

BRIDGING



Newsletter of the First Parish Church, Bridgewater, MA, Unitarian Universalist

April 2014

Highlights

6/2 at 9am
MainSpring House
lunch prep in the
UPH

6/3 at 7:30pm
Council Committee
Meeting at FP

6/8 at 9am
RE Appreciation
Breakfast

6/8 from 6-9pm
Game Night at FP

6/14 at 7pm
Annual meeting
Pot Luck at 6pm

6/25-29
General Assembly,
Providence, RI

6/30 at 9am
MainSpring House
lunch prep in the
UPH

From the Minister

"Faith is less about striving than about being awake" -Debbie Blue

I lived in the same city, in the same neighborhood, on the same block, in the same building from when I was born until I got married. Every June there were the good-byes. Graduating from each grade promised a reshuffling of classes, and with that, a reshuffling of companions. My best friend in third grade was not in my fourth grade class. In fourth grade we were still able to walk to school together, but the nature of our relationship changed. Other kids, who were not walking the same route I walked, ceased to cross paths with me. And yet, the times we'd shared were real, and marked me.

So it is that we prepare to say good-bye. We knew this time would come, and it is good, very good. We did the work together that we promised we would do. We loved and laughed, sighed and grew. We did ourselves proud. So while certainly it will be sad to be parting, it will be a parting with intense satisfaction, and even, dare I say it, joy. For while we say good-bye, each of us is also preparing to say hello- to the new road opening before us. You, with the settlement of Rev. Paul Sprecher as your minister, and me, as the new interim minister at First Parish in Northborough.

Come September we will both be on steep learning curves. But with patience, humor (and of course, "fresh courage") we will navigate these well, and find ourselves once again in the embrace of community.

Let us be together then, these last few weeks, with intentionality, with appreciation and with joy.

On June 15th, our last worship service together please bring a flower to share for our **Flower Communion**. In that way we will not only be saying good-bye, but holding a reminder of all that has been good. I have loved you my friends, and loved watching you grow. I shower you with blessings, admiration and my gratitude.



May all manner of things be well with you.

Rev. Anita



JUNE

Minister

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Laurie Lessner
Peter Jacobson

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First Principle Project

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WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

June Worship Services:

June 1 – Worship with Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson

June 8 – Religious Education Sunday: "Oh, The Places You Will Go"

June 15 – Farewell Service with Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson

June Volunteers:

June 1 – Lay Worship Leader: Betty Gilson and Ushers: Joanne Michaud & Ellen Crompton

June 8 – Lay Worship Leaders: Mya Zigler & Anaia Risko and Ushers: Carlene & James Moore

June 15 – Lay Worship Leader: Bob Messing and Ushers: Juanita Brunelle & Tom St. Thomas

Summer Lay-Led Worship: The committee is planning ahead for summer services, which will begin on July 6. Stefan Michaud is gathering names of lay volunteers. Please talk to him if you can do a service or have a good idea for one.

June 27 – Sunday Worship at the UUA General Assembly in Providence, RI.

This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a not-to-be-missed worship with thousands of other Unitarian Universalists from around the country. It will be truly inspirational... guaranteed! And it's free (no conference fee) if you just come for Sunday morning. The UU Exhibit Hall (a.k.a. "The Market Place") will also be open to shop for terrific UU goods: books, music CDs, T-shirts, cool clothing, bumper stickers, flaming chalices of all sizes and kinds, chalice jewelry and other artwork. Or you can just stroll around the booths and learn about the wide variety of affiliated UU groups.

A bus will be leaving from First Parish Duxbury to take people to Providence at 8:30 a.m. and returning around 4 p.m. You may be wondering why you'd want to do this from the Bridgewater area. First, parking in downtown Providence near the Convention Center is hard to find and expensive. Second, it will be more fun to go with a group of UUs... and see friendly faces from around the district. See details in the announcement below.

Committee members: Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Chair; Denise Haskins, Stefan Michaud, David Page, Tom St. Thomas and Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson.



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

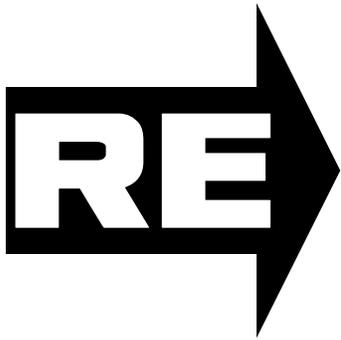
PROVIDENCE, RI
JUNE 25-29, 2014

What is it like to sing "Spirit of Life" with 8,000 other UUs'?

