

The Steeple



VOL 2 NO.5 January 1, 2010

First Parish in Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Staying In Touch

NEW YEARS THOUGHTS

In lieu of resolutions about the future year...
may we look around in the present moment with gratitude and awe.

Instead of the, sometimes brutal, promises that we make to change ourselves in the new year ...
may we vow to see ourselves with the eyes of compassion .

Because of our human need to begin again....
may we dance softly into the new year recognizing that there is a timing to our beginnings, and our endings, that is not dependent on the calendar or the clock.

With Love and Respect,
Kathleen

Sunday Worship

JANUARY 3rd
9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship
EMBODIMENT We begin the new year with a consideration of the human body . Are we more than our bodies? What are the lessons of the body? What is the spiritual path as it relates to the body?

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

SHARE THE PLATE: Metrowest Free Medical Program.

JANUARY 10th
9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship
....*AND WITH OUR GOD*

These are words in the affirmation we speak each Sunday at First Parish. This service will be a reflection on these words as an invitation to each of us.

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

JANUARY 17TH
9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship
THE BRIGHT SIDE

In American culture today, optimism and realism are often perceived to be in conflict with each other. We can either be optimistic (i.e. in denial) or realistic (i.e. full of negativity and pessimism). This sermon will explore what it means to be a spiritual

being full of hope and wonder and realism. Perhaps we can achieve a balance of being able to look on the bright side while remaining grounded in the present moment and realities of today.

Rev. Rebekah C. Ingram

JANUARY 24TH

9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship

ON FINDING FAITH

Faith can be found in the most unusual places and at the most unexpected times. What does "having faith" mean to UUs? Where do we find faith?

Michelle LaGrave, Intern Minister

JANUARY 31ST

9:15 & 11:00 AM Worship

EATING, ETHICS AND HUMAN COMMUNITY

At General Assembly last summer, a delegation of Unitarian Universalists put forth an Action/Study topic for all of us to consider having to do with the ethics of eating. This service will address eating as an ethical and spiritual practice.

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

Religious Education

Thanks to all who braved the blustery, snow-filled day and attended the Multigenerational Holiday Service sponsored by the Religious Education Council. Although we were missing some sheep, shepherds, villagers, and angels, those who managed to make the service rose to the occasion beautifully! Two years in a row we've had a significant snowstorm on the Sunday before Christmas – ah, New England! We'll hope for less snow for this annual service next year.

January will be a month of transitions in the religious education world. We will have two Sundays left of the first semester – January 3rd and 10th. Please take a moment to thank your child's teachers for their time, energy and talents they have given this semester. Without teachers and their fine contributions, we would have no program. Also, please tell your children that they will have new teachers at the end of the month (with the exception of the 7th/8th graders, who will have the same teachers all year). The "spring" semester begins on January 24th.

Attention ALL teachers, advisors and BRE buddies: Please plan on attending the Teacher Brunches on January 10th. Sponsored by the Religious Education Council, the brunches will be held after each service. Teachers will be seated by grade level so that the fall teachers can pass on tips about the class to the spring teachers. You'll have

good food and good company! Childcare will be provided.

Sunday, January 17th will be a Special Sunday. Coverage will be provided for the Early Preschoolers (2- and 3-year-old class). Four-year-olds through sixth graders will attend the first part of the worship service and then be dismissed to the Huntley Room for a special activity.

Attention parents of OWL Participants: On Sunday, January 3rd, the Our Whole Lives teachers will hold a mid-year "Parent Check-in" between the two services at 10:15 in the classroom at 110 Edgell. The purpose of this check-in is to hear how the year is going from the perspective of the teachers and to provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and express any concerns you might have. Note that your children do NOT have class that morning. Rather, they have a retreat that afternoon from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. Your children will receive a postcard reminder about the retreat.

I wish you peaceful moments among your holiday celebrations. May 2010 bring you wonder, kindness, joy, and love.

Julie Porter,
Director of Religious Education

From the Intern Minister

Dear Ones,

As the winter season sets in, I find myself struggling with the cold weather and longing for warmer climes. The snow, as beautiful as it is to gaze upon, strikes me as simply cold. This, despite the fact that I lived on the Canadian border for several years – and loved it!

The problem is that I am struggling to find joy where it once was easily found: in the quiet stillness of a snowstorm, in the wonder at warmth breath frozen midair, in the magic of a horse-drawn sleigh ride. I am longing for warmth. I am wishing for something other than what actually is.

Now is the time I remind myself to remember the children. Children always have time... to play in the snow, to catch a snowflake on a tongue, to go sledding down a hill, to drink a cup of hot chocolate. Children tend to be good at finding joy in the moment, at living in the Now, at savoring what actually is.

