



Some Thoughts for Your Penny

From your Finance Committee

Welcome back to another exciting year at First Parish. As a community we accomplished some great things over the past year, including not one but two caring expeditions to New Orleans, a new roof on our meetinghouse, and a host of improvements to make our buildings more accessible to those who are physically challenged. And we couldn't have done any of it without you. Thank you!

As most of you will recall, we made a community-wide decision last year to move our Annual Budget Drive from the fall to the spring in order to line up our giving year (formerly January 1st to December 31st) with our fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th). In order to accomplish this smoothly, we asked last fall that each household determine their financial commitment for the year and then be prepared to continue giving at that rate (at least) for an additional 6 months (18 months in all) to cover the period from January 1st, 2007, to June 30th, 2008. (Of course if you want to add anything more to last fall's commitment, you are welcome to do so!)

Meanwhile your Finance Committee has been hard at work assembling

a team to coordinate this year's Annual Budget Drive. Laurie McCorry has graciously signed on as co-chair, and we will once again be guided by the able hand of Dr. Wayne Clark from the UUA in charting our course. We currently anticipate that this year's drive will launch in mid January and be completed by mid March, so we are asking everyone to Save the date—Saturday, February 9th for this year's Fellowship Event! This will then give our Budget Committee approximately 6 weeks to develop a completed budget in time for our Annual Meeting in May. Among other things it is important to note that this time frame will not allow for extended indecision or procrastination in regards to making our financial commitments once the time arrives, so please begin giving it some thought in advance.

All of this will be an ambitious undertaking, but as usual, many hands can make light work (think of it as one of those old New England barn-raising). And we on the committee will do our best to keep you all fully informed as we move forward.

Respectfully,

Charlie Franich and Laurie McCorry
Finance Committee Co-Chairs

Charlie can be reached at 617.696.6848 or pemaquid@aol.com and Laurie at 617.696.1854 or laurie.mccorry@comcast.net

Milton Interfaith Clergy Association invites you to a Thanks For Giving Celebration!

The Milton Interfaith Clergy Association (MICA) invites the Milton community to an interfaith "Thanks for Giving" celebration on Sunday, November 18, 2007 at 4pm at First Parish Church, 535 Canton Avenue.

We know that our community is enriched by the hard work of many volunteers who work tirelessly for the good of the community. This year, we will honor and celebrate the service of those who make their lives a testament to generosity by giving of themselves. We also know that poverty and hunger are real issues in our town, and as always, we will raise donations of food and funds to benefit the Milton Food Pantry. The celebration will be followed by a simple supper of soup and bread, a centerpiece for community conversation.

We invite all community organizations in Milton to name an individual (or at most two) who have offered extraordinary service to the community of Milton or beyond, people who have given of themselves to make our community or our world a better place. Submit names and a 50-word summary of their service to Rabbi Alfred Benjamin of Temple Shalom by emailing him at rabbibenjamin@templeshalomonline.org

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER PARISA PARSA

Chasing the Invisible



"No trumpets sound when the important decisions of our lives are made. Destiny is made known silently," writes Agnes de Mille. Choices, big and small, form the fabric of our lives. How and what we will eat, what we will wear, where we will live, what we do for a living – all of those things add up to the meaning and value of our lives. Our choices express, intentionally or unintentionally, our values in the world. They shape our own destinies, the lives of our closest loved ones, and determine much about the future. Some choices we fret over anxiously; others seem easy as pie. However we move through them, life-shaping decisions can't be avoided.

When we're making a really big decision – one for the ages – it can feel too vulnerable to let others in to our process. We might discuss around the edges of it, with pointed questions to particular people, but it's hard to let others in on the depth of things we have to juggle. There's too much to it, and the stakes seem too high. Whether to stay in a relationship that is troubled; how best to care for parents who can no longer care for themselves; how to make a risky career decision; what treatment to pursue for one's own disease; how to deal with an unplanned pregnancy.

This month, our worship life and reflection as a community will center on the topic of discernment. Discernment is a religious term for the intentional process of separating our own will from the sacred will, of attempting to distinguish the "right" in a situation based on an eternal Good that may be different than what the world around us tells us we ought to do. The word discernment itself comes from a root meaning "to separate," or "to pull

apart." One definition I found says that discernment is "perceiving that which cannot be easily seen." Our way down life's path is not always easy to see or obvious to most of us. When we engage in discernment, we separate the pressing expectations of the world, our egos, the people around us, and listen closely for the presence of the sacred. It's something that is best not done alone, whether we're discerning the future of our individual lives or our community's life.

