

The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Dear Friends:

The sunlight of a September morning fills my sunroom as I write, thinking back to Opening Sunday and the Sanctuary filled with your faces. It is always a wonder to return in September and see the children stream in and the adults take their places. I see your faces and I remember your stories, stories of relationship, connection, loss, adventure, illness, new beginnings. It is all there, mixing together in the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning. All our strength and fragility, our hopes and fears, our worries and thanksgivings. We are not alone. It is good to be back together.

On Opening Sunday our theme was “coming home.” Returning to the spiritual home we call First Parish, we gave thanks for the beauty of our new building. And we remembered those who have no home. The social action theme for this year is “home” as we consider ways that we, as a community, can go be more of a champion for those who are marginalized, powerless, pushed to the edges of our society. We begin to vision new ways First Parish can protect and defend the planet that is our home.



We have been a community on the move during construction and there is such a feeling of energy and “gathering together” as we come back into our new home this fall. I am looking forward to participating with you in the Crop Walk, the Auction, and all the other activities. I am also looking forward to continuing my study of transcendentalism, first in classes this fall, and then on a three-month sabbatical, January, February and

March. To me, the transcendentalists, are people who embody what it means to live an engaged life, awake, seeing things through a spiritual lens, appreciating the divine in nature, always trying to make their world a better place. Their energy and spiritual depth are inspiring to me and perhaps to you as well.

Christian Morgenstern once wrote, “Home is not where you live but where they understand you.” I hope you will find here a place where you are known and understood. We encourage folks to find a group within the church, be it choir, covenant group, a social action project, something within religious education. That is a jump start toward making connections with others and getting to know the lay of the land in this big and busy place. Please know that our doors are open. I love to sit down and meet with people in my office, to get to know a little more of your story, to get to know you a little better.

In faith,

— *Jenny Rankin*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 4

Gary Smith, preaching
(Earl Smith, Gary’s brother, will join Gary in the pulpit.)
9:00 & 11:00 – Children’s Choirs
Tree Song – Medema
9:00 – First Parish Choir
Bright Morning Star – Squatrito
11:00 – Gospel Choir

October 11

Margie King Saphier, preaching
9:00 – First Parish Choir
Hineh Ma Tov – arr. Levine
Esto les Digo – Lange
11:00 – Emily Melcher, vocalist

October 18

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir
Davidian Dithyramb – Paranjoti
O Sweet, Radiant Mystery – Dalton

October 25

Gary Smith, preaching
Celebrating Jericho Road
9:00 – Gospel Choir
11:00 – First Parish Choir
My Soul Is a River – Allway
African Benediction – Dearman

Don't Miss...

WPA LUNCHEON!

Tuesday, October 20
Social Time: 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon: Noon

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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There are three inserts with this newsletter:

- ◆ Auction information
- ◆ Wright Tavern Courses
- ◆ WPA letter
- ◆ Eco-lawn information

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

Monday, October 19
Monday, November 16
Monday, December 14

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

PARISH NOTES

First Parish Theater Project

Reading Plays — Sharing Talents and Ideas — Coordinating Possibilities

Many members of our First Parish congregation love the stage. We thought it might be fun to get together to see where our interest in theater — both musical and not — might lead us. We will plan to meet regularly to read some plays with the idea of doing some staged readings and have some fun. The First Parish Theater Project will meet the first Friday of each month. All are welcome, even if you haven't yet been on stage. Come on Friday, October 2, at 7 p.m. to talk, read and play. For more information, contact **Lillian Anderson** at lillianand@comcast.net or **Claudia Nimar** at cnimar@aol.com.

Transylvania Student Sponsorship Program 2009-2010

We are introducing two new categories for those new to the program — Contributor and Pen Pal. *Sponsors* are asked to provide \$400 a year for four years and to correspond regularly with their high school students. A *Contributor* is someone who wishes only to provide financial aid, and a *Pen Pal* is someone who wishes only to correspond with a student. We hope that we will be able to create pairings so that all students will have a correspondent. If you would like to become a Sponsor, Contributor or Pen Pal, please contact **Sue Beck** at sbeck345@comcast.net or 978-369-8445. We hope to have a list of new freshmen by September 30.

Diversity Committee Film Presentation

The Diversity Committee will present the 90-minute documentary film *Preacher's Sons* on Sunday, October 4, at 7 p.m. This is the intimate, provocative story of UU Rev. Greg Stewart, his longtime partner (now husband), and their five adopted sons. Moving around the country over a five-year period, they learn that when it comes to racism and homophobia, where you live makes quite a difference! This is an intimate portrait of a family growing together in love. It explores the issues of same-sex marriage and parenting, transracial adoption, and the effect of society's attitudes on the well-being of children and their parents. The filmmaker, C. Roebuck Reed, will attend the screening, and will offer a question-and-answer session afterward. More information can be found at www.preacherssons.com.

WPA Luncheon Meeting on October 20

The Women's Parish Association is pleased to bring you a special speaker at this month's luncheon meeting on Tuesday, October 20. Renowned author Bonnie Hurd Smith will talk about the life and legacy of Judith Sargent Murray and the effect that her writings had on the advancement of women. Judith's family's involvement in Universalism and her subsequent marriage to John Murray have been considered significant reasons why women have always had leadership roles in Universalism. The social time will start at 11:30 a.m. and the buffet lunch will begin at noon sharp, followed by the program and book signings. All men and women are invited. The charge is eight dollars. Contact the church office or **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net by October 17 for reservations, child care or transportation requests.

The Emerson Forum Quarterly Meeting on October 26

The topic for discussion will be "Emerson's Transcendentalism and How It Affected American Thought." The speakers will include both

Parish Notes continued on page 10

COVENANT GROUPS

Do you wonder if a Covenant Group is for you? Please read what **David Downing** has to say as to why he belongs to a group:

“The covenant group I have been part of has been meeting for more than six years. There has been very little turnover among the members. We are fortunate to have a wide range of ages in the group, close to forty years, and experiences among the members. We think of ourselves more in the category of small group ministry, the other name for covenant groups. We typically have fewer than ten people at a session and minister to each other by listening deeply and with respect to what each other says. It has been a privilege to get to know the people in the group at a deeper level through our discussions of such topics as acceptance, What I Believe, awe and solitude. Many times I have found myself thinking more about a topic on my way home from a meeting and for days afterward. These sessions help me live out the UU principles because I am hearing others every few weeks talk about trying hard to live them out too.

