



From the Pulpit

As the year began I suggest we adopt a person discipline of daily prayer or meditation centered on peace. Here in the middle of Lent, looking forward to Palm Sunday and Easter I find myself more focused than ever on a deep yearning for peace. Tuesday evening, St. Patrick's Day, I found myself sitting at dinner with a young woman from Ireland. During the evening I learned that she had met her husband, from Northern Ireland, here in Boston. She went on to tell me of the entirely different lives they had while growing up only a few hundred miles apart. And together we lamented the current news of problems with the "peace process" in Northern Ireland. Though I did not say it out loud I could not help but think peace cannot be a "process." It must simply be. So this month please keep all the "peace processes" around the world in your thoughts and prayers. May we approach Palm Sunday and Easter remembering the

lessons of Jesus teaching us to forgive, to accept and to extend a helping hand to those we would regard as our enemies.

--Oscar

*Fountain of Everlasting Peace and Healing Balm,
Wash over our wounds of war, violence, and hatred,
Scrub deep the stains that destroy the fabric of Your Existence,
Mend the tattered threads of the Cloak of Your Majesty,
The delicate web of the universe which is Your Life and Love...
A prophet of non-violence You have raised up for Truth,
Reflecting the Source of Your Unfathomable Wisdom,
Flowing from the One Great Abyss of Creation's Glory,
Open our minds to hear Your Voice speaking Peace this day,
Born from One Cosmic Egg, we are one family in You,
Help us to learn forgiveness, kindness, tolerance,
Greatness of mind and heart,
So that destroying all weapons of war,
Burying all animosities and differences,
We may hear the Divine Harmony of Your Love,
Preserving our blue-jewel-earth-planet,
Spinning the dance of a Mother's Infinite Tenderness,
That draws all into Unity in one Compassionate Heart.
Bestow the Blissful Smile of sun and rain which is Your Divine
Presence
Making Peace grow in our hearts as seeds for a new era,
Birthing the song of non-violence
Which blesses our world with Peace
Eternal.*

Prayer for Peace Day - Sister Rosemarie - 2006

From the Moderator

As March draws to a close and April unfolds before us the winter snow melts away and the grass returns to green. The Easter story and the season travel together from death and despair to rise of glory.

While the birds migrate north so will we as we return upstairs to our beloved sanctuary on April 5th for Palm Sunday. If that's not up enough join us on Sawyer Hill @ 6 am April 12th for Easter Sunrise followed by breakfast at the meetinghouse @ 7 and our family Easter service @ 10.

After filling up on boiled dinner and

bread pudding (another fantastic job by Jim, Stan and the league of leprechauns) I had the joy of watching the space shuttle shoot across the night sky with Bev and three of our sons. I'm still in awe that such an accomplishment started with a few people asking "WHAT IF". This reminds me we would like a couple of younger people to join the "Guiding Committee" and ask what if we make Oscar our settled pastor. If you're interested let me know 9788382682.

For all other "What If's" join us as we throw a Wrench at the Works May 2nd

Common phrase- wrench in the works = chaos and havoc
Clivism- "Wrench at the Works" = fine tuning for a smooth journey

Tffn Clive

*Come into the circle of
love and justice.
Come into the
community of mercy,
holiness, and health.
Come and you shall
know peace and joy.
--Israel Zangwill*

A Special Thanks

To our mother's friends at the First Parish Church of Berlin,

Our mother's funeral service will always be remembered by her family and friends as a special celebration of her life. We are very grateful to Oscar for spending time with us and listening to us talk of our fondest memories of our mother and then incorporating them into the service. Barbara and the choir helped us to remember our mother's love of the hymns that helped make the service so beautiful.

Barry, thank you for your ever so gentle manner in the way that you encouraged us to help with the "ringing of the bells." And your kind words about our mother. We were very touched by that.

Adieu!

