



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

FIRST PARISH MEETING HOUSE MADE NEW!

So many things are about to happen, thanks to your generous support of our Capital Campaign. Please watch this space and the weekly *Sunday News* for updates on construction and renovation at First Parish. By the time you receive this newsletter, the carpet will have been removed from the Sanctuary so that we can assess how the acoustics can be improved for music and for the spoken word. You will have a chance over the next few weeks to give us your feedback. Additionally, some of the offices in the main building, particularly those of the religious education staff, will be moved into the Parlor throughout the summer. A dumpster will be parked in the side parking lot, making parking even more restricted.

At the end of June, demolition will commence in the religious education wing, and renovations will begin in the space below the Sanctuary — new bathrooms, kitchen improvements, newly reconfigured office space. This will eliminate restrooms for the whole summer in the main building. *Not good for Sunday morning.* We'll only have one exit in the Sanctuary this summer. *Not good for Sunday morning.* So we are moving to the new and beautiful Kerem Shalom on Elm Street for our summer Sunday worship, beginning June 15. We have terrific preachers and music lined up for each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Watch for regular updates. Contact us with concerns and questions. Let us know if you think there's anything you can do to help us during this time. Keep in mind — a new adequate elevator, new restrooms, handicap accessible buildings, some offices moved back to the church from the Wright Tavern, more space for multipurpose use. It will be terrific!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIVING A LIFE:

Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.

—Mary Oliver, "Sometimes"

—Gary, Jenny and Melissa

Sunday Worship Schedule

May 4

Special Music Sunday

Gary Smith, worship leader

9:00 & 11:00

First Parish Choir

Grace Choi, piano

*A Selection of German Part
Songs for Four Voices* – Haydn

May 11

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Gospel Choir

**11:00 – Children's Choirs
and Adult Choir**

May 18

Margie King Saphier, preaching

9:00 – Transylvania

Troubadours

11:00 – Adult Choir

May 25

ONE SERVICE AT 11:00

Margie King Saphier, preaching

Nancy Ackerman – clarinet

*Selections from the Suites of
J. S. Bach*

REVeries

In the next two months, you will begin to see changes at First Parish as the staff prepare for the building project. One of the obvious changes will happen on May 20, when some of the staff will move out of their offices to new locations within First Parish. Also summer services, which begin Sunday, June 15, will be held at Temple Kerem Shalom in Concord and will go into the fall.

Although change is always occurring around us, it is usually subtle, so we barely notice it. But dramatic change is rarely easy. This coming year (2008 to 2009), life at First Parish will be different as we negotiate the challenges of ongoing construction. Changes

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:

- **Wright Tavern Center**
- **Gary's June 1 Celebration
Spring Recital, (reverse side)**

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — in print and online — 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 19	Wednesday, May. 28
Monday, Aug. 18	Wednesday, Aug. 27
Monday, Sept. 15	Wednesday, Sept. 24

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

BE SURE TO SAVE THIS SPECIAL DATE!

COME JUNE 1 TO CELEBRATE GARY'S FIRST 20 YEARS

On Sunday, June 1, at both the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock services, the entire congregation is invited for a celebration of **Gary Smith's** first 20 years as our Senior Minister. Save the date and look for future communications about this important event!

Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 a.m. to 10:50 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.

MAY 4

Two Million Minutes

A showing of this important documentary film about how six students prepare for college will be presented, with opportunity for discussion. The students include two from the United States, two from China and two from India. "Two Million Minutes" refers to the amount of time spent in school from the eighth grade to high school graduation.

MAY 11

No Forum

MAY 18

Garden Talk

This annual Forum will give First Parish gardeners an opportunity to share what's on their minds as they prepare for a bountiful summer. The long winter and cold spring have presented special challenges this year. Ideas on how to have more earth-friendly gardens will be discussed.

MAY 25

No Forum

Rock 'n' Roll for All!

Friday, May 9, Parish Hall

SAVE THE DATE!

Tickets at coffee hours

6:30-8:30 P.M.—Rock 'n' Roll Bingo

\$10/person \$35/family

Bring the kids! Bring the family!

Live Music • BINGO • Dancing • Raffles
• Pizza

8:30-10:30 P.M.—Rock 'n' Roll Dance

\$10/teen \$15/adult

Top Hits • Oldies • Motown • Raffles •
Desserts

Hosted by First Parish Youth Group,
with proceeds to help bring Kerestúr
friends to Concord!

