

## From our minister...



Dear Members and Friends,

Words cannot express how it felt to have two standing ovations at the Sunday Services on January 17 when I announced I was nominated by the Presidential Search Committee to run for President of the UUA in June 2017. I am

deeply touched by your action and by the many other ways you have shown your support and enthusiasm.

I do not take your support for granted. I am so blessed to have a board, a committee on ministry, a staff, and all of you willing to go on this journey together. I also want you to know that I think this nomination is, in part, due to all of our shared works and ministries together. Thank you for all that you have taught me and continue to teach me in our partnership in ministry.

I do hope that the time of the campaign will offer all of us in the Morristown area a chance to participate in a lively discussion with our wider denomination. This is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on what our faith asks of us, what we aspire to do together, and what commitments we are willing to make for the health and vitality of Unitarian Universalism locally, nationally, and even on a global scale.

As we know from the growth we have experienced in our congregation, there are still many, many people who thirst for our healing message. Time and again, newcomers and new members express how they wish they had learned about Unitarian Universalism sooner, and what a difference it makes in their lives.

As we know from our interfaith and justice partnerships in the wider Morris area, our faith fuels us to be involved with the pressing issues our community is facing. Our healing values have an impact beyond Unitarian Universalists as we engage our hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits in working for the common good.

As we know from the many changes we have experienced – those we intentionally create and those we respond to – religion must not be static. From time to time, there is a need to ask large questions – Who are we called to be? What are we called to do? What is the heritage we wish to carry forward? What new things are being born? Where is love leading us? The responses to these questions take the shape of congregational plans and denominational platforms and are tools to help guide our work.

We are at the end of a strategic plan, and our denomination is moving towards the close of a president's term. It is fertile ground on which we can plant seeds for the future together.

If you are curious to see why I said “yes” to the Presidential Search Committee's nomination, I encourage you to visit:

[alisonforuuaresident.org/why/](http://alisonforuuaresident.org/why/)

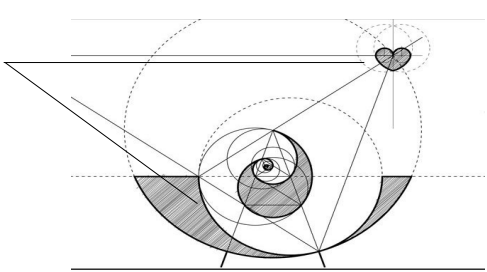
I look forward to all of our continued learnings as we step together towards the future.

In faith,

*Alison*

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# Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown NJ 07960

Sunday Services: 9 am & 11 am

## Mission and Covenant Statement

*We, the members of the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives. This is our pledge:*

- ♦ *To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal*
- ♦ *To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence*
- ♦ *To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian Universalist movement*
- ♦ *To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth*

## Staff

### Minister

Rev. Alison B. Miller      [amiller@muuf.org](mailto:amiller@muuf.org)

### Director of Religious Education

Tim Atkins      [dre@muuf.org](mailto:dre@muuf.org)

### Congregational Administrator

Mandi Huizenga      [admin@muuf.org](mailto:admin@muuf.org)

### Music Director

Dr. Jim Blanton      [jim@muuf.org](mailto:jim@muuf.org)

### Finance Coordinator

Katy Julich      [accounting@muuf.org](mailto:accounting@muuf.org)

### Religious Education Assistant

Judy Donovan-Lifschulz      [re@muuf.org](mailto:re@muuf.org)

### Custodians

Eduardo Guzman, Sergio Lopez-Rojas

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

973.540.1177 [www.muuf.org](http://www.muuf.org)

**Check us out on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/morristownunitarian](http://www.facebook.com/morristownunitarian)



**Moonlight in the Mansion!**  
**March 19, 2016**





*David Palmer*  
*Board President*

*Board Corner*

Even with all of the fantastic things happening at the Fellowship right now, I obviously need to take some time this month to touch on Alison's blockbuster news! When Alison first told me I was a little bit in shock. So much went through my mind in what seemed like an eternal split-second. I had feelings of shock, loss, and fear right along-side feelings of great pride, excitement, and challenge. My family first came to the Fellowship during our interim ministry year with Barbara Child. I have never known being in a UU congregation with a settled minister other than Alison so my perspective of being a UU is very much the product of the shared ministry of our Members and Alison. From this shared ministry I have found a home and learned more than I could ever have imagined about who I am, what I'm capable of, and the possibilities that I and each one of us has to make lasting impact in our community and the world.