A few years ago, when I was at a meeting with Gary, he asked everyone what they considered their own ministry to be. I found that a daunting thought. How could I minister to anyone when I struggled with just being the best person I could be? I now believe our covenant group helps all of us to minister to one another. We affirm one another, witness

Covenant Groups continued on page 9

SUNDAY FORUMS

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. in the Ellen Emerson Room. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call **Robert Hilsinger** or **Charles Lowell** if you would like to suggest a topic or a speaker.

October 25, 2009

Health Care Reform

Phil Villers, a long-term health care activist and member of First Parish, will give a presentation and lead a discussion about health care reform in the United States. The Forum will address the current status of related legislation and provide opportunities for discussion of attendees' concerns. ♦

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

As I write this, it is a cool September day. My home office, where I am working today, is cold. The initial autumn chill brings with it excitement and anticipation, knowing that in two days we will be together again. There are many exciting programs this year. On Sunday, September 6, I delivered the sermon asking “Are We Ready?” exploring how we as individuals and a congregation can respond to emergencies, especially large-scale emergencies like a Category 4 hurricane. Do you know that households need to be self-sustaining for the first 72 hours in any storm-related emergency? It takes a tremendous amount of mobilization for a town to set up emergency shelters, 72 hours to be exact. Preparing one’s home first so we can help others is analogous to being on an airplane, that suddenly has an emergency and the oxygen masks drop. We need to put our mask on first so we are able to assist the child next to us. I hope you will attend Sheltering At Home, a two-part workshop offered October 19 and November 2, from 7 to 9 p.m. at First Parish that will start you on your way to making your home ready to “weather” many types of emergencies. It will be taught free of charge by staff from Concord’s Emergency Management Agency. Learn concrete, hands-on ways you can help yourself, your family, your neighborhood and the FP community to become ready. The Readiness Team is exploring how First Parish can best serve the congregation and the greater Concord area during a large-scale emergency. If you are interested in this work, please contact me at mksaphier@comcast.net.

I am very excited that **Jenny Rankin** and I will be offering Coming of Age for Adults starting in October. In the belief that we are always growing and evolving, participants will have the opportunity to explore their beliefs and why they have been drawn to this free faith. Please check the Wright Tavern listings for more information.

Flu Precautions: With all the talk about H1N1 (swine) flu and regular flu, it is important for all of us to know what precautions we should take to limit the spread of this highly contagious virus. The recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Health and Human Services are “if you or your child has a sore throat, runny nose and/or a fever of 100.4 degrees, you should stay home and should not return to the community until free of symptoms without using acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin or Advil) for at least 24 hours.”

Washing hands thoroughly after coughing or sneezing or using alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also essential steps to reducing the spread of the flu. For more information regarding precautions you can take at home, please check the Pastoral Care bulletin board or go to www.mass.gov/dph/flu and www.cdc.gov. Especially recommended is the DPH booklet “Flu: What You Can Do: Caring for People at Home.” ♦

—*Margie King Saphier*

MONEY MATTERS

The budget was finalized in early August. We received some additional pledges over the summer, and some adjustments were made to some other income line items, bringing our total budgeted income to \$1,123,065, an increase of \$23,115 over the budget presented at the Annual Meeting. Expense projections increased as well, bringing the expected expense budget to \$1,126,119, an increase of \$8,727.

	ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET	FINALIZED FY10 BUDGET	CHANGE
Income	\$1,099,950	\$1,123,065	\$23,115
Expense	\$1,117,392	\$1,126,119	\$ 8,727
Gap	(\$17,442)	(\$ 3,054)	

Pledge income for this year is projected to be \$828,665, which is total dollars pledged, discounted 5 percent.

The Standing Committee has approved the use of Retained Earnings to cover the \$3,000 gap, removing the necessity for a staff furlough. The staff is very grateful to the Standing Committee for this! Overall, we'll be watching closely to see if our budget estimates hold, and if we need to make further adjustments, we'll do so during the fiscal year. ♦

—Melissa Perdue Gallo

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Réka Gagyí, a past youth group president of our partner church in Székelykeresztúr was a member of the delegation that visited First Parish last year. She returned to Concord this summer as a work exchange student at Verrill Farm, living with Bill and Sherry Seaver. Here she reminisces for us about her experience.

“Everyone knows about Alice in Wonderland who had a slightly scary, but happy dream. That’s how I’ve felt. Sometimes I think about all that has happened to me this summer and I just can’t believe it’s real. It’s like a dream.

Two years ago I didn’t think that I would ever be able to come to the United States. Now I am here for a second time, and I am so thankful for God, for my parents and for all my friends here and at home. It’s amazing! I never thought that people could be as nice as the Seavers were, because they barely knew me and yet I was spending the summer with them. Now I feel like a family member.

Things were hard at first. I didn’t speak much English and I asked myself, “Réka, what are you doing here?” But soon everything was fine. The Seavers always asked about my day and were interested in how I was feeling. It was like I was their daughter. In Transylvania, when I arrive at home, my mom always says “hi,” and kisses me in the Hungarian way. I really missed my mom’s greeting, but Sherry did this every day, which helped me feel at home.

Before I left, I was also afraid that I would be lonely. I felt so welcome when I again met Peter, Cynthia, Tracey, Deb and Winslow. They too greeted me with that Hungarian welcoming kiss. I will never forget this.

It’s also wonderful when everyone sings one of our Transylvanian songs, “Find a Stillness,” during Church here. After one service, I sent an e-mail to József in Keresztúr to say “congratulations,” because I see that the connection between our churches is much bigger than just a designated relationship. I remember last fall when Gary said that he and József are like brothers. I feel the same about my friends here, like I’ve known them for 100 years.

Sometimes it’s hard to feel close to others, like when I’m busy at university. But I experienced true friendship many times this summer: I remember when Claire, Lauren, Lisa and Camilla, who are all best friends, took me out to have fun on Claire’s birthday. That was special, because they wanted to include me. I remember a Fischelis family gathering in Vermont when Sidney said, “Réka, you’re a Fish member too...” That meant a lot too. I also remember when I worked at Open Table with Joan and Hayle. I had never met Hayle before, but she was like a sister from the start.

