



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

## The Meeting House News

### REVeries

William Sloane Coffin, of Yale Divinity School, of Riverside Church, of Doonesbury fame, preached a wonderful sermon years ago on burn out. "It used to be," he said, "that when people said, 'I feel burned out,' they were describing their personal exhaustion... But today 'burn-out' also describes a common condition to those who thought that on such issues as the environment, peace, poverty, and human rights they had built something solid on hard rock only to find out that the rock was sand. Burn-out is a common condition for those who think that points once proved should stay proved, that progress is an arrow, not a pendulum."

And then Coffin goes on to offer a remedy for this kind of burn-out, a remedy found in images of the church, he says, these words from a man who both told the truth and also rode a fast horse, mixing politics and religion every chance he got. "Who do you think you are?" he would ask his congregation. And "what do you want — lifetime membership in the Bystanders Association?" Remember who we are, he said, and now he is speaking from his own Judeo-Christian heritage. Who are we? "We are a pilgrim people who have decided never to arrive." Beware of politicians who always want to go back, he would say. "The Church at its best is always in an exodus. We are a pilgrim people, a people who have decided never to arrive, a people who live by hope, energized not only by what we already possess but by that which is promised."

We are a pilgrim people, but our definition of family who are on this pilgrimage with us has grown too small. And most of our politicians have a definition of family that is far too small. "What's in it for me?" they think we want answered. But where's the talk about children and the homeless and all those who have fallen between the cracks? Who is talking about justice? This pre-election talk is madness.

Do religion and politics mix? They had better. They had better very soon. Our faith matters in this dialogue. This responsibility does not rest alone with just Cardinal O'Malley. It does not belong to just Pat Robertson or his latest manifestation. We have a faith. We have a message. We are pilgrims. We are prophets. We have a vision of the promised land. We will need to take risks. James Baldwin said once that "any real change implies the breakup of the world as one has always known it, the loss of all that gave one an identity, the end of safety." We are called to be at the end of safety and to take care of our brothers and sisters as if they were our brothers and sisters, and our sons and daughters, and our mothers and fathers.

—Gary Smith

### Sunday Worship Schedule

May 7

9:00 & 11:00

Adult Choir & First Parish  
Festival Orchestra

A Celebration of Mozart and Mary

*Sancta Maria Mater Dei*, K. 273

*Ave verum Corpus*, K. 618

*Regina Coeli*, K. 276

*Church Sonatas*, K. 67, K. 224 and K. 328

May 14

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Junior Choir and  
Handbell Choir

*How Could Anyone Ever Tell You* –

*It Is Well With My Soul* –

Bliss/Moklebus

11:00 – Chalice Choir and  
Gospel Choir

*By My Side* – Schwartz

*Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* – Traditional

May 21

9:00 & 11:00 – Coming of Age Service

May 28

Karen Lewis Foley, preaching

One service at 11:00 – Adult Choir

*My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* –  
Thomson

*Twenty-Third Psalm* – McFerrin

### COME BUILD A DREAM!



See page 9 for  
updated information  
about the First  
Parish Capital  
Campaign.

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Join the Auction Team

There is one insert with this newsletter:

### Transylvanian Music Trip

*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, May 15	Wednesday, May 24
Monday, June 19	Wednesday, June 28
Monday, Aug. 21	Wednesday, Aug. 30

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

### ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTERS HIRED

We are pleased to announce the hiring of **Alyssa Acito Bigay** to the new position of Assistant to the Ministers, effective in the late summer of 2006. Alyssa is a graduate of Tulane University and Agnes Scott College in Atlanta, with an M.A. in teaching. **John** and **Alyssa**, and their children Olivia and Simon, have been part of our congregation since 2003. Alyssa taught in Atlanta before moving to Colorado and then Concord, where she has been on the board at the Barn Cooperative Nursery School. She will be sharing office space with **Lisa Cole** in the Wright Tavern.

### JOB OPENING — PROGRAM DIRECTOR WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

We have an opening for this 15 hour/week job, 40-42 weeks (not summer weeks), coordinating and publicizing our Wright Tavern programs, our center where teens and adults can come to deepen spiritually. We are looking for someone with a vision for developing this important program. Contact **Gary Smith** (gesmith@tiac.net) for a job description and more information. Deadline: **April 15**.

## Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning 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.

### MAY 7

No Forum

### MAY 14

#### *Secular Humanism*

First Parish Humanist Group Members

This Forum will explain what secular humanism is, and what First Parish humanists concern themselves with during their discussion group meetings.

