

FIRST PRINCIPLE PROJECT MINUTES Nov. 6. 2014

A meeting of the First Principle Project Committee was held at First parish on Nov. 6, 2014. Present were: Sonia D'Alarcao, Betty Gilson, Susan Holton, David Page and the Rev. Rachel Tedesco. The following issues were discussed and decided.

- Betty reported that Susan McCombe from BSU will contact the people on the *Read to Me, Daddy* committee and will arrange a meeting.
- Susan presented information about several possible things RE might be doing with Messiah Baptist. These included an Everyone's Birthday Party at First Parish, a joint Tone Chime Choir for children and youth of both churches, a springtime picnic, and a shared book discussion. Rachel is sending a letter to Rev. Walker and other church leaders at Messiah seeking to renew our joint activities. These ideas will be included in her letter.
- We discussed wanting to make coming to First Parish comfortable for Messiah parishioners. Except for the one pulpit exchange Sunday when a very large group from Messiah attended morning worship and Pot Luck, and one youth activity connected with the Food Drive, we have not had much response to our invitations to Bridgewater. Is it a transportation problem or some other issues? We need to find out.
- Sonia and Betty told the group about the two day *Targeting Gun Violence and Gun Control* workshop at BSU. One workshop presented by Rev. Kim Odom and Ruth Rollins interested us as a possible joint presentation with Messiah. Both women are mothers of youth who were killed by guns in Boston. They are the Field Director and Project Director respectively of LIPSTICK (Ladies Involved in Putting a Stop To Inner City Killing), a program of Citizens for Safety. They are leading a campaign to train and organize women to help stop straw purchases of guns. Koren Cappiello, director of Social Services in the Brockton mayor's office, was also at the workshop and may be interested in working on this as a city-wide project. Betty will contact Rev. Margaret Howard and others at Messiah to determine their interest. Then Sonia will contact Koren as needed. Sonia and Betty spoke with Kim and Ruth and they were very interested in doing a free presentation in Brockton about their work. (See reverse.)
- Sonia also spoke about the Louis D. Brown Peace Curricula used in the Boston Schools. Betty will bring this up at the Peace Vigil meeting next week.
<http://ldbpeaceinstitute.org/content/peace>
- Susan will contact Raina Terry and her mother for current information about Raina. She was the inspiration for our work to have another Bridgewater teacher trained in the *Open Circle* program.
- Betty mentioned that the FPP will be in charge of the Jan. 11, 2015 worship service. Rev. Sprecher suggested that we use this service to inform the congregation about our work. Betty will investigate the possibility of having the founder of the *Read to Me, Daddy* program speak as part of the service.

We will schedule another meeting soon.



CITIZENS FOR SAFETY
Stop gun trafficking. Save lives.

Operation LIPSTICK: *Ladies Involved in Putting a Stop To Inner-City Killing*

"Women might not be pulling the trigger, but by providing the gun, they could be contributing to someone's death. We're putting it on blast. We will no longer allow ourselves to be used this way."

Pastor Kim Odom, LIPSTICK Field Director, mother of homicide victim and community leader

Citizens for Safety Mission

Citizens for Safety (CFS) is a grassroots coalition of faith and civic leaders, community residents, elected officials, and public health and safety professionals working to stop the flow of guns to criminals and create safe communities where every child can thrive without the fear of gunfire.

LIPSTICK Overview

LIPSTICK is a groundbreaking peer-to-peer organizing and advocacy campaign to curb crime gun trafficking developed by Citizens for Safety in partnership with the U.S. Dept. of Justice, Mass. Dept. of Public Safety, Harvard School of Public Health, Suffolk County District Attorney, and Boston community-based organizations.

The campaign trains and organizes female leaders to reduce the willingness of their peers to buy, carry and hide guns for boyfriends, husbands and other males in their lives who can't get guns legally. Women are given the tools to lead education, outreach, grassroots and social media organizing strategies to advocate for policy reforms, change cultural norms, raise consciousness, recruit and influence their friends, and reduce risk factors associated with illegal gun activity. The campaign will increase the public's awareness of straw purchasing as a serious crime and yield data on the scope, nature and prevalence of women's exploitation as straw purchasers. Campaign staff will also codify best practices and produce the first guide for community organizers to replicate the campaign for their constituents.

LIPSTICK works because it's about **women talking to women**—in beauty shops, nail salons, churches, schools and domestic violence and homeless shelters in communities devastated by gun violence. For the first time, women are talking with each other about the sources of guns used in crime and discovering their own power to keep illegally trafficked handguns out of their neighborhoods. ***"LIPSTICK is not only educational. It's healing."*** Ruth Rollins, mother of homicide victim, domestic violence counselor and LIPSTICK Project Director.

When women understand their role in contributing to the violence around them by transporting and harboring illegal guns, their response is immediate, dramatic and inspiring. LIPSTICK turns victimization into activism, creates authentic leaders and spokespeople, and gives women and girls the education, confidence and support they need to say no to violence and exploitation, and yes to a brighter, safer future. ***"A new initiative tries to reduce the willingness of women to engage in straw purchases using peer-to-peer education. As women have helped reduce drunk driving, they can mobilize to reduce firearm violence."*** David Hemenway, Director, Harvard Injury Research Control Center and Citizens for Safety Board member.

Contact Citizens for Safety for more information: wheredidtheguncomefrom.org; info@citizensforsafety.org

