



# The Meeting House News

## REVERIES

### In The Middle

How did it get to be November? I have just barely arrived in Concord and it feels like time to think about turkeys and a Christmas tree. The world seems to be continually picking up its pace. It spins faster and faster, wanting its hungry to be fed, its poor to be sheltered, its environment to be protected, and its wars to end. Our nation spins as candidates campaign, occupiers demonstrate, and a war ends. There

is a world, a village, a church, a family, and a Self, all deserving of our time, attention, and love. It all feels so important! Priorities compete, get confused, get entangled, and can end up lost in the dusty whirlwind of too fast spinning.



Grace. For me, it has to be grace — that moment when the spinning stops and the dust settles. When, just for a moment, what is most important seems so clear. With no apparent choice or action, there is enough time. There is enough money. There is enough Love. Just when I need it most, grace cuts through the clutter and chatter to remind me

what is most important. In these moments of grace, I can feel who I am, who you are, and who we are, together. I see what you are going through in your lives, the efforts you make here every day, for historic remembrance, governance, RE, Social Action, and pastoral care. I write a thank-you note or two or four or six. This writing of names and places, acknowledging those who do so much, recalls the faces of the generous, the committed, and the struggling among us. When I take the time to say thank you — I am reminded that we are ministering well here at First Parish. I am reminded of why I love my job. Together we are moving 375 years of history forward, asking questions, searching, inspiring youth, feeding the hungry, sheltering the poor, inspiring neighborhoods, and a nation, all the while sharing time, attention and love. None of us is alone, doing it all. We are connected by thought, by word, and by deed to one another and to Ultima, even when we see differently, even when we are spinning too fast or moving too slow. In all the tumult there is grace, reminding us of all that we are. Reminding us to say thank you.

A very wise man and minister, Peter Fleck, once told me, “The pilgrims were not thankful they survived. They survived because they were thankful.”

Much mettā,

— Elaine Beth Peresluha

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### November 6

Rev. Jenny M. Rankin, preaching

9:00 & 11:00

First Parish Choir with special guest,  
Sadhana Upadhyay

Hindu Devotional songs

### November 13

Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha, preaching

9:00 – Transylvania Troubadours

*Esto les Digo* – Lange

*Instruments of Peace* – Dearing

11:00 – First Parish Choir

*We Are the Ones We’ve Been Waiting For*  
– Johnson-Regan

*Instruments of Peace* – Dearing

### November 20

Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha, preaching

9:00 & 11:00

First Parish Choir

*Thanksgiving Song* – Chapin Carpenter

*Hymn for America* – Paulus

### November 27

Craig M. Nowak, preaching

One Service at 10:00

Joan Esch, cello

## Don't Miss...

## HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR!

Saturday, November 5

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

**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ♦ Gathered in 1636

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- ◆ 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, November 18  
Friday, December 16  
Friday, January 20

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.

### Ministerial Search Committee

Our Ministerial Search Committee continues to work toward finding our next minister. The eight-member committee participated in a full-day retreat on October 1, facilitated by Rev. Keith Kron from the UUA.

Look for regular progress updates on our Web page: <http://www.first-parish.org/cms/transition/ministerial-search-committee>. We also encourage you to subscribe to our e-mail updates at

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/120/83>. And of course, all of us are eager to talk with you any time. Committee Members: **Toby Smith Ropeik** (chair), **John Boynton**, **Rhoda Miller**, **Terry Rothermel**, **Mary-Wren vanderWilden**, **Fred Van Deusen**, **Caroline McCloy**, **Alec Walker**.

### Please Note: Changes In Holiday Worship Schedule

There will be ONE service at 10:00 a.m. on November 27, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. There will be NO worship service on December 25 or January 1.

### Please Wear Your Nametag!

Since the regular Sunday service schedule began in mid-September, we've had almost twenty individuals or families visit First Parish! They are making their way around the church, enrolling children in Religious Education, attending events and activities of interest, or just coming to Sunday worship. They are finding out who you are and why First Parish is such a vibrant faith community that has been here for 375 years. Also, we have in the pulpit an interim minister who is getting to know who you are, where your interests lie, and what you want for the future of First Parish. In order for newcomers and **Rev. Elaine Peresluha** to get to know you better and feel more comfortable, it is important that everyone wear his or her nametag on Sunday mornings. If you need a nametag, you can e-mail **Jane Foley** at [jfoley@firstparish.org](mailto:jfoley@firstparish.org) or sign up for one at the Parish Connections table during coffee hour.

### Parish Notes

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### "The Way We Were" Program Copies Available

Many parishioners have expressed interest in having a copy of the presentation of October 22. The text with pictures (printed or electronic copy) will be available for a small charge (thanks to **Rodger Mattlage**). If you are interested, please contact **Lillian Anderson** at 978-369-1468 or [Lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:Lillianand@comcast.net).

**Coming soon:** Watch the *Sunday News* for plans to gather stories from parishioners who grew up at First Parish.

### First Parish Photography Club

We're celebrating our 10th Anniversary and inviting you to join us. In November 2001, nine First Parishioners gathered with their film cameras, one display easel, and lots of enthusiasm to learn and share their knowledge of photography. Ten years later we have about 45 members, projectors, computers, and a variety of digital cameras. We have enjoyed about 75 field trips, ranging from Concord's Old North Bridge to Utah's canyons.

We invite First Parish adults with an interest in photography, novice to professional, to join us at 9:00 a.m. on the second Saturday morning of every month for tutorials, projects, thematic slide shows and gentle critiques. Field trips are planned depending on the weather and members' interests. The club is noncompetitive. We have an exhibit each spring when members hang their best photo of the year. All participants are urged to become involved while learning as well as enjoying the camaraderie of the club. For more information, contact **Kathleen Elcox**, [kelcox1@verizon.net](mailto:kelcox1@verizon.net) or **Fred VanDeusen**, [fredvandeu@aol.com](mailto:fredvandeu@aol.com).

