



**SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2009**

*In this Issue*

- ★ *Making Meanings by Katie Lee Crane* ..... p. 2
- ★ *This Sunday's Worship Service* ..... p. 2
- ★ *Village Worship* ..... p. 3
- ★ *Green Tips* ..... p. 3
- ★ *Spotlight on: The Worship Associates Group* ..... p. 3
- ★ *Walk for Hunger* ..... p. 4
- ★ *FPS Human Resource Council* ..... p. 4

**The Bulletin Board**

**Meet the Candidates  
For UU President**  
*Laurel Hallman and Peter Morales*  
At the UU Society of Wellesley Hills, MA  
**This Sunday, April 19 at 7:00pm**

**Village Worship & Potluck**  
Saturday, April 25, 4:30pm  
*See p. 3 or contact  
Roberta Altamari*

**Maypole Dance**  
Sunday, May 3 during  
Social Hour

**Coming of Age** service—  
Sunday, May 3, 10:00am

**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
June 7 11:30am  
*~ add this to your calendar ~*

**First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates**  
Anmarie 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.*

**MAKING MEANINGS**

*Who are we at our best?* That’s one of the questions that the Committee on Ministry has asked us to consider as part of their assessment of our ministry.

What do I put first? It’s hard to choose. We do many things well, but here are a few of my candidates for “best.” Please don’t make me prioritize!

The way we worship – especially the way we strive to include children and youth in *all* worship. Plus our family-friendly, multi-generational services like Village Worship, Revels, and our Water and Flower rituals.

I also want our Music program at the top of the list. The other day, I found a poem by the Sufi master, Hafiz, that says how I feel when I hear the choir singing, or Debra at the organ, or one of our amazing soloists. They “speak *in* music.” They sing the divine and the mundane, the splendor and the heartbreakingly real. Our music-makers manage, week after week, to sing what cannot always be explained in words. In part, Hafiz said:

*I wish I could speak like music.*

*I wish I could put the swaying splendor  
Of the fields into words.*

*So that you could hold Truth  
Against your body  
And dance.*

Can we have more than one “best?” Because we’d surely have to put the religious exploration programs for our children and youth on that list: Spirit Play, Breakfast Club, Youth Group – not to mention Coming of Age and Our Whole Lives (and this is NOT a complete list).

Still, I can’t move on to the next question without naming the extraordinary way this congregation shares its ministry and reaches out to one another with love. I know, because I’ve just experienced this first hand. For the seven weeks I was on medical leave, lay leaders and our staff (they’re the best, too) ensured that all that our ministry continued without a hitch.

And oh, the ways you ministered to me. First there was the “good medicine bag” filled with stones that held your prayers and good wishes for me. I can’t tell you how many times – in the hospital and, later, at home, I opened that bag and fingered those stones and felt your care. Then there were the wonderful cards and notes. So many I had to move the collection to larger baskets twice! And then there were the afternoons I worshipped with you by podcast on our website.

During my absence, several among us lost loved ones. And you showed up for them as lovingly and

compassionately as you did for me. You visited. You dropped off soup and casseroles. And you helped in so many ways at the Memorial Services.

You may say, that’s just what congregations do. Well, yes, it is. But I’d have to look hard to find a congregation that does it as well and as faithfully as this one. Please do not take for granted the many ways we support one another.

*How has First Parish affected your life?* That’s another of the Committee on Ministry’s questions. I can tell you without reservation that being called to serve First Parish has changed my life. Ministering *with* you and *to* you has confirmed that this ministry we share is where my own deep hunger meets the world’s deep need.

You took a chance on me and then you helped me grow into the minister I dreamed of becoming (and I’m *still* becoming. And while that was happening, I saw you – as individuals and as a congregation – take on the mantle of ministry. I see it when I see you in the Memorial Garden and at the Habitat House in Sudbury. I see it when I see you at the State House and putting your arm around someone who is sad.

I know we can’t be complacent, but we can be grateful. I know I am.

*Katie Lee*

**This Sunday’s Worship Service**

**April 19, 2009**

**“A Sermon for Tough Times”**

**Mr. Henry Noer**

For many of us across this nation, these are difficult times. Families face economic losses, unemployment and even homelessness. Faced with practical challenges and economic uncertainty, many also feel challenged in strength, meaning and spirit. This Sunday, First Parish member and guest speaker Henry Noer invites you to explore these feelings and examine personal resources that may offer aid and comfort. On what do we draw for the strength to persevere? How do we renew our spirits?

Henry Noer has been a member of First Parish of Sudbury since 2001. He studied philosophy and social psychology in college. When not working on computers, Noer writes on matters of faith, religion, civil liberties and current events. This Sunday’s service, says Noer, is in invitation to call on whatever sources have always pulled you through. As he puts it, “Let’s touch on memories and dreams, and respond to the challenges.”

**CELEBRATING EARTH DAY  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, VILLAGE WORSHIP 4:30 PM  
ROBERTA, KATIE LEE &  
OTHER FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**

Join us as we celebrate the art of reducing, reusing, and recycling! While definitely great for taking care of our earth, practicing these “green” actions can also be fun and help build connections with others in your community. Together we will enjoy Village Worship on this inspiring theme, a potluck supper, and a clothing exchange. Bring your gently worn clothes that you would like to pass along to a First Parish friend.



