



AUGUST 25, 2010

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Worship at the Meetinghouse

Our informal, lay-led summer worship services are in the air-conditioned Commons.

Sunday, August 29, 10 am
(Breakfast at 9:30 am)

The Little Things

Robyn Ri & Adam B

Dawn Kenney, guest musician

The young people step up to the pulpit and inspire us. Don't miss it! Our lay-led summer services are informal, interactive and innovative. And... there's breakfast both before and after the service. This week First Parish is delighted to welcome one of our favorite guest musician's, Dawn Kenney. There are no children's programs, but childcare is available. And, with these dynamic young preachers, young people may want to stay for the worship service!

Sunday, September 5, 10 am
(Breakfast at 9:30 am)

Poetry Slam

This is a perennial favorite – the Poetry Slam on Labor Day Weekend. Bring a favorite poem, write one for the occasion or just bring yourself for a morning of sharing and singing. Labor Day weekend is, as one person put it, “the Sunday night of summer.” So come and be playful and summery before it goes away!

We return to the Sanctuary and our regular schedule.

Sunday, September 12, 10 am

Water Ceremony

Rev. Katie Lee Crane & Ms. Roberta Altamari

It's been a summer of too much water (floods, mud slides), too little (droughts, water bans, fires) and polluted water (the oil spill, water-borne diseases). As we join in celebration of the beginning of a new program year, we pause to consider the ways water is a life-source for our bodies and souls. And we remember, too, that when things get out of balance, we need to pay attention and, sometimes, conserve and serve to help out.

Remember to bring a little water (real or symbolic) that has meaning for you.

Members and friends of First Parish traditionally launch the new program year with a water ceremony when we mingle the waters that people have collected during the past year. These mingled (and then purified) waters then become a symbol of our community. They become our “holy” water that is used at child dedications, weddings and memorials. We bring this water when we visit sick, isolated or broken-spirited members and friends. Usually, these waters have special significance to the people who bring them. Perhaps they are from a special place or an important occasion. Sometimes they mark milestones (both happy and sad). Occasionally, they represent the everyday-ness of life.

We will share the plate with Barakat to support relief efforts in Pakistan (see p. 4)

Eight people responded to this ad —one of them is our new Community Life Coordinator!

The Community Life Coordinator (CLC) reaches out to people in the Metrowest area and invites them to explore First Parish of Sudbury as their spiritual home. The right person believes in the value of a liberal religious community and is willing to learn about ours. Hospitality is part of our ministry. The CLC seeks out, invites, and meets new people looking for a religious home. S/he helps them discover us *and* become engaged. If you... love talking with folks you've never met; are web savvy, creative, and a natural networker; if you're a self-starter who dares to think outside the box... you may be the person we want on our ministry team.

Welcome Bev Baker to the Staff Team

Bev Baker has joined the First Parish staff team as Community Life Coordinator and she's already hard at work. Bev joined First Parish in 2002. She remains a member but she has been inactive for several years while making major personal and professional changes in her life. Bev lived in Sudbury for 10 years and recently moved to Stow. She has a 9-year-old daughter.

After a diverse-yet-interrelated career as teacher, program manager, and clinician working at the local, state and national levels in both public/private and for/not for profit organizations, Bev has spent the past three years expanding her skills and expertise in the area of coaching and leadership. In her own words, Bev told us, "I find similarities between what I'm doing now and what you term radical hospitality. The process of *reaching out, inviting, warmly greeting, generously integrating, and continually renewing ties to those who seek out, explore and choose the First Parish community of faith* runs parallel to the work I do as a life coach to engage and connect with clients." She says that her work is about helping people fulfill their potential and make connections; in short, to help people do whatever it takes to live full and balanced lives.

We see the parallel, too. Choosing to belong to a religious community is about soul-support; it's about spiritual companions walking side by side, encouraging, engaging, and supporting one another in making meanings, growing deeper spiritually, exploring religiously; it's also about living in community and living out our values in the larger world. Religious community, too, is where we help each other do whatever it takes to live full and balanced lives.

Bev is combining the position at First Parish with another part-time job as Nursery Coordinator at Longfellow and a major initiative launching The Project Factory where she and other colleagues coach individuals and teams who are inaugurating new ventures.

Please express your appreciation for the careful and thoughtful work of the Search Committee chaired by Ginny D with Eliza K, Sara H, and me on the team.

With excitement,

Katie Lee

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Annmarie 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.

TONIGHT

The Rocky Plain Open Mike 7:30 PM Wed., August 25...TONIGHT...FREE!



