

Pro-GLBT Minister Named Senior Minister at First Parish Church

Will Hold Homecoming Service on Sept. 7, Installation Ceremony on Sept. 28

BY WILLIAM HENDERSON

Rev. Fred Small, a former environmental lawyer and folk singer-songwriter, now a Unitarian Universalist minister, will return to his Cambridge roots on Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Homecoming service of First Parish in Cambridge. Small's return follows a unanimous vote by the First Parish congregation calling Rev. Small as Senior Minister last April.

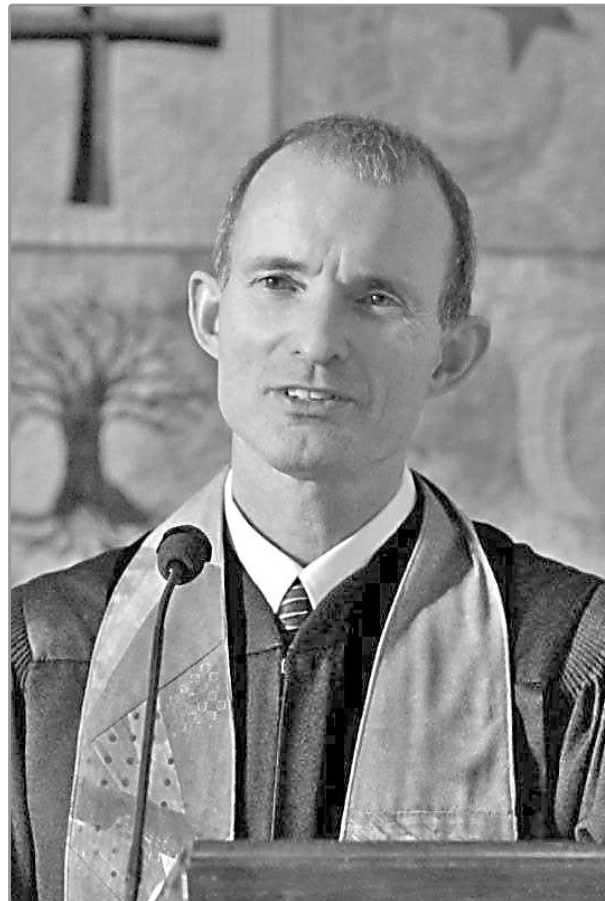
The Homecoming service begins at 10:30 a.m. at the First Parish church, 1446 Massachusetts Avenue, in Harvard Square.

"I'm excited to be part of this dynamic congregation," said Small. "First Parish offers a spiritual home for all of us who seek both inner peace and a better world."

Small lived in Cambridge for two decades before being called to parish ministry in Littleton, Mass., in 1999. Educated at Yale and Michigan Law School, he served as staff attorney for the Conservation Law Foundation, then toured internationally as a folk-singer and songwriter. Called "one of America's best songwriters" by Pete Seeger, Small released seven albums on the Rounder, Flying Fish, and Aquifer labels.

During his Cambridge days, he performed at Passim, Sanders Theater, the Nameless Coffeehouse (at First Parish), and the old Back Room at the Idler. He frequently appeared at public events for peace, environmental protection, and gay rights. In 1995, the Cambridge Peace Commission honored Fred Small with its Peace and Justice Award, and in 1999, he earned his divinity degree from Harvard.

"My life has been a journey toward love," said Small. "With all the opportunities



Rev. Fred Small

granted me, I've always felt called to serve others, to make a difference in the world—first through law, then music, and now ministry. With each transition I've tried to share more power, to diminish self and enlarge other, to be less fuel and more catalyst."

In February, 2003, Small announced from his Littleton pulpit that he would no longer sign marriage licenses for heterosexual couples until same-sex couples enjoyed equal marriage rights. His congregation responded

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Portland Activists Push for National AIDS Strategy

The Campaign 2 End AIDS Wants New President to Implement Strategy Within 100 Days of Taking Office

BY TONY GIAMPETRUZZI

The Maine AIDS Alliance announced last week that a caravan of people from Portland, Maine will be the first of nine separate activist caravans that will travel from all parts of the

country to Mississippi in September to demand that the next U.S. president take significant steps toward creating a National AIDS Strategy within 100 days of taking office.

The event, "The Campaign 2 End AIDS," is a diverse new coalition of people living with HIV/AIDS and those who care about them. Together, they are demanding that U.S. and state leaders exert the political will to stop the AIDS epidemic worldwide.

"While this event is

historic in its mission, we in Maine are even more proud that we will lead the nation in this important effort to bring new awareness to HIV/AIDS," said Andrew Bossie of the Maine AIDS Alliance. "Maine has always been on the forefront of dealing with HIV/AIDS head-on, and this is just one more example of how our community intends to fight this disease with energy and passion."