It’s incredible to see how so many have been so helpful when you have only known me a short time. When I had a painful broken tooth, a horrible weekend for me, Connor was there to provide

Partner Church Notes

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New Opportunity for Musical Fellowship and Service

If you love to sing and long to serve through music, consider being part of a new group forming at First Parish called the Threshold Choir. We will meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month beginning October 15, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. At our meetings we will sing healing music for ourselves and for each other, from hymns to chants, and as needed by the community, we will take our music out; to people in need of healing, from homes to hospice beds and beyond.

For more information, contact Laurie Corelle at laurelcorelle@yahoo.com or Music Director **Beth Norton** at music@firstparish.org, phone 978-369-9602, x420.

PIPEWORK

We are pleased to report that the organ project continues to move along smoothly and on schedule. During the last four months the organ area in the balcony has been fully rehabbed and prepared for the new instrument. To cap things off, the walls and ceiling of the organ chamber have received a fresh coat of paint, quite possibly for the first time in 107 years! They now match the rest of the Sanctuary.



New pipe chests

On September 8, the first new pipe chests arrived from the subcontractor in Erie, Pennsylvania and were skillfully maneuvered up to the balcony by the organ builders and volunteers from the congregation. The two largest

This past summer **Gary Smith** sent me a message from Maine: “I’d like to come to the first choir rehearsal and read page 185 from *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* — just beautiful.”

And so the First Parish Choir began our season with these words from Muriel Barbery’s novel. For me, they perfectly capture the power of choral singing for the singer and the listener:

“...Everyday life vanishes into song, you are suddenly overcome with a feeling of brotherhood, of deep solidarity, even love, and it diffuses the ugliness of everyday life in to a spirit of perfect communion.”



Song is at the heart of the music ministry at First Parish, which encompasses diverse opportunities for singers of all ages and all experience. Our Junior Choir for first through third graders, our Chalice Choir for fourth through sixth graders, Gospel Choir for seventh through 12th graders, and the First Parish Choir for adults and interested youth. These are more structured choirs of singers who build community in song, lead our congregational singing and reach out to the wider community through music. Singers are welcome to join at any time. (See www.firstparish.org/cms/music for more information.)

More informally, there’s Rise Up Singing, our lively and growing folk music group that meets the fourth Friday of each month. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages and stages come together for these magical evenings. The spontaneous harmonies that rise out of that circle can be awe inspiring.

Starting this month, we begin a new singing group for adults interested in musical community and service. On October 15, we will begin a Threshold Choir (see separate article above). This healing chorus will honor an ancient tradition of singing for people who are struggling with life, illness or approaching death. Our music will include simple songs, rounds, hymns and chants. Initially, the choir will meet to learn music and support one another, but as we gain repertoire and confidence, members will be available to go out in groups of two to four to sing at the homes and bedsides of parishioners who request this comfort.

I am very excited about this new addition to the First Parish music ministry and I am thankful to Laurie Corelle for providing the energy and vision to get it started. I know there are many parishioners for whom music is an integral part of their spiritual practice.

Please, let me know about your ideas for deepening our congregation’s music ministry.

I’ll let Muriel Barbary provide my closing:

“In the end, I wonder if the true movement of the world might not be a voice raised in song.”

Amen. ♦

— *Beth Norton*

REFLECTION AND RE NEWS

When we worship together in our Sanctuary, our order of service provides us with a certain level of expectation and consistency. Some of us look forward to singing, some to silent meditation, some to the sermon and others to the benediction. These elements provide a sense of comfort for us, especially in times of uncertainty in our personal lives...and when isn't there uncertainty?



Our children are, in many ways, just smaller adults. They, too, find comfort in some predictability in their religious education classroom. They count on seeing **Carol Duane**, year after year. They feel secure when the same teachers show up consistently for seven weeks in a row. They feel trust when they develop lasting relationships with our dedicated teens, who help with several of our programs. And, like us, they enjoy the predictable structure of their own order of service for our Spirit Play and Story Play curricula.

Our children gather together in our sacred circle, they light our chalice, and say our UU prayer in an intentional way. We also make time to express joys and concerns — allowing each child who is willing to share a personal joy in her life or a sadness that may be troubling her. This simple ritual teaches our young children how to reflect on their lives and express their feelings in a supportive, loving environment.

It is these rituals that make church church, so to speak. Our children's experience on Sunday mornings should feel different from soccer and school. We, as a faith community, need to provide opportunities for our children to connect with each other and with themselves at a different and more spiritual level than what they experience in their secular lives. By lighting a chalice, saying a comforting prayer, and sharing our lives, dreams, and vision of ourselves, we create this shared feeling of being part of something larger than ourselves. ♦

— Pam Howell

October RE Calendar

Sun., Oct. 4	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Regular RE for K–8th Grades
Sun., Oct. 11	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Blessing of the Animals, Grades 2-6
	No RE for 7th and 8th Grades
Fri. & Sat., Oct. 16 & 17	COA Fall Retreat
Sun., Oct. 18	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Regular RE for K–8th Grades
Sun., Oct. 25	Regular RE for Babies–4 years
	Regular RE for K–8th Grades
	9th Grade, Opening Reception, 4–6 p.m.

RE Orientation Dates for 2009-2010

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

Orientation Schedule for 2nd–6th Grade Workshop Rotation:

Term 2: Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Term 3: Wednesday, January 6, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Term 4: Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Week 3: It Is in My Nature to Save

We will explore the story of “The Monk and the Scorpion.” The monk explains his calling to do what he feels compelled to do. “Saving others” is his special gift. We will ask our children to look within themselves and bring forth a special gift they have. What is your dharma? For many UU's, this gift often includes a call to social justice, a “spiritual doing.”

One of the workshops this week will focus on Conserving Water. We will divide into two smaller groups. One group will look at the First Parish Water Challenge and learn ways we can protect our earth and conserve the amount of water we use. We will play a game to test our knowledge of water use. We will also challenge our kids to try and live on just one gallon of water on a Saturday or Sunday. Many in the world have only this amount for their entire day. Building empathy in this experiential way is a powerful tool to enable our children to understand limited resources and how we can help others in the larger world by simple actions in our own homes.

