



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE!

The construction plans are under way. Demolition and construction are set to begin in mid-June.

This exciting event necessitates many temporary arrangements, since our work at First Parish will continue during the construction. The front office and RE offices have moved into the Parlor. **Peggy Gallo** is in the Wright Tavern, sharing an office with **Melissa Perdue Gallo**. **Margie King Saphier** and **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler** are still in the Wright Tavern. All phone numbers and e-mail addresses remain the same. It's business as usual!

Starting June 15, Sunday services are at Kerem Shalom at 10:00 a.m. Kerem Shalom is located at 659 Elm Street, Concord at Route 2.

—**Nicole Miller Sheehan**, for the Transition Team

REVeries

Dear Friends,

A word about June 8 and the summer to follow — worship on June 8 will be at 10:00 o'clock and, at the end, weather permitting, we plan to recess out onto the lawn and celebrate the end of our current religious education building as we anticipate the new. Hopefully, some light refreshments will be served out there, and then about 11:30 the Annual Meeting will commence in the Sanctuary.

Beginning on June 15, our summer worship will be at Kerem Shalom, on Elm Street at the intersection with Route 2. An insert to this newsletter details the schedule of speakers and music. We are so grateful to our Jewish brothers and sisters for sharing their new and beautiful space with us.

Though the Sanctuary is closed, First Parish remains open and busy in the summer. Offices have been relocated to the Parlor, the main offices and religious education offices sharing space. **Jenny Rankin** will be available here in July and I will be here in August, with **Margie King Saphier** filling in as needed. Someone is always here for pastoral care needs; we will be keeping an eye on construction progress; we will be preparing for September beginnings.

I wish you a wonderful summer, here in Concord or wherever your travels may take you

—*Gary Smith*

Sunday Worship Schedule

June 1

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – *Music TBA*

June 8

Gary Smith, preaching
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
followed by the **Annual Meeting**

Adult Choir and Children's Choirs

Let the River Run – Simon
As Torrents in Summer – Elgar

June 15

SUMMER SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
at Kerem Shalom

Jenny Rankin, preaching
Joan Esch, cello

June 22

Carl Scovel, preaching
Pamela Schweppe, soprano

June 29

Angela Herrera, preaching
Rob Castillo, guitar

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There is one insert with this newsletter:

- Summer Worship Schedule

Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee met on May 12. 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 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, Aug. 18	Wednesday, Aug. 27
Monday, Sept. 15	Wednesday, Sept. 24
Monday, Oct 13	Wednesday, Oct. 22

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

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER SPECIAL JUNE OFFERING

RIVER BLESSING CEREMONY

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler and Others



The Wright Tavern Center hosts a river blessing ceremony at Egg Rock near the confluence of the Assabet, Concord, and Sudbury rivers as part of the 7th annual RiverFest, celebrating the designation of 29 miles of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In a simple ritual of music, song, poetry, silent reflection and prayer, express your gratitude for the rivers and the blessings they bring. **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Director of Wright Tavern at First Parish in Concord, will lead the gathering. Park on Nashawtuc Road and follow signs to Egg Rock. Bring your instruments, and please leash your dogs. You can also arrive by boat! Following the river blessing will be a guided walk along the river with the Concord Land Conservation Trust.

Saturday, June 14
8:00–9:00 a.m.
No charge

Sunday Forums

Forums have concluded for this church year and will resume again in the fall.

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.

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.

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR!

Plans for next year's First Parish Auction are under way. And we have **Big Plans** — more fabulous items and opportunities than ever. But big plans need **Big Help**. We are looking for volunteers for jobs large and small, but you must be willing to think **Big** and have fun. Please e-mail suzanne@rutstein.com today to find out more. Look for our table at coffee hour, e-mails, signs, flyers, and **Suzanne Rutstein** — we'll be looking for you!

WPA ACTIVITIES DURING THE NEXT CHURCH YEAR

During the various building site reconstructions, rest assured that the Women's Parish Association's monthly meetings and fundraising activities will continue each month throughout the next church year, beginning in September. Since space will be limited during the year, most of these activities will be held off-site; so please refer to future notices as to the dates and places of each event. The schedule of activities will be published in the September newsletter. The WPA thanks everyone who contributed to the great success of this year's events and looks forward to next year's programs.

