



Volume 331 • Issue 10 • June 2010

From the Parish Committee

By *Melinda Collins,*
Parish Committee Chair

I joined First Parish Milton just prior to Parisa's calling. I came seeking a spiritual community for myself, and have devoted my energies to the good of each person who walks through our doors. Whether these efforts take the form of a smile and warm greeting, hosting social hour, planning for and attending meetings, or somewhat more involved efforts, I do these things out of love and loyalty to our community. It is my privilege to serve and care and to receive the same ministrations from you in turn.

During the most recent phase of our re-covenanting we continued to gain valuable insight into our congregation and information that allows us to make refinements to this dynamic process. To this end, it seems appropriate to review the process leading up to the latest modification of our proposed covenant.

The feedback session on April 25 revealed three key details:

1. There was broad support for the initial proposal set forth by the covenant crafting team.
2. There was widespread feedback received through different methods

that the length should be shorter. This nearly universal response represented a strong mandate from the congregation.

3. The April 25th session, and subsequent feedback received, also lifted up a desire that had not been understood to be widely shared before: the desire to have an affirmation of Unitarian and Universalist theological heritage, even by folks who do not identify with those theologies now. Several people said they themselves might not be sure they believe in God, but that a covenant without the mention of the God of our forbears didn't feel "true" to First Parish as they know it.

This was new information the original crafting group didn't have, because the assumption had been made that folks would want the covenant to capture their current understanding of the holy. It turns out that there is a desire to capture that current sense, but also a strong desire to capture tradition, even if it is not what we most readily name now.

The original crafting team completed their tremendous and invaluable efforts in advance of the feedback session on April 25th and handed off the baton to the Parish Committee. A team of Parish Committee members worked together to incorporate the feedback and arrive at a revised draft. The current version resulted from their efforts, which focused on the following priorities:

1. Preserve as much as possible of

the crafters work, and therefore the congregation's spiritual inspiration

2. Shorten the document

3. Include an embrace of theological origins without making it a mandate for current belief

The Parish Committee invites a final round of feedback to be delivered in the following ways by the end of May:

1. First Parish Office: (617) 698-6329
2. E-mail: covenant@fpmilton.org
3. In person feedback sessions: Meetinghouse after services – 5/23 and 5/30

Childcare will be provided. Teachers will escort children to the sitters after RE.

This feedback will then be thoughtfully considered and inform the efforts of a subcommittee of the Parish Committee, whose charge it has been to care faithfully for this process and for the congregation, which lives on beyond our present time. The draft produced will be voted on in the meetinghouse following our last worship service on June 27th.

The Reverend Alice Blair Wesley wrote the following on the nature of covenanting in the 2000-2001 Minns Lectures on "The Spirit and the Promise of Our Covenant." "It matters

Continued on next page

REFLECTIONS FROM THE MINISTER

Parisa Parsa



It's Magic

"Summer...it turns me upside down

Summer, summer, summer
It's like a merry-go-round"

-- The Cars

What a joy it is to begin to feel the warm air, see the blooming flowers, hear the sound of bats striking balls and smell the barbeque grills in action! Whether your life's schedule changes a lot or just a little during the summer months, there is something magic in the air. There is a lightness to things, a little extra time to breathe (or the illusion of it, anyway), a loosening of expectations of productivity. Time to just be.

Summers have often been some of the busiest times of my life: moves have usually happened in the summer for me, and I've been through a lot of them. I haven't moved in several years now, but the sense of life moving in a different way still brings a sense of awe, of excitement, and of some poignancy.

Transitions of all kinds happen in the summer, many of them quite emotional – especially for parents: children grow out of their clothes right before our eyes; learn to ride bikes or swim new strokes or climb higher in the trees. They leave for college, or come home changed only to leave again for more adventure that will shape them.

It will be an active summer here at church, even as the schedule changes. We'll offer worship all summer, and some of our committees will have their retreats for fellowship and planning. Lay leaders will be hard at work planning some of the summer services. I and the staff of First Parish will be deep in planning and preparation for the coming year.

We will also experience some loss and some gain before the new church year begins. We'll say hello to a brand new Summer Worship Coordinator, Kelly Cummins-Pickens (more information about her and about summer worship, can be found in this newsletter) and she will help us mark our weeks with deep worship which she will lead with a variety of lay leaders. We're very sad to lose the smart, energetic and efficient presence of Jeannine Heynes as her life's road takes her away from us. (You'll be notified of plans for a celebration as we say goodbye to her in July.) And before the new church year begins we will welcome a new intern minister - since we had such good luck with an Eric from Harvard Divinity School (HDS), we thought it might be good to try yet another Erik (this time with a "k") from HDS-- Erik Resly will join us in September as a full-time intern minister for the 2010-11 church year.

