



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

October 26, 2005
Volume 42, No. 3

The Meeting House News

REVeries

Dear Friends,

I write this month to thank you for all your generous contributions to last year's annual campaign and to thank **Donna DeAngelis** and her entire amazing team who worked so hard to raise the money we needed. Your gifts will carry us through a 15-month time frame that (finally) puts our fundraising calendar in alignment with our fiscal year.

Now, believe it or not, our fundraising cycle is about to begin again. Our campaign team is in place, cochaired by **Cynthia Ellis** and **Jonathan Hurd**, along with other great talents, and they are working to make the pledge process even easier this year. Celebration Sunday is scheduled for midwinter — February 12 — and we hope you will plan ahead to join us as we celebrate the culmination — the success — of our annual pledge drive.

One of our goals this year (in addition to a financial goal, of course) will be to accomplish 100 percent participation from our membership, in gifts of all sizes. It is significant if we can say that each one of us made a gift, that together we are all stewards of the future of First Parish.

This year, we want to become even more comfortable talking about money because raising money is what we must do each year. Your participation and generosity provides the financial resources we need to offer the programs and services we make available to each of you. A full two-thirds of your gift goes toward providing salaries and benefits to the ministers and staff.

We hope you will respond to the appeal this season. We still face some major financial issues. We have hired **Lisa Cole**, our new Business Manager, to ensure that we use your gifts in the most professional manner to support the ongoing work of the church. And if we make our 2006-2007 Annual Campaign goals, we hope to reinstate staff positions, we will take care of the maintenance work that is now urgent for our beautiful building and we will resume our previous fair-share level of financial giving to the wider Unitarian Universalist Association. More to come.

—*Gary Smith*

Sunday Worship Schedule

November 6

Karen Lewis Foley, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – Divali
Sadhana Upadhyay and Friends
Adult Choir

November 13

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 – Adult Choir
Autumn Hymn – Owen
A Time for All Things – Wagner
11:00 – Handbell Choir
Serenade – Haydn/McChesney
Heaven's Rest – Nelson

November 20

Thanksgiving Sunday
Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 Adult Choir and
Children's Choirs
The Promise of Living – Copland
Hymn for America – Paulus

November 27

Adele Smith-Penniman, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – The FAN Trio:
Florence Kis, soprano
Amy Michelson, piano
Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:

Small Group Ministry Information
WPA Letter and Schedule

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 Nov. 14	Tuesday, Nov. 22
Monday Dec. 12	Wednesday, Dec. 21
Monday Jan. 13	Wednesday, Jan. 25

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

TWO SPECIAL NOTES

UPDATED FIRST PARISH WEBSITE TO LAUNCH NOVEMBER 1

Thanks to **Jenny Rankin**, **Hannah Smith Liberty** and **Stoney Ballard**, a new look for our website will be ready November 1. The home page will have a slide show of the people who make First Parish thrive. There will be a user-friendly drop down menu that will include more timely announcements. It will be a website to which you can refer your friends — it invites people in. Check us out — after November 1 — at www.firstparish.org.

VISION 2008 — IMPORTANT SMALL GROUP MEETINGS

The Vision 2008 Committee is holding 16 small group meetings between October 28 and November 6. If you have not already signed up for one of these important meetings that will help determine the capital campaign proposal, it's not too late. You can still call the church office to sign up, or you can simply show up at the meeting that is most convenient for you. The church office has the schedule. Please make every effort to attend one of these informative and interactive sessions. If you have 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.

NOVEMBER 6

No Forum
Vision 2008 Meeting

NOVEMBER 13

Homeless in Massachusetts

Jane Blumberg

Jane is a member of a First Parish-based advocacy group raising awareness of the shocking number of homeless families in Massachusetts. Forum participants will be made aware of the reality of the situation and steps that can be taken to help those in need.

NOVEMBER 20

After Katrina: Supporting the Back Bay Mission

Marty Schumacher

Come learn about the Back Bay Mission of Biloxi, Miss., a multi-social service agency that has served the needs of the Gulf Coast's poor for decades. In response to Hurricane Katrina, First Parish has helped form a local Interfaith Partnership to support Back Bay Mission as it rebuilds. Marty's parents were volunteers, serving for many years on some of this agency's projects, until they were forced to relocate because their house was destroyed by the hurricane.

NOVEMBER 27

No Forum
RE Chapel

Parish Notes

GREETINGS FROM SZEKELYKERESZTUR!

