



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

Some years ago, when I was about to go on sabbatical, I spoke to the children about what I thought a sabbatical was. Like a snake (don't push the metaphor) drops its old skin and grows a new skin every season, I said, I'll be going off to grow a new skin. Phyllis Loney was in our congregation then and made me a beautiful silk screen, hand-painted stole, made to look like a snake. I treasure it and wear it often.

For the called ministers of First Parish, our letters of agreement call for one month of sabbatical for each year of service. I have accumulated enough time to take six months of leave, and I will be doing this at the turning of the year, January through June of 2007. This is the first time I have taken anything longer than a three-month leave, and I am grateful for it.

What will I do? I'll be in California twice: once in southern California, for an important gathering of the senior ministers of our largest congregations; once in northern California for a more extended period of time, at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, where I serve on the Board, and will work with them on strategic planning. I have other responsibilities with the Unitarian Universalist Association, and these will be receiving my attention too.

I will be looking at opportunities to keep my ministry with you vital and new, as we approach the beginning of our third decade together. I will be reading in the Transcendentalists. I plan to retreat in March with the Mass Bay Unitarian Universalist ministers and in May with a group of ministers in Rhode Island.

I'm planning to walk regularly, to head off on short trips with Eliz, to continue work on a genealogical project, to continue to downsize my library. I plan to attack my garden in the spring. But, most of all, and central to the sabbatical, I will be welcoming a new grandchild.

— *Gary Smith*

Sunday Worship Schedule

November 5

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

Yonder Come Day – arr. Hardin

Bright Morning Star – arr. Squatrito

11:00 – Handbell Choir

Shall We Gather – arr. Tucker

Song of Remembrance – Sherman

November 12

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

Hope – Barnwell

African Benediction – Deaman/Grizzard

11:00 – Lauren Bedau Evans, alto

November 19

Thanksgiving Sunday

Jozsef Szombatfalvi

and **Gary Smith**, preaching

9:00 – Chalice Choir

You've Got to Be Taught – Rogers & Hammerstein

11:00 – Junior Choir

It's a Small World –

9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir

Jubilate Deo – Halmos

November 26

Sally Hamlin, preaching

9:00 Choir Ensemble & 11:00 Adult Choir

John Hayes, tenor soloist

Can't Wait 'Til the Storm Is Over – Shelton

Breaths – Barnwell

December 3

9:00 & 11:00 – wow Worship Service


Gospel Choir

Selections from "Godspell" – Schwartz

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:
Partner Church Committee Info
Capital Campaign Update



Come
Build
A Dream

COME BUILD A DREAM!

See the insert for the latest
update on the First Parish
Capital Campaign.

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. 20	Wednesday, Nov. 29
Monday, Dec. 11	Wednesday, Dec. 27
Monday, Jan. 22	Wednesday, Jan. 31

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

BIG SKY ALERT!

Come for a ride with the Big Sky Bonanza Auction 2006, in a few short weeks — November 18.

How do you get to Big Sky Country?

Auction tickets are on sale at both coffee hours. Tickets are \$25.00 per person, which includes dinner and a ticket for beverage. Tickets can also be purchased in the office during the week.

Can you still donate to Big Sky?

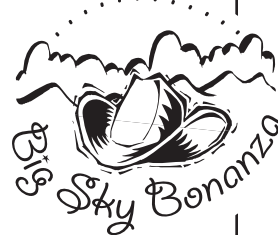
For last minute donations, speak to **Eric** or **Phyllis** at coffee hours. Phone 978-663-3987 or e-mail phyllis.savage@comcast.net.

What will you do under the Big Sky?

Auction Event Schedule:

- 5:30: Amble in for Registration and Silent Auction
- 7:00: Belly on up to the table for Dinner
- 8:00: Settle yourself for the main event — the Live Auction

There will be no livestock at this auction; sorry folks, leave your horses at home. But bring your duds and help out if you're able. Contact **Eric** or **Phyllis** to volunteer. You can't raise a barn or circle up the herd without a lot of folks helpin' out — y'all are needed!



Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. in the Parlor. Note change of location. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Dian Pekin** if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker.

NOVEMBER 5

Our Year in Tanzania

The **Fisher-Treitman** Family

Leslie Fisher and **Bob and Lauren Treitman** spent last year on a "family sabbatical" in Tanzania. They will give a slide presentation and talk about their experiences living, volunteering and traveling in this beautiful, stimulating East African country.

NOVEMBER 12

Bridge to Biloxi

Suzanne Lowe

Suzanne will give an update on the home rebuilding project in East Biloxi, showing the significant progress of this impressive social action project. She will also highlight the advantages that the model of collaboration with various other organizations holds for this and future projects.

NOVEMBER 19

Communities without Borders

Al Jacobson

Five years ago a small group of UU's from Newton and Lexington decided that something could be done at the grassroots level in response to the AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Communities without Borders is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to link communities in North America with communities in underdeveloped countries. Today, CWB is providing educational, health and nutritional support for over 300 orphans and vulnerable children in Zambia. Al will give an update on how CWB is making a major difference in the lives of children and their caregivers.

LAY LEADERSHIP CELEBRATED!

