



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

One of my favorite parts about being a minister is getting to listen to your stories. I hear them sitting with you in my office. I hear them at coffee hour or in the hallway or in the vestibule after worship. I hear them by your hospital bed or in your home. When I look out at your faces on Sunday, I remember the stories you have told me. Sometimes they are funny, sometimes they are sad, sometimes a bit of both. I always like to hear the story of how you came to First Parish in the first place and why you came back. What it is that makes you stay, what place this community holds in your life or the life of your family.

Each one of us has an individual story of our connection to this faith community. And if somehow, magically, we could pool all these stories together, they would make up our “collective spiritual autobiography.” That is our story as a people of faith, right here, right now, at the beginning of 2007.

I’ve been thinking lately about the very beginning of our story as a people of faith, nearly 400 years ago. I want to ask our deacons to tell me the story again in their own words. The beginnings of our “collective spiritual autobiography” lie in a land that was wilderness and in the courage and tenacity of those first settlers.

I am thinking about our beginnings, I realize, because we are making some big strides into the future. We are raising money for our annual campaign in this season, and this spring we will begin to ask the general congregation for gifts to the capital campaign. These are opportunities for each one of us to give our financial support to strengthen this institution and take it to the next place in its story. We are making a big step out into the future, and for me, it helps to touch the strength of our roots. It helps me to remember the amazing grit of those women and men who started First Parish almost 400 years ago, and the generations ever since who have kept this place going and given it to us as a gift for us and our families. Touching that courage and grit gives me courage for this next stage of the journey.

We are a church on the move. I am heartened by news of how well the leadership gifts for the capital campaign are coming in. I am heartened by the superb leadership of the annual fundraising team this year. I am heartened that your generosity last year meant we went over our fundraising goal by thousands of dollars. I am grateful to those of you who are putting a stake in the ground to say, “Yes, this community matters to me. What we say here about truth, beauty, justice, that’s what I want my children to hear. What we try to do here when we go out into the world in peace, that’s the kind of service I want to give in my life. Yes, I’ll be a part of making this place stronger because this place, First Parish, is doing some good things in a world that needs them so badly.”

You reveal your personal connection to First Parish in your presence, in the talents you share, and in the financial gifts you give. Together, we are a church on the move. Taking First Parish into the next, new chapter of its story. Together, we are building that dream.

In appreciation,

— *Jenny Rankin*

Sunday Worship Schedule

February 4

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Gospel Choir

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot –
Traditional

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho –
Traditional

11:00 – Handbell Choir

Siyahamba – arr. Hopson

Bwana Asifiwe – arr. Moglebust

February 11

Social Action Sunday

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir

*We Can’t Wait ’til the Storm
Is Over* – Shelton

The Storm Is Passing Over –
Tindley

February 18

Margie King Saphier, preaching

9:00 & 11:00

“*La Jouissance*” – Early Music

February 25

Sally Hamlin, preaching

9:00 – Mary Neumann, flute

11:00 – Adult Choir

March 4

Jenny Rankin, preaching

**9:00 – Adult Choir and Junior
Choir**

**11:00 – Handbell Choir and
Chalice Choir**

COME BUILD A DREAM!

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



In This Issue...

- Page 1 REVeries
Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 2 In This Issue
Our Meeting House Family
Special Concert Notice
- Page 3 Sunday Forum
Parish Notes
- Page 4 Money Matters
Pastoral Care News
- Page 5 Musings
Music Notes
Annual Cabaret Night
- Page 6 SAC News and Events
- Page 7 Standing Committee
Membership Corner
- Page 8 Reflections
and RE News
- Page 9 Senior Youth News
Pledge-2007 Information
- Page 10 Women's News
Parish Notes, continued
- Page 11 February 2007 Calendar
- Page 12 First Parish Staff

There are three inserts with this newsletter:

Capital Campaign Update
Wright Tavern Center News
Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Info

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
Friday, Feb. 16	Wednesday, Feb. 28
Monday, Mar. 19	Wednesday, Mar. 28
Friday, Apr. 13	Wednesday, Apr. 25

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

SPECIAL CONCERT — “AN EVENING IN TRANSYLVANIA”

Everyone is invited to a special concert and party on Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. on behalf of the summer 2007 choir trip to Transylvania, featuring the First Parish Choir and Laszlo Gardony, a popular Hungarian jazz pianist. A silent auction and some exciting raffle items will be offered before and after the concert; and following the program desserts will be served, violinist **Siri Smedvig** will play, and everyone will have a chance to learn the traditional Hungarian czardas! Watch for tickets at coffee hours in February and mark your calendar now for this inspiring and enjoyable party and concert.