Parish Notes

SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to provide the Sunday flowers for a memorial or for a special occasion, please leave your name in the office to arrange a date.

DO YOU HAVE MATERIALS IN THE FIRST PARISH ARCHIVES?

Before the church renovation begins, all materials in the First Parish Archives are being transferred to our traditional archival storage in Special Collections at the Concord Public Library. If you or your committee have something in the church archives that you would rather keep, please contact **Enid Boasberg** at harpplayer@comcast.net or **Winslow Pettingell** at LondonSW11@aol.com.

CLIP COUPONS FOR OPEN TABLE

Your neighbors who come to Open Table could use your help. They receive help with weekly groceries, but they do not receive any cleaning products, drugstore items or pet supplies. While you are clipping coupons from the Sunday paper or from drugstore inserts, please save any from these three categories that you do not need and bring them to church. You will find one box in the coatroom and another as you enter the RE wing. Thanks for your help!

FIRST PARISH QUILT NOTE CARDS

Judy Dembsey has kindly consented to let us put her World Systems of Beliefs quilt on a 4"x 6" note card. The front features a color photo of the quilt, and the back has an explanation of the symbols. A package of eight cards (blank inside) with envelopes is \$10.00. All proceeds go to the church's operating budget. Look for the cards at coffee hours or contact **Sue Beck**, sbeck345@comcast.net or 978-369-8445, to place an order.

A NEW TWIST ON FIRST PARISH HISTORY

There's a new book out, that should be of interest to everyone interested in the history of Concord and/or First Parish in Concord. The author, Thomas Taylor, is a descendent of both of the first ministers of Concord — Rev. John Jones and Rev. Peter Bulkeley. Thom has recently done some new researching on his own, and has found a new interpretation of the relationship between these two men, which is different from our traditional history as we know it. The title of the book is *From Bulkeley to Bulkley to Buckley*. It is basically a genealogy of the Bulkeley family, but the first two chapters contain Thom's explanation of his findings. For more information, contact **Marian Wheeler** at 978-369-2435 or madge17@aol.com.

THANKS FOR A GREAT FLEA MARKET!

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

THANK YOU

On April 9, a team of eight of First Parish's finest cooks filled the Caring Connection freezer with tasty treats. **Rhoda Miller** and **Carolyn Shohet** headed the culinary team that included **Enid Boasberg**, **Polly Peterson**, **Helen Stoddard**, **Jean Hill**, **Bev Bringle** and **Jane Johnson**. Thanks to all for providing this service.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Money Matters

It is the time of year when we on the staff split our time between this (fiscal) year and the next (fiscal) year. We are trying to anticipate how this year will end. The key to our ending the year positively is to continue to receive your pledge dollars for this fiscal year. The key to our being able to plan for next year is that we receive your pledge for next year. If you have already made your pledge for next year, we thank you. As of this writing, however, we have over 130 pledge units from whom we have not yet heard about next year's pledge. Budget planning for next year is very difficult when so many possible pledges remain outstanding. If you have not yet pledged, please do so as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

—Melissa Perdue Gallo

Intern Reflections

I am writing this reflection a few days before I preach my last sermon and just a few weeks before I leave First Parish in Concord for First Church in Cincinnati. You may know that when I leave here I will join **Rev. Sharon Dittmar**, a former First Parish intern, at her church in Cincinnati. I have talked with many of you about the comings and goings of interns over the years; it is a difficult task for a church to take on the training of a new generation of ministers. We come to you, learn and serve for a few months, and then leave just as you are getting used to us and we are connecting with the community. It is hard to say good-bye. I think this commitment to the future of Unitarian Universalism, despite the almost constant good-byes you must bear as a congregation, is incredible. I thank you for being willing to continue that commitment year after year, with intern after intern. It has been a joy to work with and learn from this congregation — from you.

I also know that my going and the next intern's arrival will not be the biggest change the congregation will experience in the coming year. Comings and goings will be present in our building, in our worship, and in our community. I encourage you to be as kind and flexible with each other as you have been with me. Next year will be a learning year, not just for the intern, but for all congregants in how to be together as community in the midst of change. If we think of ourselves as students, practicing our worship and learning together, we may find that there is a patience and resilience available to us that we never imagined.

