



# NEW Meeting House News

October 2008

*Senior Minister:*  
Rev. Fred Small

*Interim Associate Minister:*  
Rev. Meg Anzalone

*Minister Emeritus at Large:*  
Rev. Dr. Herbert F. Vetter

*Minister Emeritus:*  
Rev. Dr. Thomas Mikelson

*Music Director:* Jonathan Barnhart  
*Parish Administrator:* Linda Baker  
*Office Coordinator:* Carol Rabs  
*Communications:* Thom Lissey  
*Sexton:* Roland Ellies  
*Assistant Sexton:* Erik Walker

*Director, Paine Senior Services:*  
Liz Aguilo

*Director, Cambridge Forum:*  
Pat Sührcke

*Standing Committee 2008-2009*  
*Chair:* Gloria Korsman  
*Vice Chair:* Eileen Sullivan  
*Treasurer:* Brenda Leahy  
*Clerk:* Nan Waldstein

*Members at Large:* Brian Geenbaur, Marcia Hams, Chris McElroy, Charles Rogers, Josh Sheldon, Mike Wiggins

**Office telephone: (617) 876-7772**  
**www.firstparishcambridge.org**

The Meeting House News contains information about upcoming events as well as columns from the ministers.

**Please send submissions for the November issue to [tllissey@yahoo.com](mailto:tllissey@yahoo.com) no later than Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.**

A calendar of events can be found at our website: [www.firstparishcambridge.org](http://www.firstparishcambridge.org).

Our online periodic journal, **The Fourth Principle**, provides a forum for essays, poetry, interviews, testimonials, and other creative expressions.

## Embrace the Season—Rev. Meg

As we embrace the season of fall, leaves begin to change color, daylight discreetly disappears, and school starts up with anxiousness and anticipation!

So too in the community of church life, the fall frenzy of activities has begun! We gather together again in worship, in community, in covenant groups, in committee meetings, in religious education groups, in social gatherings!



*We welcome newness! We welcome the newness of a Senior Minister,*

*the anticipation of a new vision for the congregation, the singing of a new tune, the crafting of behavioral covenants as a new and respectful way of being together.*

All mark the change of season and give credibility to the transition time from past to future for this congregation!  
*The time is now!*

Embrace the season, cherish color, foster friendship, anticipate abundance, cultivate change, awaken to the newness in the air, invite newcomers, celebrate with the congregation and join in the adventure to share our Unitarian Universalist faith, bringing new hope, care, compassion and commitment to the larger community and to the world!

I am grateful to be part of the journey and, as your Interim Associate Minister, I am committed to working collaboratively with Fred, and in helping you to manifest your new vision for the future!

*Peace be yours! - Meg*



## Semi-Annual Meeting Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

Don't be fooled by the warrant: This is going to be a lively meeting!

The Transition Team will be outlining the discussion of new staff for First Parish.

*Bring your ideas!*  
Membership is required for voting, but anyone can take part in the discussion.

*RE Families, please join us!  
Child care will be provided.*

## Meetings with Senior Minister

Fred is delighted to meet with parishioners by appointment Tuesdays 10-4, Wednesdays 10-noon, and Fridays 10-4. Evening and weekend appointments are also available by special arrangement.

Tuesday evenings are usually *not* available because of regularly scheduled committee meetings he attends. To make an appointment, please contact Linda Baker, Parish Administrator at (617) 876-7772, x202 or [fhsq@aol.com](mailto:fhsq@aol.com).

## Save the Dates!

Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Fall Semi-Annual Meeting at Noon  
(See notice above for details.)

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
Coming of Age Ceremony  
(See page 4 for details.)  
Apple Harvest Social  
(See page 5 for details.)  
Community Auction Begins!  
(See page 2 for details.)



The **Youth Group** is open to all in grades 10-12. Youth Group usually meets twice a month on Sundays from Noon to 1:30pm. Youth usually attend the Sunday service with the rest of the community. (*Adults: See page 7 about volunteer opportunities!*)

For more info, or to receive a schedule, contact *Shelby Meyerhoff* or *Nick Wuebcke*.