Sunday Forum

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

FEBRUARY 4

Concerned about Iraq War Escalation?
Round Table Discussion

This Forum will give participants an opportunity to express their concerns about increasing troop size in Iraq and the current administration's Iraq strategy.

FEBRUARY 11

No Forum
Social Action Sunday

FEBRUARY 18

No Forum
Public School Vacation

FEBRUARY 25

Green Sanctuary Committee Update
Members of the Green Sanctuary Committee will present a summary of their ongoing activities on Global Warming Action and the greening of the First Parish expansion project.

Parish Notes

HOLIDAY WISHES FROM SZEKELYKERESZTUR

Rodger Matlage received the following (edited) letter from Rev. Jozsef Szombatfalvi, transcribed and forwarded by Erzsebet Petterfy.

“Sending the translation of Jozsef’s letter, I’m asking you to share my love and best wishes to all my friends from Concord—I wish them all a happy Christmas among their families, and a successful New Year. I am looking forward to seeing them all in Szekelykeresztur next summer! Love, Erzsebet”

Dear Brothers and Sisters: Our visit in Concord, those fifteen days spent among your congregation became an endless source of beautiful memories for all of us. Words cannot express how grateful we are — when we say thanks to everybody, to all of you! I cannot forget the first dream I had at home: we were in Concord, walking together with you on the streets, entering each house, visiting all the families, and we were singing a song about how beautiful life is, about the miracle of love. Now, when Christmas is coming, we wish you to feel on Christmas Eve that you have lit a different candle than the other days — that the candle’s light is different — that the Christmas tree’s scent is different — that the words we/you tell to each other are different — that love is coming to you/us from an endless source, because your/our Brothers and Sisters are praying for you/for us. Today the whole world, the whole life is more beautiful, people are more beautiful, because they are remembering the happy days they have lived together. May this Christmas bring you joy and happiness, may this New Year make your dreams come true. Share our love with all the members of the Concord congregation.

—Jozsef and the Congregation from Szekelykeresztur

THE LARAMIE PROJECT IS TAKING SHAPE

Rehearsals for “The Laramie Project” are under way! **Kim Novick**, with the help of **Lauren Osornio**, is guiding **Francene Amari-Faulkner**, **Lillian Anderson**, **Sara Ballard**, **Abby Burnham**, **Donna Davis**, **Laurel Fardella**, **Anne Fortier**, **Caroline McCloy**, **Nancy Kerr**, **Jim Snyder-Grant**, **Alec Walker**, **Richard Warren** and **Tom Wilson** through the challenges of this production, which will be performed in the Parish Hall on March 23 and 24.

Our talented production staff includes **Tom Beck**, **Art Croke**, **Jiffy Read**, **Laurel Perkins**, **Tom Brosnahan**, **Polly Peterson**, **Stoney Ballard**, **Richard Fortier**, **Nancy Kerr** and **Kate Keleher**.

The play concerns the death of Matthew Shephard, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, and the Diversity Committee will be leading discussions around the themes and issues raised in the piece. Look for more information in the *Sunday News*. If you’d like to help in any way contact **Sara Ballard**, chair of the Diversity Committee, at 371-0723, or sara@sb.org; **Lillian Anderson** at 978-369-1468 or lillianand@comcast.net; or **Sheryl Blair** at 978-369-9749 or sheryl@verizon.net, coproducers.