More than 50 past, present and potential First Parish lay leaders enjoyed champagne, luscious desserts and spirited conversation Friday night, October 13. The ministers and members of the Nominating Committee celebrated the valued contributions to First Parish and, led by Donna Davis, brainstormed with them about the joys, challenges and future of lay leadership. The Nominating Committee will gather and distill the many notes taken and report to the Parish in the next *Meeting House News*.

Parish Notes

DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR – NOVEMBER 4

Come to the fair! Bring your family members and friends to a fantastic event from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring your treasures for our white elephant table to the Parish Hall on Friday afternoon, November 3. The fair committee is looking for donations of small gift items of good quality including fashionable costume jewelry. Several new artists and artisans have been added this year to ensure an interesting variety of handcrafted items as well as photography and prints. Many First Parish artists' and artisans' works will also be on sale. The Artisans Cafe will be serving food throughout the day. There are many fun ways to participate in this community-wide fundraiser. You can volunteer to work for an hour (or more!) or you can donate baked goods and preserves. Contact **Jen Petersen** at 978-369-4103 or **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekincd@comcast.net to offer your services or gift items.

YOUNG TEEN PROGRAM COORDINATOR WANTED

This is a newly created, paid position for someone to assist the Director of Religious Education in overseeing programming for our 7th, 8th and 9th grade youth at First Parish. The job entails recruiting and working with volunteers as well as program administration and program development. The position is 13 hours per week (including some Sundays from 10:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.). Interpersonal skills, energy, organization, leadership and follow-through are essential. For more information, contact **Deb Welch** (search committee) at 978-369-3307 or debawelch@earthlink.net.

ALL INVITED TO CONCORD COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Concord's Community Thanksgiving Service will take place on Sunday, November 19, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 Elm Street. The music will be presented by the combined choirs of the Concord Faith Communities, and the offering will be designated for the Concord Network for Homeless Advocacy and Open Table. All are welcome to attend.

FAIR TRADE CAFFEINE-FREE TEA NOW AVAILABLE

We now have for sale caffeine-free organic Rooibos Tea, produced from a caffeine-free herbal plant found only near the South African Cederberg Mountain region. We also have six types of chocolate bars, with these new flavors: Mint Chocolate, Chocolate Espresso Bean, and Dark Chocolate with Pure Cocoa Nibs.

AN A CAPPELLA CHRISTMAS ALBUM COMING SOON

Harmonic Conversions (formerly known as The Church Ladies) has produced a CD of Christmas songs! We have included many well-known classics, as well as some tunes that may be new to you. A wonderful stocking stuffer, it will also make a nice addition to your Fair Trade Gift Basket! Look for us at coffee hour starting in November, or contact **Sue Beck** at sbeck345@comcast.net. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the church's operating budget.

LOOK FOR FAIR TRADE GIFT BASKETS AT COFFEE HOUR

Once again we will be offering Fair Trade gift baskets for both Thanksgiving and Christmas giving. Hostess baskets with a Thanksgiving theme will be available on November 12 and 19. Christmas baskets, which will include a variety of types and sizes, will be available on December 3, 10 and 17. Stop by in November to pick up an order form or view the display baskets. All proceeds from the sales will benefit the church's operating budget.

Money Matters

We have completed the first quarter of fiscal year 2007. As of the end of September, we have received \$329K in subscription income. This represents 35 percent of our total pledges for the year. Last year at this time we had received 39 percent of anticipated pledges for the year. Note that our pledges received for the month of September were down from this time period last year. After the summer months, pledge receipts usually increase again in September. This was true this year as well although we have not bounced back quite as strongly as in the past. I am hopeful we will see an increase in pledges received in October.

I am beginning to work with this year's leadership for the 2008 pledge drive. Last year, we were very fortunate to exceed our pledge goal for the 2007 pledge drive by \$13K. This was significant and enabled us to do a number of things we would not have done otherwise. Specifically, our goals were to provide fair compensation to employees, fund annual maintenance of the Meeting House and grounds, and contribute our fair share to the UUA and Mass Bay District. The most significant impact of the additional \$13K was in the area of providing fair compensation to our employees. We were able to bring several employees closer to fair share compensation, according to UUA salary guidelines, and to provide a cost of living increase for all employees. We chose not to specifically increase the maintenance budget this year because these needs will be met through the capital campaign. As for the last goal, providing fair share to the UUA and Mass Bay District, we were not able to increase our budget for this. But, as we did last year, our plan is to make an additional contribution at the end of the year if the funds are available. We are fortunate to have generous contributors and want you to know that each contribution makes a difference in the work of First Parish.

— *Lisa Cole*

Business Manager

PASTORAL CARE REMINDER

Margie King Saphier will deliver a sermon on October 29 titled "Being a Companion in the Wilderness," in which she will explore what Unitarian Universalism uniquely has to offer when we are with a loved one who is dying. She will follow up the sermon with a workshop Thursday, November 2, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and a repeat on Thursday, November 9, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on "The Dance of Contemplative Care: The Psychospiritual Journey of Dying." The workshop will explore the final journey we all must take, and the lessons it has to offer.

