



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

## The Meeting House News

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### *REVeries*

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Dear Friends,

The cliché is that a church is not the building; it is the people. This will be the season to test this truth. This newsletter is full of the news of our upheaval. If you have driven down Lexington Road lately, there is plenty of evidence on our campus. The religious education wing is down, fences keep the curious out of the construction zone, and large cement pipes are stacked, ready for placement. The hallway and many of the rooms under the Sanctuary are back to the studs: kitchen and bathrooms to be rebuilt. The Sanctuary has staging, for the replacement of sprinkler heads. Staff is corralled in the Parlor; the Parish Hall is one large storage shed. Oh, the active dreams I've had this summer!!

So, here is my pitch: Please show up! We have been at Kerem Shalom all summer, and we shall probably remain there until late November. Our usual 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock worship and religious education sessions will resume on September 14. Please come that day and see familiar faces in an unfamiliar and beautiful place. We'll help you park. We'll direct you to places in the building you need to go. We'll find you a seat. Our chalice will be there. Our hymnbooks will be there. Our minister and staff will be there. We need *you* there.

And a word, too, about Weekday Worship this year. We're putting together a calendar of worship opportunities outside of the usual Sunday morning time and format. Early in the year, they'll need to be off-site. Join the Women's Circle for a celebration of the Autumnal Equinox on Monday, September 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wright Tavern. And join us at the First Parish in Bedford on Thursday evening, September 25, at 6:30 p.m., as we celebrate worship with our visitors from Transylvania.

This newsletter contains all this and more, indicative of the high energy that makes us the First Parish in Concord and has propelled us into our 372nd year —changing times, changing faces, one community.

—*Gary Smith*

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Please see page 6 for information about our new monthly series:

**GOING DEEPER SPIRITUALLY:** Monthly Thematic and Theological Queries for the People of the First Parish in Concord

### Sunday Worship Schedule

**September 7**

**SUMMER SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.**

**at Kerem Shalom**

**Gary Smith, preaching**

**10:00 – Silver Bass Trio**

**September 14**

**OPENING SUNDAY**

**at Kerem Shalom**

**Gary Smith, preaching**

**9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir**

**September 21**

**Jenny Rankin, preaching**

**9:00 & 11:00 – Handbell Choir**

**September 28**

**Gary Smith, preaching**

**9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir**

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Please refer to the Construction Update on page 7 for important information about both the ongoing Church construction and changes in venue for Church services, RE classes and events.

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There are three inserts with this newsletter:

- Partner Church Update
- Wright Tavern Information
- Transcendentalists in Italy  
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*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, Sept. 15	Wednesday, Sept. 24
Monday, Oct. 13	Wednesday, Oct. 22
Monday, Nov. 10	Wednesday, Nov. 19

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

## *Standing Committee Information*

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The first Standing Committee meeting of the new church year will be held off-site on Sunday evening, September 7. Please look for the monthly minutes online at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org) under Church Life (you must log in).

## *Sunday Forums*

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Because of the ongoing renovations, Forums have been suspended. We hope to schedule programs for late fall. Please call **Charles Lowell** or **Robert Hilsinger** about future topics.

## SEPTEMBER IS

### WALK'N'ROLL TO SERVICE MONTH

The Green Sanctuary Committee, Jericho Road Project and REConnect invite all parishioners to make September "Walk'n'Roll to Service" month. Bring out your walking shoes or roll out the wheels — bikes, blades, skates, scooters, strollers, unicycles or carriages — and walk'n'roll to Kerem Shalom for services on Sundays in September.

If you do drive, Green Sanctuary will provide useful tire pressure information to help you maximize your car's gas mileage and minimize emissions.

The Jericho Road Project invites you to sign up for the September 28 fundraising bike-a-thon. Biking to service could be a fun way to train! Stop by their table at coffee hour September 14 and 21 for more information or go online at [jerichoroadproject.org](http://jerichoroadproject.org). Registered riders can also have their bikes safety-checked on the morning of September 28.

REConnect invites families to make this a whole family event, mixing up any combination of wheels to get you rolling along together. We will have a dedicated location to park your "wheels" and hope to photograph a very large and diverse collection of wheels each Sunday in September.

### AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

The First Parish Women's Circle invites all to join in an open celebration of the Autumnal Equinox at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 22 at the Wright Tavern. For more information, contact Kate Keleher at 978-369-4550, [kate@rkeleher.com](mailto:kate@rkeleher.com), or Martha Kilcoyne at 978-443-2686, [mkilcoyne@comcast.net](mailto:mkilcoyne@comcast.net)

## Parish Notes

### FIRST PARISH OFFICE IN THE PARLOR

The First Parish office and Religious Education offices have relocated to the Parlor for the duration of the construction. The office is open from 9 a.m. to noon during the summer, through August 29. Beginning Tuesday, September 2, the office will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to office and RE staff, **MaryWren vanderWilden**, Youth Program Director, **Faith Bade**, Social Action Associate, and **Abby White**, Director of Member Services, also have their desks in the Parlor at the moment.

