

The Bell-Ringer

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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 1-- "Finding Our Voice", Our Annual Welcome Congregational Service will have some special guests as we celebrate with music and words the inherent dignity and worth of everyone! Appearance of a very special chorus. Come join us for this important service!!

May 8 -- "Annual MUSIC SUNDAY Worship Service"- Please join us for a morning of beautiful music performed by fellow parishioners and special guest musicians. Always one of the nicest services of the year - Bring Mom!

May 15 -- "Wrap Your Heart Around It" -- On Sunday May 15th, LynnMarie Rink, a five-time Grammy nominated performing artist and television professional, will be in the pulpit playing her diatonic button accordion and talking about her life. LynnMarie will draw on her recently published memoir in which she writes about her dysfunctional family, her alcoholic father, her struggles with depression, and her experience as the parent of a special needs child. LynnMarie's music and message will encourage you, whatever may be troubling you, to "Wrap Your Heart Around It."

May 22 -- "Balloon Sunday"- A service for the whole family. The service will include recognition, appreciation, and celebration of our wonderful volunteers and our young people's exciting transitions to the future. Picnic following Worship and all church picture at 12 p.m.

May 29 -- "All That Jazz" -- Once again, our wonderful friends, the Williams College Reunion Jazz Band will join us for a delightful service. Fun Service!

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MAY 1

WELCOME CONGREGATION SERVICE

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am
Worship 10:30a.m.
Green Sanctuary 12:00p.m.

HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.
Buddhist Group 4:00-6:30p.m.

MONDAY MAY 2

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!

Building Use Meeting 9:30a.m.

TUESDAY MAY 3

Bell Choir 7:00-8:30p.m.
RE Meeting 7:00-9:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY MAY 4

Building & Grounds 9:00a.m.

THURSDAY MAY 5

Book Club 9:00a.m.
Alliance 10:00-2:00p.m.
Small Group 1:00-3:00p.m.
Worship 7:00p.m.

FRIDAY MAY 6

YOGA 10:30-11:45a.m.
Committee on Ministry 5:00p.m.

SATURDAY MAY 7

DIC - Holy Family 9:00a.m.

SUNDAY MAY 8

MUSIC SUNDAY

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30am
Worship 10:30a.m.
Social Justice 12:00 noon
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

This Mother's Day will be my first since my mother's passing--I offer these thoughts to you (and to me) from a sermon I preached some years back

Some of us here did have mothers who loved us deeply... But some of us were not well nurtured by our mothers. ...Some of our mothers were incompetent, neglectful or troubled. Some of our mothers were wounded or longing or dying. Some of our mothers were cruel and abusive.

And in some extreme cases, some of our mothers did us great harm. Sometimes mother and child simply brought out the worst in each other, like a kind of allergic reaction.

There was a time when we struggled with our relationship-- my mother and I. We were different people, born in different times. When we look out of one window, my mother and I see very different things. But some time ago, I have made peace with my mother. It's said that the secret to serenity is finding delight and joy in what is. Sometimes when I look for my mother's support and encouragement, it simply is not there. My mother is not perfect, but what she's able to offer me is decidedly hers, --- *and decidedly good enough.* I find ways to bless my mother and to stay connected in the midst of all our mutual imperfections.....

Continued on page 2 ...

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

Ruth Owen, Interim Director of Religious Education

Edwin Swanborn, Music Director

Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director

Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director

Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus

Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education, Emerita

Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator

Minister's Message continued from page 1 . . .

No parent can ever meet all the needs of a child. As much as we want to protect our children from pain and suffering in this world, we can't always do that. This world is not perfect. As the book of Genesis teaches, after each day of creating the sun, the moon, the sky, the plants and animals, God the creator saw that it was good. Not perfect--but good. And after six days, God looked around at it all and said, "it's very good." *Not perfect. But very good.*

Human love is good, very good, but it is not perfect. .I'm hoping that in my life the mistakes that I make with my children will be balanced by moments when I have offered them true, unconditional love. I am not a perfect mother. Human love, human hope, human strength, even the extraordinary love, hope and strength of motherhood, is not endless, is not limitless, is not perfect. But this Mother's Day I am remembering that the most important gift I can give to my children, the most important gift that we each can give to one another, is the gift of loving and caring and staying connected in spite of all of our imperfections.....

