



MARCH 23, 2011



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, March 27, 10 am

I Have Something to Tell You

Rev. Katie Lee Crane with guest

Pam Garramone, Executive Director of Greater Boston PFLAG

Ms. Garramone is a former elementary school teacher who, since 1998, has directed Greater Boston PFLAG Safe Schools and Communities programs. PFLAG – Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays – delivers more than 200 anti-bullying programs in middle and high schools each year, including programs at both Curtis Middle School and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. Greater Boston PFLAG also speaks to religious, corporate, and community organizations about the importance of family acceptance.

“Your kids are at greater risk than you think.” Risks studies show that middle and high school youth – regardless of how they identify themselves – face a barrage of slurs and biases about homosexuality every day at school. Youth who are questioning and those who are coming out are at much higher risk for bullying and teen suicide. The state statistics are high; the local statistics are even higher. Join us to learn how we can support our children and youth – as well as their parents and teachers – to ensure that our young people are safe and strong in their sense of who they are. For some, it’s a matter of life and death.

Today we share the plate with Greater Boston PFLAG. Details on page 8.

See page 5 for social action at coffeeshour today.

There will be a Hearthside Chat at 11:45 to continue the conversation with our guest about the day’s topic and the issues it raises.

Worship continued on next page

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.

★ HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE ★

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Sunday, April 3, 10 am
What's Religion For?
Rev. Katie Lee Crane

This is the Sunday that our minister, Rev. Katie Lee Crane, accepts the challenge of the 2010 Auction bidders to preach a sermon on the topic of their choice. Out of a wide-ranging discussion and an impressive array of ideas, came this year's theme: "What's religion for?" The bidders wonder what needs does religion serve, and what's needed now. Is it – at its core – the same human need that's brought people together for centuries or is this new century calling us to be something different, to serve new needs?

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

Sunday, April 10, 10 am
Spring Revival – Music Sunday
The First Parish Choir with special guests, Rev. Maddie Sifantus with her vocal group TVS, Mr. Ed Scheer, and other guest musicians

This joyful worship service of music and song is sure to get your sap rising! Featuring songs ranging from early African American spirituals to contemporary South African and American songs, this service is designed to lift our spirits and give us strength for the journey.

Making Meanings BY REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

As a child in parochial school, the talk on the playground this time of year was this: "What did you give up for Lent?" Of course, our favorite answers were things like this: "broccoli," or "cleaning my room!" But our teachers reminded us – and many of us took it quite seriously – that whatever we did had to *matter*. We could give up something or we could commit to doing something, but it had to make a difference. They encouraged us to choose something we'd have to think about, maybe even struggle with, but something we could feel good about when we did it (or didn't).

This year, for me, it's water. No, I won't stop drinking it or washing with it, but I have accepted the challenge from the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth. They're encouraging us to take the 40/40 for Earth pledge. Go to www.uuministryforearth.org/2011-ED-MainPage.

For Earth Day 2011, UU Ministry for Earth is asking congregations to celebrate the sacred waters that sustain us by committing to 40 days of actions that *matter*. From Sunday, April 17 through Thursday, May 26, we are invited to take the pledge and focus on ways that each of us – and all of us together – can create and sustain a 40-day lifestyle change related to the water we use. And, if we are ready to be more adventurous, to challenge ourselves to learn more about water justice as both a social as well as an environmental issue. What's the role of water in food production? How about the human right to water and sanitation? What's the connection between water and energy production? The impact in public health? What about climate change and changing weather patterns? We can pledge to DO something and also to LEARN some things about water justice.

So, I am taking the pledge: *As an expression of my Unitarian Universalist values, I pledge to change aspects of my life and behavior for 40 days, for the sake of the earth and all who live on it.*

column continued on next page

Will 40 of you join me? One hundred? Our First Parish Water Conservation project is already in full swing. We can start there. Have you registered? Have you committed to using 10% less water than your average use over the past two years? If you've been monitoring your water use, you are a super-saver if your annual average water use is less than 55 gallons per day/per person in your household. And, friends, that's a worthy goal, yet that's still a lot of water. Think what some folks could do with 55 gallons of water per day for their family or even the whole village! That much water would be unfathomable to many people around the world. To learn how you can get started, see: www.fpsudbury.org/wiki/GreenSanctuary/WaterConservationProject/

Starting Sunday, April 17, you'll have a chance to learn more – and TAKE THE PLEDGE. For the next forty days, our own First Parish water conservation advocates will help you with practical conservation tips, things you can do if you cannot meter your own water use. And we can work together – we can be conservation mentors, sharing our successes and challenges and supporting one another.

