



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

The poet Emily Dickinson writes:

*A little Madness in the Spring
Is wholesome even for the King,
But God be with the Clown—*

*Who ponders this tremendous scene —
This whole Experiment of Green —
As if it were his own!*

Spring Madness. Madness, indeed.

The Sox, even with Dice-K on board, are in with a bang, and out just as quickly with their second game. Oh, we had such hope. Not a good start. For shame, for shame! But we must not give up so quickly to despair. Spring is in the air, and we have only just begun, I say.

But as I write this, frozen rain is making mighty headway against the wavy panes of glass at Wright Tavern. If it held just a bit more force, I think it could actually penetrate it, shattering its place in our history. Who else, I think, has sat looking at this same view, and wondered about the slow descent of spring upon Concord? Who else, sitting here, has wanted to will in the warmth? Who else is tired of the waiting for buds, for color, for a new view?

Other madness, more ominous, has me held in its grasp this week. While outside on our wayside pulpit William Ellery Channing inspires us with, “May your life preach more loudly than your lips,” I have been listening to the responses to the hurtful words spoken by Don Imus about the Rutgers women’s basketball players. Ugly, damaging, unthinkable and irresponsible. We are too smart to be so dumb, I think. Madness of another type.

I am grateful for the care and respect we give to the importance of words within our Unitarian Universalist tradition. Even though we are criticized for our devotion to reason and thought in our theology, and for the absence of creed, I am proud that even though we falter and make mistakes along the path toward building just and sustainable communities, we keep trying; that we are not afraid to speak up when we err, when we say hurtful things. We are not afraid to try again when we make a mistake.

Madness of a different sort, if we define madness as admitting when we are wrong. If that be the case, I say “Preach on, Reverend Channing! Preach on!”

See you in Church.

—*Sally Hamlin*

Sunday Worship Schedule

May 6

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 & 11:00

**First Parish Choir and First Parish
Festival Orchestra**

Requiem – Fauré

May 13

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Handbell Choir

Danza – Kerr

Fanfare Celebration – Mazzatenta

11:00 – Gospel Choir

Tree Song – Medema

May 20

9:00 & 11:00

Coming of Age Service

May 27

Sally Hamlin, preaching

Memorial Day Weekend

ONE SERVICE ONLY

11:00 – Adult Choir

Songs from the Sacred Harp

**COME
BUILD A DREAM!**



See page 7

for the latest

update on

the Capital Campaign.

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There is one insert with this newsletter:
Wright Tavern Center Programs

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 21	Wednesday, May 30
Monday, Aug. 20	Thursday, Aug. 30
Monday, Sept. 17	Wednesday, Sept. 26

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

First Parish in Concord
*joyfully invites you
to celebrate with us
as we ordain*

Sally Jane Hamlin

To the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Sunday, June 3, 2007
at 4:00 P.M.

at First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road
Concord, Massachusetts

Reception will follow the Service

*Clergy, religious professionals
and seminarians
are invited to gather at 3:30 P.M.
to robe and process.*

AND YOU CAN JOIN THE ORDINATION TEAM...

See the item on page 9 for the many ways to help with Sally's Ordination.

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.

MAY 6

The Two Proposed Bicycle Trails in Concord
Dick Waters, President of Friends of Concord Rural Trails

Dick, a longtime member of First Parish, will present information that is of critical importance to us. Concord has two abandoned railroad rights of way that are in regular use as recreational paths. The state's recent Regional Bicycle Plan lists both as high priorities for conversion into bicycling trails. The citizens of Concord need to choose whether they want to construct natural trails in parklike settings or high-speed asphalt bikeways. Attend this Forum and protect the point of view that best protects the environment and healthy living.

MAY 13

Free Will and Responsibilities
Frank McClintock and **Kathleen Elcox**

The topic of *Free Will as It Relates to Humanism* will be the subject of discussion with Frank; and a wrap-up of *It Is Up to All of Us* with Kathleen will end the First Parish UU Humanists' Forums for this year. Theist or nontheist, agnostic or fundamentalist, come with your questions and input and find out a little more about Humanism as an integral piece of the puzzle that is Unitarian Universalism.

