

October 4, 2010
Volume 47, No. 2

The Meeting House News

FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

As always, fall has started with a surge of energy at First Parish. Attendance in worship has been strong; we have new faces and new families in religious education. We are welcoming new children, teens and adults into our choirs. We have welcomed a new youth director and a new intern. The spirit of our large, diverse spiritual community is strong.

And, at the same time, we start this church year with an acute awareness that this is a year of transition. We will be preparing to celebrate Gary Smith's 23-year ministry and say good-bye to him in June 2011. We know that change can create anxiety, and it's better to name it out loud than pretend it doesn't exist. Ministerial transition after a long and successful ministry is not a change to be overlooked or rushed. We need to meet this change head on, celebrating the legacy of these past years and also doing the important work of imagining the next chapter of our communal life together.

Last spring, the Study Team reached out to the congregation in a host of "listening sessions," to discern the desire of the parish for future directions and for future leadership. Now, the work of ministerial transition lies with the Standing Committee, who will be holding an open "town meeting" October 4 to update the congregation on current progress and future steps. Child care will be provided; preregistration is required (call the church office).

Meantime, the day-to-day work of our big and vital community continues. We, the Executive Team, meet each week with one another and with our staff to ensure that our core pillar programs remain strong, that new members are being reached out to, that we are on target for our financial and strategic priorities for the year. In a year of transition, as in any year, we embrace our identity as a Unitarian Universalist community, reaching out to one another in friendship and caring, going out into the world to make a difference. We appreciate your presence among us.

Gary Smith, Senior Minister

Jenny Rankin, Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 3

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

11:00 – Gospel Choir & combined Children's Choir

October 10

Craig Nowak, preaching
9:00 – First Parish Choir

11:00 – Elizabeth Norton, soprano

October 17

Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 – Siri Smedvig, violin
11:00 – First Parish Choir

October 24

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – Anna Huckabee Tull, singer/songwriter

October 31

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir, Gail Carey, guest conductor

Don't Miss...

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO UPDATE MINISTERIAL TRANSITION PROCESS

Monday, October 4 — 7 to 9 p.m.

Child care provided; please pre-register your child in advance in the church office.

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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- ◆ New UU Information
- ◆ Wright Tavern Programs
- ◆ Pastoral Care Survey
- ◆ Labyrinth Information

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — in print and online — September to June, to provide parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community.

Please send address changes to:
First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742

Noon Deadline

Monday, October 25
Monday, November 29
Monday, December 27

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

PARISH NOTES

- **Ministerial Transition Update**
 - The Standing Committee will host a “town meeting” for the congregation on Monday, October 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Sanctuary, to review the process that has been followed up until now and outline the next steps. Child care will be provided, but you must call the church office in advance to preregister your child (978-369-9602).
- **Become a Sponsor – Change a Life**
 - Each year the teachers of the Unitarian high school in Székelykéresztúr, aided by the minister of the Unitarian church, choose ten incoming freshman who need financial assistance in order to attend. Members of First Parish and the Hungarian community are currently supporting 54 students. Many are sending letters and making new friends along the way.
 - Your four-year commitment changes the life of the student and his or her family, for an amount that most of us spend each year on restaurants or movies. For information, contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net or 978-369-8445. Become a sponsor. Change a life.
- **Magical Event for All**
 - On Sunday, October 17, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., children, families and others are invited to come for donuts and cider to celebrate the intention to restore the labyrinth at First Parish in the future. Children (old and young!) will be invited to mark out the labyrinth pattern with bricks on the old site on the front lawn. As the sun sets, we might even have a candlelight surprise! This event is open to all who love labyrinths or who are interested in learning more. Please also see the insert about the First Parish Labyrinth project.
- **Rev. Bill Schulz to Preach on Guest at Your Table Sunday**
 - Join us on Sunday, November 7, for a special Sunday dedicated to the UU Service Committee. Rev. Bill Schulz, Interim President and CEO, will preach at both services. You are then invited to attend a luncheon with both Gary Smith and Bill Schulz, followed by a workshop focusing on UUSC’s programs and how you can support this humanitarian organization that spreads our UU principles across the globe. We will also be launching Guest at Your Table church-wide so that everyone can participate in this UUSC fundraising event. Save the date and look for further details next month. For more information about UUSC, go to their website at www.uusc.org. For information about November 7, contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net.
- **Matchmakers? Match!**
 - Do you want to get involved in a First Parish program, event or committee but are not sure whom to talk to? Are you a program leader, event planner or committee chair looking for folks to join you? Let a member of the Nominating Committee know of your interest and we’ll pass your contact information on. Simple! Nominating Committee members are Laura Graham, Lillian Anderson, Eric Read, Kate Svrcek, Sue Ryan, Marianne Zasa, Patty Popov, Russ Herndon and Kate Keleher.
- **WPA Luncheon Meeting**
 - The Women’s Parish Association’s October luncheon meeting will feature a presentation by Polly Peterson on her recently published book, *Stirring the Nation’s Heart, Eighteen Stories of Prophetic Unitarians and Universalists of the Nineteenth Century*. Polly will be available for book signings after her presentation. The luncheon will be on Tuesday,

Parish Notes continued on page 3

MONEY MATTERS

This month I'd like to share the results of our annual database reconciliation. Each summer we "clean" our database to make our records as accurate as possible. This summer, thanks to the Membership Policy passed by the Standing Committee, we also began classifying people within the database, using the criteria in the policy. In short, a "member" is a person who has signed the book, participates in the life of the church in some way, and makes a financial contribution of record. A "friend" is someone who participates in the life of the church in some way and is encouraged to make a financial contribution. (We have other categories in the database as well, such as honorary members and businesses.)

People are continually added and removed from the database. People move away, people die; these are reasons for removal. Sometimes, a person will ask to be removed from the database. When we sent letters to a short list this summer (comprised of members who had not pledged for at least three years), we asked people if they wanted to remain members. Some on the list asked to be removed and some sent in pledges.

All of this effort to understand our member and friend numbers helps us to gauge our expectations around pledging. It's important that our efforts to fund-raise are targeted to those who have the greatest connection and commitment to our community. It's also important because we need to scale our fundraising goals proportionately to what we can reasonably expect to raise, and our pledge base is the foundation from which those goals emerge.

