

November 1, 2010
Volume 47, No. 3

The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

Unitarian Universalists often say, and correctly so, we are a religion based on “a covenant,” not on a set of creeds or beliefs that we all need to profess. The word *covenant* comes from our forefathers and -mothers, the Puritans, who covenanted “to walk together and support one another” around a set of theological beliefs. Over time, Unitarian Universalism evolved from that tradition to one in which we affirm congregational polity as a covenant, a mutual agreement and commitment “to walk together and support one another.” Our covenant is an expression of our spiritual vision, which is guided by a set of principles and informed by different sources.

I just attended the third congregational meeting to discern the process by which we will call a new minister. These meetings are evidence that we are walking together as we support one another. I am so impressed with the mutual respect and deep listening everyone has expressed. We are living our covenant.

Gary Smith’s October 17 sermon, “Recalculating,” keeps coming to mind, and I could have sworn I heard Darla (now Dora) say, “recalculating” more than once. In each subsequent meeting the Standing Committee, in walking together with the congregation, has incorporated suggestions from the congregation. At the last meeting, **Jeff Clanon**, chair of the Standing Committee, suggested that there will be more congregational meetings before November 14. What is important is that we continue to listen to one another and know that we all want what is best for First Parish — even when we have different visions.

As we go through this process, we are also dealing with the grief that loss and uncertainty bring in its wake. During a memorial service I often say that love and loss bring us to the meaning of life. And just like at a memorial service, there are those who are grieving and there are those who are ready to move on. No matter where we are on the spectrum of feelings, I believe the pending loss we are facing asks us to name what the meaning of First Parish is now and in the future. I would like to suggest that the meaning is in the walking together, the hearing “recalculating,” and the letting go to let new visions be entertained and possibly embraced.

Walking together in support of one another,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 7

Rev. Dr. William Schulz, preaching

9:00 – Gospel Choir and
Children’s Choir

11:00 – First Parish Choir and
Children’s Choir

November 14

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – First Parish Choir

11:00 – Transylvania Troubadours

November 21

Gary Smith, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

November 28

Craig Nowak, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – Eric Kilburn,
singer/songwriter

Don’t Miss...

WPA ARTISANS FAIR!

Saturday, November 6

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, November 14

12:30 p.m.

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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- ◆ Three Sisters Vegan Dinner
- ◆ Labyrinth Information
- ◆ Wright Tavern Programs
- ◆ Artisans Fair 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, November 29
Monday, December 27
Monday, January 24

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

PARISH NOTES

Holiday Artisans Fair—November 6

It's time to come to this great annual event! Over 50 juried artists and artisans will be showing and selling their latest works. An outstanding collection of handmade glass items, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, clothing, prints, photographs, greeting cards, home decorations, toys, children's items, preserves, handbags, catnip balls, craft items and regifting treasures will be available for your holiday shopping. Come and bring your family members, neighbors and friends for a fun day of shopping and sharing a snack or lunch at our Artisans Cafe. Food will be served throughout the day. 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 pekinc@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer to help at this very enjoyable fundraiser.

With Much Gratitude

Heartfelt thanks to all those in our beloved community of First Parish who extended their love and support to me after the recent death of my mother. Your attendance at the funeral, flowers, cards, phone calls, and kind expressions of sympathy and support at coffee hours and meetings were all greatly appreciated. Thank you so much! —**Dian Pekin**

Putting a Face on UUSC

Have you been uncertain about what exactly the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is? Or how it works, or who it serves? Maybe you've wondered whether it's an organization you'd consider supporting to get the broadest "bang for your buck"?

Join us on Sunday, November 7, for a day dedicated to the UUSC. Rev. Bill Schulz, interim president and CEO, will preach at both services, followed by a 12:30 luncheon with both **Gary Smith** and Rev. Schulz. From 1:30 to 3:00 p.m., UUSC staff will hold a workshop to help us better understand how UUSC's humanitarian work helps people around the world. Short videos, photos and personal stories will bring the UUSC's mission into sharper focus — literally and figuratively!

If you can join us for the luncheon, please RSVP to the church office, or sign up at coffee hour. For more information about the day, contact **Sue Beck** (sbeck345@comcast.net) or **Leslie Fisher** (leslifisher@treitman.com).

Save the Date: Annual Concert and Tea —December 7

Our annual Holiday Concert and Tea will be held on Tuesday, December 7. The concert of holiday music will begin in the Sanctuary at 3 p.m., followed by a traditional lavish Christmas Tea in the Parlor and Parish Hall at 4 p.m. All First Parish members and friends are cordially invited.

The Leadership Connection

The Jericho Road Project is accepting individuals and corporate executives into its winter session of the Leadership Connection — a board training and placement program. Participants will receive training in leadership skills and board governance and will be placed in board positions in the Merrimack Valley. For more information, please see <http://tinyurl.com/JR-leadership> or contact **Dan Holin**, dholin@jerichoroadproject.org. First Parish members **Tim Jacoby**, **Sean Kavanagh**, **Kristin Moore** and **Jim Smith** have been involved in the planning and execution of this new Jericho Road Project service.

Special Parish Meeting

On Sunday, November 14, at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, the congregation will hold a Special Parish Meeting to vote upon a structure of ministerial leadership consisting of two ministers of equal standing, and to approve a slate of members for a Ministerial Search Committee. This meeting is the result of many ideas voiced by members of the congregation in the previous three Town Meetings, plus consultation with our meeting moderator. All members of First Parish in good standing are invited to attend. ♦

MONEY MATTERS

Good-bye, and hello! I am announcing some changes to the Business Office staff. We say goodbye to **Jane Barnes**, who has left the First Parish staff for a new job. We will miss her and wish her all the best in her new position!