Fall in Szekelykeresztur took everyone out into their gardens and their neighbors' gardens to pick the fruits and vegetables that had been growing all summer. I spent one day with Jozsef, Anna and many of their family members, picking grapes and pressing them for homemade wine. For Thanksgiving Sunday, on September 25, I joined the women's group to deliver packages of food to people in need. We drove all over Keresztur to give the packages to these people in person. Sunday School has started for the youth, and one Sunday Ildiko, one of two new assistant ministers, and I spent the morning with the kids, singing songs and making collages with colorful leaves. Along with teaching my own English classes, I help out in the high school where the kids are always eager to ask me questions about America. This past weekend I was fortunate to sit in on a meeting of all the ministers from Keresztur. They shared their thoughts and stories and ate a delicious meal prepared by Anna, with a little help from me. I am still having a great time and, so happy to be here, experiencing a Transylvanian autumn. —**Rachel Holt**

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 that makes us proud. Her brief updates will appear here each month until she returns in December.

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH UPDATE

Flood relief update: We reached our goal of \$5,000, which has been sent to Transylvania. Many thanks to all for your generosity. For the latest status, see www.uupc.org. All are welcome at our Partner Church Committee meeting, the second Wednesday of each month, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. We have started planning for a choir pilgrimage in 2007, and started thinking about another youth service pilgrimage in 2008. We now have so many people with connections that there may be additional smaller trips undertaken, which we are happy to help with. Also, it looks like there will be some flood relief work trips next spring and summer, as well as another fund drive to support those efforts, so stay tuned. —**Rodger Matlage**

FIRST TUESDAYS DINNERS

Meet First Parish friends, old and new, over supper in the Parish Hall on Tuesdays, November 1 and December 6. First Tuesdays at First Parish will be held the first Tuesday of each month from November through May. The evenings will feature a community supper, conversation and vespers, with child care provided. We would appreciate help with cooking, set-up, serving and clean-up. For more information or if you would like to help with these events, sign up at coffee hour or contact **Kathy Loving** at 508-358-0722 or kdloving@comcast.net.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE ON SUNDAY THIS YEAR

First Parish will host the annual Community Thanksgiving Service this year, on Sunday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. The service will be led by youth groups of the Concord faith communities, and everyone is invited and welcome.

SINGERS SOUGHT FOR VEGAS NIGHT SHOW

Audition: November 9 and 10! We need singers for two half-hour nightclub acts! We'll use karaoke tapes, so learning the songs will be fun and easy. Vegas nights are March 17 and 18, rehearsals will start in January, but auditions are November 9 and 10 so that we can put the show together and get tapes to you before the holidays. E-mail **Sue Beck** for more info at sbeck345@comcast.net.

COME TO THE FAIR!—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

This year's Holiday Artisans Fair promises to be the best ever. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be wonderful opportunities to shop for unique holiday gifts. The kitchen

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Money Matters

2006 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN TEAM READY TO GO

I am pleased to be cochairing, along with **Jonathan Hurd**, the 2006 Annual Fundraising Campaign here at First Parish. When asked by (several!) friends, “Why would you ever take on this job?”, it took just a minute for my reply.

My answer is that I love this church, its ministers and this community. It means the world to me to come here on Sunday, nourish my soul, and be uplifted —with the music, the sermons, and the friends who are a second family to my family.

First Parish is financed by its congregation and this money is essential to keep this place going. Asking people to share the cost is not a bad thing. The church relies on pledges from each one of us to fund its programs, services, and day-to-day operations, including the salaries and benefits for our ministers and staff.

We have a great team — **Jennifer Jacoby, Dave Dawson, David Quimby, Shirley Braley, David Knauss** and **Jenny Rankin**, ex officio. And yes, we need more talent, so why not join us for a great fundraising season. Please e-mail me at celliscom@comcast.net to learn more.

— **Cynthia Ellis**, Cochair of 2006 Annual Fundraising Campaign

ON BUILDING FIRST PARISH’S ENDOWMENT

There is now plenty of information, located on the chest opposite the church office, to help you decide how you might contribute to our endowment. This information is organized as follows:

- Various ways of donating to the endowment
- General information on wills and estate planning
- Information on life income arrangements

Also, don’t forget the relevant upcoming dates:

- November 2 — All Souls Day, when we remember and “communicate with” our spiritual (and financial) First Parish forebears. Fifty years from now our descendants will be thinking about us, their forebears.
- December 31 — Last 2005 date on which to make a charitable gift and receive the related charitable income tax deduction for this tax year.

—**Laura Bernstein**, Chair of First Parish Planned Giving Committee

Pastoral Care News

*Oak branches stripped against November sky
Recall the canopies of June, and wild October blaze,
Glory hallelujahs swept into the compost pile.
I think of all I have lost, and know how much I’ve had.
I remember all the gifts of years,
and realize how much I have to give.
I open my hands to the branches and the sky.*

November is — an odd month, perhaps, for gratitude. In this month, which for me has always been the bleakest, when the land is reduced to essentials, unsoftened by the snows that will come later; we light lights, build fires, give thanks and recall gratitude. I read recently that of responses to having and receiving, thanks is theological and gratitude is mystical. “Thank you, God, for all this food,” I was taught when I was little. To open our hands because our hearts overflow expresses unthought gratitude. Some years ago I began keeping a “gratitude journal” in November, and each November I go back to it, to remember occasions for gratitude in the past and add this year’s. It is a practice I commend to you. Especially if this time of year seems bleak or difficult for you.