Blessings on those mothers who loved us well.

Blessings on those mothers who loved us as well as they could.

Blessings on those who gave us life.

Blessings on those who showed us how to live it.

Blessings on *good enough* mothers everywhere!

P.S. Happy Mother's Day, mom---miss you dearly...

Catherine



Transitions and Looking Forward

As we look towards May and the wrapping up of the church year there is much to be thankful for and, undeniably, much work to be done. In the next week I will have meetings with the Transition Team and the RE Committee to start talking in concrete terms about the way forward. My annual report will be a detailed review of all we have accomplished in this first year of interim work and a list of the interim tasks as yet undone. I expect that next month I will be able to share with you some of the broad outlines of the changes planned for next year.

But, in the meantime, May is the month to celebrate and say goodbye. May 22 is Balloon Sunday when we will be saying farewell to eight graduating seniors. I have only known these kids for a year and yet I will miss them dearly. We will also be recognizing our 7-8 graders who completed the Coming of Age program this year and welcoming two of them into the HIP group for next year. I also want to celebrate and say a huge “Thank you” to all the folks who have volunteered in the RE program this year. You are a small but mighty band, fierce in your commitment to the children and youth of this church. It is an honor and privilege to work with all of you. I am looking forward to great things to come!

Ruth Owen
Interim Director of Religious Education

RE Calendar:

May 15 -- HIP Car Wash

May 22 -- Balloon Sunday

Bible Workbench meets **May 9 & 23** at 7 PM.

The next meeting of the **widows’ group** is **Wednesday, May 18**. Please contact Ruth Owen if you are interested in joining us.



Adult Religious Education



1+ Widows' Group

The **1+ Widows' group** is a social group for any woman who has lost her spouse or partner. We go out to dinner once a month and have other activities in between. If you would like to be included on the Google group for this group to keep informed of our activities, please email ruthowendre@gmail.com. The group is open to all members and friends, and friends of friends of FPC.



Bible Workbench

Bible Workbench is a Bible discussion group for religious liberals who are interested in learning about the Bible and how its stories may relate to our lives. Our next meetings are May 9 & 23. Contact Ruth Owen for more information.



MEMOIRS

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 10th, 7:15pm – Marion Fletcher Room, Topic for this month: **Birth to 10 Years****. This month we've decided to write a brief overview of the first 10 years of our lives. (Where & when we were born, our family make up, places we lived, what was happening in the world, our church experience or not, toys, games and activities we enjoyed, what technology was available, illnesses, school life, etc.)

Everyone is welcome to join us and per usual you may elect to write about an event of your choosing or to come just to listen and learn about our group. **Leader: Jackie Smith-Miller.**



Ring Out Justice!



News of Social Justice Activities at First Parish Church

Social Justice Committee Members:

***Carrie Meier, Carol Nappellio, Peter Nappellio, Callie Brandeis, Andrea Brandeis, Mary Flanagan, Donna Savicki, Cindy Wilson, Bob Hughes, Nancy Nowak, Sally Delisa
Please Join Us! All Welcome!***



Overnights of Hospitality

The Overnights of Hospitality emergency sheltering program is over till late next winter. This season we doubled the number of meals we provided – doing 2 per month for 5 months, and for the first time had volunteers who served as overnight chaperones. A big THANK YOU goes out to the 20 volunteers from our church community. Through your work you truly embody the motto of “deeds not creeds”.



Father Bill's Community Table - Saturday, May 28th

This is our last Father Bill's Community Table of this church year. Please consider signing up for one or more of the following needs:

- 5 servers
- 4 desserts
- 3 salad fixings
- 12 casseroles (casserole recipes and pans are provided at the Social Justice table at coffee hour after church)

Please stop by the Social Justice table at coffee hour after church to sign up in person or email Callie Brandeis @ calbrandeis@gmail.com.

Thank you!