In this season of cold and growing light, I wish you all warm hearts and child-like joy!

In faith,
Michelle

From the Board of Assessors

Ever since Latin class, I've had a fondness for Janus, the two-faced Roman god of the New Year, with one face looking forward and one looking back. I've been doing a little looking backward recently at some of our Restricted Funds. Established by or in memory of parishioners, these funds have specific uses and are under the control of the three Trustees (who are different from the Board of Assessors.)

The oldest fund is the Decoration Fund, which is to be used for Meeting House furniture or equipment. It was established by Mary K. Scott in the early 1960s. I encountered a little confusion about her name because some people knew her as Mary G. It seems she was married to the George C. Scott after whom Scott Hall is named. Susie MacDonald told me that the two Scott brothers both married women named Mary. In order to keep them straight, one was called Mary G, or Mary George, and the other was called Mary her-husband's-first-name. An ingenious solution, but one destined to challenge genealogical or historical research!

Preserving our history is important and valuable. The Japanese honor some people as living national treasures. We have many treasures living among us at First Parish and I think it would be a gift for all of us to have their memories of First Parish on videotape. Many of the newer members have not yet heard Tony Greeley's story about the marbles in church or the time the minister fell off the podium! I'm hoping that there are some people who have or know how to operate video cameras who would organize this effort. Please phone or e-mail me if you are interested. I'm looking forward to seeing those tapes!

The minutes for the Board's meetings are posted in the Members' Area of the church website. You are always welcome to attend any meetings and you are encouraged to ask questions of Board members; you elected us!

Blessings in the New Year,
Janice Knapp-Cordes, Board Chair
508-877-3771
janice.knappcordes@gmail.com

Membership Corner

Membership Matters:

Please join me in celebrating that Tracy Marshall has joined our membership. Tracy and her husband Alberto Santaflorientina have lived in Framingham for 11 years. They have an 11 year old daughter, Hayley, and a rescue beagle, Penny. Tracy is director of Philanthropy at Faulkner hospital in Boston. Alberto is director of Interpreter Services at Lemuel Shattuck hospital in Boston. Tracy is on the RE council. Her interests include cooking, reading and tennis.

Newcomer Orientation:

All Newcomers are invited to attend the Newcomer Orientation on Sunday January 31st from 2:30-4:30. This is an opportunity to meet Rev. Kathleen Hepler, other newcomers, members and staff of First Parish. Find out more about Unitarian Universalism and First Parish in Framingham. Refreshments will be provided. Child-care is available upon request with RSVP. Please RSVP to Veena Baker, Membership Development Coordinator, at membership@uuframingham.org or 508-872-3111 ext. 218.

Photo Directory Update:

We've begun taking pictures during social hours for the photo directory. You may email me in advance or sign-up to have your picture taken the same day. There's a sign-up sheet at the welcome table. If you would like to have your picture taken during the week, you may contact David Moore in the office at 508-872-3111 or office@uuframingham.org to set up an appointment. It is not too late to submit your own picture. Pictures may be emailed to: pictures@uuframingham.org in jpeg format. Our photo directory is being displayed in the password protected member's only section of our website, www.uuframingham.org. Families with children under 18 years please be sure to fill out a consent form, available at the welcome table, so that we can include your photo. Please help make this photo directory a success by submitting a photo or getting your picture taken. Getting your picture taken only takes a few minutes since we are doing it ourselves. There is no outside company putting pressure on you to buy pictures.

Veena Baker, Membership Development Coordinator,
email: membership@uuframingham.org,
phone: 508-872-3111 ext 218

Announcements: Dates & Events

Around the Parish

We extend our condolences to **Anna Goering** whose mother died recently following a battle with cancer.

Valerie Packard gave birth on Friday, Dec. 11, her birthday, to two little "impatient girls." Veronica Lee was born at 2:49am and Amanda Joyce held on until 5:03am. Valerie was discharged from Tufts New England Medical with babies staying in the NICU, as they came out at 32 weeks and 2 days - but each was over 3lbs, so no size issues. They will be at Tufts until they are cleared to be transferred to MetroWest Medical in Framingham,

before they eventually come home around their due date.

Jimmy Godfrey, son of **Mary Rose and Greg Wells**, was in an auto accident on Monday, Dec. 7. He suffered massive injuries, undergoing multiple surgeries with more expected to follow after the holidays. Fortunately none of Jimmy's injuries were life-altering, though complete recovery will take some time. In addition to ministering to Jimmy's needs, Mary Rose and Greg are mindful of the need to support their 9 year-old grandson, Jesse, to whom Daddy means everything.