TRAVEL TO ITALY FOLLOWING THE PATH OF THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS

It is still possible to join the First Parish group traveling to Italy in March of 2009 to trace the steps of Emerson, Fuller, Hawthorne and other New England Transcendentalists. As many of you know, our minister **Jenny Rankin** has been researching, reading, traveling to prepare a wonderfully rich experience for us. The dates are March 19-29, 2009, and we will be staying in Rome, Florence and one other town in the Tuscan countryside. In the months before we depart, we will be studying language and culture as well as learning more about the Transcendentalists, and part of our itinerary includes visits to sites and the antiquities in Rome and Florence.

For Emerson, Italy came at a critical point in his spiritual, emotional and intellectual development. For Margaret Fuller, Italy was home for several years, where she met her partner and gave birth to her son. For Sophia Peabody Hawthorne, the artist, Italy was mecca, and husband Nathaniel got dragged along for the ride. And for Theodore Parker, Italy was a place to rest and renew and, in the end, spend his final days. The great Bostonian social activist is buried in Florence.

We are putting the finishing touches on our itinerary, which will be available on June 1. The trip, limited to the first 35 who submit deposits, will be under \$4000 per person, which includes airfare, hotels, breakfasts, many dinners and lunches, admissions to museums, transfers and bus transportation throughout, including to and from Logan. If you are interested in receiving the details and are not already on our list of potential travelers, please contact **Lillian Anderson** at 978-369-1468 or Lillianand@comcast.net. Planning Committee: **Lillian Anderson, Stephanie Chiha, Kate Keleher**

Pastoral Care News

SPIRIT IN PRACTICE

UUA Field Test Program – Continues through Monday, June 9

Spirit in Practice: Ten Workshops for Unitarian Universalist Adults

A UUA Tapestry of Faith lifespan religious education series created by Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom

Wright Tavern Center and First Parish in Concord extend a special welcome to the First Parish community to participate in this powerful inquiry into the benefits of integrating spiritual practice into our everyday lives while deepening and affirming our spiritual growth.

Nonmembers are also welcome!

Ninety-minute workshops, coled by

First Parish staff and lay leaders, focus one-by-one on eight spheres of holistic and whole-hearted spiritual practices. Individual sessions can be attended at the drop-in fee. Free child care is provided with advance registration through the First Parish office.

June 2: Justice Practices, with lay leaders **Jim Reynolds** and **CC King**.

June 9: Integration — Looking Back and Moving Forward, with Music Director **Beth Norton**, Wright Tavern Director **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, and others.

ONLY two Mondays remaining

June 2 and June 9

7:00-8:30 p.m.

FP members/\$10 drop-in

Nonmembers/\$15 drop-in

Another full, rich and spiritually nourishing year at First Parish is drawing to close. I thank the Pastoral Care teams and the members of First Parish for their compassion and can-do spirit that make First Parish a healing community. **Suzanne** and **John Lowe** wrote a beautiful letter of gratitude for the support they received when their daughter **Elaine** had major cardiothoracic surgery. Their letter names the abundant gifts of a healing community. Suzanne and John are happy to report that Elaine is doing well and has returned to her own apartment in Cambridge. With the Lowes' permission, here are some of their words.:

April 24 marked one month since Elaine's latest cardiothoracic surgery. It was a month filled with anxiety — balanced by support; fear — balanced by love; and heartsickness — balanced by soul food. How can we begin to say thank you? What's more clear than ever — for us, and likely for you too — is how these challenging life events serve to rivet our attention, ground us to what's truly important, and, surprisingly, fulfill us in ways none of us ever expected. How could we have been reminded of all that is so good in this world, without seeing it reflected in your actions and love each day? For your help in guiding us back to life, please know how much we treasure you. — John and Suzanne

Even if you have not met or do not know John and Suzanne, as a member of First Parish, you are part of the web of life and love that we weave. The ministers and the pastoral care team also thank you.

Starting Sunday, June 15, services will be held at Kerem Shalom, which has just undergone a major renovation. The lovely new sanctuary is filled with daylight with windows placed to invite the outdoors in. The new driveway comes up much closer to the entrance and it is handicap accessible. If you would like to visit Kerem Shalom before June 15, I have arranged for a tour Wednesday, June 11, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the office if you plan to attend. We will meet at First Parish and drive over to Kerem Shalom.

As always, pastoral care will be available throughout the summer. Please call the office at 978-369-9602 or my cell phone, 781-424-2179.