—Becky Johnson

Pastoral Care News

In *Pocketful of Miracles*, Joan Borysenko writes, "The beauty of May draws us out of hibernation into a natural mindfulness of the blessing and abundance of nature. Gratitude and mindfulness are intimately related, for as we practice gratitude we come more aware, more present. We wake up."

There are many ways to "wake up." Life provides us with endless opportunities, from the surprise of the beauty of nature to the surprise that our sense of control is an illusion. We learn this latter lesson over and over again, through illness, death of a loved one, loss of a job, divorce, the birth of a child, and the list goes on. We can also "wake up" in the giving and receiving of pastoral care. In this great dance of giving and receiving we learn we are one. We also learn, in the full acknowledgment of our interdependency, what our unique gifts are, so we can bring them to others.

So I thank everyone who filled out the Pastoral Care Survey form. I will be contacting each of you by e-mail or telephone. I look forward to working with you to expand the dance of giving and receiving at First Parish.

When we are facing long-term illness or convalescence and need assistance for an extended period of time, there is a new resource for Concord/Carlisle residents. It is the Concord Carlisle Angels, which is a network of volunteers who are ready and able to help you and your family in a crisis. If you would like to be a volunteer, go to the website to register. When a call for help comes, you volunteer, if you are available. Because there are many volunteers, you don't need to feel guilty if you are not available. Concord Carlisle Angels help both families and individuals experiencing short-term disability or long-term illness by:

- Preparing and delivering meals
- Running errands
- Provide rides to and from medical appointments
- Driving children to activities
- Helping children with homework
- And more!

If you are a Concord or Carlisle resident who needs an angel in your life right now, or know someone who might, please e-mail angels@concordcarlisleangels.org. The towns of Wayland and Northborough have established "angels" that are very successful.

In faith,

—Margie King Saphier

in the configuration of space, whether in our home or in First Parish, will change how we relate to one another. So it is also important for us to remember what it means to belong to a faith community. People often come to church looking for a sense of community, and to deepen their sense of meaning and faith and to be able to work for social justice. In this sense, this coming year will be no different from past years.

But change invites us to look at the meaning of a faith community. Scott F. Peck says in *The Different Drum: Community Making and Peace*, “We all yearn for a sense of community, because to one degree or another, we are all lonely. One of the lessons of life is we can never be whole in and of ourselves. We are called to individuation within the context of interdependence.” In order for our interdependence to remain strong and healthy, we need to keep the true spirit of community alive. The true spirit is peace and love.

My prayer for First Parish is that we use this time of transition to strengthen our community, to open our hearts and minds, and to love one another so we can approach the needs and obstacles as they arise with a spirit of abundance and goodwill.

In faith,

—Margie King Saphier

Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee met on April 14. Look for the minutes online at 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 Monday, May 12.

MUSings

There is music that reaches out to me as if the composer was in the room speaking to me through the centuries. This is true of a charming set of part-songs for choir and piano composed by Franz Joseph Haydn in 1794, when he was sixty-two. This was his first foray into the part-song genre, one that was designed for musical camaraderie and social singing more than public performance. I first encountered these songs as a graduate student and was immediately charmed.



Haydn composed the songs “lovingly ... in carefree hours, without commission.” In other words, for fun! The texts, which

he selected himself, are simple and folk-like in character and convey a wide range of human experience. Some, such as *Die Beredsamkeit* (Eloquence) depict convivial social gatherings:

“Friends, water makes one mute: learn this from the fish.
But with wine, it is the opposite; learn this at our tables ...”

Others, such as the almost symphonic *Danklied* (Thanksgiving) are deeply spiritual texts set in a style reminiscent of Haydn’s major oratorio, *The Creation*, which was also composed during this period.

Singing these songs is much like playing in a string quartet. The part-songs are truly a “conversation among equals,” with sophisticated interplay between the voices. *Die Harmonie in der Ehe* (Harmonie in Marriage) contains real conversations, where the men and women interrupt one another as married couples often do.

The song in the group through which Haydn seems to speak most directly and personally is *Der Greis* (The Old Man): “Gone is all my strength, old and weak am I; very little refreshes me, only joking and wine ...” Perhaps this explains the prevalence of these themes in the other poems that he selected!

Haydn identified so strongly with *Der Greis* that he printed its opening measure on his calling card. The poem goes on to describe the inevitable, “Death knocks at my door,” and Haydn’s response: “Unafraid I open it for him. Heaven be praised! My life’s journey was a harmonious song.” These last lines are set in serenely beautiful four-part harmony.