FLEAMARKET/RECYCLE SALE—MARCH 31

Get your treasures together to donate to our annual WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale, which will take place on Saturday, March 31, rain or shine. Gently used furniture, antiques, kitchen stuff, artwork, jewelry, clean toys are all welcome. No books, magazines, clothing, plants or sports equipment can be accepted. This is a major fundraiser and a great chance to give away items that you no longer need!

PARISH NOTES continued on page 10

Money Matters

December 31 marks not only the end of the calendar year, but the halfway point of our fiscal year at First Parish. It is therefore beneficial to take a look at where we are financially at this point in the year. As you know, pledge income makes up almost 75 percent of our budgeted income each year. As of December 31, we have received 62 percent of budgeted pledge income; this is consistent with last year. We are doing well on the expense side as well. Overall, our expenses are lower than budgeted at this point in the year. If you were to look at specific accounts, you would find that some are over budget and some are under budget so far this year. Fortunately, those that are over budget are timing issues or other things that are in our control. For example, when we learned of the large church conference, we spent more money on professional development earlier in the year than expected. This can be offset by managing expenses later in the year.

In other financial areas, it has been a busy time for both the annual pledge campaign, Pledge•2007, and the Capital Campaign. I have provided the pledge team with financial information to help you understand how our money is spent at First Parish. We hope this will be helpful to you in making your decision on how much you can contribute to the workings of the church this year. In January, **Rob Richardson** and **David Hesel** transferred the Capital Campaign funds to Cambridge Trust. Most of this money was put in a Certificate of Deposit in an effort to earn the highest interest possible; the remainder was put in a checking account to pay upcoming bills. We appreciate the pledges and contributions you are making to the Capital Campaign and will continue to monitor these finances to make sure we are getting the best return on our money.

—*Lisa Cole*

Business Manager

Pastoral Care News

APPRECIATION LUNCHEON FOR PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

An appreciation luncheon for volunteers will be held on February 4, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. If you have been a recipient of pastoral care, please e-mail, call or write a note to me about what it meant to you to receive a visit, call, a note, transportation or a meal. Volunteers, please give thought to the gifts you have received in your giving.

In her insightful and beautifully written book, *Just Like Life*, **Dana Snyder-Grant** asks, “Did you know that the United States military has a Directorate of Time?” As I thought about it, I realized most of us go through the day as if we were the “Directorate of Time” by creating long lists of “to do’s.” Of course, life happens and disrupts our lists. Dana, who has multiple sclerosis, writes that “living with chronic illness in this fast, busy culture” has required a letting go of the expectations of busyness that this culture promotes and values. Instead she appreciates the flow of time in “the simple things” — family, friends, relative health, and the time to smell the flowers.

David Steindl-Rast, a Benedictine monk, also writes about appreciating the flow of time. He explains the monastic understanding of time can also apply to everyday life. The word “hour,” from the ancient Greek understanding, is not a numerical measure, but a soul measure. The hours are seasons of the day, and they were originally understood in a mythical way. “Earlier generations saw the hours personified, encountered them as messengers of eternity in the natural flow of time growing, blossoming, bearing fruit...therefore each hour was like a messenger from another dimension and had its own significance...Seasons are qualitative experiences: we sense a subtle difference in the quality of light, the length of daylight, the feel of the air on our skin.” Even with our busy schedules, we can slow down to notice different character of each day. The word “season” comes from the Latin root “to sow.” Steindl-Rast writes the “hours of a day are seeds we sow within ourselves and outside in the world. When we step out of clock time, to notice “the messengers of the hour,” we can become part of the flow of time and enjoy the fullness of time in moments throughout the day.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

MUSings

This year will be my final year serving as president of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network, the professional organization for musicians serving UU congregations. This network of colleagues from congregations all over the United States and Canada is a valuable resource and support for me and the music ministry at First Parish.

I have been presiding during an exceptionally productive period in the UUMN's history. Our new

hymnal supplement,
Singing the Journey, was

introduced at the 2005 General

Assembly; and UUMN published a

very successful children's songbook, *May This Light Shine*, in 2006. The organization voted to adopt its first Code of Professional Practice in 2005, and last summer the UUMN launched a professional certification program for UU musicians to parallel similar programs by LREDA, the association for UU religious educators, and the AUUA, the association for UU administrators. Since many of our music leaders (myself included) come to Unitarian Universalism from other denominations, this certification process is tremendously important in training musicians to work in our wonderful and unique tradition.