February 17, 2009

Mr. Barry Eager, Clerk
First Parish Church
24 Central Street Berlin, MA 01503
RE: Transfer of Membership

Dear Barry,
Greetings! I hope this finds you well personally and with your work in the church, in the town and probably still those steamships. I also pray that First Parish is moving forward in good directions.

I write to inform you that on January 25 I joined the First Parish Church United of Westford UCC/UUA and request that you make note of this transfer of membership.

Last summer I completed a four year team ministry at the Congregational Church in Newburyport and have just begun my search for a settled or interim position in the MA or NH Conference. My ministry at First Parish/Berlin was such a formative experience for me - many wonderful

As a family we couldn't have been more happy to have all of you who were able to accompany us to the Marriott for a luncheon buffet in remembrance of our mother's life.

Many of our family and friends who attended the service felt it necessary to call each and every one of us to say how touched they were by such a beautiful service.

Thanks to all in the choir who took time out in their busy weekend to rehearse and sing so beautifully. Our mother would have loved it!

Sincerely,
Margaret Dayton's family

memories, learnings and a wedding for which I am ever grateful. The congregation is often in my thoughts and prayers.

Blessings in this time of transition.

Faithfully,

Rev. Barbara Aiello

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT:

Wednesday - April 1st

Evening Guild members, please meet at the church and plan to leave at 6:30 pm SHARP to carpool over the countryside on our mystery ride to a surprise destination! Bring \$5.00 for dessert. Come to enjoy a relaxing evening of friendship, fellowship and conversation. Any questions, please call me: 978.838.438

Karen L Hill
President, Women's Evening Guild

Angel Food Ministries

Grace Baptist Church on River Road in Hudson makes high quality food available to all with substantial savings. In today's economy, we can all use a break in routine living expenses, such as the food on our tables. Volunteers at Grace join in the nation-wide "neighbors helping neighbors" Angel Food program that is available to any person. Residents of Berlin are very welcome.

Orders are placed at Grace during the first part of each month, and then later in the month it is delivered according to a schedule available at www.gracehudson.org/missions/AngelFood. A medium-sized box of Angel Food, consisting of fresh and frozen items, costs \$30., and is designed to provide main meals for a family of four for a week, or an individual for almost a month. Each week's menu is different, and is comparable in value to \$70-80 based on local comparison shopping. Orders are for a week at a time;

people do not have to sign up for any number of weeks, so it's easy to give this a try.

Here is the standard \$30. box for the month of April. Senior, allergen-free, and other special boxes are available.

1.5 lb. New York Strip Steak (4 x 6 oz)
2 lb Chicken Breast Stir Fry (Boneless/skinless chicken breast chunks)
2 lb. Breaded Breast Fillet
1 lb. Steak Fajita Strips
20 oz Supreme Pizza
28 oz. Jumbo Beef Patties with Gravy
1 lb All Meat Hot Dogs
10 oz Individually wrapped cheese slices
1 lb. Mixed vegetables
2 lb. French fries
12 ct. White Corn Tortillas
1 lb. Rice
15 oz Peach Halves
6 oz Pancake Mix
32 oz 2% Shelf-stable milk
Dozen eggs
Dessert

For more information on this outreach program, see the website www.gracehudson.org/missions/AngelFood, call Grace Baptist Church 978-562-8550, or Beezy Bentzen 978 549 8393.

*Life is a gift for which we
are grateful. We gather
in community to
celebrate the glories and
the mysteries of this
great gift.*

—Marjorie Montgomery

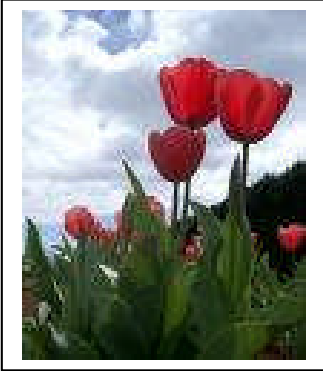
Earth, Friendship....what else is there?

