



APRIL 28, 2010

MAKING MEANINGS
REV. KATIE LEE CRANE

WHO DO YOU SAY WE ARE? A *church*. OK, but there are lots of those. And, we're told that using the word "church" to describe us discourages some from coming. (Perhaps they grew up in the Jewish tradition or identify as atheists or agnostics; it's hard to imagine going to "church.") How about this, then? *We are a community of faith*. There are lots of those, too: Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, Islamic, Hindu.... OK, *we are a Unitarian Universalist congregation!* Absolutely, but there are seven of those just within eight miles of us. Who do you say WE are?

What do you say about First Parish of Sudbury to your new neighbor who just moved here and is asking you about a religious home for her family? (You ARE inviting her to join you some Sunday, right?)

It's always hard to describe our Unitarian Universalist faith *and* our particular congregation in just a few words – especially when you are trying to capture the essence of who we are, and, at the same time, distinguish us from other neighboring faiths and UU congregations. Try doing it in about three sentences, MAX!

I come from a background in journalism. The first lesson every wanna-be reporter learns is to answer these questions: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. Then, to state the particulars (succinctly and in double-spaced 12 pt type) in the first sentence, fill in the details in a couple of paragraphs, and close with the basics at the end of the article. This last sentence or two is called "the boilerplate." It contains the most important things people need to know in order to act. Who and what are you? Where can I find you and when? Why should I bother?

OK. So, at First Parish, we have been using the same "boilerplate" in our press releases for the past several years – and it's long – five sentences. Frankly, some are tired of seeing exactly the same information every week when we read what's happening at First Parish of Sudbury. Some ask: *Why don't we make it different once in a while?* Others say: *It doesn't say this about us; to me, that's most important.* Some wonder: *why do we say so much about being accessible or being a Welcoming Congregation?* And in the very next breath, someone else points out that's what made it possible to come in the first place.

Many of us have started looking at that "anchor" at the end of every press release as if we are prospective newcomers searching for a place to worship. Would we learn enough to take the next step? Would we go to the website or dare to come for worship some Sunday?

The Program Council has agreed to help us explore this further. At their June meeting, I will facilitate a listening circle where we will hear and record all perspectives without judgment. Then a small team – including those who write our press releases weekly – will review and distill what we've cited as THE MOST IMPORTANT. Our goal is to write a few "boilerplate" paragraphs – all containing what we consider to be the essential information – but each slightly different too.

Join me and others on Tuesday, June 8, from 7-9 pm in The Commons at First Parish for a listening circle. If you cannot join us, send me your thoughts by email. WHO DO YOU SAY WE ARE?

Katie



Worship at the Meetinghouse

Saturday, May 1, 10 am

Earth Day - A Festival of Ritual, Celebration, Awareness, and Advocacy for ALL ages

Rev. Katie Lee Crane and First Parish friends

This year, instead of our (almost) annual Earth Day Village Worship service, we will have a worship road trip to participate in the Musketaquid Earth Day festivities. We gather at 10 am at the Lowell Road Bridge in Concord (or at 9:15 am in the First Parish parking lot for those who wish to carpool). Our experiential worship begins with the River Ceremony where a flotilla of Earth Floats will be set adrift down stream accompanied by the music of Voices for the Earth. Then it's time for the parade of giant puppets, floats, musicians, dancers and masked and costumed children! Some of us will join the parade; others may choose to cheer from the sidelines. The day continues with the Arts and Environment festival in the afternoon.

Join our First Parish road trip – call Katie Lee for details and to make carpool plans.

Sunday, May 2, 10 am

Coming of Age

First Parish Youth & their Mentors

Join us on May 2nd for our annual Coming-of-Age ceremony. Eight of our youth have participated in a year long program exploring Unitarian Universalist history and theology, spiritual practices, different religious beliefs, and social justice work. They have created their own "statements about what they believe" and are looking forward to sharing these credos with the entire First Parish community.

Come be a part of a community that affirms theological diversity and be inspired to consider your own religious beliefs.

Join Tom K and friends for **Maypole Dancing** following the worship service.

Sunday, May 9, 10 am

Margaret Fuller: 200 years later

Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) was an author, editor, journalist, literary critic, educator, Transcendentalist, women's rights advocate, mother, and life-long Unitarian. Her work is still largely forgotten or ignored except by scholars. Katie Lee "discovered" Fuller's work accidentally when she was assigned to write a college paper on one of the Transcendentalists. Everyone else on the professor's list had already been selected by the other students; only Margaret Fuller remained. It sent one young student on a quest of discovery that led to a life-long fascination with the person she believes was "the great woman" behind Ralph Waldo Emerson and the movement he is credited with founding: Transcendentalism. For more about Fuller, see: <http://www.margaretfuller.org/>

There will be a **Hearthside Chat** at 11:45 in the Brackett Room to have a conversation about the day's topic and the issues it raises.

