



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

Our summer took us first to Transylvania for a spectacular and very moving wedding of the young woman who lived with us in 1997 and 1998, Zsuzsanna Szombatfalvi. She and Oszkar were married on June 25, and Eliz and I had the honor to be there and to be treated as parents. If you're interested in receiving the journal I kept of our five days there, send me an e-mail.

We then went to Telluride, Colorado, over the Fourth of July weekend for the wedding of Lewis Branscomb and Connie Mullins. Lewis has been a treasured member of First Parish these past years, always ready to give testimony to what First Parish has meant to him. The wedding ceremony was held on the deck of a ski lodge, right at sunset.

Then for the rest of July, we were in East Raymond, Maine, on the shores of Crescent Lake, revisiting familiar spots, floating on the lake, and reading. If you're interested, these are the six books I read, all very good.

Middlesex: A Novel, by Jeffrey Eugenides — highly recommended, Pulitzer Prize winner, and I thought all along that the title referred to a private school

Children Playing Before a Statue of Hercules, edited by David Sedaris — some very good short stories in this collection

Out of the Flames, by Lawrence and Nancy Goldstone — very highly recommended, as good a way of explaining who we are as Unitarians as anything I've ever read

The Devil in the White City, by Erik Larson — highly recommended, the story of the 1898 Columbian Exposition in Chicago set against the acts of a mass murderer at large in Chicago at the same time, nonfiction

The Best American Spiritual Writing of 2004, edited by Philip Zaleski — sermons are coming from here

Booth: A Novel, by David Robertson — a different take on the Lincoln assassination

I look forward to seeing all of you on Homecoming Sunday, September 11, when I will begin a series of sermons on the words from our benediction, a series I worked through years ago, now from today's perspective.

— Gary Smith

Sunday Worship Schedule

September 4

Karen Lewis Foley,
preaching
One Service at 10:00

September 11

**Homecoming/
Opening Sunday**
Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir
Let This Be a House of Peace –
Scott
Locus Iste – Bruckner

September 18

Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 – First Parish Choir
Soloists
11:00 – Adult Choir
Set Me as a Seal – Clausen

September 25

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 – First Parish Choir
Soloists
11:00 – Adult Choir
I Thank You God – Pfautch
African Benediction – arr.
Grizzard

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There are two inserts in this newsletter:

Jericho Road Ride

Planned Giving brochure

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly 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 | Mailing Date |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Monday Sept. 19 | Wednesday, Sept. 28 |
| Monday Oct. 17 | Wednesday, Oct. 26 |
| Monday Nov. 14 | Tuesday, Nov. 22 |

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

Dear First Parish Friends,

Thanks to your generous gifts in honor of my 20th year as your Parish Administrator, my husband, Dan Stewart, and I enjoyed an amazing two-week adventure in Europe in July. In spite of the curious timing that led us to London on the day before the subway bombs of July 7, we not only saw everything we had hoped to see — and much more — but we spent many hours traversing London on the big red buses, an adventure in itself. All told, we spent seven days in London, three in Edinburgh and three in Paris — in and out of museums, parks, castles and cafes, and walking, walking, walking. I have photos to share, of course, and a lifetime of beautiful memories!

With deepest thanks, **Margaret**

Sunday Forum

Forums are held between 10:10 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Dian Pekin** if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker.

SEPTEMBER 4

No Forum
Summer Service

SEPTEMBER 11

No Forum
Opening Sunday

SEPTEMBER 18

Partner Churches in Transylvania
Rodger Matlage

Unitarian Universalism has a fascinating history and many folks have been working diligently over the years to preserve our precious heritage. Rodger will lead a forum about the important work that is taking place to assist UU partner churches in Transylvania.

SEPTEMBER 25

No Forum

Parish Notes

SUMMER SERVICES CONTINUE

There are two more summer services, August 28 and September 4, with **Rev. Karen Lewis Foley** preaching. Summer services begin at 10:00 a.m. and are followed by an intimate coffee hour.

HOMEcomings SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11: WELCOME BACK!

