

BRIDGING



Newsletter of the First Parish Church, Bridgewater, MA, Unitarian Universalist September 2013

Highlights

9/2/13
9am MainSpring
House lunches prep at
FP

9/5/13
7:30pm Council Cmte
meeting at First Parish

9/8/13
10:30am Water Cere-
mony at FP

9/15/13
10:30am Yom Kippur
service at First Parish

9/20/13
2:30-9pm Photo shoot
for First Parish direc-
tory

5:30-8:30pm 9th An-
nual Celebration for
Peace at FP

9/21/13
10am-5pm Photo
shoot for First Parish
directory

1-5pm 9th Annual
Celebration for Peace
at FP

9/22/13
10:30am-12pm 9th
Annual Celebration for
Peace at FP

9/27/13
7pm T"UU"ning
Leaves BookClub

From the Minister

You may think
I am a shadow,
But inside,

I am a sun. -Damia Gates, Grade 4, Allendale Elementary School, California

This has been quite a summer. We lived through the trial of George Zimmerman for the killing of Trayvon Martin, and the trial of Whitey Bulger for the killing of 19 people. Each of us probably has some feelings in response to the trials and the verdicts.

Edward Snowden fled the country after revealing the many ways in which our government is spying on us, US citizens.

Restrictive voting laws have been passed in Texas and North Carolina, seizing the opening for discriminatory practices in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Voting Rights Act.

As I write this, thousands are preparing to return to Washington DC or gather in local towns and cities to mark the 50th anniversary of the game changing 1963 "March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom," and to remember the call to justice that beckons still.

We have been dispersed as a community over the summer, but we have remained united in our passion for a world at peace with justice, something for which we work outside of our walls, and inside as well. As I ready myself for our year together I feel joy and excitement at the prospect of our unfolding future. Yes the world is challenging; life is challenging, but there are sustaining truths to carry us. Fourth grader Damia Gates said it as clearly as I have ever known it to be said.

You may think
I am a shadow,
But inside,
I am a sun.

That is our Universalism spoken clear and simple. She may never have heard of Universalism or of theology. But she knows a truth when she feels it, and we know it too. Everyone is a sun inside. Everyone.

So I am really glad that we will be gathering once again for worship, for support, for affirmation and for courage-for the affirmation of our first principle of the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and for the courage to act on it, insisting that we recognize that inside every person is a sun.

Thank you for the privilege of being your minister and of having to write this column. For now I realize just how much I miss you and want to gather in celebration of the suns that burn within each of you.

Blessings, Rev. Anita

Minister

Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson
 anitafr@comcast.net
 617-257-5854

Directory of Religious Ed

Victoria Capon
 dre.bridgewater@gmail.com

Parish Committee

President: Bob Messing
 rmessing@massbankers.org
 508-378-3340

Vice President: Sam Baumgarten
 sbaumgarten@verizon.net
 508-697-6848

Treasurer: Stefan Michaud
 spmicha@verizon.net
 (508) 946-5684

Clerk: Susan Irish
 eirish2@aol.com
 508-378-2906

Members at Large: Pat Hart
 Gordon Hatfield
 Jan Thompson

Church Sexton / Building Rental

Tom St. Thomas: 508-697-8637

Choir Director/Pianist

Denise Haskins
 denisehaskins@comcast.net

Tone Chimes Choir Director

Lisa Rue
 508-378-8359,
 lisa_rue80@yahoo.com

Religious Education Committee

Chair: Korin Zigler
 Laurie Lessner
 Peter Jacobson

Community Minister

Rev. Rachel Tedesco
 revrayted@comcast.com
 508-378-3904

Social Justice Committee

Convener: Betty Gilson
 gillyflower@verizon.net
 774-226-0942

Membership Committee

Chair: Jan Thompson
 redrubberball@verizon.net
 508-697-2492

Green Sanctuary Committee

Chair: Eileen Hiney
 fryleen@verizon.net
 508-279-3955

First Principle Project

Convener: Betty Gilson
 gillyflower@verizon.net
 774-226-0942

Facilities Committee

Chair: Frank Yeatman
 Fryleen@verizon.net
 508-279-3955

Office Administrator

Jamie Doulette
 firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com
 508-697-8229

Dear Members and Friends,

I am very excited to be joining First Parish Unitarian Universalist Bridgewater as Acting Director of Religious Education. My husband and I have been enjoying this summer taking long walks with the dogs, kayaking for hours and trying to get in shape for a backpacking trip in CA. We will be out west visiting with family and friends until August 21st and then returning home. We relocated to New Bedford MA a year ago when Paul was called to be the settled minister at the UU Church.

