

THE UP-LOOK

NEWSLETTER OF THE
FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN
DORCHESTER, UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
JUNE 2011



FIRST PARISH CHURCH
IN DORCHESTER,
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Founded 1630

Rev. Arthur Lavoie, Minister

Lex Cade-White, *Director of
of Religious Education*

Colleen Squires, *Ministerial Intern*

Ana Popa, *Choir Director & Organist*

Officers of the Congregation:

Harry Holmberg, *Chair*

Julie Simmons, *Vice Chair*

Michael Baldwin von Brunow,
Treasurer

Myles Crowley, *Financial Sect'y*

Doug Shaheen, *Clerk*

10 Parish St., Meetinghouse Hill
Dorchester, MA 02122

Minister: (617) 436-2999

Office: (617) 436-0527

Office Hours by Appointment

Website: firstparishdorchester.org



Interested in writing?

Please submit articles by the 15th of the month to uplook@firstparish-dorchester.org or send them to the church office.

Mary Elliff, Editor

Betsy Miessner, Layout Editor

*Unattributed articles by Myles Crowley,
Art Lavoie & Jane Lindsay*

WORSHIP



June 5 ***What to Believe?***

Rev. Arthur Lavoie

Many people think that Unitarian Universalists can believe anything they want. Is that true? Doesn't that statement make us look weak, evasive and uncommitted? How do we describe our faith and our belief system, both to ourselves and to others who might ask?

June 12 ***Religious Education Sunday***

Lex Cade White

This coming year, our kids will be sharing something entirely new. They will make you laugh, sing, and even pray. They will get you thinking. Come one, come all to an entirely new tradition, where the kids lead and the adults listen. All are welcome. Everybody can experience a Religious Education.

June 19 ***The Unfinished Adventure***

Rev. Arthur Lavoie and Colleen Squires

Our lives are an adventure. We are always encountering new people, ideas, circumstances that influence us and help to shape us. As we begin our summer break, we look back to how we have grown this year, and look forward to adventures yet to come.

June 26 ***Ideology vs. Spirit***

Katherine Jenkins-Djom

In a world dominated by ideology, how do we make a place for the spirit?

Worship services and religious education are held at 11am each Sunday unless otherwise noted.

Summer Services

Sunday services in July and August will begin at 10:00am. There will be no formal program for children, although, as usual, services will include a children's focus or story. The vestibule will be set up with a table and chairs, and bags of fidget toys, paper and crayons for young children who attend with their families.

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Worship Services

First Parish Church in Dorchester, Unitarian Universalist, is a liberal religious congregation. Our worship services are each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Membership

Would you like to know more about Unitarian Universalism or the history of this church? Are you curious about membership here at First Parish? If you would like more information, contact Rev. Lavoie at minister@firstparishdorchester.org or at (617) 436-2999, or Jane Lindsay, Membership Chair, at jane.lindsay@nara.gov.

Religious Education & Childcare

First Parish offers a parent-run Religious Education Program under the direction of our Director of Religious Education, Lex Cade-White. We use a UUA curriculum that focuses on social action, children's worship, and religious education classes that give children the space to think for themselves. The children are with us in the sanctuary up to the Children's Focus with the Minister and are then invited to go upstairs for the day's program. The Nursery is available for younger children. *Lex is at FPC on Sundays and by appointment, and is available by email at white20a@mholyoke.edu.*

Volunteer Choir

The First Parish Volunteer Choir sings monthly and on special occasions under the direction of Choir Director and Organist Ana Popa. We rehearse twice a month. If you're interested, contact Ana Popa at anasorinap@hotmail.com.

Social Activities

On the first Friday of each month, we have a pot luck family fun night at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The Parish Activities Committee sponsors several events each year. Other events include dances, films and our Sundays at Three classical music series.