We welcome **Tina Storey** as the new Assistant to the Business Manager! She is responsible for all bookkeeping and check writing, among other duties. Tina's hours are Monday and Wednesday 9-3. She comes to us from a nonprofit organization, Alternative House, where she was the business manager, responsible for all financial management. Please do stop by and say hello.

Peggy Gallo remains as the volunteer Collector, processing pledge payments and providing quarterly account statements to parishioners. ♦

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

From the Treasurer — FY2011 Budget Update

The FY2011 budget was presented at the June Annual Meeting. This budget included implementation of new fees necessary to balance the budget with the reduced pledge levels. The congregation approved the budget with an amendment "to recommend that the Standing Committee and Executive Team revisit the music program fees and the budget for FY2011 with the goal of finding a way to balance the budget that both reflects our priorities and is consistently applied across First Parish."

In the weeks following the Annual Meeting, reassessment of the congregation's recent history of payments against pledges has allowed us to reduce the reserve (the amount we plan for pledges that might not be paid) and allow for more time to better evaluate our financial picture for the future. We continue to work within a very tight budget. First Parish is dependent upon your continuing to meet your pledge. ♦

— *Sue St. Croix*

Treasurer

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

The 2010 Culture and Music Pilgrimage to Transylvania is now under way! Twenty-two members of our First Parish community — including **Gary** and **Eliz Smith**; our music director, **Beth Norton**; members of the choir; and members of the Partner Church Committee — have headed to Keresztúr and will return to these shores on November 2. Halloween should be a memorable occasion for all involved!

As part of the fortnight's festivities **Rev. Gary Smith** will present a plaque to Rev. József Szombatfalvi on behalf of First Parish, in fond recognition of the 20th anniversary of our very special partnership.

There is still a space or two available for next summer's (fifth) Youth Service Pilgrimage (YSP) to Keresztúr. If your high-school-aged youth is interested in joining us on this remarkable 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 to leave on July 6 and returning on the 19th, the 2011 YSP, is being sponsored by the Partner Church Committee. For more information about the YSP program, be sure to check the PCC Web page at www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church.

Our next Partner Church Committee meeting will be held in November, and we would love to have you join our happy group. 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 jól! "Best wishes!"

— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair

Labyrinth Project



Many thanks to all who have made a donation or pledge to the Labyrinth re-installation project! We continue to welcome donations in all amounts. For more information, please see the insert at the end of this newsletter. ♦

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

I hope you all have had time to look at the Pastoral Care bulletin board. Our thanks to **Tracey Hurd**, who has graphically shown how you can participate in the pastoral care program. Not only is the display informative — it is beautiful! Thanks to all the parishioners who signed up to volunteer. You will be hearing from me soon.

Caring Connection has also been busy. The First Parish freezer is again full — this time with a hearty soup. Also available are soups for vegetarians and those folks on a gluten-free diet. Thanks to **Rhoda Miller, Rebecca Cook, Petra Betts, Val Holt, Holli Jones-White, Priscilla Smith, Ursula Kristoffy** and **Carol Boris**. To fill out this meal, **Carolyn Shohet** made her wonderful onion cheese bread.



If you have recently read a book that helped you during a difficult time — e.g., receiving a cancer diagnosis, a long hospitalization, the death of a loved one, or a divorce — please consider donating this book to the pastoral care library. Books can be helpful by providing emotional and spiritual support, as well as concrete information, about insurance, health care facilities or home health aides. So we don't end up with duplicates, please e-mail **Ursula Kristoffy** at ursula@kristoffy.com. Also, please leave your name with the donated books, so that you can be properly thanked. Books related to mental health and audiotapes and CD's in any category are especially needed. ♦

In faith,

— *Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday, November 8, 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 December Standing Committee meeting will be on Monday, December 13. ♦



FRIDAY, NOV. 12, 7:30 PM
FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

Celebrate the many ways that music
lifts the spirit of First Parish!

Live performances including First Parish's own:

Emcee Sean Kavanagh

Lauren Bedau Evans, Vegas Night Vamp, with harmonizing friends

Pam Howell with guitarist Rob Hamilton

Eric Kilburn, Singer, songwriter, mandolin, guitar

Beth Norton, FP's own Director of Music

Chris Randall, Singer, songwriter, guitar

Siri Smedvig, Violin

Transylvania Troubadors, Men's a cappella harmonies

Anna Huckabee Tull, Singer, songwriter, Ferry Beach favorite

PLUS SURPRISES!

ENJOY BEER, WINE, SOFT DRINKS,
AND DELECTABLE DESSERTS!

Tickets are \$20, on sale at coffee hour
and through the First Parish office, 978-369-9602

PROCEEDS BENEFIT FIRST PARISH

MUSINGS

Last year, children from First Parish Concord joined with children from the UU Urban Ministry in a joint choir experience of making friends and making music. Together with 50 adult choir members from various area UU churches (including us!), they all became the “Urban Installation Choir” for a day. That would have been

March 14, 2009, an unforgettable day of torrential rains and massive floods. The drive was slow, but it did not deter.

Despite those open skies, all came together in song to celebrate Rev. Catherine Senghas’s installation as the Director of the UU Urban Ministry.

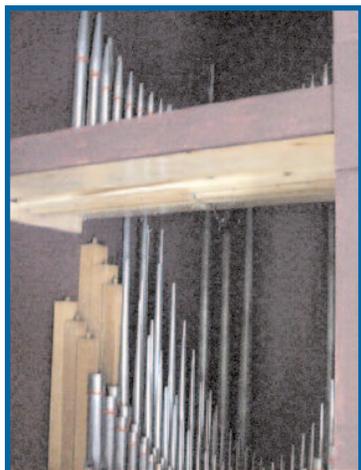


This singing project was an opportunity for our children at First Parish to learn a bit more about the Urban Ministry — through direct experience. They learned that this ministry helps people in inner-city Boston who are struggling for better lives. They got to meet children from the Saturday Explorer’s Club, an enrichment program that services 35-50 at-risk youth. The project allowed the children of these very diverse economic and cultural communities to come together in harmony.