Join the call to action. It's about the sacred waters that sustain all life, the life-giving force of the interdependent web of existence. And it's about a justice ministry that flows out the meetinghouse doors and ripples around the world. Discover how you, your family, and our congregation can do something that matters, something that will truly make a difference. Join me and take the pledge.

Blessing, Katie Lee

“SPRING INTO AUCTION”



Saturday, MARCH 26, 2011

The auction catalog was sent out this week via email. BROWSE THE CATALOG AND PLAN YOUR BIDDING STRATEGY. For those *without* email, there is a printed copy at the office; 9:00 to Noon Monday-Friday.

Admission at \$10/person includes food and drink and live music. **Bring a non-FP friend and get in for \$5 each.** For your kids there is THE KID PARTY organized by our First Parish Youth so your children can have a great time while you enjoy the Auction. \$10/child; max. \$20/family. Please make reservations with Roberta Altamari (dre@fpsudbury.org).

We have lots of food, drinks, music, and ample opportunities to part with your cash for a very good cause – FIRST PARISH. We have everything to bid on from fresh organic vegetables to portraiture, trips to Logan Express, dinners, and a costume dance party – and everything in between from our wonderful local merchants and our parishioners.

If you can't be at the Auction, please give your wish list to a friend to bid for you. Be certain to list the item numbers and the maximum bid for each item you want AND be sure to tell your friend the maximum total dollars you want to spend, noting the priority items. You will have a later opportunity to “check out” and pay.

The printed catalog will be available at the Auction with an Addenda for last minute items.

Coming Up in Religious Exploration

Faith in Action projects for kids, families, and everyone

Your Change Can Change the World: Building an Ark for Today's World

For one more week, we will be collecting change for Heifer International. Building on the theme of the "Noah's Flood" play that happened last Sunday, the kids we are going to start a project to help Heifer International. In 1944, Heifer International sent Faith, Hope, Charity and 15 other heifers by ship to struggling families in Puerto Rico. That voyage marked the start of a new life for those families and for others like them around the world. Today, Heifer provides more than 25 different animals, along with seeds and trees. Other animals become part of Heifer's ark as project participants make important environmental improvements on their land. Some Heifer projects form a buffer zone around endangered nature reserves.



As it was for Noah, so for today: the ark is about hope and a new beginning. For Heifer project families, farm animals can provide:

- Nutritious food for the children through milk, eggs or meat
- Income for housing, health care, school fees and other needs
- Motivation to plant trees and grasses and make other environmental improvements
- A catalyst for community development

Thanks: We send big and heartfelt thanks to **Alorie P** for writing and directing our recent multigenerational "Noah's Flood" play, **and to our amazing cast, musicians, and helpers!** Not only was play inspiring and extraordinary, but it helped us to keep up our enthusiastic attendance numbers for the winter season and helped us meet our RE benchmark. We are very grateful for this wonderful experience for all involved.

Join us on the Walk-for-Hunger May 1



We are pleased to announce that we will have a big multigenerational group participating in the Walk-for-Hunger on May 1. We have some walkers doing a short walk to get started participating in a way they can reasonably handle. We have some walkers doing about 15 miles of the walk. And we have some walkers planning on walking the full 20 miles. Beth R, Roberta Altamari, and many youth group members are looking forward to doing this important awareness and fundraising work. Please join us! To do so, log into www.projectbread.org and click on the "walk for hunger" link. Click on "register to walk or volunteer" and then scroll down to click on "join a walk team." Find the First Parish of Sudbury walk team (on the drop down menu) and select it. Click on "search for a team" and that will bring you to the page where you can register as part of our team. Click on "join," select "walker," and pick a fundraising goal. Enter your contact info, agree to terms and conditions on the next step, and confirm it is all correct and finally click complete registration. (Don't order a t-shirt as we will be getting free ones if we have over 10 walkers). Sign up today and get ready to do this meaningful project with some fun co-walkers! If you have any questions, contact Roberta Altamari.