MAY 20

The Connect Africa Foundation
Dr. Lynn Auerbach

Lynn spends part of her life in Uganda with the Connect Africa Foundation's projects and part of it in a Boston suburb. She will talk about the incredible work that the foundation is doing to help thousands of children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic and the strong bond that exists between the villagers and Americans.

MAY 27

No Forum
Memorial Day Weekend

Parish Notes

EASTER FLOWER THANK-YOU

We want to thank all the staff, especially **Jane Johnson** and **Margie King Saphier**, and so many eager volunteers, who made the delivery of Easter flowers an easy and pleasant process. The beautiful lilies must have made many people happy. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! Thank you again. —**Tom** and **Sandie Kennedy**

EASTER FLOWERS

The flowers for Easter Sunday were given by the Women's Parish Association in memory of **Marjorie B. Weil**, **Elizabeth C. Morris**, **Christine C. Adams**, **Ruth L. Toland**, **Patricia Ann Vail** and **Mary Woodington**; and any other women of the Parish who died during the year.

COME OUT FOR THE EARTH ON APRIL 28!

Don't miss the Musketquid Arts and Environment Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28. The River Ceremony starts at 10 a.m. at the Lowell Road boat launch. Take off with the Earth Day Parade at 11 a.m., from the Lowell Road boat launch through Concord Center to Emerson Umbrella. Stay for the Arts and Environment Festival, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Emerson Umbrella, 40 Stow Street, Concord. Free! Bring your family and friends for a day of celebration, connection and fun! Contact emersonumbrella.org or 978-371-0820 for more information.

FINAL FERRY BEACH RETREAT REGISTRATION!

The annual First Parish Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend is May 25-28 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. The final date for registrations for the weekend is Sunday, May 6, at coffee hours. Look for the Ferry Beach information table in the Parish Hall. For questions before then, contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471). Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at ferrybeach.org.

ONLINE FORUM AVAILABLE

For nearly a year now the website GatheringVoices.org has been available for parishioners to share ideas and information, and discuss topics of interest in the community. Parishioners are invited to submit material to pne@aol.com. Material will be reviewed only for appropriate decorum and brevity. Please come and join this online forum. There are contributions on topics ranging from stem cell research to the new humanism. Other topics include the history of First Parish, current happenings at the church, discussion and opinions, etc., now totaling 97 articles. Come to GatheringVoices.org and share.

TAX-EFFICIENT GIVING

This year, if you are over age 70 and have a traditional IRA, you may be able to avoid collateral taxation of your Social Security by having the IRA Administrator transfer your church pledge directly from your IRA account rather than by paying it yourself. This will benefit those whose Social Security is taxed below the maximum 85 percent. Your gift also counts toward the minimum required distribution. For more detailed information, see the February posting on GatheringVoices.org by **Art Croke**.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 10

Pastoral Care News

May is a month of remembering; we remember our mothers and we remember those who died in the wars this country has fought. As many of you know, the original Mother's Day in the United States occurred in 1870, led by Unitarian social activist Julia Ward Howe, with a call to unite women against war after the American Civil War. Unfortunately Howe failed in her attempt to get formal recognition of a Mother's Day for Peace. It took another woman to start a crusade to found a memorial day for women. Anna Jarvis organized the first Mother's Day, which was celebrated on May 10, 1908. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honor of those mothers whose sons had died in war. Nine years after the first official Mother's Day holiday, commercialization of the U.S. holiday became so rampant that Anna Jarvis herself became a major opponent of what the holiday had become. Mother's Day continues to this day to be one of the most commercially successful U.S. holidays.

Many Unitarian Universalists agree with Anna Jarvis's opposition to what Mother's Day has become, and yet we are not immune to its pervasiveness. Mother's Day and Memorial Day in their call to remember bring memories that can make us cry, laugh and cry and laugh again. When we remember, the question of forgiveness also arises. Can we forgive the human race for its inclination to go to battle? Can we forgive our mothers for the small wars and the large ones that raged within us and between us? Can we celebrate the times that we both grew in the knowledge of love? Can we work toward reconciliation within ourselves, in our relationships with others, and can we work toward world peace? With flower blossoming, the month of May reminds us of renewal. The questions of remembering are also questions, that invite the possibility of renewal.