### ENTHUSIASTIC DELEGATES OF GA '08!

Many thanks to First Parish's GA '08 delegates: **Gary Smith**, **Margie King Saphier**, **Beth Norton**, **Mark Richards**, **Rhoda Miller** and **Bob Harper**. As expected, they all returned filled with energetic enthusiasm, inspired by all the incredible good works of UU's worldwide and ready for another great church year! In the near future, first-time attendee **Bob Harper** will give a Forum presentation on the events he attended. There will be other Forums on specific workshops as well. Visit the UUA website for GA '08 details and plan to attend GA '09 in Salt Lake City!

### LABYRINTH GROUP INVITES INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS

A group of parishioners interested in the replacement of the labyrinth as part of the landscaping plan following the construction project has started to look at the various options for placement, design and materials. If you are interested in joining this working group, please contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

### WPA LUNCHEON MEETING WITH RICH HIGGINS

Explore "Thoreau and the Language of Trees" at the WPA luncheon at noon on Tuesday, September 30. In his illustrated talk, Concord writer and book editor **Richard Higgins** will discuss the role of trees in Thoreau's imagination and art. "Thoreau was transfixed by the beauty of trees, observed them closely all his life and transformed them through his imagination," according to the speaker. "They gave him poetic images, philosophical metaphors and symbols of the higher life." The luncheon will take place at Serafina Restaurant, Concord. No prepayment is required; you can order off the menu. For reservations and transportation requests, contact the church office by September 20, 978-369-9602 or [FPCConcord@aol.com](mailto:FPCConcord@aol.com). All First Parish folks are welcome.

### THE REVEREND PETER GOMES TO SPEAK IN CONCORD

The Concord Clergy Laity Group, of which First Parish is a member, is sponsoring Rev. Professor Peter J. Gomes to speak at the Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, October 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Morrison Theatre in Newbury Court. Gomes is senior minister at the Memorial Church of Harvard University and is considered to be one of America's most distinguished preachers. His topic will be "Prayer and the Public Square." Tickets are \$10 and can be obtained at the First Parish office. Proceeds go to the Concord Emergency Funds, which help Concord families and individuals during times of need. Please support this worthy cause, as well as receiving much "food for thought" from a compassionate and erudite thinker.

## Money Matters

Ah, summer. That time when the pace at First Parish slows a bit. In my mind, summer promised to be one long, quiet stretch, like the week between Christmas and New Year's, and I would get organized and be able to delve into things I just don't have time for during the regular church year.

Ha! Not this summer! The building project is exciting, certainly, but the start of construction signaled the start of a very busy time for **Doug Baker**, Ron Catella (our Owner's Representative), and me. There is much to discuss and decide, every single day. And then of course there is the usual work of the business office. So the much-vaunted summer slowdown didn't have a chance to establish itself.

We closed out fiscal 2008 in July and began fiscal 2009. Pledges continued to trickle in during July, and then we decided it was time to finalize the budget. Thanks to the generosity of all of you, we were able to give small raises to staff and did not have to cut programs as severely as we had feared. Thank you all so very much for your responses to our appeal to close the gap! Your pledges totaled \$923,662, and we received an additional 70 gap gifts, totaling \$37,185.

Yes, it's been busy, and even hectic at times this summer. But what a wonderful "problem" to have! We are a healthy congregation building our future. We will need to pull together as a congregation this year while we go through the ups and downs of a major construction project, but I for one am so grateful to have a front row seat for this historic transformation. Thank you all for the opportunity you've given me to serve as your Business Manager at this point in First Parish's history.

—*Melissa Perdue Gallo*

## Pastoral Care News

Virginia Satir, the American psychologist and educator, once said, "We need 4 hugs a day for survival, 8 hugs a day for maintenance and 12 hugs a day for growth." At First Parish, there are many ways to receive and give hugs — from the warm embrace of a member you know, to a meal prepared by Caring Connection (**Rhoda Miller** and **Carolyn Shohet**, plus many volunteers), delivered to your door by **Bev Bringle**, **Pat Kane** or **John Muresianu** in a bag decorated by the children in religious education. This gesture of support is offered as you recover from a hospitalization, as you grieve the death of a loved one or as you celebrate the birth of a child; the possibilities go on. Although the ministers visit and contact parishioners, you may also receive a call and/or visit from one of our Parish Visitors (**Lorraine Loviglio**, **Lois Suarez**, **Carolyn Shohet**, **Ross Harris**, **Mark Richards**, **Marian Wheeler**) or one of our Pastoral Care Lay Ministers (**Liz Davis-Chaffin**, **Kathryn Shane**, **Diane Clapp**, **Eric Read** and **Peter Nobile**). The Pastoral Care Program provides assistance in times of need. Did you know that when you have a doctor's appointment and no way to get there, you can call the office to get a list of First Parish volunteers who have offered to drive?