### MAY 21

#### *First Parish's Growth*

**Patrick Everett**

How fast are we growing? Or are we? The growth of First Parish over the last 19 years will be presented and examined in light of a significant amount of gathered data and charting, followed by an open discussion of the implications.

### MAY 28

No Forum—  
Memorial Day Weekend

### MANY THANKS, CARL!

The Forum Committee extends its gratitude to **Carl Robichaud** for a thought-provoking and in-depth analysis of what's happening in Afghanistan during a recent Sunday Forum. All in attendance were very proud to see some of the wonderful contributions Carl is making in his work at the Century Foundation. During his youth, Carl attended religious education classes here at First Parish. It's great to see young and thoughtful UU's working on critical public policy issues. Best wishes, Carl, for a very successful career!

## Parish Notes

### HISTORY OF FIRST PARISH MINISTERS NOW ON THE WEBSITE

"Ministers of the First Parish in Concord: 369 Years of Parish History," by **Marian Wheeler**, can now be viewed on the First Parish website ([firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)). Marian first presented her history to the Women's Parish Association and kindly agreed to share it with all who visit our website. Thank you, Marian!

### FIRST TUESDAYS DINNER

Please join us for May's First Tuesdays Dinner and Vespers, on Tuesday, May 2, from 6 until 8 p.m. Vespers start at 7:20. "First Tuesdays" are casual suppers for the whole First Parish community. Child care and a room for homework are provided. Before the summer begins, we'll be planning next year's dinners — First Mondays. Are you interested in helping? We're looking for a few volunteers for the May dinner as well — for setup, cleanup, and for help in the kitchen. Contact **Eric Moore**, [eric\\_a\\_moore@yahoo.com](mailto:eric_a_moore@yahoo.com) or 978-369-6337, to sign up or to volunteer.

### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MOVIE

On Thursday, May 25, the Diversity Committee will present the film *My Beautiful Launderette* at 7:30 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. Set in London in the mid-1980's, this multifaceted film sensitively explores social, ethnic, and sexual issues and contradictions. It will be shown on a big screen, and refreshments will be provided. This movie is rated R, so no children, please.

### BOSTON PRIDE MARCH JUNE 10 — SAVE THE DATE!

The Diversity Committee will organize a group from First Parish to march in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 10. This is a wonderful event and a lot of fun. Look for more details in the June newsletter, or e-mail **Sara Ballard** at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org) with any questions. All are invited to join us and help show First Parish's support for the LGBT community.

### TRANSYLVANIAN DESSERT BUFFET BENEFIT, FRIDAY, MAY 12, AT 7:00 P.M.

Join us on Friday, May 12, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a benefit dessert party celebrating our many activities with our Transylvanian Partner Church. Sample delectable Eastern European desserts. Hear from youth, parishioners and choir members who have traveled to visit our friends in Szekelykeresztur. Listen to Hungarian music by the choir. Explore the country through the photographs from past visits. Learn about the upcoming summer visit of Transylvanian youth Istvan Csaka and the Thanksgiving visit of our partner minister Jozsef Szombatfalvi, his wife Anna, and four other leaders from their congregation. Hear our plans for our next choir and youth trips in the summer of 2007. This is a great time to reunite with past pilgrims or to learn more about our Partner Church. All are invited. Suggested donation: \$25 per person. The proceeds will go toward the \$7000 needed to bring our guests to First Parish this year. Dessert Buffet tickets will be available at coffee hour on April 30 and May 7 or contact **Bill Maxwell** at 978-369-5257 or [wimaxwell@comcast.net](mailto:wimaxwell@comcast.net).

### FERRY BEACH RETREAT

This year's Ferry Beach Retreat will be happening on May 26 to 29, Memorial Day Weekend, at the Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registrations for the weekend will be taken on two Sundays, April 30 and May 7, during the coffee hour. The Ferry Beach Retreat is a popular favorite, and it has become necessary to choose attendees by a lottery system in an effort to be as fair as possible in case the weekend is oversubscribed. (In recent years, everyone who was on the wait list was eventually able to attend, due to drop-outs from the initial list; the committee hopes the tradition will continue this year!) Information about the Ferry Beach Retreat will also be available on the table by the office, or contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or **Margaret Stewart** at First Parish (978-369-9602), or at [fpmom@aol.com](mailto:fpmom@aol.com).