Pastoral Care News

Every month the editor of *Sun Magazine* picks a topic and invites its readership to write their thoughts on the topic. In September 1998, the topic was "Getting Lost." The entry written by Gene Zeiger of Shelburne, Mass., has stayed with me to this day. Because of Zeiger's words, I now make a point of looking the cashier and the bagger in the eye when I say hello and talk with them. I also try to remember not to take my purchases for granted. Here are Zeiger's thoughts on "Getting Lost":

"I used to think Getting Lost meant losing track of what I needed to do, straying from my list of chores, not staying on task. Now, in my fifties, I find that definition reversed. It's when I devote all my time to the practical details of this life, rushing about to get things done, that I am lost to the greater reality. Getting lost now is noticing, for example, that the supermarket cashier is human, too, a person who will die, and that the goods lined up by the register — the vegetables, the detergent, the juice — are, in essence, gifts."

It is easy to feel lost — spiritually, emotionally and physically — as the vicissitudes of life encroach on our plans. As painful and disquieting as these times can be, they can also be times of reflection and new opportunity. The Pastoral Care program is here to walk with you as you explore your path on the journey of life. The ministers are always available to respond when called; but we are a large congregation, so the Pastoral Care Ministry, composed of parishioners with extensive training, extends the work of the ministers through visiting and offering support.

On Sunday, November 5, the members of the Pastoral Care Ministry (**Di Clymer, Toby Wesselhoeft, Peter Nobile, Eric Read, Kathryn Shane, Diane Clapp and Liz Davis-Chaffin**), will be commissioned by the congregation "to companion parishioners who find themselves in need of spiritual and emotional support during times of difficulty."

Parish Visitors are also available to visit and telephone parishioners who are not always able to get to church. When Parish Visitors visit a parishioner, they "go (in the spirit) to bring peace into the world."

Caring Connection offers concrete assistance to parishioners by bringing meals, providing transportation for appointments, delivering flowers at holiday time, and welcoming new babies.

The Pastoral Care Council (**Judy Dembsey, Jiffy Read, Pam Katz Ressler, David Pohl, and Ursula Kristoffy**) help to create, oversee and evaluate the networks of pastoral care in order to extend and strengthen their reach.

If you would like a Parish Visitor, someone from the Pastoral Care Ministry or a minister to visit, please contact me at the office, ext. 422, or on my cell phone, 781-424-2179.

In faith,

— *Margie King Saphier*

MUSings

*It's the willingness to sing
That surprises me . . .*

Kathleen Norris's words from her poem "Mrs. Schneider in Church" filled my mind one recent Sunday morning — coincidentally, they were also part of Gary's



sermon. It was on the Sunday before

Yom Kippur that I

stood in front of this congregation as we sang together, in two parts, Rabbi Schlomo Carlebach's haunting chant *Return Again*. I suppose at first it was the willingness to sing that surprised me — we have come a long way as a congregation in our singing together, taking bigger risks and making more challenging music than we could have years ago. But it was also the solidity of the singing that moved me; a confidence we had together that we might not possess individually. As I was enveloped by the music, I observed one singer with her eyes closed, singing the chant as a meditation, another swayed slightly with the flow of the melody, still another sat silently — perhaps unable to join in, or simply not comfortable singing, but nevertheless surrounded and buoyed by the sound created by this community.

*Now we are changed,
Making a noise
Greater than ourselves...*

Kathleen Norris has got it right. This is exactly what we did that morning — what we do any time we sing in community with conviction. Singing together allows us to make that noise that is greater than ourselves. In fact, it demands it. And while we may give up something of our individuality in "choiring" as another poet has put it, we are empowered by the strength of the whole. This is one of the gifts of a community of faith. In this congregation, at our best, we are empowered to "make a noise greater than ourselves" as we try to live our benediction here and in the wider world.

In this Thanksgiving season, I acknowledge my own deep gratitude for this congregation, for the music we make together, the path we walk together and the noise we make that is so much greater than ourselves.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Standing Committee Notes

The Standing Committee (SC) met on October 16, with **Gene Brown** as visiting Trustee. **Rodger Mattlage** visited, inviting the SC to meet with the visitors from our partner church in Transylvania, who will be here in November. Our first order of business was to welcome new member **Don Leopold**, who joins **Dick Shohet** and **Rob Richardson** as this year's new members. Gary reported that the staff has met several times for team-building, aided by experts from the congregation who volunteered their time. The staff has set three goals for the coming year: first, assist those who are doing both the annual fundraising and the capital campaign fundraising; second, assist the Nominating Committee in building lay leadership; last, support the goals of the Social Action Task Force. The Communications Subcommittee recommended establishing a Web forum, so look for it soon on the church website. The Committee would also like to do an all-church survey in March, perhaps regarding our goals and how well we have met them. SC members try to be available at coffee hours, so look for our starry name tags and talk with us. The Capital Campaign Committee reported that 100 people came to the meetings to hear about the proposed building plans. Follow-up meetings on November 18 and 20 will present revised architectural plans that will be as close to a final proposed design as possible. The Organ Committee will hold a congregational meeting in November. The December 3 all-church meeting will be for the sole purpose of voting to approve the architectural plans. This year's annual fundraising will be done in conjunction with fundraising for the capital campaign, making this a very important year for the future of our church. We need the support and participation of every member of the congregation. Come to the meetings, come and talk to SC members, come and help to build our dream! The next meeting of the SC is November 13 at 7 p.m., with the first hour open to the public.

