



# The Bell-Ringer

FIRST PARISH CHURCH  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, MA 02331



JANUARY 2015

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

"What might it mean to build a "beloved community" between Duxbury, Kingston, and Plymouth?"

For the new three Sundays in January, our three "Union" ministers will explore this "beautiful question" in pulpit swaps! Plan to attend all three Sundays, if possible--this is the beginning of our intentional commitment to deepen relationship among these three of the oldest UU congregations!!

**January 11th--** Rev. Ed Hardy (from Plymouth) will be in Duxbury (Catherine will preach in Kingston)

**January 18th--** Catherine will preach in Duxbury (!)

**January 25th--** Rev. Dan King (from Kingston) will be in Duxbury (Catherine will preach in Plymouth)

## COMING EVENTS

### WEDNESDAY JAN 7

Building & Grounds 9:00a.m.  
Growth Team Meeting 12:00p.m.  
R.E. Meeting 7:00p.m.

### THURSDAY JAN 8

Book Club 9:00a.m.  
Alliance 10:00-2:00p.m.  
Governing Board Agenda 7:00p.m.  
Worship 7:00p.m.  
Communications 7:00p.m.  
Men's Group 7:00p.m.

### FRIDAY JAN 9

Committee on Ministry 5:00p.m.

### SUNDAY JAN 11

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30a.m.  
Worship 10:30a.m.  
Social Justice 9:00a.m.  
ANCESTOR LUNCHEON 12:00p.m.  
Hike 1:15p.m.  
Youth Social Justice Trip Mtg. 5:00pm  
HIP 6-7:30p.m.

Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30p.m.

### MONDAY JAN 12

Building Use Meeting 6:00p.m.  
Welcome Cong. 7:00p.m.  
Intern Meeting 7:00-8:30p.m.  
Bible Group 7:00-8:30p.m.

### TUESDAY JAN 13

JIM CROW DISCUSSION GRP. 7:00pm  
Memoirs 7:15p.m.

### WEDNESDAY JAN 14

Kindred Spirits 10:00-11:30a.m.  
Cell Tower Meeting 2:30p.m.

### THURSDAY JAN 15

Book Club 9:00 a.m.  
Historical Committee 9:30a.m.  
Alliance Sewing Group 10:00-2:00p.m.  
Govern. Board Meeting 7-9:00 p.m.

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER...

*"Change" by Rod MacIver*

*Change, change*

*Always relentless change In nature, in the universe.*

*Everything is evolving, Green and growing, or decaying.*

*So much loss in my life now.*

*So many wonderful things, people Crossing my path too.*

*And today I saw a wildflower,*

*Particularly beautiful, one of the most beautiful I've ever seen.*

*I've never seen one like it before.*

*I wonder if there's something I do*

*To bring into my life so much sorrow, loss*

*Pleasure, friendship, satisfaction, meaning, joy.*

Dear friend,

Welcome to a new year, a year full of possibility opens before each one of us!

Some of what will happen this year---world events, natural disasters, crises in our nation, crises in our personal lives--much will no doubt be beyond our control. Nevertheless, we still have the capacity to shape so much this new year, perhaps by setting intentions and aspirations, perhaps by daring to dream big dreams, perhaps by letting go of something or someone we have been holding on to tightly. Maybe by loosening our grip a bit and making some space in our lives, we can free some new energy and invite experiences that are beyond our wildest imaginings!!

*What can you do to bring pleasure, friendship, satisfaction, meaning, and joy into your life this year? What can you do to make 2015 one of the best years of your life???*

## *First Parish Church*

*Unitarian Universalist, Duxbury, Massachusetts*

**P.O. Box 1764, Duxbury, Massachusetts 02331**

842 Tremont St. (Route 3A)

Email: [uuduxbury@verizon.net](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net)

Telephone: 781-934-6532

Website: [www.duxburyuu.org](http://www.duxburyuu.org)



*A liberal religious community dedicated to nurturing individual spiritual development, promoting understanding and working for social justice. We welcome people of all races, backgrounds and sexual orientations.*