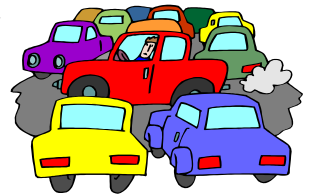
The **Nameless Coffeehouse** continues its 41<sup>st</sup> season presenting folk music in the First Parish Parlor on Saturday evening, **October 4<sup>th</sup> at 8pm** with a concert by Mark Stepakoff, Stuart Furguson, and Patrick Porter.

**Suggested donation: \$8**

[www.namelesscoffeehouse.org](http://www.namelesscoffeehouse.org)



## Sunday Parking Update



**Parking as always is free only until 1pm at the Church Street lot.**

**Single-use parking passes from University Place Garage (on University Place, across from the Charles Hotel) allow you to park all day on Saturday or Sunday for \$8 and are available for all meetings.**

### Pastoral Care Planning Group

The next meeting will be held **Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15am**. Plans are in the making for a visit from members of the Pastoral Care Group at First Unitarian Society in Newton to share their successful model with us. Please consider what gifts you may have for being part of a Pastoral Care Team at First Parish in Cambridge.

For further information, please contact *Rev. Meg* at (617) 876-7772, x204.

### Small Group Ministry Covenant Groups

Covenant Groups are being formed for the coming year. We plan to offer as many groups as possible to accommodate the needs of members with Covenant Groups facilitators' availability. For more info, contact *Rick Hawkins* or *Tracy Blanchard*.

## Annual First Parish Auction

Enjoy a great meal, increase your sense of community, provide for the church financially, AND have fun – *all at the same time!* How you ask? Participate in the Annual First Parish Silent Auction!

**When is the Auction?** 3 Sundays this Fall: October 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**What is Auctioned?** First Parish members and friends donate services. This year we have some exciting new offerings including two tickets to the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and a "behind-the-scenes" tour of the New England Aquarium. Popular items from past auctions that are returning include dinners of all kinds (ranging from simple to gourmet, vegetarian to venison); baby-sitting, yard work and handyman help, career counseling, and a weekend at a Vermont vacation house.

There are fun events for children and families, as well as for grown-ups only!

The full list of donated items will be distributed in the Order of Service beginning Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> and will also be available on the church website: [www.firstparishcambridge.org](http://www.firstparishcambridge.org).

**What is a Silent Auction – How Does it Work?** Study the list of offered items and determine the ones you would like to win. Then on auction days, a bidding sheet for each item is posted on the wall of the parlor during social hour and you write in your bid. Then you follow how the item is doing on subsequent weeks, upping your bid as necessary to win! And if you can't attend church on that last day – you can e-mail or phone in your highest bid by 9pm Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Why Participate?** The annual silent auction supports the First Parish operating budget. It is vital that we meet our fundraising goal or some church functions, such as the newsletter or Sunday school supplies will need to be cut back. So please buy generously! You will get much more than you give!

*Thank you in advance for your participation and generosity!*

**The Auction Team:** Jennifer Griffith, (*Chair*) at [jennifer.audrey@rcn.com](mailto:jennifer.audrey@rcn.com); Lindsay Baber, Heidi Meyer, Erik Resly, Kathleen Seward, and Josh Sheldon.

### AUCTION SPECIAL

**Harvard football and pre-game tailgate with Frank Duehay!**

Frank Duehay, former mayor of Cambridge and long-time member of First Parish, and his wife, **Jane Lewis**, have generously donated two tickets to the Harvard-Columbia football game on Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, plus tailgating before the game (rain or shine!).



Frank and Jane will host an enjoyable whole day for two, from mid-morning pick-up in Harvard Square, to tailgating lunch and cocktail parties, then on to Frank's season ticket seats at the 48-yard line for the noon kickoff! After the game ends (about 3pm), you will be driven back to the Harvard Square area.