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Annamarie A, Audrey K, Polly M, Bruce P, Fred P, Paul R, Dawn S

In the event of a pastoral need, please call any of these Pastoral Associates.

Coming up in Religious Exploration:

Saturday, May 1st from 7 to 9pm:
Intergenerational screening of "Young at Heart," a movie about a group of singing senior citizens as they prepare for and then perform a concert with a repertoire consisting of songs by the likes of Coldplay, Sonic Youth, and James Brown. The movie is PG has sad scenes (such as the death of a choir member), but their amazing performances and inspiring story celebrates the unbreakable bonds of friendship and the life-affirming power of music!

Pennies for change: We will continue to collect change to benefit Haiti Relief (the second charity the children voted to help during their Children's Annual Meeting) until the Stand for Haiti night on Friday, May 21st sponsored by our Faith in Action committee. Your pennies and other change can make a difference!

Dear High School graduates and/or families of graduates:

We will be hosting our annual "Bridging Sunday Worship Service" this year on June 6th at 10am and will hope that all of you will welcome the First Parish community to recognize your exciting milestone! The recognition ceremony is brief where Katie Lee and Roberta read the brief bio that you write/approve and then present you with a small gift. If you do want to be recognized, please reply to this email with the following information: (1) your full name (as you wish it to be printed in the order of service) and (2) a brief bio telling us where you are graduating from, anything you want the community to know about your high school experience, and your plans for the next few years. (Most bios last year ranged from 3 to 5 sentences).

If you would like to be recognized, but can't be with us that Sunday...you are still welcome to participate by sending in the same information noted above and we will share your good news with the congregation. Please let Roberta know as soon as you can (and by May 23rd at the latest) so that we can plan accordingly.

Congratulations and best wishes with all your coming celebrations and experiences!!

Life After 80! May 16, 2:00-4:00 pm, Sudbury Grange

They're called "advance directives" and they can be both daunting to describe and frightening to follow. What are they? Durable Power of Attorney. Health Care Proxy. Living Will. DNR orders. And more. If you want a say in your future – regardless of your present age – you need to know how to create, update, share, and change these documents to suit your changing needs and desires. Join the second in the series of programs for those of us approaching late life and those among us who are now – or likely to become – caregivers of the elders we love. Find out what you need to have in place legally and, even more important, what you want to have in place personally to ensure that your choices are clear, well-known to those whom you love and those who are your designated decision-makers, and well-documented.

Relay For Life May 15-16

at 4:00 pm. Peter Noyes School, 280 Old Sudbury Road, Sudbury

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's signature activity, offering everyone an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer. Teams of people camp out at a local school and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Relays are an overnight event, up to 24 hours in length.

Relay For Life is a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people to:

- Celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue to fight.
- Remember loved ones lost to the disease. At Relay, people who have walked alongside people battling cancer can grieve and find healing.
- Fight Back. We Relay because we have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease.

For further information on the event, please visit RelayForLife.org.



May 2 - Women's Alliance Annual Meeting

All women are warmly invited – no previous attendance at any Alliance event necessary. The Alliance Annual Meeting and potluck supper will be held on Sunday, May from 5:00-8:00 pm in the Commons. Come join the fun and learn about the good works of the Alliance.

May 14-16 - Alliance 23rd Annual Weekend Retreat Relax. Renew. Revive. Time for spiritual reflection, alone-time and being with others. Time to nap, walk, talk, laugh and sing.

Pick up a Retreat brochure in the lobby or contact office@fpsudbury.org or call 978-443-2043 for details. You'll be glad you did.

Notice of Equity Fund Use

Pursuant to the Equity Fund Policy, the Board of Trustees hereby notifies the members of First Parish of Sudbury that, **during the May 3, 2010 Board meeting, the Trustees will be voting on whether to use funds from the Equity Fund to address issues related to the elevator** that were raised during the state inspection.

While it is important to address the issues raised concerning the elevator, the elevator is safe to use as evidenced by the fact that the inspector did not shut down the elevator and has given us until December 2010 to address the issues.

As always, all are welcome to attend the Board meetings. This matter will be discussed at the Board meeting on May 3rd, from 7:00-7:20 pm, in the Library.