Quote to Ponder

Be yourself. Everyone else is taken

– unknown author



Take Action after Worship March 27

Stop by the table in the Parish Hall, hosted by the Welcoming Congregation Committee, and sign a postcard to your state senator and representative asking their support for the Transgender Equal Rights Bill to add gender identify and expression to existing civil rights laws.

Information about bullying and teen suicide will also be available as well as other action opportunities. Show your belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person by your actions today....and everyday.

Search Committee Selection Process

If you had difficulty finding the **Keyes Search Committee Selection Process** document posted on our website, try this link: <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/BoardOfTrustees/transition/> and go to "Modified Keyes Process"



Habitat for Humanity Special Collection at First Parish

Thursday, March 24 from 4-6 pm
Friday, March 25 from 4-6 pm
Saturday, March 26 from 2-4 pm
Sunday, March 27 from 2-4 pm
in our carriage sheds

- Recycle your new and gently used household items:
- cabinets, vanities and appliances
 - electrical, lighting, bathroom & plumbing fixtures
 - lumber, molding, trim, siding, windows, flooring, ceramic tile
 - tools, books, doors, hardware, and furniture (must be in good condition – sorry, no infant furniture)



♥ Bring a friend Friday, April 1

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

The Magic Lantern: *Whistle Down the Wind*

On Friday, April 1 at 7pm, we will view and discuss *Whistle Down the Wind* with discussion led by Dr. Jonas B & Rev. Katie Lee Crane. This Hayley Mills classic is based on a novella written by the actress's mother, who used her children as models for the story's three main characters. When she discovers a man (Alan Bates) hiding out in her father's barn, the precocious Kathy (Mills) decides to ask him who he is. Exasperated, he replies, "Jesus Christ!" before fainting into unconsciousness, his utterance triggering a persistent local rumor that the Lord is living in the hayloft.

Our Denominational Engagement

-- three upcoming opportunities --

* **Delegates Wanted by April 1 for District Annual Meeting April 10**

First Parish is entitled to three voting delegates at the Mass Bay District Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 10 from 5:00-8:00 pm at First Church UU in Belmont. Participants will have the opportunity to

- participate in worship together
- learn about exciting developments and happenings in the district
- engage in conversation with the Board about how to fulfill our mission as UUs in the district
- vote-in next year's board officers and vote on business matters (delegates only)
- hear from our candidate to the UUA Board of Trustees
- connect with people from other member congregations

All participants must be registered by April 1 by the office so please let the administrator know of your interest in attending and/or serving as a delegate. More details at www.cbd-mbd-uua.org

* **Delegates - Sign Up by April 1 for General Assembly (GA) June 22-26**

Our First Parish Nominating Committee is seeking interested person to serve as delegates and alternates at the General Assembly of UU Congregation (GA), to be held June 22-26 in Charlotte, North Carolina. First Parish is entitled to five delegates. In recent years it has been increasingly difficult for folks to find the time and the money to attend in person, but for those who go to GA, it's always been a rewarding experience.

This year the UUA is offering a chance for congregations to participate in "Off-Site GA," a trial for including delegates who cannot actually be present at GA. Those who participate in the trial will have made an enormous contribution towards making off-site participation possible in the near future.

Please contact Yon H. or Susan C. by April 1 to indicate your interest in attending GA in North Carolina or participating locally. More information about the GA 2011 off-site trial is available at <http://www.uua.org/ga/business/offsite/>

* **Consider Attending the District Spring Conference May 7** from 9-1 in Sturbridge. This year's theme is *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, led by Dan Hotchkiss of the Alban Institute. For details, go to www.cbd-mdb-programs@uua.org

Please continue to the next page



Need a Break? [Retreat](#) with the Women's Alliance

All women friends and members (especially newcomers) are warmly invited to the 24th annual retreat, May 13-15. Get all the details in the brochure in the lobby for this relaxing weekend in a beautiful lake-side wooded setting 45-minutes away, with programs for spiritual seeking, alone time, and time to gather with new and old friends. Sign up soon – places are filling fast so don't miss out. Contact Peg E, Carolyn L or the office (978-443-2043) for details.



