



JANUARY 26, 2011



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday January 30, 10 am

Ch-ch-Changes! (with apologies to David Bowie)

Ms. Laura Graham, Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Mass Bay District

Today's worship service will be followed by an open forum and conclude by 11:15 am

With our settled minister retiring we are beginning a transition which will include welcoming an Interim Minister next year while we search for a new settled minister. Ms. Laura Graham will join us this morning to talk about the opportunities and possibilities (along with the anxieties) that come with this kind of major transition in the life of a congregation.

To launch the process officially, she will describe the UUA process for ministerial transition, and, answer questions in the open forum that immediately follows the worship service.

Ms. Graham is the Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Mass Bay District of the UUA. She is a Family Mediator, a member of the First Parish in Concord, and currently serves on the governing board of the Mass Bay District. Following social hour, Ms. Graham will meet with the Trustees and Nominating Committee to outline and launch the succession planning process.

Today we share the plate with the Healing Garden. See pg. 7 for details.

Sunday, February 6, 10 am

Creativity and Compassion

Rev. Katie Lee Crane with special guest singer, songwriter Nancy Beaudette

Many of us met Nancy Beaudette last summer when she came to sing and preach about Karen Armstrong's Charter for Compassion, a document "that transcends religious, ideological, and national difference," says Armstrong." Now, we are delighted to have Nancy back – this time to sing with the choir and share the pulpit with Katie Lee. Both women are profoundly influenced by the Charter for Compassion and will explore the role of creativity in living one's faith. Someone said "Nancy doesn't just write songs; she paints them." Listen to the deeply personal messages in her songs you may find yourself noticing that a beautiful honesty of her voice that points directly to your own heart."

Sunday, February 13, 10 am

Rev. Sara Ascher, preaching – details in the next *Connector*

★ HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE ★

Update - Committee on Ministry Assessment pg. 3

~~CANCELLED—Transgender Civil Rights Program Jan 26~~ pg. 3

Pledge Drive Kicks Off for 2011 pg. 4

Making Meanings BY REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

I write this before the State of the Union address. Senator Brown will be “crossing the aisle” to sit with Senator Carpenter of Delaware. Representative Niki Tsongas says she just plans to wander over to the Republican side of the aisle and look for a seat. Sitting together is nice, but it’s not enough. I hope they actually talk to one another. They don’t have to start with the most divisive issues – “how are the kids” – might be a good ice breaker.

Civility is a good, but not enough, either. Engagement is essential. Recently, I heard an interview with a Congressional spouse. This particular spouse, wife of a longtime congressman, lamented the exhortation of Newt Gingrich: “tell your wives to stay home – they’re needed in the district.” Not the District of Columbia, mind you, but back at the Kiwanis dinners and neighborhood block parties. This particular wife claims that his advice led, in part, to where we are today.

“When the spouses worked together on projects, we got to know each other as people,” she said. “We knew whose marriage was stressed and whose kids were struggling. Our spouses might argue all week, might vote opposite ways much of the time, but then we’d all have dinner together on Saturday, or meet at the kids’ soccer games or school plays.” She said, knowing each other in this way contributed to a moderating tone; it helped to remind our elected leaders of just how human each member of Congress really is.

Last week, there was lots of fuss over Hu Jintao’s official visit from China. The protocol. The dinner. The kowtowing (some said). I heard rants: “How could the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize winner be looking for ways to “cooperate” with the man who imprisons the 2010 Peace Prize winner? I’ll admit it’s a delicate dance. Our president having to acknowledge and we hope, press the human rights issue, and still engage in other issues where they might find common ground. Sometimes I wish these visiting dignitaries would put on their grubby clothes and go re-paint a community center or serve dinner in a soup kitchen. Experiences like that make a difference.

After one provocative exchange on a radio talk show, I literally said out loud one of my favorite lines from a poem by 13th century Sufi poet Rumi

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, / there is a field. I’ll meet you there.