May 8 - Coffee House on the Rocky Plain Presents Emerging Musical Artists

Dedicated to showcasing emerging musicians, *The Coffee House on the Rocky Plain* features three local performers on Saturday, May 8. Tickets and refreshments are available at 7 pm. General admission \$12. Students \$8 (with valid high school or college ID). Refreshments on sale include homemade cakes and cookies, snacks, coffee, soda. Non-alcoholic Birch Beer will also be available to celebrate Dan Cloutier's production company by that name.

Performance begins at 7:30 pm. **Coffee House benefits the Cusco Peru Music School and First Parish of Sudbury.** Join us for an evening of really good live music in our historic meetinghouse. It's transformed into an intimate musical setting of candlelit small tables.

Sudbury's **Deadly Styles** opens the evening at 7:30. An alternative Pop/Rock band who blend musicianship and creative songwriting and have established a significant following in the Boston area.

Levi Schmidt follows at 8:00. Always a child of rhythm, Schmidt began his musical career as a drummer and transitioned to songwriter playing his unmistakably poignant tunes nowadays in Boston's live music scene.

The evening's feature performance, **Dan Cloutier Band**, plays at 8:30 pm. "Singer-songwriter-troubadour Dan Cloutier plays guitar accompanied by Ricardo Barraza on guitar, percussion & vocals, Kim Jennings on piano & vocals and Dennis Pearne on bass. Cloutier plays an upbeat collection of acoustic-driven originals with lyrics poignant, touching and to-the-point. He's a workingman's musician who chronicles life's twists and turns in a remarkably candid and positive way.

Don't miss the fun. Come as a patron or join the volunteer staff: Judith C, Leslie L, Marc K, Terry L, Suzanne W, Leslie B, Maria v B, Reed or Dawn S, Kelly S and Tom Y). And check out our poster display for more information.



**Please Remember to
Enter and Remain in the
Sanctuary in Silence
for Sunday Worship**

The First Parish Auction for 2010 - Thank YOU!

What a great evening! The First Parish Auction of April 10 was a totally enjoyable experience, with a great crowd ready for an evening of fun, laughs, good food, libations, bargains, and sociability, and that is what we had. And did we make money – close to \$13,500 and counting.

The Parish Hall was decorated with lots of bright yellow and daffodils to celebrate April in Parish thanks to Mary Ellen F (the decorator), Judy H (the buyer), and Marion T (the flower lady). The evening began with bidding at the silent auction while listening to delightful folk music provided by our troubadours, Roger C, Jenaabi F, Maria v B, and Genevieve D, while bidders enjoyed the buffet and refreshments. Delicious food was donated by Wayside Inn and Sudbury Farms, and presented and served by Leslie L and the First Parish kitchen volunteers, with a ham donated by Anne Z.

The dynamic duo, Auctioneers Steve Z & Rob Kid a spectacular job urging bidders to part with their money and enjoy it all the while.

Many people helped to make the Auction such an enjoyable and profitable evening. Without those who donated and bought the auction items, there would have been no auction. Thanks to Tom Y for the Web Site that we used to input our donations, and to Carolyn L, who produced the book, which was beautifully organized. Also thanks to Mary Ellen F for calling business donors. Thanks to Rich and Sheila D and David G for arranging for donations and delivery of the food from Wayside Inn and Sudbury Farms, and to Sheila for the raffle item.

Thanks also to the set up and breakdown crew – Jan H, Reed S, Fred R, Dick F, Steve S, and Ted J - and to Terry L for setup of the audio. Thanks to Barbara H and Ginny P for being the greeters and getting all the guests signed in and

raffle tickets sold, and a very special thanks to Leslie L and the kitchen staff: Tom Y, Sue C, Betty W, Nina P, Jean C, Eliza K, Valerie T, Sue W, Leslie B, and Michelle S, with carving service by Gary H, and Paul R as bar tender.

And a special thanks also to those who had to stay at the top of their form for the entire evening - - the tabulators and data check-out crew: Peg E, Dave C, Sara H, Roger C, and Jenaabi F.

While all of this was happening downstairs, there was a Kids Party in the Commons upstairs sponsored by the Youth group. Thanks to Robyn, Maggie, Adam, and Cecilia. Thanks also to Roberta Altamari who organized the party and Sue C who helped.

First Parish is a wonderful community to work with, and we want to thank all of you for your donations and purchases, and the great job you did in making it a really fun and profitable evening.