### Reading of "The Scarlet Letter"

Please join us in the Parish Hall on Monday, November 14, at 7:30 p.m., when Nathaniel Hawthorne will come to life for a rare public reading. You will not want to miss this very special portrayal by the literary historian Rob Vellella, where Hawthorne himself appears to read his most famous work, "The Scarlet Letter" (abridged). Admission to this event is \$10 and will be followed by a reception. Sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council.

### Reading "The Crucible" on November 4 at 7 p.m.

The Playreading Group's first meeting was a huge success. Special thanks to **Lillian Anderson** for organizing the part assignments in *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*, and to **Betsy Connelly** for sharing all the clippings, letters and photos about the The Concord Players' New England premiere of that play in 1971. Our next reading will be *The Crucible* on Friday, November 4. **Alec Walker** will "direct." There are 20-some parts, so there is room for as many as would like to join us. Following on the group's suggestions that we finish up the reading in time to allow real discussion, Alec will replace some scenes with a précis.

### Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

The Jewish Awareness affinity group has needed to reschedule its October meeting for November. On Friday, November 18, from 7 to 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](mailto:danasg@newview.org).

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

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, been given a free pass by the federal government, and have resumed their 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.

This 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.  
Moderator: **Mel Bernstein**

Thursday, November 10, at 7 p.m. Please call to reserve a place at 978-369-9602, or e-mail [wrighttavern@firstparish.org](mailto:wrighttavern@firstparish.org).

### STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Standing Committee meetings (held at 33 Bradford Street in West Concord) are open to all (except when in Executive Session); the 2011-2012 schedule is:

- 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](http://firstparish.org) under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. ♦

## PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

The PCC's next major endeavor will be next 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](mailto:kestabrook@verizon.net).

To those who are (so generously) sponsoring a student through our Student Sponsorship program, we would like to remind you that sponsorship payments are now due. Please contact our coordinator, **Sue Beck** (e-mail, [sbeck345@comcast.net](mailto:sbeck345@comcast.net)) for further information. There are still a few student sponsorships available for those who are interested.

We would also like to remind you that **Dana Booth** is now part of our Student Sponsorship team. A long-time sponsor, Dana has offered to provide advice to anyone who is interested in "making the most" of his or her sponsorship. He can be reached at [dana.a.booth@gmail.com](mailto:dana.a.booth@gmail.com)

We continue to enjoy the company of Rev. Erika Orbán, who grew up in Székelykeresztúr and is visiting here on sabbatical from her hospital chaplaincy in Transylvania. She will be staying at the home of **Bill** and **Sherry Seaver** through November. Many will have met her as she participated in both our Transylvanian Thanksgiving service and our 375th celebration.

As always, we invite you to join us for our Partner Church Committee (supper) meetings. The next one will be held on Thursday, November 10, at the home of **Val** and **Biff Holt**. For further information, drop us a line; and for our all our latest PCC news and information, see <http://www.first-parish.org/cms/committees/partner-church>. ♦

*Minden jót!* "Best wishes!"

— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,  
[LondonSW11@comcast.net](mailto:LondonSW11@comcast.net)

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER



The First Parish 2011-2012 Program Guide is now online. This guide is a valuable resource for visitors, members and friends to quickly and easily review some of the events and activities that make First Parish an exciting and vibrant spiritual community. Below are listed some of the upcoming events and activities offered through the end of December. You can find all of them at [http://www.first-parish.org/cms/files/Program\\_Guide\\_2011-2012.pdf](http://www.first-parish.org/cms/files/Program_Guide_2011-2012.pdf).

### Immigration Study Group

Tuesday, November 1, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Emerson Room

All are invited to join **Craig Nowak**, Ministerial Intern, and **Faith Bade**, Social Action Program Director, for the first meeting of the Social Action Program Immigration Study Group.

### First Parish Jump Start

For visitors and newcomers to First Parish, this 30-minute orientation will provide basic information about Unitarian Universalism and First Parish. Jump Start meets on the first Sunday of the month, 10:15-10:45 a.m., in the Chapel.

November 6, December 4, January 8, February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6 and June 3

### New UU

Saturday, November 19, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., followed by lunch. A program that presents an overview of our liberal religious Unitarian Universalist tradition and First Parish. You will explore whether your own beliefs and values are consonant with UU-ism.

### Artisans Fair

Saturday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Parish Hall and various rooms. This fair offers a wide variety of unique handcrafted items to please everyone on your holiday shopping list. This is a juried fair, so only items of the highest quality will be offered. A cafe will be open throughout the day, serving snacks and lunch. This event is open to the public.

### Children's Holiday Crafts Workshop

Saturday, December 3, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Parish Hall

This is a fun and creative afternoon of making holiday gifts for others. For children ages six and older who attend First Parish in Concord.

### WPA Christmas Tea

Tuesday, December 13, 3:00–5:00 p.m. Come to this festive holiday event filled with music and sweet treats. Gather at 3:00 p.m. for music, followed by tea at 4:00 p.m. An annual festive tradition! Sponsored by the Women's Parish Association. ♦

— *Jane Foley*

Membership Director



## PASTORAL CARE NEWS

The November days are short and the nights are long. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Hanukkah decorations are starting to show up everywhere. The seasons of thankfulness and “joy to the world” are fast approaching. Cards need to be written and gifts bought and mailed. For some of us, the bustle of this season is painful. The pain of loss, illness and regrets can be intense and triggered by the so-called “festive season.” The “picture book perfect” holidays may not be a reality for everyone.