Do you or a loved one suffer from clinical depression or mental illness? Every year more than five million Americans experience an acute episode of one of five mental illnesses: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, or panic/anxiety disorder. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Massachusetts (NAMI) is a nonprofit grassroots organization that works on national, state and local levels to provide support, education and advocacy to individuals affected by mental illness and their families. If you would like more information, go to www.nami-mass.org; call 781-938-4069; or write NAMI Massachusetts, 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 6650, Woburn, MA 01801.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*



Wright Tavern Center

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Dear First Parish Community,

This has been a very successful year at Wright Tavern Center. Thank you for your support and for participating in our diverse offering of programs. The Spirit in Practice program in particular — which provided the community with an opportunity for inquiry into the nature and benefit of spiritual practice — has been very well attended.

As we approach the end of this fiscal year and the beginning of the reconstruction period, we are facing the challenges of limited teaching space during next year's transition.

In order to continue offering many of our valuable courses and contributing to the annual budget, we are in need of off-site teaching spaces. If you have a space that you might be willing to make available for classes, workshops and/or lectures, or if you know of a space that could be a possible option, please contact **Caroline McCloy**, Transition Coordinator, at cmccloy51@aol.com or 978-369-9602.

A special notice to potential presenters for next year's calendar: Please consider options for off-site teaching spaces with your proposals, due by June 15, 2008, for the fall semester.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve your ongoing needs for spiritual growth and renewal.

With kind regards,

— *Mary Elizabeth Wheeler*

Welcome to Wright Tavern Center. We look forward to meeting you! For full course descriptions, presenter bios, registration forms and policies, please visit our updated, user-friendly website, with downloadable catalog at www.wrighttavern.org, and select Spring 2008. Questions? Contact **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Director at FPTavern@aol.com or at 978-369-9602, ext. 421. Please check the white board in the lower church entryway for course locations.

ONGOING CLASSES

These classes are already under way, but may be joined at a prorated fee or at no charge.

RISE UP SINGING (LAST ONE)

Beth Norton and Others

This informal monthly musical gathering, open to singers of all ages and experience. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you own one and instruments if you wish.

Friday 5/30 7:30-9:30 p.m. no charge

KUNDALINI YOGA: THE YOGA OF AWARENESS (LAST ONE)

Dharm Singh

Strengthen your body, relax and focus your mind, bring harmony and balance, and lift your spirit. Sessions include

MUSings

Recently, while looking at Annual Reports from past years, I came across some mental "snapshots," short vignettes used to capture our experience that have remained surprisingly vivid with the passage of time. So I offer a few "snapshots" from this past, eventful year in the music ministry at First Parish in Concord:

The social hall of our partner church in Székelykeresztúr. The Concord and Kéresztúr choirs are having a "sing off." Through our combined voices, laughter and tears we revel in being together, our differences bridged by music and faith.



A classroom in the RE wing on a Thursday night in September. The Capital Campaign Organ Committee has just voted unanimously to engage Russell & Co. Pipe Organ Builders to reconfigure the First Parish Organ. There is jubilation. There will be champagne...

The balcony on a Saturday morning in December. The choir is rehearsing the Saint Saëns *Christmas Oratorio* with a harp, organ and strings. A major nor'easter approaches; we will not perform the piece in the service tomorrow. We know this could be our only chance to perform this work together. We are present, in the moment, singing and playing for one another from our hearts.

The living room at Concord Park in West Concord. **Judy Burrows** leads our children's choirs in a spring concert for the residents. The children sing *The White Cliffs of Dover* and the audience is humming along. The memories in that room are almost tangible. There are some tears. We will miss **Judy Burrows** and thank her for her leadership of our youngest musicians.

A Sunday morning, way too early for teenagers to function. The Gospel Choir is waking while they sing, stepping with the music. **Anderson Manuel**, their director, cajoles and prods them, drawing out their voices and opening their hearts as they prepare to lead us in worship.

First Parish Sanctuary — a warm Wednesday night in April. The choir is singing and their expressions mirror my own wonder and excitement. There is no carpet on the floor. The room is alive with sound. We hear our voices with a clarity and brilliance we have never experienced before. We are elated.

