

TOP OF THE SQUARE OCTOBER, 2016 NEWSLETTER

First Parish Plymouth Unitarian Universalist

National Memorial Pilgrim Church

19 Town Square, Plymouth, MA 02360

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FIRST PARISH PLYMOUTH PRESENTS

A NEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFERING FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

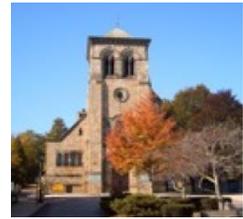


One Friday night per month, we will hold a potluck dinner with separate RE times for both children and adults.

Our hope is to provide an interactive format that allows for discussion, sharing, and healthy debate focused on the UU Principle of the Month.

The Sunday service immediately following Friday Night RE will be an intergenerational service.

This month's evening will be on **Friday, October 21st, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**, and discussion will be on our 5th Principle: *How do we apply the right of conscience and the democratic process in this current election?*



Minister

Reverend Ed Hardy

Director of Religious Education

Kim Caple

Director of Music Emerita

Lynne Wilkinson

Pianist

Peter Dudensing



Parish Committee: President

Anne-Marie Harnett

Treasurer

Conley Pierce

Clerk

Deborah Rudolf

Member at Large

Chris Lennon



A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY

BY REVEREND ED HARDY

My summer reading.

I just finished reading ***Turning Point: Essays On a New Unitarian Universalism***. The essays on new Unitarian Universalism are divided into three broad categories: On the Trinity of Errors, On the Trinity of Promises, and Living the Promises. Or more simply put—what hinders growth and new forms of Unitarian Universalism. If we convert what hinders Unitarian Universalism, what would be the values replaced, what would replace them? If we are to form a New Unitarian Universalism, it supposes we will need to transform or give up some of the “present Unitarian Universalism.”

“How does one become butterfly?” Pooh asked pensively.

‘You must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar,’ Piglet replied.

‘You mean to die?’ asked Pooh.

‘Yes and no,’ he answered. ‘What looks like you will die, but what’s really you will live on.’

– A.A. Milne

What do the Editors of ***Turning Point*** think are the three things we need to give up or reform in order to transform or as AA Milne would say “to become a butterfly and fly?” The editors call them the Trinity of Errors: Individualism, Exceptionalism, and a posture of Anti-Authoritarianism that hinder growth of congregations and new forms of worship.

The authors claim we have deified individualism. Individualism is our highest Unitarian Universalist value. Sometimes we reject community good for the individual good. Some people refer to us as the “iChurch.” The “I” stands for individual. The individualism clashes with our being a covenantal Faith. Our covenant—that we agree upon as a community; sometimes, quite frequently conflicts with our primary value of—individualism. Simply put usually—“Me trumps We.”

Our individualism leads us to the second of the Trinity of Errors—exceptionalism. We don’t call Boston “The Hub” for nothing. Boston is the “hub” of the universe, isn’t it?. Rev. Fredric Muir uses Randall Kennedy’s description of “American Exceptionalism” with adjustments to create an Unitarian Universalist definition: Unitarian Universalism is a faith shaped by ‘perceptions, ideas, intuitions, and ambitions which posits, among other things, that our way of religion is uniquely virtuous, uniquely powerful, uniquely destined to accomplish great things, and thus uniquely authorized to act in ways to which Unitarian Universalists would object to if done by other ways of faith. Fredric Muir continues: “While there was an era in which Unitarian Universalist exceptionalism was robustly preached, today few among us would ever be caught speaking the dialect of exceptionalism; yet it gets spoken frequently in an indirect manner.” (See our bumper sticker campaign a few years ago: Unitarian Universalism: The Uncommon Denomination.) Whether as a source of pride, personal and community truth, embellishment, anger, clarification, or, strangely enough, welcoming—we hear the inflection of Unitarian Universalist exceptionalism from the pulpit, from newcomer’s classes, from Sunday greeters, from those who are earnestly trying to explain our way of religion to the uninformed. As unique as our experience with Unitarian Universalism may be, it is not the only way.

Here is probably the most common use of exceptionalism used in the UU world. During Divinity School I was having a cup of coffee with an American Baptist. He was explaining some of his positions within his faith. At one point I blurted out—“You’re an Unitarian Universalist, but you don’t know it! To which he replied—“You Unitarian Universalists are so arrogant!” Guilty as charged!