As we practiced these songs over this winter, choir members wondered, “Why are we singing these secular songs in worship?”

What I have come to believe about these songs is that they are one very gifted musician’s musical celebration of life—from its most undignified moments to its most sublime. When we share these songs in worship on May 4, I hope that you will also hear Haydn speaking to you through the centuries about the joy and the pain of being human.

Blessings,

—Beth Norton

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

One significant role of SAC is to nurture new ideas, incubate them, and then support them as they grow beyond our boundaries. As we enter a phase of construction here at First Parish, we face potential confusion and distraction, but we as a strong community can come together to support

one of our great successes, the Jericho Road Project. The Jericho Road Bike Ride will take place on Sunday, September 28,

and SAC would like to invite all First Parish members to join in. First Parish staff and their families will be joining in, as in past years. My 9-year-old very successfully completed 10 miles last year and plans on trying for 20 miles come September. So, start biking, or contact Jericho Road (JerichoRoadProject.org) to volunteer, or get ready to sponsor a rider. We can build community and make a difference all at the same time! Please contact me with your causes and concerns at FBade@firstparish.org.

— *Faith Bade*
Social Action Associate

JERICO ROAD PROJECT NEEDS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

The Jericho Road Project is seeking a Director of Development to join us in strategic development planning, major gift development, annual giving campaigns, special events management and grants management and writing. A greater Concord area resident with a proven local development track record would be ideal. For more information on this position, please see the full job description at the Jericho Road website, jerichoroadproject.org.

PROJECT BREAD'S WALK FOR HUNGER

Don't forget Project Bread's Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 4. Help Project Bread feed the hungry in Massachusetts, especially during these tough economic times. Last year Project Bread funded emergency food programs, providing more than 42 million meals! Registration forms are available from **Faith Bade** at the church or through projectbread.org. Start on Boston Common and walk all 20 miles or a portion of it! Start a team. Make it happen.

UUSC SUPPORTS RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER

The UU Service Committee is thrilled to announce the UUA's new water Web pages at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/rightwater/100808.shtml>. As you celebrate Earth Day, think about the millions of people of the world who do not have daily access to clean water. The

UUSC supports every person's right to clean water and works around the globe to that end. Please consider becoming a member of uusc today. See uusc.org to find out more about this human rights organization based on our UU principles.

FORGIVENESS & RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP BEGINS MAY 1

Participate in a life-changing workshop created by Father Leonel Narváez and presented at First Parish on Thursday, May 1, and Friday, May 2, from 7:00-10:00 p.m., Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (lunch included), and Sunday, May 4, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. The cost is \$175. Register at the church office or visit wrighttavern.org/2008-04. This workshop is sponsored by the Wright Tavern Center and First Parish Social Action Community.

JOIN US FOR THE BOSTON PRIDE PARADE ON JUNE 14

The Diversity Committee will be taking a group from First Parish to march in the Boston Pride Parade, which starts at noon on Saturday, June 14. Help us show our support for the GLBT community by joining us for this fun, family-friendly event. Look for the sign-up table at the coffee hours on June 1 and 8. Contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org with any questions.

CELEBRATE THE RAFAEL HERNANDEZ SCHOOL

Save the date: Friday, June 13, 5:00-7:30 p.m., for a Friends of Hernandez thank-you celebration, including a free dinner. You will witness both the energy of the after-school program and celebrate First Parish's being honored for our ongoing support of the summer activities program, Art in the Park. We have been supporting the Hernandez school for the last 10 years, since we went there on our first City Year. For more information, call **Bill Seaver** at 978-369-7318.

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

Thanks to the generosity of your pledge, First Parish will be supporting the works of the following organizations — each with a commitment and connection to our church:

Gulf Coast Works: \$3,000, a church initiative for rebuilding in the Lower 9th Ward, New Orleans.

OpenTable Maynard: \$3,000, expanding Concord's successful program to Maynard.

Transylvania Partner Church: \$5,000, for building repairs and restoration while also furthering our youth group's ongoing social action commitment.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY continued on page 8

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.

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

VOLUNTEER NEEDED — WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Learn the workings of an adult religious education center from the inside out. Energetic, capable, enthusiastic and thorough person with good communication, writing and people skills needed for a wide variety of tasks and projects, ranging from registration to database management to publicity and marketing, and more. Contact director **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler** at FPTavern@aol.com or 978-369-9602, ext. 421.

