



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

## The Meeting House News

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### REVeries

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According to the late James Luther Adams, Unitarian Universalist theologian, people come to Sunday services seeking “intimacy and ultimacy.” Intimacy is finding authentic and meaningful friendship, and ultimacy is finding meaning in our lives by exploring our deepest beliefs. Covenant Groups are one place you can do this.

These two spiritual goals are fostered in an environment where one is listened to with respect and without judgment. It is through listening to one another we are able to broaden our perspectives and deepen our understanding. The Dalai Lama says, “Listening is like a torch that dispels the darkness of ignorance.”

The experience of Covenant Groups often reminds me of the words, “Roots hold me close, wings set me free” in the hymn *Spirit of Life*. The safe environment of Covenant Groups provides the roots, while the process of sharing and exploration sets us free.

A few years ago Don Leopold, a facilitator of an ongoing Covenant Group, wrote for the *Meeting House News* “The Top 11 Benefits I Have Received from Small Group Ministry [now Covenant Groups].” Here are five of those benefits that describe the experience of intimacy and ultimacy.

1. I have gotten to know people in a wonderfully new way that is “backward” — that is, I usually get to know people first based on what they do or where they live or who their children are; through Covenant Group, I’ve gotten to know some wonderful people based on what’s in their hearts and what they think and how they experience the world, and then perhaps, what they do, where they live and who their kids are.
2. I get to participate in what often feels like terrific college bull sessions without having to stay up all night or worrying about exams or sprawling around in uncomfortable positions.
3. For a person for whom religion and spirituality and frankly, much of life, have always been intensely personal and individual, I get to explore highly intimate and for me important, issues in a small, safe, supportive community.
4. I get to hear and consider points of view of others who often come at issues from a very different perspective.
5. I get to hear and say and remember these closing words from Wayne Arnason at the end of each session: “*Take courage, friends. The way is often hard, the path is never clear, and the stakes are high. Take courage. For deep down there is another truth. You are not alone.*”

—*Margie King Saphier*

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Please see page 7 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

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**November 2 at Kerem Shalom**

Gary Smith, preaching  
9:00 – Choir Quintet and  
Junior Choir

11:00 – First Parish Choir  
and Chalice Choir

**November 9 at Kerem Shalom**

Gary Smith, preaching  
9:00 & 11:00 – Handbell Choir

**November 16 at Kerem Shalom**

Jenny Rankin, preaching  
9:00 – Gospel Choir  
11:00 – First Parish Choir

**November 23 at Kerem Shalom**

Gary Smith, preaching  
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

**November 30 at First Parish**

9:00 & 11:00 – Gratitude and  
Expectation  
An Intergenerational Service  
of Song

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Please refer to the Construction Update on page 7 for important information about the ongoing Church construction.

## In This Issue...

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- Page 1** REVeries  
Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 2** In This Issue  
Our Meeting House Family  
Standing Committee Information  
Sunday Forums
- Page 3** From the Intern Minister  
Wright Tavern Center  
Parish Notes
- Page 4** Money Matters  
Parish Notes, continued  
Pastoral Care News
- Page 5** Music Note  
Membership Corner  
MUsings
- Page 6** SAC News and Events
- Page 7** Construction Update  
SAC, continued  
Going Deeper Spiritually
- Page 8** REflection and RE News  
November RE Calendar
- Page 9** Senior Youth News  
Partner Church Committee
- Page 10** UU News  
Women's News  
Wright Tavern, continued
- Page 11** November 2008 Calendar
- Page 12** First Parish Staff  
Christmas Concert and Tea

There are two inserts with this newsletter:

- Covenant Group info
- Wright Tavern courses

*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, Nov. 10        | Wednesday, Nov. 19 |
| Monday, Dec. 8         | Wednesday, Dec. 17 |
| <u>Friday, Jan. 16</u> | Wednesday, Jan. 28 |

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 next Standing Committee meeting will be held off-site on Monday evening, November 10. 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.

## From the Intern Minister

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we continue to watch the unfolding of what many are calling a crisis in the global economy. In addition to the worry and effects we are already experiencing due to our country's own economic problems, we now begin to see the extent to which each country is interdependent with others. "Global economy" is a relatively recent phenomenon, which leaves us with a lot of uncertainty. We feel this anxiety in our homes and workplaces. It casts a shadow over the public square.

The ministers of First Parish want to remind you that we're here for you. Your religious community is here for you. We are here for each other. Call, e-mail, or drop by as needed. Let us know how we can help. We don't have all the answers, but what we do have at First Parish is a vision and a focus that transcend uncertain times. Ours is a tradition grounded in the wisdom that the most enduring kind of security cannot be constructed or orchestrated by human hands, but dwells deep within the human spirit.

