



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

Dear Friends,

September swirls around me but summer still lingers in my mind. I was blessed to spend July on sabbatical and August on vacation. We traveled to beautiful natural places in New Hampshire, Maine and Rhode Island. We spent time with family and dear old friends. We rested and played, ate good food, got lots of fresh air, and slept well at night.

In the summer, there is a great library where we go and I read whatever is on their “new books” shelf. I read light novels and I read nonfiction. I’ll spare you the “light novel” list but here are some books I dipped into and enjoyed.

Faith Works by Jim Wallis of Sojourners House in Washington, D.C.. Personal reflections by a life-long activist.

Or Something More, an Invitation to Christian Spirituality by Debra Rienstra. A young professor at Calvin College in Michigan, mother of three, beautifully written with humor and humility, a book for seekers, whether or not you consider yourself Christian.

Being Perfect by Anna Quindlen. Really an essay, not a book, how to let go of the drive to be “perfect” and discover who, in fact, we are.

A Year of Pleasures by Elizabeth Berg. A novel about a woman in the year after her husband’s death.

Moral Courage by Rushworth Kidder. Practical, inspiring book. How do we teach about courage, engender it in our children?

No god but God by Reza Aslan. Written by a graduate of Harvard Divinity School, a Muslim, this is a fascinating look at Islam, including historical roots and current-day events.

Honey for a Child’s Heart: the Imaginative Use of Books in Family Life by Gladys Hunt. Apparently a classic, written by a woman of faith, it talks about what books can do for children spiritually and includes lists of books for children of different ages.

Loving What Is by Byron Katie. Buddhism applied to regular life, she asks us to “inquire into” our thoughts before we take them as “reality.”

The Places That Scare You: A Guide to Fearlessness in Difficult Times by Pema Chodron. This American-born Buddhist nun writes simply and invitingly. For me, it was a page turner.

It was good to see many of you on opening Sunday. If you are new, please introduce yourself: we want to welcome you personally. Gary and I meet with people during the week. It does not need to be “urgent”, we enjoy chatting with you, getting to know you, catching up. E-mail us at revjenny@comcast.net or gsmith@tiac.net, or call the office to make an appointment.

Cheers,
—Jenny Rankin

Sunday Worship Schedule

October 2

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 Adult Choir

Loving Hands – Ratcliff

Seek to Serve – Pfautsch

11:00 – Handbell Choir

Israeli Tune – arr. Smith

Osse Shalom – Hirsh/Nelson

October 9

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

Avinu Malkeynu – Janowski

Shehecheyanu – Steinberg

11:00 – Rosalie Gerut, Cantor,

Kerem Shalom

October 16

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Chalice and Adult Choir

Woyaya – arr. Gagné

African Benediction – arr.

Grizzard

11:00 – Junior Choir and

Gospel Choir

When I Am Frightened –

Denham

October 23

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir

Contrapunto bestiale alla mente –
Banchieri

The Blue Bird – Stanford

October 30

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Siri Smedvig, violin

*Hungarian and Romanian violin
music*

11:00 – Adult Choir

Evening in Transylvania – Bartok

Esti Dal – Kodaly

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:
Singing the Journey fundraising
Wright Tavern Center

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 Oct. 17	Wednesday, Oct. 26
Monday Nov. 14	Tuesday, Nov. 22
Monday Dec. 12	Wednesday, Dec. 21

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

GREETINGS FROM THE VISION2008 COMMITTEE

The Committee plans a full calendar of activities this fall and winter, including a proposed special parish meeting that will be held as early as December to vote on a specific capital campaign proposal.

The Annual Meeting charged the committee to develop and present a capital campaign proposal that would address deferred maintenance items and long-term needs. In particular, we were asked to consider with the congregation alternative proposals, including at least one in the \$2- to 4-million range.

During the summer we developed alternative approaches based on feedback from the group meetings held last spring, discussions with staff members, comments made at the Annual Meeting, and the work of the Capital Campaign Planning Committee. Our next step is to present these alternatives for discussion to a broad audience. We propose a series of small group meetings during October and November to be held at various times to accommodate different schedules. We have scheduled 18 time slots: early morning weekday, midday, evening and weekend. All parishioners will have the opportunity to sign up for one of these meetings during coffee hours in October. As always, if you have comments or questions, please contact **Melissa Perdue Gallo** at mp.gallo@verizon.net.

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.

OCTOBER 2

No Forum
RE Chapel

OCTOBER 9

No Forum
Holiday Weekend

OCTOBER 16

Political Concerns
About Hurricane Victims
Round Table Discussion

Are you concerned that the Gulf hurricane victims will not receive any real benefits even if billions of dollars are spent on reconstruction efforts? Harry Belafonte recently expressed his fear that authorized funds will go toward building more casinos and hotels leaving those who lost their homes and jobs to suffer. Join the discussion and add your ideas to letter writers who will send communiques to appropriate watchdog organizations.