Week 4: Two Workshops: The Science of Water and Conservation of Water

We will begin in Chapel together with the story of the Mystic and the Scientist. Here, we explore the question, “Does God exist?” Both a scientist and mystic try to answer this complex question, each arriving at a similar conclusion. As UU's, we embrace the idea that within each unique person is a unique expression of the concept of God. For a child, this may be a very concrete idea. For older children, they begin to wrestle with the abstract ideas about God. We invite existential discussions about God, allowing each person to arrive at her own personal conclusions about the existence — or not — of something larger than the self.

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Of the two workshops this week, one will explore the science of water through art. We will be looking at the great scientist and artist Leonardo Da Vinci, and how he was greatly inspired by the mysterious properties of water. We will look at water through microscopes and create drawings of these microscopic images.

The other workshop will help our children understand limited resources and how we can help others in the larger world by simple actions in our own homes.

As Unitarian Universalists, we embrace science as a beautiful way to explore the wonder of our earth and of our being. Science and religion are often depicted as oppositional and divergent studies. Our goal here is the opposite. Science and religion can work together to build understanding of both our outer and inner worlds.

Week 5: The Harvest

We do not often spend time contemplating the dirt around us; the life dirt gives us through the death of other things. Dirt is compost. It is the reduction of life into dust. All organic living matter will one day become dirt and therefore will one day give life again. Dirt provides food and nourishment to our living bodies. Dirt is a treasure that often goes unnoticed in our lives.

The story "The Buried Treasure" explores this concept. It is a humorous story of brothers searching endlessly for treasure only to find it right under their noses. This story will lead us into a discussion about the First Parish garden and the food it provided for Open Table.

After our discussion, we will have two activities. The first will be grinding corn from the harvest. The second will be creating centerpieces for Open Table from produce grown from Gaining Ground. Both will be hands-on projects that will apply our faith covenant toward social justice in our world.

Week 6: Preparing for All Souls Day

For the next two weeks we will be learning about the Mexican celebration of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). In Mexico, it is their culture to honor passed loved ones through great celebrations. They spend much time creating altars that celebrate the lives of those they love. These altars include favorite foods, music, flowers and images.

This week we will explore this tradition that falls on All Souls Day. We will decorate homemade sugar skulls together and begin thinking of someone in our own lives we miss.

If your child has had a difficult loss in his or her life recently, I encourage you to get in touch with me. Loss is something we all must learn to endure and accept in our lives, and understanding your child's needs is very important to me and our teachers for this term. ♦

The senior leaders and I met at my house for dinner on a beautiful day at the end of the summer. I was so impressed with how this group of leaders wanted to use our initial youth groups to set a tone of acceptance. They hope that all youth feel like they can come any Sunday and feel welcomed and part of the group; they hope that youth group is a place where cliques dissolve in an open atmosphere.

One of the most important ways we build community is by going on a retreat in September. The youth get a chance to "chill out," and get to know each other in a rustic setting. This year's retreat was at the Farm and Wilderness Center in Plymouth, Vermont.

This year we will not be sending the monthly youth newsletter, *What's the Deal*, in the mail after September to save money. We will scan it onto the Youth Calendar. All youth information will be on the First Parish website; click on "Religious Education" and then "Youth Calendar." The youth have planned the following activities for October.

- Oct. 4 — One on Ones
- Oct. 11 — No YRUU for Columbus Day Weekend
- Oct. 18 — Agree/Disagree
- Oct. 25 — Field Trip to Witches Woods, leaving First Parish at 6:00 p.m. and returning at 9:00; permission slip on the website

Fall is such a busy, hectic time as we settle into our new routines. The YAC is putting a lot of thought and energy into creating a youth program at First Parish that can be an oasis of peace, a place for youth to feel connected and a place to grow one's soul in these busy times. As always, call or e-mail me with any ideas, questions or comments. ♦

— *Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



As I write this Homecoming Sunday just ended and it was a wonderful day here at First Parish. The sense of community and the sense that everyone was “home” was tangible. The SAC

Board introduced its theme of “Home” for the year — an organizing concept useful for our programs and our parishioners as they search for the opportunities to “go out into the world” in a way that meets their needs best.

We also introduced a SAC insert with a brief summary of upcoming events in SAC during September and October. This insert information is also available on the Web at www.firstparish.org under Social Action, Events.

An Environmental Leadership Visioning event is planned at First Parish on September 23. As we move ahead this year we are working to define the role that First Parish can play in the myriad of environmental programs operating within the Concord community and beyond. I hope you joined us and if not, please contact me to become involved.

As always, contact me with your causes and concerns. ♦

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

SAC Grants Application Deadline November 1

The next deadline for SAC Grant applications is November 1, 2009. A new application will be available online by the end of September. The policy revisions from last year are posted online. An opportunity for public comment on applications will be announced in the near future. Say tuned!

Shop at Lord and Taylor's and Support UUSC on October 6

Combine your love of shopping with the work of the UUSC by joining us on Tuesday, October 6, at the Lord & Taylor Benefit Bash! Purchase a Benefit Bash ticket for \$5 and receive entrance to the day's event, a 20 percent discount on a single item and an all-day 15 percent discount coupon — more savings if you have or open a Lord & Taylor credit card. Shop at the following Lord & Taylor's from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.: Prudential

Center, Boston; South Shore Plaza, Braintree; Natick Mall, Natick; and Burlington Mall, Burlington. Tickets are available at coffee hour or you can contact **Sue Beck**, sbeck345@comcast.net.

UUA Officially Recognizes First Parish as a Green Sanctuary

After much work by Green Sanctuary Committee members, friends, sextons and senior staff over the past several years, the UUA has officially recognized First Parish as a Green Sanctuary. This major milestone and honor recognizes that we are incorporating respect for the interdependent web of all existence in parish operations, RE programs, worship services and our personal lives; that we are striving to continually improve our impact on the living Earth. Congratulations to First Parish!

Get Involved! Jericho Road Project Opportunities

We have several exciting volunteer opportunities in Lowell this fall, including a teaching opportunity relating to small business and the law, business planning for a new service, and website development. For more information, contact Jodi DiLibertis at jdilibertis@jerichoroadproject.org.