During this season it is important to take care of and to nurture yourself. This may mean saying “no” to invitations and sending a donation in someone’s name instead of confronting the shopping mall crowds.

Think of other tangible things to do to keep yourself centered and nurtured. Listen to music that really touches your soul and emotions, write down four specific things that you are thankful for or think about four things that nourish the “roots that hold you deep.”

**Elaine Peresluha**, our interim senior minister, is planning a Blue Christmas holiday service in December and there will be a memorial wreath in the Sanctuary on which to tie ribbons for those we miss at this holiday season. The holiday season will pass; you don’t need to be sad or depressed alone. Please contact the ministers or the lay ministers if we can be 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**

The lay minister for November is **Carolyn Shohet** at [careshobet@aol.com](mailto:careshobet@aol.com).

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

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

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

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

### **Pastoral Care Library**

The Pastoral Care Lending Library is located in the hallway behind the stage to the right on the way to the ministers’ offices. There are eight categories of books and some audios: Living, Relationships, Children’s Development, Mental Health, Illness and Wellness, Addiction and related issues, Loss and Grief, Dying and Death. Parishioners are welcome to borrow the books. Please fill out the card in the inside pocket and place it in the box located on the shelf. Be sure to return any borrowed books or audios within three to four weeks.

Some books have not been returned. Please check your bookshelves at home if you have borrowed a book or audio in the last few months and return it. We currently are missing the entire section of books on mental illness. If you have borrowed them, contact **Ursula Kristoffy** to let her know that you have them.

If you have any suggestions for books or audios that you would like to see in the library, contact **Ursula Kristoffy** at [ursula@kristoffy.com](mailto:ursula@kristoffy.com) or 978-369-7484.

### **Help Cook for the Caring Connection!**

The Caring Connection provides meals to members of our congregation who are facing challenges or sadness. It’s one way we reach out to each other. Our freezer is low, so we are planning to cook and restock! Can you join us? Please let me know if you are coming so that we have enough supplies. No experience necessary — we’ll provide everything.

When: Tuesday, November 8

Time: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon (or whatever portion you are able to do)

Place: First Parish Kitchen

RSVP: **Tracey Hurd**, 978-369-2366 or [thurd@aol.com](mailto:thurd@aol.com)

# MUSINGS

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*“When we tell our story from deep inside, and we listen with a loving mind, and we hear our voices in each other’s words, then our heart is in a holy place.”*

I was reminded of these words from Joyce Poley’s lovely song *When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place* (STJ #1008) during the exciting celebration of our 375th Anniversary. This occasion prompted a flood of storytelling in our community — from tales of our ancestors in Musketaquid to first-hand reminiscences from recent decades. Sharing these vivid stories and hearing the voices from our past reminded me that this story-



telling is a sacred practice. It invites us to take our place among the “cloud of witnesses” that have lived the history of this unique community of faith, and reminds us that we move together with them “forward through the ages.”

As one of the “newly minted historians” preparing a workshop for the Saturday morning learning sessions, I found myself captivated by the stories of our founders. I was especially moved by the importance of musical expression to this community throughout our history, even amidst the austere Puritan culture of 17th century Concord. Our founders took the Biblical directive very seriously: “Let the word of God dwell plenteously in you ... teaching & exhorting one another in psalmes, himnes and spirituall songs

...” (Collossians 3:16, as quoted on the title page of the Bay Psalm Book 1640) Our manner of singing songs and making music has remained important to the people of First Parish through the generations. As customs and culture evolved, changes in the way psalms and hymns and eventually anthems were sung inevitably stirred controversy. That the debate has sometimes been intense is a manifestation of the congregation’s care for musical tradition. It is clear that the dedication our ministers, deacons, choirs and organists have shown to the offering of exceptional music has not wavered. What a history! Throughout my tenure as Music Director at First Parish, I have felt powerfully my role as a steward of this music ministry at a very particular time in its history. It is a privilege to be one of the “faithful spirits” who is called to carry this tradition forward to the next generation. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

## FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Last month I talked about being called to ministry and my own struggle to answer that call. I invited you to reflect as individuals and as a congregation on your own experience of being called. This month I want to say a few words about answering my call, or as I think of it, walking the path. Once I decided to answer rather than resist my call to ministry, I felt a great sense of relief. “Yes,” I thought. “I’m going to do this.”



Almost immediately the relief I felt turned to a sense of disorientation, and the question “Now what?” emerged. I soon realized even though I was answering “my” call, this is not a journey one takes alone. I needed a guide. Through a work-related connection, I met a man who was a spiritual director and pastoral counselor, and I began to see him regularly to help me navigate the often exciting, sometimes harrowing, path of discernment. One of the initial demands I made of my calling was that the whole journey be mapped out in a clear and orderly manner. My spiritual director quickly nipped that fantasy in the bud, reminding me of a quote by Isak Dinesen, “God made the world round so we would never be able to see too far down the road.”

Indeed, the path I have traveled as I’ve answered my call could never have been predicted and that has been a good thing. Had I been granted my wish for a clear and orderly journey toward ministry, I would have learned very little of the vocation to which I have been called. Because the journey has not been clear or orderly, the presence of my spiritual director and other guides I met along the way — whether in person or through writings ancient to modern — has made all the difference. And so for the twists and turns, detours and alternate routes I’ve encountered along the way, some of which have been thrilling and others disappointing, I offer my thanks. And to my spiritual director and all the other guides who have journeyed with me, I say “thank you.”

