



The Meeting House News

REVERIES

Dear Friends,

It has been a pleasure to welcome **Elaine Peresluha** as our Interim Senior Minister to help lead the congregation in the important work of this interim time. Each month there will be a column from Elaine and the Interim Support Team, highlighting new developments.

This fall, too, we celebrate our 375th anniversary, this community gathered in July 1636 in Cambridge. Did you know that:

- ◆ one member traces her genealogy back to founder Simon Willard and first ministers Peter Bulkeley and John Jones?
- ◆ another member's grandmother studied art with May Alcott in the 1870's?
- ◆ this church, like others, split apart in the 1700's with the Great Awakening, and that some members left to form their own church?
- ◆ our minister William Emerson was a fiery patriot who urged the colonies to break away from Britain, and legend has it, he was the first to appear on the town green, musket on shoulder, on April 19th?
- ◆ young Harvard students swarmed out here in 1775, overwhelming the small village with boisterous 14-year-olds, books, and heavy scientific instruments that needed a home?
- ◆ it was a woman from our church who started the grassroots antislavery group in Concord that raised money to fund famous abolitionists and pushed Thoreau and Emerson to speak out?
- ◆ although the Transcendentalists were not always found in the pew on Sunday, when death came, their families came to our church to give thanks and bury them?

The stories roll on and on. Some of them are about well-known names — John Hancock, Sam Adams, Ralph Waldo Emerson — and many are about women and men who are unknown to us. This is the silent “spiritual autobiography” that we can never fully unearth, but that we know is there, like a heartbeat, quiet and steady, at the center. For 375 years, women, children and men have been coming, bringing their joy, fear, struggle, sorrow, gratitude, as we do now.

I hope you will join us as we honor these “ancestors in faith.” Come for a candlelight tour of our first parsonage, the Old Manse, watch Mr. Thoreau “in person,” pore over an old pew map or hymnal at the library, learn at a half-day conference, let our sixth graders show you Sleepy Hollow cemetery, enjoy history “come alive” at the fashion show. Bring your family for the Grand Dinner on October 22 as the entire community comes together.

— *Jenny Rankin*

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

October 2

Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha, preaching

9:00 – Chalice Choir and First Parish Choir

Al Shlosha D'varim – Naplan

Shalom Rav – Sargon

11:00 – Junior Choir and Lauren Evans, alto

Shalom – Jennings

Shalom Rav – Sargon

October 9

Craig Nowak, preaching

9:00 – First Parish Choir

I Am Willing – Near

There Is a Balm – arr. Dawson

11:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano

October 16

Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha, preaching

9:00 – Gospel Choir

11:00 – First Parish Choir

We Are One – Tate

We Are – Barnwell

October 23

Rev. Jenny M. Rankin, preaching

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

October 30

Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha, preaching

9:00 – Gospel Choir and Junior Choir

11:00 – Gospel Choir and Chalice Choir

Don't Miss...

375TH EVENTS! See pp. 4-5

October 14 through 23

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ◆ Gathered in 1636

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There is 1 insert at the end of this newsletter:

◆ **Wright Tavern Center Courses**

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

Friday, October 21
Friday, November 18
Friday, December 16

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

PARISH NOTES

You Can Sponsor the Flowers Any Sunday

If you would like to provide Sunday flowers for a memorial or celebration, please contact **Peg Hedstrom** at 978-369-1562.

Finding Your Interim Minister

Elaine, AKA **Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha**, can be found in her office at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, Mass.; 978-369-9602, extension 411.

Tuesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

In addition to these regular office hours, Elaine makes appointments to see people at other times. Monday is her day off and Friday is her sermon writing day

Please appreciate that these hours are true except when they are not. Ministers are often called out and about for denominational and pastoral appointments. For the most satisfying results, please call ahead.

Holiday Artisans Fair — November 5

Don't miss this year's Holiday Artisans Fair at First Parish. Over 50 juried artists and artisans will be showing and selling their latest works. An outstanding collection of handmade glass items, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, clothing, prints, photographs, paper cut artwork, greeting cards, wooden works, toys, doll clothing, home decorations, knitted items, catnip balls, craft items and regifting treasures will be available for your holiday shopping. Come and bring your friends for a fun day of shopping and sharing a snack or lunch at our Artisans Cafe. Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$3.00 for adults; \$1.00 for children. Children under the age of five are admitted at no charge. Contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer to help at this very enjoyable fundraiser.

Play Reading Group

Welcome back, everyone! The Arts Council is planning many interesting activities, not the least of which is the popular play reading group. We read a variety of plays aloud as a group. Roles are cast for various scenes or acts and then moved around and recast for other scenes. Everyone has the opportunity to read in more than one role. It is lots of fun and a great way to wrap up a week of casting about in our various personal roles.

Our first meeting of the year is on October 7 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. We plan to read "The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail." Some copies will be made available, and the library and bookstore have copies of the play. There are also online sites available for purchase of plays. Location: Emerson Room. Snacks and beverages will be provided. All are welcome.

Transylvania Sponsors Needed for This Year's Freshmen

Since 1996, First Parish has been sponsoring students who need help paying for the cost of boarding at the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. The students are identified by the minister and the principal as being in need of aid, and without our help would not be able to attend school full-time. Sponsors are asked to send \$400 a year for four

Parish Notes

continued on page 3

years and to write to their students. In return, they receive letters from their students and have an opportunity to learn more about our Romanian neighbors. This year, we hope to find sponsors for at least ten incoming freshmen. If you are interested in joining this program, please contact **Sue Beck** at sbeck345@comcast.net or 978-369-8445.

