
First Parish of Sudbury News

December 23, 2007

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Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: December 26, 2007

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Making Meanings

In late October, several folks from First Parish attended a regional conference of Unitarian Universalist congregations in Worcester. I was unable to attend. Those who did attend came back all fired up. They reported such energy among those present. Such commitment to our Unitarian Universalist principles and values. They brought back new ideas and new energy and a challenge to the rest of us – a challenge that they'd heard at the gathering.

"Be bold," exhorted our UUA Moderator, Gini Courter. She put her challenge this way: "If our congregations were ten times bolder than we are now, what would Unitarian Universalism look like in your community in ten years?" The report I heard was that people shouted out ideas and Gini would often say, "OK, but I want you to be even bolder still!"

The word "bold" grabbed me and won't let go. Are we bold now? Can we dare to be bold? What would bold look like?

It's a great topic for some serious reflection as the year turns. Did you know that 2008 will mark our ten years together in ministry? What better time than to ask ourselves how we want to shape the next ten years. As stewards of this wonderful congregation, we owe it to our children and our children's children to hand them a bold legacy.

If we were ten times bolder, what would First Parish look like in ten years?

What would bold look like?

Here's the kind of thinking I've been doing. What would change in how we worship? How about what we offer as religious exploration programs for adults, youth and children? How would we be living out our values in the larger community? When you asked someone who lives in the area about First Parish of Sudbury, what would s/he say? *Oh, they're the ones who've offered sanctuary to the homeless. Or, they were so influential in getting the single-payer health insurance bill passed. Or, there must be something going on over there, everyone's talking about how committed and excited they are. Or, did you hear that they give away ten percent of their income to support what matters most to them?*

As I muse on the possibilities, I find myself going in two directions. The first is to imagine a bold vision of a place and a community that provides a spiritual retreat and fitness center for all comers: the broken-spirited, those in a spiritual growth spurt who want some demanding discipline and spirit-flexing coaching, people of every age from infant to elder who expect to find here a path for religious exploration and literacy, those who seek the quiet discipline of spiritual deep-diving and some who seek the exhilaration of engaging with others in matters spiritual, moral, ethical – matters of principle and value.

Did you know that 2008 will mark our ten years together in ministry?

What better time to ask ourselves how we want to shape the next ten years.

I also imagine that the ways we give and receive ministry has expanded. Yes, it is rooted and grounded in our beautiful and historic meeting house. But I see us taking our ministry to the streets and the State House. I see it coming into our homes so that we can take a course after the baby's in bed, or listen to a whole worship service on a sleepless night. I see us extending our ministry to prisons, to those who can watch us on cable or hear us on the radio or download us from our website.

I hope you'll jump into the conversation. There will be multiple opportunities in the new year. The first is a gathering on Saturday, January 12, a pot luck for folks of all ages followed by a program for the younger children and this conversation for the rest of us – including the older children and teens. Watch for details.

Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.

-Goethe

Happy New Year!

Katie Lee

Seekers of the Light More Than Sunday



*Life is religious whenever we make it so.
- Sophia Lyon Fahs*

*Put me in, Coach, I'm ready to play today...
Look at me, I can be Centerfield.
- John Fogerty*

“Center” denotes a place of importance—centerpiece, center stage, front and center—or a place of balance or equal division—centerline, centerboard (to keep little sailboats from tipping), centerfield. To be “centered” is to have that sense of balance and equilibrium. Why do we so often forget that the center—our center—is also a place of importance, of honor?

What would happen if we put being centered front and center? Made it the centerpiece of the day? It would cause us to operate from a place of balance. Decisions would be easier—the center includes the gut, and we’d listen to and trust it more. We’d be more energized, for at our center is the *manipura chakra*, which is associated with dynamism. We’d be less easily annoyed, more compassionate, for our center contains the compassionate heart. Deeper breathing from the center would reduce stress and promote mental clarity. In short, *everything* would improve. What if we modeled centering and taught it to our children? *That* would be a gift for a lifetime.

You don’t have to be Jacoby Ellsbury, or a dancer or gymnast to be balanced, to play centerfield. Most of the time we balance just fine on two feet, sitting, or lying down. What it really takes is mindfulness. A moment to breathe, to become present, to stop being a human-doing and remember that you are a human-being. Then, when life whirls around you, you’ll be able to experience it as centrifugal force—your center holding everything instead of having it all splattered. (Yuck—think of the mess!)