What is more exciting is that this year we plan to return — this time for a regional intergenerational choir performance of Jason Shelton’s cantata, *Sources*. (Have you heard the buzz? You will remember this from last year’s Music Sunday — with **Anderson Manuel** lifting us to new musical heights.) This is a fundraiser concert for the UU Urban Ministry. Many adults from First Parish in Concord will be singing with us. **Beth Norton** will be conducting. I will be accompanying. All profits will go directly to the UU Urban Ministry. Please mark your calendars for January 30 at 3 p.m. We’re planning for the option of bus transportation to make the commute as easy as possible. Hope to see you there! (And yes, Anderson will be singing again!) ♦

— *Gail Carey*

Children’s Choir Director



PIPEWORK

During October, work continued on the erection of the organ expression boxes in the balcony. About mid-October, the new reed stop, Vox Humana 8’, was installed high in the Swell organ box. By the time you read this, we will have heard this stop used a couple of times in some small Baroque-type pieces. This brings us up to six ranks of pipes, but

who’s counting? During the November, we’re looking forward to the installation of the expression louvers on the fronts of the expression boxes, and a couple more ranks of pipes. ♦

— *Eric Huenneke*

Parish Organist

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

November is upon us. The last of the colorful leaves that adorned the trees will soon be gone and the air is becoming noticeably chillier. Although it still seems far away, Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. Last year I had the privilege of giving the Thanksgiving sermon for the town of Palmer’s (Mass.) ecumenical Thanksgiving service. In attendance were people from the Baptist, Congregational, Roman Catholic and Unitarian

Universalist churches in Palmer, so I was faced with the challenge of



offering a sermon broad in appeal, but also deep in meaning. In the sermon I talked about what I called “Thanks-living,” which I defined as a spiritual practice in which we cultivate and express our gratitude for the gift of life through

our actions. I see Thanks-living happening here at First Parish every day. I see it

happening through the various social justice programs, the religious education program, and the music program and choir. I see it in the work of the ministry team and other staff. I see it practiced throughout the life of the First Parish community. What about you? Do you see it? How do you or might you practice Thanks-living as a member of this faith community? ♦

Blessings and joy,

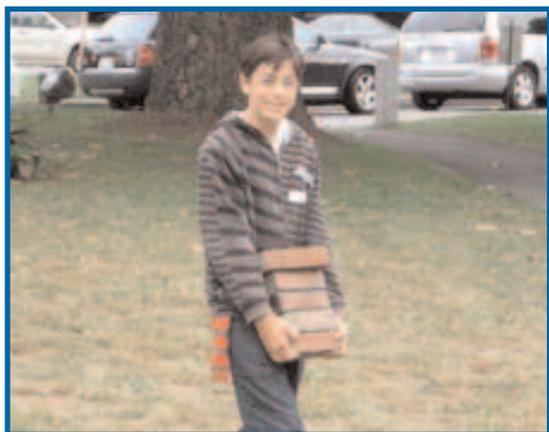
— *Craig Nowak*

What does Social Action have to do with Religious Education at First Parish? A lot. In the realm of “Spiritual Practices,” social justice work is just one of the



ways many of us Unitarian Universalists actualize our faith. Putting our hands and voices in motion to make a difference in the world makes our faith such a living and vibrant one. Our seventh graders have been doing just that in their fall program, Art in Action.

At a time when our teens need to know that the world is not a hopeless place, this program engages them socially, physically, intellectually



and spiritually. It is a program that allows them to make a difference — in our RE program, in our town, in our world. Perhaps you saw the installment of their project to fight global warming? They built a clothes line with T-shirts spelling out L-I-N-E D-R-Y. This is the stuff of memories, of community, of that sometimes elusive sense that “we are all in this together.” And here, in this Sanctuary, we are.

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

November 2010 RE Calendar

- 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. in the Emerson Room
- Sun., Nov. 14 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., Nov. 21 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 6:30 p.m. (Parish Hall)
- Sun., Nov. 28 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
No RE for K–7th and 9th Grades
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 6:30 p.m. (Parish Hall)
- Sun., Dec. 5 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 6:30 p.m. (Parish Hall)
9th Grade Coming of Age at 7 p.m. in the Emerson Room

The Holiday Craft Workshop Is Back!

- “Oh the weather outside is frightful, but inside it’s so delightful...”
- No, it can’t be that time of year again! Not quite yet, but the First Parish elves are busy at work (listen for the tiny hammers tapping) to make sure this holiday season is magical!
- The tradition is back — the Children’s Craft Workshop will be on Saturday, December 4, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at First Parish. So bring your crafty kids, don your elf shoes and join the fun!
- Three (3) ways to have fun at the Children’s Craft Workshop:
 - Be a child and make up to 16 different crafts, including woodworking, ceramics, friendly plastic, jewelry making and pet care items for your family, teachers or friends.
 - Be an elf and help at one of the craft stations in the craft workshop.
 - Volunteer to help buy supplies, prep wood projects, set up or clean up.
- Contact **Patty Popov** at PPopov@wesleyan.edu (or 978-369-1990) or stop by the table at coffee hour, sign up to be an elf and volunteer your time before, during or after the workshop. Please join us at this wonderful workshop to watch our children with magic in their eyes and a smile on their face, and feel the joy that only making a gift for someone or some pet you love brings!

RE News continued on page 7

9th Grade Coming of Age

On November 7, our Coming of 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 *matterings* because it is that which matters to each of us that affects the 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 teen values in life. 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.

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday Evening, December 11, at 7 p.m.

