

The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

From time to time, on a Sunday morning, something will happen during worship that takes my breath away. This May, my first Sunday back, a singer in Gospel Choir let loose with a solo. Stunning. Looking over at Gary, I see the same look of incredulity and delight on his face that I imagine is probably on mine. Being able to share this kind of a “wow” moment is fun.



It was great to be away on sabbatical — thank you so much — and it is great to be back. This month at First Parish has been one of energy and depth, the kind that is possible in a community of our size and strength. A Jericho Road gala like none other, the powerful “Sources” by the choir, a jam-packed Margaret Fuller weekend. And then, all the “usual things” like creative RE on Sunday morning, OWL and a stunning Coming of Age Sunday, covenant group meetings, a lively Photography Club, and that doesn’t scratch the surface. What is *your* thing here, the way you connect, the way you get meaning?

Maybe you don’t think about it in this way, but *you* make this all possible. Yes, you. Your presence, your participation and your pledge make this community happen. Day after day. You may think your gift helps pay for what you “get” here, but it does way more than that. Put simply, it keeps this institution going. If it weren’t for each one of us, First Parish wouldn’t be able to send people to Transylvania and New Orleans, wouldn’t be able to start projects like Jericho Road (now replicating across America to help the poor), wouldn’t be able to have world-class music or spiritual and intellectual programs that are rich and deep. There wouldn’t be small groups or photo clubs or OWL or any of it.

I don’t know about you, but for me, it is a gift to be part of such an energized group of people, people who are learning and seeking and doing and healing and becoming, day by day. Thank you for “giving till it feels good” this spring. It makes possible who we are and what we do.

—*Jenny Rankin*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 6

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

June 13

Gary Smith, preaching
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
Children’s Choirs, Gospel Choir and First Parish Choir

June 20

Pam Howell, preaching
Music: TBA

June 27

Jim Reynolds, worship leader
Lauren Evans, soloist

See Insert for Summer Worship

Don’t Miss...

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Single Worship Service
at 10:00 o’clock

Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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There are two inserts at the end of the newsletter:

- ◆ Summer Service Schedule
- ◆ Transition Study Team 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, August 30
Monday, September 27
Monday, October 25

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

PARISH NOTES

Concord Celebrates the Margaret Fuller Bicentennial... A Great Success!

As you may have heard by now, our attendance exceeded all expectations. The library doors had to be locked on Friday night for the Charles Capper lecture, when their seating capacity was reached (130-140); we had 120 fill the Parish Hall for **Jenny Rankin's** panel discussion; the guided tours were sold out at 42; 84 music lovers attended the concert; and **Lillian Anderson** reports that 170 came to the play, while others had to be turned away. Sunday services included not only our own congregation, but several members of the Fuller family, Harvard University professor Lawrence Buell, and Megan Marshall, prizewinning author of *The Peabody Sisters* and upcoming book, *The Passion of Margaret Fuller*.

Today I'm feeling like a phrase Margaret used: "My heart is a large kingdom." I am filled with gratitude. For all those who were inspired to honor Fuller's life in a special way. For **Jenny Rankin**, who fascinated us with the force of Fuller's mind and spirit, both in her classes about the Transcendentalists, and in her sermons; for the Transcendentalism Council for leadership in planning the celebration; for **Beth Norton** and the choir for choosing and singing the winning hymn; for **Moragh Ramage**, who set Margaret's words to music in *Western Eden*; for the WPA who provided the UUA exhibit and refreshments; for members of the Photography Club who created images Margaret would have seen on a walk through Concord; for the chamber musicians — **Lillian Braden**, **Joan Esch** and **Susan Minor** — who thrilled us with Schumann's *Piano Trio*; for graphic designer and operations manager **Victor Curran**; for **Polly Peterson** who lent her expertise to being a tour guide; for **Margaret Stewart**, who coordinated hospitality and managed tour logistics to the historic houses, with the help of **Donna Davis** and a fleet of First Parish drivers; for **Alec Walker**, volunteer coordinator and cochair with **Jane Blumberg** of PaLCo, who organized, hosted and donated a fabulous gourmet luncheon; for our publicity team, under the leadership of **Cynthia Ellis**, with special thanks to **Lorraine Loviglio**, **Pat Ellis**, **CCTV** and **PSA** actors **Donna Davis** and **Alec Walker**; for **Rhoda Miller** who did the reception; for **Donna Peterson**, for creating the banner; for our Web masters **Victor Curran** and **Stoney Ballard**; for **Rick Moore**, for use of his sound system; for **Kate Keleher**, who designed the play tickets; for **Steph Chiha**, who brought the special birthday cakes; for director **Tom Beck**, producer **Lillian Anderson** and the outstanding cast of *Margaret Fuller's Universe*, who not only wowed us with their performance abilities but also acted as the best PR ambassadors we could have had.

