



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

October 24, 2007  
Volume 44, No. 3

## The Meeting House News

On a Top Ten list of ways I enjoy interacting with all of you, asking you for money is number eleven. Two years ago, we voted in a special congregational meeting to launch a capital campaign, the first major campaign in fifty years. Since then, members here have put in thousands of hours on this project and many of you have already pledged generously to support it.

Now it is time to hear from all the rest. We're at a critical point, ready to begin construction in the spring. But much still must happen. We cannot spend money until we know it's coming in. We need you to be counted. We call the campaign, "Come Build a Dream." We voted YES. Now we need the dollars to make it real.

How much? It's over five years. We need you to continue your annual support, please oh please. Can you stretch to a capital gift that is three to five times that amount over three to five years? More importantly, can you give what is possible for you so that each of us can be counted?

Did you lose the pledge card? Stop by a table in the coffee hour or call the church office and one will be sent to you. When do we need the pledge and/or gift? Now, please oh please. Seriously, by the end of October.

—Gary



### REVeries

When I was a Hospice chaplain, Hospice held an annual memorial service in early November for all the families who had a loved one die the previous year. November is a month that encourages us to turn inward. The daylight hours are fewer, most leaves are off the trees, and the weather can be cold, wet and damp. As the outdoors becomes less hospitable, the home with the glow of lights, fires in fireplaces, and the company of family becomes the hoped-for vision for the upcoming holiday season of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's.

The holiday season often serves as a marker, sometimes full of sorrow, other times full of joy, but always noting the changes in the cycle of life. During holidays we become acutely aware of the many losses we all experience, whether it be the loss of health with the arrival of chronic or life-threatening illness, loss of children leaving home, loss through death or divorce; the list goes on.

If you find the holiday season difficult because of a recent or a distant loss, I hope you will consider attending the workshop "Coping with Loss During the Holidays," cofacilitated by **Francie Nolde**, a licensed marriage and family therapist who specializes in grief, and me. The workshop will be offered on Wednesday, November 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. and repeated on Wednesday, November 28, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please contact the church office to register, letting them know which class you prefer.

—Margie King Saphier

### Sunday Worship Schedule

#### November 4

Jenny Rankin, preaching  
9:00 – Handbell Choir  
Martha Goodman, director

*God's Time Is Always Best*  
– Bach/arr. Behnke

*Heaven's Rest* – Nelson

#### 11:00 – First Parish Choir

*Breaths* – Barnwell

*Bright Morning Star* – Appalachian  
Song/Squatrito

#### November 11

Gary Smith, preaching  
9:00 & 11:00

First Parish Choir and  
Special Guest Sadhana Upadhyay  
Hindu Devotional Songs

#### November 18

Thanksgiving Sunday  
Gary Smith, preaching  
9:00 & 11:00

First Parish Choir,  
Chalice Choir and Junior Choir

*Hymn to Freedom* – Peterson/Read  
*Hymn for America* – Paulus

#### November 25

Margie King Saphier, preaching  
9:00 & 11:00  
Choir Octet

### COME BUILD A DREAM!

See page 2 and check the First  
Parish website *and* the  
bulletin board opposite  
the kitchen for the  
latest updates on the  
Capital Campaign.



## In This Issue...

- Page 1** REVeries  
Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 2** In This Issue  
Our Meeting House Family  
Capital Campaign News  
Standing Committee
- Page 3** Sunday Forum  
Parish Notes  
UUSC Guest at Your Table
- Page 4** Money Matters  
Pastoral Care News
- Page 5** Membership Corner  
MUSings
- Page 6** SAC News and Events
- Page 7** Transylvania Travel Choir Concert
- Page 8** REflection  
and RE News  
November RE Calendar
- Page 9** RE News, continued  
SAC News, continued  
Senior Youth News
- Page 10** Women's News  
Photo Directory  
Community News/Miscellaneous
- Page 11** November 2007 Calendar
- Page 12** First Parish Staff  
Artisans Fair

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

*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. 12	Wednesday, Nov. 28
Monday, Dec. 10	Wednesday, Dec. 19
Monday, Jan. 14	Wednesday, Jan. 23

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

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

It's once again time to hear from you!

Join your representatives working hard on our church's Capital Campaign for a series of important meetings. We'll be sharing information about our proposed building project. And there are some new decisions to be made. So become informed!