Join Jenny! 2009 Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry

The Concord Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, October 18; registration is at 1:30 p.m., step off at 2:15 p.m. at First Parish. This walk raises funds for seven local area food pantries and supper clubs, and also for Church World Service to use for global disaster relief and development projects. **Jenny Rankin** will be walking, and invites others to join her. You may pick up sponsor forms or make a donation to sponsor Jenny at coffee hour. Online pledging is available; see www.concordcrop.org to find out how to join the First Parish team, or sponsor Jenny or other team members. Contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org with any questions.

350.org Event at Old North Bridge October 24

On October 24, from 2 to 4 p.m., a Regional Energy Revolution Rally is scheduled at Concord's North Bridge as part of a Global Day of Climate Action sparked by Bill McKibben's www.350.org movement. The goal is to send a message to decision makers at the United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen in December regarding greenhouse gas emissions. First Parish strongly supports participation in this event; seventh graders are creating a “350” art project; and there is a possible lay-led service on Friday evening October 23. For more information, attend the “Green Visioning” event at church on September 23; visit www.concordcan.org, or talk with **Bob Andrews** at 978-369-2876.

Government Abuse of Asylum Seekers Subject Talks

“Jailed Without Justice: Our Government's Abuse of Asylum Seekers and Other Immigrants” will be the subject of talks by two speakers, one of them formerly a detained immigrant himself, at First Parish in Concord on Wednesday, October 28, at 7 p.m. Sponsored by Amnesty International Group 15 and the Social Action Community of First Parish. Free. All are invited.

Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

The First Parish Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org; see our website, www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/; visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at FBade@firstparish.org.

comfort and distract me in the middle of the night. The next day John Atkins visited me at work to assess my problem. When he later worked on my teeth, I cried because I was so happy that someone cared and took care of me.

And there have been many others, more than I can mention. I am so grateful. I wonder why God has showed up so often. Why did Cynthia call every day to check how my tooth and I were doing? Although I was once afraid of being lonely, I haven't been, thanks to the support and friendship from so many here who have made me feel welcome and have helped me in so many ways. *Isten Aldjon!* God bless! 🙏

—Lillian Anderson and Winslow Pettingell, PCC cochairs

Covenant Groups continued from page 3

each other's ever-developing spirituality, and have the privilege to help each other grow.

Before I joined the group, I believed I was one of a very few people who thought about spiritual issues on a daily basis. Not anymore." ♦

Below are Covenant Groups that are accepting new members:

Sunday, 4–5:30 p.m. on October 11, November 15, and December 13; contact **Bill Seaver** at billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318.

First and third Sunday of the month, 7–8:30 p.m.; contact **Mark Richards** at mark.s.richards@verizon.net or 978-771-9823.

First and third Tuesday of the month, 2–3:30 p.m.; contact **Don Miller** at donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 781-646-4965.

Tuesdays, 7–8:30 p.m., contact **David Downing**; dowdav@earthlink.net or 978-263-8454.

Every other Thursday from 1–2:30 p.m.; contact **Fred Van Deusen** at fredvandeusen@aol.com or 978-369-0435.

Please contact **Rev. Margie King Saphier** at mksaphier@comcast.net with any questions.

DEVELOPMENTMENTS

As I hit the ground running in my first two weeks as development director, exploration of First Parish's history has been inspirational; from 374-year-old roots to colonial rebellion, abolition, suffrage, transcendentalism, civil rights, human rights, global sustainability and philanthropy. I relished the opportunity to put faces to names and enjoyed meeting many of you at Homecoming services. The volume of activity surely is extraordinary and none of it would be possible without your generosity. Working together, my aim is to establish a comprehensive resource development operation to serve current priorities and build a solid foundation for First Parish's future. ♦

—Janet Fletcher Hauswirth

Development Director

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

As First Parish gathers together for another year, it is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I join the staff as Membership Director. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you, whether you are a longtime member or a new friend, and the gifts and talents that you bring to First Parish. It is my belief that each person has a gift to bring to any community, and that we are truly at our best when we freely share and openly accept these gifts, whether chairing a committee or baking for coffee hour.

I look forward to helping engage, enhance and grow the membership of First Parish. And I hope you will help me too by wearing your nametag on Sunday morning! ♦

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's AM/PM Book Group—2009/2010 Schedule!

For October, the Women's Book Group will be reading *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Strout. The evening discussion will be Monday, October 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning discussion on Tuesday, October 27, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., with both meetings at First Parish.

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 or 978-369-1471. ♦

Books and Dates for 2009-2010:

Nov 30, Dec 1	<i>Lydia Cassatt: Reading the Morning Paper</i> , by Harriet Scott Chessman
Jan 25, 26	<i>Infidel</i> , by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
Feb 22, 23	<i>Black Swan Green: A Novel</i> , by David Mitchell
Mar 29, 30	<i>She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders</i> , by Jennifer Finney Boylan
Apr 26, 27	<i>The Elegance of the Hedgehog</i> , by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson (translator)
May 24, 25	<i>My Life in France</i> , by Julia Child, with Alex Prud'Homme
June tbd	Potluck; suggestions for next year

CLASSIFIED

Apartment for Rent

Available: a two-bedroom apartment within walking distance of First Parish. If interested, please call 978-369-4423.

STANDING COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday evening, October 5, at 6:30 p.m. Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the bulletin board. ♦

Parish Notes

continued from page 2

Jenny Rankin and **Jayne Gordon**, Director of Education and Public Programs, Massachusetts Historical Society. The focus will be the origins of transcendentalism, its development and impact on American society, and where it stands today in Unitarian Universalist thinking. The meeting will be held in the Emerson Room on Monday, October 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. All are welcome; there is no charge. For more information, contact **Mel Bernstein** at mbern9@gmail.com or 781-259-9926.

Transcendentalists Committee

The new First Parish Transcendentalists Committee got off to a heady start this fall. Our first meeting, on September 20, celebrated Sophia Peabody Hawthorne's 200th birthday. The committee will meet again on Thursday, October 15, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the scope of our participation in the Margaret Fuller bicentennial events as well as plans for future travel abroad. On October 30, we join with the Thoreau Society in sponsoring an evening presentation, with Kevin Radaker delivering Thoreau's defense of John Brown, first given in 1859.