You are invited to HOP ON THE BUS WITH FIRST PARISH CHURCH DUXBURY.

Join in on Sunday, June 29th for a trip to GA 2014 in Providence, RI (8:30am departure)

To make a reservation on their bus, please contact Lenore at (781)934-6532 or email at uuduxbury@verizon.net. (Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult).



Mark your calendars!

Sunday June 8th:

9am in the Lower Parish Hall - RE Appreciation Breakfast, all those that have helped in any way with the RE program are invited.

10:30am RE Multi-gen Service "Oh The Places You Will Go"!

Saturday, June 14th:

Boston Pride Parade starts at 11am and the Festival at Noon, anyone wanting to join in as a group from First Parish Bridgewater, please contact Victoria at dre.bridgewater@gmail.com. We thinking of bringing a blanket, setting up in the Public Gardens, and offering free face painting, and then walking over to the festival. Anyone interested? Here is a link to the parade route: <http://www.bostonpride2.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/2012ParadeRoute.png>

Sunday, June 29th:

There are still seats available on the Dux Bus (thanks, Pete!) to General Assembly. At 8:30 am we will meet in the parking lot of the Duxbury Church, 842 Tremont St. No GA registration needed for this day, so it is FREE! Please contact Lenore at uuduxbury@verizon.net or 781-934-6532 as soon as possible to reserve your seat, Thanks!

BOSTON PRIDE 2014!

We are registered to march with our new District partners, the CBD and MBD:

Victoria Capon, your DRE is going and would love to see you there. Wear your First Parish T-Shirts or Standing on The Side of Love T-Shirts (no banners please) and MARCH WITH ME! If you have questions talk to Victoria. dre.bridgewater@gmail.com

<http://www.cbd-mbd-uua.org/drupal/content/district-participation-boston-gay-pride-parade-2014>

Thank you to the Facilities Committee for buying and installing a dehumidifier to help with the mold that likes to grow in the Lower Parish Hall in the warmer months.

And thank you to the Parish Committee for allocating money to pay for it!

If we keep the windows closed downstairs this summer, we shouldn't have a problem with mold this Fall!

From Your DRE:

As you all know, I am leaving the position as your DRE. What an amazing year it has been! I have so enjoyed our time together. You are a wonderful congregation and I will miss all of you very much. Thank you for your patience, caring and guidance. I know I will see many of you in the future at area events like Connecting For Change, General Assemblies, Social Justice events and regional happenings.

In peace,
Victoria Capon

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Anita is on site in Bridgewater on the second, third, and fourth Tuesday and Thursday of every month and the first and third Sundays of every month. On the first **full** week of the month, Rev. Anita is off. Also, staff meetings are held each Tuesday from 12:30 –2:30pm.

All regular business should be handled before or after the first week. Emergencies of course come up, and she understands that.

Your help in protecting her time is appreciated.



First Parish Unitarian Universalist–Bridgewater, MA
Notice of Annual Meeting
7pm, Saturday, June 14, 2014
Upper Parish Hall

The annual meeting of the First Parish Church will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, 2014, in the Upper Parish Hall. Before the meeting there will be a pot luck supper, which will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The agenda for the annual meeting will be as follows:

Call to Order by the President of the Parish Committee

Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Annual and Special Meetings

Interim Minister's Report

Nominating Committee's Report (and any additional floor nominations)

Election of Nominating Committee Slate:

Parish Committee Officers and Members
Registrar

Report of Officers, Trustees, District Delegates, and Committees (in Annual Report Booklet)

Review, Discussion, and Vote on the Proposed 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Budget

Issue for Congregational Consideration:

Article: Borrowing a sum of \$10,000 from the First Parish Trust for a term of six years at an interest rate of 3.5% for the purpose of funding building repairs and improvements.

Other Business

Although only voting members as recognized by the Registrar will be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting, all members and friends of First Parish are welcome to attend the Annual Meeting and the pot luck supper.

MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES (TWO THIS MONTH)

Monday, June 2 at 9am MainSpring House lunches will be prepared in the LPH. Donations and volunteers always welcome. See Betty Gilson with your offers.

Monday, June 30 at 9am the July MainSpring House lunches will be made in the LPH. (Since the first Tuesday is July 1, we make the lunches on the last day of June.)