FINAL FERRY BEACH RETREAT REGISTRATION

The annual First Parish Ferry Beach retreat weekend is May 23-26 (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 4, at coffee hour. 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 ferry-beach.org.

... AND FERRY BEACH LIFEGUARDS NEEDED!

Due to insurance requirements, we must have waterfront lifeguards for the Ferry Beach retreat over Memorial Day weekend this year (May 23-26). If you or someone you know, youth or adult with waterfront certification, would be interested in a job guarding for all or part of that weekend, please have them contact **Darien Smith** at 978-369-1471 or darien@smithquest.com.

CAROLYN ALTSHULER CURRIE IN CONCERT

The late **Sue Altshuler** of First Parish was an outstanding artist, and her children have also distinguished themselves in their own chosen professions. Carolyn Altshuler Currie, daughter of **Sue Altshuler**, has delighted audiences throughout the United States with her captivating, poetic music of poignant life stories. Her concerts have garnered multiple awards and praise for her soulful, Celtic-influenced, original folk music. The Women's Parish Association is happy to sponsor her performance at First Parish on Friday, May 16, at 8:00 p.m. Some of Sue's artwork will be on display throughout the evening, as well as sculpture of her very talented son, Daniel. Tickets will be available at the door for a price of five dollars. All are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are not necessary.

FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP

Wright Tavern Center and the Social Action Community are pleased to cosponsor Father Leonel Narváez, Colombian Catholic priest and visiting scholar at Harvard University, and internationally recognized founder of the Foundation of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, Bogotá, Colombia. At our invitation, Father Narváez returns to First Parish this spring to introduce his ground-breaking methodology in forgiveness and reconciliation. Over the course of four days, 15–20 individuals will have the opportunity to participate in a six-module step-by-step process: (1) establishing commitment and motivation; (2) moving emotionally from darkness to the light; (3) deciding to forgive; (4) seeing with new eyes; (5) understanding the offender; and (6) establishing a bridge to reconciliation. Visit wrighttavern.org and watch the *Sunday News* for details. Register now through the First Parish office at 978-369-9602. Contact **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Director, FPTavern@aol.com or **Faith Bade**, Social Action Associate, fbade@firstparish.org.



Thursday and Friday, May 1 and 2, 7:00–10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 4, 1:00–5:00 p.m. \$175 (includes Saturday lunch)

SPIRIT IN PRACTICE CONTINUES THROUGH JUNE 9 — TEN WORKSHOPS FOR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ADULTS

A UUA Tapestry of Faith field test program, created by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom and sponsored by the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.

Wright Tavern Center and First Parish in Concord extend a special welcome to the First Parish community to participate fully in this powerful inquiry into the benefits of integrating spiritual practice into our everyday lives while deepening and affirming our spiritual growth as a congregation. Nonmembers are also welcome. Spirit in Practice explores eight spheres of holistic and wholehearted spiritual practice. Ninety-minute workshops are facilitated by First Parish staff and lay leaders. All are welcome to attend individual sessions at the drop-in rate. Free child care is provided with advance registration through the First Parish office. Contact **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Center Director, at 978-369-9602 or at FPTavern@aol.com for registration information or questions.

5 Mondays remaining 5/5 – 6/9 (not 5/26), 7:00–8:30 p.m.,
First Parish members/\$10 drop-in; non-members/\$15 drop-in

Body Practices, May 5

Edi Pasalis and **Sue Wood**

Soul Practices, May 12

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler and **Pam Howell**

Life Practices, May 19

Melissa Gallo and **Caroline McCloy**

Justice Practices, June 2

Jim Reynolds and **CC King**

Integration: Looking Back and Moving Forward, June 9

Beth Norton, **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler** and Others

Reflection and RE News

As I write this reflection, it is Sunday afternoon, just after experiencing the Youth Service in our Sanctuary. The youth chose the theme of shoes for their worship service. It is one of those themes where, at first, you might chuckle and think, "Oh to be young again ..." But there was nothing young about their worship service. It was spiritually grounding and deeply moving.

Personally, I actually do think a lot about shoes. I have saved the shoes of my children as they have grown. Sometimes I pause while dusting, and I cradle these old relics on the shelf. A shelf that is more like an altar than functional storage these days. It contains photos and trinkets of our years together as a new family, a young family, and now a transitional family where members are peeking around corners and looking down mysterious paths.