Holiday Artisans Fair—November 7

Plans are well under way for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, November 7. With our additional facilities, we will be able to add several more artists and artisans selling a wide variety of fantastic, unique gift items. Food will be served throughout the day. Bring all your friends to do some great holiday shopping. Entrance fees are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children, with no charge for children under five years of age. Contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net or the church office if you would like to help on this important, fun-filled event or donate high quality items for our regifting table. Only items suitable for holiday gifts will be accepted.

OCTOBER 2009 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.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 10/11)
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Being Older and Wiser</i>	Tuesday	12:00 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
<i>Pen, Paper, Soul</i>	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction & Relaxation</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/1)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction & Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 10/2)

Thu Oct 1	2:00	<i>Healing Arts</i>	.	Mon Oct 19	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
Fri Oct 2	7:00	First Parish Theater Project	.		7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>
Sun Oct 4	1:00	<i>Healing Arts</i>	.		7:00	Emergency Preparedness
	4:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>	.		7:00	<i>Making Art from Life II</i>
Mon Oct 5	6:30	Standing Committee	.		7:00	Jericho Road Board Meeting
	7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>	.		7:30	<i>Introduction to Humanism</i>
	7:00	RE Council	.	Tue Oct 20	11:30	WPA Luncheon
	7:30	<i>Introduction to Humanism</i>	.	Wed Oct 21	12:15	<i>Sandwiches and Short Stories</i>
Wed Oct 7	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	.		7:00	<i>Making Art from Life I</i>
	12:00	<i>Adult Coming of Age</i>	.		7:30	RE Orientation
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	.	Thu Oct 22	7:00	<i>Healing Arts</i>
Thu Oct 8	7:00	<i>Healing Arts</i>	.	Fri Oct 23	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Sat Oct 10	9:00	Photo Club	.	Sun Oct 25	4:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>
Sun Oct 11	12:15	Green Sanctuary Meeting	.		4:00	Sarasa Concert
Mon Oct 12		Holiday — Office Closed	.	Mon Oct 26	7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>
	7:00	YRUU	.		7:00	Emergency Preparedness
Tue Oct 13	2:00	<i>To Move or Not to Move</i>	.		7:00	Emerson Forum
	3:00	<i>Tea and Poetry</i>	.		7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Wed Oct 14	12:00	<i>Adult Coming of Age</i>	.	Tue Oct 27	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	7:00	<i>Making Art from Life I</i>	.	Wed Oct 28	12:00	<i>Adult Coming of Age</i>
Thu Oct 15	2:00	<i>Healing Arts</i>	.		7:00	<i>Making Art from Life I</i>
	7:30	Threshold Choir	.	Thu Oct 29	2:00	<i>Healing Arts</i>
Fri Oct 16	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	.	Fri Oct 30	7:00	<i>Thoreau's John Brown Talk</i>
Sun Oct 18	1:30	Crop Walk	.	Sat Oct 31	9:30	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers Workshop
	4:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</i>	.			

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Finally we have crossed the Rubicon in your year-long-plus renovation project. All areas and levels of the expanded RE wing have passed local and state inspections, including the new elevator. The final top layer of driveway pavement was installed on September 4 and 10, and the granite patio pavers have been set in place.

Your new elevator connects all three levels of both the church and RE wing via six stops. This provides total accessibility for any person with a mobility issue and provides for the easy transfer of AV equipment and other materials. This new elevator is also a state of the art “green machine,” devoid of the usual hydraulic oils, and consumes only 30 percent of the electric energy used by older models.

September will see the completion of the courtyard landscaping and hvac controls, and the Chapel interior finishes will conclude the project.

It has been a pleasure being your owner’s project representative for this very visible and important building improvement project for the historic First Parish in Concord. ♦

Regards,

—Ron Catella, Owner’s Representative

Pipework

continued from page 5

chests weighed 800-900 pounds crated!

Work is continuing at the Russell shop in Vermont on bellows and pipe enclosures for the various divisions of the instrument. These components will arrive and be installed as we move through the autumn months.

Stay tuned! ♦



Tom Wilson with parts of the pipe chest.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: FPCConcord@firstparish.org

Website: firstparish.org

Ministers’ E-Mail:

Gary E. Smith: garyesmith@firstparish.org

Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net

Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Cassy Bosworth, Assistant to the Ministers

Janet Fletcher Hauswirth, Development Director

Jane Foley, Membership Director

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Jane Barnes, Religious Education Administrator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

The November Newsletter deadline is Monday, October 19, at noon. The Newsletter will be published the last week in October.

News items should be limited to 100 words.

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

Eric Huenneke, Organist

Anderson Manuel, Youth Gospel Choir Director

Gail Carey, Children’s Choir Director

David Huston, Music Director Emeritus

Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director

Leslie Koplow, Operations Manager, Jericho Road

Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

Jane Johnson, Office Manager

Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector

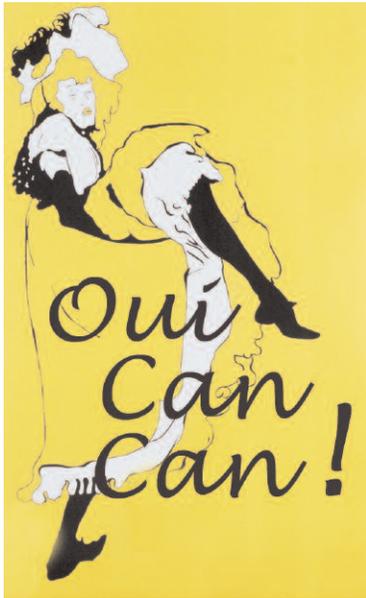
Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director

Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor

Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff

First Parish Auction 2009 — Mastering the Art of French Bidding!

Saturday, November 14



French Dinner at 7:00 p.m., Live Auction at 8:00 p.m.

Raffles and a Special Grand Prize!

Tickets, \$25, at Coffee Hours and First Parish Office

Watch for the Silent Auction Online, coming soon to FirstParish.org!

AND, here's what YOU can do...*

Offer any one of these donations or suggest ones of your own, join the Auction team and, of course, plan to be there November 14!