Growing up with a UU Mom and a liberal Episcopal Dad, I have been steeped in the principles and purposes of the UU tradition, carried them with me into my adult life and into explorations of other religions and spiritual paths. I see the world through this lens, it is part of who I am. As a child, I spent hours in the woods exploring and enjoying the wonders of nature. I hiked and biked and walked and built forts. I had experiences of wonder and awe, experiences that for me were spiritual and exposed me to the oneness of all life.

My daughter, now 30 years old, lives in Maine with her dog and was also raised with these values. For a summer we lived outside in the woods of Maine sleeping in a teepee near a stream, learning from the woods and eating raspberries off the vine. I taught her the cycles of the moon and how to read the signs left by the animals. She rode her tricycle around the teepee and danced in rain storms in her boots.

When I attended Antioch we moved in with my grandfather and led a more conventional life. I studied Anthroposophy (a spiritual science) and the ways of Waldorf education. Waldorf teachers are focused on the whole child, having respect for who they are and where they are in their cognitive, emotional and spiritual development.

For the church year 2010-2011, I served the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix as their Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education and found it very rewarding, challenging and exciting. I look forward to getting to know you all and hearing your stories. I am excited to be your new DRE, and bring the insights I have gained from my experiences to help facilitate growth in the RE program and help deepen the commitment to the spiritual growth of all.

Sincerely, Victoria Capon



DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR SUMMER'S COLLECTION OF WATER TO THE SEPTEMBER 8TH WATER CEREMONY.



YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES...

... Or at least you should be in the First Parish Picture Directory!



First Parish is working with Lifetouch Church Directories and Portraits to produce a photo directory of First Parish congregants this fall. Professional portraits will be taken of First Parish members, friends and attendees (regular or occasional, we want everyone included!) on **Friday September 20, 2013 from 2:30 – 9pm and Saturday September 21, 2013 from 10am – 5pm** at First Parish Church in the Lower Parish Hall. All families will receive a free 8 x 10 professional portrait and a free church photo directory for participating. You will also have the option of purchasing additional portraits, frames, and personalized greeting cards in time for the holidays. Please plan on your portrait sitting (prep, photo shoot and choosing of your portrait) to take approximately 1 hour.

You can sign up for your portrait sitting in 3 convenient ways:

1. Sign up at the sign up table at church before or after Sunday services or:
2. Sign up online at the First Parish website www.firstparishbridgewater.org and click on the icon "Be a Part of Our Family Album Portrait Sign Up" or:
3. Call Jan Thompson (508) 697-2492.

Your portrait can be casual or dressy and can include any personal items you'd like to bring. Are you musical? Bring your instrument! A gardener? Bring veggies or flowers from your garden, or even a rake or hoe! We can even accommodate pets, just give us advanced notice when you sign up.

The photo directory will help us connect names with faces and enhance our connections with each other. It will also help the new minister we will be calling for next year to get to know us more quickly.

Our photo directory won't be complete without you, so please sign up today!

SIGN UP TO HOST A CIRCLE DINNER FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS OCTOBER 18 & 19 and 25 & 26

Welcome to a brand new church year everyone! I'll bet you missed many of your First Parish friends over the summer, so let's start the new church year off right by signing up for a round our popular "Circle Dinners". "Circle Dinners" are small gatherings of First Parish members and friends who get together to share a meal and friendly conversation. You may sign up to host or attend a dinner as a guest. Hosts provide the appetizers, beverages and hospitality and guests bring the entrees, side dishes and desserts. It's a great way to get to know each other in a cozy setting outside of church. This round of "Circle Dinners" will be held on Fridays and Saturdays, October 18 & 19 and 25 & 26. The sign up for hosts will happen at the beginning of the church year. The sign-up sheet will be in the Upper Parish Hall. Or you can contact Jan Thompson of the Membership Committee: janicethompson22@comcast.net or (508)697-2492 to sign up to host or for more information. The sign up for guests will begin when we have found enough hosts.



GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE's Green Tip of the Month

Celebrate Meatless Monday.!

Here's a link that explains the movement: <http://www.meatlessmonday.com/>

Not only is it good for the earth, less methane greenhouse gases being produced, but it's better for the body, less saturated fats that produce the bad cholesterol in the body.

Introducing our new Child Care Provider, Sara Frazier!

Sara is a sophomore honor student at West Bridgewater Middle Senior High School. Her passion is Musical Theatre. She enjoys working with young children and hopes to be a counselor next summer at the YMCA.



STONE CHIMES

Calling all ringers! And newbies always welcome :) Tone Chimes Ringers will meet to ring in the new church year, playing the service prelude on Sunday, September 8th. Practice starts at 9:30. Come early if you want to practice rhythm value notation, especially if you're a new ringer. Please let me know if you'll be there. Thanks! --
-Lisa at lisa_rue80@yahoo.com or call at 508/378-8359.

CHOIR NOTES

The First Parish Choir is getting ready for a new year and is accepting new members! We will rehearse on Wednesday, September 4 at 7pm. All other rehearsals take place at 9:00 AM on Sunday morning before our service. If you think you might be interested in joining us, please contact Denise Haskins via e-mail at denise-haskins@comcast.net or call 508 264 7617.

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Ministerial Search Committee! We are hard at work in our quest to find First Parish Bridgewater's next settled minister. Our primary objective is to find a minister that is the BEST FIT for our congregation. We take our role representing the congregation very seriously in this important task.

We have met several times over this past month and we are on track in our search. One of our most important initial tasks is to find out what YOU want! In the coming month, we will be distributing a survey to all members of the congregation. This is YOUR opportunity to make your voice heard in this matter!

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you all, and it is our sincere goal to find the minister that best fits our congregation. If anyone has any questions or concerns about the search process, we'd love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

The Search Committee : Sonia D'Alarcao, Kat Gillespie, Eileen Hiney, Quent Jarvis, David Tedesco, David Wilson, Alan Yabroud

MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES

Monday, September 2 at 9pm MainSpring House Lunches will be prepared in the LPH. (Yes, Labor Day!) Volunteers and donations always welcome.

GUN VIOLENCE FREE COMMUNITIES

Thursday, September 12 at 7pm a meeting of the Gun Violence Free Communities will be held at the church. New members are welcome.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CHARITY SELECTION

The charity selected for the 50% loose collection for the months of Sept. and Oct. is School on Wheels of Massachusetts. This is a nonprofit organization that provides academic stability and hope for children impacted by homelessness. They do this by providing one-on-one tutoring; payment of fees such items as books, sports, music and transportation; supplies for classroom projects; parent workshops; and assistance with college applications. Their office is at 790 West Chestnut St. in Brockton. They are a 501 c (3) tax exempt nonprofit. As well as half of the loose collection going to School on Wheels, checks may be made out to First Parish Social Justice Committee with School on Wheels in the "for" line.

If you would like to make a suggestion for future charities, please see the Guidelines in this Bridging and send your suggestion to Betty Gilson of the Social Justice Committee.

NINTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION FOR PEACE

Join us for our annual Celebration of Peace which will be held September 20 - 22. This year our theme is Peace through Embracing Diversity. We have a wonderful series of events planned. Here is the current lineup of activities. Please come and bring family and friends as we join with people around the world in recognition of the United Nations International Day of Peace.

