



The Bell-Ringer

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331



APRIL 2014



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 13th: "Social Justice Sunday" - "Trees", We will explore the importance of trees to our spirits and to our world.

April 17th: "Maundy Thursday Communion Service" – Thur., April 17th @6:30 --- Join us in the Children's Chapel for our annual Unitarian Universalist Communion Service (fresh-baked bread, non-alcoholic wine--see more information inside)

April 20th: "Sunrise Service on Duxbury Beach"- (sunrise is at 5:53 a.m.) The hardy among us will gather on the beach to the right of the handicap ramp to share a beautiful sunrise service! *A suggested arrival time is 5:40 a.m. (early this year, but well-worth getting up for!)*

April 20th: "Our Annual Intergenerational Easter Service" - "The Gift of an Easter Faith"---Catherine will be joined by our student minister Tom Bozeman for our Annual Intergenerational Easter Service featuring the Egg Tree and special music. Young people will attend church with their families. (there will be a special story for the children) During the first part of the service, we will share in our traditional "**Hanging of the Eggs**" (see RE pg. 3) AFTER this part of the service, our younger children (1st grade and younger) may go downstairs for activities. ***Bring family & friends!!***

April 27th: "Do You Not Remember?" - What we do with the history and heritage that has been passed down to us can have great consequences for those that come after. What is forgotten? What is recalled? Of whose history and heritage do we take account? What do we do with that? What is involved in faithful recollection? Please join us for an inquiry into how the past continues into the present and future.

May 4th: "Annual Music Sunday" – Please join us for a morning of beautiful music performed by fellow parishioners. Always one of the nicest services of the year! (RE APPRECIATION SUNDAY)

COMING EVENTS

MONDAY APRIL 7

Bible Group 7:00-8:30p.m

TUESDAY APRIL 8

Small Group Ministry 7:00p.m.

Memoirs 7:15p.m.

Bell Choir 7-8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9

Building & Grounds 9:00a.m.

Kindred Spirits 10:00-11:30a.m.

THURSDAY APRIL 10

Book Club 9:00a.m.

Alliance 10:00-2:00p.m.

Govern. Board Agenda 7:00-8:00p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 11

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:00p.m

SUNDAY APRIL 13

SPECIAL FAMILY SUNDAY

SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

EARTH DAY

Social Justice 9:00a.m.

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30a.m.

Worship 10:30a.m.

HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.

Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30p.m.

MONDAY APRIL 14

Welcome Congregation 7:00p.m.

Finance Committee 7:00 p.m.

Bible 7:00p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

Spring

Somewhere a black bear has just risen from sleep
and is staring down the mountain. All night
in the brisk and shallow restlessness
of early spring I think of her,
her four black fists flicking the gravel, her tongue
like a red fire touching the grass, the cold water.

There is only one question:
how to love this world...

Whatever else my life is with its poems and its music and its cities,
it is also this dazzling darkness
coming down the mountain,
breathing and tasting;

all day I think of her, her white teeth, her wordlessness,
her perfect love.-----~ Mary Oliver ~

First Parish Church

Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts

P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: uuduxbury@verizon.net

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: www.duxburyuu.org



A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice. We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.

Rev. Catherine Cullen, Minister
Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education
Edwin Swanborn, Music Director
Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus
Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita
Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator
Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director

Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .

Dear Friend,

We know it, don't we---spring *really truly is finally here!* We feel the change of season in the heat of the sun, the length of the days---the fact that we are now going a *whole week* without some kind of snow storm. Spring is springing and all is unfolding just as it should --alleluia!! I look at the pretty little purple crocus and I wonder: *Does the crocus remember being in the bulb?* Mary Oliver is right: the only real question in this life is how to love the world, all of it--the long, harsh winters as well as the glorious sunny springs. I'm making a promise to myself: no more complaining about this past winter. I don't want to waste one single moment not being fully present to the new life that is unfolding all around me-----

Happy Springtime!

Catherine



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20th



5:56 a.m. Sunrise Service on Duxbury Beach. Suggested arrival time is 5:45 a.m.