As discussed in last month's Record, the next family event will be attending a matinee of the Disney movie Earth, which will be released April 22nd. Because that falls in the middle of our school vacation, I have chosen Sunday, May 3rd as the day to go to the movie for anyone who would like to join us. We will announce the time once we learn the schedule. If you are interested in seeing a trailer for the movie, you can go to:

http://www.apple.com/trailers/disney/earth/trailer_medium.html

The 1st - 4th grade classrooms will be starting on the next curriculum soon, "Friendship." This is part of the Living God's Word rotational series that the children have been doing this year and last. I have had wonderful feedback from both teachers and children on these lessons, and encourage you to speak to a child to see the lessons they've learn.

Important dates: Children's Sunday is June 14th, with dress rehearsal June 7th. Please let the teachers know if your children will not be at church these days so we can plan accordingly. There will be no classes on Memorial Day, so children attending church that day will stay with their families. Continued on back cover



Save the Date!

The date has been set for the Property Committee's "Spring Clean Up": April 18th and 19th.... We've decided to make it a clean-up weekend, not just one day!

We need rakers, sweepers, shovelers, scrapers, painters, planters, cleaners, organizers...what we really need is YOU !!! This is another opportunity to work and enjoy each other together as a community. There is a job for everyone and everyone is welcome.

We will provide sandwiches, drinks, cookies, and will have some tools.

WORK, FOOD, FAMILY, FRIENDS, FUN, AND REWARDS...WHAT MORE COULD YOU ASK FOR??

Talk to us about any project that's on your mind that you would like to see included.. and let's us know that you will be there to help so we can have "a plan"...

Thanks, your Property Committee, "09"



time in the winter, so his opportunity to actually use a computer is somewhat limited.

Here is a recent photo of Sangay when he had just received a Boston sweatshirt and sox from us.

The orphanage is receiving increasing support from organizations in India, and around the world. The children are thriving, with a better diet that they used to have.

A new building, housing a kitchen, dining hall, and assembly hall, has just been dedicated. Money is being raised by an organization in California for an infirmary that will provide medical care for the surrounding villages as well as Manjushree.

--Beezy Bentzen, Outreach Committee

Sangay Rinchin

Sangay is the 13 year-old boy sponsored by our church at Manjushree Vidyapith Orphanage in northeast India. He continues to do very well in his studies. He is now in 7th grade in the local government school. Sangay is very interested in computers and hopes to become an engineer, perhaps in computers. However, although Manjushree was provided with a satellite dish to connect them with the internet, power is still quite intermittent, sometimes going out for weeks at a

**Go paperless!
Have the Record
delivered
electronically each
month by sending a note
to
record@fpcberlin.org...an
d you get the pictures
in color! We won't
share your address with
anyone else.**

*In the end, it won't
matter how much we
have but how much we
have given. It won't
matter how much we
know but rather how
well we live.
And it won't matter how
much we believe, but
how deeply we love.*

--John Morgan

Easter Offering – Habitat for Humanity

Our Easter Offering this year will go to Habitat for Humanity. The Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson is the catalyst for building a Habitat home in Hudson. They are well-underway in their fund-raising. Land has been identified, and negotiations are underway to acquire it. This will be the first Habitat home in Hudson.

Habitat provides homes and hope for low-income people who work with volunteers to build their homes. Habitat homes are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are recycled into a revolving Fund for Humanity to build

more houses. Family members must work in partnership with Habitat and invest sweat equity hours in their home: 300 hours for a single-parent household and 500 hours for a dual-parent household.

You can help fund the construction of a Habitat for Humanity home in Hudson by a generous Easter offering. Even with donated labor, land and workers, it costs \$125,000 to build a 1200 square foot Habitat home. Over \$40,000 has been raised thus far.

We are pleased to be a part of this local outreach project in this time of great need for so many people.