A PILGRIM'S JOURNEY - CONTINUED

Muir ends by saying that we must stay conscious of how we explain, defend, or share, lest we come across as elitist, insulting, degrading, isolating, even humiliating to others. The iChurch's exceptionalism is a barrier to sharing the good news of Unitarian Universalism.

The last of the Trinity of Errors, the last obstacle shaped by the iChurch is our allergy to power and authority. In other churches I have served, members have told me what I should do on vacation and on sabbatical; have told me meditation is not a good use of my time; have told me I need to be perfect; say that they saw me on my day off and I wasn't dressed appropriately, asked me to not use the word worship.

We stand on the edge of two major shifts to our society that will dramatically our church and our polity. By 2050 we will be a minority majority society and the major wedge of the population will be millennials. How will we change the impact of Individualism, Exceptionalism and the posture of Anti-Authoritarianism to improve our church and worship life? What will Unitarian Universalism be in the future.

Last Tuesday night, September 20, some 20 or more people and members (that's 20% of the congregation) gathered with Chuck Eaton to talk, about things we would like to see—from very small, like dust; things to medium, like get on all public media; to very large—like move to a new modern church, then gather ideas into categories and finally prioritized the categories.

I felt it was an exciting evening. Well presented by Chuck—lots of laughs.

If you missed out . . . We would like to ask you to make a special effort to attend the next meeting on Saturday October 8 from 4 to 6 pm. We would like to get your ideas; your input. We would like as many voices as possible.

October Sermons

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| October 2 | Union Service | Rev. Ed Hardy |
| Our Annual "Union Worship" with Duxbury and Kingston will be in Kingston. This year, the emphasis will be on our individual Church Histories and how they are lived out today. The children will be entertained and sing alone with Roger Tincknell. Tincknell is well known in New England and has performed at many UU churches. Those with an inclination are asked to bring something for the coffee hour after the service. | | |
| October 9 | TBA | Worship Committee |
| October 16 | Joseph Tuckerman | Rev. Ed Hardy |
| Not a very good student at Harvard Divinity School—he just cruised. He didn't like being a scholar; he wanted to learn from life, from experience. He wanted to live like Jesus. How did he do that? | | |
| October 23 | What are your core values? | Rev. Ed Hardy |
| Do you have a core value that you have held all your life? Or have your core values changed with circumstance? What is core value now? What are your three Core Values now? How do they conflict? How do they support each other? | | |
| October 30 | What is All Hallow's Eve? | Rev. Ed Hardy |
| How do we celebrate it? Do we celebrate the dead? Do we celebrate the Saints? Do we know any Saints? The Separatists called themselves Saints. | | |

Coffee Hour Hosts for October



Coffee Hour is made possible through donations, and donations are greatly appreciated. There is a basket for donations during Coffee Hour.



Kerry Considine is the coordinator for Fellowship Hosts and will now be mailing reminders the week before your scheduled time. If, for any reason you cannot perform the duties on the date assigned, please call someone else on the list and work out a swap. If you have any questions, Kerry can be reached at khcgarden1@msn.com.

October 2
KINGSTON

UNION SUNDAY AT FIRST PARISH

All are encouraged to bring something to share

October 9

Jennifer and Brett Creanne, Julia Thomas

October 16

Fatina Barclay, Shelley-Jo Talvacchia, Dianne Zolla

October 23

Jack Barwis, Dianne Brosnan, Chris Lennon

October 30

Chuck Eaton, Jenn Kanze-Eaton, Rick Sanchez

October Happenings

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, October 1 & 15
9:00 am, T-Bones, Plymouth Center

Parish Committee

Monday, October 3, 7:00 pm
Parish House

Restoration Committee

Wednesday, October 5, 12, 19 & 26
9:30 am, Parish House

Buddhist Meditation

Wednesday, October 5, 12, 19 & 26
7:00 pm, Parish House

Singing Meditation

No Singing Meditation This Month
(Persephone's Daughter's Rehearsal)

Hospice Choir

Wednesday, October 12, 19 & 26
7:00 pm, Parlor

Building & Grounds Committee

Sunday, October 16
8:30 am, Parish House

Food Collection Sunday

Sunday, October 16
During Worship

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, October 18
7:30 pm, Parish House

Friday Night RE

Friday, October 21, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Parish House

Women's Breakfast

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am
Hearth 'n Kettle, John Carver Inn, Plymouth Center

UNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 2, 10:30 am
First Parish Kingston



The Plymouth church was founded in 1620 and is nearly 400 years old but has roots dating back to 1606 in Scrooby, England when the separatists were forced to worship in secret in William Brewster's manor house.