## Pastoral Care News

I'm delighted to welcome **Lois Suarez, Ross Harris, Brenda Kelly** and **John Muresianu** to the Parish Visitors, enriching and extending the reach of this wonderful group. "Communicating with Compassion" will be shown and discussed on Saturday morning, May 20, 9:00-10:30 a.m., both for the Parish Visitors, and for all who want to deepen their listening skills. I use this video with both Parish Visitors and Pastoral Care Ministry. It has been shown and discussed two or three additional times at First Parish, always to "rave reviews." If you've wanted to see it, this is a good chance.

I have shared the following poem with our caregiver groups. It speaks to a truth we might not think about much in the busyness of our daily lives—and hasn't May always been one of the busiest months with end-of-year recitals, graduations, parties, gardening, and summarizing homes and wardrobes? It's good to remember where we're grounded and how what we do matters.

Your accommodations  
are everything to the eternal:

the open door of your home,  
the tableware you choose,  
what must die for dinner.

Your accommodations  
are everything:

what you've grieved and lost  
and given up for good;  
the enemy you've blessed.

Your accommodations  
to the eternal are everything,

even the years learning  
the patience to simmer  
brown rice without burning,

because your life

is not your personal matter.

—*Anne Dilenschneider*  
*Honorable Mention, Presence Poetry Contest, 2005*

Blessings,

—*Karen Lewis Foley*

## Money Matters

We are nine months into the fiscal year and at this point are trying to anticipate where we will end the year from a financial perspective. On the income side, we received \$46K in pledge income this month. This is significantly lower than last month. Please continue to make payments toward your pledge, as pledge income is an important component in determining if we will end the year with a balanced budget. We understand that sometimes there are circumstances that may prevent you from fulfilling your pledge. If this is the case, please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

On the expense side, YTD expenses through March represent 73 percent of our budgeted expenses for the year. We are working hard to stay within budget in some areas, but still expect year-end total expenses to be within budget.

The audit of our 2005 financials is complete. The audited financial statements include both financial information from the operations of First Parish and the endowments of the church, managed by the Trustees. Therefore, **Tim Jacoby, Lou Fackert, Pat Brinkman** and I met with the auditors to review the reports. No major problems were found by the auditors. Tim then presented the audited financials to the Standing Committee and received their approval.

—*Lisa Cole*, Business Manager

### MORE FROM THE COLLECTOR!

If you are using the automatic deduction system, please remember that no changes (or discontinuations) can be made without a signed authorization form. If we don't receive the change form approximately 15 days before the first-of-the-month deductions, the deductions will continue as before. We have the forms in the office, and they are also available online at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org). Please contact **Peg Gallo** at 978-369-9602 for more information.

### PLEDGE.2006 UPDATE: THANK YOU!...AND PLEASE PLEDGE!

Thank you to all who have pledged to support First Parish's July 2006-June 2007 annual operating budget. As of April 10, 519 households have pledged a total of \$915,816, which is 97 percent of the way to our \$940,000 goal.



However, we still need to hear from the 57 households who pledged last year but who have not yet turned in pledge forms for this year. We will surpass our goal if all of you pledge at least as much as you did last year. Please visit [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org), or pick up a pledge form from the church office. Increase your pledge if possible...or please indicate on the pledge form if you are unable to pledge this year. We really need to hear from you soon so that we can wrap up the campaign and allow the church to plan its operating budget for next year.

In appreciation of your generosity,

**Cynthia Ellis and Jonathan Hurd**, cochairs  
The Pledge.2006 Team

## Membership Corner

### SPRING SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES

What a great way to anticipate spring! Numerous members of First Parish attended festive dinners hosted by **Rhoda Miller, Carolyn and Barry Copp** and **Vivienne and Dean Aldrich**. Information and dates for next year's dinners will be published in the August *Meeting House News*. Thanks to all this year's hosts and participants.

We have enjoyed organizing these events for the past four years. It has given us an opportunity to meet and know many individuals at First Parish. **Carolyn and Barry Copp** are the new organizers. We wish them well, and you will be hearing from them in the fall. Let's continue this lively and fun tradition.

—**Vivienne and Dean Aldrich**  
Membership Committee

### ENTER THE UUSC HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST

Artists and writers of all ages are invited to join the holiday card contest to have their design or words included in this year's December fundraising sale.

Cards are 5.125" x 7." Mail your drawings or photos to UUSC Holiday Card Contest, 130 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139, or e-mail your digital art to [volunteerservices@uuscs.org](mailto:volunteerservices@uuscs.org). Check out the website for complete instructions.