Minister's Musings

There is a photo on my desk that someone recently found and gave me. It depicts a Christmas Eve pageant that took place sometime in the late 1990's, when Ken Warren was the Interim Minister. Children are lined up in the back of the church, ready to process up the aisle. Until recently, I didn't recognize any of those children. But as I looked at the obituary

photo of Derek, a young man who was murdered at the Savin Hill T station May 7, I realized that he is one of the children in that Christmas pageant photo. Derek, his sister, and his mother were very involved in this church in the 1990's; for a year, his mother Deidre was chair of our Board of Trustees. The violence in our community has now hit closer to home.

The same day of Derek's murder, we held our annual Gala Dinner. During the dinner, we honored Clementina Chery and her work at the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Louis, her son, had been murdered several years ago. Very movingly, she spoke about her work with families who have experienced murder, and the need of faith-based communities to be partners,

standing against violence and providing resources to communities in need. As we gave her our Meetinghouse Award for Community Service,

she replied that this award sealed our relationship. We are now part of her family, partners in the work of creating peace and justice.

Was it just coincidence that we were honoring Tina

on the same day that Derek was murdered? I'm not sure. In no way do I suggest that Derek's murder was preordained. What I am saying though, is that this was a wake-up call, a divine calling for us to continue on a path toward greater presence in Dorchester as a liberal, inclusive, faith community. We'll be talking more in the next church year about what that mission might look like. For now, I ask you to reflect on your involvement with the community and how each and every one of you might be a stronger presence for peace, reconciliation and understanding.

In Peace, Art

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and his mother
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Notes From The Chair

Hi, all. My name is Harry Holmberg. For the past year, I have served as Vice-Chair of our Board of Trustees; now, I am honored to be elected the Chair. This comes after a year of getting together regularly with Art Lavoie and Myles Crowley, planning monthly Board meetings, and working on different areas of church life.

Welcome New Members!

During the worship service on May 15, these individuals took the Right Hand of Fellowship and signed First Parish's membership book: Anna and Mary Fernandez-Buehrens, Erin Puleio and Laurie Martinelli and Margaret LaBonte. Later that day, Anna and Mary were voted into corporate membership at the annual meeting.

I am still amazed that I was elected to the Board. I hope that I can at least do half as good a job as some of our past Chairs have done. I look forward to serving with Julie Simmons, the new Vice-Chair, Colleen McKenney, the new Secretary, and our other Trustees. We have accomplished a lot, but there is much more to do, with church restoration work continuing soon, and the auction of church silver. It is a very exciting time at First Parish.

As most of you know, for the past several years, I served as chair of Parish Activities. With my new Board responsibilities, someone else must take over that job for the coming year. Please let me know if you are interested.

When you have questions, feel free to come and talk to me; I will do my best to answer them, and to help with any problems.

-Peace and Love,
Harry Holmberg

Will You Lead a Summer Service?

Once again during most of this coming summer, our worship services will be conducted by members and friends of the congregation. It's a chance to try out your skills at leading worship during services that are shorter in length and have a more flexible structure. Worship leaders do not need to prepare a long sermon, but can use readings and music,

along with shorter reflections. If needed, worship associates and other church members are available to assist. Summer services begin June 26 and continue through Labor Day weekend.

For more information and to sign up, contact Art Lavoie, 617-436-2999, or minister@firstparishdorchester.org

Calendar

June 3, Fab Friday, 6pm:

Fab Friday Rocks! See it to believe it! Fab Friday is a very special time to hang out and enjoy good food, great company, fun and games. Bring your whole family, bring friends, and bring a dish to share.

Jun. 5, Dorchester Day Parade, 1pm:

It's see or be seen on Dot Day! Join us at 1pm in Lower Mills for a leisurely stroll up Dot Ave.

Jun. 5, Spain Revealed

Exhibition: From Jun. 5-11, First Parish hosts an exhibition of original oil paintings by Martha Glavin Kempe, 2011 *Teachers as Artists* Fellow of the Center for Arts in Education, Boston Arts Academy. Opening reception is on Sun., Jun. 5, 12:00-2:00pm.

