
First Parish of Sudbury News

June 25, 2006

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Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: Aug. 23 2006

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Submissions to: office@fpsudbury.org

Next Newsletter Deadline: Sept. 13, 2006

Thank you from all of us to all of us! You have contributed in ways from A to Z

We say it a lot around here – “we are all in this together.” You see just how true this is when you think just for a minute about how all of us (and we do mean ALL, adults and young people alike) give time and talent in large and small ways to sustain our beloved community. Here is just a sampling to celebrate and acknowledge. You buoy our congregation and our spirits. Thank you all.

A is for Adult Religious Exploration

B is for Buildings and Grounds

C is for Canvassers, Chalice Conveners, Choir, & Coffee Hour

D is for Decorators – beautifying our sanctuary on special occasions

E is for Emcees (auction) and Electrical

F is for Faith in Action, Finance, and our wonderful Flowers

G is for Greeters and Green Sanctuary

H is for Harvest Fair, Holly Fair, and Heifer Project

I is for In-Home Dinners and the many “Invisible Hands”

J is for Jason’s Circle

K is for Kitchen helpers

L is for Landscape

M is for Memorial Garden and Music Committee,

N is for Newsletter articles written

O is for Office Helpers – copying, folding, addressing, & more

P is for Pastoral Associates, Program Council, Partakers

Q is for Quilters

R is for Religious Exploration (of course!)

S is for Spirit Play and Service Auction

T is for Trustees

U is for Ushers and Undecorate-the-Tree

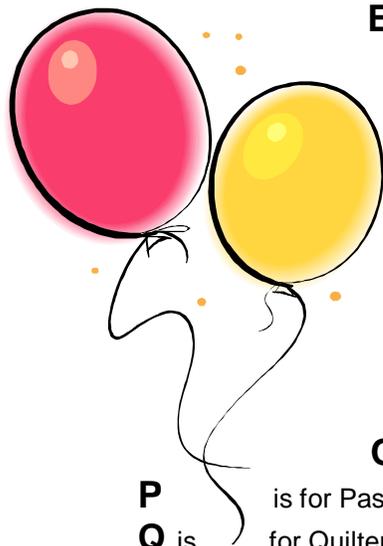
V is for Visitor Packets

W is for Worship Associates, Welcoming Congregation, Women’s Alliance, Website, and the Wayside Pulpit

X is for the many Xtra unmentioned tasks (poetic license!)

Y is for our Youth groups guided and led

Z is for zzzzz’s – when all of the above is done, the lights are out, and the door is closed for the night!



Thanks , from your Community & Hospitality Committee (CHC)
(formerly the Shared Gifts & Services and Members & Friends Committees, now a newly merged team)

Worship at the Meeting House



**Sunday, June 18-September 3
Summer Services at First Parish**

What are Summer Services? Here at First Parish, from September to June we offer our “typical” Sunday morning worship services. While these services indeed vary in theme and style, we always meet in our sanctuary. But, beginning in the summer, we switch gears and enjoy 12 weeks of lay-led services, usually in The Commons or downstairs in the Multipurpose Room. The services feature folks from our FPS community and beyond. There are different types of music offered by musicians of all ages. It’s a great time to hear what’s on the minds and in the hearts of our fellow congregants. We hope you will plan to join us this summer for worship, and, as always, bring friends. It’s a nice opportunity for newcomers to get to know a few folks here in a more relaxed setting.

Summer Services begin at 10am following a breakfast at 9:30. After the service, there is more coffee and conversation for those who wish to stay.

If you’d like to see what’s planned for this summer, or would like to offer to provide breakfast or music one Sunday, have a look at the list in The Commons or on our website. Carolyn L and Fran Sharp are the Summer Service coordinators, and they would be glad to talk with you about this summer’s plans.

See page 6 for the current Summer Service schedule

First Parish of Sudbury’s Pastoral Associates

Annmarie A	Polly M
Geneviève D	Fred P
Audrey K	Karen R
Linda L	Bev W

See page 5 regarding pastoral support this summer.