Currently, we have 749 members and 312 friends, for a total of 1,061 adults who consider themselves part of First Parish. We have 192 children and youth registered for RE. We have 656 pledge units (households). We received 496 pledges this past year. While there are many reasons why someone may not be able to pledge, one of the things we will be working on this coming pledge year is increased participation. ♦

—*Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

Parish Notes

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October 19, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Vegetarian, vegan and wheat-free food items will be available upon request. Contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekindc@comcast.net by Friday, October 15 for reservations, transportation or child care requests. The cost for lunch is \$9.

Holiday Artisans Fair—November 6

Don't miss this year's Holiday Artisans Fair at First Parish. Over 50 juried artists and artisans will be showing and selling their latest works. An outstanding collection of hand-made glass items, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, clothing, prints,

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

- We are still "taking names" for next summer's (fifth) Youth Service Pilgrimage (YSP) to Keresztúr. If your high school-aged youth is interested in joining us on this very special journey, be sure to let our First Parish Youth Director, **Anastassia Zinke**, know as soon as possible. She can be reached at azinke@firstparish.org. Slated for next July (tentatively leaving on the 6th or 7th and returning on the 18th or 19th), this, the 2011 YSP, is being sponsored by the Partner Church Committee. For more information and ongoing updates, be sure to check the PCC Web page at www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church.
- In other PCC news, final preparations are being made for the upcoming Culture and Music Pilgrimage to Transylvania. Twenty-two members of the First Parish community — including **Gary and Eliz Smith**, our music director **Beth Norton**, members of the choir and of our own PCC — will be heading over from October 24 to November 2, for a leisurely tour of the region and a much anticipated "choral exchange."
- There are still a few student sponsorships available for this year's Student Sponsorship program. If you are interested in learning more, please contact our coordinators: **Sue Beck** (e-mail, sbeck345@comcast.net) or **Ivan Kristoffy** (e-mail, IvanKristoffy@cs.com). We are grateful for your support.
- We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's splendid Transylvanian Thanksgiving Service on September 26. It was particularly special, thanks to the involvement of our visiting Transylvanians, Réka Gagyi and Júlia Csáka. Be sure to check out the pictures at <http://www.firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/100926-PCC/>.
- Our next Partner Church Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of **Dana** and **Kathy Booth**. We'd love to have you join our happy group.
- For further information, drop Winslow a line (at LondonSW11@aol.com); and for our latest PCC news and information, see www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church. ♦
- *Minden jó!* "Best wishes!" — **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair
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- photographs, greeting cards, home decorations, craft items and regifting treasures will be available for your holiday shopping. Come and bring your friends for a fun day of shopping and sharing a snack or lunch at our Artisans Cafe. This year, an award-winning artist will be available to create hand-cut paper silhouette portraits for a unique gift.
- Saturday, November 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$3.00 for adults; \$1.00 for children. Children under the age of five are admitted at no charge. Contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer to help at this very enjoyable fundraiser. ♦
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PASTORAL CARE NEWS

I have just returned from hiking in Glacier National Park in Montana, not far from the Canadian border. Being in a totally new environment put in bold relief that life is always changing; and the mess and the mystery is always with us. The constantly changing weather and topography, the

beautiful colors of gold, reds, browns and many shades of green along with the majesty of the mountains kept my hiking partners and me in a constant state of awe. But we also were aware of the potential dangers. If we did not keep our eyes on the trail, it was easy to slip or trip. Depending on where we were, a slip could have major consequences.



Our first day of hiking it rained, hailed, and snowed, followed by sun and a rainbow — only to be greeted by more rain. Another day we drove on the Going to the Sun Road. When we reached Logan's Pass, the wind was blowing at 50 miles per hour. The pass is part way up a mountain, surrounded by other snow-covered peaks. When we arrived, the sun was shining and we had a fantastic view of the other mountains and the valley. Within minutes the wind brought low-lying clouds that spilled over the mountain ridge, falling to obscure our view of the valley and blotting out the presence of the mountains; but within minutes, an opening in the clouds appeared giving visibility to the sun, valley and mountains, and then they disappeared again. This nature's game of peek-a-boo occurred over and over again, reminding me of Buddha's Law of impermanence: Change is inevitable.

When a patch of blue appeared in an otherwise gray sky, I announced to the group that the sun would soon be shining. Our guide corrected me, explaining the patch of blue sky was called "sucker's hole" in Montana because the blue sky would soon disappear with the arrival of new clouds. She was right. Because we want sunshine, it is easy to get "suckered" by a small patch of blue sky. The Buddha teaches that desire can distort what we think "is."

For me, all these changes were reminders to be in the moment. Each had its own beauty; each had its own hazards. We at First Parish are living through many changes as a congregation and as individuals. Our willingness to keep an open heart will help us to avoid the hazards of anxiety and fear that change inevitably brings, and an open heart helps us to listen to others as well as to ourselves. Answering and returning the attached Pastoral Care Survey is one way we can be there for each other.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

"Margaret Fuller in Italy" – Lecture by Jenny Rankin on Thursday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Margaret Fuller's bicentennial continues with a major lecture by **Jenny Rankin**. Join the Transcendentalism Council as it continues its exploration of the major Transcendentalists who traveled to Europe in the middle of the 19th century. From the time she was a young girl growing up in Cambridge, Margaret Fuller had dreamed of going to Europe, and especially to Italy. She had studied the Italian language, knew its literature and poetry, followed its politics. Her dream was deferred, however, due to the sudden death of her father. Margaret took over as "head of household" and had to work to earn money to support her family. Finally, in August, 1846, her dream came true as she sailed from Boston to Liverpool. She toured England and France before arriving in Italy in the spring of 1847. This lecture will trace the story of Margaret's time in Italy, from her arrival as a "tourist" to her settling down in Rome, working as a journalist, falling in love, giving birth and participating in the Revolution that swept Rome in the spring of 1849. Slides will show 19th century images of Italy and Rome as well as contemporary photos of sites in Rome where Margaret lived and worked. The lecture will be followed by discussion and refreshments.

Continuing our discovery of traveling Transcendentalists, we will meet in November to explore the following.