Jun. 11, Gay Pride Parade, 12noon:

We will walk with the Massachusetts Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Churches. See article on p. 6 for more info.

Uplook will not be published in July and August. There will be a monthly *Constant Contact* newsletter similar to the weekly one we now receive. Paper copies will be sent to those who do not have e. mail. To stay current with us, please be sure we have your updated postal and e. mail addresses

Comedy Night Postponed

Technical difficulties cancelled First Parish's May 22 Comedy Night this spring, but it will be presented in the fall instead. Look for the date in the Sept. Uplook.

Religious Education Lex Looks Back

In September, 2009, I began my first year of seminary and the Fellowship Process to become a minister. First, I served as a floater, getting to see each First Parish Sunday classroom. Then I helped lead the older kids' class, continuing into this year. Over the last few months, I have been working with the youth group, a new, exciting adventure.

To gather materials for kids' classes, I started with suggestions from First Parish's Religious Education Committee members like John Minihan and Jack Pelletier, who also brought me feedback from teachers they knew. Over the past two years, drawing on our Education Committee, a variety of sources, the internet, as well as First Parish's education library, I built up a list of stories from all over the world. On my own, I created a mixture of activities, games and crafts, and the Youth Group Curriculum.

Back when I started, I had forgotten just how creative kids are, and how thoughtful. First Parish children have made a variety of crafts, learned how to work together, and questioned the world around them in ways I did not expect. Through classroom discussions, the children proved themselves to have the ability to go deeper into the material and stories. For example, they discussed the good and bad ways they experience community.

Through the past two years, I have learned how to be flexible with the ebbs and flows of church life. When I first came, only occasionally did I need to think on my feet and be creative; but now I can do both things confidently. I have learned how to ask for feedback and be willing to take suggestions and improve. The most powerful message I learned from the kids and the whole church community has been to base my work on my own self. Every time I shared my humor, music, and theater experience, I was welcomed.

There are three things I'll always remember about teaching First Parish kids:

- the first time I got them to sing a ridiculous song in front of the church, a simple happy beginning to my work here;
- the Fab Friday this year when I offered games to play in the Parish hall and all the kids present participated; and
- seeing our Youth Group faces at the Museum of Fine Arts, as they discovered First Parish's silver and toured Dale Chihuly's glass exhibition.

Of course, I'll remember a lot of other times, but those days really sum up my two years of surprise, wonder, and community here.

As I prepare to move to Washington, DC, this is my message to First Parish young people: it has

FPC Sponsors Lex for Ministry

On April 26, the Trustees approved Lex's request that First Parish sponsor her as a candidate for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Though Lex was involved with a UU congregation in Amherst, MA, <http://www.uusocietyamherst.org/> while in college, First Parish is where she has been most involved and learned the most about congregational life. Last month, in a meeting with the Regional Sub-committee on Candidacy (RSCC), Lex was granted candidate status. Next year, she will do her internship at All Souls Church in Washington, D.C. <http://www.all-souls.org/> and take some on-line courses to complete her Master of Divinity degree at Episcopal Divinity School.

Sponsorship by a congregation is one of the requirements for Fellowship as a minister. It ensures familiarity on the part of our UU ministers with UU congregational life, and encourages congregations to take a responsible role in the recruitment, preparation and assessment of our future ministers.

been my pleasure to witness your growth over the past two years and play games, talk, and work with each of you!

Sincerely, Lex Cade White

Our Ministerial Intern Forever

Six years ago, in May of 2005, I was accepted into Andover Newton Theological School. By that September, I enrolled in my first class, Unitarian Universalist History. I was 42 and had not been in a classroom for over 20 years. I thought to myself, "What the heck am I doing? This is

Way to go Colleen!

On May 15, the Corporation voted unanimously to serve as an ordaining congregation for Colleen Squires. Colleen's ordination will take place at a First Parish service next year, with participation by her home congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford, MA, <http://www.uumedford.org/> which also voted to ordain her.

