



MARCH 3, 2010

Measuring the Un-measurable

By Beverly Waring

Over twenty years ago, Donna and I went “church shopping.” We found First Parish of Sudbury. As another annual pledge drive approaches, I cringe when I think of that phrase, “church shopping,” now. It is not like going to Dunkin Donuts and paying for a cup of coffee or searching for the best bargain when in need of a new washing machine. It is really hard to measure dollar for dollar what you are receiving from your faith community. Here are a few of my own examples of what I mean – I hope they spark stories of your own.

On September 11, 2001 after making sure our young adult son, James, was safe, Donna and I came here to FPS. Several of us gathered in the sanctuary for a while and then we made phone calls to people from this congregation – people we knew might be alone and might not want to be, people we knew had family traveling and might need to be with someone as they waited for news, people we knew and cared about and wanted to connect with on this tragic day. Because FPS is a place where we feel safe as we share our grief and fear.

On our 20th anniversary of being together it was here at FPS where Donna and I wanted to recommit ourselves to each other and the life we had created together - a life that included in many deep and important ways the people of this congregation. And when, two years later, our marriage could be made legal, Donna and I wanted to be in this Sanctuary when we heard those words “By the power vested in me I now pronounce you....” Because this congregation has been so supportive of us, has been a strong advocate for equal rights, has been a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender folks to worship and socialize, to find the holy and to find friendship.

Not a visit from our son James goes by when he does not ask about one of the adults he had as a Sunday school teacher is doing, or remembers with a smile his time at Ferry beach with this congregation, or wonders out loud how a child he cared for in the nursery or babysat for when he himself was a teenager could possibly be a high school or college student now. Because James did not just get a religious education here but he met role models, he formed life-long friendships and he learned the value of giving to a community from his heart and with his passion.

As I wander through the parish hall, at social hour after the worship service, during the Holly or Harvest Fair, or as I sit in The Commons or Brackett Room during a Women’s Alliance potluck, I cannot help but think of the thousands of cups of coffee, bowls of soup and peals of laughter we have served in those rooms. It is not just in the Sanctuary where our spirits are nourished but in every room of our meetinghouse. Because FPS is a community, *our* community, dedicated to sharing with each other, committed to caring for each other and inspired to caring about the larger community we will be leaving to future seekers within our liberal religious faith.

These are just a few of my stories. You all have some of your own. During this time of financial stewardship I ask you to remember your stories. When you think about what

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Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday, March 7, 10 am

An Ice Cream Cone, a Lump of Coal and Migrating Birds

Ms. Beverly Waring

What do ice cream cones, a lump of coal and migrating birds have in common? According to Bev Waring, worship leader this Sunday, “They all have taught me lessons that are relevant to today’s topic of financial stewardship.” Our faith community needs to be aware of stewardship all year long. We are always mindful of the need to take care of our building, our members and friends, and our spirits. This week, however, as we kickoff our annual pledge drive, we are paying special attention to our financial stewardship responsibilities.

How do you put a value on growing spirits, healing souls, expanding minds?

Some people think of a budget as a moral document because how we earn and spend our money is a reflection of what we value. The same can be said about our congregational budget. As stewards of this institution, how does the First Parish budget reflect our personal values? How does it reflect our Unitarian Universalist values? How *do* you put a value on growing spirits, healing souls, expanding minds? As we enter this important time in the life of our congregation, what can we learn from an ice cream cone, a lump of coal and migrating birds as we consider our financial commitment to the spiritual community we have found at First Parish of Sudbury?

No Hearthside Chat March 7

Sunday, **March 14**, 10 am

Rev. Katie Lee Crane preaching

Katie Lee returns to the pulpit after a one-month sabbatical leave.

The New U Discussion for newcomers and longer-timers too
at 11:45 in the Brackett Room

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:

Faith in Action projects for kids, families, and everyone: Helping Renewal House

There will be two more Sundays when you can bring in supplies for the women and children at Renewal House, a shelter supported by the UU Urban Ministry. They are in eager need of feminine products (sanitary napkins and tampons) and body/hand lotion (regular size, not hotel samples). If you have any to spare, please bring some in to donate! They could also use arts and crafts supplies: glue (liquid and sticks), markers, paints (tempera, watercolors, finger paints), craft paper, stickers, glitter, etc. Any basic art supplies beside crayons and colored pencils (which they have enough of) would be MOST welcome. The kids will be doing a special project for Renewal House and some members of our Youth Group will be leading a sing-a-long at a party there in March. Please help us support them!