Explorations in Transcendentalism: Whether you are an enthusiast or still scratching your head and wondering "what the heck IS Transcendentalism anyway?" we invite you to join us on three Monday evenings in November as we continue our journey of learning together. For each class, we will begin with a short lecture/presentation and then break into small groups to consider together a primary text (you don't have to read it ahead of time, we will give you the copy in class).

Margaret Fuller in Italy continued on page 5

Pastoral Care Library Needs Book and CD Donations

The Pastoral Care Library location is now in the new addition just before the Brooks Room, in the first hallway to the right. It has a big color-coded sign and labeled shelves for eight categories: Living, Relationships, Children's Development, Mental Health, Illness & Wellness, Addictions & Related Issues, Loss & Grief, and Dying & Death. Gifts of current books & CDs, especially for the "Children's Development" and "Mental Health" categories would be appreciated. Please call **Ursula Kristoffy** at 978-369-7484 for information before leaving your donation on the shelf next to the check-out box. ♦

MUSINGS

I am remembering the scene in *Mary Poppins* where the Banks children and their nanny jump into one of Bert's sidewalk pastels and magically enter another world. As a child I delighted in that world and wondered what happened there before and after their visit. I could not imagine that the place just washed away with the pastels in the rain. I believed that the story must continue — and that Jane and Michael might even return. That day of fantasy was a transformative experience for those children, one they must have carried with them long after Mary Poppins left with the changing wind.



I have a small photo on my office wall, just to the right of my desk. It is a picture of two women dancing together in a flowering meadow on a rural hillside. The hillside is in Transylvania. The women are dancing czárdás, a traditional Hungarian dance. One of the women is me. The photograph was taken during our musical pilgrimage to Transylvania in 2002 and captures a magical moment that, for me, is "out of time." A part of me is still dancing czárdás on that hillside in Transylvania.

Later this month, I will return to that place — jump back into the photo, if you will — with **Gary** and **Eliz Smith** and 19 other parishioners for our Music and Culture Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr. I know that much has happened in Transylvania since my first visit there. Our First Parish presence through youth service trips and musical pilgrimages has had an enduring impact on life in Székelykeresztúr. And their hospitality and friendship has transformed us. We know and celebrate that our story continues. And we are able to share it much more easily now through the magic of Skype, Facebook and e-mail.

We will spend the last week of October in Székelykeresztúr making music, weaving, working, worshipping, sharing meals and experiencing Transylvania and Unitarianism through the eyes of our dear friends in Székelykeresztúr. We will strengthen connections we have already forged. We will make new ones. Our presence there will impact their story. And we will return transformed once again.

As I write, here on the eve of Öszi Háláadás, the Autumn Thanksgiving celebrated by our Székelykeresztúri friends, I give thanks for this enduring relationship and for the opportunity to return once more to Erdély — Transylvania. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Director of Music

PHOTO CREDIT: LAUREN EVANS



PIPEWORK

During September work has continued on the construction of the organ chambers in the balcony. As of this writing at the end of September, we now have five ranks of pipes installed and are able to lead some hymns and play a few organ pieces here and there during the services. During October work will continue in the Russell shop in Vermont on fabricating the expression louvers, which will cover the entire two stories of chambers that form the back half of the instrument. Some of these are projected to be installed by the end of the month. We also hope to welcome the arrival of another two to maybe four ranks of pipes during October. ♦

— *Eric Huenneke*

Parish Organist

Margaret Fuller in Italy

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November 1: Boston Goes to Rome: Unitarian and Transcendentalist Travelers in Europe Beginning with William Ellery Channing in 1823 and continuing through Louisa May Alcott in 1870, the 19th century saw a whole arc of Unitarian/Transcendentalist types who sailed to the Continent. These journeys influenced, challenged and transformed them. Who were these women and men, what were they seeking in Europe and what did they find? How did European writers and artists influence their thinking, their politics and their spirituality? At a time when America was seeking to break away from Europe culturally, as it already had done politically, what was the meaning of this interchange? **Jenny Rankin** will open up our three-class series with an overview presentation on this topic. Then we will work in small groups, focusing in this first class on Emerson's 1833 trip to Europe.

November 8: Europe in the 1800's What did our Unitarian ancestors encounter when they finally touched down in England, France and Italy? **Lillian Anderson** will give an overview of the critical events and issues in 19th century Europe, with a particular focus on France. Discussion and small group work will follow, focusing on Nathaniel Hawthorne, James Freeman Clarke and Theodore Parker.

November 15: How did the encounter with Europe shape the "American renaissance" back home? How did their travels change their philosophies? Discussion and small group work will follow, focusing on Margaret Fuller and the Alcotts.

REFLECTIONS AND RE NEWS

When asked by new parents, I often describe our RE Program as “experiential,” but what does the word experiential mean in religious education? This term, our 8th graders are exploring our UU values by producing a play for our First Parish community; our 7th graders went off to Gaining Ground to work in the fields, harvesting food for those in need in Boston; our 6th graders carried loads of bricks in silence for Yom Kippur; our 4th and 5th graders went to our community garden plot and worked to harvest our produce for Open Table; our 2nd and 3rd graders re-enacted stories from the Hebrew Scriptures with puppets and made challah, apples and honey with their own hands to celebrate Rosh Hashanah.

As the 6th graders were struggling to silently haul this incredibly heavy load of bricks to the back parking lot of First Parish, one boy whispered, “This is really hard!” Another boy shook his head in agreement and whispered back, “I know, my hands are killing me!” And my response to their woes? “Well, now you have a real sense of why the Jewish people fled Egypt with Moses.”

That’s experiential. When our kids feel what it is like to work with their hands for others, to relive the stories in the Bible through their own aching arms, to understand that faith goes hand-in-hand with good work, that is religious education at its best. ♦

—Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Ninth Grade Coming of Age

On November 7, our Coming Age cohort will experience a discussion on values led by **Tom Bird**. This session is particularly meaningful because it asks our youth to reflect on what is important to them and what it means to live a “good” life.