## MUSings

"Mozart, Mary and May." This alliterative trinity has been on my mind as I plan for our annual spring Music Sunday. This year marks the 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth on January 27, 1756. In celebration, it seems that almost every musical institution in the world has scheduled Mozart's music into their seasons. Why not First Parish too?

The question of which Mozart masterpiece to present offered an embarrassment of riches. But as I thought of choral pieces that would be appropriate for a Sunday morning at First Parish, I was drawn not to the large,



majestic masses that Mozart wrote — or to his operas, but to the many short and exquisite motets for choir and orchestra that he wrote during his years as a church musician. These pieces are less frequently performed in concert venues because they are so short; and rarely performed in their original liturgical context because of the instrumental forces they require. But these musical gems contain all the charm, grace and spiritual depth that characterize Mozart's music.

I was particularly drawn to Mozart's settings of Marian devotional texts — those traditional liturgical texts addressed to Mary, the mother of Jesus. During his years at Salzburg, early in his career, Mozart set many of these texts for Sunday worship. Two of these settings, *Sancta Maria Mater Dei* K. 273 (1777) and *Regina Coeli*, K.276 (1779) will be part of our Music Sunday celebration on May 7. The *Sancta Maria* is addressed to Mary in her role as comforter and intermediary. The *Regina Coeli* celebrates the resurrection of her son: "Queen of Heaven, Rejoice, for he to whom you gave birth is risen, as he said!"

The third motet I have chosen is the famous *Ave Verum Corpus* K. 618, which was composed in June 1791, just six months before the composer's death. This profound Eucharistic hymn commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus only mentions Mary once — as the mother of this sacrificed body. But for me, it encompasses not only the sorrow of the crucifixion, but also the very personal sorrow of the woman who bore this man. I cannot sing or hear it without picturing Michelangelo's powerful Pieta, and its depiction of a bereft mother holding her murdered son.

Together, these three short pieces, I believe, create a musical portrait of this divine female figure and express three aspects of her life and her spiritual legacy in Mozart's sublime musical language.

As I researched these pieces and the history of devotion to Mary, I also learned that in the Catholic tradition and especially in the tradition of Marian devotion, May is considered to be "Mary's Month." Thus, we have a serendipitous conjunction of three "M" words: "Mozart, Mary and May." Eric and I and the choir look forward to sharing this music with you on May 7.

Blessings,

—*Beth Norton*

### SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS 2006

Congratulations to the following organizations that were notified this month of the awarding of a grant from First Parish.

Concord Carlisle Restorative Circle received \$1000; Household Goods Recycling Ministry

received \$1000;

Fundacion Para la Reconciliacion,

\$1,300; Partners in Health, \$3000; and

UU Urban Ministries received \$13,000 in grant funds to support Stand High Stand United, Renewal House, and Roxbury Youth Programs.

The Social Action Giving committee reviewed 16 worthy proposals, totaling \$42,000. Total funds available for immediate funding were \$20,000. Two proposals were forwarded to the Katrina Relief group for consideration, since these requests were to support victims of the hurricanes. Earlier this church year, Social Action Giving dedicated \$10,000 to support hurricane relief efforts.

Requests for funds far exceeded the committee's ability to provide financial assistance. In some instances, organizations received less funding than requested. If at the end of the church year the church receives the full amount pledged by parishioners, additional funding may be provided to these projects.

The Social Action Giving committee thanks all First Parish members for their continued financial support. The work of our church members and their commitment to social action through these and other organizations is a testament of the strength of our benediction — Go out into the world . . .



### AN INVITATION FROM CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH

This year Concord Prison Outreach is reorganizing its holiday gift project, and you are invited to join this interfaith group to plan for the coming season. There are a variety of opportunities available to help this worthwhile project. Areas in which to volunteer include, but are not limited to: publicity, mailings, making phone calls, writing notes, acting as workshop coordinators, liaison between faith groups, and assembling and distributing the gift bags. Join Concord Prison Outreach for refreshments and an informational and planning meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at Trinitarian Congregational Church, in the parlor.

### NEWS FROM JERICO ROAD

**New Volunteer Opportunity!** The Lowell Folk Festival is considered the premier event of its kind in the nation. Yet the festival needs money to survive and thrive. Jericho Road is working closely with the Lowell Festival Foundation to help boost Folk Festival revenues. In 2005 we piloted a revenue-generating project based on the sale of Festival pins. We now need to take this business to the next level and find a project manager to help coordinate this mini-enterprise.

