



March 29, 2010
Volume 46, No. 8

The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

“At Home ... In the World ... At Home in the World” are the words of the 2010 Annual Appeal. What does it mean to be “at home in the world”? It was the minister/psychologist Herbert Anderson who introduced me to the concept that “leaving home, finding home and being at home in the world” are metaphors for the emotional/spiritual journey of life. According to Frederick Buechner, being at home in the world is this: “The place to which you are called is where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

“Our deep gladness” is the expression of the unique gifts we each have and knowing they are needed. Paradoxically we usually have to leave our family of origin to discover our unique gifts. Do you remember the time when you thought, “That’s when I left home”? You no longer assumed the roles that were assigned to you by your family of origin. Instead you began to break out of the mold. I was 22-years-old. My parents and I were attending my cousin’s wedding. After the reception, as my parent drove south to their home, I got into my car and drove north to my new apartment and new job. I had broken the family script. I had not only graduated from college, but I did so without any plans for marriage. Little did I know then that that baby step was the beginning of many steps in my journey of leaving home to being “at home in the world” and finding my deep gladness in the process.

“Finding home” often means finding a community where you are accepted for who you are. This community is often a faith community which is different from the one in which you were raised. When I discovered Unitarian Universalism twenty-eight years ago, tears rolled down my cheeks knowing I had finally found a spiritual home. I did not know it at the time, but finding a spiritual home enabled me to grow spiritually and bring forth gifts I did not believe I had.

What about you? As you think of your emotional/spiritual journey of life, when did you leave home? Where did you find home? When did you discover your unique gifts that bring you “a deep gladness”? Or are you in the process of discovering? How does First Parish help you to be “at home in the world”? I would love to hear your answers. Call for an appointment or e-mail me.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 4

EASTER SUNDAY

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir and
First Parish Festival Brass

Congregation members invited to join
in G. F. Handel’s *Hallelujah Chorus!*

April 11

Youth Sunday

April 18

Margie King Saphier, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Transylvania
Troubadours

April 25

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 Pamela Scheppe, soprano
11:00 First Parish Choir

May 2

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Gospel Choir and
Children’s Choirs

Don’t Miss...

OPENING! PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB’S ANNUAL EXHIBIT

Sunday, May 2

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

CONCORD CELEBRATES THE MARGARET FULLER BICENTENNIAL

May 21 to 23

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 **REVeries**
Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 2 **In This Issue**
Parish Notes
- Page 3 **Parish Notes, continued**
- Page 4 **Pilgrimage Luncheon Notice**
Sunday Forums
Money Matters
- Page 5 **Pastoral Care News**
Denominational Affairs
- Page 6 **Partner Church Committee**
Margaret Fuller Information
- Page 7 **MUSings**
Music Notes
Pipework
- Page 8 **REflections**
April RE Calendar
RE News
- Page 9 **RE News, continued**
Standing Committee
Senior Youth News
- Page 10 **SAC News and Events**
- Page 11 **Membership Corner**
Development Director Notes
- Page 12 **SAC News and Events, continued**
Women's News
- Page 13 **April 2010 Calendar**
- Page 14 **Weekly April Calendar**
First Parish Contact Info and Staff

There are four inserts with this newsletter:

- ◆ **Margaret Fuller Information**
- ◆ **Transition Study Team Information**
- ◆ **Wright Tavern Center Programs**
- ◆ **Transylvanian Pilgrimage Information**

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — in print and online — September to June, to provide parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community.

Please send address changes to:
First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

Noon Deadline

Monday, April 26
Monday, May 24
Monday, August 23

Newsletter items should be limited to 100 words and may be delivered, faxed or e-mailed to the church office.

PARISH NOTES

Furniture Needed

Two First Parish staff members will be moving back to the Tavern soon. The two offices they will occupy are empty at the moment, and need some furnishings. The rooms need a round meeting table and chairs, a bookcase, 2 floor lamps, a file cabinet, a desk, a small couch, 2 small arm chairs, a table lamp, 2 end tables and a coffee table. If you have furniture in good condition, gently used, please contact **Jane Johnson** at FPConcord@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602. A digital picture would be wonderful! Thank you.

Thank You, Siri and Sue!

The Women's Parish Association extends hearty and heartfelt thanks to violinist **Siri Smedvig** and pianist **Susan Minor** for sharing their extraordinary musical talents with us at our annual spring concert and tea. Your performance brought beauty, joy and magic to all in attendance!

Man Required!

Would you like to share feelings and emotions (matters of the heart), both positive and negative, and foster a sense of belonging, acceptance and connection? If you are a man, there is a like-minded group of men that meets on Saturday mornings at First Parish from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the Wright Tavern. They would welcome your participation. No reservations required. Just show up and participate. You may wish to come a few minutes early to meet the group before the meeting officially starts. If you have questions, call **Don Dembsey** at 978-263-3272.

First Parish Theatre Project — Next Play Reading: "Under Milkwood"

Come join your First Parish friends (and Dylan Thomas enthusiasts) on Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a reading of Dylan Thomas's classic play for Voices, "Under Milkwood." The play examines one day in the life of the inhabitants of a small Welsh fishing village. Through the use of Thomas's incredibly musical language, we are introduced to some truly unique characters. Each person, such as the postman, preacher, butcher, prostitute, organist, various drinkers, housewives, children, represents an aspect of the culture of the village, and we see them, warts and all. You will be entertained by their antics and moved by their dreams. Bring a script if you can, but we will have 10 copies on hand. We'll discuss the play and have refreshments too. For more information, contact **Lillian Anderson** at Lillianand@comcast.net or 978-369-1468.

Come to the Flea Market/Recycle Sale

The WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — rain or shine. Come and bring your friends and find some treasures. Get your items ready to donate. Gently used furniture, antiques, lamps, kitchen stuff, artwork, jewelry and clean toys are all welcome. No books, magazines, clothing, plants or sports equipment can be accepted. Items can be dropped off at the church Friday, April 23, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call **Pat Kane** at 978-369-8418 if you wish to rent a table or to volunteer your help.

Ferry Beach Registration Is Coming!

Mark your calendar now for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend, May 28-31 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the

Parish Notes continued on page 3

beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registrations for the weekend will be taken at coffee hours on April 25 and May 2. Look for the Ferry Beach information table in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, April 18. For questions before then, contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471). Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at www.ferrybeach.org.

Opening of Photography Club's Annual Exhibit

The opening of the First Parish Photography Club's Annual Exhibit will be held on Sunday, May 2. Please join us from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. No tickets required. This is a free event. Just come and bring your friends, family and neighbors. This is our gift to First Parish in thanks for supporting us all year. There will be a photo exhibit on the stage, slideshows — large and small, experts who can answer your questions about anything “photography,” an opportunity to talk to the photographers about their images and picture taking tips, and refreshments. Cards and pictures will be for sale for when you want that perfect gift. For information, contact **Kathleen Elcox** at kelcox1@verizon.net or **Fred Van Deusen** at FredVanDeu@aol.com.

The Next Transcendentalism Trip

The Transcendentalists were a group that questioned the world around them, especially its materialism. They were way ahead of their time in bringing European ideas to America. They wanted to learn from writers and thinkers in Europe, but they also wanted to develop their own unique American viewpoint. Their encounter with Europe and its history had an effect not only on New England but on the broader American culture.

One year ago, Jenny led a group of First Parish pilgrims to trace the steps of the Transcendentalists in Italy. What an incredible trip that was! Not only did we come away with a greater appreciation of their connection to our faith community, but we also experienced first-hand some of the sources of their inspiration. And all that while traveling in Europe and connecting with a wonderful group of people! We felt so strongly about the importance of that experience that we are planning to continue our Transcendentalist journey, this time following their footsteps in France, in early April 2011. Whether you went with us to Italy and want to continue that journey, or wished you had come with us, we invite you to join us at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evening, May 2, at First Parish, where we will share with you the details of this exciting trip — along with coffee and dessert! Hope to see you there. — **Steph Chiha** and **Lillian Anderson**
Cochairs, Transcendentalism Council

Emerson Forum

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Forum will hold its spring quarterly meeting on Monday, May 10, at the Wright Tavern at 7 p.m. The topic for discussion will be Emerson's essay “Character.” We will also address the issue of why Emerson is read today, in light of the January 17 piece in the *Chronicle*

• of *Higher Education's Review* titled “Giving Emerson the Boot.” A vigorous dialogue can be expected, as at all our meetings. All are welcome; there is no charge. Questions? Contact convener **Mel Bernstein** at mbern9@gmail.com or 781-259-9926.