The year ahead promises more excitement for the UUMN: we have received a grant from the UU Funding program to finance a consultant to coach us as we restructure our governance system to serve our members more effectively and the congregations of the UUA. This all begins in February, when I will be attending UUMN Executive Committee meetings in Clearwater, Florida. (Did I mention there were some perks to this job?)

Working with my music colleagues on all these projects has been a tremendous education for me, and through it all I have had the opportunity to join in and lead some rewarding music making at General Assemblies, UUMN conferences and district events. My work with the wider denomination gives me a broader perspective on Unitarian Universalism and the respected role that First Parish in Concord plays as one of the UUA's "flagship" congregations.

It will be another busy year, but I'm hoping it will be a productive one for UUMN. It is a privilege to serve this organization and to be one of the faces of First Parish in the wider denomination.

Blessings,

—Beth Norton



Music Notes

SARASA CONCERT

On Sunday, February 4, at 7 p.m., the Music Events Committee will present a concert by the Cambridge-based, nationally acclaimed chamber music ensemble Sarasa. The program will feature Italian baroque selections, with soprano Emily Van Evera, and instrumental music by Marini and Castello. Instrumentalists will include Heidi Powell, violin; Richard Hsu, violin; Timothy Merton, cello; Charles Sherman, harpsichord. Tickets are \$20; seniors \$16, students \$13, children free. They may be purchased at the door or online at sarasamusic.org. The public is invited. For more information, call 617-492-4758, 978-369-3779 or 978-369-9602.

First Parish in Concord Music Events Committee

presents its

Annual Cabaret Night

featuring

The Tom Nutile Big Band

An evening of Great Music, Dancing,
and Light Refreshment!

Saturday, February 17, 2007
7:00 P.M.

Swing! Jazz! Blues!
Jump! Waltz! Latin!

Parish Hall, First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

Tickets: \$15 at the First Parish Office and at the door
For more information, call 978-369-9602
or visit www.tomnutile.com on the Web.
Print a full-color poster from the First Parish Website

SOCIAL ACTION SERVICE— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

We will gather together on Sunday, February 11, for a service dedicated to social action at First Parish. We will celebrate our social justice ministry in the world in a service led by **Jenny Rankin** with the theme “Be an



Activist.” Come and join this affirmation of our benediction to “go out into the world” while we hear

Jenny preach the sermon, listen to special music, hear from lay speakers and youth activists about their various experiences.

TOUR HOUSEHOLD GOODS RECYCLING MINISTRY

Tour the Household Goods Recycling Ministry (HGRM) on Sunday, March 11, 2 p.m. at HGRM, 530 Main Street, Acton. HGRM is a non-profit organization that distributes donated furniture and household goods to needy families. In 2006, HGRM distributed over 20,000 items to 2895 clients. They believe that it's unique, being the largest volunteer furniture bank in the nation. First Parish has been a great supporter of HGRM. It is the recipient of a SAC grant for 2006 and four First Parish 7th graders volunteer as part of the HGRM Youth Council. Come tour HGRM to find out more about the organization and opportunities for youth and adults to volunteer time or donate goods. RSVP to **Deb Dormitzer** by e-mail at debbie@lhlogic.com or by phone at 978-264-9047.

LOOK FOR GREEN SANCTUARY AT COFFEE HOUR

Starting January 7, the Green Sanctuary Committee initiated a series of coffee hour exhibits related to global warming. The first exhibit focused on standards for “green” building and what individuals and families can do to combat global warming. The next exhibit, on January 21, focused on global warming legislation at the state, regional and federal levels. The exhibits will continue twice a month. Visit our table, sign up to join our group, or just get information about our activities. Contact **Andy Proulx** at a.proulx@verizon.net or **Bob Andrews** at bob.andrews3@verizon.net.

