



**THE CONNECTOR, NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST PARISH OF SUDBURY
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST 327 CONCORD ROAD, SUDBURY, MA 01776**

JUNE 9, 2010

Making Meanings BY REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

I'm imagining being at the beach. There's really nothing like it – warm or cold, sunny or cloudy, clear or stormy – being near the water restores my soul. For me – it is a kind of worship. Jacob Trapp says:

*To worship is to stand in awe/ under a heaven of stars/
before a flower, a leaf in sunlight,/ or a grain of sand.*

Wherever you may worship this summer – at First Parish, at the beach, or in your garden – may it nourish your spirit.

But... I'm also imagining being at the beach... with you... in October. Ferry Beach Camp & Conference Center. First Parish is returning to this beloved place for a congregational retreat after a long hiatus. What will we do, you may ask? Well, there will be time to stand in awe under a heaven of stars or gazing at a grain of sand. There will be quiet time and play time and time for kindred spirits to worship and sing and simply be together. Good food, too!

But we'll also take time to talk about our shared future. Did you know that, in 2015, First Parish will be celebrating its 375th anniversary? Imagine what you'd like to tell the folks who gathered that first time about our ministry today? And – think about this – what will the folks of 2025 be saying about the congregation's ministry in the first quarter of the 21st century? We want them to be able to build on the legacy we are leaving to them.

I'm imagining being at the beach with all of us – of every age – creating a blueprint of our future together. There are some realities to face and some changing needs to consider. First, there are the benchmarks we've set for ourselves next year. When we voted to approve next year's budget, we were agreeing to these commitments: increase pledge units; increase rental income and contract with a new, long-term tenant; increase income with existing and new fundraisers; work toward full enrollment in RE; and evaluate our ministry in all its aspects.

All are critically important for next year, but evaluating our ministry is important both in the short- and the long-term. Some folks at the UUA and in our district have been talking a lot about some key trends affecting congregations like ours. Here are just a few: declining participation in communities of faith; the challenges for a congregation made up of young adults, parents and families, "Boomers," and elders; the needs of each is very different from the other and very different now than in years past. And then there is the question everyone is asking: how do we do meaningful ministry in a digital world? Our lay leaders have been talking about all of these things and now, it's time to give voice and vision to our future.

I'm imagining us at the beach together and oooohhhhhh, it sounds so exciting. Join me, won't you? October 22-24. Sign up today by contacting Sue C. [And, see the attached flyer for details.](#)

Katie Lee

Highlights in this Issue

	SUMMER SERVICES	PG. 3-4
	JULY 4 OPENING OUR DOORS & TOWN CENTER UPDATE	PG. 4
	STAFF SUMMER HOURS	PG. 5
	JULY 19 RUMMAGE SALE	PG. 6-7
	HELPING FPS ACHIEVE ITS BENCHMARKS	PG. 9



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, June 13, 10 am

Let's Celebrate!

Rev. Katie Lee Crane
Ms. Roberta Altamari

As our regular cycle of worship ends and our summer cycle begins, we celebrate the blessings of beloved community. In this participatory service for people of all ages we dedicate our newest baby, lift up the gifts that each person brings, and symbolize the diversity and oneness of congregations like this one with the traditional flower ritual. Word is, an Ice Cream social will follow the service.

In communities, as in life, there are cycles. In this service we lift up the circle of human life from infant to elder and re-enact a ritual that originated in Unitarian worship in Prague in 1923. In the words of Maya Chapek, "No two flowers are alike, no two people are alike; yet each has a contribution to make; each would help make the world as beautiful as a colorful bouquet. By exchanging the flowers, we signify that we are willing, in the spirit of tolerance and patience, to march together in search of truth, disregarding all that usually divides people."

Please bring a flower for each person in your family...and if you forget, of course, come anyway. We will have a few extra.

Sunday, June 20, 10 am

light breakfast at 9:30 am

Retreats for Rejuvenation and Discovery

Led by a team of people

On June 20th, at our First Summer Service we'll be sharing our stories and images of the various retreats that we have been on for Rejuvenation and Discovery and we'll be spotlighting our Ferry Beach experiences.

If you would like to share any stories or images of retreats that you have been on, especially Ferry Beach, please contact Dawn S. by June 14th (she'll be creating a slideshow to show) or plan to be there on June 20th and share your stories and images in person!

You'll also have an opportunity to "sign-up" for our all-congregation retreat at Ferry Beach for the weekend of October 22-24.

***Learn more about
Summer Worship Services
on the next page.***

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Annmarie A, Audrey K, Polly M, Bruce P, Fred P, Paul R, Dawn S

In the event of a pastoral need, please call any of these Pastoral Associates.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Publication of the *Connector* will be suspended until late August. Wishing you a restful summer.