Special thanks to **Gary Smith** for his wise counsel; to **Doug Baker** for his support and collaboration; to **Jane Johnson** and **Cassy Bosworth** for their patience and good cheer, despite many hours of extra work; and to sextons **Pat Halloran** and **Bob Hoff**, who went above and beyond the call of duty. Volunteers came along just when they were needed, and I appreciated the outpouring of enthusiasm.

Our keynote speaker, Charles Capper, said that of all the Margaret Fuller celebrations of which he was aware, Concord's was the most ambitious. You all made that possible with your generosity, energy and dedication.

Heartfelt thanks — **Dianne Weiss**, Chair

Parish Notes continued on page 3

You Can Still Attend GA!

General Assembly 2010 is being held in Minneapolis from June 23 to 27. There is still time for you to register and make plans to attend in person. It is a vibrant and exciting way to connect with Unitarian Universalism and its people. If, however, you find you cannot make the time to go in person, be sure to check out the live webcasts of some of the important events — like the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Ware Lecture (featuring Winona LaDuke, a Native American activist), and Sunday Worship. For a complete listing of webcast events, go to <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/2010/162704.shtml>. During the event, a link will be there for you to connect to the webcast. Come and celebrate Unitarian Universalism!

—Mark Richards, Denominational Affairs Committee

Summer Office Hours

The office at First Parish will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Monday, June 21 through Friday, September 3. Regular office hours (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) will resume on Tuesday, September 7.

News from the Labyrinth Committee



Would you like to see the Labyrinth return to the lawn at First Parish? The Labyrinth Committee has been working on making this dream a reality. Come see a snapshot of our vision and learn more at the Annual Meeting on June 13. If you have any questions, or skills that would help realize the dream, please contact **Martha Kilcoyne** at m.kilcoyne@comcast.net or 978-443-2686.

Good Wishes From the Jericho Road Project

The Jericho Road Project wishes Jodi DeLibertis, Lowell Program Director, the best as she transitions to a new position at Simmons College as Director of Clinical Coordination for the rapidly growing Nursing Program, and advances her education by pursuing a graduate degree.

SUNDAY FORUMS

There will be no Forums until the fall. Please contact **Charles Lowell** at chasrlow@verizon.net or **Robert Hilsinger** at rhilsinger@verizon.net if you have a topic or speaker you wish to consider for the fall calendar. ♦

MONEY MATTERS

It's May 25, and the staff members deeply involved in fundraising are working to reach out to those who have yet to pledge for next year (**Pamela Hathaway**), analyzing the data (**Jane Barnes**), and creating budget scenarios to match our projected income (me). We are far from our goal. The Executive Team has agreed with the Standing Committee that we will have a balanced budget next year. We are prepared to make any necessary reductions. The gap between our pledge goal — \$875,000, which is what we raised last year — and what we ultimately attain in pledges will determine the extent of the reductions. If I had to present the budget today, the reductions would be severe. I am maintaining my faith that this community can at least meet the challenge to provide us with the same level of funding that we received last year.

Many of you stretched to give us thoughtful pledges this year, and we are grateful for your generosity. Many of you told us why you were not able to pledge at a level you wished you could, and we are grateful to know that too, because it allows us to have a fuller picture of what is going on in the community as well as to provide support to you. And many of you will receive a letter next week asking if you would reconsider your pledge and increase it to help us reach our goal.

The Executive Team is committed to having First Parish on a solid financial foundation as we enter a period of ministerial transition. Our expenses for next year (if we achieve \$875,000 in pledges) are only 1 percent higher than last year, despite increases in the cost of simply running the facility. We are committed to being wise stewards of your pledge dollars. If we are able to raise an additional \$70,000 in this last phase of the appeal, we will be able to maintain programming at its current level. Please help us by increasing your pledge as you are able. ♦

—Melissa Perdue Gallo

Business Manager

June is the first month of summer abundance as we begin to enjoy locally grown fruits and vegetables. On June 11, 2010, I will be quietly but joyfully celebrating the tenth anniversary of my ordination to ministry. These have been an abundantly rich 10 years. Also, the spirit of abundance is evident in the number of pastoral care



“thinking of you” cards sent to parishioners who are grieving or recovering from a hospitalization. **Al Armenti** asked that I thank all those who sent him notes, especially “Violet,” who did not sign her last name and is probably in elementary school.

In celebrating the abundance of life, it may seem odd that the rest of pastoral news will be about abuse, but life and ministry are abundant in “the mess and the mystery.” At the end of April and in early May I attended two symposiums about abuse: elder abuse and abuse in teen relationships.

Not all elder abuse occurs through physical/sexual/emotional violence or financial exploitation. There is also “neglect,” which may be unintentional but can lead to unsafe conditions, i.e. — when the caregiver is no longer able to physically care for his or her loved one. The Protective Services Department at Minuteman Senior Services has been designated by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs to investigate all reports of elder abuse within 24 hours in its 16 service-area towns. At her presentation at First Parish on April 29, Tobe Conway stressed how caring and sensitive the staff of Protective Services is to the needs of elders, and how they work to balance the mandate to protect elders with an elder’s right to self-determination. What impressed me most was the wisdom and compassion expressed in the delivery of their services. If you are concerned about an elder at risk, call 1-800-922-2275.

