



week following SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2009

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### ***Enter, Rejoice and Come In!***

Welcome home and welcome back and welcome for the very first time. I am so eager for us all to be back together again. For me, it's just like the first day of school, even though the ministry of this congregation doesn't take a vacation. Even during the summer we worship together, explore new and nuanced meanings, and nurture our spirits (sometimes from the book of nature), serve the people and the causes that matter to us, and stand on the side of love and justice.

But still, coming back together after Labor Day always feels like a new start. And I, for one, am excited about the possibilities.

### ***My Gratitude List***

The stimulating weekly worship, the compassionate care of people we love, the attention to our gardens and our building – none of this stops in the summer. Thanks to our guest preachers, musicians, technicians, breakfast and child care providers for a great summer worship series. A bow to the Pastoral Associates who visit and care and help and listen during my vacation and when I'm on study leave. Thanks to those who checked the building daily and to those who weeded and watered (and how 'bout those painters!). Thanks to the Shilts family for cleaning the Library. And thanks to the countless others of you who performed random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty (and duty) when no one was paying attention. This happens all year long, of course, but I want you to know how much we appreciate all that you do.

### ***Ch... Ch... Ch... Changes!***

When we sing "Enter, Rejoice..." we also sing this: "Don't be afraid of some change." Well, this year, as every year, you'll notice some changes. We're making them to be even more hospitable and accessible to visitors and guests, to live consistently with our GREEN values, in response to many of *your* suggestions, and to be good stewards of our financial and human resources. Please let us know how you like them (or don't). Remember, we can always change it!

*Katie Lee*

### **First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates**

Anmarie 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.*

## Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

### The Connector Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

This year The Connector will be edited by Donna Scalcione, and published every other week between September and June. As always, The Connector is sent electronically to all whose email addresses we have, sent by US mail to those without e-mail access, and posted on our First Parish website: [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org).

Please submit all articles to Donna at [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org). She will happily supply a calendar of deadlines and release dates to aid you in your planning

### Sunday News Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

The Sunday News as we knew it last year will be eliminated. There will be an insert in Sunday's order of service listing only what's happening and when. We are asking those who wish to promote an event or announce a meeting/gathering use the following options (preferably all of them!):

- post a detailed description on the public or password-protected parts of the First Parish website; this can be as detailed as you wish. (Have fun making your own page!) Add a link in the "What's Happening" section so people will only be a click away from your news.
- send an article to Donna for The Connector; be sure to get it to her in plenty of time so that it will be published well in advance of the event. And, oh yes, be sure you've already asked Donna to post it on the First Parish calendar (which is also on our website).
- give a note to the Sunday announcer with the basics; ask the announcer to point you out so that, later, people may ask you for details.

### Tuesday Lunch Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

No more *weekly* Tuesday lunch but save the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for a special lunch. Details on page 3.

### Press Releases Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

Fran Sharp, continuing her role as Community Life Coordinator, will be your go-to person for all communications to be sent out to the public. Contact Fran at [connect@fpsudbury.org](mailto:connect@fpsudbury.org) to have something announced or featured in the newspaper, on local cable-TV, or promoted in the larger community. She'll point you to resources and volunteers and shepherd you through the process (and also remind you to use our website!)

### Announcements Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

This year, we will have brief announcements following the postlude *at the end* of our Sunday worship service, rather than in the beginning. If you have an announcement, please hand the printed text to an usher for the announcer of the day. Remember, it is not possible to give lengthy details at this time; we will ask the announcer to identify you or someone else whom worshippers may speak to at Social Hour.

### Website Ch...Ch...Ch...Changes

If you want to get the word out about something, you want to post it on our website!

When we ask visitors how they learned about us, or members where they go first for information about what's happening, the most frequent response is "the website." We owe enormous thanks to our webmaster Tom Yelton for creating a website that is so valuable *and* accessible. He's made it pretty easy for almost everyone to use. Since the website is one of the first places people look for information about First Parish, you really want to be sure you or your committee or group is using it to your best advantage.

*Don't know how to sign on?* Ask Tom Y.; if you are an active member or friend, he'll give you a user name and password and you'll be all set.

*Don't know how to post something on the website?* Tom will offer training workshops or you can ask the folks you're working with; there's a good chance someone in your group already knows or wants to be trained. Our congregation is filled with web-savvy folks to help you get started.

## Why so many changes?

Most of these changes – The Connector, Sunday News, Announcements, Website – reflect your feedback from last year's survey about how you like to receive information about First Parish, as well as our continuing commitment to conserve valuable resources by reducing our use of paper, ink, printing, *and*, by marshalling our staff resources in the best ways possible.

In addition to editing The Connector, we have asked Donna to take on additional responsibilities this year (particularly related to building use and rentals) and we want to ensure that she can do what we ask during the 25 hours/week that she works. And we've asked Fran to focus much of her energy (and most of the 15 hours/week) on reaching out to the larger community and welcoming them into our congregation.