Those, of course, are just a few of the shifts at church. Our own lives will have their hills and valleys, their ebbs and flows in this season of warm air and (hopefully) cool breezes.

I pray that as we go about all that life brings this summer, we will take time to celebrate and infuse it with a sense of magic. Whether the shifts in your life are big or small, take time to be with them, to soak them in and cherish them for all they bring. The sensory pleasures of sun-baked feet in icy ocean water, the deep breaths of air thick with trees, the joy of simply taking time to laugh delightedly with a child. The moments of discovery with a young child, or the moments of realizing a new independence in a grown child; the new sense of your own place in life and to whom and what you belong. Let the summer's journey be a dance that brings magic and wonder, and sometimes a

Parish Committee, continued from page 1

most what we love, rather than what we believe. The free church is an organization we established so that we may help each other find, over and over again, in a thousand varying time frames and settings, what are our worthiest loves, and therefore, what these loves now require of us, if we would be loyal in the most meaningful sense, in what we do, in our actions, in the way we live." As we move forward together, let us remember the beauty of our shared worship and work, of treasured relationships, and our congregation's longstanding and meaningful presence within our larger community. Our living together in love is the true expression of our covenant.

Melinda can be reached at
617.696.6052 or
parishcommittee@fpmilton.org

tear. And remember that this community is a place you can return to contemplate, to commiserate, and to celebrate.

Happy summer, everyone!

Rev. Parisa's Summer Work Schedule

Parisa will be at General Assembly in Minneapolis June 22-26.

She will be on vacation from July 12-26, and from August 9-22.

She will be on study leave from July 27-August 8, and from August 23-September 3.

Please call the church office with any pastoral needs, and during the time that Parisa is unavailable you will be referred to a local colleague who will be filling in.

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 6

Flower Celebration!

We will enjoy our annual flower celebration, remembering the life and ministry of the Rev. Norbert Capek and its message of the strength to be found in diversity and the spirit of welcome. Our Second Graders will share their Passages journey with us, and we will thank our Religious Education Teachers as well.

Please bring a flower or two to share this day!

June 13

Pride, in the Name of Love

The Rev. Parisa Parsa

It's the weekend of Boston's Pride Parade, the anniversary of our own vote to become a Welcoming Congregation, a good time to look at the ways the world needs our message of love in light of recent legislation.

We will have a vote on the new proposed covenant immediately after worship, and then celebrate with our annual All-Church Picnic!

June 20

Worship begins on the summer schedule: 9:30am

Wait Till Your Father Gets Home

The Rev. Parisa Parsa

In celebration of Father's Day, we'll take a look at famous Dads in popular culture and the way they have shaped our expectations and understanding of modern fatherhood.

June 27

Small Group Ministry

led by Patricia Ostrem and Ruth Hannon

NOTES from the ORGAN LOFT Emma Jean Moulton



By Emma Jean Moulton, UUA Credentialed Music Leader

You will notice in the Parish Hall a lovely Yamaha spinet piano, gift from Susan and Don Monack. Many thanks for this beautiful instrument which will be a fine piano for any program or lessons held in the Parish Hall. If anyone is interested in the upright piano in the Parish Hall, please contact Emma Jean or Bill. The notes are all there, but some key covers are missing.

The Meetinghouse Choir and Music Committee celebrated the end of the season recently with a party at the home of Bebe Williamson. My, how the choir has grown this year!! Recently we welcomed Sara Ann Lockwood to the alto section.

The Meetinghouse has been used

quite frequently this spring by music teachers hosting student recitals in our great acoustical space. Jeremy Harmon, cello teacher, played in a worship service as a "thank-you" for the use of that space for his cello students' recital.

Summer service music is taking shape. Every worship service will have a keyboard player or guitarist to lead the hymns, and many people have offered to play various parts of the service. If you would like to play a prelude, postlude, or special music, please contact Emma Jean. We especially welcome teens who might have a special piece ready.

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

An Old Fashioned Church Picnic!

Sunday June 13th immediately following Worship, an Old Fashioned Church Picnic will be held on the green behind the church.

The Membership committee has a real rhythm when it comes to this type of thing so we will pull the basics together including various salads, drinks, party platters and the like! Your part is to come, bring desserts, blankets to sit on and some comfortable clothes.

No church picnic would be complete without yard games though! Bring balls, bats and whatever suits your fancy. Let your leadership skills show and pull a game together. How about a youth vs. adults kick-ball

game? For those who would like, bring a musical instrument of your choice, grab a quiet spot under a tree and sing, or lead us in song.

Come, enjoy the company, relax, and wear your name tag!

Hope to see you there!!

Membership Committee



Farewell from Jeannine Heynes

As so many of us here at First Parish know, life is unpredictable and can change quite rapidly, leading us to new places and having us say our goodbyes. Due to changing circumstances in my personal life I have decided it is best for me to leave the Boston area at the end of July and rejoin my family and friends in NY. My last Sunday at First Parish will be July 25th.