WPA Margaret Fuller Bicentennial Luncheon

• **Rev. Jenny Rankin** will speak about Margaret Fuller at the May 18 luncheon of the Women's Parish Association. Also, an exhibit, entitled “Why Margaret Fuller Matters,” will be on display at First Parish during the latter part of May. Check out the First Parish website for further information about all the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial events at First Parish, which will take place May 21-23.

Margaret Fuller On Stage May 22, at 8:00 p.m

• “Margaret Fuller's Universe,” a play by Agnes Butcher and Sayre Sheldon, will be performed at 8 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The play shows Margaret Fuller throughout her short life — both here and abroad — as she relates to the men and women who influenced and changed her life. In this costumed, staged reading, there are many colorful characters for our First Parish actors: **Sara Ballard, Donna Davis, Susan Ellsworth, Anne Fortier, Linda Hardiman, Bill Maxwell, Caroline McCloy, Jim Snyder-Grant, Alec Walker and Tom Wilson**. The play is directed by **Tom Beck** and produced by **Lillian Anderson**.

Jericho Road Project Gala in May

• The Jericho Road Project will present its inaugural gala, “Roaring Ahead,” a Roaring Twenties-themed event, on May 22. The venue is the Collings Foundation estate in Stow, Mass., featuring an extraordinary collection of antique cars and airplanes. “Roaring Ahead” features a tour of the Collings auto and plane collection, a delectable meal, an open bar, notable speakers, and silent and live auctions. A walk-on role donated by a feature film producer, dinner with a famous author, and a city-to-city ride in a World War II vintage heavy bomber are among the distinctive items to be auctioned off. Please contact Kate Kaplan, Jericho Road Project Marketing and Development Director, at kkaplan@jerichoroadproject.org, for information on how you can purchase tickets or donate items to be auctioned.

You Can Be a General Assembly Delegate

• UU General Assembly is June 23 to 27 in Minneapolis. If you are going, or if you would like to go, we would like to credential you as a First Parish delegate. Please send an e-mail to **Mark Richards**, mark.s.richards@verizon.net, or another member of the Denominational Affairs Committee so that we may know who you are. If you have never been to GA, consider it an opportunity to learn more about our denomination and to meet others from around North America and the world who share our covenant of honor, diversity and reasoned faith. Registration is open at <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly>.

Sunday, April 11 Culture and Music Pilgrimage Luncheon

Learn more about our October 2010 Transylvania Partnership Culture and Music Pilgrimage. Join **Gary Smith, Beth Norton** and the Partner Church Committee for a 12:30 p.m. luncheon in the Parlor. If you are considering this visit, you'll want to hear all the details. In addition to visits to neighboring communities and historic sites, we'll be spending much of our time in Keresztúr, where there will be many opportunities to make profound connections. Look for the "Partner Church Committee" article and two-page flyer elsewhere in this edition of the *Meeting House News*.

SUNDAY FORUMS

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 am to 10:55 am in the Parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Charles Lowell** or **Robert Hilsinger** if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker.

April 4

Volunteering after the Earthquake in Haiti

Dr. Patricia Ruze will talk about her trip to the Dominican Republic as a physician to help the Haitians with the numerous medical issues after the earthquakes in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

April 11

Greeley Scholar of Peace Studies

Gavriel Salomon is this year's Greeley Scholar of Peace Studies. He is the director for the Center for Research on Peace Education at the University of Haifa in Israel. As part of his commitment as a Greeley Scholar, he will be our guest for this Forum.

MONEY MATTERS

- This month I will outline the vision and goals process established with the staff, Standing Committee and committees, and how it fits into the overall annual fundraising and budget calendar.
- In June of 2008, the Standing Committee established a vision, with goals looking forward to 2012. **The vision statements (also called "ends statements") are that by 2012, First Parish will be characterized as/by:**
 - A Place to Deepen One's Spirituality and Faith
 - A Nourishing and Thriving Faith Community That Cultivates Attachment, Belonging and Commitment to Our Common Spiritual and Global Mission
 - An Institution Making a Notable Difference in the Larger World
 - A Committed Staff (Paid and Unpaid) Supporting a Fiscally Healthy and Safe Congregation
- During the summer of 2008, using the Standing Committee's work, ET, the Executive Team (**Gary Smith, Jenny Rankin** and I), created a strategic plan for church operations. During the church year 2008-09, the Standing Committee and the staff reviewed the ET strategies, providing input and modifications, which were then incorporated into a document.
- Last fall the ET updated their goals in time for October's Leadership Roundtable, sponsored by the Nominating Committee. Both the Standing Committee and Executive Team goals were reviewed with those in attendance, and committee representatives gave valuable input, aligning their activities with the goals. Concurrently, the staff were articulating and aligning their work activities with the goals. All of this work has resulted in a somewhat lengthy document outlining nearly all of the work and activities of the church. Each month, the ET reviews a vision statement with the Standing Committee and reports on the work being done in that area. A vision statement is also reviewed in the Program Staff's monthly meeting.
- Why do all this work on vision and goals? These really are statements of where the congregation is heading. It's important for any organization to ensure that its resources — people and money — are focused on what the organization has deemed most important. This is especially critical when resources are limited, but it helps determine resource allocation in periods of growth too. In a healthy organization, these are "living" documents, meaning that they are continually reviewed and revised. They become important reference points, demonstrating to you, the parish, that the money and time you give to First Parish are used wisely.
- And how does this work fit into budgeting and fundraising? The goals are ratified each fall, and perhaps tweaked a bit; if it's necessary to prioritize the goals, this would occur prior to establishing the next year's fundraising target and preliminary budget, which happens in January. Prioritization helps when the fundraising goal is either exceeded or missed.
- This is an extremely short summary of a very important process! If you have any questions or would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact me. ♦

—*Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

The first half of March was a time laden with the heaviness of grief for many at First Parish. Our Meeting House hosted two memorial services for young adults: Rebecca Quint (19) and Aaron Pinsky (25). Even though these two fine individuals were not members of First Parish, their spirits in life and in death touched many people in our congregation and beyond. I truly believe our grief takes us to the heart of life — love and loss. Someone once said, “Grieving is not about forgetting, but about remembering with less pain and more joy.” The painful journey of grieving is softened when we are held in a loving community. I am grateful for the loving community at First Parish.

Sharing the Joy of Easter Lilies

If you would like to bring joy to parishioners on Easter Sunday, please volunteer to deliver Easter lilies to parishioners after the 11:00 a.m. service on April 4. From March 28 to April 4, my husband Jon and I will be in northern Virginia visiting our son Greg and his wife Lauren. I thank **Jim Robinson** and **Melissa Brown**, along with **Sandie** and **Tom Kennedy**, who volunteered to hand out lilies to volunteers after the service.

You Can Send a Pastoral Care Note

Pastoral care note cards were available for parishioners to write a note to someone on the pastoral list for the first time on Sunday, March 14. Several people came to the table in the Parish Hall thanking pastoral care for starting this tradition. There will also be a second list, with the names of parishioners who are members but can not longer attend services. So please come over to the Pastoral Care table so you can let folks know you are thinking about them. Being able to hold a note and read it as often as you like can be a wonderful pick-me-up on a difficult day.

Pastoral Care Intertwined with Social Justice

It has been brought to my attention that disabled parishioners have arrived at First Parish unable to park because the designated parking spaces were occupied by cars without a permit. This meant they had to return home. Unless you have a handicap-parking permit, please do not park in the designated spots on the First Parish campus. We also ask that the spaces on the semicircle in front of the Meeting House be kept available for those who have difficulty walking. Please remember that pastoral care and social justice start at home.