Right now I’m grateful to **Polly Peterson** for her work with the Pastoral Care Library, and to **Mike Kittross** for recently giving us a large number of books from his wife **Sally**’s library as he prepared to move to the West Coast. Sally was a beloved member and Parish Visitor, who gave deeply of herself despite living with a painful condition that could prove fatal at any time — and did, three years ago. Her loss was hard for many of us. Soon Sally’s books will enlarge our resources considerably.

For those of you who are caregivers, you may want to check out an article from a recent issue of *Parade* magazine, “What Every Caregiver Needs to Know.” It is down-to-earth and practical and will help you take care of yourself as you take care of your loved one. Copies have been made and are in the Pastoral Care Library (left of the Parlor fireplace). If we run out, tell the church office, and more will be made.

Coming in November: updated photographs on the bulletin board of our pastoral caregivers — some new faces in pastoral care at First Parish.

May you find in this reflective month of paring down, much for which to be grateful. May you find your hands more often open than clenched closed.

And may the glory hallelujahs of summer and fall beauty echo through your winter.

—*Karen Lewis Foley*

MUSings

Last May, on the Sunday when the Adult Choir presented Malcolm Dalglish's *Hymnody of Earth*, we had two special musical guests: Sally McKnight, our wonderful hammered dulcimer player, and Matt Meyer, a gifted young percussionist and lifelong UU. To me, Matt's presence in our service that morning was especially memorable for the way he connected with the children in the service and talked about the way drumming was part of his spiritual path.

Matt will return to First Parish several times this year to present drumming and spirituality workshops through the Wright Tavern Center. The first workshop will be Thursday night, November 3 at 7:00 p.m. He will be back for a more comprehensive, four-week workshop series in January and February. Watch the Wright Tavern brochure for more information about these workshops.

I had the privilege of attending one of Matt's workshops at the UUMN summer conference in Denver this past August. In just over an hour, Matt skillfully taught us some basic rhythm and drumming techniques and provided interesting background on various types of drums. But even more significantly, he allowed us to experience the power of this medium to build community and led us to a dawning realization of the rich cultural diversity in this practice and the need to honor that diversity. What we were able to create together with Matt's guidance was marvelous. That one hour and fifteen minute session left me hungry for more. I plan to be at his First Parish workshops.

I encourage anyone with even the slightest interest in drumming to attend Matt's session on November 3. You don't need to have musical background or experience — just an open heart and spirit. Matt's workshops can be transformative. For more information about Matt's ministry, you can visit his website, www.rhythmrevelations.com.

Hope to see you on November 3.

Blessings,

— Beth Norton

Wright Tavern Center

Bones for Life® — Come try this program designed to promote strong bones, good posture and biological optimism. Two versions are offered, one in chairs and one for the more limber. Learn exercises designed to put spring in your step and encourage the prevention and possible reversal of osteopenia/osteoporosis. Cotaught by Deborah Lotus and **Sherry Seaver**, certified Bones for Life® teachers.

Mondays: October 31–December 19 \$112 session/\$16 drop in
10:00–11:30 a.m. Bones in Chairs 1:15–2:45 p.m. Bones for Life

Drumming Workshop — Matt Meyer will present a unique opportunity for people of all skill levels to discover the spirituality that rhythm has to offer through hands-on experience with drumming. Leave with a greater understanding of not only the mechanics of rhythm making, but a much broader sense of how rhythm and music can positively affect our lives and relationships. Through games, exercises, stories and discussions, participants will begin to look at and experience the power of drumming to bring people together and build community.

Thursday, November 3 7:00–9:00 p.m. \$20

Unplug the Holiday Machine — This workshop is designed to help you create a more rewarding, less stressful, more authentic and value-centered holiday experience. Using a four-step, hands-on, self-discovery process, the workshop includes reflection, writing, dialogue, realistic goal-setting for the holidays, a personal inventory of holiday routines, and the articulation of holiday values and visions. Plan a holiday season you will cherish for years to come. Led by **Rev. Robin Zucker**.

Sunday, November 6 2:00–6:00 p.m. \$40 (includes workbook)

Luminous Lives — Spiritual Autobiography for Elders — Our stories help us make sense of who we have been and who we are becoming. In this course for those sixty-five and older, **Karen Foley** will lead the group as you explore, through writing, the illuminating wholeness and integrity of each participant's story. Confidentiality is respected; attendance required.