Please plan to attend one of the following All-Parish meetings to learn what our choices are for the building project:

**Tuesday, November 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m.**

And please plan to attend a **Special Meeting — Sunday, December 2, at 12:30 p.m.** — when the full congregation will vote to move forward on one of the project options.



## Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee met on October 15. Please look for the minutes online at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org) under Church Life (you must log on), or look for them on the bulletin board in the downstairs hall. The next Standing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 12.

## 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 **Robert Hilsinger** or **Charles Lowell** if you wish to recommend a topic or a speaker.

### NOVEMBER 4

No Forum

### NOVEMBER 11

*Expedition to Labrador*  
**Eric Whitney**

Eric will give a slide presentation of his 42-day sailing trip to Labrador, which included stops in very remote areas and small fishing villages in Northern Canada.

### NOVEMBER 18

*Our Puritan Heritage*  
**Peter Mitchell**

Peter will give a historical perspective of how Puritan governance became the foundation of our democracy, and how the Protestant Ethic has guided our economic and social development.

### NOVEMBER 25

No Forum

## Parish Notes

### FROM THE COLLECTOR

We have received an unidentified stock gift. If you have transferred stock to the First Parish account within the last month and a half, please notify **Peg Gallo** at 978-369-9602, ext. 416, as to the name of the stock and number of shares. The broker does not know who you are. Thank you for your contribution.

### ARE YOU ON THE FIRST PARISH ANNOUNCEMENT LIST?

From time to time, all First Parish members receive important announcements by e-mail, provided you have signed up on the distribution list at the First Parish website. If you are not on the FPannounce distribution list, please go to the following URL online and sign up: <http://www.first-parish.org/lists>. Note that you can also use this link to sign up for other First Parish distribution lists, such as those for Religious Education, Social Action Council, Activism, and the Women's groups.

### THANKS FOR SUPPORTING FAIR TRADE

The Fair Trade Committee would like to thank all of the people who supported our program during the past three years. Though we are no longer selling Fair Trade products during coffee hour, we hope that you will continue to support this worldwide effort that is helping growers to live better lives. Fair Trade products can be found at many of our local grocery stores. Be sure to look for the symbol that guarantees the grower worked under Fair Trade conditions.

### COME SEE "CRASH" ON NOVEMBER 13

The Diversity Committee will present the movie "Crash" in the Fenn Room on Tuesday, October 13, at 7:30 p.m. This film, which won the 2006 Oscar for best picture, is a rich and moving exploration of race and class in modern-day America. Admission is free, and there will be refreshments provided.

### UUSC'S GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BEGINS NOVEMBER 18 ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE!

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee promotes human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world with programs based on UU principles. Through advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, the UUSC promotes workers' rights, advances the human right to water, defends civil liberties, and preserves the rights of those affected by humanitarian crises. On November 18, we are hoping that each and every member of First Parish will take home a Guest at Your Table box and share some holiday bounty with the needy people of the world. You can become a UUSC member with your contribution. Fill out the bottom of the box before returning it. Donations are tax deductible. Be sure to include full names, contact information, donation amount, and membership type if you are to be credited with senior or youth membership levels. Look for the UUSC table at coffee hour for more information, or contact **Sue Beck** at [sbeck345@comcast.net](mailto:sbeck345@comcast.net).

## Money Matters

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### PLEDGE 2008

Plans for First Parish's Pledge 2008 Campaign are already under way! As you know, your annual pledges are vital to the continued excellence of our First Parish ministry, programs and operations. In early February, you'll be receiving a letter that contains pledge cards and details, with fundraising wrapping up on Celebration Sunday in early March. This year's campaign cochairs are **Dave Dawson** and **Mary Ellen Connell**.

## Pastoral Care News

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Many of us do not like it when we hear someone say, "I am sorry for your loss." We object to the word "loss" as if it is a denial of the finality of death. Instead we think the person should say, "I am sorry to hear your loved one died." In her book *Good Grief*, Deborah Morris Coryell has a different understanding as to why the word "loss" is used. We who are grieving often feel lost without the presence of our loved one. If we are recently diagnosed with a chronic degenerative disease, we may question, Who am I now? The familiar path we once walked seems to have vanished. We feel lost in an emotional/spiritual wilderness. Each of our Pastoral Care Lay Ministers has experienced and worked through a variety of losses — in the form of the death of a loved one, surviving cancer, having a special needs child, living with chronic illness. Learning from personal experience as well as from on-going pastoral education, they offer to companion parishioners who are in need of spiritual/emotional support. First Parish is so fortunate to have **Eric Read**, **Peter Nobile**, **Diane Clapp**, **Kathryn Shane**, and **Liz Davis-Chaffin** serving as pastoral care lay ministers. Please contact me at [mksaphier@comcast.net](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net) or leave a message in my voicemail at 978-369-9602, ext. 422, if you would like a visit from one of our lay ministers.

