



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009**

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***PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT***

This column is not available in the website version. For help, please contact the office.

***IN-HOME DINNERS IN FEBRUARY***

★ On Monday, Jan. 5 you should have received an email regarding In-Home Dinners, which will be held next month. (If you didn’t receive this email, please let Donna in the office know your correct email address.)

In-Home Dinners are a wonderful opportunity for longtime and newer members and friends to become better acquainted. They are fun, informal, and take place in the homes of a First Parish hosts.

The dates for this year are: Saturday, February 7 evening, Sunday February 8 with a 1:00 brunch option and a dinner option, and Friday February 13 evening. Check your calendars, contact Sue C atto let her know that you would like to participate, and let her know if you would like to host.

***WOMEN’S ALLIANCE POT LUCK AND BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING***

**Sunday, January 25 5–8pm in The Commons.** Every woman in the congregation – friends and members alike, is invited to a pot luck dinner. Come and meet other wonderful women and share good food and great conversation, and help build our community.

This gathering will also include a short business meeting to decide how much of the profits from the coffee house we want to donate to Habitat for Humanity. We will also schedule a separate meeting to discuss what role the Alliance will have in the March 7 coffee house. (If you’re interested in helping plan the coffee house, but cannot be at the 1/25 meeting, please contact Judith C.)

If you need child care, please contact Susan C before January 18.

***FAITH IN ACTION WANTS YOU TO SEE ...******TWO CERTIFICATES AND A BANNER, FOR FIRST PARISH OF SUDBURY***

The Faith In Action bulletin board in the Parish Hall now contains two certificates, as well as a banner, that were awarded to First Parish by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

The banner is in recognition of the fact that at least 25% of our members were members of the UUSC a year ago. One of the certificates recognizes that fact for 2008. Apparently the UUSC wisely decided not to waste money on banners so that they could use more of our dollars to actually help people.

The other certificate is the James Luther Adams Award for 2007. (You will find the 2006 one under it.)

This award is given by the Service Committee to UU congregations that have budget-line-items for the UUSC of at least \$1 per member. We hope you are pleased that our congregation is so supportive of the work that the UUSC does. To learn more, go to [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

***GUEST AT YOUR TABLE COLLECTION***

This Sunday, January 11, we will collect the checks for the content of the boxes into which you've been putting money. Please make checks payable to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, along with your information filled in from the side of the box. In this year when times have been very difficult for everyone, it is even more important to remember those who are so much less fortunate that we have trouble even fathoming their situation.

***THE PLACE TO BE ON JANUARY 19 & 20***

Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, in Bethesda, MD, has available housing for UUs wishing to attend the Inauguration of Barack Obama. The registration deadline is January 12!

Visitors have a choice between very casual accommodations (warm and carpeted space in the church for your own sleeping bags, with access to bathrooms and showers at \$25/night/person) or space in members' homes (a guest room at \$100/night/person). Additional members of a party staying together receive a 10% discount.

Hosts (both at-church and in-home hosts) will provide a continental breakfast each morning and directions or transportation to and from the nearest Metro station. 75% of all proceeds benefit Cedar Lane social justice programs. If you are interested, contact Fran Sharp who will forward more information to you.

***SOCIAL HOUR******WITHOUT DRINKS AND SNACKS? (GASP!)***

The holidays are behind us, and it's time to look ahead. Grab your calendar, and sign up to host a Social Hour one Sunday. It can be as simple as you wish it to be, anything from drinks and little FPS-provided cookies to whatever you wish to bring. If you have never done this solo, there are friendly "food ministers" to work with you and help you learn the ropes.

The sign up sheets for Social Hour hosts, and for Flower Providers, is in the Parish Hall above the black bookshelves. Sadly, the sheets are **very bare** both for folks to provide coffee and flowers. Or, call Donna in the office to sign up. Thanks!

***FRUITFUL DARKNESS: HALF-DAY RETREAT AT FIRST PARISH: JANUARY 24, 2009***

First Parish is sponsoring a half-day retreat from 1:00-4:30 pm in The Commons.

Drawing on two intuitive processes - InterPlay and SoulCollage - participants will explore the place of fruitful darkness within each of us. Leaders C.C. King and Pam Swing suggest that the retreat will help us ask: "When there is a deep quietness in nature, what does our spirit/body/soul crave? Can we get a peek at what be already incubating within, waiting for the return of the light to glow?"

Advanced registration is required and the fee for the retreat is \$45; scholarship money is available. To learn more about InterPlay and SoulCollage, call or email Rev. Katie Lee Crane. To register, call or email the First Parish Office.

**Next Sunday's Worship Service**

Sunday, January 11  
"REMEMBER PIGLET?"  
Rev. Katie Lee Crane

This Sunday is a special day for First Parish of Sudbury. We're calling it Covenant Sunday because we are celebrating several anniversaries of our shared ministry. This Sunday marks the 20th anniversary of Debra Morris-Bennett joining First Parish as its Music Director, and 10 years since we installed our settled minister, the Rev. Katie Lee Crane. This will be a time to look back and look ahead. Where were we then? And where are we going now? It will also be a time to celebrate all aspects of our ministry and the many people—both volunteers and staff—who give life and meaning and purpose to the ministry of this congregation.

We are stewards of a 369-year-old ministry and we are all in this together—not unlike the children's story of Piglet, who gathered his other A.A. Milne-created friends such as Winnie the Pooh to go on a journey, an "expedition," into the unknown.

Be sure to stay for the celebration in the Parish Hall after the service! All are welcome.

**The Bulletin Board**

Watch for an email coming soon—the "Peacemaking" draft UUA Statement of Conscience.

**FPS Weather Closing Information**

Click on:

<http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/EmergencyClosingInfo>

The up-to-date **First Parish calendar** can be seen online at: [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org) (under News/Events tab). All events and meetings must be scheduled by the Administrator, Donna Scalcione

**Share the Plate**

Sun., January 11  
Half of offering given to  
Sudbury Area Food Pantry

**TempoTime:**

This Saturday, January 10, 10-11:30  
In The Commons  
For children ages 2 to 6 and their  
parents/care-givers. All are welcome!  
Led by Roberta Altamari

**Hold the Date:**

**Women's Alliance Spring Retreat**  
April 3-5  
More info coming soon, or contact  
Donna Scalcione.