Holiday Flowers: I want to thank everyone who volunteered after the 11 o'clock Easter service to deliver flowers, letting parishioners know we are holding them in our thoughts and hearts. I also want to thank **Kate Henchman**, who ordered the flowers. A special thanks goes to **Tom** and **Sandie Kennedy**, who for several years have been in charge of organizing the delivery of the holiday flowers and who are retiring from this position. We are now looking for cochairs for next year's holiday flowers. If you are interested in becoming involved in the

Money Matters

With one quarter left in the fiscal year, we are monitoring our financials closely and trying to anticipate where we will end the year. On the income side, we have received 83 percent of our budgeted subscription income. This is consistent with how much we had received last year as this point. On the expense side, through March we have spent 72 percent of our budgeted expenses for the year. We are reviewing our financial activity and have found some budget areas that will overrun this year due to unbudgeted expenses. This will be more than offset by budget areas that are now projected to come in below budget at year-end. All this information is scrutinized both in making year-end projections for this year and helping us budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Although it looks positive that we will end FY'07 with a balanced budget or positive net income, the key to this achievement is subscription income. Please continue to contribute toward your monthly pledge regularly; this will help us in our year-end projections. If you pledge quarterly or yearly, it would be very helpful if you could fulfill this pledge by the end of May. Thank you for your continued commitment, of both your time and money to the operations of First Parish.

—*Lisa Cole*

Business Manager

church life, the position of Holiday Flowers chair(s) is a wonderful way to get know people without having a lot of work to do. Please contact me at mksaphier@comcast.net.

A 40-minute video, *Communicating with Compassion*, will be shown and discussed on Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to noon. This video provides a step-by-step method of communicating with people who are ill, injured, isolated or in distress. Using real situations, four key communication skills that empower, encourage, bring hope and lift the spirit. Following discussion of the video, participants will have the opportunity to practice these skills. I invite anyone who wants to deepen their listening skills to attend. This video has been shown in previous years at First Parish, always to "rave reviews."

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee (SC) met on April 9 with **Dave Dawson** and **Tim Jacoby** attending as guests. Dave reported that the annual pledge drive is still \$137,000 short of the \$1,020,000 goal, with 100 pledge units still outstanding. The SC urges each and every member of FP to pledge — we need your financial support in order to pay for our staff and our programs! **Tim** and **Rob Richardson** (Treasurer) reported on the changes that have been made to our financial system as a result of the annual audit, changes that have brought us into better compliance with good accounting practices. Look for more information soon on the specifics. On April 30, the SC will meet with the staff to share ideas of our vision for First Parish and to help us with our task under policy governance of setting yearly goals. The SC is also working on revising our Ends Statements and developing a method of evaluating ourselves as well as the ministers as Head of Staff. This evaluation is part of the policy governance process.

We urge everyone to come to church on April 29 to celebrate the launching of the Come Build a Dream campaign. Join us as we celebrate taking the first steps toward a new First Parish.

Submitted,

— *Sue Beck*, Clerk

MUSings

Inevitably, it seems, there are seasonal trends in the performance of musical masterworks. Sometimes they are determined by an anniversary year, such as the Mozart 250th anniversary last year. But sometimes pieces receive multiple performances in a given year or place for some unidentifiable reason.

This is true of the Fauré *Requiem*, the work that the Adult Choir will present with orchestra on May 6. The *Requiem* is performed regularly by community choirs and church choirs everywhere. But as I have talked to colleagues in this area and around the country, and as I have contacted instrumentalists to play in the First Parish Festival Orchestra, I have learned that there is an unusual abundance of Fauré *Requiem* performances this spring.



So why have so many conductors turned to this particular choral masterwork this spring? I know that my initial reason for bringing our scores out of the library was simple: It is an absolutely beautiful piece and I love it. I think I was also drawn back to Fauré's masterpiece by the title and the character of the work. *Requiem*. Rest. The text is the Latin service for the dead. It has been set famously and dramatically by many composers — Berlioz, Verdi, Mozart. But Fauré's setting is unique in its emphasis on the promise of rest and comfort for the dead and the living. In his first version of the piece, Fauré chose to set only the *Requiem* texts that emphasized rest and peace. He completely left out all references to a day of judgment — an aspect of the *Requiem* that is memorably and vividly portrayed by other composers. Fauré's musical setting — for organ, strings, harp — also creates a serene and sublime atmosphere, even with the later addition of the *Libera me* and *Dies irae*.