Also, my apologies go to **Lorraine Loviglio**, whose name I forgot last month when I listed the Parish Visitors.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

## Membership Corner

### A NEW U? GET TO KNOW FIRST PARISH

The fall session of the New U begins on Sunday, October 28. We will meet at 4 p.m. with **Jenny Rankin** for the Minister's Orientation. The following two sessions will be held on November 4 and 18. Please call or e-mail **Caroline McCloy** at [memberfp@aol.com](mailto:memberfp@aol.com) or 978-369-9602 if you would like to participate.

### WHAT'S YOUR AFFINITY?

Are you looking to be a part of a small group in this large faith community?

There are numerous ways to connect at First Parish. Affinity groups — loosely defined as groups with a common interest — provide sociability, support and spiritual growth. These groups assume shared special interests or experiences, providing a tangible way to connect and engage us in the life of First Parish, as well as opportunities to interact with each other.

The first Affinity Groups were started in 2003, and have been nurtured and tended over the years by **Judy Dembsey**. We thank Judy for all the work she's done to make this program an enduring First Parish tradition.

Some of our more active groups include Bridge, French Conversation, Honor All Beings, Jewish Awareness, Photography, Spanish Discussion/Social, Needleworkers and Writing Down The Bones. A few of the groups that could potentially start soon are Cooking, Concerts, Games, Movies, Restaurants, Theatre and Walking. If you have a passion that you would like to share with a group, let us know and we will help you get it started! The Membership Council is committed to providing Affinity Groups with facilitation and communication support, and will assist the contact people as needed.

Want to learn more? Stop by the Newcomer's Corner during coffee hours and see what's available. One of our three Affinity Group Coordinators — **Nita Chase, Steph Chiha** and **Linda Benua** — will be available to answer questions and provide information on the various Affinity Groups at First Parish.

## MUSings

I have mentioned in this space before that 2007 marks my final year as the President of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (UUMN), the professional association for musicians serving UU congregations. The UUMN's mission is to nurture, educate and inspire UU music leaders to create dynamic and transformative music ministries. The First Parish music ministry has certainly been nurtured by UUMN over the years, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to "give back" through this leadership experience.



My three years as president have been very full — at times it has felt like I have two jobs! My family and this congregation have been very supportive of the extra time and travel that this role has required of me. For this patience and trust I am extremely grateful. It is rewarding work and I am proud of what the UUMN has accomplished during this time.

Early in November the incoming UUMN Board of Trustees will be here in Concord for a special leadership retreat. They will be meeting in the Wright Tavern November 1–3, and some of the trustees will worship with us on Sunday, November 4. Hopefully they will sing with the choir! I am looking forward to hosting these precious music colleagues from all over the United States. One of the great joys of my involvement with the wider denomination has been to visit Unitarian Universalist congregations across the country. I am always struck at the uniqueness of each congregation. Inevitably I come back from my travels with inspiration and new ideas — as well as a deeper appreciation of Concord's rich history, our resources, our amazing staff and lay leaders and the place of respect our congregation holds in the wider denomination.

It will be a great pleasure to welcome my UUMN colleagues to Concord in early November and to share the experience of this historic congregation and place with them. I hope you will welcome them as well.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

## Social Action Community News and Events

### THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

I feel fortunate to have attended the annual meeting of Open Table this fall along with their management team, volunteers and guests. For anyone unaware, Open Table is a food pantry and meal program run out of our own First Parish kitchen on Thursday evenings (with an OT Maynard program on Monday evenings), providing its self-selected clients with a hot, "home-cooked" meal as well as groceries. But this organization does so much more. OT clearly creates a community — between guests, other guests and vol-



unteers. It provides resource information for legal and personal matters and fosters respect for each guest.

High schoolers carry bags of groceries to cars; adult volunteers might serve an extra piece of meat to a child while a mother eats; everyone cares about each other. OT fills a significant need in the Concord/Maynard area, with over 150 clients a week during the winter months. During this month of Thanksgiving, with an abundance of food, family and community, please support the needs of this program, as described below.