Because the game is early in terms of the auction, we will treat it as a special item, with bidding closing *prior* to the end of the regular auction (stay tuned for details!) *Bidding will start at \$100 for the set of two.* Contact Jennifer Griffith, at [jennifer.audrey@rcn.com](mailto:jennifer.audrey@rcn.com) or (781) 646-6001 to express your interest or ask any questions about this exciting opportunity!

# Sunday Announcements

In a dynamic and diverse congregation like ours, Sunday announcements are a vital means of staying in touch, enlisting support, and alerting each other to events, programs, and community news. The challenge is to communicate important information without overwhelming the congregant. Information glut can be as confusing as information deficit! It is important also to respect the special character of worship as a sacred time for reflection and renewal, set off from the hurly-burly of the rest of the week.

With these considerations in mind, Worship Committee and I have agreed upon some changes to Sunday announcements, which we hope you will welcome. We'll try them for a while, evaluate them, and adjust them as needed. **We invite your feedback!** At 10:30am each Sunday, prior to the prelude, a lay leader speaking from the pulpit will welcome newcomers and make the most timely and significant announcements. Each oral announcement can be up to 75 words in length. ***Announcements submitted in writing by 4pm on Wednesday to Carol Rabs, Office Coordinator, at [carolfphsg@live.com](mailto:carolfphsg@live.com) will be printed in the order of service. Printed announcements can be up to 150 words in length. If you would like your announcement considered for oral presentation, please provide a 75-word version as well.***



We encourage you to use your announcement to point the congregation to more detailed information available elsewhere, e.g. a bulletin board, the Meeting House News, and the First Parish e-list. (A printed announcement might refer by number to a specific message posted at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/first-parish-cambridge/>.) Worship Committee and I appreciate the value of personally delivered oral announcements in introducing to the congregation committee and project leaders and conveying their energy and enthusiasm. We will continue to discuss how we can increase this visibility. Please share with us your ideas. Thank you for helping us improve and streamline communication at First Parish! - Rev. Fred Small

## Membership Volunteers Needed

We anticipate an influx of newcomers to First Parish this fall as we mark the beginning of Rev. Fred Small's ministry. The Membership Committee seeks members and friends willing to be greeters. Volunteer greeters work at the information tables by the Church Street and Mass. Ave. doors before and after Sunday worship (about 30 minutes each before and after) to greet visitors and new people. Greeters answer questions about the First Parish, our community and help newcomers find ways to get more involved. *Training is provided.* This is a fun way to support our community and get to know new people. ***For more info, contact Andy Bader at [andybader@comcast.net](mailto:andybader@comcast.net).***



## You CAN make a difference in one person's life!

I am sure many of you will agree: when you make a point to speak to somebody at the end of Sunday morning service or walking towards social hour, that makes the difference in whether that person feels recognized SOCIALLY. Surveys of visitors have shown again and again that people have walked away from parish services feeling worse than when they came in, simply because NO ONE spoke to them. Some people literally go home crying for their soul, so high was the promise made from us of social communion, and so low the result.

*So please, make a reasonable vow with your conscience to notice one soul, and introduce yourself, ask them a question, any question.* They will not judge you on the content of the conversation, but simply on the interest you have shown them by breaking the silence which equals alienation for them.

We need to do this more frequently than we ever would have considered doing it before. The light that emanates from us, our gathering is so profound: many jobs are found, romances matched, marriages and families get stronger. Roommates, friends, neighbors, relatives, so many connections are made and multiplied, through UUism, our one, unifying source of values.

I know many of you want to help with hospitality. A parishioner asked me during our Homecoming lunch how he could help. Things were going so smoothly, I thought to myself, that the best way he can help is by approaching ONE person who is NOT talking to someone. And he DID! It was a beautiful sight to behold: that is how you can best show your thanks for all our dotting attentions to social gatherings.

