



week following **SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2009**

YOUR ELECTION CONNECTION

See p. 2 for information about the
> FPS Annual Congregational Meeting June 7, and
> UUA Presidential election



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THIS SUNDAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 10AM
REV. KATIE LEE CRANE
"LIFE HAPPENS WHEN YOU AREN'T LISTENING"

Do you remember who spoke at your high school graduation? Do you remember what they said? Could it be that you were daydreaming about your future in those moments and even if you didn't hear the speaker's words, you were already starting to live them? This Sunday, May 31, First Parish of Sudbury will ponder that paradox as it honors and celebrates the achievements of its high school graduates. Titled "Life Happens When You Aren't Listening," this Sunday's service begins at 10 a.m. and is open to all.

The service will be led by the Rev. Katie Lee Crane, First Parish minister. Often on "Graduation Sunday," Crane likes to preach the sermon she wished she'd heard at any number of graduations, both her own and those she attended. This year she had an epiphany: Who is listening to those carefully chosen words for the graduates? She admits she cannot remember a single word spoken at a single graduation, nor can she remember the speakers. Today's worship service will explore what we ARE doing when we are supposed to or expected to do something else.



**Annual Meeting Warrant is Out;
Details about each item
on the Web**

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled at 11:30 am on Sunday, June 7. There are seven decisions to be made:

- 1) elect officers and others,
- 2) consider revisions to the Equity Fund policy;
- 3) approve and/or amend the operating budget for the coming fiscal year;
- 4) consider spending capital monies to paint and restore the Meetinghouse and, at the same time,
- 5) vote to hold off spending capital monies to replace doors in the Brackett Room;
- 6) vote to instruct our elected delegates how to vote the congregation's preferences for UUA President, (see next column)
- 7) vote to sponsor BW as she completes the final requirements for fellowship as a UU minister.

All members of the congregation will receive a copy of the warrant and proposed budget in the mail. To save money and trees, we are not sending detailed background information with the warrant. Instead, we have established a special section on our First Parish website where you can view the warrant, the proposed budget, and background details about each of the warrant items. (www.fpsudbury.org)

If you do not have access to the website, please stop by or phone the office to request print copies.



Annual Report is now available

The 2009 Annual Report of First Parish of Sudbury is now available for pick-up. Please help yourself to one today in the Parish Hall, or during the week in the office. (Please bring yours to the Annual Meeting on June 7.) The report will also be posted on the First Parish website.

Please take a few minutes to read this important document that summarizes the events and activities of our ministry in the 2008-09 program year, and provides the background information needed to cast informed votes during the Annual Congregational Meeting.



Candidate Forum –

How shall we direct our delegates to vote for UUA President?

Please join Dawn Shilts and Katie Lee Crane this Sunday, May 31, at 11:45 in the Brackett Room for a discussion about the two candidates running for President of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Although only the four certified delegates and our minister may cast votes, they are casting their votes on our behalf.

Members will be asked at the congregation's annual meeting to instruct the delegates how to vote.

Please inform yourself about each of the candidates and then support the delegates by expressing your opinion.

If you cannot attend, you may learn more about each candidate on their respective websites: www.hallmanforuuapresident.com/ and www.moralesforuuapresident.org/.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE CO-SPONSORED BY OUR WELCOMING CONGREGATION COMMITTEE AND OUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, May 31st at 6:30pm ... a multigenerational screening of the movie, "Milk". Note that this movie is rated R for language, sexual references, and brief violence, so teens need their parents' permission to see it. It's a powerful movie about gay rights and the first openly gay man to be elected to a major political role.

Sunday, June 7th at 6:30pm ... a multigenerational screening of the documentary "Gay Youth". Powerful movie about how much the support we offer gay teenagers can make a dramatic difference in their young lives. No ratings, but Roberta suggests "no younger than teens" since some content is heavy (references to a youth committing suicide). Important and affirming message and this movie was shown during our 2009 OWL program.

