

September 2007

First Parish News



Upcoming Events:

- September 1st
Breakfast 8-10am
- September 9th 10am
Services begin
"Gathering Together
Again as a Faith
Community"
Rev. Marguerite
Sheehan
- September 9th
3:30pm Ordination for
Steve Wilson –
Rutland, VT
- September 16th
Sunday service 10am
Congregational
Meeting
- September 23rd
Sunday Service 10am
"Letting Ourselves Be
Known"
Rev. Marguerite
Sheehan
- September 29th
Breakfast 8-10am
- September 30th
Sunday Service 10am
TBA

Individual Highlights:

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First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter

Announcements

First Parish announcements:

CALL FOR SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS:

It is my hope that we will have enough people interested in joining together in small group singing to eventually provide some vocal music at least once a month for services. This group would also help introduce the congregation to one new hymn each month. We can provide this wonderful sound with as little as three brave souls! More is even better! It would also be wonderful to have some instrumentalists either join the singers on occasion, or play a solo, duet, or in a small ensemble. I will plan to be available on September 9th from 9:00 on to meet with anyone who wants to talk with me about these ideas. You may also see me after any service or call me. Once organized, we would meet to rehearse each Sunday before the service at 9:00 a.m. (except the second Sunday of the month). Lynne Walker

RE News It would be helpful to hear from parents who think they will be bringing their children (as I have yet to hear from anyone) and am expecting primarily 3-5 year olds to be participating. I still would love to have volunteers to help out from time to time but am currently planning on being the primary RE leader. I would love anyone who would love to share a talent or interest with the kids through the coming fall/winter season and come in as a special guest. The first part of Sunday service will be spent upstairs with the congregation through the joys and concerns and chalice lighting and then we will go downstairs for the rest of the service for our own joys and concerns, a story, project and snack. We are looking for volunteers to help clean up the RE room on September 1st in the morning

and leave it as empty of tag sale furniture as possible. Also welcome would be arts and crafts supplies and volunteers who would be willing to bring snacks/juice especially for the kids every Sunday. Please contact Deb Potee.

Welcome to Genevieve Clare Bird, born August 19th. Daughter to Karina Berenson and Michael Bird and sister to Fiona.

Other Announcements:

"An Evening of Song from Hollywood and Broadway"

Saturday evening, September 29th, at Trinitarian Congregational Church, Lynne Walker, soprano, and Charles Hunting, Bass/Baritone, will join together with Beverly Phelps at the piano to present a concert of best loved solos and duets from American musical theatre, dating from the early 1900's. Selections from "Showboat", "Sound of Music", and "Swing Time", will be included, as well as favorite songs of autumn. For time and ticket information please call the office at TCC 498-5839, or see posted and newspaper advertisements.

Piano Lessons: Please call Lynne Walker if you are interested in beginning or continuing an interest in playing the piano. All ages and levels welcome. Music for Life studios in Northfield. 498-5716.

Minister's Corner

“Here we have gathered, gathered side by side, circle of kinship, come and step inside. May all who seek here find a kindly word. May all who speak here, feel they have been heard.” So goes the first stanza of Hymn #360 and hopefully, so goes our life here at First Parish as we ready ourselves to gather in community. This hymn speaks to us of the basic and so important concerns of most people who risk coming to church: kinship, kindness, respect and freedom of speech.

It has been my experience that people come to church, any church really, for a variety of reasons. Some of us are looking for a safe yet challenging place to explore our spirituality and practices. Others of us are searching for a support in raising children in a sometimes harsh world. Many come to church hoping for a refuge, a sanctuary in a busy week. A Sabbath perhaps. And others among us come looking for a small group of dedicated people who are determined to make the world a more habitable place for those who are most in need.

For all those reasons and more, we strive, in this community and other communities of faith, to set standards that we can aspire to. Standards that appear basic: a circle of kinship, kindness, respect and freedom of speech. Basic and yet so very important, because without this base we cannot and will not risk to do all the searching that a faith such as ours requires. We could not and would not, risk stepping inside the church.

So let us commit ourselves, in these first weeks of our church year, to do just that. In order to make a circle of kinship we need to show up for each other. To spread kindness we need to be kind even when we would rather not. And if we covenant that those who speak here will be heard, we need to commit ourselves to a deep listening for the quiet as well as the robust voices in our midst.

I am delighted to gather with you here at First Parish. Thank you for inviting me into your circle of kinship. Let us keep the circle open and welcoming to the old and the new who step inside.

In faith,
Rev. Marguerite

“Wish List”

volunteers for the Service Committee
coordinator for Sunday coffee hour

help with:
monthly breakfasts
church cleaning bees