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# First Parish of Sudbury News

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Oct. 22, 2006

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Submissions to: [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org)

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## **Making Meanings**

*This month in honor of our congregational commitment to the Green Sanctuary initiative (and the need to streamline my "to do" list), I offer a Reduced, Reused and Recycled column. Just as the three Rs are ways of conserving natural resources, sometimes human resources must be conserved rather than depleted. We can't use them all up. We have to let our spirits regenerate just as we need to compost vegetation so it can become the rich soil in which new seeds can sprout.*

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*Get a life. A real life, not a manic pursuit of [whatever]. Do you think you'd care so very much about those things if you blew an aneurysm one afternoon, or found a lump in your breast? Get a life in which you notice the smell of salt water pushing itself on a breeze over Seaside heights, a life in which you stop and watch how a red-tailed hawk circles over the water gap or the way a baby scowls with concentration when she tries to pick up a Cheerio with her thumb and first finger. Get a life in which you are not alone. Find people you love, and who love you. And remember that love is not leisure...*

*Look around at the azaleas ...; look at a full moon hanging silver in a black, black sky on a cold night. Look at the fuzz in a baby's ear, the color of your kid's eyes.*

*Realize that life is the best thing ever, and you have no business taking it for granted.*

- Anna Quindlen

I was wondering what to say in this column when I stumbled across a commencement address by Anna Quindlen. She says to those (I imagine) bright faced graduates: *we have sole custody of our lives. Not just the life of the mind, but the life of the heart. The life of the soul. It's much easier to write a resume than to craft a spirit. But a resume is cold comfort on a winter night, or when you're sad, or broke, or lonely, or when you've gotten back the test results and they're not so good.*

I remember a preaching class where we bright-faced divinity students (I imagine) were told to explain the difference between a "speech" and a "sermon." To me, Anna's graduation address is a sermon. It moved me then, as it does now.

Here's her concluding advice to the graduates, words of wisdom, she explained, from a man with not a dime in his pocket, no place to go, and nowhere to be.

I found one of my best teachers on the boardwalk at Coney Island.... It was December, and I was doing a story about how the homeless survive in the winter months. He and I sat on the edge of the wooden supports, dangling our feet over the side, and he told me about his schedule, panhandling the boulevard when the summer crowds were gone, sleeping in a church when the temperature went below freezing, hiding from the police amidst the Tilt-a-Whirl and the Cyclone and some of the other seasonal rides. But he told me that most of the time he stayed on the boardwalk, facing the water, just the way we were sitting now, even when it got cold and he had to wear his newspapers after he read them. And I asked him why. Why didn't he go to one of the shelters? Why didn't he check himself into the hospital for detox? And he just stared out at the ocean and said, "Look at the view, young lady. Look at the view."

*That column was printed in 2004. Today, it feels as relevant as ever. As usual, this minister is preaching to herself as well as others who may be listening. Are we so involved in a manic pursuit of [whatever] that we miss the view? Are we so bent on productivity or creativity or some other "ivity" that our spirit shrinks from lack of nourishment or rest? Maybe we should put "craft a spirit" higher on the "to do" list. Maybe we should get a life. We are, after all, the ones with sole custody.*

Katie Lee

**Seekers of the Light****Everyone a Guide**

*We are not trying to tell the children what to do. We are trying to guide them toward taking responsibility for their own actions and to learn how to participate with others...Being nice and quiet are not values that will serve the child well in the existential crises of life.*

*-Jerome Berryman, Teaching Godly Play*

Children are children. They make mistakes out of ignorance or lack of experience or to test boundaries. How do we, as Unitarian Universalists, guide children who have crossed the boundaries? When they pick flowers in the Memorial Garden, run in Coffee Hour, leave scattered toys, or they roughhouse? The temptation is to "correct" them. That may be a short-term answer, but in the long run, we'd really like them to be able to correct themselves. "Self-regulating" is the Spirit Play term. Our job, as adults, is not to correct them so much as it is to create the conditions in which an inner sorting process can take place so that children make good choices and learn to rely on their inner wisdom.