Be sure to be at the Meeting House on Sunday morning, September 11, when the fall schedule begins, the Choir returns, and the Religious Education programs get underway on a warm and welcoming Opening Day! There will be two services: 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. **Rev. Gary Smith** and **Rev. Jenny Rankin** will be back in the pulpit, Gary will be preaching, and we will officially welcome our new Director of Religious Education, **Pam Howell**.

HOMEcomings SUNDAY GATHERING — SEPTEMBER 11, 4:00 TO 7:00 P.M.

Summer might be over, but the fun has just begun — fun under the First Parish tent on the lawn (or in the Parish Hall if it's pouring!). On September 11, Homecoming Sunday, the Special Events Committee will kick off the new church year with music, dancing, food and games. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. We'll provide the food to purchase — hot dogs, chips, lemonade and ice cream — and the fun.

There is something for everyone and good friends eager to greet you after our summer hiatus. Listen and dance to the music of "Strings 'n' Things," with our own **Al Armenti**. Participate in a variety of relay races and carnival games for kids and adults. Games, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., dinner, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (rain or shine).

WEEKEND ON A STAR

There may be a few places open for the retreat weekend on Star Island, September 16 to 18. There are two retreat groups: a Women's Writing Retreat, led by Polly Peterson, and a Men's Group Retreat. If you are interested in joining one of the retreat groups, or in just spending the weekend as a solo retreatant on Star Island, contact **Margaret Stewart** right away (mstewart@firstparish.org).

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY SEMINAR

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, the UUA's curriculum about women and spirituality, will be co-led by **Liz Davis-Chaffin** and **Lois Whitney** on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., starting September 20 (not September 13). This popular UUA curriculum about how women experience the sacred, includes a historical perspective in a uniquely interactive format. Look for registration information in the fall 2005 Wright Tavern Center program guide.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA ARE BACK

Our Fair Trade coffee and tea cabinet will be ready for customers on September 11. Due to the high cost of shipping and packaging, Equal Exchange has been forced to raise the price of its coffee, so we must now charge \$8.00 per bag. If you compare prices, I think you will find that this is still a good bargain compared to prices in local stores. Fair Trade products improve the lives of hundreds of people around the globe and promote our UU principles. We are happy that these products are becoming available to shoppers at our local markets, but remember that if you purchase them from us, you are also contributing to the operating budget of First Parish. In addition, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to the UU Service Committee every time we place an order. So plan to stop by every other Sunday and stock up on your Fair Trade products.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Money Matters

FROM THE NEW BUSINESS MANAGER

Hello! My name is **Lisa Cole** and I am the new Business Manager for First Parish. I live in Westford, Mass., with my husband, son and daughter, and have spent the last six years taking care of my children. During this time, I have been involved with my church, volunteered in the schools, served as a Girl Scout leader, and helped with Cub Scouts. Before entering the world of a stay-at-home mom, I worked for 11 years in finance, during which time I became a certified management accountant. My educational background includes an economics degree and an MBA. I am excited about the opportunity to help your congregation and look forward to meeting you all. My regular office hours will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays until 2:00, so please stop by the Wright Tavern and introduce yourself.

GUIDANCE ON PLANNED GIVING

A brochure describing the ways you can leave funds to the First Parish Endowment is included with this newsletter. If you are interested in exploring *life income vehicles* (you give assets now, and receive income for your lifetime and a current charitable income tax deduction), you might:

1. Peruse the UUA materials on these arrangements, in the rack opposite the church office. This info will be updated as of September 9.
2. Consult www.uua.org/giving/giftplans.
3. Contact Jay Libby, Director of Charitable Gift & Estate Planning at the UUA, at 617-948-4643 or jlibby@uua.org. Jay, an attorney who has done estate planning, can answer your questions on rates of income, investment management fees and performance, and legal fees for setting up individual trusts.
4. Contact a member of the Planned Giving Committee.

