

September– 2011

First Parish News



Upcoming Events:

- September 11th
No Service
- September 18th
Sunday Service 10 am
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
- September 25th
Chalice Sunday
Service 10am
- October 2nd
Sunday Service 10 am
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
- October 9th
Chalice Sunday
Service 10am
- October 16th
Sunday Service 10 am
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan Welcoming
Pot Luck
- October 23rd
Congregational
Meeting (Fair
Planning)
- October 30th
Sunday Service 10 am
Guest Speaker

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First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter

First Parish Happenings

Water Communion Service

Our opening Sunday will include our annual water communion ceremony. Please bring a small amount of water and some words (or a song or a dance!) that might symbolize not so much where you spent your summer or found your water, but what has touched you, healed you, challenged you or refreshed you this summer. We will bless the water and in doing so give thanks for all that is our lives! If we are so lucky as to be asked to dedicate a child or children this year we will be happy to use this water in our blessing.

Notes from the RE

Ruthanne and I are looking forward to the new RE year and hope to see all the same faces (and maybe some new ones) as we had last year. We will be working out a curriculum developed by the UUA called "We Believe" which focuses on the seven principles in a fairly in depth way. I can't remember who purchased this book for us last year but thank you again. We have looked at the seven principles a few years ago but now that the children are older, we should be able to really dig deep. We are also hoping to get people within the church community and beyond to share a philosophy or a life perspective that may contribute to this curriculum. I have already heard from someone who wishes to share some meditation skills for children with us. Any experts on mediation, civil disobedience, paganism, Buddhism or any other ideas? We are hoping for 5, 6 or 7

folks to visit the RE room and be a guest speaker. Ruthanne and I also plan on working together as it is too difficult to separate the children space wise and we will just alter the curriculum based on age/ability and content. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We will see everyone on September 18th!

Deb

NOTES from LYNNE

I am eagerly awaiting the first meeting of First Parish friends on Sunday morning, September 18th. With water being the part of nature we focus upon at this late summer service, special music will reflect upon that.

I am very happy that our friend, Chris Harris from Trinitarian Congregational Church, has offered to be part of our community that day. She will accompany me in singing as a solo "Blue Boat Home" from our turquoise **Singing the Journey** hymnal. She will also help us to sing the offering music "We Are the Rain and the Rainbow", a lovely song written by Cynthia Crosson, found in the **Earth and Spirit Songbook** (a Jim Scott collection). I plan also to begin singing a Benediction from the new hymnal, #1057 "Go Lifted Up". It would be wonderful to have a group of us learn these two simple but beautiful songs that morning, so bring yourselves (adults and children) early (by 9:15 am) and we'll learn them together. They're easy! If you'd like the music ahead of time, just let me know by phone or e-mail and I'll be sure to get copies to you.

I continue to work on the planning of (hopefully) two major fund-raising musical events this year. There have been some disappointments this summer with injuries and rejections, but I haven't given up and know we'll have some meaningful events to offer the community.

Music for Life Studios will be giving a "Musicale" at First Parish Church on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd at 2:00. This music school 'recital' will feature a variety of students taught by Joseph Marchello and myself performing on guitar, piano, voice, and original compositions, representing a mix of school age children and adult learners, beginners and advanced, as well as ourselves. While the audience to these programs is usually made up of family and friends of the performers and admission is free of charge, we do plan to have an offering basket for donations which I propose to be divided between the First Parish Building Restoration Fund and either local hurricane victims and/or those suffering due to the African famine. The Musicale will be advertised in the Arts and Entertainment section of The Recorder the Thursday before the program and will be open to the public. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to bring a friend for a light and pleasant afternoon of making 'music for life!' Refreshments will be served.

Lynne Walker
Music Director
Home: 413-498-5716

FIRST PARISH SUPPER

Saturday, September 17th 6:00pm
Adults \$10.00 Under 12 yrs. \$5.00

Contact Ruth Potee if you can help

Mexican Fiesta

Homemade Salsa and Chips
Chicken and Cheese Enchiladas
Cheese Enchiladas
Taco Bar Black Beans
Mexican Rice Cupcakes

Pinata for the kids

50/50 CHARITY POKER NIGHT
OCT. 15TH
(7:30 PM TO 10:30ish)

1st Seasonal 50/50 Charity Poker Night

As a new fund raising idea, the Unitarian Church will play host to a Charity Poker night on Oct 15th from 7:30-10:30ish. The concept is that players will buy into the game for a Minimum of \$10.00 (Maximum \$20.00) Players will be

given chips in value from 5cents up to \$1.00 chips and they can play at any table (approximately 5 players per table) 50% of ones' winnings for the night will be donated to their favorite charity, 50% will go to the "house", in this case our house of God (or great Celestial spirit, or _____). It will be dealers choice on the type of game played.