Callie Brandeis, *Youth Leader for Father Bill's and member of the Social Justice Committee*

Making Our Criminal Justice System More Just

Inspired by our service on this topic last fall, several members of the Social Justice Committee have been working with the Mass Bail Fund, which expanded its operations to Plymouth County just last month. To date, five people have been bailed out of the Plymouth jail by a Mass Bail Fund volunteer, and two have been bailed out in Plymouth County courthouses. An all-volunteer organization, the Mass Bail Fund was created in 2013 by a group of public defenders and social workers in response to the practice of putting people in jail because they cannot afford bail. The Mass Bail Fund provides poor defendants with up to \$500 bail. Thus far, they have bailed out about 250 people in Suffolk, Worcester, Essex, and now, Plymouth County. Half of all 250 cases have been settled and in half of those, the charges were dismissed; that's more than 60 people who might have been incarcerated for crimes they were never even tried for. The Mass Bail Fund knows that people who are incarcerated pre-trial have poorer legal outcomes. Being incarcerated can mean losing your job and/or your housing; it can mean missing critical medical appointments/treatments, and even losing custody of your children.

We are looking for FPC members and friends interested in serving as volunteers for the Mass Bail Fund. Volunteers go to the Plymouth jail and actually post bail. We are also trying to line up volunteers who would be able to go to Plymouth County courthouses during the daytime to post bail for women who will otherwise be incarcerated at MCI-Framingham. We are rapidly becoming two societies in America and this is one way you can gain an appreciation for the problems facing poor people in this country while playing a critical role in mitigating one of the injustices in our criminal justice system.

There will be a training session Friday, May 6 at 11:00 at the UU church in Brockton. If you are interested in attending the training (one to two hours), which is mandatory for Mass Bail Fund volunteers, please contact Donna Savicki (dsavicki@comcast.net) and Louellyn Lambros (llambros46@hotmail.com).

If you would like more information about our interactions with the Mass Bail Fund, please go to the Social Justice Committee's page on the church's website or contact me.
Donna Savicki (dsavicki@comcast.net)

Social Justice Outreach Committee – FPC Grant to UU Urban Ministry

In March, the Social Justice Outreach Committee awarded \$2500 of FY 16 cell funds to UU Urban Ministry for their Summer Activities Program. UUUM offers young people from Roxbury and nearby neighborhoods safe, fun and stimulating activities during the summer.

Elementary Students: Summer Campership Program, an Arts Intensive Program conducted by UUUM's partner and neighbor, *Roxbury Community College*, will enroll 20 elementary students, offering them a wide range of arts-related activities, workshops, exercise and "before / after care" and tutoring each day. The program provides subsidies up to \$400 for 10 campers to attend Arts at Park in Brookline.

High School Students: Youth Employment Program offers 12-15 teens a source of income and meaningful work experience, fostering skills for academic and professional success. UUUM partners with *Boston Youth Fund*, which helps pay youth salaries.

Our FPC Cell grant helps change the lives of Roxbury children and youth during the summer. The Summer Activities Program is managed well. UUUM leaders have strong relationships with their community partners, the students and their parents. UUUM staff are very grateful to FPC UU Duxbury for our support! Thank you, First Parish Church! Together we are making a difference in Roxbury! *Social Justice Outreach Committee, Sally Delisa/Nancy Nowak*



State Rep. Byron Rushing Giving a Talk to UU Urban Ministry

UUUM Board Member and State Rep. Byron Rushing recently gave a talk at the UU Urban Ministry entitled “*Urban Renewal Then, Gentrification Now.*” Visit UUUM.org/home to watch a video of Rep. Rushing’s talk!



UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2016

Advocacy Day was held April 12th at Arlington Street Church, on the Commons in Boston. Over 150 UUs from MA’s 142 UU churches attended. Our day together began with a worship service led by Rev. Sarah Stewart from Worcester, music and song from Unity Church in N. Easton, and an informative, rousing update of current legislation from State Senate President Stan Rosenberg from Amherst. We received training from UUMA staff and partner leaders about bills related to UU Mass Action’s priority issues: End Mass Incarceration (Rev Bill Gardiner / Susan Tordella, leaders), Economic Inequality (Chuck Collins), Immigration Rights (Denise Garcia), and Climate Action/Clean Energy (Evan Seitz-UUMA intern). Sarie Booy and Nancy Nowak had a fruitful day bringing *your letters* to our area Representatives and Senators and meeting with legislators at the State House and during the afternoon. Thank you to all FPC Letter-Signers!



People Power helped cancel the Kinder-Morgan Gas Pipeline on April 21st!

