

Next Newsletter Deadline: Wed., April 9, 2008

Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: Wed., April 23, 2008

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You're all invited to "Let The Sun Shine In"!

Celebrate at the First Parish Auction!
Saturday, APRIL 12, 2008, 6 P.M. \$10/pp

THE AUCTION - Fun, food (and drink), friends, and fundraising combined (music too)! The Auction Preview Catalogue, filled with lots of great items, was mailed April 1. If you can't be present, please ask someone to bid for you (instructions are in the Catalogue). Also check the vacation home poster each Sunday to see details of these offerings and get a group together to bid. Reminder: bring your check book, as **credit card payment is not available**.

THE KID PARTY will take place in THE COMMONS, 6 – 10 p.m., for ages 4 and up. \$10 per child with a maximum of \$20 per family. Music with a DJ, food, movie, and opportunity for quiet activities and rest. Organized and run by 1st Parish Youth with some adult help. All proceeds will benefit FPS. To facilitate planning, signing up ahead is preferable - e-mail to reducation@fpsudbury.org or sign up on the poster in the Parish Hall on the RE bulletin board.

If you have auction items you would like to donate, there will be an addendum published. Please fill in the Auction Donation Form on the 1st Parish website or contact Ted or Elaine Jones at wt-eljones@comcast.net or by phone.

Update from DRE Search Team

If you have been at First Parish for meetings or activities during the last two weeks, you have probably seen the newly-formed DRE Search Team hard at work. We've been writing the advertisement that is now on the UUA web-site as well as creating materials and processes that will make our interviewing process thoughtful, effective and smooth.

Because this is a time of transition we also want to check in with First Parish members and friends by asking the following three questions:

1. What do you know about Religious Exploration at First Parish?
2. What about RE do you like and want to keep?
3. What, if anything, would you like to see change?

You will have a chance to share your thoughts at committee meetings, other First Parish activities and a meeting at 11:30am on Sunday April 6th, in the FP library. We would also like to hear from you via email or on a survey sheet you will find on the table at the back of the Parish Hall.

Thank you for your help. Again, you can contact anyone one of us on the committee, Karen Neurath, Jennifer Stahr, Leslie Lowe, Judith Christianson, Steve Johnson or Carol White. Diana Yelton and Maggie Klureza will be speaking with our youth. Ginny Steel from CHC has been a great help to the Search Team, gathering information that will help both CHC and the DRE Search.



*Home phone numbers are not included in the E-News Bulletin.
Please check your First Parish directory, or call the office at 978/443-2043 for help.*



Each month in the newsletters, the Green Sanctuary team will suggest a monthly tip on what we can do to become "greener"—that is, more ecologically-minded--Earth citizens. We welcome your input.

Five Water-saving Tips:

1. Turn the water off while brushing your teeth or shaving.
2. Dig up an egg timer from your kitchen and use it to cut showers down to 5 minutes.
3. Fix toilet and faucet leaks immediately.
4. Collect "warm-up" water to irrigate your lawn and flower beds.
5. If you do not have a low-flow toilet, fill a milk jug with stones and place it in your toilet tank to displace water.



Second Step Contributions

Mike Boisvert, husband of FPS member Heather Merrill and father to Mikayla Boisvert, is running the Boston Marathon on April 21 to benefit The Second Step, a non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of domestic violence by providing survivors and their children with transitional housing and other services to empower them to remain free from abusive relationships and to lead productive lives. Since the founding of TSS in 1992, more than 500 survivors and their children have graduated from the program and more than 1,400 have benefited from the outreach programs. Of the graduates, 94% have remained free of abuse, 85% live independently and 80% are no longer on public assistance. So far Mike, Heather and Mikayla have raised over \$5,200 for TSS and have a goal of \$7,500. To contribute, please visit Mike's website at www.MikeRunsBoston.TypePad.com.

Film and Discussion on "The Real Dirt on Farmer John"

Saturday April 5 at 6:30 pm in The Commons

Leslie Lowe writes: Tom and I saw this dynamic documentary last week at a Stearns Community Supported Agriculture Farm film series. It will provoke much discussion here. Netflix describes the film, this way: "Filmmaker Taggart Siegel paints a fascinating portrait of a man who refused to yield. By transforming his farm into an experimental haven in the late 1960s, John Peterson attracted hundreds of artists, hippies and other political radicals. But when the agriculture crisis of the late 1980s led to the farm's eventual collapse -- and his neighbors publicly branded him a devil worshipper -- most locals thought he'd call it quits. They were wrong. "

Ebert gave this movie 3 1/2 stars. He says the film describes "a man who has one foot in the counterculture and the other in rich organic soil. He likes to dress strangely, in Dr. Seuss hats or bumblebee costumes. He is taken to dancing wildly in the fields. He is told his speech and body language make him appear to be homosexual," This is an entertaining and enjoyable film.