*Photos:
Mrs. Badeau's
Sunday School class
made rainbow and
shamrock table
decorations for FPC's
Irish Night supper. left:
Abbie McNickol right:
Colton Holyoak and
Ian Durham*

Volunteers Sought

Our church pays annual dues to both the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC). These dues are based on the number of members we have in each denomination and they are used to support both the association/conference and national church administration. In an attempt to have more of our pledge dollars and contributions available for our church ministries and operating expenses, Stewardship and Church Council are asking each member to consider voluntarily contributing her/his own dues. This is something

many others churches are asking these days. Your dues gift will remain confidential and it is tax deductible. If you can help First Parish Church in this way, please bring or send a check or cash contribution to church along with a notation of "2009 Dues" and indicate UUA and/or UCC.

Dues for 2009 are:
UCC \$17.80 per person
UUA \$22.00 per person

We encourage those people with membership in both denominations to pay the higher UUA dues, or if possible, both.

--Stewardship Committee

Healthy and Wise

Last month we focused on safety issues, with special visits from two fire fighters and a police officer. The goal was to teach the boys and girls that these community helpers are our friends and children should not hide or run from them if they need help. One girl told her mom that she will wave and say hi when she sees Officer Baum around town.



Officer Baum at FPNS

In March, the children were also educated about poisons and were surprised to learn that toothpaste and cold medicine are hazardous if taken in large doses. The manner in which some medicines are packaged and sold appeal to children and it is worthwhile to discuss the dangers of overdose. After the lesson on poisons, one of our 5-year-olds went home and gathered toothpaste, antacids, and his dad's prescriptions, in order to "teach" his 2-year-old sibling.

Ready, Set, Grow!

The Annual Plant Sale will be held June 6, 2009—rain or shine! This wonderful event depends on the generosity of our diligent gardeners...please start thinking of what you might dig and divide for the benefit of our Plant Sale.

We have pots, and will make a garden visit to do the digging for you if you aren't able or inclined. Call Joni Bergen (978.838.2104) if you have questions or offerings. *It is important that the specimens be potted up well in advance of the plant sale so they look their best!*

Used garden or patio items, garden crafts, garden gifts, and tools are sought for this event as well.

We had a wonderful response from the gift basket division last year—maybe you could start planning now for special theme!

His mother realized from his actions that the medicines are not being safely stored out of the boys reach. At the end of March, we focused on health with programs such as yoga, gymnastics, and a walk in the neighborhood. As you can see, the preschoolers at FPNS are becoming quite healthy and wise.

--Betsy Gumina, Director, First Parish Nursery School



Not a monster! Thanks to BFD.

We're also looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help out on June 6, and you don't have to be a garden guru!



Gardens with Spirit 2008

April Calendar MH=Meetinghouse ChC=Children's Church PH=Parish Hall

4/1	Wed	MH	5-9pm	Evening Guild
4/5	Sun	MH	10am	Worship Palm Sunday
4/6	Mon	ChC	7:30pm	Stewardship Committee
4/9	Thur	MH	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Agape Supper
		Chc	7:30pm	FPNS Board of Directors
4/10	Fri	MH	noon	Hot Cross Buns by Day Guild
4/12	Sun		6am	Sunrise Service on Sawyer Hill Rd.
		MH	7am	Easter Breakfast
		MH	10am	Worship
			11am	Easter Egg Hunt
4/13	Mon	MH	7:30pm	Church Council
4/15	Wed	Chc	7:00pm	Music Committee
4/16	Thur	MH	9am	Day Guild
4/18	Sat	MH	8am-?	Spring Clean Up
4/19	Sun	MH	8:30am	Deacons
		MH	10am	Worship & Sunday School
		MH	12am-?	Spring Clean Up
4/26	Sun	MH	10am	Worship & Sunday School

RECORD deadline
April 20
record@fpcberlin.org



Rev. Stephen Schick is available for pastoral care. Please call Oscar Wallace: 508.839.3945 or Clive Holyoak: 617.293.2229 to arrange a call.