Thinking through the last year I have spent here at First Parish, my mind is flooded with a variety of big events and small intimate moments. When I first began working here I was told this church was filled with “foodies”, as most events and social hours have large spreads of food. I knew then that this was a community I could work within and welcome others into!

R.E. Teacher Appreciation

We would like to thank each and every one of our RE teachers for their caring and thoughtful work this year with our children and youth in the Religious Education program. We appreciate you all so much for each of your unique gifts. Thank you for your loving work with our children.

Our Spirit Play I and II teachers continued to provide a space in which the classroom is a church, where the circle of children is sacred, where all are free to wonder and make meaning of the stories about God and the stories of our faith tradition’s history and sources.

Our 2nd grade passages program teachers taught second graders about our seven UU principles, giving them meaningful projects in which 2nd graders wove the principles seamlessly into their everyday lives.

The children’s religious education leaders in the third through 7th grades carried on our successful program of “Small Group Ministry for children”

From the Pancake Breakfast (who’s bringing the bacon??) to the annual budget drive party, to the summer picnic, I am reminded of how welcoming this community is, how much it loves to eat, and how much I have enjoyed being part of it.

It was a privilege to work with such an extraordinary group of people at this church. The staff never ceased to amaze me with the amount of hard work, organization and commitment they put in every day for this community. I am thankful for, and will greatly miss, the shared laughter, labor and covenant that was part of our day-to-day office life. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know, and work with, those on the Membership and Religious Education committee. Through the planning of events, trainings, and programs for this church I witnessed just how inclusive this community strives to be, as it welcomes and attends to such diversity and need.

in which they facilitated meaningful conversation around integrating sacred story into our lives. Together, these adult leaders and mentors created a safe and sacred space of shared ministry for our children. They got to know our children on a deeper level through sharing and listening to the stories of the participants, and helped them to carry their faith into the world when they left the classroom. They met every week to discuss joys and concerns in class, making it easier to provide pastoral care to the participants, and discuss best practices with one another.

In addition, 7th graders, together with their first semester teachers, developed empathy and understanding of their faithful neighbors in a world religions curriculum called Neighboring Faiths.

As a group, these volunteers have given our children a precious gift: the knowledge that they are loved, and that they matter.

Spirit Play I has been led by: Lisa White, Dana Clancy, Emily McElhinney, Kim Nuzum, Andres Baraza, **Spirit Play II:** Jenn Cartee, Jim

Getting to know and talk with the kids of First Parish was a highlight for me. Having rarely been around children, prior to this job, I forgot just how important their school work is to them, how busy they are in sports and activities, how desperate they can become for juice and pretzels, and how profound their honesty and questions can be when given a chance to speak their minds. Some of the most spiritual moments for me here took place when talking, or listening, to the children.

When I moved to Boston I needed a community. I was a stranger and you welcomed me in. You even paid me money to hang around with you. And so I thank you for your hospitality, your kindness and your integrity. I am a better person for having been with you.

All my very best to each of you.

Jeannine

Kelleher, Jennifer Mulqueen and Mac D’Alessandro, **2nd grade Passages:** Marie-Laure Brown and Charlotte Brown, **Small group I:** Jennifer Grant, Tammy Tai, Amy Givens, Bridget Sitkoff, **Small group II:** Renee van Gestel, Julie Blackburn, **Small group III:** Steve Zieselmann, Tracey Robinson, Liz O’Rourke, Tony Dutzik, Amy Norton, **Small group IV:** Steve Weiser, Paul Casaz, Janet Ferone, **The 7th grade** class has been led by: Tom Hess and Dianna Wilson, **OWL** has been led by: Carolyn Newman, Rick Malmstrom, Matthew Najarian and Ursula Macmillan

A special “thank you” to the Religious Education Committee for stepping in, during Robin’s maternity leave, and planning children’s church, small group ministry lessons, and activities. We’d also like to thank those who have served as reliable substitute teachers!!

Please Note: If you wish to volunteer to lead a class in the fall or spring semester of next year, please contact Jeannine Heynes at reassistant@fpmilton.org

First Parish to Screen *Adventureland* as a Finale

On Friday June 11 at 7 pm the First Parish film series wraps up the season with *Adventureland*, a nostalgic trip back to summer of 1987. The film stars Jesse Eisenberg (*Zombieland*; *The Squid and the Whale*) as James, a bright young guy who has gone to work at an amusement park in Pittsburgh in order to earn enough money for graduate school. He's a bit of misfit in terms of romance, but then so is Emily, the girl he meets and falls intensely in love with. (She's played by Kristen Stewart of *Twilight* movie fame.)



