





**Next Paper Newsletter Deadline: October 8**

**Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: October 22**

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***Special Congregational Meeting to approve revised budget***

We plan to “tighten our belts” a bit this year at First Parish.

You will soon receive the warrant for a special congregational meeting (on a date to be determined) to approve a revised budget for FY 2008-08 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009). With final results of last year’s canvass now in, we face a shortfall of income. There is no one reason for this; instead there are several factors in play, e.g.: fewer new pledges, some members needing to lower pledges out of hardship, and a few pledges still not received.

Now, with nearly all pledge results in, it is clear that our income projections were too high. The Finance Committee has recommended to the Trustees that the congregation approve a revised budget. Of course there are always surprises – including the possibility of a little left over at the end of the year as well as unanticipated expenses. But in the interest of fiscal responsibility, the Trustees will bring a revised budget to the congregation for its approval. In this economic climate it would be foolish to count on new and greater revenue; we must cut back our expenses.

Why didn’t we know this when we approved the budget last June? Typically, when the Canvass Committee works with the Finance Committee during April to make pledge income projections, not all pledges have been made. The practice has been to base projected income on the experience of prior years and, of course, to factor in what we know about anticipated cost increases (as well as anyone can). In years past, our projections have come close to the realities when the final numbers come in. This year our projections were off.

These revisions, if accepted by the congregation, will necessitate some closer fiscal monitoring and some collective effort to keep costs down.

The details of these changes will be available, along with the proposed revised budget, with the warrant which will be mailed to all households with a First Parish member, and will also be available for anyone who would like one, in the First Parish office. In addition, representatives from the Trustees, the Finance Committee, and the Canvass Committee will hold drop-in information meetings prior to the Special Congregational Meeting. The times of these meetings will be announced in early October. If you wish to speak to someone in advance of these meetings, you may contact Annmarie Allen, Chair of the Board of Trustees, or Steve Ziobrowski, Trustee Liaison to the Finance Committee.



**Film Series: Reconciliation and the Passion for Truth**

On two successive Saturday evenings, Katie Lee Crane and Jonas Barciauskas will host a film viewing and discussion. One film is a documentary, the other a story, dealing with the theme of reconciliation. In a time when both truth and reconciliation between people and nations seem harder and harder to achieve, we will see two examples of the courage needed to overcome hatred and fear. Both films will be shown at First Parish in The Commons starting at 7 PM. We will welcome members and friends of First Parish and St. Elizabeth's, and others interested in attending.

**Nov. 15: Encounter Point**

Created by a Palestinian, Israeli, North and South American team, this film tells the story of an Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother who risk their safety and public standing to press for an end to the conflict. They are at the vanguard of a movement to push Palestinian and Israeli societies to a tipping point, forging a new consensus for nonviolence and peace. Perhaps years from now, their actions will be recognized as a catalyst for constructive change in the region.

**Nov. 22: Red Dust**

When a South African police officer (Jamie Bartlett) files an application for amnesty for acts of atrocity he committed under apartheid, a human rights lawyer (Hilary Swank) returns to her homeland to investigate. In the process, she decides to represent anti-apartheid activist Alex Mpondo (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a member of parliament who staunchly opposes the amnesty because he was one of the police officer's victims.

**Fall News from the First Parish Memorial Garden**

The garden on the hill behind the church is in great shape this fall. Many volunteer caretakers, waterers and the unusual amount of summer rain took good care of the plantings and everything is thriving. Betty Bishop reports that the blue bird houses installed by Steve Gabeler housed at least one family of blue birds, and the bird feeder served as nesting space for two families of robins.

This is the time of year for planting shrubs, trees and ground covers to honor deceased members and friends of First Parish and their close relatives. If you wish to honor someone with a planting in the garden, please call Marge Langmuir to discuss this opportunity. The deadline for Fall planting in the garden is October 15. Arrangements can also be made ahead for Spring planting if the October 15 deadline is too short notice to act upon.

We also welcome additions to the Memorial Book and provide space for ashes of loved ones to be interred in the garden. Speak to Rev. Katie Lee Crane or to Marge Langmuir if you are interested in this aspect of our Memorial Garden.



And, be sure to hold the date: our Fall Outdoor Cleanup will take place on Sat. Nov. 8.