Tuesdays: November 11–December 6 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon

Just Neighbors — This interactive course for both youth and adults is a way to better understand poverty and how we can use our resources to improve the quality of our greater community. There will be two all-day Saturday workshops wrapped around the January City Year retreat in Boston. **Mark Richards**, who is leading the class, is studying for his Master of Divinity degree at Andover-Newton.

Workshops — Saturdays: November 12 and March 3 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Retreat — Friday–Saturday, January 27–28

Yoga and Meditation Retreat — Edi Pasalis and Jim Austin will lead this day-long yoga retreat that includes a vegetarian lunch. A great chance to step outside the busyness of daily life and come to stillness, to rest, to clear your mind and to open your heart. The retreat will offer a chance to turn inward, an introduction to the yogic teachings and the philosophy behind them and a safe place for beginners as well as those more experienced.

Saturday, November 12 9:15 a.m.–3:45 p.m. \$90 (includes lunch)

CROP WALK THANKS

Many thanks to all who participated in the Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry, including walkers, sponsors, crossing guards, and those who provided the refreshments. On a blustery fall afternoon, about 330 walkers raised over \$41,400, with the final total expected to go higher. The money raised goes to many important projects around the globe, including



disaster relief, refugee assistance, development projects,

and support for local food pantries and suppers. If you walked and haven't turned in your sponsors' donations, please finish collecting them and return them as soon as possible to the box in the office marked "Crop Walk." See www.concordcrop.org for more info and pictures from the walk.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS ADVOCACY GROUP TO MEET

When an earthquake or a hurricane tosses people into homelessness, we feel powerless. What can any of us do to make a real difference? Yet, in Massachusetts, during 2006, 20,000 children will experience homelessness. And there is something we can do. On January 15, Representative **Cory Atkins**, State Senator Susan Fargo and others are participating in a Forum at First Parish on Family Homelessness. The Family Homelessness Advocacy Group at First Parish is building a group of informed citizens to see that programs aimed at preventing homelessness get funded. Our next meeting is October 27, at 7:30 p.m. Call **Jane Blumberg** for more information at 978-369-8520.

PANEL DISCUSSION OF "BRINGING HOME THE TROOPS"

On Monday, November 14, at 7 p.m., the Social Action Council, Denomination Affairs Committee and Grassroots Actions for Peace will present a moderated panel discussion on "Bringing Home the Troops." The panel will offer the varying perspectives of a clergyman, a politician, an

Iraq veteran and the parent(s) of someone in the armed forces there. Attendees will be asked to raise questions or offer comments following the panel presentations. The meeting will be open to the public. We urge everyone to bring friends and family. For more information, call **Bob Andrews**, 978-369-2876, or **Al Armenti**, 978-360-3779.

FIRST PARISH KATRINA RESPONSE TASK FORCE REPORT

The Katrina Response Task Force of First Parish is focusing on three projects to provide relief to those affected by the Gulf Coast tragedies. Help is needed on all projects. All are welcome to join the task force meetings on Thursday mornings at 8 a.m.

1. Interfaith Partnership to Support Back Bay Mission in Biloxi

We are creating an Interfaith Partnership (with Tri-Con and potentially other faiths) to support Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Back Bay Mission (BBM) is a multi-social service agency that has provided services of all kinds for Biloxi residents. Affiliated as a UCC ministry, Biloxi residents, including local UU's, attest to the organization's integrity and care for all. Their building was devastated by Katrina, as were the homes of most of the people who work at BBM providing services. The needs of BBM are great; the leadership of BBM is well-known to a First Parish member, and the reputation of BBM as a central source of support for Biloxi residents is undisputed. The Interfaith Partnership will involve coordination with other faith groups, the raising of funds for BBM, the supplying of work teams to build and repair, and potential work camps for teens and adults (either through First Parish or potentially through UUSC).

Marty Schumacher is the lead, martin.Schumacher@verizon.net, with assistance from Tracey Hurd, thurd@aol.com.

2. Partnership with Spindletop UU Church in Beaumont, Texas

Spindletop is a congregation with around 50 members and a half time UU minister, Tom Capo, who is in preliminary fellowship. They have sustained damage from Hurricane Rita including structural damage to their shed, sign, and sanctuary. We have become the managing partner church for Spindletop, and we will be the conduit for resources of all types, including funds. A First Parish committee will be formed to support Spindletop, and we will serve as a nexus for other congregations, offering resources to support this small but important UU church. **Mark Richards** is the lead, mark.s.Richards@verizon.net.

3. Partnership to Provide Direct Local Support to One Family

Through the Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries and the Black Ministerial Alliance of Boston, First Parish is partnering with one family who was evacuated from the Gulf area because of Katrina and has voluntarily come to Massachusetts. We are the "point person" for the family, which consists of a mother and her six-year-old daughter. They are living in Worcester, where the mom has found a job and the daughter is enrolled in school. They came with almost nothing and have needs for specific clothing, furniture and other goods.