OCTOBER 23

Folk Arts and Visions of Peace
Janice Hayden

Rev. Jeffrey Johnson of Peace Lutheran Church in Wayland and Janice Hayden, a local Jewish peace activist, will be leading an Israel-Palestine tour in February. Americans will be able to see a variety of artists and artisans who are part of ancient "cottage industries" that create folk art objects, religious items, ceramics, and traditional household goods. During the tour, meetings will be arranged with religious leaders, politicians and activists who are working toward a lasting peace in the region. Forum participants will catch a glimpse of beautiful handwork and gain an understanding of the current prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian peace.

OCTOBER 30

No Forum
RE Chapel

Parish Notes

E-MAIL LIST SIGN-UPS — ARE YOU MISSING FIRST PARISH E-MAIL?

During the summer, First Parish moved its e-mail lists to a new company (ISP). If you have been a subscriber to one or more of our lists, we hope that you received e-mail messages about these changes, with instructions to allow your name to be transferred to the new system. One crucial difference with this new company is that they require each subscriber to explicitly request subscription, as an antispam measure. We sent former subscribers invitations to rejoin the e-mail lists that they were on, but many people didn't get them in time, due to vacations.

If you have been a member of the FP Activists, FP Announce, FP Choir, FP Partner Church Committee, FP Pilgrims, FP SAC, FP Women, RE Announce, 7 and 8 Graders, Gospel Choir, or Children's Choir lists, and if you would like to continue to be on one or more of these lists, visit our website at firstparish.org/e-mail_lists.html and follow the simple instructions to sign up. The FP lists are primarily used for timely notices, so sign up today and you won't miss out on information about current happenings in and around First Parish!

Rachel Holt is currently living in Szekelykeresztur, among the parishioners of our partner Unitarian church, in response to Rev. Jozsef Szombatfalvi's request for someone to teach English to his congregation. She is doing that, and more, with grace and good humor. Rachel represents First Parish in a way to make us proud. Her updates will appear here each month until she returns in December.

GREETINGS FROM SZEKELYKERESZTUR!

After two months, I have gotten used to the way of life here, yet am continually fascinated by it. The people welcomed me with open arms and are taking every opportunity to feed me their traditional meals!

I am teaching English to a variety of people from the church, ranging in age from 5 to 55, two nights a week. We play games and sing songs, and when I see them in the town they are very eager to say "Hello, Rachel."

The flooding that happened in the neighboring villages did not appear to dampen anybody's spirits, but instead brought everyone together to help those in need.

School has just started, and the first day brought the youth walking from every direction toward the high school, ready, but maybe not eager, to start a new year.

I feel very lucky that I have the chance to get to know these people better, for they are some of the most wonderful people I have ever met. I am also happy to be able to report my experiences back to everyone in Concord. —**Rachel Holt**

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH UPDATE

Barely one week after 22 of our youth and adults returned from a wonderful two-week pilgrimage to Szekelykeresztur, we learned of the flooding Rachel mentions. Four nearby villages (which Rachel and I visited) took direct hits, three other villages have been cut off, 13 lives were lost, and much infrastructure was damaged. Replacement costs exceed \$1,000,000.

Rev. Szombatfalvi is coordinating the relief effort. Rachel has been pitching in and sending us updates. Churches across Transylvania and the United States are helping. Members of First Parish have donated almost \$2,000, but we need a sustained effort right into the spring. We'll have a table at coffee hour with information, where donations can be made. Additional information is available at <http://www.uupcc.org>. Please join us during the services on October 30 to share this summer's pilgrims' joyful and moving experiences in words and pictures. All are welcome at Partner Church Committee meetings, the second Wednesday of each month, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. — **Rodger Matlage**

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Money Matters

There are two new members of your financial team this year. As you heard directly from **Lisa Cole** in last month's newsletter, she joined us in August to work part-time as the Business Manager. Lisa's responsibilities include oversight of financial matters, and she has hit the ground running, making recommendations for improvements and presenting financial results to the Standing Committee. Welcome, Lisa, and thank you.

I am the other new member of the team, rejoining as Treasurer, after having served in the same role in the early to mid 1990's.

In relation to the budget as presented at the Annual Meeting in June, operations seem to be pretty much on track. At August 31, being only two slow months into the year, it is hard to tell how we will fare. However, we will keep you posted.

Our focus so far has been to prepare the fiscal 2005 financial statements for our second year under audit and to streamline information for the Standing Committee so it can focus on strategy.

There will be more from Lisa and me in the months to come.

Warmest regards,
Tim Jacoby, Treasurer

MINUTEMAN SENIOR SERVICES OFFER INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS

Minuteman Senior Services is designated by the state and federal government as the "one-stop shopping" site for eldercare information and assistance. Using your tax dollars, it provides 22 different programs and services. For more information or to request a free brochure, call 781-272-7177 or 978-263-5371 or visit the website at minutemansenior.org.

Informational presentations on Medicare Part D will take place in Bedford, at Ashby Place on Ashby Road, on October 10 at 1 p.m.; call 781-275-7701 for information. In Lexington the presentation will be at Countryside Village on October 14, at 10 a.m.; call 781-861-0900 for information on that presentation and another later in October. In Acton the presentation will be at the Senior Center, 50 Audubon Drive, on October 24 at 1 p.m. Call 978-264-9643 for additional information.