If you participate in a UUA-sponsored gift annuity, pooled income fund or charitable remainder trust, you may leave all the proceeds to First Parish, or you may designate that the proceeds be shared with the UUA or a UUA-affiliated organization. However you wish to allocate the proceeds, the UUA hopes that you will consider designating a portion for the UUA — as a way to help cover some of the costs of its services. — **Laura Rigsby Bernstein**, Planned Giving Committee

Pastoral Care News

Going down the list: after against among/ around, I think how trivial they are,/ how low their self-esteem,/ how like safety pins they merely connect.

Prepositions are the paid help we're not allowed/ to talk to...

Who can survive without connection?/ All winter, green waits for the sun to wake it from its nap and so we say/ sunlight lies on the grass.

Imagine prepositions in the Valley of Dry Bones/ stitching the femur to the heel, the heel to the footbone. And afterwards,/ they got up to dance.

—Excerpts from *Praise Prepositions*, by Jeanne Murray Walker

I don't give much thought to prepositions, do you? But here as I write, in the midst of high summer, still waiting for my vacation to start in a cottage on a lake in Maine, with my husband and cat, surrounded by water, trees and fresh air, immersed in the books I plan to take, this column must be written about the start of another church year, the tang of autumn, the return to office and Sanctuary, the dance of meetings and activities. I couldn't feel more far away from the "regular church year"! Yet just as the parts of the natural world are linked and we live in it, linked to it, we are linked, too, with each other in enduring community. The smallest things we do — the simplest acts of reaching out, even a smile across the pews — can be a kind of preposition linking us one to another. Sometimes, we need to be stitched together so we can get up to dance! Sometimes we need reminders that yes, we are connected, now matter how far away we go.

Parents of children and teens with depression and challenges:

Please contact **Nancy Sweeney** or me if you would like to be part of the support group, starting up this fall, for parents of children dealing with these issues.

Information and my office hours: I will be in the office Monday and Wednesday morning to early afternoon this year, with Friday usually off. If you're new among us, please check the Pastoral Care bulletin board and the First Parish Program Guide for 2005-06 Pastoral Care programs, including all the ways you can receive and give care, or pick up a pastoral care brochure for more detail. And feel free to give me a call and say hello.

For all the ways you minister among us and in your wider lives, thanks and blessings,

— *Karen Foley*

MUSings

I had the experience of realizing I was a part of history this summer at General Assembly in Fort Worth. I guess we are all making history, in small ways, every day. And if we are lucky we notice it. But as one of a cadre of UU musicians who introduced our new UU hymnal supplement to 3000+ enthusiastic UU's at General Assembly, I felt I was definitely part of a change — a new beginning — even a transformation.

If you have been listening, or reading columns in this space, you will know something about *Singing the Journey*, the collection of 78 new hymns, songs



and chants that were chosen from over 1500 submissions over the course of two years. This new music is meant to compliment *Singing the Living Tradition*, our UU hymnal that was published in 1994. These songs were chosen for their appeal to our hearts, more than our heads. There are songs in jazz and gospel styles, Taizé chants, earth-centered chants and rounds, Spanish language hymns — all music that will allow us to expand our musical options for worship. Some of this music will be familiar and will “comfort the afflicted”; some of it will challenge us and maybe even “afflict the comfortable.”

Music from *Singing the Journey* permeated this summer's GA. We sang these pieces in every plenary session; the three choirs at GA included songs from the hymnal in their repertoire; there were several workshops where people had the chance to “try out” the new songs. And the response to this music was overwhelmingly positive. I have never heard UU's sing the way they sang at this year's GA. I have never seen them *move* the way they moved at this year's GA. It was wonderful.

First Parish now owns 100 copies of *Singing the Journey*. Our choirs will be including some of these new songs in services this fall and we will begin to learn some of these new hymns as a congregation while we undergo a fundraising effort to buy enough hymnals for our congregation. At \$12.80 per book, it will require about \$5500 to buy enough for our whole congregation to use.

Listen for these new hymns this fall. I hope that some will become as important to this congregation as “We'll Build a Land” or “Spirit of Life.” There are some new “classics” in this book that will carry us into the 21st century with a song in our soul.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music News

ADULT CHOIR — OPEN REHEARSALS IN SEPTEMBER!