**Rev. Catherine Cullen, Minister**  
**Sunsue Fleming, Director of Religious Education**  
**Edwin Swanborn, Music Director**  
**Elaine Stephansky, Bell Choir Director**

**Rev. Robert R. Walsh, Minister Emeritus**  
**Jackie Smith-Miller, Director of Religious Education, Emerita**  
**Lenore O'Malley, Church Administrator**  
**Alex Pevzner, Jr., Junior Choir Director**

### ***“Interning Grace”***

**“Strike While The Iron Is Hot”**

by Intern Minister Tom Bozeman

It can be hard working towards something and not seeing any tangible results arise from our efforts – particularly if it’s something about which we care a great deal and into which we have put in a great deal of time and thought and sweat. When it comes to making a difference in society – when the scale of what we are attempting to impact gets so large – the challenge of actually making an impact can seem formidable. This is why it’s so important to “strike while the iron is hot”.

This past Sunday afternoon, I attended for the first time the monthly Boston Racial Justice Brunch, at which white folks gather to build community around, to educate one another about, and to collaborate on taking action on issues of racial justice. In the room were people who have been doing this work for many years – sometimes decades. At one point in the conversation, one of the people in the room who’s been at it for decades commented that the conversation about race that we were having with one another was far beyond the one that was going on ten or fifteen years ago – that she could see the growth and maturation of our ability to talk constructively about race. Another long-timer commented that, for the first time, she is having conversations about race with people who don’t normally think or talk much about it.

The iron is hot, my friends.

At the end of this month, on the evening of Friday, January 30, we will be holding a conversation in the Assembly Hall. We’ll be talking about what’s been happening in Ferguson, MO and spreading around the country. We’ll be engaging with the vital question of what we are to do in light of the times in which we find ourselves. I hope that you’ll join us.



## ***RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS***

### **Special Family Sunday** **Sunday January 11th**



Story teller Cindy Rivka Marshall will be joining us for our children's story in the sanctuary. She has performed and presented workshops since 1989 throughout New England, nationally and in England. She will be working with our 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders during church school.

### **Ancestor Lunch** **Sunday, January 11th, 2015 12:00noon – 1:00 p.m.**

Our Play unit this year is centered on Stories. Everyone in the church is invited to an ancestor lunch. Bring a dish to share for our potluck ancestor lunch. It is a time to remember and celebrate those who came before. Bring a dish that represents either your ancestral heritage or a relative who has passed and a short story or explanation to share. This is both a fun and meaningful event, giving us the space to remember our loved ones in community and in celebration.

### **Church School Play – “Wisdom Tales”**

Each year during the middle unit of our church school, the children in grades 2-6 explore a theme and then prepare a play or program on that theme for the congregation. This year our play will be presented on **Sun., Feb. 8th, 10:30 a.m.**

#### ***Attendance during this Unit is Very Important***

<b>Sun., Jan. 11</b>	Story Teller, Ancestor Lunch
<b>Sun., Jan. 18</b>	Play rehearsal – scenery
<b>Sun., Jan. 25</b>	Play rehearsal – scenery
<b>Sun., Feb. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	9:30-12:00 noon Play Rehearsal in Sanctuary

### **\*\*Sat., Feb. 7th, 2015\*\***

#### **Dress Rehearsal**

**9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Sun. Feb. 8th, 2015**

Rehearsal - **9 a.m.**

Church School Play - **10:30 a.m.**

Dancers Rehearsals

**Jan. 25th, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Feb. 1st, 9 a.m.**

**Feb. 8th, 8:30 a.m.**

## **Adult Religious Education**

If you have any questions, please call Sunsue Fleming (781) 934-6532, ext 4. Sign-up sheets are posted outside the church office.

### **MEMOIRS**

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 13th, 2015**. Our topic will be **“Heart Stopping Moments”**. Hope you can join us!