**Volunteer Highlight:** "This has been a great team to get this important accounting work done for us. The grant is almost complete and I did incorporate the information that Kristin and Sven provided. Thanks, Team!" — *Sister Janet, Saint Julie Asian Center, regarding the work of Jericho Road volunteers Sven Olson and Kristin Moore*

### 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](mailto:SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org), see our website, [www.firstparish.org/sac/](http://www.firstparish.org/sac/), <http://sac.firstparish.org/>, or look at the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church. If you would like to volunteer and don't know where to start, contact **Bill Seaver**, 978-369-7318, [billseaver@earthlink.net](mailto:billseaver@earthlink.net); or **Dave Dunn**, 978-263-2273, [dave\\_dunn@bose.com](mailto:dave_dunn@bose.com).

## FROM PAUL SAWYER

Dear Friends,

I hope that you will join me on the afternoon of June 4 at First Parish, as you and my home congregation, Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Plymouth, New Hampshire, ordain me to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. **Gary Smith** will be preaching, and both the First Parish and the SKUUF choirs will sing. It will be a wonderful and joyous event.

I feel deeply honored to be commencing my professional ministry with this ceremony in which you will play the most significant role. My time at First Parish has been full of warmth and learning for me, and for Katy and Emma. We cherish all the time we have been among you, and can't wait to carry your spirit and your support wherever our path leads us next. Please join us on June 4 if you can. —**Paul Sawyer**

The Congregations of  
First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts  
and  
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
of Plymouth, New Hampshire

joyfully invite you to celebrate with us as we ordain  
**Paul Stanley Sawyer, Jr.**  
to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry  
Sunday, June 4, 2006, at 4:00 p.m.

At First Parish in Concord  
20 Lexington Road  
Concord, Massachusetts

Reception to follow

Clergy, seminarians and religious professionals are  
invited to arrive at 3:30 to robe and process.

## PAUL SAWYER ORDINATION INFORMATION

For questions, or to request child care, please contact **Tom Bird** at [tbird26@comcast.net](mailto:tbird26@comcast.net) or 978-371-7111.

## Standing Committee

The Standing Committee (SC) met on April 10, with **Don Dembsey** visiting and **Patrick Everett** observing. The Finance Subcommittee made several recommendations, which the SC endorsed, that address the future financial health of the church. Among them are ways to encourage more planned giving and ways to enable people to give money specifically earmarked for an endowment. Look for more information on planned giving in the coming months. One task of the SC under our governance policy is to evaluate its own role as a board, which we did by written survey, and the role of the senior minister as both minister and head of staff. The SC met with **Gary Smith** for over an hour in a closed session that enabled us to have a very open and constructive discussion with him about his work with the congregation, the staff and the board. At our next meeting, we will look at recommendations for future action that will come out of these evaluations. The SC has decided that there are certain issues that are best discussed without visitors present. The next meeting, on May 22 at 7:00, will be open to visitors for the first hour, after which the SC will meet in executive session.

Submitted

—*Susan Beck*, Clerk

## UU News

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY: LAST CALL FOR DELEGATES

This year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, or "GA," will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, June 21 to 25. From the dramatic Opening Celebration on Wednesday evening to the Closing Ceremony on



Sunday, GA will provide nonstop options that range from silent, meditative worship to joyful dance parties, with lots of workshops, programs, singing and conversations in between. Special times to watch for this year include our own **Beth**

**Norton's** direction of music for the Sunday morning worship service, and hearing poet Mary Oliver as this year's Ware Lecturer. First Parish is entitled to 15 delegates, and the deadline for early registration is April 30. If you are interested in being a delegate, please contact **Margaret Stewart** right away,

### UU SUMMER PROGRAMS

Program books are now available for the New England summer camps and conferences centers. Check the UU bulletin board for informational posters, and request your own copies of program brochures from [ferrybeach.org](http://ferrybeach.org) (Ferry Beach) and/or from [starisland.org](http://starisland.org) (Star Island). Information about UU camps can also be found at the UUA website, [uua.org](http://uua.org).

### THE SOUND OF SPRING

Can you hear it? In very early May on a very warm day I love to sit on a rock at the edge of the woods. I sit very still and if I listen, really listen, I can hear the sound of the new year's growth pushing up through the leaves. The first time I did this, it startled me. "What is that noise?" I thought. I still can't get that sound of spring out of my mind. Once you hear it you can never forget it.

I have heard others say this about other things — peepers in vernal pools, returning songbirds and the pungent smell of hyacinth in the air. Harbingers of spring — of rebirth, of new beginnings.