**Tracing the Transcendentalists in Britain
May 9 to 20, 2012**

Inspired by our experiences in Italy and France, we are setting out to trace the steps of the Transcendentalists in Britain. Beginning with Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1833 and ending with Louisa May Alcott and May Alcott in 1870, these New England ministers, writers and thinkers made their way to England and Scotland to see the ancient famous sites we will visit, to meet with intellectual luminaries like Wordsworth, Dickens and Carlyle, to tour prisons, mines and schools. They came back to America with their worldview changed.

We use travel as an “immersion learning” opportunity, a chance to delve more deeply into these spiritual ancestors of ours who helped to lay the foundations for the Unitarian Universalist faith we practice and depend on today. Led by **Jenny Rankin**, we form a community as we go, a spiritual community and also a community of learners, where all are students and all are teachers. We explore the difference between being a “tourist” and being a “pilgrim,” and are beginning to think more deeply about what “spiritual travel” might mean.

We invite you to join us at 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 2, in the Emerson Room, where we will share with you the details of this trip. If you are unable to attend this meeting but are interested in joining us, please contact **Steph Chiha** at stephchiha@gmail.com or **Lillian Anderson** at 978-369-1468.

Reading of The Scarlet Letter

Save the date, Monday, Nov. 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Come and see Nathaniel Hawthorne come to life for a rare public reading of his work *The Scarlet Letter*. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council. You won’t want to miss this.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

The Jewish Awareness affinity group’s October meeting will take place on Friday, October 28, from 7-9 p.m. **Lillian Anderson** will lead us with a showing of “The Rape of Europa,” a documentary about Nazi confiscation of European art during the Holocaust. All are welcome. For more information, contact **Dana Snyder-Grant** at 978-266-9409 or danasg@newview.org.

STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

On September 7 the Standing Committee and Executive Team kicked off our year’s schedule by holding a planning retreat facilitated by Rev. Sue Phillips, District Executive of the Mass Bay Districts of the UUA. Some of the issues which emerged at the retreat and will be on our agenda in the upcoming months include:

- ◆ Governance Policies
- ◆ What we are called to be and do together (our purpose)
- ◆ How to role model the kind of community we want to become
- ◆ How to engage, listen to and communicate with the Congregation
- ◆ Clarifying our process for learning, creating and getting our work accomplished
- ◆ Cultivating a culture of leadership, engagement
- ◆ Further investigate what spiritual leadership on the part of the SC means. Sue Phillips definition – “seeing the whole and binding it together”
- ◆ Clarifying our focus and priorities
- ◆ Ensuring the financial stability of FP

Due to the fact that Standing Committee meetings are held the second Monday of the month and for cost reasons First Parish is closed on Mondays, the plan is to hold Standing Committee meetings at the Wheelhouse, 33 Bradford Street in West Concord. These meeting facilities have been made available through the generosity of **John Boynton**.

First Parish members are reminded that these meetings, with the exception of executive sessions, are open to any member of First Parish who would like to attend.

This year’s meeting schedule is as follows:

- Monday, October 10, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, November 14, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 12, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, January 9, 2012, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, February 13, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, March 12, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 14, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 11, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. ◆



Let the festivities begin, as First Parish honors its 375th Anniversary, October 14 to 23, with a series of events that takes us through the ages, starting in 1636 when Concord was founded, First Parish was “gathered,” and for more than two hundred years, town and church were one. Our celebration brings to light stories of the cultural and political events that have shaped First Parish’s unique place in American history.

All events are open to the public *with the exception of* the Saturday night, October 22, Grand Dinner and Special Program for parishioners and their families. *Please read Grand Dinner details highlighted here and buy your tickets now* at Sunday coffee hours or through the church office at 978-369-9602. Don’t miss this very special evening for our congregation!

Read on about the exhibits, speakers, lectures, tours, history sessions and fashion gala in the 375th program celebration. Please visit the 375th Anniversary website for event details, registration and ticket information: www.fp375.firstparish.org or contact the church office at 978-369-9602.

Some parishioners recently gathered for afternoon tea to talk about their memories as members of First Parish during the 1940-1960 time period. Their congregational stories (and others!) will be presented at the 375th Grand Dinner and “The Way We Were” retrospective.

Photo, top row: Bob Harper, Ivan Massar, Kaye Harvie, Marian Wheeler, Mark Connolly, Sylvia Brandhorst, Erica Morrison, Betsy Connolly, Peter Mitchell. Seated: Mary McClintock, Lois Mitchell, Barb Wheeler

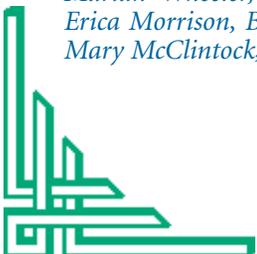
**The Grand Dinner
Saturday, October 22, at 5:00 pm.**

Don’t miss the Grand Dinner for the First Parish congregation and program entitled “The Way We Were — a 1940-2000 First Parish Retrospective.” This evening is just for First Parishioners — families and children. All are invited to come celebrate our community. **Get your reservations and tickets early!**

Our honored guests will be First Parishioners who have been here 50 years or longer.

Social time starts at 5:00 p.m. Dinner begins at 5:45 p.m., with additional service at 6:15 and 6:45 p.m. After-dinner activities for children are provided in the Emerson Room.

“The Way We Were” includes music from the different decades and visuals of some long forgotten photos. We have collected stories from parishioners who have been at First Parish during these decades, highlighting interesting moments of First Parish history — the ministers, the sextons, Sunday School, the music program, building concerns, conflicts and events.





375th Events at a Glance...

Friday, October 14, at 7:00 p.m., 375th Keynote at Concord Free Public Library

the library hosts the 375th opening address, followed by a reception. Prof. Ronald Bosco from SUNY, Albany, New York, speaks on Puritan influences on the First Parish when Concord was first settled. Free. Seating is limited; come early.

