

The Steeple



VOL 9 NO. 5 May 1, 2016

First Parish in Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation

Monthly Reflection Theme:

Minister's Column

The experience of working with others to provide a fitting memorial for Tony Greeley has me reflecting on the power of being in a religious community over one's lifetime.

Tony's loving presence, indomitable goodwill about First Parish, and consistent support has made the world a better place. He knew that we don't participate in church only to get our own needs met.

There is a place in the human heart that can only be nourished by loving connections over time with people from all generations. Recently I saw a seven year-old hug her fellow church member who is 80. I realized how rare this opportunity is, and how powerful.

We know that the younger people among us live with significant time and financial challenges. We are trying to understand the impact that technology and social media are having on our common lives. We are working to understand this and adapt. Yet, I suggest that we always hold precious the riches that a long-term commitment to a multi-generational UU Community offers:

- Love that transcends family borders.
- Values we foster that the world needs.
- The satisfying knowledge that we are part of a living tradition that heals and connects people; that this was sustained by people before us and will go on after us.

We do and shall miss Tony. And, it is our watch now.

Blessings,
Kathleen

Sunday Worship Services, 10 am

May 1

Listen to the Music of Life

The Reverend Kathleen Hepler

Claudia Keyian, Director of Music

The annual celebration of music service featuring all of our choirs and special guests. Come to be inspired and let your soul sing!

There will also be a New Member Recognition Ceremony.

May 8

Nourishment: Maybe It's Not What We Think It Is

The Reverend Kathleen Hepler

The right to choose a sermon topic was purchased by Vickie Karian at the 2015 First Parish Spring Auction. She chose "Nourishment." What nourishment do our bodies, minds and spirits need to cope, to grow and to thrive? An apt topic for Mother's Day! We will also honor all people who have mothered us during the service.

May 15

Unsayings God

Rev. Kathleen Hepler

If you use the word "God" what do you mean? If you don't use the word God, why did you come to that conclusion? It just might be that the sacred can be approached in the seeming tension between these two questions.

May 22

Of Marble Lions and Imaginary Trees

Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill

The Reverend Doctor Patrick T. O'Neill will be our guest preacher this morning. Rev. Dr. O'Neill was the senior Minister here from 1985 to 1996. In October, the congregation voted to make him our second Minister Emeritus. Some part of the morning we will celebrate this new relationship. About his sermon, he writes, "A church is first defined by the way it views the world and the people who inhabit the world. This sermon focuses on what, in theological terms, is called a 'faith vision.' This notion implies that all faith is based on a vision which precedes it. Or in other words, people believe what they believe because first they see the things they see. In a metaphorical sense, our beliefs are directly tied to our angle of vision."

From the Board of Assessors

I'd like to take a detour from our usual Board business for today and think about how grateful we are to have one another.

I have often said that our congregation is greater than any one person in it. While I don't think there are any exceptions, Tony Greeley naturally springs to mind when I think of people who have been indispensable to First Parish. Those of us who loved him – and I think that must be just about all of us who knew him – will long remember him as a pillar of our community. His commitment to and love of this place and its people was palpable. His welcoming, jovial spirit helped so many of us feel at home here. We are very saddened by his passing and send our warm affections to Pat and the Greeley family, who have all been a great presence here.

I don't know if there is a "next life" waiting for us, but I'm sure Tony deserves one that includes hockey and First Parish in Framingham. Based on Tony's enduring spirit and outgoing demeanor, I think there was a piece of each of us in him that he must have carried from day to day. I feel pretty confident in saying that the converse is equally true – that each of us carry a piece of Tony as well. Now *that's* a legacy.

David Mendelsohn, Chair

Because of You and First Parish...

Sometimes the best way to live out our UU values is to partner with other organizations to support their good work. I believe that finding ways to use our buildings and grounds to provide a home for these efforts is among the highest callings of good stewardship. And it is something that First Parish does especially well.

When I look at the busy First Parish calendar the depth of this commitment is apparent. We provide a home for the Metrowest Free Medical Program regularly and the Family Promise program several weeks each year. We also provide a home for meetings of Nexus, the OUT Metrowest program for LGBTQ middle school youth, and Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay Children (PFLAG), the concurrent meeting for parents, friends and caregivers of LGBTQ youth and for Umbrella, a program for transgender youth.

I am sometimes present at First Parish when these organizations are meeting. Each time, as I encounter unfamiliar but friendly faces, I take pride that we create a place where our neighbors and friends can build community and feel at home.

Diane Bassett
2016 Canvass Chairperson



Music Notes

First Parish 2016 Canvass Wrap Up: Almost There!