The Duxbury church was the first church to be spawned from Plymouth and was founded in 1632.

The Kingston church was formed in 1717 and is about to celebrate its 300th anniversary.

Come join the sister churches as we reflect on the strengths of each of our congregations and what our individual and shared history teaches us as we look toward the future.

UNITY SERVICE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

"ACROSS THE AMERICAS"



From Native and African Americans to European and Southeast Asian immigrants, Roger Tincknell's "Across the Americas" is an exciting multicultural folk music journey from Canada to Chile. The program explores our rich and diverse heritage through songs in many languages performed on a variety of stringed, wind and percussion instruments. Songs in Spanish, French and many other languages are included.

Across the Americas is adaptable to all ages. A comprehensive study guide is provided for teachers.

"Roger's diverse repertoire, excellent reputation, and enthusiastic performance attracted a diverse audience of young and old. His "Across the Americas" program weaves together story, song, language and instruments from around the world. Wonderful multicultural program...wonderful library program! I give Roger my highest recommendation."

-Joanne Grimes, New Haven Library, New Haven, CT

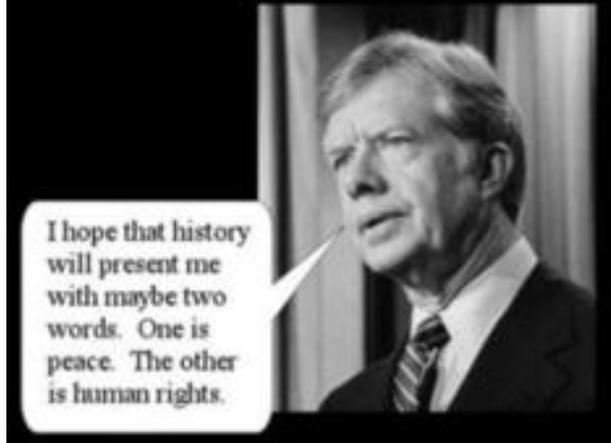
"I haven't had so much fun since I was little in Puerto Rico."

-6th Grade student, Springfield, MA

For more information, please go to rogerincknell.com

A Message from SCRIP

Great Moments in
Presidential (Inaccurate)
Counting, Democratic



SCRIP Cards will be available during Coffee Hour or you can contact Amy Palmer at apdpalmer@comcast.net

Food Collection Sunday, October 16



Food Collection Sunday is the third Sunday of the month and will be headed up again this year by Kerry Considine. The Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse is always in need of food staples, personal products

ONE-TIME DONATIONS

GOAL: \$11,310

As of September 26: \$5,380

At the Annual Meeting of First Parish on June 26, 2016 the following measure was adopted:

All members are respectfully requested to make an additional donation of \$174 to help balance the 2016 - 2017 operating budget.

To date, 29 members have completed, or have nearly completed this commitment. The hope and expectation is for \$100% participation from our members by June 30, 2017. As you can see we are about half way to our goal!

This contribution can be made in installments over time or a single payment of \$174 *per member*. Please mark your check as "One Time Donation" in the memo line.

Thank you for your support of First Parish!

-Conley Pierce, Treasurer



Welcome Richard Roquemore

Please welcome Richard Roquemore, our new custodian. Richard also works at the Duxbury and Kingston churches and comes highly recommended. If you see him, please introduce yourself to him and welcome him into our church community.

Some of you may already know Richard through his band, Tall Richard and the Night Owls.



As part of Plymouth's First Saturdays Event, Tall Richard will be playing this Saturday, October 1 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm on the lawn in front of the Old Court House. Come on by and meet him!

Thank You Matt Talvacchia



As an Eagle Scout Project, Shelley-Jo's son, Matt, built two raised garden beds in back of the Parish House. An Eagle Scout project must demonstrate leadership of others and benefit the community. The project took Matt about two weeks to accomplish, and the four outer posts on the garden beds have solar lights!

On Sunday, October 16, after church, the congregation will follow Rev. Ed Hardy from the Sanctuary to the Parish House to view the garden beds, then return to Kendall Hall for Coffee Hour.