This holiday season, amidst the whirlwind, I wish you a strong center where all is calm. And don’t forget, playing centerfield is fun—just get out there to catch some high fly balls.

Peace, Tracy

First Parish of Sudbury’s Pastoral Associates

Annmarie Allen	Bruce Porter
Audrey Kipp	Fred Pryor
Linda Lamenza	Dawn Shilts
Polly Meltzer	

*In the event of a pastoral need,
please call our minister or any of these Pastoral Associates.*

Do you like to make noise in church? Tracy seeks volunteer noise-makers for a reading during the Dec. 23 Family Holiday Service. We want children, youth and adults! The only requirements are the ability to come in on cue and to be quiet when it’s not your turn.

Contact Tracy at reducation@fpsudbury.org or 978-443-2043.

People We Care About



This column seeks to share news (happy, sad, exciting events) of our lives so that we may support each other as we travel this road together. May it be so.

This column is not available on our web version of the newsletter. Please contact the office for further help.

If you have news for this column, send it to the First Parish Office. (office@fpsudbury.org)

A Great Big THANK YOU! to

Our “Fair” Ladies ... and Gentlemen ... and GentleYouth, for a wonderful, fun, festive, *delicious* Holly Fair on December 8. There were crafts and cookies, friends and fun, shopping and socializing. Particular thanks to Cilla R and Dawn S, Fair Chairs, and to Elaine J, the Kitchen Queen.

We are so grateful for your hard work to make the Holly Fair a great time and great fundraiser.



Worship at the Meeting House

Sunday, December 23, 10 am
A Family Christmas Celebration
 Ms. Tracy Duncan, Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Invite your family and friends to join us for Christmas worship to celebrate this season of light, mystery and wonder. We will have the (now) traditional story of the first Christmas on-the-spot tableau, as well as stories and music to stir the spirits.

This multigenerational service (in past years held at 5pm on Christmas Eve) is participative and especially welcoming to families with children of all ages.

PLEASE NOTE:

*WE WILL HAVE ONE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE,
 THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 7:00PM.
 FOLKS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.*

Monday, December 24, 7 pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Join us for carols and candlelight, readings and reflections on this season of layered traditions celebrating midwinter, the birth of Jesus, new light/new life, joy and hope. This service is a quiet, meditative service to help us center ourselves, make ready, and focus on the reasons for the season. People of all ages are welcome to worship at this service. (There are no children's programs nor is childcare provided.)

Tuesday, December 25, 10 am
Christmas Day Service
 Rev. Katie Lee Crane & friends

Join our minister and friends by the fire for an informal time of carols and stories and sharing on Christmas Morning.

Sunday, December 30, 10 am
Are We There Yet?
Reflections at the end of another year
 Ms. April Spencer
 First Parish of Wayland

We continue a wonderful tradition of worshipping with our neighbors from the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Wayland and Framingham. This year we gather together in Wayland. There will be no worship service at First Parish of Sudbury on December 30.

Sunday, January 6, 10 am
Endings & Beginnings
 Rev. Katie Lee Crane

This service always begins with the moving ceremony of "Endings and Beginnings" in which we celebrate the births and deaths of 2007 at the turning of the year.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 to discuss the day's sermon topic and the issues it raises.

Sunday, January 13, 10 am
This I Believe: Stories are all we have
 Rev. Katie Lee Crane with Mr. Tom Arnold

Katie Lee will launch the six-week winter series, "This I Believe," with her own statement of faith. She will be joined by Mr. Tom A whose challenge to the congregation last August is the inspiration for the series.

For those who wish to join us, there will be a simple soup lunch at noon, and an opportunity to engage with one another about the principles and values that guide our lives. Childcare will be provided following lunch.



Sunday, Jan 6: Endings and Beginnings Service --time to send names to Katie Lee

It has become an important ritual on the first Sunday in January to honor those who have died and those who have been born during the past year. If you are new to First Parish, here's how it works--we read these names during our worship service and, when the name of someone we love is read, we stand to honor that person. What often happens is that, when the names have all been read, nearly everyone is standing. It is always a very moving experience.

If someone dear to you was born, or died, in 2007 and you would like their name to be among those read for this service, please send them to Katie Lee Crane as soon as possible, and by Wednesday, January 2nd at the latest. All she needs to know is whether the person is to be included in births or deaths, and how to pronounce their name.

Please note the date on your calendar, and plan to join us for this special service.

This I believe **A Winter Series**

From January 13 to February 17, we will hear a host of diverse voices in our pulpit, each telling something of her or his own story or the story of another. The thread that weaves these stories together is that we will hear from and about people whose Unitarian Universalist principles and deeply-held personal values give shape and meaning to how they live everyday.

