



Volume 332 • Issue 1 • September 2010

## From the Parish Committee

By Melinda Collins,  
Parish Committee Chair

Warmest greetings as we begin a new church year together. While our church year officially begins in July and many of us have had the opportunity to continue worshiping together over the Summer, Fall marks a special time of reengagement for many of us. Paradoxically, the nip in the air that signals the coming season of physical hibernation also marks the awakening of our intellectual faculties as they shake off much of their relaxed attitude of summer.

We begin our year with the opportunity to reunite in both body and spirit around our continued work to re-covenant with one another. Over the summer, our covenant process subcommittee consisting of Tony Dutzik, Matthew Najarian and Bebe Williamson considered how we might best serve one another as we decide how to close this process and begin living in the spirit and intention of loving, compassionate and generous dedication to our community, its ministry, and to each other.

Their work reaffirmed the following conviction: the most significant aspect of the remainder of the re-covenanting process lies in our need to raise the level of our involvement and commitment to community through our weekly encounter with the words of the covenant. Not the words as

individual entities, but in their totality as a representation of the spiritual identity of our congregation as a whole and in community with each other. As we experience the covenant in use in Sunday morning worship, we're asked to see how it inspires us to live our values in community, and whether it reflects the values we identify with and want to promote in the world.

The committee's thoughtful work was considered by the larger Parish Committee and the following was developed:

We will say the proposed covenant and remind the congregation of the upcoming vote each Sunday.

On October 17, a special meeting of the congregation will be called to order. The floor will be open to discussion, at which time specific language amendments can be proposed and discussed. After discussion we will have a conclusive vote.

In reaching a concluding vote, we encourage the congregation to think in terms of a broad definition of consensus that has been the goal of the Parish Committee since the beginning of this process. We ask you to vote in support of the covenant if you agree that:

- It reflects the priorities of the majority
- All who have asked to be heard have had a chance to be heard
- You can live with the final document as one that expresses the collective identity and commitments of the congregation, determined by a

process that was open and inclusive

### Planning for Our Future

While part of the Parish Committee's regular work involves planning, it's been some time since the congregation has engaged in envisioning its future together. Doing so would allow us to engage in ministry that will help us to grow physically and metaphorically by making considered choices based on our identity and mission.

Recently, a unique and seemingly tailor-made opportunity to be guided through such momentous work was offered to us. Our congregation is one of only eight congregations in the UUA to be awarded the chance to participate in a pilot program called "Leap of Faith: Becoming the Religion for Our Time."

"The goal of the program is simple: to help congregations poised for significant numerical growth by facilitating learning communities and mentoring relationships with our movement's most vibrant congregations. In short, your congregation will be paired with a dynamic and successful mentoring congregation that has faced similar challenges and opportunities, and you will engage together in targeted learning and teaching that is geared to your congregation's capacity and needs."

### The program's objectives are to develop:

- Congregational leadership skills necessary for culture change

*Continued on page 3*

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

Parisa Parsa



### Wholly holy, wholeness

I always enter into summer with high expectations. Beginning somewhere in February, as I fill out summer camp forms and check on dates for various plans, I feel my weariness with winter's routines and mentally check off all the things I'll be able to do when the mythic open book of summer arrives. The attic will be cleaned out, the basement organized, my coming year's sermons all researched, the stack of books that has grown all year will be read and integrated into my very being. I will have spent loads of time at the beach and the pool with the kids, and will have re-connected with friends I see all too rarely. I will get regular exercise, and lots of rest. And for all of these things, I will be a better person: more centered, well-informed, ready to greet all of what comes with fresh energy and perfect equanimity.

I'm finally ready to admit that my dream of summer not only has not been realized, but won't likely be any summer soon. It's not that *none* of the things I hoped for was realized. I went to the beach; I did some cleaning and organizing; I saw beloved friends. It's just that none of them came about fully, spaciouly, perfectly as I had dreamed back in February (and March, April and May). Summer, for all its promise of time apart, also takes me out of some of the things that I most enjoy, that keep me feeling most connected and whole. And that is why I always enter fall with some relief.

It's such a joy to think of seeing you all again. The ministry of the church, shared by us all, has continued with strength this summer: meals and rides and cards and care were offered plentifully to those going through tough times

as well as those being welcomed to the community; Sunday worship continued beautifully; work was completed on the buildings; committees held planning retreats to prepare for the coming year. But we have been far-flung, and haven't been in one another's presence, all at once, since June. It has felt far too long.