Under the leadership of **Brenda Fingold** and **Jake Nunes**, our 8th graders have been working each Sunday to prepare the humorous play *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. This is an intergenerational play for ages 5 and up. It playfully celebrates our Unitarian Universalist values of inclusion and the inherent worth and dignity of each person. Your family is

sure to enjoy this heart-warming dramatic event and First Parish tradition. Come and see the play your child will be performing when they too are in 8th grade.

Second to Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation Holiday Term

On November 14, we will be starting a new term in our children’s program. Last year, when we did the workshop on “Going to Church,” your children gave some very constructive suggestions about their curriculum. They wrote, “...more cooking ... more art ... more animals.” Wow! I’m all for it. And so, that is just what we did. Last term was filled with cooking, art

and building. This term will be filled with cooking, art, drama and ...yes...animals. We will be using some of the concepts from Temple Grandin’s book, *Animals Make Us Human*, and exploring what animals (including humans) need to feel safe, engaged and, well, happy. We will be looking at three groups of animals: pets and their need for play; horses and how to move from fear to calm; wild animals and how seeking keeps animals engaged and healthy.

I think you can see how these three elements are essential for humans, especially our children. Our children need to be able to play, to calm themselves in adversity, and to have the freedom to seek what is important to them to create a life with meaning. We hope your children will be present to enjoy the three weeks that will focus on animals.

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

- Nov. 7 Days of Remembrance
 - All Souls Day – Honoring the lives of those who are gone
- Nov. 14 Chapel Service – Beginning the Holiday Term
 - with Special Guest, **Rev. Gary Smith**, and Friends... (don’t miss it!)
- Nov. 21 & Dec. 5
 - Animals Make Us Human
 - Grades 2 & 3 – Pets and the Art of Playing
 - Grades 4 & 5 – Horses: Learning to find calm in fear
 - Grade 6 – Wild Animals: Our Need to Seek

Orientations for Religious Education Teachers for 2010-2011

- Young Children’s Program** (Caregiving, Spirit Play & Story Play)
 - Winter and Spring Teachers, January 19, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
- Workshop Rotation Program, 2nd-6th Graders**
 - Holiday Term, November 10, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
 - Winter Term, January 26, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
 - Spring Term, April 30, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Teen Programming (7th, 8th and 9th Grades)**
 - 8th Grade OWL Leaders, November 17, 7:30–9:30
 - 8th Grade *mandatory* parent OWL Orientation, December 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m.



SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

There are so many aspects of First Parish that remind me how to be a more thoughtful person — becoming aware of my impact on others and the earth and inspiring me to make the small steps needed to change.

Our new Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) is helping us all become more aware of our surroundings and our impact on the world. This team was formed as an extension of our Green Sanctuary movement and accreditation in 2009. The ELT is working to make environmental issues more integral in our congregation, in keeping with our UU principles and our benediction.



Hopefully you learned about the ELT's "Mindful Living" initiatives introduced on Sunday October 24 — neighborhood ride sharing to First Parish worship services, energy audits of your home or place of business, and transitioning to eating a more plant-based diet.

In addition, we are introducing a **GREEN NOTES** section (see page 9) to encourage us all to live "mindfully." The **GREEN NOTES** section will offer encouragement — proposing an action any of us could take and educating us with a brief statistic, or offering a plant-based recipe, and possibly sharing a "green" story from you or your family. That is where you all come in! If you have a "green" story or anecdote you wish to share with our congregation, please send it to me for possible inclusion in our green notes.

Also, we have reinvigorated the Environmental Leadership pages on the First Parish website. With the able assistance of our new Environmental Publicity team (**Enid Boasberg, Peter Norton, Bob Andrews and Debbie Barr**), we are now listing news information on environmental issues, ELT-sponsored events, and other local and national environmentally oriented events. Go to www.firstparish.org and click on Committees, then Environmental Leadership to view this page. Many thanks to **Peter Norton** for maintaining this page.

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie

The Peace Alliance, with its state campaigns for a Department of Peace, will hold its annual Mother's Day event. Congressional District 5 constituents will visit Representative Tsongas. With a copy of the Federal Budget Pie Chart — and real pie — they will

- show that peace wants one percent of the budget! A related bill in the House (H1034) and Senate (S435), the Youth promise Act ("Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education) needs more support in the Senate. Senators Brown and Kerry will be urged to cosponsor this revolutionary act! (See www.studentpeacealliance.org.) For more information, contact Pat Simon
- psimon@gis.net.

Film on Modern-Day Slavery to Pair Hidden-Camera Scenes with Rock-Star Performances

- A self-styled "rockumentary" film on modern-day slavery that combines hidden-camera footage of child prostitutes and other trafficked persons with performances by well-known rock musicians will be shown in the Parish Hall on Sunday, November 14, at 4 p.m. (**please note change of time**). The film, "Call and Response," goes deep undercover to expose this terrifying fact — there are more slaves today than ever before in human history, some 27 million. Scenes of slavery in action alternate with anti-slavery music performed by such critically acclaimed artists as Moby, Natasha Bedingfield, Cold War Kids, Matisyahu, Imogen Heap and Talib Kweli. Also featured are reports by Cornel West, Julia Ormond, Madeleine Albright, Daryl Hannah, Ashley Judd and Nicholas Kristof. 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 and the First Parish Social Action Community. For more information, contact **Lorraine Loviglio** at loviglio@rcn.com or 978-371-0914.

SAC Web Pages

- The new Social Action Community Web pages will go "live" on November 7 during coffee hour. Come learn about this exciting use of technology. Find out about SAC news, learn how to browse the SAC calendar and link directly to our many Social Action programs. Many thanks to our incredible SAC board and particularly to **Kim Novick, Lynn Randall, Jane Blumberg and Alec Walker** for making this possible.