MEALS-ON-WHEELS DRIVERS URGENTLY NEEDED

Can you spare just one hour per week once or twice a month? Drivers receive mileage reimbursement of 40 cents per mile, plus the satisfaction of providing this essential service. Ideal opportunity for groups, families or friends to share a route, and deliver smiles! Drivers are needed in Bedford, Concord, Lexington, Maynard and Woburn. Call Minuteman Senior Services and ask for Debbie at 781-272-7177 or Jason at 978-263-8720, ext. 7023 or e-mail d.barr@minutemansenior.org.

Pastoral Care News

The following is excerpted from a piece handed to me on Sunday morning—it was written by an 83-year-old woman to her friend.

"I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with family and friends and less time working. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not 'saving' anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event, such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first amaryllis blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank.

'Someday' and 'one of these days' are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance."

Wow. Let's get out the good china. And put on the dancing music!

The Pastoral Care Council is a visioning and planning group for all of our pastoral care efforts and plans at First Parish. We are fortunate to have **Jiffy Read** and **David Pohl** continuing on the council since 2003, and now **Pam Ressler** and **Judy Dembsy** joining us. Please talk to them or me with your suggestions, questions, and hopes for First Parish as a connected and caring community.

I am at the church Monday and Wednesday mornings (often into early afternoon), with Friday usually off. Please check the Pastoral Care bulletin board and the First Parish Program Guide to learn all the ways you can receive and give care; pick up a pastoral care brochure for more detail; and do call any of the ministers with your joys and cares.

Blessings on your ministries, which you may or may not recognize as ministries, here and in your wider lives.

—Karen Foley

MUSings

“Let this be a music church.” This phrase, spoken by a member of our music committee during a meeting several years ago, has stayed with me. What is a “music church”? I think it is a church where music



is integral to the worship life and the community life of the church. One where parishioners really care about music; one that is known in the wider community for its music ministry.

I think First Parish has been a “music church” for a long time. It definitely had that reputation when I came back in the early nineties. People clearly treasured the Choir that **David Huston** had built over the years and the Bell Choir that **Shirley Brown** had brought into being. The congregation was eager to expand the music experiences for parishioners of all ages. And it has!

This year there will be a number of musical events here to feed our spirits and expand our musical horizons. In addition to the five choirs that lead worship music at First Parish (see separate box), the Music Events Committee and the Wright Tavern Center have planned a number of opportunities to make music, listen to it and expand our musical horizons:

Rise Up Singing – An informal, monthly folk singing group for singers of all ages offered through the Wright Tavern Center.

Friday, October 28 7:30 p.m.

Sarasa Chamber Music Series – Sponsored by the Music Events Committee.

Sunday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 29, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Carol Sing – Friday, December 16, 7:30-9:00 p.m. for singers of all ages! Share the traditional carols of the Christmas season.

Cabaret – The Ancient Mariners Dixieland Band (Music Events Committee)

Saturday, February 18, 7:30–10:00 p.m.

Drumming and Spirituality Workshops with Matt Meyer

Preview: Thursday, November 3

Workshop Series: Four Thursdays, January 26 thru February 16. Offered through the Wright Tavern Center.

Gospel Music Weekend with Jonathan Singleton

Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, open to singers of all ages!

Music News

A WORD OF THANKS

Our deep gratitude to **Bob Peters** for the beautiful and roomy bell music cabinet he designed and built over the summer. Bob created useful storage space out of an alcove on the stairs leading up to the balcony (on the left as you enter the sanctuary) and crafted a cabinet that blends beautifully with the organ case. You may not even have noticed it! Now we have convenient and accessible storage for our considerable library of handbell music (formerly stored in **Gene** and **Shirley Brown**'s house). Thanks also to our Sexton staff for painting the cabinet.

I am always interested to hear about the musical interests, talents and connections of parishioners. If you have been hiding your “musical light” under a bushel and are ready to “let it shine,” I would love to talk with you. Feel free to contact me via e-mail, music@firstparish.org, or by phone at 978-369-9602.

Let this be a music church!

— *Beth Norton*

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall.

CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE — FALL 2005

Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:45 to 9:30 p.m.

Beth Norton, director

Bell Choir

Wednesdays 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

David Huston, director

Gospel Choir

(Youth in grades 7 through 12)

Sundays 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Anderson Manuel, director

Chalice Choir

(Grades 4 through 6)

Wednesdays 5:00 to 5:40

Paul Grizzard, director

Junior Choir

(Grades 1 through 3)

Wednesdays 4:30 to 5:00

Paul Grizzard, director

Call the music office at 978-369-9602 ext. 420, or e-mail music@firstparish.org if you have questions.