10:30 a.m. Family Worship. Young people will attend church with their families. During the first part of the service, we will share in our traditional "**Hanging of the Eggs.**"

REMEMBER to bring with you on Easter Sunday **A BLOWN, DECORATED EGG** to hang on our First Parish Church Egg Trees. Over the years we have collected over 1,000 delightfully decorated eggs, which tell a wonderful story of the people of First Parish, some of whom are no longer with us. We hope **EVERYONE** will become a part of this annual tradition by adding an egg to our trees on Easter Sunday. **Remember, it needs to be a blown egg and you may want to add your name and the date on it.** **AFTER** this part of the service, our younger children (**1st grade and younger**) may go downstairs for activities.

Our "Egg Tree" Invitation

Would you like to help hang delightfully decorated eggs we have collected over the years? We would love some adult help with this project. Please contact Sunsue if you can help.

Consider Buying Cage-free Eggs for Our Egg Tree!

Buying eggs from hens that have been allowed to roam free and are fed only natural, non-pesticide treated grains goes in hand with the Ethical Eating Congregational Study Action Issue and our Green Sanctuary program. They are healthier for the planet, the hens that lay them and the people who eat them. They are also tastier! Cage-free and cage-free/organic eggs are readily available in most supermarkets today.



May Basket Deliveries on Sun., May 4th, 2014

Every year, children make May baskets during church school. On **Sun., May 4th**, they are delivered to very special church senior citizens. This is a special May Day in that it arrives on a Sunday.

Here is How You Can Help.

Bring in flowers the morning of **Sun., May 4th**. We will have containers of water down at the bottom of the stairs to hold all the flowers. During church school the children will help arrange the flowers into baskets. We need drivers to help deliver the baskets to our seniors with their children. Dropping a few baskets off on your way home from church will make the deliveries easy and fun for your family.

Please call Sunsue at (781) 934-6532 ext. 4, if you can bring in some flowers from your garden or if you will be able to deliver a few baskets.

Sunday, May 4th, 2014 - RE Appreciation Sunday

This marks the beginning of church school registration for next year. We are already preparing for next year and ask that you register your children toddlers through grade 12 into next year's program even if they are currently enrolled. We will have a table set up during coffee hour, so please stop by the table and register your children for next year.



Rocks Needed For Our Labyrinth

We are moving forward with our plans for a walking labyrinth. This labyrinth will be placed at the bottom of the hill behind the parking lot. We now need **rocks!** Please start bringing rocks from your yard or beach the size of a cabbage or bigger. We will need lots of rocks. Please place them at the bottom of the path to the town forest at the back of the parking lot.



Church School Assistant

We are looking for someone to fill the position of Church School Assistant on Sunday mornings starting in September. This is a paid position and requires availability on Sundays from 9:30 – 12:30. For more information contact Sunsue Fleming.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If you have any questions, please call Sunsue Fleming (781) 934-6532, ext 4. Sign-up sheets are posted outside the church office.

Women's Beltane Ritual – Wed., Apr. 30th, 7:30 p.m.

The Women's Ritual group will be holding their May Eve Beltane Ritual on **Tue., Apr. 30, 7:30 p.m.** in the Parlor. Bring a sacred object to put on the altar and Goddess food to share. All women are invited!



April Birthdays **Happy Birthday to All!**

Cal Howe	Jessica Sack
Kaleigh Howe	Rory Sullivan
Alec Hovey	Emilia Wagner
Finn Henry Nappellio	



Ringing Out Justice!

News of social justice activities at First Parish Church



**Dates: Community Table April 26
Box Project April 27**

Social Justice Committee Retreat

The Social Justice Committee invites you to come to our planning session for next year. We will meet June 16th at 5:30PM to share a pizza dinner and discussion of plans for next year. Everyone is welcome. We are looking for your input and ideas. If you have a suggestion, a program or a new idea please speak with Cindy Ladd Fiorini.