The series is a collaborative effort among our minister, Katie Lee Crane, and two First Parishioners, Alorie Parkhill and Sheila Davison. Katie Lee will be in the pulpit all but one of the weeks, and she will be joined by others throughout the series.

Katie Lee will kick off the series with her own “this I believe” statement; she will be joined by Tom Arnold whose challenge to our congregation last August inspired this series. Tom wants us to talk about what we believe – out loud – with each other! The next week you will hear from several parishioners and from others about the ways music shapes their beliefs and their beliefs shape the music they make.

Emily Melcher will join us again, this time to talk about something she heard from a divinity school colleague that forced her to re-examine her assumptions.

Katie Lee will welcome another colleague, the Rev. Marta Valentin, who has served First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans for the past three years. She will undoubtedly tell us – first hand – how hurricanes Katrina and Rita changed her life, the life of her congregants and their UU congregation, as well as so many in the Gulf Coast region whose lives were changed irrevocably by these storms.

Alorie will explore what the founding fathers had to say about the relationship of church and state. She has chosen as a text the latest book by the Rev. Forrest Church, Senior Minister of All Soul’s Church in New York City: *So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers & the First Great Battle over Church & State*. Katie Lee hopes that Rev. Church will share something of his own “this I believe” statement which she can report to us on that day. He is considered to be one of the pre-eminent preachers/scholars/ministers of our denomination.

And there’s more, much more. There will be opportunities to engage with one another after each of these services for those who wish to take up the challenge.

Two Peacemaking Sessions in January

January 20th “Continuing the Dialogue

At 11:30am in the Brackett Room, the Unitarian Universalist Study Group on Peacemaking will again open a dialog about Islamic thought, politics and cultures with a talk by, and conversation with Tina K, wife of our first speaker this past September, Dr. Malik K.

Betty B, host and leader of this session, writes “It is impossible to ignore the horrific stories in newspapers and on television of life for far too many Muslim women. We are deeply sobered and thoughtfully contemplating how we might better understand their plight. We also see that many Muslim women are devoted followers of the teachings of Islam yet endure such abuse in the name of their religion and cannot speak to it. How can we be of any help, or should we leave this as an internal problem to be addressed only by other Muslims?”

You are encouraged to phone Betty B (or the First Parish office 443-2043 or office@fpsudbury.org) if you plan to attend, so that she can know how many people to expect.

January 27th “Peacemaking Session on United States Foreign Policy”

This session, at 11:30am in the Brackett Room, is planned to focus on how US foreign policy is made and implemented, how the will of the people is reflected in that process, and what participants believe should be its goals (including what they think the role of peacemaking should be). It is not planned to focus on current US foreign policy.

Youth Events in January

Overnights! Save the Date: Games, movies, food, fire and friendship.

For High School: Saturday, January 12

For Gr. 7 & 8: Saturday, January 27

You can stay for all or come for part. And bring a friend!

Upcoming Events in February for both Youth Groups (Stay posted...):

Service trip to Hayley House, a shelter and food-service professional training center in Boston for homeless people.

Rock Climbing and/or Ice Skating

Social Action Con (That’s short for Conference) for ages 14-20 will be held on January 18-20, place TBD. So, if you’re a youth who’s interested in social action and in getting to meet other UU youth from our district, let Tracy know. (We’ll need to provide a chaperone).

Faith in Action News**Help Others Enjoy The Holiday Spirit**

We are fast approaching the holiday feast, which is to be served on Saturday morning, Dec. 29th, at the Civic League in Framingham. The Civic League is in desperate need of "turkey roasters". They have the frozen turkeys and the pans and will coordinate a pick-up time with you. They are also seeking a variety of vegetable dishes (broccoli, peas or corn dishes) and assorted desserts. Contributions are also being received on Friday evening, Dec. 28th from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Framingham Civic League. Please make sure your item is transported in a disposable container. Anyone who would be willing to share the spirit of the season with us, please e-mail Deanna Swan at deannaswan@yahoo.com (with MEALS PROGRAM in the subject line) or call (508) 877-4418 and leave a message for Dee or Stephen.

Undecorate the Christmas Tree

This year's efforts were a resounding success. First Parish members and friends chose all 50 names given to us by the Framingham Department of Social Services and brought presents for these children. Thanks to all who participated and made this annual gift giving so gratifying.