SOCIAL ACTION continued on page 10

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.

AFFINITY GROUPS

Are you interested in writing music or lyrics? Join the Songwriters Circle with **Chris Randall** which meets the second Thursday of the month. **Diana Shoemaker** would like to get the dancers in the church "rolling." Zydeco Dance was popular last year; however, Diana would like to know if you are interested in other kinds of dancing. **Wendy Wolfberg** has scheduled a Jewelry Making group meeting on December 17 at the church. Whether you are experienced or new, come to share, learn, create and practice. Bring your projects. The Spanish Discussion/ Social group with **Laurie Van Loon** is looking for additional members, especially native speakers.

Other functioning Affinity Groups are Birding, Bridge, Chess, Cooking, Genealogy, Jewish Awareness, Photography, and Writing Down the Bones (creative writing Monday mornings). Additional people and those willing to be a contact person for a group are needed to get these groups started: Bicycling, Concerts, French Conversation, Games, Humanists, Museums, Painting, Scrapbooking, Theater, Theological Discussion, Young Adults (18-35), Walking, and Writing Down the Bones (creative writing evenings or Saturday).

Stop by the Affinity Groups table on Sunday, November 13, or contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or dembsey@surfglobal.net.

OJO! SPANISH SPEAKERS AFFINITY GROUP

Si le interesa conversar en español, venga a la próxima reunión del grupo de afinidad para los que hablan (o quieren hablar mejor) el castellano. Es un grupo social que se reúne cada mes. Tal vez en el futuro saldremos a cenar, o veremos una película en español. La próxima reunión tendrá lugar el 6 de noviembre, a las 7 de la noche. Si usted quiere participar, o para saber más del grupo, llame a **Laurie Van Loon**, 978-369-8528

will be serving delicious homemade snacks and lunch items throughout the day. If you would like to donate gently used gift items for the white elephant table, please bring them to the church the afternoon before or the day of the fair. Baked goods and preserves can be donated as well. Contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekindc@comcast.net if you would like to work at the fair for an hour or more. This event is a major fundraiser and a lot of fun, so come and bring your friends!

FIRST PARISH CALENDAR RAISES FUNDS FOR DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

The new 2005–2006 calendar, Portrait of a Meeting House, is available for purchase at both coffee hours every Sunday this month. This useful calendar, which runs from September 2005 through December 2006, features archival photographs of this lovely building we call home. 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. So get one for yourself and all of the Concord friends on your holiday shopping list!

"SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER" AT FIRST PARISH

Plan now to be at First Parish for New Year's Eve, for the second annual gala kickoff for 2006. Dance to the beat of everyone's favorite tunes, and enjoy festive party fare and special midnight treats. This is going to be a great party that you won't want to miss, hosted by the Special Events Committee. Watch for ticket sales, beginning in mid-November.

WILL YOU BE A SECRET SANTA IN 2005?

First Parish's annual holiday gift-giving program serving families in need is coming soon. Through several agencies, families and/or individuals who are experiencing hardship are sponsored by their First Parish Secret Santas this holiday season. You can choose whom you would like to sponsor on November 20, during either coffee hour. Please watch the *Sunday News* for updates on this popular program. You can go online, between November 14 and 27, to the First Parish website and find a match, or come to coffee hour on November 20 to sign up. For more information, contact **Natalie Bartlett** at 978-369-6186 or nataliebartlett@earthlink.net.

HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS FOR CONCORD PRISON INMATES

Concord Prison Outreach will provide Christmas gift bags for 2000 inmates this year. Requested items are 1 white facecloth, 1 bar of soap, 5 disposable shavers, 1 4-6 oz. tube of toothpaste, 1 pair flip-flops (size large), 1 pack envelopes, 1 writing pad (smaller than 8 x 11, without wire), 10 37-cent stamps and a greeting card signed with your first name only. Donations may be complete sets, available at the West Concord 5 & 10 after October 31, or any quantity of single items. Your bagged, not boxed, donations go to a donation carton in the church office. Tax-deductible checks are also appreciated. Make them out to Concord Prison Outreach, Inc. and noted "Holiday Gifts," and mail them to P.O. Box 383, Concord, MA 01742. December 1 is the deadline for this interfaith project sponsored by the WPA.

THE NEW MASSACHUSETTS UNIVERSALIST CONVENTION

The Massachusetts Universalist Convention gathered in Boston on September 24, with **Nancy James** attending from First Parish. Carl Scovel led the celebration with a worship service of Universalist hymns. We were reminded of our basic UU differences: Universalists believe that God is too good to condemn humanity, while Unitarians believe that humanity is too good to be condemned. The Universalist message of the salvation of all souls was a compelling, optimistic idea in Calvinist New England 200 years ago. Radical theologians like Hosea Ballou and John Murray drew throngs to their messages of hope. Finding God's will for us on earth is the Universalist mission for all humankind.