News from the Box Project:

The Social Justice Committee uses the shed for collection of the food and household goods. We are running into a space problem in the shed as furniture and other items for the summer fair have been put into the shed. Please do not bring things to the shed for the summer fair until after May 18th. Thanks!

As part of the box project we collect new and gently used clothing. We are in need of a place to store and sort the clothes. At this time the room we are using is a good sized bedroom. This will not be available next year, so if you have a space you could provide we would be glad to talk with you. Please call Carrie Meier.

In the May delivery, the last of the year, we usually are able to give gift cards to the families to help for the summer. If you would be willing to help us by purchasing a gift \$25 card from Stop and Shop, this would be much appreciated. We will collect cards or checks in May to help these families through the summer months. Thanks. If you have any questions please call Nancy Landgren.

Books for the Box Project – A Thank You!

Thanks so much to all of who donated books to give to the children at Head Start. Callie Brandeis and Carol Nappellio organized the book drive. In February and March they sorted the books into five categories: infant, preschool, early reader, elementary, and young adult. They had enough to divide them so that each Head Start School, Kingston, Marshfield, and Plymouth, received a box in each category.

At the schools, parents were encouraged to choose books to bring home. Whatever was left, the schools are using to stock their classrooms so that there are plenty of books to read to their young students.

A special thanks to Jackie Smith-Miller for her efforts to find books at the Duxbury Transfer Station Library for this activity. She is the librarian at this special place.

Special Collection

Thanks to all who participated in the special collection for Project Future Hope. Over \$600 was donated to assist this program to provide training for life after prison.

Community Table

There are only two months remaining for this church year's participation at the Community Table. The need is great and we appreciate all that you do. You can sign up and pick up a casserole pan after church during coffee hour at the Social Justice table.

Prison Book Program

This is a program that has been sending free books to prisoners since 1972. It operates out of the basement of the United First Parish of Quincy.

The mission of this organization is to give free books to individual prisoners in the United States. Education is the only tool that has proved useful in preventing people from returning to the prison system after their release.

Volunteers read a letter from a prisoner, search for books in the library of donated books and package the books for delivery. I will be going to volunteer on April 19 from 10 to 1 if anyone is interested in joining me. Contact me if you would like to go along. See the website at www.prisonbookprogram.org for more information.

Travel to Transylvania

Here is a great opportunity to visit the country of our Partner Church.

UU Transylvania Pilgrimage (on a budget) Fall of 2014

13 days/ 12 nights/ from \$1140 a person

Visit all the Unitarian heritage sites in Transylvania as well as a number of tourist destinations and the UNESCO World Heritage sites. You will stay in B&Bs and guest houses and eat village meals. (There is an accommodation upgrade to hotels if you wish.)

There is a pretrip extension visit to Budapest and a 6 day post-tour extension to the wooden churches of Maramures and the painted monasteries of Bucovia available.

For more information visit the UUPCC website at www.uupcc.org and click on “Pilgrimages”.

Overnights of Hospitality: Season’s Recap

Thanks to 15 wonderful folks from our congregation who cooked and served meals this past winter for Overnights of Hospitality, an emergency sheltering program in Plymouth. Run by the Plymouth Taskforce for the Homeless, the program averaged 18 guests per night, with the season high being 25 in our night. The Taskforce recently acquired a second house to provide stable housing and support for 4 currently homeless individuals. Volunteers are needed to clean Saturday April 12th and after that to give the rooms a fresh coat of paint. To help, contact Jack Ryan. Single beds, bureaus and nightstands are needed. To donate contact cmelahoures@plymouth-taskforce-homeless.org

UU Urban Ministry: **Uniting Communities, Transforming Lives**

Celebrate Justice at UU Urban Ministry Mendelsohn Forum

UUSC President Rev. Dr. William Schulz will speak; “Jack Mendelsohn: Celebrating a Life of Justice” ♦ Sunday, April 13, Roxbury ♦ 4:00 pm. A very special justice afternoon! What to ride together? Contact Nancy – nowakdux@gmail.com

What’s Happening at UUSC?