Coalitions of organizations, including *UU Mass Action* in concert with many UU congregations, *350-MA*, *Clean Water*, and many other groups, worked tirelessly in Western Massachusetts against the K-M pipeline. **And citizens won!**

UU-UNITED NATIONS OFFICE NEWS
What your UU-UNO is Involved in at the United Nations

***DRUG POLICY:** The UN is currently in the midst of a UN General Assembly Special Session on global drug policy. This session is focusing on how to approach drugs globally from a treatment perspective rather than a punishment one.

***CLIMATE JUSTICE / ETHICAL EATING:** Collaborative work revolves around encouraging people to *decrease the amount of meat that they eat*, because of the disastrous effects on our environment and climate.

***SPRING SEMINAR '16**— Statement about World Economic Inequality is now on line: visit <http://www.uua.org/international/events/seminar/colors-inequality-costs-and-consequences>
See a live UN WebTV broadcast from the UN during the Income Inequality Seminar: visit <http://webtv.un.org/search/uu-uno-spring-seminar-2016/4837786864001?term=UU-UNO>

VOTE FOR our new STATE SENATOR on MAY 10th. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to vote! *Joan Meschino* and *Pat O'Connor* won the primary election for the Plymouth-Norfolk District (Weymouth-Hingham south along the coast through Duxbury). As UUs we covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

SAVE THE DATE: *UU Urban Ministry Renewal House Picnic* will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2016 with Kingston, Plymouth and Duxbury UUs at Plymouth Campground.

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MONDAY MAY 9

Bible Workbench 7:00-8:30p.m.
Finance Meeting 7:00p.m.
Welcome Congregation 7:00p.m.

TUESDAY MAY 10

Memoirs 7:15p.m.
Communications 7:00p.m.
Bell Choir 7:00-8:30p.m.
By-Laws 7:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY MAY 11

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

THURSDAY MAY 12

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.
Agenda Setting Meeting
10:00a.m.

FRIDAY MAY 13

YOGA 10:30-11:45a.m.

SUNDAY MAY 15

HIP CAR WASH

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Membership Meeting
HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.
Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY MAY 17

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

MONDAY MAY 18

Calendar Coordination Event

THURSDAY MAY 19

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Historical Committee 9:00a.m.
Alliance Luncheon 10-2:00 p.m.
Governing Board 7:00p.m.

FRIDAY MAY 20

YOGA 10:30a.m. – 11:45p.m.
Rental in Hall 1:00 – 4:00p.m.

SUNDAY MAY 22

BALLOON SUNDAY 🎈

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY MAY 23

Bible Workbench 7:00-8:30p.m.
PFLAG 7:30p.m.-9:00p.m.

TUESDAY MAY 24

BELL RINGER DUE DATE

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

THURSDAY MAY 26

Book Club 9:00 a.m.
Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.

FRIDAY MAY 27

YOGA 10:30-11:45a.m.
Wedding Rehearsal 4:30p.m.

SATURDAY MAY 28

Community Table 9:00a.m.
Wedding & Reception 4:00pm

SUNDAY MAY 29

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

MONDAY MAY 30

MEMORIAL DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

11:00a.m. Town Service

TUESDAY MAY 31

Bell Choir 7:00 – 8:30p.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 **MAY**, please contact **GEORGE ANDERSON**, ganderson1951@gmail.com, **617-416-5000**.



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

We would like to welcome our **NEW MEMBERS** that recently signed the book in April: **MARY LYNN CARSON, LESTER LLOYD AND PHILLIP ANGELL.**

We would like to congratulate **JAY BRAY** for running another successful **BOSTON MARATHON.** Way to go Jay!!

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)
 Membership 9:00am (3rd Sun. each month)
 Music Committee (1st Sun. each month) 12 p.m.
 Social Justice 9 a.m. (2nd Sun. each month)
 Buddhist Meditation 5-6:30p.m. (weekly)

MONDAYS – Building Use 9:30 a.m. (4th Mon. each month)
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2nd Mon. each month)
 Welcoming Congregation 7:00pm (2nd Monday of each month)
 PFLAG – 7:30-9:00pm (4th Monday of each month)

TUESDAYS - Hand Bells 7 p.m.
 Memoirs 7:15p.m. (2nd Tues. each month)
 Communications 7:00pm (2nd Tuesday of every 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” 9:30-11:00 a.m. (2nd 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 10:00a.m. (2nd Thurs. each month)
 Governing Board 7 p.m. (3rd Thurs. each month)
 Historical Committee 9:00a.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)

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

On May 18th we are having a Calendar Coordination event.

