



The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES

A warm spring mist is rising from the fields and the ground is green again as I write. As we come to the beginning of May, I cannot ignore the truth that I must say goodbye this spring to my ministerial colleagues, **Gary Smith** and **Margie King Saphier**. That will not be easy.

I remember when Margie began five years ago. Another might have been daunted by our large congregation, but not Margie! Her eyes sparkling, she would bounce into staff meeting, beaming, her energy contagious. If we had a worry or sadness, we knew we could talk with Margie. Her ministry of compassion touched so many of us and we will miss her greatly, staff and lay people alike.

Gary and I have worked together for nearly fourteen years. Last week, looking in my "Palm Sunday" file, I found a sermon I had preached before coming here. My eye caught these words: "I like what the minister in Concord, Gary Smith, says about Passover and Easter..." and I went on to quote Gary. So even before I came to Concord, I was reading Gary's sermons and learning from afar. To say it has been an honor to serve beside him is a huge understatement. Words fail.

Tending this institution over the long haul, that is a task we do together, congregation and ministers. At times, it is heavy lifting. To have the trust and company of a colleague can make all the difference.

Gary and I have worked in this calling together for a long time, a rarity within the UUA. There have been rough stretches and smooth, as there are in life, and we have been blessed with collegiality, friendship, learning, synergy and creativity. Doing ministry with a colleague like Gary cannot be replicated. I can't quite imagine life without him here; perhaps you can't either.

I confess it is still not entirely real to me that these cherished people are leaving. But that is the way of life. We accept it little by little, as best we can. The celebrations we have planned are a way for us to express our gratitude and to live into the new reality.

In the last twenty-plus years, with Gary as senior leader, this community has gone from strength to strength. The challenge for First Parish now is to stay strong while creating new visions and then finding the will and the way to make that future come true. I believe you will take up this challenge with courage and heart. The generosity you have shown in this year's annual campaign is heartening. You care about First Parish, you are making it stronger. Thank you for that vote of confidence in these days when we prepare to say goodbye to two ministers who have blessed us so much.

—*Jenny Rankin*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

May 1

Craig Nowak preaching

9:00 – Junior Choir and Gospel Choir

11:00 – Chalice Choir and Gospel Choir

May 8

Former Interns and Students of

Gary Smith leading worship

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

May 15

9:00 & 11:00 – Coming of Age Service

May 22

Gary Smith and Beth Norton,
worship leaders

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

May 29

Margie King Saphier, preaching

One service at 10:00

Lillian Braden, violin

Don't Miss...

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, May 29

10:00 a.m.

Margie King Saphier preaching

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 **REVeries**
Sunday Worship Schedule
- Page 2 **In This Issue**
Parish Notes
- Page 3 **From the Nominating Committee**
- Page 4 **Money Matters**
Standing Committee
Developments
From the Intern Minister
- Page 5 **Partner Church Committee**
Pastoral Care News
- Page 6 **MUSings**
Pipework
Sunday Forums
- Page 7 **Membership Corner**
Welcome, New Members
- Page 8 **REflections and RE News**
May 2011 RE Calendar
- Page 9 **RE News, continued**
- Page 10 **SAC News and Events**
- Page 11 **SAC News, continued**
- Page 12 **SAC News, continued**
Senior Youth News
- Page 13 **Parish Notes, continued**
Women's News
UU News
Classified
- Page 14 **May 2011 Calendar**
- Page 15 **First Parish Contact Info and Staff**

There are two inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ **OMG Broadway!**
- ◆ **Wright Tavern Programs**

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

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

Noon Deadline

Monday, May 23
Monday, August 29
Monday, September 26

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

PARISH NOTES

“OMG, Broadway!” Tickets on Sale Now



Tickets for *OMG, Broadway: A Simply Divine Musical* are on sale today during coffee hour. There are three performances: Friday, May 13, at 8 p.m.; and Saturday, May 14, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 each, with \$5 of each ticket sold going to the Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns in honor of **Gary Smith**. This once-in-a-lifetime show features 35 parishioners singing 21 Broadway songs, plus a

special guest appearance by a senior minister you know and love!

Celebrate Gary Smith's Last Weekend

The day quickly approaches — **Gary Smith's** last weekend as Senior Minister at First Parish is June 4 and 5.

On Saturday night, June 4, from 5 to 7 p.m., the church will host a celebration to send him off happily to retirement. All are welcome! The tone of the evening is festive and even a little dressy. Come in your best creative black tie! From 5 to 6 p.m., there will be a cocktail reception (with appetizers!) in the Parish Hall.

At 6 p.m., **Sean Kavanagh** steps in to emcee a humorous tribute to Gary. Known best as our own home-grown humorist, Sean promises an entertaining salute to Gary in honor of his ministry here at First Parish. And yes, there will be some special guest appearances.

On Sunday, June 5, Gary will preach one last sermon at 10 a.m., followed by a very special coffee hour.

Writing to Gary

The end of our church year is in sight. Many of us are thinking about how we would like to say farewell to **Gary Smith**, wish him well, and thank him for his ministry. If you would like to join other parishioners in sending your own personal message to Gary, come to coffee hour on Sundays, now through June 12, to learn more. There is a movement taking shape where you can write to Gary about your thoughts, wishes, and hopes. These notes will be collected and presented to Gary on June 12, the day of First Parish's annual meeting. Details will be forthcoming.

Final Ferry Beach Retreat Registration!

The annual First Parish Ferry Beach Retreat weekend is May 27-30 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Registration packets are available at coffee hour, in the church office during the week, and online at www.firstparish.org/forms. The final date for registrations for the weekend was Sunday, May 1. For questions, contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com, 978-369-1471). Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at www.ferrybeach.org.

An Omission

Tim Warren's name was inadvertently omitted from the list of Deacons in our latest First Parish Directory. Though he now resides in Maine, he is in close contact with us and we value his friendship and wisdom.