ALERT! Please Take Action for issues you care about go to UUSC.org/action center and learn more

*Moral Statement on the Minimum Wage—Call Congressman Keating and our local legislators now to pass MA and national minimum wage laws!

*Petition: Be Fair to Restaurant Workers (Raise workers wages!)

*Raise a Moral Voice for Haiti Recovery: (‘Assessing Progress in Haiti Act’ — improve accountability and transparency of US aid to Haiti; House has passed Haiti Recovery Act; our voices are needed in the Senate to be heard by Warren, Markey and Reid.)

*100 Gardens for Haitian Families (learn how to make and plant a sustainable, productive Tire Garden: uusc.org/tire gardens; 100 gardens at \$250 each will feed 100 families in a sustainable, organic, economic and healthy way)

UUs work to create SOCIAL CHANGE through UU Mass Action!

Hunger / Poverty: The good news is that House Speaker Deleo gave his support to *raising the minimum wage* to \$10.50 and offered a plan. The rubs are that the plan raises tip wages only slightly and doesn't index the minimum wage to inflation. UU Mass Action will help keeping our voices strong.

Immigrants and Community Safety: UU Mass Action has been instrumental in getting the *MA Trust Act* out of the Joint Committee for Public Safety and Homeland Security; it is the first immigration bill to get out of Committee since 2006. This legislation would curtail the use of local and state resources on federal deportation quota programs; it is a part of a wave of local legislative responses to the troubled federal "Secure Communities" deportation program whose implementation Governor Patrick sought to prevent in MA in 2011. Next steps for UUs and partners are a statewide campaign in April/May of which we can all be a part.

JOBS NOT JAILS RALLY, April 26, 1:00, on the Boston Commons: The national *Jobs Not Jails* campaign to *end mass incarceration*, is calling on the state to stop construction of new prisons and redirect the money saved into jobs programs.

Get a group together! Ride the train and T to Park Street, the Commons. Speak out for Prison Reform. For more rally info, stop at Social Justice table during coffee hour or visit uumassaction.org.

To educate our political leaders, UUMassAction helped purchase Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* for every MA State Legislator.

SAVE THE DATE: UU MASS ACTION 9th Annual ADVOCACY DAY

Tuesday, May 13 at Arlington Street Church, off Boston Commons. Program: 9:30— Breakfast with David Wilson, plaintiff in the '04 marriage equality case. 10:30-3:00—Speakers about minimum wage increase; Jobs Not Jails Campaign; Immigration Reform. Marriage Equality Celebration, Visit Legislators to advocate for issues and deliver "wedding cupcakes." Networking, UU fellowship, Justice work for social change. uumassaction.org. If you'd like a ride, contact Nancy Nowak.

Important UUM Article (excerpts) from the Spring Issue of the UU World—

Six times in the past two years, the First Church (UU) in Roxbury, Massachusetts, has opened its doors for the funerals of young black men fatally shot in gang-related violence, which has been escalating in Boston's inner city. These deaths have devastated participants in the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry program based at the church. All of the victims were between 17 and 28. Most had been former participants in the Urban Ministry's Roxbury Youth Programs, or had relatives actively involved in it. Kenny Hall, 17, a former program participant whose grandmother drives an Urban Ministry van, was shot in the back by a drive-by shooter on September 14, while he was walking past a Roxbury park. "It's a kind of genocide among our black youth in Boston," says Michelle Walsh, who has led the Urban Ministry's weekend program for 16 years and had known Hall since he was 2. "You don't have to go to Darfur or anywhere else. You can come right here in our own backyard in Boston." read more....

Continued Calendar:**TUESDAY APRIL 15**

Intern Committee 7:00-8:30p.m.
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 16

Cranberry Cluster - FPC Bridgewater
6:30p.m.