We are trying to coordinate the church life. Catherine and Ruth are developing their monthly theme plans. There are many groups involved in the life of the church and hopefully we can plan ahead to help everyone. The calendar will be developed during May and June, so we will have opportunities to move things around.

We are asking all Committee Chairs, Task Force Leaders, and activity organizations to do the following:

1. Think about what your group wants on the church calendar. This includes, regular committee meetings, special events, also anytime you need space in the church.
2. Meet with your committee, if only by email, and compile a list of dates, times and spaces.
3. Bring them to a drop in day, May 18th from 1-4 and 6:30 to 8:30PM so that we can put them on the schedule.

If you can't make that time frame, just email (clarkland@verizon.net) or give me a call (781-934-6006).

Thanks to all in this effort to plan ahead!

Nancy Landgren, President



Alliance Pot Luck Luncheon
3rd Thursday of the Month, May 19th
12:00 noon in the Parlor

On May 19th, at our monthly Pot Luck Luncheon, we will be holding our Annual Meeting and a brief Memorial Service for members who have passed this year. Please join us for this important meeting!



Next Bell-Ringer Deadline:
Tuesday, May 24th, 2016

Bylaws Task Force

At the request of the Governing Board, a task force has been reviewing the bylaws during the past several months. We will be proposing several amendments during each of the next two or three parish meetings, starting with the Annual Program Meeting next month.

At this meeting, we will present the following changes for consideration:

- A series of ‘housekeeping changes’ that will not alter the intent of existing bylaws.
- Moving an age-based voting restriction clause from Article VI, Section E to Article IV, Section B
- A change in language of Article IV, Section C that deals with removing an individual from membership. Current language reads “The Governing Board may remove from membership any person who has made no recorded financial contribution since the beginning of the previous fiscal year and *who shows no interest*, in the judgment of the Governing Board after reasonable investigation, in continued membership.”

The new language would read “The Governing Board may remove from membership any person who has made no recorded financial contribution since the beginning of the previous fiscal year and ***does not participate in the life of the church*** in the judgment of the Governing Board after reasonable investigation.”

- A change in language of Article VI, Section C 2a, 3a, and 4. As a result of this change, minutes of the Annual Program Meeting will be read at the next Program Meeting, minutes of the Annual Finance Meeting will be read at the next Finance Meeting, and minutes will not be read at any Special Meeting.

At present, minutes will be read at the next meeting of the parish, so that Program Meeting minutes are read at the Finance Meeting and vice versa, unless there is a Special Meeting of the Parish. More substantively, we recommend the following changes:

- Article VIII, Section D, Adding language to prohibit any at-large member of the Governing Board from chairing a committee in his/her group.
- Article VIII, Section G, Adding 5e, an additional category that calls for an executive session of the Governing Board.:

e. issues pertaining to an individual Member or Friend of the parish.

- **Article VIII**, Section J Delete in entirety. This section describes the number, purpose, and timing of meetings of committee chairs, called by the Governing Board. In our opinion, this is a policy matter that should not be in the bylaws.
- Finally, we recommend a change in the bylaws covering the Music and Worship Committees to reflect the fact that this is now a combined Worship/Music Committee.

Bob Clark, Chair



Coming Next Fall to FPC: SHARE THE PLATE

The ritual of the Sunday morning offering is a staple at First Parish, but it's not very exciting. Money dropped into the collection plate ends up in the operating fund, paying for routine needs like the electric bill. But an exciting change is coming. In April our Governing Board voted to do as many UU churches do and adopt a Share the Plate giving program.

What is Share the Plate?

Once each month, we will share our entire non-pledge collection plate with a member-nominated non-profit organization whose mission and values align with those of our church.

Why Share the Plate?

Our Unitarian Universalist principles call for us to work for justice and humanity. By reaching out and giving to the broader community, we are showing who we are and for what we stand. And Sharing the Plate is an important way for FPC to intentionally cultivate a habit of generosity.

With whom do we Share the Plate?

You tell us! Very soon we will be seeking your nominations for the organizations that you would like to see become Share the Plate recipients. So be thinking!



Attention All Gardeners!