Just as it "takes a village to raise a child," it also takes the participation of the congregation to enable First Parish to be the caring, compassionate and healing community it wants to be. You can help the ministers by calling or e-mailing to let us know so-and-so is in the hospital, had a baby, had a loved one die, is getting a divorce, etc. We often don't know, so your calls are most appreciated.

This year we will have new challenges due to the construction. The Pastoral Care Council, the staff and ministers are working to anticipate these challenges. If you have a concern, please let us know.

The poet Edwin Markham, after visiting a Universalist church when he was no longer welcomed in his own church because of his beliefs, wrote a poem "Outwitted," which became well-known. Its most famous verse is:

*He drew a circle that shut me out –  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout  
But love and I  
Had the wit to win,  
We drew a circle that  
Drew him in.*

But what is our response when our efforts to be accepting are rejected, even to the point of violence? In light of the tragic shooting at the Tennessee Valley UU Church, on Sunday, August 31, I will explore the response of forgiveness. Because we all confront issues of forgiveness many times over in our lives, the documentary *The Power of Forgiveness* will be shown on Monday, September 15, at 7 P.M., followed by a discussion. This award-winning documentary compassionately explores the many facets of forgiveness as the viewer hears from Elie Wiesel, Thich Nhat Hanh, and many others.

—*Margie King Saphier*

PASTORAL CARE NEWS continued on page 10

## Music Notes

### ADULT CHOIR—OPEN REHEARSALS IN SEPTEMBER

The Adult Choir will begin the season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights in September, beginning on September 3. Rehearsals are from 7:45–9:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Anyone interested in singing in the choir is invited to attend, with no obligation during this time. Singers of all voice parts are welcome. The choir will sing in church for the first time on Sunday, September 14, at the 9:00 and 11:00 o’clock services at Kerem Shalom. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or e-mail [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

### CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE – FALL 2008

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall. And consider joining a choir!

#### Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:45–9:30 p.m.  
beginning September 3 *in the Parish Hall*  
**Beth Norton**, Director

#### Bell Choir

Wednesdays 1:00–3:00 p.m.  
beginning September 3 *in the Parish Hall*  
**Martha Goodman**, Director

#### Gospel Choir

(Youth in grades 7–12)  
Sundays 10:00–11:00 a.m.  
beginning September 14 *at Kerem Shalom*  
**Anderson Manuel**, Director

#### Junior Choir

(Grades 1–3)  
Wednesdays from 4:30–5:00 p.m.  
beginning September 10 *in the Wright Tavern*  
**Gail Carey**, Director

#### Chalice Choir

(Grades 4–6)  
Wednesdays from 5:00–5:40 p.m.  
beginning September 10 *in the Wright Tavern*  
**Gail Carey**, Director

For more information, contact  
**Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or  
[music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

## MUSings

This summer the music office has been an oasis in the midst of our construction project. **Doug Baker** and I are currently sharing the space and we have a front row seat on the RE wing construction work. Every day brings surprises and interesting new sounds, it seems. I’ve considered composing a trio for jack hammer, table saw and electric drill. “Expect surprises” is my new mantra.

It has been an exciting summer — and not just around here! The summer began for me with General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale and the performance at the opening ceremony of *Sources*, a Unitarian Universalist cantata written by Rev. Jason Shelton and Rev. Kendyl Gibbons. It was such a thrill to present this uniquely UU work to the 3000 or so gathered delegates in Fort Lauderdale. (You can watch the Opening on-line at [uua.org/events/generalassembly/2008/112314.shtml](http://uua.org/events/generalassembly/2008/112314.shtml).) I hope to include some music from the *Sources* in our services this year. I also had the opportunity to lead worship for UU University, a great new program for lay leaders in UU congregations and for the UU Partner Church council and the Church of the Larger Fellowship. It was a busy week in Fort Lauderdale!



In early August I spent a week in Boston with more than 300 Unitarian Universalist music colleagues at our annual UU Musicians Network summer conference. It was an unforgettable week of shared music ministry and song, culminating in a rousing Sunday worship service at the Arlington Street Church. UUA President Bill Sinkford preached and a choir of 200 UUMN singers, directed by the inimitable Nick Page, sang a host of exciting anthems. It was a privilege to serve on the host committee for this conference. I emerged with renewed energy (after a few days of rest) and excitement about the music ministry at First Parish this year.

