



The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

Have you noticed how folks at First Parish like to laugh? We often laugh during one of Gary's sermons. When a sermon provides laughter and tears with a message that speaks to the heart, I call it a "Full Monty" sermon, because it delivers the full human experience. I also believe First Parish is a "Full Monty" congregation — we laugh, we cry, we take risks, and we "go out into the world." We are not perfect. Like all human beings we are part of the mess and we are part of the mystery. But I like to think our laughter is a healthy sign, stating that we don't take ourselves too seriously. Laughter is good for the soul! When we are laughing, we cannot be rigid, so it is easier to let go.

Last October, the staff and committee chairs explored, under the tutelage of Jeff Corrao Clanon, the process of collaborative leadership and how individuals in organizations work together to reach common goals. Believe it or not, there was a lot of laughter! We learned there are four roles people usually assume when they are at meetings: the movers, the followers, the opposers and the bystanders.

Collaborative leadership is more likely to occur when all four roles are present and when there is a certain degree of fluidity in the roles. Movers are the leaders who provide direction, followers are the ones who see a project to completion, opposers raise questions and can provide correction to a project, and bystanders can provide perspective.

In the coming months we will need to work together in the spirit of collaborative leadership. A Buddhist teaching I love and have adapted is; "To be with the mess and the mystery is to cultivate a ground of trust in a field of compassion in the vastness of unknowing." The unknowing is nothing more or less than how we are willing to be with one another during this time of transition. Each one of us is called to listen with compassionate curiosity — a curiosity that cultivates a ground of trust. I often use the phrase compassionate curiosity. I love it when I experience it, and I get frustrated when I miss an opportunity to be curious without judgment toward another. Like most of us, I miss the opportunity when I want to be sure to make a point — that's when I forget to be curious and my compassion goes out the window. Being genuinely curious enables each of us to go deeper in understanding, not only of others but also of ourselves. When each has heard the other, a sense of well-being and respect is generated. Then we feel safe and it is easy to laugh and cry and be a Full Monty congregation working toward common goals..

—*Margie King Saphier*

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 7

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 – Junior Choir and Gospel Choir

11:00 – Chalice Choir and
First Parish Choir

February 14

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – The Transylvania
Troubadours

February 21

Margie King Saphier, preaching

9:00 – Lauren Evans, alto

11:00 – First Parish Choir

February 28

Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley, preaching

9:00 – Siri Smedvig and
Lillian Braden, violins

11:00 – First Parish Choir

Don't Miss...

FUNDERBURG SCHOLARS DINNER

Saturday, February 6

6:30 p.m. Wine & Cheese

7:15 p.m. Dinner

CABARET NIGHT

Saturday, February 13

7:30 p.m.

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First Parish Staff

There are three inserts with this newsletter:

- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs
- ◆ Winter Cabaret Information
- ◆ Slavery in Concord 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, February 22
Monday, March 22
Monday, April 26

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

PARISH NOTES

Jenny, Margaret Fuller and the Transcendentalists

Jenny Rankin will be speaking Tuesday, February 2, at 7 p.m. in Jamaica Plain. The Jamaica Plain Historical Society has invited Jenny to begin the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial celebration on this topic; the Transcendentalism Council will be organizing carpools from First Parish to attend. Please contact **Lillian Anderson** (LillianAnd@comcast.net or 978-369-1468) if you'd like to be included.

May 2010 Margaret Fuller Bicentennial

The Transcendentalism Council at First Parish has a great line-up of events for Margaret Fuller's Bicentennial in Concord, May 21–23. Noted scholars and authors, guided tours, chamber music, theatre, a photo exhibit — and, of course, birthday cake! Check out our website at www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller. Love the Transcendentalists? Volunteers are needed — contact **Diane Weiss** at dweiss1@verizon.net.

Tour of the Old Manse

On March 20, at 5:30 p.m., the Old Manse will offer a special antislavery themed tour exploring the movement in Concord through the involvement of the Manse residents — one of Concord's most influential families. While enjoying this historic and fascinating home, learn how Concord transcendentalists influenced the antislavery fight for freedom, why Concordians were divided over John Brown and his activities to free the slaves, and what famous abolitionists visited the Old Manse. Tour admission is \$10. Reservations suggested. Call 978-369-3909. A property of the Trustees of Reservations, the Old Manse is located next to the Old North Bridge at 269 Monument Street in Concord.

Slavery in Concord?

When the Reverend William Emerson departed Concord in 1776 to serve as chaplain to the Continental Army, he left the Manse in the hands of his slave man Frank. The labor performed by Frank and his other slaves allowed William to pursue his political activism, but what was life like for slaves at the Manse? Join us on Saturday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall, to hear author and Lincoln native Elise Lemire draw on William's diary and letters, as well as the design of their home, to recreate the lives of the Manse's free and enslaved occupants. She recounts from the time the Emersons first moved in until their slaves and their descendents, enacting their own revolution, claimed the right to live as free men and women in Concord. A reception follows, where Elise will sign copies of her book *Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*. Cosponsored by the First Parish Transcendentalism Council and the Old Manse.