Special First Parish Exhibits

OCTOBER 1-23 FIRST PARISH HISTORIC DOCUMENTS AT THE CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCTOBER 14-23 RARELY SEEN SPECIAL COLLECTION ARTIFACTS AT CONCORD MUSEUM.

Saturday, October 15, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Themed tours of the Old Manse, Emerson House and Concord Museum.

7:30 p.m. at First Parish: Acclaimed reenactor Prof. Kevin Radaker delivers excerpts of Henry David Thoreau's major antislavery speeches, with discussion to follow. Free.

Thursday, October 20, Ezra Ripley and the Crossing of the Milldam. Candlelight tours of the Old Manse starting at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. with special focus on Ezra Ripley's 63-year ministry. Followed by a social hour at the Colonial Inn and "Upholding the Faith: The Conflict That Divided Ezra Ripley's Church," a lecture by Prof. Robert Gross. Reservations and tickets: 978-369-3909 or at the First Parish office. \$15.

Friday, October 21, 7 p.m. "No One Wore Prada" An Evening of living history and fashion. Portrayal of First Parish's rich cultural heritage. Presented at First Parish, with a reception following. Tickets required.

Saturday, October 22, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

At First Parish: Light breakfast followed by panel presentation with **Rev. Jenny Rankin**, overview of First Parish history, Rev. Mark Harris of First Parish, Watertown, Mass., Beginnings of Unitarianism; and SUNY Albany Prof. Ronald Bosco; Transcendentalism as reaction to new Unitarianism. Followed by concurrent learning sessions on "First Parish and Its Influences," led by Tom Potter, president of the

Thoreau Society, **Mel Bernstein**, **Richard Lowitt**, Lynn Hyde, **Beth Norton**, and other local historians. Free.

Sessions include:

- ◆ First Parish and the American Revolution
- ◆ The Abolitionists
- ◆ Evolution of Religious Practice/Beliefs at the Meeting House
- ◆ History of Women at First Parish
- ◆ The Transcendentalists
- ◆ Activists of the 20th Century
- ◆ Illustrated History of the Meeting House

Tickets \$15 per person, from First Parish.

Saturday, October 22, 4:00 p.m., Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Tours

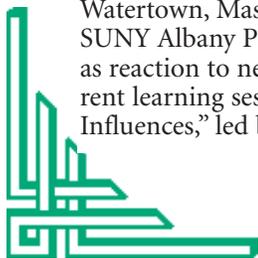
Our own First Parish sixth graders will lead tours in Sleep Hollow cemetery, highlighting six notable Unitarian Universalists who are buried there.

Sunday, October 23 at 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock Worship services led by **Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha** and **Rev. Jenny Rankin**, celebrating First Parish history and its meaning today for our congregation. The services mark the close of the 375th event.

Our 375th Sponsors

Many thanks to our Concord friends that are sponsoring the 375th events:

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 CONCORD MUSEUM
 THE DRINKING GOURD PROJECT
 EMERSON HOUSE
 THE OLD MANSE
 THE THOREAU SOCIETY
 TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 AND... FIRST PARISH'S TRANSCENDENTALISM COUNCIL
 AND WOMEN'S PARISH ASSOCIATION.



PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the Reverend Erika Orbán, who grew up in Székelykeresztúr and is on leave from her hospital chaplaincy in Transylvania. Many will have met her as she participated in our Transylvanian Thanksgiving services. She will stay at the home of **Bill and Sherry Seaver** through November; we also have a request — if anyone can loan her a car for a few days, a week or a month, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact **Rodger Mattlage** at rmattlage@yahoo.com.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's splendid Transylvanian Thanksgiving Service, held on September 25. It was especially memorable, thanks to the involvement of those who took part in this year's Youth Service Pilgrimage. Be sure to have a good look at the pictures at: <http://www.firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/100926-PCC/>.

To those who are (so generously) sponsoring a Székely student through our Student Sponsorship program, we would like to remind you that sponsorship payments are now due. Please contact our coordinator, **Sue Beck**, at sbeck345@comcast.net for further information. There are still a few student sponsorships available for those who are interested. We would also like to welcome **Dana Booth** to our Student Sponsorship team. A long-time sponsor, Dana has kindly offered to provide advice to anyone who is interested in "making the most" of your sponsorship. He can be reached at dana.a.booth@gmail.com

The PCC's next major endeavor will be the fall 2012 hosting of a dozen of our Székelykeresztúr brothers and sisters (both adults and youths). We are now looking for volunteers to help with arrangements and host visitors. For further information, please contact **Ken Estabrook** at kestabrook@verizon.net.

As always we invite you to join us for our Partner Church Committee (supper) meetings. The next one will be held on Thursday, October 13, at the home of **Rodger Mattlage** and **Pat Brinkman**. For further information, drop us a line; and for our all our latest PCC news and information, see: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church>. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"
— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,
LondonSW11@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP CORNER



At a recent staff meeting, **Elaine Peresluha** read the following poem by Constantine P. Cavafy. May it serve as a reminder of how one can view his or her membership journey at First Parish.

Ithaca

When you set out for Ithaka
ask that your way be long,
full of adventure, full of instruction.
The Laistrygonians and the Cyclops,
angry Poseidon — do not fear them:
such as these you will never find
as long as your thought is lofty, as long as a rare
emotion touch your spirit and your body.
The Laistrygonians and the Cyclops,
angry Poseidon — you will not meet them
unless you carry them in your soul,
unless your soul raise them up before you.