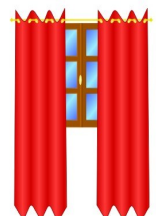
As I wrestled with my personal feeling of loss, I began to realize what this all really meant. This is an amazing opportunity for me, Alison, and the Fellowship to offer a gift to the wider UU community and to the world. I'm honored to be able to help send Alison off to the UUA to use her gifts to do there what she has done for me and for us all.

The Fellowship is in a very strong position to support this as this time. We have a very dedicated and energized staff and Board. Our volunteer committees are becoming very organized and focused through their shared work with the Networks. And most of all, we have an amazing, supportive, and caring membership. This is the next step in our growth and it is a very exciting time. I feel so charged for the next part of the journey for me, for the Fellowship, for Alison, and for the UUA.

Peace  
David

**Leadership Openings for 2016-17:** The Nominating Committee is seeking Fellowship Members to serve on the Board of Trustees for 3-year terms beginning 7/1/2016. Three open Board positions are: **President-Elect** (one year term transitioning to 2 years as President), **Vice-President of Administrative Network** and **Trustee-at-Large for Strategic Planning**. The Committee also seeks one member for the Nominating Committee. To nominate a member, or to self-nominate, email [nominating@muuf.org](mailto:nominating@muuf.org). *Questions?* Contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Gloria Jackson (Chair), Susie Harris, Dan Cohen, Laurent Comes and Tanya Van Order.

Thanks to Marti Weinstein, Beth Wilson and Arlyne Dalman, the meeting Room draperies have been repaired and re-hung. There are 6 foot wands in the middle of each pair. Because of the heavy weight of these drapes, we are concerned that the wands could break, so please pull the wands slowly and gently to open and close the drapes.





## YOUNG ADULT Events

*for folks in their 20s and 30s to  
get together and build  
community over shared life*

We meet monthly for lunch on the second Sunday and usually host a monthly social event outside of the fellowship. You can contact us at [youngadults@muuf.org](mailto:youngadults@muuf.org).

So, if you're in your 20s and 30s come and join us for lunch on February 21. We'll meet in the great hall after the 2nd service and leave for lunch at 12:30 pm. We'll figure out our lunch location then. Hope to see you!



## Deeds Well Done

Holiday Service: Thank you to all who helped make our service so special, including: our great Choir for the lovely songs and music; Kathleen Taggart for the Christmas Eve refreshments setup and clean up and, Danelle Simonelli for being the Holiday Service Associate.

Mandi Huizenga for organizing a Thank You Reception for the office volunteers.

George Aronson, Margaret Ng and Bob Scott for their work on the picture perfect photo directory.

And thank you to all whose names are not listed here and should be.

## MONTHLY MIDWEEK RENEWAL SERVICE

Wednesday, Feb. 3rd at 6:30 pm

**Rev. Alison & David Snedden**

inspiration... song... meditation...  
spoken word... ritual & renewal!

**CELEBRATING  
OUR DIFFERENCES**





## *Tim Atkins, Director of Religious Education*

When I think of Diversity within Unitarian Universalism, I think there are things we do a great job with and things that we don't always do such a great job with. During the month of

February as we explore diversity in the beloved community, I hope that all of us reflect both what we do well here at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship and what we still need to work on. When we think of diversity, our mind's typically default to racial diversity – and although this is essential, we should examine diversity in other areas as well.

