



MAY 12, 2010



R.E.flections by a chaliceD.R.E.amer

Roberta Altamari, Director of Religious Exploration and Youth Ministry

I am once again feeling so incredibly grateful to be a part of the community here at First Parish! Several recent events in my life (good and bad) have led me to this strong place of gratitude. I will share one.

Some of you already know, but for those that don't, I recently found out that the "affordable housing" home I was one day away from having a executed "purchase and sale" for was no longer going to be sold. While I tried to have some sympathy for the seller whose mother is dying in Arizona, I was thrust into a very hard place of losing a home that my girls fell in love with and of losing my last chance to be eligible for the federal tax credit that was enabling me to buy a house. I felt despair and hopelessness as I posted my news on Facebook so my friends could know without me telling the story over and over.

The rush of sympathy and good wishes was equally intense. I was not alone! No way could I not feel the love. I had friends from First Parish expressing thoughtful words of support and really helping me get through the dark moments. And that emotional lifting up was just what I needed as I was responsible for supporting our Coming-of-Age youth in the worship service that very weekend. I needed to be strong and supportive and with the help of many of you, I was able to do so for our youth.

Coming-of-Age Sunday quickly arrived and it was really the youth that showed the most strength and compassion as they shared their statements of personal belief. I have always and will always love Coming-of-Age Sundays. Let's not forget that the Coming-of-Age program is why I became a Unitarian Universalist. When I first stepped through the doors of First Parish of Watertown many years ago and heard that teens participate in a year-long program exploring their values and beliefs (as opposed to the year long "confirmation" program I was forced to do as a teen in my Christian church), I said "I want my daughters to do that someday. Sign me up for this religion." I know it sounds a little dramatic, but it felt so powerful to me in that very moment. The idea of my daughters thinking critically for themselves and exploring their own unique beliefs was just so inspiring and empowering to me. I wished I had gotten to do something similar when I was a teen.

That is part of the reason I especially look forward to the annual worship service when the youth share their credos. The best ones (like last week's) are when the youth speak directly from their hearts and exclaim their truth as they understand it. I just get so excited when the credos uniquely match the spirit and essence of each youth. Sometimes I agree and sometimes I disagree with what they are saying, but I always appreciate getting the chance to hear their thoughts and feel inspired to think about my own. What do they believe? What do I believe? What do you believe?

continued on page 3

Highlights in this Issue

- ★ LIFE AFTER 80 ADVANCE DIRECTIVES PG. 3
- ★ HAITI NIGHT MAY 21... PEG'S CD PARTY MAY 22 PG. 4
- ★ BEV'S ORDINATION MAY 23...TOWN CTR OPEN MTNG PG. 4
- ★ SUMMER SERVICES PG. 5



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, May 16, 10 am

Beyond Adam, Eve, Mary and Joseph: Who Are We?

Ms. Roberta Altamari

Join us as we explore religious messages in gender, sexuality, and relationships and consider how those messages have pervasively influence the cultural messages so freely projected in American society. Money and sex are the two subjects people are least comfortable talking about. And yet years of teaching the Our Whole Lives program to our teens has taught Ms. Altamari that it is extremely important that we use our Unitarian Universalist critical thinking to not blindly follow societal messages about gender, sexuality, and relationships. Starting with Biblical messages and never ending with a constant bombardment of cultural messages about who we should be and how we should act, it's time to talk, listen, and honor our true selves.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 in the Brackett Room to have a conversation about the day's topic and the issues it raises.

Save Sunday, June 6 for our Annual Congregational Meeting where we make important decisions together.

Sunday, May 23, 10 am

Spirit of Life Come Unto Me

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Today we will honor new members who have joined our congregation during the year. We will also explore what it means to each listener to be "filled with the spirit." For Christian believers, this Sunday is Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter; frequently called the birthday of the Christian Church. The story of Pentecost, as told in Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles in the Christian Bible (New Testament), tells how the Holy Spirit appeared to Jesus' followers as tongues of fire whereupon each began speaking different foreign languages. The Apostle Peter assured those present that his friends were not drunk but instead they had been filled with the spirit in fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel (Joel:2: 28-32). Pentecost bears some relationship to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus. Both are joy-filled commemorations marking milestones in two of the world's religions. How do we Unitarian Universalists mark the memorable times when we, too, feel filled with the spirit?

There will be no Hearthside Chat today so that our Minister and members may prepare for the ordination of Beverly Waring at 3 pm. All are invited to join us – it is sure to be a spirit-filled occasion.