How do we do that? As with any conflict, the first step is not to escalate. Harsh words, tones and gestures only cause fear and defensiveness. The Golden Rule applies to adult-child relationships, too! The next step is naming the behavior. "Hey, you guys are off the path." Ask the child if they agree with your observations. A good thing to ask (very matter of factly) is what consequences that behavior has. Then ask the child what they think a better behavior might be. When adults keep neutral with children, it allows children to think for themselves, not to react to the adults. Most often, children will self-correct. They learn to trust themselves. And at the end of the process, they will view you as a helpful adult! Community is built.

To weather life, we all need to develop inner strength and trust in our own instincts and abilities. When children are told what to do and forced to be "nice" and "quiet", we rob them of inner development. It's tough sometimes, but let's try to be generous with helping our children be their best selves.

*Peace, Tracy*

**Saturday, Oct. 28**

Remember to change your clocks—back one hour—before you go to bed.

**People We Care About**

*This column seeks to share news (happy, sad, exciting events) of our lives so that we may support each other as we travel this road together. May it be so.*

This column is not available on the First Parish website version of the newsletter. If you need information, contact the FPS office.

*If you have news for this column, send it to Karen R at [Reitzi@comcast.net](mailto:Reitzi@comcast.net) or to the First Parish Office. ([office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org))*

**Remembering Ralph D & How You Can Help**

First Parish will host a memorial service for Ralph D on Saturday, November 4 at 11 am to celebrate the life of Ralph D. There will be a light luncheon reception in the Parish Hall following the service. There are several ways you can help to make this a special day for his widow, Denny, and their daughters Thalia and Paki. First, if you have stories about Ralph, you are welcome to share them with Katie Lee via email: [minister@fpsudbury.org](mailto:minister@fpsudbury.org). or in a note sent to the office. (You may also phone but it is easier for Katie Lee if you send your story in writing.) Second, we will be looking for volunteers to help with the reception (the luncheon itself will be catered), with ushering, and a variety of other small tasks on the day of the service. If you can help, please contact the office and indicate your willingness to help (and your preference if you have one). Thank you.

## Board of Trustees Report

by Ginny S, Clerk

**What might be the possible impacts on First Parish** of the changes being considered for the Sudbury Center intersection? The Trustees authorized a task force, led by Beth R, to negotiate with the town, through its SCIAC, during the whole process leading up to Town Meeting in April. The congregation will be kept informed and is invited to attend all informational meetings, to ask questions and to offer comments and suggestions. (see p. 8)

**Jan P, Treasurer, presented the revised budget,** prepared for the Special Congregational Meeting, as well as other documents showing the congregation's financial situation over the last several years. It was good to learn that typically over 95% of the contributions pledged during a given fiscal year are paid by the end of that year or the following year. There is continuing concern on the part of many FPS members, not only the Trustees, about adding to the "Equity Fund" for infrequent but large expenses. In the revised budget there are additions to the fund, with more planned for the future.

**The Trustees will hold a joint meeting** with the Finance Committee and the Canvass Committee to work out ways of ensuring the financial sustainability that is one of the key goals for this year.

One of the great but seldom-acknowledged benefits of being part of a faith community is the opportunity to **develop leadership skills**. Yes, you can work with a committee to accomplish something, but then you may become chair of that committee, or you may choose to lead some other initiative. You may be nominated to one of the elected offices. But perhaps you'd like to take advantage of one of the local opportunities specifically designed for developing leadership skills. Please let any of the Trustees or committee chairpersons know of your interest. You will enjoy the personal growth and our whole community will benefit.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 6, at 7:30 pm. Board meetings are open and anyone is welcome to attend.



### Thanks for Remembering

Just in case you didn't know, there is a special parking space next to the carriage sheds, which is purchased each year at the First Parish auction. For the whole year (from July through June), this parking spot is **reserved on Sunday mornings**. Please do remember to leave this spot open on Sundays for last year's high bidder.