JAZZ CONCERT TO CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF RENEWAL HOUSE, OCTOBER 29

The Board of Directors of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry invites you to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Renewal House at an evening of fellowship and jazz on Saturday, October 29, at First Church in Boston. Renowned jazz vocalist Jan Shapiro and premier saxophonist Stan Strickland will perform, and Linda Weltner, award-winning *Boston Globe* columnist and author, is honorary chair and keynote speaker. Renewal House has a long and honored tradition as a Unitarian Universalist commitment to social justice, providing safe shelter, transitional housing, advocacy and support services to women and children seeking refuge from domestic violence. Tickets for the event are \$50. To purchase tickets or sponsorships, please contact Linda Evans, UUUM Office Manager, at 617-318-6010, ext. 203. Check the UUUM website, uum.org, for event, ticket and sponsorship information.

ARE YOU NO LONGER GETTING SAC E-MAILS?

Were you getting SAC e-mails last spring, but have not received one in September? If so, you probably neglected to sign up for the new list when we changed ISP. To sign up, go to sac.firstparish.org and follow the instructions under "Connect with Us!" to learn more about opportunities for working on social action projects. You can



join the SAC List by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org. You can join the Activism List by sending a blank e-mail to activism-join@lists.firstparish.org.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAD YOUNG ACTIVISTS?

Young Activists is a program for 5th and 6th graders that meets one or two times a month between services to plan and complete many projects that are donated to local service sites. Sometimes there are guest speakers. The current leader is moving on and this program *will not happen* unless someone volunteers to be a new leader. If you are interested, contact **Claudia Nimar** at 978-287-4684 or cnimar@aol.com.

JOIN THE FIRST PARISH KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS

An ad hoc steering committee has begun working on our Katrina relief efforts. If you would like to help, please contact one of the people listed below:

Deb Dormitzer

(debbie@lhlogic.com) — Displaced people temporarily in Massachusetts shelters; **Bill Seaver**

(billseaver@earthlink.net) — Katrina victims who have moved to Mass. long-term and need homes; **Tracey Hurd** (THurd@aol.com) —

Supporting Katrina victims through the UU congregation in Dallas; **Dick Shohet** (Millironfarm@aol.com) — Possible trip to New Orleans to connect with a community there that needs our help; **John Lowe** (john@expertisemarketing.com) —

SAC GRANT NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 16

Part of your First Parish pledge payments "go out into the world...to help the suffering" through the SAC Grants Program. Your nominations for worthy recipients are invited and welcomed. Our fall deadline is October 16, and our spring deadline is March 15. As citizens of Concord, MA, the United States, and the world, we support work in each geographic area. We also support UU efforts and organizations of a size where our contributions will make an impact. Grants usually range from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Nomination/application forms can be found at www.firstparish.org. Please submit them to **Alane Wallis** at awallis@nutter.com or the SAC mailbox in the church office by Sunday, October 16, for fall consideration.

Fundraising for Katrina relief; **Mark Richards** (mark.s.richards@verizon.net) — Cell phones for displaced people; **Wendy Holt** (wendyh@dmahealth.com) — Political advocacy for Katrina and urban poor

ADVOCACY PROGRAM FOR THE HOMELESS

You are invited to join a new group that is forming around the issue of advocacy for homeless people. Did you know that Massachusetts has the second highest rate of homelessness in the country after California (keeping in mind, of course, that Katrina has changed all that), or that the average age of a homeless person is six? There are families who walk close to this line every day. We have been working with an agency in Lowell that has encouraged us to add our voice and help build a metro-west advocacy effort to change this reality. If you are interested, please contact **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520.

CROP WALK 2005 — SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

The 2005 Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will start from First Parish. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m., with music from the CCHS Pep Band. This 10-K walk raises funds for Church World Service to use in antihunger and development projects in our local community (including Concord's Open Table), and around the world. These programs provide access to food, clean water, education and medical care; CWS is a major responder to Hurricane Katrina, and will provide long-term services and rebuilding support to the survivors. **Jenny Rankin** will be walking; if you are unable to walk, please consider sponsoring her or another walker. New this year is online pledging. Go to our website at firstparish.org and click on the link there to either join the First Parish team or sponsor a walker. Sponsor forms are available at the coffee hours. Contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org or go to concord-crop.org for more information.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Domestic Violence Services of Central Middlesex, Inc. seeks volunteers for its DVVAP and Court Intervention programs. Thirty-six hours of training will be held October 6 through November 17, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Concord Police Department. DV Services works with any domestic violence survivor in need, and primarily serves neighbors in the towns of Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Maynard, Stow, and Hanscom Air Force Base. DVVAP has provided assistance to over 900 families in crisis as a result of domestic violence since 1998. Call Holly at 978-318-3421 for more details.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH?

The 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/sac/, or look at the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church. If you would like to volunteer and don't know where to start, call **Bill Seaver**, 978-369-7318, billseaver@earthlink.net; or **Dave Dunn**, 978-263-2273, dave_dunn@bose.com.

PATH TO MEMBERSHIP — WHAT IS IT?

If you have been coming to First Parish for about four months and would now like to become a member, then you are ready for a Minister's Orientation. This session gives you and the ministers an opportunity to get to know one another in a small group setting. It allows you to share with us your spiritual odyssey, and the path that brought you to First Parish. And it allows us to share with you our vision and our dreams for First Parish, and how important your contribution is to make those dreams a reality. The Minister's Orientations are scheduled for the first Monday evening of every month — our next one will take place on Monday, October 3, from 7 to 8 p.m., with **Jenny Rankin**.