Our Prison Ministry

The gathering of items to contribute to the gift bags for the men at the two correctional facilities in Concord went well. A special thanks to our children, youth and adults who made wonderfully special holiday cards to be included with the gifts.

Guest at Your Table

Please remember January 13th as pick up date for the GAYT boxes. Through this special tradition, Unitarian Universalist communities celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and learn how to put these values into action. The Guest at Your Table experience of families learning together has built lasting connections to UU values for generations of UU youth. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. Fill in the information on the box (so you register as a UUSC member, drop it in the workroom or give it to a FIA contact on Sunday). We appreciate checks (made out to the UUSC) for your donation rather than cash.

Christmas Offering Recipients

We will give the total Christmas offerings (December 23, 24, 25) to be given in equal parts with the Concord Prison Outreach, Inc. and the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

Concord Prison Outreach, Inc., (CPO) initiates, supports and coordinates volunteer involvement in educational programming at the two prisons located in Concord. Programs include Anger Management, Alternatives to Violence, Job Search Skills, and courses in *Microsoft Word* and Calculator Math. Our Tutors have also helped many inmates earn a GED. Book discussion groups, and most other programs welcome community members. Education and personal and spiritual growth programs help prepare inmates for their return to the community.

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) works to address the broad economic and social issues that lead to homelessness. Created by an association of grassroots organizations in 1981, MCH is the country's oldest statewide homeless advocacy organization. MCH's policy and organizational work involves the annual participation of over 700 volunteers, over 800 faith communities, 1300 service providers and regional advocacy groups, and hundreds of families and individuals who have experienced homelessness.



Thank You from Maya B

My summer in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan taught me more than just the skeleton of the Arabic language; I learned how to appreciate the beauty in different ways of living. Before I reached Jordan, I thought that the five-times-daily call to prayer would intrude upon my time and my sleep; however, the adhan has become a beautiful song for me, which now relaxes me every time I hear it. Calligraphy is the dominant art form instead of paintings, and the flow of the Arabic script in the wall hangings now fills me with a sense of peace. Rolling desert dunes and towering facades carved out of mountains have become my new standard for splendor in a natural landscape. Even my concept of physical beauty has changed: I have developed a sense of awe for the depths of the eyes revealed by the nekob, the female dress which covers the body and the face except for the one strip across the eyes. Finally, although I do not think it is the right religion for me, I have grown to admire the simplicity and the complexity of Islam itself, and its message of innovation, respect, and community. I wish that everyone could have the same opportunity to visit the country which I have grown to love, but most importantly, I hope that everyone reading this will open their minds and hearts to see not only the beauty surrounding ourselves, but also the beauty which envelops other cultures and traditions.

I would like to thank the First Parish community and the LaRhette grant for supporting my time in Jordan and Rev. Katie Lee Crane or all her help and encouragement.



Green Tips

Each month in the newsletter, the Green Sanctuary team will suggest a tip on being a greener—that is, more ecologically-minded--Earth citizen. We welcome your input.

Holiday Energy Tips & Simplification

It is the holiday season, the season of fun, family, and gift-giving. It is also the season of parties and presents, and the time when Americans' average garbage output increases by 25% from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. That makes for a total of more than 25 million tons of garbage annually! When you think about it, there's lots of garbage associated with holiday shopping and gift-giving (manufacturing, boxing, and wrapping), not to mention the extra energy used on holiday lights for the season. So, this holiday season take a moment to think about your habits and take a look at the following tips to see where you can save energy and cut back on your carbon output while saving your money!

- Consider purchasing much less stuff for the holidays which will be kinder to the environment. 99% of the stuff will be considered trash by July 2008. See the excellent fun-filled 20 minute film "The Story or Stuff" with Annie Leonard at <http://storyofstuff.com/index.html>
- Consider the benefits of buying locally made goods, which aren't transported over long distances to get to you. Or, consider giving antiques as presents. They're all about recycling and reuse.
- Consider gifts such as tickets to a play or concert, membership in a conservation and/or recreation organization, or art classes, which don't come with boxes and wrapping.
- Could you reduce the number of holiday shopping trips you make, to save on gas? Could you bring reusable shopping bags? Most paper bags are made from virgin paper. Plastic ones are less CO2 intensive to make, but they're still made with petroleum and take hundreds of years to decompose in the landfill.
- Shop in the Buff: Online, that is. Despite their size, e-commerce warehouses use 1/16th of the energy used to operate retail stores. And even overnight air shipping uses 40% less fuel than the average car trip to the store.
- Wrapping paper- usually made from virgin materials- is a large part of the holiday-waste stream. And if it's shiny or sparkly, it can't even be recycled. If every household wrapped three gifts in recycled materials (reused maps, newspaper, or cloth make great wrapping and trimmings), we'd save reams and reams of paper. Other alternatives include buying

gift-wrap made from recycled paper or hemp and flax. While you're at it, try Sellotape, which is made from biodegradable plant cellulose.