The Adult Choir will begin the season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights in September beginning on September 7. Rehearsals are from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary balcony. Anyone interested in singing in the choir is invited to attend with no obligation during this time. Singers of all voice parts are welcome. The choir will sing in church for the first time on Sunday, September 11, at the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock services. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or e-mail music@firstparish.org.

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall.

And consider joining a choir!

CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE — FALL 2005

Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:45 to 9:30 p.m.
beginning September 7
Beth Norton, Director

Bell Choir

Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
beginning September 7
David Huston, Director

Gospel Choir

(Youth in grades 7 through 12)
Sundays 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
beginning September 18
Anderson Manuel, Director

Chalice Choir

(Grades 4 through 6)
Wednesdays 5:00 to 5:40
beginning September 14
Paul Grizzard, Director

Junior Choir

(Grades 1 through 3)
Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:00
beginning September 14
Paul Grizzard, Director



CROP WALK 2005 — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, AT 2:00 P.M.

The 2005 Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 16, at 2 p.m., starting from First Parish. This six-mile walk raises funds for Church World Service to use in hunger relief and development projects, both locally and internationally. Twenty-five percent of the money raised goes to five local supper and food pantry programs, including Concord's Open Table. The other 75 percent goes to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and projects to provide access to clean water and nutritious food to those in need around the world. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join us; this is a great activity for the whole family. Pledge forms will be available at coffee hour starting September 18. New this year is the availability of online pledging. See concordcrop.org for more details.

FRAIL SENIORS IN OUR COMMUNITIES NEED HELP AND SUPPORT

Can you give one hour a week to help frail Concord area seniors remain living independently? Minuteman Senior Services Friendly Visitors meet with lonely seniors on a regular basis for a chat and even short walks. Grocery Shoppers pick up/deliver groceries for a homebound senior, or accompany a senior on errands and appointments — ideal for families to do together, or partner with a friend and help on alternate weeks.

We also urgently need volunteers who can help seniors understand and apply for new Medicare drug coverage by January 1. Specialized SHINE training will be provided this fall. If you have any questions, contact **Debbie Barr**, MSS Volunteer Coordinator, at 781-221-7023 or d.barr@minutemansenior.org.

FALL CLEAN-UP HELP AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

The Concord Council on Aging offers Dream Teams of youth, faith, employer groups and community volunteers who help seniors for two to three hours with fall clean-up tasks starting in mid-September. Dream Teams can rake leaves, plant bulbs, turn mattresses, store air conditioners and patio furniture, program VCRs and check smoke detectors, and do other small projects. If you are interested, or know someone who might need this service, call the COA at 978-318-3020 to register.

WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH?

The Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners put faith into action. To find out more about SAC, sign up for our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org, visit the website, www.firstparish.org/sac, or look at the SAC bulletin board at church. To find out how you can use your skills in a social action program, contact **Bill Seaver**, 978-369-7318, billseaver@earthlink.net, or **Dave Dunn** 978-263-2273, dave_dunn@bose.com.

SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES

Would you like to meet new, interesting people? Here is an opportunity to get to know a variety of individuals in our vibrant community! This church year the seasonal potluck dinner parties will be held on three Saturday evenings — October 29, January 28 and March 25. Be sure to mark your calendar now! Informal dinners of 8 to 10 people will be held in the participants' homes.

Good food, beverages and conversation in these friendly, intimate settings allow us to become better acquainted with new people in the church and to deepen relationships with old friends. Detailed information for the Fall Seasonal Dinner Party on Saturday, October 29, will be available in the October issue of *The Meeting House News*.

—**Vivienne and Dean Aldrich**

WRIGHT TAVERN BROCHURE COMING SOON

Check your mailboxes for the Fall 2005 Wright Tavern Center brochure. It is filled with ongoing favorites as well as several new and exciting classes and groups. We will be forming new small group ministry groups this fall. If you are interested in joining a group, please contact **Caroline McCloy** at fttavern@aol.com or call the Church and leave a message on her voice mail. Please leave your name, e-mail, phone number, and the days and times of your availability.