Submitted,
— *Sue Beck*, Clerk

ANNUAL AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS TO COMBINE EFFORTS

It is an exciting and special year at First Parish. In January, the Annual Campaign and the Capital Campaign will introduce a combined fundraising effort for both the annual pledge drive and the \$2.2 million phase of the Capital Campaign.

Our purpose in consolidating the campaigns is to make the fundraising process easier. So when you receive fundraising mail, there will be two campaigns in one envelope. We also want to offer the congregation flexibility and ease in terms of pledging.

The Capital Campaign — First Parish's campaign to fund deferred maintenance, including repairing the organ; establish a maintenance endowment fund; make the Meeting House fully accessible; and add additional space — is in high gear. In November, the last two congregational meetings to review design options will take place: on the 18th at 9:30 a.m., and on the 20th at 7:30 p.m. On December 3 this process will culminate in an all-parish vote on space design.

Meanwhile, the Annual Campaign is in planning mode, preparing for its yearly outreach to members and friends of First Parish to raise pledge dollars to fund the church's operating budget for July 2007–July 2008. Pledges for the '06-'07 annual budget totaled more than \$953,000.

You'll soon be hearing much more about these vital campaigns and how you can pledge your support to First Parish.

Cynthia Ellis, co-chair
Annual Campaign

Jeff Greene, co-chair
Capital Campaign

Social Action Community News and Events

CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH TO PROVIDE HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS

Concord Prison Outreach will provide Christmas gift bags for 1700 inmates this year. Requested items are one bar of deodorant soap, one 4-oz. to 6-oz. tube of toothpaste, one Bic pen (plain stick pen that does not "click," come apart in any way or is made of clear plastic), one box envelopes, one pair of white socks (5" or less), plastic comb (5" or less), one pocket calendar (no wire), one 4-oz. to 7-oz. plastic bottle of shampoo, one stick deodorant (no roll-ons), one writing tablet/pad (no wire, up to 8" x 11") and a greeting card (no Merry Christmas, just Happy Holidays or Seasons Greetings) signed with your first name only. Donations may be complete sets, available at the West Concord 5 & 10, or any quantity of single items. Your bagged, not boxed, donations go to a collection box in the church office. Tax-deductible checks are also appreciated. They can be made out to Concord Prison Outreach, Inc, marked "Holiday Gifts," and mailed to P.O. Box 383, Concord, MA 01742. December 3 is the deadline for this interfaith project.



CROP WALK THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2006 Concord Crop Walk: those who walked, sponsored walkers, worked as crossing guards, staffed coffee hour tables, brought refreshments, and supported the walk in other ways. Congratulations to our 7th Grade Young Activists, whose creative banner contest entry won first place! In preliminary totals, there were more than 350 walkers who raised over \$43,350 for local and international hunger relief, which will increase as more pledges come in. You can add to our total by donating online at concordcrop.org. If you have outstanding pledges, please collect them as soon as possible, and turn them in to the church office. The 2007 Crop Walk will be on October 14; please put this on your calendar now, and plan to join us!

SAC GRANTS COMMITTEE AWARDS

The SAC Grants Committee makes awards two times a year based on established criteria which you can find on the SAC website. The October 15 deadline produced several grant proposals, which will be evaluated and awarded later this fall. Committee members

are **Alane Wallis**, chair; **Roselyn Romberg**, **Eric Van Loon**, **David Dawson**, **John Lowe**, **Betty King**, **Alice Kaufman**, **Tony Gallo** and **Wendy Holt**. At its September meeting the Grants Committee committed \$10,000 to the Bridge to Biloxi project. These funds serve two purposes: as a challenge grant for fundraising initiatives at Kerem Shalom, TriCon and St. Irene's, First Parish's partner churches in the Bridge to Biloxi project, and as resources for Bridge to Biloxi to purchase building supplies for the house-building project in that stricken Gulf community.

WANTED: PEN PALS FOR UU PRISONERS

The UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) has prisoner-members who would like to be matched with nonincarcerated UU pen pals through their "Letter-Writing Ministry." The prisoners are told only their pen pal's first names. If interested, e-mail PrisMin@clfuu.org or write to CLF Prison Ministry, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. For more information, contact **Carolyn Shohet** 978-369-6231 or careshohet@aol.com.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH?

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

"THE LARAMIE PROJECT" IS COMING!

Calling videographers, sound designers/composers, those skilled with costumes, lighting, and props! Any technical directors or stage managers hiding in the pews?

This March, First Parish will present *The Laramie Project*, an award-winning play based on the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming. Matthew was a 21-year-old college student who was kidnapped, severely beaten, tied to a fence on the outskirts of town and left to die just because he was gay. Laramie's citizens are chronicled in the wake of the hate crime as they confront bigotry, tolerance, fear, courage, hate and hope.

Preliminary planning is under way by members of the Special Events and Diversity committees. **Kate Keleher** is on as art director, and **Tom Beck** is lending his infinite wisdom and experience. We also want *your* Creative Collaboration. Come to a meeting at First Parish — Monday, November 6 at 7:30 p.m. — to learn how you can get involved. (No actors just yet. Casting will be in January.)