### **UU CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS**

Within a few hours of First Parish there are several wonderful UU Camps and Conference Centers. Come learn about Star Island, Ferry Beach, Rowe Conference Center, and Cedar Hill. **Leader: Sunsue Fleming, Mon., Jan. 26th, 7 p.m.**

## **BINGO NIGHT**

**Sunday – January 25th, 2015, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**COME ONE! COME ALL!**



On **Sun., Jan. 25th, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**, your favorite youth group, H.I.P., will be sponsoring a fun-filled and spectacular night of Bingo and food! Enjoy a spaghetti dinner and some top-rate **BINGO** action while supporting the H.I.P. Youth Group! The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. (Family max. = \$25). Be advised that prizes will not be cash. Bring the family and be prepared for an evening of food, **BINGO** and entertainment! Tickets will be on sale during Coffee Hour in January. - H.I.P. Youth Group

### **Bingo Prizes Needed**

Bingo prizes are needed. **NEW** or **NEARLY NEW** items, appropriate for all ages, are needed for this popular event. Questions, please call Sunsue.

### **Youth Service Project**

We had a good informational meeting with Hip members and parents last November to talk about our plans to go to West Virginia for a service project in April. Anyone who has decided to go needs to meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. You will need to bring a check for \$50 made out to First Parish Church School. The deposit is also for adults going. We need hard numbers at this time so we can move forward with plans.

### **Pageant DVD's For Sale**

DVDs of the Holiday Pageant are for sale for \$10. If you would like one, please contact Sunsue.



### **January Birthday**

**Olivia Kibbey & Peter Lillys**

Have a Very Happy Birthday, Olivia & Peter!



## ***Ringling Out Justice!***

News of social justice activities at First Parish Church



### **Social Justice Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Social Justice Committee is the second Sunday of the month at 9AM. This month we meet on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome.

We are continuing to have a Social Justice table during coffee hour on Sundays. Stop by to talk about our programs, sign up for the community table, or offer us a suggestion.

### **January Special Collection for Big Creek People in Action**

The FPC HIP group (our high school youth) will be traveling to McDowell County, West Virginia during their April school break for a service learning mission trip. McDowell County WV is one of the poorest counties in the United States – 6<sup>th</sup> poorest to be exact. Big Creek People in Action (BCPIA) provides many services to the people in their county including a youth leadership program, an education and literacy program as well as their housing program through which they provide safe, warm and dry homes to the residents of the county.

BCPIA also hosts volunteer church and college groups throughout the year who want to make a difference by giving their time and energy to our community. Our youth and their chaperones will be staying in dormitory style rooms at the group's center. They will also benefit by cultural immersion in the music, dance, work and stories of the area as well as a tour of a coalmine and the community.

BCPIA provide home repairs needed by the elderly, poor, or disabled residents of Big Creek District. The Special Collection will be targeted specifically to assist in their housing rehabilitation project so that the group from our church can go, not only with their hands and hearts, but also with a monetary donation. Please check out this organization at [www.bigcreekpeopleinaction.org](http://www.bigcreekpeopleinaction.org) and give generously on January 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Ladd Fiorini.

### **Social Justice Cell Fund Grant Applications**

As a church we are fortunate to have money available from our cell tower revenues for Social Justice related grants awarded two times during the church year. Applications for upcoming Cell Fund Grants are available in the church office or on our church website in the Social Justice section. Any member or friend of First Parish may submit a grant request that is related to social justice. In the past grants have been awarded to Habitat for Humanity, our Partner Church, UUSC, Father Bill's Mainspring House in Brockton, fuel assistance programs and many other organizations and projects.

The applications for this round of grants are due on March 15th. The applications may be left at the church office or e-mailed to Carrie Meier.

Any questions can be directed to Carrie Meier, Cindy Ladd Fiorini or Marilyn Christmann.

## **HIKE**

Join the Social Justice Committee and volunteer, Lorraine Rubinacci, on Duxbury Beach for a Snowy Owl search on January 11, 2015. Depart FPC shed area at noon or meet on the ocean side of Powder Point Bridge at 12:15 PM. Please sign up for hike because we may take cars out to Saquish and we'll need a count. Also, hike leaders may change hike due to weather conditions. To sign up, contact Sally Delisa.

## **The Community Table ~ Saturday, January 24th**

First Parish serves and provides lunch for the guests at the Community Table at Father Bill's in Brockton the fourth Saturday of the month.