## Green Tips

*Each month in the newsletter, the Green Sanctuary team will suggest a monthly 'what you can do' tip on being a greener—that is, more ecologically-minded--Earth citizen. We welcome your input.*

This month, we're putting the focus on **washing dishes**. Think it's better to hand-wash them, rather than use a dishwasher? Think again. Living green means considering not just landfill space or carbon emissions, but also the energy, water and raw materials that go into the products that we use daily. Trying to conserve water by not using an appliance to wash dishes? It turns out that hand-washing dishes while leaving the water running (and admit it - most do) uses far more water than a dishwasher: a total of about 6,000 gallons of water annually, vs. 2,800 by pre-rinsing and running through a high-efficiency dishwasher.

In addition, heating the water for that wash uses an annual total of about 1,200 kilo-watt hours of electricity for hand-washing and only 680 kilo-watt hours of power annually for the same dishwasher. So save yourself a few minutes each evening and throw those dirty plates into the dishwasher and take the free time to sort your recycling.

And, one more dishwashing water-saving tip for those items that just have to be soaked before they go into the dishwasher--like oatmeal bowls, cheesy things--rather than soaking them in fresh water, as you wash your hands and or soak other things, run the water into a small dishpan and use this pan of grey water for soaking these pre-dishwasher "uglies".

*It's not that difficult ... being 'green'.  
Just take it one choice at a time.*

### Discussion of UUA Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Moral Values

Nov. 16, 7:30pm in the Library

Henry N, First Parish member, is offering a discussion session to follow up on his summer service on Unitarian Universalism's Moral Values. We will read through the draft SOC, "Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society," which the UUA Commission on Social Witness has sent to congregations. Are there changes we want to recommend? Is the SOC an effective statement for General Assembly to approve? If there is interest, there will be some readings to take home and we will reconvene again in December and January.

Worship at  the Meeting House**Sunday, Oct. 22, 10am**

"Light out of Darkness - Our response to Disaster In New Orleans"

On Sunday we welcome to the pulpit Tom A of First Parish and his guest Sarah R, of the FUUNO (First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans) Partner Church Coordinating committee at Arlington St. Church in Boston. The service will focus on the challenges facing the UU congregations in New Orleans one year after Hurricane Katrina. Ms. R recently traveled to New Orleans and videotaped members of the congregations there. She will share what she learned about the people and their efforts to persevere in the face of this ongoing disaster.

This Sunday we will **Share The Plate** with First Unitarian Universalist Church of New Orleans to help with the reconstruction of the Church. Contributions from our congregation will support the installation of water saving devices to maximize water efficiency in the new church, helping to make it a "green" sanctuary.

**Sunday, Oct. 29, 10am**

*Lessons of Loss*

There are few among us who haven't had to say "good-bye" to someone or something that matters. From many religious traditions, we inherit rituals that examine the relationship between the living and the dead. The pagan Samhain, for example, suggests that the living and dead communicate most easily at the cross-quarter day between the Autumn Equinox and Winter Solstice; thus, for them, this is a time when the veil between the two worlds is most permeable. The Christian rituals of All Souls and All Saints grow out of these earlier traditions and invite people to honor those who have died. Today at First Parish our children are exploring some of these religious traditions and their various rituals of remembrance. In the Sanctuary, Katie Lee will look at loss (including those "little" deaths of things as we once knew them to be). She will explore grief and its complex stew of emotions, and invite us to reflect on how we make meanings from loss.



All are welcome to join Katie Lee for a "Fireside Chat" about her sermon and the issues it raises at 11:45 pm in the Brackett Room.

**Sunday, Nov. 5, 10am**

*145-year-old sermon; a contemporary message*

Recently, parishioner Ernie B brought a sermon by the Rev. Linus Shaw to Katie Lee's attention. Shaw served First Parish of Sudbury from 1845 to 1866, a ministry that spanned the U.S. Civil War and more.

This sermon, preached to the "religious societies of the town" on Thanksgiving Day, 1861, contains some surprising parallels to our contemporary experiences both at First Parish and in our world.

Katie Lee is eager to share not only a piece of our history but also her own and Shaw's thoughts on some very relevant current events and issues.



Fireside Chat with Katie Lee, Ernie B and Lee S at 11:45am in the Brackett Room.

