



The First Unitarian Church in New Bedford

News & Views

Volume LIII, Issue I

January 2014

WAYSIDE PULPIT

*Ambitious people
climb,
but faithful people
build.
Julia Ward
Howe*

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Happy New Year!

No matter what 2013 brought for you, joy or pain or a combination of the two, the old year is done and a new one begins. A fresh start for us all. Perhaps in this new year, we could all agree to make at least one mistake a month. This may seem crazy or odd to you... but consider for a moment what it means to make a mistake.

Making a mistake means that we are trying something unfamiliar, something new, or different than our usual routine. Making mistakes is important in life. It means that we are willing to embrace our full humanity. It helps us check our thinking, our actions and it gives us important feedback about the meaning and purpose of our lives.

As children, we first need to know that we belong; that we have a place where we will be loved, no matter what. Knowing that we belong allows us to try new things, to explore the world, to begin to master the skills necessary for life. And failure is a big part of that learning. Through failure we make adjustments, changes in our behavior, our thinking, our view of the world. Failure makes us nimble, able to accept change more readily and failure leads to innovation and creativity. We can fail, because we know we belong, because we know we will be forgiven, because we know that we can learn from our failures and be strengthened by them.

Personally, I think the world could use a bit more creativity, especially in places where we have failed, and not just in our own lives, but also in our institutions. Failure is a hard thing to face sometimes, especially when we believe we have put our best efforts forward and they are not enough. But failure is also an opportunity.

Most of us have experienced epic failure in our lives and for those who haven't, even small failures can lead to major changes in our lives. Changes that strengthen us, make us more resilient, and more honest.

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

**Tues 1-5
Wed 12-2
Thu 2-4**

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RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 3	Open Mic {Tryworks 7pm} First Friday Youth Group {Taunton}
January 5	Spirit Play: Classroom Classmates RE Team Meeting {Historical Room}
January 9	AHA Tempest in a Teapot {5-7pm} How many IDIOMS are up your sleeve?
January 12	Spirit Play: Chalice Challenge
January 19	Spirit Play: Who's Jim Crow?
January 26	Spirit Play: Our Footstools
February 1	Save the Date {9:30-1:00pm} PARENT RETREAT {Registration Required/Childcare Available}

"Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people." Nelson Mandela

We are delighted to get back to a routine! It has been a whirlwind December bringing great laughter and spirit to this Church Community. Thank you again for all of the support and encouragement! The month of January is full of spirit play stories sharing our history, roots and the opportunity for each child to highlight who they are!

We are also excited about the Parent Retreat planned for February 1, 2014 from 9:30-1:00pm with childcare, lunch and many opportunities for creative discussion, expressive arts and refreshing discoveries. Look for the Registration Form at our RE Team Meeting on 1/5 @ 12:15pm....

Childcare is available in The Green Room by Alexis Rose beginning at 10:45 and concluding at 12:15. Please note you are responsible for signing your child in/out. We encourage you to take care of any toileting/diapering needs prior to childcare! We also are providing cloth seat covers for the cushy green chairs to prevent spills while enjoying snacks! Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

House and Grounds
Richard Pline

Religious Services
Karen Andersen

Membership
Development

Comm. Chair Needed

Endowment
Carlton Dasent

Soup Kitchen Coordinator
Dave Thoen

Food Pantry
Maggi Kerr Peirce

Thrift Shop
Bill Bennett

Social Justice
Wendy Wiggins

Women's Alliance
Pam Sherman

Hospitality
Comm. Chair Needed

JOYS & CONCERNS

Ed and Linda Whyte Burrell share the news that Leonora Whyte aka Pummie, aka Nora the Traveler, passed away Monday December 16th, aged 102. Linda was blessed to be at her mother's bedside.

Genevieve Harrison, mother of Judy Harrison & Mother-in-law of Priscilla Bates, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 23. She was 92.

WEEKLY COMPASS

If you are not currently receiving our weekly informational email, but would like to, just call the office or send your email address to nbu718@aol.com to be added to the list.

THE GREATER NEW BEDFORD CHORAL SOCIETY WINTER CONCERT

Sunday, January 12, 2014, 3PM at Grace Episcopal Church
422 County Street, New Bedford.
Tickets \$15, available at the door or from Ned Lund
children 12 and under-free admission

SAVE THE DATE

Frederick Douglass Read-A-Thon

February 9th from 2-6pm
In the Sanctuary at First Unitarian

The New Bedford Historical Society celebrates the life of Frederick Douglass with an all-day reading of *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* written by himself.

More info to come soon...

PHOTO DIRECTORY

In an effort to help put names to faces, we are in the process of taking photos for a new directory. We invite you to take moment to stop at our photo booth. We will be taking photos for about a month and anticipate the directory in late January. Thank you for taking the time to make this possible.

NEW UU CLASS

The next New UU Class will be held on January 5th from 12:30-2pm in the Green Room. The class is designed to help you get to know each other, and to understand more about Unitarian Universalism and discover what it means to be a member of the First Unitarian Church. It is our hope that this class will help you to discern if this church is right for you. Child care and a light lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to Rev. Paul at RevPaulld@gmail.com or Linda at nbu718@aol.com if you are planning to attend.

AHA! NIGHT

Way Cool Sunday School
AHA! Tempest in a Teapot
January 9, 2013 {5:00-7:00pm}
How many idioms are up your sleeve?