*Yours sincerely, Heidi Meyer, Hospitality Co-chair, [h.meyer@comcast.net](mailto:h.meyer@comcast.net)*



# Religious Education News—Rev. Meg

The Religious Education Program is underway with new energy and new curriculum this year. There are now 75+ children formally registered. Registration forms are available to download at the First Parish website and mail into the office, or at the 3 Church Street entrance on the first bulletin board to your left. All RE groups are focusing on the UU Principles during the Fall sessions. During the month of October, children in RE will start out in the Meeting House and then go directly to their groups. RE Sessions will be held each Sunday in October. **October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> (Columbus Day Weekend), 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup>!**

## RE CURRICULUM GOALS FOR 2008-2009

- \* Teach children and youth the UU Principles and faith through discussion, related themes, and holidays using an age-appropriate curriculum.
- \* Examine world religions to view the spirituality, common practices, differences, ethics, and human nature of other cultures and beliefs.
- \* Social justice opportunities and learning to help develop in children and youth a respect for the differences and appreciation of diversity in our lives.
- \* Children and youth explore their connection to the church through participation in worship, in programs and activities that foster a sense of community and traditions within the congregation.
- \* Provide a lifespan model for spiritual growth and practice through religious education for the entire congregation.



There are many ways to become involved in RE. Consider sharing your talents and gifts with young people in our congregation. Contact the RE Committee co-chairs for more info: Carol Walker (617) 965-3472 or Cheyenne McCarter (617) 817-3337.

## Healing Happens When Women Write Together!

We are a warm, welcoming group of women who write within the safety of complete confidentiality.

We meet *every other Monday* from 6:30 to 8:30pm, and will continue October 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.



We write to prompts supplied by experienced writing group leader and parishioner, Heidi Meyer.

Anyone can come whenever they are able!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Heidi at [h.meyer@comcast.net](mailto:h.meyer@comcast.net).

## Coming of Age Program

The Coming of Age Program is being offered for all 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade participants in the RE Program. The Coming of Age program is designed to provide a substantive spiritual program for youth in transition from childhood to adolescence and young adulthood. The program will:

*Help youth clarify their beliefs and values.*

*Underscore Unitarian Universalist identity.*

*Give youth an opportunity to develop a meaningful relationship with an adult other than his or her own parent or guardian.*

*Provide experiences and exposure to community service.*

*Give recognition and support to youth in a time of physical and emotional change.*

*Give mentoring adults the opportunity to be role models and friends to youth.*

*Create rituals to mark the transition from childhood to young adulthood for the whole congregation.*

Program components include: mentoring, community service, group meetings and written work with religious leaders, Coming of Age retreat, movie nights and other community activities, events, special rituals and worship. A more extensive Coming of Age calendar is available for participants. Please be in contact with Susan Shepherd for further information.

*A special Coming of Age worship service will take place on **Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30am in the Meeting House.*

The families and mentors will have a special role in the ceremony. Youth, mentors, and their families will declare their intention and readiness to participate and sign a covenant witnessed by the entire congregation.

Each Coming of Age candidate will choose an object symbolic of his or her childhood and give it back to his or her parents and guardians. **All parents, mentors, and Coming of Age candidates should be at the church by 10:10am for a short practice before the worship service.**

[www.cambridgeforum.org](http://www.cambridgeforum.org) **Cambridge Forum Events** *Free and Open to the Public*

Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm (6:30pm Reception)

**Is America Possible? A Journey of Hope**

**Vincent Harding**, professor emeritus of religion and social transformation at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, argues that, especially for African Americans, the American Dream has never been realized. Retracing the roads and revisiting his companions of the Civil Rights Movement, Harding reflects on their achievements in making the dream more of a reality and points out the work that still needs to be done. *Co-sponsored by The Fetzer Institute as part of their series on Deepening the American Dream.*

Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**Crunch: Feeling Squeezed in Today's Economy**

**Jared Bernstein**, director of the Living Standards Program at the Economic Policy Institute, decodes the workings of the economy. Translating the jargon of Wall Street into the language of Main Street, Bernstein argues that economics should be more than a tool for the nation's elite. How can we use economics to organize American society to provide for Main Street's needs *and* Wall Street's?

Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**The Opinion Makers: Lies My Pollster Told Me**

**David Moore**, a former senior editor at the Gallup Poll, argues that pollsters don't report public opinion; they manufacture it. What tactics and strategies do they use in shaping our views? What can ordinary citizens do to short-circuit their methods?

Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm

**Confessions of an Eco-Sinner**

Science journalist **Fred Pearce** traces the environmental costs of the things that make up ordinary daily life—our clothing, our food, our coffee—to reveal the extraordinary hidden costs of a modest Western lifestyle. What changes in our consumption patterns could we make to lower those environmental costs? What would those changes mean for our lifestyle? *Co-sponsored by Tim Weiskel.*

**Apple Harvest Social—October 19<sup>th</sup>**

Dig up those recipes! We are having an Apple Harvest Social in the Parlor on the 19<sup>th</sup>, after the meaningful intergenerational worship service.

Bring something to the communal table, be it cider, candied apples, apple cake, or ice cream to put on someone's tasty apple pie.

We will enjoy the warmth of fellowship—as well as bobbing for apples!

Have any questions or ideas?  
Contact Heidi Meyer, Hospitality Co-Chair  
at [h.meyer@comcast.net](mailto:h.meyer@comcast.net)



**Women's Sacred Circle**

Women interested in joining the Women's Sacred Circle Spiritual Practice Group are welcome to attend the annual Open Circle on **October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm in the Barn Room**. We accept new members only once a year, then meet monthly as a closed group thereafter.

We provide a safe, sacred space for women to explore a connection to feminine spirituality, the earth, and each other, celebrating the Goddess within. To foster trust and community, we ask members to commit to attending as often as possible for an entire year.

If you have any questions, or are interested in joining but can't attend in October, please send an e-mail to: [womenscircle@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:womenscircle@firstparishcambridge.org)

In the UUA World magazine, members from a number of Unitarian Universalist congregations around North America place joint advertisements in the classified section, offering overnight stays in their homes for visiting UU's at prices well below standard Bed & Breakfast rates, with all proceeds going to the church.



This is a terrific way for members to generate substantial resources for the church at virtually no cost to themselves, while getting to know UU's from around the country. With enough participants, the burden could be spread very lightly. (Besides, it could provide a good incentive to clean up the home—or at least part of it—once in a while!) As Cambridge is one of the most frequently visited spots for UU's, doing this at First Parish might be just what we need to help close the budget gap!

*If you would be willing to help form a task force to explore and develop this idea, please contact **Mike Wiggins** of Standing Committee at (617) 547-3873 or at [wiggins@gjs.net](mailto:wiggins@gjs.net).*

## Paine Senior Services—Elizabeth Aguilo, LICSW

Paine Senior Services bids office manager, Laurie Young, a fond farewell. Laurie is leaving to pursue studies in holistic health.

Joining PSS for the school year is Social Work graduate student, Kerry McRae. Kerry is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final year of her Master's program. She attends Boston College and is here Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. We look forward to working with her.

Although the summer has been quiet, we at PSS anticipate a busy fall and winter. We live in interesting and uncertain times and we bear witness to that uncertainty in the concerns of our clients. We are seeing more clients with financial and housing worries and more families and elders who need guidance to find their way through the maze of benefits and services they may need.

In an effort to reach out to seniors, we are continuing with educational groups regarding Health Care Proxies and Healthy Aging. Social worker, Maureen Harty, continues to provide health insurance counseling in her capacity as a state-certified Shine counselor and attends monthly trainings on the changes in health insurance plans. Also, PSS has purchased the "Caring for Your Parents" DVD from PBS and will plan 2 showings with discussion afterward.

*If you have any questions or suggestions about how we can further serve Cambridge seniors, or if you want to contribute to our mission in any way, please contact Liz Aguilo at (617) 864-2580.*

## UU Notable News—Rev. Herb Vetter

Harvard Square Library of the First Parish in Cambridge primarily distributes free online Unitarian Universalist literature and information to people in more than one hundred countries.

