



The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

Within the pages of this May newsletter are many important events: first and foremost, we welcome **Jenny Rankin** back from her sabbatical leave. She will preach on May 2, and I hope there are many here to greet her.

On May 9, our Adult Choir, along with other musical guests, will be performing Jason Shelton's *Sources*, a beautiful and challenging piece of music based on our Unitarian Universalist "sources of our living tradition," words by my colleague in Minneapolis, Kendyl Gibbons. Read more about this in **Beth Norton**'s column, found on page 6.

On May 16, our Coming of Age young people will be leading worship and speaking their credos. This is a Sunday in the year that ought to rank with Christmas and Easter in attendance. These young people were in my living room a few Sundays back, and they are a special and wonderful group.

On the weekend of May 21-23, we will be celebrating Margaret Fuller. There are events all weekend long, planned by **Jenny Rankin**, **Dianne Weiss**, and an active committee. I hope you can find time to join in some of these activities. Publicity for this weekend is on pages 2 and 3.

And, if all this is not enough, we are finishing up our Annual Fundraising Campaign. If you have not pledged yet, please do as soon as possible. So much of the energy that depletes our volunteers is in the follow-up with those members who do not respond. Your generosity is one of the responsibilities of your membership here. And thanks to all who have given and pledged and thanks to **Pamela Hathaway**, **Jane Barnes**, **Tom Wilson**, and others who have invited us to come to know our First Parish neighbors and to make fundraising more fun!

Some of our members will be going to Ferry Beach this month. Our Transitions Study Group is at work analyzing all the data they've received from Listening Sessions and the online survey. The Social Action Council, the music program, our religious education activities, Women's Parish Association, Wright Tavern, and more are all inviting your participation as the summer nears. Please join in.

—*Gary Smith*

P.S. We have purchased our new home in Belmont and will be gradually moving in, with the movers coming in late June to finish the job. I'll obviously be commuting next year. Oh, changes. Thanks for all your support.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 2

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – **Gospel Choir and
Children's Choirs**

May 9

Music Sunday
9:00 & 11:00 – **First Parish Choir and
Sources Ensemble**

Sources: A Unitarian-Universalist Cantata
Words by Kendyl Gibbons;
Music by Jason Shelton

May 16

9:00 & 11:00 – **Coming of Age Sunday**

May 23

Jenny Rankin, preaching
Margaret Fuller's 200th Birthday!
9:00 – **Margaret Fuller Trio**
11:00 – **First Parish Choir**

May 30

Margie King Saphier, preaching
ONE SERVICE AT 11:00
Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

Don't Miss...

MARGARET FULLER BICENTENNIAL WEEKEND

May 21, 22 and 23

See insert for Event Calendar

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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- ◆ Margaret Fuller Information
- ◆ Transition Study Team Information
- ◆ Membership Policy
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs

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, May 24
Monday, August 30
Monday, September 27

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

PARISH NOTES

Thanks for the Flea Market Help!

- The Women's Parish Association extends hearty and heartfelt thanks for all those who made our flea market/recycle sale another great success!
- There are too many to list here, but special thanks go to **Pat Kane, Roselyn Romberg, Francene Faulkner-Amari, Ginger Lang** and **Gerrie Madigan**. It was a great community effort and a lot of items were recycled to buyers, the Household Goods Recycle Ministry and other charities!

Join the First Parish Theater Project on May 7 at 7:00 p.m.

- Dorothy Schechter will be leading our group this month. The play is *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, by Jean Giraudoux. Please let us know if you have any trouble finding copies of the play. *The Madwoman of Chaillot* is a wildly theatrical satire and fantasy first produced in Paris in 1945 and in New York in 1948-49 to great acclaim. The Concord Players produced it in 1987. It is set in the heart of Paris, with a cast of over 30 representing all walks of life, so there are many wonderful character parts for readers.

Take a Fascinating UU Walking Tour in Boston

- Join us for a Historical Walking Tour of Unitarian and Universalist Boston on Sunday, May 16. Take a step back in time and experience our liberal heritage on Beacon Hill. We will be carpooling directly after the 11:00 o'clock service, so bring a lunch to picnic around the Frog Pond on the Boston Common. The full tour takes about two hours on cobblestone streets. A shorter tour can be planned, if needed. Open to all and children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up at the Parish Connections table during coffee hour. The tour is free and so is on-street parking! The UUA link with tour locations and descriptions is http://www.uua.org/documents/jaronskichristine/walking_tour_boston.pdf. Contact Nita Chase at anichase123@yahoo.com.

Concord Celebrates the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial

- May 21, 22 and 23 — Tickets Now on Sale at Coffee Hours!



Donna Davis as Margaret Fuller and Alec Walker as Ralph Waldo Emerson in Margaret Fuller's Universe.

First Parish will welcome all to a wonderful Concord weekend celebration of Margaret Fuller's 200th birthday. The three-day event is cosponsored by the Transcendentalism Council at First Parish, with seven other community partners — Concord Free Public Library, Concord Museum, Emerson House, Emerson Forum, the Old Manse, the Thoreau Society, and the Concord Bookshop.

Born into a Unitarian family in Cambridgeport, Margaret Fuller was considered the foremost female public intellectual of her time!

Weekend events start with a Friday night keynote address by a renowned Fuller biographer. Saturday offers a morning panel discussion with Fuller scholars (moderated by **Jenny Rankin**) and

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afternoon tours of Concord (led by **Jenny Rankin** and others), a music concert in the Sanctuary, exhibits, a Saturday evening drama/staged reading (see article that follows) and Sunday morning worship, with **Jenny Rankin's** sermon about this extraordinary woman. For event details, see the complete schedule enclosed in this newsletter or go online to www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller/.

Tickets (\$10 per person) are on sale at Sunday coffee hours and at the First Parish office (978-369-9602) for the 1:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon Margaret Fuller tours and the 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening Margaret Fuller drama/staged reading in Parish Hall.

Margaret Fuller [1810-1850], the American author, editor and reformer, holds a unique and important place in 19th century history. She became colleague and confidante to Ralph Waldo Emerson and a vital member of the New England Transcendentalist movement. Fuller became a leading feminist at a time when women's role was severely limited. And there is so much more to learn about Margaret Fuller!

Come join us for this unique celebration of Margaret Fuller — an exceptional woman who changed her world and continues to influence ours!

Margaret Fuller's Universe—One Performance Only. Don't Miss it!