Ask that your way be long.
At many a Summer dawn to enter
with what gratitude, what joy —
ports seen for the first time;
to stop at Phoenician trading centres,
and to buy good merchandise,
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,
and sensuous perfumes of every kind,
sensuous perfumes as lavishly as you can;
to visit many Egyptian cities,
to gather stores of knowledge from the learned.

Have Ithaca always in your mind.
Your arrival there is what you are destined for.
But don't in the least hurry the journey.
Better it last for years,
so that when you reach the island you are old,
rich with all you have gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaca to give you wealth.
Ithaca gave you a splendid journey.
Without her you would not have set out.
She hasn't anything else to give you.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca hasn't deceived you.
So wise you have become, of such experience,
that already you'll have understood what these Ithakas
mean.

Enter here with gratitude, what joy! Have First Parish
always in your mind, and may your journey here be full of
adventure and exactly what you are destined for. ♦

— *Jane Foley*

Membership Director

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

The ministers, **Jenny Rankin** and **Elaine Peresluha**, are assisted by the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers. A lay minister's mission is to provide compassionate listening and support to any member of First Parish who is struggling with a life crisis such as hospitalization, chronic illness, approaching death, grief or loss. Each Sunday we, like you, say "Strengthen the faint hearted." That is our goal.

At First Parish we have seven Pastoral Care Lay Ministers who were selected and received significant training by one of the ministers. The lay ministers meet every six weeks for supervision, reflection and support.

Each week the *Sunday News* will list the lay minister who is on duty with his or her contact information. This information will be in the monthly *Meeting House News* as well. The lay ministers all wear a blue nametag, so we encourage you to stop and talk with us at church or at coffee hour.

Our church is large, but we want to be there to lend a hand and give support as needed. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, is in need of support. ♦

—**Diane Clapp**, Team Leader for the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers

The Pastoral Care Team at First Parish

Walking with one another through the changes life brings, there are many ways to contact a member of this all-important team:

The Lay Minister for October is **Pat Ellis** at 978-897-5207 (no e-mail).

Ministers: **Rev. Jenny Rankin** (revjenny@comcast.net) and **Rev. Elaine Peresluha** (uurevdoc@gmail.com) or by calling 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers: Contact **Diane Clapp** (dclapp@comcast.net).

Caring Connection (for meals or rides) Contact **Tracey Hurd** (thurd@aol.com).

Pastoral Care Advisory Council: Contact **Judy Dembsey** (dembsey@verizon.net).

The Caring Connection

At First Parish we give and receive help from each other. The Caring Connection is a network of volunteers who do just that. Many wonderful people lead specific aspects of this network. Thanks to **Carolyn Shohet** and **Rhoda**

MONEY MATTERS

As I mentioned last month, pledging reached a level that allowed us to replace the Assistant to the Ministers. And so this month **Christy McKellips** has joined our staff in this role. She will be here ten hours each week, divided among Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please do stop by and introduce yourself to her!

We have also made a change in the Business Office: **Tina Storey** is now responsible for pledge entry and tracking in our database, in addition to her bookkeeping responsibilities. **Peg Gallo** will continue to count the Sunday collection, do our banking, and help with other tasks in the Business Office. When questions arise about your pledge, please direct them to **Tina Storey** at tstorey@firstparish.org. ♦

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Miller for managing the preparation of meals and to **Bev Bringle** and **Pat Kane** for coordinating the delivery of them to congregants in need. We are grateful to **Bridget Neale Paris** and **Louisa Paushter** for welcoming babies who are new to families in our congregation. Thanks to **Kitsy Rothermel** for writing notes of care to parishioners suffering loss and to the Women's Parish Association who also sends notes to its members.

We are also fortunate that many parishioners agree to be part of a list of people who might provide transportation for those in need. Thanks to **Cassy Bosworth**, our church Office Manager, we have a list each Sunday of parishioners that might enjoy receiving "thinking of you" cards from the congregation. We are grateful to **Kathleen Elcox** for providing many of the photographs that are on those cards; and to **Lois Whitney**, who has as well. To the many people who stop by and write notes on provided cards during the coffee hour after the Sunday services, thanks so much. Together we make First Parish truly a community of care. If you feel called to help in this ministry of helping our community reach out to one another, we welcome your interest. You can speak to **Tracey Hurd** (thurd@aol.com 978-369-2366), or **Judy Dembsey** (dembsey@verizon.net) or one of the ministers to learn more or volunteer. ♦

— **Tracey Hurd**, Caring Connection Team Leader

MUSINGS

Come sing a song with me, that I might know your mind.
— Carolyn McDade

I love it when scientific studies support intuition. I recently experienced this congruence one Sunday afternoon as I was reading the *Boston Globe* after church. Just that morning we had sung Carolyn McDade's "Come Sing a Song With Me." It was my afternoon's "earworm."

The article that offered this satisfying experience was "The Power of Common Ground," by Northeastern University psychology professor David DeSteno. DeSteno and his colleague Piercarlo Valdesolo set up an experiment to observe how a shared experience would impact the level of compassion that research subjects demonstrated to victims of a perceived transgression. Before witnessing the transgression, research subjects were placed at a table with the future "victims" and told to tap their hands to musical beats, either together or in cross rhythms.



Later, when the test subjects were asked to observe the "victims" in a situation of need, the subjects who had tapped in time with the "victim" were more than 30 percent more likely to offer assistance. From this experiment, the researchers concluded that humans change the way we respond to others on a basic level when we perceive them as more similar to ourselves; even if the shared experience is as trivial as having tapped a table together.

You might suspect that my mind immediately jumped to choral and congregational singing, and my intuitive and admittedly unscientific observations of how that experience creates profound connections. I have witnessed this in our choirs, our congregation, at "Rise Up Singing," around campfires, in sanctuaries, concert halls and living rooms on the other side of the world. So have you. If you sing my song with me, or I sing your song with you, we can create a bridge that spans chasms of personal and cultural experience.