"We live in a fractured world. I've always seen it as my role as an artist to attempt to make wholeness."

-- Anish Kapoor

Much has happened in our individual lives and for the community in the time since we were last together. When we re-gather to begin another church year in just a couple of weeks, we will be forming ourselves anew. We'll be re-acquainting ourselves with who we are as a whole after our time spent in fragments over the summer. We'll be re-imagining what our spiritual wholeness can mean in the world, and how we seek it in this community.

I'm looking forward to seeing each and every one of your faces on September 12 and continuing our journey in faith.

See you in church!

## In Worship

This year, as has been happening for the last several years, we've organized our worship calendar around a variety of broad themes. We'll be sharing those themes with you in each month's newsletter, and inviting you to reflect on them individually, in small group ministries, or in other informal gatherings as we go through the month. This will replace weekly sermon titles as we work to develop a theme across the month, and you can count on the weekly email update to tell you who will be leading worship and any details about the upcoming week.

### WHOLENESS

September 12- October 10

The notion of being returned to a state of wholeness/oneness is a compelling spiritual need, and one of the most challenging things to act on in a fragmented, broken world. This worship series will explore the ways we find wholeness through connection with our neighbor, our deepest selves, our faith community, and our earth and animal companions. Where do you meet your own yearning for wholeness? What does it take to listen to it and live it? How does it challenge norms in place in the world around you? How can we support one another in living less fragmented lives? How are we called to act in our larger community to support the healing of the world?

Worship will be multigenerational on September 12 and October 10.

Parish Committee,  
Continued from page 1

- Compelling congregational narratives that sustain growth in years to come
- Cross-congregational relationships of learning, counsel and support
- Working relationships between participating congregations and UUA staff

We will keep you informed as we receive more detailed information and the Parish Committee considers this opportunity more carefully.

Please, know that my door is open to any who need to or would like to reach out to the Parish Committee. Best wishes for your growth and health as we enter into a new season of ministry and service together.

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*Melinda can be reached at 617-696-6052 or [parishcommittee@fpmilton.org](mailto:parishcommittee@fpmilton.org)*

## NOTES from the ORGAN LOFT

*By Emma Jean Moulton,  
UUA Credentialed  
Music Director*



Here it comes, a new church season! Some of us continued to come to First Parish every Sunday throughout the summer, some came FP sporadically or visited other churches, and some have had a three-month vacation from church! But now it's time to return to our church home. Refreshed and ready to go, we are drawn back to our religious community of seekers, stepping through the doors into the sanctuary built by our ancestors when they, too, came together searching for divine guidance. We look forward to the inspired words of our minister, Parisa, to the gentle flow of the worship liturgy which gives us opportunity to connect with the holy, and to, with the Meetinghouse Choir, joyfully singing our faith.

Teens and adults who love to sing are welcome to join the Meetinghouse Choir which provides singing leadership in Sunday morning worship. We rehearse every Sunday morning

promptly at 8:45AM in the Meetinghouse. All voice parts welcome!

Patricia Ostrem, chair of the Music Committee, and her husband, Mark,

have invited the Meetinghouse Choir to a "We Love to Sing" pot-luck and "sing" at their home, Friday, September 10, beginning at 6:00PM. Please RSVP to Emma Jean Moulton, Music Director ([emmadon@aol.com](mailto:emmadon@aol.com) 617-698-3200)

Many, many thanks to the following people whose musical talents enhanced the summer services: Peter Smith, Natalie Polito, Patricia and Mark Ostrem, Ruth Hannon, Ann White, Bill and Ursula Macmillan, Jenny Mulqueen and Womansong, Alexander Pata-vina, Kathy Fagan, John Baublitz, the Lamont-Fallon family, and Tim Steele.

Isaiah 40:31. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

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*Emma Jean can be reached at 617.698.6329 or [emmadon@aol.com](mailto:emmadon@aol.com)*

## Teacher Development Seminar!

**Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm-9 pm**

All Fall and Spring Semester Children's RE Teachers, NEW AND OLD!

Topics covered will include:

- Facilitating small groups as a spiritual practice of welcoming
- Classroom and behavior management
- Welcoming children and youth with special needs

Dinner and childcare will be provided. RSVP to [reassistant@fpmilton.org](mailto:reassistant@fpmilton.org). Be sure to indicate dietary restrictions, as well as names and ages of children who will need childcare.

## SAY CHEESE!

Olan Mills is coming to First Parish this Fall for a free photo shoot and we want to make sure you and your family are ready for your close up. Olan Mills is taking photos for a new Membership Photo Directory which will be distributed free of charge to all church members. Individuals and families will have the option to buy your own photos but there is no charge or purchase required to have your photo taken or to be included in the directory.

