PRACTICE SHIFTLESSNESS....)

Summer often calls us to a different life rhythm. More light and better weather call us outside, and nature soothes and teaches and delights. (Mosquitoes and ticks and poison ivy aside!) The blossoms and berries and bounty of the earth nourish our spirits and our bodies. If we are lucky, a less rigorous schedule calls us to the lessons of leisure and play. In the breeze of the summer nights struggles can seem less heavy.

On the other hand, if you are too busy during the other seasons of the year to participate in our commitment to community service, you might consider

being a volunteer in the 'Interfaith Hospitality Network'. Homelessness does not go away because summer is here.

If we are wise, we will make sure there are some days with no agenda, no plans, no focus on that "which needs doing". In those days of unfolding there is wisdom we can receive no other way.

May we each be so wise.

See you in September,
Kathleen

P.S.

And....GATHER A SMALL AMOUNT OF WATER REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR SUMMER FOR THE OPENING SERVICE IN THE FALL!

Sunday Worship

NOTES ABOUT SUMMER AT FIRST PARISH

We have already shifted to a one-service schedule.
10 AM

- June 7th is the ever-popular 'Youth Service'.
- June 14th, Michelle La Grave, Ministerial Intern, is planning an outdoor service.

- June 21st, SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN 10 AM in Scott Hall. (Committee: Dennis Charles, Ben Gustafson, Ellen Piontek, Jessica Witherspoon, and Paul Witherspoon) Thanks to these members for volunteering to bring summer services to us. They are cooking up some delightful and interesting Sundays. Childcare will be provided this summer.

From the Ministerial Intern

Dear Ones,

It is June already! I feel like this past year has flown by, yet I have found such a comfortable home here that I also feel like I've been here much longer than the mere ten months it has been. First Parish is a wonderful teaching site and I want to publicly thank you all for how warm, welcoming, and supportive you have been on this amazing journey we call ministry. For those of you who do not know, I am here as part of a two-year internship program and I will continue on through June of 2010. So not to worry, it's not time for good-byes yet!

I am delighted that the senior youth group has agreed to lead the congregation in marching at Boston Pride this year. Many have shared that they have never before attended a Pride event. I hope you will consider joining them in this amazing experience of support for the GLBT community. Look for more information in the coming weeks but mark your calendar now for June 13th. I hope to see you there!

In Pride,
Michelle

Membership Corner

Photo directory update:

We have decided to simplify the photo directory process. Please submit a photo for our photo directory. Pictures can be mailed to First Parish to Veena Baker's attention, put in the membership development coordinator's mailbox in the office or emailed to pictures@uuframingham.org in jpeg format.

We will take head shots in the fall for those who are unable to provide a photo.

New Member Social:

A big THANK YOU goes out to Ruth and Charles Karian, Lucille Riddle and Audrey Hall for their assistance with the New Member social.

Veena Baker
Membership Development Coordinator
membership@uuframingham.org

Summer Office Hours & Contact Information

Our Administrator, David Moore, will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9-5.

Reverend Hepler will be in town on study/preparation time for four weeks, and on vacation for four weeks. When she is on vacation and out of town, nearby UU colleagues will be on-call for emergencies. In that event please leave an e-mail message at office@uuframingham.org or minister@uuframingham.org, or leave a message at Rev. Hepler's home at 508-405-0158. All of these will be checked daily.

A Note From the Editor:

Copy for the September *Steeple* is due at the First Parish Office no later than noon, Friday August 21st.

While we suspend publication of *The Steeple* for the summer months, we will continue to publish the *Weekly Update* each Thursday. Copy should be sent to office@uuframingham.org by Tuesday noon for publication that week.

Religious Education

The end of the church year is upon us – I marvel at how fast the time goes!

On June 7th, be sure to plan on attending church for our annual Youth Sunday at 10:00. This service is a longstanding First Parish tradition. It is created entirely by the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists – our group for 9th through 12th graders). Our teens present a thoughtful, entertaining and meaningful worship experience. It's always a creative and moving service. Come see what our young people value, cherish, and share with the congregation. All ages are invited to attend the service. There will be coverage only in the nursery on that day.

If you are missing RE classes for your child over the summer and want some good ideas, check out this website: www.uua.org/clf/between_sundays. It is designed by the Church of the Larger Fellowship (part of the Unitarian Universalist Association) and is full of ideas, activities and resources that you can browse by age level and subject category.