R.E.flections by a Chalice D.R.E.amer...

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way, no matter how big or small, to making this year such a success!! I have been privileged to witness both seeds of hope being planted and flowers blossoming into being a part of our beautiful gardens. From eye-opening social justice exploration to organic multigenerational connection, we are growing and thriving! And I thank each and every one of you for being a part of all this!!

Best wishes for a wonderful, wonder-filled Summer! May this coming season bring you just what you are needing and dreaming of.

Sunny Blessings,
Love, Roberta



Come Parade with Pride Sat., June 12

Walk together for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality with our Welcoming Congregation Committee, our Youth Group and other allies in Boston's Pride Parade. Contact Peg E, Roberta Altamari for carpool details.

Ride Share to Memorial Service

Katie Lee is happy to take two additional passengers to Chatham on Saturday, June 19, for John T's memorial service at 1 pm. She will leave in the morning and return in the early evening.

Please call or email her if you would like a ride: 978 443-2043 or minister@fpsudbury.org.

Summer is (almost) here, and that means SUMMER SERVICES !

During the summer, we offer lay-led worship services which cover a wide range of topics. These are more informal and often experimental and innovative; not your typical sanctuary style service. The diversity of styles and themes is rich and stimulating (I guess it's not a secret that I enjoy this break from the structure of the sanctuary...)

Prior to the 10:00 am service, at 9:30, we gather for a little nosh (or breakfast "nibbles") and conversation. And of course, childcare is always available.

The schedule as it stands today (always open for modifications):

- * June 20 - "Retreats for Rejuvenation and Discovery" led by a team of people.
- * June 27 - Felisa T leading, always a great service
- * July 4 - "Open Our Doors", opening the doors and windows for townspeople before the parade. See page 4 for details and to volunteer help.
- * July 11 - "Intentional Community" led by a friend of mine, Catya B
- * July 18 - Bev W leading; she's both experienced and thought provoking
- * July 25 - still available!
- * Aug 1 - Richard S leading; a first-timer which can be surprisingly good
- * Aug 8 - "The Life and Times of Randy Shilts" led by Dawn S
- * Aug 15 - "On Rapture" led by Michael T
- * Aug 22 - "Charter for Compassion" led by Nancy B
- * Aug 29 - "TBD" (yes, "TBD") led by Adam B and Robyn R
- * Sept 5 - "Poetry Jam", led by all our poets and poetry readers

Continued on next page

Summer Services...continued

As you can see, July 25th is still available. I have been noodling around a topic involving how people met their partners (all part of the "intentional decisions" we make in our lives) but I would much rather have somebody jump in with a passionate topic that they want to present and dive into.

Just like every summer, we are always looking for musicians (coordinated by Judith C) and people to provide some breakfast nibbles (coordinated by Darlene S).

We also offer the opportunity to go out and play with the children during the service (well, at least monitor the children). You may also get the chance to hold a baby! Seriously, we provide childcare during the service, and every week we need two people to provide that care. Otherwise we need to pay a pair of (admittedly wonderful) teenagers to provide that childcare.

If you can provide any of these services, check out the summer services website (http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/SummerServices_2010) or simply contact Reed S. The start time remains at 10:00, with nibbles at 9:30, and all this happens in the air-conditioned "Commons" on the second floor, fully accessible by stairs and elevator.

- Reed S reed.summer@shilts.org



Update - Redesign of Sudbury Town Center

At the June 6 Annual Congregation Meeting, the congregation voted to encourage the Town of Sudbury to move forward with a modest improvement to the Town Center intersection - subject to some of First Parish's limitations. It is clear that we have many more concerns than we were able to agree to in one meeting. As we move forward, we need to gather and articulate those concerns and feed them into the process. If you would you like to get news updates about the Town Center project by email, please send email to Jan H at jch@jch.com



On Sunday, July 4th, we will "Open Our Doors" to you, your friends, to the public and to those gathering near Town Center waiting for the parade.

We plan to have a "town crier" on the Commons inviting people to our 10:00 worship service! Our windows will be open so all can hear our sing-a-long...with some of our favorite UU hymns as well as some patriotic inspirational songs. We'll have an Open House display showcasing all that we do at First Parish.

So, we need your help in a number of ways! Wouldn't you love to share a pew with a friend that you've been meaning to invite? Now is your opportunity! And what a day for it! Bring a friend to the service, visit the barbecue, and watch the parade! If you would like to be there to show visitors around, we'd love your help! Can you share your voice and musical talents for the sing-a-long? And of course, we'd love to welcome you to this wonderful opportunity of sharing what First Parish is all about!