The Emerson Forum Quarterly Meeting

The Emerson Forum, a conversation and dialogue group, is scheduled to have another energetic discussion, this time on Emerson's "Friendship." Join the group on Monday, February 22, at 7 p.m. Wendell Refior, a notable nonacademic scholar on Emerson, will provide his perspective on where this 1841 essay fits into Emerson's evolving philosophy of life, and his friendships with Margaret Fuller and other leading figures of the age of transcendentalism. The meeting will take place

Parish Notes continued on page 4

MONEY MATTERS

I have some exciting changes to announce in the Business Office. **Peggy Gallo**, of course, remains as our stalwart bookkeeper and volunteer Collector. **Jane Barnes** has joined us as a project manager and data analyst. She has already had an immediate impact in helping us get set up for the upcoming annual fundraiser. Many of you already know her through her work in RE. I am very pleased to be partnering with her. Second, I am thrilled to announce that **Pamela Hathaway** has joined us as Development Director. Many of you probably already know Pamela, too — she is a parishioner and currently teaches in RE. She has extensive fundraising experience with nonprofits, and strong interests in environmental and sustainability issues. She’s hit the ground running, already taking an active role in the preparations for the annual fundraiser. Welcome to Jane and Pamela!

And, a huge “thank you” to everyone who contributed to our year-end appeal — we received \$8000 in gifts that go directly to our operating budget.

Our annual fundraiser will kick off in March with an event here at the church. Details forthcoming!

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

SUNDAY FORUMS

We welcome speakers from the congregation as well as ideas for future Forums. Contact **Charles Lowell** (chaslo@verizon.net) or **Robert Hilsinger** (rhilsinger@verizon.net).

February 14

Ethical Eating and Sustainable Food Production

Enid Hart Boasberg

This Forum will show how to begin to eat in a way that causes the least harm to the environment as well as animals raised for food. We will look at how agriculture has changed more in the last 50 years than in the last 10,000 and why that matters. The solutions to a broken food system are already being practiced here in Concord and around the country. Diversified, organic, humane agriculture can help contain climate change, reduce petroleum dependence, and provide our population with a truly healthful diet.

February 28

Abolition in the 21st Century

Katherine Chon and Dr. Mei-Mei Ellerman

You are invited to this Forum on Human Trafficking in the 21st Century. Katherine Chon, president and cofounder of Polaris Project, and Dr. Mei-Mei Ellerman, founding board member, will lead a discussion on modern-day slavery. They will also share a powerful video from *Not My Life*, a forthcoming documentary film shot on five continents on the pandemic of human trafficking, directed by Bob Bilheimer. ♦

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

This year the spiritual theme of First Parish is “home.” For many of us, First Parish is our spiritual home. “Home is where the heart is.” So learning **Gary Smith** is retiring in 18 months can raise questions and concerns — for example, “Will First Parish still be a home for me?” If you talk with members who have been here for 30 or 40 years, they will tell you from experience that First Parish is more than one minister. But their reassurances may not ease the sorrow in your heart.

Grief is the tax we all pay for loving. So it is important to remember the stages of grief. Denial is often the first response. With Gary not retiring for another 18 months, it is easy to push his departure out of the mind and then get angry attending all-congregational meetings to discuss a new vision for First Parish without him. Others of us will be ready to move on into acceptance and will be eager to get into the process of planning for the future.

There are two points to remember. Our individual responses are just that, and one response is not better than another; but we do need to be sensitive to one another. The other point is that First Parish, like a home, needs to change to remain dynamic. Gary shared in his sermon of January 8 that years ago he told a parishioner how sad he was when both his children were away at college, until the congregant asked, “What? You raised your children to never leave home?” As painful as it is to see a loved one go, loving means letting go.

If you would like to meet with one of the ministers, please give us a call. “The Rest of Your Life and Beyond” program is being offered in February to plan effectively for the end of life. Please check the Wright Tavern Center listings, an insert with this newsletter.

— *Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Here's yet another PCC event. We are pleased to announce that First Parish will host the (national) Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council winter board/Executive Board meeting March 4–6 as it prepares to celebrate its 20th anniversary, representing 20 years of sanctioned partnerships between congregations in Transylvania and North America.

A dinner and informal discussion, open to all, will be held on the Friday, March 5. Please join us, and others from Boston area partnerships, to hear about the UUPCC and the upcoming celebrations in Transylvania in July. Look for more details in the next issue of the *Meetinghouse News*.

A number of our young adults will be traveling to Transylvania over the next few months. **Elena Siani** has been visiting the Hegyi family in Keresztúr for the New Year, **Marisa Welch** will visit Réka Gagy in Keresztúr in February (she has offered to carry any messages you might have for your Keresztúri friends) and **Gaby Chiha** will travel in July to help out with the odie English camp and other activities.

We have good news on the financial front — \$2,400 has been transferred to Keresztúr from the PCC portion of this year's Christmas Eve contributions. This much needed funding will be used to provide aid for needy families in Székelykeresztúr.