If you have not registered for the RE program or YRUU next year, this message is for you!

There are still over 25 families who have not registered for next year's church school program. If you are one of those families, you will soon receive a reminder phone call from an RE Council member. We need to know the numbers of children to adequately plan for classes and teachers. And remem-

ber that if you did not teach this year, next year is your teaching year. Please get your forms in as soon as possible. If you need a new form, you can pick one up in the RE office or download it from our website. YRUU Members: you need to register also. You were mailed a form in April. There are forms in the RE office, or you can download one from our website. Remember that your parents need to sign the form.

I want to thank the congregation for my public recognition in the worship services on May 17th. That was certainly a thrill, and I truly appreciate it. (For those of you who were not present, I was recognized for my achievement in becoming a Credentialed Religious Educator at the Masters Level from the UUA's Religious Education Credentialing Program.)

I will be attending the UUA's General Assembly in Salt Lake City at the end of June. I plan to come back full of great ideas!

I wish you all a peaceful and healthy summer...it's almost here!

Julie Porter,
"CRE/ML"

(those are the initials on my new nameplate from the Religious Education Council. They stand for "Credentialed Religious Educator, Masters Level); otherwise known as the DRE!

From The Collector

June 30 is the end of the FY2009 fiscal year.

Please plan to have your pledge balances paid up by that date so that they will be included in our deposit on June 30.

If you are mailing your payment, please allow enough time for it to reach the office by that date although it would help us if you could have it in the office by June 24.

If you have circumstances which will prevent you from completing your pledge, please notify me

by email: fpfcollector@charter.net

by phone 508 757-4445

by USPS mail 2 Pointe Rok Drive, Worcester MA 01604

Thank you for supporting our church,
Walt Barker, Collector

NEW: Bridge Connections Program

The Office of Young Adult Ministry at the UUA has launched a new effort that connects graduating youth who are leaving their home congregations with local congregations, campus ministries, and district programs in other parts of the country. We encourage all graduating, or bridging, youth to fill in their contact info at www.uua.org/bridgeconnections.

Additionally, your congregation should have received return-paid postcards that ask for the same information for the new database. If your congregation has not received these postcards, please request some from the UUA.

We also encourage ministers, religious educators, and all other congregational leaders to connect youth with these resources. Consider holding a Bridge Connections Party at which you can all gather enjoy good company, fill out the information (online or on postcards) and share some of the Bridging Resources available from the Leaders' Library on the UUA website. This could also be worked into part of your Bridging Ceremony or Youth Sunday Worship service if you have one.

Look out soon for more information in the May issue of the Mass Bay District May e-Newsletter at www.mbdoua.org/news/mbd-newsletter or contact me at 617-816-0402.

Greg Buckland,
Youth & Young Adult Ministries Coordinator

Announcements: Dates & Events

Caritas Coordinator

The June Caritas coordinator is Lydia D'Andrea, 508-370-9746

Around the Parish

- **Graduation Time!** Congratulations to the graduating seniors of First Parish: Andrew Chester, Faith Clayton, Nick Everett, Sophie Greenspan, Christian Maxwell, Sean Michael McDonough, Camille Murphy, Lucas Reitz, Nathan Ross, and Matthew Walsh. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

A Golden Opportunity!

Do you wish to deepen your own spirituality? When making an explanation, doesn't it feel good when someone "gets it"? Would you like to share your strengths, wisdom, creativity, sense of humor, and knowledge? Think about the stimulating questions that you might receive from our young peo-

ple. Imagine the sense of satisfaction that emerges when helping children begin to form the ideas and beliefs that will guide their journeys. Please consider TEACHING next semester in our RE program. In addition to parents of church school children, the Religious Education Council is looking for adults who do not have children currently in the program who would like to contribute to First Parish in this very special way. If you're interested, please contact Julie Porter in the church office, Nancy Benton (508-881-3740), or Debbie Doucette (508-624-9664), co-chairs of the RE Council. Thank you!