Parish Notes

continued on page 13

Nominating Committee: “What Is” and “What Can Be”

This year the Nominating Committee/Leadership Development Team has led and participated in several events that show “how things work now” and explore “how things might work better.” We learned a great deal from participants in our January Round Table, from attendance at a workshop and a conference, and from starting a group read (with the SC and staff) of a book on governing and ministering to congregations. Read more below, and come talk to any Nominating Committee member to hear more or express your views.

January 8: Yearly Roundtable

Over 50 staff and parishioners gathered for a day of sharing our histories of service to First Parish, hearing about best practices in two program areas and exchanging thoughts on paid/unpaid leadership. Some points from what we learned:

- Our next generation of leaders tend to be more interested in time-limited projects with an emphasis on developing their personal gifts rather than a commitment to traditional committee service.
- Of the 48 FP program/activity areas investigated, about half had been experienced by more than a dozen attendees — and almost 90 percent had participated in RE.
- There are common experiences we share whether paid or unpaid.
- We do a lot and we do it well; we can find ways together to do more.

Go to Nominating Committee page <http://www.first-parish.org/cms/committees/nominating-committee> on the FPC Web site (soon to be updated with all this info) to see the “dot chart” of the first, second, later and “wished-for” activities that participants reported, and to read the complete survey results of questions asked paid and unpaid leaders about their service experiences at First Parish.

February 12: “Who’s in Charge Here” Workshop

Five members of the Leadership Development Team attended a Mass Bay/Clara Barton workshop with over 100 other UUs, given by Larry Peers of the Alban Institute. We heard from Larry about:

- Starting a “mission-aligned” discussion that helps a congregation ask, “What calls for a response from us?” which can be the start of a clarifying journey.
- How to use Dan Hotchkiss’s map of governance (the “what”), ministry (the “how”), areas of interaction and how a congregation contributes in all roles.
- An interpretive model for dealing with an issue (name, interpret, respond, reflect).

- The “systems” of a congregation (community presence, welcoming, nurturing, empowering and serving).
- A discussion of performance management and employee relationships in a congregation.

Throughout, Larry’s emphasis was on giving enough time for a process to grow to fruition without short-circuiting it; and building mutual accountability and healthy communication between people and groups. He embodied this himself, drawing comments out of more than half the attendees, and keeping us on track with a huge dose of humor that was worth the price of admission in its own right. If you get a chance to attend an event featuring him, grab it!

March 17–20: Large Church Conference

Of additional interest to us was the following (taken from the Large Church Conference with Dan Hotchkiss and Larry Peers’ paper “From Stressed to Blessed, a Conversation for Recomposing Volunteer Service in the Congregation”).

- There are cultural changes sweeping through our congregations that reflect cultural changes of the larger society, as younger generations move into leadership positions.
- Changes in cultural dynamics and new approaches to congregational engagement can be regarded as “the problem” or as a “possibility to bring forth.”
- Surface changes are not what is needed in response to these cultural shifts.
- Simply working harder to make things work the way “they used to work” won’t be very rewarding, will likely generate greater frustration and anxiety, and will likely be unsuccessful.
- An ability to “See What Is” as part of a set of new possibilities is key to generating good discussions about “What Can Be.”
- It’s a process that needs to happen on many levels, not just from the top down.

Right Now: Governance and Ministry Common Read

Leadership Development Team members have begun to read Dan Hotchkiss’s *Governance and Ministry* alongside the Executive Team and the Standing Committee, and we look forward to finding new and fruitful ways to engage one another on the themes of the book.

Respectfully submitted,
The Nominating Committee

MONEY MATTERS

During the month of May we will be dedicating the plate collection to different causes on three different Sundays. If you make your regular pledge payment through the plate collection, do not worry — your pledge payment will still be credited to you and come to First Parish operations. But for those of you who would like to plan ahead and perhaps put a bit extra into the plate, here is the schedule:

Sunday, May 8: On this Sunday we will be celebrating **Gary Smith's** work with First Parish ministerial interns. The collection will go to the Ministerial Intern Legacy Fund, established as part of First Parish's endowment.

Sunday, May 15, Coming of Age Sunday: The plate collection on this date will go toward the Social Action work of our Sixth Grade Youth Group's Community Garden, which is organic, local, and feeds our guests at Open Table.

Sunday, May 22, Music Sunday: The plate collection on this Sunday will go into the Music Reserve Fund, which supports projects that will enrich the musical life of the congregation.

Thank you in advance for your generosity toward these programs! ♦

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday, May 2, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the Wright Tavern sunporch. Please look for the monthly minutes online at first-parish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. The June Standing Committee meeting will be held on Monday, June 13. ♦

DEVELOPMENTS

After the beautiful Easter service, it feels like we have truly entered the celebratory season! On May 7-8, we will be celebrating **Rev. Gary Smith's** teaching legacy — and his leadership in making First Parish a leading UU “teaching congregation.” The weekend will include a dinner on Saturday evening for **Gary and Eliz**, the interns and their families, and the Ministerial Internship committee — thank you to **Alec Walker** and members of the committee for hosting! On Sunday afternoon, following the 11:00 o'clock service, a luncheon for the interns and members of the congregation who would like to socialize a little will be held in the Parish Hall and Parlor. If you would like to attend the luncheon, please RSVP to the church office (978-369-9602) by no later than 3 p.m. on May 4. Space for the luncheon is limited, so be sure to reserve early.

Thank you to the 92 parish families who have contributed to the Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns. This new endowment fund will continue accepting donations indefinitely — if you would like to make a special gift in Gary's honor now, please consider contributing to this fund, which will advance the teaching legacy that Gary has established at First Parish.

To continue the celebration of Gary's ministry, don't miss the musical tribute to Gary, *OMG, Broadway!*, an original musical review featuring Broadway music with biblical themes. Directed by **Tom Beck**, with vocal support from **Sue Beck**, and dedicated to Gary, *OMG Broadway!* features 35 of our fellow parishioners and will be presented in the Parish Hall on May 13 and 14. Five dollars from each ticket sold will go to the Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns. ♦

— *Pamela Hathaway*

Development Director

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER



I've been thinking about the children's message concerning generosity from this year's Easter service, in which **Pam Howell** shared with the children the parable of the workers in the vineyard. (If you weren't there, I recommend borrowing the CD of the service to hear it.) As I reflected on what it means to be generous, I quickly came to recall **Gary Smith's** Easter sermon and his call to “bless life.” It seems to me the two go together. To be generous is to bless life.