REflections

Our RE Program is off to a great start this year. As I walk the hallways and enter the classrooms, I can feel the dedication of our RE Teachers. Through your warm smiles and kind words, I see each of you connecting with the children of First Parish. To these kids, it makes a difference.

Our kids need more than their parents as role models. Most kids know their parents will love them no matter what happens. But what about other adults in the community? Kids know that these adults are not obligated to care like parents are, which makes these connections very important in the eyes of children. These are just the kinds of connections we are trying to foster here at First Parish: relationships that develop naturally through the work we do together.

Keep building these connections! They are the foundation of our RE community; they are the energy in the RE hallways on Sunday morning.

Thank you for caring and being the key to a successful RE program.

— Pam Howell

A “THANK YOU” SOCIAL FOR RE PARENTS

On Friday, November 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m., we will be saying “Thank You!” for your ongoing commitment to all the children at First Parish. Join us for wine, cheese, ministers, good company, and informal discussions of our spiritual dreams for our children and how we weave them together as an RE community. Child care will be available. More information to follow soon.

SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 KATRINA BACKPACK PROJECT

Just imagine how exciting it was for our First Parish RE youth to walk down from the sanctuary on Social Action Sunday and find a huge box of assorted school supplies. These supplies were donated by our caring community of parents and kids during the previous week. Thank you, all, for your time and generous donations to this project that enabled our First Parish kids to help other kids affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Over 65 kids showed up for work that Sunday. And they really did work. They organized all the supplies, stuffed the backpacks, inventoried each of the 25 backpacks with a “backpack recipe” and wrote notes to place inside each backpack. Older kids were helping younger kids, kids were working in teams — it was a real group effort. We shipped the backpacks out to the MacGregor School in Houston. A special thanks goes out to **Deb Dormitzer** for seeing the project through, and to Carla Marsh at UPS for donating the necessary shipping services.

Religious Education Notes

SPIRIT PLAY WORKSHOP

November 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the preschool room, there will be an introductory class for teachers of 4’s, Spirit Play subcommittee members, parents and anyone else who is interested in learning more about this exciting new program in RE.

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 also like to encourage those who are “non-parents” to consider this opportunity. Reaching out to our youth is just another way to express our commitment to our UU community.

- 9:00 o’clock winter: one 4th Grade teacher, two 5th Grade teachers, two 6th Grade teachers and one Social Action leader
- 11:00 o’clock winter: two Social Action leaders

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADERS

The 7th and 8th graders participated in a Cemetery Scavenger hunt on October 23. These students received maps and clues about important Unitarian Universalists in our own Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. Our very special guest, **Gary Smith**, walked with our junior youth to the cemetery. He shared important historical information with our kids, including pointing out the first licensed woman driver in the United States. And, yes, she died of natural causes, not by virtue of her driving.

CHILDREN’S HOLIDAY CRAFTS WORKSHOP 2005

On Saturday, December 3, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., First Parish kids age six and up 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 setting up the Friday before (December 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 Roselyn Romberg.

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!

TWO-NIGHT MANDATORY OWL PARENT INFORMATION EVENINGS

Monday, November 7, and Tuesday, November 8, from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Jiffy Read** and the OWL leaders look forward to introducing parents to this important piece of our RE curriculum at First Parish. If you have questions, please contact Jiffy at jifread@cs.com.

RE NOTES continued on page 9

Senior Youth News

It's so exciting to see many of our new youth programs begin. We are also thrilled to have so many youth on Sunday nights. With all the new options for youth this year, it's important to check out the First Parish website to stay abreast of everything. You can view a description of all the youth programming or the current month's programming. All permission slips can be downloaded from the website.

We have three new programs starting up:

- **Senior High OWL** — a new class focusing on teen relationships; begins on Tuesday, November 1. (There is a mandatory parent orientation on October 18.)
- **Time to Talk** — a youth-facilitated forum to talk about personal issues; began on October 16. We will be meeting most Sundays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Youth can drop in on any Sunday.
- **Just Neighbors** — a workshop for youth and adults focusing on poverty and homelessness begins; on Saturday, November 12. To register, contact the Wright Tavern.

Our first social action opportunity for youth is Saturday, November 5, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. We will be delivering buckets of sand to elderly people in Concord through the Council on Aging.

Gary Smith has asked the youth to help him lead an interfaith community Thanksgiving service on November 20, to be held at First Parish at 7:00 p.m. We are excited to work with youth from other churches in Concord to plan a worship service for our whole community.