VISION AND ACTION



Our next Vision and Action meeting with Chuck Eaton is on Sunday, October 2 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm in Kendall Hall.

If you have any ideas pro projects that interest you, this is the time to get it on the agenda! Our first meeting in September was great, and we hope that anyone who couldn't make this meeting can make the meeting in October.

Free childcare and dinner provided!

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with your community and make this into the church community we are all hungry for.

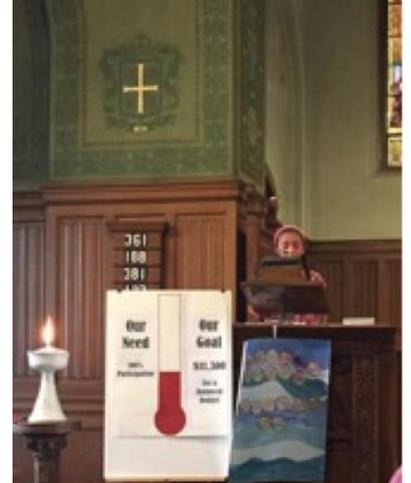
Images of Ingathering Sunday



Emily Browder-Melville, Jane Melville, Rev. Ed Hardy



Seeger Creane & Rev. Ed



Callie Smith



Diane Stillman



Hannah Stillman



Elaine Ryan & Deborah Rudolf,
Accompanied by Peter Dudensing

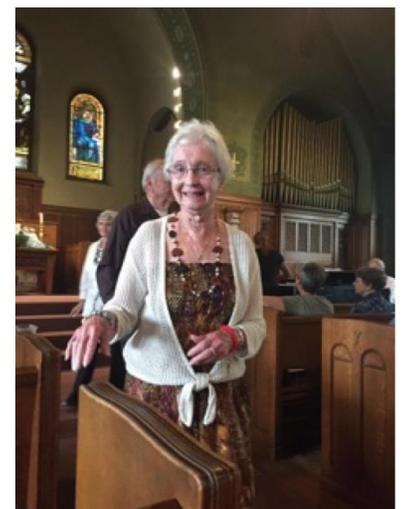
And our Wonderful One-Finger Blessing by the Children



Top: Seeger Creane



Left: Callie Smith and Will Palmer



Shirley Forsman

TOUR SEASON GOES THROUGH OCTOBER

Volunteers Needed

- Do you have a little extra time each week?
- Would you like to learn more about our Meetinghouse?
- Would you like to make some new friends?
- Do you like to meet new people from all over the country and the world?

If you have 2-1/2 hours that you can spare on Friday or Saturday, First Parish Tours could use your help. We would like to be able to keep the Meetinghouse open on Fridays and Saturdays. (It's actually a requirement of the Community Preservation Committee that funded the restoration of our stained glass windows that we open the Meetinghouse to the public.)

And it's important to bring as many folks as possible into the Meetinghouse to view its windows and exquisite architecture.

It doesn't have to be an every week commitment. Every other week or once a month would also work. Please contact Jan Palmer-Tarbox (508-747-2552 / ctarbox38@comcast.net) or speak with her at coffee hour.

A Tidbit about our Famous Meetinghouse Brought to you by Friends of First Parish Meetinghouse Stone Threshold in Meetinghouse



Embedded in the Meetinghouse floor, is a piece of stone sill or threshold from the church (Nederlands Hervormd Kerk) in Delfshaven where the Pilgrims prayed before departing for England. It was given to First Parish by Senator George F. Hoar in 1896 when the current meetinghouse was being constructed in the late 1890's.

This carving is very unique in its design. If you look very closely at this carving, you can see the trace of an anchor.

The anchor is one of the earliest Christian symbols, sometimes found in the catacombs, etc. Early Christians in the Roman Empire, for safety reasons, found that they could hide the symbol of the Cross in the stock of an anchor. The anchor stands for hope. (Hebrews 6:19)

You can see that the artist created a sail at the top of the anchor to also symbolize a boat's sail. The ship (bark or barque) was also an ancient Christian Symbol for the same reason, early Christians needed to hide the symbol of the Cross. It may convey the transport of souls from this world to the next. Also, many biblical illustrations of faith take place in a boat (Noah's Arc, Peter lies in the bottom of a boat in a stormy sea and God blesses him, etc.) A bark (barque) is also the symbol of St. Jude.