For more information, please contact Katie Lee or Dawn S. Happy 4th!



Summer office hours

The office will be closed June 14-18 and July 5.

Starting Monday, June 21 the office will be staffed only on Mondays from 9:00-11:00 am. The Administrator will be on summer hours, working from home or evenings. Phone and email messages will be picked up Monday-Friday as usual. Fall office hours will be announced in late August.

The Staff...is indeed working during the summer months when not taking their vacation time.

To Reach Staff This Summer

The best way to reach the staff is by email or leaving a message on the First Parish phone: 978/443-2043 ext. "2" for Katie Lee (or the Pastoral Associate on call); "3" for Roberta or "#" for Donna

Our Minister, Katie Lee...is still “on duty” even though she is not in the pulpit again until September 12.

During the July and August, Katie Lee has one month of **vacation** and one month of **study leave** during which she reads, plans, and prepares for next year’s programs and worship. This year, she will be in Minneapolis for minister’s training from June 20-25; on vacation from July 17-August 15; on study leave July 1-16 and August 15-30.

During her time away from Sudbury and while on vacation, the Pastoral Associates will refer all pastoral emergencies or urgent First Parish business to the appropriate lay leader and/or to the minister on call. Several local UU ministers (including Katie Lee) serve as ministers-on-call for each other when any one is out of town or otherwise unavailable. If you need to reach Katie Lee or someone else between now and September 1, you may phone First Parish 978 443-2043 and leave a message on the minister’s line, ext. 2. The phones are monitored daily and someone will return your call promptly.

Our Director of Religious Exploration and Youth Ministry, Roberta...will have a mix of four weeks of vacation time, three weeks at Ferry Beach UU camp for professional development, and the remaining weeks spent preparing for the start of another year. She can best be reached by email at dre@fpsudbury.org or by calling her cellphone at 617-872-5145 during the summer months.

Our Music Director, Debra...is busy preparing for next year, but rarely can be reached at First Parish during the summer. Messages can be left on her home phone number or email address found in the FPS directory.

Our Administrator, Donna...works a reduced schedule after June 13. She will be on a brief medical leave for trigger-thumb surgery, followed by vacation time. Fran and other volunteers will cover phones and email in Donna’s absence. Phone calls and email messages will be returned as soon as possible. Donna can be reached in the office on Mondays from 9:00-11:00 am from July 12 through early Sept. Regular office hours resume after Labor Day.



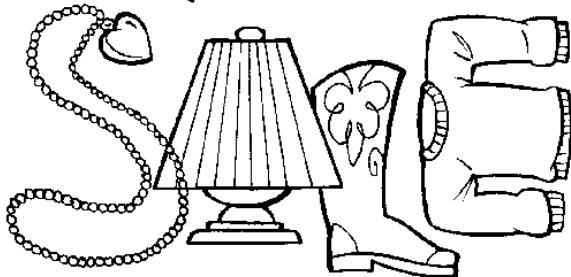
Please note that all our vinyl and ceramic floors will be deep cleaned & waxed in July so kindly avoid walking on wet areas. The schedule will be posted on the entry door and every effort will be made not to disrupt regular meetings and rentals. Thank you.

Come to the
Work in the Garden Party
every Tuesday 9:30-11 am



Watering the Memorial Garden over the summer is taken care of by the Landscape Committee, so if you see water turned on & hoses running, please trust that someone will be back to turn them off. Aren’t we lucky to have such dedicated workers keeping everything looking lovely for us all?

RUMMAGE



It's not your mother's

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, June 19, 2009

10:00-2:00

\$3⁰⁰ small or 5⁰⁰ large bag

You stuff the bag with

Clothes...Toys...Books...Music...Household...Office...More

First Parish of Sudbury UU

327 Concord Road

Sudbury, across from Town Hall

www.fpsudbury.org

Sponsored by The Women's Alliance



Volunteers and Rummage Needed

The Women's Alliance seeks volunteers to work Saturday, June 19 anytime from 10-2 or 2-3 for clean up, and asks you to drop off your donations of rummage June 14-18 from 7 am-6 pm in the old South Foyer off the Parish Hall.

If your rummage fits into a paper grocery bag, we want it! Please donate your household goods, toys & games, office supplies, clothing, & books (no textbooks and no magazines, please). Any item that is clean, in good repair and fits into a paper grocery bag will help the Women's Alliance **June 19 Rummage Sale, 10:00-2:00**. Thanks!



Consider First Parish When You Need a Great Place for Your Next Get Together

- Reasonable rates
- Wine and Beer approved
- Comfortable clean rooms
- Great sound & video systems
- Convenient parking
- And you won't have to get your house ready for company!