Recently First Parish hosted Rev. Róbert (Robi) Bálint and his family for a vespers service, potluck dinner and open discussion. Robi is this year's Balázs scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. They spent the winter break visiting Unitarian congregations and communities in Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Virginia, and here in New England. Photos from some of the New England activities can be found on the Web at: www.flickr.com/photos/rmattlage/sets/72157623244326420/.

Your First Parish Partner Church Committee always welcomes new members. Our next supper meeting will be held at the home of **Lillian Anderson** at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 11. For further information, drop **Winslow Pettingell** a line (at LondonSW11@aol.com); and for our latest PCC news and information, including the UUPCC winter board meeting, see: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church>. ♦

Minden jót! “Best wishes!” —**Lillian Anderson** and **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC cochairs

Parish Notes

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in the Wright Tavern. Questions? Contact **Mel Bernstein** at mbern9@gmail.com, or 781-259-9926. All are welcome. No charge, but donations will be accepted.

World Day of Prayer — March 5

This year's local World Day of Prayer service and luncheon will take place on Friday, March 5, at 11 a.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord. Women of Cameroon have written this year's service. If you have decorations, art objects, musical instruments, clothing, etc., from Cameroon and would like to lend such items for the committee to display during the service and luncheon, please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net as soon as possible. All men, women and children are cordially invited.

WPA Luncheon Meeting — Investment Strategies

The Women's Parish Association cordially invites you to join old and new friends on Tuesday, February 16, for a buffet luncheon followed by a presentation by Glen MacNeil, CFA of MacNeil Capital Management. The talk will include investment strategies during the current economic conditions. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m.; the buffet lunch will start at noon sharp. All women and men are invited. The cost is eight dollars. Contact the church office at 978-369-9602, or **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net by February 13 for reservations, child care or transportation requests.

Annual Flea Market/Recycle Sale — Save the Date and Save Your Treasures

Start saving items to donate to the WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale, which will take place on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — rain or shine. Gently used furniture, antiques, lamps, kitchen stuff, art work, jewelry and clean toys are all welcome. No books, magazines, clothing, plants or sports equipment can be accepted. Items can be dropped off at the church the day before the sale, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Call **Pat Kane** at 978-369-8418 if you wish to rent a table or to volunteer your help. This is a major fundraiser and a great opportunity to give away items that you no longer need.

2010 UU General Assembly

It is never too early to think about General Assembly! This year GA will be in lovely Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 23–27. Online registration and housing information will be available starting March 1. Delegates from First Parish have the unique opportunity to experience the pulse of our faith by participating in the discourse that shapes the future of Unitarian Universalism. In addition to uplifting worship and inspiring music, there are several important issues on the agenda relating to international peace and human rights, economic and racial justice, health and family justice, environmental justice, ethical eating, and GBLT equality. Consider GA in your travel plans. ♦

MUSINGS AND MUSIC NOTES

“In the year to come, as I sit on my porch . . . I will see children playing; running between houses and in fields. You will see . . . how good it will be in the year to come.”

These are words from *Bashanah haba’a*, by Israeli songwriter Nurit Hirsch. It is a favorite of mine: a wistful song, full of hope, yet tinged with the sadness of its minor mode. The choir sang it on the Sunday after **Gary Smith** announced his retirement plans. It captured, for me, the range of emotions that I feel with this transition. Sadness that Gary will leave us; hope for the future of this congregation.

Last spring I wrote about the “symphony of sound” played by the myriad tools being used to construct our new RE wing. The music office provided a front-row seat to this “concert” for most of last year and I gained an appreciation of the musical possibilities in a construction site! Back then, as I anticipated the return of the Milldam Nursery school and the sound of children at play, I pledged to remember the “music” that prepared the space for them.

My heart leaps these winter mornings when I hear the exclamations of Milldam children romping on the snowy playground. First Parish has weathered a period of major change and upheaval and it is so good to be home. Now we see that there are more changes and challenges ahead. I trust that this congregation will meet those challenges with the same courage, confidence and care for one another that we demonstrated during the construction. The now distant chorus of drills reminds me of our capacity to change; the children’s voices tell me, *“You will see how good it will be in the year to come.”*

— *Beth Norton*

Director of Music

Singing with You Is Our Prayer

On the wings of our Intergenerational Gospel service, I find myself filled with an abundance of joy. It is such a gift to be able to direct these children’s choirs here at First Parish. This gift, though, extends to the many collaborations that happen in music — including congregational singing.

There is a glorious openness to many styles of shared song here at First Parish. We seem to enjoy the comfort and blessings of shared traditional hymn singing while also being willing to try new songs of diverse cultures and faith. As we work together to become an ever more welcoming faith, we all stretch ourselves to celebrate differences in age, culture, faith and more. Our “living tradition” is experienced on many planes — including in song.

As children’s choir director, I am particularly touched by the welcoming hand extended to our young singers in worship. In leading or sharing congregational singing, they are invited into a vital part of the life of this church. They are helped to discover and share

their voices of belonging. And they come to understand the power inherent in unified community. Singing with you is our prayer.