SAC Grants Public Comment Period

- The fall funding round of applications to the First Parish Social Action Grants Program have been received. From October 29 to November 6, First Parish members may log onto the First Parish website to review and comment on the applications. Go to

SAC News and Events continued on page 9

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.

www.firstparish.org under Social Action, Grants, Grants Requests & Comments. This same information is available for comment in the church office. Please contact **Wendy Holt**, Grants Committee chair, at wendyholt4@yahoo.com.

Check Out the Clothesline in front of First Parish!

Thanks to the Religious Education 7th Grade “Art in Action” class for creating the clothesline display currently standing in front of our church. Their “action”-oriented art reminds us all of the benefits of line drying.

New SAC program: Guatemala Recovery Project

There is a new SAC team recently formed under the lay leadership of **Steve Cadwell, Janet Rothrock, Mark Howell and Susannah Elliott**. More details will be coming about their plan for the year and their support of Maya Skills, a Guatemalan-based endeavor empowering women to learn a skill and improve their financial situation.

Crop Walk a Big Success!

This year’s Church World Service Crop Walk launched on a beautiful fall day (October 17) from the steps of First Parish. First Parish members walked or supported our ministerial team, which included Ministerial Intern **Craig Nowak**. Preliminary numbers indicate a successful fundraiser of over \$52,000. Twenty-five percent of these proceeds are donated to nine area food pantries and hunger programs with the remainder going to international relief and CWS development projects. Thank you to all involved.

— **Sara Ballard**, First Parish representative

Holiday SAC Is Coming!

Get ready for the Holiday Social Action season at First Parish. Information on special activities will be available by November 1 both online and in an insert in the *Sunday News*. Holiday SAC will include the Mitten Tree, Secret Santa, a clementine drive, UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes, and other options. Stay tuned!

Concord Prison Outreach Holiday Gift Project

Concord Prison Outreach will provide 1700 gift bags for the men at MCI-Concord and Northeast Correctional Center this year. Homemade cards (5x8) signed with first name only and checks made out to Concord Prison Outreach are gratefully accepted. Also, items may be dropped off in the box in the coatroom until December 6. Each gift bag will contain the following items: 15-oz. bottle shampoo, bar of deodorant soap, stick deodorant, pair white socks (no tube socks), 6-oz. tube of toothpaste, writing pad 6x9 (no wire), opaque stick pen (nonretractable), pocket calendar (no wire). Please contact **Becky Blodgett** at 978-369-2564 with any questions.

GREEN NOTES from the Environmental Leadership Team (ELT)

Mindful Living Idea: Collect some fall leaves and make a colorful bouquet.

Mindful Living Statistic: It takes 25 gallons of water to produce 1 lb. of wheat, 24 gallons to produce 1 lb. of potatoes, 33 gallons to produce 1 lb. of carrots, 815 gallons to produce 1 lb. of factory-farmed chicken, 1,630 gallons to produce 1 lb. of factory-farmed pork and 2,464 gallons to produce 1 lb. of factory-farmed beef. You save more water by not eating a pound of meat than you do by not showering for six months!

Your Own “Green” Story: Do you have a story related to the environment you wish to share with our congregation? Send it to **Faith Bade** for possible inclusion in our new **GREEN NOTES** section of the *Meeting House News* and on our Environmental Leadership Web page. Contact **Faith Bade** at Fbade@firstparish.org for more information.

Part Two of “Life in the Balance, Troubled Waters”

On Friday November 5, 7-9 p.m., at the Alcott School, the ELT invites all to support and attend part two of “Protecting our Taps,” a public forum with keynote speaker Ruth Caplan, National Campaign Coordinator for the Alliance for Democracy’s “Defending Water for Life” campaign. The forum will include a panel of experts featuring Alan Cathcart, Water & Sewer Superintendent for the Town of Concord; Valerie Lane, LLC, environmental management consultant and hydrogeologist; and action-oriented discussion groups. This program is cosponsored by the Alliance for Democracy, Carlisle Climate Action, ConcordCAN, and the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle.

Help UUSC meet the “3 for 1 for Haiti” Challenge

To help UUSC respond to the enormity of the devastation in Haiti and to encourage continued giving, our friends at the Unitarian Universalist congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, New York., have issued a \$500,000 challenge grant. Under the terms of the grant, every \$1 you donate to the UUSC/UUA Joint Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund will be matched by \$3 from the Shelter Rock congregation, until the grant ceiling is reached. Please visit uusoc.org/haiti for more information about UUSC’s work in Haiti and to donate online.

HGRM Needs Kitchen and Bath Items

Most folks know that Home Goods Recycling Ministry (HGRM) needs furniture, but did you know that they also need dishes, pots and pans, silverware, baking pans, microwaveable casserole dishes, towels, and sheets — in fact, anything that a family setting up a

SAC News and Events continued on page 10

November will be an active month for the youth at First Parish, as they build community, serve their community, and engage in spiritual practice. These are three of the ways that the YRUU programming helps youth express their faith in action.

It is a hands-on month, starting with pizza-making on November 7. YRUU youth will make homemade pizzas, and host a communal meal for those in Coming of Age.

This generosity towards others will continue on November 14 with the volunteer Council on Aging work day. Last year, dozens of First Parish youth made a significant impact in the community by delivering sand and helping the elderly prepare their homes for winter. We are looking for a strong turnout again this year. We also need parents to volunteer as drivers and chaperones. The service day takes place in the afternoon, and after the work is done we will have a communal meal together.

Finally, on November 21 the youth will lead a short worship service, "Building a Communal Well of Spiritual Strength," that helps emphasize through ritual how they are part of an interdependent community through which they can share their joys and sorrows. This will follow with a covenanting ritual, where youth make promises about how they will journey together.

YRUU is a place of fun, community, growth and connection. We are still in need of more adult support from the congregation, and I hope that you will volunteer to be part of our Sunday evenings or excursions.

