

October 2010



www.firstparish.org/labyrinth

Dear First Parishioners,

As you may remember, before construction began on our now completed First Parish building and remodeling project, the brick labyrinth in the side yard between the sanctuary and the cottages on the green needed to be dismantled. As presented at last June's Annual Meeting, an interested group of parishioners has worked over the last two years on plans for re-installation of a labyrinth, with oversight from the Executive Team. After much research and discussion of design, materials, stability, sustainability, and placement, the plans are now ready to go forward for installation of a new labyrinth in the same general area as the previous one.

The previous labyrinth had been used over the years by many different people, including Women's Circle members, children and youth in RE programs, participants in stress reduction classes, and individuals who were drawn to explore this ancient form of meditation as part of their personal spiritual practice. The planning group is very happy at the prospect of a new labyrinth being available again to everyone in the First Parish community. The design will be similar to the previous labyrinth, using bricks to mark the edge of path, but this time the pathway itself will be a stable stone aggregate that is sustainable and user-friendly. Underneath all will be a packed base about six inches deep. This structure will allow the labyrinth to withstand New England weather throughout the year to maintain an attractive design and good function for years to come.

You can help First Parish realize the return of a labyrinth to our campus. From our research and desire that the new labyrinth be attractive, user-friendly, and easily maintained for a long time, we believe it is necessary to contract with a professional landscaper for most, if not all of the construction. As a result, we must raise significant funds to put the current plan into action. The fundraising goal is \$18,000, and we are very happy to announce that over \$6000 has already been pledged by a number of your fellow parishioners! We ask that you consider joining them with your own pledge to the Labyrinth Re-installation Fund to help reach the goal and complete the project.

If you have questions or would like to see the labyrinth design, please stop by the Labyrinth information table at coffee hours this month or see the following page on the First Parish website:
www.firstparish.org/labyrinth.

We have learned that for the current surrounding plantings, early spring is the best time for the re-installation to take place. We very much hope to complete fundraising this fall in order for construction to take place next spring. We hope you will give generously to this effort so the First Parish community will again have the use of a labyrinth available to all. Please see the pledge form on the reverse side to see the options available for making your pledge and contribution.

Thank you,

The Labyrinth Re-installation Fundraising Team,

Darien Smith, Bozena Smith, and Martha Kilcoyne