Metrowest Free Medical Program

Since the Framingham site began operation last November we have seen approximately 100 women for screening Pap Smears, birth control and other gynecological issues. Because many of the patients that we see have not had access to health care, they are at increased risk for having health problems and abnormalities. Pap Smears test for abnormalities that, if left untreated, could

lead to cervical cancer. To date 16% of the Pap Smears that we have done are abnormal, twice the average rate of abnormal Pap Smears found at the lab that we send them to. Of these abnormal Pap Smears, we have seen six times the rate of the highest grade of abnormal Pap Smear as our testing lab. Before these abnormalities progress to cancer, we refer these patients to the Gyn Clinic at Metrowest Medical Center where they receive treatment.

The need is great, both in terms of numbers of abnormal findings and in numbers of patients requesting services. We are currently seeing women's health patients 3 times a month and are booked through the summer. We would increase the number of sessions per month if we had more medical volunteers. If you are or know a women's health clinician who would like to volunteer, please have them contact Ilene Hofenning at ihofrenning@yahoo.com.

Social Action

- Do you love a parade? Join the Senior Youth Group on Saturday, June 13, in one of the most colorful parades imaginable, the Boston Gay Pride Parade! We will be parading to demonstrate our UU principles, including the worth and dignity of each human being, and justice, equity, and compassion for all. The parade commences at noon, departing from around the intersection of Tremont and Clarendon streets, and ends at Boston City Hall.
- Also kicking off at noon on Saturday, June 13, the Boston Gay Pride Festival takes place at City Hall Plaza, right where the parade ends. At the festival, you can watch a number of top entertainers, visit with more than 100 business vendors and community groups, and mingle with hundreds of fellow participants. Stay tuned for a day and time to make banners to carry in the parade and to decorate T-shirts to wear. RSVP to janice.knappcordes@gmail.com or 508-877-3771 We will carpool, either into Boston or to the Riverside T station.
- "Tell me a story!" Parents and teachers know well the power of stories for children, but stories are powerful for all of us. Many of us or

our parents or grandparents were immigrants to America and have amusing, entertaining, or deeply moving stories to tell. MICAHA will sponsor an informal gathering for immigrants, both recent and not so recent, to share their stories and learn from one another. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, June 3, 7:30 p.m., at St. Stephens Rectory, 259 Concord Street in Framingham. RSVP to Michael Brown, 617.645.0226 or MBrown@micahma.org

- **What is community organizing?** How does it differ from advocacy or activism? How do you recruit people so it is not always the "same few of us doing all the work"? How do you combine faith, religious tradition, and action for justice today? To explore answers to these questions and others, register for the Learning and Reflection Session sponsored by MICAHA on Sunday, June 7, from 1 to 5 p.m. at First Parish in Framingham. Suggested donation to cover lunch and snacks: \$5 for MICAHA congregational members, \$10 for all others. (First Parish is not yet a congregational member.) RSVP to Michael Brown, 617.645.0226 or MBrown@micahma.org
- **Housing for All** Do You or Does Someone You Know Have a Home or Property that Needs Some TLC? Housing for All Inc., a MetroWest affordable housing rehabilitation and advocacy not for profit, is looking for home and property restoration projects for those in need. We are seeking projects that can be completed within a day or two by a team of experienced construction supervisors and volunteers. Examples of projects would include retrofitting bathrooms and ramp construction for those with disabilities; building clean-up, wallpaper removal, and painting; outdoor clean-up, planting, and landscaping. Our construction team will evaluate and discuss projects with each property owner before we start so that expectations are clear. Labor and materials will be provided by Housing for All, although monetary donations of any amount are welcome to help defray these costs. Our next Workday is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2009. For more information, please contact Mr. Chris Ross, Executive Director, Housing for All, at 508-872-8021.

Continued on page 6

The MetroWest Interfaith Hospitality Network

MWIHN has a Wiki page that lists items needed. mihn.pbworks.com/Items-Needed If you can supply any of these items, please contact the director, Beth Cooper, at 508-318-4820 or director@metrowestihn.org

Roots & Shoots

Roots & Shoots has adopted a garden plot at First Parish, and we worked on it at our May 30th meeting. Thanks to all who helped out! As the Program Leader, I am already looking ahead to the next church year. Just like our new little garden, our Roots & Shoots group at First Parish will need some nurturing and support over the coming months so that it can grow. Please send your ideas and suggestions my way! Thanks, Aimee Dalrymple ADalrymple@alumni.duke.edu or 508-652-9946

Maintenance Council

Thank You Gardeners, Your hard work is paying off with a stunning spring. - Alison and Amanda Arnold, Angie Goldberg, Annie Larson, Claire and Saigon Oliphant, Dick and Carol Rader, Donna Nelson, Ed Uftring, Kris Allen, Laura Stone, The Gould Family, Charlie Cormier and his Covenant Group, Roots and Shoots, Labyrinth Gardeners – If you see one of these gardeners please thank them for making a difference.