Change for change

Our children and youth are hosting a new project for the month of March ~ a change collection. Your pennies and other change can make a difference! At our Children's Annual Meeting in February, they voted to collect money for Haiti Relief and a local animal shelter. When you bring in your donation, you can choose which charity your donation is helping.

Save the Date for Youth Sunday

Join us on Sunday, March 21 at 10 am for a wonderful worship service led by our youth after being transformed by their recent social justice work. We will also honor our 8-year-olds with their First Chalice and be introduced to our 11-year-olds by their First Mentors. It is sure to be inspiring and unforgettable!

Free Parenting Workshop and Discussion Tuesday, March 23 at 7pm: Budgeting and Stretching Our Dollars Creatively

Come hear and share tips for resourceful budgeting and how your limited funds can stretch to create a wonderful life for your family! Free and open to all parents or soon-to-be parents from First Parish and local communities. For details, contact Roberta at DRE@fpsudbury.org



Special Invitation for March 7

March 7 is Pledge Sunday. This is the day First Parish begins its annual outreach to members and friends to obtain their financial commitment (pledge or gift) to First Parish for the next fiscal year.

This year is slightly different. We are encouraging everyone to come to the 10 a.m. Worship Service. Maximum participation is important for a couple of reasons. First, we are all in this together! Our gathering will be a visible demonstration of our physical and emotional support for the First Parish community that is so important to us. Second, there will be time built into the worship service, for those who are ready to make a financial commitment, to privately complete a pledge/gift card, put it into an envelope, and make this offering for the on-going support of First Parish.

In general, the service will follow the usual format, including a sermon given by Beverly Waring, long-time First Parish member and candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Some elements of the service will be shortened to allow time for quiet reflection prior to an invitation to complete your pledge card.

While we hope that many of you have been reading the information sent to you from the Pledge Drive team and have been thoughtfully considering your pledge, **we recognize that some people may not be ready or able to make a pledge or gift commitment on March 7. Please come to the worship service anyway.** You will not stand out if you do not sign a pledge card, but your presence will be missed if you stay away.

Following the service, there will be an extended time for socializing with coffee, tea and goodies. This will be an ideal time to connect or re-connect with friends. There will be an area set aside in the Parish Hall for anyone who wants to ask questions or express concerns to a member of the Pledge Drive team before making a financial commitment.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday morning, March 7!

- Colin A, Sheila D, Susan I
2010 Pledge Drive team leaders



***Pasta Festival
Fundraiser for FPS
Saturday, March 6
4:30-7:30 pm***

NO RESERVATION NEEDED.

Come on down to the Parish Hall for a *Taste of the North End* anytime between 4:30-7:30 for pasta dishes for every taste from familiar rich red sauces to a tasty traditional penne-and-cannellini bean plate and a classic, white wine-and-garlic-simmered clam sauce.

Great salads, Italian desserts, wine, beer, and candlelight.

Three-course dinners for \$11.00-12.50, \$7 for children under 12. You and your family & friends will get a great night out, the guys will do the cooking and the dishes, and First Parish gets the loot -- everyone wins!

Coming Up at First Parish

- *Saturday, March 6 – Fundraiser for FPS
Taste of the North End Pasta Festival
4:30-7:30 pm
- *Sunday, March 14
First Parish Open House 2:30-4:30
Invite your friends. Spread the word
- *Saturday, March 20
Morris Dance Performance & Dinner
6:30 pm. See pages 6 & 8 for details
- *Saturday, March 27 – *Rising Sap*
One Day Retreat for Men and Women
9:00-3:00 See page 5 for details.
- *Saturday, March 27 – Fundraiser for FPS
Coffeehouse on the Rocky Plain
7:00 pm See page 6 for details.
- *Saturday, April 10 – Fundraiser for FPS
Annual Service Auction 6:00 pm
See page 7 for details

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Measuring the Un-measurable

By Beverly Waring

drew you to FPS, what has kept you here, what you value most about this community, I hope you will share those stories. When those memories that bring an instant smile to your face arise in your mind, *that* is when I want you to also consider your financial commitment to this community.