T"UU"RING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, June 27 location TBD the T"UU"ring Leaves Book Club will meet to discuss "About a Boy" by Nick Hornby. Did you see the Hugh Grant movie? The book is even better.

For July and August we will be reading "100 Years of Solitude" in memory of the author's recent passing. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (Spanish: *Cien años de soledad*) is a [1967 novel](#) by [Colombian](#) author [Gabriel García Márquez](#) that tells the multi-generational story of the Buendía family, whose [patriarch](#), José Arcadio Buendía, founds the town of [Macondo](#), the metaphoric [Colombia](#).

We will also be watching a movie at sometime in July or August. Check later for more details.

COMMUNITY

HEALING WISHES

- to Russell Ball who continues to recover at home
- to Rev. Anita, who is recovering from surgery after an elbow infection

CONDOLENCES

- To Denise Haskins and Stefan Michaud and their families. Denise and Stefan lost their father in May.

JUNE SHARE THE PLATE CHARITY



For the month of June the charity which will receive 50% of the loose collection is the Brockton Interfaith Community (BIC). This is an organization with which some of our church members have been working for some time, trying to advance their issues. Rachel, Karen Cruz and Joanne Giannino have been deeply engaged with BIC esp. during the past year. Many of you may have signed some of the petitions they have circulated. This coming year the three chief issues are: Prevention not Prosecution (inc. Jobs, not Jails), Minimum Wage and Earned Sick Time, and Immigration Reform. Messiah Baptist is very deeply committed to working with BIC, so this ties in with the goals of the First Principle Project. More information at

GREEN SANCTUARY TIP of the MONTH

Recycle Clothing and Textiles

Did you know that your *old worn-out holey not even good enough for a rag* socks can be recycled? Wherever you donate your used outgrown worn-out clothing include all textiles and clothing. For example, they will welcome clothing, towels, rugs, backpacks, belts, shower curtains, shoes, pocketbooks, bras/underwear, sheets, blankets, etc. As long as it is DRY and ODORLESS anything even ripped or stained, with buttons missing, damaged zipper, etc. is acceptable.

The US Generates 25 BILLION POUNDS of textiles per year, only 15% gets recycled, leaving a total of 22 billion lbs going to landfills. This is a growing number, up from 18.2 billion lbs to 25.7 billion lbs to landfills from 1999 to 2009. Do your part.



THANK YOU RINGERS!!!!

Another beautiful year of ringing. Thank you for your time and efforts: Long timers Debbie Baumgarten and Jan Thompson, Newbie Ginger Irish, Not-so-newbies-anymore Mary Maruska and Kat Gillespie, Long-time Ringer Ringer Karen Reed Messing, Short-Time Ringer Ringers Korin, Maya and Miranda Zigler, returning alum-for-a-day Joseph Risko, One-shot-super-ringer -ringer Dee Dee Sprecher, multi-talented Choir Director/Flautist/Pianist/Organist/Tone Chime Ringer Denise Haskins, and all those who gave ringing a shot this spring for the "Why Music?" service, and for the 10 year Celebration of Marriage Equality in Massachusetts. Keep a song in your heart! Have a great summer; And stay tuned for the monthly return to ringing in September. New members always welcome. No experience necessary. But do need to be old enough to follow symbols read left to right, and stay 'on task' for our brief and very focused rehearsal times. :) Questions? Interest? Suggestions?



Kids to Camp—Thank You—Kids to Camp—Thank You—Kids to Camp—Thank You



As most of you know, the Green Sanctuary Committee held our annual "Kids to Camp" service on April 13, 2014. I am so very pleased to let you all know that, thanks to your generous donations, we have a final tally of

\$1,333.94

for this worthwhile project we sponsor each year. That means that we will be able to send six deserving children to nature camp at NRT Sheep Pasture this summer. All of the Green Sanctuary Committee gratefully thank you for your support and giving hearts.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!!

Chloe St. Thomas graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst on May 10.

McKayla Hoffman graduated from Bridgewater State University May 17.

Chloe Harrison Young from the University of Massachusetts on May 30.

Monique Michaud is graduating from Apponequet High School and will be attending Wheaton College.

Emma Quinn will graduate from Cardinal Spellman High School and will be attending Framingham State College, enrolled in the honors program.

Haley Gardiner is graduating from Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School and will be attending Keene State College in NH.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

PROVIDENCE
RHODE ISLAND

JUNE 25-29, 2014

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations

General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

Most General Assembly events will be held in the Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903.