I believe this exceptionally peaceful nature of Fauré's setting provides a clue to why it has been chosen by so many conductors for performance this spring. In these complex and disturbing times, the Fauré *Requiem* is balm for the soul and the spirit. It has sustained and soothed me as I've listened to it and studied the score this winter and spring. We are in need of some rest and peace. I'm hoping that Fauré will provide that for us on Sunday, May 6.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Social Action Community News and Events

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

At this stage of my life, April is the beginning of the busy season. The spring activities in my household exceed the number of hours in the day as well as my ability to drive everyone there on time! But this is also the time when I try to take a deep breath and remember what really matters.

On April 10, a group of First Parishioners met and discussed just that. We talked about what parts of Social Action are working well here and what is missing. Then we discussed what we would dream First



Parish Social Action could be and what legacy we want to leave. Everyone took time out of their hectic lives to have an open and thoughtful discussion of, essentially, their own priorities and dreams. Because that is what Social Action at First Parish is — an embodiment of your priorities and your dreams. You are the source of the social action causes we serve, you are the source of lay leadership and volunteers, and you are the source of donations — of time, items and money. Through social action we can achieve your dreams for your children and change the world for the better. A great example is the First Parish participation in the highly successful Global Warming Symposium & Fair last month at CCHS. Global warming itself is a scary concept for us all, but through activism and education we can leave an amazing legacy for our children — a healthy and sustainable environment.

Share with me what really matters to you. Ask yourself what legacy you want to leave behind. Our Social Action Community welcomes your ideas and your enthusiasm. Be an activist! Contact me at FBade@FirstParish.org.

— Faith Bade

Social Action Associate

WANTED — NURSING MENTORS FOR FORMERLY HOMELESS MOTHERS

One Family, Inc. (onefamilyinc.org), the people who helped Sussy get her degree, are looking for female nurses to mentor formerly homeless and at-risk mothers pursuing their nursing degree. Mentoring involves a once a month, one hour meeting at a place that is convenient for you to give the mothers guid-

ance and support. As **Bill Seaver** has found out from working with Sussy, the rewards are immense and the time commitment is minimal, although you may end up with a friend for life. Please contact **Bill Seaver** at billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318 if you are interested.

SOCIAL ACTION GRANT AWARDS

We are pleased to announce that the following organizations will receive Social Action grants this spring to continue their work with underserved people in Concord and beyond: Concord Housing Foundation Inc., to support affordable housing projects; Household Goods Recycling Ministry in Acton; Open Table Maynard, a startup venture; UU Mass Action Network, a first ever effort to coordinate and connect social action among 140 Massachusetts UU churches; Common Cathedral; Stand High, Stand United, summer urban youth programs; and UU Urban Ministry. Congratulations to all these organizations and their many First Parish sponsors. Visit the SAC Web page for more on our grants and grantees. Go to firstparish.org and click on Social Action.

JERICHO ROAD WELCOMES NEW LOWELL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The Jericho Road Project is pleased to welcome Jodi DeLibertis as our new Lowell Program Director. Jodi comes to Jericho Road with 15 years of professional and volunteer experience in the nonprofit sector including a stint as the president on the board of a community nonprofit. Jodi, who lives in Amesbury and is a regular attendee at the First Religious Society of Newburyport (UU), looks forward to meeting the many First Parish JRP volunteers and supporters. Please stop by the Jericho Road table at coffee hour on April 22 and introduce yourself. You can contact Jodi at jdelibertis@jerichoroadproject.org.

FIRST UU LOBBY DAY SET FOR MAY 3

Did you know that one of every ten UU's in the United States lives in Massachusetts? We are 20,000 UU's in 140 churches. Imagine how powerful we could be if all Massachusetts UU's worked together for social justice. Join UUMass Action Network for the First Annual UU Lobby Day on May 3 from 11:00 to 3:00. Beginning at the UUA Headquarters, 25 Beacon Street Boston, listen to Bill Sinkford speak and stay for lunch. Legislative fact sheets and training for lobby visits will be offered. At 1 p.m. we will walk together to the State House and meet with our state senators and representatives to share our views on global warming and marriage equality. Please see our website at uumassaction.org for a detailed schedule and check the "Upcoming Events" page for more details on global warming issues. Lunch will be \$5.00 at the door. To register, call 617-835-5426 or e-mail uumassactionnetwork@verizon.net.