We hope you'll join us on Sundays to nourish your spirit. The beautiful thing is that as you draw from the loving community and wisdom of this congregation, your presence also sustains it, creating the same opportunity for others.

Until then, and in all the days between, may peace abide within each of us.

In faith,

—*Angela Herrera*

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## Wright Tavern Center

Online registration is now available for selected courses. We have launched an online registration prototype with approximately ten events and courses. We hope to bring many more people to First Parish by offering this option to the greater community as well as to our own. Of course, registration through the First Parish office by check is still available. Visit The Wright Tavern Center website at [wrighttavern.org](http://wrighttavern.org) and give us your feedback at [FPTavern@aol.com](mailto:FPTavern@aol.com).

Our fall schedule features three authors. Abby Seixas, local author and psychotherapist, lectured in September on *Finding the Deep River Within: The Art of Slowing Down in a 24/7 World*. In partnership with the Diversity and Social Action committees, we bring Shelly Tochluk to First Parish in December for a workshop based on her book *Witnessing Whiteness: First Steps toward an Antiracist Practice and Culture*. A group facilitated by **Mark Richards** will meet to discuss the book in advance of the workshop.

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER continued on page 10



## Parish Notes



### DON'T FORGET TO COME TO THE ARTISANS FAIR—NOVEMBER 1



Bring yourself, family members and friends to this year's fair, which will be held between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, at the Concord Armory, 91 Everett Street. Over 50 vendors will participate. Festive shopping for a wide variety of fantastic, high quality gift items for all will be available! Delicious food will be served throughout the day at the artisans cafe. The entrance fees are \$3 for adults, \$2 for children, and there is no charge for children under five years of age.



### TRACING THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS

To Nathaniel Hawthorne, they were a bunch of "queer, strangely dressed, oddly behaved mortals" who had infested the little country village of Concord. Hawthorne thought the transcendentalists who flocked around Emerson took themselves way too seriously and in the end, he said they were "simply bores of a very intense water." Writers, scholars and thinkers since Hawthorne's time have debated fiercely over exactly what and who constituted the transcendentalist movement, but all agree that this intellectual, spiritual and literary flowering, much of it emanating from Concord in the mid-19th century, was to have an unprecedented impact on the still-forming identity of America.

Whether you are part of the group from First Parish that is going to Italy in March of 2009 to trace the transcendentalists, or you are simply interested in learning more right here at home, join **Jenny Rankin** for the class "Transcendentalism: The Dream and the Dreamers," which started October 20. It meets on Monday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the Wright Tavern porch. Future dates are October 27, November 3, November 11 ( Note: This one class is on a Tuesday night.), November 17, November 24, December 1. You can attend the remaining sessions or you can come on a drop-in basis. Sign up by going to [wrighttavern.org](http://wrighttavern.org) or by calling the First Parish office at 978-369-9602.

—*Jenny Rankin*

### NO NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING FOR WPA

The Women's Parish Association will not hold a luncheon meeting in November.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 4

## Money Matters

Many years ago, when our children were young, Tony and I instituted a practice at family dinners where each one of us says something for which we are grateful before eating. It doesn't have to be a grand, sweeping statement, or even eloquent: "I'm grateful that we are eating together." "I'm grateful that my best friend and I made up." "I'm grateful that this day is almost over." The point is to take just a moment and remember that we are uncommonly blessed. I even do it on those nights when I am eating alone. I truly treasure what is often the one moment in the day I take to reflect on my incredible good fortune in this life.

Wearing my hat as Business Manager, I am grateful for the consistent financial support that all of you give to First Parish. We enjoy an amazingly high 97% pledge fulfillment in this institution. In return, we try to give you the services, support and inspiration that you need in order to go out into the world and make a difference.

I know as well as you do that the times are troubled. At the end of the First Parish day, though, we are all extremely grateful to have you as part of this community and to know that you support it as you do. Happy Thanksgiving!

—Melissa Perdue Gallo

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### PARISH NOTES

continued from page 3

#### SATURDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

The Saturday morning men's group is still meeting at 7:30 a.m. in the Wright Tavern. We welcome returning members as well as new men. This group shares joys and concerns, and hopefully provides mutual support for these challenging times. We look forward to meeting new and returning men Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. on the Wright Tavern sunporch.

#### THANK YOU, RICH!

The Women's Parish Association extends heartfelt thanks to **Rich Higgins** for presenting his observations regarding the role of trees in Thoreau's imagination and art at the October luncheon meeting. His discussion and photographs have made our fall foliage excursions even more enjoyable than usual this year.

#### INTERESTED IN A NEW HUMANIST GROUP?

We are gauging interest in a Humanist Group at First Parish to explore the intersection of science and culture, ethics and social trends, books and ideas from a humanist perspective. Humanism affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives, aspiring to the greater good of humanity without involvement of the supernatural. As UU's, we respect the interdependence of all living things and our environment. If interested, please contact **Maria Cox** at mc2cox@comcast.net.