Our Sunday night programming for November is:

- November 6 – Crazy Improv Night
- November 13 – Buddhist Monk Speaker
- November 20 – Community Thanksgiving Service
- November 27 – No YRUU – Happy Turkey Day Weekend!

I am so lucky to get to work with our amazing young people. They are the energy, creativity and spirit behind this thriving group. As always, call or e-mail me with any ideas, questions or comments.

—*Mary-Wren
vanderWilden*

Standing Committee

NOTES, AND A PLEA — FROM THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee is urging each and every member of the congregation to be involved in the Vision 2008 meetings that are being held this month. Call the office to sign up, come and share your thoughts, learn about the options being considered for our church's future, make your voice heard. What do you want our church to be in five years' time, in ten years'? How much money would you try to raise, and what building projects would you fund? Vision 2008 cannot happen without you. So be a part of the process and come to one meeting — you'll be glad that you did!

The Standing Committee (SC) met on October 17, with **Gary Smith** and **Jenny Rankin** in attendance. Jenny reported on the work that is being done to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina (a list of projects is available at the office). Gary reported that a Deferred Maintenance Fund is being established to address problems in the church building that can no longer be ignored. The SC approved a new Endorsement Policy, which is now in place should a candidate come to us seeking endorsement for Community Ministry. The four subcommittees (Communication, Ends Statements, Finance, Vision 2008) reported on their first meetings. The next meeting will be on November 28.

Submitted,

—*Susan Beck*
Clerk

RE NOTES continued from page 8

REGISTRATION FOR OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) IS NOW.

Classes will begin January 8, and meet most Sundays through April 9. Due to the large number of 8th Graders, there will be two OWL sections. Section A will meet from 3:00–5:30 p.m.; Section B, from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Four of the classes will be “double sessions” running from 2:00 to 8:30 p.m., with the two groups together. A detailed calendar will be provided at the orientation. Please call the RE office with any questions regarding registration.

WORKSHOP ROTATION MODEL FOR 2006–2007

On Sunday, October 16, the RE Council held an informational meeting about the exciting changes coming to the RE program next year. This multisensory, kid-friendly model of teaching religious education promises to be an engaging and interactive way for kids and adults to connect to our RE program. Would you like to learn more? Be on the lookout for more information on our RE bulletin board.

ON NOVEMBER 20, FROM 4 TO 6 P.M. IN THE PARISH HALL

Join us for a Southern Turkey Fry. We will be cooking and making crafts for Open Table. Have you ever tried fried turkey? It's amazing. Consider bringing your own turkey to fry for your dinner. It's pretty quick and delicious.

WAYS OF WORSHIP (WOW) SERVICE ON DECEMBER 4

Our 8th Grade youth and leaders are working on their worship service for Sunday, December 4. On October 23, the youth and leaders participated in Common Cathedral. Social Action projects such as this one allow our kids to form a broader and personal understanding of the needs in our world.

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

This First Parish Women's Book Groups' next meetings will be Tuesday, December 6, at 9:30 a.m., and Monday, December 19, at 7:30 p.m. The December book is Anne Lamotte's newest book of essays, titled *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*. All First Parish women are invited to read the book and attend either session. (The book groups do not meet in November.)

Books and Dates for 2006:

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT DATES

All First Parish women are invited to participate in one of the Women's Retreats in January — this year's retreat weekends are January 20–22 and January 27–29. Details of the retreats will be in the next newsletter, but be sure to put one of these weekends into your calendar now, so you won't miss this great annual gathering!

WPA LUNCHEON MEETING—SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Join old and new friends for a delicious lunch and interesting program at noon on Saturday, November 19, at Serafina Ristorante, 195 Sudbury Road, Concord. London is a favorite city of many, and Derek Mann will give a slide show of his hometown from a unique social history perspective. Derek is an award-winning, multitalented entertainer, former cruise director and an amusing story teller. The cost is \$20. Space is limited and reservations are required. All First Parish women and men are welcome. Contact **Dian Pekin** by November 10, at 978-263-0426 or pekinc@comcast.net.

Deb Dormitzer will be keeping track of what is needed by the family and coordinating donations. We will be supporting the family for at least six months. **Deb Dormitzer** is the lead, Debbie@lhlogic.com, with support by **Bill Seaver**.

Katrina Task Force members include: **Jim Reynolds, Tracey Hurd, Bill Seaver, Dick Shohet, Deb Dormitzer, Debbie Dunnington, Marty Schumacher, John Lowe, Wendy Holt, Mark Richards** and **Rev. Jenny Rankin**.

EXPLORE PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

— FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 9, 2006

Janice Hayden, Concord resident, peace activist and importer of Palestinian folk arts will lead this tour of Palestine and Israel with Rev. Jeffrey Johnson, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Wayland. You will see artisans at work, and meet with clergy, politicians and activists who are working towards a lasting peace. Janice has spoken at several Sunday forums about Palestine/Israel issues. Come and understand the issues yourself. For further information pick up a brochure at coffee hour or contact Janice directly at 781-864-4008 or janhayden@aol.com

CAN YOU HELP SUSSY FIND A JOB AND A HOUSE?