This June, the Harvard Square Library of the first Parish in Cambridge applied—with the *pro bono* assistance of Donald K. McInnes, Esq.—to become a corporation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The officers and directors are as follows: President, Herbert Vetter, First Parish Minister-at-Large, Emeritus; Treasurer, Jane Sturtevant, Treasurer of Cambridge Forum; Clerk, Donald K. McInnes of Mullane, Michels and McInnes; Gloria Korsman, Harvard Divinity School Reference Librarian; Alan Seaburg, Harvard Curator of Manuscripts, Emeritus; Conrad E. Wright, Ford Editor of Publications, Massachusetts Historical Society; John Buehrens, recent UUA President; James Vetter, Educational Development Center, Newton; Michael Melford, Esq., copyright consultant. Also, Editorial Advisor: Mark W. Harris, UU Historian.



Our primary goal is to advance liberal religion by electronic and related media. This year, we received a modest grant for our work from the Unitarian Universalist Funding Program. With active encouragement from the UUA administration, we are actively exploring the possibility of securing needed endowment funds to advance our project's current pioneer development in this amazing and enduring electronic epoch.

### Environmental Summer Volunteers from First Parish

At Alewife Reservation, five First Parish members donated time to teach environmental skills to area youth. The Ecology Camp was part of the Friends of Alewife Reservation's annual summer program.

FAR conducts many activities and advocates for protection of the area year round. As the President, I conceived the idea after working with City Year five years ago on a massive 100 person clean-up in this 130-acre urban wild. This year, Green Sanctuary members and scientists volunteered throughout the summer.

**Arlene Olivero** worked with me to develop a curriculum that encompassed GPS readings, micro-invertebrate study and insect study. She developed nature walks and planned meetings for the camp process.

**Michele Sprengnether**, scientist and teacher, developed a website for the youth with a peer interview process.

**Steven Gillies**, avid sustainable agriculturalist, volunteered for various activities and led the youth to explore the area by landscape clues from one group which the other group followed.

**Kathleen Attfield**, helped the youth with mapping skills, as they attended labs at Lesley University where she works in toxics research.



The youth wrote essays of their dreams for the area: Eric, of the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program, was winner of the "My Dreams for the Alewife Reservation".

<http://friendsofalewifereservation.org/2008-08-06-ecology-camp.htm>

- Ellen Mass

## Women's Book Group

### Women's Book Group 2008-2009 Schedule

The Women's Book Group meets on the **first** Tuesday of every month from 7pm to 9pm in the Nursery.

The group is open to women of all ages.

You may attend or skip any meeting throughout the year.

Many participants bring a snack or dessert to share.

Here are the upcoming books on our reading list:

October 7<sup>th</sup>: *Three Cups of Tea*

November 4<sup>th</sup>: *The Last Chinese Chef*

December 2<sup>nd</sup>: *The Zookeeper's Wife*

January 6<sup>th</sup>: *Eat, Pray, Love*

February 3<sup>rd</sup>: *American Jezebel*

March 3<sup>rd</sup>: *The Faith Club*

April 7<sup>th</sup>: *People of the Book*

May 5<sup>th</sup>: *Hungry Ocean*



Throughout the year, you can find out about the Women's Book Group through notices in the weekly announcements, via the First Parish Women's Community e-list, or on the website <http://www.firstparishcambridge.org/womensbookclub>.

Contact **Stacey Jackson** in person at coffee hour or via e-mail at [womensbookclub@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:womensbookclub@firstparishcambridge.org) with specific questions, or to join the Women's Community e-list.

## "Answer the Call" Stewardship Drive Update



We have raised \$226,150 with 184 pledges (over 90% of this year's \$250,000 goal) and \$572,404 (over 71% of our \$800,000 goal for the sustainable 3-year period). **Thanks so much to all those who have participated by pledging!** Our goal is to reach 100% participation in our pledge drive. If you have not participated, please e-mail Gina Laroche at [glaroche@inspiritas.com](mailto:glaroche@inspiritas.com)

## Transition Team II

has met since May, and will provide support and leadership during the transition to a new associate minister.

Initially, we focused a lot of attention on helping the Religious Education program get off to a positive start this year. Now we are preparing to talk with groups and individuals about what the congregation needs from the second ministerial position, formerly held by Jory Agate.