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

LOOK FOR THE FIRST PARISH CALENDAR IN SEPTEMBER!

The Special Events Committee is spearheading the production of the first annual First Parish calendar, *Portrait of a Meeting House*. The calendar will contain historic photographs from our archives and from church members. It will run from September 2005 through December 2006 and will have important church events already marked. Look for us on Homecoming Sunday — you won't want to be without this lovely and useful First Parish memento!

BILL ANDERSON'S PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE EXHIBITED

Kristin Anderson, daughter of longtime member **William Wheeler Anderson**, will be mounting an exhibition of her father's photographs taken at the church during the 1940's through the 1960's, including some that will be featured in the new First Parish calendar. Kristin is working to preserve and archive her father's work, and this exhibit will show that he used his camera to capture an era with humor and affection. Look for the exhibit on Homecoming Sunday or during the month of September.

ARTISANS HOLIDAY FAIR — NOVEMBER 5

It's not too early to start thinking about our annual holiday fair. This year's fair will feature favorite artisans as well as some very exciting works by new participants. Start setting aside the gently used gift items that you would like to contribute to our popular white elephant table. This is also a fun event to work on. If you would like to volunteer for an hour or more, contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekindc@comcast.net.

KNIT UP THE FAMOUS CATNIP BALLS!

Thanks to Susan Clark's profuse garden we have heaps of catnip this year, so now we need volunteers to come and knit or bring these cat toys to completion for the November 5 Artisans Fair. Come any Friday: September 16 and 23, October 21 and 28 or November 4. Cindy's house is at the corner of Brown and Main in West Concord. Join us anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. For more information contact Cindy McLean-Greeley at 978-371-1057.

Reflections

The year is about to begin. If your family is anything like mine, this time of year brings both excitement and anxiety. Are we doing too much? How do we choose and what can we cut? These are such important questions. How do we find balance in our children's lives and our own?

We hope that First Parish is a centering place for you and your family. A place that allows your family to be connected to each other and with others in a spiritually nurturing way, a place that serves to restore balance in your family's life.

With that end in mind, we are starting our year in RE together. **Carol Duane** is introducing a new curriculum in our preschool program—Spirit Play. Spirit Play brings stories to life for children through figurines and settings. We have expanded the Neighboring Faiths program from a half-year program to a full-year program, thereby allowing our students and teachers the necessary time to prepare and reflect on their visits to other worship services. For our 8th graders, we have created a single WOW (Ways of Worship) class at 11:00 a.m. in order to keep friends connected and working together. Our Junior High Youth Group leaders have been planning social activities for our 7th/8th graders and **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** continues to invigorate the Senior Youth Group (YRUU) with activities that strive to keep this age group connected to First Parish.

Amid all of this excitement and opportunity, **Christine Gay**, our RE Administrator, and I are working toward ensuring each child has a positive experience in our RE program. Our most valuable asset in this program is you, the RE Volunteer. With you, our programs connect youth to each other and to caring adults. Without you, our programs can't happen at all. Right now, we are in critical need of volunteers. For the Fall Term 9:00 a.m. service, we need one Third Grade teacher, one Preschool 3's teacher and one RE Assistant. For the Fall Term 11:00 a.m. service, we need one Preschool 4's teacher and one "Social Action Sundays" leader. Please call if you can help.

Thank you in advance for your time, dedication and care toward nurturing the spiritual lives of our First Parish youth.

— *Pam Howell*

Director of Religious Education

Religious Education Notes

SEPTEMBER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

Sunday, September 4 — No RE Classes, summer Service

Saturday, September 10 — 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. RE Orientation

- 9:00, refreshments
- 9:30 to 11:30, orientation program in the Parish Hall

Sunday, September 11 — Homecoming Sunday

Worship for all ages in the Sanctuary at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Please remember to bring a small amount of water for the Gathering of Waters ceremony. Child care is available for babies in the Nursery and toddlers in the Sandlot rooms.

Between services, there will be an open house for our preschool children and their parents. This is an excellent way to get familiar with the preschool environment before the first class next week.