- Replace conventional incandescent holiday string lights with their light-emitting diode (LED) counterparts. These energy-efficient strings use up to 95 percent less electricity, last up to 10 times longer, and are safer, since they produce very little heat. LEDs are more expensive to purchase than incandescent lights, but by using them, you'll shave a few dollars off your electricity bill and pounds off your carbon weight. No matter what type of lights you use, limit yourself to keeping them on for four or five hours a day, and turn them off at night.
- For holiday parties, rent real plates, glasses, and silverware (or use your own) instead of using the disposable kind.
- Consider staying close to home rather than blowing your CO2 budget on high-emissions travel to faraway places, especially by airplane.
- With its focus on family and faith, December should represent an ideal opportunity to model and teach simplicity's tenets to our children. See "The Four Steps to a More Meaningful, Less Commercialized Holiday – with Kids" by Marie Sherlock, at <http://www.newdream.org/newsletter/simpleholidaykids.php>, which are:
 - 1) Search Your Soul
 - 2) Focus on Meaningful Traditions
 - 3) Downscale Gift Giving
 - 4) Start Planning for Next Year's Holidays

Bruce Langmuir, Co-chair Green Sanctuary Committee, thanks the Appalachian Mountain Club's Conservation Action Network, New American Dream and others for some of this information.

Tuesday Lunch Conversation: "Act Five" January 22, 2008

In January, we will resume our fourth Tuesday practice of having a particular topic for conversation at our brown-bag Tuesday Lunch in The Commons. Join us on Tuesday, January 22 at 11:30 am (we will begin promptly) as we listen to a powerful broadcast of "Act Five" a riveting report about a group of men in a maximum security prison who take on the challenge of staging Act Five of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* for fellow inmates and families. With several of our own parishioners active in various kinds of prison ministries and outreach, and with the recent *Boston Globe* spotlight series on the shortcomings and limitations of our Massachusetts correctional system, this promises to be a deep and meaningful experience. Our conversation concludes at 1 pm (officially) but those who are able to stay longer may continue.

Partnering with Unitarians

*in India, the Philippines,
the Czech Republic, Hungary,
Poland and Transylvania*

Our UUA president, the Rev. Bill S, has issued a "Call to Partnership." For 17 years, US congregations have been partnering with Unitarian congregations in Transylvania. The program began just after the Communist government fell. In Transylvania (a province in Romania) our Unitarian brothers and sisters were isolated and desperate. Their churches in disrepair, their villages threatened with destruction and the community life all but destroyed by Communist rule. Since then many partnerships have flourished between congregations here and there.

These congregation-to-congregation partnerships have yielded benefits for all involved. As Bill says, "Partnerships give a human face to the interdependent web of all existence on this small blue planet."

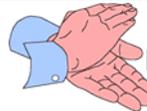
Now the program has expanded to include the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, India and the Philippines. Soon it hopes to reach Unitarians in South America, Africa and Asia. Did you know that there were Unitarians in all of these places? They, too, are often isolated and struggling.

Do we at First Parish wish to explore becoming a Partner Church? In today's world, international engagement helps us live our Sixth Principle: to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

If you'd like to know more, please call or email our minister, Katie Lee Crane.

Sermons for Distribution

Some have been asking why so few of this year's sermons are posted on our website. Please bear with us. We are in transition. In order to be more mindful of copyright restrictions, we are changing our practice of putting each service on the website each week. Instead, we are moving to a members-only part of the website that will have a complete archive of printed services and some sound recordings, too, so you will be able to listen to the service as a webcast on your computer or by downloading it as a podcast. On the public part of the website visitors will find a selection of sermons that are both representative of our worship experience and free of copyright constraints. However, most weeks we have both a print and audio recording of the service available for you in the office. Usually, print copies of the most recent services can also be found on the table in the Atkinson Wing foyer. If you're looking for something in particular don't hesitate to ask Fran Sharp, who will be glad to help.