For me these memories are priceless yet we are asking you to attach a monetary value to them. As I consider these stories, and so many more, I personally want to stretch towards the invaluable. I want to give as much as feels comfortable and then do more. I want to give as much as feels right and then give more. I want to give as much as I can, knowing that I can never come close to paying into this community what it is really worth to me...but I can do all I can and know it is enough, because if we all do what we truly can, this community will continue to be here in the ways we need, at the times we are most vulnerable and will continue to be here for our children and our grandchildren and countless people we will never know but to whom we can be proud to leave the legacy of a caring, committed spiritual community called First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist.

I hope you will all join me on Sunday, March 7 as we worship together, consider our ongoing support of this faith community, and renew our financial commitment.



Stewardship and Parish Finances Open meeting Sunday, March. 21 11:30 am

Come to the Brackett Room after worship on Sunday, March 21 to hear how things are going, with the pledge drive and FPS finances and to ask any questions about the budget that you may have. Childcare will be provided.



Faith in Action News

Fair Trade Program Seeks New Coordinator:

For the past 7 years Beth R has offered thousands of Fair Trade bags of coffee and bars of chocolate to members of this congregation through the Fair Trade program. This win-win-win program guarantees small farmers a decent wage, adds to the First Parish social action programs, and brings quality products to you at a below-market price! Beth can no longer continue this project and FIA is soliciting a replacement. [If someone else in the congregation would like to learn about the time commitment and process, please contact Beth.] Meanwhile the remaining inventory will be sold on a first-come first-served basis, with free delivery to all purchasers. Just call or email Beth to place your order for:

1. Coffee \$7, 12 oz bags, usually bean or drip, of French Roast, Mind, Body & Sold, Love Buzz, Columbian Decaf, Hazelnut Decaf
2. Tea \$3, 12 bags/box of Rooibos, Earl Grey
3. Chocolate \$3: Espresso Bean Dark, Dark Orange, Very Dark, Milk Crunch, Milk

Thanks and happy brewing/munching!

Please Donate to Sudbury Food Pantry which serves residents from several communities and especially needs baby wipes, dry baby food (no jars please), cans of fruit, bar soap, paper towels, and plastic sandwich bags. Kindly double-paper-bag and leave all items in the green collection box just outside the Parish Hall.



You're Invited to a Birthday Party! Sunday, March 21

Join your friends of all ages to celebrate ALL of our birthdays during a special Social Hour on Sunday March 21. From youngest to oldest, we all love a birthday party so join us for cake, candles and lots of fun!

Rising Sap: One Day Retreat for men and women – at FPS

Saturday, March 27 from 9:00 to 3:00

First Parish members pay half price.

led by CC King and Pam Swing

sponsored by First Parish of Sudbury

As winter yields to spring and sap begins to rise, what is stirring within you? What has been incubating in the darkness? Join us as we explore ways of sensing newfound awakenings within us. Drawing from the creative processes of Interplay and SoulCollage[®], we will tap the energy of transformation and renewal that comes as the earth thaws. We will play with shifting from discovery to intentionality, identifying practices you can continue at home to nurture these tender shoots. Previous experience in either Interplay or SoulCollage is not needed. Just bring yourself, and see what is ready to unfold!

To register: contact CC King

sammykat@comcast.net or

Pam Swing pam.swing@gmail.com,

www.blumooncreativity.com

Cost: \$85.00 (incl. snacks and materials).

First Parish members pay half price.

First Parish Sudbury presents *the Coffee House on the Rocky Plain* Premiere Live Music Sat., March 27 at 7:00

Something new is perking in our historical town center. Inspired by what the colonial settlers named the location of the 1790's meetinghouse of

First Parish Sudbury—the rocky plain refers to the glacial landscape that none of the original settlers wanted to farm thus the religious society got it by default.

On Saturday, March 27th, at 7:00 pm, 'The Coffee House on the Rocky Plain' premieres its first coffee house showcasing two outstanding local musical groups. The evening's proceeds benefit the "Instituto Superior de Musica Publico Leandro Alvina Miranda" in Cusco, Peru to purchase instruments and supplies and First Parish Sudbury Unitarian Universalist.

We invite you to hear:

The Dawn Kenney Band—our featured act. Kenney, winner of numerous songwriting and performance awards and published in American Songwriter magazine, crafts songs that move between bluegrass, folk and country styles. With messages that are positive and uplifting, her songs speak of relationships, family and those things common to the human experience that resonate with all of us. Her band accompanies her on a variety of instruments including Mandolin, Dobro, Banjo & Upright Bass. To hear a few musical selections go to www.myspace.com/dawnkenney. To view her awards and more information go to www.dawndenney.com.