Learn about Elder Abuse

Minuteman Senior Services will be presenting “Who are Elders at Risk?” at First Parish on Thursday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Come and learn about the “red flags” of elder abuse or neglect and who is at risk, how to make a report, what happens after a report is filed, and myths and obstacles to reporting abuse.

Covenant Groups

Truth is a topic that can be explored in a Covenant Group. Here are four different quotes offering different perspectives on truth. How do you relate to these statements? Do you agree or disagree?

All truths are Half-truths. It is trying to treat them as whole truths that plays the devil. — Alfred North Whitehead

The opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth. — Neils Bohr

Tell the truth but ride a fast horse. — A cowboy expression

... why abandon a belief

Merely because it ceases to be true?

Cling to it long enough, and not a doubt

It will turn true again, for so it goes.

Most of the change we think we see in life

Is due to truths being in and out of favor.

—From “The Black Cottage,” by Robert Frost

If you are interested in joining a Covenant Group, check the new addition on the First Parish Web page under the tab titled Covenant Groups. I thank **Tracey Hurd**, who worked to get the information on the website. ♦

—*Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

Promise of Peace Benefit —

Reading Unitarian Universalist Church

Clementina M. Chéry will speak about the Louise D. Brown Peace Institute, and the inspiration for the annual Mothers’ Day Peace Walk in Boston, organized in memory of 15-year-old Louis D. Brown. Louis was killed on his way to a “Teens Against Gang Violence” Christmas party. Becky Richardson will talk about Promise the Children, a Unitarian Universalist advocacy organization that is committed to advocacy for children so they may have adequate food, health care and quality education.

Reading UU church: 239 Woburn Street, Reading MA, Saturday, April 17, 4–6 p.m. Live music, and refreshments. Suggested donation \$25 — all donations welcome. Contact Becky at 781-581-0432 for more information. ♦

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Our next Culture and Music Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr is now being planned. Whether this would be your first time or if you've been before, if you'd like to deepen your understanding of this extraordinary place, **Gary and Eliz Smith**, members of the First Parish Choir, and the PCC invite you to join them in Transylvania, this October 24 to November 3.

The trip will include area tours and the opportunity to enjoy the local culture, as well as a much-anticipated "choral exchange" with our partner church. Accommodations will be provided at the new Community House (along with home stays for those who wish), where each room has between two and four single beds and a three-quarter bath (sink, commode, shower).

The cost is estimated at \$1,400, which includes airfare, medical insurance, ground transportation, accommodations and meals, plus a fee to offset any outlays incurred by our hosts. For further information, look for the announcement about our April 11 Culture and Music Pilgrimage Luncheon on page 4 this newsletter, along with a special insert about the trip; or visit our table at coffee hours; or click on the Culture and Music Pilgrimage link at www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church; or contact **Rodger Mattlage** at rmattlage@yahoo.com or 781-259-9639.

In other PCC news, First Parish hosted the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council's Executive Board meeting for three days in March. As was celebrated at a superb potluck supper, UU pilgrimages, partnerships and potential partnerships are nearly everywhere, including India (with the third largest Unitarian community in the world), the Philippines, Poland, the Czech Republic, South Africa, Hong Kong, Kenya, Uganda, and many other places. As a result, we have begun to consider the possibility of forming a partnership with a church outside Transylvania and invite those who are interested to have a look at the UUPCC's Paths to Partnership site at www.uupcc.org/pathsoverview.html.

Your First Parish Partner Church Committee always welcomes new members. Our next supper meeting will be held at the home of **Winslow and Linda Pettingell** at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, and will feature an accounting by **Marisa Welch** of her recent trip to Keresztúr. For further information, drop Winslow a line (at LondonSW11@aol.com); and for our latest PCC news and information, see www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church.

Minden jól! "Best wishes!" —**Lillian Anderson and Winslow Pettingell**, PCC cochairs

Concord Celebrates the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial — Hosted by First Parish

Margaret Fuller's 200th birthday is May 23. You might say that interest in this extraordinary 19th-century woman — Unitarian, Transcendentalist, journalist, literary critic, women's rights advocate, social activist — is growing to a fever pitch among UU's, historians and literary buffs, and especially here in Concord.

On May 21-23, First Parish will host a weekend full of events to honor Margaret Fuller. "Concord Celebrates the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial" is planned by our Transcendentalism Council in collaboration with community cosponsors, the Concord Free Public Library, Concord Museum, Emerson Forum, Emerson House, the Old Manse, the Thoreau Society and the Concord Bookshop. The First Parish photography club, chamber music musicians, Women's Parish Association and the Arts Council are also contributing their talents.

Born in Cambridgeport into a Unitarian family, Margaret Fuller came to Concord, was befriended by Ralph Waldo Emerson and joined his Transcendentalist circle. She worked for Bronson Alcott at his school, published books, hosted "Conversations" with women in Boston and became the foremost female public intellectual of her time (in a man's world!). Her life ended tragically at 40 years of age, but her intellect and spirituality ring anew!

The weekend begins Friday night, May 21, when Charles Capper, Boston University professor of history, gives the keynote address at the Concord Library. Saturday is a full day at First Parish, with **Jenny Rankin** moderating a morning panel discussion with three Fuller scholars, followed by tours of sites associated with Fuller, a period chamber music concert in the Sanctuary and an 8 p.m. Margaret Fuller play/staged reading in the Parish Hall.

On Sunday morning **Jenny Rankin** leads worship services at 9 and 11 a.m. to celebrate Margaret Fuller and her achievements, followed by festive birthday coffee hours.

We hope you will attend! For event details, see the enclosed schedule or go online to www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller. Reservations for Saturday tours (small fee required) and the play (\$10 per person) may be made by calling the church office after April 1 (978-369-9602). Tickets are also available at upcoming coffee hours.

Volunteers are needed as ambassadors of First Parish to help host events. Please contact **Alec Walker** for details (alecwalker@aol.com).

— Submitted by **Cynthia Ellis**,
on behalf of the Transcendentalism Council

Hallelujah! Alleluia!

We sing both, many times, in our Easter services. Hallelujah is the transliteration of the ancient Hebrew for "Praise God." Alleluia is the Latin spelling. Both are similar to the Arabic Alhamdulillah proclaimed by Muslims. Hallelujah! Alleluia! Alhamdulillah! All arose from our human impulse to express joy, triumph and thanksgiving.



Singing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah* each year at the close of our Easter Sunday services is an established First Parish tradition. Each year, I love to welcome the stream of singers that flows up into the choir loft during the last hymn.

Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" is arguably the definitive musical expression of joy and triumph. It's hard to imagine a more powerful song of praise.

Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* is another First Parish Easter tradition. This anthem has become a 20th-century icon of musical praise; but of such a different character from the Handel. Thompson wrote the *Alleluia* on a commission from the trustees of the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the spring of 1940. They requested a choral fanfare for the opening of the new Berkshire Music Center at Tanglewood. Just weeks before the scheduled opening on July 8, 1940, while Thompson was working on the piece, the Germans occupied France. Thompson had strong ties to Paris and his sorrow over the occupation colored his composition: "The music in my particular *Alleluia* cannot be made to sound joyous," he said, "...here it is comparable to the Book of Job, where it is written, 'The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.'" Thus Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* is a profound expression of praise, born of deep sadness.

As Unitarian Universalists, we journey to Easter Sunday on many spiritual paths. We wonder at the resurrection story of the Christian Gospels; we glory in the return of spring that stirs the earth and our spirits, we search for meaning that transcends the kitschy secular observance of Easter. We journey to Easter on diverse personal paths too. Some enter the sanctuary in exaltation; some in hope, some in despair or grief. For one person, Handel's "Hallelujah" will capture the day. For another, Thompson's *Alleluia* will seep into the soul and provide hope of healing.

Whatever our journeys, may we come together on Easter and sing praise.

Hallelujah! Alleluia! ♦

— Beth Norton

Director of Music

Dust Off Those *Messiah* Scores! Easter Is Coming!

Singers from the congregation are invited to come to the choir loft during the final hymn on Easter Sunday, April 4, and join the choir in our traditional Easter benediction response, G. F. Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." If you have a copy of the *Messiah*, please bring it with you. If not, there will be some extra music available, and choir members are always willing to share.

