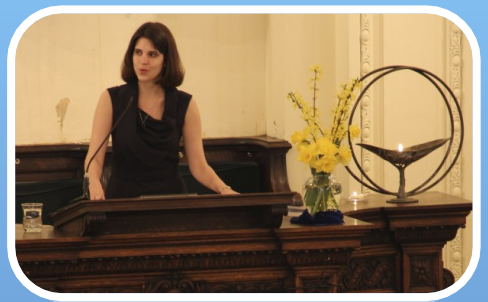
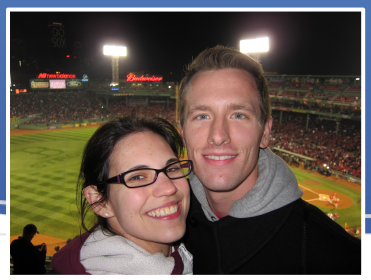
Pastor, Teacher, Preacher.

As a minister, Catie sees her role in a congregation as pastor, teacher, and preacher. This includes providing **pastoral care**, facilitating **religious education**, assisting lay governing bodies, designing **worship**, and pursuing **social justice work** to heal our wounded world and end the oppressive aspects of the wider culture. Her ministerial call is particularly drawn to the vision of creating **beloved community**, where there is **equality** after equity has been achieved; **restorative, loving justice** in the face of broken covenants; and, **deep interconnectedness** between all members, with an understanding of our "interbeing" with all living beings and the earth itself.



Catie's Family

Catie lives in Brighton, MA, with her spouse, Cole Stephenson, whom she met at Harvard Divinity School. Cole is a history teacher and coach (softball and basketball) in Newton. Together they enjoy spending time with family and friends, playing board games and pub trivia, watching movies, and cooking meals.



catiescudera.wordpress.com
msc@uuneedham.org

Introducing

Catie Scudera

Ministerial Candidate

First Parish in Needham,
Unitarian Universalist

Experience and Background

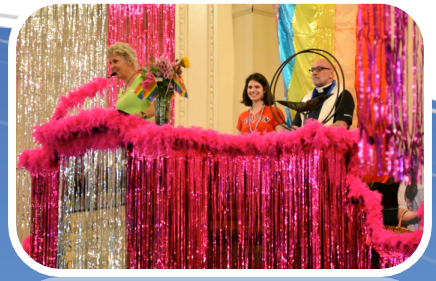
Catie currently serves as the Intern Minister at the Arlington Street Church in Boston's Back Bay, where she will be ordained on May 18, 2014. She arrived there "**fully formed**" and is, to paraphrase the senior minister, **one of the best interns to ever walk through their doors.** She was the minister on-site in the days after the Marathon bombings, just three blocks away, during which time her presence and groundedness helped to hold the community together. A natural leader with extraordinary presence, Catie impressed and inspired the Search Committee, who saw in her a leader with whom First Parish will grow, evolve and thrive.

Catie's Theology

In her own words, "My conception of the divine is perhaps best described as a 'process God,' a spiritual entity that lives, loves, and learns with us and which can strengthen and grow our spiritual resolves. To use a term coined by Unitarian Universalist philosopher Bill Jones, my faith is practiced as a 'humanocentric theism,' integrating theism and humanism. I believe that if God has any sway in our world, it is through the work of human hands and hearts. As Zen Buddhist leader Thich Nhat Hanh writes, every person has the seeds of good and evil within them, and we must do our best to cultivate the good seeds."

"inspiring and thought-provoking"

Catie is a 2012 graduate from Harvard Divinity School, where she was a leader in the UU student group and at the school's weekly multireligious worship service as well as serving as the Student and Summer Minister at the Winchester Unitarian Society. Before attending divinity school, she worked in Meghalaya, India, with the Unitarian Union of Northeast India on a collaborative orphanage project. In March of 2014, Catie returned to visit the orphanage, the local Unitarian-run A. Margaret Barr Children's Village, which is now a home to twenty orphaned children.



In the time between college and working in India, Catie was a full-time tutor at the MATCH Charter Public High School in Boston. And before that, Catie attended Carnegie Mellon as an undergraduate, where she studied psychology, creative writing, and religious studies, and was a board member for the Sexual Assault Advisors, and ALLIES, the university's gay/straight alliance. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa with university honors in 2007, and gave the all-university Student Commencement Address.