



MAY 18, 2011



Worship at the Meetinghouse

**Sunday, May 22, 10 am
*Coming-of-Age Sunday***

Join us as our four 9th graders (Keith, Rick, Rose, and Dominique) and their mentors (Dave A, Jan H, Ginny D, and Judy H) celebrate the end of their yearlong program and share their credos with us. Coming-of-Age is a program and ceremony that honors our growing teens and recognizes them as blossoming young adults in our community. How will this year's youth express their unique individuality and beliefs? With strong family identities (one youth is part of a popular three-generation family attending First Parish, two youth are twin children of a highly regarded social justice advocate in town, and one youth is the daughter of a professional religious educator), how will they each let their own identity shine? Come find out, and be inspired to explore and discover your own beliefs! We will also recognize Richard and Elise O as they receive their First Chalice.

We will **share the plate** with Planned Parenthood. Details on page 9.

May 22 Special Congregational Meeting after Worship

to vote in a Search Committee* who will recommend a candidate for our new settled minister for 2012-2013 and beyond.

* See article from the Joint Trustee & Nominating Committee Task Force on page 5.

Worship continued on next page

★ **HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE** ★

Katie Lee's last newsletter column	pg. 3
Search Committee Process Note	pg. 4
Let Nominating Com. hear from you	pg. 5
Get Involved with Summer Worship	pg. 5
Coming up...Soon...at FPS	pg. 6
Walk Team Success	pg. 7
Calendar	pg. 9

Sunday, May 29, 10 am

Failure is Impossible

An Ensemble of Women of First Parish

On this Memorial Day we will hear the voices and the stories of the women who worked towards granting women the right to vote. The first draft of the amendment to the Constitution was presented in 1878, but it was not until 1920 that the 19th amendment was ratified. In our presentation, "Failure is Impossible," we will take time to remember the various women who played a part in the long journey and struggle for women's suffrage in the United States. Remembering and honoring the work for a right that we now take for granted allows us to reflect on the importance of each and every voice in the ongoing work towards justice and equality overall. We hope you will join us to hear the voices, to remember and to reflect. This worship service, created by Sarah Barber-Braun and Joan Goodwin, was originally presented in 1995 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the U.S.A.

Sunday, June 5, 10 am

Standing on the Cambridge Platform

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Today we recognize graduating high school seniors with the traditional Bridging Ceremony. Also, on this day when the congregation gathers following worship to conduct its business, we pause to ask what our forebears had in mind when they designed our particular form of self-governance. It is based on a 1648 document: The Cambridge Platform. From this ecclesiastical document came a town meeting form of civil government which, in turn, fostered the form of democracy that is the foundation of our country. Most of us know all too well that this form of democracy can be a cumbersome process with the lofty goal of giving every member or citizen a voice and a vote. Today, our minister considers the excesses of individualism that can undermine and even derail this form of government. She stretches back into history to find the lone voices who argued for less individualism and more mutuality. And she asks: how might we – the heirs of this tradition – influence today's national democratic processes and steer it back to what our founders dreamed it could be?

All members and friends are encouraged to attend June 5's

Annual Congregational Meeting

beginning promptly at 11:30 in the Sanctuary.

Childcare and child-friendly lunch will be available.

Sunday, June 12, 10 am

Celebration Sunday

Rev. Katie Lee Crane, Roberta Altamari with special guests, Piglet and Pooh

This is a multi-generational worship service,
and we welcome the participation of people of all ages.

This year we not only celebrate the end of a program year, but also the end of a season of this congregation's shared ministry with the **Rev. Katie Lee Crane**. On this, her **final Sunday in the pulpit** as the 39th minister of this congregation, we will notice with a big "Ho-Ho!" that something new and different is about to happen for both the minister and also for the congregation. As Pooh so often says about expotitions, "Oh Piglet, we're going to discover something... And there will be things to eat!" Don't miss this grand celebration of the ministry of the congregation at First Parish of Sudbury. It will include our traditional flower ceremony, some wonderful memories, and, as expotitions always do, a few surprises.

Bring a flower (or a handful) to share.

Plan to stay for the celebration that continues, following the worship service.

There WILL be things to eat!

Making Meanings BY REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

This is my final newsletter column and I am uncharacteristically at a loss for words. I have so many memories, so much to be grateful for; my heart is overflowing. I think the message can be summed up by Meister Eckhart's prayer; "If the only prayer you ever say is 'thank you,' it would be enough."

Thank you for giving a newly-minted minister with a lot of life experience a chance.

Thank you for helping me to succeed and thank you for letting me fail.