Let us hold each other in our hearts, minds, and prayers. For both youth and adults, all the things that we juggle are piling up, and it can be hard when we let things drop. May we accept and forgive when things don't go exactly as we think they ought. Know that things will go on, colleges will send acceptance letters anyway, and that grades are but one indicator of our potential. May we find joy and love in every day.

YRUU Sunday programming for November:

Nov. 7 — Pizza Night

Nov. 14 — Council on Aging service day

Nov. 21 — Well Spring Ritual, Covenant

Nov. 28 — No YRUU, Happy Thanksgiving

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

— Anastassia Zinke

Youth Program Director

household from scratch might desire? Inventory is very low right now, so the need is great. Go to www.hgrm.org for drop-off times.

Mass. Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace Celebrates International Peace Week!

On September 19, at the Acton Jazz Cafe, State Senator James Eldridge read a Resolution that he and three State Representatives (**Cory Atkins**, Peter Koutoujian, Byron Rushing) submitted for adoption in the Massachusetts Legislature. On September 16, it was resolved, "That the Massachusetts General Court recognizes The Peace Alliance Educational Institute's Celebration of International Day of Peace," and that a copy of the Resolutions (from House and Senate) be forwarded to the Peace Alliance Educational Institute and to the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute of Boston.

Tina Chery, director of that Peace Institute, described the kind of peace building that is essential in creating a culture of peace. Her 18-year-old son, on his way to a meeting for the group "Teens Against Gang Violence," was killed in a crossfire, in Boston. In response to this tragedy, Tina cofounded the institute, which teaches young people about peace, and empowers families impacted by violence.

Jenny Phillips, of Concord, producer of *The Dhamma Brothers*, spoke of the peace found in an Alabama prison. In the interviews, which she filmed, inmates described the transforming effect of a 10-day lockdown in Vipassana meditation. On returning to their cellblocks, those around them also began to change.

The Acton Jazz Cafe Quartet demonstrated the soul-to-soul peace building, that regularly warms that community. The bassist read his own peace poetry.

As a peace action to take away, it was suggested that all those present urge Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown to cosponsor the Youth Promise Act (Prison Reduction through Opportunities for Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education). This revolutionary approach to violence intervention and prevention will save lives, save money, and make communities safer.

Join Ttogether for a Common Read

Rev. Jenny Rankin, Ministerial Intern **Craig Nowak** and Social Action Director **Faith Bade** invite you to join together in a Common Read. Learn more about a General Assembly study issue. Connect with the wider UU community. Delve deeply into the stories of immigration. Share Craig's experiences at the border. Read the book *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*, by Margaret Regan. Meetings are planned for Jan. 9, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Jan. 20, 7-9 p.m., and Jan. 27, 7-9 p.m. Books will be available for sale in the church office for approximately \$15 starting November 14.

Connection — It's Not Just for Newcomers

The recent New UU workshop was very successful, with 13 people participating in our half-day program, which provided newcomers the opportunity for discussion about First Parish, Unitarian Universalism, and their journey here.



While it is important that we provide newcomers with this opportunity, I often think about how we can reconnect with members and friends who aren't as active as they once were or have drifted away. Perhaps your children have outgrown the Religious Education program and now you're not sure where you fit in. Perhaps you've lost interest in what drew you here. Perhaps you haven't felt the connection you were hoping for in the First Parish community. If any of these scenarios resonate with you, I'd like to hear from you so that we can find a way for First Parish to become a meaningful part of your life again.

Whether you found First Parish last week or years ago, or whether you are just making your first connection or thinking of ways to reconnect, this meditation by Mel Harkrader-Pine reminds us that it is in the seeking and the connection where we find the most joy.

- Some came here looking for solace.
Some came here and gave it to them.
Some came here seeking music.
Some came here and gave it, joyfully.
Some came here seeking laughter.
Some came here and created it.
Some came here seeking learning, growth.
Some came here and provided it.
Some came here looking for a sense of security, a safe haven.
Some came here and provided it.
Some came here seeking an escape from hectic lives.
Some came here and enabled them to have it.
Some came here seeking the joy of community.
Some came here and created that.
Some came here wanting to serve.
Some came here and made it possible for them.

We thank them all.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to all who have provided a snack to share during coffee hour over the past month. This congregation-wide effort helps to make coffee hour

Membership Corner continued on page 12

As we all know, Gary Smith is retiring in June 2011 after 23 years of service to our parish and the wider world. As I mentioned in my last column, we are honoring his service and his leadership through a year of recognition and celebration that began with the creation of a Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns and will include a special worship service on May 8, 2011. Please mark your calendars now for this special event!

One of Gary's wishes for this year of celebration is to lift up those UU leaders who began their ministerial journey by interning at First Parish. At Gary's request, I asked several former interns to share their stories about their time at First Parish and how it affected their formation as ministers and their subsequent ministry. Here are excerpts from past interns Sharon Dittmar and Andrea Herrera; more stories will be forthcoming as we move through the year.

Rev. Dittmar interned at First Parish in 1996-1997, and is currently minister at First Unitarian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio:

My experience as a full-time intern at First Parish in Concord has been indispensable to my success in parish ministry. Gary taught me about excellence in worship, how to be a great colleague, and when to laugh ... He taught me how to face the unexpected with poise and professionalism, even when shocked or distressed ... Even during my periods of deepest doubts, I remembered my successes and support at First Parish and it carried me through ... After fourteen years and many stoles, I still wear the beautiful silk screened stole you gave to me upon my ordination. It was an honor and a privilege to serve as your intern, and I am deeply grateful.