JOIN THE FUNDERBURG SCHOLARS FOR DINNER SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

It's not too late to join us Saturday, February 3, for the Funderburg Scholars dinner at First Parish. Help Roxbury youth apply to and graduate from college — while you enjoy a nice meal with great company! Meet some Roxbury students and learn more about the program. No fixed “price”— donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your place at dinner by calling **Loretta Ho Sherblom** at 978 369-4325 or e-mailing her at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com. Join us for wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by **Caroline McCloy** at 7:15!

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/, e-mail our Social Action Associate, **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish, or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee (SC) met on January 8. Our good friend **Don Dembsey** is making excellent progress after suffering a stroke, and we wish him a fast recovery. Our church was filled at each of the four Christmas Eve services, and now we are eager to support **Jenny Rankin** as she leads us for the next six months during **Gary Smith's** sabbatical. Many volunteers are working in the next few months to bring us a successful annual fundraising campaign, with a goal of over one million dollars. Many more are working to help us all build a dream with the Capital Campaign, and we now have \$1.93 million in pledges. If you would like to join in to make this Capital Campaign an exciting opportunity to build community spirit and have some fun, contact any member of the Standing Committee with your ideas or offers of volunteer help!

The SC Communications Subcommittee has now instituted a forum on our First Parish website. To access the forum, as well as information on the Capital Campaign, you must first register — it's quick and easy. Visit first-parish.org today and become part of our virtual community!

Submitted,

— *Sue Beck*, Clerk

Membership Corner

NEW U COMING IN MARCH

There will be a three-week session of the New U offered on three consecutive Sunday afternoons in March. If you are interested in becoming a member at First Parish, this is your next chance. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about UU-ism in general and First Parish in Concord in particular. Ministers, staff and lay leaders come together to lead you on this path to membership. It is an informative, bonding experience that is also fun. Please call 978-369-9602 or e-mail me (memberfp@aol.com) to let me know that you are coming and whether or not you will need child care. We will meet from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sundays, March 11, 18 and 25. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

— *Caroline McCloy*

Director of Member Services

AFFINITY GROUPS

Are you interested in playing games? **Peter Lowitt** is currently organizing a Games Affinity Group. Do you enjoy seeing movies but can't make plans in advance, and would you like to have a list of people who are willing to be called at the last minute? 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 or join a current functioning Affinity Group: Bridge, Dancing, French Conversation, Jewish Awareness, Kayaking, 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, 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 at coffee hour on Sunday, February 11, or contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or dembsey@surfglobal.net.

Reflections and RE News

The world seems to be changing so quickly. Ten years ago I'd ask, "Do you have an e-mail account?" Now it's just, "What's your address?" This technology surge is not just affecting us, but our kids. Our children are spending more and more time in virtual worlds and 3D games many of us don't understand. It is difficult to know how much is too much and where to set limits. And it is scary to think our kids enjoy these digital realms more than the real ones.

How will this affect our children, developmentally, socially and spiritually? No one can know for certain. I have difficulty grasping the draw of these games. I am grounded in the real world, in nature and in personal relationships. And I want this for my children, but it is hard to compete with the highly engaging and self-absorbing computer.

When we bring our children to our First Parish community, we are immersing them in a community that cares about each child's inner growth. Each Sunday, our kids meet real people doing important work in our world and for our world. We talk about things that are important: how to treat each other, how to take care of ourselves, how to nurture our spirits. This is one way we can ground our children in this world, the world without screens.

As parents, we do the best we can. We have good days and bad days with our children. Sometimes we look to each other for support and sometimes we feel we are on our own. But at the end of the day, we strive to give our kids the foundation they will need to find their way in life. At First Parish we hope to help you on this journey. We hope that some of this foundation is built here, on Sunday mornings, in the real world.

—Pam Howell

WORKSHOP ROTATION

We are just finishing our third rotation, which has focused on the Hebrew Scriptures and specifically the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. We constructed biblical maps; reenacted the story using puppets and kids reconstructed a Bible, drew cartoons and guided each other on "trust walks." We hope your child enjoyed these workshops. We also hope they are getting to know their peers better through these interactive activities.