As we near the end of April more than 160 families, representing more than 250 members and friends, have made generous pledge commitments to support First Parish in the 2016-2017 church year. Our pledges currently total \$263,000. The Finance Committee and the Board of Assessors are now working together to prepare the budget for 2016-2017 for consideration by the congregation at our Annual Meeting. Our hope is that we will reach total pledges of \$300,000 for next year, matching our current year pledge level. If you are among the more than 70 families representing about 100 members and friends who have not yet returned a pledge card, I hope you will do so to help us meet this goal. And, of course, if you can increase your pledge commitment this year to sustain First Parish, we welcome your support. Every pledge, large or small, is important, and needed and valued. To help us meet this goal, please contact Diane Bassett, 2016 Canvass Chair, at 774-279-1466, or at DLBASSETT46@gmail.com.

Diane Bassett
2016 Canvass Chairperson



Sunday, May 1 is Music Sunday!!

All First Parish Choirs will be performing and special guest Emily Rome.

Violist Emily Rome is a free-lance player and teacher in the Boston area. Emily has performed with Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Odyssey Opera, Rhode Island Philharmonic, Boston Lyric Opera, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, and Orchestra of Indian Hill among others. In addition, Emily also has a very active teaching career. She especially enjoys working with children and teaches a number of private students through her program Briosio Strings. She serves as a chamber coach for students at Harvard University and the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. In the summer, Emily performs and coaches at Greenwood Music Camp and Berkshire Summer Music Festival.

Special Guests, May 8

Join us for worship on Sunday, May 8 as we welcome back internationally acclaimed soprano Jayne West. She has performed with many of the country's leading orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, Detroit Symphony and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. Concert venues have included Symphony Hall, Seiji Ozawa Hall, Kennedy Center and Tanglewood Main Stage. Ms. West has performed extensively with Emmanuel Music and played the part of Countess Almaviva in Peter Sellars' production of "The Marriage of Figaro." She has recorded several cds and is on the faculty of the Longy School of Music and New England Conservatory. A Framingham native, Jayne is thrilled to be singing with her high school friend Steve Greeley!

Music Notes (continued)

About the Organ

Many of you have told me that you miss hearing the organ during worship services at First Parish. I miss it, too! So, I thought I'd take this time to give you an update on our old Frazee organ.

Our organ has not been behaving very well lately. There have been several times when I have planned on playing part or all of the music during the service on the organ, only to come in early on a Sunday morning (typically 7am!) to discover a cipher. Ciphers are loud, usually high-pitched whistle-like sounds which periodically emanate, unbidden from the organ, making the instrument unplayable. The causes and repair of ciphers are not easily understood. In fact, organ technicians train for many years before becoming adept in organ repair.

Per approval of the Board of Assessors, I have assembled an Organ Task Force (Deborah DuBourdieu, Ed Uftring and David Ortmeyer) to deal with this issue. Well-respected and extremely experienced organ consultant Barbara Owen has been hired. She will be coming soon to evaluate and to present her findings to the committee. Ultimately, we will need to decide if it is wise to put more money into our existing organ (probably not), or to purchase a used organ from another church. We will keep you posted as things progress!

Claudia Keyian
Music Director

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry

On Sunday, April 10, a few of us from First Parish, attended the Hope Out Loud, Open Doors, Open Hearts concert at the First Church in Roxbury Meetinghouse. Let me share a few comments made after the performance.

An amazing collage of art, singing, instrumental music and readings came from many areas of the historic church as developed by dynamic director, Samuel Martinborough. A highlight that remains with me was the combined musical performance of both children and adult string players, Tchaikovsky as well as Stand By Me.

- Beverly Smith

The inter-racial mix of the audience was thrilling. There were large, spring-like paintings exhibited in the church which had been created by residents at Renewal House and students of Roxbury Youth Programs. The performance of Bridge Over Troubled Water was wonderful!

- Myrna Howe

Speakers shared historical insights especially relating to slavery – themes of courage, hope, fear, compassion, and oppression.

- Carol Lawton

It was a very emotional to be there listening to the music and the speakers, looking at the incredible artwork and many people who attended. We hope others from First Parish will join us next time.

Valerie Waldman
First Parish UU Urban Ministry group, Chair

Around The Parish

If you would like to share a joy or a concern in the newsletter please contact the Caritas Coordinator. Caritas helps those in the Parish who face difficulties such as hospitalization, illness, and death of a loved one. Caritas coordinates cards, visits, meals, referrals to services and newsletter announcements.

The May Coordinator is Sherrie Whittemore who can be called at 508-872-7798 or contacted by email at SherrieWhittemor@aol.com.

Summer Services

Summer Services Coordinating Meeting
Memorial Room, May 8 at 11:30

It's time to put together terrific lay-led services for this summer.

Ways to participate: Lead, assist with or suggest a service; help with the planning and coordinating; set up the sound system or the seating in Scott Hall; open and/or close up the Parish House; bring refreshments. Come to the meeting and be part of the process!