At its root, the word “credo” means, “What do I give my heart to? What really matters to me?” We explore these *mattering*s because it is that which matters to each of us that affect the

October 2010 RE Calendar

- Fri., Oct. 1–2 Coming of Age Retreat; meet at 5 p.m.
- Sun., Oct. 3 Regular RE for Babies—4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Oct. 10 Regular RE for Babies—4 years
No RE for K–9th Grades
- Sun., Oct. 17 Regular RE for Babies—4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Oct. 24 Regular RE for Babies—4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Oct. 31 Regular RE for Babies—4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Nov. 7 Regular RE for Babies—4 years
Regular RE for K–6th Grades
7th Grade Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
9th Grade Coming of Age at 7 p.m. (Emerson Room)

choices we make, and each choice we make has consequences that affect our life’s story.

In this reflective session, our teens will choose what matters to them personally from a list of qualities. Would you choose Integrity over Power? How about Family over Pleasure? Or Obligation over Justice? Through discussion, our youth begin to work together toward defining these terms and reflecting on what each values. In Coming of Age, we encourage our teens to become reflective and self-aware adults. We want to nurture and develop each one’s inner compass because our decisions, our actions, our choices do matter in this often confusing world.

Second- to Sixth-Grade Workshop Rotation Fall Term – Judeo-Christian Teachings

- Oct. 3, 17 – The High Holy Days
 - Grades 2 & 3 – Rosh Hashanah – From introspection comes rejuvenation
 - Grades 4 & 5 – Sukkot – The journey into Wilderness
 - Grade 6 – Yom Kippur – The art of the apology
- Oct. 24, 31 and Nov. 7 – Days of Remembrance
 - Pastoral Care – Remembering those in need
 - Dio de los Meurtos – Celebrating the lives of those who have passed
 - All Souls Day – Honoring the lives of those who are gone

RE News continued on page 12

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

I have greatly enjoyed meeting with various youth and parents over the past few weeks. I was struck by the ability of our youth to share deeply and appropriately with one another, and for those who are not great friends to support one another. I have witnessed in YRUU a strong faith community, one where both independence and interdependence are present.

The youth have really taken charge leading the Sunday evenings and planning the activities ahead. The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) meets once a month for one hour, and is open to any 9th–12th grader who might be interested in leadership. The YAC is putting a lot of thought and energy into creating a youth program that is a place to grow one's soul, fosters community connection, and encourages service to others.

As you may have heard, YRUU is seeking to become more integrated into the larger First Parish congregation. I hope that there will be more opportunities for the youth to contribute to the congregation, and that they will hear from you adults in return. In particular, we are seeking adults over the age of 25 to serve as youth advisors on Sunday evenings. If you are interested, please contact me.

The Fall Retreat did not take place this September, to the regret of many youth. However, the Winter Retreat is scheduled for January 28–30, 2011. Youth and parents will receive more information about this soon. I hope all youth will come.

YRUU Sunday programming for October:

Oct. 3 – Trust Walks

Oct. 10 – No YRUU on Columbus Day Weekend

Oct. 17 – Wink

Oct. 25 – Field Trip to Witches Woods, leaving First Parish at 6:00 p.m. and returning at 9:00; permission slip on the website

Oct. 31 – No YRUU on Halloween

As always, call or e-mail me with any ideas, questions or comments.

—Anastassia Zinke

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday, October 11, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. The November Standing Committee meeting will be on Monday, November 8. ♦

A graphic poster for an event. At the top is a white silhouette of a church building with a steeple against a blue background. Below the silhouette, the text "it's ALL about the MUSIC" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Underneath this, in smaller white text, is "FRIDAY EVENING, NOV. 12 FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD". Below that, three small white stars are followed by the text "Celebrate the many ways that music lifts the spirit of First Parish!". A white rectangular box contains a list of performers: Lauren Bedau Evans, Rob Hamilton, Anna Huckabee Tull, Eric Kilburn, Siri Smedvig, and Transylvania Troubadors. At the bottom of the poster, in white text, is "ENJOY BEER, WINE, SOFT DRINKS, AND DELECTABLE DESSERTS!" and "Tickets go on sale in October at coffee hour & through the First Parish office, 978-369-9602".

SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

Have you heard of Bill Schulz? He is actually UU Service Committee Interim President Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz, the former executive director of Amnesty International USA and former president of the UUA. He is an ordained minister, an author, and a public speaker; and he is coming to First Parish the weekend of November 6-7 (see Parish Notes, page 2, for details). This summer he was in Ecuador and his blog posts (http://www.uusc.org/blogs/bill_schulz)

were fascinating — focusing on protecting rights of both humans and the environment. He brings a compelling perspective to these issues — as I have excerpted below.

First Parish is working to forge stronger bonds and a greater understanding within our congregation of the work of the UUSC. We wish to combine forces and work on the issues of rights. Plus our burgeoning First Parish Environmental Leadership Team is working to create greater awareness of environmental issues and actions that we can and should be taking from within our own community. Join us!

Blog post 8/25/10: "...we talked about the new notion that Nature itself has rights... a novel and untested concept... my guess is that 20 or 30 years from now, we will see lawsuits brought not just on behalf of the human victims of Nature's exploitation but on behalf of the air and the trees themselves..."

Blog post 8/26/10: "And here's another novel idea: the new (Ecuadoran) constitution includes the notion that everyone is responsible for seeing that everyone else's rights are protected... Imagine if we all had legal responsibility for doing what we could to see that human-rights obligations were met by the state!"

—Faith Bade

Social Action Program Director

El Salvador Service Trip

Our group for the El Salvador Youth Service trip has been finalized. We welcome a great group of youth from grades 9 through 12 to the trip; and we look forward to learning more about El Salvador, Centro Arte para la Paz, and their transformative experience over the coming year. The group will travel over April vacation 2011.

New SAC Website Pages

Social Action has revamped its Web pages on the First Parish website. We will go "live" on November 7, and we look forward to educating everyone on its

- many features — including a comprehensive calendar and blog component. SAC program leaders, please plan on attending one workshop, on either October 14 or 18, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at **Alec Walker's** home, to learn how to use this new and exciting technology. Contact **Alec Walker** at alecwalker@aol.com with questions on these workshops.