In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, the authority to confer ordination lies wholly with individual congregations. Ordination signals commitment by the ordaining congregations to the broader Unitarian Universalist tradition and to all the people a new minister will serve.

On Sept. 25, 2010, Colleen appeared before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association and was granted certification of her candidacy. On May 21, 2011 she

going to take forever!"

As each semester passed, I enrolled in more classes, two at a time, then three, then four. Okay, then back down to three. I learned my limits and the art of balancing full-time work with graduate school. By 2009, most of my classmates who started with me were graduating. Yes, I took longer, but by the time you read this, I will have earned my Master of Divinity degree. I have loved every minute of this journey; I met many fabulous people along the way.

I'm sharing this story for one very important reason: to encourage you to live your dreams. Sometimes the process will feel like it's taking forever; but in the end, you will have tried. That alone is worth doing!

Thank you for a wonderful first year. I am so looking forward to our next year together.

In Faith, Colleen Squires

was awarded a Master of Divinity degree by Andover Newton Theological School. Colleen is in the middle of her two-year ministerial internship, sharing her time with us in Dorchester and the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury <http://www.uuum.org/>.

Birthdays

Eliot Glickler	Jun. 1
Mary Brunswick	Jun. 3
Courtney Pardue	Jun. 10
Ann Broggi	Jun. 17
T.J. Griffin	Jun. 23
Jessica Leck	Jul. 2
Bruce Shatswell	Jul. 7
Marie Allen Heft	Jul. 10
Patricia Frevert	Jul. 13
Charlotte Kingsley	Jul. 15
Charles Swift	Jul. 17
Sarah Minahan	Jul. 22
Katherine Jenkins	Jul. 24
Ava Brunswick	Jul. 27
John Brunswick	Jul. 27
Richard Kellaway	Jul. 27
Anna Fernandez-Buehrens	Jul. 28
Kian Puleio	Aug. 3
Steve Auger	Aug. 7
Arthur Aspacher	Aug. 9
Layla Inghilleri	Aug. 12
Mary Elliff	Aug. 20
Emily Lichtenstein	Aug. 24
Phil Lindsay	Aug. 28
Janessa Baldwin von Brunow	Aug. 29



Anniversaries

Noel & Don Currier	Jun. 1
Edward & Michael Baldwin Von Brunow	Jun. 9
Steve Auger & Myles Crowley	Jun. 16 & Aug. 12
Pat McQuire & Bruce Shatswell	Jun. 17
Ilo & Joseph Schmid	Jun. 19
Mary Grady & Jack Pelletier	Jul. 6
Arthur Lavoie & Mark Watanabe	Jul. 15



Challenged by Your Church Work?

Then consider a trip to Charlotte, North Carolina, during the last week in June. There, thousands of Unitarian Universalists will gather to share fellowship, learn from each other, and be inspired by the work of other UU's around the world.

For more information about the annual convergence called General Assembly and its ambitious

agenda of workshops, lectures, and plenary session, please see First Parish's General Assembly Delegates, Jane Lindsay and Betsy Miessner. Betsy will be in Charlotte this year, not only representing your interests and those of First Parish Church, but also to cheer as our former Interim Minister Victor Carpenter receives the Assembly's 2011 Distinguished Service Award.

Financial Commitments

We are rounding the bend on our 2010-2011 fiscal year. This is your reminder to please review what you pledged, and plan to complete your payment by June 30. If you are uncertain of your remaining balance, let me know so I can confirm it for you. Thank you to those who have already finished their annual commitment. Fiscal year 2011-12 begins soon. It's also time to submit your financial commitment for the next fiscal year starting July 1. At this point in our pledge drive, we have received only 39 pledges for a total of \$53,645; unfortunately, that is far short of the budgeted \$60,000 the Finance Committee projected for a new year. Please see me if you need a pledge form. All the cost of a self-sustaining church is borne by us, the congregation members. Your

contribution is not only welcome, but also sorely needed.