Sunday, September 18—First day of RE for Preschool to 8th Grade

- Preschool 3's and 4's: Children begin in their classrooms
- K-6: Children begin in the Sanctuary and leave after the children's message.
- 7th Graders: Neighboring Faiths will meet at 11:00 a.m. on the sun porch at Wright Tavern.
- 8th Graders: WOW (Ways of Worship) will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

Sunday, September 25 — Regular RE for Preschool to 8th Grade

TEACHERS NEEDED FOR FALL

There can be no Church School without *you*. Here are the teaching slots in need of volunteers for the Fall Term; please find a time to pitch in and contact Pam with your choice. Thank you.

9:00 o'clock Service:

- Preschool 3's — one teacher needed
- Third Grade — one teacher needed
- RE Assistant — one assistant needed

11:00 o'clock Service:

- Preschool 4's — one teacher needed
- Social Action Sundays — one leader needed

Women's News

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP: NEW SCHEDULE!

This year the meetings of the First Parish Women's Book Groups will be on Tuesday mornings, usually the last Tuesday of the month, and Monday evenings, on the third Monday of the month. The book for September's discussions is *Possession: a Romance*, by A. S. Byatt. The morning group meets on September 27 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. and the evening group, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions.

Books and Dates for the Rest of the 2005-2006 year:

October 17 (p.m.) and 25 (a.m.)
Gilead, by Marilynne Robinson

December 6 (a.m.) and 19 (p.m.)
Plan B: Further thoughts on faith, by Anne Lamotte

January 16 (p.m.) and 31 (p.m.)
The Time Traveler's Wife, by Audrey Niffenegger

February 20 (p.m.) and 28 (p.m.)
Song of the Lark, by Willa Cather
Extra credit: *O Pioneers!*

March 20 (p.m.) and 28 (a.m.)
American Jezebel, by Eve LaPlante

April 17 (p.m.) and 25 (a.m.)
Poetry: *And Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou; and
Delights and Shadows, by Ted Kooser

May 15 (p.m.) and 23 (a.m.)
The Jane Austen Book Club, by Karen Anne Fowler

WPA LUNCHEON MEETING AND TALK: FIRST PARISH'S FORMER MINISTERS

Join old and new friends at a catered luncheon and program on Monday, September 19. The social gathering will start at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon and program. The cost is \$12.00. Have you ever wondered about those fellows whose portraits hang in our Parish Hall and Parlor? **Marian Wheeler** will give a talk about these famous First Parish ministers. Everyone is welcome. Reservations are required. Please contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekinc@comcast.net by September 14 to reserve your place or for child care arrangements.

Youth News

I am so excited for this church year! With one year of experience under my belt and a summer of planning and preparation, I am in a place to help the youth program really take off. We have a talented, enthusiastic group of youth leaders and some wonderful dedicated adults lined up to nurture our program along. This year we are aiming to provide several ways for youth to connect with other youth and the wider First Parish community.

The backbone of our program will be YRUU, which will continue to meet on Sunday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel. Our aim this year is to create a welcoming community where youth can feel comfortable coming every week or dropping in when they can. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 11, and we hope to see lots of new faces and old ones too. Look for your "What's the Deal?" youth mailing coming the first week of September for a September youth calendar.

We are heading back to Mayromai for our fall retreat, September 30 through October 2. It should be a new experience, as there have been many improvements made to the barn by the new owners. Information about the retreat and permission slips can be downloaded from the First Parish Website and are due no later than September 21.

I encourage all parents of youth to come to a parent orientation on Tuesday, September 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. I will be introducing all the new offerings for youth, so even if you're a veteran, there's lots of new information.

In an effort to save money, I will be posting all documents on the First Parish Website for you to download. We will still send the monthly newsletter, "What's the Deal?" so if you do *not* want to receive this, please e-mail **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** at vanderWilden@verizon.net or call me at church at 978-369-9602, ext. 427. For that matter, feel free to call or e-mail me about anything. I'm anxious to hear from youth and parents about anything related to youth.