We do a good job with theological and philosophical diversity. We have done a great job of embracing religious pluralism and incorporating wisdom from different religious traditions into our worship live, personal spiritual life, and religious education programs. This congregation is more pluralistic and religiously diverse than many in our movement, and it's something that I am proud of.

We are doing a better job with diversity of age. We have grown both older and younger here at the Fellowship over the past few years – we have a growing children's and youth program with young families, we have a blossoming young adult group, and our octogenarian group is going strong! We are one of only two UU Congregations with a young adult group, and the other has a paid staff organizer. We aren't all the way there with diversity of age, but we're making real progress and should be proud of how far we've come.

We still need to work on racial diversity, however. How are we transforming our congregation to be more welcoming to people of color? How are we transforming ourselves to be more welcoming to people of color? How are we transforming our own UU/Fellowship Cultural Norms to be more welcome to people of color? Every UU congregation struggles with racial diversity and there is no magic bullet. I firmly believe that if we truly want our congregation to become more racially diverse, we have to do internal work first and we have to examine our congregational cultural norms.

We need to think about diversity of worship styles. Right now most of our worship services are of the typical protestant variety and that's what we typically default to as Unitarian Universalists. I personally think that no single worship style works for every person – what would it look like if every so often we had a non-traditional service? A regular participatory worship service? A Sunday Evening service once a month? What would it look like if we were to offer a Spanish-language service once a month or once a week?

We're entering a time in the life of this Fellowship where we have the opportunity to explore new ways of doing church – we should take this chance to look at how we can increase diversity in different facets of the church. A diverse congregation offers us the chance to reach people who are looking for a spiritual home. Diverse programming offers us the chance to explore new ideas and concepts on our spiritual journeys, and just possibly help us discover the answer we've been looking for.

### ***Audition Call.....***

Plans are in the works for An Evening of Fun and Entertainment on April 16 featuring some of our most engaging Fellowship performers. If you are interested in sharing a short performance of music, dance, comedy or other creative entertainment, please contact Steve Humphreys at [humphs75@yahoo.com](mailto:humphs75@yahoo.com). All ages welcome.



### **ADULT LEARNING Programs:**

***Red Tent Temple*** led by Dana Holmes, Saturdays, 6-10 pm, 2/13, 3/12, 4/9 and 6/4. We'll transform a room into a "temple" of red! Red Tent Temples are intended for women to gather, relax, and learn in a sacred environment and are designed for all women of different religious and social backgrounds. Come at 6 pm for organized activities or 7 pm for informal hang-out time. Women and girls over the age of 12 only.

For information contact Dana at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

***Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Study Group*** led by Tom Moran on Sundays, 12:30 - 2 pm, 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28 and 3/6. We will review the TPP and trade agreements to better understand their implications for workers, the people of the signatory countries, and social justice in general. By week the topics will be: what are the goals of trade agreements; how are they arrived at; are they any good at all; how can they be constrained to benefit the people involved; and how can any adverse effects be mitigated.

For information and to register, contact Tom at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

***Finding Your Inner Minister*** led by the Sunday Services Committee, Wednesdays, 7 pm on February 24, March 9, 16, 23. Do you want to be a part of a Sunday lay-led service or have something you'd like to say in a Sunday service? This workshop will explore how to create a service. We will consider the Unitarian Universalist principle of the "priesthood of all believers," identify the elements of a good service, discuss how to craft a meaningful reflection, and learn the "nuts and bolts" of the service process. The cost is \$14 for the book *The Shared Pulpit*. Please pre-register by February 10, so we can get the books on time.

For info and to register, contact Danelle at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

***Exploring Mindfulness*** led by Mary Hodgson, Wednesdays, 2/3, 2/10, 7-8 pm. Basic techniques to help you live more mindfully in the present. Your journey will open up the possibility of living in self-compassion, non-judgment and conscious decision-making. For information contact Mary at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

***Green Burial*** led by Tom McGuinness, Thursday, 2/25, 7 - 9:30 pm. Come see A Will for the Woods, a 90 minute documentary about Clark Wang who is determined that his final resting place will benefit the earth. With poignancy and humor, A Will for the Woods portrays the last days of a multifaceted advocate and the one community's role in the genesis of a revolutionary movement. Discussion to follow.