Ergo Canto (therefore we sing)—the folk music duo opens the evening's entertainment. Paul Beck and Leslie Bryant perform a wide variety of original songs, covers, and traditional folk material. In addition to vocals, you may hear six and twelve string guitars, fiddle, flute, mandolin, and harmonica. Paul Beck recently took early retirement from a high tech career to focus on music, woodworking, and crossword puzzles. He plays guitars, mandolin, cittern, and banjo. Leslie Bryant teaches in the Boston school system. She plays fiddle, flute, pennywhistle, and percussion.

Her sponsorship of the music school in Peru includes bringing instruments and sheet music. Visit Ergo Canto's website www.ergocanto.org. Hear them play at <http://myspace.com/ergocanto>

Tickets and refreshments will be available at 7 pm. General admission is \$12. Refreshments include savories and sweets. Performance begins at 7:30 pm. Join us for an evening of really good live music in our historic meetinghouse.

Summit for Parents of Transgender and Gender Variant/Non-Conforming Children Saturday March 6

Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will host from 10 am to 1 pm 85 River Street, Room 3A, Waltham. The summit will be geared around support, education, and networking. For details email Pam Garramone, Exec. Dir, at pam@gbplag.org

Come Experience Rapper Sword at a Fun-raising Dinner and Demonstration Sat., March 20 at 6:00 pm (See flyer on page 8)

After-dinner workshops for both novice and experienced dancers. Please RSVP by March 15th. All admissions pre-paid. Space is limited. This is a ticket-less event, so please include names, email, phone. A check-off list of names will be kept at the door. Send your check payable to 'GMMS' along with your contact info to PO Box 124, Hamilton, MA 01936 781-696-5515 Suggested donations Adults : \$20. Teens: \$15. Children 12 and under: \$10. Family maximum \$60. Questions? Please contact thy42@comcast.net

Looking for Childcare Before or After School?

Call Sudbury Extended Day 978-443-5829, right here at First Parish. SED offers programs for grades K-8, weekdays, early release days and some school holidays & vacations.

FYI: Your generous donations to the UUA/UUSC Joint Haiti Relief Fund collected in February at First Parish totaled \$1,054. Thank you!

EMERGENCY CLOSING INFORMATION

Find out if worship and other events at First Parish are cancelled:

By phone—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978-443-2043.

First Parish website -- Go to www.fpsudbury.org. The front page will show any emergency closing.

WBZ Radio website -- Go to www.wbz.com, click on "School Closings from the WBZ Storm Center" button, click on "Religious" and scroll down to look for "First Parish of Sudbury."

By radio -- Listen to 1030 AM *WBZ Storm Center* at :05 and :35 past the hour for cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. Other events cannot be listed. If you think a meeting or event might be cancelled, please contact the meeting leader.

Contacts:

Minister: Rev. Katie Lee Crane - minister@fpsudbury.org

Ministerial Candidate in Residence: Beverly Waring – office@fpsudbury.org

Music Dir.: Debra Morris-Bennett – musicdir@fpsudbury.org

Dir. of Religious Exploration & Youth Ministry: Roberta Altamari – dre@fpsudbury.org

Community Life: Fran Sharp – connect@fpsudbury.org

Administrator and Newsletter Editor: Donna Scalcione – office@fpsudbury.org

Office: 978-443-2043 **Web address:** www.fpsudbury.org

Quote to Ponder

"Growing our movement is not an institutional need. Growing Unitarian Universalism is a moral imperative. It is the moral equivalent of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless."

- Peter Morales, President
Unitarian Universalist Association
of Congregations

THE FIRST PARISH OF SUDBURY SERVICE AUCTION Saturday, April 10 at 6 pm

Our annual Service Auction is coming up, and plans are underway for this fun event which includes food and drink, musical entertainment, and bidding. Make your plans and invite friends and family.