September is a crazy time for youth as they transition from the lazy days of summer to the stress of busy schedules and worries about grades, colleges and other things. On the other hand, it can be an exciting time to reconnect with friends, meet new ones and learn and try new things. We are hoping that the Youth Group at First Parish can be an oasis of peace, a place to connect with others, a time to pay attention to our spiritual needs and a place for fun. Come join us on September 11 and find out more!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Miscellaneous/Classifieds

FOR RENT

Separate, semifurnished apartment with private entrance; low rent in exchange for some assistance of an elder woman with Parkinson's, to enable her to continue living at home. Contact Kaye Learnard at 978-369-4462.

RENTAL HOUSE OR APARTMENT NEEDED

Ken Langer, former Music Director of the Eno River UU Fellowship in North Carolina and longtime UU, and his wife are moving to the northern Boston area and are looking for a house or apartment to rent. They have no children but do have a dog and cat. If you can offer help, please contact Ken at en@ken-langer.com.

TIRES AND A CELL PHONE NEEDED

Does anyone have four new or slightly used tires for a 1998 Toyota Corolla? Please donate to help a struggling artist friend. Also needed is a cell phone. If you have either tires or a cell phone to donate, please e-mail AFOL at aredbarn@email.com.

DO YOU USE OFFICE SUPPLIES?

Committees or other groups using office supplies are asked to let Office Manager **Jane Johnson** know, in advance, when large amounts of supplies, such as preprinted envelopes and letterhead, are needed.

To keep adequate resources available, the office staff needs your ongoing cooperation. Thanks!

UU News

SINKFORD ACCEPTS FIRST JAMES REEB SERVICE AWARD

The New Democracy Coalition honored UUA President William G. Sinkford with the first "Rev. James Reeb New Democracy Service Award" at a ceremony at the Massachusetts State House on August 4. The ceremony was the final event of a "teach-in" held by a coalition of civil rights groups working to raise awareness of the need to extend key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which is due to expire in 2007. The award was presented to Sinkford "for work in the area of civil rights on the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act." Thomas Menino, the mayor of Boston, made a surprise visit to pledge his support for voting rights and praised Sinkford and the UUA for their "good work" on behalf of the Boston community. For more information on the Voting Rights Act and its provisions, please visit usdoj.gov/crt/voting/intro/intro_b.htm.



CELEBRATING OUR UNIVERSALIST HERITAGE SEPTEMBER 24, BOSTON

Rev. Carl Scovel will lead worship and Rev. Mark Harris will give the keynote address, "Hosea Ballou's Treatise at 200," at the New Massachusetts Universalist Convention's Annual Conference on Saturday, September 24, at the Parish House of King's Chapel, located across Boston Common from King's Chapel at 64 Beacon Street (near Charles). The day will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and include food (breakfast, lunch, snack), singing, workshops, lots of good conversation and an optional walking tour of Beacon Hill. Yellow registration fliers have been sent to all UU churches in New England. Full information also is available online — go to nmuc.uua.org and click on "Annual Meeting."

UU BED AND BREAKFAST DIRECTORY

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 25 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-281-3253 or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

UU're Home has recently launched a new website, UreHome.com, where entries are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition, which is published every year in April, is still available (and has many more listings than the website). For a copy of the 2005 directory, please send a check for \$18 to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

UU BED AND BREAKFAST WEEKENDS — FALL 2005

Complete information is available on the Community bulletin board in the downstairs hallway about bed and breakfast weekends in Brattleboro, Vermont, and Martha's Vineyard, sponsored by the local UU churches. The Vermont weekends are October 7-9 and October 14-15, and the Vineyard weekend is October 7-10.

September 2005 Calendar

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

Every Week...