On May 5, the Domestic Violence Services Network (DVSN) sponsored a symposium for clergy and youth directors about Engaging Youth and Building Healthy Relationships. The youth of today (ages 12 to 24) face challenges caused by an over-sexualized society that also glorifies violence in advertisements, movies, TV shows and video games, but does not give young people the tools to discern what healthy, respectful relationships entail.

The joint UCC-UUA curriculum “Our Whole Lives (OWL)” was presented by the DRE of First Parish of Bedford. She stressed that OWL provides young people a safe forum to learn and explore mutuality, equality, respect, trust and love, and how that looks in terms of boundaries. Although I was proud that First Parish annually offers OWL to our eighth graders, I did not feel comfortable resting on our laurels. In a survey conducted by the National Teen Dating Violence Prevention Initiative in 2006, one in five female

high school students reported being physically or sexually abused by a dating partner; in a study of gay, lesbian and bisexual adolescents involved in same-sex dating, they are just as likely to experience dating violence as youths involved in opposite-sex dating. It was very troubling to learn that 81 percent of parents surveyed believe either teen dating violence is not an issue or admit they don’t know if it is an issue, and 54 percent of parents admit they have not spoken to their child about dating violence. The DVSN helpline is 888-399-6111.

Doug Hardy extends an invitation to First Parish members and friends to spread the word about a new web community focused on post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other effects of trauma at <http://traumanation.com>. As many of you know, **Doug** and his wife **Roselyn** adopted three severely traumatized children from Russia in 1998. The story of their struggles and recovery is told in Doug’s forthcoming book, *The Solution Room*. (Part 1 of the book is available free on <http://traumanation.com> and can also be downloaded at the Amazon Kindle store.) If you know anyone who has been affected by trauma and its effects for any reason, including family and friends of those affected, please invite them to visit the site. You can follow this work on Facebook and Twitter by searching the name TraumaNation. Finally, you can write to Doug at <mailto:traumanation@gmail.com>.

This summer, I hope you all are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation. I look forward to seeing you in September. ♦

—*Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Covenant Groups

Would you like to explore your spirituality? If you are interested in exploring topics such as acceptance, friendship, letting go, evil, death, etc. *in an intimate group*, consider joining a Covenant Group. Groups of fewer than ten people meet at least once per month for an hour and a half of the confidential *sharing* of spiritual ideas and experiences. The following three groups are presently receiving new members.

- Sunday, 4:00–5:30 p.m.; contact **Bill Seaver**, billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318.
- First and third Wednesday of the month, 1:30–3:00 p.m.; contact **Don Miller**, donaldbmiller@comcast.net or 781-646-4965.
- Tuesday, 7:00–8:30 p.m.; contact **David Downing**, dowdav@earthlink.net or 978-263-8454.

MUSINGS AND MUSIC NOTES

Before we slip into summer mode, I would like to sing the praises of the leaders in our music ministry, and to express my own deep gratitude for their work with this parish.



Eric Huenneke, our organist, has provided patient and steady leadership of our organ project, monitoring its deliberate progress and making regular reports to our leadership and membership. He has also continued to provide fine service music on our Steinway baby grand, exploring new sources of piano music and adapting some organ music for use in the services.

Gail Carey's nurturing leadership of our Children's Choirs encourages our youngest singers to grow musically and to live our Benediction. Gail built a musical bridge to the UU Urban ministry this year with her workshops in the Saturday Explorers Program, and successfully combined the children's choirs of Concord with her singers from Roxbury to sing at Rev. Catherine Senghas' installation service at First Church in Roxbury.

Our Gospel Choir continued to deepen and enliven worship under **Anderson Manuel's** direction. The group made a study of the works of composer Jim Papoulis this year and provided moving presentations of many of his songs during our worship services. Anderson was ably assisted by **Rob Castillo** at keyboard and **Mark Weltner** on guitar. Special thanks to **Stephanie Chiha**, the "Gospel Choir Mama" for the past four years, for her essential assistance.

Our new Threshold Choir was established this year with the initiative and vision of my coleader **Laurie Corelle**. Partnering with our pastoral care ministry, this group offered comfort and healing support through singing to one another and to parishioners in homes, hospice beds and beyond.

The Transylvania Troubadours, anchored by parishioners **Bob Goodearl**, **Rick Moore** and **Rex Morrill**, have brought their smooth close harmonies to our worship on two Sundays this year and to the wider community through services at area congregations and performance at the Mass Bay Choir festival.