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.org, or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE MAY 2007

General Parish fundraising is under way! By now each of you has received a letter asking for your help so we can build our collective dream. Your gift not only benefits current members and our children, but is also a lasting legacy to future generations at First Parish. Since the last major Capital Campaign was in 1954, this is likely to be the only major campaign any of us will ever be involved with. For that reason, we hope you will consider a thoughtful stretch gift. You can track our fundraising success on the First Parish Website.



On April 23, we presented the Mass. Architectural Access Board with information about the variances we are requesting.

On April 29, at both coffee hours, we will celebrate the start of general fundraising as well as our success so far.

Our church staff continues planning for the construction transition period, as well as working on a plan for allocating new office space.

Membership Corner

SPRING SEASONAL DINNER PARTY THANK-YOU

The Spring Seasonal Dinner Parties were held on Saturday, March 31. Thirty-six people participated in four dinners hosted by **Sallie and Bill Satterthwaite, Vivienne and Dean Aldrich, Andrea and Brad Hubbard-Nelson and Carolyn and Barry Copp**. Many thanks to hosts and participants. This is the last dinner party of the season. We hope that you will join us for dinner next fall.

— **Carolyn and Barry Copp**, Membership Committee

CRICKET POTTER TO BE ORDAINED MAY 20

Dear Friends,

I hope that you will join me on the afternoon of May 20, as the First Parish in Lincoln ordains me to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. It was during my years at First Parish in Concord that I felt a growing sense of call to the Unitarian Universalist ministry, and you all taught me so much about how to do church well and how to be a community that really engages with the larger world on issues of truth, justice, and peace. **Gary Smith** will be preaching, **Jenny Rankin** will lead the laying on of hands, and **Karen Foley** will be offering the right hand of fellowship.

Warmly,

— **Cricket Potter**



The Members of The First Parish in Lincoln
Joyfully invite you to celebrate with us as we ordain

Cricket Potter

To the Unitarian Universalist Ministry

Sunday, May 20, 2007, at 4:00 p.m.

The First Parish in Lincoln

14 Bedford Road

Lincoln, Massachusetts

Reception to follow

Please RSVP by May 10 to elizreynolds@comcast.net

Indicate any need for child care.

Questions? Call Elizabeth Reynolds at 781-259-7125.

*Clergy and seminarians are invited to arrive at
3:30 to robe in the Stearns Room and process.*

Reflections and RE News

The month of May feels a bit like Christmas around RE. Wonder why?

When we receive each of your registrations for next year's RE program, we can't wait to open the forms and see which teaching assignment you have requested. We take your requests very seriously and do our best to meet your needs. In addition to this, we also learn a little bit more about you, the parent. We get a window into what you enjoy doing with kids. For example, last year we were so surprised to learn how many people in our First Parish community love to sew with children. We were thrilled to see there were so many musical parents welcoming an opportunity to sing with kids. Parents lined up to lead Neighboring Faiths. Others had been moved by the Spirit Play stories and wanted to do them again. Drama people came out of the woodwork. Did you know we have puppeteer parents?

I hope this gives you some insight into why RE registration feels like Christmas. Each one of you has a gift to offer our children, and the RE Council and I work very hard to match your gifts with our children's need for learning in a worshipful environment.

Thank you and Merry Registration!

— Pam Howell

STORY PLAY FOR OUR 3- AND 4-YEAR-OLDS

Have you been working with our 3- and 4-year-olds this year? If so, you would have used our new "Story Play" curriculum. These are simple lessons based on Spirit Play's Montessori approach toward learning. They begin with a familiar story and are followed by a simple craft. In addition to all she does to support our RE program, **Jane Barnes**, our RE Administrator, has really taken the lead and put this curriculum together for our kids.

SPIRIT PLAY

It is hard to believe that this program was new to First Parish last year. Both parents and kids seem to be enjoying this deeply spiritual way of telling story to children. This program has only been successful through the hard work of **Carol Duane**, our Preschool Coordinator, and the steadfast leadership and support of two of our RE Council members, **Susan Ryan** and **Gretchen Nelson**. When parents receive their Spirit Play baskets, they receive a gift of another parent's caring and imagination. Please take a look at one of the Spirit Play baskets during RE registration. They are truly heartwarming.