## Pastoral Care News

Have you noticed how prevalent references to alcohol are in advertisements, the media, our children's education — even the presidential campaign? One recent reference is the appeal to "Joe Six-Pack" as the nomenclature for Every Man from Main Street. On the other hand, *The New Yorker* magazine regularly has several jokes about alcohol consumption — instead of beer it is a martini or two or three. Most of us know someone with a "drinking problem." Many Unitarian Universalists feel uncomfortable in AA meetings because dependence on a higher power is part of the 12-step program. On Tuesday, November 4, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and repeated again Wednesday, November 5, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., **Nancy Sweeney**, who is a First Parish member, clinical psychologist and instructor with the Harvard Medical School, and who has extensive experience working with addiction, will present "Beyond Craving, Beyond Gratification: Parallels and Paradox in Buddhism and Alcoholics Anonymous." In keeping with the UU tradition of exploring the wisdom derived from various spiritual traditions, this seminar will look at two traditions, one old and one relatively new, that have some surprising similarities. Topics such as craving and gratification, the nature of happiness, and "surrender" as a spiritual practice will be discussed. It is hoped that this discussion will foster a greater appreciation of some simple but powerful ideas that can be a source of strength and serenity during these times of chaos. A minimum of six participants required, so please contact the First Parish office if you plan to attend.

Last spring I attended the Interfaith Clergy Symposium sponsored by Domestic Violence Services Network. Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone reported that in Massachusetts, domestic homicides went from 15 in 2005 to 42 in 2007. This is a 270 percent increase. Domestic violence occurs in all socioeconomic levels and all races. Batterers have a need to feel in control. Uncertain financial times can increase this felt need. If you are being emotionally or physically battered, you can call the Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program at 888-399-6111, where you will receive unconditional support. This number is toll-free and will not appear on your phone bill. I also want to stress that the ministers are here to support you.

Grieving is also exacerbated at times of uncertainty as well as during the holiday season. After experiencing a major loss, whether it is the death of a loved one, a job loss, or a divorce, the holiday expectation of family warmth, togetherness and joy can increase one's sense of aloneness. If you find the holiday season difficult, you may want to attend "Good Grief for the Holidays," presented by Allene Riley Kussin, MA, LPC, on November 17, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Trinitarian Congregation Church parish hall.

In faith,

—Margie King Saphier

## Music Note

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### FROM THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS DIRECTOR

Dear All,

What a joy it has been to join this First Parish community. Both the Junior Choir and Chalice Choir are bursting with creative energy. As the holiday season approaches, I would like to extend an invitation for new members to join. We will be celebrating the season with joyous songs of light and tradition. We rehearse in the Wright Tavern on Wednesdays. Junior Choir (grades 1–3) meets at 4:30 p.m., and the Chalice Choir (grades 4–6) meets at 5:15 p.m. Newcomers are welcome beginning Wednesday, November 5. If you are new to the church, this is an especially nice way for your children to feel a part of seasonal celebrations. The Children's Choirs will be singing next in services on December 7 and Christmas Eve. All are welcome. Come join the fun! For more information, call me at 781-665-0088.

In song,

—Gail Carey

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## Membership Corner

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### NEW TO UU OR FIRST PARISH?

Interested in becoming a member at First Parish? Please join us for the New U, a three-session program bringing light and meaning to how Unitarian Universalism and the First Parish Community can be a place for you. The New U will be held Sundays, October 26, November 2 and November 9 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. Child care is available upon request. Sign up by calling First Parish at 978-369-9602.

—Abby White

## MUSings

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We entered the Thanksgiving season a little early this year as we celebrated *Őszi hállaadas* (Autumn Thanksgiving) with our nine guests from Transylvania. During our services that September Sunday I was deeply grateful for the remarkable relationship we have, as a congregation and as individuals, with our Unitarian brothers and sisters in Székelykeresztúr. Despite the obvious barriers of language and culture, we have learned again and again that what unites us is much stronger than what separates us.

I have been reminded, this beautiful New England fall, that gratitude is a spiritual discipline. With this year's vivid autumn colors, a simple drive to work or a walk in the woods takes me to a place of thankfulness. It changes my perspective when I make time to list my blessings. This does not mean denying existing hardships. But stepping back, taking a breath and focusing on what there is to be thankful for inevitably lifts me out of the every day and gives me a new appreciation of life.

While our visitors from Transylvania were a welcome reminder of all that we have to be thankful for, the challenges of our construction and the news about the economy have provided regular opportunities to practice this discipline of gratitude. No question about it, this is a time of inconveniences, frustrations and even fears. Sometimes it is overwhelming. But we are so fortunate to be able to make these major changes to our historic Meeting House and building, especially in these tough economic times.