Saturday, January 24th the HIP Group will be serving at the Community Table.

Please stop by the Social Justice Committee table during coffee hour following church to sign up to provide a casserole (we give you the pan and recipe), salad fixings (undressed) and/or desserts. We provide lunch for at least 150 guests.

Thank you for all of your time and food. The guests of the Community Table look forward to First Parish's lunch! - Callie Brandeis, Youth Coordinator for the Community Table and Social Justice Committee Member

## **HOMELESS COUNT**

Good Day Friends,

During the week of 26 January 2015, once again, I will be involved with the annual homeless count in Brockton that is run by Father Bill's / Main Spring.

We take to the streets around 9:30 PM and travel to places where the homeless are known to take cover. We offer these people shelter, warm clothing, food and blankets.

Some of these people have mental health issues and some are on the streets year-round due to lack of housing. Much of the data that we collect is processed and sent to Federal and State agencies that we hope will assist these people in collecting Section 8 housing certificates as well as grants for general housing services.

During the next few weeks, I will have boxes at First Parish for any donations of winter hats, gloves, long underwear and toiletries for this event.

Thanks to all in advance for your continued generosity in helping with this effort to end homelessness near our community!!

Here's wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015!

Regards, Bob Hughes

## **BOX PROJECT**

First, our deep gratitude to all who helped make the Christmas wishes come true of the many children and parents that we help each month. Every tag was taken. Head Start schools were bursting with these gifts!

We had many thank you notes after Thanksgiving and Christmas from the families. Here is a letter that we received after Thanksgiving that very beautifully expresses the mother's feelings, and those of the other families.

*"On behalf of myself and my precious children, I would like to offer my most heartfelt thanks. Somehow the word 'thanks' seems so lacking. As the mother of three and a student striving for my family's security (as challenges have changed our lives) to receive such relief brings more than thanks. Our road beyond our hardships to a stable life is blessed with your generosity along the way, keeping us going, encouraging our strength. You are in our home every day providing so much more than the donated goods. You provide hope, strength, and motivation, and the health and wellbeing of my and other very special children.*

*My wish is that you and your families and loved ones are blessed ten-fold with what you put out into the world. This month of November celebrates that gratitude and generosity of the Pilgrims and local native peoples. Your generosity is reminiscent of their native kindness. My gratitude is exceeding that of the Pilgrims, not just on Thanksgiving but in every occasion of being a recipient of your commendable philanthropy.*

*Our deepest and continuing thanks. Many blessings to you all,*

*A humble recipient family.*

The Social Justice Committee thanks everyone who in any way helps to make the Box Project possible. - **Carrie Meier**

### **First Parish Church Common Read**

Discussion Tuesday January 13, 7 p.m. Please join the Social Justice Committee discussion of the book The New Jim Crow, Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander.

As UUs we have the religious grounding, the resources, and the opportunity to make a difference in partnership with those who are most affected by institutionalized racism.

**Please join us Tuesday, January 13. All are welcome!**

### **We are presently working on Ending Mass Incarceration Together**

**In January, new bills will be introduced;** EMIT coalition will focus on these:

- Ending Mandatory Minimums
- Bail reform
- Compassionate Release
- Redefining felony charges
- RMV bill

We have until Jan 15th to encourage our legislators to co-sponsor these bill(s). *Here's how YOU can become involved--*

- \*Sign a prison reform letter after church on January 4 and 11
- \*Join monthly phone calls (60") to connect with other UUs in MA.  
Contact Susan at [emit.susan@gmail.com](mailto:emit.susan@gmail.com), tele # 978-772-3930
- \*Contact your legislator.

### **POTLUCK DISCUSSION**

Our Intern Minister Tom Bozeman and Nancy Landgren invite you to a Potluck Discussion Friday January 30th at 6PM. We will share dinner and then have a discussion on the "militarization of the police", gun violence in our country today with highlights from a historical overview of country's history, and the NRA and the last election. Please join us. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Landgren or Tom Bozeman.