Even if you don't wish to make the climb to the balcony, feel free to join in this joyous chorus on Easter morning. ♦

PIPEWORK

The refurbished and enhanced organ console is coming along nicely at the Russell shop in Vermont. It now closely resembles the new console



Refurbishing work continues on the First Parish organ console.

which we will eventually have downstairs and up front. Some parts of the console turned out to be so worn that Russell rebuilt them completely from scratch out of solid walnut, as well as new pedal caps of solid maple (they were too worn

down to properly adjust at the right angles). AND during a multi-day Vermont power outage, they also decided that the old shell of the console really deserved a complete stripping and refinishing (having taken abuse for 70-something years) and hand scraped all the old finish off down to bare wood ... So it will be a bit longer before we have her back in the balcony! ♦

REFLECTIONS AND RE NEWS

Last month, I did a children's message about a workshop we were doing in our religious education classes: "Going to Church". The focus of this series of workshops was communal spiritual practices. In my children's message, I asked our kids why they come to church. Yes, one responded with the expected, "...because my parents make me," but then another said, "...because we care about this place." I think that sums up how I feel too. We come to church because we care about our congregation, about each other, and because most people leave saying, "I am so glad I came today." When your child comes to church and to our RE program, he is building connection to this place and to the people who gather here. I think that is a good thing because life is more than just good grades and goals in soccer.

When I asked that question that Sunday morning, I heard something else too. From the pews, I heard someone softly call out one word: Love. Yes, we come to this place to give and receive love. We come because this place is better when you are here.

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

OWL Parent Discussion Group April 11 — 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Our parent discussion group has been well attended, with many thoughtful questions and reflections on parenting our young teens. We will continue this discussion on April 11 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. While this is an informal parent discussion group, we are fortunate to have an RE Council member, **Gianna Drew**, as facilitator. Gianna is a registered nurse who is employed at Concord Academy. No need to sign up; just come and participate. This is a great way to understand more about your 8th grader while meeting other parents in our First Parish Community.

Registration: 2010-2011 Religious Education Program

This year we are doing registration a little bit differently. If you are already registered this year, then we are preregistering your child for our religious education program for the coming year. We are hoping this will save you time while saving us time by having registrations done by June.

April 2010 RE Calendar

Sun., April 4	Regular RE for Babies—4 years <u>Easter Sunday</u> , No RE Program
Sun., April 11	Regular RE for Babies—4 years Regular RE for K-6th Grades 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11:00 a.m. 8th Grade OWL 2:00–5:30 p.m. RE Registration for 2010–2011 at both Coffee Hours
Sun., April 18	Regular RE for Babies—4 years No RE
Sun., April 25	Regular RE for Babies—4 years No RE

We will also offer two Registration Sundays: March 28 and April 11 after both the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock services. Please come and ask questions about your child's program for next year. You will also have the opportunity to explore the many different possibilities for your teaching opportunity for next year. Please register early. Our RE program is like running a small school. We really need your registration in order to plan our curriculum for next year. Thank you.

Second through Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation We Are Unitarian Universalists: Direct Experience with the Transcendent

We are using our workshop model for this rotation. Our grade levels will rotate through a series of workshops that focus on our Unitarian-Universalist source: Wisdom from Our World's Religions. Specifically, we will be looking at how our religion can inspire beauty, both visually and acoustically.

March 28: Week 1 of the Spring Term – Chapel Service with Pam giving an introduction to each workshop.

April 11, May 2 and 9: Weeks 2, 3 & 4 of the Spring Term — Inspiration in Art (Mosaics, Japanese Brush Painting and Mandalas).

Special Project for Our Sixth Graders during the Spring Term

So many people love the labyrinth and our children always ask about it, but our outdoor labyrinth will not be ready for quite a while. This spring, our 6th graders will be making indoor labyrinths in RE with the help of **Irl Smith** and **Martha Kilcoyne**. These labyrinths will be hand-drawn on large tarps. They can be folded and used within the walls of First Parish, or even outside on warm, dry days. This is a gift from RE to our parish. It is just one of the ways our children can demonstrate their love for our faith community.

RE News continued on page 9

Our First Parish Community Garden Is Returning

Last year, we started gardening on two plots at the Hugh Cargill Community Garden in Concord. Our children grew hundreds of pounds of food for Open Table in Concord. We will be beginning our garden again the week of April 25. If you would like to be part of this project, please let us know. We will be gardening two times a week again: Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. This is a great way for our children to learn how to grow food and help others. Adults are welcome too! This is an intergenerational opportunity to get your body moving and your hands dirty. —Pam Howell and Susan Ryan ♦



Be a part of the First Parish Garden!

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday evening, April 12, at 6:30 p.m. Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. ♦

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

On April 11, the Youth Group will plan and conduct the worship service at both the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock services. The youth know what an honor and also what a responsibility it is to be given a Sunday to lead worship for the whole congregation. In March we used one of our Sunday night Youth Group meetings to agree on a theme and then plan out reflections, a children's message, prayers and music. Everyone goes off and writes, practices their songs and chooses hymns for a few weeks and then it all comes together the weekend of April 9–11. On the Friday before the service, we eat our traditional Chang An dinner and rehearse in the Sanctuary. After all that, the most difficult part of the whole process is getting teenagers to wake up and be at church on a Sunday at 8 a.m. I would like to thank **Jake Nunes** for helping me organize the whole service for the sixth year in a row. Thank you to all the youth and their parents that make this annual event happen, and thank you to the entire congregation for affirming, recognizing and supporting our youth.

This April is a funny month, with holidays and school vacations. It will be nice to come together on April 25 and check in on each other.

- Apr. 4: No YRUU – Happy Easter!
- Apr. 9: Rehearsal for Youth Service – meet at church at 6:30 p.m.
- Apr. 11: Youth Service – be at church at 8:00 a.m.
- Apr. 18: No YRUU – school vacation
- Apr. 25: Movie Night – *Hurt Locker*

April can be the calm before the storm for youth. May and June are crazy with concerts, proms, graduation parties, spring sports, etc. It is my hope that First Parish continues to be an oasis of peace and a welcoming place for our youth in these busy times. ♦

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Youth Program Director

Our Coming of Age ninth graders recently spent an overnight at the Ecclesia Ministries City Reach program in Boston. Ecclesia Ministries is the same organization that organizes Common Cathedral, a program First Parish has supported with SAC Grant funds and numerous volunteers since its inception over 10 years ago. **Allison Aley**, First Parish member and mentor, wrote a wonderful summary of the overnight, which I have excerpted here (the full version can be found at www.firstparish.org/cms/social-action/current-events). In total, 16 youth and 5 First Parish mentors attended.



“Throughout the whole time I was so impressed by our kids. They stepped up and did what needed to be done and they put themselves out there in a warm and welcoming way. They helped people select clothing and served food and treated the people they met with dignity and respect. They shook hands, made eye contact, and smiled, even when they were way out of their comfort zone. It was a powerful experience and they now each know and could recognize and tell you some things about several homeless people. Ask them and they may tell you about Leigh, or Shaggy, or Michael, or Rob, or Brian, or Eddie, or Eric, or Bob, or Manny, or Kirk. Ask them what it was like to see 150 homeless people streaming through the door in search of food, clothing and fellowship. Ask them about the Asian women who took far more than their share of the food and how they handled it. Ask them how they felt when they couldn’t find the right size pants for someone. Ask them what it was like sleeping in a pew or thinking about what it would be like to not be welcome anywhere, anytime. These kids are incredibly insightful and have a lot to say.”

There was a prayer-writing exercise at the end that resulted in the following prayer presented by First Parish youth: “We came together in faith to help others in need, reaching out to understand the struggles of the homeless, to better respect their pain and strength. With gratitude we feel a deeper sense of connection and unity. We feel inspired to do more and enlightened by the stories we have shared. May God give us the strength to breach the walls of our own churches to create a sense of our common humanity and connection to each other in God.”

This is why we believe in the importance of social action here at First Parish.