Our intern minister, Cormac Levenson, will start us off on the subject as one who is in the midst of big discernment himself. I will follow with an exploration of the role of doubt in the life of faith. We'll consider the role of discernment as we give thanks just before Thanksgiving, and finally, we'll explore the ways some folks negotiated their paths to First Parish's door on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

As we make our way through the month, let us be in conversation with each other about the ways we've made sense of our own big choices, how we've followed the leadings of the spirit, and the surprising and challenging places those choices have taken us. Maybe by making our normally hidden processes visible to one another, we can find that our hard-won wisdom can be useful to others – and that we have many stories in common of the stumbles that led us to where we are now. Maybe we can find some clues together about the destiny we share. At the very least we'll have some laughter and some tears to offer each other along the way.

See you in church!

Parisa

Sundays in November

November 4, 2007

Cormac Levenson, intern minister, preaching

Dottie Pitt, worship assistant

We begin our month exploring discernment (see Parisa's article)

November 11

Taking the "Bull" by the Horns

The Rev. Parisa Parsa

When it comes to big life decisions, and to the life of faith, our natural ability and inclination to doubt can be a help or a hindrance. How can we make the most of doubt as a spiritual gift?

November 18

Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

For What Are We Thankful?

The Rev. Parisa Parsa

Robin Barraza

Choosing what and when and how to give thanks can be tricky business. This morning we'll explore in song and story the ways that giving thanks can help learn what we're called to do and be in our world.

November 25

Paths to First Parish

Planned and led by members of the Worship Committee

Featuring Marion Cramer, Matthew Najarian, and one more FP member

No matter what faith we grew up in (or didn't grow up in), we all have interesting stories about the path that brought us to First Parish. This morning we will hear from three First Parish members about their journey here.

Greetings From Cormac Levenson, Ministerial Intern

I want to begin by thanking everyone at First Parish in Milton for making me feel so warmly welcomed.

I have gotten to know many of you, and feel very blessed that I get to work around such wonderful people. For those of you who I have not met, I should say, by way of introduction, that this is the beginning of a two-year internship, which I am embarking upon as part of my training to become a minister. The other part of my training for ministry is my continuing education, which takes place at Harvard Divinity School, where I am in my second year of a three year Master's of Divinity Program. I currently live in Somerville and am more than happy to get out of the semi-urban neighborhood and do some work out here in Milton.



As many of you know, one of my primary tasks during my two-year tenure at First Parish is to help welcome newcomers. I want to thank everyone who has participated in greeting new folks, whether they were ushers, greeters, or whether they just took the time to say hello to someone with a yellow cup at coffee hour. I also want to encourage everyone to make this an even more welcoming congregation. What a gift it is to be able to share all of the treasures of fellowship, religious education, and spiritual practice that we have here at First Parish. I, for one, feel grateful for being able to take part in these gifts!

I hope that in time I will get to meet all of you. Feel free to introduce yourselves at any time, and ask any questions about ministerial training, membership development, or raise any other queries that come to mind.

Blessings,

Cormac

Youth Group Welcomes A New Advisor

Leslie Yeransian grew up as a UU in Weston's First Parish Church. She went to Deerfield Academy where she taught Sunday school to 4th, 5th and 6th graders at The First Church of Deerfield. She graduated from Smith Col-



lege, where she majored in History. During her junior year abroad she studied at Oxford University, where she developed her senior thesis on Egyptian Monasticism. She later went on to get her masters from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern.

She's worked for various ABC affiliates as a field reporter and most recently as a dot-com reporter for ABC News in NYC. She recently moved back to Boston and is pursuing longer form documentary work. Leslie is an avid reader, writer, improviser, foodie, UU, and puppy-mom.

She's extremely excited to be part of the First Parish's dynamic youth group.