When church resumes on September 12, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the

link and a table set up at coffee hour to reserve your photo shoot time slot. In the meantime, check your calendar and think about which of the following dates and times works best for you and your family:

**Friday, September 24  
2pm – 9:30pm**

**Saturday, September 25  
9am – 5pm**

**Tuesday, November 16  
2pm – 9:30pm**

**Wednesday, November 17  
2pm – 9:30pm**

**Thursday, November 18  
2pm – 9:30pm**

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

By Robin Barraza,  
Director of Religious



new youth advisor Megan Klantchnek.

We are excited to introduce our new Youth Advisor, Megan Klantchnek. Megan is an experienced youth sexuality educator,

counselor, youth mentor, and she is filled with intelligence, bright humor, energy and spunk. (see bio next page) Please join Parisa, Megan and I for a pizza party and meeting following church on September 12, 2010.

Finally, new RE Assistant and Membership Coordinator, Jamez Terry began work at First Parish in August. He has a calm and kind-hearted presence, is a quick learner, pays great attention to detail, and brings the wisdom of being a life-long Unitarian Universalist and divinity school student at Harvard to his position here. We feel so lucky to have him in this role.

## Coming of Age - 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders

Speaking of important transitions: parents of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders mark your calendars!

Beginning in September, the Religious Education program will offer a Coming of Age program open to all 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Coming of Age marks the transition from childhood to adulthood, and the important time of discernment for youth in between. By participating in Coming of Age, we hope that the youth will:

- Assume responsibility for their own physical, mental, and spiritual well-being;
- Gain self-confidence, learn how to make good choices and realize that their feelings are valid and that their opinions matter;
- Expand their vision of the world by allowing them to encounter differing views, cultures and life experiences;
- Understand that they have an important role in their family, their church, and the larger community;
- Develop a personal value system rooted in ethical and theological principles;
- Realize they are non-judgmentally

accepted in our church community, and that it is a safe place for them to be themselves.

Coming of Age will be led by Megan Klantchnek, Youth Advisor, Erik Resly, Intern Minister, and The Rev. Parisa Parsa, Minister. During Coming of Age, we will have a sleep over at the church, have a Unitarian and Universalist historical scavenger hunt of Boston, design a service project, talk about the "big questions" in life, write faith statements, play games, and have fun!

We will begin with an opening ceremony, orientation, and overnight for all participants on **Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**, and meet every Tuesday night after that from September 28<sup>th</sup>-April 6<sup>th</sup>. A dinner and celebration will take place on **Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** in the evening for all youth, parents and mentors.

All of this will end with a final celebration and a Coming of Age worship service in the Meeting House on **April 10, 2011** in which we will present our statements of faith.

## Become a Coming of Age mentor!

The Coming of Age program contains a vital mentor component that is essential to its success. Interested in mentoring a young teen on their spiritual journey? Please talk to me [dre@fpmilton.org], Megan [megan.almeda@gmail.com] or Erik Resly [internminister@fpmilton.org] and let us know.

## Become a Religious Education Teacher!

Are you looking for ways to give back to your First Parish community? Your help is always needed in the Religious Education program. We have openings for teachers at all levels, from the nursery to the youth room. We have the best young people for miles around, and it is always a privilege to spend an hour with them. Talk to me [dre@fpmilton.org] or Jamez [reassistant@fpmilton.org] to sign up.

See you in church,

Robin

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Robin can be reached at 617.698.6329  
or dre@fpmilton.org

Dear Friends,

I hope your summers were restful and contained appropriate amounts of celebration of the sun-drenched days and starry nights. Our summer was beautiful. While our household certainly became busier, it contained the quiet and slowed-down calm that descends over a home when a newborn is in it. We are delighted to have welcomed new baby Eloisa Elena Barraza, to our family. Cecilia, Andres and I have had a lovely time getting to know this new little soul, and we are looking forward to introducing her to her new church home in the fall. We are particularly appreciative of the many gifts, dinners and offers to babysit from First Parishioners since her birth. We know how lucky we are to be members of this faith community. Thank you, also, to the Religious Education Committee, Jeannine Heynes, the RE teachers, Parisa Parsa and the First Parish staff for supporting the work of the religious education program while I was away on maternity leave. The RE program didn't skip a beat due to all of these folks' capable leadership. I am so grateful for all of you.