Take a moment to sit with your kids and listen. Ask them to name the sounds of spring. Children take it all in. They haven't learned to disregard this noise or that smell. Each sound, smell, sight is seen with fresh, untrained senses. Take advantage of these hidden talents in your own child.

### RE REGISTRATION

Well, RE registration is behind us now. Thank you to all who registered with our new programming next year. It was a bit different, but everyone seemed to adapt and "go with the flow." I also got a chance to put some faces with names. We are so lucky to have such a talented pool of parents and adults in our First Parish community.

I'd like to especially thank the RE Council members for their assistance in RE registration. Having so much knowledgeable support really helped to make things run smoothly. It was truly a team effort.

— Pam Howell

### MAY RE CALENDAR:

May 7 Regular RE Program

May 14 Regular RE Program

May 21 Regular RE Program  
Coming of Age Service for 9th Graders

May 28 Memorial Day Weekend: No RE Classes; Pre-K care only

### LET'S COMPLETE RE REGISTRATION

Haven't registered yet? Please stop in and we will help you in this process. We want next year to be an easy transition for all of our kids, and knowing who is coming is so important for the planning process. Please take a moment to come in and complete our registration forms. The RE office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

### JOIN FIRST PARISH'S "EXTREME MAKEOVER" TEAM

First Parish is now recruiting volunteers to join its very own "Extreme Makeover" team, who will transform four classrooms into cool, inspiring workshops — while still preserving each room's multi-use nature — in time to launch our exciting new RE Workshop Rotation model in September. We have some creative ideas and talented designers on board, but we need YOU to make this project an "Extreme Success." We welcome volunteers at all skill levels and time commitments — everyone from designers and artists who can help lead the teams — to people who can commit only a few hours to paint, sew or do light carpentry. Most of the hands-on work will be done from June 12 to August 1, but please contact us now to volunteer! **Allison Aley** (978-369-2322, [allisonaley@yahoo.com](mailto:allisonaley@yahoo.com)), **Suzie Weaver** (978-369-5352, [skatesuzie@aol.com](mailto:skatesuzie@aol.com)), or **Sue Ryan** (978-371-9507, [susanryan101@aol.com](mailto:susanryan101@aol.com)).



## Capital Campaign Notes

Our Capital Campaign continues to move along. Dozens of volunteers have already devoted hundreds of hours. There is a lot of work to do but people say they find the work very satisfying.



### BUILDING COMMITTEE

Members of the Building Committee are in the process of reviewing proposals sent by several architects and expect to select an architect by the middle of May.

### FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Fundraising for the Capital Campaign has begun. More than a dozen parishioners have been trained to solicit the first phase of leadership donations. Here's how the process works. Solicitors work in pairs. They schedule a face-to-face meeting with each potential donor. Sometimes, second meetings are held. It may seem like a time-consuming process, but we are committed to a professional approach.

### ORGAN COMMITTEE

A detailed goal statement has been written and a high level scope of work drafted. The Committee is also working to establish criteria for determining qualified sources and has begun identifying qualified sources.

## Senior Youth News

When the youth decided on "flight" as the theme for their youth service, **Jake Nunes** (the other Youth Advisor) and I were skeptical about whether it would be inspiring enough to create a whole service around. However, we were all thrilled when the youth took off and soared as they led a moving and truly inspirational youth service. I had small children tell me how great it was to have Harry Potter and Superman doing the children's message, while adults were moved to tears by the thoughtful reflections and beautiful music. Our congregation should be very proud of raising youth who feel rooted here, yet, they have been given the wings to fly.

Next year brings a move for the Youth office. Jericho Road will take over the Icy Cliff room and the Youth Director office will be in the main church building. There is a new space in the basement for youth, junior youth and RE, which we are calling the Icy Cave. On May 7, we hope all youth will join us in decorating it to make it our own.

It's a busy May calendar for youth:

Saturday, May 6: YSAC/YAC Car Wash Fundraiser

May 7: 4:00 Ordination for Diane Rollert  
Youth are welcome

7:00 YRUU: Decorate the new Icy Cave,  
Bring fun stuff

May 14: Spiritual Journey with Elena and Rosie

May 21: Games with Tri-Con Youth

May 28: No YRUU; Memorial Day Weekend, Ferry Beach

The YAC is looking forward to our leadership retreat on Saturday, May 6, through Sunday, May 7, at the First Church in Boston where we will begin planning for the 2006-2007 year.