What about you? Who has been/is your guide through the twists and turns of life? Who is it you’d like to thank for being there in good times and bad? As Thanksgiving approaches, I invite you as individuals and as a congregation of 375 years to reflect on these questions; and as the names of people past and present emerge, say aloud, “Thank you.” ♦

Blessings,  
—Craig Nowak

## PARISH INTERIM TEAM UPDATE

The Parish Interim Team’s mission is to support the congregation through our interim period.

There are five steps that we will go through as a congregation. Our work together will allow us to clarify who we are now, and what we want our future ministry to look like.

The five steps we will be working on are:

1. Coming to terms with history
2. Discovering a new identity
3. Allowing needed leadership to emerge
4. Renewing denominational linkages
5. Committing to new directions in ministry

We are in the process of completing steps one and two. Through listening sessions, circle dinners, individual conversations, and discussions with parish committees, we are striving to assist the congregation in claiming and honoring its past, and healing its griefs and conflicts. Through these conversations, we are working to illuminate our congregation’s unique identity, its strengths, its needs, and its challenges.

Our 375th birthday celebration and associated activities have allowed us to delve into our history with depth and breadth. The Parish Interim Team wants to learn about the important moments at First Parish that matter to people in this congregation. We ask you to continue talking with us. We are committed to continuing to hear your stories.

Do you have a story about First Parish you would like to tell?

Maybe your story is simple, or inspirational. Tell us about a moment of connection, of awe, of appreciation, a turning point, an insight, a pleasure or a struggle. Maybe your story is personal, humorous or sad. All of our stories are important as we consider our future.

Send your story to this e-mail address:

[MyFirstParishStory@comcast.net](mailto:MyFirstParishStory@comcast.net).

The stories you send will be shared later, unless you tell us not to. Please indicate clearly if your story is private or personal and not to be shared. This collection point for stories will be available throughout the interim period. The PIT will consider the most appropriate way to share stories that are submitted. Ideas on how to share these stories are welcome. The Parish Interim Team welcomes your questions or comments. ♦

—Parish Interim Team (PIT)

### First Parish Concord — Parish Interim Team

Rebecca Curzon [rebeccacurzon@comcast.net](mailto:rebeccacurzon@comcast.net)

Katharine Esty [katharinecesty@verizon.net](mailto:katharinecesty@verizon.net)

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Jim Smith [JAS@foleyhoag.com](mailto:JAS@foleyhoag.com)

Buddies. Such a simple word and yet buddies make all the difference, don't they? This year, in our second- through fifth-grade program, I invited the kids to randomly choose a buddy, pairing our fifth graders with our second graders. I was almost surprised to see how quickly the faces of our second graders broke into smiles. Each jumped up and went over to sit next to a fifth-grade UU Buddy. Once they settled, a third grader raised her hand. "Can we have buddies too?" Why, yes, of course! And we paired all who wanted a buddy with one.



"Can we have buddies too?" Why, yes, of course! And we paired all who wanted a buddy with one.

This has worked really well. Each week I invite the kids to find their buddy and sit next to them. Sometimes they choose the same workshop and the older child helps the younger one. I see them working on their dolls together, hammering tin cans together, running the newly constructed temporary labyrinth together. Just by being connected, attached to one special person each week, they are developing a sacred relationship. Imagine, one day this second grader will be a freshman in high school, walking down a crowded hall in a sea of faces and there, out of nowhere, will be their buddy — a junior now — and someone to connect to in an often overwhelming environment. These relationships are what make life feel safe, joyful and connected to something greater than the self. After all is said, when it comes right down to it, it is so simple: We all need a buddy. I marvel at the courage of that third grader to speak up and say so, and I'm glad to be part of a place that creates a space that feels safe to request such a basic human need.. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

**Holiday Craft Workshop, December 3, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Our Elfin Event is already moving along. **Jan Goddard-Taylor** and **Marilyn Lowitt**, two crafty individuals, are pulling together all of our crafting elves with the help of RE Council members **Patty Popov**, **Brad Hubbard-Nelson** and **Kate Svrcek**. Already this is feeling like a community event, an intergenerational holiday bonanza. I am really excited to be watching it come together.

This year, the set-up for the crafting is going to be especially fun. We will be preparing for the

**November 2011 RE Calendar**

- Sun., Nov. 6 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
- Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
- 6th Grade Youth Group (Dee's Funeral Home) 11 a.m. only
- 7th Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
- 8th Dramatic Arts at 11 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Nov. 13 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
- Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
- 6th Grade Youth Group (Icy Cave or Chapel)
- 7th Art in Action at 11a.m. (Brooks Room)
- 8th Dramatic Arts at 11a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Nov. 20 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
- Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
- 6th Grade Youth Group (Icy Cave or Chapel)
- 7th Art in Action at 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
- 8th Dramatic Arts at 6-8 p.m. (Parish Hall)
- Sun., Nov. 27 10 a.m. ONE Service Only
- Child-Care for Babies–4 years
- 8th Dramatic Arts at 6-8 p.m. (Parish Hall)

Saturday event on the Friday evening before, and enjoying our own special meal together after our work is complete. Don't all elves enjoy celebrating the holiday spirit together? If you don't want to miss this evening of that rare mix of work, creativity, noise, laughter and food, please be in touch with Brad and let him know of your interest: [bradhn@mindspring.com](mailto:bradhn@mindspring.com).

**Our Young Children's Program**

This was the first term where we relied on our own members to carry on without staff member Carol Duane downstairs keeping everything afloat. You may be wondering how we did it. Was it magic? No! It was not. It was because of the dedication of RE Council member **Dawn Van Patten**, a very dedicated team of teachers, and three super teens (**Lili Wallis**, **Currin Wallis**, and **Becca Goggin**). All of these leaders have been working together to make sure enough people are showing up, ready to be fully present to our youngest children in RE. They have also been helping with welcoming our newest members when they walk through our doors the first time.