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

“Still Life” — Play and Discussion

SAC presents “Still Life,” by award-winning playwright Emily Mann. This compelling drama challenges the audience as three characters reveal their emotional and psychological pain from the Vietnam War era. The play resonates long after the performances end, opening the audience’s eyes to issues current in our society that often go unnamed and unrecognized, including the timeless horrors and dehumanization of war. After each performance, there will be an open discussion about the play. We hope to touch on how people cope in situations like this and the avenues of hope that exist today through social action programs at First Parish and beyond. Friday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 10, at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at First Parish. Ten dollar donation at the door. Mature content — not suitable for children or young teens.

Haiti Relief: What Are Our Next Steps?

We are having a difficult time meeting as a group, but plans are in the works to help Haiti, including support for temporary shelters (see www.shelterboxusa.org) and a possible Haiti service trip for adults. Please contact **Faith Bade** at Fbade@firstparish.org if you are interested in joining together to make this happen.

Environmental Leadership Team Planning

We have formed an Environmental Leadership Team here at First Parish, with **John Drew, Kathryn Shane, Bob Andrews, Nancy Harrison, Chris Randall, and Peter Lowitt**. On Sunday, May 2, we will be advocating a ride-share program to First Parish worship and delicious, locally grown, organic food items at coffee hour, to reduce our carbon footprint. Contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org if you would like to join in the planning for this special day.

Comment on Social Action Grants Program

The spring deadline for SAC Grants was March 15, and the applications should be up and available for public comment on the First Parish website, www.firstparish.org. Take a look!

Crop Walk Seeks Volunteer

Every October many First Parishioners and **Jenny Rankin** leave the steps of First Parish to walk for the hungry. The Crop Walk provides funding for national and international food programs, plus local pantries such as our own Open Table. For many years a First Parish member has been the crossing guard leader and we are now looking for a new volunteer! This leader directs efforts of several church recruiters to get 2 to 4 crossing guards (total of 12) and

SAC continued on page 12

Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

The First Parish Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org; see our website, www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/; visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at FBade@firstparish.org.



I recently came across the following list of how we each can practice intentional outreach. Read about how easy it is to let people in our community know about First Parish and Unitarian Universalism, and to grow our faith! I took it as a challenge, and I hope you do too. ♦

28 Ways That You Can Practice an Outward Orientation

—Art Brewer, First Unitarian Congregation, Toronto, Canada

1. Bring someone to a Sunday service.
2. Talk with someone you don't know during coffee hour.
3. Wear your name tag at every Sunday service.
4. Tell return visitors that you're glad they came back.
5. Intentionally sit beside a visitor at a Sunday service.
6. Put a UU decal on your car or home window.
7. Wear UU jewelry and clothing.
8. Use a UU coffee mug at work.
9. Practice your response to the question, "What is Unitarian Universalism?"
10. Write an article for a local newspaper about a church project in which you're involved.
11. Host a party to which you invite both members and nonmembers.
12. Participate in a community event that reflects UU principles.
13. Link your favorite social justice cause to the congregation.
14. Invite a nonmember to a service, small group, or adult program within your congregation.
15. Tell a nonmember about an adult program.
16. Talk to nonmembers about your church.
17. Buy a copy of a UU sermon you liked, and give it to a nonmember.
18. Display our "7 Principles" at home or work.
19. Carry a "7 Principles" card, and give it to people when they ask about Unitarian Universalism.
20. Promote your congregation's rental space to individuals and groups you know.
21. Visit other UU congregations.
22. Give a copy of the magazine *UU World* or another UU publication to a nonmember.
23. Attend a UU church when you're on vacation.
24. Attend a cluster or district meeting.
25. Attend the UUA General Assembly in June.
26. If you subscribe to an e-mail list or an e-group, send a posting that identifies an upcoming sermon or event at church that would be of interest to other subscribers.
27. Let nonmembers know about the wonderful religious education programs you have for children and adults.
28. Tell someone about a provocative thought you heard at church.

—Jane Foley
Membership Director

From the Development Director

Although the first few weeks in my new job as Development Director have been a whirlwind of activity, I have been repeatedly reminded of what a great place First Parish is to worship and to work. The sense of welcome our family has felt as members is underlined in the support that I have received as a staff person and the harmony I sense each day when I come to work.

With the Annual Appeal now in full swing, I also have had the opportunity to learn what you value about First Parish. I would like to share a few excerpts here, and encourage you to take a look at our display in the Parish Hall to see what your neighbors are saying about our community. We value well-planned services with sermons that inspire us and challenge us; a place with "positive vibes" and a "comfortable ambience" where we can gather with a warm and open community; the superb musical programs and the opportunity to sing; a strong, inspiring program for children and youth. We value a spiritual home that is rooted in history and committed to action; that is welcoming to all faiths and political persuasions; that is a very active force for good in the world. We value the Sunday flowers, the news about old friends, and the opportunity to share something of meaning.

Kathleen Elcox shared some timely words from the Reverend John Wolfe of Tulsa, Oklahoma, about why he believes it is important to support Unitarian Universalism: "You want to support it because it points to what is noblest and best in human life ... because it is open to men and women of whatever race, creed, color, or place of origin ... because it has a free pulpit ... because it is a place where children can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love ... because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built up ... because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogma ... because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice."

Thank you to all of those who have already pledged your support to the future of First Parish; and to those of you who are ready and waiting for the little blue bag to arrive at your house. Thank you to our neighborhood captains for facilitating this new process. Thanks to my cochair **Tom Wilson** and fellow staff member **Jane Barnes**, who continue to smile even as they are working above and beyond to make this year's Annual Appeal a successful experience. As I get past the initial demands of my new job, I am looking forward to getting to know all of you better, to learning more about your dreams for First Parish, and to working with you to make these dreams a reality. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your ideas and suggestions (plhathaway@firstparish.org). ♦

—Pamela Hathaway
Development Director

assigns intersection locations via e-mail ahead of time and in person on the day of the walk. The time commitment is mainly September and October, and most of the work can be done from home except on the day of the walk. Please consider this volunteer opportunity and contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org.

Diversity at First Parish: Doing More

First Parish is an accredited “Welcoming Community,” yet we can do so much more. If you are interested in raising awareness of diversity issues here at First Parish, please contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org. Plus save the date for the Boston Gay Pride Parade on June 12, celebrating its 40th anniversary and the progress that has been made. For more information, go to www.bostonpride.org. To join with other First Parish members, contact **Sara Ballard**, Diversity Committee chair, at sara@sb.org.

First Parish Hosts Renewal House on May 9

Please come and meet the staff and residents of the Urban Ministry’s Renewal House. Come share conversation and friendship over a barbeque at the Nimars’, 37 Emerson Road, Concord. The Renewal House family visit will begin at 4 p.m. All ages are welcome; bring yourself, bring your family. Please contact **Claudia Nimar** if you wish to attend or if you can help at Cnimar@aol.com or 978-771-8216. Renewal House is a Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry Program, and Host-a-Family events are designed for Renewal House residents to visit and relax in safe and friendly environments. They are sponsored by UU suburban churches.

Do You Paint?

The Urban Ministry’s Renewal House in Boston is planning to paint the shelter in June. They need painters. If you are interested, please e-mail **Claudia Nimar** at cnimar@aol.com or call 978-771-8216.

UUA Advocacy Day — Wednesday, April 28

On Wednesday, April 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., join with other Unitarian Universalists to make a difference. We will meet in Boston at the national headquarters of the UUA (25 Beacon Street) next door to the State House, and then — after being trained and having lunch together — walk to the State House and visit our state senators and representatives. The issues this year — chosen by a survey of UU’s — are homeless prevention programs, climate change, and the health disparities between rich and poor. UU Advocacy Day is sponsored by UUMassAction with the UU Urban Ministry. RSVP and reserve your \$10 lunch to Nancy Banks at nancy.banks1@verizon.net or 617-835-5426. More information is at www.uumassaction.org.

Your Social Action Dollars at Work

On February 28, **Rev. Margie King Saphier** welcomed an audience of 200 to the 6th Annual Forum on Ending Family Homelessness. The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, a SAC grant recipient, together with Cooperative

Metropolitan Ministries, sponsored the forum. Rev. Liz Walker spoke about her faith journey that began as a young girl when she heard Rev. Martin Luther King speak. Directors of the state’s new regional network system, and area legislators, spoke of the effectiveness of the new approach and the importance of citizen involvement. To learn more about the Advocacy Network’s budget priorities, call **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520.