For many years, I have truly believed that we can meet many kinds of people in that field – and, if we’re willing to stay there awhile – we can be transformed there. We can start with “how are the kids” if we need to. We can find a project to do together regardless of how many ways we disagree. When we actually come to know each other as people, a world of possibilities opens up.

Many say I’m naïve. Some say I am not living my faith if I fail to take a stand against the abuses we see all around us. But, I *am* living my faith. I will not ignore the abuses. But neither will I ignore the good/god in another. I want to find common ground. I want us not only to sit together but build bridges together, so we can (at least on some things) stand together.

Too often, when we “take a stand” we get stuck in the sand. Let’s dare to meet in the field beyond wrongdoing and rightdoing and dare to see what’s possible.

Blessing, Katie Lee

First Parish of Sudbury’s Pastoral Associates
Audrey K, Polly M, Fred P, Paul R, Dawn S
In the event of a pastoral need, please call any of these Pastoral Associates.

Coming up in Religious Exploration

Save the date for a coming Soulful Sundown special guest!
Discussion about Classism with Rev. Mark Harris

On Friday, March 4 at 7pm, we will have special guest Rev. Mark Harris join us to lead a discussion about classism. Rev. Harris is the author of the new book, *Elite: Uncovering Classism in Unitarian Universalist History*. This provocative and critical look at class in Unitarian Universalist history reveals that today's largely middle-class and educated congregants are descended from an elite cultural establishment. The wealth, standing and religious conviction of these forebears converged in actions and ideas that would be appalling by modern standards. Mark Harris eloquently argues that this history needs to be known in order for the denomination to envision a broader, more inclusive future. *Elite* is a crucial new resource for the historical understanding of Unitarian Universalism and a call for greater economic diversity. (If you wish to order a copy of the book for \$10, contact us by 2/11 at DRE@fpsudbury.org)



2011 Pledge Drive

The 2011 Pledge Drive is beginning as First Parish of Sudbury is in a time of introspection and transition. The Committee on Ministry's assessment process already is confirming the extraordinary importance of community and place as expressed by members and friends. As the congregation begins preparing for the transition to a new permanent minister, this demonstration of our solidarity will be attractive to ministerial candidates.

In addition to being a strong community, First Parish also demonstrates how we are living our Stewardship – physical, emotional and material. With minor exceptions, material Stewardship is money. Our yearly pledge income comprises a very significant portion (over 70%) of the material Stewardship required to sustain our community and place. This also will be a factor in attracting strong candidates for permanent minister.

The success of last year's Pledge Drive cannot be a one-year phenomenon! The Finance Committee is continuing its three-year planning process to achieve zero-deficit budgeting with the current programs and staffing. The 2011 Pledge Drive will maintain the momentum achieved last year to financially sustain this beloved community and place.

Three dates to place on your calendar:

- **February 27** - Finance Committee Q&A after the morning service.
- **March 5** - Pasta Dinner: A wonderful community event to kick off the Pledge Drive. (Just good food and fun – no Pledge Drive speeches.)
- **March 6** - Pledge Sunday: A worship service and opportunity to offer our financial commitment to First Parish of Sudbury for the coming year.

- Sheila D – 2011 Pledge Drive coordinator
- Michael T – Trustee & Finance Committee liaison

Sign Up Now for In-Home Dinners 2011



More than 125 of your friends are having dinner together on January 29, 30 and February 4. If you'd like to come, please contact Sue C or the office.

In-Home Dinners have been a First Parish activity for many years – for good reason – they are fun! They are a wonderful opportunity for long-term and newer members and friends to become better acquainted...children too. It's not too late to sign up if you act now.

Book Group to launch on February 2 Read Kushner's *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*

There's still time to sign up! The about-to-be launched First Parish Book Group will meet at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, Feb. 2 in the Commons to discuss Harold Kushner's 2006 book, *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*. Kushner has written a compelling book about how people deal with the realization that their lives will not turn out as they may have hoped. And he uses Moses as a prime example. Here was a leader with a passion for social justice, a commitment to the struggle for national liberation, and an earnest desire to reconcile law with compassion. Yet he also was a conflicted human who knew frustration, longing, and regret, especially about the price his family paid for his successes.