For more information and to register, contact Tom at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

***Assorted End of Life Issues*** with Tom McGuinness, Thursday, 3/3, from 7 - 9 pm. Death cafes are springing up; green burials are the latest and environmentally best burials. Do you have the Five Wishes, a \$5 form that helps tell your loved ones what you want at end of life? The Memorial Society of North Central New Jersey helps you pre-plan budget funerals and offers a free list of comparative funeral home prices, tips of having "the talk" with loved ones about your end of life wished. California recently legalized doctor assisted suicide and a death with dignity bill has passed one house of the NJ legislature.

For information and to register, contact Tom at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)



**Writing Workshop** led by Ellen Schmidt, Saturday, 4/9. This is an all day writing workshop offered in two sessions, morning and afternoon, which can be taken individually or both to make a whole day.

For information and fees, contact Kate McAteer at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

**Strength Deployment Inventory Workshop** led by Dan Cohen, certified SDI practitioner, Saturday, March 5 (snow date March 12) 10 am - 4:30 pm. The Strength Deployment Inventory (SDI) is a tool that provides insights into what motivates you and how you manage conflict, along with how to motivate others and when to recognize conflict. This workshop helps with tools to understand self and others. You will leave with a guide in how to better work with others, including anyone you are in relationship with. Cost of the workshop is a \$50 donation to the Fellowship. Bring a bag lunch and beverage.

For information and to register, contact Dan at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org). Please put SDI in subject line.

**CPR Training** Facilitated by Allen Sheps, EMT & Certified CPR Instructor, Saturday, March 12, 9 am. This four-hour class in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) includes training on how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). Knowing CPR could help you save a loved one suffering a cardiac or breathing/choking emergency. The discounted cost is \$45 per person, and if you are a religious education teacher or childcare-giver at the Fellowship, the cost is free. Space is limited, please register by March 6.

For information and to register, contact Danelle at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

### **Ongoing:**

**Gentle Yoga** Hazel Bell, Certified Yoga Instructor, Fridays 10 am. Contact Anne [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

**Insight Meditation Group** led by George and Beverly Hays Sunday evenings 7-9 pm. New and experienced meditators welcome. Contact George at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

**Humanist Group** led by Arlyne Shapiro third Wednesdays at 7 pm. No registration required

**Men's Consciousness Raising Group** Thursdays at 7:30 pm. Contact Don [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)

**Book Club** Led by Nancy McLure, third Monday of the month, 1:30 pm. Come join our lively discussions, all are welcome! Our current reading list is:

February 15th The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Strout

March 21 - Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

April 18- The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

Contact Nancy Lee [activities@muuf.org](mailto:activities@muuf.org)

**Cordial Conversations and Chow** led by Gloria Dyer, fourth Wednesdays, 10:30 am.

No registration required

Interested in offering an adult learning class? Send a course proposal to Susan at [adultlearning@muuf.org](mailto:adultlearning@muuf.org)



# Social Justice

## Bill Reed's Program a Resounding Success!

At the Fellowship on January 16, Bill Reed, an internationally known thought leader and distinguished architect, enthralled more than 140 attendees in a 4-hour program, "Collaborating with Nature: It's Not Just About Lightbulbs."

Participants in the program, which was sponsored and organized by Green Earth Ministry, Seeds of Peace, and Garden State Earth Institute, learned of creative, successful approaches to restoration and regeneration of our Earth home. Bill invited attendees to popcorn-style their questions, and so they did, non-stop, and with gusto!