And there's Rise Up Singing, our monthly folk singing group, which just seems to grow in vitality and harmony, drawing more singers from the congregation and the wider community. Their fourth-Friday meetings provide a musical exclamation point at the end of every month.

I am deeply grateful for our dedicated and intrepid First Parish Choir. Our Wednesday night accompanist, **Grace Choi**, provides invaluable support as we rehearse our varied and abundant repertoire. Through the miraculous alchemy of "choiring," this collection of more than 50 individuals

comes together each week to do what none of us could do on our own.

Thank you to all for another rewarding year! ♦

Blessings,

—*Beth Norton*

Director of Music

Summer Singing Opportunities...

The First Parish Threshold Choir will continue to meet throughout the summer on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. (June 3 & 17, July 1 & 15, August 5 & 19). The group is open to any adult who loves to sing and longs to serve through music. Singers will be available to sing for parishioners in need of comfort and healing throughout the summer. Please talk to **Margie King Saphier** or one of the ministers on call if you are interested in having Threshold singers sing for you over the summer.

Rise Up Singing will also continue to meet throughout the summer on the fourth Friday of the month (June 25, July 23 and August 27) at 7:30 p.m. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome to this informal and spirited evening of shared music making. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one. Copies are available for those who don't. ♦

PIPEWORK

The organ console wiring has been completed and tested, and we should see the newly updated and rebuilt console back in the balcony very soon. The leathering of all the various wind reservoirs for the new instrument are being completed in the Russell shop, and the builders will soon be turning themselves to the task of constructing the organ from the bottom up. This work will start in the basement of the church with a new static wind reservoir being built above the blower motor. This will create a buffering to the wind rush up the main trunk and ensure a near silent operation of the winding system in the church. After that, they will begin constructing and assembling the wind system in the organ loft with all its trunks, which will go to each area and division of the instrument. The wind reservoirs/bellows, most of which are coming along nicely now, will go above the wind lines, which will run along the loft floor, and sit just below those pipe chests still waiting patiently on their sides in the loft.

Significant progress will be made during the summer months, with the expectation of being able to play some organ music for opening Sunday in September. ♦

—*Eric Huenneke*

Parish Organist

Wonder. How do we keep wonder alive in our children? Summer is a great time to rekindle this essential element of living.



With our kids in classrooms for most of the year, summer is a time to be out in nature. I know, as parents, we worry about the “wildness” of nature, of ticks, of disease, of poison ivy, of getting hurt. It is so much “safer” in front of a video game. But interacting with the earth, that bountiful and mysterious mother, is essential to becoming fully human. Children respect nature’s way of teaching. If you jump from a tree that is too high, you get hurt. Unlike video games, where you hit re-set and try again, nature is real life, real living and real contact with the physical world. You cannot manipulate nature’s storms; you can only respond to them. You cannot control what happens in nature; you can only work with it. You cannot negotiate bedtime with nature; it is dark when it is dark. This is why nature is such a great teacher for our children. Nature knows boundaries, sets limits, and holds our children accountable, in a loving way, for their choices. I hope you find the time to pitch a tent in your backyard this summer for your child. Let your child take her own solo sojourns and find the voice of her unique inner spirit. When we are open to our selves, when we know our inner landscape, wonder will be everywhere for us to enjoy. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Flower Communion on June 6

For our last RE Sunday on June 6, we will be having a flower communion. Please bring a few cut flowers from your garden to share with the congregation. Our children will collect the flowers as you enter the Sanctuary and later we will pass the baskets so each parishioner can take a flower home with them. It is a beautiful UU tradition and I am looking forward to sharing this with your child. Remember, it will work *only* if we all remember to bring some flowers to share!

June 2010 RE Calendar

- Sun., June 6 Regular RE for Babies–4 Years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
- Sun., June 13 Regular RE for Babies–4 Years
One Intergenerational Service at 10:00 a.m.

Vegetable and Flower Plants Welcome!

On June 6, we would love it if you could bring a vegetable plant for our First Parish Community Garden. Our budget is very tight this year. We have the garden ready, but have limited funds for actually buying plants. If you could send in a six pack of tomatoes or cucumbers, etc., that would be most welcome. If you do bring a plant, please leave it on the right side of the First Parish steps. I will pick up all donations after services that Sunday and plant them that afternoon with our children. All produce yielded from your plant goes to feed those in need at Open Table.

Next Year’s Second–Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation for the Fall

We have a very full year for our religious education program next year. We will begin with a term that focuses on our Judeo-Christian roots as Unitarian Universalists. We will be observing the high holy days of the Jewish faith and the holy days of remembrance in the Christian tradition. We will be exploring the rituals around each of these holy days and the powerful role they play in helping us experience our own humanity and our relationship with ourselves, our families and each other.