Thank you for the countless times you stepped in to lead and collaborate and act and serve.

Thank you for creating and sustaining a healthy congregation. *You* did this, not me.

If the only prayer you ever say is 'thank you,' it would be enough.

- Meister Eckhart

Thank you for your music and your muscle. Thank you for your conscience and creativity.

Thank you for that outrage against injustice that co-exists with your dedication to work for justice.

Thank you for your compassion in response to suffering and your commitment to living our principles both privately and also in community.

Thank you for bringing your infants and children, your teens and young adults, your grandchildren. Thank you for letting all of us love them and guide them, play with them, learn with – and from – them.

Thank you for being good to your staff and for trying so hard – even in the lean years – to pay us a fair wage.

Thank you for your stewardship of this historic meetinghouse and for reclaiming the "rocky plain" as a serene and spirit-filled garden for remembering and reflection.

Thank you for knowing the importance of beauty in a spiritual community and for your random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty.

Thank you for your passion in serving and preserving this 370-year-old congregation.

Thank you for your wisdom.

Thank you for the snacks. And for cleaning the kitchen.

Thank you for being you.

This is hardly a comprehensive list. All I can say is *thank you*. May it be enough to convey the depth of my gratitude.

Blessing, Katie Lee

Read or Listen to “Measure of a Ministry”

During the worship service on Sunday, May 15, Katie Lee invited both minister and congregation to look back at the promises we made to one another and also to take a measure of our ministry together. “This is not a report card,” she stressed, “just a gathering up of moments – large and small – to create a montage of memories that are too precious to forget.” In hindsight, she calls this sermon her “Farewell Address.” Members and friends may listen or read the full text on our website (password required) or pick-up a print copy in the lobby.

Why Are We Not Completing The Keyes Process?

The process starts by calling every member and friend (about 240) in the congregation and asking them a series of questions to stimulate thinking about the importance of the task and the qualities of ideal candidates. Then each person is asked whom they would trust to do this important work on behalf of the congregation. All suggested names are collected and tallied. Well over 100 names were suggested by at least one person. The Keyes process recommends taking the top 12-14 names and calling each person to ask if they would be willing to serve. From there it recommends a process to both elect and select a team of seven from those names, with the congregation electing four and the joint Trustee and Nominating Committee task force choosing three more to balance the slate in terms of demographics.

In our case, we started with a list of 18, but only seven people agreed to be on the MSC. Since we were delighted to find that those seven comprised a balanced team, the joint task force decided to nominate that team directly instead of trying to modify the process in some other way. The team will be voted on as a slate, according to FPS bylaws, in a Special Congregational Meeting on May 22nd. (See the Warrant, pg. 4)

-- The Joint Trustee and Nominating Committee Task Force:

Coming Up in Religious Exploration

Bridging Sunday

On Sunday, June 5th, we are pleased to host our annual Bridging Ceremony in which we honor all teens graduating high school. If you know of a teen graduating high school this year who would like to be recognized, please let Roberta know today.

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.



No Pushing!
There's room for everyone, so...
let the Nominating Committee hear from you

This will be an exciting year with the new interim minister and we are looking for people to step into new roles, especially with seven of our dedicated volunteers switching roles to be on the Ministerial Search Committee.

If you have ideas about how you can help First Parish and especially if you are open to suggestions, please contact Sue C or Jan H or office@fpsudbury.org. If you are good with numbers, we would be especially glad to hear from you.

Still Time for Spring Memorial Plants

Are you wishing to plant a shrub, tree, or ground cover to remember a family member who has passed away, or to honor someone you love and admire? The **cut-off date is May 31** for Spring planting in the Memorial Garden. For further information, contact Marge L or Valerie T.



There's Still Time to Be a Part of Summer Services

During the summer months, we offer lay-led worship services in The Commons, a lovely air-conditioned room on the second floor, accessible by stairs or elevator. All are very welcome. We hope you will join us.

Summer services cover a wide range of topics and are a little more informal than the rest of the year. The diversity of styles and themes is rich and stimulating. Prior to the service, we gather for breakfast "nibbles" and conversation. Childcare is offered each week.

Our lay-led summer services depend on volunteers from within as well as outside of our congregation. Participate in a summer service as a worship host, leader, musician, pre-service breakfast "nibbles", or childcare provider. Sign-up on the large white Summer Services board in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings at coffee hour, through June 12, or by sending an email to the Worship Associates Group, c/o Sue Wolff with subject line 2011 Summer Services.