Elaine and Ted J, Auction Chairs, 2010

this space left blank



**Faith
in Action
News**

May 2, Sunday - Walk for Hunger

It is not too late for you to join as a walker or contribute to Your First Parish team: Sherri C, Beth R, and Roger C or make your tax-deductible contribution online at www.projectbread.org/goto/fpsudbury. The Walk for Hunger raises money for Project Bread which donates money to food banks all over Boston & Metro West, including Sudbury Food Pantry. Please be as generous as you can.

May 21, Friday - Haiti Night at FPS 7 pm

Spearheaded by our Faith in Action team, First Parish is hosting this FREE EVENT for the general public on Friday, May 21st at 7:00 pm as a benefit to raise money and awareness about the situation in Haiti. While there is no admission fee, guests will be encouraged to donate to any of three organizations helping Haitians rebuild their homes and their lives: Partners in Health, Habitat for Humanity, and/or UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee).

Listen to Haitian music. Nosh on Haitian food. Meet our guests, Serge and Alix, natives of Haiti, who will tell us about their homeland – a little about its history and a lot about conditions now.



Let Your Voice be Heard

The Town of Sudbury has created two new designs proposed for the Town Center. Both will require a land transaction with First Parish of Sudbury. We believe giving the Town input before the detailed design is begun is the best plan and would like to formalize our input at the Congregational Meeting. To give your input, please come to an open meeting on Sunday May 23 at 11:45 am and/or Tuesday May 25 at 7:30 pm. For details see the Town Center Task Force page: <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/TownCenterTaskForce/>



**Sign up for 2010
Summer Services**

10:00 worship, 9:30 light breakfast

From Sunday June 20-Sept. 5, we offer lay-led worship services in the air conditioned Commons. Summer services cover a wide range of topics and are a little more informal than the rest of the year. The diversity of styles and themes is rich and stimulating. Prior to the service, we gather for breakfast "nibbles" and conversation. Childcare is offered each week. All are very welcome. We hope you will join us.

If you are interested in participating in a summer service, as a worship host, leader, musician, provider of pre-service breakfast "nibbles" or childcare provider, here's who to contact:

Speaking or Hosting:	Reed S or Sue W
Music:	Judith C
Breakfast Nibbles:	Darlene S
Childcare:	Fran Sharp

A sign up board will also be in the Parish Hall on Sunday's. The schedule is posted at <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/SummerServices2010/>

**“Spring Training” for
Summer Services Volunteers**

The Worship Associates Group will offer training and practice for Summer Services skills. Tentative date: May 18, 7:00 pm. Please let Sue W know if you might like to attend.



Seeking GA Delegates

We are seeking Members of FPS to represent our congregation as delegates at the UUA General Assembly, this year in Minneapolis from June 23 to 27. If you plan to travel to GA, and would like to be considered as a delegate, please contact Sara H, Yon H or Annmarie A.

For more information about GA, go to www.uua.org/events/generalassembly

Up-Coming Events

-  Saturday, May 1 – Earth Day Village Worship. More on page 2.
-  Sunday, May 2 – Walk for Hunger. More on page 6.
-  Sunday, May 2 – Women's Alliance Annual Meeting & Potluck. More on pg.4.
-  Saturday, May 8 – Coffeehouse 7:00 pm. More on page 4.
-  Life After 80 May 16, from 2-4 at the Sudbury Grange. More on page 3
-  Fri-Sun. May 14-16 – Women's Alliance Retreat. More on page 4.
-  Friday, May 21 – Haiti Night 7:00 pm. More on page 6.

FPS TEAM in TOP 10!

One week *before* the annual Walk for Hunger, we learned that the team from First Parish of Sudbury is already among the top ten fund-raising organizations, having raised more than \$4,000 (and counting) for Project Bread. Congratulations to the home team ... and thanks!



All Welcome at Bev's Ordination May 23 at 3:00

Historic Ordination

Katie Lee notes that, while Bev's ordination is an historic occasion in the life of our congregation, it is not the first time we have ordained one of our own members. This congregation ordained Judy Deutsch to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 1981. Much earlier in our history, those who were called to serve First Parish of Sudbury were ordained by a vote taken at Town Meeting. Such would have been the case, for example, with the Rev. Israel Loring, who was ordained by a vote of the Town Meeting on Nov. 20, 1706. He was the third minister to serve the congregation but the first to serve in the "west precinct," which we now know as Sudbury.