Leslie can be reached at
youthadvisor@fpmilton.org

**The residents at Unquity House,
30 Curtis Rd, Milton (off Blue Hill Parkway)
invite you to their ANNUAL FAIR
on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 10:00 – 2:00.
Free admission.**

The Officers of First Parish

Parish Committee Chair: **Tracey Robinson**

Vice Chair: **Sylvia Stoddart**

Clerk: **Mark Ostrem**

Treasurer: **James May**

Parish Committee Members:

**Chris Pitt, Mallory Digges, Deb Larson-Venable, Christa Ayoub
Diane Fallon Johnson, Michael Grant**

It's Easy Being Green

By *Bill Macmillan*

I am excited to announce a bunch of changes here at First Parish that will help reduce the operating costs while minimizing our impact on the environment. The quest to save money is a mission this church has been on for more than 300 years. We try and look for opportunities to save all the time but reducing the carbon footprint of our church is a pretty new concept to me and perhaps you too.

During the summer construction, we really started to think hard about actions we could take to achieve the aforementioned goals. The Buildings and Grounds committee decided to replace the old kitchen sterilizer with a dishwasher so we could reduce and perhaps eliminate the use of paper products. A dishwasher had been on B&G's radar for quite a while and with all the other changes happening, it seemed like the right time. Roger Gray did some research and found a model that suited our need, so he ordered it and then went out and bought ceramic cups for coffee and tea and colored plastic cups for the kiddies. That was all it took to end the use of paper products at social hour and church events. A few weeks earlier, our sexton, Damien Browne had a brilliant idea of buying more recycle bins and placing them where people could recycle. It's not rocket science to think that if you provide an opportunity to make a good choice, people will make a good choice. Kudos to Damien for the suggestion. Needless to say, we bought a six new recycle bins and strategically placed them near the copier, in the parish hall and a few other places and hoped that folks would pre-sort their paper from plastic, metal and glass. And everyone is using them.

Our new bathrooms were equipped with auto shut off lights and

fans because they're required in all new public restrooms, which got us thinking about other ways to conserve energy. We learned of a program in which NSTAR provides grants for small businesses looking to upgrade their inefficient light fixtures to conserve energy. We applied and got accepted. The basics of the arrangement are: NSTAR will add \$121 to our electric bill each month for one year - a grand total of \$1452. In return, they pay for the replacement of 55 aging fluorescent and incandescent light fixtures and bulbs - A value of nearly \$6,000. Changing these fixtures is estimated to save the church \$1000 a year in electricity costs!

Just before church started in September, and as we were frantically getting the place ready for opening Sunday, Marie-Laure Brown and I discussed the possibility of composting our organic waste. Without batting an eyelash, she offered a composting bin that has now been installed in the rear of the church near the trash containers. The Sunday social hour hosting instructions have been updated with instructions to put organic waste in a paper bag and dispose of it in the composting bin. One day we'll use the compost to fertilize flower beds. How cool is that?

We're not done though. Everyone can take part in achieving a greater level of cost savings and help green the place by following a few simple guidelines:

- If you're the last one to leave a room, shut the lights off.
- If you're the last one out of the room at the end of the day or night, turn the heat down to 60 degrees.
- If you're throwing something out, give some thought as to whether it should be recycled or composted and dispose of it properly.
- If you have an idea or a suggestion on how we can be greener or save some green, share it with us.

*Bill can be reached at 617.698.6329 or
ops@fpmilton.org*

INTERFAITH GATHERING OF REMEMBRANCE AND HEALING

What: Interfaith gathering for all people affected by the loss of a child of any age

When: Sunday Nov. 4,
3PM

Where: Parish Hall, First
Unitarian-Universalist
Church, 535 Canton Ave.,
Milton

Program: Time to gather together in reflections, song, and fellowship. Light refreshments will be provided following program.

Questions?

Call Susan Monack
at 617-696-4137

We hope you can join us

Cafe Blue Hills
and
Enter Stage Left Theater
present
Love Letters

Featuring ESLTheater's
Paul Champlin
& **Dawn Anderson**

A.R. Gurney's *Love Letters* chronicles the relationship between a man and a woman solely through their correspondence. The play tells the story of Andrew Makepeace Ladd and Melissa Gardner, whose poignantly funny friendship and ill-fated romance takes them from second grade through adolescence, maturity, and into middle age.

**Saturday,
November 10th
at 7:00 PM**

at First Parish in Milton

**\$10 Suggested
Donation**

Scrumptious desserts, plus fairtrade coffee, tea and other bevs will be on sale to benefit the

**Milton Residents
Fuel Assistance Fund**

Notes *from the* Choir Loft.....