2010 Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry

- The 30th annual Concord Crop Walk will take place on Sunday, October 17; registration is at 1:30 p.m., step off at 2:15 p.m., at First Parish. This walk raises funds for nine local area food pantries and suppers, including Concord's Open Table and Gaining Ground, and also for Church World Service to use for disaster relief and development projects around the globe. CWS is working to provide aid to Pakistani flood victims and Haiti earthquake relief, amid other urgent needs. Our intern, **Craig Nowak**, will be walking, and invites others to join him; this is a great event for the whole family. You may pick up sponsor forms or make a donation to sponsor Craig at coffee hour. Online pledging is available; see www.concordcrop.org to find out how to join the First Parish team, or sponsor Craig or other team members.

SAC Grants Deadline October 15

- The Social Action Grants Committee will be accepting applications for its fall funding round until October 15. Information on Grants policies and the application can be found at www.firstparish.org under Social Action, Grants. Please contact Grants Committee chair **Wendy Holt** with questions at wendyholt48@yahoo.com.

Environmental Leadership

- First Parish is reinvigorating our Environmental Social Action Program and we need your help! If you wish to participate in an environmental Social Action Sunday or have an environmental topic you wish to introduce to the congregation, please contact **Faith Bade** at Fbade@firstparish.org.

Young Activists Grants for Middle Schoolers

- Social Action will again be offering the Young Activists Grants Program for middle schoolers this fall. Tentative dates are October 24, November 7 and November 14, from 12:15-1:00 p.m., with presentations and the award on November 21. Choose a nonprofit you are passionate about, learn more about it, find out how to make a presentation for a grant and join in the awards. The Social Action Board will be awarding up to \$1000 to be divided among the teams. Contact **Faith Bade** at Fbade@firstparish.org to participate.

SAC News and Events continued on page 10

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

The New UU — Come Explore Our Faith and Yours!

Are you new to First Parish? Are you looking to reconnect?

Come to The New UU! The New UU is a program that provides an overview of life at First Parish, as well as Unitarian Universalism — its beginnings, growth, legacies and aspirations. Participants in the program will explore their own beliefs and values to discover how our faith community might meet their spiritual needs.

The program will be offered three times this church year. The next program will take place on Saturday, October 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., followed by lunch. Registration forms are available at the Parish Connections table at coffee hour, at the end of this newsletter or by contacting **Jane Foley**, Membership Director, at jfoley@first-parish.org. Deadline for registering is Sunday, October 10. A minimum of six participants are needed. Child care will be provided. If you can't make the October 16 program, the next one will take place on Saturday, January 22.

Coffee Hour Changes

Coffee hour is one of the most important aspects of outreach and connection offered on a regular basis at First Parish. This year, we are experimenting with a new format for coffee hour! All congregants — newcomers and long-timers alike — are asked to participate in this community building opportunity by providing a small snack during coffee hour on the Sunday when the first letter of your last name comes up. The October Coffee Hour Snack Schedule is as follows:

October 3 – E, F & G

October 10 – H, I & J

October 17 – K & L

October 24 – M & N

October 31 – Reserved for special Halloween Coffee Hour

Be Part of the Coffee Hour Team!

I'm looking for a team of 8-10 people to serve as coffee hour helpers. This team will set the stage for First Parish to have the smoothest, simplest and most enjoyable coffee hour this side of the Mississippi (and there are a lot of UU churches on this side!). Once a month, each helper of the team will ensure the snack table is ready to go at the beginning of coffee hour by setting the table with food, filling pitchers with water and, as coffee hour winds down, making sure the table is cleaned up. It's as simple as that! Please contact Jane Foley if you're interested in helping with this easy yet important part of community building. ♦

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

DEVELOPMENTS

Dear people, this religious home is worth the gamble. This church is a place to practice a new way of being. The more of you who know it, the more of you who take up the practice of it and stake your lives on it, the sooner it begins; the more obvious it becomes; the more real it feels. The faster come moments of shocking hospitality, startling generosity, unbearable kindness — so fast that these moments start to become what we know as life — first in our church, then in the circles surrounding us. This is what is possible, here.

—Rev. Mary McKinnon Ganz's, sermon, June 2010

First Parish faces difficult choices regarding our budget and operations for the current fiscal year and beyond. I was inspired by Rev. Ganz's sermon because it summarizes what I believe is a challenge of our age — the challenge of sustaining institutions that operate in a way that is different from the profit-driven, short-sighted, breakneck-speed institutions that we all deal with in our daily lives.

We are looking for a different path at First Parish — one that sustains community and favors spiritual and ethical growth — two basic human needs that many other societal institutions ignore. However, and here is my conundrum, we have come to expect a level of excellence in our ministry and programming — but our pledges are no longer supporting that level of excellence. Pledge amounts have been declining for the past few years, and we have been gradually whittling away at the budget to accommodate these reductions. And, possibly more important, the distribution of pledges makes us highly dependent on the generosity of a fraction of our congregation, while the vast majority pledge less than they pay for their children's dance classes or their annual vacation.

The common thread in the list of values we collected during our last pledge drive was community. How do we keep our community whole and nourished? How do we avoid the temptation to think of the church as just another social institution that can serve our needs? How do we encourage generosity and hope in times of financial challenge? I hope you will join me in thinking about these and other questions at our Sunday Forum on October 24.

I also hope you will join me in celebrating **Gary Smith**'s ministry at First Parish as we launch the Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns this month. In honor of Gary's leadership in developing First Parish as a teaching congregation, we are launching a year of recognition and celebration that will begin with the launch of the Fund and include a special worship service on May 8. The Fund will be managed as an endowment with earnings applied toward support of ministerial internships at First Parish. Additional information about the Fund will be forthcoming. If you have questions or would like to make a donation to the Fund, please contact me at plhathaway@firstparish.org. ♦

—Pamela Hathaway,

Development Director

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

Recently I was listening to the radio on my way home to Connecticut and the song "I Will Survive," by Gloria Gaynor, came on. Some of you may remember this disco era classic; perhaps it is even one of your favorite party songs. For me personally it is somewhat of an anthem, and as I listened to it I couldn't help but think of it as an anthem for our time as well, a sort of disco theology. Our lives are filled with seemingly endless demands and sources of stress and anxiety: the economy; work or lack of work; family problems; illness; and so on. In these times when we seem to have to hurry up just to catch up, what does it mean to say, "I will survive"? What it is that allows us to say, "I will survive"? ♦

Peace and blessings,

—*Craig Nowak*

SAC News and Events

continued from page 8

A Candlelight Vigil: Remembering Victims of Domestic Violence—October 14

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Domestic Violence Services Network in collaboration with the Sudbury-Wayland-Lincoln Domestic Violence Roundtable will be holding a vigil from 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. on October 14 at First Parish to commemorate all those who have lost their lives to domestic violence in Massachusetts over the past year. All are welcome to join the vigil. The keynote speaker will be State Senator Jamie Eldridge; coffee/dessert will follow. To learn more, e-mail dvvap@concordma.gov or call 978-318-3421.