Lowell Homeless Need Household Items

Community Teamwork Inc. is looking for sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, coffee makers, microwaves, dishes, silverware and televisions. They are also always looking for furniture (**Bill Seaver** can arrange a pickup of heavy items). The need for household items is ongoing, as CTI needs to refurbish their apartments every time a family moves on to its own home. At this time, CTI has too many clothes and cannot accept any more for a while. Items can be dropped off on **Bill Seaver**’s porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. For more information, contact **Bill Seaver** billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318. ♦

WOMEN’S NEWS

Women’s AM/PM Book Group

The April book for the Women’s AM/PM Book Group is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson (translator). The discussions will be held at First Parish, with the evening session on Monday, March 29, 7:30–9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, March 30, 9:30–11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women’s Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471. ♦

May Book and June Potluck:

May 24, 25	<i>My Life in France</i> , by Julia Child, with Alex Prud’Homme
June TBD	Potluck; suggestions for next year

APRIL 2010 CALENDAR

Every Week...

April 2010 is an incredibly busy and event-filled month at First Parish! Please see page 14 for the Every Week calendar listings for April.

Thu Apr 1	9:30	SAC Play Rehearsal	•	Wed Apr 14	7:30	Concord Clergy Laity Group
	6:30	Maundy Thursday Service	•		9:30	WPA Board Meeting
Fri Apr 2	7:00	Theater Group	•		12:15	<i>Sandwiches and Short Story</i>
Mon Apr 5	6:00	SAC Play Rehearsal	•	Thu Apr 15	7:00	Listening Session
	7:00	RE Council	•		7:30	Threshold Choir
	7:30	<i>Humanism</i>	•	Sat Apr 17	8:00	SAC Grants Committee
Tue Apr 6	6:00	SAC Play Rehearsal	•	Sun Apr 18	3:00	Listening Session
Wed Apr 7	6:00	SAC Play Dress Rehearsal	•		7:00	Margaret Fuller Rehearsal
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	•		7:00	Listening Session
Thu Apr 8	6:30	Partner Church Committee	•	Mon Apr 19	Holiday—Office Closed	
	7:30	Threshold Choir	•	Thu Apr 22	10:00	Listening Session
	8:00	SAC Play Technical Rehearsal	•		7:00	Listening Session
Fri Apr 9	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	•		7:30	Transcendentalist Council
	5:30	YRUU Lock-In	•	Fri Apr 23	9:00	Flea Market Drop Off
	7:30	SAC Play	•	Sat Apr 24	9:00	Flea Market/Recycle Sale
Sat Apr 10	8:00	Nick Ressler Blood Drive	•		10:00	Listening Session
	9:00	Photo Club	•	Sun Apr 25	12:15	Nominating Committee
	10:00	Listening Session	•		3:00	Listening Session
	3:00	SAC Play	•		4:00	<i>Cakes I</i>
	7:30	SAC Play	•		7:00	Margaret Fuller Play Rehearsal
Sun Apr 11	3:00	Listening Session	•	Mon Apr 26	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	4:00	New U	•		7:00	<i>Cakes II</i>
	4:30	OWL Parents	•		7:00	Listening Session
	7:00	Listening Session	•		7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Mon Apr 12	6:00	United Teen Equality Center in Lowell Gathering	•	Tue Apr 27	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	6:30	Standing Committee	•		2:30	<i>Rest of Your Life and Beyond</i>
	7:00	Jericho Road Board	•	Wed Apr 28	10:00	Listening Session
	7:00	Listening Session	•		1:00	Listening Session
Tue Apr 13	10:00	Listening Session	•		6:30	Membership Committee
	3:00	<i>Tea & Poetry</i>	•	Thu Apr 29	7:00	Elders at Risk
			•		7:00	Listening Session
			•	Fri Apr 30	6:00	Newcomers Dinner

APRIL 2010 WEEKLY CALENDAR

Listings in italics represent classes offered through the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.

Every Week...

Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 4/4 or 4/18)
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m.
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Child and Teen Yoga</i>	Wednesday	4:15 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (not 4/7)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
<i>Meditation</i>	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women in Midlife</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m. (not 4/7 or 4/14)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Art for Life I</i>	Thursday	6:00 p.m. (not 4/22)
<i>Yoga</i>	Thursday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 4/1)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 4/2)

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

**The May Newsletter deadline is Monday, April 26, at noon.
The Newsletter is published the last week of the month.**

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00
 Phone: 978-369-9602
 Fax: 978-369-8701
 E-Mail: FPConcord@firstparish.org
 Website: firstparish.org

- **Ministers' E-Mail:**
- Gary E. Smith: garyesmith@comcast.net
- Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net
- Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net
-
-

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister
 Jenny M. Rankin, Minister
 Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Cassy Bosworth, Assistant to the Ministers
 Jane Barnes, Assistant to the Business Manager
 Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director
 Jane Foley, Membership Director
 Pamela Hathaway, Development Director

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
 Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education
 Lorrie Clark, Religious Education Administrator

- Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children
- Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director
- Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
- Eric Huenneke, Parish Organist
- Anderson Manuel, Youth Gospel Choir Director
- Gail Carey, Children's Choir Director
- David Huston, Music Director Emeritus
- Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director
- Leslie Koplou, Operations Manager, Jericho Road
- Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
- Jane Johnson, Office Manager
- Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector
- Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
- Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff
-

CONCORD *Celebrates*
200
Margaret Fuller Bicentennial

May 21, 22, & 23, 2010

A weekend of events celebrating Margaret Fuller, sponsored by The Transcendentalism Council at First Parish in Concord, with community cosponsors: the Concord Free Public Library, Concord Museum, Emerson Forum, Emerson House, The Old Manse, The Thoreau Society, and the Concord Bookshop. Free, except as noted. Contact: 978-369-9602. www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller

Friday night, May 21, 7 p.m. — Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main St., Concord, MA

Prof. Charles Capper, author of the two-volume *Margaret Fuller: An American Romantic Life* and professor of history at Boston University, will deliver the keynote address, “Margaret Fuller in Time.” A reception and book signing will follow. **Cosponsored by the Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections.**

Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

The Rev. Jenny Rankin will moderate a panel discussion with three Margaret Fuller scholars: Brigitte Bailey of the University of New Hampshire, Past President of the Margaret Fuller Society; Michael Barnett, theologian, of Montgomery County (PA) Community College; and Joan von Mehren, President of the Margaret Fuller Society and author of *Minerva and the Muse: The Life of Margaret Fuller*.

Saturday, May 22, 1:30 p.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

The Rev. Jenny Rankin and other guides will lead **Fuller-themed tours** of Emerson House and The Old Manse (sites Margaret visited in Concord,) and view artifacts at the Concord Museum. Reservations, please, after April 1 at 978-369-9602. **Small tour fee.**

Saturday May 22, 4 p.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA

Chamber Music of the Transcendental Period will be performed by Lillian Braden on violin, Joan Esch on cello, and Susan Minor on piano, playing *Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17* (1847) by Clara Schumann. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

Saturday, May 22, 8 p.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA

Margaret Fuller’s Universe, a play by Agnes Butcher and Sayre Sheldon, performed as a costumed staged reading by members of the Arts Council of First Parish in Concord
Tickets (\$10) available at 978-369-9602 after April 1, at the door and coffee hours.

Two exhibits will be on display at First Parish in Concord/ Parish Hall throughout the weekend: “Photographs of Transcendentalist Sites” by the First Parish Photography Club and “Why Margaret Fuller Matters,” text-and-image panels about Fuller’s life and work, presented by Women’s Parish Association of First Parish in Concord.

Sunday, May 23, worship services at First Parish, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., led by the Rev. Jenny Rankin, on Fuller’s life and achievements. The First Parish Choir, under direction of Elizabeth Norton, will perform the winner of the Margaret Fuller Hymn Competition. Commemorative banner on display, designed by Donna Peterson. Birthday cake served at coffee hour!