To indicate your interest, please email Katie Lee at minister@fpsudbury.org

Seeking Your "Faith Inspiring" stories

Katie Lee and Roberta are seeking inspiration from your stories about the times you felt your Unitarian Universalist values come alive at home or out in the larger community. Faith formation, spiritual development, and religious awakenings can happen for us liberals anytime and anywhere. We would love to hear your inspiring story. If we would like to share it during a service, we would ask your permission to do so and invite you to decide who shares it. Please send your stories to us at DRE@fpsudbury.org.



A Gathering of Men February 12

Men from First Parish are invited to stop by the Parish Hall any time between 9am and 11am on Saturday, Feb.12 for coffee, donuts and a chance to catch up with other men from the congregation. No agenda or speaker. Questions to Tom A.

Two gentle reminders:

If you've left your name tag at home, please bring it back.

Everyone, please wear your name tag at Worship & Social Hour.



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Katie Lee Away on Retreat Feb. 7-13

Katie Lee will be joining hundreds of UU ministers at the “Institute for Excellence in Ministry” a retreat in Pacific Grove, California. It will be a week of worship multiple times a day, a week-long seminar, and some much-needed free time for spiritual refreshment and renewal. The Institute is offering eight different seminars, each runs through the week. Katie Lee will be taking the one called “Building a Vocal Community” with Ysaye Barnwell of Sweet Honey in the Rock. Dr. Barnwell describes it this way: participants will learn in the oral tradition – singing rhythms, chants, and traditional songs from Africa and the Diaspora, plus a variety of spirituals, ring shouts, hymns, gospels, and songs from the Civil Rights Movement. Dr. Barnwell promises to provide some of the historical, social and political context for the songs and also introduce the group to the African American world view, the values embedded in the music, and the role of cultural and spiritual traditions and rituals. Through this kind of communal singing, people discover ways in which leadership emerges and is shared by and among community members.

During Katie Lee’s absence, the Pastoral Associates will be on call as will local UU ministers in case of a pastoral emergency.



**Faith
in Action
News**

March 6 is the 7th Annual Interfaith Homelessness Forum

“Ending Homelessness: Recent Successes and the Next Steps”

Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden St., Concord from 3-5 pm

Family homelessness remains a severe crisis in Mass. with record high foreclosures and layoffs. Over 33,000 families in housing crisis applied for emergency shelter in the year ending July 2010. Lt. Gov. Tim Murray will be the keynote speaker at the forum of the *Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness*. Tina B, Co-leader of Mass Commission to End Homelessness, will describe the successes and innovations of the pilot regional network programs that involve preventing homelessness, and will outline the proposed plans for growth of these regional programs. Tina C, Co-Convenor of the MetroWest Regional Program, will discuss successful work in our Region in homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid re-housing families from shelters.

Soul-Searching Mini-Retreats RESCHEDULED – Now March 13 & 27

Registration deadline is March 1; at least 8 participants needed for each retreat.

If you wanted to come, but the dates were inconvenient, sign up now! On Sundays, March 13 and Sunday, March 27, Katie Lee will facilitate a mini-retreat following the day's worship service for those who register in advance. Each retreat will be interactive and participative and include a simple lunch. The two sessions (each different) will contain opportunities for spiritual self-discovery. More specifically, these retreats are designed to help each participant discern where they are in their own faith development and, perhaps, where they want to be now or go next. For more information, or to register, call or email Katie Lee at minister@fpsudbury.org.

Save the date for the **next Coffee House on the Rocky Plain**, featuring Nancy Beaudette and The Pavao Family Band on Saturday, **March 12**.