— *Gail Carey*

PIPEWORK

In January, the balcony organ console was taken to the Russell & Co. shop in Vermont so that work could continue on rebuilding and retrofitting it to play the new instrument. Russell & Co. has received the custom computer “brains” from Classic Organ Works in Canada for the organ consoles. There is a lot of wiring, along with rebuilding and rebushing the pedal board, that needs to be done. All this will culminate in an upgraded balcony console that will return ready to play various sections of the organ as they are ready for fine tonal finishing in the room. The goal of the builders at this time is to have about one-quarter of the organ (part of one division, on one manual) playable by Easter week.

During the Christmas season, we learned how much we would appreciate the new configuration of the balcony space. Our choir fit nicely into the center of the balcony on Christmas Eve. And there was even room for a harpist for *A Ceremony of Carols!* This improved space is one more way that the new organ installation will support the music ministry at First Parish.

— *Eric Huenneke*



The First Parish choir in its new “center” position.

REFLECTION AND RE NEWS

“Spirit in Practice.” That is our focus during our Winter Term in RE. As Unitarian Universalists we believe that experiencing the Divine, whether it be through God, through nature, through music or through other people, is something that we are able to do directly. We invite this direct experience of the transcendent and we practice ways of allowing these experiences to nourish our souls.



In our classrooms, we are sharing with our children various paths people use to experience inner peace. We are encouraging them to explore their inner landscape in ways similar to exploring their outer landscapes. Through prayer, meditation, yoga, church and noble silence, our children are witnessing the power of these practices for themselves. They are directly experiencing the possibility of the transcendent, of mystery and of wonder.

Our kids may giggle at some of their experiences in these workshops. That is okay. We welcome their laughter. These are new experiences for some of our children. They may not go home that day and use this knowledge, but some day, perhaps when they hit a bump in the road of life, or maybe when too much e-mail gets the best of them, they will remember these spiritual tools and use them to navigate their own inner landscape to find a place of internal peace. ♦

— Pam Howell

RE Orientation Dates

This orientation is for the leaders and teachers for these programs.

Second–Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation for the Spring Term:

Orientation for Term 4: Wednesday, March 17, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

OWL Parent Discussion Group Begins

This year we will be offering a very informal discussion group for parents of our 8th grade Our Whole Lives students. The group will run concurrently with three of the OWL sessions. The group will meet on January 31, from 4 to

February 2010 RE Calendar

•	•	Fri., Feb. 5	7th Grade Neighboring Faiths 4:30 – 8:30p.m.
•	•	Sun., Feb. 7	Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
•	•		Regular RE for K-6th Grades
•	•		7th Grade welcome to attend Chinese New Year in RE
•	•		8th Grade OWL 2–4 p.m.
•	•	Sun., Fe. 14	Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
•	•		No RE
•	•	Sun., Feb. 21	Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
•	•		No RE
•	•	Fri. – Sat., Feb. 26-27	Coming of Age Social Action Retreat
•	•	Sun., Feb. 28	Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
•	•		Regular RE for K-6th Grades
•	•		7th Grade Neighboring Faiths begins, 11 a.m.
•	•		8th Grade OWL 2:00– 4:30 p.m.
•	•		OWL Parent Discussion Group 3:30-4:30 p.m.

5 p.m.; on February 28, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; and on April 11, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. While this is an informal parent discussion group, we are fortunate to have an RE Council member, **Gianna Drew**, as facilitator. Gianna is a registered nurse who is employed at Concord Academy. No need to sign up — just come and participate. This is a great way to understand more about your 8th grader while meeting other parents in our First Parish community.

Don't Miss It: Chinese New Year at First Parish, February 7

We have invited Wah Lum Kung Fu back to celebrate Chinese New Year with us in the Sanctuary and in RE on February 7. Last year this traditional Lion Dance was a highlight of the year — the drums, the lions, the dancing, and the feeding of the lions. This is an ancient communal spiritual practice, giving thanks for our blessings and hoping for a prosperous new year.

Second to Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation

We Are Unitarian Universalists: Direct Experience with the Transcendent

We are using our workshop model for this rotation. Our grade levels will rotate through a series of Communal Spiritual Practices (3 weeks) and then Personal Spiritual Practices (3 weeks).

February 7 — Week 3 of the Winter Term: Communal Spiritual Practices — Chinese New Year Celebration, Going to Church and Noble Silence

February 14 — No RE for 2nd-6th Grades

RE News continued on page 12

Jenny Rankin on Sabbatical, Spring 2010

Sabbath is one of the original spiritual practices in Judaism, honored in the Torah as one of the Ten Commandments. "Thou shalt honor the Sabbath day and keep it holy." The theory was that six days a week, we work and on the seventh day, we rest in the creation we have been given, to look and savor and enjoy. It is a time to stop "doing" and focus instead on "just being."

In our busy modern lives, it is rarely possible to rest for a whole day of the week every week. We try to find smaller ways to practice "Sabbath" in the midst of ordinary life. Ancient religious traditions tell us that without this kind of deep rest and renewal, our spirits grow weary. We know this to be true.