We are literally in the midst of a “building year” that will offer surprises, challenges and rewards to us as a congregation and as individuals. Through all of the changes and challenges ahead, I hope that our music making together will provide an oasis; a place to renew our spirits and remember our connectedness to one another and to the wider world.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

### WELCOME OUR NEW CHILDREN’S CHOIR DIRECTOR

We are delighted to welcome **Gail Carey** to the First Parish music staff as our new Children’s Choir Director. Gail brings a vast array of experience to her music ministry. She received her diploma from Interlochen Arts Academy, her BA in music therapy from Emmanuel College, and her MSW from Simmons College. She has worked professionally as a performer, music theatre director, accompanist, music therapist and social worker. She is an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network and is a candidate in the UUMN professional certification program.

Look for more information on our Children’s Choirs in this newsletter and online. If you have any questions, please call the music office at 978-369-9602, ext. 420.

## Social Action Community News and Events

### CONCORD AREA CROP WALK

The Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 19, starting at the Trinitarian Congregational Church. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.; step-off is at 2:15. Funds raised go to support seven local hunger relief organizations, and the global relief efforts and development projects of Church World Service. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join the First Parish team, or sponsor a walker. See [concordcrop.org](http://concordcrop.org) for more details, and the map of our new, shorter route. Look for the Crop table at coffee hours starting in mid-September.



### 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/); or e-mail our Social Action Associate **Faith Bade** at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

## Going Deeper Spiritually

Monthly Thematic and Theological Queries  
for the People of the First Parish in Concord

### SERIES I, 2008-2009

*Note: Following the lead of All Souls Unitarian in Tulsa, Unity Church in St. Paul and the First Parish in Weston, we begin this month a series of reflections, each month focusing on a particular theological concept. Worship during that month will include at least one Sunday where this concept is explored. We hope the suggested topic for the month will find its way into our small group gatherings and into our conversations, even at home.*

September 2008: **EXILE** — *Exile* is at once a word that can be defined politically, geographically, psychologically, theologically and metaphorically. Strictly speaking, we think of the state of exile as a person being forced to leave one's country to live elsewhere; "forced into exile," we say. But we think of exile *this* month as our own faith community's not being at home; it is uprooted, the Sanctuary is closed, the religious education wing is demolished, our collective life is in transition. Though nothing is dire, we catch a glimpse of exile.

*By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, then we remembered Zion.* —Hebrew Psalm 137, the people of Israel in exile

*I know that men in exile feed on hopes.* —Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*

*Our society is marked by a deep dislocation that touches every aspect of our lives. The old certitudes seem less certain; the old privileges are under powerful challenge; the old dominations are increasingly ineffective and fragile; the established governmental, educational, judicial and medical institutions seem less and less able to deliver what we need and have come to expect; the old social fabrics are fraying under the assault of selfishness, fear, anger and greed.*

—Walter Brueggemann, *The Christian Century*, July 2, 1997

*Woe to us if we forget our own homelessness. To be homeless the way people like you and me are apt to be homeless is to have homes all over the place but not really to be home in any of them. To be really at home is to be really at peace, and our lives are so intrinsically interwoven that there can be no peace for any of us until there is real peace for all of us.*

—Frederick Buechner, *Longing for Home*

- What is your own experience of exile? If you are not at "home," where is home for you?
- The Psalm cited above speaks of singing God's song in the midst of exile in order to remember. What is the song that you sing in the midst of your dislocation?
- For Buechner, the essential experience of being "at home" is being "at peace." How would you describe what it means for you to feel at home? What words would you use? What words might your children use? What is home and why is it important for you, as an actual physical place or a metaphorical/spiritual state of soul?

October 2008: **REPENTANCE**

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE!

If you have been to First Parish recently, you have noticed that things have changed! Demolition of the RE wing has transformed our beautiful building into two separate structures. The demolition work below the Sanctuary (bathrooms, kitchen and office space) and the nursery school area is well under way. The front office and RE office are in the Parlor, and **Peggy Gallo** is in the Wright Tavern sharing space with **Melissa Perdue Gallo**. First Parish business goes on as always.

During the last few months, the Building Committee has been busy with many tasks. They interviewed candidates and selected Ron Catella to be our Owner's Representative. Ron is very experienced in the role and serves as the interface between the general contractor and First Parish. Also, general contractor candidates were selected to bid on the project, the bids analyzed, interviews conducted and, finally, Carr Enterprises was selected. What seemed like endless meetings with the Natural Resources Commission, the Historic District Commission, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and the Concord DPW has finally wound down, and we received our building permit.

