



JANUARY 6, 2010

MAKING MEANINGS
REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

I wonder what it was like. I know it happened in 1640. Was it winter? Were they inside someone's home? I'm confident that the minister they'd called, the Rev. Mr. Edmund Brown, was there and probably Peter Noyes – but who else? Was the whole assembly of recent immigrants there?

Wherever “there” was, I know *why* they were there. They were Calvinist Christians. They had immigrated for many reasons, among them the promise that, here, they might worship freely as they chose. They gathered to formalize their covenant as this worshipping community: First Parish of Sudbury.

I wonder what they would think about our ministry? Would they be surprised that worshipping communities in Wayland, Sudbury, and Framingham are their direct descendants? Some might be shocked to learn that we contemporary Unitarian Universalists do not necessarily profess to be Christian. We hold multiple theologies and philosophies and yet we still gather together in a covenanted community; our covenant is a list of principles and values we share. I like to think though, that they would see that, however different we may seem, at the core there is still the commitment among us that we may worship freely as we choose.

I'd love to talk to Linus Shaw about what it was like to minister to this congregation during the Civil War. I imagine a conversation where I tell him that we have an African American president *and* that I feel we're still fighting that war. We're also in the midst of a new, undeclared and (un)civil war of ideologies that challenge every principle of our democratic process.

I'd like to assure Ida Hultin that, though it took 82 years, she laid the foundation for more ordained women to be called to serve this congregation: the Rev. Dr. Deborah Pope-Lance, the Rev. Dr. Doris Hunter, and me. I'd also like to speak to Sarah Pratt and some of the other women who formed an Alliance when financial challenges threatened the very existence of First Parish of Sudbury; they put their heads together, tied their apron strings, picked up their needles and thread and sewed and baked to keep the doors open and call a new minister.

I'd like to sit down with those ladies and countless others over 370 years who were stewards of this congregation's ministry we hold so dear. I'd like to tell them about today's ministry... and today's financial challenges. I want to tell them that, like them, we are bold enough to “think outside the box” to keep our ministry vibrant; we are prudent enough to strive to be fiscally responsible; and that, we are committed to handing off a healthy, engaged, contemporary ministry to the generations who follow us. I'd have to admit, though, we're worried. The financial challenges are serious.

I think they'd sit us down and say: Be bold. Be creative. Be prudent yes, but not fearful. Our ministry and this beloved community -- gathered for the purpose of worshipping freely and serving others -- is far too precious to be staggered or stopped. Get together. Get busy. You can do it!

Katie Lee

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Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, January 10, 10 am

Journey to Egypt

Mr. Ryland B. with Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Last year at this time, Ryland was studying Arabic and music at the American University in Cairo. He spent a semester abroad as part of his studies at UMass Amherst. Having never been farther than Buffalo (there was one exception: a trip to Indiana!), he admits it felt like a big risk and, he says now, it was one well worth taking. In this month when we will be focusing on our own religious and spirituals journeys, Rev. Katie Lee Crane has asked Ryland, active at First Parish all his life, to tell us what he learned during his journey to Egypt. Ryland is in the final year of his studies at UMass Amherst.

There will be no Hearthside Chat this morning; registered participants in the First Parish Collegium, "Sharing Our Odysseys," will begin their series in the Brackett Room at 11:45 am.

There will be a New U gathering in the Library at 11:45 for newcomers and long-timers alike.

Sunday, January 17, 10 am

Singing the Living Tradition: A Theological Journey Through Our Hymnals

Ms. Beverly Waring, Ministerial Candidate in Residence

Music has the power to move us in a way that the spoken word cannot always accomplish. From opening words to benedictions, from chalice readings to meditations and prayers, from responsive readings to hymns, Singing the Living Tradition, one of our UU hymnals, is rich with words and music that convey our history, our principles and our hopes and dreams as Unitarian Universalists. Join us as Beverly Waring, Ministerial Candidate in Residence, Debra Morris-Bennett, Music Director and our FPS choir takes us on a theological odyssey through Singing the Living Tradition, and its 2005 supplement, Singing the Journey.



There will be no Hearthside Chat this morning.

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Annamarie 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.



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 24

Everyone is invited!

Please plan to come to the special congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, Jan. 24.