This spring, I will be on sabbatical from February 1 to May 1. I leave, knowing how rare it is to be able to step away from daily rhythms for an extended time. I thank you for the gift of this time. I hope to spend time in the library, continuing my exploration of transcendentalism and having the opportunity to look at "original documents" like Emerson's journal and Margaret Fuller's "Roman Diary," discovered in a trunk on the beach at Fire Island after her ship foundered and sank off shore. I am interested in the Transcendentalists' interaction with Europe: their physical journeys to that place, as well as their "journeys of the mind and heart," as they read and were influenced by creative new Romantic poets and thinkers like Wordsworth, Goethe and Coleridge. And how their passion for social and political reform in the United States was strengthened as they visited mines, prisons, factories and slums in Europe, returning home to look at their own country with new eyes.

I look forward to sharing what I have learned with you when I return, teaching in May and next fall. During this time when I am away, I know this will be a fruitful time in the life of our community as you consider where you are now and where you want to go in the future. I will be doing spiritual and vocational discernment of my own, and look forward to continuing our conversation when I return in May.

In faith,

—Jenny

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

- The Youth Group has the wonderful opportunity to go to Common Cathedral, a service for homeless people on Boston Common, on February 7. On Saturday we will make sandwiches to bring with us on Sunday, but what we are really bringing is our hope, love and presence. We are not there to "help" the homeless, but rather to be in community with them. Our youth will gain so much by stepping out of their comfort zone and taking a risk just by being with people who are different from themselves.
- Our 9th grade Coming of Age group will be doing an overnight retreat through Common Cathedral at the end of the month. They will tour downtown Boston with homeless people, which will allow them to see the city through different eyes. These opportunities allow our youth truly to live out our Benediction.
- The youth calendar for February offers something for everyone:
 - Feb. 6: (Saturday, 1-2 p.m.) Make sandwiches in First Parish kitchen (earn community service)
 - Feb. 7: Visit to Common Cathedral – meet at First Parish at 11:00 a.m., return by 3:30 p.m. (earn community service)
 - Feb. 14: No YRUU – public school vacation
 - Feb. 21: Deep Questions with Evan
 - Feb. 28: Texas Hold 'em Night
- February can feel like a long, cold, dark month for youth as many wait for college acceptance letters and others realize that they still have half a school year to go. Sometimes all it takes is a trip to Common Cathedral to help youth step out of their routine and realize what is important in life.

—Mary-Wren vanderWilden

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday evening, February 8, 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 church bulletin board. ♦

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Membership at First Parish — Looking at the Big Picture

The Membership Committee has begun to assess the multi-dimensional facets of membership at First Parish. A visioning session at the committee's December 2009 meeting resulted in identifying three areas of the Membership Journey (see chart below), all of which we will examine in the coming months. If you are interested in being a part of this work, please contact **Jane Foley** at jfoley@firstparish.org.



Mark Your Calendars for Marvelous Mondays at First Parish

Please bring your entire family, take a break from cooking, and join with others in our vibrant First Parish community for four Monday evenings in March. A home-cooked, family-friendly dinner will be followed by a half hour worship service. All ages welcome. Children's activities and child care will be provided.

- When:** March 1, 8, 15 and 22
- Where:** Parish Hall, First Parish
- Time:** 6:00 p.m., Appetizers
6:15 p.m., Dinner
7:00 p.m., Worship in Chapel

RSVP: For more information, please contact **Jane Foley** at jfoley@firstparish.org or call 978-369-9602. The suggested donation is \$5/person, \$20/family

The New U Program

Sundays, March 21, March 28 and April 11
4:00–6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

A three-session program, The New U presents an overview of our liberal religious tradition — with its beginnings, growth, legacies, and aspirations. You will learn about First Parish in Concord — our organization, programs, opportunities, leaders and financial situation — as presented by its staff and lay leaders. You will explore whether your own beliefs and values are consonant with Unitarian Universalism, and how our faith community might meet your needs. Open to newcomers who are interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism, as well as to seasoned members who would like to revitalize their interest and commitment.

For more information, contact **Jane Foley** at 978-369-9602 or jfoley@firstparish.org.

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

The First Parish Membership Journey

WELCOMING & OUTREACH	JOINING	STEWARDSHIP OF MEMBERS
How well do we welcome visitors and newcomers?	When and how do we ask people to join First Parish?	Looking beyond financial stewardship, how do we steward our members?
Sunday morning greeting and welcoming.	After the New U program and/or ministers' orientations.	Create an atmosphere of shared Member Ministry among the congregation.
Increase outreach on website and in local papers.	Seek out people who are active but have not joined.	Increase all-church social events for connection.
Parish Connections table with information about First Parish and UU-ism.	Create an Enrollment Kit for interested seekers.	Help people connect to programs, committees and activities that fit their interests and skills.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The February book for the Women's Book Group is *Black Swan Green: A Novel*, by David Mitchell. The discussions will be held at First Parish, with the evening session on Monday, February 22, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, February 23, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. 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 2010:

- Mar 29, 30 *She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders*, by Jennifer Finney Boylan
- Apr 26, 27 *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*, by Muriel Barbery and Alison Anderson (translator)
- May 24, 25 *My Life in France*, by Julia Child, with Alex Prud'Homme
- June tbd Potluck; suggestions for next year

insights into our time and the opportunity we have to shape the direction of our world with our everyday choices and actions. Saturday, February 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration at the door. \$5 suggested donation. Cosponsored by the Concord Clergy-Laity Group and ConcordCAN. Hosted and supported by First Parish SAC. For more information, contact **Bob Andrews** at bob.andrews3@verizon.net.