**UUSC News-- sign up for Action Alerts at [UUSC.org](http://UUSC.org)**

**A Warm Thank You to all at FPC** who donated to UUSC during the *Guest at Your Table* program. We hope you gained information and insight about the work of UUSC and the impact your contribution makes on individual lives and community/national development in the US and distant shores. GAYT results will be forthcoming soon.

**UU College of Social Justice Spring Break:** UUCSJ is offering a trip for those college students and any young adults interested in the intersection of spirituality and social justice. (HS graduates 18-25, Haiti, March 7-14) Cost \$1,500 + airfare. Financial aid available (lowest cost \$750). Deadline to apply: **Jan 11<sup>th</sup>**. Questions: [info@uucsj.org](mailto:info@uucsj.org).

**Young Adult (18-35) Spring Lobby Weekend 2015:** Calling all those interested in climate justice! UUSC and the UU College of Social Justice present a 4-day skills-based training, combining learning with hands-on advocacy opportunities, in Washington, DC, March 14-17. Participants, along with YA from other faiths, will explore moral grounding, current climate justice issues, need for changes in federal policy, lobbying training, and meetings with legislators and their staff. Also: optional fun free time activities! Registration deadline is 3/1/15; Fee: \$50 or \$25 (lo-income). Housing: \$35/night. Contact: Andrew Silva at [andrew@fcnl.org](mailto:andrew@fcnl.org)

**UU Mass Action News:**

**Would you like to become involved?**

**Check out great resources at [uumassaction.org](http://uumassaction.org)**

**Jobs Not Jails Community Meeting (details forthcoming)**

Sat, January 31, 2015, 2pm – 4pm

Freedom House Inc, 5 Crawford Street, Dorchester, MA 02121



**SUNDAY JAN. 18**

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30a.m.  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Membership 9:00a.m.  
 HIP 6:00-7:30p.m.  
 Buddhist Group 5:00-6:30 p.m.

**MONDAY JAN. 19**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**  
 OFFICE CLOSED  
 DIC Breakfast at FPC 8:15a.m.  
 MLK Service at 9:00a.m.  
 Bible Group 7:00p.m.

**TUESDAY JAN. 20**

SGM – 10:00-11:30a.m.

**WEDNESDAY JAN. 21**

Safe Congregation 9:30a.m.  
 DRE Meeting 7:00p.m.

**THURSDAY JAN. 22**

Book Club 9:00 a.m.  
 Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.  
 Men's Group 7:00p.m.  
 Capital Projects 7:00p.m.

**FRIDAY JAN. 23****COMMITTEE CHAIRS SOCIAL**

At Cedar Hill 7:00-9:00p.m.

**SATURDAY JAN. 24****BELL RINGER DEADLINE**

Community Table 9:00a.m.  
**BLACK TIE BINGO** 5:00-9:00p.m.

**SUNDAY JAN. 25**

Jr. & Sr. Choir 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Day Care after Church Meeting  
 Box Project Due Date

**HIP BINGO** 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Buddhist Group 5-6:30 p.m.

**MONDAY JAN. 26**

Building Use Mtg. 10:30a.m.  
 UU Camp & Conf. Center 7:00p.m.  
 Bible Group 7:00p.m.  
 PFLAG 7:30p.m.

**THURSDAY JAN. 29**

Book Club 9:00 a.m.  
 Alliance 10-2:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY JAN. 30**

Pot Luck Discussion Group 6:30p.m.

**SATURDAY JAN. 31**

ALLIANCE TALENT SHOW

**CARING CONNECTION:**

There are many caring members of our church community who are willing to lend a hand to those having a difficult time! The Caring Connection can coordinate meals, transportation, babysitting or visits to shut-ins. For the month of **JAN.**, please contact **CALEEN ALEXANDERSON**. For **FEB.**, please contact **KATHY BRAY**.

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Catherine's regular office hours are **Mon., Wed., and Thur.** from **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Tuesdays are her days off and Friday's are her sermon writing days. She may be contacted by cell at (781) 635-5906. If you need to schedule an appointment during office hours or any time after office hours, please feel free to contact Catherine via email, on her cell number, or by leaving a message at church.

**Church Office Hours**

The FPC church office is open **Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Our email address is [uuduxbury@verizon.net](mailto:uuduxbury@verizon.net). If you need anything, please call Lenore and I will be happy to help you.