Judith C will be coordinating the Music. Let us know if **you** are willing to coordinate the breakfast "nibbles" and/or child care. Contact Reed S, Michael T, or Sue W with any changes/questions/comments.

The 2011 Summer Services Calendar can be seen at <http://fpsudbury.org/Public/SummerServices2011>

Lay-led Summer Services Training Opportunities

1. Katie Lee will be leading "Spring Training" on Monday May 23 from 7:30-9:00.
2. The District is offering a training, "Creating and Leading Dynamic Lay-led Worship" on Saturday, June 11 from 9-2. Visit <http://www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/content/creating-and-leading-dynamic-lay-led-worship>

Funding is available for FPS team to attend the District Lay-led Worship training.

The Program Council has set aside funds for a FPS team to attend the Lay-led Worship training. Contact Katie Lee with any questions about the May 23rd "Spring Training", or if you would like funding to attend the June 11 "Creating and Leading Dynamic Lay-led Worship" training.

March for Equality...no more...no less



Show your support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality on **Saturday, June 11** by representing First Parish in Boston's **Pride Parade** with the Youth, the Welcoming Congregation Committee, and other allies. Help carry our congregation's banner to City Hall Plaza and enjoy a festival of music and food and fun things to look at or buy. All ages are welcome to walk the entire 45 minutes or just some of the route. Contact the office or Roberta for details.

Upcoming at First Parish



Women's Alliance Annual Meeting May 22 at 530 pm in the Commons. Potluck supper and brief business meeting to elect next year's officers.

Sunday, **May 22** at 11:30 am – **Special Congregational Meeting** to elect the members of the Search Committee who will recommend to the congregation a new settled minister for First Parish for the 2012-2013 church year and beyond.



4th Tuesday Lunch & Discussion May 24 at Noon in the Commons when Sue R will speak about her life adventures, include her transition from educator to cheese maker.

Remember to save **June 5** for our **Annual Congregation meeting** and **June 12** to celebrate **Katie Lee's ministry** with First Parish! Contact Fran Sharp at quilter@gmail.com or 978-443-3094 with suggestions or questions about June 12.



Does Having a Party at Your House Feel Risky?

Rent Space at First Parish instead.

- Reasonable rates
- Wine and Beer approved
- Comfortable clean spaces
- Great sound & video systems
- Convenient parking

And you won't have to get *your* house ready for company!

Contact the office for details.

Walk Team Raises \$6508 to Help Alleviate Hunger



On Sunday, May 1, 2011, 42,000 people came to the Boston Common to raise millions for their hungry neighbors during Project Bread's annual Walk for Hunger, including the 15 members of First Parish of Sudbury's 2011 Walk for Hunger team.

Our team raised \$6508, 108% of our \$6,000 goal (thanks to everyone who contributed), and helped Sudbury enter the Fundraising Hall of Fame by Project Bread, the state's leading anti-hunger organization. On average, Sudbury walkers pledged \$463.76 dollars to fight hunger through the annual

Walk for Hunger — a 395 percent increase over the average pledge received from other cities.

Organizers of the inspiring event were heartened that the walkers and their sponsors raised \$3.6 million to provide food for 448 emergency food programs in 130 Massachusetts cities and towns, and to continue their hunger prevention programs.



Please bring your **used toner and ink cartridges** to the FPS office, any brand, any style. We receive a \$2 credit for anything at Staples for each one we recycle, so keep 'em coming!

You Can Help First Parish Find Renters

FPS has rented space to yoga groups, poetry lovers, inner peace seekers, test prep. groups, spiritual dancers, musicians, singers, and a whole host of others who've enjoyed our wonderful spaces. If you know of an individual or organization looking for rental space (for one-time or ongoing) please let them know about FPS and suggest that they call the office for details at 978-443-2043 or email office@fpsudbury.org. Or you can let the office know.



Tornado Affects UU's

At least six UU families in Tuscaloosa are now homeless and families in the Huntsville UU congregation have also suffered property damage because of the tornadoes that swept through the Southeast recently. The Mid-South District has set up a relief fund to assist those UUs affected. Please donate what you can through their website: <http://www.msduua.org/>. Thank you.

Family receives political asylum in US

Some will remember that several years ago First Parish joined with St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church and the Sudbury United Methodist Church to host a family from Algeria seeking political asylum in this country. St. Elizabeth's provided housing and all of us provided everything from food and furnishings to transportation and other services to help them in their first year in this country as they waded through red tap and paperwork. I am thrilled to report that Mohammed, Mansouria and Abdou have been granted political asylum in the US. St. Elizabeth's will be hosting a celebration in their honor. We will keep you posted.