*Here is a suggestion from the Green Sanctuary team about how we can all become greener—that is, more ecologically-minded--Earth citizens. If you have ideas for future Green Tips, send them on to George S.*

**Green Spring Cleaning**

Vernal Equinox has passed, and Spring is officially here. Accordingly, the Green-Earth mavens of the internet have directed their efforts to offering good suggestions on how to spring-clean in an environmentally friendly way. Here are a few of their tips that you might find useful (you can find more at [planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/spring-cleaning/spring-cleaning-basics](http://planetgreen.discovery.com/go-green/spring-cleaning/spring-cleaning-basics))

**Suggestions for Green Cleaning:**



Instead of harsh chemical sprays, get those windows and mirrors crystal clear with a solution of white vinegar, newspaper and a little elbow grease—works for kitchen floors, too.

It's simple: mix 2 tablespoons of white vinegar with a gallon of water, and dispense into a used spray bottle. Squirt on, then scrub with newspaper, not paper towels, which cause streaking. A lint-free washrag works well too. If you run out of vinegar, or don't like the smell, you can also substitute straight lemon juice or club soda (don't dilute either in water).

Kitchen sinks: Make your own sink scrub using one part vinegar, four parts baking soda and several drops of your favorite essential oil (or oils). Scrub the paste on with a sponge, let sit for a few minutes then rinse.



*In the Spotlight:*  
**Worship Associates Group**

*Come learn more about the Worship Associates Group, Finance Committee (and maybe others) at the “Spotlight” Committee Mini-Fair during Social Hour on Sunday, April 26.*

The Worship Associates Group (WAG) is the committee that helps to plan worship services, seeks input from members and friends about what they like most (and least) about our Sunday worship services and Village Worship services. They also coordinate our popular and well-attended Summer Services, and help to fill the pulpit during the year, on Sundays when our minister is away.

**Does WAG have any openings on the committee presently?** Yes, they are actively welcoming new members. On their wish list is people who attend most of our Sunday services, have ideas about what makes for meaningful and balanced worship, and who would like to pitch in on the varied projects that make our year of worship services happen.

**The “WAGsters” would like you to know that:**

- We have fun!!
- We work efficiently—get lots done in little time.
- We have learned a lot about worship.
- We collaborate very well.
- We have fun!!

**Please stop by the WAG table** during Social Hour on April 26 to hear more, straight from the WAGsters mouths, about why they choose to share their gifts with the Worship Associates Group at First Parish.



**WALK FOR HUNGER**

The Walk for Hunger on May 3 is only TWO weeks away! Thanks to the generosity of our family, friends, and neighbors, we have reached about 1/3 of our goal of raising \$6500.00 for this worthy cause. Project Bread provides supplies for food pantries and soup kitchens in Boston and surrounding communities, including the Metro West area. Please help us reach our goal by making a pledge on line or by giving cash or checks made payable to Project Bread to any member of our team - Beth R, Sherri C, Sue C, and Roger C.

**AN INVITATION FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCE COUNCIL**

Yes, there is a new committee here at First Parish, the Human Resource Council. Our members are Beth R, Dotty R and Fred P, and we thought it time to formally announce and introduce ourselves via the Connector.

We just started up this past fall, and have been getting up to speed.

Overall our job is to keep the Human Resource side of our congregation working smoothly. We are here to provide support to the staff, the Trustees, the committees and the whole congregation.

We work with the finance committee on staff compensation, and the other committees who are close to the work of our treasured staff – the Community and Hospitality Committee, the Committee on Ministry and the Religious Exploration Committee. We work with the staff on specific items and individual goals. We work with the Trustees on the big picture stuff, and our overall direction and guidance.

And we work with you, our congregants. This year, we are piloting an evaluation process for the staff. Now we are not a 'pay for performance' organization, but nonetheless, structured feedback on the job and yearly goals is important for everyone. This spring is our first go-round.

We would be happy to hear from you, please call or email Beth R.

**SPRING HAS ARRIVED! HERE ARE FOUR ARTICLES ABOUT GARDENING AND GARDENS****✚ Sat. April 25, 9AM to 1PM, Annual Spring Outdoor Cleanup**

Bring your kids, rakes, blowers, tarps, shovels and pitchforks for a whole morning or an hour or two to help beautify our grounds. Afterwards, we will share plenty of pizza and soft drinks in the Parish Hall or outdoors if it is a gorgeous day. (Rain date Sunday the 26th after church.)

✚ **Habitat Landscaping:** If you missed the FPS Habitat for Humanity build date last month and want another chance to do some work there, please sign up to help the Landscape Committee with their projects. The signup sheets are on the Landscape Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. The actual dates are still unknown since all the other outside work has to be completed before we can start, but we hope it will happen in the latter part of April and in May. If you sign up, we'll call or email you when we are ready to start. This call for help includes children who come with a responsible adult. There are kid-size jobs, too.

✚ **Memorial Plants for Spring Planting:** Now is the time to consider whether you wish to plant a shrub, tree, or ground cover to remember a family member who has passed away. The deadline for Spring planting in the Memorial Garden is May 31. If you miss that deadline, you can arrange for Fall planting (deadline October 1). If you need further information about Memorial plants or the Memorial Garden, call Marge L.

✚ **Memorial Book Entries and Ash Interment** in the Garden can be done at any time with the approval of the Landscape Committee. There is a fee for this service and certain rules apply. Call the First Parish office for a copy of the "Memorial Garden Rules and Intent" and brochures about the Garden.