DeSteno linked the results of his experiment with the Buddhist practice of compassion meditation, in which one trains the

mind to see all beings as interchangeable and interconnected. Concentrating on similarities rather than differences helps the practitioner to experience a more universal compassion. Could tapping tables, singing songs and sharing stories also guide us toward this experience?

Come, sing a song with me, that I might know your mind. May our singing together open paths of greater understanding and compassion in this congregation, in our wider community and in our world. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

PIPEWORK

"Open Organ"

On Sunday, October 30, our organ builder Stephen Russell will be present with us for an "Open Organ," both between services and for a longer time after the 11:00 a.m. service. The organ will be open for behind-the-scenes tours of the progress on the new instrument. We are about 60 percent there at this point. There will also be a table in the balcony where Steve will show us firsthand how an organ pipe is restored or manufactured from scratch, including the various parts and the process. By that time, we will also be hearing some completely new sounds in the way of reeds — some new trumpets — and the different types of pipes can be seen inside the lighted pipe chambers. ♦

— *Eric Huenneke*

Parish Organist

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Lately, upon the still pool of my quieted mind, shimmering reflections of journeys I have taken, places I've been and people I've met along the way have come into my consciousness.



One particular journey, which in truth cannot be separated from any others I've taken, has been especially prominent in my thoughts: the journey, reluctantly begun, in response to my call to ministry. I say reluctantly, because a call to an unfamiliar and uncertain way of living and being in the world seemed like that last thing any reasonably sane person would trade for the settled, comfortable life I enjoyed.

Terrified at the prospect of public speaking, unable to image how or where I would go to school, and certain it was not my place to challenge or encourage others to discern and live a deeper, more spiritually grounded life, I ignored my calling. Yet, it had lodged itself into the flesh of my soul; it would not be ignored. Now several years into this journey toward ordained ministry, I'm grateful for my calling's unwillingness to let me turn away.

There is, of course, much more to this story, which I will share will you in future newsletters. My point in sharing this small part of my own journey with you is to invite you to ask yourself as individuals and as a congregation, What is my/our calling? How have I/we responded? Why? Remember, all of us have a calling. Still, if the word calling is a stumbling block for you, try instead to reflect on the following poem by William Stafford:

Ask Me

Some time when the river is ice ask me mistakes I have made. Ask me whether what I have done is my life. Others have come in their slow way into my thought, and some have tried to help or to hurt: ask me what difference their strongest love or hate has made.

*I will listen to what you say.
You and I can turn and look
at the silent river and wait. We know
the current is there, hidden; and there
are comings and goings from miles away
that hold the stillness exactly before us.
What the river says, that is what I say. ♦*

Blessings,

—Craig Nowak

PARISH INTERIM TEAM UPDATE

The First Parish interim process is underway! The Parish Interim Team (PIT) has been busy learning our new role, meeting with many of you! In September and early October the PIT hosted three "Meet and Greet" opportunities for the congregation to meet **Elaine Peresluha** and to learn about our interim process. Thanks to all of you who came out for these meetings.

We are in the process of updating the First Parish website and you will find PIT information under Ministerial Transitions. Below you will find the contact information for the PIT as well as a list of the five congregational tasks for this interim period. It is our goal, with the help of **Elaine Peresluha** to guide the congregation through these tasks. Look for more information to come in the weekly announce and on the First Parish website. Please feel free to contact us with any questions concerns, joy and wishes!

Sincerely, The PIT

Interim Developmental Goals

- ◆ Coming to terms with history.
 - ◆ Discovering a new identity.
 - ◆ Allowing needed leadership to emerge.
 - ◆ Renewing denominational linkages.
 - ◆ Committing to new directions in ministry.
- These are the five developmental tasks that The Alban Institute recommends that a congregation in the interim accomplish to assure that the successor ministry is effective.
- ◆ Claiming and honoring its past and healing its griefs and conflicts.
 - ◆ Illuminating the congregation's unique identity, its strengths, its needs, and its challenges.
 - ◆ Clarifying the multiple dimensions of leadership, both ordained and lay, and navigating the shifts in leadership that accompany times of transition.
 - ◆ Renewing connections with available resources within and beyond the UUA.
 - ◆ Enabling the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest.

First Parish Concord — Parish Interim Team

Rebecca Curzon rebeccacurzon@comcast.net

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Have you noticed the energy behind our youth programming at First Parish? Our teens are more connected than ever this year. This connection begins as early as sixth grade with our Sixth Grade Youth Group. It is carried into seventh grade with Social Action work and our Neighboring Faiths field trips. It is deepened in eighth grade through Dramatic Arts and OWL. In ninth grade, our youth create a COA service, affirming what they feel

inspires them in life. And finally, in high school, the youth lead themselves in their own youth group with the guidance of our Youth Program Director. All through these teen years, our programs are building connection to our community, sharing our values, doing the work of social justice, and learning what it means

to be a Unitarian Universalist in today's world. Our teens are learning important life skills and they are learning them under the guidance of adults who are embodying our Unitarian Universalist principles. Our youth ministry here is empowering youth to lead, to develop an ethical voice, and to discover spiritual practices that will sustain them as they move into adulthood.

I am very excited about our youth ministry here at First Parish. This is just one of the ways our First Parish community demonstrates its love and commitment to our next generation of leaders. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

**Second-Fifth Grade Workshop Rotation
Fall Term – Unitarian Universalism:
Celebrating Our First Parish 375th
Birthday**

October 2 — What our forefathers stood for:
A heritage to be proud of sharing.