While generosity is often measured monetarily, there are many ways to be generous. Sometimes all it takes is a smile, a kind word, or a little extra patience with someone having a hard day. What are some of the ways you practice generosity in your daily life? ♦

Blessings,

— *Craig Nowak*

Interim Task Force Update

The Interim Task Force is currently interviewing candidates for the position of the two-year Interim Ministry at First Parish. This process should be completed by the end of May; the Task Force will continue to keep the Parish updated.

—**Andrea Siani, Jake Nunes, Laurie Van Loon**
Interim Task Force

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Preparation for the fifth Youth Service Pilgrimage (YSP) to Székelykeresztúr is now in the home stretch of our July 6 departure. We are pleased to have **Sarah Napoline** (né **Keleher**) join us as our fifth chaperone — in addition to **Winslow Pettingell, Peter Ciuffetti, Ken Estabrook** and **Anastassia Zinke**. For ongoing updates about the YSP program in general, be sure to check the PCC Web page (as noted below).

As previously announced, **Joan Wesolowski** and her daughter **Hayle** will be First Parish's representatives at this year's Berde Mózes Unitarian High School graduation in Székelykeresztúr. Joan will deliver a message from our congregation and Student Sponsorship Program sponsors as part of the ceremony on Thursday, May 26.

Recently PCC representatives met with **Pam Howell**, Director of Religious Education, as well as representatives from our Social Action Community (SAC) to discuss ways to integrate and coordinate our respective offerings — SAC service trips, Youth Service Pilgrimages, the Transylvania Student Sponsorship Program, and other partnership/social action/youth-related initiatives here at First Parish. We look forward to the possibilities that such organized cooperation will bring, not only to all three programs, but to our entire Meeting House community.

Our next First Parish PCC (supper) meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, at the home of **Iván** and **Ursula Kristóffy**. We would love to have you join our happy group. For further information, drop Winslow a line; and for our all our latest PCC news and information, see:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church> or click this link <http://bit.ly/fx1voH> ♦

Minden jót! “Best wishes!”

— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,
LondonSW11@aol.com

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

Although I have lived in Massachusetts for most of my adult life (more than 40 years), I can't shake the memory of spring arriving in South Jersey the end of March or early April, with tulips and daffodils, magnolias and azaleas. I lived in New Jersey from age five to twenty — just 15 years — but those formative years left a lasting impression as to when spring *should* arrive. As a result, I have an affinity for T. S. Eliot's words: “April is the cruelest month of the year ...” But April in Massachusetts is no more or less cruel than any other month. My clinging to memories that I have probably embellished cause me to miss what is here and now. I need to remember that the simple saying “April showers bring May flowers” has a lot of truth. Also my heightened anticipation for the coming of May can lead to disappointment. The month of May can't possibly meet my expectations, and again I miss all the wonderful mysteries May has to offer. Because our minds are always judging and evaluating, it is so easy for us to miss all the good that is before us and within us.



There is much good here at First Parish — e.g., the congregation — active in pastoral care, in RE, in the choir, in social justice, and on the staff. Please know that **Jenny Rankin** and I are working together to ensure that pastoral care continues.

Jenny has always been very involved in the pastoral care of the congregation and will continue to be. **Craig Nowak**, ministerial intern,

will be with us next year and will be visiting parishioners, as will the interim minister. In May, Jenny and I will meet with the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers and the Advisory Council to work on as smooth a transition as possible when I step down June 30. I have often said how much I have appreciated parishioners contacting the ministers or the office to alert us of a parishioner who is in the hospital or has had a loved one die. Please remain involved in helping us to help you.

Pat Ellis is the pastoral care lay minister for the month of May. If you are in need of transportation to a medical appointment, or would like a Caring Connection meal delivered to you, or would like to have a compassionate listener visit you, please call Pat at 978-897-5207. ♦

In faith,

— *Margie King Saphier*

Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

MUSINGS

John Lennon is credited with saying, "Life is what happens when you are making other plans." That has certainly been true for me and my family this spring. It has been true for this congregation as we prepare for major ministerial transition. Plans we put in place last year have changed and we are learning that new plans need to be made. My personal corollary to John Lennon's statement is, "It's good to have a plan so you know when you're changing it."

Thus it is with Music Sunday this May.

Traditionally, at this time of year, our wonderful choir delves into a larger work and we build a Sunday worship service around that musical piece.

Last year it was *Sources: A Unitarian Universalist Cantata*, the year before it was Paul Winter's *Missa Gaia*. For this year, we had planned to celebrate our new organ installation with

Hungarian composer Zoltan Kodaly's majestic *Laudes Organi*. But we realized midway through the year that the organ would not be complete this spring, so we needed to change that plan. Stay tuned for next year!

One plan that hasn't changed is that **Gary Smith** is retiring in June. This month we will celebrate many facets of his ministry. It has been my privilege to work with Gary, creating worship and building the First Parish music ministry for 17 years. Recently, while reflecting on the gift that this collaboration has been for us personally and for this congregation, we realized that this year's Music Sunday could be about music and worship and offer us all an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate this relationship.

So we've made a new plan and we think it's a good one! In consultation with the choir, I've chosen six favorite anthems that honor music and singing; Gary and I will share the pulpit and reflect on our long collaboration; we will sing Gary's favorite hymn — and some others as well. We will celebrate the synergy of music and worship at First Parish in Concord.

"Life is what happens when you're making other plans." So true. May we be open to the gifts that are offered by the change of plans. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director



PIPEWORKS

Since the last organ column update, we have gained several new additions to the organ. The strings in the organ's Swell division on the left side when facing the organ have been installed and give us a new dimension of color that is very helpful in service playing, as well as for the organ literature. The small new 2' high-pitched flute in the organ's Choir division on the right side also completes a chorus of flutes in that section of the organ.