Please note, the orientation for the fourth rotation is on Thursday, February 8, with refreshments at 7:15 and the orientation beginning

promptly at 7:30. According to our first three rotations of teachers, the orientations have been essential in understanding the curriculum and the logistics of the rotation.

7TH GRADE NEIGHBORING FAITHS

We have a great team of leaders for Neighboring Faiths: **Peter Norton, Donna DeAngelis, Eric Holm, Ken** and **Barbara Lizotte** and **Kate Crosby**. This term our 7th graders will visit ten different faith communities. The Neighboring Faiths program is a unique opportunity for our youth to develop an appreciation for the many different ways people worship and express their spirituality. Be sure to check the calendar on our First Parish website.

FEBRUARY RE CALENDAR

Sunday, February 4	Regular RE for 0–6th Graders 7th Grade— off 8th Grade— off 9th Grade Coming of Age, 1:00–3:30 p.m.
Friday, February 9	7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, 4:30–8:30 p.m.
Sunday, February 11	Regular RE for 0–6th Graders 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. 8th Grade OWL Program, 4 – 7 p.m.
Sunday, February 18	Regular RE for 0–4-Year-Olds Chapel for K–6th Graders 7th Grade— off 8th Grade— off
Sunday, February 25	Regular RE for 0–4-Year-Olds Craft Activity for K–6th Graders 7th Grade— off 8th Grade— off

UPCOMING RE ORIENTATIONS FOR WORKSHOP LEADERS AND GUIDES (SECOND TO SIXTH GRADES)

Orientation is critical to the success of our Workshop Rotation program. For each rotation, all leaders and guides must attend or schedule a time to meet personally with either me or **Liz Chaffin**, our Workshop Rotation Program Coordinator. If one person doesn't know the expectations, it could really throw the whole program off.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR '06-'07 RE

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

Workshop Rotation #5: March 29, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Senior Youth News

February is a time for new beginnings and personal transformations for our youth. College applications are in, first semester final exams are over and our youth see this month as a time for fresh starts. It is a joy to be with them each Sunday and hear about how they succeed, fail, pick themselves up and try again.

On February 11, the Youth Group will be going to Common Cathedral. In the past this has been a very moving and personally transformative experience. I want to encourage all youth to participate — even if you don't come to YRUU. Youth are encouraged to make sandwiches on Saturday the 10th from 1:00–2:00 p.m. to bring with us, and to come with us into Boston on the 11th at 12:00 noon or hopefully do both.

We have a good mix of social action and fun for February:

Feb. 4: If the Patriots are in the Super Bowl, then **NO** YRUU. If not, then we will have YRUU and come and chat.

Feb. 10: (Sat.) Make food for Common Cathedral at First Parish(1-2 p.m.)

Feb. 11: Come to special social action service at 11:00, and YRUU to Common Cathedral (12 – 3 p.m.) **Parents: E-mail MaryWren if you can drive.**

Feb. 18: No YRUU – public school vacation

Feb. 26: Snow Tubing at Nashoba Ski Area 6:30 – 9:15 p.m. Permission slips on website. **Parents: E-mail MaryWren if you can drive**

The YAC is so excited to be working with our new Social Action Associate, **Faith Bade**, beginning to plan a youth social action trip to Biloxi to continue work on rebuilding the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Please stay tuned for an initial meeting.

I know that spring has the obvious metaphors for rebirth and renewal, but sometimes the winter offers us a chance to contemplate and make necessary changes to ourselves. As always, our youth have so much to teach us about being open to these types of personal transformations.

—*Mary-Wren
vanderWilden*

PLEDGE GENEROUSLY • PLEDGE NOW • COME TO CELEBRATION SUNDAY ON MARCH 4

The six-week Pledge-2007 season is in progress! This is the time of year when members and friends of First Parish make their financial pledge to support the salaries of ministers and staff, programs, and day-to-day operation of the church throughout the next fiscal year, July 2007 – June 2008.



We ask that you return your pledge form to the church office by Celebration Sunday, March 4. You can mail (or deliver) your pledge form to First Parish, bring it to canvass events (if applicable) or pledge online at firstparish.org.

