

Next Newsletter Deadline: Wed., Sept. 13, 2006

Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: Wed., Sept. 27, 2006

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Special Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 15, 2006 at 11:15 a.m.

As with all Congregational Meetings, friends are welcome to attend and participate; members are encouraged to attend, participate, and vote!

Watch for more information coming soon.

Join us as we celebrate the life of ST

This Saturday, September 9 at 2:30pm, we will celebrate S's life in a service during the Sanctuary, followed by an informal reception in the Parish Hall. We hope you are able to join us for this celebration. And, please be sure to spread the word to all friends in the Sudbury community and beyond who may or may not be aware of the date and time.

All are very welcome!

Don't forget: Water Ceremony this Sunday

Katie Lee writes: May these waters represent to all of us the living, healing presence of this beloved community.

Water that sustains. Water that destroys. Water that caresses. Water that blesses. Too much water and not enough. Water that comes instantly when you turn on the faucet. Water that (may or may not) come when you crank up the bucket from the deep, deep well. Water that etches streams through rocky mountain gorges. Muddy water that floods rivers and villages. Water that separates countries and continents. Salt water. Pure water. Polluted water. Bottled water. Spring water. Swift water. Standing water.

Tears, drizzle, downpour. Float, swim, dive. Paddle, row, motor. Leaks, drips, plops.

These are just a few of the images of water that shaped my summer months. What shaped yours? **Please bring the water you collected (really or virtually) to share on Sunday at our traditional water ceremony.** The water I've collected – tears shed with and for S, tears at the only surviving Jewish synagogue in Hungary, spring water collected at Torda Gorge, well water from a village well, water of blessing from a baptismal cup, rain from two continents, a little from the Danube (*Duna*), and some from the tap at Transylvanian Unitarian Headquarters in Kolvosar – will be what I bring to share. The water and the stories... we convert it into a communal water of blessing and memory. Please join us as we join together again for a new year.

First Parish Program Council Meeting—Help Us Kick Off the New Year!

Save The Date: Tues. Sept 19, 7:30-9:00

Join us for our first meeting as we develop the program direction at First Parish for this year. We will review the Board of Trustees' goals for First Parish for this year and discuss how our committees and programs can support and extend these goals. We will also discuss how to allocate the "new initiatives" money in our program budget as well as learn about what our committees hope to accomplish this year.

We hope to have representatives from each program committee at our meetings as well as individuals who are interested in the program direction of First Parish. For the sake of continuity, it's preferable to have committee representatives who attend on a regular basis. After the Sept 19 meeting, we will meet on the second Tues of each month (10/10, 11/14, 12/12, etc) with a few exceptions based on holidays and the Board of Trustees meetings. Celia H and Ginny D will be facilitating the Council this year as Steve J is now the Chair of the Board of Trustees. We look forward to an active and energizing program year!

Faith in Action Reminds Us:

1. Please bring in new **backpacks** and school supplies to support the annual drive for children at Sandra's Lodge. School has started and Sandra's Lodge is 50 backpacks short!

2. October 21 - save the date, *save your trash*, and watch for more information coming soon about the First Parish **"Dumpster Day."**

3. **Share the Plate** – Sunday, Sept. 24 will be the first of this year's Share the Plate Sunday, when we will split the Sunday morning offering 50/50 with a worthy charitable organization chosen by our Faith in Action group. These Sundays occur about once each month, and in September we will be sharing the plate with the RFK Children's Action Corps. Inspired by the life of Robert F. Kennedy, a group of private citizens sought to perpetuate the social values he exemplified during his lifetime. They sought to honor him in a manner that he would have approved - not words, but deeds – action leading to change. This organization was founded as a living, active memorial to the late Senator, who believed that society has a responsibility to take care of its members who have no voice. His dedication to children was clear; they are our tomorrow.

The Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps is dedicated to this legacy and is committed to caring for those children who face some of life's greatest challenges. As one of Massachusetts' most well-respected child-welfare agencies, they provide a variety of services specially tailored to help these young people. Through residential counseling, therapy, and a solid educational program, they help hundreds of at-risk children every year. Our residential and community-based programs provide a safe haven for hundreds of children that come from unstable, often unsafe, home environments.

Checks made out to First Parish of Sudbury may be added to our Sunday collection plate. If you are writing a check to be credited to your pledge to FPS, please note "pledge" in the memo line. All other checks and cash will be shared equally with the monthly Share the Plate recipients.

**Elaine & Shiloh are moving!
Can you help?**

The good news is that Elaine C has a new, accessible apartment that will be much safer than her present home in Sudbury. The bad news is that it's in Wellesley! And the challenge is packing and downsizing. Some things will go to storage; others will go to her new apartment. Elaine needs volunteers to help her with packing, labeling, and organizing for a complex move as well as possibly one or two helpers on moving day(s): September 16-17. If you can spare an hour or two to help out, please phone Katie Lee or the First Parish Office. Thank you.