George Gaby, 88, died on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009 at his home. He and Martha moved to Framingham about 9 years ago and soon became active partici-

pants in First Parish. George was a member of a Covenant Group and attended Coffee & Muffins regularly. He had served in the Navy during World War II and worked for over 35 years as a social worker for troubled children in the Springfield area. A Memorial Service was held at First Parish on Sun., Dec 20, at 4:00PM.

Share The Plate

There will be a Share The Plate on Jan 3rd for the Metrowest Free Medical Program. MWFMP provides free medical care to people with limited or no health insurance. Volunteer health care professionals and other support workers assist with giving much needed care to the people who seek gynecological care and optical care including glasses, if needed. This has been one of our church supported programs and it is at 110 Edgell Road.

You may make the check payable to First Parish in Framingham and on the memo line note: MWFMP. Thank you.

Save The Date

The First Parish Annual Talent & Treasure Auction will be May 8th.

Vision 20 / 20

Save the date: Saturday, January 16

The committee is planning a pot luck evening to share information on what we have learned so far and to gather more of your views. We have sorted your comments and organized them into seven areas. The evening will be a deeper exploration of these topics.

Please plan on joining in this evening of good food and conversation.

A Note From the Collector

Gifts of stocks are welcome anytime but remember they do take time to process. If you are planning on giving stocks as part of your pledge - or as an additional pledge - this year, please have the necessary paperwork in the office as soon as possible. Processing time can run one or two weeks.

Thank you for your support!
John Hutchins

Women's Alliance

The Alliance will meet January 11th at 12pm in the Parish House Huntley Room. The topic will be your favorite book of the past year. Bring a sandwich. Coffee and desert will be provided. For more information contact Susie MacDonald at 508

Chancel Decorations

Thank you to all who have volunteered to decorate our chancel during the fall and winter. Your contributions are an important component of our Sunday worship.

Starting in January we have 12 Sundays left which need a volunteer. You may decorate the chancel in memory of a loved one or a special event. A group can decorate the chancel to commemorate an event. Or you can decorate the chancel for no reason at all. Give me a call at 508-904-8401 to reserve your Sunday.

Beth Walton
Chancel Coordinator

Interfaith Hospitality Network

Please join us at the Natick Collection on Saturday, February 6, 2010 for MIHN's First Annual Walkathon. Come in from the cold and together we will walk the mall to raise funds for the Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network. The monies raised will help provide temporary shelter and support to homeless families in Metrowest. Please visit our Walkathon website at www.mihnwalkathon.dojiggy.com and sign up to walk or pledge today! Registration begins at 8:00am; Walk begins at 8:30am; Wrap up and Lottery Drawing at 10:00am. For more information call 508-318-4820 or email director@metrowestihn.org. We hope to see you there!

Legacy Planning

Do you love your First Parish family so much that you want to assure its community presence long after you're not here? Then please consider establishing a living legacy by including our church in your estate plans.

Past bequests by generous, forward-thinking First Parishioners have established an endowment that currently permits an annual pledge of more than \$20,000 to supplement our canvass. All these contributors wanted to help preserve First Parish for us, and for generations to come. Any of our three Trustees would be very happy to answer your questions about assigning some future assets to First Parish. Please e-mail or call Charlotte Neagle, Mary Rose Wells, or Pete Allen - and many thanks for your consideration.

Parent Support - Study Group

Parent Support/Study group will be meeting every Sat from 1:30 - 3:00 starting Jan 9, 2009. The group will focus on Collaborative Problem Solving as developed by Ross Greene PhD in *The Explosive Child* and further elaborated in *Treating Explosive Kids* by Ross Greene PhD and Stuart Ablon PhD. Lisa Bilotta, group leader, has participated in a three day intensive, one day workshop and an ongoing support group through Think:Kids at MGH ThinkKids.org.

There is no charge for the group and you are welcome to come when you are able - no participation commitment is required. Each session will begin with an overview of the approach followed by sharing, questions and discussion. Feel free to call or email Lisa with any questions at 978-502-0189 or bilo207@aol.com. This group is an opportunity to learn about an approach to parenting which is empowering to parents, effective and spiritually compatible - deeply respectful of both parent and child and also a way to support ourselves in our ongoing process on the path of parenting.

Standing On The Side of Love: Web Casts Calls

In January, join Standing on the Side of Love (SSL) staff and congregational leaders to learn about how your congregation can participate in National Standing on the Side of Love Day, Feb 14th, when we reimagine Valentine's Day.