Make First Parish a priority — Please pledge generously.

The Pledge-2007 mailing has arrived at every parishioner's home, asking you to consider the importance of First Parish in your life as you make your pledge. What are your dreams here? Do you come to nourish your spirit on Sunday mornings, to listen to our music and wonderful choirs, to be renewed by our ministers who help us to find the best in ourselves? Are you involved with your children in RE, small group ministry, pastoral care? Do you love Wright Tavern courses, the Women's Parish Association? Are you helping with the Capital Campaign or rotation workshop for our elementary-age children?

The list of possibilities at First Parish goes on and on.

Please refer to the First Parish Giving Table on your pledge form to plan your pledge. Our campaign goal is 100 percent participation from the entire congregation. If everyone pledges, we will reach our pledge goal of \$1,020,000, a 7.4 percent increase from last year's pledge total. If we surpass this amount, we will move closer to our ongoing goals to:

- Bring ministers and staff up to salary equity
- Restore our fair share contribution to the UUA
- Continue day-to-day maintenance of the Meeting House until Capital Campaign construction begins

Please consider using the auto-deduction options on the pledge form. This method helps First Parish manage its money and enables you to pay your pledge over the entire pledge year.

This year there will be no home canvass. Instead, we are hosting several canvass events where parishioners will be asked to pledge on-site. In addition, four groups are participating in an affinity canvass and pledging early in the campaign: The Standing Committee, The Pledge-2007 Committee, the Choir and the Nominating Committee.

Celebration Sunday is March 4, a day of tradition at First Parish! Please come to one of the worship services and stay for delicious food-fare as we celebrate our faith community and your generosity!

As evidenced by the wonderful success of last year's pledge campaign, you are a most generous congregation. And we thank you for your pledge!

—**Dave Dawson and Cynthia Ellis**
Cochairs of Pledge-2007

GIFT CARD SALE A SUCCESS

The Heifer International gift card sale took in \$2,290 this December. **Diane** and **Dave Clapp** would like to thank all those who supported the project so generously with their donations. The Overlook Farm staff in Rutland were very impressed with the support from First Parish. There will be a barn raising, most likely this spring, and the church will be notified of that event so that anyone interested in assisting can offer their help for what should be a fun event at the farm.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

There are display time slots available for painters, fabric artists, photography or print makers to mount an exhibit of their work. The exhibit space is in the Sue Altshuler Gallery and the Parish Hall stage. If you are interested in displaying your work, please contact **Doug Baker** at the church at 978-369-9602.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—MARCH 2

Join us as First Parish hosts this year's Concord celebration of World Day of Prayer, which will take place on Friday, March 2, with a worship service at 11 a.m., followed by a festive lunch at which the people of Paraguay will be honored. If you would like to help in this effort or if you have art objects, decorations or folk costumes from Paraguay that we could borrow, please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekincd@comcast.net or 978-263-0426.

Women's News

WPA LUNCHEON EVENT — FEBRUARY 20

Ladies and gents who lunch will not want to miss this special treat! **Tim Warren** will entertain us with downeast tales about folks from his beloved hometown in Maine. Join us at noon on Tuesday, February 20, for a catered lunch followed by the program. Charge for the lunch is six dollars, payable at the door. Contact **Dian Pekin** by February 17, at 978-263-0426 or pekincd@comcast.net for reservations or to request child care or a ride. All men and women of First Parish and their friends are welcome.

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The next meetings of the Women's AM/PM Book Group will be held Monday evening, February 26, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday morning, February 27, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The book is *The Spiral Staircase*, by Karen Armstrong. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the 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. These are the books and dates for 2007:

- 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 Sees

Classified

DESK AVAILABLE

We have an "L"-shaped office desk with a right return in good condition, not too heavy but awkward, on the second floor of our home in Concord available for \$25. The two sections come apart and legs come off. You would need to provide the labor to remove the desk from the second floor and take it away. It has six drawers — one of which is a file drawer, and another a large thin drawer. It is off-white with a wood laminate top. This has been a great desk. I am receiving my mom's antique desk and don't have room or need for both. We have teak paneling on the stairs so movers will have to be strong enough to control the desk and not damage the paneling while going downstairs. I'd really like to have the desk removed soon, if possible, as we have painters coming. If interested, please call Wendy at home 978-369-5283, voicebox #1, or cell 978-578-1077. Thank you.