Our Own Peg Ea Releases Second CD May 22

All are invited to Peg's CD release party on Saturday, May 22 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. There will be good things to eat and drink and her new CD, *Living Will, Living Well*, will be available to buy. Peg will sing many songs from the CD, and one or two from *Danish Modern*. Her son Stephen, an accomplished songwriter and keyboard player, will also perform--with Peg and on his own. Please RSVP to peggid@verizon.net



Check the Bulletin Board

in the Parish Hall for events and opportunities, including:

Free Counseling on Long Term Care Options

is available from the MetroWest Aging and Disability Resource Consortium for persons seeking long-term services and supports to help you live independently in your community regardless of age, disability or income. Call 800-635-8753 or see the flyer on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

The Before and After of Loss:

The Journey from Anticipation to Assimilation an educational series hosted by Sudbury United Methodist Church in association with Parmenter VNA and Community Care at Sudbury United Methodist Church, 251 Old Sudbury Rd., Sudbury 7:30pm – 9:00pm on **May 5, 12, 19 & 26**. See flyer on the Parish Hall bulletin board for details.

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North.

Documentary film and discussion at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, One Morse Road, Sudbury, Noon to 2 pm on **Sunday, May 2**. Filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain a powerful new perspective on the black/white divide. See flyer on the Parish Hall bulletin board for details.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Islam

but Were Afraid to Ask Open House at Islamic Center in Wayland **Saturday, May 15**. Details at openhouse@icbwayland.org

Your Child's Cyber Success:

Avoiding Online Troubles

Monday, May 3, 2010

7:00 p.m.

**Curtis Middle, School Auditorium
22 Pratt's Mill Road, Sudbury**

OPEN TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

Dr. Elizabeth Englander

Professor, Bridgewater State College
Director, Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center

- ❖ For this generation, online living skills will be central!
- ❖ What facts & etiquette does he or she need to know to succeed in a new, online world?
- ❖ How can I prevent problems like **cyberbullying and sexting**?
- ❖ What technical knowledge do I need to monitor my child?

FPS Calendar April 28, 2010 to May 22, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Apr 27</u>	<u>Apr 28</u> 8:30a WebsiteTF 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:30p FinanceCm 7:30p Yoga	<u>Apr 29</u> 1:00p Meditation 6:30p HRCommittee 7:30p Choir 7:30p Carbon Consciousness Grp	<u>Apr 30</u>	<u>May 1</u> 9:00a COA rehearsal & breakfast 9:00a Mass Bay Dist Conf. 7:00p Intergenerational movie screening of "Young at Heart"
<u>May 2</u> 10:00a Worship Svc-Coming of Age 11:45a Morris Dancers 11:45a Faith in Action 12:00p Youth Group celebration of COA yth 4:45p Morris Dancers 5:00p Alliance Annual Meeting/Potluck 6:30p Rental	<u>May 3</u> 12:00p Rental: SED 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:00p Board of Trustees	<u>May 4</u> 7:00p Rental	<u>May 5</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Coffeehouse Task Force 7:30p Rental: Yoga	<u>May 6</u> 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>May 7</u> 7:00p prep for coffeehouse	<u>May 8</u> 9:00a Meeting to review trustee responsibilities 1:00p set up/clean up for Coffeehouse 2:00p Rental: Girl Scouts 7:00p Coffeehouse on the Rocky Plain fundraiser for FPS
<u>May 9</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Hearthside Chat 11:45a Morris Dancers 11:45a Landscape Com 4:45p Morris Dancers 6:00p Rental 7:00p Youth group 7:30p Rental	<u>May 10</u> 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:00p RE Committee	<u>May 11</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Program Council	<u>May 12</u> 7:00p Quilters 7:00p Rental 7:30p Rental: Yoga	<u>May 13</u> 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>May 14</u> 4:00p Women's Alliance Retreat Weekend 4:00p Pick up PH tables-Sudbury Garden Club 7:00p Chalice Circle	<u>May 15</u> 12:00a Women's Alliance Retreat Weekend 6:00p Return of PH tables-Sudbury Garden Club
<u>May 16</u> 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Hearthside Chat 11:45a Morris Dancers 11:45a Haiti Night TF 4:45p Morris Dancers 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth Group	<u>May 17</u> 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:00p Board of Trustees 7:00p Finance Committee	<u>May 18</u> 7:00p Rental 7:30p Worship Associates	<u>May 19</u> 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters 7:30p Rental: Yoga	<u>May 20</u> 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	<u>May 21</u> 7:00p On the Ground in Haiti – presented by FIA	<u>May 22</u> 4:30p McMenemy Wedding 7:00p YouthGrp Wat Sleepover 7:30p Peg E's CD Release Party - All invited