Congratulations to all on the success of the Jericho Road Bike Ride on September 30 and the Crop Walk on October 14! As always, please contact me with your causes and concerns at FBade@firstparish.org.

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Associate

### CONCORD CROP WALK THANKS

On a perfect fall day, close to 500 walkers raised a record total of \$52,340 for the 2007 Crop Walk for the Hungry, with this amount expected to rise. Many thanks to all who helped make the day such a great success, including walkers, crossing guards, those who donated refreshments and those who sponsored **Jenny Rankin** and other walkers. If you walked and have outstanding pledges, please collect them as soon as possible, and turn them in to the First Parish office. You can see pictures of the walk in the photo gallery at [concordcrop.org](http://concordcrop.org).

### OPEN TABLE NEEDS HELP FOR THANKSGIVING

Open Table serves over 60 meals here at First Parish on Thanksgiving and they need your help! Centerpiece baskets need to be filled with tea bags, little coffees, hot chocolate packs, chocolates, dried fruit, cookies and clementines. Thanksgiving Day volunteers are also needed. All ages are welcome to pack centerpiece baskets (12:00–1:00 p.m.); and anyone high school age and older can set up tables and chairs (12:00–1:00 p.m.), prepare meals (12:00–2:30 p.m.), serve (4:00–6:15 p.m.), and clean up (6:00–7:00 p.m.). Volunteers must schedule with Jane Lifton. Donated items can be placed in the box in the First Parish coat room. Thank you!

### THE MITTEN TREE IS RETURNING . . .

The Mitten Tree will return, but one family or individual is needed to volunteer to take items off the trees and bring them to a nonprofit. Can you help? Contact **Faith Bade** at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

### HOLIDAY GIFT BAGS FOR CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH

Concord Prison Outreach will provide Christmas gift bags for 1700 inmates this year. Requested items are: one bar of deodorant soap, one 6 oz. tube of toothpaste, one box #6 envelopes (6 1/2 x 3 5/8), one pair white socks (no tube socks or knee highs), one pocket calendar (no wire), one plastic bottle of shampoo (15 oz. max), one stick deodorant (no roll-ons), one writing pad (no wire, 6 x 9), 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.

### VISIT THE SOCIAL ACTION WEB PAGE

The Social Action Community Giving Committee met late this month to decide on grantees in the first round of funding. In an expression of our church benediction, committee volunteers decide on funding requests submitted by parishioners twice a year, in October and May. Visit the Social Action Web page at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org) and click on "grants" for the latest news and updates about First Parish SAC grants. If you are interested in applying for a grant for the spring funding cycle, click on the sac grant request form for an application. For more information, contact **Alane Wallis** at [awal-lis@nutter.com](mailto:awal-lis@nutter.com) or 978-369-1114.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY continued on page 9

### 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](mailto:SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org), see our website, [www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/](http://www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/), e-mail our Social Action Associate **Faith Bade** at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org), or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.



# Transylvania Pilgrim Choir

In Concert: Sunday, November 11  
7:30 P.M.

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

In August 2007, a twenty-eight-member choir from First Parish journeyed to Transylvania, Romania, where they visited and sang for their

partner congregation in Székely Kéresztúr, and presented concerts in several other churches in Eastern Europe.



The Pilgrim Choir invites you to join them on November 11, at 7:30 P.M., when they will reprise the pilgrimage concert, including traditional American hymns,

anthems and folk songs and some beautiful Hungarian and Czech music as well.

A dessert reception will follow the concert, where slides of the trip will be available for viewing.



## Reflection and RE News

This morning, as I was finishing my cup of tea by the kitchen sink, I glanced at our very cloudy and murky fish bowl on the counter. "Better feed Freddie," I thought, and I dropped a few flakes in...but I didn't see Freddie. Usually he is peering at me through the jungle of grasses. But not today. I felt the rumblings of panic. Where is he? Not today.

Freddie and two of his fish friends came into our home as outcasts. In science that day, my son's 4th grade class did several experiments with mosquito fish. These happy few needed a post-experiment habitat. They had no home, and I was assured the fish would only live three weeks to two months. Well, two did. But not Freddie. Freddie lived on...and on. My son is now a junior in high school.