Membership 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY APRIL 17**MONDY COMMUNION SER. 6:30PM**

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Historical Committee 9:30p.m.
Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.
Govern. Board Meeting 7:30-9:00p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 18

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:00pm

SATURDAY APRIL 19

Stop, Calm, Rest, Renew 9:00-12:00pm

SUNDAY APRIL 20**EASTER SUNDAY****SUNRISE SERVICE –****DUXBURY BEACH 5:53a.m.**

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY APRIL 21**BOX PROJECT DUE DATE**

Bible Group 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY APRIL 22

Bell Choir 7-8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23

Alliance Pot Luck Dinner

THURSDAY APRIL 24

Book Club 9:00 a.m.

Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.

Summer Fair Meeting 7:30p.m.

FRIDAY APRIL 25

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:00pm

SATURDAY APRIL 26

Community Table 9-1:00p.m.

SUNDAY APRIL 27

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.

Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY APRIL 28

Building Use Mtg. 11:00a.m.

DRE Relations 7:00p.m.

Bible Group 7:00p.m.

TUESDAY APRIL 29

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY APRIL 30

Women's Ritual 7:30 p.m.

**CARING CONNECTION:**

There are many caring members of our church community who are willing to lend a hand to those having a difficult time! The Caring Connection can coordinate meals, transportation, babysitting or visits to shut-ins. For the month of **APRIL**, please contact **Gina Angell**.

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Catherine's regular office hours are **Mon., Wed., and Thur.** from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Tuesdays are her days off and Friday's are her sermon writing days. She may be contacted by cell at (781) 635-5906. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Catherine at TheRevCatherine@aol.com, at her cell number, or by leaving a message at the church.

Church Office Hours

The FPC church office is open **Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Our email address is uuduxbury@verizon.net. If you need anything, please call Lenore and I will be happy to help you.

People News

DOROTHY BUSIEK is continuing to recover from a bout with pneumonia.

FRED HUBBARD expects to be released from South Shore Hospital after a fall. We wish him the best for his continued recovery.

ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAYS - Family/Child Sunday (1st Sun. each month)
 Joys & Concerns (2nd Sun. each month)
 Announcement Sunday (1st & 3rd Sun. each month)
 Silent Joys & Concerns (4th Sun. each month)
 Music Committee (1st Sun. each month) 12 p.m.
 Social Justice 9 a.m. (2nd Sun. each month)
 Welcoming Congregation 9:30 a.m. (3rd Sun. each month)
 Denominational Affairs 12:00 (3rd Sun.)
 Buddhist Meditation 6-7:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS - Build. Use 11 a.m. (4th Mon. each month)
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each month)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 7 p.m.
 Memoirs 7:00p.m. (2nd Tues. each month)

WEDNESDAYS - RE Committee 7 p.m. (1st Wed. of each month)
 Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)
 Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1st Wed. each month)
 "Kindred Spirits" 10-11:30 p.m. (2nd Wed. each month)
 Membership 7:30 p.m. (3rd Wed. each month)

THURSDAYS - Book Group 9 a.m.
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.
 Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. (1st Thurs. each month)
 Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m. (2nd Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Historical Committee 9:30a.m. (3rd Thurs. of each month)

FRIDAYS - Committee On Ministry 5 p.m. (1st Fri. each month)

SATURDAYS - Brockton Soup Kitchen 9:15 a.m. (4th Sat. each month)

**Interning Grace**

“Stop And Smell The Flowers”
 by Intern Minister Tom Bozeman

Now that the flowers in my landlord's yard are coming up, I think (hope) that it's safe to say that Spring is here. With Spring, then, come the annual religious celebrations of rebirth such as Easter and Ostara.

I've particularly been appreciating making my trips out to the mailbox barefoot. Feeling the grass against the underside of my feet, I noticed how much more *grounded* I felt. Looking forward to the expanding daylight and all that it makes possible – the sense of hope and aliveness that comes with it.

The wintertime may be a time of staying indoors, of storytelling, of introspection and thoughtfulness. But the summertime is a time of action, of frolicking, of reconnecting, of “building a new way,” as the hymn goes.