A weekly contractor's meeting is chaired by Carr Enterprises. Ron Catella, Taylor & Burns (architect), and First Parish representatives attend to discuss the many construction details — such as the elevator design, kitchen equipment, the raised floor in the Chapel, underground piping, structural issues and, of course, the schedule. From the current vantage point, we hope to return to First Parish by the end of November, when the restrooms and hallway will be complete and there will be a second exit from the Sanctuary constructed.

If you would like to see pictures of the construction progress, please check the First Parish website, <http://www.firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/main.php>. We will be posting new pictures periodically throughout construction. If you happen to take any digital pictures and would like to share them with the congregation, please e-mail them to [fpcomms@gmail.com](mailto:fpcomms@gmail.com).

Inconveniences aside, this is a truly an exciting time for First Parish!

### **STARTING SEPTEMBER 14, AT KEREM SHALOM:**

Service times are back to the regular schedule, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

The Homecoming service on September 14 will be intergenerational.

Regular RE Classes begin September 21.

Babies and child care is available for youngest members.

Kids should sit on the floor in the Sanctuary, up front.

Parking is available at Kerem Shalom, on the street, and at the office building across the street.

Food is not permitted in the lobby area outside of the Sanctuary. Parents, please help kids cooperate with this request from Kerem Shalom.

Coffee hours will be held in the large hall after each service.

As a matter of note amongst all our progress is a possible link to our historic past in the form of a brick. A *brick*, you say? While excavating for the exact water line locations, the contractor unearthed a brick in some backfill at about a five-foot depth. The location where they were digging has been rumored to be the location of our second Meeting House, built in 1673 (somewhere between the Tavern and the present Meeting House, and close to Lexington Road).

We know from written records that the second Meeting House was a square wooden structure (similar in shape to the present Wright Tavern) and that the walls were filled with brick. That Meeting House was taken down in 1719 and pieces of it were moved onto the common, where it continued to be used as a courthouse. John Kendal of J & K Masonry has been doing antique house restorations for nearly 50 years and he examined the brick. He said the brick was handmade, sundried and not fired in a kiln. It probably was made locally and maybe made on-site and is very likely of 17th century construction. This supports (but does not prove) the notion that the brick may have come from the second Meeting House, but further examination is warranted.

The original weathervane from that second Meeting House is on display at the Concord Free Public Library. In case anyone is concerned that we may find anything archaeological that might stop the construction, that will not happen. The entire area on our present site has been dug up so many times over the past three centuries that what we may find is just bits and pieces of "colonial debris."

Contributions to this letter were made by **Doug Baker**, **Richard Fortier** and **Melissa Perdue Gallo**, and put together by **Nicole S. Miller Sheehan**. Any questions, comments, or suggestions can be sent to [fpcomms@gmail.com](mailto:fpcomms@gmail.com), or call Nicole at 508-596-5907.

## Reflection and RE News

This summer I unexpectedly traveled to the interior states of our country. I have been to many of the coastal states, but never to the proverbial red states. This has not been intentional; it is simply that most of my family and friends have settled in blue-er regions.

I traveled to North Carolina, Georgia and Utah, to Seattle and Montana (twice). I found that people in Montana were just as surprised to meet someone from Massachusetts as I was to be there. They would pronounce the word slowly, just as I struggled with Missoula, and Kalispell.

I can tell you in our journeys that we found friendly people wherever we went. I began to recall the term, “the kindness of strangers,” and experience first-hand what it meant. The word “stranger” has been pirated to be synonymous with danger in our media-driven culture. Wherever I turned, I found the contrary to be true.

As we traversed by plane, I began wondering about the relationship between the geography and its people. While it was evident from the air to see how vastly each state has been shaped by its people, it seemed even more evident how the geography of each state has shaped its people in return. It is a wonderful relationship and a welcome antidote to the regional homogenization imposed by restaurant and clothing chains.

I could not help but see this as somewhat of a metaphor for our experience here at First Parish. We are under construction; we are shaping our building for the future. But how has it shaped us? Our building has brought us together in times of celebration and in times of mourning. Our building welcomes the stranger and offers a community seeking kindness. Our building has become a physical symbol of a faith that has grown here for more than 370 years.

For a portion of this year we will be without its physical presence, but I believe we will be able to witness our faith community in action apart from our normal geography. We will need to be flexible and forgiving, but I believe our RE program will become stronger, not despite our physical limitations, but because of them. I look forward to taking this journey with each of you.