These are just a few of the mental photos in my collection. I'll include more in my annual report. For now, I close this year's album with a song of thanks for our year together.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*



Social Action Community News and Events

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

What an amazingly busy year this has been for our Social Action Community. Our traditions continued with our Grants Program (\$60k awarded), the Jericho Road Ride, the Crop Walk, Guest at Your Table boxes, Secret Santa, and the Funderburg Scholars dinner. New events

occurred, such as our UUUM Weekend and Social Action Sundays, and stronger connections were made — between

First Parish and Lowell, or Transylvania, or El Salvador. Our youth were escorted through Boston by guests of Common Cathedral and helped rebuild the Ninth Ward in New Orleans. The RE program educated our children on living “green,” Hurricane Katrina, and becoming “Peace Makers.”

Listed below are highlights of upcoming fall events. Become a part of it all. Please contact me at FBade@firstparish.org with your ideas and let’s make them happen here at First Parish.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS FALL’S SOCIAL ACTION EVENTS:

Jericho Road Ride — Sunday, September 28 (rain date October 5)

Crop Walk — Sunday, October 19

Social Action Grants deadline — November 1

Visit by Sister Peggy O’Neill from the Centro Arte Para La Paz in Suchitoto, El Salvador — November 16

Ongoing preparation for youth service trips to El Salvador and New Orleans — April 2009

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Associate

THANKS TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TOOLS TO GULF COAST WORKS

The tools were delivered and gratefully received by NENA, the leading community recovery organization in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans — and First Parish youth used those tools to help with recovery efforts on their service trip during spring break!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL JERICHO ROAD RIDE

The fifth annual Jericho Road Ride will be held on Sunday September 28, 2008. The ride is a

recreational, fall season bicycle ride suitable for both kids and adults, along roads connecting Concord and Lowell, and is Jericho Road’s major fundraiser. Even if you can’t ride, we always need volunteers to help with support, and of course we’re happy to accept donations for Jericho Road’s work. And please encourage your kids to sign up for one of the RE rider teams!

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY continued on page 7

FIRST PARISH SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS 2007-2008

ORGANIZATION NAME	GRANT AMT.	FIRST PARISH CONTACT
Amnesty International Concord Group 15	\$500	Phil Villers
Black Heritage and Abolitionist Walk Project	\$500	Susan Ryan
Centro Arte Para La Paz	\$2,000	Rev. Margie King Saphier
Chiapas Photography Project	\$1,000	Elizabeth Awalt
Children’s Island	\$1,400	Colleen White
Concord-Acton Family Homelessness Advocacy Network	\$700	Jane Blumberg
Concord Climate Action	\$1,000	B. Jenkins, L. Pazaris
Concord Prison Outreach	\$3,000	Linda Reynolds
Connect Africa Foundation	\$2,150	Ted Englander
Domestic Violence Services of Central Middlesex	\$2,500	Nancy Beeuwkes
First Parish in Concord, Partner Church	\$5,000	L. Anderson, R. Mattlage
Gaining Ground	\$1,500	Cynthia Ellis
Gulf Coast Works	\$8,000	Katharine Roberts
Friends of The Rafael Hernandez School	\$2,500	Bill Seaver
Household Goods Recycling Ministry	\$1,500	Deb Dormitzer
MA Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace	\$550	P. Simon, J. White
Open Table Maynard	\$3,000	Rob Rodriguez
Restoration Project	\$1,500	Marty Stern
Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program	\$3,000	Eric Van Loon
Sharing Foundation	\$3,000	Lee Steppacher
UU Urban Ministry	\$15,000	Patricia Waters
Total	\$59,300	

CELEBRATE WITH THE FRIENDS OF HERNANDEZ SCHOOL

Join the Friends of Hernandez at 61 School Street in Roxbury on Friday, June 17, 5:00–7:30 p.m., for a thank-you celebration where you can witness both the energy of the after-school program and celebrate First Parish’s being honored for their ongoing support of their summer activities program, Art in the Park. First Parish has been supporting the Hernandez school for the past ten years, ever since we went there on our first City Year in 1997. Contact **Bill Seaver**, 978-369-7318, for more information.

JERICHO ROAD INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Jericho Road Project is currently seeking an intern interested in learning more about non-profit administration. To learn more, contact **Leslie Koplou** at 978-369-9602, ext. 457, or lkoplou@jerichoroadproject.org.

JOIN THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE FOR BOSTON’S PRIDE PARADE

The Diversity Committee will be taking a group from First Parish to march in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 14, which starts at noon. Join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show First Parish’s support for the GLBT community. Sign up at coffee hour, or contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org. Questions are welcome. We hope to facilitate carpooling.

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.

exercise, postures, mantra, meditation and relaxation. All levels are welcome.