Film Reveals Secret of Modern-Day Slavery

Few of us are aware of this terrifying fact: that there are more slaves today than ever before in human history — some 27 million. A documentary film, "Call and Response," goes deep undercover where slavery is thriving to report on this 21st century nightmare. The film will be screened on Sunday, November 14, at 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall. It features first-hand reports by such luminaries as Cornel West, Julia Ormond, Madeleine Albright, Daryl Hannah, Ashley Judd, and Nicholas Kristof. Grammy-winning and critically acclaimed artists performing in the film include Moby, Natasha Bedingfield, Cold War Kids, Matisyahu, Imogen Heap, Talib Kweli, and many others. The film contains mature material and is rated PG-13. A donation of \$5 will be gratefully accepted at the door. The screening is sponsored by Amnesty International Group 15 in Concord. For more information, contact **Lorraine Loviglio** at loviglio@rcn.com or 978-371-0914.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's AM/PM Book Group

The October selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson, translated from the Swedish by Reg Keeland. The evening session will be held Monday, October 25, 7:30–9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, on Tuesday, October 26, 9:30–11:00 a.m., both at First Parish. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471. ♦

*Recommended also as good audio books

Book and Dates for 2010-2011 are:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Dec. 6, 7 | <i>The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society</i> , by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows |
| Jan. 24, 25 | <i>When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present</i> , by Gail Collins |
| Feb. 28, Mar. 1 | <i>The Glass Castle: A Memoir</i> , by Jeannette Walls |
| Mar. 28, 29 | <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> , by Khaled Hosseini |
| Apr. 25, 26 | * <i>The Help</i> , by Kathryn Stockett |
| May 23, 24 | <i>Still Alice: A Novel</i> , by Lisa Genova |

CLASSIFIED

For Sale

Wurlitzer spinet piano with bench, mahogany color — Great buy at \$400 — 37"(h) x 56"(w) x 24"(d). Contact Bob in Maynard at 978-793-2097.

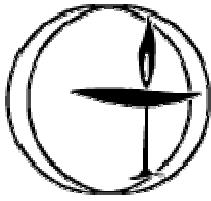
OCTOBER 2010 CALENDAR

Listings in italics represent classes offered through the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.

Every Week...

Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
<i>Monday Morning Meditation</i>	Monday	9:15 a.m. (not 10/11)
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m. (not 10/11)
<i>Discover Balance and Meaning</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/4 or 10/11)
<i>House of Hope</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/4 or 10/11)
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.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m.
<i>Eightfold Path</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Hatha Vinyasa Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m. (not 10/7 or 10/14)
<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/14)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 10/15)
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 10/10 or 10/31)

Sun	Oct 3	9:00	Labyrinth Information & Display	•	8:00	Reception for Domestic Violence Vigil
		1:00	<i>Living Our Bodyspirits</i>	•		
		6:00	<i>The Dharma Brothers' Film</i>	• Sat	Oct 16	8:30 New UU
Mon	Oct 4	7:00	Congregational Meeting	•	9:00	Multi-Church Choir Rehearsal
		7:30	<i>Humanists</i>	• Sun	Oct 17	12:30 Nominating Committee
		7:30	Religious Education Council	•	1:30	Crop Walk
Tue	Oct 5	9:00	Concord Transcendentalists	•	5:00	RE and Labyrinth Display
Wed	Oct 6	6:30	Pilgrimage Choir Rehearsal	• Tue	Oct 19	11:30 WPA Luncheon
		7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	• Wed	Oct 20	6:30 Membership Committee
Thu	Oct 7	7:30	<i>Between Adults & Your Aging Parents</i>	• Thu	Oct 21	7:30 Threshold Choir
		7:30	Threshold Choir	•	7:30	Transcendentalism Lecture
Fri	Oct 8	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	• Fri	Oct 22	7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Sat	Oct 9	9:00	Photo Club	• Sun	Oct 24	12:15 SAC-Young Activists Grants
Mon	Oct 11	Holiday—Office Closed		• Mon	Oct 25	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
Tue	Oct 12	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•	7:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
Wed	Oct 13	6:00	Transylvania Group Meeting	• Tue	Oct 26	9:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i>
Thu	Oct 14	7:00	Domestic Violence Vigil	• Sun	Oct 31	1:00 <i>Living Our Bodyspirits</i>
		7:30	<i>Between Adults & Your Aging Parents</i>	•		
				•		



The New UU

A First Parish in Concord Program



- Are you interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism?
- Are you hoping to find a faith community where you can put down roots?
- Are you looking for more information about First Parish, its people and programs?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, please join us for The New UU!

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

**The 2010 – 2011 sessions will take place on the following Saturdays
from 8:30 – 12:30, followed by lunch:**

**October 16
January 22
April 9**

Please register me for The New UU on _____

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone _____

For more information, contact Jane Foley at (978) 369-9602 or jfoley@firstparish.org
Child care is available upon request.



The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • October 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

Monday Morning Meditation

Put "first things first" and start the week with meditation. Join **Jenny Rankin**, a novice at mediation, in the Chapel. We will use a CD to guide our time together. Drop-ins welcome. No charge.

Monday: Sept. 20–Nov. 29 (no class 10/11) 9:15–9:45 a.m.

