

First Parish honored for social action

Beth Rust and Judy Deutsch, co-chairs of First Parish's Faith in Action committee, were influential in the First Parish of Sudbury being awarded the 2005 Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action.

The Bennett Award was given by the Unitarian Universalist Association, the award recognizes First Parish's "outstanding" range and level of activity to promote human justice, from service to advocacy on housing; gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights; civil liberties, and other issues. The award, which includes a small cash prize, has been given to one UU congregation each year since 1999.

First Parish won the award based on its entry, "Taking It to the World," which summarized the congregation's work advocating and educating in a wide range of issues, from homelessness to prison reform to domes-

tic abuse, large acts and small. The congregation's advocacy took many forms inside and outside the parish including holding nine worship services dedicated to social action, publishing columns in area newspaper and testifying on Beacon Hill.

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The Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action, instituted in 1999 by James Bennett to honor the congregation that has done exemplary work in social justice, is accompanied by a \$500 cash award that is presented at General Assembly.

Sunday services at First Parish begin at 10 a.m. and are open to all members of the community. The First Parish of Sudbury Meeting House is located at 327 Concord Road, across from Town Hall. For more information about upcoming events, including concerts and dances, visit fpsudbury.org or call 978-443-2043.