The meeting will cover four important, closely related, topics:

- (1) our current and projected financial situation,
- (2) the upcoming Stewardship (Canvass) Campaign
- (3) financial possibilities for the future,
- (4) a vote will be taken on whether or not we should host a cell phone antenna in the Meetinghouse steeple.

Only members may vote, but all interested members and friends are urged to take part in this important meeting, to hear reports, ask questions and/or offer suggestions.

Child care will be provided.

Coming up in Religious Exploration:

Second Chances Second Fridays support group for people who are divorced or divorcing will meet on Friday, Jan. 8 and Friday, Feb. 12 at 7:30. Please invite anyone you know that this group might be helpful for.



COME OUT OF HIBERNATION! IN-HOME DINNERS IN JANUARY

In-Home Dinners are a wonderful opportunity for longtime and newer members and friends to become better acquainted. They are fun, informal, and take place in the homes of First Parish hosts. Over 100 First Parish folks attend these scrumptious events every year; won't you join the fun this year?

Early in January you will receive an email inviting you to join the In-Home Dinners, which will be held on Saturday January 30, Sunday January 31 and Friday February 5.

There are the traditional dinner options as well as a brunch option for Sunday and family meal options. Save one of these dates on your calendar now, consider if you can host a dinner, think of a favorite dish that will chase away the winter blues and then respond to Sue C when she sends the email invitation to you in the next few weeks.

There's Room for a Few More - FP Collegium: Sharing our Odysseys

Would you like to hear others tell of their personal religious journeys or some milestone in their spiritual development? Perhaps you would you like to share a story of your own? Join the group convenes on Sundays, Jan. 10 and 31 as well as a third date to be determined by the group. For details, pick up a brochure or flyer at First Parish, check it out on the website or call Katie Lee Crane for more information. You must register to participate – and there are a few spots left. Call or email Katie Lee today: minister@fpsudbury.org.

People We Care About

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Bring in your Guest at Your Table Donations

Sunday, Jan. 10 is the last day to bring in your generous check (*made it out to First Parish of Sudbury with UUSC in the memo line*) in support of our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest at Your Table campaign.

Share the Plate Is Helping

The Center for Family Connections sent a thank you for our donation of \$169.50 from the Nov 8, Share the Plate collection. They said, in part, "We continue to be strengthened and sustained by our connections with so many people who share our mission of supporting families and children in the world of adoption, foster care, kinship, guardianship, and other complex blended families."



Shop at Shaw's & Help FPS

But first you have to sign up at <http://www.albertsons.com/cp/Shaws/> to designate FPS as a Community Rewards partner, then shop on a Tues., Wed. or Thurs., and Shaw's will contribute a percentage of your eligible Rewards Card purchases to First Parish. Questions? Contact dawn@shilts.org



Help Wanted

The Green Sanctuary Committee is seeking a member of the FPS congregation to fill the paid position of Coordinator of the Water Conservation Project. The complete job description is posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board and www.fpsudbury.org. Interested? Contact Tom A at tba1959@comcast.net.

If you know of a job opening, please email the details to office@fpsudbury.org



4th Tuesday Lunch Jan. 26

Join us at Noon on January 26 for our next 4th Tuesday lunch in The Commons when Rev. Judy Deutsch will lead the discussion on healthcare.

Save the Weekend on Your 2010 Calendar

Women – need a weekend of solitude and companionship, fun and laughter with other women of the parish? Want some time for introspection, reflection, and spiritual renewal? Then come to the Women's Alliance 23rd Annual Retreat May 15-17. No previous participation in any Women's Alliance event required. Watch for more details or contact office@fpsudbury.org

Sacred Circle Dances Begin Jan. 9

All are welcome to try new group of Sacred Circle Dances renting space at First Parish Saturday, Jan. 9 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. All dances are taught; no partner or previous experience is necessary.

Which One of Us Is the Mother Now? *Tales from the Nursing Home*

A daughter's story of love, laughter, and lessons learned; trials, tears, and advocacy. Friday, Jan. 29, 2010 at 7 pm. \$10 at the door. First Parish in Brookline UU, 382 Washington Street, Brookline. www.firstparishinbrookline.org/

We Won...We Won!