Now that the Easter tuning season is over, Russell & Co. organ builders in Vermont has begun construction on the additional wind chests for the remaining sections of the organ, in their shop up north. Another half-dozen ranks of pipes are in production and have a goal of being installed by music Sunday later this month. Stay tuned.

— *Eric Huenneke,*

Parish Organist

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** (rhilsinger@bedfordma.gov) if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker. ♦

May 15

Helping to Preserve Our Democracy

Jeff Clements

Jeff Clements, a Concord attorney, is raising an alarm about the influence of corporate profits in the political process and the dangers brought about by the year-old Supreme Court decision, the so-called Citizens United case, that gave corporations free rein to influence public elections. Jeff will talk about his filing of an amicus brief in the United States Supreme Court in the landmark case of Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, his work as general counsel for the Free Speech for People campaign, the campaign itself, and other related topics.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

During the services on Sunday, May 1, the congregation officially welcomed new members who have signed the Membership Book of First Parish this past year, acknowledging that we covenant to walk with one another in faith, committing ourselves to deepen spiritually and go out into the world to try to make a difference. Joining a spiritual community is an important decision, one that calls for personal discernment, willingness and commitment, and we are grateful to those new members who made the decision to make First Parish their spiritual home.



Are you considering becoming a member of First Parish? Becoming a member confirms your decision to join this church, to identify yourself as an active participant in a vibrant religious community of women, men and children representing multiple views, beliefs and paths.

If you have been coming to First Parish for a while, regularly attend worship services, have become involved in the life of the church in some way, and find that your beliefs and values are consonant with UU-ism and First Parish, consider signing the book.

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

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

—*Jane Foley*
Membership Director

Welcome, New Members!

(May 1, 2010 through April 28, 2011)

- Nancy Beeuwkes
- Gabby Chiha
- Jim Munson
- John Peterson
- Cheryl Peterson
- Patricia Keane
- Jennipher Burgess
- Carol Harris Peacock
- Tim Peacock
- Bruce Blumberg
- Connie Johnson
- Martin Rindlisbacher
- Sven Olson
- Janine Olson
- Wililam Sabine
- Melita Leichert
- Caitlin Selle
- Brian Schmidt
- Jennifer Izzo
- Aletha Smith
- Christine Labadini
- Darlene Vanstone
- William Holmes
- Barry Paillet
- Ann Sgarzi
- James Quinn
- Kelly Quinn
- Steve Graham
- Rebecca Regan
- Meghan Regan-Loomis
- Christopher Popov
- Kirk Dogget
- Laurel Smith Dogget
- Debbie Barr
- John Bigay
- Lindsay Kafka
- Steven Kafka
- Jeremy Osborn
- Kristin Osborn
- Thomas John Hammond
- Kelly Roberts
- Brandon Roberts
- Joan Geoghegan
- Amy Capofreddi
- Judy Samuelson
- Dorothy Bisbee
- Michael Jacobs
- Joel Nimar
- Mark Nimar
- Jenna Nimar
- Claudia Nimar
- Mira Greenland
- Stuart Johnstone
- Catherine Johnstone
- Sally Merrill
- Harry Garnett
- Chris Floyd
- Norma Floyd
- Chloe Vilain
- Camilla Vilain
- Ruthann Brien

The month of May is an important one in RE. This is the month when we do most of our planning for next year. One of the things I love about our RE program is that our children and parents are the biggest part of what we do in RE. I treasure the time I spend working with our



own children and our own parents planning a term in our workshop program. By working within our parish in this way, the stories and curriculum are authentic. Kids love true stories because they are real and not virtual. True stories set the tone for sharing from within our personal lives. This is the sharing that builds trusting relationships over time. In this way, the kids, parents and I collaborate around a desire for creating an authentic life.

When I work with kids in our 2nd-6th Grade program on Sunday mornings, we gather first in a circle. We tell such stories and listen to each other. We sing. We appreciate each other's presence. This becomes our own sanctuary, our own worship service coinciding with our adult worship within the larger Sanctuary.

In this way, we develop special and personal relationships. When I see your child in the parade, or in the market, or on the sidewalk in town, we always greet each other with the warmth that is shared between people who know each other in a personal way, in a heart way. Above all, this is what I love about working with your children on Sunday mornings. This is what I love about working within a faith community that still values such relationships. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Come Work in the First Parish Garden at the Hugh Cargill Community Garden

Sue Ryan and Pam Howell have once again secured a gardening plot in the Hugh Cargill Community Garden (across from the Concord Court House). We will work with our First Parish kids planting seeds, digging beds, weeding and picking produce in the summer and fall. We will donate our vegetables and flowers to Open Table.

Would your children like to be involved? If so, please let me know. We will be at the garden on

May 2011 RE Calendar

- Sun., May 1 Regular RE for Babies–4 Years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths (NF) – no RE
8th Grade YRUU at 7 p.m.
- Sat., May 7 7th Grade Sandwich Making for Common Cathedral 12–2 p.m.
- Sun., May 8 Regular RE for Babies–4 Years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
7th Grade NF — Common Cathedral 9 a.m.
8th Grade YRUU at 7 p.m.
- Sat., May 14 9th Grade Coming of Age Rehearsal, 1-6.p.m.
- Sun., May 15 Regular RE for Babies–4 Years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
7th Grade NF – Coming of Age at 11 a.m.
8th Grade YRUU at 7 p.m.
9th Grade Coming of Age Service at 9 and 11 a.m.
- Sun., May 22 Regular RE for Babies–4 Years
Regular RE for K-6th Grades
8th Grade YRUU at 7 p.m.

Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. assisting young gardeners. We will weed, plant, pick and then deliver food to Open Table.

Gardening and growing food is one way your child can experience the power of our earth. By giving to others your child can experience the power of the human spirit. These are two great aspirations of our Unitarian Universalist sources. I hope your child and family has the time to participate in this simple but powerful ministry this summer. In Rudyard Kipling's story about "how the camel got his hump" there are these words within a poem.

"The cure for this ill is not to sit still,
Or frowst with a book by the fire;
But to take a large hoe and shovel also,
And dig till you gently perspire."