SAC Theatrical Crew Needed

Designers, stage managers and technicians are needed for the Social Action production of *Still Life*, by Emily Mann, performances April 9 and 10. The crew needs include stage manager, technical director, sound designer, projection designer, lighting designer, costumer, props, graphic designer and running crew, ie, lights, projection/audio, load-in/load-out. Contact **Kim Novick**, director at kim@knovick.com or **Claudia Nimar**, producer, cnimar@aol.com.

Environmental Leadership at First Parish

Join other environmentalists here at First Parish as we determine what our faith community can do. We have held three meetings to date and are planning another at a date and time to be determined. Please contact **Faith Bade** if interested in participating, at FBade@firstparish.org.

Funderburg Scholars Dinner February 6

Join us on Saturday, February 6, for the Funderburg Scholars dinner at First Parish. Help the Urban Ministry's Roxbury youth apply to and graduate from college — while you enjoy a nice meal with great company! Meet some Roxbury students and learn more about the program. No fixed price — donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your place at dinner by leaving a message for **Loretta Ho Sherblom** at 978-369-4325 or emailing her at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com. Join us for wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by **Caroline McCloy** at 7:15 p.m.

Homelessness Forum: How Faith Communities Can Help End Homelessness

Family homelessness has more than doubled, to over 3000 families in Massachusetts shelters or in motels nightly, due to the current severe economic crisis. Rev. Liz Walker will be the keynote speaker at the sixth annual forum of the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, on Sunday, February 28 at First Parish in Concord, from 3 to 5 p.m. Elizabeth Curtis and Mary Doyle will describe the goals and progress of the new Massachusetts regional programs to end homelessness. Both speakers will focus on ways our congregations can become involved in these programs. Questions? Contact **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520.

Jericho Road Project Fundraiser

The Jericho Road Project will hold its first gala fundraiser in May. The Roaring Twenties-themed event, "Roaring Ahead," will be held at a unique and fun venue in the area. Please contact Kate Kaplan, Jericho Road Project Marketing and Development Director, at kkaplan@jerichoroadproject.org, for information regarding how you can help with planning the gala, donating items to be auctioned, or purchasing tickets. ♦

FEBRUARY 2010 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 p.m. (not 2/7 or 2/14)
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m. (not 2/15)
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Rest of Your Life & Beyond</i>	Tuesday	2:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Child and Teen Yoga</i>	Wednesday	4:15 p.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>Yoga for Women in Midlife</i>	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Hatha Vinyasa Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:15 a.m.
<i>Power Vinyasa Yoga</i>	Thursday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.

Mon Feb 1	7:00	RE Council	•	Mon Feb 15	Holiday — Office Closed
	7:30	<i>Humanism</i>	•	Tue Feb 16	11:30 WPA Luncheon
Tue Feb 2	7:30	<i>At Home in the Muddy Waters</i>	•	Thu Feb 18	7:00 Seder Planning Group
Wed Feb 3	7:00	Youth Advisory	•		7:30 Transcendentalism Council
Thu Feb 4	7:30	Threshold Choir	•		7:30 Threshold Choir
Fri Feb 5	7:00	Theater Group	•	Mon Feb 22	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
Sat Feb 6	9:30	Margaret Fuller Hymn Reading	•		7:00 Emerson Forum
	1:00	YRUU Sandwich Making for Common Cathedral	•		7:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	6:30	Funderburg Scholars Dinner	•	Tue Feb 23	9:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Sun Feb 7	10:00	Young Activists	•		2:30 <i>Rest of Your Life & Beyond</i>
	11:00	YRUU Departs for Common Cathedral	•	Wed Feb 24	9:30 Pastoral Care Council
	2:00	Our Whole Lives	•		6:30 Membership Committee
Mon Feb 8	6:30	Standing Committee	•	Fri Feb 26	5:30 Coming of Age (City Reach)
	7:00	Jericho Road Board Meeting	•		7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Tue Feb 9	3:00	<i>Tea & Poetry</i>	•	Sat Feb 27	8:00 Moral Courage
Wed Feb 10	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	•		8:30 SAC Interfaith Symposium
	12:15	<i>Sandwiches & Short Story</i>	•	Sun Feb 28	10:00 Young Activists
Thu Feb 11	6:30	Partner Church Committee	•		12:15 Nominating Committee
Fri Feb 12	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	•		1:00 Young Activists
Sat Feb 13	9:00	Photo Club	•		2:00 Our Whole Lives
	7:30	Cabaret Night	•		2:00 Homelessness Forum

February 21 — No RE for 2nd-6th Grades

February 28 — Week 4 of the Winter Term:

Communal Spiritual Practices — Chinese New Year Celebration, Going to Church and Noble Silence