Tue. & Thu. 6/3 & 6/5 9:30–11:00 a.m. \$30/\$20 Drop-in

T’AI CHI – MEDITATION IN MOTION

David Zucker and Sue Wood

The original no-impact aerobics, true meditation in motion.

3 Tuesdays 6/3 – 6/17 6:00–7:30 p.m. \$45/\$20 Drop-in

GENTLE KRIPALU YOGA (LAST ONE)

Edi Pasalis

Designed to restore our connection to ease in our bodies. No yoga experience is necessary. All levels welcome.

Wednesday 6/4 5:30–7:00 p.m. \$15/\$20 Drop-in

KRIPALU YOGA: THE YOGA OF COMPASSION (LAST ONE)

Edi Pasalis

This class teaches us the ultimate spiritual practice – to view ourselves without judgment. All levels are welcome.

Wednesday 6/4 7:30–9:00 p.m. \$15/\$20 Drop-in

TIBETAN BUDDHISM

Jhamtse International

Teachings of the Venerable Lobsang Phuntsok, a Tibetan Buddhist monk from India. Drop-in format. All are welcome.

Wed.– ongoing through 6/4 9:30–11:00 a.m. no charge – donation

Thu. – ongoing through 6/5 7:30–9:00 p.m. no charge – donation

INTERPLAY AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

CC King

Through activities rooted in movement and sound, we unlock the wisdom of our bodies and create satisfying connections to one another. Adults of all ages/physical abilities are welcome. Any Body can do it!

2 Thursdays 6/5 & 6/19 10:00–11:30 a.m. \$30/\$20 Drop-in

T’AI JI (LAST ONE)

Mae Pagan

This class combines music with Qigong (energy release exercises) and the simple movement of T’ai Ji (active relaxation) to release blocked energy and bring balance.

Fri. 6/13 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. \$20/\$25 Drop-in

MBSR MEDITATION MAINTENANCE (LAST ONE)

Pam Ressler

Monthly two-hour sessions are for graduates of the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program or others familiar with mindfulness meditation to share insights and challenges of their practice, as well as practice new tools for integrating meditation into their lives. Drop-ins are welcome, preregistration is appreciated.

Mon. 6/16 7:00–9:00 p.m. \$15/\$20 Drop-in

Reflection and RE News

It is hard to believe I have just completed my third year here, but it's true. The time has just flown by, and our children continue to grow and flourish here at First Parish. This could not happen without all of us working together for the good of our parish families.

But it takes more than even that to run a strong religious education program. Our RE staff is just amazing — **Carol Duane's** steadfast and gentle presence with our youngest children; **Liz Davis-Chaffin's** creative and artistic gifts that grace our classrooms; **Mary-Wren vanderWilden's** dedication and commitment toward providing a spiritual haven for our youth; and **Jane Barnes**, our RE Administrator, keeping us all organized, productive and moving in the right direction. We are so lucky to have each of their talents.

We are lucky to have an amazing RE Council as well. Currently, we have eight dedicated members: **Suzie Weaver, Ted Hanselman, Dave Elwood, Lisa Gainsboro, Gretchen Nelson, Gianna Drew, Stephanie Cox-Suarez** and **Eric Moore**. Each one brings thoughtful questions and insightful ideas toward enriching and strengthening our program. This year, two members are rotating off the council after four years of service — **Suzie Weaver** and our chair, **Ted Hanselman**. Both have shown so much commitment. Under their leadership, we have brought in programs such as Spirit Play and Workshop Rotation. **Suzie** was also instrumental in designing our Drama Room and gracing the room with stunning curtains, which were a work of love. **Ted** has given so much of his time working with me to plan RE functions and RE Council meetings. I will miss both of them and the excellence they brought to our group.

I am thrilled to announce that **Gretchen Nelson** will be our chair of the RE Council next year. We also welcome two more dedicated parents: **Susan Ward** and **Dan Trinkle**. This year is a transitional year. We will need strong leadership. I know we are in good hands.