RE MAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 1	7th Grade Cult Talk
Fri.-Sun., May 4-6	9th Grade Coming of Age Retreat
Sunday, May 6	Regular RE for 0-6th Graders (3rd Graders receive Bibles) 7th Grade Hindu Temple Visit RE Registration Sunday, Both Services
Thursday, May 10	7th Grade Buddhist Visit
Sunday, May 13	Regular RE for 0-6th Graders 7th Grade Common Cathedral Visit
Sunday, May 20	Regular RE for 0-6th Graders Coming of Age Service at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Wrap-up & Lunch in the Wright Tavern at 12:15 p.m.
Sunday, May 27	Memorial Day – Child care for Pre-K only

REGISTRATION DATES AND TIMES

(Please bring your checkbook for the materials fee.)

- Tuesday, April 24, from 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 29, at both coffee hours
- Sunday, May 6, at both coffee hours

Please have your children registered by May 20. This helps us plan our program in a way that uses all of our resources wisely.

WORKSHOP ROTATION

Our last rotation is under way and, you guessed it, we are already beginning the groundwork for next year. We have determined the focus of each rotation and many of the workshop activities. But we could still use your help. **Allison Aley** has worked diligently with **Liz Davis-Chaffin** to plan curriculum and work out the details for each workshop. Allison has been a vibrant and inspiring member of the RE Council. She has shouldered much of the work in making Workshop Rotation a reality this year. This is Allison's last year on the RE Council. We will miss her and her vision tremendously. We do hope you take a moment to thank her for her personal ministry to all of our children.

Without Allison next year, we are looking for a few people who might be willing to work with our Workshop Rotation Coordinator, **Liz Davis-Chaffin**. This work would entail reviewing lessons, testing art projects and talking through ideas with Liz. Liz is a dynamic and warm person with whom to work. If you are interested, please e-mail Liz and let her know: chaff13@hotmail.com.

RE NEWS continued on page 9

SALLY HAMLIN'S ORDINATION CELEBRATION

Sally Hamlin, our ministerial intern, will become an ordained minister here at First Parish on Sunday, June 3, at 4 p.m. This is a very special occasion for both Sally and for us as a congregation, so we are hoping that you can all join in the celebration.

It takes a village to ordain a minister! If you would like to help, please let us know which of the following areas inspires you:

HOSPITALITY: There will be several of Sally's friends and family members arriving from out of town. If you can help with housing for one or two nights, please call **Kitty Reynolds**, or email her at KittyReynolds_2@msn.com.

RECEPTION: If you would like to help with any phase of the reception (before, during, or clean up), please call **Rhoda Miller** or email her at rhodamill@aol.com.

CHILD CARE: If you know of someone (or *are* someone!) who would like to help with childcare during the service and the reception, please call **Suzie Weaver**, or email her at skatesuzie@aol.com.

DONATIONS: Donations are always welcome! They are needed for the reception, for assisting the out-of-town guests with travel expenses, and for presenting Sally with a special gift to celebrate both her ordination and her year with us at First Parish. If you would like to contribute, please contact **Steph Chiha** — either by phone or via e-mail at steph@pierre.com, or at coffee hour.

Thanks!

RE NEWS continued from page 8

7TH GRADE NEIGHBORING FAITHS PROGRAM

We are having another successful year with Neighboring Faiths. Our leaders and children have visited a variety of worship communities and have learned much about the spiritual practices of other religions. By the end of this year's program, our kids will have had the opportunity to visit an Islamic Temple and a Hindu Temple, and attend a Buddhist service. They have participated in Services at a Baptist church in Boston, a Jewish temple in Sudbury and a Catholic church here in Concord. They have visited the Christian Science church and our Congregationalist neighbors, and have learned about the dangers of cults. You might be wondering who made all of this possible. Some amazing parent leaders: **Peter Norton, Kate Crosby, Donna DeAngelis, Eric Holm and Barbara and Ken Lizotte**. The trips have been well planned and our kids have been wellfed. Thank you to all these parents for making this program "happen" so smoothly this year.