Six First Parish youth and three adults will be joining the Concord Area Interfaith Project on a service trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. We hope to gather another group of youth to go at the end of June. It's a wonderful opportunity for youth to make a big difference in the lives of those who have suffered because of Hurricane Katrina.

YSAC and YAC are organizing a car wash to earn money for our Transylvanian student and to sponsor a South American student. We hope lots of youth will join us having fun in the sun washing cars on Saturday, May 6 (rain date is May 13). We invite parishioners to come get their cars cleaned that day at Crosby's in Concord.

Spring fever has hit us and our moods have lifted. On the other hand, so many of the youth are facing good-byes and major changes. Through the joys and sorrows of life's journey, I would like the youth to know that First Parish will always give them strong roots and sturdy wings.

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

## Women's News

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### **THANK YOU, SIRI AND SUE!**

The Women's Parish Association and all who attended this year's spring recital and tea extend heartfelt thanks to **Siri Smedvig** and **Sue Minor** for another enchanting performance! Their music carried everyone to a place of joy and beauty — a wonderful way to begin the season of spring. We are most grateful to them for sharing their wonderful musical gifts with us.

### **THANKS FOR A GREAT FLEA MARKET!**

Many people contributed items and their time to make this year's flea market another success, and the Women's Parish Association extends their gratitude to each and every one. Special thanks go to **Pat Kane**, chair of the event, **Roselyn Romberg**, **Francene Amari-Faulkner**, **Mary King**, **Rhoda Miller**, **Doug Baker** and all the sextons, and **Dian Pekin**. This is a great community effort, it raises funds and recycles items that would end up in the land-fill. Well done, everyone!

### **THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP**

The final book of the year for the First Parish Women's Book Group will be Karen Anne Fowler's novel, *The Jane Austen Book Club*. The book discussions will be held on Monday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., and Tuesday, May 23, 9:30 a.m. A final gathering of book group participants will be held in June, to choose books for next year

### **FAMILY POTLUCK LUNCH AND STORYTELLER PERFORMANCE**

On Saturday, May 13, the Women's Parish Association is holding its annual family luncheon event to celebrate women and their families. This year's celebration will be a family potluck meal at noon followed by a performance at 1 p.m. by Elisa Permain, a critically acclaimed storyteller. Hot dogs will be available for sale as well. All men, women and children of all ages of First Parish and their friends are welcome! The stories have been selected to appeal to all ages. Reservations are not required, but for planning purposes, contact **Dian Pekin** at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) or at 978-263-0426 to give us some idea as to how many will be attending. There is no charge for this event.

## Miscellaneous

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### **"ANYONE-CAN-LEAD" FAMILY CONTRA DANCE**

The family dance will be held on Saturday, May 6, from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m., at Old Center Hall, 3 Great Pond Road, North Andover. North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church invites you to an evening of easy New England style country group dancing. Our caller, Linda Leslie, will guide us through learning simple folk dances based on circles, squares, lines and other formations. Small children will need to dance with an adult. Please bring clean, soft-soled shoes (sneakers, for example) to dance in. \$8 adults, \$5 children (\$25 max per family). Sponsored by Interweave North Parish. For more information, e-mail [lauralandy@comcast.net](mailto:lauralandy@comcast.net).

### **WINE COUNTRY EXCURSIONS**

UU's of Napa, California, announce the second season of our UU Wine Country Excursions, a delightful way to tour the scenic Napa and Sonoma valleys. These small tours are customized to your interests — e.g., wine tasting, art, history, gourmet dining, or exploring the beauty of our hills and valleys. The tour includes private room/bath and breakfast in the homes of congregation members. Special places include COPIA (the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts), Jack London's home, the Francis Ford Coppola winery and movie museum, fine restaurants, many museums and galleries, and miles of bicycling and hiking trails.

We offer excursions from April through October. Plan for two days of touring and two or three overnight stays. Home hospitality without tours is available. All proceeds benefit our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Contact Tom Wilson at 707-254-7443 or [twilson9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twilson9@sbcglobal.net).

## Community News

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### **KAREN WILL HOUSE-SIT THIS SUMMER!**

Going away this summer or part of it? **Rev. Karen** and **Dan Foley** and their (friendly, non-destructive) indoor cat are hoping to house-sit/rent in the Concord area this summer while their new house is being built in Maine. Shelter(s) needed June 29-Labor Day.