**December's Invisible Hands Award
Tom K**

How about that wonderful Revels service on Dec. 9! Tom K led his band(s) of merrymakers in one of our favorite annual worship services. Thank you Tom, Hop Brook, and Candyrapper dancers. Thank you, Mummer's players and musicians. Thank you to parents and choir and so many who help.

Tom began teaching Morris Dancing to his own children and their First Parish friends at least 15 years ago. Steve R was a big part of that! Those kids grew and improved each year – then, even after they went off to college – they came back to teach the younger ones. He's even taken teams to competitions in the U.S. and abroad. Over the years Tom, and Steve, worked with hundreds of youth starting at about age 10 or 11. They learn ancient Celtic traditions through dances, readings, and music. They learn teamwork. They create community. Today, the young dancers come not only from First Parish but also from all over the greater Boston area.

Tom has said that, for him, this is a kind of ministry. He loves working with these young people. And anyone can see how much they love working with him. We continue to be amazed at what he and the dancers accomplish in the time they spend together during the year. Largely through Tom's efforts, this has become one of the most popular programs for First Parish youth. Over the years, Tom and his young friends have founded Velocirapper, Candyrapper, Great Meadows Morris and Sword and Hop Brook Morris groups.

Tom himself has been dancing with the Pinewoods Morris Men since 1966 (it's a family affair at the Kruskal household)! He is also an active member of the First Parish choir, and has served on the Music Committee.

Tom, for the ministry of music and dance you share with ALL of us, (those who dance on their feet and those who dance in their hearts) we THANK you!

Holiday Staff Schedules

The First Parish office will closed for the holidays at 1:00pm on Friday, December 21 and resume a regular schedule on Wednesday, January 2. During the work days between Christmas and New Year's the staff will not keep regularly-scheduled office hours. However, they will be working and checking phone and email messages daily. Our minister, Katie Lee Crane, will be on call and available in the event of a pastoral emergency or urgent First Parish business. If you need to reach someone on the staff, please follow the voice mail prompts to leave a phone message at First Parish; she will respond as promptly as possible.

Community and Hospitality Committee

Notes from Ginny Steel, co-chair

Mark your calendar now for January 12, Saturday, at 5 PM, and try on your thinking caps. Everyone is invited to a family-friendly, earth-friendly potluck supper. Bring your own place settings or plan to wash your own dishes. We'll provide beverages, which will go with whatever you bring – from home or from the store. Around the tables we'll steer some of the conversation to "What is this place for?" or "Why do we come here?" There will be ways for all ages to participate.

You may be wondering about our traditional In-Home Dinners, which were in January last year. Rest assured: these much-loved social gatherings will happen – in March. You will have your choice of March 15, 16 or 21. Stay tuned.

Do you know all you want to know about being a Unitarian Universalist? May we suggest that you could round out your understanding through the insightful essays to be found on our freshly reorganized pamphlet racks. The pamphlets, published by the UUA on such topics as "UU Views of Church," "The Faith of a UU Humanist" and "Spirituality: Unitarian Universalist Experiences" are excellent and short enough to fit into your busy life. These pamphlets, especially the more general, introductory ones, are just right for handing to your friends and neighbors who might want to learn about us.

Do you know all you want to know about being or becoming a member of First Parish of Sudbury? May we suggest that you join us on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9-11, for an orientation workshop – with a free brunch. Please contact Ginny Steel (508-358-7517) for more information or to sign up. Child care will be provided if it is requested.

Want to be sure your contact information is up to date? You can pick up a copy of the new **yellow directory** in the church office workroom or at the welcome table at coffee hour.

Emergency Closing Information

If worship services and other events at First Parish need to be cancelled due to severe weather or other emergency situations, here's how you can find out:

By phone—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978/443-2043. Press #1 for General Information. If events for Sunday have been cancelled, the message on line #1 will state that.

First Parish website—go to www.fpsudbury.org. The front page will show information about the emergency closing.

WBZ Radio website—If for any reason you can't access our First Parish website, you can go to www.wbz.com, click on "School Closings from the WBZ Storm Center" button, click on "Religious" and scroll down to look for "First Parish of Sudbury."

By radio—listen to the WBZ Storm Center (news radio 1030-AM) for the cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. Other events cannot be listed. If the weather is bad enough that you think a meeting or event might be cancelled, please contact the meeting leader.



First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist

327 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

978 443-2043, fax: 978 443-4391

Website: www.fpsudbury.org

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
Administrator:	Fran Sharp	email: office@fpsudbury.org
Chair, Bd. of Trustees:	Celia Hinrichs	
Treasurer:		