**People News**

Best Wishes to long time FPC member, **BEV JOHNSON** who continues to recuperate from open heart surgery. When Bev is transferred to a rehabilitation center, we will provide address information.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with **TERRY CONDON** as she recovers from her recent transplant surgery. Cards and letters can be addressed to Terry c/o our church.

**Next Bell-Ringer Deadline:**

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 9:00 a.m.**

**ON-GOING CHURCH MEETINGS**

**SUNDAYS** - Family/Child Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Joys & Concerns (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Announcement Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Silent Joys & Concerns (4<sup>th</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Membership 9:00am (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Social Justice 9 a.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Welcoming Congregation 9:30 a.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. each month)  
 Denominational Affairs 12:00 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sun.)  
 Buddhist Meditation 5-6:30p.m. (weekly)

**MONDAYS** – Building Use 10:30 a.m. (4<sup>th</sup> Mon. each month)  
 Finance Committee 7 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon. each month)  
 Bible Group every Monday 7:00pm

**TUESDAYS** - Hand Bells 7 p.m.  
 Memoirs 7:00p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. each month)

**WEDNESDAYS** – RE Committee 7 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. of each month)  
 Staff meeting 11:30 a.m. (weekly)  
 Buildings & Grounds 9-11 a.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Wed. each month)  
 "Kindred Spirits" 10-11:30 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. each month)

**THURSDAYS** - Book Group 9 a.m.  
 Sewing Group 10 a.m.  
 Worship Committee/Music 7:00 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. each month)  
 Agenda Setting 7-8 p.m. (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. each month)  
 Governing Board 7 p.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. each month)  
 Capital Projects 7 p.m.  
 Historical Committee 9:30a.m. (3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs. of each month)  
 Communications (2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs. each month)

**FRIDAYS** - Committee On Ministry 5 p.m. (1<sup>st</sup> Fri. each month)

**SATURDAYS** - Brockton Soup Kitchen 9:15 a.m. (4<sup>th</sup> Sat. each month)

**MLK Jr Prayer Breakfast**

***FPC HOSTS THIS YEAR ---come join us***

***(8:15a.m. breakfast, 9:00a.m. worship)***

The Duxbury Interfaith Council and the No Place for Hate Committee invites the community to its annual Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast on Monday, January 19. The breakfast and service will be held at FPC Duxbury at 8:15 AM. Participating in the service will be The Duxbury High School Chamber Singers under the direction of Robert Judge. Featured speaker will be Rev. Barbara J. Simmons, a retired social worker and currently senior pastor at Bethel Plymouth African Methodist Episcopal Church, Plymouth. There is a requested donation of \$5 per person or \$15 per family. For additional info please contact the Council at 781-934-8388 or [www.duxinterfaith.com](http://www.duxinterfaith.com).



**Friday, January 23th, 7:00pm**

**Committee Chairs Social** at Cedar Hill!

Please let your vice/co-chairs know, and also your significant others are invited to the event.

## **DECEMBERFEST**

Decemberfest was held last month and was a great success. The church looked wonderful, many people helped in many ways and despite the rain we raised more than the budget expected by over \$1000, or \$9000 total. Thanks to all who helped make this fair such a great success.

### **Notes from the Worship and Music Committee**

Those of you attending the Christmas Eve Service this year may have noticed that something was missing. Since 1980, Polly Lanman's family has served as the ushers for each and every Christmas Eve Service—33 straight years without a break!! This truly remarkable service to the Church and its congregation, alas, came to an end this year when Polly's family decided it was time to retire, and pass the Orders of Service on to others to distribute. Polly of course contributes mightily to the Church in a thousand different ways, but this contribution made by her family (at her quiet urging no doubt) has been truly special. So please, when you see Polly next, thank her and her family for this wonderful tradition of service that they have contributed to our Church family for so long, and so faithfully. Thank you to Polly and all her far-flung family for this fabulous help throughout the years.