Saturday Evening, May 22, 8:00 p.m., Parish Hall!



Anne Fortier and Bill Maxwell as Margaret Fuller's parents in Margaret Fuller's Universe.

Margaret Fuller's Universe, a play by Agnes Butcher and Sayre Sheldon, will be performed as a costumed staged reading on Saturday, May 22, at 8 p.m. at First Parish as part of the Concord Celebrates Margaret Fuller festivities.

The play, directed by **Tom Beck**, is an amazing depiction of the people that surrounded Margaret Fuller during her short but intense life. It presents Margaret as intelligent, opinionated, mercurial, intimidating, and the kind of woman who inspired love, passion and dedication to her causes of feminism, revolution and social justice.

Our production will introduce some very colorful characters — Robert and Elizabeth Browning, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Horace Greeley, James Freeman Clarke, Lidian Emerson, and Count Ossoli, among others.

The play is narrated by **Alec Walker** as Ralph Waldo Emerson, who comments on, as well as participates in,

- Margaret's life. The First Parish cast includes **Donna Davis** as Margaret and **Sara Ballard, Tom Beck, Susan Ellsworth, Anne Fortier, Linda Hardiman, Bill Maxwell, Caroline McCloy, Jim Snyder-Grant** and **Tom Wilson**.

- With only one performance, we advise getting your tickets now! You won't want to miss seeing our very talented performers in this fantastic evening of theatre.

- Tickets are \$10 and are available at coffee hours and in the First Parish office. For more information or to order tickets, call 978-369-9602 or contact **Lillian Anderson** at Lillianand@comcast.net.

19th-Century Tours of Concord

- On Saturday, May 22, at 1:30 p.m., there will be Fuller-themed guided tours that leave from First Parish. Highlights: A costumed "Margaret" will join the tour at the Old Manse, where she visited Nathaniel and Sophia Hawthorne. At the Emerson House, we will view the places she had lively conversations with her mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson. At the Concord Museum, special Fuller artifacts are on display for the Bicentennial, including a rare silhouette portrait of a young Margaret and the first edition of *The Dial* (1840).

- Tour guides include **Rev. Jenny Rankin**; Rob Vellela, independent literary historian; and **Polly Peterson**, author of biographies of the Transcendentalists and 19th century reformers, who will share their expertise on Margaret Fuller. Tours are sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council at First Parish in Concord, the Concord Museum, Emerson House, and the Old Manse.

- Reservations and \$10 payment are required in advance at coffee hour or call 978-369-9602. For a complete schedule of events, see www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller/.

Emerson Forum Spring Meeting

- The Ralph Waldo Emerson Forum will hold its spring quarterly meeting on Monday, May 10, at the Wright Tavern at 7 p.m. The topic for discussion will be Emerson's essay "Character." We will also address the issue of why Emerson is read today, in light of the January 17 piece in the *Chronicle of Higher Education's Review* titled "Giving Emerson the Boot." A vigorous dialogue can be expected, as at all our meetings. All are welcome; there is no charge. Questions? Contact convener **Mel Bernstein** at mbern9@gmail.com or 781-259-9926.

WPA May 18 Luncheon — Margaret Fuller Talk

- The Women's Parish Association will hold a special catered luncheon on Tuesday, May 18, at which **Rev. Jenny Rankin** will give a talk on Margaret Fuller. Also an exhibit, entitled "Why Margaret Fuller Matters," will be on display during the luncheon and for a week thereafter. The social time will begin at 11:30 a.m.; lunch will be at noon, followed by

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

In spiritual terms, the month of May is the month for gratitude and joy. The beauty of nature in its fresh rebirth catches our attention. For at least a few moments we become mindful as we wake up to the gift of life.

I am deeply grateful for the many helping hands and hearts that help to make pastoral care a comprehensive presence at First Parish. I thank the Pastoral Advisory Council (**Judy Dembsey**, chair; **Pam Ressler**, **Rhoda Miller**, **Tracey Hurd** and **Ursula Kristoffy**) for their support and wisdom in providing creative programs. I thank our Pastoral Care lay ministers (**Eric Read**, **Diane Clapp**, **Bev Bringle**, **Carolyn Shohet**, **Dana Snyder-Grant**, **Lois Suarez** and **Ross Harris**), who companion parishioners during difficult times. They help to extend the reach of the ministers. The ministers and I extend special appreciation to **Ross Harris**, who is retiring as a pastoral care lay minister. I thank **Laurie Corelle**, who introduced the idea of having a Threshold Choir at First Parish, and **Beth Norton**, who made sure it happened. The choir has visited several parishioners at home and at the hospital. The visits are short but deeply spiritually. Since there are about 25 participants, I cannot list everyone, but my heart is full of gratitude.

A special thanks also goes to the many volunteers of the Caring Connection branch of pastoral care. **Carolyn Shohet** and **Rhoda Miller** organize food preparation. They provide wonderful recipes and work with many kitchen helpers so that the First Parish freezer is well-stocked with prepared meals to be delivered at a moment's notice by **Bev Bringle** or **Pat Kane**. **Melissa Brown** and **Jim Robertson**, along with **Sandie** and **Tom Kennedy**, helped to deliver the Easter lilies last month. This year our New Baby Welcomers (**Laura Paushter** and **Bridget Neale Paris**) have been busier than usual delivering meals as well as baskets with baby blankets created by **Kitsy Rothermel**.

I also thank you, the congregation, who contact the ministers asking, "Do you know ...?" Often we don't know, so your calls and e-mails are very much appreciated. Last but not least, a big thank-you goes to **Kaye Harvie** and

Jane Johnson, both of whom keep their finger on the pulse of First Parish and keep the ministers on their toes. If you are interested in participating in Caring Connection and in experiencing the joy of giving and receiving, please e-mail or call me. If you are interested in the Threshold Choir, please contact **Beth Norton**.

With a grateful heart,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Covenant Groups

Last month one of the topics **Don Miller's** group discussed was "Seeing the Ineffable in Animals." Below is the e-mail Don sent to his group prior to the meeting.

"Seeing the Ineffable in Animals." Don't worry, I had to look up ineffable too. It means "incapable of being expressed, indescribable, unutterable," according to my dictionary. To me, it also means that which is awe-inspiring, amazing, at the root of all being, ultimate mystery. I am comfortable using the word God to represent this idea, but I know some UU's are not.