By Emma Jean Moulton

Come up the stairs to the choir loft and "Discover the Organ" – all 2367 pipes – on Sunday, November 25 right after church (11:35). Emma Jean will illustrate the story, "Rex, the King of Instruments", by Daniel Burton, by demonstrating the various parts of the organ. Children and adults all welcome.

Also on November 25, something new: a "One-hour choir". This is a time for anyone – families with children, teens, young or old – anyone(!)-who wishes to sing that morning for church to come to the Meetinghouse at 9:00AM, practice until 10:00, preparing a special song with Emma Jean, and then sing it in the service! Choir members are also welcome to come. Let's try it!

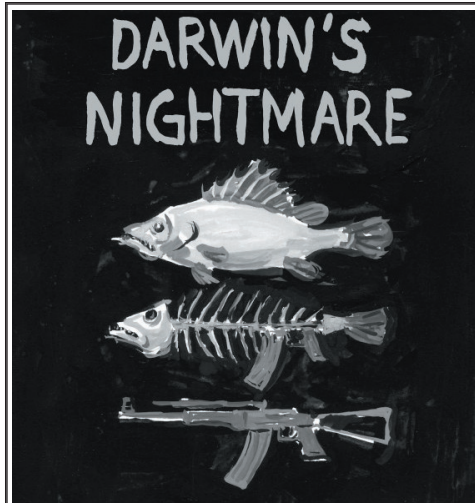
Holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas - are a good time to start

singing in the choir. Remember that choir rehearsal is every Sunday morning, beginning at 8:45AM in the Meetinghouse. Singing is great for body and soul!!

Many thanks to our in-house First Parish band: Chuck Hagenbuch and Wayne Johnson have been regularly playing drums and bass, respectively, and adding a lot of life to our singing at FP. Also, thank you to Tim Steele, who handled the music Sunday, Oct. 7.

Emma Jean has just completed the tasks of year one of the UU Musicians' Network Song-leading Certification program, and is off and running into year two. Yeah!

*Emma Jean can be reached at
617.698.6329 or emmadon@aol.com*



**Friday, November 16
at 7:00 PM in the
Parish Hall**

Adult RE's Friday Night Films

continues with this tale about humans between the north and south, about globalization, and about fish.

Some time in the 1960's, in the heart of Africa, a new animal was introduced into Lake Victoria as a little scientific experiment. The Nile Perch, a voracious predator, extinguished almost the entire stock of the native fish species. However, the new fish multiplied so fast, that its white fillets are today exported all around the world.

Huge hulking ex-Soviet cargo planes come daily to collect the latest catch in exchange for their south-bound cargo... Kalashnikovs.

ALL SUNDAYS

8:45 am – Meetinghouse Choir Rehearsal

9:00 am – Meditation & Silent Prayer: Children's Church

10:30 am – Worship

Special Events

Remembrance and Healing Community Worship

Sunday, November 4, 3:00 pm in the Meeting House

Coming of Age Sleepover

Friday, November 9, 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall

Cafe Blue Hills

Saturday, November 10, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Friday Film - Darwin's Nightmare

Friday, November 16, 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Fall Cleanup & Leaf Raking

Saturday, November 17, 9:00 am in the Church Yard

Milton Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 18, 3:00 pm in the Meeting House

Save The Date

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism and First Parish

Sunday, December 2, 12-3 pm

Sunday

4

10:45 am, Youth Chat, Youth Room

12 pm, Youth Group, Youth Room

12 pm, RE Committee, Library

3:00 pm, Remembrance and Healing,
Meeting House

11

9 am, Buildings & Grounds, Library

10:45 am, Youth Chat, Youth Room

12 pm, Youth Group, Youth Room

18

10:45 am, Youth Chat, Youth Room

12 pm, Youth Group, Youth Room

12:30 pm, Parish Committee, Chase
Parlor

3:00 pm, Milton Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service, Meeting House