BRE

BRE needs some additional “buddies” to support our kids next year. BRE buddies spend time one

on one with a special needs child or young adult during the church service in order to allow other family members to attend church. We can have a team of buddies, so responsibility can rotate over a period of weeks and you are not committed to working every week.

Buddies can be any age from teen to senior. The only requirements are patience, a sense of humor, and an openness to learn about people with special needs. Everyone who has served as a “buddy” has told us it was an enjoyable and worthwhile experience! It is a wonderful way to connect with the community, meet new families, and offer a much-needed service.

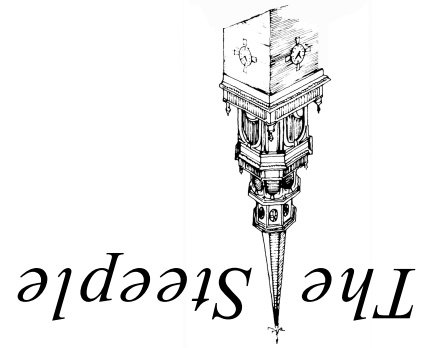
At this time, we are specifically seeking buddies for a teen with autism, and a preschooler with multiple special needs. We also welcome new members on our committee.

Please contact Jennifer Long at 508-207-7567 or 508-877-9758 if you are interested in learning more.



June, 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 » 6:00 PM ROUNDS » 7:30 PM FCNS » 7:30 PM Meditation Group VB	2 » 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale » 7:00 PM Covenant-JB » 7:30 PM Pies On the Common Committee	3 » 7:00 AM FCNS » 11:30 AM Worship & Arts » 6:00 PM Junior Youth Group » 7:00 PM Young Adult Group » 7:30 PM Church Council Meeting	4 » 8:00 AM COFFEE AND MUFFINS » 5:00 PM The MetroWest Free Medical Program	5 » 1:00 PM Metrowest Free Medical Program	6 » 8:30 AM Private Rental » 10:20 AM Youth Ensemble
7 » 10:00 AM Church Service » 10:00 AM Religious Ed » 1:00 PM MICAH » 7:00 PM YRUU	8 » 12:00 PM Women's Alliance » 6:00 PM ROUNDS » 7:30 PM FCNS Board Meeting » 7:30 PM Finance Committee » 7:30 PM Meditation Group VB	9 » 3:30 PM Brownies » 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale » 7:30 PM Finance Committee » 7:30 PM Stitches In Time	10 » 7:00 PM Young Adult Group » 7:30 PM Metro West Health Group	11 » 8:00 AM COFFEE AND MUFFINS » 1:00 PM Stitches In Time » 5:00 PM The MetroWest Free Medical Program » 7:30 PM Board of Assessors	12	13
14 » 10:00 AM Church Service » 7:00 PM YRUU	15 » 6:00 PM ROUNDS » 7:30 PM Meditation Group VB » 7:30 PM MICAH	16 » 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale » 7:00 PM Covenant-JB	17 » 6:00 PM Junior Youth Group » 7:00 PM Young Adult Group » 7:00 PM Mothers of Twins	18 » 8:00 AM COFFEE AND MUFFINS » 5:00 PM The MetroWest Free Medical Program » 6:30 PM Parents & Others	19 » 1:00 PM Metrowest Free Medical Program	20
21 » 10:00 AM Summer Service	22 » 6:00 PM ROUNDS » 7:30 PM Meditation Group VB	23 » 3:30 PM Brownies » 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale » 7:30 PM Stitches In Time	24 » 7:00 PM Young Adult Group	25 » 8:00 AM COFFEE AND MUFFINS » 1:00 PM Stitches In Time » 5:00 PM The MetroWest Free Medical Program	26	27
28 » 10:00 AM Summer Service	29 » 6:00 PM ROUNDS » 7:30 PM Meditation Group VB	30 » 7:00 PM Heritage Chorale » 7:00 PM Covenant-JB	1 7	2	3	4



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