Kundalini Yoga

Kundalini yoga is yoga for the mind, body and spirit. It uses breath, yogic postures and meditation to help you build and maintain a healthy body, increase vitality, train your mind to be strong and flexible, and to facilitate change emotionally and spiritually. At its heart it is about developing awareness, an awareness of self and others that allows you to live your life with compassion and act with excellence. Each class can help one become aware of much more than just the strength of the body. Instructor: **Dharm Singh**

Tuesday: Oct. 5–Dec. 7 9:30–11:00 a.m. \$150/10 sessions or \$15/drop-in

Discover Balance and Meaning

Beneath the multitasking and busyness of our daily lives flows a deep well of creativity, passion and peace, and a place of contact with ourselves and our inner knowledge on what matters most. These groups are about slowing down. Based on Abby Seixas's new book, *Finding the Deep River Within: A Woman's Guide to Recovering Balance and Meaning in Everyday Life*, the course will introduce the three preliminary doorways and six core practices that can support us in allowing our own deeper currents to flow through daily life. With the help of readings, meditative exercises, discussion, creative expression, humor and each other, we will explore ways to free ourselves from the tyranny of our "to-do's," and to rest more in our deeper selves and in the gift of life itself. Instructor: **Leslie Ackles**

Monday: Oct. 18–Dec. 6 (no class Nov. 29) 7:00–9:00 p.m.
\$195/7 sessions Enrollment limited to 12

Concord Area Humanist Group

CAH presents Joe Gerstein MD FACP. SMART Recovery: A Worldwide Secular Program, SMART Recovery® is the leading self-empowering addiction recovery support group (over 70,000 weekly meetings since inception). Our participants learn tools for recovery based on the latest scientific research and participate in a worldwide community that includes free, self-empow-

ering, science-based mutual help groups. <http://www.smartrecovery.org/>

Monday: Oct. 4 7:30–9:00 p.m.

The discussion group Third Monday Exploring, formerly Conversations at Eight, will assemble in the Concord Library Trustees Room at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month to actively discuss a subject of interest from 7:45 to 9:00 p.m., when the library closes. The room capacity is about 15 people. Contact paul_jameson@comcast.net for information. Contact [Patrick Everett](mailto:pne@aol.com) at pne@aol.com for information on CAH events.

Forgiveness: Telling Our Stories in New Ways

Forgiveness is both a simple process we undertake daily to live peacefully with ourselves and others, and a supremely challenging process to heal from the wounds that bind our hearts. Forgiveness on both levels frees us to live and love to our full potential, and is an integral part of emotional, spiritual and even physical healing. Often the greatest challenge of forgiveness is to forgive ourselves. In this course, participants will learn about forgiveness through the medium of story. Through story sharing, discussion, writing, and short mindfulness exercises, participants will practice shifting the way we story our life experiences, how we can gain empathy for ourselves and others, and how we find spiritual growth in the process. This is not a therapy group. Participants will be free to share as much or as little as they choose, but compassionate listening skills are a must. Confidentiality is respected, and attendance at each class is expected. Instructor: **Elisa Pearmain, M.Ed.**

Saturday: Nov. 13 10:00–4:00 p.m. Fee: \$60

Between Adults and Your Aging Parents

If you are an adult who is facing the issues of your parents aging, this three-session workshop is for you. You will have an opportunity to share your questions and concerns and learn that you are not alone in this process. Based on your individual situation and concerns, you will receive valuable information and resources about such topics as moving your parents, health care, housing options, financial and legal planning, and more. You will learn new skills and information to help you relate to your parents and be better prepared to provide thoughtful and appropriate guidance through this phase of your relationship with each other. Facilitators: **Francie Nolde** and **Berni Jenkins**

Thursday: Oct. 7 & 14, and Nov. 4 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Registration required No charge

II. Creativity As A Spiritual Path

These classes are offered throughout the year.

Sandwiches and Short Story

Bring lunch and enjoy an hour of discussion about the short story choice of the month with **Rev. Gary Smith**. October's story is "Oh, Death," by James Ladsun. All stories can be found in *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories* edited by Laura Fuman; Anchor Books, 2010 pb \$16.

Wednesday: October 20 12:15–1:15 p.m.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

October's book is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson, translated from the Swedish by Reg Keeland. Come to either session; drop-ins welcome. Contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com.

Monday: Oct. 25, 7:30–9:00 p.m. Tuesday: Oct. 26, 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Rise Up Singing

This informal monthly musical gathering of adults and children provides participants with an opportunity to sing and share traditional and contemporary folk songs, spirituals, hymns, rounds and chants in fellowship. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you own one. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Leaders: **Beth Norton and Others**. Free. No registration required.

Friday: Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25, April 22, May 20 and June 24 7:30 p.m.

III. Sources of Unitarian Universalism

The House of Hope

Join **Jenny Rankin** on two Monday evenings to discuss the new book on Unitarian Universalist theology. Written by Rev. Rebecca Parker, President of Starr King Seminary, and Rev. John Buehrens, this book argues that religious liberals need to be able to define a theology as coherently and clearly as religious conservatives. Being a Unitarian Universalist means we have freedom to define our beliefs, but it doesn't mean we "start from scratch." There is a "house" already constructed by women and men before us and that gets handed down from generation to generation, the treasure of our liberal religious tradition. Learn more about what that theological and spiritual "house" might hold for us modern day UU's. Registration required — must have eight participants registered for class to be held.

Monday: Oct. 18 & 25 7:00–8:30 p.m. No charge

Margaret Fuller in Italy

From the time she was a young girl growing up in Cambridge, Margaret Fuller had dreamed of going to Europe, and especially to Italy. She had studied the Italian language, knew its literature and poetry, followed its politics. Her dream was deferred, however, due to the sudden death of her father. Margaret took over as "head of household" and had to work to earn money to sup-

port her family. Finally, in August 1846, her dream came true as she sailed from Boston to Liverpool. She toured England and France before arriving in Italy in the spring of 1847. This lecture will trace the story of Margaret's time in Italy, from her arrival as a "tourist" to her settling down in Rome, working as a journalist, falling in love, giving birth, and participating in the Revolution that swept Rome in the spring of 1849. Slides will show 19th century images of Italy and Rome, as well as contemporary photos of sites in Rome where Margaret lived and worked. Instructor: **Rev. Jenny Rankin**

Thursday: Oct. 21 7:30–9:00 p.m. No charge

Explorations in Transcendentalism

Whether you are an enthusiast or still scratching your head and wondering "what the heck IS Transcendentalism anyway?" we invite you to join us three Monday evenings in November as we continue our journey of learning together. For each class, we will begin with a short lecture/presentation and then break into small groups to consider together a primary text (you don't have to read it ahead of time; we will give you the copy in class).