— *Pam Howell*

LOOKING FORWARD FROM THE RE COUNCIL

We all will face many challenges over the next year as the church undergoes renovations. But with these challenges come opportunities. The construction will force us to abandon some of our tried-and-true ways of doing things, but it will also give us a chance to try new approaches. Such is the case with the religious education program. Over the past few years we have set-

JUNE RE CALENDAR

Sunday, June 1	Chapel Sunday, K–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. Regular RE, Babies–4 years, 9 and 11 a.m.
Sunday, June 8	Regular RE, Babies–4 years, <u>10 a.m. only</u> Intergenerational Service (K–6th), <u>10 a.m. only</u>

tled into a comfortable rhythm with the children's programs at First Parish. Whether it is Spirit Play, Workshop Rotation or Coming of Age, First Parish has developed some outstanding ways to challenge, entertain and enrich our children. Because of the upcoming construction, we will be required to adapt these programs to work with and around the construction. Over the past few months the Religious Education Council, and more significantly the Religious Education staff, has been given the chance to move out of the box and try new directions. We have truly embraced the opportunities and we hope all of First Parish will enjoy the chance to work together, embracing the exciting new curriculum.

— **Ted Hanselman**, Chair of the Religious Education Council

NEIGHBORING FAITHS: BUILDING RESPECT ONE WEEK AT A TIME

Once again Neighboring Faiths has attracted terrific leaders and many 7th graders. This is one of our most treasured programs in our RE program at First Parish. Our teens visited many different faith communities and experienced how others worship and experienced something larger than themselves. This is the kind of program that serves to break down prejudice and build an appreciation for other faith traditions. A special thanks to **George Gagliardi, Patty Popov, Patti Satterthwaite** and **Suzie Weaver** for their leadership in this dynamic program.

DON'T MISS THESE RE ORIENTATION DATES — FALL 2008

These orientations are for the leaders and teachers of each of these programs.

- Babies-1st Grade, Fall Term and Holiday Term
Thursday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m.
- 2nd-6th Grades, Fall Term
Thursday, September 18, at 7:30 p.m.
- 2nd-6th Grades, Holiday Term
Thursday, October 23, at 7:30 p.m.
- 2nd-6th Grades, Winter Term
Thursday, January 15, at 7:30 p.m.
- 2nd-6th Grades, Spring Term
Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 p.m.
- 7th Grade, Art in Action, Fall Term
Wednesday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m.
- 7th Grade, Neighboring Faiths, Spring Term
Wednesday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m.
- 8th Grade, Dramatic Arts, Fall Term
Wednesday, September 17, at 7:30 p.m.
- 8th Grade, Our Whole Lives (OWL), Winter Term
Wednesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m.
- 9th Grade, Coming of Age (COA), Fall Term
Sunday, September 21, from 3:30–6:30 p.m.

Membership Corner

In May, we welcomed many new members into the First Parish community. Please join me in introducing yourself whenever you see a new face around our community.

For visitors of First Parish: if you are interested in becoming a member, please contact me at memberfp@aol.com or 978-369-9602, ext. 450. You may also visit our Newcomers Table at coffee hour during the regular church year.

—*Abby White*

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, 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 the 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!*

Senior Youth News

May was a glorious month for the youth group. On Sunday nights we did everything from running a successful Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Night to playing a friendly Ultimate Frisbee match against the youth of the Trinitarian Congregational Church. The YAC had a successful leadership retreat at the First Church of Boston in the Back Bay, and we sent our seniors off at the 11:00 o'clock service on May 11 with tears of joy and sadness.

June is a time for hellos and good-byes for youth. At our end of the year "Phishbowl" Lock-in we say good-bye by letting each other know what we appreciate about the other. On the other hand, we will be saying hello to the 8th graders who will be joining us next year. We will also say hello to a new group of seniors who will be leading next year. It's an emotional time as we say good-bye to an incredible group of seniors who have led our group with passion, creativity and humor.

June is a short, but very sweet month for youth at First Parish:

June 1 Fun and Games to welcome 8th Graders
 to YRUU

June 13-14 Phishbowl Lock-In — permission slips
 on the website

The YAC decided that we would like to try something new this summer by scheduling two youth group get-togethers so it wouldn't seem like such a long summer. We'll be meeting in the Wright Tavern because of construction. So mark your calendars:

July 27 at 7:00 p.m.
August 10 at 7:00 p.m.

I would like to say a special thank-you to **Nat Carr**, who has been the Youth Advisor for the Youth Group this year. He has come every Sunday and has been an important friend and mentor to the youth as well as a wonderful support to me.

We have lots coming up in the fall — Transylvania visitors coming in September, planning a Youth Pilgrimage to Transylvania for July 2009, and an amazing retreat to the Farm and Wilderness Center in Vermont from September 19–21. Hope to see people at one of our summer Youth Groups. Happy Summer!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Partner Church Committee

Community House: Rev. József Szombatfalvi sends his thanks to our congregation for the \$5,000 SAC grant to help fund the reconstruction of the Székelykeresztúr Unitarian Community House. Thanks again to **Alane Wallis** and the other members of the committee for their support for this important work. For pictures and plans, see <http://firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/PCC-pics/KereszturCommunityHouse/>.

