Historic First Parish Unitarian Church Cambridge Offers 1st-Ever Tours, Talks, Wed. May 28

Harvard Square First Parish Unitarian Church

For the first time since its founding nearly 400 years ago, one of the oldest churches in Cambridge is is opening its front doors to offer tours and a museum-quality exhibit to the public. The First Parish in Cambridge Unitarian Universalist held its first open house on May 21, 2014. A second open house will take place on Wednesday, May 28, from 11-2 pm.Historian and tour guide Vincent Dixon will speak at 12N and 1 pm

The Church was founded in 1636 by the Puritan settlers, the same year as the establishment of "Harvard Colledge" by the Bay Colony Legislature, according to Ernie Kirwan, the Church member who created the tour/exhibit project. A site near the

Church was selected to benefit students from the preaching of Minister Thomas Shepard.

The Church is committed to love, service, freedom, justice, and spiritual growth, according to its Website. It draws on:

- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Guides at 1st open house: First row: Hannah Stites, Top row: Carol Agate, Sam Berlin, Linda West, Vince Dixon

First Parish is located at 3 Church Street, on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Church Street in Harvard Square.More information is available at www.firstparishcambridge.

—Anita M. Harris

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