Remember the child's finger game: "Here's the church, here's the steeple, open the door and look at the people." Like that game, we have been literally opening the walls of our church. And just like those fingers left wriggling when the walls fall away, the ministers, staff, members and friends of this congregation have continued to provide the energy, faith, hope and humor that will sustain us. This time of upheaval has provided numerous opportunities to "think outside the box." I am convinced that when we are back in our church building and the walls surround us once more, this congregation will be buzzing with new life and new energy.

So, *Kellemes Őszi hállaadas*. Happy Thanksgiving. I am grateful for this faith community and all the many blessings we bring to one another during this challenging and extraordinary time.

Blessings,

—Beth Norton



## Social Action Community News and Events

As I write this the economy is in turmoil and everyone is very concerned. I hope everyone received a listing that SAC distributed during October of organizations that need our help now more than ever. These organizations fill



a gap and protect the needy, and they are very concerned about their constituents during this

economic crisis. If you missed the list, you can find it on [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org), under Social Action and Current Events. Please support these organizations if possible. Please contact me with your causes and concerns at [Fbade@firstparish.org](mailto:Fbade@firstparish.org).

—Faith Bade

Social Action Program Director

### “THANK YOU!”

#### FROM THE JERICHO ROAD RIDE

Thanks to all who participated in and supported the Jericho Road Ride on October 5. Although the original date was moved due to inclement weather, over 50 bicyclists participated. The celebration in Lowell was well attended — a fun time with great food and music!

#### THANK-YOU FROM CROP WALK

Thanks so much to all who joined Rev. Jenny Rankin in the Crop Walk to benefit the Church World Service on October 19.

#### MITTEN TREE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Make this tradition continue at First Parish — the needs of the homeless are even more critical this year. If you are willing and able, this is a low key volunteer job. Please contact Faith Bade at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org) if you are interested.

#### SISTER PEGGY AT AN EL SALVADOR LUNCHEON ON NOVEMBER 16

Please RSVP to a luncheon and Q & A with Sister Peggy O'Neill on Sunday, November 26, from approximately 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Sister Peggy will be the host for our youth service trip in April 2009 at the Art Center for Peace in Suchitoto, El Salvador. Come hear about her work creating the center and learn more about the destination for our youth. We are looking for someone to volunteer to host this luncheon in their home. Please contact Faith Bade at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

#### YOUTH SERVICE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

The first meeting for the service trip of First Parish high schoolers will be on Sunday, November 2, at 6 p.m. at the Wright Tavern. (Given our construction, this date/time/location will be confirmed prior to November 2.) We are again partnering with Gulf Coast Works to help in the rebuilding of the 9th Ward during April vacation 2009. All interested high schoolers and potential chaperones are invited to attend. Please contact Faith Bade at [Fbade@firstparish.org](mailto:Fbade@firstparish.org) with questions.

#### SOCIAL ACTION GRANT PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED NOVEMBER 8

The Social Action Grants Committee will meet on Saturday, November 8, to consider the grant proposals submitted by the October 17 deadline. If you missed the deadline or have questions, feel free to contact Alane Wallis at [awallis@nutter.com](mailto:awallis@nutter.com) or 978-369-1114.

#### UUSC ASKS YOU TO HELP WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DARFUR

Thanks to grassroots advocacy, the U.S. Congress has allocated over \$700 million for peacekeeping in Darfur in 2008. Through targeted advocacy, UUSC is now working to ensure that these funds are used to fulfill the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (unamid) mandate, in particular, its responsibility to protect women and girls. You can help. Download a copy of a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, sign it, and mail it to the State Department to make your voice heard. The letter is available at [uus.org/files/riceunamid.pdf](http://uus.org/files/riceunamid.pdf). For more on UUSC action in Darfur, check their website.

#### OCTOBER 28, 7:30 P.M.—HUMAN RIGHTS EVENING

At Temple Kerem Shalom, 659 Elm Street, Concord, Congresswoman Nicki Tsongas will be our guest speaker on “Today’s Human Rights Struggle at Home and Abroad: How We Can Regain Our Former Reputation.” Congresswoman Tsongas will share her thoughts and lead a discussion on today’s human rights violations in the U.S., and how this affects the rest of the world. She will discuss the use of torture, rendition, indefinite detention, and the reach of presidential power. This event is sponsored by Amnesty International Group 15, SAC, and the Social Action Committee of Kerem Shalom. For more information, call 978-371-7400.