I am deeply grateful to this team for doing a great job during this transitional time.

**RE News**

continued on page 9



**Second- to Fifth-Grade Workshop Rotation**

A special thanks to RE Council member **Alyssa Bigay** for her help in planning and coordinating both the Fall and Holiday terms. The Fall projects were a hit with our children and the Holiday Term promises to be as well.

- Nov. 6 Last day of Fall Term: Social Action Project reflecting our UU Values
- Nov. 13 Week 1 of Holiday Term – Judeo-Christian Teachings  
Story: Jesus Calls His Disciples  
Special Guest at Your Table project
- Nov. 20 Week 2 of Holiday Term – Judeo-Christian Teachings  
Story: Jesus and the Lost and Found  
Pastoral Care Project
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Break, NO RE

**Sixth Grade Youth Group**

Lots of thank-you's this month! Thank you to all of the leaders and youth that put together a terrific Sleepy Hollow Cemetery tour that honored our famous First Parish Unitarians. This took a lot of effort on the part of many people, but special thanks goes to RE Council Chair **Kate Svrcek** for getting the research prepared ahead of time. This was key to making this program a success.

To end the Fall Term, we were treated to a customized Concord Ghost Tour by Concord Tours on October 30. This group was also hosted by Dee's Funeral Home to learn more deeply about loss and the rituals around it.

In the Holiday Term, our Sixth Graders will be doing a lot of the same projects and stories that are happening in our second- through fifth-grade program, but they will be doing these in their own group and discussing these stories at a slightly higher level.

**Seventh Grade Art in Action**

Our Seventh Graders and their leaders did a phenomenal job preparing and installing the grand art project in honor of our 375th anniversary. Please take a moment to stop in to the Brooks Room on Sunday mornings to thank them for being so flexible and absorbing this project that honored our past members.

**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.

Hear ye, hear ye! The youth group has taken on a name that captures the voice and spirit of our community: **The Heard!** The energy is rolling like a snowball and we've chosen a name that embodies our character.



By the time you all are reading this, we will be fresh off a work visit to the Gaining Ground Farm. In general, the Sunday meetings have been filled with bonding, laughter and discussion. We're now brainstorming our April service trip and looking ahead!

Here's what coming up:

- November 6: YAC , Wright Tavern, 5 p.m. Meeting to brainstorm about service trips. There's been a lot of interest in flood recovery projects, but we're open to anything. Please research "packaged" trips.
- November 8: Meeting with the SAC, 6:30 p.m. Meeting to discuss our April service trip.
- November 15: "Travel and Trips" meeting, Parish Hall, 7-9 p.m. which will include all the different service and learning trips at First Parish, facilitated by Interim Senior Minister, Rev. Elaine Peresluha.
- November 18-19: Lock-In overnight at the Church
- The Youth Group is growing with each meeting. Come join The Heard! ♦

Yours truly,

*—Avi Salloway*

Youth Program Director

**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.

The Social Action Community board is a committee of ten First Parish members, currently chaired by

**Maile Hulihan** and **Tom Wilson**. Our mission is to “Honor, Educate, Act, and Lead (HEAL) on environmental and social justice issues.” But that doesn’t help you understand what we really do, does it? So I thought I would list just a few things the SAC board is currently working on.



**We reach out:** The new Web pages are working great (go to [sac.firstparish.org](http://sac.firstparish.org)!), so we are introducing a new electronic SAC newsletter this month.

**We support programs:** We plan to meet with the more than 20 SAC programs on November 20 to work marketing their programs through the various SAC publicity venues. We are planning a survey of the needs of the SAC programs as well.

**We connect:** We actively support the work of two board members on “Road to Chicken Man,” a year of events culminating in the “Chicken Man” theatrical production in March. We have a new board liaison furthering our alignment with SAC grants.

**We educate ourselves:** We are planning a board event with a guest speaker to educate us on congregational justice ministries.

**We engage the spiritual side:** We incorporate Social Action within worship, through the upcoming Social Action Sunday on November 13 and the weekly SAC candle.

**We organize:** We are revising our board structure to incorporate new board members better, connect more closely with the UU denomination, and incorporate current political events into our board activities.

**We think big:** We are offering a new entrepreneurship grant. We are strategizing on a plan for the next big thing — growing out of the energy around moral courage and our long-standing position as a community of activists during our 375-year history.

Whew! And that is just from our first meeting of the year. Join us! ♦

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

Go to [sac.firstparish.org](http://sac.firstparish.org) for news and calendar information.

## Immigration Study Group to Meet Tuesday November 1

All are invited to join **Craig Nowak**, Ministerial Intern, and **Faith Bade**, Social Action Program Director, for the first meeting of the Social Action program Immigration Study Group on Tuesday evening, November 1, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Emerson Room. During this meeting the group will decide which organization to partner with during the coming year and what film screenings we will present to the congregation. Go to [sac.firstparish.org](http://sac.firstparish.org) to learn more about the organizations we are considering.

## “Where Does It Come From?” Sunday, November 6

Join us on the road to “Chicken Man.” Our next event, “Where Does It Come From,” November 6, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., will be of interest to all ages as we learn about products from forests around the world, and understand how we can help sustain forests and the local people by the choices we make as consumers.

## Travel and Trips — Potluck and Discussion

Save the date: November 15, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., All interested First Parishioners are invited to join in a conversation with staff and ministers about how we envision and organize trips at First Parish. Trips include service trips for youth, Transcendentalism travel, pilgrimages, choir travel, etc. Bring a potluck item to share.