Share the Plate January 30 with Healing Garden

Since the Healing Garden opened in 2001 we have served more than 1000 people from 50 communities throughout Massachusetts. Our geographic base is primarily central MA including Concord, Acton, Stow, Littleton, Bolton, Harvard, Fitchburg, Lowell, Shirley, Carlisle, Sudbury, etc. We provide therapeutic services and educational programs to people with breast cancer, approximately 300 clients in an average month. Our services include Acupuncture/Therapeutic Massage/ Reiki/ Shiatsu; Group/Individual/Couples/Family Counseling; Expressive Therapies: Art, Dance, Music and Writing; Gardening; Meditation/Visualization/Clinical Hypnosis; Nutritional Counseling; Yoga and Exercise Classes. We offer these support services in a safe and comfortable setting in the midst of eight acres of lush gardens and tranquil woods, affording many opportunities for quiet reflection and calm, focused healing.



See the Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall to the right of the Kitchen for opportunities for spiritual growth, education, and entertainment, as well as updates from the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) and our Mass Bay/Clara Barton District, as well as news from the wider community.

On Sunday, January 30, at 12:30, the **Chelmsford UU** Welcoming Congregation Committee will host a presentation by Matthew Brunner, MassEquality's Boston-based Field Organizer. Matt is mobilizing volunteers and other activists in the Commonwealth, with an emphasis on Western, MA, to help achieve LGBT equality throughout the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Matt's main priority as of right now is passing the **Transgender Equal Rights Bill** which would add gender identity & expression to the Commonwealth's Civil Rights Code. The church is at 2 Westford Street on the Chelmsford town common. The snow date is February 6.

Monday, **February 14** is the 2nd Annual "**National Standing on the Side of Love Day**," when the very heart of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign comes to life. On this day, and the days surrounding, we re-imagine Valentine's Day as a holiday of love and acceptance for everyone. First Parish joins others in flying the bright yellow banner as one way of showing our support for this public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association, that seeks to harness love's power to stop oppression. No one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities. Visit www.uumassaction.org for full details.



**Enjoy Soulful
Sundowns
every Friday night
at 7pm**

with First Parish of Sudbury
Unitarian Universalist

*Exploring the intersection of
arts, social justice, and
spirituality*

***It's all about
connection
and inspiration!***

Each Soulful Sundown Friday will be spent doing one of the following:

- ♥ *Sharing interactive, meaningful worship together*
- ♥ *Viewing and discussing films which challenge us to search for meaning behind the flickering images on the screen*
- ♥ *Exploring social justice and working together for change*
- ♥ *Engaging in a fascinating discussion about human sexuality*

♥ *Bring a friend!*

All are welcome (need not be a member of First Parish to attend)

What Messages about the Birds and the Bees Are We Teaching?

On Friday, January 28 at 7pm, we will enjoy our second in our Birds & Bees All Grown Up series. We will view two sexuality education videos targeted for teens, one that is shown in conservative Christian churches and one that is shown in the Unitarian Universalist Our Whole Lives program. We will not criticize either video, but will use them to inspire discussion about what we believe about human sexuality and what messages do we want to be teaching our own children and grandchildren. (This is not just for parents of our teens, everyone interested is welcome.)

Paper clips: It began as a lesson about prejudice ... what happened next was a miracle!

On Friday, February 4 at 7pm, we will view and discuss a documentary called Paper Clips. This is a repeat of a November Soulful Sundown that was so popular that everyone wanted to do it again so they could bring some friends. "When Tennessee's Whitwell Middle School began studying the Holocaust as a way to learn about intolerance and diversity, they started collecting paper clips to help them visualize the vast numbers of victims murdered by Hitler's Nazi regime. As word spread online and in the media, paper clips poured in by the millions from all around the world." First Parish member, Julia D E was the editor of the film and will share some of the behind-the-scenes inspiring moments.

The Magic Lantern: Doubt

On Friday, February 11 at 7pm, we will view and discuss *Doubt* as part of The Magic Lantern film series with Dr. Jonas B & Rev. Katie Lee Crane. In this Oscar-nominated adaptation of John Patrick Shanley's Tony-winning play, Sister Aloysius (Meryl Streep) begins to have doubts about doting priest Father Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman), who seems to have become overly involved in the life of a young African American pupil. But Flynn isn't the only one she doubts. Is she overreacting to the situation, or is there truth behind her convictions.