Throw a Wrench at the Works

To The Family and Friends of FPC Berlin,
Please join us May 2nd, 8:30am at the Meetinghouse, as we throw "A Wrench At the Works."

The purpose of the gathering is to envision the future here at First Parish. All aspects of our lives together are open for discussion.

We will enter into "Open Space," facilitated by Lynn Thomas, executive director of the Clara Barton District of the UUA. An agenda will be achieved and we will follow the discussions to conclusion.

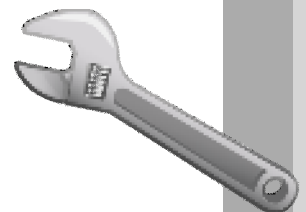
- 8:30 Welcome reception
- 9:00 Opening words
- 10:00 Workshop marketplace
- 10:30 Open Space
- 12:00 Lunch

- 12:45 Open Space
- 2:30 Open Space
- 4:00 Conclusions and closing

On any good road trip, there are needs (food & fuel) and point of interest (scenic vistas or amusement parks) and each of us puts forward our desires to the group, and the route is mapped out.

Our church journey is similar: we have issues (maintenance & management) and opportunities (worship & mission). We should now bring our passion to the group for inclusion in the mapping of this great adventure together.

I'm happy to answer any questions you might have. Clive



"Wrench at the Works"



**First Parish
Church**

*United Church of Christ
Unitarian Universalist*

24 Central St.
Berlin, MA 01503
Office 978.838.2575

Office hours: Thurs, 7 – 8:30
or by appointment

Building Use Coordinator
E-Mail:
secretary@fpcberlin.org

**Sunday School &
Sunday worship @
10 a.m.
childcare provided**



See us at:

www.fpcberlin.org

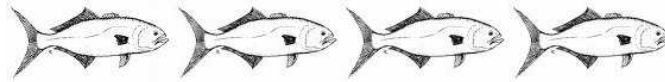
FIRST PARISH CHURCH

United Church of Christ/Unitarian Universalist Association
24 Central St.
Berlin, MA 01503

Fabulous First Friday Dinners Continue

Make sure you plan to be
at FPC on April 3, 5 -7 pm for the first annual

Fish Fry

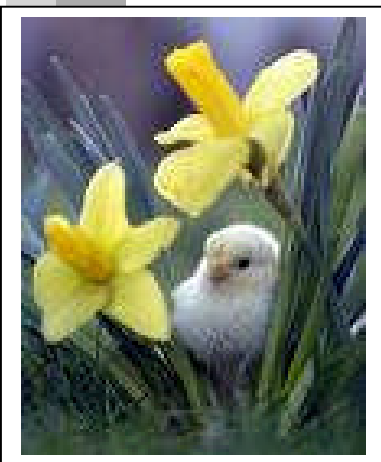


**Fried fish, French fries, coleslaw, dessert, & drink
\$9.50 = adult, \$6 = 12 and under
Save a \$1 on the tickets by signing up at the
Meetinghouse in advance or
calling 508-400-0202 to reserve**

Earth, Friendship....what else is there? Con't. from page 3

The animal we are highlighting from Buddy Dog Humane Society this month is **Emma**. She arrived at the shelter as a stray, so they don't have much information on her, but she seems very nice, and has adjusted to being with them without being too upset. For more information on Emma, or any of the dogs and cats available, contact Buddy Dog directly (978-443-6990). Shelters have been have quite a difficult time in this economy. Several have had to fold under financial pressures, and those that are left are overrun with animals as families have had to give up their pets. Let's keep Buddy Dog in mind for the wonderful services they provide our fellow creatures of this earth.

Thank you for sharing your children.
--Wendy Rogalinski, RE Director



Clive Holyoak, moderator@fpcberlin.org Rev. Stephen Shick, pastoral care ministry
Jan Lundberg, secretary@fpcberlin.org Jean-Paul Page, organist
Barbara Krackhardt, choir director Wendy Rogalinski, webmaster@fpc.org