## NEW! SAC E-Newsletter Is Coming

Watch for the new SAC e-newsletter debuting in November. Give us your feedback. Help us make it informative and colorful. Send pictures of your social action programs to [Fbade@firstparish.org](mailto:Fbade@firstparish.org).

## SAC Grants Public Comment Period

The current applications will be on the SAC website and available for reading at the church office until November 4. Peruse them and comment please! Go to [sac.firstparish.org](http://sac.firstparish.org) under Grants, or e-mail **Wendy Holt**, chair, at [wendyholt48@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyholt48@yahoo.com) with comments.

## Alternative Worship November 9, 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Join together for an alternative worship service oriented to social justice and social action and led by **Craig Nowak**. Craig invites us to come and be challenged in our thinking as we travel down this spiritual path together. Our next worship is on November 9. All are welcome.

## 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](mailto:SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org); see our website, [sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist](http://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](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

**Social Action Reflection Group at First Parish, November 27, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

The Social Action Reflection Group meets one Sunday a month to exchange stories and thoughts of our social action work. In October we began discussing *The Prophetic Imperative*, by Richard Gilbert. It is a classic piece on the UU tradition of merging spirituality and social justice. When we meet in November, we will continue to discuss the first five chapters of the book. Please make time for sharing the story of your social action journey with us. As Scott Russell Sanders writes, "The journey isn't over until the story is told." Contact **Mark Richards** ([marksrichards@comcast.net](mailto:marksrichards@comcast.net)) or **Alec Walker** ([alecwalker@aol.com](mailto:alecwalker@aol.com)) for more information. See you there!

**Amnesty Group's Letters to Support Prisoners of Conscience**

Group 15, the Concord-area group of Amnesty International, will sign letters in support of foreign prisoners of conscience at its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 15, at 7 p.m., in the Greeley Room of First Parish. All are welcome. For more information, go to [www.aigroup15.org](http://www.aigroup15.org) or e-mail **Lorraine Loviglio** at [loviglio@rcn.com](mailto:loviglio@rcn.com).

**Take an Evening in Cambridge December 12, 7:30 p.m.**

The acclaimed film *The Interrupters* portrays heroes who make violence "evitable" in Chicago gang culture. The Massachusetts campaign for a Department of Peace (DoP) and the Brattle Theatre in Cambridge join hands for a Mass DoP fundraiser showing of the film on Monday evening, December 12, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and \$25 at the Brattle or through **Pat Simon** or **Alec Walker**.

**Holiday Organizations in Need November 13, Social Action Sunday**

An insert highlighting the Holiday Social Action programs will be available online and in the *Sunday News* on November 13. Highlights include: Secret Santa, Mitten Tree, Thanksgiving volunteers and clementine drive for Open Table, HGRM donations, UUSC Guest at Your Table Boxes, and CPO Gift Bags for Prisoners.

- **Reverence for Life Thanksgiving Dinner Parish Hall, November 8, 5:30-9:00 p.m.**
- A delicious plant-based feast, with grace sung by **Anna Huckabee Tull** debuting her song "Dare to Rise," which was written specifically for the RFL program. Adults, \$15; children under 12, \$5; under 5, free. Please reserve and prepay in the office by November 2, or contact **Kathryn Shane**, [kdshane1@verizon.net](mailto:kdshane1@verizon.net), or **Marcia Schloss**, [marcialou28@gamil.com](mailto:marcialou28@gamil.com). Volunteer cooks welcome!
- **"Reverence for Life: Being Ethically Engaged" Sunday, November 6, 1:30 p.m.**
- Dr. Perrin Cohen founded and was director of the Northeastern University Ethics Education Center (NUCASE). He currently writes on ethics education and teaches ethics-related courses at Northeastern. Over the years he has addressed national and international conferences on ethics education. By training, Dr. Cohen is a research scientist. He received his doctorate in research psychology at Columbia University, followed by post-doctoral fellowship training in neurological sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, and later in clinical psychology at Harvard. His interest in ethics education evolved from his experiences as a student, researcher, educator and clinician, and from his meditation practice and study of Buddhist philosophy. For more information, contact **Kathryn Shane** at [kdshane@verizon.net](mailto:kdshane@verizon.net) or **Marcia Schloss** at [marcialou28@gmail.com](mailto:marcialou28@gmail.com).

**Green Notes**

- **Mindful Living Idea:** This is a great time of year to take a walk and appreciate the beautiful colors of a New England autumn.
- **Mindful Living Statistic:** January 2010 to October 2010 were the warmest 10 months since weather records were recorded.

## The Women's AM/PM Book Group

Please note that we are always open for drop-ins and you don't need to sign up to attend. If you'd like to join the discussion one month, just come to either the morning or evening group. Meetings are held at First Parish, usually in the Brooks Room. You may check the schedule board in the entrance when you arrive to make sure.

Meeting times are Sunday evenings (note new day!) from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., usually the last week of the month (4th or 5th Sunday and Tuesday), with a few exceptions as indicated in the date list below. The morning session is facilitated by **Darien Smith** and the evening by **Siri Smedvig**. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471. ♦

## Books and Dates for 2011-2012

- Dec. 4, 6 *Digging to America: A Novel*, by Anne Tyler
- Jan. 22, 24 *Barchester Towers*, by Anthony Trollope
- Feb. 26, 28 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot
- Mar. 25, 27 *Room: A Novel*, by Emma Donoghue
- Apr. 22, 24 *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*, by Jean H. Baker
- May 20, 22 *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey

## It's Time to Go to the Holiday Artisans Fair!

Don't miss this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.! There will be holiday shopping opportunities for everyone as local and international juried artists and artisans offer their latest works — including an outstanding collection of handmade glass items, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, clothing, prints, photographs, paper-cut artwork, greeting cards, woodwork, toys, doll clothing, home decorations, gift foods, knitted items, craft items, regifting treasures and, of course, the famous catnip balls! There will be a door prize and raffled items. Bring your friends for a fun day of shopping, browsing and socializing at the Artisans Cafe. 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](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) if you would like to volunteer your help at this important fundraiser.

