

October 2007

First Parish News



Upcoming Events:

- September 29th
Breakfast 8-10am
- September 30th
Sunday Service 10am
“Growing Up
Unitarian” Jean
Shepard
- October 6th
Flea Market 8am-2pm
- October 7th
Sunday Service 10am
“What if the Hokey
Pokey *is* what it’s
all about!” and the
Installation of Rev.
Marguerite Sheehan
- October 14th
Sunday Service 10am
Music Program
- October 21st
Sunday Service 10am
“There Are Burning
Bushes Everywhere”
Rev. Marguerite
Sheehan
- October 28th
Sunday Service 10am
Rev. Stanley Dahlman

First Parish Website:
northfieldunitarian.org

Individual Highlights:

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First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter

Announcements

First Parish announcements:

Still looking for people interested in joining together in small group singing to eventually provide some vocal music at least once a month for services. This group would also help introduce the congregation to one new hymn each month. We can provide this wonderful sound with as little as three brave souls! More is even better! It would also be wonderful to have some instrumentalists either join the singers on occasion, or play a solo, duet, or in a small ensemble. You may see me after any service or call.
Lynne Walker

A reminder with heating season starting.

1. Please DO NOT touch the thermostat in the sanctuary. The heat automatically goes on for the Sunday service and then turns off automatically.
2. If anyone needs heat in the sanctuary during the week then there is a manual switch in the boiler room with the instructions on the wall. If anyone has occasion to use this then please make sure you turn it off when you are done. You first must get permission to use the sanctuary from the head of the Parish Committee, Betty Gibson.
3. Also when we do start heating, the door leading up to the sanctuary must be kept closed as well as the inner doors downstairs.
4. If anyone needs help with the heating then call Walter Anson.

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE Did you notice the RE room? If not, take a look. A big thank you to the cleaning crew!! The one request is “if you use the room, leave it as you found it.”

Reminder – there will be RE every Sunday.

Welcome to Juliette Valentine Potee, born September 17th. Daughter to Deb Potee & Rich Fitzgerald and sister to Vivienne.

Parish Committee News: At our September 17th meeting we finalized our church schedule for the 07-08 year - partial listing below.

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| October | 7 | Marguerite Sheehan
(see details in Minister’s Corner) |
| | 14 | Music program |
| | 21 | Marguerite Sheehan |
| | 28 | Stanley Dahlman |
| November | 4 | Marguerite Sheehan
(see details in Minister’s Corner) |
| | 11 | Johanna Conant |
| | 18 | Marguerite Sheehan |
| | 25 | Congregational Mtng. |
| December | 2 | Marguerite Sheehan |
| | 9 | Elaine Bomford |
| | 16 | Marguerite Sheehan |
| | 22 | Solstice Service |
| | 24 | Christmas Eve service |
| | 30 | Stanley Dahlman |

The minister’s Installation will be part of the October 7th service. If you are willing to help with refreshments, please contact Ruth Potee.

Stephanie has agreed to coordinate the weekly coffee hour – see her for details. Volunteers may sign up on the bulletin board, which is in the downstairs hallway.

The next Parish Committee meeting will be October 21st following the Sunday service.

Check out the First Parish Website at:
www.northfieldunitarian.org

Minister's Corner

Minister's Corner

Have you heard? On October 7th during our Sunday worship service, we will be participating in my Installation as the minister of First Parish. You might wonder why Unitarian Universalist churches have such a ceremony. After all, the Search Committee did its work on behalf of the Parish Council and chose me as your contract minister and I joyfully accepted their offer. The Parish Council formally accepted the recommendation and here we are church and minister together. All these methods of searching and choosing reflect the democratic nature of our association and our 5th principle. (We covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process.) But one piece is still missing. That is the "covenanting" or promising, between the congregation itself (you) and the minister (me). That ritual of commitment is called the Installation of ministry.

Unitarian Universalism is a shared ministry tradition. Church ministry is really Our ministry. At the Installation we shall have an opportunity to reflect on just what everybody's ministry is. As your ¼ time minister (about 10 hours a week) I am called to offer support in preaching, teaching, pastoral care and rites of passage as well as support for the church leadership. And you are called to do the same, in some fashion, for each other. You too, in your own way are preachers, teachers, pastors and celebrators of life's milestones. So come to our Installation. Reflect and re-commit yourself to this ministry.

On November 4th we will be having a Membership Sunday. This is a rite of passage as well. It is a special time where those of you who are not formal members of the church (have not signed the membership book) will have the chance to be formally welcomed into membership. Everyone will have the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be an active participant and a member of a faith community. We will think together about what "signing the book" really means – what are the gifts and the responsibilities of really belonging to First Parish.

I believe that many of us seek out a faith community because we need a place to belong – to be rooted, to work out questions of value and meaning, to spiritual life. Membership Sunday is a celebration of that process of coming to belong to First Parish. Join us

then on Oct 7th for the Installation and on November 4th for Membership Sunday. We need you to be there, on these and every other Sunday.

In faith,
Rev. Marguerite

Additional Announcements:

Flea Market at First Parish Sat., Oct. 6th 8 to 2

The Church will have a table set-up along with other groups. If you have anything to contribute to benefit the church or if you are interested in setting up your own table, please be in touch with Marie Ferre for details. Any help the day of the sale will also be appreciated.

"Music for a Peaceable World" is the theme for a concert to be given on Sunday, October 28th at 7:00 pm at First Congregational Church, 43 Silver St. in Greenfield. Sponsored by the Interfaith Council of Franklin County, the program will feature music performed by gifted area musicians Lillian Buss Pearson, Margery McCrum and Heather Strizalkowski with piano, voice and flute. Readings on peace will also be part of the program. An offering for the Veteran Hospice Homestead will be received and a reception will follow the concert.