**Saturday, Nov. 11, 4:30pm**

*Village Worship: Gifts for Villagers*

We'll gather together on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 4:30 to assemble gift bags as part of our prison ministry. Join us as we honor the "inherent worth and dignity of every individual." The worship and gift making will be age-appropriate for all--even our very youngest. Gift bag materials will be provided, and a potluck will follow in the Parish Hall.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 10am**

*Our Service Continues: Securing, Defending, Protecting, Advancing Human Rights*

As we do each year, Katie Lee and Tracy will welcome "guests at our table." Meet Ah Maung. She is a teacher and one of 51,000 undocumented Burmese immigrants living in Thailand. She faces deportation if we don't secure her right to stay and teach the refugee children. Meet Amina who lives in drought-stricken Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Through our UU Service Committee, we've helped her and thousands like her by protecting their access to water. Welcome Realea and Macelino. We are strengthening their rights where they work in a poultry plant in Carthage, Mississippi. And say "hello" to Juan and Maria; we are helping them to defend civil liberties for themselves and their people in Guatemala. Travel the world with us. Meet our neighbors. Invite them to dinner. Continue our service by putting our faith in action.

**Sunday, Nov. 19, 10am**

*Music Sunday*

"Water" is the theme for this fall's Music Sunday, on Sunday, November 19th at 10:00 am. In keeping with our theme of environmental awareness this year, the Choir will be singing pieces about water from a wide range of composers. Also joining us for this special day of music will be pianist, Kathryn R who will play Debussy. To quote Renée Fleming, "Water and music enable us to step out of our daily lives for a moment and experience timelessness".

### Program Council Kicks off the Year with Energy & Spirit!

The Program Council is made up of representatives of all program-related committees and is co-chaired by Ginny Doxsey and Celia Hinrichs of the Board of Trustees. We have met twice this year and have heard reports about the many activities already underway by all of our committees. We've also learned how each committee is working to carry out aspects of this year's goals (Building and Sustaining our Beloved Community, Communication and Collaboration, Fiscal Strategies and Accountability).

This year's Council has developed a process to allocate the new initiatives money in the program budget. This is an exciting new project, created by last year's Council, to provide monetary support for new initiatives that further the First Parish goals. So far, we have approved initial funding for a Children's Choir and the fee for First Parish's Green Sanctuary application. We are considering other proposals. If you want some more information about this, just ask Celia or Ginny. The Council is also organizing information about and some funding for training opportunities that will develop leadership skills in individuals and groups in our congregation. Again, see Celia or Ginny for details.

We are also using Council time to promote the goal of Communication. With so many committees represented in the same room, we are able to share information and get many questions answered. We've heard about the Sudbury Town Center plan, fundraising efforts at First Parish, the youth trip, upcoming focus groups, prospective member orientation, interfaith social action and worship activities and the wildly successful Spirit Play program to name a few topics.

We are open to everyone and invite you to join us even if you don't represent a committee. The more perspectives, questions, input and suggestions we can share, the more dynamic our program will be!

Our next meeting is Tues, Nov 14 at 7:30.

### Meet the Transylvanian Unitarians Sunday, October 29 in Sudbury at 4 pm

Journey with Katie Lee on a two-week trip to Romania and Hungary. Explore the Carpathian Mountains in Transylvania. Meet the Unitarian ministers who serve in the cities and in the villages. Hike through the Torda Gorge. See rural life (it's like a movie set, she says). Learn about 16<sup>th</sup> century Unitarians and contemporary Unitarians. All this and more is possible in just two hours on Sunday, October 29 in The Commons starting at 4 pm. Katie Lee will bring the stories and the photos and the linens she brought home from her summer trip. You just have to bring yourself and some friends.

### Buddhist Study And Practice Group

Beginning Nov. 16 at First Parish

A group will be forming soon to explore Buddhist teachings on "breaking habitual patterns and encountering naked reality" as presented by Pema Chodron in her writings and teachings entitled "Getting Unstuck". The group will be led and facilitated by First Parish member Laine G, who has been a student of Buddhist teachings for 16 years and has taught meditation in various settings. Over the years Laine has studied and practiced in the Zen and Vipassana traditions.