Contact the office at 978-443-2043 or email office@fpsudbury.org

Please Support Our Renters

You'll benefit spiritually, emotionally and physically ...and FPS will benefit financially, when you support our renters by attending their programs. Current summertime opportunities include **Yoga** classes on Monday nights and **Zumba fitness** classes on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays. Check the Parish Hall bulletin board for details or contact Donna in the office.

If you enjoy the UU WORLD stay in closer touch with what's happening across our denomination by signing up for the weekly email newsletter at www.uuworld.org/newsletter

June 28 is the last day to apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance for homeowners, renters and business owners who were affected by Spring flooding. Call 800-621-3362 or online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov. See the flyer on the Parish Hall bulletin board for more details.

Kids Stuff Tag Sale

Gently-Used Children's Clothing, Toys & Equipment. Saturday, June 12th, 2010 9:00 to Noon. Curtis Middle School Cafeteria, 22 Pratt's Mill Road, Sudbury

Thank you from Fran!

I thank you all for the wonderful cards you gave me on Sunday. And, of course, I love the quilted wall hanging with the image of my Beloved Community.

I feel your support and good wishes and appreciation, and always have! I know that you will be as supportive of our new Community Life Coordinator who will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm.

And, what's to become of me? I will be a frequent worshipper next year on Sunday mornings, and active with our FPS quilting group. But, as the UUA recommends for a resigning staffer/member, I will take a one year sabbatical from volunteering and holding leadership positions in the congregation. It will be the healthiest way for me and for us to let go of the professional role I have had for ten years.

Thank you again. Peace to you all.

Fran

**Please print and complete this form and send it/bring it to the office,
or email your reply to office@fpsudbury.org**

HELPING FIRST PARISH ACHIEVE ITS BENCHMARKS

I would like to be involved with the following benchmark and/or Committee:

Group to work on increasing Rentals _____

Group to work on increasing Fundraisers _____

Group to work on Pledge Drive _____

Group to work on increasing the number of children actively involved in RE _____

Group to work with the Committee on Ministry for the Congregational Survey _____

Finance Committee _____

Group to provide ideas/support for outreach and membership _____

Name _____

Contact Information _____



FPS Calendar June 9, 2010 to July 10, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>Jun 9</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:30p CHC	<u>Jun 10</u> 1:00p Meditation 6:30p Rental: Zumba 7:30p Choir - tba	<u>Jun 11</u> 7:00p Chalice Circle 7:00p Youth Bridging Conference\, Friday- Sunday	<u>Jun 12</u> 9:00a Intergenerational Group participating in Boston's 40th anniversary Pride Parade-all welcome
<u>Jun 13</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Landscape Committee 11:45a SPTF 6:30p Rental	<u>Jun 14</u> 7:00a SED Yard Sale 7:15a Harvest Fair Committee 6:00p Rental: Yoga	<u>Jun 15</u> 7:00a SED Yard Sale 7:00p Rental	<u>Jun 16</u> 7:00a SED Yard Sale 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Rental 7:00p Coffeehouse Task Force	<u>Jun 17</u> 7:00a SED Yard Sale 3:00p Youth Group 6:30p Rental: Zumba	<u>Jun 18</u> 7:00a SED Yard Sale 3:00p Youth Group Weekend Camping Trip with Watertown Youth 6:30p Set up for Rummage Sale	<u>Jun 19</u> 10:00a Rummage Sale - Women's Alliance – open to the public
<u>Jun 20</u> 10:00a Summer Worship Service 9:30 a breakfast 6:30p Rental	<u>Jun 21</u>	<u>Jun 22</u> 7:00p Rental	<u>Jun 23</u> 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Rental	<u>Jun 24</u> 6:30p Rental: Zumba	<u>Jun 25</u>	<u>Jun 26</u>
<u>Jun 27</u> 10:00a Summer Worship Service 9:30 a breakfast 6:30p Rental	<u>Jun 28</u>	<u>Jun 29</u> 6:30p Rental: Zumba 7:00p Rental	<u>Jun 30</u> 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Rental	<u>Jul 1</u> 6:30p Rental: Zumba	<u>Jul 2</u>	<u>Jul 3</u>
<u>Jul 4</u> 10:00a Summer Worship Service 9:30 a breakfast 6:30p Rental	<u>Jul 5</u>	<u>Jul 6</u> 6:30p Rental: Zumba 7:00p Rental	<u>Jul 7</u> 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Rental	<u>Jul 8</u> 6:30p Rental: Zumba	<u>Jul 9</u>	<u>Jul 10</u>