### **OPEN TABLE NEEDS EXPERIENCED HELP**

Open Table is looking for two experienced adults with the ability to set limits, to work with a group of about ten children ages five to 13. Help is needed from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., on one or more Thursdays each month, at First Parish. We need adults to organize and implement creative children's activities such as simple craft projects, storytelling, singing or simple physical activities. We will gladly provide support and ideas. High school students are welcome if teamed with an experienced adult. For more information or to volunteer, please call Open Table at 978-369-2275. Thank you!

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN**

The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care offers a subsidy to cover some of the costs of preschool for income eligible families. This scholarship money can be of tremendous assistance to families who are struggling to stay within their budget, yet wish to provide a preschool experience for their child. For eligibility guidelines and further information, please call Sally Quinn Reed or Betsy Sweet at 978-202-1143.

## May 2006 Calendar

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

### Every Week...

<i>Morning Meditation</i>	Monday-Friday	7:15 a.m.
<i>Bones in Chairs</i>	Monday	10:00 (not 5/29)
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	1:15 (not 5/29)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00
<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	Tuesday	7:00
Concord Interfaith Group	Wednesday	8:00
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 (not 5/10)
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00
<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 (not 5/25)
<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00
YRUU	Sunday	7:00

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Mon May 1	7:00	Minister's Orientation	Sun May 14	1:00	Common Cathedral (off-site)
Tue May 2	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	Mon May 15	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	6:00	First Tuesdays Dinner		4:00	Trustees
	7:30	First Tuesdays Vespers		7:00	Jewelry Affinity Group
Wed May 3	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee		7:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
	7:00	RE Council	Tue May 16	7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>		7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee
Thu May 4	7:00	Human Resources Committee	Wed May 17	7:00	Youth SAC
Fri May 5	9:30	Pastoral Care		7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
	6:30	Spindeltop Dinner	Fri May 19	10:00	Parish Visitors
Sat May 6	9:00	Choir Rehearsal with Orchestra	Sat May 20	9:00	Parish Visitors Video
Sun May 7	4:00	Diane Rollert's Ordination		1:00	COA Rehearsal
Mon May 8	9:30	Parish Visitors	Sun May 21	4:00	Junior Youth Group
	7:00	Standing Committee		4:00	Needleworkers Affinity Group
Tue May 9	7:30	Hungarian Lessons	Tue May 23	9:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
Wed May 10	9:30	Mass Bay District Chapter Meeting		7:30	Hungarian Lessons
	6:30	Partner Church Committee	Wed May 24	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
Thu May 11	9:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>		12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>	Thu May 25	9:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
	7:30	Songwriters Affinity Group		7:00	Diversity Committee Movie
Fri May 12	7:00	Transylvania Choir Trip Fundraiser	Fri May 26		Ferry Beach Weekend (off-site)
Sat May 13	9:00	Photo Club	Sun May 28	11:00	One Sunday service
	12:00	WPA Luncheon			



**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

20 Lexington Road  
Concord, MA 01742

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**MAY 2006 NEWSLETTER**

The next **Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, May 15**, at noon.  
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, May 24.  
**News items should be limited to 100 words.**

**Don't Miss...**

**TRANSYLVANIAN DESSERT  
BUFFET BENEFIT**

*Friday, May 12  
7:00 p.m.*

**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

**Staff**

- Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister
- Jenny M. Rankin, Minister
- Karen Lewis Foley, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
- Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care
- Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education
- Christine Gay, Religious Education Administrator
- Carol Duane, Toddler/Preschool Coordinator
- Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director
  
- Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
- Eric Huenneke, Organist
- David Huston, Bell Choir Director
- Judy Burrows, Acting 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

**JOIN THE AUCTION TEAM!**

All people interested in this November's auction are invited to the kickoff planning meeting on Tuesday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m. We will be discussing themes, possible new activities for the auction, and ways that each of us can help First Parish make this great fund-raising/friend-raising event our best ever. You bring your ideas — we will bring the snacks! If you can't make it, e-mail your thoughts to **Eric Read** or **Phyllis Savage** at [phyllis.savage@comcast.net](mailto:phyllis.savage@comcast.net).

**Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00**

**Phone: 978-369-9602**

**Fax: 978-369-8701**

**E-Mail: [fpconcord@aol.com](mailto:fpconcord@aol.com)**

**Website: [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)**

**Ministers' E-Mail:**

**Gary E. Smith: [garyesmith@firstparish.org](mailto:garyesmith@firstparish.org)**

**Jenny M. Rankin: [revjenny@comcast.net](mailto:revjenny@comcast.net)**

**Karen Lewis Foley: [revklfoley@comcast.net](mailto:revklfoley@comcast.net)**