The Fourth of July Grill at First Parish

Bring friends, watch the parade, and celebrate with our neighbors.

We could still use a few helpers—please call Geneviève D or Roger C to offer your help.



**June’s Invisible Hands Award
Sara, Bonny, and Pam**

The month of June’s Invisible Hands Award goes to a trio of women who have worked hard for two years to thank all of us for what we do ... visibly and invisibly...Sara H, Bonny L, and Pam K.

Normally these three are the thankful ones who write this column and “catch people in the acts” of kindness, helpfulness, and service. But, since they are too humble to congratulate themselves on a job well done, the staff has appropriated this column for June.

So, thanks to this terrific threesome, most recently for their wonderful invisible hands working together to create “thank you scrolls” and pump up balloons in preparation for the Grand Finale on Celebration Sunday.

Pam, Bonny, and Sara, Thank **YOU!** You have filled us with warm fuzzies and helped us to remember that many hands make light work, and that all of our efforts, large and small, add up and make a big difference in keeping First Parish running.

Annual Meeting of The Women's Alliance

and Potluck Supper
Sunday June 25, 5-8pm

Join the women of the congregation at the home of JoAnne Young for a yummy potluck and annual meeting. The agenda for the meeting includes:

- ✓ A decision - shall we donate grant money as in the past?
- ✓ program and fund-raising plans for next year
- ✓ election of next year's officers

Board of Trustees Report

by Ginny S, Clerk

The June meeting began with farewells and thanks to outgoing Board Chair Jan H and to Trustee Pam K, who is moving to Indiana to be near her family. Jan, thank goodness, is not going anywhere and will chair the Canvass next year.

A new committee? The CHC? What's that? Don't we have enough committees already? Yes, we already had enough committees – one too many, in fact. The CHC is the Community and Hospitality Committee, formed by the merger of the Members and Friends Committee with the Shared Gifts and Services Committee. Now the whole process of inviting, welcoming, engaging, integrating and nurturing the communal life of our congregation is under one umbrella. The Trustees had chartered each of the former committees, and have now given their approval to the merger and the new name.

The Board approved Lynn LeB's plans for the June 17 workshop on balancing our resources with our goals, and helped to determine which committee or person could best answer questions of feasibility with respect to each of the ideas put forth at the annual congregational meeting.

Steve Z told the Board that the Investment Committee finds its current charter from the Trustees to be too limiting. He offered to bring in a draft charter allowing for more flexibility, for the Board's approval.

Ginny D proposed participating in the Mass Bay District's "Mystery Worshipper" program. Anonymous visitors will attend two Sunday morning services, after which they will give us a comprehensive report on their welcome, the worship service, the building's appearance and accessibility, the RE program, etc. The Trustees decided that this would be well worth the \$50 fee, and decided to sign up for it.

For 2006-07, the Trustee Liaisons will be:

Nominating Comm – Nina P
Finance Comm – Steve Z
Buildings & Grounds – Celia H
Program Council – Celia, Ginny D (co-chairs)
Committee on Ministry – Beth R
Safe Congregations – Bridget H and Nina P
Community and Hospitality Comm (CHC)
 Ginny S, Ginny D and Bridget are all on both the (CHC) and the Board.

The 105th Harvest Craft Fair Save the Date--October 14th

Summer is upon us, but it is never too soon to start planning for the Harvest Craft Fair--the 2nd largest fundraiser for the church each year--and the one that raises the most money from outside the parish community.

For those of you who are new to First Parish, here are some quick facts:

Over 60 juried crafters sell their wares, and include beautiful handmade clothing, jewelry, art, and more.

Also available that day are lots of baked goods, jams and jellies, and our famous Soup&Bread lunch.

Many volunteers are needed to make this event fun and successful. Plan to sign up for a job that's just right for you.:

- Ø Set-up the evening before the fair
- Ø Staff the kitchen and sale tables during the fair
- Ø Bake goodies
- Ø Cook soups
- Ø Prepare jams & jellies, canned goods and preserves
- Ø And many more....