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.

continued from page 1

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And so, it's not just the congregation here that rallies around each member to celebrate the joys and support each other through life's challenges that I appreciate. What I really adore about First Parish is how we share such that love based on deep and meaningful values that really make us a "community". I believe it's how we acknowledge the spiritual paths that are unique to each of us while highlighting the spirit of love that connects us all that makes us truly extraordinary. That's what I believe and what I am so grateful for today! What do you believe? What are you grateful for?

Roberta ♥

Coming up in Religious Exploration:

Faith in Action projects for kids, families, and everyone!

We will continue to collect change to benefit Haiti Relief (the second charity the children voted to help during their Children's Annual Meeting) until the Stand for Haiti night on Friday, May 21 sponsored by our Faith in Action committee.

Your pennies and other change can make a difference! Thanks to everyone who has already donated!

Still Time to Go May14-16 Women's Alliance Retreat

Women: Relax. Renew. Revive. Time for spiritual reflection, alone-time and being with others. Time to nap, walk, talk, laugh and sing. Call the office 978-443-2043 ASAP. All women warmly invited.

Life After 80! Advance Directives May 16, 2:00-4:00 pm, Sudbury Grange

The second in the Life After 80! series will be held Sunday, May 16 from 2-4 pm at the Sudbury Grange. The series is jointly sponsored by First Parish, St. Elizabeth's, Beth El and the Sudbury Senior Center. On Sunday, two speakers - one a social worker and the other an attorney - will speak about the importance of having the documents you want and need in the event of emergency. In today's world of privacy laws and health care policies, people of any age must be sure to have a health care proxy, a durable power of attorney, a living will and, if desired, a Do Not Resuscitate order (DNR). These speakers will explain the purpose of various advance directives, as they are called, and alert listeners to the many ways in which one can be caught short in an emergency without this kind of advance planning. This session will be hosted by Rev. Barbara Williamson, rector at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church. The series is expected to continue in the fall. For more details, see the bulletin board flyer.



Please, Save Our Visitor's Parking Spots for Sunday Visitors

Now Is the Time to Repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Don't stand for discrimination in our military. Get informed at www.hrc.org (Human Rights Campaign) then call Senator Scott Brown at 202 224 4543, and please do it today.



Seeking GA Delegates

We are seeking Members of FPS to represent our congregation as delegates at the UUA General Assembly, this year in Minneapolis from June 23 to 27. If you plan to travel to GA, and would like to be considered as a delegate, please contact Sara H, Yon H or Annmarie A. For more information about GA, go to www.uua.org/events/generalassembly



Faith in Action

HAITI

NIGHT May 21, Friday at FPS

Spearheaded by our Faith in Action team, First Parish is hosting this free event for the general public on Friday, May 21st at 8:00 pm as a benefit to raise money and awareness about the situation in Haiti. While there is no admission fee, guests will be encouraged to donate to any of three organizations helping Haitians rebuild their homes and their lives: Partners in Health, Habitat for Humanity, and/or UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). Listen to Haitian music. Nosh on Haitian food. Meet our guests, Serge P-E and Alix C, natives of Haiti, who will tell us about their homeland – a little about its history and a lot about conditions now.



Saturday, May 22 - Come to Peg's CD Release Party

All are invited to Peg E's CD release party on Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. There will be good things to eat and drink and her new CD, *Living Will, Living Well*, will be available. Peg will sing many songs from the CD, and one or two from *Danish Modern*. Her son Stephen, an accomplished songwriter and keyboard player, will also perform--with Peg and on his own. Please RSVP to peggidy@verizon.net



Sunday, May 23 - All Welcome at Bev's Ordination

Everyone's invited on Sunday, May 23 at 3:00 pm for the ordination of Beverly Waring to the UU ministry in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall. Kindly reply to office@fpsudbury.org if you'll need childcare.

Volunteers are needed to donate desserts and help serve/clean up at the reception. If you can help in any way, please contact the office or susan_carboni@yahoo.com. Your assistance would be much appreciated.



May 23 & 25 - FPS Town Center Task Force Seeks Your Input

The Town of Sudbury has created two design proposals for the Town Center. The Board of Selectman will review select one to take to a detailed design, probably at a Selectman's meeting in June. The goal is to present the detailed design at Town Meeting in April 2011.