**UUSC Holiday Cards for Sale**

Half-price, pre-holiday sale of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee cards—at coffee hour on Sunday, Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 16. If you're in a particular hurry to buy, please call Judy at 978 443 8609.



**The mystery of the missing cushion**

A chair cushion from one of the wingback chairs in the Brackett Room has been missing since some time during the summer. Does anyone have a clue where it might be? Our beloved Brackett Room is our "fit for company" parlor and it's sad to have one of the chairs out of commission. We hope it will return soon.

***Mini R.E.flections from your chalice D.R.E. amer ...Roberta Altamari***

What a wonderful first month we've shared together at First Parish! I want to thank everyone for welcoming me and for being so patient as I have been slowly getting to know folks and the way things work here. I already have many fabulous memories of time spent with FPS children, youth, and adults. I hope you do too! As the year continues, we will be offering many programs. This month, our children and youth will be doing a variety of Faith-in-Action projects, which have always been my favorite because they allow us to connect as we work together to make our world a better place. If you notice a project that interests you, I hope you will join us! With loving blessings, Roberta

***~ Top Four Facts to know as we kick-off this new year:***

- 1.** The first forty children who register for our R.E. program this year will receive a FREE book. Come ready to register on Sunday so your child gets to pick out a book.
- 2.** All adults who sign up to volunteer in our Religious Exploration program get to pick out a small gift. Sure, we all know it's a cooperative program in which everyone's help is needed ... but why not make the signing up process FUN! So don't forget to bring your calendar so you can sign up and get a gift!!
- 3.** Helping in First Parish's R.E. program has never been easier! With a wide variety of volunteer roles, you can pick from super simple (show up and be a helping hand in one of our groups) to extremely rewarding (leading a group on spiritual explorations that will inspire you as much as them). With curricula materials ready at least one week before your turn and D.R.E. availability all week (including Saturday) for assistance and question answering as needed, there will be ample support for our wonderful leaders this year. On our website is our new "volunteer schedule" so you can easily see where we need your help and then email Roberta to sign up. Check out the schedule at [www.fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/ReligiousExploration/ChildrensRE/VolunteerSchedule](http://www.fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/ReligiousExploration/ChildrensRE/VolunteerSchedule) /and then sign up today!!
- 4.** Our First Parish website at [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org) will be an invaluable resource as a one-stop place to access all the information you want about what's happening in our R.E. program. From multigenerational programs and what your child is doing in R.E. this week to our latest kids' social action project and what's up with our Youth Ministry, you will be able to find out all the latest updates at your convenience by checking out the R.E. section of the website.

***~ Spirit Play orientation for all interested folks*** The Spirit Play Task Force will be hosting an orientation for all interested folks on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 in the DRE's office. Please rsvp to Roberta at [dre@fpsudbury.org](mailto:dre@fpsudbury.org). If you haven't registered, you are still welcome to join us.

***~ Faith-in-Action*** Sunday, October 12th will be our first special Social Justice Sunday. About once a month, our children and youth will be engaging in projects during regular R.E. time that help make our world a better place. Other projects will also be available through out the year to participate in as well. More details are coming soon.

***~ Multigenerational Connection:*** Join us for a FUN & FREE Night Out on Friday, October 10th starting at 7pm in The Commons. Potluck dessert and bring clothes you no longer want to put in our "store" where others can shop for free (or offer a small donation to the work of UUSC). No rsvp necessary, but contact Roberta with questions.

***~ Village Worship: "Turning of the Seasons", Nov. 1*** Save the date for our first Village worship, which will be on Saturday, November 1st starting at 4:30pm in The Commons. The theme will be "Turning of the Seasons" as we honor our UU source of Earth Centered Traditions by worshiping the ancient Celtic spiritualities that Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day are all routed in. See Roberta or Katie Lee to volunteer to help with the worship.

*Coming soon in our Youth Ministry ...*

**Popcorn Theology** The next Youth group activity will be Popcorn Theology for all youth 13 and older on Sunday, September 28th at 6:45pm. Based on a popular UU curriculum, we watch a movie and discuss any issues the movie raises that are relevant to us as Unitarian Universalists. This one will be a showing of August Rush, the 2007 pg-13 drama about an orphaned musical prodigy uses his gift of music to find his birth parents.