I ask each of you to come to the meeting with one or more experiences in which an animal or animals have put you in touch with the ineffable. The animal may be big or small, domestic or wild, cuddly or dangerous. Yes, pets are definitely eligible. Possibly you have only read about the characteristics of a species, but experienced awe in that moment.

What about you? Do you see the ineffable in animals? ♦

Quick! What are the sources of the Unitarian Universalist Living Tradition?

If you ticked off a quick list of six, you've done some homework! If you said, "What sources?" or stammered, "Well, I know them when I read them," you would be in good company. We don't list the UU sources on a regular basis — and just listing them is not particularly powerful. The way we express them is much more compelling. The sources of Unitarian Universalism permeate our

worship, our social action and our religious education program, both explicitly and implicitly. They even provide the organizing structure for our two hymnals.

My own shorthand list goes like this:

- Direct experience of transcending mystery and wonder
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men
- Wisdom from the world's religions
- Jewish and Christian teachings
- Humanist teachings
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions

I came to a deeper understanding of these foundations of our tradition in 2006 when I first sang *Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata*, by Jason Shelton and Kendyl Gibbons. Jason is a prolific composer and Associate Minister for Music for First Unitarian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Kendyl is minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and a gifted poet — she has two hymn texts in *Singing the Living Tradition*. Shelton and Gibbons began their collaboration with the questions, "Could these diverse theological statements be articulated poetically? Could these poetic interpretations be expressed in equally diverse musical forms? Is there an artistic statement to be made about how the six statements relate to one another? . . . In the midst of all this diversity, what holds us together?"

Their answer is a seven-movement cantata featuring poly-rhythm, wonderfully "crunchy" harmonic dissonances, a jazzy Samba, a Taizé-inspired meditation on "the golden rule," a Gospel hymn, a musical theater-style ballad and New Age chant, all brought together in a hip-hop finale. *Sources*, is definitely a cantata for the 21st century!

Our choir has been working diligently and energetically to master this challenging music. Like good preaching, *Sources* will comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. I believe there is music in it for each of us to love — and music that may surprise and even disturb. Like our covenantal faith, *Sources* embraces us as we are and beckons us to stretch a bit beyond our "comfort zone."

I look forward to bringing *Sources* to our traditional New England meeting house. May 9 will be a morning to celebrate our Living Tradition and the future of our faith through music. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Director of Music

Threshold Singers — Massage for the Soul!

If you'd like to see how song, fellowship, deep relaxation and service all come together, please visit a Threshold Choir meeting. We meet from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month. We meet in the Parlor, on a come-as-you-can basis. With **Beth Norton** facilitating, we sit in a circle and sing, very softly, over and over again, music that deepens and soothes the spirit. Most of the songs come out of our two hymnals. When parishioners who are ill or going through a difficult transition invite us, we go out in small groups to sing at their bedside. Threshold singing is massage for the soul, and it's absolutely free. For more information, contact **Beth Norton**. ♦

"Women of Note" — Saturday, May 8, at 8:00 p.m.

Concord Women's Chorus will perform "Women of Note," a gala 50th Anniversary Concert, at 8 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, at First Parish; a reception will follow. Featuring the premiere of "Concord Fragments," by renowned composer Libby Larsen specially commissioned for this event, music by Amy Beach, Ysaye Barnwell, Hillary Tann, and other American women composers will also be performed. There will be a preconcert lecture by Ms. Larsen, Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank, and Concord poet Melissa Apperson in the Chapel at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25, \$20 for seniors and students, \$10 for 12 and under. They will be available at coffee hour on May 2, at the door, or reserved by calling 978-852-4239. ♦

PIPEWORK

On Patriots' Day I was able to visit the Russell shop in Vermont and see firsthand the progress on the rebuilt, refinished and enhanced organ console. The pedal board looks beautiful with the new maple key tops and all the toe studs, woodwork and chrome trim polished out by hand (see picture on page 7). Wiring the console, which will take approximately 150 hours to

Pipework continued on page 7



(Top) Pedal board with new maple key tops and toe studs. (Bottom) Painstaking and exacting pipe making at the Russell shop in Vermont.



complete is now beginning, and they plan to have the finished console back at the church sometime in the next month or so. They keep getting little surprise challenges with this console rebuilding (as with any restoration vs. building completely new), which have contributed to some of the delay in being able to move ahead as fast as we had hoped. But the quality of the work should make the wait well worth it!

It was exciting to witness some of the pipe fabrication in a new rank of flute pipes for the organ. The pipes are made in several stages — pattern cut out of the metal and formed around the molds (both bodies and feet), then mouths and tongues made and all the pieces soldered together to form a perfect pipe to a very specific scale to fit the desired tone for the room and the overall instrument. Painstaking and exacting work beyond most of our imaginations, until witnessing it in person. This all takes a lot of time with so many areas (woodworking, pipe making, electrical wiring, etc.) and only four people total working on this project at the organ shop. ♦

—Eric Huenneke
First Parish Staff Organist

- There are still openings for the upcoming Culture and Music Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr. Whether this would be your first time or you've been before, if you'd like to deepen your understanding of this extraordinary place, **Gary and Eliz Smith**, members of the First Parish Choir, and the PCC invite you to join us in Transylvania, this October 24 to November 3.

- The trip will include area tours and the opportunity to enjoy the local culture, as well as a much-anticipated "choral exchange" with our partner church. Accommodations will be provided at the new Community House (along with home stays for those who wish), where each room has between two and four single beds and a three-quarter bath (sink, commode, shower).

- The cost is estimated at \$1,400, which includes airfare, medical insurance, ground transportation, accommodations and meals, plus a fee to offset any outlays incurred by our hosts. For further information, click on the Culture and Music Pilgrimage link at www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church; or contact **Rodger Mattlage** at rmattlage@yahoo.com (781-259-9639).

- In other PCC news, we would like to congratulate this year's UUPCC Stewardship Sermon Award winner, the Reverend Vail Weller, who attended the Executive Board meeting held at First Parish in March. Minister of the San Mateo, California, congregation, Rev. Weller's sermon "Poor and Rich, Rich and Poor" takes us on a journey to Cabighaun in the Philippines and back to her life in the United States in the grip of economic recession. For this and other inspiring sermons, be sure to visit <http://www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/sermons/submissions/159821.shtml>.

- Your First Parish Partner Church Committee always welcomes new members. Our next supper meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 13, at the home of **Ivan and Ursula Kristoffy**. For further information, drop us a line (at LondonSW11@aol.com) and for our latest PCC www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church.