## Transitions

I returned from my maternity leave this summer to a few other transitions at First Parish. We said a sad farewell to RE Assistant & Membership Coordinator, Jeannine Heynes. I am proud to have known Jeannine as a colleague and friend. She brought passion, knowledge, commitment and a sly wit to her work, and she will be greatly missed.

We are also thrilled to welcome three new folks to the First Parish staff. New intern minister, Erik Resly begins his work full-time here at First Parish this fall. He will be co-leading and co-coordinating the Coming of Age program for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders with

## INTRODUCTIONS

### **Jamez Terry, RE Assistant & Membership Coordinator**

Jamez is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and a brand new Massachusetts resident, having recently moved to the Boston area in order to at-



tend Harvard Divinity School. Prior to this move, he has traveled extensively and made his home in Maine, Alaska, Maryland, and half a dozen other states.

Along the way, Jamez has worked a myriad of jobs, ranging from conference organizing to training sled dogs. Most of his favorites have involved working with young people, whether in the social services – i.e. the Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League in DC – or in education – through parks, museums, and schools. Though this is his first time as part of the professional staff of a church, Jamez has served on church committees, taught religious education classes, and delivered sermons at both UU and Methodist churches. Having recognized his call to the ministry several years ago, he is excited to be actively pursuing that calling, both through his studies at Harvard and his work at First Parish.

Thus far, Jamez' academic focus has been primarily on American history, and he continues to work hard at becoming the world expert on presidential assassin Charles Guiteau. He is also a writer, performance artist, and radical organizer. His self-published zines have been featured in exhibits at the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Minneapolis Center for Book Arts, as well as in many printed collections. He is the co-founder of both the Denver Zine Library, which he has since left in other capable hands, and the Tranny Roadshow, with which he has been

bringing fantastic trans performance art all over North America since 2005.

In his (extremely limited) spare time, Jamez enjoys reading, camping, circuses, word games, baking, playing the violin, and spending time with his wife, Julia. They are looking forward to the birth of their first child in October and to their eventual return to Alaska. Meanwhile, they are delighted to be making their spiritual home at First Parish and are grateful for the warm welcomes that they have received. Jamez looks forward to working and growing with the RE and membership programs, and to meeting each and every one of you!

### **Erik Resly, Ministerial Intern**

Student minister Erik Resly is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree at [Harvard Divinity School](#), in preparation for ordained parish ministry in the Unitarian Universalist tradition.



Having grown up in Frankfurt, Germany, in the Unitarische Freie Religionsgemeinde, he studied international relations and comparative literature at Brown University before answering his call to journey with the Divine towards the pleroma of human communion. While at Divinity School, he has had the honor of working at the UUA's Office of International Resources, with the Harvard Working Group on UU Ritual, as an editor of the Journal of Comparative Theology and with the greater Boston MoveOn chapter. Over the summer, he worked as an inter-faith chaplain at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD, where he ministered to diverse peoples from around the world whose diseases have not responded to standard treatments or for whom no standard treatment has yet been developed. His (admittedly nerdy) academic interests currently include:

religious comparativism, theodicy and narrative ethics. Additionally, he enjoys the visual arts, poetry and jamming on a bass guitar. His family of origin resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, while he enjoys life with his girlfriend, Jaelyn Martínez, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### **Megan Klantchnek, Youth Advisor**

Megan comes to the Youth Advisor position at First Passion with a passion for social justice and working with youth.



Megan recently moved from Portland, Oregon to Boston for an Educator position with Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts. Before moving to Boston, Megan had two jobs, one as a co-director for an after school program with Camp Fire, USA and the other as a residential youth supervisor. Megan graduated from Western Oregon University with a BA in health education. Megan loves animals, reading, crocheting and of course, the sun. She cannot wait to meet all of the First Parish youth, and get started on a fun year together!

## **Register now for Religious Education!**

It helps us SO MUCH to have these forms completed as soon as possible. Additionally, all children who are registered will have their birthdays published in the The Link. Please make sure that your child is included!