Share the Plate May 22 with Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood

1-800-230-PLAN

By Dominique

On Sunday, May 22nd we will be sharing our plate with Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood provides sexual and reproductive health care, education, and information to more than five million women, men, and adolescents worldwide each year. Planned Parenthood provides educational programs to nearly 1.2 million young people and adults each year. Planned Parenthood health centers focus on prevention as 83 percent of Planned Parenthood clients receive services to prevent unintended pregnancy. Planned Parenthood services help prevent more than 612,000 unintended pregnancies each year. In addition, Planned Parenthood provides nearly one million Pap tests and more than 830,000 breast exams each year, both critical services in detecting cancer. They also provide nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. Despite all these important medical services, Planned Parenthood is most known for providing abortion services. When I went to the local Planned Parenthood office with my mom to pick up supplies for the Our Whole Lives program, there were half a dozen protestors yelling at people about killing babies and holding creepy signs with baby dolls and red paint to symbolize blood. But the truth is that only three percent of all Planned Parenthood health services are abortion services. Places like Planned Parenthood are very important because they provide affordable healthcare and consulting for women. Whether it's a 17 year old seeking contraception to prevent pregnancy or a middle aged woman who just wants to make sure she is STD free, Planned Parenthood is a safe judgment free place for people of many ages.

Planned Parenthood is a vital sexual and reproductive health care provider and advocate. They also work with partner organizations worldwide to improve the sexual health and well-being of individuals and families all around our world. Planned Parenthood is very important for us Unitarian Universalists to help because they are locally and globally doing work we believe in. They are practicing what we are taught in Our Whole Lives, that all people have the right to make their own decisions about their sexuality and information is a very powerful tool to make healthy decisions. Please give generously to Planned Parenthood because they are courageously empowering women's rights here and everywhere.

First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist

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

Congregational Administrator Donna Scalcione: office@fpsudbury.org

Web address: www.fpsudbury.org

Phone: Office 978-443-2043, Fax 978-443-4391

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* deadline is 5 pm Wed., May 25 for the *Connector* coming out Wed., June 1

Send to administrator office@fpsudbury.org or phone 978-443-2043

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>FPS Calendar May 18 to June 11, 2011</p>			<p><u>May 18</u> 7:00p Rental</p>	<p><u>May 19</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 1:00p Rental: SED 5:00p Rental: SAT 7:30p Choir</p>	<p><u>May 20</u></p>	<p><u>May 21</u> 9:00a Coming-of-Age rehearsal and breakfast</p>
<p><u>May 22</u> 10:00a Worship Service-Coming of Age 11:00a Special Congregational Meeting to elect Search Committee 12:00p Board of Trustees meeting 4:45p Morris Dancing (last 1) 5:00p Jr. High OWL offsite 5:30p Women's Alliance Annual Meeting & Potluck 6:30p Rental</p>	<p><u>May 23</u> 7:00p RE Committee 7:30p WAG</p>	<p><u>May 24</u> 12:00p 4th Tuesday BYO Lunch Discussion 5:00p Rental: SAT Prep 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilting 7:30p PAG</p>	<p><u>May 25</u> 1:00p Rental: Girl Scouts 7:00p Rental</p>	<p><u>May 26</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 5:00p Rental: SAT prep 7:00p Carbon Consciousness 7:30p Choir</p>	<p><u>May 27</u></p>	<p><u>May 28</u></p>
<p><u>May 29</u> 10:00a Worship Service 6:30p Rental</p>	<p><u>May 30</u></p>	<p><u>May 31</u> 5:00p Rental: SAT 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilting</p>	<p><u>Jun 1</u> 7:00p Rental</p>	<p><u>Jun 2</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation 7:30p Choir</p>	<p><u>Jun 3</u></p>	<p><u>Jun 4</u></p>
<p><u>Jun 5</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:30a Annual Congregational Meeting: budget, officers, more! 6:30p Rental</p>	<p><u>Jun 6</u> 7:00p Board of Trustees-current & new members</p>	<p><u>Jun 7</u> 7:00p Quilting 7:00p Rental 7:00p Finance Committee</p>	<p><u>Jun 8</u> 7:00p Rental</p>	<p><u>Jun 9</u> 1:00p Mindfulness Meditation</p>	<p><u>Jun 10</u> 7:00p Chalice Circle ?? 8:00p Youth Group Sleepover</p>	<p><u>Jun 11</u> 9:00a A Gathering of Men (last 1) 12:00p Pride Parade for GLBT Equality in Boston</p>