November 1: Boston Goes to Rome: Unitarian and Transcendentalist Travelers in Europe

Beginning with William Ellery Channing in 1823 and continuing through Louisa May Alcott in 1870, the 19th century saw a whole arc of Unitarian/Transcendentalist types who sailed to the Continent. These journeys influenced, challenged and transformed them. Who were these women and men, what were they seeking in Europe and what did they find? How did European writers and artists influence their thinking, their politics and their spirituality? At a time when America was seeking to break away from Europe culturally, as it already had done politically, what was the meaning of this interchange? **Jenny Rankin** will open up our three-class series with an overview presentation on this topic. Then we will work in small groups, focusing in this first class on Emerson's 1833 trip to Europe.

November 8: Europe in the 1800's

What did our Unitarian ancestors encounter when they finally touched down in England, France and Italy. **Lillian Anderson** will give an overview of the critical events and issues in 19th century Europe, with a particular focus on France. Discussion and small group work will follow, focusing on Nathaniel Hawthorne, James Freeman Clarke and Theodore Parker.

November 15: Influence of the European Encounter

How did their voyages to Europe and their encounter with European ideas, philosophy and individuals change the Transcendentalists, if at all? How did this interaction with the "old world" affect the "American Renaissance" that was taking place in the New World? Opening presentation by **Jenny Rankin** and **Lillian Anderson**, with small group work focusing on Margaret Fuller and May Alcott. Preregistration appreciated for each session.

Monday: Nov. 1, 8 & 15 7:00–8:30 p.m.
First Parish member: free/nonmember: \$10/session

PASTORAL CARE SURVEY

In what ways would you like to help make First Parish a vibrant, caring community during the coming year? (Check all that apply). (Please return in baskets in back of the church as exiting or mail to Rev. Margie King Saphier at First Parish.)

Yes, I'd like to volunteer:

Please be assured that signing up to help doesn't commit you to any particular time or obligation — you will receive a call when there is a need and if it fits your schedule, that's fine — if not, you will be called another time.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____

Offer assistance through the Caring Connection:

- Food preparation and kitchen help
- Food delivery
- Note writing
- Transportation (to Sunday services, doctor's appointments, etc.)
- Holiday plant delivery after Easter and Christmas

- Be a Parish Visitor — Visit or telephone those who are at home.

- Tend the Pastoral Care Lending Library.

- Help organize groups, such as Small Group Ministry, with Margie King Saphier

- Join the Pastoral Care Council to create, oversee and evaluate our network of care.

- Make phone calls to seniors during weather emergencies and power outages.

- Offer professional expertise regarding pastoral care issues. (Please specify your background or topics of interest: _____)

- Please offer suggestions for programs you would like offered and would help to organize.

Yes, I would like a visit.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____
Email: _____

October 2010



www.firstparish.org/labyrinth

Dear First Parishioners,

As you may remember, before construction began on our now completed First Parish building and remodeling project, the brick labyrinth in the side yard between the sanctuary and the cottages on the green needed to be dismantled. As presented at last June's Annual Meeting, an interested group of parishioners has worked over the last two years on plans for re-installation of a labyrinth, with overview from the Executive Team. After much research and discussion of design, materials, stability, sustainability, and placement, the plans are now ready to go forward for installation of a new labyrinth in the same general area as the previous one.

The previous labyrinth had been used over the years by many different people, including Women's Circle members, children and youth in RE programs, participants in stress reduction classes, and individuals who were drawn to explore this ancient form of meditation as part of their personal spiritual practice. The planning group is very happy at the prospect of a new labyrinth being available again to everyone in the First Parish community. The design will be similar to the previous labyrinth, using bricks to mark the edge of path, but this time the pathway itself will be a stable stone aggregate that is sustainable and user-friendly. Underneath all will be a packed base about six inches deep. This structure will allow the labyrinth to withstand New England weather throughout the year to maintain an attractive design and good function for years to come.

You can help First Parish realize the return of a labyrinth to our campus. From our research and desire that the new labyrinth be attractive, user-friendly, and easily maintained for a long time, we believe it is necessary to contract with a professional landscaper for most, if not all of the construction. As a result, we must raise significant funds to put the current plan into action. The fundraising goal is \$18,000, and we are very happy to announce that over \$6000 has already been pledged by a number of your fellow parishioners! We ask that you consider joining them with your own pledge to the Labyrinth Re-installation Fund to help reach the goal and complete the project.

If you have questions or would like to see the labyrinth design, please stop by the Labyrinth information table at coffee hours this month or see the following page on the First Parish website:
www.firstparish.org/labyrinth.

We have learned that for the current surrounding plantings, early spring is the best time for the re-installation to take place. We very much hope to complete fundraising this fall in order for construction to take place next spring. We hope you will give generously to this effort so the First Parish community will again have the use of a labyrinth available to all. Please see the pledge form on the reverse side to see the options available for making your pledge and contribution.

Thank you,

The Labyrinth Re-installation Fundraising Team,

Darien Smith, Bozena Smith, and Martha Kilcoyne

**Labyrinth Re-Installation Fund
Pledge Form**
www.firstparish.org/labyrinth



**First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road
Concord, MA 01742**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Yes, I/We pledge \$ _____ to the First Parish Labyrinth Re-Installation Fund.

I/We will make my/our contribution:

Now, for the full amount, included with return of this form.

In one payment to be made (mark one): by Dec. 31, 2010 by Feb. 15, 2011

In two payments to be made (mark two): now by Dec. 31, 2010 by Feb. 15, 2011

In three payments: one now, the second by Dec. 31, 2010, and the last by Feb. 15, 2011.

Signature(s): _____

Email Address(es): _____

Phone(s): _____

All contributions should be by check made out to
First Parish in Concord with "Labyrinth Fund" noted on the memo line.

Please send pledge form and check, if any, to
First Parish Labyrinth Fund at the church address above.

Thank you so much for supporting the Labyrinth Re-Installation project!