The youth leadership tries to plan three or four "vespers" services a year, providing an opportunity for youth to worship together. The youth like to keep things very loose — we dim the lights, light candles of joys and concerns, play musical instruments, sing, listen to a song on an ipod or read something inspirational whenever we feel moved to do so. The youth look forward to this as much as they do the fun and games Sundays. I think they appreciate the time and space for quiet reflection and inspiration, particularly during these busy days of spring.

We were thrilled to organize an April vacation service trip to Biloxi for our youth. Six youth and three chaperones did construction work helping to rebuild houses that were ruined by Hurricane Katrina. Thank you to **Pat Brewer, Linda Levin** and **Marty Schumacher** for chaperoning. A special thank-you goes out to **Donna DeAngelis** for helping us to organize this trip.

It's a busy May calendar for youth:

- May 6 5:30–8:30 p.m., Pizza and Trip to Carleton Willard (youth can earn community service credit)
- May 11–12 Leadership Retreat to Boston (all YAC members and youth interested in leadership invited)
- May 13 11:00 O'clock Service, 12th Grade Senior Recognition
- May 13 Ultimate Frisbee Championship Game vs. Tri Con
- May 20 Speaker: Doc Furey
- May 27 No YRUU — Memorial Day Weekend — Ferry Beach

On May 6, we are so excited to be taking our first trip to the Carleton Willard Village to lead worship with the seniors there. We will take the theme from our March 25 youth service, "leaving your mark," and discuss it with the seniors there. Many thanks to **Margie King Saphier** for making this happen.

At the 11 o'clock service on May 13, First Parish will recognize our high school seniors. It is a lovely ceremony, where we send the seniors off into the world but reassure them they will always have a home here at First Parish.

The YAC is looking forward to our annual leadership retreat on Friday, May 11, to Saturday, May 12, at the First Church in Boston, where we will begin planning for the 2007-2008 year.

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*

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

BOSTON PRIDE MARCH ON JUNE 9 — SAVE THE DATE!

March with members of First Parish carrying our banner in the Boston Pride Parade, beginning at noon on Saturday, June 9. Look for more details about this fun event in the June newsletter, or contact **Sara Ballard** at 978-371-0723 or sara@sb.org.

...AND ALSO THE GAY YOUTH PRIDE PARADE

Come join us in support of the youth on May 12, at the Gay Youth Pride Parade in Boston, starting at 12:45 p.m. We've been told that they are looking for supporters rather than marchers, so we will be standing somewhere very visible and cheering them on. There is a group going down from First Parish — if you would like to join us, contact **Steph Chiha** at 978-369-7569, at steph@pierre.com, or talk to her at coffee hour.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MOVIE—“KISSING JESSICA STEIN”

The romantic comedy *Kissing Jessica Stein* will be shown on Tuesday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fenn Room. This hilarious and touching film tells the story of single, straight New York journalist Jessica, who finds herself not as straight as she thought when she meets and begins an intense friendship with career woman Helen Cooper, which ultimately leads to romance. As always, admission is free, and refreshments will be served. This film is rated R.

DEBBY GREELEY HERB GARDEN 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

The Women's Parish Association and the Herb Garden Committee, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden, are sponsoring a special coffee hour following the 11:00 o'clock service on June 3. The celebration will be held outside, weather permitting, with Victorian dress or hats and gloves optional! Many folks have helped over the years to make this garden one of the most celebrated in Concord. Special thanks go to **Doug Baker** for ensuring that this wonderful place of beauty has endured all these years. All parishioners and their friends are welcome to join us as we remember Debby and enjoy the garden that was inspired by her love of herbs.

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan, by Lisa See, is the final book to be discussed this year by the Women's AM/PM Book Group. The meetings will be held Monday evening, May 21, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday morning, May 22, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join one or both of these sessions. On Monday, June 11, at 6:00 p.m., the morning and evening participants will gather together for a potluck supper and choose books for next year. Details will follow via e-mail. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com.

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our youth and choir pilgrims are gearing up for their summer pilgrimages. The following activities are open to all First Parishioners. Please contact **Bozena Smith** if you would like to attend at bozenasmith@mindspring.com or 978-371-1060. There will be a small charge for the pizza events to cover the cost of food and beverages.