Now is the perfect time to get outside and re-organize, prune, beat back, and divide your perennials, shrubs, and herbs. When you do please pot up some plants for our plant sale at the fair. If you need pots, advice or assistance digging please let me know. Iris and orange daylilies don't sell so please add those to your compost pile. Thank you!

Liz Christmann, alil2@comcast.net



THANK YOU, THANK YOU FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As another year's pledge drive draws to a close, the Stewardship Committee would like to both thank you and let you know what a great success it has been. Thank you for going on line and making your pledge in a timely manner and in a way that saved lots of resources – both material and personal. Very little paper, ink and other materials were utilized and the committee was able to manage the pledge drive without calling upon the congregation to help with calls and visits. Many of you rose to the challenge to increase your pledge by 3% and for that we are very grateful. If you were unable to increase or even if you had to decrease a little, we are very grateful for those pledges as well. We are a community and each pledge counts towards the greater whole. As of press time, 96 out of our approximately 125 total pledging units have pledged \$166,645!!! We are almost to our goal of \$185,000. (A three percent increase from last year.) This will give our Finance Committee a good basis from which to start putting together the budget for next year. Of course if we go over the goal a little bit that's even better!

If by some chance you have not yet had the opportunity to make your pledge, please **go to:** (<http://www.uudux.org/stewardship/>) if you are reading this online and you will be taken to the pledge page. Otherwise go to [uudux.org/stewardship](http://www.uudux.org/stewardship/). If you would like to speak to a member of the committee first, or prefer a stewardship visit to pledging online, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

With gratitude - Cindy Ladd Fiorini, Sharon Nabreski, Bob Clark, Mary Ann Kauffman, Amy Hamilton, Audra Shattuck.

ANNUAL
MEETING

**ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS!!
JUNE 5TH
ANNUAL MEETING**

Your reports must be submitted by **May 2nd** to be included in the Annual Meeting package!!



SUMMER FAIR NEWS!!

The 166th First Parish Church Summer Fair Saturday, June 18th from 8:30am to 2pm.

We need your help! Donations and Volunteers needed!

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help sort donations, set up/break down the fair, and help sell goods and food on fair day. The Summer Fair is a great place to get to know your fellow UUs, help our church raise money, and become a part of our church history. To volunteer just a few hours or an entire day, please see/contact any of the people mentioned in this flyer or see our sign up table at coffee hour.

Donations

Donations Needed! Donations can be dropped off at the church during business hours and Sundays before and after church beginning May 26th.

To schedule a pick-up of large items or furniture on **Haul Day, Saturday, June 11th**, please call Lenore at the church office.

DO NOT place your donations in the church shed as it is currently being used for the Box Project. Please contact Summer Fair Chair, Tracy Wagner - wagnertracy@comcast.net (781) 829-9670, with any questions or if you have a donation that cannot wait.

PLANTS: When thinning out your perennials, please consider donating extra plants to the Fair. Day lilies and Irises do not sell well, but all other perennials are welcome. If you have questions, need pots, or help dividing please contact Liz Christmann, alil2@comcast.net or 781-585-6107.

JEWELRY: Women's, men's, and children's jewelry including Gold, sterling silver, and precious gems, costume jewelry, watches, clean hair accessories, broken or single earrings, gold or sterling pieces and broken strings of beads, Jewelry boxes- all sizes,

scarves (not winter scarves), pocketbooks and wallets in good condition, and small boxes for display of fine jewelry. Please, no winter scarves or other clothing items. Questions, contact Karen Sankey at kfsankey@gmail.com .

BOOKS: All books, both hardcover & paperback in good condition. Please, no textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, mildewed or damaged books. For more information please contact Woodie & Elaine Lackey at asio525@gmail.com.

WHITE ELEPHANT: Household & Decorative goods that are clean and in good condition. Small kitchen appliances should be in working condition. No clothing or shoes. Please no TVs or computers. No coffee mugs with logos of any kind. Please - only clean linens in good condition. For more information, please contact Marilynn Christmann at mcwc@comcast.net.

AUCTION: Furniture in good, saleable condition. Please, no appliances of any type, television or television stands, treadmills, mattresses or heavy exercise equipment, couches of any type, and no stuffed or upholstered furniture of any kind unless in new condition. For more information, please contact Jim Hamilton at jim@greenharbor.com

COLLECTABLES: All collectables in good, clean and saleable condition. Please, no broken or chipped dishes and or glass, no sharp objects such as razors, knives, or garden tools etc., and no linen pieces items which are ripped, or torn. For more information please contact Gail Murphy, gsmurphy541@gmail.com .