- **Donation Suggestions: The sky's the limit!**

- Vacation Home — near or far, large or small, a week or a weekend

- Dinner (or Brunch, or a Romantic Picnic)

- A selection of Hand-picked Wine, or Fancy Food Basket

- Artwork — Photography, Jewelry, Painting

- Services — Your Specialty! Do what you do!

- Food or Flowers, delivered to your door

- Pet-sitting or Baby-sitting

- Handy-man for a day

- Guided Tours

- **Other Donation options....**

- Host a Party! A special holiday party or a dance!

* ...even more ways to get to get involved...

Volunteers are needed for party decorations, cooking, hosting/serving, set-up and clean-up; your offer will be gratefully received at coffee hours, or contact the Auction Co-chairs, Lillian Anderson, at LillianAnd@comcast.net or Margaret Stewart, at MJS.ontheroad@gmail.com.

The First Parish auction is a great social event, an opportunity to bid on unique offerings from First Parish friends and neighbors, and an important fundraiser that's also lots of fun! Don't miss the chance to contribute and participate!



for *Spiritual Renewal*

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives
October 2009

*Online Registration is now available for selected courses. Please visit our web site at www.wrighttavern.org for full course descriptions, presenter bios, and registration forms. With questions about class availability, contact *Cassy Bosworth* at 978-369-9602.*

I. Growing Your Spirit

Yoga for Women in Midlife (beg. 10/7)

This series is designed to help develop stability, strength, flexibility and a sense of well-being which are particularly important at this stage of life. The class is a moving meditation with the intention that each woman set her own pace. It integrates breath, movement and postures for hormone balance, a healthy heart, strong bones, core strength and stress reduction, providing a nurturing environment for the spirit.

Lee Courtemanche began her personal yoga and meditation practice in the 1970's. She received her Women's Health certification and became a direct-entry midwife through the Massachusetts Midwives' Alliance. Lee has taught private and group yoga in the Boston area since 2000.

Ten classes: Wednesday, Oct. 7–Dec. 16 (no class Nov. 25).
Either 5:00–6:15 p.m. or 6:45–8:00 p.m. Fee: \$150.
Capacity: 10 students

Forgiveness (beg. 11/5)

Forgiveness is both a simple process we undertake daily to live peacefully with ourselves and others and a supremely challenging process to heal from the deeper wounds that bind our hearts. Forgiveness frees us to live and love to our full potential, and is an integral part of emotional, spiritual, and even physical healing. In this course, Elisa Pearman, M. Ed. will share folk tales and personal stories that describe and demonstrate aspects of the forgiveness process in action. We will explore applications of forgiveness in everyday life, and for the larger challenges we face. Through story sharing, discussion, writing and short mindfulness exercises, participants will practice shifting the way we story our life experiences, how we can gain empathy for ourselves and others, and how we find spiritual growth in the process.

Thursdays, Nov. 5–19, 7:00–9:00 p.m. \$60/participant

Covenant Groups (ongoing)

If you are interested in exploring topics such as acceptance, friendship, letting go, evil, death, etc., in an intimate group, consider joining a Covenant Group. Groups of fewer than ten people meet at least once per month for one and a half hours of confidential sharing of spiritual ideas and experiences. The following groups currently have openings:

Sundays, 4–5:30 p.m.; contact Bill Seaver, 978-369-7318 or billseaver@earthlink.net.

First and third Sunday of the month, 7–8:30 p.m., contact Mark Richards; mark.s.richards@verizon.net or 978-771-9823.

- First and third Tuesday of the month, 2–3:30 p.m.; contact Don Miller, donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 781-646-4965.

- Tuesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.; contact David Downing at dowdav@earthlink.net or 978-263-8454

- Every other Thursday, 1–2:30 p.m.; contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@aol.com or 978-369-0435

Pen, Paper, Soul: Writing as Spiritual Practice (beg. 10/7)

- Putting pen to paper and giving voice to what lies underneath the surface of our lives can be profoundly healing. Through ongoing writing practice, we learn to distinguish between the voice of the ego and the voice of the soul, moving beyond our monkey minds into a place of deep knowing. We'll join Rev Emily Melcher as we come to recognize, trust and respect the myriad and sometimes enigmatic expressions of our souls. Be prepared to laugh and cry as you experience the joy, pain, bliss and grief you normally keep contained! Please bring your own paper/notebook and pen/pencil.

- Wednesdays, Oct. 7–Dec. 2 (no class 11/11), 7–9:00 p.m. \$40
• Limit: 12 participants.

Making Art From Life I (beg. 10/14)

- Join artist Merrill Comeau for this exciting four-week course exploring the intersection of craft and art, where the personal story comes alive. Participants will learn methods of painting and printing on fabric and creat symbolic imagery to reflect their spiritual journey. Each session will include exercises that help participants think visually, opportunities to brainstorm and share ideas, and demonstrations and practice of varying techniques. Each person will experience sharing the visual expression of their life journey in the context of the community, leaving with tangible results of their work.

- Wednesdays Oct. 14 – Nov. 4, 7–9:00 p.m. , First Parish members: \$125, non-members: \$150

Tea and Poetry (beg. 10/13)

- After the summer break, Tea and Poetry resumes on the second Tuesday of the month, starting in October. Join Lorraine Loviglio and Rev. Margie King Saphier for afternoon tea while sharing your favorite poems and listening to others share theirs (no poetic talent required). This informal monthly gathering is for you if you enjoy poetry or always thought you would if you knew where to start. Bring a poem (or two or three) to read aloud. Relaxed and inspired, we will recall poems we may have loved years ago, discover new ones, and explore the power of poetry to move us to tears or laughter.

- Second Tuesday of the month 3–4:30 p.m., \$56/series, \$7/session

Intro to Humanism (beg. 10/5)

This four-session class will provide an overview of Humanism's philosophy and goals, and what it offers the individual and society. The first two sessions will explore history — humanist tradition in ancient Asia, Buddhism, classical Greece and Rome, through Renaissance and birth of science, Age of Reason, Kant, Enlightenment, American Revolution, Darwin and evolution. Last two sessions will explore fundamentals and lifescapes — definitions, Manifestos, varieties of humanism, how it informs meaning and purpose in life, and what it offers the individual in self-determination and in this open-ended quest to answer the question: Are you a humanist?