Please, Let Your Voice Be Heard!

The First Parish Transitional Study Team has drawn up its schedule of **Listening Sessions** with slots available between April 10 and May 2. We urge *every* member of First Parish to take the opportunity to attend one. A description of what a listening session entails can be found on the next page of this insert.

Here is where you can sign up to be part of this seminal experience:

- Our Sunday Coffee Hour table
- Sign-up sheets in the First Parish office (M-F 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.)
- Call the First Parish office with your preferred time, 978-369-9602
- Email the First Parish office with your preferred time: fpcontact@firstparish.org

Here is the **Schedule of Listening Sessions**. We have done our best to accommodate the wide-ranging availabilities of our congregation's many members. Any revisions or additions to this schedule will be found at the Sunday Coffee Hour table and on the First Parish website:

Week One:

Sat. 10 April 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Emerson Room
Sun. 11 April 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. - Wright Tavern
Sun. 11 April 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Emerson Room
Mon. 12 April 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - The Chapel
Thu. 15 April 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Emerson Room

Week Two:

Sun. 18 April 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. - Emerson Room
Thu. 22 April 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Emerson Room
Sat. 24 April 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Emerson Room

Week Three:

Sun. 25 April 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. - Parish Hall Parlor
Mon. 26 April 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Emerson Room
Wed. 28 April 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Emerson Room
Wed. 28 April 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Emerson Room
Thu. 29 April 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Emerson Room
Sat. 1 May 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. - TBA
Sun. 2 May 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Special Session for YRUU & Gospel Choir

A Congregation-wide Survey is also being finalized for distribution to all First Parish members in mid-April.

See next page for **Listening Session** Information...

What's a Listening Session?

As part of the pastoral search process we have fashioned a schedule of Listening Sessions to learn about your hopes and dreams for First Parish. Here's an opportunity to meet in small groups to talk about some of your most significant experiences at First Parish, to describe the distinctiveness of our congregation and to reflect upon your wishes for our future.

Ultimately, it will be these stories that will shape our vision for First Parish, and our choice of leadership.

If you participate in a Listening Session here is what you can expect:

- A trained facilitator (from our own congregation) will guide you and 12-18 others through a two hour guided conversation.
- The exercise begins with a breakout session where you and one other person in your small group interview each other about your experiences at First Parish.
- When you have completed the interview, you and your interview partner will join together with two other sets of partners (for a total of six people) to share some of the stories that emerged from your interviews.
- Your group of six will then work to name common themes that appeared in the stories.
- Towards the end of the meeting the facilitator will gather the whole group back together, invite you to talk about the experience, and collect your work.

Those who have undertaken such sessions for other congregations have expressed a great deal of satisfaction with the process and we look forward to the same.

Formed to begin the process of determining our ministerial leadership, once Senior Minister Gary Smith retires, it is a mandate of the Transitional Study Team to keep everyone informed throughout the process and we invite you to watch for updates in *The Meetinghouse News*, *The Sunday News*, *FP Announce* and at our table during coffee hours. Questions can also be addressed to Jeff Greene at jeffpgreene@verizon.net

The First Parish Transitional Study Team:

Jeff Greene (Chair)
Jamie Atkins
Alyssa Bigay
Val Holt
Rhoda Miller
Winslow Pettingell
Sue St. Croix
Eloise Smith
Fred Van Deusen



for Spiritual Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • April 2010

Welcome to the Wright Tavern Center. Online registration is available for all courses. Check our website at wrighttavern.org for schedule, course descriptions, presenter bios, registration information and policies. Questions? Contact Cassy Bosworth at cbosworth@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602. Please check the board in the lower church entryway for course locations..

I. Growing Your Spirit

Meditation

Meditation has been practiced for thousands of years to help people gain deep peace, freedom and enduring joy. It is a practice for connecting with your inner intelligence. It's not about forcing the mind to be quiet, but is rather a shifting of one's attention from the incessant chatter of the mind to truly listening to the silence that's always present, and allowing the beauty and palpable divinity of the present moment to finally be seen and heard. Meditation is a journey to the very center of your being—to your true nature, your authentic self.

Instructor: **Nina Carmel**, MSW, RYT. Nina is a psychotherapist, consultant and meditation teacher. Nina has studied in the U.S. and abroad with meditation masters in the Theravada Buddhist, Zen Buddhist, Hindu and Advaita Vedanta traditions.

Wednesdays: April 7–June 9 6:30-8:00 p.m.
\$150/10 sessions or \$18/drop-in

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program (MBSR)

Cultivating mindfulness, or awareness of the present moment, creates the framework for this popular course modeled after the internationally recognized program established by Jon Kabat-Zinn at UMass Medical School. Research continues to suggest positive benefits from the practice of mindfulness-based stress reduction to the immune system, chronic illness, hypertension, chronic pain, as well as to the daily stresses of our busy lives. This interactive course consists of eight weekly two-hour group classes where participants will be introduced to and practice guided mindfulness meditation, relaxation techniques, gentle yoga stretches, and self-inquiry exercises. Participants commonly report a reduction of stress-related symptoms, increased awareness and concentration, and improvement of positive coping skills at home and in the workplace. Tuition: \$290, plus an additional \$75 materials fee (including text, CD's, and manual). Visit www.stressresources.com for more information.

Enrollment is limited to 15. Instructor: **Pamela Katz Ressler**

Thursdays: 7:00–9:00 p.m. April 8–June 3
Fridays: 9:30–11:30 a.m. April 9–June 4

Concord Area Humanists

- Monday, April 5, 7:15 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. program in the Emerson room. DVD “View from the Center of the Universe,” illustrating our early humanist genesis story by Primak and Adams supplements their book with the same title. Followed by discussion.

Everyday Mindfulness Workshop

- Amid the chaos of work and family schedules it can be difficult to find moments of peace, clarity, joy and presence. Join us in exploring ways to tune into these moments and discover how this practice can change your everyday life. With the help and support of each other, our shared experiences, readings, meditative exercises, guided discussion, and humor, we will explore ways to slow down, live more mindfully and more deeply each day. This class is an introduction to practices in Abby Sexias's highly acclaimed book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman's Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*, a recommended read prior to the workshop.

- Instructors: **Alyssa Bigay** and **Susan Ryan**. Alyssa and Susan have been part of an ongoing Deep River group led by author Abby Sexias for almost two years and both have completed her facilitator training.

Saturday, May 8 12:00–3:00 p.m. \$40/ person

Mountains and Rivers Without End: Gary Snyder and the Nature of Nature

- With the world trying to envision a “green” future, it's a great time to listen to this poet, scholar and teacher who has been addressing the “greening” of the human mind and the planet for several decades. Snyder's view of the natural world — nourished by sources as (seemingly) divergent as transcendentalism, Chinese landscape painting and poetry, and Native American myth — will present a point of departure for us to investigate our own ideas about the human place in the web of existence. We will read short pieces of Snyder's prose outside of class, and read together in class his climactic work — the poetry collection *Mountains And Rivers Without End*, a book conceived as a journey through Snyder's work and the Big Watershed of which we're all a part. Instructor: **Will Kemeza**

Wednesdays: May 5–26 7:00-9:00 p.m. Fee: \$40

Yoga for Women in Midlife

This Yoga for Women in Midlife series is designed to help develop stability, strength, flexibility. It integrates breath, movement and postures for hormone balance, a healthy heart, strong bones, core strength and stress reduction. Participants need to bring their own mat. A cushion and blanket are recommended. Class capacity: 15 students. Instructor: **Lee Courtemanche** Please contact Lee at Lee.Courtemanche@verizon.net for further information.

Wednesdays: April 14–June 30 5:00–6:15 p.m. and 6:45–8:00 p.m.
\$144/9 classes

II. Creativity as a Spiritual Path

Sandwiches and Short Story

This informal group meets with Gary Smith once a month to explore a story's meaning. Bring a sandwich and beverage and join the group on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. The story for April is "Nawabdin Electrician," by Daniyal Mueenuddin, found in *Best American Short Stories 2008*, Salmon Rushdie, editor, a collection to be used throughout the year. Leader: **Rev. Gary Smith**

Wednesday, April 14 12:15 p.m.

