

TOP OF THE SQUARE

First Parish Plymouth Unitarian Universalist
National Memorial Pilgrim Church
19 Town Square, Plymouth, MA 02360
508-747-1606

www.firstparishplymouthuu.org
office@firstparishplymouthuu.org



Reverend Ed Hardy
Worship: 10:00 am Sunday

Director of Music, Pianist: Niles Brandon
Director of Music Emerita: Lynne Wilkinson

Religious Education Director: Kim Caple
Office Administrator: Jeanne McKinney

JANUARY, 2016 NEWSLETTER

First Parish in December Winter Spiral



Winter Spiral in Kendall Hall

*Pictured: Anne Marie Harnett, Jan Palmer-Tarbox, Marion Galvin,
Anne Marie Hergenrother, John and Dell Hammond*

*Other volunteers included Rev. Ed Hardy, Jenn Kanze-Eaton,
Jean Oertel, Martha Roberts, Deborah Rudolf,
Ann Marie and Jim Schulze and Dianne Zolla*



Rev. Ed's Ukulele Band

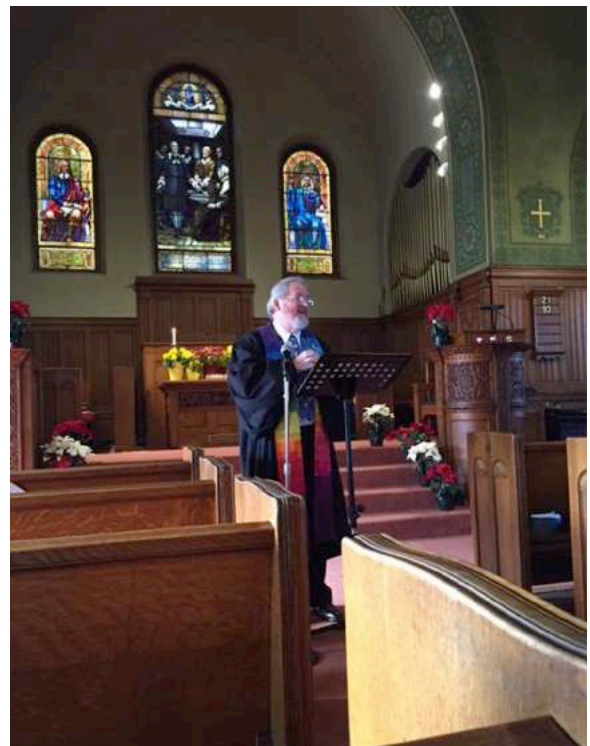


*Jazz Ensemble: Elain Ryan on Bass
Skip Lewellen on Sax, Niles on piano*

This year's Spiral had 457 visitors and collected \$124 in donations! Thank you, Anne Marie and Jim Schulze for getting the ball rolling, cutting the greens, and setting up the spiral, Anne-Marie Harnett for coordinating the evening, and to all the wonderful volunteers who stepped forward to keep this beautiful tradition going.



*Nancy Day
"Creating Your Life"*



*Rev. Ed Hardy
"How Are You Going to Say Goodbye?"*

Pageant



*Addison Snee, Jordan Melville
& Kelly Palmer*



*Emerson Snee, Callie Smith
& Lily Caple*



Hannah Caple & Seeger Creane



Our Multigenerational Pageant

*Thank You to All of the People who
Participated in our Live Nativity.
It was a Wonderful Pageant!*

Children's Band



Will Palmer, Santa, Andrew Melville, Seeger Creane, Emma Stillman, Hannah Caple and Peter Dudensing (Hannah is hiding behind Peter)

A Pilgrim's Journey

Seeking happiness. . .

*It's been a long time, over three years, since I've done some in-depth searching for happiness. After all, happiness is what every Buddhist, every meditator, is seeking. **"May I be safe and protected. May I be happy and peaceful. May I be healthy and strong. May life come to me with ease."** A core practice of Buddhism is to discover the self, to discover what hinders us from being happy, peaceful, healthy, strong and living life with ease. It's no small thing. Very few people are substantially happy.*

So I'll be going on a silent retreat for 30 days. I'll be able to talk every fourth day for 5 to 10 minutes to a teacher. In addition to no talking there's, no cell phone, no reading, no writing, no slipping notes to friends, no driving into town to go to the movies, or to pick up something you forgot to bring-- like a 30 day supply of hot chocolate. No going out to run your car every three days to warm the engine, while listening to the news on the radio. I've done them all over the course of almost 30 years of going on retreat.