Community and Hospitality Committee (formerly “Members and Friends” and “Shared Gifts and Services” Committees)

Will you be bringing a new neighbor or a long-time friend when you come back to First Parish this fall? This is a great time to introduce a newcomer to our vibrant community of faith. We'll be ready to make a first-time visitor's experience easier than ever.

Sudbury Day is Saturday, September 16, and our church will have a booth to let the wider community know about us. Do you have a canopy on legs that we could borrow to give our booth some shade? And how about spending an hour at the booth – any time between 12 and 5? **We need people** of the congregation to greet people, hand out brochures, and invite people to come to a Sunday service. Please phone or email Ginny S if you can help with a canopy or with some time.

Committee Fair coming Sept. 24 Are you ready to try a new role as a member of our community? Or would you like to know what some of the groups, committees and task forces in the church actually do? Plan to stay after the service on September 24 for the Committee Fair. A UU congregation's strength, vitality and ability to serve its members depend on the contributions of everyone who can participate. As we give, we get.

Be sure to mark your calendar for October 27 or 28, to have your (family's) picture taken for our new photo directory. Watch for detailed information from our photo directory coordinators.

Would you like to be a greeter? New greeters will be paired with those who have experience, and will be able to personify the welcome of our community.

Would you like to be a “congregational friend” for a newcomer? When a new person has a personal contact and the occasional invitation to participate in specific events, First Parish feels like a genuinely friendly place.

105th Annual Harvest Craft Fair is Saturday, October 14—the Saturday after Columbus Day Weekend

Our second largest annual fundraiser, and the most fun, best food day of the fall is once again on the calendar. The Fair, which features over 60 original crafters displaying items including jewelry, country decor, paintings, quilts, wood carvings and photos, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our famous lunch of homemade breads and soups will again be part of the attraction for lots of people. We average over 600 attendees, even more on sunny weekends. This fair brings in lots of people from outside the church community as vendors and attendees. For the fair to be a raging success, we need YOUR help and attendance. First Parish charges a \$3 admission for persons over 12, sells the lunch and beverages, and sells baked goods, jams and jellies provided by YOU. The Meeting House Preservation committee also has their products available, which benefit the building. Based on our average attendance, for every hour you volunteer, it earns about \$50 for the church -- pretty good wages.

Whether or not you can help out at the fair, please take the time to come for a delicious lunch and see all the wonderful wares being sold by our talented crafters.

What we Need:

- Bake all kinds of pies, cakes, cookies, brownies and other goodies -- the Bake Table ALWAYS sells out at this fair, so the more we have, the more we make.
- Jams and Jellies -- if you put up any jams, jellies, chutneys, etc -- please donate some of your efforts to the fair. These go very quickly and we get good prices for them.
- Soups & Breads-- Contact Elaine J to volunteer at batch of soup or chili or loaves of homemade bread for the lunch. Elaine also organizes the kitchen serving staff, and you should contact her to volunteer for that also.
- VOLUNTEERS! --
 - Assist with setup on Friday between 3:30 and 7 pm. There are many tasks of all levels of difficulty and strength required. Helpful children are especially welcome at setup. Crafters begin coming to do their setup at 7pm. so we need to have most of our work done by then. Your co-chairs and others will be there to direct efforts.
 - Staff the various sales tables on Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm as listed on the chart below

- o Clean Up crew from 4 - 6:30pm on Saturday. Since we use the entire first floor of the building, including the big SED room, we need to "re-assemble" that room on Saturday after the fair closes. Your fair chairpersons are too exhausted from working 14 of the past 24 hours to do this without sufficient help. Many hands make light work, but there is some lifting here, and we need some strong help. Your co-chairs will be there to direct the efforts.

- o The table below I hope helps to clarify what we need.

SIGN UP:

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall beginning on Sept 17th at the latest. Or Call Carolyn to sign up now.

Task	Number Needed		Time:	Time
Admission Table	2/ time slot	9:30-11:30	11:30-1:30	1:30-3:30
Lunch Tickets	2/ time slot	11-1	1-3	Runs out ~2:30
Jams & Jellies	2/ time slot	9:30-11:30	11:30-1:30	1:30-3:30
Bake Table	2/ time slot	9:30-11:30	11:30-1:30	1:30-3:30
Setup Friday Evening.	Many Hands/ families welcome!	3:30-5:30 pm on 13th	5-7 pm on 13th	Whenever YOU can come
Clean Up	Many Hands & Some strong bodies	4pm – finish (usually about 6:30)		As long as you can stay

Your Craft Fair Co-chairs for this year are Sherri C, Greg B, Gerry G, Elaine J, and Carolyn L. Talk to any of us for more information about the fair and how you can help.



Home phone numbers are not included in the E-News Bulletin.
Please check your First Parish directory, or call the office at 978/443-2043 for help.