The group will meet weekly from 6:15-8:15pm on seven Thursday nights: November 16 & 30, December 7 & 14, January 4, 11, 18. Attendance at all of the sessions is expected of those signing up.

This group series will focus on a valuable teaching of Pema Chodron's that has become critical to her own practice --what in Tibetan is called *shenpa* -- and what might be translated as craving, addiction, habits that cause us (and often others) suffering - and from which we seek freedom. In these talks Chodron gives us tools for learning to stay with our uneasiness, and shows us how to recognize *shenpa*, catch it as it appears, and activate the wisdom and confidence that lies beneath it.

The meetings at First Parish will include periods of meditation, listening to Pema Chodron's talks on tape, and sharing and reflection on the topics.

This group will be limited to eight members, although it is hoped that other such group sessions can happen next year.

To register for this group, please call Fran Sharp at 978/443-3094. For more information about the group call the facilitator, Laine G at home.

*Turn scarlet, leaves!  
Spin earth!  
Tumble the shadows into dawn,  
The morning out of night;  
Spill stars across these skies  
And hide them with the suns.*

*Teach me to turn  
My sullen sense toward marvel.*

*Let green and red  
And dark and day  
Concur with the returning life  
I am.*

Raymond J. Baughan  
(Singing the Living Tradition, 485)

### Faith in Action News

**Dumpster Day** is coming Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>!  
Save the Date – Save your Trash! (see p. 8)

**Holiday Gifts for Prisoners** First Parish of Sudbury will be joining several congregations through the greater Concord/Acton/Sudbury area in continuing a long-standing tradition of providing holiday gifts to 1500 of our incarcerated neighbors in the two prisons in Concord.

Following is a list of items which has been approved by the Department of Corrections:

- § 4-6 oz. Tube of Toothpaste
- § Bar of deodorant soap
- § Bic Pen (plain stick pen that does not “click” or come apart in any way)
- § Envelopes
- § Pair of white socks (5” or less)
- § Plastic comb (5” or less)
- § Pocket calendar (no wire)
- § Shampoo 4-7 oz plastic bottles
- § Stick deodorant (no roll ons)
- § Writing tablet/pad (no wire; up to 8” x 11”)

Donations to this project may be left in the box marked “Holiday Gift Bags” beneath the Faith in Action bulletin board **by Friday, November 10**. Complete gift sets or any number individual items are welcome. The West Concord 5 & 10 will carry many of the items after October 31.

We hope that you will join us in bringing a ray of light and hope into lives that are sorely lacking in both. Please call or email Carol Jerry with any questions you may have.

**Caroling and Fellowship Evening** at the Northeast Correctional Facility in Concord will be held on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 9:00 pm and is open to the public. If you plan to attend, please contact Carol J by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**“The Real Way to Universal Health Care”** will be Dr. Marcia Angell’s topic on Sunday, November 12, 2:30 pm at The Goodnow Library event sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sudbury. Dr. Angell is former editor-in-chief of The New England Journal of Medicine, current senior lecturer in social medicine at Harvard Medical School, and the author of *The Truth About the Drug Companies: How They Deceive Us and What to Do About It*. She is an advocate of single-payer universal health care “the kind of health care endorsed by a number of UUA General Assembly resolutions” and has a clear picture of the inadequacies of Massachusetts’ current health care reform legislation.

### Community and Hospitality Committee

(formerly “Members and Friends” and “Shared Gifts and Services” Committees)

**Considering Membership?** The Community and Hospitality Committee is offering an opportunity to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and about First Parish of Sudbury. Newcomers (and not-so-new) will be specifically invited, but anyone is welcome. Come and bring with you any questions you may have, and also any friends or relatives who may be interested. On Saturday, November 18, there will be a “Learn about Us” workshop from 9 AM to 1 PM, including a free brunch (and you thought there was no such thing?) and childcare if requested in advance. The workshop will move quickly through some UU history, our Principles and our Sources, congregational polity, our shared ministries and programs, and the responsibilities and benefits of membership. It will be fun and participatory. Because food is involved, we must know how many are planning to attend. Please let Ginny S know at home or email [virginia@thesteels.com](mailto:virginia@thesteels.com).