(insert preferred name here)

There has been great initial interest and I think we will have a full house on this but it requires recruitment from everyone. A flyer is attached that you can re-print and post at work, hand out to friends, or email on to those you know who might have an interest. We will limit the tables of 10, each with 5 players (50people). If you are not interested in Poker but want to help out let me know. We may need help in set up and take down, ensuring guest are well fed with homemade snacks, perhaps live guitar entertainment if anyone is so inclined??(At least a good IPOD music mix to satisfy all ages)..etc.

Suggested Charities:

Warm the Children - Recorder Coat Program
Loaves and Fishes (Northfield Based charity for food, meds, car repair, etc).
Franklin County Hospice
Dakin Animal Shelter
Angel fund for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

SNACKS, SODA, MUSIC PROVIDED

PUMPKIN FESTIVAL **TURNERS FALLS**

On October 22, 2011, First Parish Unitarian Church will have a vending booth selling our famous panini sandwiches and whoopee pies at the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Festival in Turners Falls. Set-up begins at noon that day, with the festival running from 3pm-9pm. Cleanup is immediately after. We should be able to make a sizable amount of money due to the large numbers of people that attended last year. I am looking for volunteers to join a "Pumpkin Fest" committee. As you might imagine, we will need many hands in order to make this a financial success. It should also be lots of fun! Please talk to Carey Baskowski (cbaskowski@gmail.com) if you are interested in being a part of this committee, as I would like to meet soon so we can begin our planning. Thanks so much!

Minister's Column

Welcome Home everyone! Welcome home to all of you dear members and friends of First Parish. It has been a long summer, with heat and rain, wind and sun and all kinds of weather in between. And now, with the leaves just starting to show a bit of red and the days getting shorter and shorter, it is September. I have missed gathering in community with you this summer and am very happy that our big church doors are going to be wide open again, the children will be ringing our bell and "church" will be starting! Whether you have been on the road this summer or have been staying close to Northfield please be sure to come to our ingathering service on September 18th. We have missed you.

This summer I spent a lot of time in Maine, watching the tide come in and out, and thinking about how our lives too have tides. Our little cabin in Maine sits on a small cove that gets "cleaned out" twice a day as the water rushes in and out. In between, for a very short moment, it rests. But mostly it moves, in and out, up and down. And this is true for our lives as well. When we gather back in the sanctuary on September 18th we will be sharing the waters (or maybe the tides) of our lives. You are invited to bring a small amount of water to pour into the common bowl and when doing so to share, not so much about where the waters came from but more about how you were touched, challenged, strengthened, or refreshed this summer. In this way we will be acknowledging how the tides

have cleaned us out and what has washed up on the shore.

I recently came across this short reflection about the month of September that resonated with me and perhaps might speak to you as well. Sarah Ban Breathnach wrote about September as a month in which many of us make silent and powerful resolutions. She says "It seems to me that January resolutions are about will; September resolutions are about authentic wants.... The beauty of autumnal resolutions is that no one else knows we're making them. Autumnal resolutions don't require horns, confetti and champagne. September resolutions ask only that we open to positive change."

When we come back to church on the 18th I hope that we are coming back with open hearts and open minds to positive change. What will this year bring to First Parish? How will the children stretch us with their open hearted questions? When we look closely at our local community and at our world, what will we feel called to do in response to the needs that stare back at us? When Lynne Walker invites us as she does every year, to join our voices in singing in community, what songs will we sing and how will that singing deepen our spirits? The Psalmist calls out to us to "Sing a new song!" This September may we listen to our own spirits, may we respect the tides in each other's lives, and may we sing a new song for First Parish. It is after all, a new year. Welcome home!

Peace to all, *Reverend Marguerite*



50/50 CHARITY POKER NIGHT OCT. 15TH (7:30 PM TO 10:30ish)

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

PLAY FOR 1 OF THE FOLLOWING CHARITIES:

Warm the Children - Recorder Coat Program

Loaves and Fishes (Northfield Based charity for food, meds, car repair, etc).

Franklin County Hospice

Dakin Animal Shelter

Angel fund for ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

SNACKS, SODA, MUSIC PROVIDED

YOU PERSONALLY ARE GUARANTEED TO LOOSE \$10.00
(MINIUMUM "BUY IN" COST TO PLAY) YOUR CHARITY STANDS TO
WIN ?????? DEPENDS ON YOUR PLAY, 50% OF YOUR WINNINGS
GO TO YOUR FAVORITE CHARITY, 50% TO THE UNITARIAN
CHURCH.

RSVP by calling Terry McKeon at 413-498-5431 or emailing Zcoil@comcast.net

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