Minden jót! "Best wishes!" —**Lillian Anderson** and **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC cochairs ♦

REFLECTIONS AND RE NEWS

This year we have had some TBD dates on the RE calendar. These Sundays are usually on school vacation weekends. Only a handful of children attend, maybe 10 to 12 kids per service. I send out an RE Announce for these Sundays. One time, we practiced yoga and made Mango Lassis. Another time, we cleaned the RE storage closet. I mention these Sundays because both turned out to be very special times. Our circle time was very unstructured and we had no time commitments, so the children (and I) told story after story. We said a prayer and sang a song together. And then we went to work. Our children sharpened pencils, tested markers and stamp pads; they unstuck glue bottles and sorted paper. We even explored the secret entrance to the pulpit and the attic. Our closet has never looked better.

You might be thinking, What does testing markers have to do with religious education? What we were really doing was getting to know each other, telling stories and making stories. Our older kids became leaders, our younger kids rose to the expectation of having a job to do. In our RE program, working together is just one of the ways we celebrate being together on Sunday and actively expressing our faith. It is such a joy working with the children of this parish. Thank you for making this work possible — by attending, by teaching, and by pledging. Thank you. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Registration for Our 2010-2011 Religious Education Program

Our RE program is like a small school. We really need your registration in order to plan our curriculum for next year. Thank you if you have already sent in your forms, and thank you in advance if you could send them in as soon as possible.

If you need any help in deciding your role, please give me a call. If you find a good fit for yourself, teaching in our program can be a joyful experience for you too.

May 2010 RE Calendar

Sun., May 2	Regular RE for Babies–4 Years Regular RE for K–6th Grade 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at Common Cathedral 8th Grade OWL 2:00–4:15 p.m.
Sun., May 9	Regular RE for Babies–4 Years Regular RE for K–6th Grade 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11:00 a.m. 8th Grade OWL 2:00–4:30 p.m.
Sun., May 16	Regular RE for Babies–4 Years Regular RE for K–6th Grade 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11:00 a.m.
Sun., May 23	Regular RE for Babies–4 Years Regular RE for K–6th Grade 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths at 11:00 a.m.
Sun., May 30	Regular RE for Babies–4 Years No RE

2nd–6th Grade Spring 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 workshops that focus on our Unitarian-Universalist source — Wisdom from the World's Religions. Specifically, we will be looking at how religion can inspire beauty, both visually and acoustically.

May 2 and May 9: Inspiration in Art (mosaics, Japanese brush painting and mandalas).

May 16, May 23, and June 6: Inspiration in Music (gospel singing, chanting and drumming).

I'd like to give special thanks to **Sarah Sharpe** for helping me put this rotation together. Her experience as an art teacher and her thoughtful ideas about beauty really inspired this unit. Thank you, Sarah.

Gratitude for Our Whole Lives' Teachers

We have had an amazing OWL group this year, filled with questions, laughter and discussions about our values in human relationships. Our teachers this year have been so generous with their time and their passion for helping our UU youth make good decisions in difficult times. We want our children to have healthy and safe relationships and our OWL curriculum and teachers help to make this possible. If you get a chance, please thank **Mark Russell Prior**, **Peter Nobile**, **Lora Venesey** and **Laura Warner** for the ministry they provide our youth.

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Coming of Age on May 16

Please join us for this amazing service on May 16. Our ninth graders will each give their own credo — a personal statement of belief — to our congregation. Our mentors this year, **Allison Aley, Philip vanderWilden, Eric Kilburn, Deb Welch, David McGaffin** and **Donna Vaillancourt** have been excellent guides for our teens, exploring questions such as “Who am I?” and “What do I believe?” What would you say if you were asked these important questions? It is challenging to reflect on one’s self in this way. This is always such an interesting service, filled with joy and love for our UU rite of passage.

Special Project for our 6th Graders during the Spring Term

So many people love the labyrinth and our children always ask about it, but our outdoor labyrinth will not be ready for quite a while. This spring, our sixth graders have started making an indoor labyrinth in RE with the help of **Irl Smith** and **Martha Kilcoyne**. These labyrinths will be hand-drawn on large tarps. They can be folded and used within the walls of First Parish, or even outside on warm, dry days. This is a gift from RE to our parish. It is just one of the ways our children can demonstrate their love for our faith community.

Our First Parish Community Garden Is Back!

Last year, we started gardening on two plots at the Hugh Cargill Community Garden in Concord. Our children grew hundreds of pounds of food for Open Table in Concord. The work for our garden has once again begun. If you would like to be part of this project, please let us know. We will be gardening two times a week again: Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m. and Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. This is a great way for our children to learn how to grow food and help others. Adults are welcome too! This is an intergenerational opportunity to get your body moving and your hands dirty.

— **Pam Howell** and **Susan Ryan**

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday evening, May 10, 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. ♦

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

This is not an easy column to write this month because I have to tell you all that I am resigning as Youth Director as of July 1. I have loved working at First Parish these past six years and most of all I have loved the youth. After much thought, I have decided to begin the path back to classroom teaching. I will still be a parishioner and I will have two boys in the Youth Group, so I plan to stay involved and around First Parish. Thank you to everyone for your support of me and the youth program.

It’s a busy May calendar for youth:

- May 2: Make Your Own Sundaes and Discussion: Transition to a New Minister
- May 7-8: Leadership Retreat to Boston (all YAC members and youth interested in leadership invited)
- May 9: No YRUU on Mothers’ Day
- May 16: Yin Yang Game
- May 23: Ultimate Frisbee Championship game vs. Tri Con
- May 31: No YRUU — Memorial Day Weekend — Ferry Beach family retreat

An ad hoc committee has been meeting this spring to look at how we can keep our youth safe with regard to alcohol and drugs in a world that is different from the one in which we grew up. To help parents and other interested adults navigate this difficult world, the committee and First Parish in Concord sponsored a discussion on Sunday, May 2, with James Hannon, Ph.D., a local psychotherapist who has worked with adolescents and young adults as a college professor, as a therapist at Emerson Hospital, and in methadone clinics, prisons and halfway houses. If you missed the discussion and want to know more, please contact me.

We are also gearing up for another youth trip to El Salvador over April vacation 2011. If you missed the informational meeting for interested youth and adults on May 2 and are interested in the trip, contact me. Information and forms can be downloaded from the Youth Calendar on the First Parish website.