Soulful Sundowns will return March 4th with special guest Rev. Mark Harris leading a talk about classism, more Magic Lanterns, and a spring equinox celebration.

Quote to Ponder

*Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road,
but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence.*

- Lin Yutang, 20th century Chinese writer who drew upon Buddhist, Taoist and Christian wisdom



The Women's Alliance Seeks Rummage

If it fits into a paper grocery bag, we want it for our April 30 Jumble Sale!

- household goods
- toys & games
- office supplies
- clothing for all ages
- books (no textbooks, no magazines).

Any item that is clean, in good repair and fits into a paper grocery bag will help the Women's Alliance. If you cannot save your donations at home, contact Donna at the office to make a drop off plan.

EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

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 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. NOTE: Other events cannot be listed. If you think a meeting or event might be cancelled, please contact the meeting leader.

The Connector is a publication of First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist, 327 Concord Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776

We are a diverse and welcoming community of spiritual seekers; we strive to learn together and support one another as we celebrate life's important moments and serve the larger community.

Submissions to *The Connector* go to Administrator at 978-443-2043 or office@fpsudbury.org by 5:00 pm on Wednesdays.

Minister Rev. Katie Lee Crane: minister@fpsudbury.org Music Director Debra Morris-Bennett: musicdir@fpsudbury.org

Director of Religious Exploration Roberta Altamari: dre@fpsudbury.org

Community Life Coordinator Bev Baker: connect@fpsudbury.org

Copies of selected worship services are available on our Website, in print in the foyer, or on a CD recording from the office

Web address: www.fpsudbury.org Phone: Office 978-443-2043, Fax 978-443-4391

Deadline is 5 pm Wed., Feb. 2 for the *Connector* coming out Wed., Feb. 9.
Send to administrator office@fpsudbury.org or phone 978-443-2043

FPS Calendar Jan 26 to Feb 19, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26 7:00p Rental CANCELLED 7:30p Passing the Transgender Civil Rights Bill in Massachusetts hosted by Welcoming Congregation Committee for FPS and the public	Jan 27 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:00p Carbon Consciousness 7:30p Choir	Jan 28 7:00p Soulful Sundown: discussion	Jan 29 10:00a Rental: Memorial Svc. & Reception - Wilkinson
Jan 30 10:00a Worship Srvc 11:15a Multigeneration'l NOAH Play Rehearsal 11:45a Morris Dancing 11:45a Trustee and CoM meet w/MSR 4:45p Morris Dancing 5:00p COA class 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth Group	Jan 31 7:00p Our Whole Lives parent meeting 7:30p WAG	Feb 1 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilting	Feb 2 7:00p Rental 7:30p Book Group 7:30p Coffeeshouse Task Force	Feb 3 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	Feb 4 7:00p Soulful Sundown: Paper Clips	Feb 5 1:00p Memorial Service - Goldberg
Feb 6 10:00a Worship Srvc 11:15a Multigeneration'l NOAH Play Rehearsal 11:45a Morris Dancing 4:45p Morris Dancing 5:00p Jr. High OWL 6:30p Rental 7:00p Sr. High OWL	Feb 7 12:00p Rental: SED 6:00p Finance Committee 7:00p Board of Trustees	Feb 8 7:00p Rental 7:00p Program Council 7:00p Quilting	Feb 9 1:00p Rental: Girl Scouts 6:45p First Parish hosts STOP: Students Together Opposing Prejudice 7:00p Rental	Feb 10 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	Feb 11 7:00p Chalice Circle 7:00p Soulful Sundown: Movie	Feb 12 9:00a A Gathering of Men
Feb 13 10:00a Worship Srvc 11:15a Multigeneration'l NOAH Play Rehearsal 11:45a Hearthside Chat 11:45a Landscape Com 11:45a Morris Dancing 4:45p Morris Dancing 5:00p COA class 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth Group	Feb 14 7:00p SPTF 7:30p Committee on Ministry	Feb 15 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilting	Feb 16 7:00p Rental	Feb 17 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir	Feb 18	Feb 19