Friday, September 20

5:30 – 6:30pm Barbecue for BSU students, faculty, staff, UU Church, Council of Churches, Bridgewater Business Association, Bridgewater community and others

6:30 - 6:50pm Welcome President Dana Mohler-Faria or EVP Fred Clark and the Rev. Dr. Anita Farber-Robertson

6:50 – 7:15pm Sabrina Gentlewarrior, director of the Diversity Coalition at BSU, – get people to imagining peace through living a life dedicated to diversity

7:15 – 7:30pm Discussion among people

7:30 – 8:00pm Time for creating the artwork

7 – 8:30pm Closing remarks

Saturday, September 21

1pm Meet at First Parish to make flags and other crafts.

2pm Hold a brief Peace Pole Ceremony with reading of the languages.

2:10pm Process around the Common and by the area churches with the Peace banner, flags, pinwheels and possibly dove; stopping for readings.

3pm Return to First Parish for refreshments for marchers, and Cooperative Peace Games.

3:30pm Hold Playing for Peace program with music by members of First Parish and the BSU Social Justice League

Sunday, September 22

10:30am A special Service led by Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson, followed by closing ceremonies at out new Peace Pole.



Guidelines for Parish Committee
Plate Sharing Guidelines
From Social Justice Committee

1. Plate sharing means that on any Sunday, (during the entire church year) or (during the entire year) 10% of the offering will go to the Social Justice Committee to be shared with a social justice/ social action organization.
 - A. Members and friends will be asked to designate such pledging money should be indicated either on the line so designated on a check or EFT.
 - B. Envelopes will be available for anyone who wants real live cash (I know...I know...) to be for pledges
 - C. The Social Justice committee will choose the recipient of the money for each month

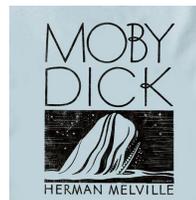
2. Any plate sharing will be only for those organizations in Bridgewater, or those organizations whose work directly effects the people of the town of Bridgewater and people within 10 miles of First Parish in Bridgewater. Preference will be given to social justice organizations in Bridgewater, East Bridgewater or West Bridgewater.
 - A. Towns within 10 miles of the church include the towns of:
If the radius of 10 miles from the church is chose, the following: *
 - Within 10 miles
 - Brockton
 - Abington
 - Whitman
 - Hanson
 - Halifax
 - Plympton
 - Middleborough
 - Lakeville
 - Taunton
 - Raynham
 - Easton
 - East Bridgewater
 - West Bridgewater

 - B. The following social justice organizations may be within 15 miles of First Parish. These towns include:
 - Mansfield
 - Randolph
 - Kingston
 - Marshfield
 - Rockland
 - Holbrook
 - Randolph
 - Stoughton
 - Canton
 - Sharon
 - Foxboro
 - Mansfield
 - Attleboro
 - Norton
 - Dighton
 - Assonet
 - Berkeley

3. Members or Friends of First Parish will submit the names of Social Justice/Social Action organizations to which they want the 10% to go.
 - A. They will submit the name of the organization to the Social Justice Committee, which in turn will submit their recommendations to the Parish Committee.
 - B. Information about the organization (not just a print out of the web page) will be submitted, as well as
 - C. Your reasons for having the 10% go to that organization. Including a statement about the ways in which that money would be used to help people within 10 miles of First Parish.
 4. The chosen organization shall receive the 10% of the plate collection as designated above for the entire month as noted above.

T"UU'RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, September 27 at 7pm the T"UU"rning Leaves Book Club will meet at the home of Betty Gilson finally to discuss Herman Melville's "Moby Dick". Come and join us to share perceptions of this amazing classic.



HEALING WISHES...

... to Mary Hatfield following recent hip surgery.
... to Dan Howard as he recovers from hernia surgery.

FROM WARREN DAHLIN...

Thanks for "concerns" with the shoulder surgery. I got several beautiful notes from people in the parish, including the minister, whom I've never met! I had my second follow up with the surgeon today (Aug.15) and he was astounded by my progress and lack of severe pain. After six weeks, it will be healed enough to begin Physical Therapy next Wednesday, but he said the tendon attaches very slowly and it will take a year to know if the surgery actually worked. I can't wait to play the harp again!! I miss it so much (as I also miss my friends from First Parish!)