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Morning Meditation</i> | Monday-Friday | 7:00 a.m. |
| <i>Yoga</i> | Tuesday | 9:30 |
| <i>T'ai Chi</i> | Tuesday | 6:00 |
| <i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i> | Tuesday | 7:00 (beginning 9/20) |
| <i>Tibetan Buddhism</i> | Wednesday | 9:30 (not 9/28) |
| Bell Choir | Wednesday | 1:00 (beginning 9/14) |
| Adult Choir | Wednesday | 7:45 |
| <i>Yoga</i> | Thursday | 9:30 |
| <i>Tibetan Buddhism</i> | Thursday | 9:30 (beginning 9/8) |
| YRUU | Sunday | 7:00 (beginning 9/11) |

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Mon Sep 5 | Holiday—Office Closed | | | |
| Tue Sep 6 | 9:00 | WPA Board Meeting | | Tue Sep 20 |
| | 7:30 | Youth/Parent Orientation | | 7:00 |
| Wed Sep 7 | 7:00 | Youth Advisory Committee | | 7:00 |
| Fri Sep 9 | 9:30 | Pastoral Care | | 12:15 |
| | | | | <i>Listening for God</i> |
| Sat Sep 10 | 9:00 | Photo Club | | 7:30 |
| | 9:00 | Youth Pastoral Care | | <i>Play with Purpose</i> |
| | 9:30 | RE Volunteer Orientation | | 9:30 |
| Sun Sep 11 | | Opening Sunday | | <i>Play with Purpose</i> |
| | 4:00 | Opening Sunday Party | | 6:00 |
| | 6:45 | Crop Walk Recruiter Meeting | | Coming of Age Opening Dinner |
| Mon Sep 12 | 9:30 | Parish Visitors | | 7:30 |
| | 7:00 | Standing Committee | | <i>Rise Up Singing</i> |
| | 7:00 | <i>Dharma</i> | | 11:00 |
| Tue Sep 13 | 7:30 | SAC Board Meeting | | Common Cathedral Prep |
| Wed Sep 14 | 7:00 | Youth Advisory Committee | | Sun Sep 25 |
| Sat Sep 17 | 9:00 | Coming of Age Mentor Training | | 1:00 |
| Mon Sep 19 | 9:30 | Pastoral Care Council | | <i>Common Cathedral</i> |
| | 11:30 | WPA Luncheon | | 2:00 |
| | 12:00 | Newsletter Deadline | | <i>Creativity</i> |
| | | | | 4:00 |
| | | | | Junior Youth Group |
| | | | | Mon Sep 26 |
| | | | | 7:00 |
| | | | | Standing Committee |
| | | | | 7:30 |
| | | | | <i>Women's Book Group</i> |
| | | | | Tue Sep 27 |
| | | | | 9:30 |
| | | | | <i>Women's Book Group</i> |
| | | | | 7:00 |
| | | | | <i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i> |



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

Address service requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Acton, MA
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SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter deadline is **Monday, September 19**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, September 28.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

HOMECOMING GATHERING!
FUN FOR EVERYONE!

Sunday, September 11

4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Staff

- Gary E. Smith**, Senior Minister
- Jenny M. Rankin**, Minister
- Karen Lewis Foley**, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
- Rebecca M. Blodgett**, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care
- Pam Howell**, Director of Religious Education
- Christine Gay**, Religious Education Administrator
- Carol Duane**, Toddler/Preschool Coordinator
- Mary-Wren vanderWilden**, Youth Program Director
- Elizabeth Norton**, Music Director
- Eric Huenneke**, Organist
- David Huston**, Bell Choir Director
- Paul Grizzard**, Children's Choir Director
- Anderson Manuel**, Music/RE Associate
- Caroline McCloy**, Wright Tavern Center Director
- Dan Holin**, Jericho Road Executive Director
- Leslie Koplou**, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road
- Margaret Stewart**, Parish Administrator
- Douglas Baker**, Sacristan and Curator
- Jane Johnson**, Office Manager
- Peggy Gallo**, Financial Secretary and Collector
- Lisa Cole**, Business Manager
- Kate Keleher**, Newsletter Editor
- Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Margaret Stewart**,
Newsletter Staff

PLEASE REMEMBER:
NEW OFFICE HOURS BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER

Due to the budget shortfall at First Parish, beginning Tuesday, September 6, the office will be open only from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please remember this change when you plan to contact the office. As always, voice mail will be available when the office is closed.

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

Ministers' E-Mail:
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Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net
Karen Lewis Foley: revklfoley@comcast.net