**Apple picking!** Sunday, October 12th: Time to be announced  
All youth 7th grade thru 12th are invited

**Cooking with apples!** Sunday, October 19th: Time to be announced  
All youth 7th grade thru 12th are invited

**Halloween Party** Friday, October 24th: 7pm  
(FPS organizing youth come at 6pm to help set up)  
with intro to UUSC "reverse trick-or-treating" project!  
All youth 13 and older are invited ...  
Come in costume!!!  
... other UU youth groups invited. (Must RSVP to come so we can plan accordingly.)



**Harvest Craft Fair, Saturday, October 18**

On the weekend after Columbus Day, First Parish's Harvest Craft Fair is THE place to be! Call your friends and neighbors, and mark the fair on your calendars. Let's try to bring record numbers of people to this fun and delicious fair--our second largest annual fundraiser. Over 60 original crafters will display items including jewelry, country decor, paintings, quilts, wood carvings, pottery and photos. Our famous lunch of homemade breads and soups will again be a main attraction. We average over 600 fair-goers including many from outside the church community, including the juried artisans.

**What Kind of Volunteer Help is Needed on Fair weekend?**

- Assist with setup on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> between 3:30 and 7 pm. There are many tasks of all levels of difficulty and strength required. **Helpful children are especially welcome at setup.** Crafters begin coming to do their setup at 7pm. so we need to have most of our work done by then. Your co-chairs and others will be there to direct efforts.
- Participate in clean-up! If ever there was a time when many hands make lighter work, this is it! We need to get everything back to "normal" before Sunday morning. Help with clean up, then adjourn to somewhere with us for pizza and libations. We use the SED room and must return it to "normal" after the Fair Saturday.
- We also need people during the fair to staff the admissions, Jams & Jellies, and lunch orders tables



Based on our average attendance, for every hour you volunteer, it earns about \$50 for the church -- pretty good wages. Thank you for supporting our congregation.

Please visit the table in the Parish Hall at coffee hour to sign up to help out at the Harvest Fair on Saturday, Oct. 18. There are lots of opportunities to participate in this annual fun and festive fall fair. Or, contact Sherri Cline, Beth Rust, and Elaine Jones – co-chairs.

***First Parish Website—a new system for getting connected***

The FPS website: [www.fpsudbury.org](http://www.fpsudbury.org) has been updated, and YOU now have an account. The website still has a great deal of information that's available to anyone who visits the website (in the "public" part of the site.) But, in addition, there is a password-protected area, to be sure that we protect privacy and respect copyright laws. In this protected area, you will be able to access sermons, audio recordings, be able to participate in group discussions, and as time goes on, more and more information will be in the protected part of the website.

Tom Yelton, our webmaster, has set up an account for each First Parish member and friend whose email address we have. And, Tom has created a password for you—one that can be changed once you have logged on.



Watch your email for a message from Tom containing this information which you will need to get started in your new account on the website. (Don't throw his message away—this will contain your User I.D. and password.)

If you do not have an email address, but would like to have an account for accessing the protected part of the FPS website, please contact Tom Yelton, and he will set up an account for you. And, if you have recently changed your email address (or if you don't receive a message from Tom), please contact Donna in the FPS office at [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org) so she can update your contact information.

***Coffee House and Open Mike: Benefit for Sudbury Habitat Home Project and the Women's Alliance***

Sponsored by The Women's Alliance

Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008

7:30 pm Admission: \$12

Refreshments Available starting 7:00 pm

***Featured performers are The Nashville Clippers (who played for our June 29 Summer Service), and our own Peg Espinola and Leslie Bryant.***

Our coffeehouse will feature live music in an intimate setting where the performers can easily connect and interact with the audience. Some singing along by the audience will be an option. In addition to our featured talent, the Open Mike part of the evening will include short performances by FPS members and friends. If you wish to participate as an "open-miker" please contact Judith Christianson or Peg Espinola. We welcome all types of music, poetry, other spoken word, magic acts, you get the idea. Time allowed to each act will depend on how many performers sign up to reserve a slot. Performers pay ½ price!