The Mass Bay District of the UUA awarded a large colorful banner (see picture below) to First Parish of Sudbury based on a contest submission written by Beverly Waring and Donna Scalcione that told how flying the banner at FPS will help raise social justice witness in our congregation and community. A copy of the winning essay is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.



The banner is part of an exciting public advocacy campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association that amplifies congregationally-based social justice work and unites it under a single framework. *Standing on the Side of Love* is a core statement of UU belief in the power of love and our commitment to living our values.

Previously effective in describing our challenges to exclusive marriage policies, the campaign builds on that success to open *a larger umbrella under which many people, both Unitarian Universalists and others, can take action in a broad range of arenas where people are excluded, oppressed, or attacked based on real or perceived identities.*

The Trustees have approved the hanging of the banner, and discussions are underway to work out the details, including publicity and inspirational and educational programs for all ages.

As soon as it arrives, the banner will be displayed in the Parish Hall until it can go outdoors. Stay tuned for more on this campaign.

Too much of a good thing?

I mail, I text, I tweet, I blog
I build a Facebook for my dog,
I speak no words, I shake no hands,
I am at last a modern man. (*sic*)

written by twitterer@smacbuck



Did You Know?

You can recycle foam packing peanuts, most often at a local pack-and-ship store, or call 800-828-2214. For places to drop off foam blocks for recycling, try www.epspackaging.org/info.html

EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

To find out if worship and other events at First Parish are cancelled:

By phone—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978/443-2043.

First Parish website -- Go to www.fpsudbury.org. The front page will show any emergency closing.

WBZ Radio website -- 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 1030 AM *WBZ Storm Center* at :05 and :35 past the hour for cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. Other events cannot be listed. If you think a meeting or event might be cancelled, please contact the meeting leader.

Contacts:

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

Ministerial Candidate in Residence: Beverly Waring – office@fpsudbury.org

Music Dir.: Debra Morris-Bennett – musicdir@fpsudbury.org

Dir. of Religious Exploration & Youth Ministry: Roberta Altamari – dre@fpsudbury.org

Community Life: Fran Sharp – connect@fpsudbury.org

Administrator and Newsletter Editor: Donna Scalcione – office@fpsudbury.org

Office: 978-443-2043 **Web address:** www.fpsudbury.org



First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist
is pleased to host
Parenting Workshops and Discussion Groups



Tuesday, January 26 at 7pm:

sharing our successful parenting strategies

Come share and hear some favorite parenting success stories. What works for us? What helps us during our busiest and most stressful moments? What empowers and enables us to have more positive family time together? Come and share!

Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm:

budgeting and stretching our dollars creatively

During these hard economic times made only more challenging with the high costs of raising a family, come hear and share tips for resourceful budgeting. Discover how your limited funds can stretch to create a wonderful life for your family!



FREE and open to all parents or soon-to-be parents in the local communities.

We will be meeting at First Parish at 327 Concord Road, Sudbury MA

If you have any questions, contact Roberta at DRE@fpsudbury.org

FPS Calendar Jan 6, 2010 to Jan 23, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>Jan 6</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Coffee House Task Force	<u>Jan 7</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>Jan 8</u> 7:00p Chalice Circle 7:30p Support Group for those who are divorced/divorcing	<u>Jan 9</u> 7:00p Rental: Sacred Circle Dancing
<u>Jan 10</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a The New U: discussion for newcomers and longer timers too 11:45a Landscape Committee 12:00p Sharing Our Own Odysseys: Sharing Our Stories 3:00p Rental 4:45p Rental: Morris Dancers 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth Group	<u>Jan 11</u> 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:30p RE Committee	<u>Jan 12</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Program Council	<u>Jan 13</u> 6:30p Auction Sermon Potluck (2009) 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	<u>Jan 14</u> 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>Jan 15</u>	<u>Jan 16</u>
<u>Jan 17</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Hearthside Chat 1:00p Sudbury Opera Lovers Group 3:00p Rental 4:45p Rental: Morris Dancers 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth group	<u>Jan 18</u> 7:30p Finance Committee	<u>Jan 19</u> 7:00p Rental 7:30p Worship Associates	<u>Jan 20</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	<u>Jan 21</u> 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>Jan 22</u>	<u>J</u>