The event premiered last year and was organized into caravans that took several different routes across the country to Washington, D.C. for C2EA's Four Days of Action summit in November.

This year, C2EA organizing moved to a dynamic state model. Each state has its own elected officials, its own meetings and conference calls and its own unique, state-level agenda and actions amidst the national C2EA actions this year including AIDSVote.

"This is an important year for this event because we know that the U.S. is spending \$100 million a year on abstinence only education at the same time that diagnoses of HIV have surpassed one million. The current approach to HIV/AIDS from our government isn't working, and we are facing a change

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BRIEFS

MassResistance to Supporters: Collect Signatures at Dumps

BOSTON [ZACHARY VIOLETTE] — With the language of their referendum petition to overturn the 1913 law prohibiting out-of-state same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts certified by the Attorney General last week, MassResistance has released instructions to its supporters about collecting the 33,927 signatures required for the referendum to appear on the November 2010 ballot.

The group suggests that supporters collect signatures at "MBTA stations, church [sic], shopping areas, post offices, dumps, busy sidewalks, or even door to door," and that canvassers ask voters to "Please sign this petition to let the people vote on changing our marriage laws' or whatever you're comfortable with."

MassResistance offered particularly stern warnings that any attempt to disrupt the signature gathering process will not be tolerated.

"On some occasions in the past, homosexual activists and others have attempted to keep citizens from gathering signatures on the marriage issue, or otherwise disrupted their efforts or intimidated them. We don't know if it will happen this time, but we are being proactive. We have discussed this with the Mass. Attorney General's office and the U.S. Justice Dept, and also local police."

Supporters are urged to call local police and insist that anyone disrupting them be arrested, but gay rights advocates have said that these efforts are largely unsupported and will not result in repealing the repeal of the law.

Ameriprise Financial Plans Seminar to Benefit Harbor to the Bay

BOSTON [STAFF] — Ameriprise Financial will host a seminar at Club Café (209 Columbus Avenue) on Thursday, Sept. 11 to discuss "shaping the financial future for you and your partner."

The seminar, says Ameriprise, will explore issues like Financial planning for unmarried and same-sex couples; General financial planning and investment

concepts; Key considerations for unmarried and same-sex couples to protect their assets; Calculating your new worth; Understanding risk and return; and Suggestions for tax, estate, and financial planning issues.

While the seminar is free to attendees, Ameriprise will give \$10 for each person who attends to Harbor to the Bay to supports its mission.

Reservations are required and you can call 617-580-4270 to RSVP for you and up to three guests to Christopher Lambing at Ameriprise Financial by Wednesday, Sept. 10.

The event takes place on Sept. 11 starting at 6 p.m.

IFBO Fund for Leadership Endorses Obama for President

WASHINGTON D.C. [STAFF] — The International Federation of Black Prides Fund for Leadership, Inc. ("Fund for Leadership") a 501(c)(4) organization, announced its endorsement of Barack Obama for President of the United States of America today.

"It is clear that Sen. Obama gets it and he gets it in a very big way. Throughout his historic campaign for the presidency, Sen. Obama has been a vocal leader and supporter for LGBT rights and inclusiveness beyond that which generally get the attention of political insiders," said DeShanee Miner, of Nashville, Tennessee and a Fund for Leadership Board member.

The primary purpose of the "Fund for Leadership" is to engage in legislative advocacy activities that promote the development of economic empowerment, health and wellness, social justice, and political empowerment on behalf of African American LGBT communities across the United States.

"Sen. Obama's commitment to economic empowerment across the board and his embracing knowledge of LGBT related issues easily puts him in the front of the pack. Like many in LGBT communities of color, I believe that President Obama will help unify our communities in a way which finally gives equal opportunity to LGBT people of color who face double and sometimes triple minority status," said

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QUOTE

"Legal couple status may support a relationship — more family understanding, acceptance by friends and co-workers, greater commitment from a public declaration and enhanced legal protections like healthcare benefits and community property."

ROBERT-JAY GREEN OF ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN SAN FRANCISCO SAID IN A STATEMENT ABOUT A STUDY, PUBLISHED IN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY, THAT FOUND THAT SAME-SEX COUPLES NOT IN CIVIL UNIONS WERE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE ENDED THEIR RELATIONSHIP THAN SAME-SEX COUPLES IN CIVIL UNIONS OR HETEROSEXUAL MARRIED COUPLES IN THE STUDY.

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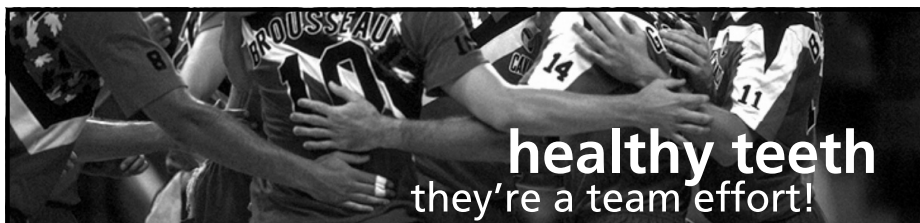
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with a standing ovation. In 2006, Rev. Small received the Religious Leadership Award from the Religious Coalition for the Freedom to Marry.