Want more info? Contact: **Lillian Anderson** (Producer) 978-369-1468, lillianand@comcast.net, or **Kim Novick** (Director) 978-318-0949, kim@knovick.com.

Membership Corner

THE NEW U SERIES THIS FALL

Our introduction to Unitarian Universalism and to First Parish as a faith community is being offered this fall. This orientation is facilitated by our ministers and lay leaders, and will take place October 29 and November 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. Learn everything you ever wanted to know and more about First Parish. You can sign up at the Newcomer's table during coffee hour. Child care will be available.

BRIDGE PLAYERS SOUGHT

The First Parish Bridge Players Affinity Group is seeking additional members. We meet on the first Friday evening of each month, with November 3 and December 1 being the next two gatherings. Don't fret if your college era bridge skills are rusty — so are ours! We usually have two tables of players and are hoping for more. Please contact **Paula Hagar** at 978-266-1117 or Phagar7@aol.com for more information.

AFFINITY GROUPS — NEW AND ONGOING

Are you interested in going to the movies but can't make plans in advance? Would you like to have a list of people who are willing to be called at the last minute? Then join Spur-of-the-Moment Moviegoers. Sign up for Women and Money, a discussion group using ideas from the book *Overcoming Underearning*, by Barbara Stanny.

Join a current functioning Affinity Group: Bridge, Dancing, French Conversation, Jewish Awareness, Needleworkers, Photography, Spanish Discussion/Social and Writing Down the Bones (creative writing).

Let's get some of these potential groups started: Bicycling, Concerts, Dollhouse Miniatures, Games, Humanists, Kayaking, Museums, Painting, Planning a Productive Retirement, Scrapbooking, Theater, Theological Discussion, Walking and Writing Down the Bones (creative writing evenings or Saturday).

Stop by the Affinity Groups table on Sunday, November 19, at coffee hour or contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or dembsey@surf-global.net.

Wright Tavern Center

Please visit the Wright Tavern website, wrighttavern.org under Course Descriptions, for the current course schedule with detailed descriptions, meeting times and teacher bios. Some of the courses listed below are already under way, but are still open for registration. The fees have been prorated accordingly. Questions? Contact **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Director, at 978-369-9602 or FTPavarn@aol.com.

Rise Up Singing *Elizabeth Norton and others*

A monthly musical gathering of adults and children provides participants with an opportunity to sing and share music in special fellowship. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome.

3 Fridays remaining 10/27, 11/17 and 12/8 7:30 p.m.

Sound as Prayer *Ana Hernandez*

Listen to yourself. The voice you've been given is a part of your gift to the world. Rediscover God with your voice, listen deeply and bask in the presence that unites us all, experience the ways sound touches spirit, and reflect on sounds that open your heart.

Saturday, 10/28 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. \$40

Five Important Sermons *Mark Richards*

Unitarian Universalist thought is an ever-flowing stream of ideas. Investigate the divergence of Unitarianism and Universalism from traditional Christian theology and consider the impact of Transcendentalism and Humanism on the movement.

The Divinity School Address—Ralph Waldo Emerson
The Permanent and the Transient in Christianity—Theodore Parker
Unitarian Humanism—John Dietrich

3 Mondays remaining 10/30, 11/13 and 11/27 7:30 p.m. \$15

Kundalini Yoga *Dharm Singh*

The yoga of awareness, each class is designed to help you strengthen your body, relax and focus your mind, bring harmony and balance, and lift spirit. Each session includes exercise, postures, mantra, meditation and relaxation. All levels are welcome. You can join this class at any time.

6 Tuesdays (no class 11/21) 10/31-12/12 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$84

6 Thursdays (no class 11/23) 11/2-12/14 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$84

Kripalu Yoga *Edi Pasalis*

Kripalu Yoga, the yoga of compassion, teaches us the ultimate spiritual practice, to view ourselves without judgment. After only one class you will feel like you've taken a drink from the deep wellspring of yourself - and stretched and strengthened too! All are welcome.

6 Wednesdays (no class 11/22) 11/1-12/13 7:30-9:00 p.m. \$84

Play with Purpose! *CC King*

Through structured, playful practices rooted in storytelling, movement, song and stillness, you gently gain access to your own "body wisdom" INTERPLAY.ORG.

4 Thursdays (alternate weeks) 11/2-12/14 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$60 (sliding scale)

4 Wednesdays (alternate weeks) 11/8-12/20 7:30-9:00 p.m. \$60 (sliding scale)

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER continued on page 10

My mother-in-law called from New York two weeks ago. Was I sincere in offering to host Thanksgiving for 16 people? Could they really camp at my home for a couple of nights?

Hmmmm... Was I?

When I think of all the work that goes into "making" Thanksgiving, it can feel overwhelming. Preparing the home, the food, the flowers.

Last year, we decided not to travel to New York for Thanksgiving. We stayed home and were not with our extended family. It was calm, quiet, and there was no traffic. There were no cousins and no arguments about whether or not asparagus was a "Thanksgiving" food. It felt a bit awkward and a bit empty.

On the phone, I considered the question again, "Was I sincere in my offer?" There was only one answer that crossed my mind, "Yes, I was sincere." Thanksgiving is about family, about making food together, about making stories together. But this year, there will not be asparagus at our Thanksgiving dinner table.