Thursday, April 26: Cultural presentation, 7:30–9:00 p.m. by **Rodger Mattlage** of the Partner Church Committee in the Sanctuary. The entire First Parish community is invited.

Sunday, May 13: Pizza dinner 5:00–6:00 p.m. Csardas dance lesson from 6:00–7:00 p.m., together with the youth who are traveling this summer.

Wednesday, May 16: Pizza dinner and check-in, 6:00 p.m.
Hungarian language lesson, 7:00–7:45 p.m. Choir rehearsal at 7:45 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13: Pizza dinner and check-in, 6:00 p.m.
Hungarian language lesson, 7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 27: Czech language lesson, 7:00–7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 11: Hungarian language lesson, 7:00–7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 18: Romanian language lesson, 7:00–7:30 p.m.
Choir rehearsal, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 25: Pizza dinner and check-in, 6:00 p.m.
Hungarian language lesson, 7:00–7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Please join us!

May 2007 Calendar

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

Every Week...

<i>Poetry as a Path</i>	Monday	12:00 noon (not 5/28)
<i>Poetry as a Path</i>	Monday	2:00 p.m. (not 5/28)
<i>World Meditations</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 5/28)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
<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.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
<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>Spiritual Autobiography</i>	Thursday	12:00 noon
<i>Raga</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 5/31)
<i>Finding Your Calling</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Tue May 1	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	Sun May 13	5:00	Pizza and Transylvanian Dancing
	6:00	Neighboring Faiths	Mon May 14	7:00	<i>Clutter Clarity</i>
Wed May 2	7:00	<i>Stress Drop-In</i>		7:00	Standing Committee
	7:00	YAC	Tue May 15	7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
	7:15	RE Council		7:00	Denominational Affairs
	7:30	Special Events Committee	Wed May 16	6:00	Pizza and Hungarian Lessons
Thu May 3	9:30	<i>InterPlay</i>	Thu May 17	9:30	<i>InterPlay</i>
	7:30	Global Warming		7:30	Green Sanctuary
	6:00	Hungarian Lessons	Fri May 18	11:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
	7:00	Human Resources Committee		7:30	<i>Labyrinth and Sacred Space</i>
Fri May 4	7:30	<i>InterPlay Party</i>	Sat May 19	9:00	COA Rehearsal
		COA Retreat (off-site)		1:00	<i>Deeper into the Labyrinth</i>
Sat May 5	9:00	Music Rehearsal	Sun May 20	5:30	Youth Service Project
	10:30	<i>Compassion</i>	Mon May 21	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	1:00	Global Citizen Symposium		7:00	<i>Clutter Clarity</i>
Sun May 6	4:00	SARASA Performance		7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Mon May 7	9:00	Partner Church Committee	Tue May 22	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	9:30	Pastoral Care Council		7:00	Diversity Committee Movie
	7:00	Ferry Beach Meeting	Wed May 23	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
	7:00	Jericho Road Meeting		7:30	<i>InterPlay</i>
	7:30	<i>Thunder, Perfect Mind</i>	Fri May 25		Ferry Beach Weekend
Wed May 9	6:30	Partner Church Committee	Mon May 28		Holiday—Office Closed
	7:30	<i>InterPlay</i>	Wed May 30	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
Thu May 10	7:30	Green Sanctuary	Thu May 31	9:30	<i>InterPlay</i>
Sat May 12	9:00	Photo Club		6:00	Hungarian Lessons



First Parish in Concord

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MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter deadline is Monday, May 21, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, May 30.

News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

SALLY HAMLIN ORDINATION

*Sunday, June 3, 4:00 o'clock in the
Sanctuary, First Parish in Concord*

CRICKET POTTER ORDINATION

*Sunday, May 20, 4:00 o'clock
First Parish, Lincoln*

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 Coordinator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

Debra Dunnington, Young Teen 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



WPA-SPONSORED EVENT — DEBORAH WEBSTER GREELEY HERB GARDEN CELEBRATION



Instead of its May monthly meeting, the Women's Parish Association is sponsoring the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden, which will take place during the coffee hour following the 11:00 o'clock service on Sunday, June 3. Further details appear in the notice of this event on page 10. All First Parish folks and their friends are welcome. No reservations

are necessary.



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

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