Our 7th graders are participating in "Lessons of Loss." It is a program that discusses the common feelings of loss and how different cultures experience loss. Let's face it, life is hard and life is unpredictable. It is these unplanned events that can ultimately shape our lives and change our paths. This class helps our kids reflect on their assumptions and beliefs about loss, and perhaps gain a greater understanding of loss when it affects their lives. When we ask youth in YRUU which programs in RE they valued most, "Lessons of Loss" is often the response.

Loss is a universal life experience. It is something we fear. It is one of life's hardest experiences and it is why many of us come to a religious community. We come to offer and receive support in times of need, whenever that need arises. The support we offer each other may be imperfect, but it is real and from a community of love and understanding.

Today was not the day. Freddie bobbed to the surface and ate his breakfast. And I was relieved. Someday, but not today.

— Pam Howell

### WORKSHOP ROTATION #2: JESUS IS BORN

**Liz Davis-Chaffin**, our Workshop Rotation Coordinator, and **Jane Barnes**, our RE Administrator, with the help of several RE parents, have put together another exciting group of workshops for our second rotation. This rotation will focus on our UU roots in the Christian tradi-

### NOVEMBER RE CALENDAR

Sun., Nov. 4	Regular RE for Pre-K–8th Grade 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. 9th Grade COA, 4:00–6:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 11	Regular RE for Pre-K–8th Grade 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. 9th Grade COA, 4:00–6:30 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 18	Regular RE for Pre-K–8th Grade 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. 9th Grade COA to Boston, 12:00–5:00 p.m. 7th & 8th Grade Turkey Fry, 2:00–4:00 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 25	Regular RE for Pre-K, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Chapel Sunday for K–6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

tion. As we move into the holiday season, we will be looking at the birth of Jesus and what his message of peace, love and understanding has meant to the world. We will be making gifts, exploring the nativity, playing exclusive and inclusive games, exploring peaceful resolutions to problems, and learning about holiday celebrations around the world.

### 7TH & 8TH GRADE TURKEY FRY FOR OPEN TABLE, NOVEMBER 18, FROM 2 TO 4 P.M.

Ever tried fried turkey? It's delicious. Come and help cook turkeys for Open Table's Thanksgiving Dinner. We will be making table decorations and gift bags, and sampling fried turkey. RSVP to **Faith Bade** at 978-369-9602 so we know how much turkey to fry! Would you like to help? We need a couple of parent helpers to assist with the table decorations and gift bags. Please contact **Suzie Weaver** at 978-369-5352.

### 9TH GRADE COMING OF AGE PROGRAM

Our 9th graders spent an amazing weekend at Camp Takodah with their COA leaders (**Deb Welch** and **Cynthia Ellis**) and their mentors. This weekend was rooted in our UU source of earth-centered traditions. Our 9th graders spent time both together and alone, exploring what it means to each one of them to be a Unitarian Universalist. Over the next several weeks, these same teens will continue to explore each one of our UU sources. Our goal is to provide them with an understanding of who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Their job is to define themselves as part of this vibrant spectrum of spiritual practices and traditions. Please mark your calendar for the COA service, January 13, at 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock.

RE NEWS continued on page 9



**RE NEWS** continued from page 8

**ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR '07-'08**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:**

Workshop Rotation #3:

Thursday, December 6, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Caregiving, Story Play and Spirit Play  
Rotation Terms 4 and 5:

Tuesday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

Workshop Rotation #4:

Thursday, February 7, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Coming of Age Mentor Orientation 8th  
Grade:

Sunday, February 10, 2:00–6:30 p.m.

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**SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY**

continued from page 6

**GREEN SANCTUARY BULLETIN BOARD**

Are you aware that Green Sanctuary has a bulletin board space and Web pages that are linked to the church website? Do you know that you can visit both to get environmental information, link to other environmental resources, and learn about Green Sanctuary activities and events? If you are interested in the natural environment and concerned about environmental issues, see what we have to offer. The bulletin board is new, and what is on it will be updated regularly. The website is older, but has been updated. Visit it at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org) and look at “committees” under Church Life.

*Senior Youth News*

Thanks to the wonderful leadership of **Dave** and **Diane Clapp**, we are planning a youth service trip to Honduras with the Heifer Project for February public school vacation. This will be a wonderful opportunity for youth to help with building projects while deepening their understanding of the issues of rural poverty, gender equality and Honduran historical realities.

This year we are lucky to have Nat Carr, a Fenn teacher and coach, as our Youth Advisor. Nat will be coming to Youth group every Sunday night, not only to help chaperone, but to be another adult touchstone for our youth. He brings a youthful presence, which our youth are enjoying.