I don't know what support the UU gives 350.org or if anyone in our church has worked with them but I think 350 .org does great work. I will probably organize an effort at Stonehill. Michele, Emilia and I marched in a large rally in Portland Maine in June to try and stop the pipeline. It will bring tar sands from Canada to the coast for shipping to foreign countries. None of the oil is planned for use here. All we get is the danger. (and the global warming from more oil being burned!)

CONDOLENCES...

... to Mary Maruska and family. Mary's mother Anne passed away in August after a lengthy illness.



Off the Common Coffeehouse

*Located in the Upper Parish Hall at First Parish Church
50 School Street, Bridgewater*

October 5, 2013 at 8pm

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

featuring

Cormac McCarthy

with Scott Alarik (reading from his book "Revival: A Folk Music Novel")

Coming Attractions

November 2—Chris & Meredith Thompson (w/Heather Pierson)
December 7—Hayley Reardon (w/ Shawn Taylor)
January 4—Girls, Guns and Glory 9 tickets \$15)
February 1—Greg Greenway
March 1—Riley Coyote (w/Stuart Ferguson)
April 5—Annalivia (duo) and Ari & Mia (split bill; tickets \$15.00)
May 3—Bill Staines

Admission: \$13

*Enjoy our homemade
Refreshments*

Sign up for open mike!



WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday's at 10:30AM

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kat Gillespie, Jenny Donahue
- 3 Pat Hart
- 4 Korin Zigler
- 7 Janet Dye
- 8 Debbie Baumgarten, Anaia Risko
- 9 Kathy Keenan
- 13 Lucas Gavin
- 20 Katie Fuller

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Kristina & Fred Gardiner
- 15 Joanne & Stefan Michaud
- 17 Betty & Bob Gilson
- 19 Hope Vallarelli & David Hirschy
- 23 Pat & Jack Hart

September 8 – Ingathering Water Communion Service with Rev. Anita. If you have collected a water sample over the summer, don't forget to bring a small container of the water to pour into our communal bowl. This ceremony symbolizes the places... far or near... we've been to over the past two months and the joy of gathering again in community.

September 15 – A Yom Kippur Service with Rev. Rachel.

September 22 – Peace-Centered Worship Service with Rev. Anita and the Peace Committee.

September 29 – TBA

Lay Leaders & Ushers will be announced. If you have a particular date you'd like to volunteer for either task, please tell us in advance. Otherwise, if you are a physically-abled church member, expect to be assigned a date.

The Worship Committee meetings: The committee generally meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the church office. You are cordially invited to attend and share your ideas about worship... or simply observe these meetings. Look for specific dates in future weekly emails.

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

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.*

SEPTEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

Monday, September 2

9am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP

Wednesday, September 4

7pm Choir rehearsal

Thursday, September 5

7:30pm Committee Council Meeting at First Parish UPH

Sunday, September 8

9am Choir rehearsal

9:30am Tone Chimes practice

10:30am Water Ceremony at FP

Monday, September 9

7:30pm Green Sanctuary Committee will meet at the home of Eileen Hiney

Tuesday, September 10

5:30pm RE Committee will hold their monthly meeting in the church office

7:30pm Worship Committee will meet in the church office

Thursday, September 12

7pm Anti-Gun Violence meeting at FP

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

Sunday, September 15

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Yom Kippur service at First Parish

Friday, September 20

2:30-9pm Photo shoot for First Parish directory

5:30-8:30pm 9th Annual Celebration for Peace at FP

Saturday, September 21

10am-5pm Photo shoot for First Parish directory

1-5pm 9th Annual Celebration for Peace at FP

Sunday, September 22

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am-12pm 9th Annual Celebration for Peace at FP

Friday, September 27

7pm T"UU"rning Leaves BookClub

Sunday, September 29

9am Choir rehearsal

10:30am Worship Service

**First Parish Church
Unitarian Universalist**

50 School Street

Bridgewater, MA 02324

508-697-2525

www.firstparishbridgewater.org

firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com

firstparishbridgewater.blogspot.com