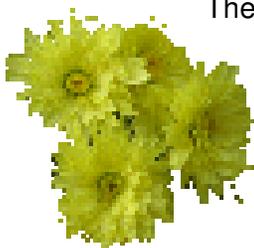
Come and enjoy. Open mikes provide an opportunity to gain experience performing to a live audience, even if that audience is a handful of friendly faces. We'll be in the Commons so A/C is available if necessary. No mikes or electronic equipment needed or provided. FREE ADMISSION, but please bring a snack or soft beverage to share. Questions? Contact Judith C

Back To School Backpack Collections

It's that time of year again, lazy summer afternoons are turning into crisp autumn mornings. Everyone's pace of life changes with Labor Day. As the summer winds down, please keep our annual backpack collection in mind. For seven years, we've collected backpacks and back-to-school supplies for children who live with their families in an emergency homeless shelter. These purchases that are routine for us are truly gifts for the kids; helping them to feel like all other children as they return to school in the fall. They depend on our help for this, so please continue with the generous support you've shown over the last seven years. There is a gray collection bin in the lobby at First Parish for your backpacks and supplies.

Once again, First Parish is partnering with HOPEsudbury to support the work of the Middlesex Human Services Agency. In the past, we've known this project as "Sandra's Lodge" because the homeless families lived in a center-based shelter in Waltham, often far from their home communities. Over the past year, these families have been moved to shelters in apartments in their home communities in Boston and surrounding towns. So now the kids are "from" Sandra's Lodge instead of living "in" Sandra's Lodge. There are over 120 children receiving support from MHSA programs right now. Please help us help them to have a good back-to-school experience. If you have any questions, contact Ginny D.

Order your Mums and Asters Now



The Landscaping Committee will sponsor its annual mum and aster sale on Sept. 18 and 19 at First Parish. This is the perfect time to plant your fall mums (planting earlier than this can stress the plants if the weather is still hot).

Come and get your favorite fall colors--burgundy, yellow, orange, purple, white, lavender, etc. Or better yet, reserve them in advance.

A pre-order form will be available on the First Parish website or call the office

Save Sept. 25

Come and help out at the **Buildings & Grounds Work Day** on Saturday, September 25 (rain date October 2) 9:00 am – 3:00 pm both dates.

Interested?
Please contact
Terry L, Bruce L or
Dave A





Faith in Action News: Aid to Pakistan Flood Refugees through Barakat

With an area the size of Florida flooded and 14 million refugees, how we can help the Pakistani's is a major question. The logistics of getting aid to people is non-trivial. The UUSC has issued a statement suggesting that rather than donate to the UUSC, we support two of their partner organizations who are already in the area and already servicing some of those refugees (click on <http://www.uusc.org/pakistan/statement>). Both organizations predominantly serve women and children who, once separated from the men in the family, cannot receive aid through normal routes, due to cultural issues.

Quoting from the UUSC link above:

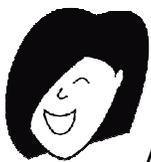
Barakat is a UUSC partner that works to increase access to quality education in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. With UUSC's support, Barakat trains teachers in Afghanistan on human rights and helps teachers introduce these topics in the classroom. In Pakistan, Barakat works with refugee families from Afghanistan, ensuring that they can go to school (see Boston Globe article "In Pakistan, bringing education to Afghan refugees"). Barakat's home-base in Pakistan is the town of Attock in Punjab, a town of refugees.

*The refugee families of Attock are now taking in other Afghan refugees whose residences were destroyed in the flooding. Nearly 600 refugees have been newly displaced to Attock. Already marginalized as refugees, they are at risk of being overlooked now in the relief operation. Barakat will support these survivors with food, water, cooking supplies, medical care, shelter, and other immediate needs. The estimate cost of this support is approximately **\$10,000 per month**.*

Barakat is an organization already known the members of First Parish. Last year your Faith In Action (FIA) team raised almost \$2000 in Barakat's annual Walk for Literacy. We will be fielding a walk team again this year for this walk, to be held on October 16. However, the need in Pakistan is immediate. Please consider going to Barakat's website and making a generous donation now. And please plan to sponsor your FIA team again this year in the Barakat Annual Walk for Literacy.