Additions/Corrections to the **DIRECTORY**

Please contact the administrator for details not published here.

An invitation from Katie Lee “Join me for the Earth Day Celebration”

Let's celebrate our Earth! Join me for a morning (or a day) of fun in Concord, Massachusetts, on Saturday, April 30. It's the annual Musketaquid Earth Day Celebration starting at 10 am with the River Ceremony, followed at 10:45 by the Earth Day Parade. You have to see it to believe it: natural sculptures launched on the river, giant puppets, lots of costumes, activities, arts and adventure. We can meet at the First Parish parking lot at 9:30 am and car pool (the Earth likes this) or, we can meet at the Lowell Road Boat Launch by 10 am. This is fantastic and festive family outing.



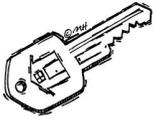
Memorial Plants for Spring Planting

Now is the time to consider whether you wish to plant a shrub, tree, or ground cover to remember a family member who has passed away. The deadline for Spring planting in the Memorial Garden is May 31. For further information about Memorial plants or the Memorial Garden, call Marge L or Valerie T.

Free Hymnals

If you know of any organization/group that could use a number of copies of the 1988 and 1992 paperback editions of *Hymns in New Form for Common Worship*, please let the administrator know.





No Longer Need Your Key to the Meetinghouse?

Please return it to the office. You'll save the parish some money and time. Thanks.

Share the Plate March 27 with PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

by Rick R

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. They fight against all the fear and confusion concerning the range of human sexuality, gender identity and gender expression, and strive towards a bright future where all will be educated properly. They also fight to make all industries and recreation accept their diversity, and to let them seize their futures, and to let them choose any occupation they so wish to pursue.

Curious about Where FPS Members Live?

Approximately 67% of our members live in Sudbury, 5% in Marlborough, 4% in Framingham, 3.4% out-of-state, 3% in Maynard, 2% in Hudson, 1.5% in Natick and Wayland, and the rest scattered in 1's & 2's in several other cities or towns.



Don't throw out your used toner and ink cartridges from home or work, but bring any brand or type to the FPS office. For each cartridge we recycle at Staples we get a \$2 store credit, so please keep 'em coming and thanks!



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.

Following the devastating earthquake and resulting tsunamis on March 11 in Japan, please join with UUs throughout the United States and **contribute to the UUA's Japan Relief Fund**, which will support the work that our Japanese religious partners pursue. To make your contribution, visit <http://tinyurl.com/uuajapanrelief>.

Join UUMassAction on April 6 when UU's will congregate at the UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, at 10 am to kick off a day of advocacy organized by the UU Mass Action Network at the State House, focused this year on Protecting Services for the Most Vulnerable by preventing sharp cuts to housing, health, and other life-saving programs. Please join us. Visit our web site at www.UUMassAction.org or call Sue at (978) 910-0190, SueMassAction@gmail.com.

Rummage sale April 9 Wayland's First Parish UU, from 9-1. Nominal cash only entrance fee.

UUA President Rev. Peter **Morales** and former UUA President Rev. Bill **Sinkford** are the only faith leaders to participate as initial signers on **Freedom To Marry's letter to President Obama**. The letter, sent March 14, 2011, asks the president to support full marriage equality. Freedom to Marry has joined with Hollywood celebrities, civil rights leaders, our Unitarian Universalist faith leaders, and others, to move Obama from "evolving" to supportive. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/5rnghg4>.

At Rowe Conference Center "You Feel a River Moving in You" **Spirituality, Religion, and Theology as Process with John Buehrens April 1-3, 2011**. An inspiring and amazing retreat. Teachings, humor, interaction, and spiritual exercises will all be aimed at helping you to do what is most important within the limits of a human life – "to grow a soul." Buehrens, a passionate, engaging teacher, will introduce you to a process and practice of devotional deepening for post-religious spirits. Register 413-339-4954 or online http://www.rowecenter.org/schedule/current/20110401_JohnBuehrens.html

Join UUMassAction on April 6 when UU's will congregate at the UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, at 10 am to kick off a day of advocacy organized by the UU Mass Action Network at the State House, focused this year on Protecting Services for the Most Vulnerable by preventing sharp cuts to housing, health, and other life-saving programs. Please join us. Visit our web site at www.UUMassAction.org or call Sue at (978) 910-0190, SueMassAction@gmail.com.