Coming of Age Service on May 16

I do hope you were able to attend and experience our amazing Coming of Age service last month. Hearing our youth put forth their powerful statements of belief was moving on many levels. There was a wide breadth of personal beliefs, yet a common adherence to our UU covenantal community. Our ninth graders shared personal stories and helped us understand more about what is important in the lives of our young adults. I find it encouraging and hopeful that the things that are important to many of our youth — friends, family, faith and relationships — are the same things that are important to most of us. A special thanks goes out to **Caroline** and **Jimmy McCloy** for leading this program. Without steadfast and dedicated people like the McCloys, programs like COA just couldn’t happen.

Sixth Grade Gift to First Parish

Our Sixth Graders have finished their gift of a cloth labyrinth for First Parish. This is a simple, but beautiful labyrinth that can be used in any room at First Parish. Anyone who would like to borrow this labyrinth can get in touch with me, and I will make arrangements for you to use this keepsake. It can also be used outside in nice weather. Projects like this one are just one way our children can give something back to our parish.

RE News continued on page 7

RE Registration and Notification

We have received many registrations with our pain-free registration process this year. Some registrations come in immediately and others trickle in. We have been working carefully to plan meaningful programming for your child, and part of this process is placing each parent in the right teaching role. I often shape our curriculum based on who has offered to lead that particular session.

If you have not submitted your forms, please do so as soon as possible. Without your registrations, it is like playing chess without all of the pieces. Knowing your preferences and using each of your gifts is what makes our program so unique. *You* shape our program. Your passions, talents and joy are what give shape to next year.

We will send out a preliminary RE information letter at the end of June (so you can plan your calendar for next year), and we will send a second informational packet the first week of September. Thank you so much for sharing your gifts with our children.

Our First Parish Community Garden Is Back!

We will be gardening twice a week again this summer — Thursdays from 3 to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 9 to 10 a.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. All food will go to Open Table in Concord. I do hope you will join us in this effort. It is way too much for two people to do, but it will be easy and fun if people show up to help with the important work of the garden.

—Pam Howell and Susan Ryan

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday evening, June 14, 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

On Sunday, June 6, I will start out my day at the 11:00 o'clock worship service, recognizing our high school seniors. This is always an emotional service for me, as I say goodbye to an amazing group whom I have watched grow up at First Parish. Then, that night, I will end my day welcoming eighth graders into the Youth Group. It is always invigorating to meet the new group of youth and try to picture what they might be like as 18-year-olds. Making these goodbyes and hellos even more poignant is the fact that I will be moving on from the Youth Director position in a few short weeks. The only way I can get through all this is to remember that I will still be part of First Parish and available to the youth.

June is a short, but very sweet month for youth at First Parish

June 6 Fun and Games to welcome Eighth Graders to YRUU

June 18-19 Phishbowl Lock-In — permission slips on the website

It's hard to believe this is my last *Meeting House News* article after writing 60 of these! I would like to thank all of you for being such an incredibly supportive congregation. You have always made me and the youth at First Parish feel valued. Thank you to the best staff I have ever worked with. Not only did you have my back, but we did some terrific work together, all with humor and style. Most of all, thank you to the hundreds of youth and parents who have touched me more than you will ever know.

Change can be scary and unsettling. However, it is my experience that these moments are opportunities for growth. It is my hope that the youth program will continue to thrive and that this change will offer our youth new opportunities. I'm still around — I'm in the directory — just call! ♦

Happy Summer!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

Youth Program Director

Service trips are a critical component of the First Parish Social Action experience. We continue to build these transformative experiences into the tradition of social action for our children and youth. Plus chaperones always describe how they receive so much more from these trips than what they give. These trips are a win for everyone!

Since joining the staff at First Parish I have had the pleasure of partnering with **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** on a number of service trips — to



New Orleans to rebuild after Katrina, to El Salvador to work at the Art Center for Peace, to Heifer

International in western Massachusetts. Mary-Wren has also worked with youth and adults on service trips to Transylvania with our Partner Church and our Coming of Age youth recently participated in City Reach, another Ecclesia Ministries program for the unhoused in Boston like Common Cathedral. (If you were able to worship with the Coming of Age youth in May, you will know how profoundly impacted they were by this “mini service trip”.)

I want to take a moment to thank Mary-Wren for her wonderful spirit and advice over the past few years. Her insight has been invaluable, and she will be greatly missed as a partner on the social action service trips we offer here at First Parish. Thanks Mary-Wren!

It may not be too late to sign up for the El Salvador Youth Service Trip in April 2011. Contact me if you are interested in participating. The deadline is June 1.

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

Boston Gay Men’s Chorus Performs Benefit for the Sharing Foundation

“Outrageously fun and fabulously over the top” is how the Boston Gay Men’s Chorus has been described. We are lucky to have them perform in Concord on June 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Trinitarian Congregational Church. Tickets are \$20 and available at TriCon, the Concord Bookstore and Debra’s Natural Gourmet. Proceeds benefit The Sharing Foundation, a local nonprofit founded by Dr. Nancy Hendrie, whose mission is to support poor children in Cambodia. The First Parish Social Action Community has sponsored four students in Cambodia through The Sharing Foundation.