Click on <http://www.barakatworld.org/What-s-New-at-Barakat/donate-now-to-flood-victims-in-pakistan.html>

Thank you! Carolyn L, member FIA and Barakat Board of Advisors



Alliance Potluck Sept 26

SAVE THE DATE—Sunday, September 26 is the first Women's Alliance potluck meeting of the church year. This meeting will be held at the church, in the Commons between 5 and 8 pm. Any woman who feels a connection to our congregation is welcome to attend, not just members or those who attend services regularly. The meeting is largely social and you may bring whatever food you choose, prepared by you, or purchased. (It somehow always works out!) There will be a short business meeting in the course of the evening. Contact Peg E if you have questions.

The Harvest Craft Fair is Coming!

October 16, 2010



The 109th First Parish Harvest Craft Fair, one of our biggest annual fundraisers, needs volunteers for planning, set-up, helping during the Fair, and clean-up...and making jams and jellies NOW as you prepare your own winter supplies. Please contact one of the co-chairs of this year's fair: Beth R, Sherri C, Mary Ellen F, or Reed S or sign-up in the Parish Hall during coffee hour.

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Have You Seen Steve G's Photographic Essay on the FPS Steeple? Click on www.fpsudbury.org then go to "About Us / Our History."

FP Office Hours Resume Aug. 30: Monday-Friday 9-Noon
Please be sure to notify the Administrator if your email or other contact information has changed.

Protect the Parish Hall Floor when moving tables, etc., please LIFT, don't drag

EDITOR'S NOTE:
Deadline for the Sept. 8 *Connector* is 5 pm Sept. 1.

What's Coming Up – Mark Your Calendar

- Backpack drive through September 30.
- 9/12 – Water Ceremony and the beginning of a new program year
- 9/13 – Board of Trustees meet in the Brackett Room at 7 pm. Trustee meetings are open meetings.
- 9/15 – Community Open House 6-8 pm.
- 9/18-19 - Mum Sale (see p. 3)
- 9/19 – Children's Religious Exploration classes begin and Community Open House 3-5 pm
- 9/25 – Building & Grounds Work Day 9am – 3pm
Come lend a hand!
- 9/26 – Women's Alliance gathers at the Commons 5-8 pm. All welcome!

Don't worry about the future, our young people are taking the lead!

What fun it was to see three First Parish young people featured in the local news this summer!

Robyn R, beginning her junior year at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School (LSRHS), joined 100 teens and adults for the fourth annual Teenage Interfaith Diversity Education Conference (T.I.D.E.). Interfaith Action, Inc. brought participants together from across the country to learn about religious diversity and gain skills for conflict resolution to use in their communities. We were pleased to support Robyn's initiative with a LaRhette Grant, established by Richard and Sally LaRhette in memory of their daughter, Lorene, who died unexpectedly on an Outward Bound trip in the Pacific Northwest when she was a teenager. The grant is available to support youth participation in initiatives that will deepen their faith and their engagement in the world. *NOTE that Robin is in the pulpit this Sunday, August 29.*

Maggie K was among the 185 artists from 23 greater Boston communities to participate in Creative Arts at Park at the Park School in Brookline. Maggie was featured in the premier performance of the musical "WCRT" written by Ian Brownell with a score by local composer Adam Brooks. Maggie is entering her sophomore year at LSRHS.

And then there was the story by **Jess M**, a recent graduate of Brown University, and her work with Bridging the Divide where she serves as Community Outreach Coordinator. The headlines are full of stories of conflicts around the world, she says, conflicts with repercussions that touch us all. Jess joined a team of international development professionals who have launched a ground-breaking organization to empower American citizens to take an active role in laying the foundation for sustainable peace in the Middle East and positive global relations. To learn more, click on www.bridging-the-divide.org.

See the Parish Hall bulletin board for all three news clips



Thanks go to **Carolyn L** for taking the lead with **Donna Scalcione** and getting much of the Brackett Room furniture re-upholstered with funds from FPS and the Women's Alliance...to **Becky (R) C** for taking the carpet out for cleaning and donating the cost...to **Jennifer and Anthony F** (via Lily G) for donating a sofa and coffee table for the Brackett Room...to **Bruce L** for donating and installing a white board requested by a new renter...to the energetic Landscape folks who maintain our beautiful grounds...to **Bonnie L and Steve J** for donating a sofa and love seat for the Parish Hall...to **Bev W** for facilitating the donation of the old Parish Hall sofa and chairs...to **Carolyn L** for creating a spreadsheet of the contents of our historical archives, thus making it easy to find what you may be looking...to **Terry L and Bruce L** who spent much of the summer with elevator problems...to **Steve G** who pounded down all the nail in the Parish Hall floor in the heat so that the floor could be refinished...and to **all the unnamed volunteers** who did all the little and big tasks to keep FPS going strong!.