RE Registration for 2011-2012

We are going back to the old way of registering our kids for next year. While we tried an easier process last year, we found it was almost too easy and we had a difficult time with our reduced RE staff tracking late registrations and incomplete registrations.

RE News

continued on page 9

This year, we will be doing registration on May 15 and May 22 during coffee hours. We will also have the forms online for your convenience. You can feel free to print them out and send them in after May 15. This year, however, we cannot accept any incomplete registrations. We just don't have the staff to follow up on them. Please register on time and completely this year. It makes all the difference in preparing for September. Thank you.

Coming of Age Service Is May 15

Coming of Age is one of our most important worship services of the year. This is the time when our teens are given an opportunity that most congregations would be wary of — we give them full command of the pulpit.

Our teens will be giving their credos. Their credos are a statement of belief. They have been given time to reflect on themselves, their values, what they care about. They are expressing something that speaks to the core of who they see themselves to be in the world. Our congregation comes to sit and bear witness to their statements and to consider their emergence as young adults in our congregation.

This program could not be possible without the very strong leadership of our lay leaders, our parents, at First Parish. **Jane Barnes** is leading Coming of Age this year, and **Alyssa Bigay, Cynthia Ellis, Tom Hammond, Jim Reynolds, Heather Wilson** and **Ted Hibben** are all mentors to our youth. Please thank them personally after the service on May 15. Their work with our youth is priceless.

May 1—Parent Discussion Group for 7th, 8th and 9th Grade Parents

Sometimes parents just want to sit around, ask questions, chat and share experiences about the teen years and high school.

After talking to several parents, we thought we would offer some time to allow space for this to happen. How do UU's approach high school? What is the parent's role? What's the deal with science and math at the high school? Is this a "race to nowhere" and how can First Parish bring the somewhere back to this quest. If you have practical or philosophical questions or advice, come and share them with others. We will not have any experts, just us. Maybe a junior or senior High School youth will join us as well.

Join this group of average UU parents (there's an oxymoron!) on Sunday, May 1, at 7 p.m. at First Parish. This group runs concurrently with YRUU, so 8th and 9th grade teens can attend youth group during this time. We look forward to seeing you there.

**yruu Parent Listening Session
May 22, 5:30–7:00 p.m.**

Join **Pam Howell** and **Anastassia Zinke**, our Youth Program Director, on Sunday, May 22, to talk about our Youth Group at First Parish. What are you looking for in a youth group for your teen? How can First Parish best meet your teen's needs? How can we help you, as parents of teens? This evening will be a chance to explore this important age group within our RE community at First Parish.

Second to Sixth Grade Workshop Rotation

May 1 – Spring Term – Honoring Our Earth

Grades 2 & 5: Community Garden — Seed planting/Quilt making

Grade 6: Youth Group in Wright Tavern — Community Garden Field Trip

May 8 – Spring Term – Honoring Our Earth

Grades 2 & 5:Community Garden — Seed planting/Quilt making

Grade 6: Youth Group in Wright Tavern — Community Garden Field Trip

May 15 – Spring Term – Honoring Our Air

Grades 2 & 5: Line Drying — Going green and making clothespins.

Grade 6: Attend Coming of Age Service together

May 22 – Spring Term – Honoring Our Air

Grades 2 & 5: Drumming Circle

Grade 6: Community Garden Field Trip and Graduation to Teen RE.



As I write this, the service trip participants are flying home from El Salvador. Their pictures will be posted for the congregation to see in the near future and they will participate in our worship services on May 22. The trip looks amazing. We are so incredibly lucky to have such a strong congregation that supports these transformative trips. If you missed **Doug Hardy** lighting the Social Action candle on April 24, I would like to quote him now. Doug was a chaperone on an April 2008 trip to New Orleans, a trip he has often described as “amazing.” “For a week, along with **Mark and Abby Russell-Prior**, First Parish youth and I helped clear out the forlorn moonscape known as the Lower Ninth Ward... I saw teenagers of First Parish having fun and doing dirty, sweaty work with people who were less affluent, less fortunate, less respected than most of us, but whose humanity shone in the minds of our children. Social action service brings you face-to-face with others’ lives, but that’s not the only reason it’s a sacred practice of Unitarian Universalism. The deeper value of social action work is this: that the humanity our youth encountered in New Orleans... was their own.” ♦

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

Immigration Study Group Meets

The First Parish Social Action Community invites you to join in the Immigration Study Group, as they continue to explore the issues surrounding immigration. The next meeting is planned for Monday evening, May 16, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., with Ministerial Intern **Craig Nowak** and Social Action Program Director **Faith Bade**. We will preview a film, “The Other Side of Immigration,” discuss possible organizations we can partner with going forward, and start to plan some educational events for the coming year. We will be previewing this film to determine if our Immigration Study Group would like to present it to the First Parish community and beyond as a kickoff educational event this coming fall. Join us. We are an active group, interested in learning more about immigration issues.

Youth Community Service and Internship Opportunities Available

We currently have four community service opportunities and one internship open for First Parish youth of high school and college age. To learn more, contact **Faith Bade** at fbade@firstparish.org.

- In Concord — commit 15-20 hours total this summer to organizing, working, and leading program expansion at the First Parish Community Garden.
- In Cambridge at the UUSC (Central Square) — Foundations Research, Coffee Project, and Institutional Advancement volunteers needed for two full or four half days a week. Environmental Justice Intern approximately 10-20 hours a week for about eight weeks.

Volunteer at First Parish Community Garden

- Produce from the First Parish Community Garden is donated to Open Table, Concord’s food pantry and meal program for those in need. Volunteers are needed. Can you commit to four hours during one week this summer? Join other First Parish members — bring family members, friends, neighbors — and commit to one week. Water, weed, harvest and deliver to those in need. All ages welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to make friends, connect with the earth, and give to those in need. Join us. Training provided on Thursday, June 2, at 6 p.m. at the garden. Specific duties are — Water on alternating days if there is no rain, weed once a week, harvest on Thursday from 3-4 p.m., and deliver to Open Table in Concord at First Parish. Volunteer to be a mentor — help coordinate the work of other volunteers for one week this summer. Make a difference! Love the earth! Contact **Faith Bade** or **Pam Howell**.