Saturday, June 13th from 10am to late afternoon ... Gay Pride parade in Boston. Multigenerational event perfect for most ages that is VERY fun and affirms the inherent rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. We will join the many other friends/allies of this community to march in the parade!! I have the FPS "welcoming congregation" rainbow flag t-shirts ... the first 20 FPS youth that sign-up get a t-shirt.

FAITH IN ACTION NEWS***Report on Walk for Hunger***

The Walk for Hunger was very successful and we thank the generosity of the First Parish community for their support. When we started out, we had a goal of \$6,500. That was a slight increase over our last year's total of \$6,000. However, we had about 10 walkers the last time. This year we only had 5 walkers and we still raised \$5,100! Thanks again - and to our walkers: Beth Rust, team leader, Tom McG, Roger C, Jenaabi F, and Sherri C.

UU Mass Action asks for our support to restore affordable housing cuts

On May 13th, the MA Senate Committee on Ways and Means released its FY 2010 budget. The proposed budget includes \$2.4 billion in cuts to state programs and services.

Included in the cuts are approximately \$42 million to affordable housing programs. The Commonwealth's affordable housing safety net will be decimated under the Senate Ways and Means proposal and will be grossly insufficient to address housing instability and subsequent homelessness.

Funding the MA Rental Voucher Program (MRVP) would be cut in half under the Senate Ways and Means proposal and remove between 2,500 to 2,900 households from the program, placing these households at severe risk of homelessness. We need you to call your Senator today to ask them to restore funding to MRVP.

MRVP assists 5,200 low income households with rental assistance. The average income of households served by this program is less than \$11,000. Almost all (79%) households are extremely low income and many have incomes below 15% of area median.

Please contact your Senator at 617-722-2000 and ask them to support Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz's amendment to restore funding to MRVP to match the House budget appropriation. Further let your Senator know that you are prepared to pay higher taxes to protect these and other critical services.

Sudbury Food Pantry

Tom A reports that the Sudbury Food Pantry could use more volunteers in carrying out its mission. Anyone interested contact Tom for more information.

LiveCooler Foundation

The LiveCooler Foundation is an organization headquartered in Acton that runs a voluntary cap-and-trade program. It gives an individual the opportunity to balance one's carbon footprint while helping lower-income families. LiveCooler has a website which lists suggested donations based on the size of one's carbon footprint generated by home, car and flying. LiveCooler uses the money donated to purchase and install compact fluorescent lightbulbs in the homes of low-income families. Donations are tax-deductible. For further information, go to their website at www.livecooler.org, or speak with Paul R.

FRED SMALL CONCERT JUNE 19

On Friday, June 19, 7:30 pm, Fred Small will perform a special benefit concert at First Parish in Cambridge (Unitarian Universalist), which he now serves as minister. Pete Seeger calls Fred "one of American's best songwriters," and the Washington Post calls his music "big-hearted and inspirational."

Rosi and Brian Amador of Sol y Canto will appear as special guests with their 13-year-old twin daughters Alisa & Sonia, and Jody Steiner will interpret in American Sign Language.

First Parish in Cambridge is wheelchair-accessible. Admission ranges from \$5 to \$20. For info and to order tickets: 800 838-3006 <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/66028>

Proceeds will support the Beloved Community Fund, which supports diversity and accessibility at First Parish.

***SAVE THE DATE:
JUNE 14—OUR CELEBRATION SUNDAY***

Join us for a day of celebration on June 14, the last Sunday of our regular program year. We will celebrate from start to finish!

Our intergenerational worship service will include our annual flower ritual. We'll tell you the details in next week's Connector. For now, just know that we ask that you bring a flower for each member of your family. These can be home-grown or store-bought. Later in the worship service, each person will be given one of these floral gifts to take home—a symbol of the many blessings we receive from one another and our communal life.



And, we will finish with an Ice Cream Sundae party in appreciation of our many wonderful volunteers!

That's YOU!