As a Unitarian Universalist minister, Small has been a leader in interfaith activism. In March, 2007, he was one of the organizers of the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue from Northampton to Boston. Four months later, in July, *Grist Magazine* named him one of 15 Green Religious Leaders worldwide. He

is co-chair of Religious Witness for the Earth, a national interfaith environmental network.

"First Parish in Cambridge is thrilled to welcome such a visionary leader in social justice to its pulpit, and our congregation is eager to begin working with him to deepen and broaden our liberal religious community," said Gloria Korsman, Chair of the governing board. //

On September 28 at 3 p.m. at First Parish there will be an installation

ceremony for Rev. Small with addresses by Rev. Thomas Mikelson, minister emeritus of First Parish; Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie of Arlington Street Church; Unitarian Universalist Association president Rev. William Sinkford; and Rev. Peter Gomes of Harvard University. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus will perform "Everything Possible," an anthem of equality composed by Rev. Small. //

For more information, go to www.firstparishcambridge.org.

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in leadership," said Bossie. "We need to maintain funding for programs that fight AIDS while developing new approaches to keep people healthy."

The activists will converge in Oxford, Mississippi, on September 23, 2008, for three days of action leading up to the first presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain on September 26.

All nine of the caravans and marchers will land in Oxford, Mississippi at 3 pm on Sept. 23 for a press conference in Oxford Town Square. It will focus on the number of people who die from HIV/AIDS each day in the United States. In

the course of this 10-day event, approximately 384 Americans will have died from HIV/AIDS, according to C2E.

A rally will follow on Day 2 of the event focused on the demand for our next president to develop a National Plan to End AIDS in his first 100 days and for the following elements to be completed:

1) Identify a high level person who reports directly to the President to shepherd the plan; 2) Identify an office within the government where this plan will sit; 3) Identify a process whereby people living with HIV/AIDS will be involved in the development of the

plan; 4) Identify a process for intergovernmental collaboration in the development and implementation of the plan; and 5) Specify a timeline for the development of the plan.

According to the Campaign 2 End AIDS, since 2005, the group has urged lawmakers to reauthorize and fully fund the Ryan White CARE Act; keep Medicaid strong for people with HIV/AIDS and all other beneficiaries; strengthen the global fight against AIDS by fully funding the Global Fund and backing 100 percent debt cancellation, and restore and revive effective HIV prevention worldwide based on the best science. //

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Venton Jones, Fund for Leadership Board member from Dallas, Texas.

For more information about Blackout 2008 and the IFBP, go to www.ifbprides.org.

Log Cabin Endorses McCain

MINNEAPOLIS [CHRIS JOHNSON] — The Log Cabin Republicans today officially threw its support behind Sen. John McCain in the GOP candidate's bid for the White House.

The organization announced its endorsement of McCain during its "Big Tent Event" celebration in Minneapolis, which is taking place amid the festivities at the Republican National Convention.

The Log Cabin board voted to endorse the candidate Monday night by a vote of 12 to 2.

In a statement today, Patrick Sammon, president of Log Cabin, said his organization is standing by McCain because the senator stood with Log Cabin in opposition to the Federal Marriage Amendment when it came before Congress.

"Sen. McCain showed courage by bucking his own party's leadership and the president — twice voting against the amendment," Sammon said. "He gave an impassioned speech on the Senate floor, calling the amendment 'antithetical in every way to the core philosophy of Republicans.'"

Log Cabin Board Chair Pete Kingma said Log Cabin also favors McCain because he is a "maverick" who often bucks his own party. McCain's maverick behavior is a "trait most recently on display with his decision to select Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate," Kingma said.

NY Lawsuit Against Gay Marriage Thrown Out

NEW YORK [AP] — A Bronx judge has thrown out the first direct legal challenge to Gov. David Paterson's move to recognize out-of-state gay marriages.

In a ruling Tuesday, Sept. 2, state Supreme Court Judge Lucy Billings said the policy is a "permissible, if not mandated, step toward the objective of equality" for gays. Her finding comes as thousands of gay New Yorkers are expected to take advantage of a new Massachusetts law letting them wed there.

Paterson's counsel told state agencies in May that a recent appellate court ruling required them to recognize gay marriages legally performed elsewhere.

An Arizona-based Christian legal group, the Alliance Defense Fund, filed a lawsuit saying the issue should be decided by the state Legislature, not the governor.

The alliance and Paterson's office had no immediate response to the ruling. //