Rev. Herrera interned at First Parish in 2008-2009 and is currently in her first ministerial position in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

There is an old saying, spoken only half in jest, that if you can do anything other than ministry, you should ... I tried — with all the enthusiasm I could muster — to imagine doing something else. But ... in the end what I knew was that I would be a minister, no matter what, and that I'd better figure out how to make it work. So I set out to recruit the wisest, longest-tenured, most well-adjusted mentor I could find. When I met Gary Smith in preaching class, I knew I had my guy ... someone who deemed the work worthy of all he had, but knew better than to take himself too seriously, and so was able to laugh ... I suspect it is vision, above all else, that will be Gary's legacy. His vision of what First Parish could be, of what the other interns and I could be, and of what people can do together and mean to each other, has helped us to move toward who we are meant to be.

We are looking for a small group of special donors to help us build the base for the Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns in Gary's honor. If you would like to be part of this group, please contact me at plhathaway@firstparish.org. ♦

— Pamela Hathaway

Development Director

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's AM/PM Book Group

As usual, the Women's Book Group will discuss just one book for November and December, and the selection is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. The evening session will be held Monday, December 6, 7:30–9:00 p.m.; and the morning session, on Tuesday, December 7, 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. ♦

Book and Dates for 2011:

- Jan. 24, 25 *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*, by Gail Collins
- Feb. 28, Mar. 1 *The Glass Castle: A Memoir*, by Jeannette Walls
- Mar. 28, 29 *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, by Khaled Hosseini
- Apr. 25, 26 **The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett
- May 23, 24 *Still Alice: A Novel*, by Lisa Genova

*Recommended also as a good audio book

Women's Parish Association

Do you know that the WPA is 129 years old? Do you know that the Artisans Fair on November 6 is our major fundraising event? Do you know what we do with the funds we have raised continuously since 1881? Here are a few examples.

In the church we offer hospitality by having luncheons, programs and teas for women and men. We have contributed to the chairs and tables for the new Emerson Room, the Parlor rug, pew cushions, lamps, stage curtain, sound systems, the contents of the kitchen and more.

Every year we make grants to local, UU and area charitable causes like the Concord Prison Project, UU Renewal House for battered women, the Clara Barton Camp for diabetic children (UU), the women's group of our sister church in Romania and more.

Please support us by coming to the fair!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Art Exhibit at the Library

Siri Smedvig is having an art exhibit, "Siri's Vivarium," at the Concord Public Library from November 1 to 30. All are welcome to a reception with Siri on Thursday, November 4, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.



From the exhibit, Siri's Vivarium

Membership Corner

continued from page 11

what it should be—a connection and community building opportunity for newcomers and longtime members alike. The November Coffee Hour Snack Schedule is as follows:

- November 7 O through R
November 14 S & T
November 21 U through Z
November 28 A & B

Please provide a small snack during coffee hour on the Sunday when the first letter of your last name comes up. ♦

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

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.**

NOVEMBER 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.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Explorations in Transcendentalism</i>	Monday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/22 or 11/29)
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. (not 11/24)
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (not 11/24)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m. (not 11/24)
<i>Yoga for Women</i>	Wednesday	6:45 p.m. (not 11/24)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m. (not 11/24)
<i>Hatha Vinyasa Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/11 or 11/25)
<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/25)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m. (not 11/25)
<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/26)
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/14 or 11/28)

Mon	Nov 1	7:30	<i>Humanists</i>	.	Sat	Nov 13	9:00	Photo Club
		7:30	RE Council	.			10:00	<i>Forgiveness: Telling Our Stories in New Ways</i>
Wed	Nov 3	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	.	Sun	Nov 14	9:00	Council on Aging Workday
		7:30	<i>Eightfold Path</i>	.			12:30	Congregational Meeting
Thu	Nov 4	7:00	Development Committee	.			4:00	Amnesty Film
		7:30	Threshold Choir	.	Mon	Nov 15	7:00	Jericho Road
		7:30	<i>Between Adults and Your Aging Parents</i>	.	Wed	Nov 17	12:15	<i>Sandwiches and Short Story</i>
Sat	Nov 6	10:00	Artisans Fair	.			6:30	Membership Committee
Sun	Nov 7	12:15	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	.			7:30	Our Whole Lives Teacher Orientation
		12:45	UU Service Committee Lunch and Workshop	.	Thu	Nov 18	7:30	Threshold Choir
Mon	Nov 8	6:30	Standing Committee	.	Fri	Nov 19	6:00	Three Sisters Harvest Dinner
		7:00	<i>Humanists</i>	.			7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Tue	Nov 9	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	.	Sun	Nov 21	12:30	Nominating Committee
Wed	Nov 10	6:30	RE Teacher Orientation, Grades 2-6	.			3:00	Needleworkers
Thu	Nov 11		Holiday—Office Closed	.	Tue	Nov 23	7:45	Adult Choir
Fri	Nov 12	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>	.	Thu	Nov 25		Holiday—Office Closed
		7:30	"It's All About The Music"	.	Fri	Nov 26		Holiday—Office Closed
				.	Mon	Nov 29	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
				.				

SUNDAY FORUMS

Forums are held Sunday morning from 10:10 to 10:55 a.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Charles Lowell** or **Robert Hilsinger** if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker. ♦

November 14, 2010

The Relationship of the Parish with its Minister

Peter Mitchell

At this time of transition, it is appropriate to review the contentious yet interdependent relationship that a congregation has with its minister in the laical tradition. Reviewing historical precedent will enable the Parish to go forward with greater equanimity into the next chapter of our history.

November 21, 2010

Education

Jonathan Saphier

NOVEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER

The December Newsletter deadline is Monday, November 29, at noon.
The Newsletter is published the following Monday.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: FPConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

Ministers' E-Mail:

Gary E. Smith: gsmith@firstparish.org

Jenny M. Rankin: jrankin@firstparish.org

Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Cassy Bosworth, Assistant to the Ministers

Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager

Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director

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Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Anastassia Zinke, Youth Program Director

Lorrie Clark, Religious Education Administrator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

Eric Huenneke, Parish Organist

Anderson Manuel, Youth Gospel Choir Director

Gail Carey, Children's Choir Director

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Leslie Koplów, 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



Holiday Artisans' Fair

Saturday, November 6

Café: Lunch and Snacks All Day

50 Professional Juried Artists & Artisans showing and selling latest works. Outstanding collection of handmade glass items, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, clothing, children's toys & furniture, photography, originals, prints, cards, home & seasonal decorations, preserves & more. Silhouette Artist. Regifting table. Raffle, door prize. Great browsing & shopping! Wheelchair accessible.