We also offer an orientation program, called The New U. If you would like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and/or First Parish as a faith community, then this is for you. It is facilitated by our ministers and lay leaders, and takes place two times a year. Our next one starts on October 23, and runs for three consecutive Sundays (October 23, October 30 and November 6) from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Wright Tavern.

Advance sign-up is required for either the Minister's Orientation or The New U, and child care is available upon request. Please either call the office at 978-369-9602 or e-mail **Stephanie Chiha** at fpsalud@aol.com.

COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED!

We have a new sign-up sheet, located right in the middle of the refreshment table during coffee hour. Please pick a Sunday (or two!) to help continue this wonderful tradition. We have quite a few weeks with no names attached. The office staff will give you a reminder call the Thursday before your turn, and can be contacted during the week if you have a question. And we are always grateful for those leftovers from a weekend dinner or birthday party. Thanks for your help!

FALL SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES — SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Sign up for the Fall Seasonal Dinner Parties at coffee hour on Sunday, October 16, and Sunday, October 23, or by calling **Vivienne** and **Dean Aldrich** at 978-369-1228. The sign-up deadline is 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 23.

We anticipate extensive participation in the Fall Dinner Parties. These will be held on Saturday, October 29. Join old friends and new for potluck dinners of 8-10 people held in participants' homes. These dinners provide opportunity for

ARTISANS HOLIDAY FAIR — NOVEMBER 5

On Saturday, November 5, every nook and cranny of First Parish will be filled with outstanding works by New England's best artists and artisans. The fair, which will take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., will offer fantastic items for all the adults and children on your holiday shopping list. The WPA table will offer inexpensive items for savvy shoppers. Start setting aside gently used gift items that you would like to contribute to our popular white elephant table. You can contribute preserved and baked goods as well. This is a major fundraiser and 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.

FIRST PARISH CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE

The new 2005-2006 calendar, Portrait of a Meeting House, is available for purchase at both coffee hours. The calendar, which runs from September 2005 through December 2006, features archival photographs of this lovely building we call home, interesting historical tidbits, and church events already entered into your busy schedule. The suggested donation of \$15 will go toward some of the much-needed maintenance that we have had to postpone in past years due to budget constraints. Celebrate this historical building by purchasing a calendar, enjoy this sampling of our history, and let your dollars help to keep our building going for future members of First Parish.

WILLIAM ANDERSON'S PHOTOGRAPHS AT FIRST PARISH

Kristin Anderson, daughter of longtime member **William Anderson**, has mounted an exhibition of her father's photographs in the Parish Hall and Suzanne Altshuler Gallery. Some of the photographs, taken at the church during the 1940's through the 1960's, are featured in the new First Parish calendar, Portrait of a Meeting House. Kristin is working to preserve and archive her father's work. This exhibit shows that he used his camera to capture an era with humor and affection and that he had a true artist's eye.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE AND TEA AVAILABLE AT COFFEE HOUR

Once again, we are selling fair trade organically and shade-grown coffee, as well as organically grown tea and fair trade cocoa, during coffee hours every other Sunday. We promote fair trade as a way to uphold our UU principles. Equal Exchange distributes the products to us at a special cost so that we can also raise money to add to the church's operating budget, and the company also makes a contribution to the UUSC each time we order. We are happy that local merchants are beginning to sell fair trade products in their stores, but we urge you to make your purchases at church. In so doing, you raise money for the UUSC as well as First Parish.

STRETCH YOUR IMAGINATION AT AN ACTING WORKSHOP

Interested in learning more about acting and improvisation? How about having fun while stretching your imagination? Come meet David Fisher, professional actor and coach, who was recently seen in the Reduced Shakespeare Company at Acme Theatre in Maynard Artspace. The Bacchanal Players will sponsor three workshops, led by David and open to all First Parish adults, to be held on Saturdays, October 1, 8 and 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per session. For registration and further information, contact **Lauren Osornio**, 978-263-2262.

REflections

September. No wonder it is the apex of the hurricane season. In my home, it is a hurricane of forms. As I quickly fill out each form, I whisper over my own shoulder, "But, will someone be able to clearly read this in an emergency?" I slow myself down. This is important for the safety of my kids.

I try to step back and watch the schedule shape itself into a routine. I think, October. October things will start to feel normal again. Regular. Expected.

Here at First Parish we are part of that flurry. Forms, volunteers, parents and children, all coming together to create our religious education program. Within our RE program, we have two major goals. First, the safety of your child. And second, building a true sense of connection for our children to our spiritual community.

It is magical to watch it all come together. Yes, October will feel a bit more settled. But right now, I am learning to enjoy the excitement of the new year at First Parish just beginning to unfold.

Thank you for being a part of this magic.

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

WAYS-OF-WORSHIP (WOW) TAKES OFF

Our wow group is off to a great start. The theme for this year's group is Light and Dark. Through drama, art, music and social action, our 8th grade youth will be interpreting this theme and creating a worship service for December 4. Please plan to be there to support our emerging UU leaders.