OUR YOUNGEST CHILDREN

We have a very small group of 0 to 2-year-old children. Most weeks it is only three to four kids. But despite these low numbers, we still need to staff it in a way that is safe for the two unexpected visitors on any given Sunday morning. Although these babies would love to croon to the moving sermons in the Sanctuary, we all know they are usually happier downstairs, with other children and caring adults. With such low numbers in the Caregiving program, I have combined ages and put children together so they can entertain each other. I have also shortened the Caregiving commitment from last year's 14-week term to 8 weeks, making it a much more reasonable commitment. These children's parents cannot staff this program alone. Each would have to volunteer for almost every term. We need others to help out. Are you an adult whose kids are off at college? Are you an adult who is preparing for an upcoming grandchild? Please consider volunteering in one of these classrooms where your tender heart would be most welcome.

WORKSHOP ROTATION

As I write this, we are about to embark on our next rotation of workshops. This term will focus on our benediction. Specifically, going out into the world in peace. Much work has gone into these workshops. An amazing video was produced about the inception of our benediction by **Rachel Holt**. Artifacts, music, photos and pilgrims from our Transylvania partner church have been col-

lected by **Rodger Mattlage** and will be shared during our "Real Stuff Workshop" and our "Worship Workshop." Our children will be making a gift of their artwork in the form of a "Peace Banner" for this summer's pilgrimage of our youth to our partner church. And in our "Games Workshop," kids will be participating in several interactive games involving conflict resolution, thanks to the expertise of **Sally Lewis**. But this rotation could never have happened without the dedication and commitment of **Deb Welch**. Her work on developing curricula, organizing events, meetings and materials has been incredible. Thank you, Deb!

Last, I want to welcome **Liz Davis-Chaffin** to our RE Staff. Liz is our new Workshop Rotation Program Coordinator. We are excited to have her supporting this new initiative in RE. She is going to be a great help. Liz will be present on Sunday mornings. She will be supporting the workshops and be available for any RE administrative questions as well.

A very special thanks to **Jane Barnes** for all of her extra support for our RE program while we were preparing for Liz's position.

OUR 7TH GRADE YOUNG ACTIVISTS

Our 7th graders have been using this semester in RE to "Go out into the World." They have contributed school materials to Open Table, participated in the Crop Walk and visited the Rivercrest Long-Term Care facility in Concord. This November, they will be visiting the Concord Housing Authority and running two important traditions at First Parish: The Mitten Tree and Guest at Your Table. Please take a moment to contribute mittens and welcome a "Guest at Your Table" in this season of giving thanks.

OUR 8TH GRADE WAYS OF WORSHIP (WOW) PROGRAM

Our 8th graders and their talented leaders have been working together toward creating a worship service for all of our congregation on December 3, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. This group has been reflecting on the life of Jesus and focusing on his Unitarian-Universalist approach to the world. Please come and hear what our youth have to share with you in worship.

6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP AND THE JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Both youth groups will join together to prepare turkeys and decorative crafts for Open Tables' Thanksgiving feast. We have two special volunteers for this November 19 date. **Merill Comeau** will be sharing her artistic talents with our kids and **Mark Howell** will be frying turkeys with our youth. If you haven't had fried turkey yet, then.... I guess you might want to stop by from 4 to 6 p.m.

9TH GRADE COMING OF AGE

We began our Coming of Age program with a social activity in Keene, New Hampshire. Our young mentees were treated to watching their slightly older mentors take on the challenge of a ropes course. We do hope terrifying pictures were taken of **Debra Dunnington** (COA leader), **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** (COA minister), and mentors **Lisa MacDonnell**, **David McGaffin**, **Jack Demuth**, **Art Croke**, **David Ropeik**, **Peter Ciuffetti**, **Heather MacPhee**, **Gretchen Hibben**, **Caroline** and **Jim McCloy** (Yes, this is a great program for husband

Senior Youth News

October was a great month for youth. Starting with the retreat and ending with a trip to Witch's Woods, we got to know each other much better. We had a wonderful time in Vermont on retreat, even if we got a little soggy! Thanks to our terrific chaperones for all their time and energy: **Catherine Greenwald, Kate Kavanagh, Andrea Sheffield, Mim van Orman** and **Wade Williams**.

November may only have 3 Sundays of Youth Group, but they promise to be good ones! On November 19, we have two guests from our partner church in Transylvania joining us and I can't wait to see what they think of **Sean Kavanagh** leading us in silly improvisations.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| November 5 | Vespers (youth should bring a reading, instrument or song) |
| November 12 | Gary Smith visiting YRUU |
| November 19 | Sean Kavanagh – Improvisation night |
| November 26 | NO YRUU (Thanksgiving holiday) |

We have our group all set to go on the Youth Pilgrimage to Transylvania this summer and we will begin meeting in November to prepare for our trip. We are sorry we couldn't take everyone who was interested, but we found that this small village could only handle so many of us. We will be planning another trip in 2009.

Senior High OWL (a popular class for 11th and 12th graders that allows youth to explore issues around sexuality and relationships) has its first session on November 7, from 7 to 9 p.m., on the Wright Tavern Sun Porch. Many thanks to **Peter Fischelis** and **Jiffy Read** who will be teaching this year.