Today's youth service used shoes to convey some of life's most meaningful moments. They used shoes to symbolize growth, friendship, college and death. Each day we sit down, and for an instant we think, "What shoes shall I wear today?" You can tell a lot about people by the shoes they choose to wear. I especially like seeing your shoes and your children's shoes here on Sunday mornings. I cannot express enough how much it means to me to be on this journey with your family, a journey that nurtures our souls and breathes new life into each step we take together.

— Pam Howell

Q & A FOR RE NEXT YEAR FOR SECOND THROUGH SIXTH GRADES: THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 15, AT 7:30 P.M.

In order to make our transition as smooth as possible next year, we are offering a chance for parents, RE staff, RE Council members and ministers to gather for a discussion about next year's Second through Sixth Grade program. We will review our goals for the year, our curriculum, the logistics and our physical and financial constraints. We want and value your ideas. Please come and share in one of our first steps together toward our transitional year while First Parish is under construction.

MAY RE CALENDAR

Sun. May 4	Regular RE, Babies–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, 9:00 a.m.
Sun. May 11	Regular RE, Babies–4 years, 9 and 11 a.m. Surprise Visitor, K–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, 11 a.m.
Thur. May 15	Q & A for RE next year, 7:30 p.m.
Fri. May 16-18	8th Grade COA, 5:30 p.m.
Sun. May 18	Regular RE, Babies–4 years, 9 and 11 a.m. Kids in Action, K–6th Grade, 9 a.m. and 11a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, 11a.m.
Wed. May 21	Gathering for the 8th Grade Play 7:00 p.m.
Sun. May 25	Childcare for Babies–Pre K, 9 and 11a.m. No RE, K-6th Grade, 9 and 11a.m.

DRAMA IS BACK FOR OUR 8TH GRADERS NEXT FALL

We are so pleased to announce that our 8th Grade play is back again. Due to the construction, we needed to be creative about our RE programming, and it seemed a great time to bring back one of our former traditions for our youth.

We are extremely fortunate to have **Tom** and **Sue Beck** directing this adventure. We will be performing *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This play is a delightful comedy that explores many of our UU principles. If your child is going to be an 8th grader next fall, please plan on joining **Tom**, **Sue** and **Pam Howell** for a gathering on Wednesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. at First Parish.

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY

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Centro Arte Para La Paz, El Salvador: \$1,000, creating a culture of peace through the arts in a community that is the destination for the 2009 Youth Mission Trip.

Household Goods Recycling Ministry, Acton: \$1,500, providing used household items for 3000 low-income families annually.

Restoration Project, Concord: \$1,500, providing a sheltered workshop opportunity in Concord for people suffering mental illness and disorders.

UU Urban Ministries, Boston: \$15,000, supporting a safe place for battered women at Renewal House, and youth programs including StandHigh/StandUnited.

Membership Corner

Great news! **Abby White** is going to be First Parish's new membership director. Abby and her husband have been coming to First Parish for two years and joined last year. They have two children in RE, kindergarten and pre-school. She has a masters in Education in School Psychology. She worked previously with at-risk youth — developing programs, teaching and counseling. She is currently copresident at the Barn Nursery School. I am leaving the job in good hands. Abby is excited about the challenge, has lots of great ideas and is looking forward to meeting you. Stop by the Newcomers table during coffee hour in the coming weeks and introduce yourself to her.

I will continue to work at First Parish this coming year as Transition Coordinator during construction. I've only moved two desks away. I also will still be staffing the Newcomers table on Sunday mornings with Abby and the rest of the Membership Committee. See you around!

— *Caroline McCloy*

PARLA L'ITALIANO?

Or wish you did? Maybe you are thinking about joining **Jenny Rankin** on her transcendentalist jaunt through Italy next year and wish you understood at least the basics of the language. Well, lucky you, because there is an Italian Conversation Affinity Group starting up. This will be a conversational group, geared more toward the beginner/intermediate speaker. Our topics will be social, cultural and practical, and centered around everyday life (i.e., we will not be reading Dante). This group will be meeting either in the early evenings or on weekends. If you are interested in joining us, please call **Steph Chiha** at 978-369-7569 or send her an e-mail at steph@pierre.com. *Grazie!*