#### WITNESSING WHITENESS BOOK DISCUSSION AND WORKSHOP

If you wonder how to overcome racism in America, if you feel overwhelmed, join author Shelly Tochluk at First Parish on Saturday morning, December 13, 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. She will guide us through a workshop that will illustrate the witnessing process and help us begin our journey. And, join others in discussing her book *Witnessing Whiteness*, from 7:30–9:30 p.m. on three Thursdays, October 23, November 20, and December 4, at Wright Tavern in Concord. Registration for the workshop is \$50 (\$35 for First Parish members) and can be made at [wrighttavern.org](http://wrighttavern.org) or by calling 978-369-9602. Sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

SAC continued on page 7

#### 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 Program Director Faith Bade at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE!

The construction project continues to make progress and we are currently still looking to return to worship in the Sanctuary by the end of November. While the building will be far from complete — we will not have the kitchen by then — we will have new restrooms, the front office will be back in place, and some of the new offices will be finished. It will be wonderful to be back in our Sanctuary, where changes for improved accessibility have been made to the pews and the front pulpit area, the pews have been refinished, the floor has been painted and new carpet installed, and the new sound system is up and running. Our entire project will not be completed until next June. At first it may feel like we are “roughing it,” but it will seem good to be home. As we go forward through this exciting month, you can get the latest updates on the project and on logistics from FP Announce and by checking the website, [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org).

SAC

continued from page 6

### EQUAL EXCHANGE AT FIRST PARISH

Are you interested in seeing Equal Exchange products for sale again after we return to our Meeting House? We are looking for someone to coordinate a monthly presence at coffee hour. If interested in helping, please contact **Sue Beck**, 978-369-8445, or **Leslie Fisher**, 978-287-0456, as soon as possible.

### SERVICE TRIPS THROUGH CITY REACH

Common Cathedral sponsor Ecclesia Ministries conducts City Reach, a 20-hour overnight “mini service trip,” once a month, Friday evening to mid-Saturday afternoon. Participants (15 years old through adult) spend the day and evening with Common Cathedral members, touring Boston with a homeless guide to see the city from their perspective and assisting in outreach programs to street people. It is an amazing opportunity to make a difference in our own city. It is only through lay leaders that opportunities like this can happen at First Parish. Please contact **Faith Bade** at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org) if interested in volunteering to organize or participate in this “mini service trip.”

## Going Deeper Spiritually

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

### SERIES III, 2008-2009

**Note:** *Following the lead of All Souls Unitarian in Tulsa, Unity Church in St. Paul and the First Parish in Weston, we continue this month a series of reflections, each month focusing on a particular theological concept. Worship during the 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.*

November 2008: **GRATITUDE** — We take it for granted that Thanksgiving’s timing at the end of November makes sense. It seems natural to give thanks in autumn, after the harvest is done. It is a time of storing up and taking stock of our blessings.

On the other hand, in some ways it’s rather an extraordinary time to give thanks. After all, how many of us — when our life’s most bountiful and most comfortable time winds to a close — look toward a long period of darkness and cold barreling toward us and naturally think, “Thank you!” Yet that is precisely the reality of all but the most recent North American Thanksgivings.

Winter isn’t the risky proposition it used to be, with indoor heating, high-tech winter wear, and (if we’re lucky) trips to warmer places. But while modern comforts and conveniences take the edge off, we are like our forebears in the sense that we too are subject to life’s seasons of abundance and barrenness — sometimes material, sometimes spiritual. A perspective of gratitude gives us strength and hope. In order to adopt this perspective, we must acknowledge our interdependence.

*Humility is a virtue integral to gratitude. We cannot recognize the need for gratitude without it. People who are puffed up with their own accomplishments and who do not see how dependent they are on other people and (economic) systems which have favored them are rarely grateful.”*

—Richard C. Bayer.

*If the only prayer you said in your whole life was, ‘thank you,’ that would suffice.* —Meister Eckhart

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.*

—John Fitzgerald Kennedy

*When eating bamboo sprouts, remember the man who planted them.*

—Chinese Proverb

Questions:

- Have there been times in your life when you found it very hard to experience a sense of gratitude? What are you grateful, for looking back? For example, what helped you through those times?
- What are you grateful for that you rarely think of? Consider blessings invisible to you, as in the proverb above.
- What are some examples of ways to live by your gratitude? Which ones are you already doing? Which will you begin today?

## Reflection and RE News

November is going to be a month of change and uncertainty for all of us. I want you to feel assured that the RE staff, the RE Council and the First Parish staff are all working in concert to make this second transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

Right now, our plan is to return to First Parish on November 30. This is an intergenerational service, so we will not have regular RE that day for our K-6th graders. The following week, December 7, we will have our regularly scheduled RE classes.

Due to the construction project, we will not be able to host our traditional Holiday Craft Workshop on December 6. Because of this, we are planning for the December 7 RE program to be a special RE Sunday that will be set up as our traditional Holiday Craft Workshop. We will not have as many choices as our regular craft workshop, but **Susan Ward** and **Liz Davis-Chaffin** are working hard to bring the same gift-making spirit to this special holiday tradition at First Parish.