Lowell Homeless Need Household Items

- CTI is looking for sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, coffeemakers, microwaves, dishes, silverware, and televisions. Due to budget constraints, they are not currently accepting clothes or furniture. The need for household items is ongoing, since CTI needs to refurbish their apartments every time a family moves on to its own home.
- Items can be dropped off on **Bill Seaver’s** porch at 294 The Valley Road after June 15. Contact Bill at 978-369-7318 or billseaver@earthlink.net with questions.

Boston Pride Parade, Saturday, June 12

- Please join the First Parish contingent of the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 12; the parade starts at noon. Come with us to this fun, family-friendly event, and help show our congregation’s support for the LGBT community. Sign up at coffee hour on June 6, or e-mail **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org for more information. Our participation is sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

Help UU Service Committee Take Action in the Gulf Coast Oil Spill

- The BP oil rig explosion unleashed an environmental and economic catastrophe in one of the world’s most sensitive marine ecosystems. The UUSC is consulting with Gulf Coast allies to determine the best ways to pressure BP and the federal government to fulfill their responsibilities to clean up this oil drilling disaster, protect the environment, compensate those who suffer losses, and hold responsible parties accountable. Go to www.uusc.org. Under “What We Do” find “Campaigns and Actions,” click on “Gulf Coast Advocacy” and see what you can do to help with this environmental and social crisis. Become a member of UUSC today!

SAC Grants Recipient Wants a Pen Pal

- Are you or your family interested in getting to know a young Cambodian student? The Sharing Foundation is a local nonprofit founded by Concord pediatrician Dr. Nancy Hendrie. Its mission is to support the well-being of children in Cambodia. The Sharing Foundation runs an orphanage, a sewing school and an English school as well as supporting about 75 students who attend high school and college. Social Action Grants has generously supported college students for the past five years and is currently sponsoring two students who attend college in Phnom Penh through The Sharing Foundation. The students correspond four times

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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

Welcome New Members

This year, 16 people made the choice to identify themselves as active participants in the life of First Parish by signing the book and becoming members. We are grateful for their commitment to walk with the greater First Parish community in faith, to deepen spiritually and to go out into the world to try and make a difference. Please welcome our new members:



Christé Andrews	Derek McCarthy
Carol Boris	Heather Packard
Neil Brock	Kristin Parlman
Natalie Kanter	Maura Perkins
Christine Key	Scott Siegel
Scott Key	Mary-Ann Smith
Richard Lowitt	Anna Huckabee Tull
Nancy Lyons	Jim Tull

UU Membership Professionals Day at General Assembly

I am very excited to be attending General Assembly in Minneapolis from June 22 to 26, including a day-long workshop for UU Membership Professionals on Wednesday, June 23. The theme for the workshop is “Staying Connected: Why People Stay at Church.” Attendees will explore what makes people plug in and stay with a congregation, from their early days at church until they become long-tenured members. The workshop features keynote speaker Susanna Whitman, UUA Growth Services Program Manager. In breakout sessions, we will explore Data Tracking; Growing Pains — What Works and What Doesn’t; Defining our Identity as Membership Professionals; and Leadership Development — the Membership Professional’s Role.

I look forward to learning and growing, and I expect to return to my job as Membership Director with a greater understanding of how to best serve the membership needs of First Parish in Concord. ♦

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

First Parish Open House—Homecoming Sunday

Mark your calendar! Homecoming Sunday will be held on September 12, a time when we gather again in fellowship and begin growing programs, deepening connections and welcoming friends old and new. This year, Homecoming Sunday coincides with the 375th anniversary of the Town of Concord. During the afternoon, from 2 to 5 p.m., First Parish will open its doors to the greater Concord community as part of the town’s celebration. The doors will be open for those interested in seeing our historic Meeting

DEVELOPMENTS

From the Development Director

Four months have passed since I started my job as Development Director. The Annual Appeal, which has been my focus during this period, provided a great opportunity to work with many of you, and to take part in many inspiring conversations about hopes and plans, community and generosity. Your statements about what you value about First Parish, some of which I shared in my last *Meeting House News* column, helped orient me and teach me about this amazing congregation. In a culture characterized by tight budgets and tighter calendars, it is indeed amazing that so many First Parish members give of themselves for the greater good.

As of this writing, we are far short of reaching our goal for the Annual Appeal. This situation has also given cause for reflection and will define my work over the next several months as I work with Parish leaders to identify strategies for the long-term stewardship of our church community. Some of the strategies that we will consider include a planned giving program, a drive to honor **Gary Smith’s** ministry as he nears retirement, a review of special events and special collections, and alternative income streams such as classes and camps for children. We will also be considering historical and current patterns of giving at First Parish, and how we can ensure that we have a reliable flow of resources to help us realize our dreams.