The course will use online material originally published by the Institute for Humanist Studies. That program is now managed, and copyright owned, by The Humanist Institute whom we thank for generous permission to use the course. Registrants will be encouraged to read online material before each session.

Mondays Oct. 5 & 19, Nov. 2 & 16, 7:30–9:00p.m., \$35

Contact Patrick Everett, pne@aol.com, or 978-369-1589 for further information, including registering.

COA for Adults (beg. 10/7)

Coming of Age for Adults: Throughout our lives, as we change and grow, we are always “coming of age.” If you have ever sat and listened to our teenagers give their “Coming of Age” credos and wished you could do the same thing, now is your opportunity. Join Revs. Jenny Rankin and Margie King Saphier and others as we explore our Unitarian Universalist tradition and ponder why we have been drawn to this free faith. We will look at the five “sources” of Unitarian Universalism, reconsider the story of how Unitarian Universalism developed around the world, pay attention to our transcendentalist forebears here in Concord, and trace the steps of the transcendentalists on a field trip in Boston. Throughout the class, there will be opportunities for in-class sharing, writing and drawing exercises as we explore our own faith development in preparation to writing our “credos.” We will share our credos with the congregation during worship on February 21, 2010. This class is designed for members of First Parish in Concord. Class fee \$50

Wednesdays, 12–1:30 p.m., Oct. 7, 14 & 28, Nov. 4 (8:30 a.m.– 4 p.m., field trip), Dec 2, January 13 & 27 and February 10. Adult Coming of Age worship service will be on Sunday, February 21, 2010 at both the 9 and 11 o'clock services.

II. Creativity As A Spiritual Path

These classes are offered throughout the year

• Sandwiches and Short Story (ongoing)

- Formerly known as “Listening for God,” this informal group meets with Gary Smith once a month to explore a story's meaning. Bring a sandwich and beverage and join us Wednesday, October 21, at 12:15 p.m. *Best American Short Stories 2008*, Salmon Rushdie, editor, pb \$14.00, will be used throughout the fall. Additional dates: November 18 and December 9

• Rise Up Singing (ongoing)

- This informal monthly musical gathering of adults and children provides participants with an opportunity to sing and share traditional and contemporary folk songs, spirituals, hymns, rounds and chants in fellowship. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you own one. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Led by Beth Norton and others. Friday, October 23, 7:30 p.m. Additional dates: Nov. 20, Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 26, April 23, and May 21. No registration necessary.

• Women's AM/PM Book Group (ongoing)

- Meeting monthly on a Monday evening 7:30 to 9, and a Tuesday morning 9:30–11. The next session meets on October 26 and 27 and will be discussing *Olive Kitteridge*, by Elizabeth Strout. Contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com for details.



**The Women's Parish Association
of the First Parish in Concord
Welcomes You!**

Dear First Parishioners,

As the President of the Women's Parish Association, I would like to welcome all women and men of our church to our meetings and activities. They are open to all, as well as to people in Concord and our nearby towns. I imagine that many of you don't know about some of the good and worthy causes that we support.

Many of you are unaware that we support fourteen charities, and give to the Capital Campaign as well as the yearly operating budget of First Parish. We raise our monies through two main fundraisers — the November Holiday Artisans Fair, to be held this year on November 7, and our annual Recycle Sale that is held in April or May of each year. This past May we held a recycle sale along with a very successful plant sale.

We hold monthly luncheon meetings, that are open to all, with guest speakers who talk about timely subjects and a variety of entertainers. We also hold a festive annual Holiday Concert and Tea in December and a Spring Concert and Tea in March each year, which are open to all First Parish folks and their friends.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at ginger.lang@verizon.net, and check each month's church newsletter for notice of our activities. We look forward to having you join us throughout the coming year!

Best regards,

Ginger Lang
WPA President



Our New Eco-Friendly Lawn

In June, when it was time to plant our new lawn, we chose an eco-friendly grass seed. Currently our eco-friendly grass seed is being friendly to some crabgrass. Here's more information about the decision to go eco-friendly and what the lawn will look like over the next 12 months.

Background on Traditional Lawns

The classic American lawn needs lots of water, fertilizer, and at least weekly mowing. As a result, 30 percent of fresh water used on the East Coast is for lawn watering. Running your lawnmower for one hour creates more pollution than driving a car from Boston to New York City.

Five billion dollars' worth of fertilizer used in the United States is made from fossil fuels. Sixty-seven million pounds of pesticides (costing \$700 million) is put on American lawns each year.

The most commonly used grass seed is fast-growing, with shallow roots. The shallow roots mean the grass doesn't get the nutrients or the water it needs naturally, so fertilizer and water must be added.

Fast-growing grass means that it not only pops up really quickly when you plant it, but it also needs to be mowed often.

Eco-Lawn Solution

The solution to this problem is a grass seed that grows a 9"-12" root system that enables it to get the nutrients and water it needs from Mother Nature. It is also a grass seed that grows much more slowly, so at maturity it can be mowed once a month rather

than once a week. The deep root system also helps it resist insects and droughts. The grass seed we chose is the fescue species rather than Kentucky bluegrass or rye. It will not look different from a traditional lawn once it has matured. And of course we will avoid fertilizer, weekly mowing charges and excessive water bills once the grass is fully established.

Assuming we don't want to use chemicals, the best way to keep crabgrass from growing in our lawn is to have a thick lawn that doesn't allow the crabgrass the sunlight to germinate.

We took advantage of our relatively cool spring and summer to do a June/July hydro-seeding of the new eco-lawn. Unfortunately that was not early enough in the season to block out the crabgrass, but we did get a head start on a fall seeding. Our plan was to seed in the summer, and then early in the fall add even more seed. The crabgrass will die naturally in late fall. By next spring things should look much better.

Information prepared by Jay Barnes, cochair of the Green Sanctuary Committee

Sources:

NASA:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=6019>

Purdue University:

<http://www.purdue.edu/envirosoft/lawn/src/environmental.htm>

People Powered Machines: <http://www.peoplepoweredmachines.com/faq-environment.htm>

Wildflower Farm: <http://www.wildflowerfarm.com>