“Chicken Man” Auditions in May

- Join “Chicken Man,” a First Parish intergenerational musical. The Social Action Community is planning an intergenerational musical, “Chicken Man,” written by First Parish’s own **Jane Blumberg**. It is scheduled for March 2012. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to come together as we move through our ministerial transition. Since the cast is very large, we are beginning some of the preliminary auditions this spring — May 1, from 3 to 6 p.m. and May 19, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room. All interested in any capacity, please come! Scripts will be available in the office. Everyone will be asked to read and sing along at the scheduled auditions. Private auditions may be scheduled. Folks interested in lighting, publicity, costumes, make-up and set design are needed as well. For information, call **Claudia Nimar** at 978-771-8216 or e-mail cnimar@aol.com

El Salvador Youth Service Trip

- Welcome back! We look forward to seeing the youth during our worship services on Sunday May 22. Thank you to **Jim Reynolds** (lay leader) and chaperones **Nancy Kerr**, **Tony Rodriguez**, **Laurie Van Loon**, and **Allison Aley** for making this wonderful trip happen.

SAC News and Events

continued on page 11

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, sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist; visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at FBade@firstparish.org.

GREEN NOTES

Excerpt from Profile of John Drew, First Parish and Environmental Leadership Team Member, by Bob Andrews. The full interview can be found at sac.first-parish.org/environmental

First Parish member and Environmental Leadership Team member **John Drew** has been the Academic Dean at Concord Academy since 2007. He is married, lives at Concord Academy, and has two children, ages 10 and 13, who attend the Concord Public Schools.

John has been growing in environmental consciousness and concern since childhood. He recalls open fields around his childhood home getting plowed under for new development ... The first American gasoline crisis in the seventies, with its long lines of people waiting to buy scarce gas, made a huge impression on him ... He studied biology and geology in college, and began his work life as a teacher of Environmental Science ... In 1999, the family became members of First Parish in Concord ... As a new First Parish member and parent, John's first environmental involvement here was with RE. He felt that it was important for young children to learn about their natural environment. Later, he joined the Green Sanctuary Committee and now is a member of the Environmental Leadership Team. He has consistently sought to join with others in raising environmental consciousness and encouraging gradual steps toward becoming a more environmentally responsible church community.

At Concord Academy, John has successfully championed C.A.'s "green" movement, codirecting the school's Sustainability Initiative and developing an advanced environmental science course. Through his efforts, a green audit was conducted of the entire school, looking closely at how the institution uses energy and other natural resources. Serious data collection was undertaken, with Concord Academy students actively involved in collecting this data ... As an example, a close look was taken at the school's main door, with attention to how often and how long it was open each day, allowing cold air to enter the building. This assessment led to a redesign of the building's lobby ... Reactions to these and other changes at C.A. have been very positive. Doing it has spread environmental awareness. Students have begun giving more attention to simple, everyday behaviors such as closing windows, turning off lights, and conserving water.

Within his own home, John and his family have gone through a similar process of assessing personal energy use and then making both technological and behavioral changes. They have changed to more energy-efficient light bulbs, altered thermostat settings, moved

toward a more plant-based diet, and improved their insulation. John describes the changes that have been made as "incremental." They have involved the whole family and have seemed to bring the family closer together. "Green" things have become part of their lives. They are not just on a "to-do list," but reflect a growing awareness of the impacts that our everyday, personal behavior has on other people and the Earth.

Make Your Voice Matter — To Reduce Family Homelessness

Attend a free advocacy skills workshop, led by Miriam Stein, advocacy consultant, and learn successful, easy-to-use strategies to reduce family homelessness and advocate for other issues you care about. In a supportive atmosphere, practice key advocacy skills for communicating your views to your elected representatives in person, by phone or letter. The workshop is sponsored by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness. The workshop will be held at Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Stret, on Tuesday, May 3, from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. A light supper will be served. To sign up, contact Carl Miller at 978-369-3755, or normancmiller@comcast.net; or **Jane Blumberg**, 978-369-8520, or jane_blumberg@mac.com.

Social Action Reflections

An important difference between social action as a community activity and social action as a spiritual practice is the opportunity to reflect on the meaning and sources of the work that we do. Social activists at First Parish are starting a monthly Reflection Group to provide us with an opportunity to share and reflect on the work we do so that we may grow together. **Mark Richards** will facilitate two initial meetings on the evenings of May 1 and May 22 in the Ripley Room from 7 to 9 p.m. If there is sufficient interest, then we will offer a full schedule in the fall. If you are interested in attending, please drop Mark a note at marksrichards@comcast.net, or call at 978-771-9823.

May 14 — Stamp Out Hunger!

On Saturday, May 14, Concord letter carriers will be participating in the Postal Workers' Annual Food Drive to "Stamp Out Hunger". All food collected that day benefits the pantry at Open Table. It is easy to participate! Simply leave a bag of non-perishable items at your mailbox that Saturday and the letter carriers will pick it up when they deliver your mail. Spread the word to neighbors, family and friends. Thanks to your generosity, Open Table is able to provide a dinner and food pantry for more than 225 people each week. This food drive replenishes their pantry at a time of year when the pantry inventory starts to decline and allows the work of serving those in need to continue. Thank you for your support!

MadMen/MadSkills Gala

Please join the Jericho Road Project as we celebrate our volunteers' Mad Skills at a gala fundraiser on May 14. First Parish member **Philip vanderWilden** will be honored for his role as a founding board member. The Dana McLean Greeley Award for

Excellence will be given to Budget Buddies, a Lowell financial literacy organization. Please contact **Kate Kaplan**, kkaplan@jerichoroadproject.org for more information, to buy tickets, or make a donation — <http://tinyurl.com/JRPMadMenGala>

UU Service Committee (uusc) Working Around the Globe

The UUSC’s work to promote our seven principles continues around the world. Seven medical professionals from around the country were on the ground in Haiti with UUSC April 11–16, working with UUSC’s partners to deliver vital health care to Haitians. Rev. Eric Cherry, the UUA’s director of International Resources, recently traveled to Japan to meet with our partner groups. Rissho Kosei-kai (RKK), one of our religious partners, shared that their assessment team is reporting severe devastation among their congregations. The American Islamic Congress (AIC), UUSC’s partner in Egypt, recently launched a daring and innovative voter-education campaign to get the youth of Egypt ready for the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections this summer and fall. To learn more about these initiatives, read blogs, enjoy essays by UUSC President William Schulz, donate to crisis relief and become a supporting member. Please visit www.uusc.org.