*-Thank you, Jim Rodenmacher,
Financial Secretary*

Grounds Committee Meeting

Got Spring Fever yet? Are you ready for fun outdoor chores? All the great work done on April 30 with the help of Rebuilding Together Boston has made the task of tending our grounds a lot less daunting than it appeared just a few weeks ago. However, keeping the grounds looking good requires regular attention. I'm starting a collaborative process with all interested church and community members to build on our recent progress.

We Love A Parade!


First Parish members will walk in the annual Dorchester Day Parade, Sunday, June 5. In Lower Mills at 1pm, we'll take our place in line with our banner and march 3.2 miles north on Dorchester Avenue, ending at Columbia Road. The Boston Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, June 11, starts at noon on Tremont Street in the South End, and ends at City Hall Plaza. We'll gather first at Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston Street, for the 11:00 service; then, we will walk with the Massachusetts Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Churches. Watch for more details about each parade in First Parish's weekly e. mail, or contact Myles Crowley, augercrowley@comcast.net, 617-308-5860.

Our first meeting will be on Thursday, June 2, at 6:30pm. We'll survey the property and start a list of regular tasks and long-term goals for the church and manse properties. Bring your thinking caps and green thumbs!

Questions? Concerns? Or if June 2 doesn't work for you, please contact me, Phil Lindsay, rhlwool@aol.com, 617-571-4473

June 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Down The Road Dot Day Parade Jun 5 Spain Revealed Exhibition Jun 5 Gay Pride Parade Jun 11 UUA General Assembly Jun 22 Summer!			New Moon 3:02-5:22pm 5:30-8pm Boston Neighborhood Services	Religious Education 10am FPC Grounds Mtg 6:30pm	 fAb Friday 6pm	Girl Scouts 8:30-12 Girl Scouts 8:30-12 Boston Pride Parade 11am Arlington St. Church 12noon March!
Worship Services/RE 11am Rev. Art Lavoie What to Believe?						
Dorchester Day Parade 1pm Spain Revealed Exhibit Reception 2-5pm				Communications Team 6pm		
Worship Services/RE 11am Lex Cade White Religious Education Sunday			Full Moon 2:16:06pm			
Dien Hong 12:30pm						
Choir Rehearsal 9:30am Worship Services/RE 11am Rev. Art Lavoie and Colleen Squires The Unfinished Adventure						
Worship Services/RE 11am Katherine Jenkins Djom Ideology vs. Spirit			Meetinghouse Hill Civic Assoc. 7pm (3rd Wed)			

Address Correction Requested



First Parish Church in Dorchester
Unitarian Universalist
10 Parish Street
Meethinghouse Hill
Dorchester, MA 02122

New First Parish Officers

At the Corporation's May 15 Annual Meeting, the following individuals were elected to positions at First Parish Church:

Tom Cunningham	Trustee for 3 years
Colleen McKenney	Trustee for 3 years
Jim Stillman	Trustee for 3 years
Doug Shaheen	Clerk
Michael Baldwin von Brunow	Treasurer
Betsy Miessner	Assistant Treasurer
Myles Crowley	Financial Secretary
Phil Lindsay	Auditor
Bonnie Mitten	Historian

The following delegates were elected:

Mass Bay District	Harry Holmberg & Jim Stillman
UUA General Assembly	Jane Lindsay & Betsy Miessner
UU Urban Ministry	Richard Kellaway & Lowell Kingsley

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for assembling and presenting the slate.

Annual Reports Due June 30

At its April 26 meeting, First Parish's Board of Trustees decided to collect annual reports by elected officers and delegates, committee chairs and the ministerial staff by **June 30**, to distribute later. The deadline allows our Clerk to include the approved budget and year-end reports from financial officers in one complete package for members.

Reports should be submitted by e-mail or computer disk to our Clerk Doug Shaheen at rodenheen@verizon.net, 617-282-2080.