Ben Gustafson

Yes, There Is An Afterlife

With legacy planning, your appreciation of and contributions to First Parish can go on, joining a more than 300-year-old tradition of First Parishioners building a foundation of support for the congregation they love. The First Parish Endowment Fund, managed by your Trustees, provides an annual pledge of more than \$20,000 to supplement the canvass. Building the fund helps bring financial stability to our faith community. You don't have to be a millionaire to leave a legacy gift; bequests of all sizes to the First Parish Endowment Fund work together to provide benefit to all. For information, contact the First Parish in Framingham Trustees Walter Barker, Jen Long or David Ortmeyer.

Programs & Announcements

58th Annual Talent & Treasure Auction!

Saturday, May 7

5:30pm Scott Hall

First Class Seating for

ALL!

There will be fun of NA-

TIONAL proportions, a delectable dinner,

WORLD CLASS auction items, great bargains,

and a moving TRIVIA GAME to UPGRADE your chances to win

prizes!

We're looking forward to sharing a world of culture with you this year. Tickets may be purchased during social hour on Sunday.

Your Auction Committee

Ruth Decker & Marjie Rochon, Co-Chairs

Ruth.decker@verizon.net 508-877-6992

marjie.rochon@verizon.net 508-872-0410



Sacred Circle Dancing

Sunday, May 1 from 6 to 8pm. All dances taught; some live music. A \$5-\$10 donation to help defray First Parish expenses will be appreciated. Contact Paula Adelson (508) 485-1030.

Spirituality Book Group

On May 3, the Spirituality Book Group will be discussing *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom in the Memorial room at 7:15 pm. All welcome, especially newcomers! Contact Julia Schneiderman at jsandjw@verizon.net for questions.

Women's Alliance

The final meeting of the Women's Alliance will be May 9 at noon in the new Christa McAuliffe Library on Water Street. Bring a sandwich. We'll have a talk and tour. See you there!

—Susie MacDonald. 508-875-3322

Program and Announcements

Wellspring Wednesday

Join us May 4 at 6 pm in the Huntley Room for a pot-luck and animated conversation. Newcomers especially welcome. Bring a dish to share: main course, side dish, salad or dessert or pay \$5 at the door. Confirm, if possible; it helps us plan. Mkrell56@aol.com. Following the dinner, Rev. Hepler will lead a Love 2.0 workshop at 7pm, based on the book by Barbara Frederickson. We will explore love as a practice measured in micro-moments of connection and learn specific behaviors to improve our health and life satisfaction. Open to all. No sign up required.

WomenCircle

Meets Tuesday, May 17 at 7:15 pm in the Memorial Room. This group meets monthly to discuss and explore of women's spirituality. All First Parish women are welcome; for more information, contact Karen Wagner at blauaugen@comcast.net.

Dinner Discussion

The next dinner discussion will be held on Saturday, May 21, at the home of Margaret Krell. The discussion topic will be announced later. Appetizers are at 6 pm, dinner at 7, and discussion at 8. Contact Dick Paul at repen2@comcast.net or at 508-872-9729 for more information or to say what you are bringing to share: appetizer, salad, entree, dessert or beverage.

Meditation

- 7pm, Mondays in the Memorial Room, informal group
- 7pm, Wednesdays in the Memorial Room
Led by Joti Royster. At will donations.
- 9am, Fridays in the Memorial Room.
Informal group

Heritage Chorale Invites First Parish to "Shakespeare and Friends" Concert, May 14

Come enjoy ...

the most vivid and vibrant texts ever written in the English language, choral music in a wide range of musical styles—from madrigals to jazz, dramatic readings from the works of Shakespeare, 17th-century music

that resonated in the hearts and minds of Shakespeare and his contemporaries, and a post-concert reception for all, plus free parking
Singing with us is the Young Women's Chorus of the Handel & Haydn Society. Its 60+ members from more than 40 Massachusetts and New Hampshire high schools perform a classical repertoire in a variety of languages, along with spirituals, jazz, folk-songs, and a cappella music.
Shuttle parking at Woodward Elementary School, 28 Cordaville Rd, Southborough, 6-10:30pm.
May 14th, 7:30pm
St. Mark's School Performing Arts Center
25 Marlboro Road, Southborough, MA 01772
Advance Discounted Tickets heritagespring.bpt.me

Community Dinner

The members of Guru Ram Das Ashram invite the congregation of First Parish and the local Framingham community to a free vegetarian meal and cultural presentation on Friday, May 20 from 6 to 8pm in Scott Hall.

It is part of the tradition of Sikhism to feed people in free kitchens or langars. Sikhism is the fifth largest organized religion in the world but is relatively unknown outside of India because it is a non-proselytizing faith. Please join us for an opportunity to share food and raise awareness about our tradition.