SPORTING GOODS/TOOLS: All sporting goods and tools, pet items and gardening items. All items must be clean and in good condition. Please, no outdated electronics, computers, computer monitors, outdated televisions or heavy exercise equipment. For more information contact Karl Schweitzer at [wyoral-schweitzer@att.net](mailto:wyorah-schweitzer@att.net) .

CHILDREN'S WHITE ELEPHANT: Toys, games and puzzles in good, clean and saleable condition. Please, no car seats, cribs or videotapes. For more information, please contact Kathy Bray, kbray8832@aol.com , or Sharon Nabreski, snabreski@comcast.net .

BAKE TABLE: If you can bake items for fair day, please contact Kathleen Teehan at kadteehan@yahoo.com or Katy Gaenicke at k.gaenicke@comcast.net

Thank you for supporting this community wide event!

Tracy Wagner

SOLAR PANELS ON FPC ROOF?



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Financial Savings
Our electricity bills could be greatly reduced, up to 100% saving up to \$5000 per year! That money could be used for important programs here at church.

Energy Independence
By producing our own power from our rooftop panels, we would consume less electricity from the grid.



Our Own "Green" Power Plant
Installing solar panels on our roof would transform our church from just another house of worship into a "green" power plant. The energy comes straight from the sun -- not from burning fossil fuels.

Our 7th Principle
"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part"
Approximately 67% of U.S. electricity is currently generated by burning fossil fuels. We can help by reducing the electricity we draw, and reduce carbon emissions, resulting in cleaner air, water, and soil on this planet.

Planning for Our Future

- No one knows how much longer our cell grants will be providing us with income.
- We need more young families to join our church. Showing that we are committed to the environment will be a draw for them.
- By installing solar panels, we would insure zero electricity costs for the future of this church.

Please contact Jim Savicki or Lois Wood with questions.



Green Sanctuary Task Force News

We have been hard at work investigating the possibility of solar panels on the Harvey Assembly roof. Our first goal is to get a sense of the membership: are church members interested in doing this? We held an informational meeting after church on April 24, as part of the Earth Day service.

We handed out the attached flyer about the possible benefits of this project. Our committee meetings are the first Sunday of the month after church. Please join us, or contact us for more information. Thank you, Jim Savicki (chair), Lois Wood (Vice Chair)

Financial Aid Available for College-Bound Students

First Parish Church has resources to help with college costs. Students who are themselves members of First Parish Church, as well as the children of church members, who will attend an accredited college or university next fall are invited to apply for the 2016-2017 Means Scholarship and/or a Hamilton Loan.

One Means Scholarship in the amount of \$3,000 will be awarded to the applicant with the highest GPA over 2.7. In the event of a tie, two scholarships will be awarded. Applicants must have already been accepted by a college or university that is accredited by an organization recognized by the US Department of Education. If the student selected to receive the scholarship decides to defer college,

the Trustees will hold the award for one year. Interested students should contact Jeanne Penvenne, chair of the Trustees, by mail or email by **June 1, 2016**. Please state the name of the college you will be attending next fall and your High School GPA. Please include a copy of your High School transcript. Also include a phone number where you can be reached and your home address.

Jeanne's contact information is as follows: Jeanne Penvenne, Jeanne.penvenne@gmail.com
Or 162 Oak Street, Duxbury MA 02332

Qualified students (children of a church member, or church members themselves, who will be attending an accredited college or university in the fall) who are interested in receiving loans from the Hamilton Loan fund should contact Rudy Langner. The amount of any one loan will not exceed \$2,500. Students and their parents will both be asked to sign promissory notes, agreeing to repay the loan within three years after graduating, or if they do not graduate, within one year after terminating their studies. The loans incur no interest if repaid on time. Loans not repaid on time will accrue interest. There is no deadline for applying for a Hamilton Loan.

Rudy's contact information is as follows: Rudy Langner, rudylangner77@gmail.com
Or PO Box 816, Green Harbor, MA 02041

If you have questions, please contact any member of the Trustees: Rudy Langner, Peter Nappellio, Russ Pelham, Jeanne Penvenne, or Donna Savicki.