Join us for pizza, organically grown popcorn from Stearns Farm and film on Saturday, April 5 at 6:30 for a showing of "The Real Dirt on Farmer John". We'll have Pizza at 6:30pm, film at 7:00pm and a discussion following the movie. Please contact Leslie if you are attending so we'll have enough pizza. There will not be a concurrent children's movie as this film is appropriate for all ages.

Women's Alliance Retreat

May 16-18 at Rolling Ridge Retreat & Conference Center in North Andover, MA (www.rollingridge.org).

All women—members, friends, and friends-of-friends—are welcome at the Women's Alliance Annual Weekend Retreat. Grab a flyer from the FPS lobby table, register, and get ready for fun, friendship, and frolicking. There are still spaces available, and if we get **A Few More Good Women** to register soon, we will have the whole place to ourselves!

Please contact to dscalcione@verizon.net with questions.

Faith in Action News

UU Lobby Day tomorrow

Please join UUs from around the state at The State House in Boston for the Second Annual UU Lobby Day on Thursday, April 3rd, 10:30 to 3:00. We'll learn how to make a difference on UU's two top issues this year - "Global Warming" and "Hunger and Poverty." (At last year's Lobby Day, we made a crucial difference in the victory of "Marriage Equality"!)

We'll hear great speakers, including UUSC President Dr. Charlie Clements; we'll be trained on key issues and legislation, and then go in groups to visit our legislators.

To RSVP and reserve lunch, go to www.uumassaction.org and click on "Lobby Day."

UUSC to cosponsor April 5 water justice event in Duxbury, MA

10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, April 5, 2008, Duxbury First Parish Church, 842 Tremont Street, Duxbury, Mass

What does it mean to be thirsty? What does water represent to us physically, emotionally, politically, spiritually? Is water justice something far away or are we facing a threat increasingly locally? Through discussion, music, political action, worship, art, and food experiences, we invite you to explore these questions.

Please join UUSC and our cosponsors, the Ballou-Channing District of the UUA, UUMass Action, and Watershed Alliances, for an experiential water-justice event:

The event will feature:

- Taizé Workshop (chants, readings, contemplative stations, "Connected: the band," drumming, inspirational singing).
- Workshops
- Water Justice: global and local advocacy
- Water Colors: a creative workshop
- The Green Sanctuary and environmental justice, watershed
- Water as a worship component
- Stone Soup Luncheon: a living model of global awareness.
- Packets: Water justice information, Small Group Ministry social justice units, creative worship ideas, Lifespan resources.

Water-rights defenders aged 12 and older are invited to participate. For more information, please visit www.bcduua.org.

Share The Plate: April 13, 2008,

In celebration of Earth Day, we will share our collection plate with the **New England Wind Farm**. This fund started in the summer of 2006, by Mass Energy, to create more wind power in New England. Electricity in New England comes from dirty energy sources that harm our environment and decrease our security. Developing new sources of energy is urgently needed for the health of our economy and citizens. Wind Power is an excellent resource but construction of new turbines is slowed by lack of financing. Dirty energy sources get huge tax subsidies for development and extracting fuel. Wind Turbines face larger upfront costs.

Establishment of the New England Wind Fund provides the financial support needed for wind project development. Mass Energy will be able to secure contracts with wind projects only with our support. New England Wind Fund is the only tax-deductible, clean energy option in Massachusetts available to all citizens. [Learn more](#) about the benefits of joining.

A Very Nice Thank You to Us

Remember Christmas and your gifts to Undecorate the Christmas Tree? First Parish received a Thank You note from Joyce Nardine, Area Director, that reads in part: "You have delivered a promise. You made a difference for a family; for a child. For this, my entire staff thanks you. Your gifts for 50 children helped to make this season magical for them. Thank you for your support; thank you for making that difference; and on behalf of myself and my staff, our best to you in 2008." The letter and notes from the Social Workers are on the FIA bulletin board. Please take a look. Thanks and Congratulations to all of you who participated.

Won't You Join Us?

FIA (Faith In Action) is looking for two or more people to join our Committee. We meet 4 to 5 times a year. Our primary responsibilities are to organize yearly activities such as Undecorate the Christmas Tree, Backpack Drive, and Walk for Hunger. We select groups with whom to Share the Plate, organizes special drives, and spearhead special efforts. For the last 2 years, First Parish's special project was the Refugee Immigration Ministry to support the Benabed family. This year our special efforts will be directed toward the Habitat for Humanity project in Sudbury. We are also continuing our Prison Ministry and would welcome more visitors to Nate Benjamin, the prisoner whom we are mentoring through his college education. Please see Beth Rust for more information about Habitat and Carolyn Lee or Judy Deutsch about the Prison Ministry. Beth, Carol Jerry, Ginny Doxsey, Judy, and Sherri Cline will be glad to talk to you about joining the committee.