In the coming months, we will share information with you and get your feedback about the history of that position and of RE program staffing, the goals of the Interim Ministry, the options we now have for filling the position, and possible hiring time-line scenarios.

As Rev. Fred Small and the congregation begin to create a vision together for the future of First Parish, the Transition Team will be assessing what kinds of staffing will be needed to make that vision a reality.

*Please watch the weekly announcements for upcoming events!* We hope the entire community will participate in these important conversations.

We have recently welcomed **Rev. Fred Small** and **Mauri Mollan** to the Transition Team, which also includes **Rev. Meg Anzalone**, **Ethan Field**, **Peggy Kraft**, **Ginger Ryan**, and **Marcia Yousik**.

*Please feel free to speak with any of us if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. You can also e-mail us at [transitionteam@firstparishcambridge.org](mailto:transitionteam@firstparishcambridge.org).*

The **First Parish Youth Group**, serving 10th-12th graders, offers a safe, welcoming place for community building, spiritual growth, and social service. Nick Woebecke and I lead the group, which meets twice a month after worship.

**Do you know of weekend service opportunities (e.g. sorting books at a book drive, helping at organic farm)?**

We are looking for community service activities—both within and outside of the church—that youth group can participate

in on weekends, and we are seeking adults who are passionate about these activities and willing to make a one-time commitment to co-leading a activity (with Nick or me).

**Do you want to lead a one-time workshop during youth group?** We are looking for people who have a special talent (e.g., poster-making) and could lead a workshop in during a youth group meeting.

**Do you have time after Sunday worship?** We are looking for people who can pitch in

when we are under-staffed for youth group meetings. This contributes to our program by helping us provide consistency and dependability.

For all of these opportunities, we are seeking people who are grounded in Unitarian Universalism, committed to the well-being of youth, and respectful of youth and of fellow adult leaders.

*If you are interested, please contact me at [ShelbyMeyerhoff@gmail.com](mailto:ShelbyMeyerhoff@gmail.com).*

## Worship Schedule

September 28<sup>th</sup>

### Intimacy and Ultimacy

To the question “Why Church?” Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adams offered the dual answer “intimacy and ultimacy.” We seek closeness with others (the horizontal dimension) and clues to the meaning of existence (the vertical dimension). Covenant Groups—small groups that meet for reflection, support, and spiritual growth—respond to both these needs. *Rev. Fred Small preaches.*

October 5<sup>th</sup>

### Building the Beloved Community

“The Beloved Community” envisioned by Martin Luther King Jr. and embraced by former Senior Minister (now Emeritus) Thomas Mikelson has powerful resonance in an America still struggling with racial divisions. What is our congregation’s calling to fulfill the dream of reconciliation, justice, and real diversity? *Rev. Fred Small preaches.*

October 12<sup>th</sup>

### Bearing Witness

Throughout our lives, we are called as individuals and as a community to be present with the reality of the joy and pain of others in the world, as it is, without judging it, ourselves or others in the process. Bearing witness calls us to deepen our

mindfulness, to trust our process without knowing or being attached to the outcome. As the congregation begins its forward motion of envisioning its future dreams and possibilities, the practice of bearing witness is a reminder to live out covenantal relationships in the moment, sharing our joy and sorrow along the way. *Rev. Meg Anzalone preaches.*

October 19<sup>th</sup>

### Right Relations

In a non-creedal religion like Unitarian Universalism, we live our faith not by what we profess to believe, but by how we actually treat each other. Being in right relations doesn’t mean avoiding conflict, but holding each other accountable with love and compassion. *Rev. Fred Small preaches. Rev. Meg Anzalone will lead a ceremony to mark the beginning of the Coming of Age Program, a spiritual program for youth in transition from childhood to young adulthood* (See page 4 for details.)

October 26<sup>th</sup>

### The Fire of Commitment

What does it mean to be a member of First Parish/First Church in Cambridge? What does membership add to your life—and ours? *Rev. Fred Small preaches.*