The movie features a killer soundtrack and a pinpoint eye for period detail by director Greg Mottola (who won this job after his success with the comedy *Superbad*). Come start your summer by looking backward sweetly! First Parish is located at 535 Canton Avenue.

Babysitting is available upon request.

Summer Worship is HERE!!

From June 20 to September 5, worship will be held in the Meetinghouse at 9:30am on Sundays!

Here are some of the exciting treats in store:

Our Summer Worship Coordinator, Kelly Cummins-Pickens, will keep things humming. (read more about Kelly below)

Music will be provided by the many talented musicians – of all ages – who call First Parish home

Worship will explore a variety of spiritual themes, including:

June 20: Wait Till Your Father Gets Home with the Rev. Parisa Parsa

July 4: Finding Authority in the Heart with Kelly Cummins-Pickens

July 18: We'll launch the shared practice of "29 Gifts" with two of our small group ministry groups – and then follow up with reflections on the practice on **August 15th**

August 1: Celebrate Lughnassa, the First Harvest, with our Earth-Centered Spirituality Group. "The power of the Harvest is within me. As the seed falls to the earth and

is reborn each year, I too grow as the seasons change. As the grain takes root in the fertile soil, I too will find my roots and develop. As the smallest seed blooms into a mighty stalk, I too will bloom where I land. As the wheat is harvested and saved for winter, I too will set aside what I will need later."

August 8, Join the Membership Committee in a lighthearted exploration of the spiritual messages of Depeche Mode's "**Reach Out, Touch Faith**" (aka "Your Own Personal Jesus")

August 22, A Liberal Faith in a Time of War with Kelly Cummins-Pickens and Jeremy Pickens, who will bring reflections on their lives as clergy who serve in our military.

August 29, Michael Chinman will share his reflections with us

Additional services will be provided by our small group ministry groups and by the Rev. Parisa Parsa.

YOU CAN BE A PART OF OUR SUMMER WORSHIP COMMUNITY, here's how:

1. Attend worship! Any/every Sunday from June 20 to September 5. Bring your friends and neighbors!
2. Sign up in the Link (next to Choose or Be Chosen) to usher or put out the refreshments after worship.

Meet Our Summer Worship Coordinator!

Kelly Cummins-Pickens will be on hand throughout the summer to support the lay-led services and to preach a few of her own sermons. You won't want to miss the chance to meet and get to know her.



Kelly Cummins-Pickens is a UU Candidate for Ministry and a First Lieutenant and Chaplain Candidate with the MA Army National Guard. She graduated with her MDiv from Boston University and completed a two-year internship at First Parish Church in Weston in May 2009. She is the mother of, new baby, Emily and married to Jeremy Pickens, also a full Chaplain with the National Guard. She is a nature enthusiast and a runner. A military "brat" herself she moved around every 3-4 years and has called Massachusetts home since the fall of 2006.

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

ALL CHURCH COUNCIL

Friday, 6/4 @ 6:30pm in the Parish Hall

FRIDAY FILM

Friday, 6/11 @ 7pm in the Parish Hall

CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, 6/13 following worship on the green behind the church.

9:30 AM SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS

Sunday, 6/20 @ 9:30am in the Meetinghouse



First parishioners at the Monther’s Day peace walk in Dorchester, May 9th.

SUNDAY

6

13

9:00 am, B&G, Library

11:30 pm, Church Picnic, on the green behind the church

20

9:30 AM, Summer Worship Begins, Meetinghouse

27

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1

2

6:45 pm,
YAC,
Library

3

7:00 pm,
Membership,
Library

4

6:30 pm,
All Church
Council,
Parish Hall

5

7

7:15 pm, Yoga,
Parish Hall

8

9

10

11

7:00,
Friday Film,
Parish Hall

12

14

7:00 pm,
Social Action,
Library

7:15 pm, Yoga,
Parish Hall

15

16

17

7:00 pm,
Caring Committee,
Library

18

19

21

7:15 pm, Yoga,
Parish Hall

22

23

24

7:00 pm, Worship
Committee,
Activity Room

25

26

28

7:15 pm, Yoga,
Parish Hall

29

30

31



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From The Planner

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

June 6

C: Second Grade Class
F: Susan Monack
U: Roger & Courtney Gray
H: Alison Zippay, Jim Kelley,
Deb Alsebai
A: Mark Ostrem

June 13

C: TBA
F: Carrie Lamont
U: TBA
H: Gillian & Matthew Najarian, Richard
Venable & Deb Larson Venable
A: Jim May

CHOOSE OR BE CHOSEN

Please sign up in the Link for next year's church dates.
It is recommended you sign up for 1 each of ushering,
flowers, chalice lighting (children) and hospitality.

SUMMER WORSHIP HELP

Summer worship is upon us and we need people to help put out
lemonade and usher.
Sign up is next to Choose or be Chosen