"Eyewitness Gaza " - an Evening with Skip Schiel, April 9 at 6:30 pm, First Parish Bedford Unitarian Universalist, 75 The Great Road. This photographic presentation about life in Gaza will explore the current conditions and what constitutes popular resistance to both the Israeli siege and the inter-factional violence. How does Gaza relate to Egypt and other Arabic uprisings?

Benefit cabaret performance starring Robert Saoud in **'Songs for a New Roof,' April 9, at 8 at First Parish in Malden UU**. Call 781-322-0474 or email maldenuu@verizon.net.

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. 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

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

Deadline is 5 pm Wed., March 30 for the *Connector* coming out Wed., April 6.
Send to administrator office@fpsudbury.org or phone 978-443-2043

FPS Calendar Mar 23 to Apr 16, 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Mar 20</p>	<p>Mar 21</p>	<p>Mar 22</p>	<p>Mar 23</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p>	<p>Mar 24</p> <p>1:00p Mindfulness Mediation</p> <p>7:00p CarbonCons</p> <p>7:15p Rental</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p>	<p>Mar 25</p> <p>6:00p Youth Conference</p>	<p>Mar 26</p> <p>12:00a Youth Conference</p> <p>1:00p set up for Auction</p> <p>6:00p Annual Service Auction- great fun & bargains-all welcome</p>
<p>Mar 27</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service PFLAG guests</p> <p>11:45a Hearthside Chat</p> <p>11:45a Morris Dancing</p> <p>12:00p Soul Searching</p> <p>4:45p Morris Dancing</p> <p>5:00p Jr. High OWL class</p> <p>6:30p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Sr. High OWL class</p>	<p>Mar 28</p> <p>7:00p RE Committee</p> <p>7:30p WAG</p>	<p>Mar 29</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Quilting</p> <p>7:00p Chalice Circle</p>	<p>Mar 30</p> <p>7:00p Coffee House Task Force</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p>	<p>Mar 31</p> <p>1:00p Mindfulness Mediation</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p>	<p>April 1</p> <p>7:00p Soulful Sundown film</p>	<p>April 2</p> <p>4:00p offsite Award Program for Tom K.-details in newsletter</p> <p>5:30p Rental</p>
<p>April 3</p> <p>10:00a Worship Svc 2010 Auction sermon</p> <p>11:45a Hearthside Chat</p> <p>11:45p Morris Dancing</p> <p>4:45p Morris Dancing</p> <p>5:00p Coming of Age class</p> <p>6:30p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Youth Group</p>	<p>April 4</p> <p>12:30p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Board of Trustees</p>	<p>April 5</p> <p>7:00p Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Quilting</p>	<p>April 6</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:30p Book Group</p>	<p>April 7</p> <p>1:00a Mindfulness Mediation</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p>	<p>April 8</p> <p>3:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Chalice Circle</p> <p>7:00p Soulful Sundown film, dessert potluck & finale</p>	<p>April 9</p> <p>7:00a DMB rehearsal</p> <p>8:00a Choir rehearsal</p> <p>9:00a A Gathering of Men</p> <p>12:00p DMB prep</p> <p>1:00p Rental wedding & reception</p>
<p>April 10</p> <p>10:00a Worship Service-Music Sunday</p> <p>11:00a signupWalk/ Hunger</p> <p>11:45 Finance Informational Meeting for everyone</p> <p>11:45a Landscape Committee</p> <p>11:45p Morris Dancing</p> <p>4:45p Morris Dancing</p> <p>5:00p Jr. High OWL class</p> <p>6:30p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Sr. High OWL class</p>	<p>April 11</p> <p>7:00p SPTF</p>	<p>April 12</p> <p>7:00p Program Council</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:00p Quilting</p>	<p>April 13</p> <p>7:00p Rental</p> <p>7:30p Book group</p>	<p>April 14</p> <p>1:00p Mindfulness Meditation</p> <p>7:30p Choir</p>	<p>Apr 15</p>	<p>Apr 16</p>