The Co-chairs for the Harvest Craft Fair are Sherri C, Carolyn L, and Dara B, and they are ready to support you!



Volunteer Opportunities for Youth (fulfills high school service requirement)

For First Parish youth and their friends, Fran could use help in the office on a variety of administrative projects. The time contributed can count toward your high school service requirement (bring a form to be signed).

If you have some time this summer and would like to work on projects in the office, and around the Meeting House, **call Fran to schedule a time**—978/443-2043. Whether it's for a short block of time or longer, we have a job that's a good match for you.

Report on the June 17 Brainstorming and Discernment Retreat

by Ginny S, Clerk

Last Saturday, The Commons was full of First Parish members and friends, food for sustenance, and a great deal of enthusiasm, ideas, and energy! It was a group of people who came ready to listen, decide, and move forward with action plans.

It is hoped that this report will give you enough details about what happened that you will be able to choose how YOU would like to get involved in the next steps.

Twenty-seven people spent four hours last Saturday in a marvelously constructive WORKshop, having a good time figuring out how best to bring our resources of "time and treasure" into alignment with our needs and wishes.

Lynn LeBlanc's skillful and lighthearted leadership kept us on schedule and produced one level of consensus after another.

Starting with the basic categories of "increasing income" and "reducing expenses," we considered all ideas that had come from the annual congregational meeting, plus others suggested on the spot and in recent Trustees and Program Council meetings.

Participants were grouped into four teams, each team to handle one category of ideas, deciding which items were actionable now or later, and evaluating each one for its impact vs. the ease or difficulty of acting on it. Then each team prioritized its items and presented their top action choices to the whole group.

Top recommendations from each team were:

1. Fund-raising: Re-cast the service auction; Expand the 4th of July event (publicity & sales); Have a yard sale in the parking lot; Possibly have a "dumpster day", a garden tour, a Victorian tea. Apply the "share the plate" process to several events.

2. Canvass/Investments/Etc.: Ask for what is really needed; Communicate the financial situation in lay terms, at least quarterly; Educate prospective members about congregation's finances; Help set up charitable trusts and bequests to FPS; Attract more members; Educate congregants about the Equity Fund, etc.

3. Rentals: Review existing rentals; Explore new rental possibilities; Have a building use coordinator - a volunteer or a person paid a percentage of new rental income.

4. Reducing expenses: The Green Sanctuary committee is working on many of the ideas; Consider reducing paper newsletter frequency & mailing; experiment with not using order of service & Sunday news (would save staff time as well as paper).

Finally we re-grouped the top action items into clusters for task forces, which will conduct analysis or collect information as needed, and bring specific proposals or plans to appropriate groups. These task forces may find continuing roles, and may evolve into permanent committees.

The new task forces and those who offered to convene them are:

A. Fund-raising – Beth R (Trustee liaison)

B. Building use and rentals – Tom A and Celia H (Trustee liaison to B&G)

C. Staff time and tasks – Carol J and the Human Resources Committee

D. Communication (such media as the newsletter, the order of service, the Sunday news, displays in our foyer, the newspapers – informing us of current happenings and of specific issues that may come out of the other task forces) – Steve "Gabe" G and Carol W

E. UUA and to Mass Bay District "dues"– Ginny D (Trustee liaison) & Lynn LeB

So now it is time for everyone else to join the process, to ask questions, to suggest answers, to provide or help find information, to discover the best ways to carry out new ideas, and especially, to add your energy to propel us to a new level of balance.

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Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm

We embrace diversity and, as a Welcoming Congregation, are intentional about welcoming the presence and participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life.