— Pam Howell

### SEPTEMBER RE CALENDAR

Sun. Sept. 7	Summer Worship, 10 a.m. only, Kerem Shalom Child care for Babies–4 years
Thur. Sept. 11	Orientation: 0–1st Grade Leaders Wright Tavern, 7:30 p.m.
Sun. Sept. 14	Homecoming Intergenerational Service 9 and 11 a.m. (K–6th Grade) Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Wed. Sept. 17	Orientation: 7th & 8th Grade Leaders Wright Tavern, 7:30 p.m.
Thur. Sept. 18	Orientation: 2nd–6th Grade Leaders Wright Tavern, 7:30 p.m.
Sun. Sept. 21	Regular RE for Babies–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Art in Action, Wright Tavern, 2–3 p.m. 8th Grade Drama, 51 Walden, 4–6 p.m. 9th Grade Coming of Age Mentor Orientation, Wright Tavern, 3:30–6:30 p.m.
Sun. Sept. 28	Regular RE for Babies–6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m. 7th Grade Art in Action, Wright Tavern, 2–3 p.m. 8th Grade Drama, 51 Walden, 3–5 p.m. 9th Grade Coming of Age, Wright Tavern 3:30–6:30 p.m.

### ALL-RE ORIENTATION SCHEDULE: BABIES TO 9TH GRADE

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

#### ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR BABIES TO 6TH GRADE TEACHERS IN THE WRIGHT TAVERN

Caregiving, Story Play & Spirit Play, Terms #1 & 2:  
Thursday, September 18, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

2nd–6th Grades Fall Term #1:  
Thursday, September 18, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

2nd–6th Grades Holiday Term #2:  
Thursday, October 23, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

2nd–6th Grades Winter Term #3:  
Thursday, January 15, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Babies–1st Grades, Terms 3, 4 and 5:  
Thursday, February 5, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

2nd–6th Grades Spring Term #4:  
Thursday, March 12, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

During each orientation, we will cover safety and first-aid information, review classroom rituals, tour our RE supply closet, obtain “substitution” lists and allow time for you to meet with your rotation’s teachers.

RE NEWS continued on page 9



Although our Sunday worship services will be at Kerem Shalom this fall, the youth will continue to meet at First Parish on Sunday nights from 7:00–9:00 p.m. in the Wright Tavern – a new location for us – until the Chapel is completed. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 7 (*note that this is before opening Sunday*) and we hope to see lots of new faces and old ones too. The youth leadership and I are working to keep things consistent during this time of construction and upheaval. In fact, we have planned a full youth program this year despite the construction. Youth Group will continue to meet every Sunday night; we will go on a fall and winter retreat, have two lock-ins, participate in social action projects, go on two service trips (New Orleans in April and Transylvania in July), lead a Sunday worship service in April and offer a senior high OWL class for upperclassmen. Everything is on the First Parish website — just go to the Youth Calendar under Religious Education.

The fall retreat is from September 19–21. This retreat is always well attended and a wonderful way for youth to feel connected to the youth program at First Parish. See the website for information and forms.

September is a crazy time for youth as they transition from the lazy days of summer to the stress of busy schedules and worries about grades, colleges and other things. On the other hand, it can be an exciting time to reconnect with friends, meet new ones and learn and try new things. We are hoping that the Youth Group at First Parish can be an oasis of peace, a place to connect with others, a time to pay attention to our spiritual needs and a place for fun. Come join us on September 7 and find out more!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

### **ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR 7TH, 8TH AND 9TH GRADE TEACHERS IN THE WRIGHT TAVERN**

7th Grade Art in Action, Fall Term:  
Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.

7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, Spring Term:  
Wednesday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.

8th Grade Dramatic Arts, Fall Term:  
Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.

8th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL), Winter Term,  
Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.

9th Grade Mentor Orientation:  
Sunday, September 21, 3:30–6:30 p.m.

### **HOMECOMING SUNDAY AT KEREM SHALOM IN CONCORD**

Sunday, September 14, is Homecoming Sunday. The worship service will be intergenerational for ages five and above. Please remember to bring a small amount of water from a special place for our Water Communion. As always, there will be child care available in the preschool area at Kerem Shalom for babies through four years.

### **7TH GRADE ART IN ACTION**

The 7th graders will be creating social statements using art as a medium for expression. Some of these creations will be placed for public viewing around town or at First Parish. We have excellent leaders for this program: **Margot Kimball**, **Libby Kurten** and **Betsy Siebert**. This program is scheduled to meet from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Wright Tavern.

### **8TH GRADE DRAMATIC ARTS PROGRAM**

Our 8th graders will begin preparing for the play *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, with **Tom** and **Sue Beck** on Sunday, September 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. Because of the construction, we have rented space at 51 Walden for September, October and November. Please note that the first Sunday only has a start time of 4 p.m. The remaining Sundays will begin at 3 p.m. This is due to a conflict at 51 Walden.

### **9TH GRADE COMING OF AGE PROGRAM**

Our Coming of Age leader, **Suzie Weaver**, has been working this summer to prepare for an exciting program of self-discovery for our teens. We will be kicking off the program with a COA opening reception for both parents and their teens on Sunday, September 28. This will be an opportunity for mentees and mentors to get to know each other, and for parents to learn more about the program. Please mark your calendar with this important first meeting.