Colonial Doll Craft Workshop
Leather and Metalworking

October 23 — 375th Birthday Weekend: Tour
of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery

October 30 — All Souls Day

November 6 — Social Justice Work:
Our Unitarian Universalist calling\

October 2011 RE Calendar

- Sun., Oct. 2 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th Grade Youth Group (Icy Cave and Cemetery)
7th Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Oct. 9 Child Care for Babies – 4 years
Columbus Day Weekend, No RE
- Sun., Oct. 16 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th Grade Youth Group (Icy Cave and Cemetery)
7th Art in Action at 10 a.m. Gaining Ground Trip
8th Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Oct. 23 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Cemetery Field Trip)
6th Grade Youth Group (Cemetery Scavenger Hunt)
7th Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Oct. 30 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th Grade Youth Group (Ghost Tour Field Trip)
7th Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)

Holiday Craft Workshop on December 3!

Were you worried? Don't be! Many people have stepped forward to make this workshop happen for our children this year. It seems to have more energy than ever. We not only have two leaders, **Jan Goddard-Taylor**, assisted by **Marilyn Lowitt**, but we also have RE Council member **Brad Hubbard** and **Kristin Moore** helping to organize a couple of gatherings prior to the workshop. Our elf-herder, **Patty Popov**, will be doing her magic again collecting holiday elves; and we already have a substantial working "crew" of middle management craft elves. Your name may already be on that list and you don't even know it yet!

We plan to have a dinner together with the Head Elves and the Craft Elves. This is already becoming a great intergenerational community event. I hope when we call, you can find some time to conspire with some very engaged First Parish elves.

RE News

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Through this interim process, we are learning that if this congregation values it, then it — whatever “it” is — will happen. In this case, “it” is a day of intergenerational gift making, “it” is a day of community, “it” is a day of showing our love through our presence and our presents. I am glad to be with a community such as this one.

Orientation for Religious Education Teachers and Leaders for 2011-2012

Orientation Schedule for Babies–1st Grade Teachers in the Emerson Room:

Caregiving, Story Play and Spirit Play, Winter and Spring Terms: Wed., Jan. 18, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Orientation Schedule for Second–Sixth Grade Teachers in the Emerson Room:

2nd–6th Grade Holiday Term #2: Wed., Nov. 9, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

2nd–6th Grade Winter Term #3: Wed., Jan. 25, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

2nd–6th Grade Spring Term #4: Wed., Mar. 28, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Orientation Schedule for 7th, 8th and 9th Grade Leaders:

7th Grade Neighboring Faiths Spring Term: Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

8th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL): Wed., Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Mandatory OWL Parent Orientation: Wed. & Thu., Dec. 7 and 8, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Group is off to a momentous start this year. On September 16 through 18, 20 teens went to Saco, Maine for the “Retreat to Ferry Beach.” We shared a beautiful weekend together —



cooking our own food, singing around the campfire, swimming in the Atlantic, and discussing future service work for the year.

In the near future, we’ll be planning a trip to the Food Project/Gaining Ground farm to harvest crops and learn about local sustainable agriculture and

hunger resources. Join us Sunday nights for the weekly meeting to share in the fun and meaningful experience. The energy is palpable and we’d love to include you!

Thanks to everyone for the warm welcome; it feels great to be working with you all! ♦

Yours truly,

— *Avi Salloway*

Youth Program Director

First Parish at 375 years of age. How have we changed? How have we stayed the same? What are our enduring strengths? How will we evolve in the coming years? The history of this congregation stares me in the face every day. Our historic meeting house. Our connection to the Transcendentalists. Our role in the history of this town. Those portraits everywhere! Sermons and actions taken by our ministers. The passion of our parishioners. Here at First parish we invite people not to turn away, not to put their heads in the sand. We ask everyone to be aware of the impact of his or her own actions; to listen to and respect alternative points of views. It's not easy. But we join together, as a community, and support each other and stand together, strong and capable. Why does this matter? Because what we have done in the past has brought us to this day. 375 years old. What an amazing accomplishment to celebrate. Now what will we do? Can we do more? Can we somehow capitalize on the feeling that First Parish is a leader, a "change-agent"? Can we be a catalyst for something bigger than us? Our Social Action Community will explore this idea with you this year. Join in the discussion and we can envision together.

FYI, one workshop at the 375th celebration (Saturday morning, October 22) will highlight Social Action Grants and our current SAC program. Don't miss it! ♦

—Faith Bade

Social Action Program Director

Go to sac.firstparish.org for news and calendar information.

For All SAC Meeting House News Submissions

Thank you so much to our longtime volunteer **Enid Boasberg** for her wonderful work as the point-person for SAC Meeting House News submissions. We so appreciate all of her work! Going forward, please submit any submission for the Meeting House News to **Faith Bade** at fbade@firstparish.org.

Join Together to Celebrate the 375th Anniversary of First Parish

Don't miss the Social Action workshop on Saturday morning, October 22, by **Dave Dawson** and **John Lowe**. Learn more about the history of SAC Grants and our current Social Action Community.