Miscellaneous

UU HOSPITALITY AND SENSORY DELIGHTS IN WINE COUNTRY EXCURSIONS IN THE NAPA VALLEY

An hour north of San Francisco are the lush vineyards, world class wineries and picturesque small towns of the Napa and Sonoma valleys. Our fellowship invites all UUs and friends to share the beauty of our "home" through the UU Fellowship of North Bay's "Wine Country Excursions." We offer small, customized two-day tours of our valleys, which can include wine tastings, art galleries, museums, scenic trails and more. We provide private rooms with bath in the homes of our members and experienced guides to conduct tours in their cars. Tours are offered from April through October. Plan for two days of touring and a two- or three-night stay, with local transportation provided. Home hospitality without tours is also available. All proceeds help our fellowship grow and purchase property in this expensive real estate market. Contact Tom Wilson at 707-254-7443 or e-mail 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net for details.

Senior Youth News

Every year I find May to be a crazy roller coaster of a month. Emotionally, we are getting ready to say good-bye to our seniors and hello to the incoming freshmen. Calendars are so busy with proms, performances, sports and schoolwork. It is my hope that Youth Group does not feel like another thing on the calendar, but a place for renewal, peace and connections.

We had a very successful service trip to New Orleans over April vacation. Eleven youth and three chaperones did construction work helping to rebuild houses that were ruined by Hurricane Katrina. Thank you to **Doug Hardy**, **Abby Russell Prior** and **Mark Russell Prior** for chaperoning.

It's a busy May calendar for youth:

May 2-3 Leadership Retreat to Boston (all YAC members and youth interested in leadership invited)

May 4: 5:30–9:00 p.m. Pizza and Trip to Carlton-Willard (youth can earn community service credit)

May 11: 11:00 a.m. Senior Recognition Service

May 11: Snowballs

May 18: Ultimate Frisbee Championship game vs. Tri-Con

May 25: No YRUU – Memorial Day Weekend, Ferry Beach family retreat weekend

On May 4 we are so excited to be going back to the Carlton-Willard Village to lead worship with the seniors there. We will take the theme from our April 13 youth service, "shoes," and discuss it with the seniors.

At the 11:00 o'clock service on May 11, 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.

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*

Partner Church Committee

IN THE NEWS...

The Social Action Grants Committee has approved a grant of \$5,000 to help fund the reconstruction of the Székelykeresztúr Unitarian Community House! Many thanks to **Alane Wallis** and the other members of the committee for their support for this important work.

The response to the call for First Parish families to host our 11 fall visitors from Székelykeresztúr has been wonderful. Twenty-five families have volunteered to open their homes. Our hosting subcommittee has juggled complex criteria to assign each visitor to stay with at least three families. For more details, see the First Parish Fall Visitors' Gallery at <http://firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/PCC-pics/2008Sept/>.

Sadly **Rosie Nevins'** grant application for the Bözödújfalú project was not approved, so our travel to Transylvania will not happen this summer. Stay tuned for future opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Taste of Transylvania, Saturday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m.: Whether you've been part of our partnership for years or are curious about this "Transylvania thing," please join the Partner Church Committee, First Parish choir, **Gary Smith** and **Beth Norton** for a home-cooked Hungarian dinner and a special program of music, images and reminiscences from Transylvania. Learn about our 18-year relationship with this wonderful community, the myriad personal relationships it has spawned, and our future plans. Proceeds from the dinner (suggested donation \$25) will go toward the fall visitors travel expenses and the renovations of the Székelykeresztúr Unitarian Community House. If you cannot attend but would like to make a contribution to help sponsor our visitors, please send your check to First Parish and mark it "Keresztúr visitors." Please purchase tickets ahead of time so we know how much food to prepare!

All-Parish Dance, Friday May 9: Look for details of the Rock 'n' Roll dance night on page 3 of this newsletter — proceeds to benefit the student our youth group sponsors and the fall visitors travel expenses. Tickets for both events are available at Sunday coffee hours and in the church office during the week.

Minden jót! (Best wishes!)

Lillian Anderson and **Rodger Mattlage**, PCC Cochairs

Women's News

WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The Year of Magical Thinking, by Joan Didion, 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 19, 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 9, at 6:00 p.m., the morning and evening participants will gather for a potluck supper and choosing 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.