From vivid photographs and descriptions of projects including the Willow School in Gladstone, a boutique eco-hotel in Mexico, a wastewater treatment plant in Vancouver, and a coastal city in Chile, we began to understand the importance of thinking systemically and of building relationships (asking, "how do you live?") before trying to solve problems.

Other capsules of insight: life harmonizes whereas compromise concedes; sustainability is a slower way to die; look for patterns the way a tracker does; look at the historical record for a location when planning its restoration; treat the Earth as a partner rather than an industrial resource; a dualistic view of life separates people from nature; to solve a problem, enlarge your view of it. During the refreshment break, the loud buzz of networking and energy exchange was prominent. As Bill emphasized, we are all co-learners, and it is essential that we learn by "being with each other."



### *Transylvania Tidbit / Blast from the Past*

Two things related to Partner Church this month:

Browse to [http://muuf.org/partner\\_church\\_committee/](http://muuf.org/partner_church_committee/)



Symbol of American Unitarianism



Symbol of Transylvanian Unitarianism

1) Christmas 2015: I have updated the Partner Church webpage with links to our Christmas Greetings to Sinfalva and the reply we received (English and Hungarian)

2) I have discovered the Hungarian version of the first contact letter sent by Rev. Paul Ratzlaff in 1993. I translated back into English and have posted both on the website in the "Where is our Partner Church" section.



# Social Justice

## *Here's What You Had To Say*

(In the Social Justice Council Reinvention Task Force Survey Monkey survey)

You may have participated in a survey last November for the Social Justice Council Reinvention Task Force. In fact, 106 of our members answered the survey. If you're wondering what the congregation had to say, here it is:

More than 90% say a "vibrant SJ program at the Fellowship is important or extremely important and about half say they have some knowledge but want to know more about our social and environmental justice efforts. 26% of the congregation would like to be more involved in social/environmental justice work. There are so many different ways to contribute to our social/environmental initiatives. Many are interested in doing service work such as the soup kitchen (70%), but 30-45% of respondents are interested in other ways: education, advocacy, witness, or community organizing.

Many of you would like to see the social/environmental justice council collaborating more deeply with other arms of the Fellowship: with Religious Education (85%), Sunday services (65%), and denominational affairs (75%).

Most of you would like more communication from the social/environmental council. Members want to hear about activities and impact (85%), where funds are allocated (75%), and opportunities to get involved (73%). You'd like to get this information from our monthly newsletter (84%), from the website or What's Happening (55%), from a bulletin board (46%), or during Sunday services (40%). And about a third of respondents wanted information from other sources, including Facebook, the weekly email blast, tables after some services or a regular email blast of volunteer opportunities.

An extra thank you to the many respondents who added comments; they were thoughtful and so helpful. A common theme was the desire for greater focus. Many commented on the need to include environmental issues and several members said they would like to know where plate collections are going ahead of time. These and other comments have provided valuable input to our task force's work.

We are continuing our work to structure the social/environmental initiatives at MUF to reflect the passions of our members and for optimum impact and accountability. You'll hear more about this in future newsletters and in our Sunday information sessions. So stay tuned!

## 2nd Quarter Sunday plate collection Donations

The Social Justice Council allocated \$2750 from our 2nd quarter donations to the following organizations:

- \$500 to Bethel AME's Table of Hope Program
- \$800 to Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge
- \$800 to NORWESCAP
- \$650 in reserve to pay the expenses for meals supporting the Soup Kitchen, Eric Johnson House, and Homeless Solutions.

## Social Justice



2nd  
Annual



# New Jersey MUUsic Festival


UU CONGREGATION OF MONMOUTH COUNTY  
1475 West Front Street  
Lincroft, NJ

March 12, 2016 2:30

Join in a celebration of our faith, equality,  
compassion and justice through song.