We will be establishing a Development Committee in the fall to shepherd this process — if you have suggestions from your experience here or with other organizations, interest in helping us identify and transform ideas into viable programs, and/or experience in fundraising, I would invite you to speak with me and consider joining us in our efforts. Thanks to all of you who have been so supportive during my first months on the job. I look forward to seeing you and working with you in the fall. ♦

—Pamela Hathaway

Development Director

House, as well as the newly renovated space. The Parish Hall will be filled with information about our programs and activities so the wider community can learn who we are and what we do. If you are interested in helping some way, whether by providing information about one of our programs or giving tours, please contact me at jfoley@firstparish.org. ♦

Moving General Assembly 2012 Out of Phoenix?

With the passage in Arizona of anti-immigrant legislation that challenges our UU principles, the UUA Board of Directors has asked General Assembly 2010 to consider removing



General Assembly 2012 from its scheduled venue in Phoenix. The board resolution reads, in part: *Whereas the state of Arizona has recently enacted a law — SB 1070 — that runs counter to our first principle, affirming the worth and dignity of every person, Whereas the Association stands in solidarity with allies using a widespread economic boycott of Arizona as leverage for Love against this hateful legislation; Be it resolved: we will not meet in a state of fear.*

The costs of moving GA at such short notice must be born by the member congregations so that UUA programming is not impacted. This issue will come up for a vote at this year’s General Assembly. Offer your thoughts on this matter to the 2010 GA delegation from First Parish by e-mailing **Mark Richards** (mark.s.richards@verizon.net).

—**Mark Richards** for the Denominational Affairs Committee

MISCELLANEOUS

Travel Opportunity

Like Water for Spices: A Unitarian Journey to South India, from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea, March 11 to 17, 2011. Meditate in captivating locations, experience fabulous temples, attend a Sunday service at the Unitarian Christian Church in Chennai, visit an ashram in Pondicherry, cruise the backwaters of Kerala, learn about Tanjore painting, enjoy a Kerala cooking demonstration, and watch a Kathakali Dance presentation. Led by Rev. Wayne Walder. See all the details at www.nuuc.ca/Journeys/india2011.htm.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Acton Garden Club Flower Show

The Acton Garden Club will present a judged Flower Show entitled “All About Town,” celebrating Acton’s 275th anniversary on Monday, June 14, from 1 to 8 p.m.; and Tuesday, June 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Acton Memorial Library at 486 Main Street in Acton Center. There is no charge. Parking is available behind the library or behind the fire station. Children are welcome. There will be Horticulture and Floral Design Divisions and special exhibits, including Youth Exhibits. —**Judy Dembsey**, Acton Garden Club member

SAC News and Events continued from page 8

through-out the year with their sponsor. Vannak is one of the students sponsored by First Parish. He is a freshman at Norton University in Cambodia interested in information technology, and is looking for someone to correspond with. Please contact **Lee Steppacher** at shepstep@comcast.net, or 978-369-4665, if you are interested in corresponding with Vannak. It is fun and rewarding to get to know a student.

WOMEN’S NEWS

Women’s AM/PM Book Group

The Women’s AM/PM Book Group will hold its annual potluck dinner and discussion of books for next year’s list on Thursday, June 10. Please contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com) for details about the potluck or if you would like your e-mail added to our list for next year. Best wishes for good summer reading! ♦

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER

Wright Tavern classes will return in mid-September. Keep an eye out for registration information in late August. And have a great summer!

Concord Area Humanist Meeting

First Mondays at Wright Tavern: Professor Abby Hafer will address the gathering with her engaging “Unintelligent Design.” Watch for more details.
Monday, June 7 7:00 p.m. social/7:30 p.m. program

T’ai Ji

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with qigong and the simple movement 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, to enhance optimal health, and to simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: **Mae Pagan**
Friday, June 11 12:30–2:00 p.m. \$25

JUNE 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.
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m. (not 6/16, 6/23 or 6/30)*
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (not 6/16, 6/23 or 6/30)*
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m. (not 6/16, 6/23 or 6/30)*
<i>Yoga for Women in Midlife</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m. (not 6/16, 6/23 or 6/30)*
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m. (not 6/16, 6/23 or 6/30)*
<i>Hatha Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:15 a.m. (not 6/17 or 6/24)*
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.