Community News/Classified

TIBETAN BUDDHIST SAND MANDALA

You may have heard about sand mandalas or seen them in news articles or on TV, but now you have a unique opportunity to watch Buddhist monks create a compassion mandala at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School on Lincoln Road in Sudbury, from May 5 to May 10. Viewing hours are 3 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday; and Saturday between 12 and 6 p.m. On Saturday afternoon you can also eat Tibetan food, shop at a Tibetan marketplace, and learn about compassion (the secret of happiness) in education. From 6 to 9 p.m., you can enjoy a Tibetan dinner and entertainment (call 978-635-0355 to reserve dinner). — **Bill Seaver**

SUMMER RENTAL IN GROTON LONG POINT, CONNECTICUT

Large (2,800 sq. ft.) beach house: 4 bedrooms, 2 baths and outdoor shower, water view, large deck, walk to beaches (200 yards away), tennis, playground, safe for kids, biking and crabbing. Available in August; \$2,500 per week or \$9,000 for the month. Contact **Jane Barnes** at 978-635-9583 or in the RE office.

UU News

UUA NATIONAL MARKETING CAMPAIGN

The Unitarian Universalist Association began a second phase of national advertising with a full-page ad in the April 14 edition of *Time* magazine that carries the slogan, "When in Doubt, Pray. When in Prayer, Doubt." An ad will also appear in the May 12 issue of *Time*. "Voices of A Liberal Faith," a DVD that shares important information about Unitarian Universalism, is still being widely distributed and can be seen on YouTube. Refer to the UUA website for further information about this campaign.



UU UNIVERSITY AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2008

The Denominational Affairs Committee reminds everyone that this year's General Assembly will be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, from June 25 through June 29. If you would like to be a delegate, contact **Holli Jones-White** right away at 978-371-1964. UU University will take place June 24 and 25, at which the keynote speaker will be Nick Carter, President of Andover Theological School. He will speak about how UU congregations can have a positive impact on a theologically diverse world.

May 2008 Calendar

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

Every Week...

<i>Spirit in Practice: Ten Workshops for UU Adults</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 5/26)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
Gulf Coast Works	Wednesday	8:00 a.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>Gentle Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	5:30 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>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 p.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not May 25)

Thu May 1	7:00	<i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>		Sun May 11	7:00	SAC Board
	7:00	El Salvador Meeting		Mon May 12	7:00	Standing Committee
Fri May 2	9:30	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers		Tue May 13	9:00	WPA Board Meeting
	9:30	Reflective Walk (off-site)			3:00	<i>Tea and Poetry</i>
	6:30	New U Dinner			7:30	Diversity Movie
	7:00	<i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>		Fri May 16	9:30	Reflective Walk (off-site)
Sat May 3	10:00	<i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>			7:30	WPA Concert
	6:00	Transylvanian Supper		Sun May 18	7:30	Spring Recital and Reception
Sun May 4	12:30	Nominating Committee		Mon May 19	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	1:00	<i>Forgiveness and Reconciliation</i>			7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Books</i>
	7:00	Potential Transcendentalist Trip Planning		Tue May 20	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Books</i>
Mon May 5	7:00	Jericho Road Board Meeting		Wed May 21	7:00	<i>Just Like Life: Stories of Illness</i>
	7:30	RE Council		Thu May 22	10:00	<i>InterPlay</i>
Tue May 6	7:00	Ferry Beach Meeting		Fri May 23		Ferry Beach Weekend
Wed May 7	7:00	<i>Just Like Life: Stories of Illness</i>		Sat May 24		Ferry Beach Weekend
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee		Sun May 25		Ferry Beach Weekend
Thu May 8	10:00	<i>InterPlay</i>		Mon May 26		Ferry Beach Weekend
	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>				Holiday—Office Closed
Fri May 9	11:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>		Wed May 28	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
	6:00	Rock 'n' Roll Bingo			12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
	7:00	<i>Healing Environments</i>		Fri May 30	9:30	Reflective Walk (off-site)
Sat May 10	9:00	Photo Club			7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER

The **May Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, May 19**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, May 28.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

SPRING RECITAL AND
RECEPTION

Sunday, May 18

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
David Huston, Music Director Emeritus

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Wright Tavern Center Director
Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director
Leslie Koplou, 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
Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager
Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector
Abby White, Director of Member Services
Faith Bade, Social Action Associate
Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff

Rock 'n' Roll for All!
Friday, May 9, Parish Hall
SAVE THE DATE!
Tickets at coffee hours
6:30-8:30 P.M.—Rock 'n' Roll Bingo
8:30-10:30 P.M.—Rock 'n' Roll Dance

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