**We hope have made your appointment for October 27 or 28**, to have your (family’s) picture taken for our new photo directory. We don’t want to miss anyone, so if you cannot use our dates please make an appointment to have your family’s photo taken at St. Georges’ Catholic Church, 74 School St., Framingham, on Oct.23 or 24 or Nov.14. Contact their coordinator, Tracy Welsh, and get a transfer slip from one of our coordinators (Bonnie W and Mary McC). If you cannot make one of these appointments, you can provide a photo, but it will go on a separate page, not in the alphabetical main section.

**Do you have any especially good photos** of recent FPS events that we should consider for our activities pages in the directory? Please let Mary McC, Bonnie W or Ginny S know as soon as possible.

**Would you like to be a greeter?** New greeters will be paired with those who have experience, and will be able to personify the welcome of our community. Bridget Hanson is waiting to hear from you.

### Outdoor Cleanup Day Saturday, Nov. 11, 9am-1pm



All are encouraged to turn out for the fall cleanup day. Many hands make light work, and there are tasks for people of every age and physical ability. Bring rakes and other gardening tools. Pizza will be provided, with gratitude, for our workers at lunchtime.

### First Parish to Host Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship

It is an honor for First Parish to host the annual community Thanksgiving worship service, this year on Sunday, November 19 at 4 PM. Each year, representatives of the twelve worshipping communities in Sudbury gather together to worship and give thanks. This year, there will be both adult and children's choirs to complement the offerings of each faith tradition. There will be a reception with yummy afternoon snacks and fun activities for children in the Parish Hall following the service.

If you are interested in singing, please be in touch with our Music Director, Debra Morris-Bennett.

If you would like to help at the reception, with the children's activities, or in ways we're sure we'll need but haven't yet determined, please indicate your willingness to help by phoning the office.

Plans are still evolving. But we want to put on our Sunday best and roll out the welcome mat to our neighbors and friends. Circle the date and bring some friends.



### Special Congregational Meeting - Oct. 15

by Ginny S, Clerk

**The revised budget was unanimously approved** as presented without substantive debate.

**Steve Johnson reported on the follow-up** from the May and June congregational meetings. He presented and commented on the congregational goals for the current year (Building and sustaining our beloved community, Collaboration and communication, and Fiscal strategies and accountability). Steve then detailed some of the complexities of the church's financial situation, and explained that a task force will be formed to work on clarification of the budget and on financial sustainability. He gave the history and current status of the Equity Fund and noted that the profit from the sale of First Parish land to the Majno family has gone into that fund.

**Reports were also made** on the ongoing study of **rental income** and of our various modes of **communication**.

Beth Rust reported on the process of communication and negotiation with the town about the **Sudbury Center Improvement project**.

All reports were unanimously accepted.



### October's Invisible Hands Award

**Nancy M and Donna S**

The Community & Hospitality Committee (CHC) is delighted to recognize two individuals who have quietly and lovingly given their time and talents in very special ways to benefit the life of our congregation – both enhancing our musical life!

Nancy M spent her summer in Sudbury numbering, counting, recording and applying a First Parish stamp to approximately 2000 pieces of choir music! In addition, she re-filed the music the choir had finished using last spring. It was a huge task and Nancy patiently and diligently worked away at it piece by piece! One more cabinet of Music Sunday pieces still remains and new music is currently arriving so the job goes on, but now others will be helping. During the summer and with the bulk of the collection, Nancy worked alone. Many thanks, Nancy!

In another very generous gift of hands and hours, Donna S has contributed in a different way to support our choir and music. Using a special template she created for the task, Donna carefully measured, drilled the holes, and screwed 2 tiny brass screws thru the brass nameplates onto all 30 of our new choir chairs as her donation to the project. Watching Donna tackle a beautiful chair with calm confidence and skill to attach the shiny plate was inspiring. Thank you for your special contribution, Donna!