And thanks to Ian Campbell, Ted Lillys and the entire Governing Board for supporting a cell fund enrichment grant to the Worship Committee to purchase a new and reconfigured microphone system to better improve the quality of sound in the Sanctuary. For some time the Worship Committee has been concerned that it is frequently very difficult to hear and understand lay speakers who are using our portable microphones. Now that the Worship and Music Committees have been combined into a single committee, we have found further impetus to move forward. Although of very high quality, the portable microphones seem to work best in capturing the human voice in singing, by persons highly experienced in their use. They are much less forgiving of the casual lay speaker who does not speak directly into them from very close. Using the cell fund grant we have purchased a new microphone that should be easier for most of us to use (and be heard). Final installation should be complete shortly. Please let us know if you can hear the difference!

And, speaking of hearing from you, the Worship and Music Committee will be conducting a brief Worship Practices Survey of the Congregation, most likely in March. We'll be letting you know more about it in the weeks ahead. We plan on using a web-based tool called Survey Monkey to record and tabulate the data (paper copies will be available for those who do not have or prefer not to use the web. We will look forward to hearing from you, by any means!

*Michael Gardner, Chair Worship and Music Committee*



### **SNOW CANCELLATIONS**



If we have to cancel church for our Sunday service, please check the message that is on the church's phone message or in the local media outlets. We will try to use WATD Marshfield, WBZ Channel 4, WCVB Channel 5, and also Channel 7NEWS.

**THE DUXBURY SENIOR CENTER AND THE DUXBURY INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL TEAM UP FOR "BLACK TIE BINGO"  
TO RAISE REVENUE FOR THOSE WHO NEED FUEL ASSISTANCE  
JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

Black Tie Bingo is not your average Bingo game at the Duxbury Senior Center. This time, it has a higher purpose, raising money for those in need of fuel assistance. In partnership with the Duxbury Interfaith Council, this fundraiser is for people of all ages and backgrounds who are without heat, in what is typically a very long and cold winter. Our own, Rev. Catherine Cullen is the Chair!

Not paying for medications, or not paying rent or the monthly mortgage as a replacement for fuel, can cause unbearable strain. Both organizations see this on a daily basis, as we help the record number of families applying for assistance in 2014-2015. The cutbacks in the program have created additional strain, and we hope to fill some gaps.

Black Tie Bingo offers hope to everyone struggling with these problems without giving up other of life's necessities, and will do so by holding this unique fundraiser that includes people, young and old, in Duxbury. Local business have generously contributed \$250 to be bingo game sponsors or by offering gift certificates for game winners. From door prizes to appetizers and desserts, January 24th can change the lives of your friends, neighbors and relatives.

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 per person at the Senior Center or at Westwinds Bookstore. The event takes place on January 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 PM at the Senior Center. All are welcome to help support this very important cause!

**News from the Membership Committee**

To those committed friends who are part of our wonderful congregation but haven't signed the membership book yet, we would like to point out some benefits of membership to you, your families and our church including:

- furthering your spiritual commitment
- voting at congregational meetings
- receiving the UU World Magazine
- participating on lay leadership committees
- reduced fees for weddings, funerals, and/or rental of church space

Please contact Rev. Catherine Cullen at 781-934-6532 ext. 3 or send her an e-mail at [therevcatherine@aol.com](mailto:therevcatherine@aol.com) to set up your appointment!

Yes, we think you fit here. Yes, we need you. Yes, there are advantages to joining. Yes, it's a great new year's resolution. Yes, by signing the book you help keep our congregation vital and growing, together with all the other members!

Caroline Mitchell, on behalf of the Membership Committee, [uuduxburymembership@gmail.com](mailto:uuduxburymembership@gmail.com).



**Alliance Sewing Group**

We will be starting up our sewing group again this **Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** at 10:30a.m.! We will be starting to prepare our crafts for the Summer Fair. Everyone is welcome!!



***Show Us YOUR TALENT***  
***FPC Talent Show***  
***Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015!***

“FPC’s Got Talent” and we are looking for your act!! What you will share at our upcoming Intergenerational Talent Show. (Singing, Dancing, Comedy, Magic, Storytelling, Tambourines, Playing a Musical Instrument? Etc.)