**VIGIL VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are being sought to sit with the dying. As part of the Palliative Care Program, "Living Fully, Living Well," at Carleton-Willard Village in Bedford, volunteers will be trained to sit with the dying. For many people, the biggest fear of dying is being alone. Trained volunteers provide a comforting presence, actively listening and supporting the dying person, and providing needed respite to family and/or staff. Those interested in being trained as a vigil volunteer should contact Rev. Allan Baldwin, Chaplain, at Carleton-Willard Village, 781-275-8700, ext. 1210. The training will consist of four one-hour sessions in September.

**THINKING ABOUT SMALL GROUP MINISTRY?**

Small Group Ministry provides a sense of intimacy and community while providing a place for spiritual exploration and growth. Presently First Parish has three groups that were formed several years ago. This fall **Rev. Margie King Saphier** invites interested parishioners to sign up to form new groups. The groups meet twice a month to explore a wide variety of theological/spiritual themes, including the monthly "Thematic and Theological Queries," which will be explored during at least one sermon each month. Look for the table at coffee hour to sign up, or call or e-mail the office at 978-369-9602, or [FPCConcord@aol.com](mailto:FPCConcord@aol.com). You can also e-mail Margie at [mksaphier@comcast.net](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net).

*Community News*

**SECOND ANNUAL CONCORD BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

- Sunday, October 5, 2:00 p.m.
- Front lawn of the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts, 40 Stow Street, Concord, Mass. 01742

Cosponsored by Animals As Intermediaries, the Emerson Umbrella Center for the Arts, Holy Family Parish and First Parish in Concord.

Creatures of all sizes welcome, including farm animals (on leash or enclosed), for a community interfaith blessing, following St. Francis Day.

For further information and directions, please visit [www.aai-nature.org](http://www.aai-nature.org), or contact Sophie Wadsworth, [sophie@aai-nature.org](mailto:sophie@aai-nature.org) or 978-369-2585.

*Women's News*

**THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP—NEW SCHEDULE!**

Welcome to a new year of book discussions with the First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group! Meetings will be on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings, usually the last week of the month (4th or 5th Monday or Tuesday), with a few exceptions as indicated in the date list below. The morning session is facilitated by **Darien Smith** and the evening by **Siri Smedvig**. The book for September's discussions is *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, by Marisha Pessl. The evening group will meet September 29, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning group on September 30, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.\*\* Please note that due to space limitations during the ongoing construction, the September meetings will be held off-site at the following homes:

Evening Session: September 29 at the home of **Siri Smedvig**, 85 Westford Road, Concord

Morning Session: September 30 at the home of **Darien Smith**, 124 Hill Street, Concord

\*\*Directions will be sent by e-mail.

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, please contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

Books and Dates for 2008-2009 are as follows:

- Sept. 29, 30 *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, by Marisha Pessl
- Oct. 27, 28 *Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance*, by Barack Obama
- Dec. 1, 2 *The Maytrees*, by Annie Dillard
- Jan. 26, 27 *Water for Elephants: A Novel*, by Sara Gruen
- Feb. 23, 24 *The History of Love: A Novel*, by Nicole Krauss
- Mar. 30, 31 *The Witch of Portobello*, by Paulo Coelho
- Apr. 27, 28 *Grandmother's Secrets: The Ancient Rituals and Healing Powers of Belly Dancing*, by Rosina-Fawzia B. Al-Raw
- May 18, 19 *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, by Barbara Kingsolver
- June TBD Potluck and suggestions for next year

*UU News*

**UU NEW ENGLAND FALL CONFERENCE—OCTOBER 17-18**

The theme of this very important conference is "The Future of Unitarian Universalism," featuring the UUA Presidential candidates Rev. Laurel Hallman, Senior Minister, First Unitarian Church, Dallas, Texas; and Rev. Peter Morales, Senior Minister, Jefferson Unitarian Church, Golden, Colorado. The conference venue is the DCU Center, Arena and Convention Complex, Worcester, Massachusetts. Meet the candidates on Friday evening and hear the keynote speeches and meet with the UUA Board of Trustees on Saturday. For further details, visit the Mass Bay District website, [mbduu.org](http://mbduu.org). Contact **Holli Jones-White** if you are interested in attending.



## September 2008 Calendar

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

### Every Week...

Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m. (not Sept. 7)
Seventh Grade "Art in Action" Class	Sunday	2:00 p.m. (not Sept. 7 or Sep 14)
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m. (not Sept. 3 or 10)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (not Sept. 3 or 10)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.