If I'm diligent, maybe joy will arise or more likely grief - unalloyed grief. So often since my brother died I've had to shove my grief aside or into the closet, the glove compartment, the attic so I could turn myself to the daily duties I needed to do - feed the dog, walk the dog, answer emails, do the wash, get dressed, "put on the face to meet the faces we have to meet" and all the time in the background my heart is melting in the heat of grief. Most of you know what I'm talking about; you have your grieves and cares. If it's 30 days of grief, so be it. It won't be the first time. On my first 90 day retreat my oldest brother, Ray, died. I spent days crying in the meditation hall while a hundred or more people sat and listened. Steve Armstrong, my teacher, said it was my gift to the community of meditators.

Continued

A Pilgrim's Journey - Continued

No one goes on retreat alone. You'll be there with me. Cindy, my kids, my grandchildren, Sukha will all be with me. Some are supporting or filling in for me while I'm gone. I thank the Parish Committee for agreeing to this arrangement of splitting my vacation time. The Music and Worship Committee-Linda Harding, Vaughn Keller, and Jenn Kanze-Eaton have a wonderful, thematic month prepared using some new technology in the Chapel and a Café Conversation. To these committees, Jeanne McKinney, and the congregation, I am thankful, very thankful to have this time in silence. In case, of dire emergency, Conley Pierce, will have contact information.

I will return to the pulpit on January 29th 2016 (oh my gosh, 2016). I might be enlightened; well, given past experience, probably not. But, who knows?

*The sermon title will be, "**Everything I Ever Wanted Know about a Buddhist Retreat, but Was Afraid to Ask.**"*

I will miss you all. Sukha will miss you all. She'll be stationed on the Cape Cod with my grandchildren and their dogs.

Happy New Year to you all; may your house be blessed, may your children be healthy and may your heart be filled with kindness. This ask in the name of all that is holy and in all the Holy names,

~ Ed

Congratulations to Our Religious Education Program

First Parish Youth are official "Joy Makers"

Check us out at the generationOn website at

<http://www.generationon.org/joymaker/story/35236>



In addition to the 40 Stockings prepared for the Taskforce for the Homeless, as Joy Makers, Hasbro has donated a toy per every child volunteer to a child in need AND we have been entered to win a grant!

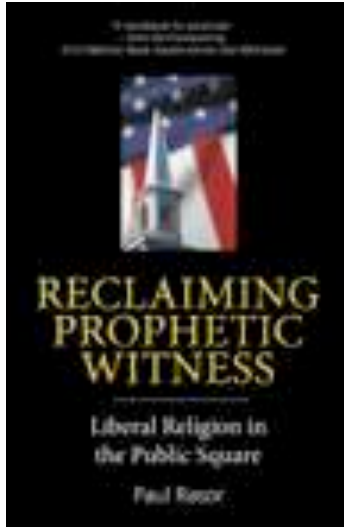
generationOn is the youth service division of Points of Light, igniting the power of kids and teens to make their mark on the world. **generationOn** inspires, equips and mobilizes hundreds of thousands of kids and teens annually to take action through service, service learning and youth leadership initiatives. It also provides tools and resources to kids, teens, families, youth practitioners

and educators to help kids change the world and themselves through service.

"The First Parish, Plymouth Religious Education students gathered donations of toiletries and necessities such as protein bars, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, hand and foot warmers, socks, playing cards, etc. They stuffed the "stockings" with the items donated and topped it off with a handmade message of peace and holiday wishes." ~generationOn

January Worship

Rev. Ed will not be with us for the first four Sundays in January: 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. The Worship and Music Committee has planned a unique series of services in his absence. It is based upon the Revered Paul Rasor's book, ***Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square***. From the review:



In this clarion call to action, leading Unitarian Universalist theologian Paul Rasor dispels the myth that conservative Christianity is the only valid religious voice in the national debates on social policy. Showing that religious liberals are more numerous than many realize, he calls on them to embrace their prophetic heritage and bring their religious convictions to bear on the issues of our time. *Reclaiming Prophetic Witness* will lift your spirit, while inspiring you to lift your voice and reclaim a place in the public square.

On January 3rd we will come together in the Meeting House for one of our usual services. The sermon will be based upon Rasor's book: what is prophetic witness; what does it mean to be a prophetic voice?

On January 10th we will meet in **Brewster Chapel**. At every Unitarian Universalist General Assembly there is a lecture, the Ware Lecture, delivered by a person who is chosen because of their prophetic message. On the 10th we will watch the Ware Lecture delivered at the General Assembly in Providence by Sister Simone Campbell of Nuns on the Bus fame.

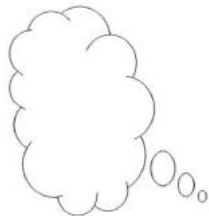
On January 17th we will again meet in **Brewster Chapel**. On this Sunday we will see the Ware Lecture delivered by Reverend Doctor Cornel West at the Portland General Assembly last June.