Our big social action project in November is a work-day (two hours) on Saturday, November 18, to bring buckets of sand to elderly in Concord and help them with fall projects such as taking air conditioners out, turning mattresses and even programming VCR's. I encourage youth to participate, as it is one of the most rewarding projects that we do. I will need parent drivers, so if you can help, please call Mary-Wren.

November can be a difficult month for youth as they struggle with mid-term exams and college applications, not to mention the dreary weather that follows the spectacular fall weather of October. We hope that Youth Group can be an oasis of peace as well as a fun place for our youth.

— *Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

and wife teams!), **Jeanine Calabria** and **Gary Smith** (minister). Only kidding, Gary did not travel down the 300-foot zipline with our youth, but he did attend a celebration dinner afterward with our youth and mentors in the Parish Hall. Thanks to **Darien Smith** for organizing all of the food and to **Patricia Waters, Faith Bade, Steph Chiha** and **Rex Morril** for cooking and serving a great meal for the group.

— *Pam Howell*

RE NOVEMBER CALENDAR:

Sunday, November 5: Regular RE for 0-6th graders

7th Grade Young Activists at 11 a.m. in Parlor

8th Grade wow at 11 a.m. in the Wright Tavern

Sunday, November 12: Regular RE for 0-6th graders

7th Grade Young Activist visit to Concord Housing Authority, meeting in the Parlor at 11 a.m.

8th Grade wow at 11 a.m. in the Wright Tavern

Sunday, November 19: Regular RE for 0-6th graders

No Young Activists

8th Grade wow at 11a.m. in the Wright Tavern

6th Grade Youth Group and 7th/8th Grade Youth Group from 4-6 p.m. for Open Table Turkey Fry in the Parish Hall.

Sunday, November 26: Regular RE for 0-4 years

Chapel Sunday for K-6th graders

No RE for 7th Grade Young Activists

8th Grade wow at 11 a.m. in the Wright Tavern – Rehearsal for Service

UPCOMING RE ORIENTATIONS

Because of the new programming next year, we will be doing orientation a bit differently. Orientation will be critical to the success of Spirit Play and Workshop Rotation. For each rotation, all leaders and guides are required to attend. If one person doesn't know the expectations, it could really throw the whole program off.

Orientation Schedule for 2006-2007 RE:

Workshop Rotation #3: December 7, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #4: February 8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #5: March 2, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

T'ai Chi David Zucker

The original no-impact aerobics, T'ai Chi promotes mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health by combining physical exercise with relaxation and meditation.

8 Tuesdays (no class 10/31) 10/24-12/19
6:00-7:30 p.m. \$120

Listening for God Gary Smith

Join Gary Smith for a discussion of short stories taken from *Faith: stories*, edited by C. Michael Curtis. Bring a bag lunch and beverage. At the third meeting the group will discuss *Ringworm* by Kate Wheeler.

Wednesday, 11/8 12:15 p.m.

T'ai Ji Mae Pagan

Combines music with Qigong (energy release exercises), and the simple movement of Tai Ji (active relaxation) to release blocked energy, optimize health, and bring your life into balance. Create a sense of joy and well-being in your life. Note: Pre-register for both sessions for \$40, or \$20 per individual session for any time slot. Drop-in fee is \$25 per class.

2 Fridays remaining, 11/10 and 12/8
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \$40
1:30-3:00 p.m. \$40

Do You Want Bones for Life? Sherry Seaver
(mornings) and Deborah Lotus (afternoons)

Improve the function of your feet, knees, hips, back, shoulders and neck/head alignment while you stimulate the growth of new bone.

8 Mondays 11/20-1/29 9:30-11:00 a.m.
\$120/\$16 1:15-2:45 p.m. \$120/\$16

Classified

LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER?

I'm 17 years old, have my own car, and love kids! My experience includes two summers as a camp counselor at Concord Recreation and R.E. Assistant at First Parish, as well as lots of babysitting experience. If you need someone on an occasional Friday or Saturday night, give me a call. **Jessica Stern**, 978-369-0420, or e-mail Jessilaur@comcast.net.

Women's News

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The November/December book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard. The evening session will be held Monday, December 4, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, December 5, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com. Books and dates for the remainder of 2006-2007 are as follows.

January 29 (p.m.) and 30 (a.m.) *The Birth of Venus*, Sarah Dunant
February 26 (p.m.) and 27 (a.m.) *The Spiral Staircase*,

Karen Armstrong

March 26 (p.m.) and 27 (a.m.) *Independent People*, Halldor Laxness

April 23 (p.m.) and 24 (a.m.) *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, Anne Fadiman

May 21 (p.m.) and 22 (a.m.) *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, Lisa See

WPA NOVEMBER MEETING: WOMEN IN TRANSYLVANIA

The Women's Parish Association will hold this month's meeting at noon on Tuesday, November 28, in the Parish Hall. A sandwich and dessert buffet will be served for a charge of five dollars. The critically acclaimed film entitled, "Women in Transylvania" will be shown and discussed by **Rodger Mattlage** and others. Join old and new friends for an enjoyable and relaxing time catching up on the news and learning about our sisters and friends in Transylvania.