### Tuesday lunches now the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month

Our Tuesday Lunch schedule is changing: rather than weekly, we will meet once each month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in The Commons.

What will we do? The Community and Hospitality Committee is redesigning some of our community activities, and we wonder what kind of experience you would like to have when you come on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Would you rather bring your own lunch, or have the CHC provide a lunch? Would you like to have a focused discussion of a topic announced in advance, or would you rather have informal chat? What kind of program would make you never want to miss these community get-togethers?

Please let Fran, Ginny S., or Nina know your ideas. And, watch information coming soon on the website and in the Connector about upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Lunches. See you on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **RE** orientation and lunch

**Sunday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> noon to 2 pm.**

Not just for parents and/or volunteers, it's for everyone at First Parish to come together, celebrate Religious Exploration and learn more about the amazing plans we have for this year!

### Invite Friends and Relatives to Our Own Open House

*Open  
House*

**Sunday, September 20,  
3-5pm...and...**

**Tuesday, September 29,  
6:30-8:00pm**

Help to welcome friends, newcomers, and potential newcomers to our Open Houses this month. These events will be publicized, but we need your help in letting the folks in your life know, so they can discover who we are and what we're all about!

People of all ages are welcome at both Open Houses. Sunday afternoon's activities (9/20) will include a magic show by Rob K., and a music and movement presentation by Roberta Altamari. On both days there will be staff and lay leaders to talk with newcomers. Please help to spread the word!



### **Mum Sale**

**Saturday, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>**

The Landscape Committee's Annual Fall Mum Sale will again benefit Habitat for Humanity. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday the 18th and on both days of the sale. Please contact Marge L and order early. Forms are in the meetinghouse lobby and at <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/WhatsHappening>.

**Share the Plate September 13<sup>th</sup>**

The recipient for Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Share the Plate Collection will be Sandra's Lodge, an Emergency Family shelter in Waltham. Besides supplying the residents with basic shelter and meals, Sandra's Lodge provides services of case management and housing advocacy.

**Memorial Service for Margaret G.**

(Ginny S's mother) **September 26<sup>th</sup>** at 2:00 to be held at First Parish in Wayland

**Retirement Party for Rev. Dr. Doris Hunter September 26<sup>th</sup>**

And we're all invited to First Church in Belmont UU, 404 Concord Road, Belmont from 4:00-6:00 pm. If you plan to attend, please call Katie Lee at 978-443-2043 or [minister@fpsudbury.org](mailto:minister@fpsudbury.org) Notes, letters, etc. for Doris' memory book are welcome. Bring them yourself or drop at the FPS office.

**Habitat House to be Dedicated Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**

The dedication ceremony for the Habitat for Humanity house on Dutton Road, Sudbury, corner of Pratts Mill Road, will take place on Sunday, September 27 at 2pm. At the ceremony we will all come together to celebrate the community spirit that helped build this house. Whether you made lunches, built on site, worked on a committee, donated materials or money or just cheered from the sidelines, come to the Dedication, share the spirit of a successful completion of two new homes, and meet the two deserving families.

Even though the Project is nearing completion, GWHH still needs to raise an additional \$21,000.00. The FIA Committee has voted to contribute an additional \$500, leaving a deficit of \$20,500. If you are interested in helping to close this gap, please make out a check to Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity and mail it to: Greater Worcester Habitat for Humanity 111 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01609

**Harvest Fair October 17<sup>th</sup>****Let's Make It the Best Ever!**

The Harvest Fair is only a month away and is one of the biggest fundraisers for First Parish. Did you know that one of the biggest profit centers is the Jams and Jellies and Bake Table stocked with home made goodies from YOUR kitchens!?!

While you are harvesting your gardens, please don't forget to make an extra dozen jars of your favorite concoctions for sale.

The Fair is October 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. As usual, we will need lots of volunteers to do a variety of tasks. There will be sign up sheets in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Sherri, Beth, Mary Ellen F., Elaine J, or Jan H..

**Keeping FPS an active spiritual community during the summer months**

First Parish certainly does not rest in the summer. Just to name of few of the activities that occurred *this* summer - we had a very enjoyable and successful July 4<sup>th</sup> Grill, wonderful summer services with great participation, the exterior of the Meetinghouse was painted/restored and looks fantastic, we are entering into a contract with a cleaning service which we are confident will provide the same or better cleaning at a more affordable cost, and the Board and Staff met August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> for a retreat to discuss and plan for the coming year. The Board does enter this year, very sad that Carol W., due to medical reasons, will not be able to complete her Trustee term. Steve J. has graciously offered to serve the remaining year of Carol's three year term. We are grateful for all that Carol has done as a Trustee and for First Parish. And, we thank Steve for his on-going contributions to First Parish and the Board. Thanks to all for keeping First Parish an active spiritual community during the Summer months.

--Annmarie M. A., President, Board of Trustees



### Some ways YOU can help...

To be an **Usher** once in a while, contact Alorie at

To be a **Greeter** on occasion, contact Ginny S.