September Visitors: As of May 16, when this was written, we have raised approximately \$8000 toward our goal of \$15,000 to host our visitors from Transylvania in September (18–29). Many thanks to all who have supported this effort through your contributions and attending the “Taste of Transylvania” and “Rock ’n’ Roll Bingo” events in May.

If you can possibly help out with a donation, please write a check to “First Parish in Concord,” with “Kerestúr visitors” on the memo line, and mail it to First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742.

The September host families have met to decide who will stay with whom and when, and to start planning the activities for our visitors. We hope that there will be many opportunities for everyone to participate in September. See each visitor’s individual profile at <http://firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/PCC-pics/2008Sept/>.

Berde Mózes Unitarian School: Saturday, May 17, saw the official renaming ceremony for the Unitarian school in Székelykeresztúr. When the Romanian government returned the school building to the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, it decided to keep the school’s original name (Orban Balazs) for the state high school, forcing the Unitarians to rename their school.

June 12 Graduation: Rodger Mattlage and Pat Brinkman attended last year’s graduation and recommended that the PCC support sending someone to Székelykeresztúr to represent us each year. **Valerie** and **Rachel Holt** have been selected to represent us and bring gifts from our sponsors to their graduating seniors.

Minden jót! (Best wishes!)

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

Women’s News

WOMEN’S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The final event this year for the Women’s AM/PM Book Group will be a potluck dinner gathering and discussion of books for next year’s list. We will meet at the home of **Carolyn Copp** on Monday, June 9, at 6 p.m. Please contact Carolyn at 978-287-0492 if you would like to attend. Contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com if you would like to be added to the book group e-mail list for next year.

UU News

FORREST CHURCH WINS ROOSEVELT FOUR FREEDOM’S AWARD

Rev. Forrest Church, Minister of Public Theology at All Souls Church Unitarian in New York City, was awarded the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom Medal, confirmed by the Franklin and



Eleanor Roosevelt Institute on April 9, 2008. Church, the author of more than 25 books, including *The American Creed*, was honored for having spent a lifetime tending to the frailties, strengths and miracles of the human condition and speaking to those searching for truth in the twin traditions of “sacred liberty” and “divine order.” Refer to the UUA website for more information about this prestigious award and Church’s many sacred works.

UUA’S CONTINUED EXPLORATION OF THE ROOTS OF OPPRESSION

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) continues to encourage exploration of the roots of oppression in the United States and around the world. Rev. David Pettee, the UUA’s Director of Ministerial Credentialing, has researched his ancestors’ involvement in the slave trade and as a result, has established a relationship with an African American family who are descendants of slaves owned by those ancestors. His story has been published on uaa.org in two parts: “Claiming Our History, Warts and All” (May 2007), and “The Ties That Bind: A Deeper Exploration of My Family’s History with the Slave Trade” (November 2007). Pettee’s story also connects to the UUA-owned Beacon Press book by Thomas DeWolf, *Inheriting the Trade*. Pettee was a recent guest on the nationally syndicated NPR news/talk program, “On Point,” on May 16.

Classified

HOUSESITTER NEEDED

Housesitter(s) sought for the fall. We are looking for someone to stay in our Concord home for 6-8 weeks this fall, from late September until early/mid November. We are about three miles from Concord Center on a quiet dead end circle that backs onto conservation land. We have a parakeet and a goldfish that would like to be fed, and a few plants to be watered. Nonsmokers only please. Contact **Jane Fisher** at 978-369-8269 or jfisher@cambridgeconcord.com.



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

The **September Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, August 18**, at noon.
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, August 27.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

SUMMER WORSHIP

Sunday, June 15 through
Sunday, September 7

Single Service — 10:00 o'clock

at Kerem Shalom, 659 Elm Street,
Concord at Route 2.

**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
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

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

PLEASE NOTE: SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office at First Parish has moved temporarily to the Parlor. Beginning on Friday, June 20, the office will be open from 9 a.m. to noon. Regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., will resume on Monday, September 9.

**Church (Summer) Office Hours, beginning Friday, June 20:
Monday–Friday, 9:00 to noon**

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