



First Parish in Brookline

A WELCOMING UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Combined JULY and AUGUST 2010 Newsletter

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BOOK CLUB

The next book for us will be Terry Prachett's *Nation* – This is a change from the note sent out in May. **ALSO**, since the routine "first Sunday of the month" date is the July 4 holiday, meeting is moved to Sunday, July 11. Same time: 7:30 pm

MEDITATION

Every Sunday at 9:00 am during July and August - Come sit with us for quiet contemplation and fellowship. There will be short sittings and shared readings. No experience needed, instruction provided. We of the FP Sangha are friendly, welcoming and encourage enjoyment of the present. Please join us in the moment (take stairs near the kitchen and follow the signs). For questions or information, contact:

meditation@firstparishinbrookline.org

NEXT NEWSLETTER

September Issue
Deadline for material August 27th

JULY and AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer Services are held at 10 a.m. in Lyon Chapel We'll gather for Sunday worship during the summer in the intimate chapel overlooking a wooded hillside.

- July 4** **No Service – Holiday weekend**
July 11 **Lorraine and Bennett Hammond:** Simple Gifts: Love, Faith and American Folk Songs
July 18 **Paul Mathew:** Approach the Present with Your Heart's Consent
July 25 **Shellymae Simmons:** Psalm 22: The Whole Story Matters
August 1 **Rev. Martha Niebanck:** Lammaside: a Festival of Gratitude. Bring some of your own "first harvest," metaphorical or edible, to share.
August 8 **April Trussell-Smith:** The Practice of Irreverence
August 15 **MaryHelen Gunn:** Emptying into Fullness: Swimming in Living Waters
August 22 **Jennifer Dillinger:** The Tree of Life: Visions of Nature in Urban Living
August 29 **Rev. Jim Sherblom:** "Summer Ends but Love Abides"
September 5 **No Service – Holiday weekend**

Sanctuary Services resume on September 12

Remember to MARK those CALENDARS for

Harbor to the Bay Ride - Saturday - September 25 - This is a 120 mile bike ride from Boston to Provincetown to raise community awareness of AIDS. They donate 100% of their proceeds to four local AIDS prevention organizations. Riders can ride 60 miles or the entire 120. Non-riders can man a pit stop along the way. We have created "Team First Parish Brookline" and already have three committed riders. We are also recruiting a group from FPB to sponsor a pit stop. If you're interested in riding or working the FPB pit stop, contact Steve Davis or Nick Peterson. It's not too early to start thinking about this!

Photo Directory Plans - October 18th – 23rd Olin Mills will be returning to once again take photos of members and friends who would like to be included in a church wide photo directory. The last time we did this was in the fall of '05 so we think it's time again. Rima Osornio will again be leading this effort and she'd love a team to help her coordinate all that needs to be done. If you are interested in helping please let her know.

STAINED GLASS COMMITTEE PROGRESS

An email came to office@firstparishinbrookline.org in early June from a resident of Tucson, Arizona. It begins "I attended First Parish in the 60's as grade schooler, in the choir and for Sunday school. I was just relating to a colleague about the incredible stained glass I remembered from back then - --" Truly an inspiration for the restoration efforts of the Stained Glass Committee. Our stated goal is to educate the public of the origin and historic significance of the stained glass windows; we have just begun to catch glimpses of the many who feel the windows to be part of the roots that hold them fast.

We are grateful for the initial financial support from the Committee, First Parish members and friends, that allowed us to bring in an expert stained glass consultant, Julie Sloan, on June 24 to do a conditions analysis of the Tiffany/Nativity and the Lowell/Whitman windows. This analysis will provide us with individual recommendations for each window, and the anticipated cost of restoration. Because both windows may fairly said to be in crisis we will focus on their restoration to take place as soon as funding is achieved.

We are pleased to announce an agreement establishing the Brookline Community Foundation (BCF) as the financial manager of the First Parish Stained Glass Fund. Financial management means that BCF will receive restricted gifts deposited in the FPSGF, acknowledge donor gifts and provide tax acknowledgements for them. BCF also provides a vibrant link to the Brookline community at large.

We encourage any and all questions and concerns, which may be addressed to any of our committee members. We thank Reverend Jim for his unflagging support and willingness to attend 8:00 AM meetings.

Sheila Hussey, Chair, Sally Dwyer, Chip DeWitt, Rich Suter.