SPIRIT PLAY FORMAT A SUCCESS

The Spirit Play curriculum has begun with our four-year-olds. So far, it has gotten off to a great start. Our volunteer teachers are excited about the storytelling format and the response of the children. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to teach this exciting new program, please contact **Carol Duane**, our Preschool Coordinator.

TEACHERS/VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are still in need of a few volunteers to teach in the Winter and Spring. Below you will find a list of open slots for the Winter term. Please speak to **Pam Howell** or **Christine Gay** (978-369-9602) if you can help out in this important ministry. We would like to encourage those who are not "currently parenting" also to consider

Religious Education Notes

this opportunity. Reaching out to our youth is just another way to express our commitment to our UU community.

9:00 O'clock Winter: 1 4th Grade teacher, 2 5th Grade teachers, and two 6th Grade teachers

11:00 O'clock Winter: 1 4's teacher, 1 Kindergarten teacher, and 2 leaders for Social Action Sundays

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Many exciting activities are planned for our 7th and 8th graders this year. On October 23, we are planning a Cemetery Scavenger Hunt at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. On November 20, we are expecting to deep-fry whole turkeys for Open Table. If you have never done it or had it, deep-fried turkey is both exciting and delicious. Please join us, and bring your own turkey to fry!

GENTLE REMINDER

Here at First Parish we welcome children and want them to feel part of our community. Churches are exciting places for our children to explore. If you have a young and adventurous explorer in your midst, encourage your child to discover our building, but accompany your child as well. We want your child to be safe and our beautiful church to be preserved. Thank you!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CRAFTS WORKSHOP 2005

When? Saturday, December 3, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Where? First Parish in Concord
Who? First Parish kids age six and up
What? A holiday tradition!

Children make beautiful handcrafted gifts for their family and friends. Old and new favorites include woodworking, candy cottages, porcelain plate painting, holiday cookie baking, the bead bazaar, friendly plastic and more!

Wanted: We need 100 adult elves to help work with children on the crafts. All materials are provided. You just need to bring an interest in kids and a willingness to have fun! Contact **Jeanine Calabria**, 978-369-7214 (JeanineCalabria@comcast.net); **Roselyn Romberg**, 978-287-5766 (roselyn@romberg.name); or **Patty Popov**, 978-369-7008 (PPopov@wesleyan.edu) if you can help. We would also be grateful for help registering the children at coffee hour through November, setting up the Friday before (Dec. 2) and collecting supplies — please contact Patty if you'd like to help get ready for the big event.

Wood elves wanted: For the investment of an afternoon, you will have the joy of helping children realize their dreams. The only requirement is patience. We are an equal opportunity employer and would love your help. For more information, contact Jeanine.

This event is a cherished tradition and is a great opportunity to have fun working with other wonderful people at First Parish. We look forward to hearing from you!

Youth News

We are off to a terrific start. We squeezed 60 youth into the chapel for our first YRUU on September 11. It felt so good to be back together and to welcome new youth. We spent the rest of September building community by developing trust with each other, getting to know each other and going on retreat to Anam Cara (the new name for Mayromai), which means “good friend”.

We are excited to be offering new programming beginning in October. Please check out the First Parish website for downloads, calendars, permission slips, etc.

- Senior High OWL — a new class focusing on teen relationships — will begin on November 1 and the mandatory parent orientation will be on October 18.
- Time to Talk — a new program for youth who would like to talk about personal issues in a youth-facilitated group — will be offered most Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and begins October 16.

We have an enthusiastic and energized group of youth and adults working on social action projects for our youth. YSAC began meeting in September to discuss how youth could help with the Transylvanian floods and Hurricane Katrina. We are also gearing up for our workday with the Concord Council on Aging on Saturday, November 5. Please let **Tracey Bird** or **Mary-Wren** know if youth are interested in getting involved with YSAC or working on the Council on Aging project.

Look for the monthly youth newsletter, “What’s the Deal?” that outlines our Sunday night program:

- October 10 (Monday because of Columbus Day) – Snowballs
- October 16 – Outdoor Games at Emerson Field; meet at the church
- October 23 – YRUU Identity
- October 30 – Field Trip to Witches Woods; leaving First Parish at 5:30 p.m. and returning at 9:30 p.m. (permission slip on website)

Fall is such a busy, hectic time as we settle into our new routines. The YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) is putting a lot of thought and energy into creating a youth program at First Parish that can be an oasis of peace, a place for youth to feel connected and a place to grow one’s soul in these busy times. As always, call or e-mail me with any ideas, questions or comments.