On January 24th we will come together in **Kendall Hall for a Café Conversation**. We will consider the question: ***"What is the Prophetic Voice that First Parish wishes to bring to the public square here in Plymouth?" "What is our place in the public square?"***

January 31st

Rev. Ed Hardy

"Everything I Ever Wanted to Ask About a Buddhist Retreat, but Was Afraid to Ask"



January Meetings

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 2 & 16, 9:00 am
T-Bones, Plymouth Center

Parish Committee

Monday, January 4, 7:00 pm, Parish House

Restoration Committee

Wednesday, January 6, 20 & 27, 9:30 am
Parish House

****Monday, January 11, 7:00 pm****

Buddhist Meditation

Wednesday, January 6, 13, 20 & 27
7:00 pm, Parish House

Singing Meditation

Wednesday, January 6, 7:00, Parlor

Hospice Choir

Wednesday, January 13, 20 & 27, 7:00 pm
Parlor

Building & Grounds Committee

Sunday, January 17, 8:30 am, Parish House

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, January 19, 7:30 pm, Parish House

Newsletter Deadline

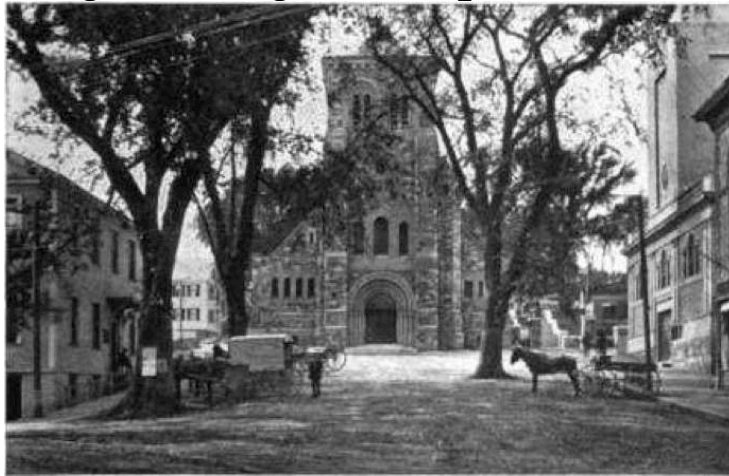
Thursday, January 21, 9:00 am

Women's Breakfast

Saturday, January 23, 9:00 am, Cornerstone
Café, Located in the New World Tavern, 56
Main Street, Plymouth Center

Restoration Committee Evening Meeting

Monday, January 11, 7:00 pm, Parish House



***Please join the Restoration Committee for their
Evening Meeting in January.***

*"Your success and happiness lies in you.
RESOLVE to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an
INVINCIBLE HOST against difficulties."*

~ Helen Keller

SCRIP Cards

The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Available during Coffee Hour or by contacting Amy or Val



Amy 508-746-3912,
apdpalmer@comcast.net

Val 508-747-4858,
vapeck7@comcast.net

← and scrips cards

One kind word can warm three winter months.
~Japanese Proverb

Food Collection Sunday - January 10th

**Our next Food Collection for the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse is
Sunday, January 10th**

The basic list:

Meals in a can
(stew, chili, soup)
Tuna and canned meat
Peanut butter
Low sugar cereals
100% fruit juices in single
serving boxes
Canned food with pop-top lids
Canned fruit packed in juice
Canned vegetables (low salt)



Additional kid-friendly options:

Pop-top tuna
100% fruit rolls
Raisins
Graham crackers
Unsweetened applesauce
Cheese and crackers
Fruit cups
Pretzels
Granola bars (without
peanuts)

Congratulations Sandi Hammond!



Congratulations to Sandi Hammond, daughter of John and Dell, for the amazing work she's done with the Butterfly Music Transgender Chorus, who performed at First Parish this Fall. The word is spreading all over.

From the NY Times article: "Despite a discreet start, it has struck a loud chord: As new transgender choirs form across the United States, some have credited Butterfly Music as their inspiration."

For the complete article, please go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/.../08/us/ap-us-transgender-chorus.html>



Transgender Chorus First Public Performance ***Saturday, April 9, 2016, 8:00 pm*** ***First Church Boston, 66 Marlborough Street***



The transgender chorus is preparing for its first public performance, Saturday April 9 2016 at 8pm (doors open at 7:15) at First Church Boston, on 66 Marlborough St, which is also a UU church. Everyone is very fond of the Plymouth UU where we had our first debut in a discrete setting.

These private events - Plymouth was the first of about 5 for us- gave us a chance to safely test our wings and was truly wonderful and important. Now, the group is ready to give a public ticketed concert. Anyone who wants to come from Plymouth is welcome to purchase a ticket at the link below.

In fact there are only 50 left as we are already on our way to a sell out due to the recent publicity.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please use the link below.

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/user/manageevent/2477123>

Community and Other UU Events



TO SUPPORT THE 2ND ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS

Team Up Against Hunger and help raise awareness in the fight to end hunger in our community. Using clay and your imagination, create, paint and glaze a piece of pottery to serve as a reminder of all the empty bowls on the South Shore. All ages are welcome and the workshops are free.