If you have not already signed your children up for RE classes, you can do so online at [http://firstparish.homestead.com/re\\_registration.html](http://firstparish.homestead.com/re_registration.html)

If you have any questions please contact Jamez Terry at [reassistant@fpmilton.org](mailto:reassistant@fpmilton.org)

# EVERY SUNDAY

- 8:45 am –Meetinghouse Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 am –Silent Prayer & Meditation: Children’s Church
- 10:30 am –Worship
- 11:30 am -Social Hour in the Parish Hall
- 11:45 am -Children’s Choir Rehearsal: Children’s Church

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

Sunday, September 12th:  
Pancake Breakfast @ 9:00 am in the Parish Hall  
Worship @ 10:30 am in the Meetinghouse  
“Meet Megan” Youth Pizza Party @ 12 in the Parish Hall

### TEACHER DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

Friday, September 10th @ 6pm in the Parish Hall

### ALL CHURCH COUNCIL

Friday, September 17th @ 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

### RE CLASSES BEGIN

Sunday, September 19th @ 10:30am in assigned classrooms

### COMING OF AGE YOUTH SLEEPOVER

Friday, September 24th @ 5:30pm in the Parish Hall

### Celebrating September Birthdays in R.E.

- Alex Malmstrom, September 6, 9 years old
- Matteo Mastandrea, September 13, 10 years old
- Julia Mastandrea, September 23, 12 years old
- Sophie D’Alessandro, September 28, 6 years old
- Jackson Macmillan, September 28, 9 years old

# SUNDAY

5

12

12:00 pm, RE Committee Meeting, Library

12:00 pm, Youth Pizza Party, Meet Megan Parish Hall

19

RE Classes Begin

26

12:15 pm, Parish Committee Meeting Meetinghouse

**Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat**

**1**

**2**

7:00 pm,  
**Membership  
Committee,**  
Library

**3**

**4**

**6**

LABOR DAY

**7**

**8**

**9**

7:00 pm, **Worship  
Committee,**  
Activity Room

**10**

6:00 pm,  
**Teacher  
Development  
Seminar,**  
Parish Hall

**11**

**13**

7:15 pm, **Yoga,**  
Parish Hall

7:00 pm, **SAC,**  
Library

**14**

**15**

6:30 pm, **YAC,**  
Youth Room

NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE

**16**

7:00 pm,  
**Caring Committee,**  
Library

**17**

6:30 pm,  
**All Church  
Council,** Parish  
Hall

**18**

**20**

7:15 pm, **Yoga,**  
Parish Hall

**21**

**22**

**23**

**24**

2:00 pm,  
**Church  
Directory  
Photos,**  
Meetinghouse

5:30 pm,  
**COA Youth  
Sleepover,**  
Parish Hall

**25**

9:00 am, **Youth  
Sleepover ends**  
Parish Hall

9:30 am,  
**Church  
Directory  
Photos,**  
Meetinghouse

**27**

7:15 pm, **Yoga,**  
Parish Hall

**28**

7:00 pm, **COA,**  
Youth Room

**29**

**30**



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## From The Planner

U = Usher, C = Chalice Lighter, F = Flowers,  
H = Host Team, A = Announcements

### AT BAT

#### September 12

C: Henry Anderson  
F: Dianna Wilson  
U: Matthew & Gillian Najarian  
H: Elizabeth Menne, Tim Steele &  
Amy Givens  
A: Melinda Collins

#### September 19

C: Ryan Najarian  
F: Mallory Digges  
U: Sara Ann & Merrick Lockwood  
H: Annie Chamberlin,  
Joe & Christa Ayoub  
A: Chris Pitt

#### September 26

C: Miles Henricks  
F: Judith Darrell-Kemp  
U: Judith Darrell-Kemp & Tom Kemp  
H: Lisa White, Dianna Wilson,  
Susan Batson & Paul Casaz  
A: Jim May

### ON DECK

#### October 3

C: Sabrina Najarian  
F: Deb & Richard Venable  
U: Roger & Courtney Gray  
H: Tom & Ellen White,  
Ann White & Ann Hallet  
A: Mike Grant

#### October 10

C: Katherine Hagenbuch  
F: Libby Wasilewski  
U: Mark Whall & Mallory Digges  
H: Sara Ann & Merrick Lockwood,  
Brigitte Miller  
A: Matthew Najarian

#### October 17

C: TBA  
F: Judith Darrell-Kemp  
U: Judith Darrell-Kemp & Tom Kemp  
H: Jen Erbe Leggett & David Leggett,  
Tasha & Mike Bello  
A: Anita Penta

#### October 24

C: Allegra Giddings  
F: Giddings Family  
U: Dana & JB Clancy  
H: Giddings Family, Liz O'Rourke,  
Libby Wasilewski  
A: Brian Kelley

#### October 31

C: Nicholas Gern  
F: Anne Walters  
U: Beth Greenawalt & Jay Beaulieu  
H: Sara Nethercote, Austin Rowan &  
Beth Greenawalt  
A: Charlie Franich