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Standing Committee

STANDING COMMITTEE SETS GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR

The Standing Committee (SC) met on September 12 ready to move forward on this year’s projects. The staff reported on the results of the 2005 fundraising effort: 534 pledges totaling \$875,000 have been received; 61 letters were sent to members who have not pledged, but only 6 members replied. Cochairs for the 2006 campaign are **Cynthia Ellis** and **Jonathan Hurd**, who are already beginning to plan for Celebration Sunday in February. **Jenny Rankin** reported on efforts to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina. **Jim Reynolds** is in charge of communications, and many have stepped forward to head various efforts, involving cell phone collection and partnering with the Dallas UU’s to get aid to towns on the Gulf Coast. **Gary Smith** proposed, and the SC approved, the creation of a Deferred Maintenance Fund to help raise money not currently budgeted for serious problems in the building that need to be addressed, including mandatory upgrades of our fire alarm system. **Lisa Cole**, our new Business Manager, attended the first part of the meeting and explained the reports that she will be preparing monthly for the SC. The remainder of the meeting was spent deciding on specific goals for the year. The SC has formed four sub-groups that will meet and make recommendations in the following areas: how to have better communication between the SC and the congregation and between groups within the congregation; how to revise the governing policies so that they are clear and current; how to help the Vision2008 committee and prepare for the launch of a capital campaign; and how to improve our annual fundraising efforts. These groups will meet and report before the next SC meeting on October 17 at 7 p.m..

Submitted,

—*Susan Beck*
Clerk

MEMBERSHIP CORNER continued from page 7

enjoyment, delectable food and spirited conversation. The hosts will provide an appetizer and the beverages. Others will bring the main dish, salad and dessert. Responsibilities are rotated so that the hosting and preparing of food is shared. —**Vivienne** and **Dean Aldrich**

SHARE COMMON INTERESTS IN AFFINITY GROUPS

Would you like to become acquainted with others at First Parish who have similar interests? Groups are based on diverse interests or hobbies. To join a group, fill out an interest survey. Surveys will be available at the Affinity Groups’ table at the coffee hours on Sunday, October 2. Questions? Contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or at dembsey@surfglobal.net.

NEW AFFINITY GROUP IS FORMING — SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

The Songwriters Circle will be headed by **Chris Randall**. Do you have a tune calling out for lyrics or lyrics in need of a tune? Want some feedback on a song you’ve written? Like to pilot a song in front of a supportive audience? Join a group of like-minded folks interested in expressing themselves through song. We will meet twice a month and focus on becoming more skilled songwriters, developing our gifts, and finding ways to express our ideas through lyrics and music. We will meet the first and third Tuesday/Thursday of each month. Sign up at the Affinity Groups table on October 2 or contact Chris at chris_randall@wgbh.org.

Women's News

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

This year's First Parish Women's Book Group's meetings will be on Monday evenings, on the third Monday of the month, and Tuesday mornings, usually the last Tuesday of the month. The book for October is *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson. The evening group will meet from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on October 17, and the morning group will meet from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on October 25. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read *Gilead* and join one or both of these discussions.

Books and Dates for the Rest of 2005-2006:

(No meeting in November)

December 6 (a.m.) and 19 (p.m.)

Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith, by Anne Lamotte

January 16 (p.m.) and 31 (a.m.)

The Time Traveler's Wife, by Audrey Niffenegger

February 20 (p.m.) and 28 (a.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 BONES FOR LIFE® PROGRAM

Join old and new friends on Monday, October 17, for a very special event. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by the lunch and program. Bring your own sandwich. Dessert, coffee and tea will be provided for a small donation. Reservations are not necessary. **Sherry Seaver** and Deborah Lotus will be the featured speakers. Bones for Life® is a Feldenkrais Method®-based bone strengthening and alignment program involving fun, invigorating and easy-to-do "exercises" that can be done anywhere. Improve your posture, balance and sense of well-being while learning to avoid injury. Help prevent or reverse osteoporosis. Come learn the "processes" for aligning your neck, improving your knees, and strengthening your back and learn how you can make Bones for Life® a part of your life. BFL® classes are currently being taught at First Parish on Mondays. Deborah Lotus is a Guild Certified Feldenkrais® Practitioner and certified Bones for Life® teacher/trainer. Sherry is a certified Bones for Life® teacher.

UU News

MASS BAY DISTRICT AND POT-OF-GOLD FALL CONFERENCE

Mass Bay District's Annual Fall Conference is being held at Andover Newton Theological School on October 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. This year's conference will examine "Engaging Our Theological Diversity." Questions of the unity have prompted interest in exploring our common ground. Contact **Nancy James** at 978-369-2771 or npjames@npjames.com for registration forms. You may also register online at mbdoua.org; click on Fall Conference.

RETREATS CONDUCTED BY REV. CARL SCOVEL THIS FALL

Seeing Jesus with Fresh Eyes, at Rowe Camp and Conference Center in Rowe, Mass., October 14-15. Jesus has been seen as a savior, a stranger, an enemy, a myth and a friend. Attendees to this retreat will be asked to read the Gospel of Mark in preparation for our discussion and reflection on how Jesus speaks to us. You may register by e-mail at emailretreat@rowecenter.org, call 413-339-5728, or write to 22 King's Highway Rd., Rowe, MA 01367.

Exploring Our Discipleship to Jesus, at the Campion Center in Weston, Mass., November 11-13. Carl Scovel, Mary Brady, Karl Haakonsen and Nan Stone will lead this exploration by presenting several figures who have been "disciples," and then leading discussions on what discipleship means and what we can learn about our journeys. Conferees might consider who has been "a Jesus" to them.