Our November schedule should offer something for everyone:

Nov. 4: T'ai Chi

Nov. 12 (Mon.): Tie-dye tee-shirts to earn money for Transylvanian student (get community service credit)

Nov. 18: Panel discussion on socializing

Nov. 25: No YRUU — Thanksgiving holiday

On Saturday, November 17, from 1-3 p.m., the Youth Group will be doing a social action project through the Concord Council on Aging. We will deliver buckets of sand to seniors to help them de-ice their walkways in the winter. I encourage youth to participate, as it is one of the most rewarding projects that we do. Youth can also get community service credit.

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*

## Women's News

### ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREATS: TWO NOTES

**Note 1:** This year's First Parish Women's Retreats will be held on the weekends of January 25-27 and February 1-3. All women of First Parish are invited, and it's not too soon to enter the dates into your calendar. (Both retreats have the same agenda, so choose the one that best fits your schedule.)

**Note 2:** The retreat planners are welcoming new members! If you would like to participate in some creative brainstorming for this year's retreats, please join the first planning gathering on Saturday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m. If you have questions, please call or e-mail **Margaret Stewart**, 978-369-6670 or mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com.

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

The November book for the First Parish Women's Book group is *Say the Name: A Survivor's Tale in Prose and Poetry*, by Judith H. Sherman. The evening group will meet Monday, December 3 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, December 4, 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, contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com). The books and dates for 2008 are as follows:

- January 28 (p.m.), 29 (a.m.)  
*Midnight's Children*, Salman Rushdie
- February 25 (p.m.), 26 (a.m.)  
*Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin: Writers Running Wild in the Twenties*,  
 Marion Meade
- March 24 (p.m.), 25 (a.m.)  
*The Memory Keeper's Daughter*,  
 Kim Edwards
- April 28 (p.m.), 29 (a.m.)  
*One Thousand White Women*, Jim Fergus
- May 19 (p.m.), 20 (a.m.)  
*The Year of Magical Thinking*, Joan Didion

## THE PHOTO DIRECTORY IS COMING... DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

We hope you will sign up to have your photograph taken for our new pictorial directory. You can sign up in the Parish Hall during coffee hour or in the hall across from the office during the week. Or online registration is possible by visiting the First Parish website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org), and clicking the link under the benediction on the home page. We welcome all members and friends to have their photos taken. For inclusion in the directory, a pledge in the last year is appreciated. Each family or individual who has a photo taken will receive one free 8 x 10 color photograph plus a free directory.

## Community News

### INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

This year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service will take place on Sunday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m., at the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, in Concord. The service will include an intergenerational, interfaith choir and participation by the faith communities of Concord. A freewill offering will benefit The Sharing Foundation (TSF), which supports the poor and orphaned children of Cambodia. A reception will follow the service, and there will be an opportunity to meet Dr. Nancy Hendrie of Concord, founder of The Sharing Foundation. Beautiful bags, made by the young Cambodian women supported by TSF, will be available for purchase. More information is available at the TriCon Church office at 978-369-4837, and rides are available for senior citizens.

### NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ENSEMBLE IN CONCERT

The highly acclaimed National Spiritual Ensemble, a group devoted to "preserving the art and tradition of Negro spirituals," will perform on Saturday, November 17, at 7:00 p.m., at the Acton Congregational Church, 12 Concord Road, Acton, Mass. The church is handicapped accessible. Contact phone: 978-263-2728.

## Miscellaneous

### WRITING GROUP TO START

I am a Ph.D. Art Historian who is writing a monograph on Yves Tanguy, the most visionary of the surrealist artists. I am looking for other writers of nonfiction who would be interested in starting a writing group that would meet twice a month. Subject matter is not an issue. The goal is to encourage clear, concise writing that is accessible to the general public. Also important is a dedication to accurate scholarship in the chosen field and a desire to publish. If you are interested, please contact me by e-mail at [susannessen@verizon.net](mailto:susannessen@verizon.net) or call me at 978-369-7750.

