

November– 2011

# First Parish News



## Upcoming Events:

- November 6th  
Sunday Service 10 am  
Rev. Marguerite  
Sheehan Animal  
Blessing
- November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10 am  
Chalice Circle –  
Lynne Walker
- November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10 am  
Rev. Marguerite  
Sheehan
- November 27<sup>th</sup>  
Wreath making and  
Potluck
- December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10 am  
•Rev. Marguerite  
Sheehan

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*First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter*

## First Parish Happenings

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On Sunday November 6th in our Sanctuary we will have a blessing of the animals, in the tradition of St. Francis. The blessing will be incorporated into the Sunday worship so bring your animals (restrained and trained!) and join Reverend Marguerite and the children as we bless the animals and their owners. We all need each other!

### Thanksgiving Day Dinner

Tammy Pelletier is enthusiastic about putting on the Annual Thanksgiving meal at First Parish. In order for her to do this she needs help from individuals with preparing, serving and cleaning up. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Tammy at 498-0009. The decision needs to be made soon as to whether this is something that can happen.

### NOTES from LYNNE

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be hosted this year by Warwick on Sunday evening, November 20th.

Last year, at our home church, First Parish, we had a marvelous turnout from four area churches for the singing of two anthems. I hope there are those who will want to add their voices to this meaningful, seasonal community service as we travel to Warwick. I have received the music and will begin rehearsals on Sunday November 6th at 9:15. For those interested I can provide music ahead of time and will leave a few copies at the church on top of the piano downstairs by Sunday October 30. It is always a convivial and stimulating event for a small church such as ours to join with others in

song. Even if you haven't been active in singing for our own services, but like to sing, I encourage you to try this. It really is fun!

The historic First Parish sanctuary was made bright with music on Sunday, October 23rd, as about fifteen musicians ranging from 7 to 70 (or so!) gave of their musical skills to benefit the United Way of Franklin County Hurricane Irene flood fund and the continuing renovation of the Northfield Clock located in the First Parish Unitarian Church steeple. The musicians were students of Joseph Marchello and Lynne Walker who together direct Music For Life Studios on Winchester Road in Northfield. Music performed ranged from "Old MacDonald Had a Farm", "Fur Elise" and "Maple Leaf Rag" on the piano,; "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Today's the Only Day of My Life" as guitar/vocals; to original arrangements and compositions. Our audience of family, friends and visitors was enthusiastic and generous in their donations, as we earned \$300 to forward to our beneficiaries. Refreshments were enjoyed afterwards. Thank you to all for a wonderful demonstration of the joy of music being shared for the good of many. As always, I welcome those who would like to offer their voices or their instruments once a month as part of the regular Sunday services. In addition, we will soon want to begin preparations for the Christmas Eve service (which comes on a Saturday evening this year). I am ready to meet with you at 9:15 a.m. the first, second and third Sundays of each month. Come with your musical ideas or, . . . just come. Hope to see you there! Lynne

**OTHER HAPPENINGS**

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving  
service**

Trinitarian Congregational Church in Warwick,  
Sunday November 20, at 7:30 PM.

This is an invitation for everyone to enjoy a  
lovely service with other area churches.

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**Hospice of Franklin County**

*invites you to a  
Holiday Memorial  
Candle Making Workshop*



**Join us to decorate a candle in  
remembrance of a loved one at any of  
our host locations:**

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, Our Lady of Peace, Turners  
Falls  
6:00 ~ 8:00pm

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, Bernardston Senior Center  
12:30 ~ 2:30pm

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, First Congregational  
Church, Ashfield  
4:00 ~ 6:00pm

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>, Northfield Senior Center  
12:30 ~ 2:30pm

**Please contact Hospice of Franklin  
County at  
413-774-2400**

by Monday, November 23, 2011 to  
register for one of these free workshops

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*Congratulations to Lloyd Parrill  
on his recent retirement  
announcement. He will be  
missed by Northfield as well as  
the surrounding area.  
We will be thinking of him as he  
starts the next chapter of his life.*

# Minister's Column

Periodically I hear from church members and friends of the church that they do not really know when they might call me for support. Partly that is because I am a "part time minister in a full time church" and everyone is aware that I am not in town as much as a full time and local minister. But the other part of this question is not so much a question of time, but of my role(s) in the life of the congregation. The question might be rephrased from "when" you might call on me, but rather "for what" you might call. This is a question that all congregations ask, no matter if the minister is full time or part time, if she/he lives in town or commutes. So here are so responses that I and other ministers have offered to answer that question.

## **CALL THE MINISTER WHEN...**

- When you don't know me, but would like to.
- When you have problems you would like to discuss with your job, children, marriage, or anything else where a sympathetic ear might help.
- When you are going to the hospital or know of someone else in the congregation who is.
- When someone close to you has died or is critically ill or you're dealing with a significant loss of some kind.
- When you are planning to be married or divorced.
- When you would like your child dedicated.
- When you feel ready to join the congregation.
- When you have concerns or suggestions.

- When you have religious or spiritual questions.
- When you are seeking to deepen your spiritual life.
- When you would like help in working on your relationship with other church members.
- When you are upset with me or would like to express appreciation.
- When you want to make a large donation to the church and wonder how to do that!

I am sure that this list does not cover everything that might be on your mind so please just call me or email me when you would like my listening ear and presence. I am also very interested in getting together for short term "support groups" with a couple or more folks who might want to use a group to talk about things like these; the stresses and joys of parenting, how we care for our spiritual needs while caring for other people, what are my gifts and my purpose as an elder in the church, how do I plan my funeral..... These kinds of topics are great one-on-one but they are often more fruitful with me and a group of other caring friends. Because remember, you are also ministers in our church!

If you want to convene a group or get together with me in person, you can email me at [msheehan222@gmail.com](mailto:msheehan222@gmail.com) or call me at home 413-253-9938, or pull me aside on a Sunday. I am available and do want to spend time with you. I love this part of my ministry so please, do not hesitate to ask! Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Reverend Marguerite