Minister: Rev. Katie Lee Crane
email: minister@fpsudbury.org

Director of Music: Debra Morris-Bennett
email: music@fpsudbury.org

Director of Religious Education: Tracy Duncan
email: reducation@fpsudbury.org

Youth Advisor: Greta Stone

Administrator: Fran Sharp

Chair, Bd. of Trustees: Jan Hardenbergh (thru June 30)
Steve Johnson (July 06-June 07)

Treasurer: Jan Pendleton

Faith in Action News

First Parish celebrates another great year of outreach

Our Backpack Drive Helped Many Children Get Back-to-School - Partners for the third straight year, HOPEsudbury and First Parish surpassed all prior results. We collected 180 backpacks full of school supplies. They were donated mostly to Sandra's Lodge, a family shelter in Waltham, MA. "The backpacks we receive from the Sudbury outreach community means so much to the children at the shelter. We include them in the welcoming package when new families move in, and we are also able to give each child a new backpack when school starts in September", says Dick Rogers, Program Director. **Collection will start this year in August; watch your mailbox for more information**

We Brought a Joyful Noise to Mercy Cross High School in Biloxi – Marsha Lyons, the band director was thrilled about the euphonium and percussion instruments purchased from the funds collected by First Parish, Sudbury, and wrote "The Crusaders Band send their deep appreciation and your efforts will not be forgotten. Things are far from normal here but are getting better each day. Knowing that people like you are praying for us and doing what you can to help is what keeps our spirits high!" We started our support for the devastated school in September with a donation of 60 backpacks from the backpack drive. In October, we sent boxes of art supplies and in November, we had a number of fund raising efforts to purchase the musical instruments. The First Parish Quilters created and raffled the 'Hopeful Hearts' quilt; the children held a bake sale; and the proceeds of fair trade coffee were donated.

Our Prison Ministry Helps Break Barriers - We grew our prison ministry this year by partnering with Partakers' College Behind Bars Program in sponsoring an inmate at MCI Norfolk to receive his bachelor's degree from Boston University. Four members from FP are serving as education mentors and visit (name) monthly as he pursues his degree. We have renewed our representation on the board of directors of the Concord Prison Outreach Group. And we continued our outreach to the men at the Northeast Correctional Center and MCI Concord by participating in the Alternatives to Violence Training program, attending a Caroling and Fellowship Evening and by engaging our children and youth in making holiday cards for the Concord Prison Outreach Group's Gift Bag project.

Our Share-the-Plate Program collected over \$7,000 which we were able to donate to worthy organizations recommended by the congregation. *Please send Beth R your suggestions*; it is a great way to show institutional support for organizations that align with our UU principles.

We hosted a Clarence Darrow Show, and 120 people attended from Sudbury and neighboring towns. The Sanctuary was full, and we all agreed that this was a great program. Proceeds benefited the RIM project, see below.

The FPS Walk Team Raised \$5500 for Walk for Hunger, 20% more than last year. It was a beautiful spring day as we walked with the other 43,000 people. We thank all our supporters and hats off to the walkers!

Current update...First Parish joins an Sudbury Interfaith Coalition and needs your help.. in hosting a refugee family. We join St. Elizabeth's and the United Methodists in this project. This family is supported by the Refugee Immigrants Ministry Organization (**RIM**) www.r-i-m.net, that has placed 101 refugees since 2000 and has eight active clusters in the Metro area supporting 25 refugees. These people are political refugees seeking asylum, with a lawyer assigned. They are unable to work until they are authorized through work permits. This family will live at the Rectory at St. Elizabeth's and is planning to move here in early July. There is a father, mother and high-school aged son. RIM's sponsoring congregations offer housing, daily necessities, transportation, acculturation and friendship.

Would you like to help? Here's a chance to change lives—theirs and yours.

- § Maybe you have some household goods – in good condition - to donate?
- § Maybe you would be in the driving pool - those willing to drive the family to the train, the store, library, etc.
- § Would you help the family get acclimated to Sudbury by taking them to the library, store, high school, visiting and meeting them?
- § Would your teenager meet the 16-year old boy, and maybe play soccer together?

Contact Beth R for more information

And we supported our annual initiatives - Undecorate the Tree, Guest-At-Your-Table, supporting the Quilters in their efforts to bring quilts to homeless kids, selling Fair Trade coffee and the grants we made to organizations.