In our increasing engagement and activity, may we remember the lessons of the Winter: the preciousness of all the richness of life that is springing up around us. Even in the hazy, hot, and humid days of July and August, may we continue to bear that memory within us – so that we may remain mindful of the wondrous bounty of existence all around us.



Attention All Committee Chairs!!
June 1st, Annual Meeting!

Your reports must be submitted by May 1st to be included in the Annual Meeting package!!



Next Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Monday, May 5th , 2014 9:00 a.m.

Special Worship Service Coming This April 17th

Maundy Thursday Service in the Chapel 6:30 pm April 17

One of the underappreciated gems in our church's worship life is the Maundy Thursday Service, held in the Chapel on the evening before Good Friday. This is a highly intimate service, celebrating the abundance of life and all the diverse facets of human endeavor that make this abundance possible. Bread (homemade by Nancy Landgren) and (non-alcoholic) wine are offered in an "intinction" (dipping) style of Communion designed to celebrate this abundance. Although some members and friends may be wary of a Communion worship, please be assured that although some the form may be similar to other such services you may have experienced, the spirit and the theology of the service are much different, and celebratory of our UU Principles. If you have never attended before, we strongly urge you to come and experience worship in the Chapel. If you have attended before, you know how special it is, and we urge you to return.

In faith, Michael Gardner, on behalf of the Worship Committee



ALLIANCE POT LUCK DINNER!
Wednesday, April 23rd

6:00-6:30 p.m. Wine & Cheese

6:30-7:30p.m. Pot Luck Dinner

7:30-9:00p.m. Program

Come join Alliance at a Pot Luck Dinner on April 23rd!! The program will be **"A Conversation on Care Giving"** - Both giving and receiving care invite physical, emotional and spiritual challenges. At some point in our lives, we will be caregivers and recipients of the care of others. Our panel will discuss the challenges and blessings of receiving and giving care.



COOKS & BAKERS NEEDED FOR THE EASTER SERVICE

On April 20th, the Fellowship Committee will be providing lots of goodies and treats for the Easter Service, but we need your help! Every year this service is attended by many and if you can help provide any baked goods or yummy treats to share, please contact Katy Gaenicke. We'd appreciate any cookies, breads, dips, quiche, or whatever your specialty is to make this service even more enjoyable for everyone!

We are All Set for Toilet Paper Rolls!

We have more than enough. Thanks for your response!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Cranberry Cluster - Wednesday April 16th at 6:30 PM

The **Spring Cranberry Cluster** will be held at First Parish UU Bridgewater.

The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee will be presented by Liisa Budge-Johnson.

Take a Tour of the nation's largest habitat refuge developed specifically for endangered African and Asian elephants. Social hour 6:30 – 7:00, Dinner 7:00. \$6.00 donation requested.

Program in honor of UU 7th Principle:

“Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which We Are a Part.”

Reservations requested by April 13, Email Betty Gilson.



Historical Committee's Missing Green Notebook

The Historical Committee is looking for a lost green 3 ring notebook. It was compiled by Joe Shea and Ginny Seaver some years ago. It contains photographs of possessions of First Parish such as furniture, silver and vases. If you locate such a notebook, please call Betsy Stevens.



Our Old Church Steeple

Parishioners:

Our old church steeple was replaced when the cellular companies wanted the space. The old one was taken down and was placed on long term loan with the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society residing in the King Caesar House Barn. The Society has now decided not to keep it and would like us to take it back.

The Church's History Committee has agreed to ask you, the parishioners if, for a donation, one of you would like to own it? The size is 13 feet tall and 3 and one half feet wide at the base, but will be cut to whatever length you would suit you.

If you have any questions please call Terry Vose (History Committee member).



'Revolutionary' Author, Alex Myers
Scheduled for the Welcoming Congregation Worship Service in May

Alex Myers, author of the novel 'Revolutionary,' will speak at the upcoming Welcoming Congregation worship service. The book is based on the true story of Deborah Sampson who disguised herself as a man to join the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Alex will speak to this fascinating combination of history and gender when he joins Catherine in the pulpit on May 11th. For more on Alex see <http://alexmyerswriting.com/about/>.