Just to give you an idea of how RE will look when we return to First Parish in its still unfinished state, we will have our Spirit Play (K-1st) program in the Wright Tavern, our Babies-4-year-olds in the First Parish Parlor, and our 2nd-6th graders in the Parish Hall. We have created a curriculum that is easily transferable from the Kerem Shalom space to our transitional space here at First Parish. The program will remain pretty much the same as the experience at Kerem Shalom. Many people have commented how calm and engaged our 2nd-6th graders have been with this new curriculum. And despite the weekly modifications in our physical environment, once we prepare the chalice and set our sacred space, the kids don't even seem to notice the changes.

Thank you for all of the support, patience and willingness to jump in and help each Sunday morning, so many offers of help from so many people. It truly has been its own gift.

— Pam Howell

### KIDS IN ACTION

Are your children involved in an interesting Social Action project? We have been inviting our own First Parish children to be leaders in our RE program. Several children have come and shared their experiences with our 2nd-6th graders. We have had 6th graders speak about saving trees, a family talk about their work at

### NOVEMBER RE CALENDAR

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Sun., Nov. 2  | Regular RE for Babies-6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m.<br>7th Grade Art in Action, Wright Tavern, 2-3 p.m.<br>8th Grade Drama, TBD, 3-5 p.m.  |
| Sun., Nov. 9  | Regular RE for Babies-6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m.<br>7th Grade Art in Action, 2-3 p.m.<br>8th Grade Drama, 51 Walden, 3-5 p.m.<br>9th Grade Coming of Age, Wright Tavern, 4-6:30 p.m.  |
| Sun., Nov. 16 | Regular RE for Babies-6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m.<br>7th Grade Art in Action, Wright Tavern, 2-3 p.m.<br>8th Grade Drama, TBD, 3-5 p.m.  |
| Sun., Nov. 23 | Regular RE for Babies-6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m.<br>8th Grade Drama, 51 Walden, 3-5 p.m.<br>9th Grade Coming of Age, Wright Tavern, 4-6:30 p.m.                                       |
| Sun., Nov. 30 | Child Care for Babies-4 years at First Parish, 9 and 11a.m.<br>Intergenerational K-6th Grade, at First Parish<br>8th Grade Drama, 51 Walden, 3-5 p.m.<br>No 9th Grade Coming of Age |

Gaining Ground, and some who have helped Open Table. When kids speak to kids, the message is so much more meaningful to our children. We value what you are doing and want you to have a chance to share your story. If you think your child would like to share something of this nature, please contact Pam at [fpdre\\_pamhowell@mac.com](mailto:fpdre_pamhowell@mac.com).

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

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

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

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

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

Babies-1st Grade, 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, obtain "substitution" lists and allow time for you to meet with your term's teachers.

### ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR 7TH AND 8TH GRADE TEACHERS

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

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



## Senior Youth News

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Even though First Parish is under construction, the youth program has been as active as ever. We've had great attendance on Sunday, our team of youth and chaperones has begun planning and preparing for their trip to Transylvania this summer, we are kicking off a new senior high OWL class this month, and we are beginning to plan for a service trip to New Orleans over April vacation. It is my hope that First Parish youth find a way to keep connected at First Parish whether it's participating in a class or service trip, dropping in any Sunday night for Youth Group or even coming to services on Sunday mornings.

Our November schedule should offer something for everyone:

November 2: Improv, with **Sean Kavanagh**

November 9: Council on Aging Workday and Pizza Party afterward, 3:30–7:00 (get community service credit)

November 16: Agree Disagree

November 23: Board Games

November 30: No YRUU — Thanksgiving holiday

On Sunday, November 9, from 3:30–5:30 p.m. the Youth Group will be doing a social action project through the Concord Council on Aging. We will deliver buckets of sand to seniors to help them de-ice their walkways in the winter. We will also be programming VCR's, turning mattresses, removing air conditioners etc. I encourage youth to participate, as it is one of the most rewarding projects that we do. Youth can earn community service credit and come for a pizza party from 5:30–7:00 p.m.

November can be a difficult month for youth as they struggle with mid-term exams and college applications, not to mention the dreary weather that follows the spectacular fall weather of October. We hope that Youth Group can be an oasis of peace as well as a fun place for our youth.

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

## Partner Church Committee

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In the words of Lajos Csézár, elder member of our recent contingent from Székelykeresztúr, "The ocean is deep, the sky is high, but between them there is a road." For a short time we at First Parish had the occasion to celebrate with the latest pilgrims on this road and most assuredly (as our PCC mandate suggests) to deepen an understanding between two historic churches, comprised of vastly different congregations, who speak breathtakingly dissimilar languages and yet share the same principles, purposes and faith.