The theme for General Assembly 2014 is *Love Reaches Out*.

Religious life in America is changing dramatically and rapidly. Fewer people are identifying with specific denominations and most mainline religions are losing members in droves. People now find many outlets and places of engagement for their spiritual lives. Current studies of faith in America show that there is a movement toward a liberal, fluid kind of faith that doesn't fit with traditional denominational identity and structure. We already know that for every adult member of Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, there are at least three non-members who also consider themselves to be Unitarian Universalist.

A core purpose of our faith is to help people grow in spirit and in service. We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We want to expand our faith not just to grow Unitarian Universalism, but also to better achieve this transformational purpose. Therefore, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the UUA Board of Trustees and the Administration want the General Assembly in 2014 help our association live into a future where our "Love Reaches Out" to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.

For more information contact generalassembly@uua.org.

Future General Assemblies

- June 24-28: 2015 Portland, OR
- June 22-26: 2016 Columbus, OH
- June 21-25: 2017 New Orleans, LA
- June 20-24: 2018 Kansas City, MO



HOSTS

JUNE 1

Mark Young

JUNE 8

Juanita Brunelle

JUNE 15

End of Year Pot-Luck Picnic

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Quinn Bordman
- 2 Chuck Bordman
- 3 Andrew Giannino-Curtis
- 4 Karin Henderson (David Page's daughter)
- 6 Kristina Gardiner
- 10 Laurie Turner-Curran
- 11 Brendan Gardiner
- 15 Graham Waterman-Rue
- 18 Kyle St. Thomas
- 21 Shara Yabroudy, Keir Manchester-Howell
- 30 Laurie Lessner

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Marty & John McGovern
- 12 Lisa & Paul Foos
- 19 Jo-Ann & Pat Compagnone
- 21 Adrienne & Chris McDougall
- 28 Janet & John Dye
- 30 Susan & Tom St. Thomas

Helping the Hungry

Our **Social Justice Committee** collects non-perishable food items for the local food pantry. We invite you to help the hungry in our local area by bringing canned and packaged foods on the first Sunday of each month. A box is placed at the front of the sanctuary, near the piano, to receive the items, which the Social Justice Committee members gather and bring to our local food pantry.



Feeding the Homeless*

Our church volunteers provide lunches for **MainSpring House** shelter for the homeless in Brockton. We gather on the **first Monday* of each month at 9 a.m. in the lower parish hall** to prepare and wrap 100 bag lunches, which are then brought to the shelter by one or two of our volunteers.



You can help in many ways, including joining us at the above gatherings, donating baked goods, other food items, and paper goods as needed, taking home some of the fixings and preparing parts of the lunches (such as tuna or egg salad) at home for the volunteers to assemble at the church, or simply donating money toward the cost of the lunches, which is about \$100 per month for 100 lunches.

Please contact Betty Gilson (774-226-0942) for further information, or just drop by that morning to help.

**The lunches are prepared on Mondays to be eaten on the first Tuesday of each month. If the first Tuesday falls on the first day of the month, the lunches are made on the final Monday of the previous month.*

June 2014 Calendar

Sunday, June 1

9am Choir Practice

9:30am Tone Chimes rehearsal

10:30am Worship service with Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson

Monday, June 2

9am MainSpring House lunches prepared in the LPH. Donations and Volunteers always welcome.

7:30pm Facilities Committee Mtg

Tuesday, June 3

7:30pm Council Committee Meeting in the UPH of First Parish

Sunday, June 8

9am Choir Practice

9am RE Appreciation Breakfast

10:30am RE Sunday—a multi-generational service

6-9pm Game Night at First Parish

Monday, June 9

7:30pm Green Sanctuary Committee will meet on the back porch of Janet Dye's home

Thursday, June 12

7:30pm Parish Committee will meet at the church

Saturday, June 14

First Parish Bridgewater UU Annual Meeting

6pm Potluck Dinner

7pm Meeting

Sunday, June 15

9am Choir Practice

10:30am Worship Service

11:30am Send-Off Celebration for Rev. Anita

Wednesday, June 25-29

General Assembly, Providence RI

Friday, June 27

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club will meet at a location TBD to discuss the novel "About a Boy".

Monday, June 30

9am MainSpring House lunches prepared in the LPH. Donations and Volunteers always welcome.

First Parish Church Unitarian Universalist

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