***Faith in Action News***

***~ Share the Plate – November 23***

At this service please make a generous contribution to support the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless. In particular we ask you to support their First Stop program, an early warning/ early intervention system that helps households stabilize their housing situations at the first sign of trouble. Coalition staff conduct a comprehensive housing and income assessment and link households with programs that will maximize their income and stabilize their housing, such as utility discounts and fuel assistance programs, food stamps, and private and public emergency cash assistance programs to pay rent/utility arrearages.

***~ Sandra's Lodge***

We have collected 47 backpacks so far and will deliver them to Sandra's Lodge in Waltham in November. Next month Ginny Doxsey and Beth Rust will be going shopping for Halloween costumes for the children at the Lodge. If you would like to help pick out the costumes (and maybe try some on), please call Ginny.

***~ Habitat For Humanity***

The Landscape Committee's mums sale to help finance the landscaping of the HFH house on Dutton Road was a tremendous success. 825 plants were sold and over \$2,400 was raised. The landscaping work will not start until next spring, but ground breaking is scheduled for October 18 and volunteers are needed to help with construction. If you are interested in helping with construction, please contact Bruce Langmuir or Tom Arnold. Volunteers can do a variety of jobs from light carpentry to assisting other construction workers.

**~ Rescuing America's Health Care**

Sunday, October 19, 2008, 2:30 P.M. at the Goodnow Library in Sudbury

Dr. Arnold Relman will discuss reforms needed to improve the U.S. health care system. In his book, *A Second Opinion: Rescuing America's Health Care*, Dr. Relman focuses on the impact of the commercialization of medicine, the merits of a single-payer plan, and the need to provide care that benefits patients.

Dr. Relman was formerly Editor-in-Chief of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Senior Physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital. This event is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Sudbury. For more information, contact Judy Deutsch.

**Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries Interfaith Film Screening and Discussion**

Sunday, October 26, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

James Carroll's "Constantine's Sword", Nashoba Brooks School, 200 Strawberry Hill Road, Concord, MA

CMM will present a special screening and discussion of *Constantine's Sword*, a critically acclaimed documentary film by Oren Jacoby. This special evening will provide the audience the opportunity to view and discuss the film with local interfaith leaders from the Concord area. The event is free and open to the public.

Based on the book by author and columnist James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword* examines the roots of religious violence and its relationship to the long history of Christian anti-Semitism. The film also examines the contemporary context of religiously enflamed violence, and dangerous new stresses among Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It has been extremely well received by audiences and critics alike.

Discussion after the film will be led by Steve Van Evera, who teaches international relations in the MIT political science department and is on a Jewish-Palestinian discussion group with James Carroll. For more information about the Concord area screening, please contact Polly Hamlen by email at: [phamlen@coopmet.org](mailto:phamlen@coopmet.org) or through the CMM offices at (617) 244-3650.



*Home phone numbers are not included in the E-News Bulletin.  
Please check your First Parish directory, or call the office at 978/443-2043 for help.*

**Who to Contact: Donna or Fran??**

We know it can be confusing (and we are still fine-tuning): Who does what...and when and where? We hope this will help.

**Donna Scalcione  
Office Administrator**

**Work hours:** Monday-Friday 9:00-11:30am

**Phone:** 978/443-2043 x0

**Email:** [office@fpsudbury.org](mailto:office@fpsudbury.org)

Contact her for help with:

- Calendar—scheduling all meetings
- Building Use coordination—rentals, etc.
- Order of Service (the part pertaining to the worship service itself)
- To update information about Sunday Helpers (coffee and flower providers, ushers, greeters, milestones)
- General administration
- Obtaining print copies or CDs of sermons

**Fran Sharp  
Community Life & Communications Coordinator**

**Work hours:** Sundays, Tuesday afternoons, and other various times at First Parish, and Fran is very glad to make an appointment to meet with you at your convenience.

**Phone:** 978/443-2043 x1

**Email:** [connect@fpsudbury.org](mailto:connect@fpsudbury.org)

Contact her for help with:

- Newsletters and ENews bulletin submissions
- Sunday News (information about calendar listings and news items—by Thursday at noon)
- Annual reports, FPS publications
- Publicity
- Membership and Volunteer Opportunities