March 7 — Week 5 of the Winter Term: Personal Spiritual Practices — Sitting Meditation, Yoga, Prayer

**Coming of Age Social Action Retreat
February 26-27**

This year our Coming of Age teens will have the amazing opportunity to participate in City Year. This is an overnight retreat where our students go to the streets of Boston and directly witness life on the streets. They see how the homeless of Boston survive despite the cold. Our COA teens will also be bringing food and clothing to help this important organization. Thanks to the work of **Allison Aley** and **Jim Reynolds**, this retreat will open our eyes to the needs of others while actively working toward improving their living conditions. ♦

First Parish Seder Planning Meeting

The Jewish Awareness Affinity Group is sponsoring the First Parish Seder celebration this year on April 3, the Saturday before Easter. The Passover Seder is a 3,000-year-old religious celebration of freedom. For all ages, the seder is an enjoyable communal mixture of reading, singing and eating. If you can help us plan this event, come to First Parish at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 18. We especially need help with planning for shopping and cooking. In March we will be selling tickets for this popular participatory event, so clear your calendar and stay tuned. For information, contact **Peter** or **Lois Mitchell** at 978-369-5869, or **Jim** or **Dana Snyder-Grant** at 978-266-9409 or jimsg@newview.org. ♦

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: FPConcord@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

Jane Barnes, Assistant to the Business Manager

Cassy Bosworth, Assistant to the Ministers

Jane Foley, Membership Director

Pamela Hathaway, Development Director

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Lorrie Clark, Religious Education Administrator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

FEBRUARY 2010 NEWSLETTER

The March Newsletter deadline is Monday, February 22, at noon. The Newsletter will be published the last week in February.

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 Koplou, 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 in Concord
Music Events Committee
Presents its

Winter Cabaret

with

THE TOM NUTILE BIG BAND



Swing! Jazz! Blues! Jump! Waltz! Latin!

Parish Hall, First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA
Saturday, February 13, 2010
Doors open at 7:30pm; Music starts at 8:00pm

Light refreshments will be served

Presented by

First Parish Music Events Committee

Tickets are \$20 each or \$30 for two at First Parish Office and at the door

For more information call 978-369-9602

or visit www.tomnutile.com on the Web



for Spiritual Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • February 2010

Welcome to the Wright Tavern Center. Online registration is available for all courses. Check our website at wrighttavern.org for schedule, course descriptions, presenter bios, registration information and policies. Questions? Contact Cassy Bosworth at cbosworth@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602. Please check the board in the lower church entryway for course locations..

I. Growing Your Spirit

T'ai Chi

T'ai Chi is often called meditation in motion. In this class, we will learn the Hwa Yu form of t'ai chi. The evening session includes some standing meditation, and practice with the hwa yu tai chi form. This is an ongoing class that includes new and returning students. Instructor: **Sue Wood**

Mondays, February 1, 8 & 22; March 1, 8, 15 & 22
6:30–8:00 p.m. \$105/7 classes or \$20/drop-in

Kundalini Yoga

Kundalini yoga is yoga for the mind, body and spirit. It uses breath, yogic postures and meditation to help you build and maintain a healthy body, increase your vitality, train your mind to be strong and flexible, and facilitate change emotionally and spiritually. Instructor: **Dharm Singh**

Tuesdays, February 2–March 9 9:30–11:00 a.m. \$90/6 sessions

At Home in the Muddy Water: Mindfulness Practice in Everyday Life

Is it possible to live with greater ease, joy and connection? This workshop will explore how to develop and deepen spiritual practice in the midst of the demands, stress, pace and distractions of our hyper-connected modern life. Using the practice of Vipassana Meditation as a foundation, we will examine how to establish and maintain a personal spiritual practice in order to live with greater wisdom and compassion in daily life. No previous experience with meditation is needed to participate. Instructor: **John Bigay**

Wednesdays, February 3 & 10 7:30–9:00 p.m. Fee: \$20

Hatha Vinyasa Yoga

This adult class is a flowing mixture of Hatha, Iyengar, Somatics, and Vinyasa yoga. It focuses on alignment and movement with breath. You will leave with your body stretched and strengthened, your mind relaxed and focused, your intellect sparked with new concepts to consider, and your inner being attended to. Instructor: **Ori Kilner-Munson**

Thursdays, February 4–March 25 9:15–10:30 a.m.
\$128/8 sessions or \$18/drop-in

Humanists

The Concord Area Humanists meet the first Monday of every month. All are welcome to join and share their thoughts. Coffee and cookies available. Donation welcome. RSVP for more details to Patrick Everett, pne@aol.com.

Monday, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7 7:30 p.m.

II. Creativity as a Spiritual Path

Sandwiches and Short Story

This informal group meets with **Gary Smith** once a month to explore a story's meaning. Bring a sandwich and beverage and join us once a month on Wednesday at 12:15 p.m. The story for February is "Quality of Life," by Christine Sneed, found in *Best American Short Stories 2008*, Salmon Rushdie, editor, a collection to be used throughout the year. Leader: **Rev. Gary Smith**

Wednesday, February 10, 12:15 p.m.