Founded in Boston in 1970 through the inspiration and guidance of our spiritual teacher, Yogi Bhajan, the Guru Ram Das Ashram and Gurdwara (Sikh temple) is the New England regional center for Sikh Dharma and Kundalini Yoga. Named in honor of the great Sikh guru, Guru Ram Das, the Ashram and Gurdwara is in Millis, MA.

Newsletter Deadlines

May Mid-Month Update: May 11.

June Steeple: May 19

July Mid-Month Update: July 11

August Mid-Month Update: August 15

September Steeple: Monday August 15.

MAY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>10 Music Sunday, MH New Member Recognition 11am YRUU Bake Sale 11:30 Parish Meeting, Scott Hall 1:30 Girls Scouts, Huntley Room 6p Sacred Circle Dance, Scott Hall 6 p YRUU, Cave</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30p Free Medical Program, 6:30 ESL 110 Edgell, 7p, Rounds, SH 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7p Meditation, Memorial Room 7:30p Yoga, Huntley Room</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:15 Yoga, Huntley Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 7:15 Spirituality Book Group, Memorial Room 7:30p Heritage Chorale, SH</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11, ESL, 110 Edgell 1p Caritas, Minister's Study 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 6p Wellspring Wednesday, Huntley 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7p Choir, MH</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9 Meditation, Memorial Room Scott Hall, kitchen, Huntley, Memorial Room, nursery Room reserved for Auction set-up</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9, ESL. 110 Edgell 5:30p Talent & Treasure Auction</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Mother's Day 10 Worship, MH 11am JYG Bake Sale 11:30 Prison & Re-entry Support Work Group, Huntley Room 6 p YRUU, Cave</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12p Women's Alliance, McAuliffe Library 5:30p Free Medical Program, 6:30 ESL 110 Edgell, 7p, Rounds, SH 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7p Meditation, Memorial Room 7:30p Yoga, Huntley Room</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:15 Yoga, Huntley Room 1p Stitches in Time, Memorial Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 7p FCNS Board mtg, Huntley 7:30p Heritage Chorale, SH</p>	<p>11</p> <p>11, ESL, 110 Edgell 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 6:30p, OUT Metro-West NEXUS Scott Hall 6:30p PFLAG, Huntley Room 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7p Choir, MH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6:30 JYG, Olympia Brown 7p BoA, Huntley 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9 Meditation, Memorial Room</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9 ESL. 110 Edgell 10 Private Rental, Huntley 11 Memorial Service, Meeting House 12 Reception, Scott Hall 5pm 8th Grade Potluck, Scott Hall & kitchen</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10 Worship Service, Meeting House 8th Grade Recognition 11:30 Spanish Conversation Club, Memorial Room 11:30 SJCC, Huntley 6p YRUU, Cave</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 5:30p FCNS, Olympia 6:30 p, ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal, MH 7p, Rounds, SH 7p Meditation, Memorial Room 7:30p Yoga, Huntley Room</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:15 Yoga, Huntley Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 7:15p, WomenCircle, Memorial Rm 7:30p Heritage Chorale, SH</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11 ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 6:30 Umbrella, Scott Hall 7p Finance Council, Huntley Room 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7p Choir, MH</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8 Coffee & Muffins, Huntley 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9 Meditation, Memorial Room 6pm Community Dinner, Scott Hall</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9 ESL. 110 Edgell 9 Private Rental, Scott Hall, Huntley 10a-2p, Olympia 2-3p 7p Fairs & Squares, Scott Hall</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10 Worship Service, Meeting House 1pm FSU Graduation, Parish House and parking lot 5pm Cocktail Party, Scott Hall 6 p YRUU, Cave</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6p FCNS, Scott Hall 6:30 p ESL, 110 Edgell Rd 7p Bell Choir, MH 7p, Rounds, SH 7p Meditation, Memorial Room 7:30p Yoga,, Huntley</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:15 Yoga, Huntley Room 1p Stitches in Time, Memorial Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell 6:30p Parents & Others, Huntley</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11 ESL, 110 Edgell 12:45p Covenant Grp, Memorial Room 6p ESL, 110 Edgell 7p, Mass Mothers of Twins, Scott Hall 7p Meditation, Memorial Rm 7p Choir, MH</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8 Coffee & Muffins, Scott Hall 5:30p Free Medical Program, 110 Edgell 6:30 JYG, Olympia Brown 7p BoA, Huntley</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9 Meditation, Memorial Room</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9 ESL. 110 Edgell 9 Private Rental, Scott Hall, Huntley 10a-2p, Olympia 2-3p</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10 Worship Service, Meeting House 11:30 CAT, Huntley 6 p YRUU, Cave</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Memorial Day Office closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9:15 Yoga, Huntley Room 6p, ESL, 110 Edgell</p>				

The First Parish In Framingham
Unitarian Universalist
A Welcoming Congregation
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MINISTER EMERITUS

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EMERITA

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