On March 28, the Youth Group held a 50/50 raffle to earn money to sponsor our Transylvanian student, and any extra proceeds would go to relief in Haiti. **Gretchen Hibben** was our winner. Surprisingly and generously, she donated her winnings back to supporting our causes.

Every year I find May to be a crazy, roller coaster of a month. Emotionally, we are getting ready to say good-bye to our seniors and hello to the incoming freshmen. Calendars are so busy with proms, performances, sports and schoolwork. It is my hope that Youth Group does not feel like another thing on the calendar, but a place for renewal, peace and connections. ♦

— *Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Youth Program Director

I hope you had an opportunity to see the Social Action play, *Still Life*, during April. It was a wonderful and emotional experience for all involved. The mission of the Social Action board is “to honor, educate, act and lead on social and environmental justice issues.” Our Social Action Community presented this play as all of these things! *Still Life* was an opportunity to start a discussion and present opportunities for action here at First Parish. We wanted to offer avenues of hope through our many SAC programs dealing with support services needed for all who suffer during their daily life. The issues raised in the play are not easy issues and the post-performance discussions could have gone on much longer. We look forward to presenting other opportunities to continue our discussions and highlight our SAC programs over the next months. If you see an issue we are not talking about or acting on, please let me know. I look forward to supporting any ideas for future SAC programs you may have.



— Faith Bade

Social Action Program Director

“Still Life” presented by SAC

Thank you to everyone who made *Still Life* such a success. Over 175 people attended and the post-performance discussions were deep and thought-provoking. Special thanks to **Kim Novick**, director; **Claudia Nimar**, producer; **Jim Reynolds**, **Kate Svrcek** and **Francene Amari-Faulkner**, actors; **Jiffy Read**, assistant director; **Lauren Treitman**, assistant producer; **Karen Kashian**, costume designer; **Bennett Hartnett** and **Ryan Fortier**, technical directors. Plus the Social Action board: **Tom Wilson**, **Maile Hulihan**, **Alec Walker**, **Jane Blumberg**, **Lynn Randall**, **Alice Kaufman**, **Bob Andrews** and **Candace Nelson**. Plus many others including, **Anne** and **Richard Fortier**, **Rebecca Curzon**, **Nancy Kerr**, **Richard Warren**, **Art Croke**, **Mark** and **Joel Nimar**, **Tom** and **Sue Beck**, **Leslie Koplów**, **Lillian Anderson**, **Richard Krug**, **Diana Baker**, **Jim Coutre**, **Lois Suarez**, **Phyllis Cohen**.

Stamp Out Hunger on Saturday, May 8!

Concord letter carriers are asking for your help to Stamp Out Hunger! Simply leave a sturdy bag containing nonperishable foods next to your mailbox prior to your scheduled mail delivery on Saturday, May 8. Your letter carrier will collect the donation as they deliver the mail. Donations will also be accepted that day at Concord’s Swap Off & Drop Off on Keyes Road. All donations benefit the Open Table pantry in Concord. Learn more! Go to

www.opentable.org for additional information and sign up for our monthly e-mail update. Thank you for your support!

Crop Walk Seeks Volunteer

Every October many First Parishioners and **Jenny Rankin** leave the steps of First Parish to walk for the hungry. The Crop Walk provides funding for national and international food programs, plus local pantries such as our own Open Table. For many years a First Parish member has been the crossing guard leader, and we are now looking for a new volunteer! This leader directs efforts of several church recruiters to get 2 to 4 crossing guards (total of 12) and assigns intersection locations via e-mail ahead of time and in person on the day of the walk. The time commitment is mainly September and October, and most of the work can be done from home except on the day of the walk. Please consider this volunteer opportunity and contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org.

First Parish Hosts Renewal House on May 9

Please come and meet the staff and residents of the Urban Ministry’s Renewal House. Share conversation and friendship over a barbeque at the Nimars’, 37 Emerson Road, Concord. The Renewal House family visit will begin at 4 p.m. All ages are welcome; bring yourself, bring your family. Please contact **Claudia Nimar** if you wish to attend or if you can help at Cnimar@aol.com or 978-771-8216.

Join the 2011 Youth Service Trip to El Salvador

An informational meeting was held at First Parish on Sunday, May 2, for high school youth and chaperones interested in the April vacation 2011 service trip to El Salvador. The trip is for pledging First Parish members only. The main organizer and lead chaperone is lay leader **Jim Reynolds**. Participants will work and live in Suchitoto at the hostel run by the Art Center for Peace (CAP) www.capsuchitoto.org. Approximate cost is \$1200-1400 and confidential scholarships are available through **Rev. Gary Smith**. Applications and a \$100 are deposit due by June 1, 2010. Information can be found at www.firstparish.org under Education & Spirituality, Youth Calendar, Social Action or at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/education-and-spirituality/youth-calendar>. Please contact **Faith Bade**, Social Action Program Director, at FBade@firstparish.org, or **Mary Wren vanderWilden**, Youth Director, at vanderWilden@firstparish.org with any questions.

SAC continued on page 12

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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

During the services on Sunday, May 2, the congregation officially welcomed new members who have signed the Membership Book this past year into the First Parish community, acknowledging that we covenant to walk with one another in faith, committing ourselves to deepen spiritually and go out into the world to try to make a difference. Joining a spiritual community is an important decision, one that calls for personal discernment, willingness and commitment, and we are grateful to those new members who made the decision to make First Parish their spiritual home.



Are you a member of First Parish? Are you considering becoming a member of First Parish? Being or becoming a member confirms your decision to join this church, to identify yourself as an active participant in a vibrant religious community of women, men and children representing multiple views, beliefs, and paths. This past year, the Standing Committee completed the process of developing a membership policy. A subcommittee reviewed the current responsibilities and expectations of being a member of First Parish and examined membership policies of local faith communities and other large UU congregations across the country, culminating in the new Membership Policy that clarifies what it means to be a “Member” or “Friend” of First Parish. To review the policy, see the insert at the end of this newsletter or go to www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/how-to-join-first-parish.

Please look over the policy. If you are currently a member, we hope the policy will reaffirm your commitment to First Parish and what that means to you now. If you are considering membership, we encourage you to explore that path. If you are trying to decide how you want to be associated with First Parish but are not sure about signing the book, know that being a “Friend” is also a vital role.