UU News

THE LEARNING CONGREGATION

Being a congregational leader can be challenging and confusing. The Learning Congregation program provides ongoing training in some of the most difficult and common challenges to church leaders. The November program, which will take place on Saturday, November 11, at The Conference Center at Bentley, 175 Forest Street, Waltham, Mass. is entitled "This Old Church". In this workshop participants will learn how to assess the value of their church building, plan use of space, design welcoming and hospitable facilities and discover ways to fund repair and renovation. These workshops start at 8:30 a.m., and include breakfast, lunch and materials. The cost is \$350 per congregational team of four, plus any staff members who want to attend. Additional information can be found at mbduua.org. Learning Connection link.



JAZZ CONCERT AT HARVARD UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Celebrate Veterans' Day on Saturday, November 11, 8 p.m. with an upbeat jazz concert at the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church at the top of the Common, Routes 110/111 in Harvard Center. Jeannie Gagne will join Stan Strickland to share their talent, energy and soul. Jeannie Gagne is a working vocalist, songwriter and conductor, in addition to being an associate professor of voice at Berklee College of Music. Stan Strickland is a well-known jazz musician in the Boston area, as well as being a phenomenal saxophone player. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. To reserve your ticket, e-mail Pat White at patwhite@charter.net. Proceeds go toward the new piano fund.

November 2006 Calendar

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

Every Week...

Morning Meditation	Monday-Friday	7:15 a.m.
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	1:15 p.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/21)
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/21 or 11/28)
<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	Tuesday	7:30 p.m. (not 11/28)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m. (not 11/22)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/26)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/24)
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

<p>Wed Nov 1 7:00 Youth Advisory Committee 7:00 Religious Education Council 7:30 SAC/Green Sanctuary Global Warming Event</p> <p>Thu Nov 2 9:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i> 7:30 SAC Event</p> <p>Fri Nov 3 9:30 Parish Care Ministry</p> <p>Sat Nov 4 10:00 Artisans Fair</p> <p>Sun Nov 5 4:00 New U</p> <p>Tue Nov 7 9:00 WPA Board Meeting 7:30 Senior OWL</p> <p>Wed Nov 8 12:15 <i>Listening for God</i> 6:30 Partner Church Committee 7:00 <i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i> 7:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i></p> <p>Thu Nov 9 10:00 Writers Affinity Group 8:00 <i>Finding Your Calling</i></p> <p>Fri Nov 10 11:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i> 1:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i></p> <p>Sat Nov 11 9:00 Photo Club</p> <p>Mon Nov 13 7:00 Our Whole Lives 7:00 Standing Committee 7:30 <i>Five Important Sermons</i></p> <p>Tue Nov 14 7:00 Our Whole Lives</p> <p>Wed Nov 15 5:00 Transylvanian Reception</p>	<p>Thu Nov 16 9:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i> TBA Transylvanian Reception</p> <p>Fri Nov 17 7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i></p> <p>Sat Nov 18 9:30 Congregational Meeting 5:30 Auction</p> <p>Sun Nov 19 4:00 Junior High Youth 5:00 Partner Church Committee Dinner</p> <p>Mon Nov 20 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 Congregational Meeting</p> <p>Tue Nov 21 7:00 Amnesty Chapter Meeting 7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee</p> <p>Wed Nov 22 7:30 <i>Play with Purpose</i></p> <p>Thu Nov 23 Holiday—Office Closed</p> <p>Fri Nov 24 Holiday—Office Closed</p> <p>Mon Nov 27 7:30 <i>Five Important Sermons</i></p> <p>Tue Nov 28 12:00 Women's Parish Association Luncheon</p> <p>Wed Nov 29 9:15 Newsletter Mailing</p> <p>Thu Nov 30 10:30 Writer's Affinity Group</p> <p>Fri Dec 1 9:30 Parish Care Ministry</p> <p>Sat Dec 2 10:00 Ways of Worship Rehearsal 1:30 Children's Crafts Workshop</p> <p>Sun Dec 3 12:30 Congregational Vote</p> <p>Mon Dec 4 7:30 Human Rights Day Breakfast 7:30 <i>Women's Books</i></p>
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First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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NOVEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

The next **Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, November 20**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, November 29.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

BIG SKY BONANZA AUCTION 2006

Saturday, November 18

5:30 p.m. Registration and Silent Auction

7:00 p.m. Dinner

8:00 p.m. Live Auction

**First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Staff**

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister (*on sabbatical January–June 2007*)

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Sally Hamlin, Ministerial Intern

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Jane Barnes, Religious Education Administrator

Liz Davis-Chaffin, Workshop Rotation Program Coordinator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

Eric Huenneke, Organist

Martha Goodman, Handbell Choir Director

Judy Burrows, Children's Choir Director

Anderson Manuel, Music/RE Associate

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Wright Tavern Center Director

Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director

Leslie Koplou, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road

A. Bigay, Assistant to the Ministers

Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

Jane Johnson, Office Manager

Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector

Lisa Cole, Business Manager

Caroline McCloy, Director of Member Services

Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor

Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff



MEET OUR TRANSYLVANIAN GUESTS

All First Parishioners are urged to attend services on Sunday, November 19, to meet Jozsef Szombatfalvi and our Transylvanian guests as we share the celebration of Thanksgiving.



Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 4:00

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