Books for the Box Project – A Thank You!

Thanks so much to all of who donated books to give to the children at Head Start. Callie Brandeis and Carol Nappellio organized the book drive. In February and March they sorted the books into five categories: infant, preschool, early reader, elementary, and young adult. They had enough to divide them so that each Head Start School, Kingston, Marshfield, and Plymouth, received a box in each category.

At the schools, parents were encouraged to choose books to bring home. Whatever was left, the schools are using to stock their classrooms so that there are plenty of books to read to their young students.

A special thanks to Jackie Smith-Miller for her efforts to find books at the Duxbury Transfer Station Library for this activity. She is the librarian at this special place.



Communications Corner

The Communications Committee is searching for an additional team of two to shoot television programs for our church which appear on public service television. Both members of the team must agree to take a series of classes to learn how to use the equipment and the rules of the station. This would be a great opportunity for anyone considering film as a future career, as well as anyone interested in learning more about television production and filming. At least one member of the team must be a legal adult. For more information, please contact Catherine or any member of the Communications Committee. - Lois Wood, Chair, Ruth Phillips Oakland, Co-chair, Troy Riley, Gary Stanton and Caleen Alexanderson

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship campaign is well underway. As we finish the last of our face-to-face visits with stewardship volunteers, we have also achieved 80% of our financial goal. This is great progress, however... there is still work to be done. Collecting in full that remaining 20% represents the difference between a challenging budget for the coming year, and a budget that continues to fund the Youth Advisor position, includes cost of living raises for our excellent staff, and provides flexibility in maintaining the many programs that make First Parish an active, vital faith community.

If you haven't yet made your pledge, please do so now. Respond to your stewardship visitor or caller, or contact any member of the Stewardship Committee:

Bob Clark
Cindy Ladd Fiorini
Mary Ann Kauffman
Sharon Nabreski

Note from the Treasurer

At this time of year and particularly as Stewardship advances the pledge drive, there is a lot of talk about fiscal years. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 and so we are now approaching the end of FY14. The current pledge drive is focused on FY15 which runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. Many are not quite sure where they stand on their current (FY14) pledge and so we will be mailing out reminders within the next month to those who have not yet completed their FY14 pledges. Note that if you have already fulfilled your pledge then you will not receive a letter. If you have questions about your pledge or other contributions - at any time - please do not hesitate to contact Amy.

Some members like to pay their pledge when they make the commitment during the Stewardship drive and this is easily handled by the treasurers. A note in the memo line is always helpful to us. We can accept payment for a given pledge before, during and even after the applicable fiscal year has ended. The most important part is honoring the commitment.

Also, if you are interested in our new service of automatic electronic withdrawals or using a credit or debit card for your pledge, please speak to me. Thank you for your financial support of our church!

Amy Hamilton, Treasurer

Winners of the South African Dinner at Sarie Booy's House!





Attention All Gardeners!

While you are tending your gardens this spring please consider potting up some of your perennials for the church fair. Day Lillys and Iris' do not sell well, but all other perennials are welcome. If you have questions, need pots, or help dividing please contact Liz Christmann.

Save the Date! Persephone Returns!

Persephone's Daughters will present "The Sum of Us" on Sunday afternoon, May 18th, 3pm, First Parish Church, Plymouth. Creator/Director Lynne Wilkinson found her inspiration for this concert while listening to an interview of Wynton Marsalis about his composition, Abyssinian Mass. After attending a performance of the Mass Ms. Wilkinson was moved to put together a concert that draws on all of the musical genres that the Persephone's Daughters has performed over the last 12 years, a reflection of "The Sum of Us". The program will include songs from The Great American Song Book, as well as Gregorian Chant and Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah. There will be something for everyone. PROCEEDS FROM THIS CONCERT WILL GO TO FIRST PARISH CHURCH. SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Classifieds:

Elyse Frongillo, Paul's daughter, is looking for a roommate for her 3 bedroom apartment in Dorchester. Please contact Elyse or Paul.