Whether already a member or considering becoming one, it is important to know that membership at First Parish does not end when you sign the membership book; rather, it is an ongoing journey, full of discovery and connection. Members are encouraged to develop a strong UU and First Parish identity, participate in programs and special events, serve in leadership positions, and give back to the First Parish community and the larger world around us.

Please contact **Jane Foley**, Membership Director, to inquire about membership at First Parish. Contact jfoley@firstparish.org or call 978-369-9602. ♦

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

From the Development Director

As we enter the final phase of Annual Appeal 2010, I would like to thank all of you who have pledged your support for First Parish. As of April 29, we had received \$690,010 in pledges, approximately 73% of our goal of \$925,000. This is a significant gap — to meet our goal, we need to hear from each and every one of you who have not yet pledged, so please take a moment now to fill out and mail in your pledge card. We need your commitment so that we can finalize our budget for the coming year (and you can save valuable volunteer time if you submit your pledge before we begin phone calls in early May).

Thanks also to the neighborhood captains for this year’s Appeal. You’ve shown yourselves to be true innovators, full of creativity and perseverance. You’ve shown us that the neighborhood-based collection process can work and, with your help, the process will go even more smoothly next year.

Thanks to those of you who shared your stories through the lighting of the chalice over the last several Sundays. Your words have been inspiring to all of us.

Thanks to my cochair **Tom Wilson**, who has been a fount of enthusiasm, creativity and resilience. I didn’t even mind it when asked to stand up and sing a song I’d never heard before (BTW, I’ve been encouraged to keep my day job!).

Finally, thank you to everyone who took the time to answer the question, “What do you value about First Parish?” Your statements reflect the richness and the shared aspects of our life together as a community. Here are excerpts from our display in the Parish Hall, and I encourage you to take a moment to peruse the wall before we remove the display in the next few weeks.

We value...

The opportunity every Sunday to connect spiritually with myself, being mindful in each moment of the service, being challenged by the sermons and inspired by the music.

Raising our children in an environment full of opportunities we feel good about, a place where our children can learn the values we cherish.

The opportunity to live social service, to take social action together; the commitment to social justice.

The depth and breadth of ministry to the First Parish community and the larger world.

The feeling of belonging to a church family, all caring for each other and for the world to the best of our ability.

Being a very active force for good.

Our First Parish community offers so much to so many. Thank you for pledging generously to sustain our home in the world! ♦

—Pamela Hathaway

Development Director

Lowell Homeless Need Household Items

Community Teamwork Inc. is looking for sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, coffeemakers, microwaves, dishes, silverware and televisions. They are also always looking for furniture. **Bill Seaver** can arrange a pickup of heavy items. The need for household items is ongoing, as CTI needs to refurbish their apartments every time a family moves on to its own home. At this time, CTI has enough clothing and cannot accept any more for a while. Items can be dropped off on **Bill Seaver's** porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. For more information, contact Bill at billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318.

Renewal House Mother's Day Cards on Sale

Would you like to learn more about Renewal House, the only faith-based domestic violence shelter in Massachusetts? Please stop by our table at coffee hour on May 2 and pick up a Mother's Day card to send to the mother in your life. (The painting on the card was created by a child here at First Parish in Concord.) The cards help inspire and educate people about Renewal House, a program created and funded by the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. For more information, contact Claudia Nimar at cnimar@aol.com.

Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie

The Peace Alliance, with its state campaigns for a Department of Peace, will hold its annual Mother's Day event. Congressional District 5 constituents will visit Representative Tsongas. With a copy of the federal budget pie chart, and real pie, they will show that peace wants 1 percent of the budget! Related bills in the House (H 1034) and Senate (S 435), the Youth PROMISE Act (Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education), need more support in the legislature. Senators Brown and Kerry will be urged to cosponsor this revolutionary act! See www.studentpeacealliance.org or contact **Pat Simon** at psimon@gis.net. ♦

Boston Pride Parade Saturday, June 12, at noon

The Diversity Committee will take a group from First Parish to march with our banner in the Boston Pride Parade, which starts at noon on Saturday, June 12. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show our support for the LGBT community. Contact **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org to sign up or get more information.

UUSC and UUA Help Rebuild after Hurricanes

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association have released "Rebuilding the Gulf Coast: A Unique Partnership between the UUA and the UUSC," a 30-minute video documenting the collaboration between the organizations to help rebuild after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Learn how contributions to the relief fund, the largest-ever disaster response in the history of joint UUA-UUSC collaborations, were used, in partnership with those of local communities, to help create a just recovery for everyone on the Gulf Coast. View the video by visiting the Gulf Coast video portal at uus.org. Consider becoming a member of UUSC to support this work. ♦

WOMEN'S NEWS

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The May book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group, and the last for this year, is *My Life in France*, by Julia Child with Alex Prud'Homme. The discussions will be held at First Parish, with the evening session on Monday, May 24, 7:30–9:00 p.m. and the morning session on Tuesday, May 25, 9:30–11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. Our final meeting of the year will be a June potluck dinner and discussion of book choices for next year — details to come. 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. ♦

MAY 2010 CALENDAR

Every Week...

May 2010 is an incredibly busy and event-filled month at First Parish! Please see page 14 for the Every Week calendar listings for May.

Sat May 1	9:00	Transition Study Team Listening Session	.	Mon May 10	6:30	Standing Committee
Sun May 2	2:00	Photo Club Reception	.		7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>
	5:00	Margaret Fuller Play Rehearsal	.		7:00	Emerson Forum
	5:30	El Salvador Meeting	.		7:00	Pledge Phone-a-Thon
	6:30	Transcendentalism Council	.	Tue May 11	3:00	<i>Tea and Poetry</i>
	7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>	.	Wed May 12	9:30	WPA Board Meeting
	7:00	SAC Board Meeting	.	Sat May 15	1:00	Coming of Age Rehearsal
	7:00	Substance Abuse Meeting	.	Sun May 16	12:00	Coming of Age Reception
Mon May 3	7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>	.		7:00	Margaret Fuller Rehearsal
	7:00	<i>Humanism</i>	.	Mon May 17	7:00	Jericho Road Board
	7:00	RE Council	.	Tue May 18	11:30	WPA Luncheon
Tue May 4	2:00	<i>"The Undertaking"</i>	.	Wed May 19	12:15	<i>Sandwiches and Short Story</i>
Wed May 5	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	.	Thu May 20	7:30	Threshold Choir
Thu May 6	7:30	Threshold Choir	.	Fri May 21	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Fri May 7	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	.	Sat May 22	10:00	Margaret Fuller Panel Discussion
	7:00	Theater Group	.		1:30	Margaret Fuller Tours
	7:30	Margaret Fuller Rehearsal	.		4:00	Music of the Transcendental Period
Sat May 8	8:30	<i>Humanism</i>	.		8:00	Margaret Fuller Play
	9:00	Photo Club	.	Sun May 23	12:15	Nominating Committee
	10:00	Music Rehearsal for Music Sunday	.		4:00	Sarasa Concert
	12:00	<i>Everyday Mindfulness</i>	.		7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>
	6:30	Concord Chorus Preconcert Lecture	.	Mon May 24	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
	7:30	Concord Chorus Concert	.		7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>
Sun May 9	7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>	.		7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	7:00	Margaret Fuller Rehearsal	.	Tue May 25	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
			.	Wed May 26	6:30	Membership Committee
			.	Thu May 27	7:30	Transcendentalist Council
			.	Mon May 31		Holiday — Office Closed