Come to an evening of colloquial brain twisting tongue-tying fun.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

PLEASE continue the spirit of GIVING all year long!! There is hunger all the time...not just during the holidays! We thank you for your generosity over the years!! Every donation, big or small, is 100% appreciated!

FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT: January 3rd!

On the First Friday of each month, from 7-10pm, we'll be having an Open Mic night in the Tryworks Auditorium. Please let ANYONE and EVERYONE know about this FUN, monthly event!

SPIRIT OF ART

Spirit Of Art will meet every Tuesday from 9-11am, members and friends of the congregation are always welcome, please RSVP to Victoria Capon at vruthcapon@gmail.com if you plan on joining us. Thanks!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The "News & Views" goes to print on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month. **The deadline to submit articles into the newsletter is the Friday before it goes to print.** All submissions are reviewed by the editor for content and grammar.

Next "News and Views": January 28, 2014

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK (continued from Page 1)

So this year, by way of a New Year's Resolution, I invite each of you to take one risk, explore one new opportunity, to stretch beyond your comfort zone each month of 2014. And I invite you to do it here, at this church, where each of us belongs and where we are deeply loved. We share in our failures, as we share in our successes.

May 2014 bring you all a healthy and happy New Year.

Shanti, Paul



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Candace Garcia 1/5 ~ Gregory Sampson 1/12 ~ Carl Tripp 1/12

Juliette Flynn 1/12 ~ Aislynn Flynn 1/12 ~ Cameron Garcia 1/25

And also...a very happy birthday to Thelma Baxter, whose birthday is December 31st

but it got cut off of last month's birthday list!



CONGRATULATIONS to Aurore Chace who won the beautiful Quilt from the Quilt Raffle at the Holiday Fair! And **THANKS** to everyone who made the Holiday Fair a spectacular success, especially Sylvia Daley who coordinated the event!!

CONTINUING EVENTS

Mondays at 5:30pm: Tai Chi — Meets in the Green Room. Free. No meetings on Monday holidays.

Tuesdays at 9am: Spirit of Art—meets in the Parish House. Free.

First & Third Mondays of each month at 7:00pm: Pride Café—Meets in the Parish House.

Second Monday of month at 7:30pm: Workshop That Reconnects—meets in Parish House.

First Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Social Justice Committee — Meets in the Sanctuary.

Second Tuesday of the month at 11:30am: Women's Alliance Meeting in the Parish House (unless otherwise stated). (No meeting in January, February, and March.)

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm: Board of Trustees meeting. Meets in the Historic Room.

Wednesdays (September-December & February to May—weather permitting) at 9:30am: Quilting Group—Meets in the Parish House. Come and join the fun, even if you're not a quilter.

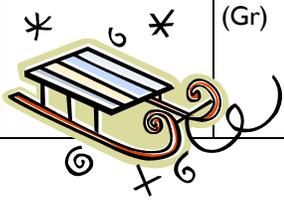
First Friday of each month at 7:00pm: Open Mic Night in Tryworks Auditorium

Third Saturday and/or Sunday of the month: Dinners for Eight.



January 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 11:00am Worship Service (S) 2pm Private Party (T)	30 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	31 	Jan 1	2 7pm CUUPS (Gr) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (S)	3 7pm First Friday Open Mic (T)	4 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
5 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	6 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	7 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6:30pm Social Justice Team (S) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	8 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chan- tey Choir (Gr)	9 5-7pm AHA Night (T)	10	11 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
12 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P) 12:30TED Talk (Gr)	13 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	14 9am Spirit of Art (P) 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H) 7pm GNBCChoral Society (P)	15 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	16 7pm CUUPS (Gr) 	17	18 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
19 11:00am Worship Service (S) 12:00pm Social Hour (P)	 MLK Day Office Closed 7pm Pride Café (P)	21 9am Spirit of Art (P)	22 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	23	24	25 9am-2pm Leader- ship Roundtable (P) 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
26 11:00am Worship Service (S)	27 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	28 9am Spirit of Art (P) 	29 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 6:30pm Sea Chantey Choir (Gr)	30	31	Feb 1 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open

**Green Room(Gr), Dining Room(D), Kitchen(K),
Sanctuary(S), Parish House(P), Tryworks
Auditorium(T), History Room(H),
Ladies Parlor (LP), Office (O)**



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

NEWS AND VIEWS
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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
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WORSHIP THEMES FOR THE YEAR

January Worship Theme:

This month Diligence is our focus. While temperance and charity are important parts of a spiritual life, diligence is required to have a spiritual life. It is diligence that keeps us focused on our values and not just talking about them, but living them. Diligence is required if we are to catch ourselves when we are about to slip, to make a choice that is easy or quick. It is the thing that keep us awake and aware.

The Buddha said: "Rage is a powerful energy that with diligent practice can be transformed into fierce compassion. However much we disagree with our enemies, our task is to identify with them. They too feel justified in their point of view."

Could we, with diligent practice turning our anger, disappointment, and fear into compassion? How different would our world be if we could do just that?

Paying attention. Being awake. Making conscious choices. This requires a concerted and constant effort. And we will fail. Many times. But, with diligence, support and love, we will begin to see a difference not just in our own life, but in the lives of those around us.

The quick and easy choices do not require much of us. We move along without much awareness or concern and, perhaps, we wonder at the suffering that is around us. As co-creators of this interdependent world, our choices can have unintended consequences. It is our values, lived with diligence, that will help bring the world back into balance.

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." — Abigail Adams