## Save the Date: December 13 Holiday Concert and Tea

The Women's Parish Association will hold its annual Holiday Concert and Tea on Tuesday, December 13. Master pianist Eyran Katsenelenbogen, a classically trained pianist with a unique jazz style, has thrilled audiences throughout the world and will perform a variety of classical and jazz works along with seasonal favorites in our Sanctuary at 3 p.m. A formal Christmas Tea will be served in our Parlor and Parish Hall following the concert. Take time out of your busy holiday preparations to treat yourself to this lovely traditional event. All men and women of First Parish and their friends are welcome!

## What Is the WPA?

The WPA (Women's Parish Association) of First Parish in Concord is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year. Many luminaries, including Ellen Tucker Emerson, were on the founding board. Louisa May Alcott was also an active member. Over the years since its origin, it has provided social support for women in the parish, held social and educational events for all members and their friends, raised funds to support church facilities and programs and supported several charities. The WPA currently supports 13 small charities. They are mostly UU-based (9), of female or family interest, or with ties to our community. Over half of our budget this year went to our church for retirement gifts, exterior gardening costs, and furnishings for the kitchen and our new Ellen Emerson room. Half our funds for giving come from investment interest and half from money-raising activities such as the Holiday Artisans Fair and the Recycle Sale.

A popular offering to our community are our monthly luncheons, which include an interesting speaker or entertainer. All are welcome to these events, where you are certain to find good food, good friends and interesting topics discussed. In addition to our monthly luncheons, the WPA holds two annual concerts and lavish teas (in December and March) to which all members of our First Parish Community are most welcome. Our dues are voluntary for all women of our church and we gladly welcome men as honorary members. Eric Parkman Smith was our first gentleman honorary member who faithfully attended and supported our events.

The WPA was founded in April 1881, with Ellen Emerson on its founding board. She wrote the guidelines for conducting the WPA as a woman's organization to raise money for support of the church. Ninety-three women signed the register for membership that



# NOVEMBER 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.
Music Together	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.
Transylvania Troubadours	Wednesday	6:15 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 (THE HEARD)	Sunday	6:30 p.m.

Tue Nov 1	9:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i>	•	<b>Fri Nov 11</b>	<b>Veterans Day — First Parish Closed</b>
	7:00 Seeking Circles	•	Sat Nov 12	9:00 Photography Club
	7:00 SAC Immigration	•	Sun Nov 13	12:30 Nominating Committee
Wed Nov 2	1:00 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	•		6:30 YRUU
	7:00 <i>Concord Area Humanist Group</i>	•	Mon Nov 14	7:30 The Scarlet Letter
Thu Nov 3	7:30 Threshold Singers	•	Tue Nov 15	7:00 Seeking Circles
Fri Nov 4	3:00 Artisans Fair Setup	•		7:00 Amnesty Meeting
	7:00 Play Reading	•	Wed Nov 16	6:30 Membership Committee Meeting
Sat Nov 5	10:00 Artisans Fair	•		7:30 Orientation for OWL Leaders
Sun Nov 6	10:15 First Parish Jump Start	•	Thu Nov 17	7:30 Threshold Singers
	12:30 "Where Does It Come From?"	•	Fri Nov 18	12:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i>
	1:30 Perrin Cohen Lecture	•		7:00 Jewish Awareness Group
	5:00 YAC	•		7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	5:00 Sarasa Concert	•		YRUU/The Heard Lock-In
	6:00 Holiday Workshop Planing	•	Sat Nov 19	8:30 New UU
	6:30 YRUU	•	Sun Nov 20	12:30 SAC Newsletter
	7:00 Coming of Age	•		3:00 Needleworker's Affinity Group
	7:00 SAC Board Meeting	•		6:00 Dramatic Arts Pizza and Rehearsal
Tue Nov 8	9:00 Networking Group	•		6:30 YRUU/The Heard
	9:00 WPA Board Meeting	•	Tue Nov 22	9:00 Network Group
	5:30 Reverence for Life Thanksgiving Dinner	•		7:30 <i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>
	6:30 First Parish Travel Potluck	•	<b>Thu Nov 24</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>
	7:30 <i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>	•	<b>Fri Nov 25</b>	<b>Holiday — First Parish Closed</b>
Wed Nov 9	10:30 Pastoral Care Advisory Council	•	Sun Nov 27	10:00 <u>ONE Worship Service</u>
	7:00 Community of Activists Worship	•		6:00 Dramatic Arts Pizza and Rehearsal
	7:30 Orientation for 2nd-6th-Grade Teachers	•	Tue Nov 29	7:00 Seeking Circles
Thu Nov 10	7:00 <i>Main Street to Wall Street</i>	•		
	7:15 PIT Meeting	•		
		•		
		•		
		•		

year. There is an interesting exhibit now at the Concord Library, as part of First Parish in Concord's 375th birthday celebrations, displaying the signatures of the first members of the WPA. Ellen Emerson is the first signer followed by many familiar New England names such as Barrett, Brooks, Clark, Hoar, Lathrop, Prescott, Richardson, and Smith. Louisa May Alcott also signed the register on an undisplayed page. The women of First Parish did not have voting privileges until 1920, when at last they were allowed to vote at the Annual Meetings and become members of the Standing Committee. However, women have had full autonomy in the WPA since its founding.