The cost of this retreat is \$148. Checks should be made out to Carl Scovel and sent to 36 Hampstead Road, Jamaica Plain, MA 02138. People are considered registered when their check arrives. In addition, each retreatant is asked to make a contribution to the King's Chapel Discretionary Fund. These gifts, if made by check, are tax-deductible and should also be sent to Carl Scovel.

Miscellaneous/Classifieds

HELP WANTED FOR ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Help adults with developmental disabilities learn to become self-advocates and have more control of their lives. A few hours a month at your convenience in West Concord will make a difference. Call Lisa at 978-263-2579 for more information.

WANTED: FULL SERVICE CATERERS FOR WPA EVENTS

The Women's Parish Association is looking for full-service caterers to provide meals for luncheon and evening events. Please contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekincd@comcast.net if you know of any.

A SEARCH FOR SAPLINGS

Do you have saplings on your property that you would donate to two rustic furniture makers? These saplings are used to create beautiful and unusual chairs, tables and arbors. We only remove saplings that fit our building needs. The collection will be at your convenience. We are especially interested in cedar three to eight inches in diameter, as well as alder, birch, maple and bittersweet (two to four inches in diameter). Please call **Jack DeMuth** at 978-201-1028 or **Nancy Reilly** at 978-369-2705 if you have saplings to donate.

October 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.
Bones for Life	Monday	12:00 (not 10/10)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30
<i>Simply Pray</i>	Tuesday	10:30 (not 10/4)
The Realities of Aging	Tuesday	2:00
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00
<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>	Tuesday	7:00
<i>Stress Reduction & Relaxation</i>	Tuesday	7:00
<i>Opening the Hand of Thought</i>	Tuesday	7:30 (not 10/4 or 10/11)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30
<i>Stress Reduction & Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30
<i>Creativity and Spirituality</i>	Sunday	2:00
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 10/9)

Sat Oct 1	9:30	Bacchanal Players Workshop		7:00	Standing Committee
	5:00	Prajnopaya Fundraiser		7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Sun Oct 2	7:00	Sarasa Concert	Tue Oct 18	7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
Tue Oct 4	9:00	WPA Board Meeting		7:00	Denominational Affairs Committee
Wed Oct 5	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee		7:30	Senior High OWL Parent Orientation
	7:00	Artisans Fair Meeting	Wed Oct 19	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
	7:00	RE Council		7:00	Artisans Fair Meeting
	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>		7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
Thu Oct 6	7:00	<i>Stress Drop-in</i>	Sat Oct 22	9:15	<i>Yoga and Meditation Retreat</i>
Fri Oct 7	9:30	Pastoral Care	Sun Oct 23	4:00	New U
Sat Oct 8	9:00	Photo Club		4:00	Junior Youth Group
	9:30	Bacchanal Players Workshop		5:30	Time to Talk (Youth Group)
Mon Oct 10	Holiday—Office Closed		Mon Oct 24	7:00	<i>Dharma and Chai</i>
	7:00	YRUU	Tue Oct 25	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Fri Oct 14	6:00	Coming of Age Opening Retreat (off-site)	Wed Oct 26	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
Sat Oct 15	9:00	Nominating Committee Seminar	Thu Oct 27	7:00	<i>Clear Your Clutter</i>
Sun Oct 16	1:00	<i>Common Cathedral</i>	Fri Oct 28	4:00	<i>Into the Deep and Fertile Dark</i>
	1:30	Crop Walk		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	5:30	Time to Talk (Youth Group)		7:30	Jennifer Johnston's Art Exhibit Reception
Mon Oct 17	9:30	Parish Visitors	Sat Oct 29	9:30	Bacchanal Players Workshop
	11:30	WPA Luncheon	Sun Oct 30	4:00	New U
	12:00	Newsletter Deadline			
	4:00	Trustees			



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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OCTOBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter deadline is **Monday, October 17**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, October 26.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

JERICHO ROAD BIKE RIDE

Sunday, October 2

Details at:

jerichoroadproject.org/roadride.htm

CROP WALK FOR THE HUNGRY

Sunday, October 16

Registration Begins 1:30 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 Koplw, 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

FIRST PARISH CHURCH OF STOW AND ACTON CHURCH FAIR

The First Parish Church of Stow and Acton (Unitarian Universalist) will hold its Annual Fair on Saturday, October 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds located on the Common in Stow at the intersection of Routes 117 and 62. Featured will be all types of homemade baked goods and preserves as well as handcrafted and gift items, books, media equipment and white elephants. A special children's area will include the popular "Moon Bounce", face painting, games and crafts. Lunch and snacks will also be available. In case of rain, the Fair will be held in the church buildings. No admission charge. Free parking. Proceeds will benefit the church. The buildings are handicapped accessible. For further information, call 978-897-8149.

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:

Gary E. Smith: garyesmith@firstparish.org

Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net

Karen Lewis Foley: revklfoley@comcast.net