Making Art from Life I

Plumb your life experiences and tell your stories through fabric collages! No previous art or sewing experience necessary. This is a four-week course exploring the intersection of craft and art, where the personal story comes alive. Sessions will include instruction in techniques of painting and printing on fabric, instruction in methods of brainstorming and creating symbolic imagery as well as opportunities to share and discuss ideas. Participants will create a piece of artwork each week. Instructor: **Merril Comeau**

Thursdays, April 1, 8, 15 & 29 7:00–9:00 p.m.

FP members \$125/ Nonmembers: \$150

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The February book is *Black Swan Green: A Novel*, by David Mitchell. Come to either the Monday (February 22) evening meeting 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; or Tuesday (February 23) morning meeting, 9:30-11:00 a.m.. Drop-ins welcome. Contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com for details or questions.

Rest of Your Life and Beyond — Five Wishes

The Five Wishes is a document that walks us through the decisions we need to make *now* so in the event we are not able to articulate our wishes at end of life, our designated person (Power of Attorney) can do so and honor our wishes. We will watch the Five Wishes Video (30 Minutes) followed by participants receiving their own copy of Five Wishes. We will then go through the document answering your questions as you fill it out.

Leader: *Rev. Margie King Saphier*

Tuesday, February 2 2:30–4:00 p.m.
\$15/session or \$50/all four sessions

“The Undertaking”

As seen on PBS’ *Frontline*. In this moving and powerful film, *Frontline* enters the world of Thomas Lynch, a poet and undertaker whose family has cared for the dead in a small Michigan town for three generations. Through the intimate stories of families coming to terms with grief, mortality and funeral rituals, the film illuminates the heartbreak and beauty taken between the living and the dead. The film will be followed by discussion with funeral director Charlie Dee of Dee Funeral Home.

Leader: *Rev. Margie King Saphier*

Tuesday, February 9 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Caring Conversations That Are Difficult

Now that you have filled out Five Wishes and thought about the disposition of your body, it is time to talk to loved ones who may be responsible for carrying out your wishes. For many of us it is difficult to approach our parents about end-of-life plans (theirs and ours); for others, it is difficult to engage our children in these discussions. This session is an opportunity to share the questions and concerns you have, what you have tried, what worked and what did not. Leader: *Rev. Margie King Saphier*

Tuesday, February 16 2:30–4:00 p.m.

The Tasks of the Dying Are Also the Tasks of the Living

How many times have you attended a memorial service and heard a person tell a story in which the deceased did or said something that was significant or life changing to the individual who is talking? The story is followed by a regret that they did not share this personally with the one who has died. Maybe you are one of these people — most of us are. Come learn what the five tasks are and how they can transform your life.

Leader: *Rev. Margie King Saphier*

Tuesday, February 23 2:30–4:00 p.m.

III. Sources of Unitarian Universalism

The Psalms as Poems, Songs and Prayer

The purpose of this class is to study the power of this literature, now 2500 year old and still a means of praise, performance and personal rediscovery. We will hear sung settings of the psalms from several centuries and sing some of them ourselves. We will see how they work as poems and personal confessions. We will examine their history and use in Jewish and Christian worship. And we may try our hand at writing a psalm or two ourselves.

Leader: *Carl Scovel*

Mondays, March 1–29 7:30–9:00 p.m. Fee: \$50

Margaret Fuller Bicentennial on May 21–23, 2010

The Transcendentalism Council at First Parish has a great line-up of events for Margaret Fuller’s Bicentennial in Concord, May 21-23. Noted scholars and authors, guided tours, chamber music, theatre, a photo exhibit — and, of course, birthday cake! Check out our website at www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller. Love the Transcendentalists? Volunteers are needed — contact Diane Weiss at dweiss1@verizon.net.

Saturday March 20 at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm

The First Parish Transcendentalism Council
of the Church of Concord and The Old Manse
Presents

Slavery in Concord?

A Unique Double Program!

At 5:30 pm: **An Anti-slavery Tour of the Old Manse**

At 7:00 pm: **A Talk by Elise Lemire about her latest publication
Black Walden, at First Parish in Concord**

Call 978-369-3909 for bookings and details



Anti-slavery Tour: \$10 per person

Talk by Elise Lemire: No charge

When the Reverend William Emerson departed Concord in 1776 to serve as chaplain to the Continental Army, he left the Manse in the hands of his slave man Frank. The labor performed by Frank and his other slaves allowed William to pursue his political activism, but what was life like for slaves at the Manse? Join us on March 20th at The Old Manse at 5:30 pm for an Anti-slavery themed house tour and at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall, Concord to hear author and Lincoln native Elise Lemire draw on William's diary and letters, as well as the design of their home, to recreate the lives of the Manse's free and enslaved occupants. She recounts from the time the Emersons first moved in until their slaves and their descendents, enacting their own revolution, claimed the right to live as free men and women in Concord. A reception follows, at First Parish in Concord, where Elise will sign copies of her book *Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*.

Co-sponsored by the First Parish Transcendentalism Council and the Old Manse.