On this day, congregations across the nation will participate in a day of worship and practice acts of love. National Standing on the Side of Love Day empowers each congregation to take action on issues that matter locally, and to pursue strategies that are effective and meaningful to them.

Join us for two planning meetings: Wednesday,

Jan. 13th, 1 pm (EST) and Wednesday, Jan. 20th, 8 pm (EST).

These web-cast conference calls are 45 min. in length. For more information, go to <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/ssl-webcast-calls/>.

SACRED CIRCLE DANCE AT FIRST PARISH IN SUDBURY

On Saturday, January 9, 2010 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, a new group of Sacred Circle Dances will take place at First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist, 327 Concord Road, Sudbury. The public is invited to this evening, for which no partner or experience is necessary. These traditional and modern dances affirm our connection to the earth, to heal, and to celebrate. The steps are easy and all are taught. A donation of \$5 - \$15 is requested to cover expenses. For more information, please call Paula Adelson (First Parish of Framingham choir member) at (508) 485-1030.

From the Parish Office

- The dead line for the February *Steeple* is Friday, January 22nd
- Have you visited our new First Parish Community Bulletin Board on our member's page? www.uuframingham.org/members/bulletinboard.htm
- Can't access the members page? Call or email the Parish Office for the username and password.

January, 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
<p>3 9:15 & 11:00 - Services</p> <p>10:15 am - OWL Parent Meeting</p> <p>4pm- OWL Retreat</p> <p>7pm - YRUU</p>	<p>4 6:30pm - Rounds</p> <p>7:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>5 7pm - Heritage Chorale</p>	<p>6 9:30am - Yoga II:</p> <p>6pm - Junior Youth Group</p> <p>7pm- Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Young Adult Group</p> <p>7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>7 8am - Coffee & Muffins</p> <p>5pm - MetroWest Free Med. Prg</p> <p>7pm RE Council</p>	8	<p>9 1:30pm - Parent Support/Study Group</p>
<p>10 9am - Teachers Brunch</p> <p>9:15 & 11:00 - Services</p> <p>10am- Junior Youth Bake Sale</p> <p>7pm - PFLAG</p> <p>7pm - YRUU</p>	<p>11 12pm - Women's Alliance</p> <p>3:30 Brownies</p> <p>6:30pm - Rounds</p> <p>7:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>12 7pm - Covenant Group</p> <p>7pm Heritage Chorale</p> <p>7pm- MICAH</p> <p>7:30pm - Stitches In Time</p>	<p>13 9:30am - Yoga II</p> <p>11:30am - Worship & Arts</p> <p>1pm Stitches In Time</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Young Adult Group</p> <p>7:30- Board of Assessors</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 8am - Coffee & Muffins:</p> <p>5pm - MetroWest Free Med. Prg</p>	15	<p>16 11am - Brownies:</p> <p>1:30pm - Parent Support/Study Group</p> <p>5:30pm - Vision 20/20 Pot Luck Supper</p>
<p>17 9:15 & 11:00 - Services</p> <p>7pm YRUU</p>	<p>18 6:30pm - Rounds</p> <p>7:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>19 7pm - Heritage Chorale</p>	<p>20 9:30am - Yoga II</p> <p>6pm - Junior Youth Group</p> <p>7pm MICAH</p> <p>7pm Young Adult Group</p> <p>7pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 8am - Coffee & Muffins</p> <p>5pm - MetroWest Free Med Prg.</p>	22 8:00 pm Uncommon Coffee House	<p>23 9am - New Teacher Orientation</p> <p>1:30 Parent Support/Study Group</p>
<p>24 9:15 & 11:00 - Services</p> <p>7pm YRUU</p>	<p>25 6:30pm - Rounds</p> <p>7:30pm - Meditation</p>	<p>26 6:30pm - Habitat For Humanity</p> <p>7pm - Covenant Group</p> <p>7pm Heritage Chorale</p> <p>7 pm - Stitches In Time</p>	<p>27 9:30am - Yoga II</p> <p>1pm - Stitches In Time</p> <p>7pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm Young Adult Group</p>	<p>28 8am - Coffee & Muffins</p> <p>5pm - MetroWest Free Med. Prg</p> <p>7:30pm - Women-Circle</p>	29	<p>30 11am - Brownies:</p> <p>1:30pm - Parent Support/Study Group</p>
<p>31 9:15 & 11:00 - Services</p> <p>2:30pm New-comer Orientation</p> <p>7pm YRUU</p>						

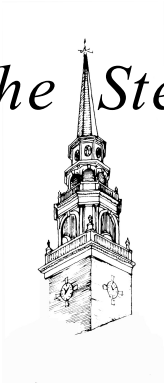
The First Parish In Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
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January, 2010



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