Do You Feel Powerless Against Cruelty and Injustice?

Group 15, the local chapter of Amnesty International, will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at 7 p.m. The group works for the release of persons imprisoned, tortured, and even condemned to death for expressing opinions or peacefully advocating reforms unacceptable to their governments. It opposes the death penalty, works to increase awareness of human trafficking and violence against women, and is active against a number of other human rights abuses. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Harvey Wheeler Center, 1276 Main Street, in West Concord. If official cruelty and injustice disturb you but you feel powerless to combat them, join us and learn how powerful collective action can be. Questions? E-mail **Lorraine Loviglio** at loviglio@rcn.com.

Support Grassroots for Peace!

Legislation for a U.S. Department of Peace has again been introduced in the House, by Representative Kucinich. Plans for support of HR 808 include the Annual Mothers’ Day lobby, “Peace Wants a Piece of the Pie,” on May 6, or on whatever day works. SAC Web “News” provides information on lobbying the Acton office of 5th District Rep. Niki Tsongas. E-mail **Pat Simon** at psimon@gis.net for materials, including the Federal Budget Pie Chart, showing the one percent needed for a Department of Peace. The cost of prevention is less than the cost of violence. Real pie is also taken to sweeten up the visit!

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

There are only a few weeks left in the church year. This is an important time for both closure and new beginnings. The youth group will say goodbye to its seniors, and welcome in new high school youth. Youth that have journeyed together will say goodbye, while also finding new companions with whom they can share their lives. This forming, de-forming, and re-forming is how we grow and sustain ourselves as a faith community.

So in the last few weeks, we will be enjoying the time that we have together — taking outings, playing games, maintaining traditions, and encouraging emerging youth leaders. Eighth and ninth graders are welcome and encouraged to join in on all upcoming activities. As we look ahead to next year, we invite the adults of the congregation to come on May 22 to hear the youth perspective on the youth program, and to envision what a strong youth program might look like next year.

Upcoming events:

- May 1:** Seniors recognized in 11 a.m. worship service. Field Trip to Aquarium departing after second service
- May 6-7:** Overnight Leadership Retreat in Boston — the keystone to our youth leadership development. A youth does not need to be currently active to attend.
- May 15:** Coming of Age worship service. Annual Youth Ultimate Frisbee Match with the Trinitarian Church from 7–9 p.m.
- May 22:** **Rescheduled Parent/Adult Listening Session on the Future of the Youth Program** This will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Flower communion and Stone Soup Meal for youth from 7-9 p.m.

May this month be a time of friendship, joy, dreaming and connection for all of us. ♦

— *Anastassia Zinke*
Youth Program Director

Dedicate the Sunday Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the Sunday flowers as a memorial or celebration, please contact Peg Hedstrom at 978-369-1562.

Boston Pride Parade

The Diversity Committee will again sponsor a group from First Parish to march with our banner in the Boston Pride Parade, which starts at noon on Saturday, June 11. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show our support for the LGBT community. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org to sign up or get more information.

Come to the Photography Show on Mother's Day!

The 9th Annual Exhibit and Reception by First Parish's Fine Art Photography Club will be held Sunday, May 8, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There will be fantastic photos on display, a members' slide show in the Parlor, beautiful cards you can buy, experts to answer your photography questions, a "Portrait Space" where mothers and their family can have Mother's Day portraits taken and printed by club members, and of course refreshments — all for free. This is a great event for everyone to enjoy on a Sunday afternoon. And, if you are a First Parish member interested in photography, sign up to join the club.

Gary Reads His Odyssey

On Monday night, May 16, at 7:30 p.m., at First Parish, Gary Smith will deliver his professional odyssey. This paper was prepared in response to an invitation from his Boston-area ministerial colleagues to present this hour-long talk at their retreat in Weston on April 13, and Gary wants to share it with members and friends of First Parish who also might be interested. What led him to ministry? Where did the path take him? What did he learn? A chance for questions will follow.

WPA Luncheon Meeting—May 17

At the Women's Parish Association's May luncheon we will celebrate Gary and Eliz Smith's long and fruitful ministry with First Parish and thank them for their work among us. This luncheon will give us a chance to hear them speak about their life in Concord and their hopes and plans for the future. Date: Tuesday, May 17. Social time: 11:30 a.m. Lunch at noon. Cost: Twelve dollars. All men and women are cordially invited. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at pekinc@comcast.net by May 12 for reservations and transportation requirements. Since this will be a catered luncheon, reservations are required.

Brook Farm Discussion with Polly Peterson

On Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m.. the Transcendentalism Council is sponsoring a discussion entitled "Brook Farm — An Experiment in Communal Living." Polly Peterson, author of Stirring the Nation's Heart, will lead the discussion. Refreshments served. Everyone welcome.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

Our final book for the Women's AM/PM Book Group this year is Still Alice: A Novel, by Lisa Genova. The discussions will be held in the Brooks Room at First Parish, with the evening session on Monday, May 23, 7:30-9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, May 24, 9:30-11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join one or both of these discussions. In June we will hold a potluck dinner where we will choose books for next year (date TBD). 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. ♦

UU NEWS

Reminder—General Assembly 2011

It's not too late to sign up to be a delegate or general attendee at this year's General Assembly (GA), which will take place June 22 through June 26 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Highlights include theologian Karen Armstrong's giving the prestigious Ware Lecture, the Service of the Living Tradition, The UUA Presidents Forum, celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America along with hundreds of dynamic, entertaining programs and informative workshops. Contact Dian Pekin at pekinc@comcast.net if you would like to be a delegate or a general attendee. ♦



CLASSIFIED

Toddler Gear Needed

Rhoda Miller's granddaughter is coming from London for two weeks, starting the third week in May, to celebrate her second birthday with her Nana. Does anyone have a car seat or stroller she may borrow or buy? Contact Rhoda at rhodamill@aol.com, or 978-369-6639.