On their twelfth night in New England our nine friends left for home. True to the nature of travel, there was a comedy of errors at the airport, with confusing points of departure, ticketing errors and misguided baggage. But all's well that ends well, the visit was a success, and we now look forward to supporting the next travelers on that road. Applications are in for this July's Youth Service Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr. As coordinated by **Jeanine Calabria**, planning sessions will commence in November.

Also in November, **Rodger Mattlage** will travel to Transylvania as a UUPCC networker to attend the 440th anniversary celebrations of the founding of Unitarianism. In addition to witnessing the triennial synod where (our recent guest) Sándor Lakatos will be ordained, and a new bishop elected, Rodger will have a chance to visit our sponsored students in Székelykeresztúr and will be happy to take along your (small, light and flat) gifts. For further information, contact him at [rmattlage@yahoo.com](mailto:rmattlage@yahoo.com). For those interested in becoming a sponsor, there are still opportunities. Contact **Sue Beck** at [sbeck345@comcast.net](mailto:sbeck345@comcast.net).

Last, we are delighted to announce that the amount raised for the Keresztúr Community House during our Transylvanian Unitarian Thanksgiving collection was \$2,954. On behalf of our friends at the far end of the road, we thank you.

**FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY DISTRICT—TWO WORKSHOPS**

**Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship, with Wayne B. Clark**

Saturday, November 1, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at Bentley College in Waltham

Wayne Clark will share a coming-of-age story designed to move congregations beyond the restrictive myth of scarcity that pervades so many UU faith communities. Drawing upon



his recently published book, *Beyond Fundraising: A Complete Guide to Congregational Stewardship*, Wayne will present his new and comprehensive stewardship development

plans. Teams of lay leaders are encouraged to attend the workshop. The workshop is \$350 (includes breakfast, lunch and materials) per congregation team of four, or \$90 per person. Call the MBD office at 617-393-4216 with questions; to register, go to [www.mbduuu.org](http://www.mbduuu.org).

**Creating & Leading Dynamic Lay-Led Worship, with Rev. Sue Phillips**

Saturday, November 15, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at Bentley College in Waltham

Come explore the worship theory and theology that lie behind the congregation's Order of Service. Learn to create high-quality, thematically integrated, lay-led worship services with compelling readings and meaningful music. This will be a hands-on workshop for worship committee members, lay worship leaders and preachers; and leadership teams from worship committees are encouraged to attend. This workshop is \$350 per congregation team of four, or \$90 per person. Call 617-393-4216 for further details; and to register, go to [www.mbduuu.org](http://www.mbduuu.org).

**WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP**

The November/December book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *The Maytrees*, by Annie Dillard. The evening session will be held Monday, December 1, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, on Tuesday, December 2, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. *Please note that due to construction at First Parish the discussions will be held at the following homes. Directions will be sent by e-mail.*

Monday, December 1, 7:30 p.m. at **Steph Chiha's** home:  
80 Stone Root Lane, Concord

Tuesday, December 2, 9:30 a.m. at **Darien Smith's** home:  
124 Hill Street, Concord

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.

Dates and Books for 2009 are as follows:

- 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

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**WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER**

continued from page 3

Wright Tavern Center and the Concord Free Public Library collaborated with the Concord Festival of Authors to cosponsor a visit to Concord in October from transcendentalist scholar and author Robert Richardson. He lectured at First Parish on Emerson: Transcendentalism and Education, taught a seminar based on his forthcoming book, *First We Read, Then We Write: Emerson on the Creative Process*, and gave a short sermon at Sunday worship service entitled "On Beauty." He also lectured at the library on William James: In the Maelstrom of American Modernism. Once again, we extend our gratitude to Kerem Shalom for their kindness in hosting the First Parish events, which were enjoyed by many. And thanks to Rob Mitchell and the Concord Festival of Authors for all their support.

**Rev. Jenny Rankin's** seven-week course, Transcendentalism: The Dreamers and the Dream, runs through December 1. Contact the First Parish office if you wish to join this ongoing class. We are now in the process of creating our Winter/Spring schedule of courses and looking forward to a successful year in the midst of change. Thank you for your cooperation in submitting your course requests by the October 15 deadline. Current course offerings and descriptions can be found on the newsletter insert.