PLYMOUTH NORTH HIGH SCHOOL	PLYMOUTH SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL	CLAYCHICK STUDIO
JAN 12TH: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	FEB 25TH: 2:15 PM - 4:15 PM	BEGINNING IN JANUARY 2016
JAN 26TH: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	MAR 10TH: 2:15 PM - 4:15 PM	THURSDAY EVENINGS
APR 5TH: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM		5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Dear Friends and Family,



Fighting for healthy lungs is what inspired me to sign up to participate in the American Lung Association's Fight For Air Climb on February 6, 2016. Will you support my efforts by making a donation?

Chances are you know someone who has faced the challenges of asthma, COPD, lung cancer or air pollution. By making a donation on my behalf, you will be helping the American Lung Association provide community based education programs, fight for cleaner air standards and fund life-saving research. With your help, we will fight against lung disease and for lung health. We will be making a positive difference for all of the parents who have a child with asthma, the people who struggle daily with COPD and the mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children and friends who get diagnosed with lung cancer.

Every donation I receive helps me make a bigger impact. Please support me by visiting my personal fundraising webpage and making a tax deductible donation today. One stair at a time, I am Climbing for a better tomorrow!

Thank you!
Linda Schneider

Visit my personal page at:
http://action.lung.org/site/TR?px=5094517&pg=personal&fr_id=12781&et=yl6zNLbJ_NH2bupvEjOorg&s_tafId=92280

Or the website at:
<http://action.lung.org/site/TR?px=5094517&pg=personal>

An Invitation from First Parish Duxbury's Social Justice Comm.

Chuck Collins

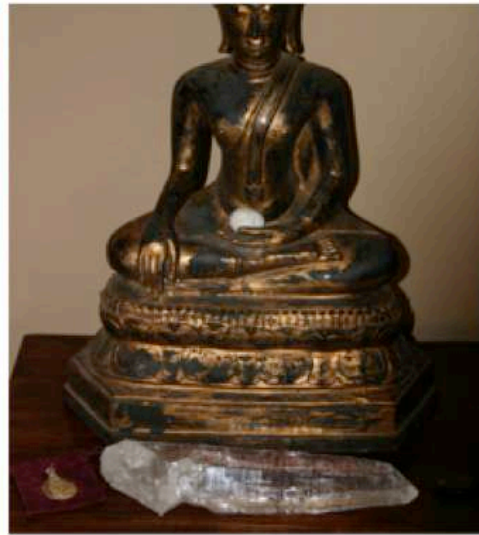
"How Wealth Inequality is Wrecking the World and What We Can Do About It"

**Sunday, January 24, 2:00 pm
Duxbury Free Library,
147 St. George Street, Duxbury**

After sharing the pulpit with Rev. Catherine Cullen, Chuck Collins will speak at the Duxbury Free Library. Westwinds will be selling books at the event, and Chuck will be signing the books at the conclusion of the program. ***The focus of the worldwide Occupy protests is creating a world that works for 99% of people and businesses, not just the richest and most powerful 1%. But who are the 99%? Who are the 1%?***

Anne-Marie Harnett will be Holding Classes in Brewster Chapel in January and February

RYSE: REALIZING YOUR SUBLIME ENERGIES



Learn to heal yourself!

This series is designed to teach you to clear and repair your own energy systems.

Your energy system is a reflection of where you are at any given moment. A clear, repaired energy system creates vitality, stability and a deep sense of peace.

- Learn to hold your power
- Heal physical and emotional pain
- Set clear boundaries
- Connect to all the support around you
- Attract positive relationships
- Balance hormones and brain chemistry
- Heal past experiences
- Release restricting ideas and beliefs

**RYSE 1-4: Sat, Jan. 23rd 9am-5pm &
Sun, Jan. 24th 9am-4pm**

**RYSE 1-4: Sat, Feb. 20th 9am-5pm &
Sun, Feb. 21st 9am-4pm**

Where: Plymouth center

\$150 for the weekend (normally \$455!)

***This is a pilot project and these prices will only
be available these two weekends.***

*(The price will increase to \$200 on the Friday one week
before each weekend begins. Materials are separate.)*

Space is limited. Reserve your place now!

**To register: harnett.am@gmail.com or
call/text 617-750-9140**

**He who breaks a resolution is a weakling;
He who makes one is a fool. - F.M. Knowles**

***First Parish in Plymouth
19 Town Square
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-747-1606***



*May the New Year Bring
Joy, Peace & Happiness
To You & Your Entire
Family*

***First Parish in Plymouth
“Love is the spirit of this congregation and service its law.”***

***Welcome to First Parish Unitarian Universalist
1606 - 2015***