The Auction planners are busy soliciting donations of services and goods. **There is a donation form on the FPS website (that's the best way to donate) or call Ted or Elaine .**

We are hopeful that everyone will offer something – it's so much more fun (and profitable!) when we have a diverse assortment of items. Here are some ideas:

- Make your vacation home available to a bidder for a weekend or longer;
- Provide transportation to or from Logan Express or an airport;
- Provide pet care (walking; feeding);
- Provide childcare;
- Do yard cleanup and/or weeding;
- Make yummy desserts or other specialties;
- Host a dinner/lunch/picnic or deliver a homemade dinner/lunch/picnic to a bidder;
- Help with college applications, resume` writing;
- Lead a hike or canoe trip to your favorite place;
- Share a ticket or tickets to an event and provide transportation;
- Make a flower arrangement for a special occasion or a FPS Sunday service;
- Scan slides or photos for DVD production, or provide video transfer;
- Donate a purchased gift certificate from your favorite salon or coffee vendor.

So let your imagination run wild and enter or call with your donation!

Rapper Sword Dinner

Saturday March 20th at 6 pm

Come Experience Rapper Sword at a Fundraising Dinner and Demonstration

Hosted by 'Pocket Flyers' and 'Candy Rapper' of Tom K's 'Great Meadows Morris and Sword' (GMMS)

First Parish of Sudbury Unitarian Universalist

327 Concord Rd, Sudbury 01776

The evening's proceeds will help offset the cost of the traveling to DERT –
'Dancing England Rapper Tournament' the Premier Traditional Rapper Sword Competition in UK.



\$20 adults, \$15 for teens ages 13-18, \$10 ages 12 and under (Maximum \$60 per family)
Full Dinner, (diverse offerings with vegetarian options) dessert bar, coffee, tea and drinks

Rapper Dancing by three GMMS teams

Workshops for those interested led by the GMMS

For more about GMMS <http://www.freewebs.com/greatmeadowsmorris/index.html>

Questions? Please contact: thy42@comcast.net www.fpsudbury.org for more information and registration form

FPS Calendar Mar 3, 2010 to Mar 27, 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Feb 28	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3 8:45a WebCom 6:00p Rental: 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	Mar 4 1:00p Meditation 6:00p Rental 7:30p Choir	Mar 5 4:00p Prep for pasta dinner	Mar 6 12:00p prep for pasta dinner 4:30-7:30p Pasta Festival - First Parish Fundraiser. No reservation required
Mar 7 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Morris Dancers 4:45p : Morris Dancers 3:00p Rental 6:30p Rental 7:00p Youth Group	Mar 8 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:00p RE Committee	Mar 9 6:30p Human Resources 7:00p Rental 7:00p Program Council	Mar 10 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters Deadline for Connector of March 17	Mar 11 1:00p Meditation 7:30p Choir	Mar 12 7:00p Chalice Circle	Mar 13 10:00a Ritchie Memorial Service 4:00p Interfaith Youth homelessness awareness overnight
Mar 14 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Morris Dancers 11:45a Landscape Com 11:45a The New U: discussion for newcomers and longer-timers, too 2:30p FPS Open House 4:45p Morris Dancers 6:30p Rental	Mar 15 7:00p Rental: Yoga 8:30p Finance Committee	Mar 16 7:00p Rental 7:00p COA Workshop 7:30p Worship Associates	Mar 17 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters	Mar 18 1:00p Meditation 7:00p Rental: Sudbury Dems 7:30p Choir 7:30p Carbon Consciousness	Mar 19	Mar 20 11:30a Temptime music program for kids 1 to 5 and their caregivers 4:00p set up/clean up for Morris Dancers fundraiser 7:30p Morris Dancers Fundraiser Dance Performance & Dinner
Mar 21 10:00a Worship Service 11:45a Morris Dancers 11:45a Open Meeting on Stewardship & Parish Finances 1:30p Jr. Youth group movie presentation: other Youth Groups from area invited 4:45p Morris Dancers 5:00p Women's Alliance Meeting & Potluck dinner	Mar 22 6:00p Rental: Yoga 7:30p SPTF	Mar 23 12:00 4th Tuesday BYO Lunch & Discussion 7:00p Rental 7:00p COA Workshop 7:00p Parenting Workshop: Budgeting 7:30p Pastoral Associates	Mar 24 7:00p Rental 7:00p Quilters Deadline for Connector of March 31	Mar 25 2:00p Meditation 8:30p Choir	Mar 26	Mar 27 9:00a Rental: "Rising Sap" program 4:00p set up/clean up for coffeehouse 7:00p Coffee House on the Rocky Plain\, Fundraiser for First Parish & Cusco School, Peru