## November 2007 Calendar

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

### Every Week...

<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/19 or 11/26)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 p.m. (not 11/20)
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<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>Restorative Yoga</i>	Wednesday	5:30 p.m. (not 11/21)
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m. (not 11/21)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/22)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/23 or 11/30)
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/25)

Thu Nov 1	10:00 <i>InterPlay</i>	6:00 <i>Cooking from the Bible</i>
	12:00 <i>Peabody Sisters</i>	7:00 Capital Campaign All-Parish Meeting
	7:30 <i>Finding Your Calling</i>	7:30 Diversity Committee Movie
	7:30 E. L. Doctorow Lecture	
Sat Nov 3	10:00 WPA Artisans Fair	Wed Nov 14
Sun Nov 4	4:00 New U	Thu Nov 15
	4:00 Coming of Age	Fri Nov 16
Mon Nov 5	7:30 RE Council	11:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i>
	7:30 <i>Spirituality of Imperfection</i>	7:00 <i>Yoga Date Night</i>
	7:30 Our Whole Lives Orientation	7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Tue Nov 6	6:00 <i>Cooking from the Bible</i>	Sat Nov 17
	7:30 Our Whole Lives Parent Orientation	9:00 Capital Campaign All-Parish Meeting
Wed Nov 7	7:00 Youth Advisory Committee	Sun Nov 18
	7:00 <i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>	4:00 New U
Thu Nov 8	7:30 <i>Finding Your Calling</i>	4:00 Coming of Age
Fri Nov 9	5:00 <i>Spiritual Exercises for UU's Fall Retreat (off-site)</i>	7:00 Honor All Beings Affinity Group
Sat Nov 10	<i>Spiritual Exercises for UU's Fall Retreat ('til 5 p.m.)</i>	7:00 SAC Board Meeting
	9:00 Photo Club	Mon Nov 19
Sun Nov 11	10:00 Secret Santa Meeting	Tue Nov 20
	1:00 <i>Being Healthy and Saving the Planet</i>	6:00 <i>Cooking from the Bible</i>
	4:00 Coming of Age	7:00 Amnesty International Chapter Meeting
	7:30 Transylvania Choir Concert	7:00 Denominational Affairs Meeting
Mon Nov 12	12:00 Newsletter Deadline	Thu Nov 22
	7:00 Standing Committee	Holiday — Office Closed
	7:30 <i>Spirituality of Imperfection</i>	Fri Nov 23
Tue Nov 13	9:00 WPA Board Meeting	Holiday — Office Closed
	3:00 <i>Tea and Poetry</i>	Tue Nov 27
		1:30 Matinee at First Parish
		Wed Nov 28
		9:15 Newsletter Mailing
		7:00 Grieving and the Holidays
		Thu Nov 29
		10:00 <i>InterPlay</i>
		7:00 <i>The Art of Raga</i>
		Fri Nov 30
		7:00 <i>Yoga Date Night</i>



**First Parish in Concord**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

20 Lexington Road  
Concord, MA 01742

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**NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER**

The **December Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, November 12**, at noon.  
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, November 28.  
**News items should be limited to 100 words.**

**Don't Miss...**

**HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR**

*Saturday, November 3*

*10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

**TRANSYLVANIA TRIP CONCERT**

*Sunday, November 11*

*7:30 p.m.*

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

- Gary E. Smith**, Senior Minister
- Jenny M. Rankin**, Minister
- Margie King Saphier**, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
- Rebecca M. Blodgett**, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care
  
- 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
  
- 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 Koplw**, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road
- Rebecca Johnson**, Jericho Road Ministerial Intern
  
- A. Bigay**, Assistant to the Ministers
- Douglas Baker**, Sacristan and Curator
- Jane Johnson**, Office Manager
- Peggy Gallo**, Financial Secretary and Collector
- Caroline McCloy**, Director of Member Services
- Faith Bade**, Social Action Associate
- Kate Keleher**, Newsletter Editor
- Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson**, Newsletter Staff

**HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR — NOVEMBER 3**

Come and bring your family and friends to this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your treasures for our white elephant table to the Parish Hall on Friday afternoon, November 2. The fair committee is looking for donations of small gift items of very high quality (jewelry, ornaments, holiday decorations, tableware, etc.). Many new vendors! Many First Parish artists' and artisans' works will be on sale. Call **Jen Petersen** at 978-369-4103 or **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekinc@comcast.net to offer your services or gift items.

**Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00**  
**Phone: 978-369-9602**  
**Fax: 978-369-8701**  
**E-Mail: fpconcord@aol.com**  
**Website: firstparish.org**

**Ministers' E-Mail:**  
**Gary E. Smith: garyesmith@firstparish.org**  
**Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net**  
**Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net**