MAY 2010 WEEKLY 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.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m.
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.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>Meditation</i>	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Mountains and Rivers without End</i>	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women in Midlife</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Hatha Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:15 a.m.
<i>Art for Life I</i>	Thursday	6:00 p.m.
<i>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.

MAY 2010 NEWSLETTER

**The June Newsletter deadline is Monday, May 24, at noon.
The Newsletter is published the following Monday.**

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@comcast.net
- Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net
- Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net
-
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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
 Jane Barnes, Assistant to the Business Manager
 Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director
 Jane Foley, Membership Director
 Pamela Hathaway, Development Director

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
 Becky 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
- Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
- Eric Huenneke, Parish 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
- Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
- Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff
-

CONCORD *Celebrates*
200
Margaret Fuller Bicentennial

May 21, 22, & 23, 2010

At First Parish in Concord and Concord Free Public Library

A weekend of events celebrating Margaret Fuller, sponsored by Transcendentalism Council at First Parish in Concord, Concord Free Public Library, Concord Museum, Emerson Forum, Emerson House, The Old Manse, The Thoreau Society, and Concord Bookshop.

Contact: First Parish office @ 978-369-9602 or go to www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller

Friday night, May 21, 7 p.m. — Concord Free Public Library, 129 Main St., Concord, MA

Charles Capper, professor of history at Boston University and author of the two-volume *Margaret Fuller: An American Romantic Life* will deliver keynote address, "Margaret Fuller in Time." Reception and book signing will follow. Cosponsored by Concord Free Public Library, Special Collections.

Saturday, May 22, 10 a.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

The Rev. Jenny Rankin will moderate a panel discussion with three Margaret Fuller scholars: Brigitte Bailey of the University of New Hampshire, Past President of the Margaret Fuller Society; Michael Barnett, theologian, of Montgomery County (PA) Community College; and Joan von Mehren, President of the Margaret Fuller Society and author of *Minerva and the Muse: The Life of Margaret Fuller*.

Saturday, May 22, 1:30 p.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

Fuller-themed Tours — The Rev. Jenny Rankin and other guides will lead tours of The Old Manse and Emerson House (sites Margaret visited in Concord,) & view special artifacts at the Concord Museum. Reservations, please. Tickets (\$10) available at 978.369.9602 and Sunday coffee hours.

Saturday May 22, 4 p.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA

Chamber Music of the Transcendental Period will be performed by Lillian Braden (violin), Joan Esch (cello), and Susan Minor (piano), playing *Piano Trio in G minor, Op. 17* (1847) by Clara Schumann. Wine and cheese reception will follow.

Saturday, May 22, 8 p.m. — First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd, Concord, MA

Margaret Fuller's Universe, a play by Agnes Butcher and Sayre Sheldon, performed as a costumed, staged reading by members of the Arts Council of First Parish in Concord.

Reservations and tickets (\$10) available at 978.369.0602, at the door and Sunday coffee hours.

Two exhibits will be on display at First Parish in Concord/Parish Hall throughout the weekend:

"Photographs of Transcendentalist Sites" by the First Parish Photography Club and "Why Margaret Fuller Matters," text-and-image panels about Fuller's life and work, presented by Women's Parish Association of First Parish in Concord.

Sunday, May 23 — Worship services at First Parish, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., led by the Rev. Jenny Rankin, on Fuller's life and achievements. The First Parish Choir, under the direction of Elizabeth Norton, will perform the winner of the Margaret Fuller Hymn Competition. Commemorative banner on display, designed by Donna Peterson. Birthday cake served at coffee hour!

Thank You for Your Participation

As our *Congregation-wide Survey* and *Listening Sessions* wrap up on the first of May, the Transition Study Team would like to thank everyone who facilitated, hosted or participated in these seminal exercises. As previously mentioned, this research is being conducted for three reasons:

To develop an informed, congregation-driven view of our ministerial wants and needs.

To understand you, the First Parish congregation, more thoroughly.

To improve the quality of the ministerial profile we develop.

While the *Survey* information provides us with solid, quantitative data, the *Listening Sessions* present us with information of a qualitative nature, offering an understanding of the passions and emotions that underlie the “why” of our congregation’s attitudes and behaviors, and help us to appreciate the reasons behind your thinking. Both tools work in concert to present a complete picture of who we are as a congregation and each will help us to create the most accurate ministerial profile possible.

Here’s what will happen next:

Early May The study team will code, summarize and sort the *Listening Session* and *Survey* data and will, with professional assistance from the Alban Institute, uncover “the meaning of it all.”

Early June There will be a meeting of the Study Team, the Standing Committee and key First Parish staff members to discuss these findings and how they relate to the next chapter of our ministerial leadership and to chart out what needs to be done for our congregation to move forward.

Mid-June Using this information an initial conversation will be held between the Study Team and Jenny Rankin to discuss her potential interest in the senior minister’s position.

July/August A First Parish profile will be prepared in the event that we need to begin a search process.

Mid-August Jenny will communicate her interest in the senior minister’s position to the Standing Committee.

Formed to begin the process of determining our ministerial leadership, once Senior Minister Gary Smith retires, it is our mandate to keep the Parish informed throughout the process and we invite you to watch for updates in *The Meetinghouse News*, *The Sunday News*, *FP Announce* and at our table during coffee hours. Questions can also be addressed to Jeff Greene at jeffgreene@verizon.net

~The First Parish Transition Study Team~

Jeff Greene (Chair)
Jamie Atkins
Alyssa Bigay
Val Holt
Rhoda Miller
Winslow Pettingell
Sue St. Croix
Eloise Smith
Fred Van Deusen

Membership Policy
First Parish in Concord
As of February 8, 2010

A **Member** of First Parish includes one who:

Is sixteen years of age or older.