- Rev. Edwin Lynn, Minister Emeritus of the Northshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Danvers, where he served as minister for 33 years, has recently published a book entitled *Shore Lines: Life Lessons From The Sea*. His book is based on years of living in the seaside town of Ipswich and his 40 years in the ministry. William Schulz, past president of the UUA, writes about the book, "What could be better than wisdom lyrically expressed when it is derived from an appreciation of Nature's abundance combined with the distillation of a lifetime's savvy? That's exactly what Ed Lynn has given us and it is a precious gift worth seeking out and savoring." Ed's book is available at the Concord Bookshop and [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).
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**NOVEMBER 2011 NEWSLETTER**  
 The December Newsletter deadline is Friday, November 18, at noon.  
 The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, November 29.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.\*  
 Phone: 978-369-9602  
 Fax: 978-369-8701  
 E-Mail: [FPCConcord@firstparish.org](mailto:FPCConcord@firstparish.org)  
 Website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org)

- **Ministers' E-Mail:**
- Elaine Beth Peresluha: [uurevdoc@gmail.com](mailto:uurevdoc@gmail.com)
- Jenny M. Rankin: [jrankin@firstparish.org](mailto:jrankin@firstparish.org)
- Craig M. Nowak: [cnowak@firstparish.org](mailto:cnowak@firstparish.org)
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\* PLEASE NOTE: The office is CLOSED on Mondays.

**First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Staff**

Elaine Beth Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister  
 Jenny M. Rankin, Minister  
 Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager  
 Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus  
 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 • November 2011

Welcome to the Wright Tavern Center. Online registration is available for all courses. Check our website at [wrighttavern.org](http://wrighttavern.org) for schedules, course descriptions, presenter bios, registration information and policies. Questions? Contact Cassy Bosworth at [cbosworth@firstparish.org](mailto: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 to two evening meetings each month, with a Humanist perspective. The Wednesday meetings start with a social at 7:00 p.m., with program following at 7:30 p.m. We bring together the various non-supernatural life-stances that have similar emphasis on our responsibility 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](http://www.MeetUp.com), and RSVP while you are there. Active links here and in the program listings will lead to further information. You may also e-mail **Patrick Everett** at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com), or **Maria Greene** at [maria@justmagicdesign.com](mailto:maria@justmagicdesign.com). CAH is affiliated with the American Humanist Association and with the UU-HUManists. Our program follows.

**First Wednesday Dialog in November** with Jane Holmes Bernstein. Dr. Jane Bernstein is a Senior Associate in Psychology/ Neuropsychology at Children's Hospital Boston and Associate Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Bernstein has a fascinating talk about how the structure of our brains influences our beliefs: "Humanism and the Brain." (Jane and her husband Lenn are wonderful Humanist philanthropists. They established the "L. and J. Bernstein Chair in Evolutionary Science" at Tufts

- University, a first-in-the-nation endowed chair to promote the Theory of Evolution. Jane and Lenn have been active in promoting a Humanist chaplain at Tufts.)

Wednesday: Nov. 2 7:00-9:00 p.m.

- **Open Discussion Group** in Trustees Room at Concord Library. This will be a continuation of previous discussion, or new topic TBD.

Tuesday: Nov. 15 7:30-9:00 p.m.

### T'ai Ji

- Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with 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**

- Mae Pagan has studied t'ai ji and qigong for 22 years. She follows the teachings of Chungliang Al Huang and his nontraditional style of teaching t'ai ji movement as a joyful approach to life as well as a path to wellness. With a background in Tibetan Qigong and Reiki, she provides a gentle mix of t'ai ji movement with the healing aspects of qigong. She also holds degrees in philosophy, psychology and education.

Friday: Nov. 18, Dec. 9, Jan. 13 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
\$25/session

### T'ai Chi and Qi Gong

- T'ai chi is a gentle flowing exercise that helps build and circulate energy. Based on teachings from China, we will do qi gong movements that help retain flexibility in all your joints. Students will also learn the Hwa Yu t'ai chi form, a series of connected movement that is like a slow-motion dance. Research shows that t'ai chi and qi gong improve stability, improve immune function, and create many of the benefits of meditation. If you've tried meditation, but find it hard to sit still, t'ai chi and qi gong may be the way to give yourself those benefits while gently moving your body. No past experience is necessary. Wear comfortable clothing. Instructor: **Sue Wood**

- Sue Wood has been practicing Hwa Yu t'ai chi since 1984. She was taught by David Zucker. She currently continues her t'ai chi

and qi gong study with Dr. Yang Yang of the Center for T'ai Chi Studies (<http://www.chentaiji.com/>).

Tuesday: Nov 15-Jan 17 (no session Nov. 22, Dec 27)  
6:30-8:00 p.m. \$120/8 classes

### 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 have one. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Led by: **Beth Norton and Others**

Beth Norton has been Music Director at First Parish since 1994. Beth believes in the power of music to express what is beyond words, to deepen our spiritual experience and to build community. As a singer, conductor, violinist and folk musician, Beth enjoys making music in a wide variety of styles with people of all ages and abilities.

Friday: 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.

Dec. 4, 6 *Digging to America: A Novel*, by Anne Tyler  
Jan. 22, 24 *Barchester Towers*, by Anthony Trollope  
Feb. 26, 28 *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*,  
by Rebecca Skloot  
Mar. 25, 27 *Room: A Novel*, by Emma Donoghue  
Apr. 22, 24 *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*, by Jean H. Baker  
May 20, 22 *Bossypants*, by Tina Fey

## 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](mailto: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