*If you know of others among us who have given without fanfare in special ways to First Parish, please let us know. Contact Sara H of the CHC Committee at [sarahartman@comcast.net](mailto:sarahartman@comcast.net)*

### Focus Groups to Meet on FPS Goals

This year's congregational goals were finalized and voted on by our Board of Trustees at their September meeting, with input from the May congregational meeting and the June 18 follow-up process.

The Committee on Ministry will be holding Focus Groups for the purpose of having a deeper discussion of these goals. These will be small discussion groups to delve deeper into the topics of beloved community, fiscal responsibility and communication and collaboration. There will be sign-up opportunities in the weeks ahead, but if you are interested in participating, please contact Fran Sharp at [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org) or call (978) 443-2043.

### Sudbury Town Center Project Report

The Town of Sudbury has been exploring what an improved Town Center might look like. Through the Sudbury Centre Improvement Advisory Committee (SCIAC), the Town is assessing the condition of the town centre in order to increase the safety of the intersection of Concord Road and Old Sudbury/Hudson Road, and to enhance opportunities for recreational and cultural use as appropriate, while preserving the historical character of the area. The plan is being developed by a consultant team working through the SCIAC committee. Deborah K represents First Parish on this committee.

Through committee meetings, interviews, data analysis, site visits, survey reviews and a community visioning process, a few alternatives were presented in September in an open Town meeting. Three design alternatives were presented, each with some impact to First Parish.

The Trustees were presented with these alternatives from the Town, and assembled a group of First Parish community members interested in exploring the project in more detail. The Trustees also authorized a task force to work with the Town. These groups are planning to meet October 18 and November 1<sup>st</sup> to further define the options, and ensure that the interest of First Parish is well represented.

The Task Force, once formed, will hold open meetings and welcomes all input and ideas from the community. Please contact Beth R for more information.

One FPS member pointed out that the **Sudbury Town website** contains significant information on activities to-date including an extensive interim report, and minutes of meetings. To view them; go to <http://www.town.sudbury.ma.us/>, select "Committees" at the top, select "Sudbury Centre Improvement Advisory Committee", and follow the links to this information.

### Dumpster Day is Saturday October 21

This is a perfect time to clear out that debris you have hanging around.

Bring it and dump it for a small fee (\$35/cubic yard) at our 'Dumpster Day' on Saturday October 21 from 10:00–2:00 in the First Parish parking lot. Whether it is a TV\* or computer, old tires, or construction material, a bunch of boards or broken furniture – or just plain junk, bring it to First Parish this Saturday, contribute to this fundraiser, and go home lighter than when you came! This is meant for all the junk that you pay extra to dispose of – whether from your trash hauler or the transfer station.

\*The fee for disposing of certain items—TVs and computers--is a fixed \$25 fee

The proceeds from this fundraiser will help benefit the Sudbury Interfaith Refugee Initiative, a project with three Sudbury congregations sponsoring an Algerian refugee family here seeking political asylum.

**Two volunteers are still needed for this Saturday.**  
Please contact Beth R for more information.



### 105<sup>th</sup> Harvest Craft Fair Wrap-up

Thank You, one and all, for helping to make this year's Harvest Craft Fair a great success (netting \$6,500 for First Parish!). What a gorgeous autumn day it was! The complete list of folks to thank would be as long as the luscious fuzzy scarves sold at the fair, but we do want to thank everyone who was front and center, and behind the scenes. Many started preparing long ago, and some are still putting the pieces back together. To all the cooks, cleaners, list-keepers, jelly-makers, lifters, sign-posters, furniture-movers, soup-deliverers, face-painters, shed-sweepers, bakers, money-takers, and pot-scrubbers ... THANK YOU!!

But, we must thank, by name, the organizers of the Fair--those who undoubtedly saw lists and stall-layouts in their sleep for weeks and months, in order for the 105<sup>th</sup> HCF to be such a success: Carolyn L, Sherri C, Dara and Greg B, Elaine J, and Gerry G. Well done, and thank you!

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Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm

We embrace diversity and, as a Welcoming Congregation, are intentional about welcoming the presence and participation of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons in all aspects of congregational life.

Minister: Rev. Katie Lee Crane  
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