Is in general support of the purposes, goals, and programs of First Parish.

Has signed the Membership Book in the presence of the Minister. (Ideally having attended orientation sessions conducted by the Membership Committee in conjunction with the Minister.)

Makes an annual financial contribution of record (not required of those 16-21 years of age.) (Members are welcome to consult with a minister if contributing is a concern).

Contributes time and talent toward church functioning.

Being a **Member** of First Parish allows one to:

Chair committees.

Vote at annual meetings beginning 30 days after signing the Membership Book.

Help choose new ministers.

Represent First Parish at regional and national events.

Take priority over non-members at retreats and other activities when attendance must be limited.

Receive a discount on adjunct services and activities. (Program fees may differ for membership categories.)

Participate in certain special programs such as OWL, Coming of Age, and service trips.

A **Friend** of First Parish:

Is in general support of the purposes, goals, and programs of First Parish.

Does not wish to sign the Membership Book.

Is encouraged to make an annual financial contribution.

Is welcome to contribute time and talent toward church functioning.

Removal from active membership: A Member may be moved to inactive status upon:

A written request from the Member.

An oral request from the Member to the Minister.

Review and consultation by the ministers, if this Member has not fulfilled the conditions of membership as stated above, has not made a request to become a Friend and has neither contacted nor responded to efforts to reestablish contact with First Parish for 2 years.

Death of the Member.

An **Honorary Member** is one who:

Has been a longstanding member of First Parish whose circumstances prevent participation but whose past contributions are honored.

* Exceptions to this membership policy will be at the Minister's discretion.



The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • May 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

Mountains and Rivers without End: Gary Snyder and the Nature of Nature

With the world trying to envision a “green” future, it’s a great time to listen to this poet, scholar and teacher who has been addressing the “greening” of the human mind and the planet for several decades. Snyder’s view of the natural world — nourished by sources as (seemingly) divergent as transcendentalism, Chinese landscape painting and poetry, and Native American myth — will present a point of departure for us to investigate our own ideas about the human place in the web of existence. We will read short pieces of Snyder’s prose outside of class, and read together in class his climactic work — the poetry collection *Mountains and Rivers without End*, a book conceived as a journey through Snyder’s work and the Big Watershed of which we’re all a part. Instructor: **Will Kemeza**

Wednesdays: May 5–26 7:00-9:00 p.m. Fee: \$40

T’ai Ji

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with qigong and the simple movements of T’ai Ji we can release blocked energy, create wellness and bring our lives into balance. This class is geared to people of all ages. It offers gentle low-impact exercise to reduce stress, enhance optimal health and to simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: **Mae Pagan**

Fridays: May 7 and June 11 12:30–2:00 p.m. \$25/class

Everyday Mindfulness Workshop

Amid the chaos of work and family schedules it can be difficult to find moments of peace, clarity, joy and presence. Join us in exploring ways to tune into these moments and discover how this practice can change your everyday life. With the help and support of each other, our shared experiences, readings, meditative exercises, guided discussion and humor, we will explore

- ways to slow down, live more mindfully and more deeply each day. This class is an introduction to practices in Abby Seixas’s highly acclaimed book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman’s Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*, a recommended read prior to the workshop.
- Instructors: **Alyssa Bigay** and **Susan Ryan**. Alyssa and Susan have been part of an ongoing Deep River group led by author Abby Seixas for almost two years, and both have completed her facilitator training.

• Saturday: May 8 12:00–3:00 p.m. \$40/ person

Concord Area Humanists

- James Croft will join us with an update on the “New Humanism” movement at Harvard University. This expanding movement is energetically led by humanist chaplain Greg Epstein, whose recent book *Good without God* made the *New York Times* nonfiction best seller list. You can read Croft’s article “Building the Humanist Movement — why we must become storytellers” and other worthwhile articles in the “New Humanist” online magazine at

• www.thenewhumanism.org. Contact Pat Everett with questions or offers help to at 978-369-1589 or pne@aol.com.

• Monday: May 3 7:00 p.m. social time, 7:30 p.m. program
• First Mondays at Wright Tavern

“Relating Consciously and Compassionately” Workshop for Humanists

- For those who attended the first session and for those who will be new to this workshop series, join us to learn about the work of Marshall Rosenberg, founder of the international Center for Nonviolent Communication, and author of the book *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*. After a review of our last session’s introduction to nonviolent communication (NVC), we will delve into “The Importance and Effectiveness of Empathy” with concepts and techniques, demos and practice exercises.

Learn how to provide true empathy (presence and nonjudgmental understanding), resulting in a quality of connection that paves the way for effective communication, healing and creative problem solving. Facilitated by Marguerite Robbins. We will have muffins, coffee, tea and juice from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m., then the workshop from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and end with some socializing from 11:30 a.m. to noon. RSVP helpful, but not required. For more information, contact either Marguerite at MargueriteR17@comcast.net or Maria at mc2cox@comcast.net.

Saturday: May 8 9:00-12:00 p.m.

Third Tuesday Conversations at Eight

The Concord Area Humanist group meets in Concord for socializing at 7:45 p.m., with the hour+ discussion starting at 8:00 pm. RSVP to Frank McClintock at fammwm@aol.com for directions or to offer discussion suggestions.

Tuesday: May 18 7:45 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 the group on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. The story for May is "Vampires in the Lemon Grove," by Karen Russell, found in *Best American Short Stories 2008*, Salmon Rushdie, editor, a collection used throughout the year. Leader: **Rev. Gary Smith**

Wednesday: May 19 12:15 p.m.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The May book is *My Life in France*, by Julia Child, with Alex Prud'Homme. Come to either the Monday (May 24) evening meeting, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; or Tuesday (May 25) morning meeting, 9:30–11:00 a.m. Drop-ins welcome. Contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com for details or questions.

III. Sources of Unitarian Universalism

Margaret Fuller Bicentennial, May 21–23, 2010

The Transcendentalism Council at First Parish has a great line-up of events for Margaret Fuller's Bicentennial in Concord. Check out their website at www.firstparish.org/margaretfuller. Love the Transcendentalists? Volunteers are needed — contact Dianne Weiss at dweiss1@verizon.net.