CCC – could stand for the year 300 or may be short for three words in a phrase containing Greek “Chrestos” or Latin “Christus” meaning Christ.

Other Latin Phrases are Corpus Christi, the body of Christ, and Caritas Christi, the love of Christ.

Is this stone carving older than the church in Delfshaven? We'd like to imagine that it is

Work Day at First Parish

On Monday, September 5th, over 40 people responded to a plea by Kim Caple and Anne-Marie Harnett and showed up ready to work on the Labor Day Holiday.



Jan Tarbox, Rev. Ed Hardy & Charles Tarbox



Ken Stone, Andrew, Jordon & Paul Melville & Marion Galvin



Linda Harding



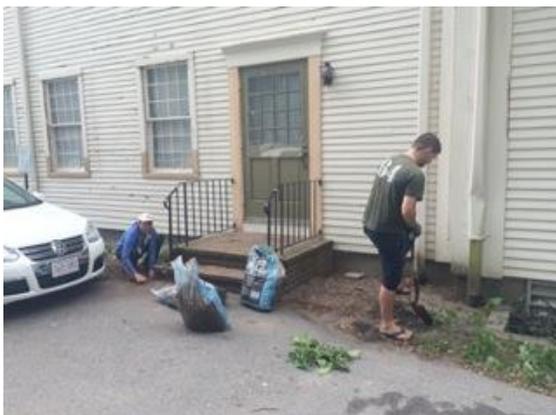
Scout Jenks, Patrick Jenks, Will Palmer & (Bakka)



Seeger Creane, Will Palmer & Libby Jenks



Addison Snee, Emerson Snee & Nate Smith



Ann Marie Schuzle & Matt Talvacchia



Patricia Devine & Valerie Peck

And the work continues



Jenn Kanze-Eaton



Dianne Zolla & Amy Palmer



Callie Smith & Will Palmer



Jen Creane, Callie & Shelby Smith



Diane Stillman & Callie



Shelby Smith & Jen Creane

Work Day All Star Team:

★Emily Browder Melville ★
★Hannah Caple ★
★Kim Caple ★
★Lily Caple ★
★Mike Caple ★
★Jen Creane ★
★Seeger Creane ★
★Patty Devine ★
★Chuck Eaton ★
★Marion Galvin ★
★Sandi Hammond ★
★Linda Harding ★
★Rev. Ed Hardy ★

★Libby Jenks ★
★Patrick Jenks ★
★Scout Jenks ★
★Jenn Kanze-Eaton ★
★Sibel Karchner ★
★Andrew Melville ★
★Jane Melville ★
★Jordan Melville ★
★Paul Melville ★
★Amy Palmer ★
★Kelly Palmer ★
★Will Palmer ★
★Jan Palmer-Tarbox ★

★Conley Pierce ★
★Ann Marie Schulze ★
★Jim Schulze ★
★Callie Smith ★
★Nathan Smith ★
★Shelby Smith ★
★Addison Snee ★
★Emerson Snee ★
★Megan Snee ★
★Diane Stillman ★
★Ken Stone ★
★Matthew Talvacchia ★
★Shelley Jo Talvacchia ★

COMMUNITY AND OTHER UU EVENTS

Mama Miriama & Friends In Concert

Saturday, October 1, 7:00 pm
Sanctuary Church
185 Plain Street, Marshfield



Tickets
\$10 adults
\$5 under 18

781-837-2746



Jazzy, folksy, upbeat world music to benefit The Groovy African Ladies Music School in Fandema, Gambia

For ticket information, please go to <http://sanctuarymarshfield.org/tickets>

“Treasures of First Parish”



Saturday, October 15
12:00 – 2:30 pm
Beal House, 222 Main Street,
Kingston

First Parish in Kingston is about to celebrate their 300th year, and will be displaying historic artifacts that will help illuminate the importance of First Parish to the Kingston community.

Admission is Free

Family Concert

*Saturday, October 15, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
First Parish Kingston, Beal House, 222 Main Street, Kingston*



To help celebrate, First Parish in Kingston is presenting Mr. Whirlygigs and The Tow Jam Puppet Band. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all invited. Be prepared to move, dance and sing along with these well-known performers loved by children of all ages!

*Tickets \$20 for a family of four: Extra adults \$10
Additional children 5 and older \$5 / Additional children under 5 free*