February 2007 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.
Kundalini Yoga	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday	7:00 p.m. (not 2/20)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Aging with Spirit and Grace</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m. (not 2/21)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (not 2/21)
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>With Our Own Hands</i>	Thursday	12:00 p.m.
<i>Aging with Spirit and Grace</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Finding Your Calling</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m. (not 2/1)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 2/23)
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.

Thu Feb 1	9:30	<i>InterPlay: Exploring Our Body Wisdom</i>	Tue Feb 13	7:00	<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>
	12:00	<i>With Our Own Hands</i>	Wed Feb 14	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>
	4:00	<i>Kundalini Yoga for Children</i>		7:30	<i>InterPlay: Exploring Our Body Wisdom</i>
	5:00	<i>Kundalini Yoga for Children</i>	Thu Feb 15	9:30	<i>InterPlay: Exploring Our Body Wisdom</i>
	7:00	Human Resources Committee		6:30	Partner Church Committee
Fri Feb 2	4:00	OWL	Fri Feb 16	11:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
Sat Feb 3	6:30	Funderburg Scholars Dinner		12:00	Newsletter Deadline
Sun Feb 4	12:15	Nominating Committee		1:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
	12:30	Pastoral Care Lunch		7:30	Grassroots Action for Peace
	1:00	COA	Sat Feb 17	7:00	Cabaret Night 2007
	4:00	Sixth Grade Group (off-site)	Mon Feb 19	Holiday—Office Closed	
	7:00	Sarasa Concert	Tue Feb 20	7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
	7:00	YRUU		7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee
Mon Feb 5	7:00	Jericho Road Board	Fri Feb 23	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Tue Feb 6	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	Sun Feb 25	6:30	YRUU (off-site)
Wed Feb 7	9:30	<i>Aging with Spirit and Grace</i>	Mon Feb 26	7:30	Women's AM/PM Book Group
	7:00	<i>Houses of Healing</i>	Tue Feb 27	9:30	Women's AM/PM Book Group
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	Wed Feb 28	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
	7:15	RE Council		9:30	<i>Living Deliberately</i>
	7:30	Special Events Committee		12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
	7:30	<i>InterPlay: Exploring Our Body Wisdom</i>	Thu Mar 1	12:00	<i>Brown Bag Walden</i>
Thu Feb 8	7:00	<i>Aging with Sprit and Grace</i>		4:00	<i>Kundalini Yoga for Children</i>
	4:00	<i>Kundalini Yoga for Children</i>		5:00	<i>Kundalini Yoga for Children</i>
	5:00	<i>Kundalini Yoga for Children</i>		7:00	<i>Living Deliberately</i>
	7:30	RE Orientation		7:00	Human Resources Committee
Fri Feb 9	6:00	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo	Fri Mar 2	11:00	World Day of Prayer Service and Lunch
Sat Feb 10	9:00	Photo Club	Sun Mar 4	Celebration Sunday	
	1:00	Book Sale		12:15	Nominating Committee
Sun Feb 11	4:00	OWL A and B		3:15	OWL A and B
Mon Feb 12	7:00	Standing Committee		5:30	Youth Service Project



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

Address service requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Acton, MA
Permit No. 143

FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

The **March Newsletter deadline** is **Friday, February 16**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, February 28.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

**MAKE FIRST PARISH A PRIORITY!
COME TO CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

Sunday, March 4, 2007



**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
Debra Dunnington, Youth Program Coordinator

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
Faith Bade, Social Action Associate
Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff

Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 4:00
Phone: 978-369-9602
Fax: 978-369-8701
E-Mail: fpconcord@aol.com
Website: firstparish.org

Ministers' E-Mail:
Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net
Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net