Saturday, November 6 - 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Admission - Adults: \$3. Children: \$1.

Children Under 5: Free.

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord

Tel. 978-369-9602.

A Concord Tradition For Over 40 Years



for Spiritual Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • November 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** in the Chapel for silent meditation. Drop-ins welcome.

Monday: Nov. 1–Nov. 29 9:15-9:45 a.m. No Charge

Tibetan Buddhism

The Buddhist group will be meeting in the First Parish Chapel. These weekly sessions are open to all who are interested in transforming love, compassion, and wisdom into action. You are welcome to share the spirit of community at these gatherings regardless of your familiarity with Tibetan Buddhism. Donations are gratefully accepted. Contact Bill Seaver at 978-369-7318 if you have any questions.

Wednesday: 9:30–11:00 a.m. Thursday 7:30–9:00 p.m.

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: Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 7 12:30–2:00 p.m. \$ 25/class

T'ai Chi

T'ai Chi is often called meditation in motion. In this class, we will learn the Hwa Yu form of T'ai Chi. The benefits of T'ai Chi are many: relaxation, improved immune response, better balance and stability, and lower blood pressure. The evening session includes some standing meditation, and practice with the Hwa Yu T'ai Chi form. This is an ongoing class that includes new and returning students. Instructor: **Sue Wood**

Monday: Nov. 22–Jan. 24 (no session 12/20,12/27 or 1/17) 6:30–8:00 p.m. \$105/7 sessions or \$20/drop in

Hatha Vinyasa Yoga

This adult class is a flowing mixture of Hatha, Iyengar, Somatics, and Vinyasa yoga. It focuses on alignment and movement with breath. You will leave with your body stretched and strengthened, your mind relaxed and focused, your intellect

- sparked with new concepts to consider, and your inner being attended to. Instructor: **Ori Kilner-Munson**

Thursday: Nov. 4–Dec. 16 (no session Nov. 11) 9:30–10:45 a.m. \$18/drop-in

Concord Area Humanist Group

The Fall 2010 CAH program will have events at First Parish Wright Tavern , and at Concord Public Library. Each event will include discussion. To learn more about us and our activities, and read articles and postings about the group, visit our website at www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org. For questions, e-mail Patrick Everett at pne@aol.com.

CAH presents David Niose, president of American Humanist Association, on “Equal Rights for Humanists: A New Approach to Church-State Separation.” See www.americanhumanist.org/news/details/2010-07-humanists-denounce-in-god-we-trust-motto-bill.

Monday: Nov. 1 7:30 p.m. Wright Tavern Sunroom

“Morality and Ethics.” This is a discussion in preparation for the “Necessity of Virtue” workshop series starting December 13. Was Saint Augustine responsible for sending the early Christian Church down the “original sin” road? If sexual desire had then been considered a survival trait in evolution of all species, might Christianity itself have evolved differently? What might that have done for our cultural morality and ethics?

Monday: Nov. 8 7:30 p.m. Emerson Room at First Parish

CAH discussion group “Third Monday Exploring,” formerly “Conversations at Eight,” will assemble in the Trustees Room at 7:30 and actively discuss a subject of interest.

Monday: Nov. 15 7:45–9:00 p.m. Concord Public Library

Forgiveness: Telling Our Stories in New Ways

Forgiveness is a 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 experience.

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riences, 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. Instructor: *Elisa Pearmain, M.Ed.*

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

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*. November's story is "Stand by Me," by Wendell Berry. All stories can be found in *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, edited by Laura Fuman; Anchor Books, 2010 pb \$16.

Wednesday: November 17 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

November/December's book is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Come to either session; drop-ins welcome. Contact *Darien Smith* at darien@smithquest.com.

Monday: Dec. 6 7:30-9:00 p.m. Tuesday: Dec. 7 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: 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

Explorations in Transcendentalism

Whether you are an enthusiast or still scratching your head and wondering, "What 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 a 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? After the opening presentation by *Jenny Rankin* and *Lillian Anderson*, small group works will focus on Margaret Fuller and May Alcott. Preregistration is appreciated for each session.

Monday: Nov. 1, 8 & 15 7:00-8:30 p.m.

First Parish members free/nonmembers \$10 per session

The Honor All Beings and the Healthy You/Healthy Planet Affinity Groups invite you to join them for the Three Sisters Thanksgiving Vegan Feast on Friday, November 19th at 6 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children under 12, and are available in the First Parish office or at coffee hours until Monday, November 15. Children under 5 are free. For information or questions, contact Kathryn Shane at kdshanel@verizon.net or Marcia Schloss at marcialou28@gmail.com. We're doing all the cooking!

Three Sisters Thanksgiving Vegan Feast

Hors d'Oeuvre

Stuffed Mushrooms
Sushi
Cashew Cheese Rolls
Lentil Walnut Pate
Artichoke/Spinach Dip

Entrees

Thanksgiving Roast with Mushroom Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Sweet Potato and Apple Casserole
Butternut Squash
Thyme and Sage Walnut Stuffing
Creamed Onions
Green Bean and Almond Casserole
Cranberry Sauce
Spinach Salad with Pears, Cranberries and Roasted Pecans
Warm Rolls

Desserts

Pumpkin Pie
Apple Pie
Pecan Pie
Apple/Pear Crisp

Beverages

Apple Cider/ Tea and Coffee
BYO Wine and Beer

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!