To serve long or short term in **Religious Exploration**, contact Roberta Altamari at [dre@fpsudbury.org](mailto:dre@fpsudbury.org) and/or find the right opportunity for you - take the volunteer survey at [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=o8xmhnbftntldjvMsTX97g\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=o8xmhnbftntldjvMsTX97g_3d_3d)

To help a child living at a family shelter, bring a new **backpack** with school supplies to the collection bin in the lobby through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

To **assist in the office** now and then, contact Congregational Administrator Donna Scalcione at [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org)



### First Parish receives \$1,200 for a water conservation project

The Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC) has announced that First Parish has been awarded a grant of \$1,200 to undertake a congregational water conservation project in 2010. The grant was awarded by the River Stewardship Council of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers. The goal of this pilot project is to reduce congregational water use by 10%.

Information about on how to sign up to participate will soon be on the FPS web site.



### If you need a staff member...

#### Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Office Hours Monday mornings 10 am – noon; Tuesday afternoons 1 pm – 4 pm. Katie Lee welcomes you to drop by anytime during her office hours.

Appointments If you have something important or time-critical to discuss, Katie Lee recommends you make an appointment. Generally, she makes appointments Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday during the day or in the evenings. Thursday is her day of rest and Friday is sermon-writing day.

Pastoral Emergency or Urgent First Parish Business Please phone Katie Lee both at First Parish and at her home office (978) 440-8428, or call a Pastoral Associates listed on page 1.

#### Roberta Altamari, Director of Religious Exploration and Youth Minister

Contact Roberta Fridays through Tuesday via cell phone at 617-872-5145 or email at [DRE@fpsudbury.org](mailto:DRE@fpsudbury.org) (days off are Wednesdays and Thursdays). She is usually in her office on Sundays from 2 to 6 pm and Mondays from 5 to 7 pm if you want to stop by, or contact her to make an appointment to visit at another time during the week as she is happy to make time for you.

Debra Morris-Bennett, Music Director is available at [musicdir@fpsudbury.org](mailto:musicdir@fpsudbury.org) or 617-484-4420.

#### Fran Sharp, Community Life Coordinator

Fran works an average of 15 hours/ week: for a few hours on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Fran is available at mutually convenient times at [connect@fpsudbury.org](mailto:connect@fpsudbury.org) or at 978/443-3094, ext. #

#### Donna Scalcione, Congregational Administrator

Office is staffed Monday-Friday 9 am – noon, other times by mutual arrangement. Phone messages on 978-443-2043 ext. # will also be checked on weekdays, mid-to-late afternoon

## Worship at the Meetinghouse.....

Sunday, **September 13**, 10 am

### **Calling us like Rivers – Worshipping All Together**

Rev. Katie Lee Crane & Ms. Roberta Altamari

This year we will again bless the waters brought from our own backyards and from around the world. And we will also bless water from each of the three rivers that nourish the towns we live in: the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord rivers. Our service is always about connectedness and community. It is about, as its founders said, *living hand to hand, eye to eye, [and] thought to thought, with our compassion for one another, our love of this earth, [and] our love of life itself, creating bonds between us.* This year we will also explore our connectedness to the community of all beings sustained by the local rivers that nourish us.



### **September**

- \*12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 Memorial Service for George McQ
- \*13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 Ingathering Sunday/Water Ceremony
- \*14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 Board of Trustees & RE Com.
- \*14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 RE Committee
- \*15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 Worship Associates Group (WAG)
- \*16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 Quilters
- \*19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 Mum Sale
- \*20<sup>th</sup> at Noon RE Orientation
- \*20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 Open House #1
- \*22<sup>nd</sup> at noon monthly Tuesday lunch
- \*22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 Pastoral Associates Group (PAG)
- \*23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 Quilters
- \*29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 Open House #2

Sunday, **September 20**, 10 am

### **Odysseys – Walking the Talk**

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Have you ever felt spiritually stuck? Or, as if you're having a spiritual growth spurt? Have you ever had one of those "I-felt-connected-to-all-that-is" moments? How about a time when suddenly, you felt compelled to do something particular – catapulted into action as if some voice inside were insisting and it felt like you had no other choice. Perhaps you've had a time in your life when you simply felt as though "you'd come down right." These are some of the kinds of things people describe as "spiritual experiences." They are often milestones in our own personal religious and spiritual odysseys.

It is human nature to try to find answers to what are often unanswerable questions. This process of seeking is what often spurs a human being to begin a quest, a journey, a pilgrimage. It might be a trek or a rambling meander. It might be a purposeful voyage or what seems at the time like aimless wandering. For many of us it is not a single journey with an end in sight, is a series of wanderings, with pauses, twists and turns, and unexpected events that redirect us.

Today we will launch a year-long conversation about our spiritual quests in all their manifestations. And, we will begin an exploration of this congregation's communal journey. We will ask what causes us to change directions, what sometimes propels us, what happens when we feel lost, and what occasionally forces us to stop for rest, for direction, or nourishment.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 to engage in conversation about the day's topic and what it means to us.