Making Art from Life I

Plumb your life experiences and tell your stories through fabric collages! No previous art or sewing experience necessary. This is a four-week course exploring the intersection of craft and art, where the personal story comes alive. Sessions will include instruction in techniques of painting and printing on fabric, and instruction in methods of brainstorming and creating symbolic imagery, as well as opportunities to share and discuss ideas. Participants will create a piece of artwork each week. Instructor: **Merill Comeau**

Thursdays: April 1, 8, 15 & 29 7:00–9:00 p.m.
FP members \$125/nonmembers \$150

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The April book is *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson (translator). Come to either the Monday (April 26) evening meeting, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; or Tuesday (April 27) morning meeting, 9:30-11:00 a.m.. Drop-ins welcome. Contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com for details or questions.

The Rest of Your Life and Beyond

Following are descriptions of two Pastoral Care workshops led by **Rev. Margie King Saphier**.

"Five Wishes"

Fives Wishes is a document that walks us through the decisions we need to make *now* so in the event we are not able to articulate our wishes at end of life, our designated person (Power of Attorney) can do so and honor our wishes. We will then go through the document answering your questions as you fill it out. For many of us it is difficult to approach our parents about end-of-life plans (theirs and ours); for others, it is difficult to engage our children in these discussions. This part of the session is an opportunity to share what questions and concerns you have, what participants have tried, what worked and what did not. There must be ten people signed up by April 19 for the class to be held.

Tuesday, April 27 2:30–4:00 p.m. Fee: \$15

"The Undertaking," by PBS, as seen on *Frontline*

In this moving and powerful film, *Frontline* enters the world of Thomas Lynch, a poet and undertaker whose family has cared for the dead in a small Michigan town for three generations. Through the intimate stories of families coming to terms with grief, mortality and funeral rituals, the film illuminates the heartbreak and beauty experienced between the living and the dead. The film will be followed by discussion with funeral director Charlie Dee of Dee Funeral Home. There must be ten people signed up by April 26 for the class to be held.

Tuesday, May 4 2:00–4:00 p.m. Fee: \$15

III. Sources of Unitarian Universalism

Margaret Fuller Bicentennial, May 21–23, 2010

The Transcendentalism Council at First Parish has a great line-up of events for Margaret Fuller's Bicentennial in Concord. Check out their website at www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller. Love the Transcendentalists? Volunteers are needed — contact Dianne Weiss at dweiss1@verizon.net.

Transylvanian Culture and Music Pilgrimage October 24 - November 2, 2010

Trip overview: What you can expect to do and see during this pilgrimage.



We'll fly from Boston on Sunday afternoon, Oct 24th and arrive in Cluj/Kolozsvár, Transylvania, Romania on Monday the 25th around noon and return Tuesday, November 2nd.

After settling into our Kolozsvár hotel near the Unitarian church and headquarters, we'll have lunch, tour some city sites and then have a light supper.

Tuesday morning we'll be met by a delegation from Székelykeresztúr (Keresztúr), who'll join us for a little more sight seeing before leaving for Keresztúr.

For a Google Map of Kolozsvár with some of the sights, see: <http://tinyurl.com/y8znek9>.

Along the way, by charter bus, we'll stop for a brief visit at the site of 1568's Edict of Torda and then continue on to Keresztúr. We'll spend the next seven days in Keresztúr as detailed below. On Tuesday, November 2nd we'll head back to the airport in Kolozsvár for our return flight to Boston, arriving in the late afternoon.

Costs:

Our budget is \$1,400 per person for air and land travel, emergency evacuation insurance, lodging and most meals. A deposit of \$250 is due by April 15th. Pilgrims who are not already members of the UU Partner Church Council (UUPCC) must also purchase a UUPCC membership for \$30 as we'll be taking advantage of their travel and information services.

Keresztúr Days:

What follows are examples of some of the things you will experience during our seven-night stay in Keresztúr. Although it is neither authoritative nor inclusive of all the things you will experience, it should give you a flavor of what you will see and do. Many of the activities are dependent upon the weather and will be adjusted accordingly.

Lodging:

Our base will be the guestrooms in the newly renovated Keresztúr Unitarian Community House, located on the Unitarian "campus". We'll arrive and leave from there. The building is secure so you can leave your belongings there for the duration of our stay. This is where we'll all sleep during the first few nights of our stay and on the last night. For pictures and descriptions of the Community House, see: <http://tinyurl.com/yd9jf9r>. Each of us will also be able to spend one or more nights with a host family in town. These host stays will be individually arranged based on the desires and capabilities of both pilgrims and host families.

On most days, we'll awake in the Community House (see also: "Home-stay days" below), go next door to the school cafeteria for breakfast, and dine long after the students have gone to school. After breakfast our program will vary depending on whether we'll be sightseeing or performing music and service work as described in the next two sections.

Transylvanian Culture and Music Pilgrimage October 24 - November 2, 2010

Sightseeing Days:

On sightseeing days, we'll hop on a bus with some of our Keresztúr friends, and some picnic lunches, and head off into the surrounding hills and valleys, to visit local sights and learn about the people, places and history of this fascinating region. Our two or three sightseeing tour days will include visits to interesting and beautiful places, including (but not limited to) one of the ancient (12th C.) "Saxon" towns, Sighisoara/Segesvár/Schäßburg: several Unitarian villages in the surrounding valleys including Inl_ceni/Énlaka with its ancient Hungarian runes and Jupiter stone from the site of an old Roman fort and temple; the now submerged village where József, our partner minister was born; the picturesque Homoród valley with Unitarian villages dotting the landscape, including the partner church of Bedford, Mass. After a day of sightseeing we'll return in time for a hearty hot supper in the school cafeteria.

For a Google Map of our route from Kolozsvár to Keresztúr and some possible routes for our sightseeing trips see: <http://tinyurl.com/yd8j6xe>

Music and Service Workdays:

If it's a music and workday, we'll have some personal time for exploring the town and the neighboring countryside. Singers will spend time rehearsing with the choir from Keresztúr and there will be opportunities for everyone to enjoy music together. When not making music, pilgrims will be working on projects that might include such tasks as weaving rugs (like our youths did last summer), helping to build a skating rink (moving dirt around in a flat area, which will be flooded, as well as building simple benches and shelters for the skaters); and other chores that might come up (e.g., cleaning up gardens, small cleaning / fix-it chores). We will also help our hosts to prepare for, and celebrate, All Souls Day on Monday, November 1st. This may involve cleaning up gravesites, cooking, cleaning, etc.

Breakfasts, lunches and suppers will be in the school cafeteria (except when staying with hosts).

Home-stay days:

If it's a home-stay day, you'll wake up, eat breakfast and spend time with your hosts. They may take you to visit friends or relatives in a neighboring village or town, or take you out to their vineyard or woodlot or fields, or any combination of these. Evenings with hosts may include having supper in their home or at a local restaurant perhaps with some of their family and/or friends.

Evenings:

For choir members some evenings will be spent in singing practice or get-togethers where we share our respective folk music. They are wonderful singers and like us, have a rich heritage of folk music. On other evenings you will be with your host family, enjoying supper with them and other activities that they have arranged.

Miscellaneous: This pilgrimage will include many physical activities. Pilgrims should be in reasonably good shape for walking and taking short hikes in villages and the countryside, and for climbing up and down stairs at the community house, hosts' apartment buildings, etc..

Contact information: Rodger Mattlage at: rmattlage@yahoo.com

First Parish in Concord
presents

LAUREN BEDAU EVANS

in Concert

with Robert Humphreville at the piano

Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

Sanctuary, First Parish in Concord
30 Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts



Selections from classic
17th and 18th century Italian songs,
Robert Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*,
Joseph Cantaloube's *Chants d'Auvergne*,
and George and Ira Gershwin standards.

Lauren Evans has served for years as alto section lead and soloist at First Parish in Concord. Previously she was alto soloist at the Congregational Church of West Medford. She performs frequent concerts and recitals in the Boston area. Robert Humphreville is well known as an organist and pianist in the Boston area and across the U.S.

Admission is free, but a donation is requested to support First Parish's music program. A reception follows the recital.