MAY 2011 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>T'ai Chi</i>	Monday	6:30 p.m.
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	10:30 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.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Sun May 1	12:30 Environmental Fair	•	Sun May 15	3:00 "Chicken Man" Auditions
	12:30 Ministerial Search Committee	•		7:00 SAC Board Meetings
	3:00 "Chicken Man" Auditions	•	Mon May 16	6:30 SAC Immigration Group
	4:00 Leslie Wilson Lecture and Reception	•		7:00 Jericho Road Board Meeting
	7:00 7th, 8th and 9th Grade Parent Discussion Group	•		7:30 Gary Smith's Odyssey
	7:00 SAC Reflection	•	Tue May 17	11:30 WPA Luncheon
	7:30 <i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>	•	Wed May 18	12:15 <i>Sandwiches & Short Story</i>
	7:30 RE Council	•		6:30 Membership Committee
Mon May 2	7:00 <i>Humanists</i>	•		6:30 Open Table Board Meeting
	7:30 RE Council (off-site)	•	Thu May 19	6:30 "Chicken Man" Auditions
	7:30 <i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>	•		7:30 Threshold Choir
Wed May 4	7:00 Youth Advisory Committee	•	Fri May 20	12:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i>
Thu May 5	7:00 Ferry Beach Meeting	•		2:00 Deacons & Standing Committee Chairs Reception
	7:30 Threshold Choir	•		7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Sat May 7	12:00 Neighboring Faiths Sandwich Making	•	Sat May 21	6:30 Newcomers' Dinner
Sun May 8	1:00 Celebration Lunch	•	Sun May 22	12:30 Nominating Committee
	3:00 Photo Club Exhibit and Reception	•		5:30 YRUU Parent Listening Session
Mon May 9	6:30 Standing Committee	•		6:00 Youth Service Project Meeting
	7:00 <i>Humanists</i>	•		7:00 SAC Reflection
	7:30 <i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>	•	Mon May 23	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
Tue May 10	9:00 WPA Board Meeting	•		7:00 Ministerial Search Committee
	6:30 "OMG Broadway!" Dress Rehearsal	•		7:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i>
Fri May 13	8:00 "OMG Broadway!" Performance	•		7:30 <i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>
Sat May 14	9:00 Photo Club	•	Tue May 24	9:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i>
	1:00 Coming of Age Rehearsal	•	Sun May 29	<u>Single Service at 10:00 o'clock</u>
	2:00 "OMG Broadway!" Performance	•	Mon May 30	Holiday—Office Closed
	8:00 "OMG Broadway!" Performance	•		



OMIG
BROADWAY!
A Simply Divine Musical

**Created and directed by
Tom and Sue Beck**

with a guest appearance by Rev. Gary Smith

THREE PERFORMANCES:

**Friday, May 13, 8:00 PM
Saturday, May 14, 2:00 PM
Saturday, May 14, 8:00 PM**

in the Parish Hall

Tickets \$25

at coffee hour or from First Parish Office, 978-369-9602

**\$5 contributed to Legacy Fund for Ministerial Interns
in honor of Gary Smith**



The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • May 2011

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

Tibetan Buddhism

The Buddhist group meets 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.

Kundalini Yoga

Kundalini Yoga is yoga for the mind, body and spirit. It uses breath, yogic postures and meditation to help you build and maintain a healthy body, increase your vitality, train your mind to be strong and flexible, and facilitate change emotionally and spiritually. At its heart Kundalini Yoga 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. Sessions are ongoing and open to all levels of experience and abilities. Instructor: **Dharm Singh**

Tuesday: May 3-June 7 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$90/6 sessions

Yoga for Women in Midlife

This series is designed to help develop stability, strength, flexibility and a sense of well-being, which are particularly important at this stage of life. The class is a moving meditation, with the intention that each woman set her own pace and honor her body's ability. It integrates breath, movement and postures for hormone balance, a healthy heart, strong bones, core strength and stress reduction. It also provides a nurturing environment for the spirit so that inner strength and higher awareness may flourish. Limit: 12 students per class.

Instructor: **Lee Courtemanche**

Wednesday: May 4-June 8 5:00-6:15 p.m. or 6:45-8:00 p.m. \$19/drop-in

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, enhance optimal health, and simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: **Mae Pagan**

Friday: May 20, June 10 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: May 2-June 6 6:30-8:00 p.m. \$75/5 sessions

Concord Area Humanist Group

The Concord Area Humanist group organizes frequent open discussions, often with guest speakers. We enjoy investigating the intersection of science and culture, ethics and social trends, books and ideas, from a Humanist perspective. Your thoughts and participation will be most welcome! We have regular meetings, described below, for most of the year. For more information, contact **Pat Everett** at pne@aol.com.

James Croft will return to talk about his recent work at Harvard, the role of the arts and narrative in Humanism, or the necessity for an activist Humanist vision — let us know which you would prefer!

Monday: May 2 Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

We continue the "Necessity of Virtue" workshop with a session on Hope. A video presentation by Galen Guengrich, will be followed by discussion led by Patrick Everett. We will wind up the series and discuss future such studies for next season.

Monday: May 9 Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Humanist Group

continued next page

Humanist Group

continued from previous page

Continued Humanist discussion, led by Paul Jameson.
Trustees Room, Concord Public Library.

Monday: May 16. Program: 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Last meeting at First Parish until September.

Monday: June 6 Social: 7:00 p.m. Program: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

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 with **Rev. Gary Smith** about the short story choice of the month. May’s story is “Birch Memorial,” by Preeta Samarasan. The story can be found in *PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, edited by Laura Fuman; Anchor Books, 2010, pb \$16.

Wednesday: May 18 12:15-1:15 p.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**. No charge. No registration required.

Friday: May 20 7:30 p.m.