Both of the plans will require a land transaction with First Parish of Sudbury. We believe giving the Town input before the detailed design is begun is the best plan. Ideally, we would like to formalize our input at the Congregational Meeting. We would like you input before, please plan on attending one of both of the meetings on Sunday, May 23 11:45 am or Tuesday, May 25 at 7:30 pm and learn more on our website page: <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/TownCenterTaskForce/>

Congratulations to the First Parish Walk for Hunger Team

Thanks to all of your generous contributions to Project Bread, the First Parish team raised \$6600! This is believed to be an all time high! Once again the team, which included Beth Rust and her daughter Rose, Roger Cleghorn, Jenaabi Finlay, Sherri Cline, Tom McGowan, Monica and her daughter Gaby, Genevieve Dionne and Dominique Altamari, had a wonderful time participating in this very moving event. 42,000 people of all ages, shapes, and sizes walked for the benefit of those less fortunate. Thanks again for all your donations.



You're invited:
Landscape Committee's
Work in the Garden Party
every Tuesday 9:30-11 am
now through the summer

Memorial Plants for Spring Planting

It's time to plant a shrub, tree, or ground cover to remember a family member who has passed away. Deadline is May 31 for Spring planting in the Memorial Garden. Contact Marge Langmuir.

Memorial Book Entries and Ash Interment

in the Garden can be done at any time with the approval of the Landscape Committee. There is a fee for this service and certain rules apply. Call the First Parish office.



March with FPS on Sat., June 12 Walk together with our Welcoming Congregation

Committee, our Youth Group and other allies in Boston's Pride Parade for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. Contact Peg Espinola or Roberta Altamari for carpool details.

Rain Barrel Raffle - sign up at the Water Conservation table before May 23 for a chance to win the rain barrel you see at coffee hour

Did You Know...?

5 states grant marriage equality to same sex couples: Mass., Conn., New Hampshire, Vermont and Iowa, plus Washington DC

6 states, Mass., Conn., New Hampshire, Vermont and Iowa and New York, recognize out of state same sex marriages.

15 states recognize some form of same sex relationships: Mass., Conn., New Hampshire, Vermont, Iowa, New Jersey, Maine, Wisconsin, Maryland, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Nevada, and California, plus Washington DC.

We've come a long way...and there's a long way to go still. For more information contact the FPS Welcoming Congregation Committee or the office.



Shhh...
Please Enter and Remain
in the Sanctuary in Silence
for Sunday Worship

UU Urban Ministry Annual Meeting May 20

The UU Urban Ministry is a shared ministry of all our member congregations. This means that you are all invited to attend the 2010 UU Urban Ministry Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 20, at our facility at First Church in Roxbury, 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury at 10:30 am. And you can be a delegate from FPS. For details visit www.uuum.org/annualmeetingreg



What's \$3.00 each?

Your used printer ink cartridges or empty toner cartridges will get FPS \$3 each in free office supplies at Staples...so bring 'em to the office!

FPS Calendar May 12, 2010 to June 5, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>May 9</u>	<u>May 10</u>	<u>May 11</u>	<u>May 12</u> 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Rental 7:30p : Yoga	<u>May 13</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>May 14</u> 4:00p Alliance Retreat 4:00p Sudbury Garden Club borrows tables	<u>May 15</u> 12:00a Alliance Retreat 6:00p Return of PH tables- Sudbury Garden Club
<u>May 16</u> 12:00a Alliance Retreat 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Haiti Night TF 11:45a Hearthside Chat 11:45a Morris Dancers 4:45p Morris Dancers 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth Group	<u>May 17</u> 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:00p Board of Trustees 7:00p Finance Committee	<u>May 18</u> 7:00p Rental 7:30p Worship Associates	<u>May 19</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:30p Rental: Yoga	<u>May 20</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>May 21</u> 8:00p On the Ground in Haiti - presentation by FIA- all welcome	<u>May 22</u> 4:30p Rental: McMenemy Wedding 7:00p Youth Group Sleepover in Watertown 7:30p Peg E's CD Release Party - Everyone's invited
<u>May 23</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Rental: Morris Dancers 11:45a <u>Town Center Task Force Open Meeting</u> 3:00p Ordination of Beverly Waring- everyone's invited! 6:30p Rental	<u>May 24</u> 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:30p SPTF	<u>May 25</u> 12:00p 4th Tues. BYO Lunch & Discussion 7:00p Rental 7:30p Pastoral Associates 7:30p <u>Town Center Task Force Open Meeting</u>	<u>May 26</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	<u>May 27</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir 7:30p Carbon Consciousness	<u>May 28</u>	<u>May 29</u>
<u>May 30</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Hearthside Chat 6:30p Rental Youth Group & Jr. Youth Group Fieldtrip	<u>May 31</u>	<u>Jun 1</u> 7:00p Rental	<u>Jun 2</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	<u>Jun 3</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 6:30p Rental: Zumba fitness 7:30p Choir	<u>Jun 4</u>	<u>Jun 5</u> 9:00a -12 p FPS Water Conservation Project-pick up rain barrels