—*Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Director*

## November 2008 Calendar

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*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.                           |
| Seventh Grade<br>"Art in Action" Class | Sunday    | 2:00 p.m.                            |
| Eighth Grade Play Rehearsal            | Sunday    | 3:00 p.m. (not 11/9 or 11/23)        |
| YRUU                                   | Sunday    | 7:00 p.m. (not 11/9 or 11/30)        |
| <i>Kundalini Yoga</i>                  | Tuesday   | 9:30 a.m. (First Parish in Weston)   |
| <i>T'ai Chi</i>                        | Tuesday   | 6:00 p.m. (not 11/11) (Kerem Shalom) |
| Bell Choir                             | Wednesday | 1:00 p.m.                            |
| Junior Choir                           | Wednesday | 4:30 p.m.                            |
| Chalice Choir                          | Wednesday | 5:15 p.m.                            |
| Adult Choir                            | Wednesday | 7:45 p.m.                            |

**UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER COURSES WILL BE HELD AT FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD. PLEASE CHECK THE WHITE BOARD IN THE LOWER HALLWAY FOR COURSE LOCATIONS.**

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Sat Nov 1    10:00 WPA Artisans Fair<br/>                  (Concord Armory)</p> <p>Sun Nov 2    4:00 New U</p> <p>Mon Nov 3    7:00 <i>Transcendentalism</i></p> <p>Tue Nov 4    10:00 Beyond Craving, Beyond<br/>                  Gratification</p> <p>                  3:00 <i>Tea and Poetry</i></p> <p>                  7:30 Senior High OWL Orientation</p> <p>Wed Nov 5    12:15 <i>Listening for God</i></p> <p>                  7:00 Beyond Craving, Beyond<br/>                  Gratification</p> <p>Thu Nov 6    7:00 <i>Intimacy as a Spiritual Path</i><br/>                  (Kerem Shalom)</p> <p>Fri Nov 7    12:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i></p> <p>Sat Nov 8    9:00 Photo Club</p> <p>Sun Nov 9    3:30 YRUU Social Action Project<br/>                  (off-site)</p> <p>                  4:00 New U</p> <p>                  4:00 Coming of Age</p> <p>                  5:30 YRUU Pizza Party</p> | <p>Mon Nov 10 12:00 Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Tue Nov 11    Holiday—Office Closed</p> <p>                  7:00 <i>Transcendentalism</i></p> <p>Wed Nov 12 7:30 Concord Clergy Laity Group</p> <p>                  9:00 <i>Zero Cholesterol/Vegan Cooking</i><br/>                  (off-site)</p> <p>                  7:00 Youth Advisory Committee</p> <p>Sun Nov 16 5:00 8th Grade Pizza Party</p> <p>Mon Nov 17 7:00 Senior High OWL</p> <p>                  7:00 <i>Transcendentalism</i></p> <p>Wed Nov 19 9:15 Newsletter Mailing</p> <p>Thu Nov 20 7:30 "<i>Witnessing Whiteness</i>" Book and<br/>                  Discussion Group</p> <p>Fri Nov 21    7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i></p> <p>Sun Nov 23 4:00 Coming of Age Dinner</p> <p>Mon Nov 24 7:00 <i>Transcendentalism</i></p> <p>Thu Nov 27    Holiday—Office Closed</p> <p>Fri Nov 28    Holiday—Office Closed</p> |
|---|--|



## First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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### NOVEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

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The **December Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, November 10**, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, November 19.

**News items should be limited to 100 words.**

### Don't Miss...

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#### HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR

Saturday, November 1  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

*At the Concord Armory*

#### TRANSCENDENTALISM:

#### THE DREAM AND THE DREAMERS

Mondays, Oct. 27 through Dec. 1  
7:00–8:30 p.m.

*With Rev. Jenny Rankin*

### First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

#### Staff

**Gary E. Smith**, Senior Minister  
**Jenny M. Rankin**, Minister  
**Melissa Perdue Gallo**, Business Manager

**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 Koplou**, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road

**A. Bigay**, Assistant to the Ministers  
**Douglas Baker**, Sacristan and Curator  
**Jane Johnson**, Office Manager  
**Peggy Gallo**, Financial Secretary and Collector  
**Abby White**, Director of Member Services  
**Faith Bade**, Social Action Program Director  
**Kate Keleher**, Newsletter Editor  
**Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson**, Newsletter Staff



### **YES, VIRGINIA, THERE WILL BE A CHRISTMAS TEA!**

Thanks to our neighbors at Trinitarian Congregational Church on Walden Street, there will be a Christmas concert and tea this year on Tuesday, December 9! Save the date. The music program will be held in their sanctuary at 3 p.m., followed by tea in their parish hall at 4 p.m. All First Parish folks and friends are invited to participate in this long-standing tradition.



**Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00**

**Phone: 978-369-9602**

**Fax: 978-369-8701**

**E-Mail: [fpconcord@aol.com](mailto:fpconcord@aol.com)**

**Website: [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)**

#### Ministers' E-Mail:

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**Jenny M. Rankin: [revjenny@comcast.net](mailto:revjenny@comcast.net)**

**Margie King Saphier: [mksaphier@comcast.net](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net)**

**Angela Herrera: [aherrera@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:aherrera@hds.harvard.edu)**