Start putting your act together! Contact Jackie Smith-Miller or George Anderson with details of your act or if you have questions. We urge you all to plan to participate and attend so that once again we will have a “Really Big Show”!!

***Pre-School Proposal to be discussed at After-Church Meeting on Jan. 25***

A proposal to use FPC religious education classrooms during the week for a private pre-school will be the subject of an informational, all-church discussion at noon on **Sunday, Jan. 25**, in the parlor. Ligaya Garan of Duxbury, a Montessori pre-school teacher, has approached the Building Use Committee with the proposal to rent two R.E. rooms from September through May, beginning next fall. The committee has held preliminary discussions with Ligaya and her husband and feels it is important to inform the congregation and other committees of the proposal and to get input.

If agreed to, the pre-school would be a significant new revenue source for the church, but it would have an impact on the way we use our facilities, and it might require additional work, attention and accommodation from the staff. The school would use two of the large classrooms, with the kitchenette and adjacent toilet, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Some renovation/updating of these facilities would be needed. The school would also require the construction of an enclosed outdoor play space, which would be available for church use on Sundays.

Ligaya and her husband Peter, an architect, will present details of their proposal, with drawings, at the after-church meeting. Members of the Building Use Committee and the staff will be present to answer questions as well.

***Ukrainian Music for Violin and Piano to be Performed at FPC – March 22***

Violinist Zachary Ebin and pianist Maria Dolnycky will play music by 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Ukrainian composers, some of it based on Ukrainian folk themes, in a concert at First Parish Church on Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m.

Ebin and Dolnycky will also play some of the pieces during the morning worship service that day and will join Rev. Catherine Cullen in the pulpit to talk about the repression of Ukrainian composers during the Soviet era. Part of the proceeds from the concert will aid humanitarian relief in Ukraine, where the continuing civil war has caused great hardship for thousands of people.

Ebin was formerly the director of the Suzuki violin program at South Shore Conservatory in Hingham and Duxbury. He now studies and teaches in Toronto. He is a graduate of Brandeis University and Boston Conservatory and has studied with several internationally known violinists. Maria Dolnycky is a pianist and music teacher in Toronto. She studied music at McGill University in Montreal and at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. Her recitals have been broadcast on CBC and Radio Canada.

The two last year released a CD, “Dreams: A Revival of Ukrainian Music,” containing seldom performed music by four Ukrainian composers. Admission to the concert will be \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors, and free for children 12 and under. More information will be available on the church’s Web site, [uuduxbury.org](http://uuduxbury.org) and in future Bell-Ringers.

## **The First Parish HIP Group Workday with Habitat for Humanity**



On a November Sunday, 17 youth and 6 adults from FPC spent the afternoon working with Habitat for Humanity at a house in Carver that has two disabled teens. The family required a good deal of work to make the house habitable for their teens, one of whom is wheelchair bound. We worked under the direction of Jim Middleton from FPC who is the Executive Director of the Plymouth area Habitat. He took time out of his weekend to make sure the youth had a valuable experience and we thank him very much! Thanks as well to the youth and adults who took the time to help a family in need.

### **Website Task Force News**

On November 21, 2014, the Governing Board Authorized the formation of a task force with the specific purpose of establishing a new website for First Parish Church by the end of the 2014-2015 church year. As this new website is essential for the continued advertising and support of our congregation, the Website Task Force will publish updates on our progress each month in the Bellringer.

The first step in this process is to hire a designer to put together a website that is visually appealing to potential new members, that communicates the mission and beliefs of our church and provides valuable information to our membership. All of this must be done in an easy to navigate and update format.

Since the Task Force was established, we have narrowed our search to three web designers and communicated with each to set up interviews which will take place during the month of January.

In the next month we intend to complete our interviews, obtain proposals and gather focus groups among members of our congregation. Eventually all of this information will be presented to the Governing Board which will make the final decision regarding which web designer will be hired.

We are pleased to announce that even though we have set up an aggressive timetable to complete our task, at this time we are ahead of schedule. Please contact the Website Task Force Co-Chairs, Tracy Wagner or Ruth Phillips Oakland, with any questions regarding the work of the Website Task Force.