ENTER FREELY ... LEAVE SOMETHING

April Trussell-Smith, Membership Coordinator membership@firstparishinbrookline.org

You may not remember my first column for the First Parish newsletter, but in it I explained my column title. It's from a creepy scene in Bram Stoker's Dracula in which Count Dracula asks his intended victim to enter his home freely, but to leave something of his own happiness behind. I offer this reminder, because this summer, I'd like to give you an opportunity to leave something of your happiness at First Parish. Part of how we engage with each other on a weekly basis is our hospitality hour. This time is important for connecting us to each other as a community and also for showing our openness to newcomers. Let's explore what Webster's Online Dictionary has to say about "hospitality":

hos·pi·tal·i·ty \,häs-pə-'ta-lə-tē\ *noun*: hospitable treatment, reception, or disposition

hos·pi·ta·ble hä-'spi-tə-bəl, 'häs-(,)pi-\ *adjective*

1 a: given to generous and cordial reception of guests **b** : promising or suggesting generous and cordial welcome **c** : offering a pleasant or sustaining environment

2 : readily receptive : **open**

Wouldn't it be **wonderful** if every member of the First Parish community volunteered to make sure that coffee hour is hospitable for newcomers and oldtimers alike? Sign up to provide at least 1/3 of a coffee hour next church year. It's relatively inexpensive and not overly time consuming. Commit one hour and \$25 dollars to offering a pleasant and sustaining spread to your fellow community members one Sunday and enjoy the rest of the Sundays guilt-free!

To sign up, contact the Welcoming Team at membershipcommittee@firstparishinbrookline.org.

P.S. Providing a full coffee hour is also a great project for small groups and committees and gives you a chance to tell the rest of the congregation what your group is all about.

CARING COMMITTEE

We continue to offer an extension of community care for church members whose daily needs (i.e. rides, food, pet sitting, home visits, etc.) and routines may be interrupted by short term personal crisis/emergencies. Feel free to contact following for assistance: Madeline Fine at carecoordinator@firstparishinbrookline.org or Rev. Martha at minister@firstparishinbrookline.org. Please do let us know how we can help. All inquiries are kept confidential.

SOCIAL ACTION - WHAT'S HAPPENING??

Here's an easy way to hear what's happening on the Social Action front at First Parish – join our listserv by sending a message to socialaction-subscribe@firstparishinbrookline.org from your preferred email address. You'll hear a bit more than in the general church notices about opportunities to make a difference in our church and wider community. Also; to unsubscribe: socialaction-unsubscribe@firstparishinbrookline.org

GREETING CARDS and BOOKSMARKS Wanted

Please bring your unused birthday and general greeting cards and bookmarks for residents of nursing homes and long term care facilities who have no family and receive no personal mail. These cards and bookmarks will be distributed by the social services departments of two such facilities, one in Massachusetts and one in San Francisco. Joellen Hawkins has been collecting cards and bookmarks for this purpose for a couple years and they are most appreciated and loved by the residents. You can get the cards to Joellen in person at church or place in the marked basket located on the sign up table outside Lyon Chapel. Thanks so much. Contact Joellen Hawkins with questions.

SUMMER STAFFING and BUILDING SCHEDULE

While we are not closing the building this summer (i.e. the building is open), nor is staff taking the summer off (i.e. staff are available) although everyone will be working on an abbreviated schedule.

Here is the basic plan as of the creation of this newsletter:

Administrators Summer Hours – Sonya will also be on vacation from June 28th until July 2nd and the office will be closed on Monday, July 5th (holiday), but for the remainder of the summer Sonya currently plans on being in the office from approximately 9am until 2pm **Monday thru Friday** gathering messages and dealing with a variety of projects. Additional vacation time might be taken here and there.

Ministers Summer Hours - Both Rev. Martha and Rev. Jim will be taking some vacation time and some study leave this summer but there will always be at least one of them available for any emergencies or special needs during the summer. If you can't reach one of them directly just call the church office 617-566-1933 and leave a message then Sonya can usually reach either of them to pass along the message as well.

Other staff members – Anne, MaryHelen and April will all be working from their respective homes as the need arises. Ingrid will continue working evenings as projects dictate.

Custodial Summer Hours - We are giving Frank the weekend's off this summer and therefore he will not be available on Sunday mornings for the month of July and August. Frank will be on the premises on Monday mornings and Chris will be available on Friday mornings.

Return to Regular Schedules – Staff and building schedule should resume beginning the day after Labor Day – September 7 in preparation for Homecoming Sunday – September 12.



In the event you have an **emergency** during the summer and can not reach staff in a timely manner please contact Parish Chair **Karla Baehr**. Also remember our Care Committee is available to help as well.



We will continue sending both Among Us Notices and Weekly Updates via email throughout the summer as the need arises.

Deadline for **Among Us Notices** Tuesdays at Noon
Deadline for **Weekly Updates** Thursdays at Noon

Deadline for **September Issue** of Newsletter is August 27th