25

10:45 am, Youth Chat, Youth Room

12 pm, Youth Group, Youth Room

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <u>6:45 pm, OWL, Youth Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u> <u>7pm, SAC, Library</u> <u>7:30 pm, Finance, Activity Room</u>	2	3
5 <u>7:15 pm, Yoga, Parish Hall</u>	6 <u>6:30 pm, COA Parent Orientation, Activities Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	7 <u>6:30 pm, Evensong for Families, Parish Hall</u> <u>6:45 pm, YAC, Youth Room</u> <u>7 pm, Women's Singing Group, Meeting House</u>	8 <u>6:45 pm, OWL, Youth Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u> <u>7 pm, Caring Circle, Library</u>	9 <u>6:30 pm, COA Sleepover, Parish Hall</u>	10 <u>7 pm, Cafe Blue Hills, Parish Hall</u>
12 <u>7:15 pm, Yoga, Parish Hall</u>	13 <u>6:30 pm, COA, Activities Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	14 <u>7 pm, Women's Singing Group, Meeting House</u>	15 <u>6:30, Parenting Children w/ Special Needs, Library</u> <u>6:45 pm, OWL, Youth Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	16 <u>7:00 pm, Friday Film, Parish Hall</u>	17 <u>9:00 am, Fall Clean Up, Church Yard</u>
19 <u>7:15 pm, Yoga, Parish Hall</u>	20 <u>6:30 pm, COA, Activities Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	21 <u>7 pm, Sustainable Milton, Chase Parlor</u>	22 <u>THANKSGIVING</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	23 <u>7:00 pm, Full Moon Esbat, Parish Hall</u>	24
26 <u>7:15 pm, Yoga, Parish Hall</u>	27 <u>6:30 pm, COA, Activities Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	28 <u>7 pm, Women's Singing Group, Meeting House</u>	29 <u>6:45 pm, OWL, Youth Room</u> <u>7 pm, AA, Parish Hall</u>	30	31



535 Canton Avenue
Milton, Massachusetts 02186

www.fpmilton.org • tel: 617.698.6329 • fax: 617.698.6435

Rev. Parisa Parsa, Minister
minister@fpmilton.org

Robin Barraza, RE Director
dre@fpmilton.org

Emma Jean Moulton, Music Director
emmadon@aol.com

Bill Macmillan, Operations Manager
ops@fpmilton.org

Ashley Crittenden, Administrative Assistant
office@fpmilton.org

Cormac Levenson, Intern Minister
internminister@fpmilton.org

Joel Hiller, Children and Youth Music
hiffer@comcast.net

Diane Ferrari
Community and Parish Funds Coordinator
socialworker@fpmilton.org or 617.696.1214

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milton, Mass.
Permit No.
58832

From The Planner

U = Usher
C = Chalice Lighter
F = Flowers
H = Host Team
A = Parish Committee Announcer

AT BAT

November 4

U: Jenn Cartee, Chuck Hagenbuch
C: Katy Casaz
F: Alison Barry
H: Mallory Digges, Laurie Macintosh, Chad & Reva Williams
A: Jim May

November 11

U: Denise & Andy Strang
C: Olivia Malmstrom
F: Denise & Andy Strang
H: Jim Kelley, Allison Zippay, Paul Casaz, Debby Asebai
A: Mark Ostrem

November 18

U: Lynne Stack, Andrew Maloney
C: Guiliana Giddings
F: Lynne Stack
H: Melinda & Harris Collins,
Jay Beaulieu, Jen Pinkus
A: Tracey Robinson

November 25

U: Chris & Karla Clifford
C: Ruby Baker-Poveromo
F: Emma Jean & Donald Moulton
H: TBA
A: Christa Ayoub

ON DECK

December 2

U: Cathy Bly & Line Corcoran
C: Maeve Corcoran
F: Elaine Craghead
H: Bill & Ursula Macmillan,
Laurel Dowling, Amy Givens
A: Michael Grant

December 9

U: Tom Kemp & Judith Darrell-Kemp
C: Miles Henricks
F: Giddings Family
H: Elise Henricks, Tony Dutzik,
Ruth Hannon & Charlie Franich
A: Diane Fallon-Johnson

December 16

U: Matthew & Gillian Najarian
C: Sabrina Najarian
F: David Morse
H: William Flynn, Claudia Wellington,
Robin Coyne, Line Corcoran
A: Deb Larson-Venable

December 23

U: Amy Kavadlo, Dale Golembeski
F: Amy Kavadlo, Dale Golembeski
A: Chris Pitt

Holiday Services TBA