- **The First Parish Immigration Study Group**
- We will resume meeting this fall. The date and time are yet to be determined so stay tuned! Please send any information you have about issues, films, organizations and upcoming events to **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org.
- **SAC Grants deadline Is October 15**
- The next deadline for applications is coming up. Go to sac.firstparish.org/cms/grants or contact **Wendy Holt**, chair, at wendy-holt48@yahoo.com for more information.
- **Help with the UUSC Guest at Your Table Boxes**
- This treasured First Parish tradition needs a lay leader. Join with another adult or your family and shepherd this program. The main duties are handing out the boxes to the congregation during one Sunday in November (possibly 11/13), periodically collecting them from FP, counting the money, and sending it in to the UUSC in January. This is a wonderful program and FP children and families consistently contribute. Make this happen! Contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org.
- **Community of Activists Worship — Starts Wednesday, October 12, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel**
- Led by Ministerial Intern **Craig Nowak**. An alternative worship in the Chapel oriented to social justice and social action; open to all in our community who wish to be challenged and raise their own awareness. Craig hopes to provoke thought and reflection leading to action. Each worship highlights one particular social justice issue with the understanding that all social justice issues and activism are connected, and that we are all a community of activists. Wednesday evenings October 12, November 9 and December 14. October 12 highlights the Diversity Committee and the issue of "heterosexism". All are welcome! Contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org or **Craig Nowak** at cnowak@firstparish.org with questions.
- **Social Action Reflection Group Meeting October 16, 7 to 9:00 p.m. at First Parish**
- This ongoing group of social activists meet monthly to reflect on the work we do and to listen to each other's stories. We will begin a discussion of the first two chapters of Richard Gilbert's classic work on UU social action, *The Prophetic Imperative*, laying a foundation for our understanding of social action as a means to bring our faith into the world. Please join us; for more information, contact **Mark Richards** at 978-771-9823.

SAC News and Events

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Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

The First Parish Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org; see our website, 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.



Donations for Those in Need

Wanted: Usable Fall/Winter Clothes. As fall begins, the Acton Pantry's Clothes Closet is empty and in need of fall/winter clothes, especially children's and men's. Drop donations on **Bill Seaver's** porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. Contact billseaver@earthlink.net. The Acton Pantry (a program similar to Open Table Concord and Maynard) provides used clothing for their guests.

Green Notes:

The Power of Collective Action at First Parish — Saturday October 29, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Food! Community! Make a difference! Help First Parish play a leading role in the environmental awareness movement. Learn what we can do as a community. Introduction by Sarah James (coauthor of *The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Change to Sustainable Practices*) and Ministerial Intern **Craig Nowak**. Presentations and discussions of the First Parish environmental program, with breakout sessions during lunch created by First Parish member **Kathryn Shane**. More details to follow at sac.firstparish.org. Contact **Faith Bade** at fbade@firstparish.org to join in.

Mindful Living Idea: Go to Concord Swap Off/Drop Off Day on Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Recycle! Swap? Be kind to our earth. Go to www.reusit.org for more information.

Mindful Living Statistic: By installing more efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks, households can reduce daily per capita water use by about 35 percent, to about 45.2 gallons per day.

Amnesty Regional Director to Be Guest at Meeting October 18

Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional Director of Amnesty International USA, will be a guest at the regular monthly meeting of Group 15, the Concord-area Amnesty group, on Tuesday, October 18, at 7 p.m., at First Parish in the Greeley Room. All are welcome. For more details, go to sac.first-parish.org/cms/amnestyintl or contact **Lorraine Loviglio** at loviglio@rcn.com.

Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry 2011

The Concord Crop Walk will be on Sunday, October 16. Registration is at 1:30 p.m., step off at 2:15 p.m., at First Parish. Funds raised go to nine local area food pantries and suppers, and also to Church World Service to use for disaster relief and development projects around the globe. **Jenny Rankin** will be walking, and invites others to join her; this is a great event for the whole family. You may pick up sponsor forms or make a donation to sponsor Jenny at coffee hour. Online pledging is available; see www.concordcrop.org to find out how to join the First Parish team, or sponsor Jenny or other team members.

Jericho Road Project

Ten, that's how many years it's been since the Jericho Road Project was first cooked up by First Parish. Look for a display on JRP at the 375th anniversary celebration. We are currently recruiting volunteer board mentors, Web developers, strategic planners, and instructors in accounting, bookkeeping and taxes, marketing, and business law for our nonprofit partners in Lowell. Our next Board Training and Placement program starts in November. Contact **Kate Kaplan**, 978-595-8246 or kkaplan@jerichoroadproject.org for more information.

OCTOBER 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.
<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi and Qi Gong</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Stress Reduction and Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
YRUU	Sunday	6:30 p.m.
Men's Group	Sunday	7:30 p.m.

Tue Oct 4	7:00	"Chicken Man" Meeting	•	Wed Oct 19	7:00	Membership Committee
	7:00	<i>Seeking Circles</i>	•	Thu Oct 20	7:30	Membership Committee
	7:00	<i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>	•		7:30	Threshold Singers
Wed Oct 5	7:00	<i>Concord Area Humanists</i>	•	Fri Oct 21	7:00	Historical Fashion Show and Reception
Thu Oct 6	7:30	Threshold Singers	•	Sat Oct 22	8:30	Panel Discussion and Individual Presentations
Fri Oct 7	7:00	Play Reading	•		5:00	375th Grand Dinner for First Parish Community
Sat Oct 8	9:00	Photo Group	•	Sun Oct 23	3:00	Children's Celebration Party
Tue Oct 11	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•		6:30	UU Sources and Principles
	6:00	Ethical Eating Potluck	•	Tue Oct 25	9:00	Catnip Balls Workshop
Wed Oct 12	7:00	Community of Activists Worship	•		7:00	Ethical Eating Films
Fri Oct 14	9:00	375th Exhibit on Stage	•	Wed Oct 26	9:00	Catnip Balls Workshop
Sat Oct 15	9:00	Concord Women's Chorus Workshop	•	Fri Oct 28	7:00	Jewish Awareness Group
	7:30	Henry David Thoreau's Visit and Reception	•		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Sun Oct 16	1:30	Crop Walk	•	Sat Oct 29	9:00	SAC Conference
	3:00	Needle Workers Affinity Group	•	Sun Oct 30	6:00	"Chicken Man" Meeting
	3:30	Fashion Event Rehearsal	•			
	7:00	SAC Reflection Group	•			
Tue Oct 18	11:30	WPA Luncheon	•			
	7:00	<i>Seeking Circles</i>	•			
	7:00	Amnesty International Group 15	•			
	7:30	<i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>	•			

OCTOBER 2011 NEWSLETTER

The November Newsletter deadline is Friday, October 21, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, November 1.

Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: FPConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

* **PLEASE NOTE:** The office is CLOSED on Mondays.

Ministers' E-Mail:
Elaine Beth Peresluha: uurevdoc@gmail.com
Jenny M. Rankin: jrankin@firstparish.org
Craig Nowak: cnowak@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Elaine Beth Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager

Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director

Jane Foley, Membership Director

Craig M. Nowak, Ministerial Intern

Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Lorrie Clark, Religious Education Administrator

Avi Salloway, Youth Program Director

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
Eric Huenneke, Parish Organist
Anderson Manuel, Youth Gospel Choir Director
Gail Carey, Children's Choir Director
David Huston, Music Director Emeritus
Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director
Leslie Koplrow, Operations Manager, Jericho Road
Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
Cassy Bosworth, Office Manager
Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector
Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor
Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Newsletter Copy Editor



The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • October 2011

Welcome to the Wright Tavern Center. Online registration is available for all courses. Check our website at wrighttavern.org for schedules, 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 will continue to meet in the First Parish Chapel Wednesdays mornings and Thursdays evenings. 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.

Concord Area Humanist Group (CAH)

We are a Concord area group welcoming you usually to two evening meetings each month, with a Humanist perspective. The Wednesday meetings start with a social hour at 7:00 p.m., and the program at 7:30 p.m. We inclusively bring together the various non-supernatural life stances that have the same emphasis on our being responsible for what happens around us, such as Buddhist-, Judaic-, Religious- and Secular-Humanism, Ethical Culture, Naturalism, and all the others that have a life stance consistent with Humanism and its aspirations — Humanist Manifesto III. Come and enjoy investigating with us the intersection of science and culture, ethics and social trends, books and ideas. Times and place of meetings may change, so please always check our latest announcements on www.MeetUp.com, and RSVP while you are there. Active links there, and in the program listings, will lead to further information. You may also e-mail **Patrick Everett** at pne@aol.com, or **Maria Greene** at maria@justmagicdesign.com. CAH is affiliated with the American Humanist Association and with the UU-HUManists. Our program follows.

First Wednesday in October Dialog — What Atheism Begins

Zachary Bos will present an overview of the local secular organization landscape in our region, and will add some comments about where he thinks we should be going. He is best known for starting and growing the highly successful group Boston Atheists, which now has hundreds of members that meet regularly via MeetUp. He is also a writer and is managing editor of the Pen & Anvil Press; a founding member of The Boston

Poetry Union; and a contributing editor to “The Charles River Journal.” He works at Boston University.

Wednesday: Oct. 5 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Oct. 18 — Open Discussion Group, 7:30-9:00 p.m. in Trustees Room at Concord Library; continuation of previous discussion, or new topic TBD.

T'ai Ji

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with qi gong 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: Oct. 14, Nov. 18, Dec. 9, Jan. 13 12:30-1:30 p.m.
\$25/session

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. Led by: **Beth Norton and Others**

Friday: Oct. 28, Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 23, Apr. 27, May 18 7:30 p.m. Free: No registration required

The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

Dates given are for Sunday evening, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and Tuesday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Sessions will be at First Parish.

Oct. 30, Nov. 1 *Black Walden: Slavery and Its Aftermath in Concord, Massachusetts*,* by Elise Virginia Lemire

*All book group books except *Black Walden* will be available in paperback by the time we read them. Unfortunately, though *Black Walden* was published over two years ago, we can find no information indicating that it will be coming out in paperback anytime soon. Since it was the number one favorite in the voting for this year's choices, we have decided to go ahead with reading it this year. It is readily available in the library systems (Minuteman and Merrimack).

II. Social Action

Is Main Street Destined to Be at the Mercy of Wall Street?— Lessons Learned from the Financial Crisis of 2008

A forum will be held at First Parish the evening of Thursday, November 10, to examine the ethical ramifications of the 2008 crisis, its meaning to our society and government by consent of the governed, and what we as individual citizens can do in our communities and at the grass roots to redress our grievances.

Three years after the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, not a single top Wall Street executive has been criminally prosecuted. The very Wall Street firms that created the crisis in the first place have been generously bailed out at taxpayer expense, have been given a free pass by the federal government, and have resumed its reckless practice of paying outlier bonuses. Meanwhile, Main Street continues to suffer through the anguish of foreclosed homes, depleted investments, precipitous declines in housing values, job losses, and a staggering economy.

-
- The forum will explore leading reports on the causes of the crisis, the award-winning documentary “Inside Job,” what has
- been learned from this economic catastrophe, and what can be
- done about the lack of criminal accountability for those who
- perpetrated America’s worst post-WWII financial crisis. For
- more information, contact **Lillian Anderson** at 978-369-1468.
- RSVP to reserve a place at 978-369-9602, or e-mail
- wrighttavern@firstparish.org.
- **Mel Bernstein** will moderate the forum. He is an Executive
- Board member of the Tufts University Osher Lifelong Learning
- Center, where he has taught courses on “Foundations of the
- American Way of Thinking” and “The Uniqueness of American
- Political Thought.” He has degrees in economics and finance,
- law, and political science, and is currently the moderator of the
- American Revolution Round Table at Minute Man National
- Historical Park.
- **Thursday, Nov. 10 Brooks Room at First Parish 7:00 p.m.**
- **No charge**
-