Sussy, the Dorchester resident we have been supporting for three years, graduates from Northeastern next April with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in sociology. She is looking for job leads in law enforcement, the court system, or a law firm. She is bi-lingual (Spanish) and wants to give back. Sussy also has a section 8 voucher and wants to rent a four bedroom house in a place like Concord. If you have any leads, contact Sussy Hidalgo sussyhidalgo@hotmail.com or **Bill Seaver** 978-369-7318 or billseaver@earthlink.net. Sussy is a fine example of how One Family empowers homeless mothers to achieve economic self-sufficiency.

DO YOU WANT TO BE OUR UUSC REPRESENTATIVE?

First Parish is looking for someone to represent the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) at our church. This newly revitalized organization advances human rights and social justice around the world (see www.uusc.org/index.shtml for more detail). If you are interested in inspiring parishioners to become involved with the UUSC, please contact **Jenny Rankin** revjenny@comcast.net or 978-369-9602, ext. 414.

November 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>Bones in Chairs</i>	Monday	10:00
<i>Bones for Life</i>	Monday	1:15
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30
<i>Luminous Lives—Spiritual Autobiography for Elders</i>	Tuesday	10:00
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00
<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>	Tuesday	7:00 (not 11/22 or 11/29)
<i>Stress Reduction & Relaxation</i>	Tuesday	7:00 (not 11/22 or 11/29)
<i>Opening the Hand of Thought</i>	Tuesday	7:30 (not 11/29)
<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 (not 11/25)
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
Time to Talk (TTT)	Sunday	5:30 (not 11/27)
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 11/27)

Tue Nov 1	7:00	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Thu Nov 10	7:00	<i>Clear Your Clutter</i>
	9:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting		7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>
	6:30	First Tuesday Supper		7:30	Vegas Night Auditions
	7:00	Senior OWL Meeting	Fri Nov 11	Holiday—Office Closed	
	7:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Sat Nov 12	9:00	<i>Just Neighbors</i>
Wed Nov 2	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee		9:00	Photo Club
	7:00	Artisans Fair Meeting		9:00	Leadership Seminar
	7:00	RE Council		9:15	<i>Yoga Retreat</i>
	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>		11:00	Common Cathedral Prep
Thu Nov 3	7:00	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Sun Nov 13	1:00	Common Cathedral (off-site)
	9:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Mon Nov 14	9:30	Parish Visitors
	1:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting		12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	7:00	<i>Drumming Workshop</i>		7:00	Standing Committee
	7:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting		7:00	Grassroots Action for Peace
Fri Nov 4	9:30	Pastoral Care	Tue Nov 15	7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee
	7:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Wed Nov 16	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
Sat Nov 5	9:00	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting		3:00	Deacons Meeting
	10:00	Holiday Artisans Fair		7:00	Artisans Fair Meeting
Sun Nov 6	9:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting		7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
	11:30	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Thu Nov 17	7:00	<i>Clear Your Clutter</i>
	2:00	Coming of Age	Fri Nov 18	6:30	RE Social
	2:00	<i>Unplug the Holiday Machine</i>		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	4:00	New U	Sat Nov 19	10:00	Department of Peace
Mon Nov 7	7:30	OWL Orientation		11:30	WPA Luncheon
Tue Nov 8	7:00	Vision 2008 Small Group Meeting	Sun Nov 20	4:00	Junior Youth Group
	9:00	WPA Board Meeting		7:00	Thanksgiving Service
	7:30	OWL Orientation	Mon Nov 21	7:30	<i>Dharma and Chai</i>
Wed Nov 9	6:30	Partner Church Committee	Tue Nov 22	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
	7:30	Vegas Night Auditions	Thu Nov 24	Holiday—Office Closed	
			Fri Nov 25	Office Closed	



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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NOVEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter deadline is **Monday, November 14**, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Tuesday, November 22.

News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR

Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 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

EARLIER SUNDAY NEWS DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER 13 AND NOVEMBER 27 EDITIONS

Because of the Veterans Day and Thanksgiving holidays, the deadline for the *Sunday News* for those weeks will be on Tuesday at noon. So for the November 13 issue, please get your items in to the office by noon on November 8; and for the November 27 issue, your items are due to the office by noon on November 22.

OFFICE EXCHANGE SHELF ETIQUETTE

If you leave an item for pick up on the Exchange Shelf, be sure to let the recipient know it's there. "Shelf life" is one week. If you have a posting for one of the bulletin boards, please leave it in **Kaye Harvie's** box (under the fax machine).

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