**DURING CONSTRUCTION, MOST ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE ON THE WRIGHT TAVERN PORCH, ALTHOUGH A FEW ACTIVITIES MAY TAKE PLACE IN THE PARISH HALL. PLEASE CHECK THE WHITE BOARD IN THE LOWER HALLWAY FOR THE LOCATION OF YOUR ACTIVITY.**

Wed Sep 3	7:00	YAC (youth and adults)	Mon Sep 22	7:30	Autumnal Equinox Celebraton
Thu Sep 4	7:30	Transcendentalists in Italy trip meeting ( <i>off-site</i> )	Tue Sep 23	6:30	All-Parish Potluck Supper w/ Transylvanian Visitors ( <i>off-site</i> )
Sun Sep 7	6:30	Standing Committee ( <i>off-site</i> )		7:00	<i>Eating with a Conscience</i> ( <i>off-site</i> )
Wed Sep 10	7:00	YAC (youth and retreat chaperones)		7:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i> (at Kerem Shalom)
Thu Sep 11	7:30	Babies-First Grade RE Orientation		9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i> (at First Parish in Weston)
Fri Sep 12	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	Wed Sep 24	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
Sat Sep 13	9:00	Photo Club		12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
Mon Sep 15	12:00	Newsletter Deadline	Thu Sep 25	6:30	All-Parish Vespers & Potluck w/ Transylvanian Visitors ( <i>First Parish in Bedford</i> )
	7:00	<i>Power of Forgiveness</i>		7:00	<i>Finding the Deep River Within</i> (at Kerem Shalom; please note change of place)
Tue Sep 16	4:30	<i>Tea and Poetry</i>	Fri Sep 26	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Wed Sep 17	7:30	Seventh Grade Art in Action Teacher Orientation	Sun Sep 28		Jericho Road Bike-a-thon
	7:30	Eighth Grade Dramatic Arts Teacher Orientation		9/11	Transylvanian Thanksgiving Service with Coffee Hour reception
Wed Sep 17	9:00	<i>Zero Cholesterol/Vegan Cooking</i> ( <i>off-site</i> )		1:00	Luncheon for Transylvanian Sponsors ( <i>off-site</i> )
Thu Sep 18	7:30	Caregiving, Story Play and Spirit Play RE Teacher Orientation		3:30	Coming of Age Reception ( <i>off-site</i> )
	7:30	Second-Sixth Grade RE Teacher Orientation		4:00	Ninth Grade Coming of Age Class
	10:00	Transylvanian Visitors arrival & welcome ( <i>time approx.</i> )	Mon Sep 29	7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i> ( <i>off-site</i> )
Fri Sep 19	YRUU	Retreat ( <i>off-site</i> )	Tue Sep 30	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i> ( <i>off-site</i> )
Sat Sep 20	7:30	Men's Group	Tue Sep 30	12:00	WPA Luncheon ( <i>off-site</i> )
Sun Sep 21	3:30	Ninth Grade Mentor Orientation			
	4:00	All-Parish Ice Cream Social w/ Transylvanian Visitors ( <i>off-site</i> )			



**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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Concord, MA 01742

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**SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER**

The **October Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, September 15**, at noon.  
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, September 24.  
**News items should be limited to 100 words.**

**Don't Miss...**

SUMMER SERVICES

Sunday, 10:00 o'clock  
at Kerem Shalom  
659 Elm Street, Concord  
through September 7

REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock  
at Kerem Shalom  
659 Elm Street, Concord  
beginning September 14

**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  
**Angela Herrera**, Ministerial Intern

**Pam Howell**, Director of Religious Education  
**Jane Barnes**, Religious Education Administrator  
**Liz Davis-Chaffin**, Workshop Rotation Coordinator  
**Carol Duane**, Program Coordinator for Young Children  
**Mary-Wren vanderWilden**, Youth Program Director

**Elizabeth Norton**, Music Director  
**Eric Huenneke**, Organist  
**Martha Goodman**, Handbell Choir Director  
**Anderson Manuel**, Music/RE Associate  
**Gail Carey**, Children's Choir Director  
**David Huston**, Music Director Emeritus

**Mary Elizabeth Wheeler**, Wright Tavern Center Director  
**Dan Holin**, Jericho Road Executive Director  
**Leslie Koplow**, 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

**HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR '08  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1—NEW VENUE!**

This year's Holiday Artisans Fair will be held on Saturday, November 1. Because of our church's current reconstruction, the venue will be the Concord Armory. The larger space will allow us to have several more artists and artisans. Contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net, or the church office if you would like to help with what promises to be the best fair ever! A good time will be had by all. Stay tuned for more details in next month's newsletter.

**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**

**\*\*The office will be open from 9 a.m. to noon through Friday, August 29 only.**