All proceeds will benefit the work of the  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY OF NJ  
A voice for justice, equality and compassion

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship						
<div> <div>  </div> <div> <b>Feb. 2015</b> </div> </div> <div> <b>Ongoing Weekly Events:</b>  <u>Sunday Mornings</u>            9 &amp; 11 am - Worship Services            9 am - Religious Education            Coffee Hour after both services         </div> <div> <b>Mon - Sat Mornings</b>            7:30 am AA         </div> <div> <b>Monday Nights</b>            6:30 pm GAAMC         </div> <div> <b>Tuesday Nights</b>            6:15 pm Choir         </div> <div> <b>Thursday Nights</b>            7:30 pm Men's Consciousness Group         </div> <div> <b>Friday Nights</b> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		6:30 pm Finance Comm. 7 pm Sunday Services	1 pm Adult Learning 6:30 pm Renewal Service 7 pm Compassionate Com. 7 pm Exploring Mindful.	6:30 pm Adult OWL	10 am Gentle Yoga	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 am Sunday Service 11 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm 1 rans D ~ r ~ f ~ ~ D ~ ~ + 1 pm Service Rehearsal 7 pm Insight Meditation	Chinese New Year 7 pm Improv		6:30 pm GEM Meeting 7 pm Board Meeting 7 pm Exploring Mindful.	6:30 pm Adult OWL 7 pm Social Justice	10 am Gentle Yoga 8:30 am Gathering of Men	6 pm Red Tent Group
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9 am Sunday Service 10 am For the Love of Art 11 am Sunday Service 12 pm Young Adult Lunch 12:30 pm 1 rans D ~ r ~ f ~ ~ D ~ ~ + 7 pm Insight Meditation	President's Day 1:30 pm Book Group 7 pm Improv	7 pm Board Working Mtg	7 pm Humanist Group	6:30 pm Adult OWL 7 pm COM	10 am Gentle Yoga	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9 am Sunday Service 11 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm 1 rans D ~ r ~ f ~ ~ D ~ ~ + 7 pm Insight Meditation	7 pm Improv	5 pm UULMNJ meeting	10:30 Cordial Conversation 7 pm Network Meeting 7 pm Inner Minister 7 pm Endowment Board	6:30 pm Adult OWL 7 pm Green Burial	10 am Gentle Yoga 8:30 am Gathering of Men	8 pm Benefit Concert
28	29	<b>Upcoming Events:</b> March 6 ~ Newcomer Welcome Tour March 19 ~ Anniversary Party March 25 ~ Good Friday Service March 27 ~ Easter				
9 am Sunday Service 10 am Parent Group 11 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm 1 rans D ~ r ~ f ~ ~ D ~ ~ + 7 pm Insight Meditation	7 pm Improv 7 pm Refugee Meeting					



*Morristown Unitarian Fellowship*  
21 Normandy Heights Road  
Morristown, New Jersey. 07960-4611

*February 2016*

Volume 61. No. 2

**February 7 at 9 am and 11 am**

**“Saying Yes”**

There are times in our life when we are called to lead. Saying “yes” to the call can allow us to use our gifts in service of love and can take us to unexpected places.

*- led by Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**February 14 at 9 am and 11 am**

**“For the Love of Art: The Beauty of Diversity”**

Join us for a special highlight of every year. Our Annual Multigenerational “For the Love of Art” Sunday. In our worship we will explore how diverse art forms from diverse cultures help to expand our minds, deepen our commitments, and stretch our hearts. A student art show will be showcased between the two services.

*- led by Rev. Alison B. Miller and Tim Atkins*

**February 21 at 9 am and 11 am**

**“Kindness as a Spiritual Practice”**

Jack Kornfield in his book "Bringing Home the Dharma" says, "Our greatest spiritual task is NOT the perfection of ourselves, but the perfection of our kindness - towards ourselves and others".

Come explore this topic with us! Music by Kate McAteer and Beth Wilson.

*- led by Beth Hayward with Kate Sa, Paul Ferm*

**February 28 at 9 am & 11 am**

**Service to be announced**

*- led by Rev. Dr. Stephanie May, Minister,  
The First Parish in Wayland*