* not July or August

Thu Jun 3	7:30	Threshold Choir	•	Sun Jun 13	10:00	Single Worship Service
Fri, Jun 4	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	•		11:30	Annual Meeting
	7:00	Theater Group	•		4:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>
Sun, Jun 6	10:00	Gospel Choir	•	Mon Jun 14	6:30	Standing Committee
	4:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>	•		7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>
	6:00	YRUU	•	Wed Jun 16	5:30	<i>Women's Book Group Potluck</i>
	7:00	SAC Board Meeting	•		6:30	Membership Committee
Mon Jun 7	6:30	T'ai Chi	•	Thu Jun 17	7:30	Threshold Choir
	7:00	<i>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven II</i>	•	Fri Jun 18	5:30	YRUU Lock-In
	7:00	RE Council	•	Mon Jun 21	7:00	Jericho Road Board
	7:30	<i>Humanism</i>	•	Wed Jun 23	1:00	Office Volunteers Luncheon
Wed Jun 9	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	•	Fri Jun 25	7:00	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Fri Jun 11	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	•			
	6:30	Transition Team	•	JULY		
Sat Jun 12	9:00	Photo Club	•	Fri Jul 9	4:00	Thoreau Society
	9:00	Transition Team	•	Sat Jul 10	8:00	Thoreau Society

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

We invite everyone to attend the official dedication of the Keresztúr Terrace on Sunday, June 13, during the coffee hour before the Annual Meeting. **Gary Smith** will unveil a special plaque commemorating two decades of our very special partnership.

In other news, we are thrilled to announce that our own **Ivan Kristoffy** has received the National UU Partner Church Council's Steward of Partnership Award in recognition of his diligent stewardship of our Keresztúr connection, including the fostering of our student sponsorship program, since his involvement in 1994. Gary will present Ivan with the award during the Keresztúr Terrace dedication.

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 and its people, **Gary** and **Eliz Smith**, the First Parish Choir, and the PCC invite you to join us in Transylvania, this October 24 to November 2. The trip will include area tours and many opportunities to enjoy the local culture, as well as a much-anticipated "choral exchange" with our partner congregation. We will stay in the new Community House (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 or 781-259-9639.

- The PCC always welcomes new members. Our next supper meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 10.

- For further information, drop **Winslow Pettingell** a line (at LondonSW11@aol.com); and for our latest PCC news and information, see

- www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church.

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

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

The September Newsletter deadline is Monday, August 30, at noon.
The Newsletter is published the following Monday.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

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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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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

First Parish in Concord

Summer Services • 2010

Sunday Services at 10:00 o'clock

Date	Service Leader	Musicians
June 20	Ms. Pam Howell RE Director, First Parish in Concord	To Be Determined Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell, pianist
June 27	Mr. Jim Reynolds Member, First Parish in Concord	Lauren Evans, soloist Joyce Painter Rice, pianist
July 4	Rev. Dan Harper Assistant Minister for Religious Education. UU Church of Palo Alto, California	Tamasin Foote, soloist Mary Jane Rupert, pianist
July 11	Mr. Will Kemeza Member, First Parish in Concord	Transylvania Troubadours Mary Jane Rupert, pianist
July 18	Rev. Karen Foley Former Associate Minister for Pastoral Care First Parish in Concord	Larry Gall, soloist Mary Jane Rupert, pianist
July 25	Ms. Donna Davis Member, First Parish in Concord	Elizabeth Norton, soloist Mary Jane Rupert, pianist
August 1	Rev. Vic Carpenter Minister Emeritus, First Church in Belmont	Maddie Sifantus, soloist Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell, pianist
August 8	Rev. Marc Fredette Minister, First Parish in Waltham	Pamela Schweppe, soloist Joyce Painter Rice, pianist
August 15	Mr. Matt Meyer Percussionist and Friend of First Parish in Concord	Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell, pianist
August 22	Ms. Polly Peterson Member, First Parish in Concord	Lauren Evans, soloist Robert Humphreville, pianist
August 29	Rev. Claire Phillips-Thoryn Assistant Minister, First Parish in Lincoln	Joan Esch, cellist Robert Humphreville, pianist
September 5	Mr. John Petersen Member, First Parish in Concord	Nancy Ackerman, clarinetist Joyce Painter Rice, pianist

SEPTEMBER 12 • OPENING SUNDAY • SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:00 O'CLOCK

Rev. Gary Smith, preaching

First Parish Choir;
Elizabeth Norton, director
Eric Huenneke, organist

Deductive Reasoning

The study team is in the midst of coding, summarizing and sorting the *Listening Session* and *Survey* data under the extensive guidance of Susan Beaumont of the Alban Institute. While the confidential *Listening Sessions* have provided us with qualitative information (offering an understanding of the passions and emotions that underlie the “why” of our congregation’s attitudes and behaviors), the *Survey* information has provided us with solid, quantitative data.

For example, it may come as no surprise that nearly 97 percent of respondents viewed social action as somewhat, very or extremely important, while over half have children in RE, and 78 percent are married. With apologies to Edna St. Vincent Millay, “we are very tired, we are very married.” All of this data, along with a census-based Ministry Profile of the community that First Parish serves, is helping us to gain a full picture of who we are as a congregation and allowing us to create the most accurate ministerial profile possible.

Here’s what will happen next:

11, 12 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.

13 June The Transitional Study Team will make a presentation at the Annual Meeting and will release the survey and census data to our congregation.

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 everyone 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 jeffpgreene@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