



The Meeting House News

IN THIS ISSUE

REVERIES

We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business; we are each other's magnitude and bond. — Gwendolyn Brooks

Healthy, vibrant communities of faith provide the safety and the love that make personal and social transformations possible. They inspire safety and love by being each other's magnitude and bond.

Faith communities require well-funded and generous operating budgets to secure the foundations supporting those bonds. You are each other's harvest. You are each other's business. Each year First Parish staff and volunteers work hard to inspire the generosity of members and friends as well as keep you informed about First Parish business. This year, because we are completing our interim time, preparing for a new ministry and integrating a variety of opinions about how money should be raised and spent at First Parish, we are encouraging a new conversation about stewardship. Trained ambassadors, visiting stewards, the Standing Committee and staff will engage all members and friends in a conversation that will define and structure inclusive, meaningful stewardship so that First Parish members and friends will be invested in stewardship, own it and feel inspired by it as a source of what binds you one to the other.



We will begin the conversation with the Sunday service on March 3. March is a month of harvest, of magnitude and bond for First Parish. This month, the Ministerial Search Committee will announce the results of its search for First Parish's next senior minister. Discovering, defining and owning stewardship is an essential aspect of First Parish's preparation to welcome and engage in that new ministry. Your stewardship team will offer every member and friend of First Parish multiple opportunities to connect new faces with seasoned members, to enjoy learning about each other lives, to share what matters to you as visitors, friends and families while talking about what you value.

Be part of a foundational conversation and celebrate the work that you do all year to support each other and the community around you. Together, discover what you are holding in trust for one another, for those who come after, so that any request for support inspires the magnitude of what binds you, one to the other and in service to something greater.

Much metta,

Elaine

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There are two inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ Family (Broad) Way Information
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

First Parish in Concord is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

Sunday, March 3

***This Sacred Essential Moment Now* — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha**

This is an essential moment in First Parish's life. You are bringing closure to your interim process. We have worked hard and learned much. You are about to learn the results of your Ministerial Search Committee's efforts to find a candidate for senior minister. Belonging and healthy stewardship will help shape the resources with which you will welcome your new minister. You are each other's harvest. You are each other's stewards. This Sunday we will introduce a new and inspiring stewardship moment for First Parish.

9:00 – Children's Choir & Gospel Choir

11:00 – Children's Choir & First Parish Choir

Sunday, March 10

***Standing on the Side of Love* — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha**

The acts of commitment and compassion that stand on the side of love can be seen in works of justice, care for individuals and the environment. First Parish does much every day to stand on the side of love. Today we celebrate all that we do as a community and as individuals to ease suffering.

9:00 – Transylvania Troubadours

11:00 – First Parish Choir

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

April: Friday, March 22

May: Friday, April 19

June: Friday, May 17

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

Editor's Note: *We are delighted that writers are so enthusiastic, but gently suggest using fewer exclamation marks. A former editor's rule was to use an exclamation mark only to announce the Second Coming — and only if He actually did come. Thanks.*

Sunday, March 17

***Taking Care* — Tony Fisher**

There has been a rich tradition at First Parish of taking good care of each other when life starts to go in unwanted and unexpected directions. This is a service dedicated to that tradition and to all the folks who give of their time to do the needed pastoral work of our chosen community.

9:00 & 11:00 – Handbell Choir, Martha Goodman, Conductor

Friday, March 22

***International Water Day* — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha**

This Friday at 6 p.m. First Parish will host an interfaith service to celebrate water as a precious resource and call attention to the need to preserve safe and equitable access to clean water around the world. Water is in danger of becoming a for-profit commodity in many areas of the globe. It is contaminated and/or limited in other parts of the world. Today we celebrate this natural resource and how we can each keep the world from Thirsting.

Palm Sunday, March 24

***Passover, Palms and A Hero's Fall from Grace* — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha**

Palm Sunday tells the story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, a hero, only to be convicted and crucified less than a week later. What makes a hero? Why do heroes fall? We will explore perfection, imperfection and grace this morning.

**9:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano & Lauren Evans, alto
11:00 – First Parish Choir**

Thursday, March 28

***Maundy Thursday* — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha and Tony Fisher**

This Thursday at 7 p.m. we honor our Christian roots with a service and communion. Maundy Thursday is a traditional remembrance of the Last Supper.

Easter Sunday, March 31

***Hard Truths and Redemptive Stories* — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha**

Easter, the greatest feast day in the Christian calendar, celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ as savior. What seasonal theme most touches the need, the loss or the hope in our hearts? How are we resurrected? Who or what do we serve and are we being faithful?

9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir and Festival Brass

Finding Your Interim Minister

Elaine Peresluha will be available for emergencies while working out of the office March 12-17.

Other than those dates, Elaine’s hours are

- Tuesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

You may contact Elaine at uurevdoc@gmail.com, or at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9602, ext. 411.

In addition to regular office hours, Elaine makes appointments to meet with people at other times. E-mail Elaine at uurevdoc@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

Elaine is unavailable except for emergencies on Monday, her day off, and Friday, her sermon-writing day.

Sponsor the Sunday Flowers

If you would like to provide Sunday flowers for a memorial or celebration, please contact **Barbara Wheeler** at 978-369-9518.

Jenny’s Portrait Artist Chosen

The committee formed to commission a portrait of the **Rev. Jenny M. Rankin** has chosen an artist. She is Mary Minifie, a seasoned portrait painter who has a studio in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The portrait, designed to honor Jenny’s 15 years as a minister at First Parish, will hang in the Parlor or Parish Hall with the likenesses of her predecessors. Dedication of the work is expected to be held in the next church year.

More than 120 members have contributed to the funding of this project. Not all the required support, however, has been raised. Any readers who wish to give may write checks to First Parish with a notation for the Rev. Jenny Rankin portrait.

Members of the Portrait committee are **Beverly Bringle, Tammie Foote, Dian Pekin, Marcia Schloss, Doug Baker,** and **Tim Blodgett**, chair.

World Day of Prayer Is March 1

Friday, March 1, is World Day of Prayer. Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer this year. Women of France have written the service around the theme “I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me.” We will stand in solidarity with immigrants in France and throughout the world as we engage in prayers and songs for their health and wholeness, and for a world of peace and justice. This year, West Concord Union Church will host Concord’s World Day of Prayer service at 11 a.m., followed by a festive luncheon program that will celebrate French culture and the cultures of immigrants in France. If anyone has art objects, decorative items, photographs, books, ethnic

First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month, in this “corner,” the First Parish Arts Council highlights events in the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.

March 1 at 7:00 p.m. – Play Reading Group

March 7 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

March 9 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club – open to all First Parish adults

March 15 and 16 at 7:00 p.m., March 16 at 2:00 p.m. – “The Family (Broad) Way” Performances

March 13 and 27 at 9:30 a.m. – “Art Seek”

March 22 at 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Singing, First Parish’s monthly song circle open to singers, instrumentalists and listeners of all ages.

For more information on these events, check the *Meeting House News*, FP Announce and the *Sunday News*.

The purpose of the First Parish Arts Council is to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection. The council is open to all interested parishioners. Contact **Lillian Anderson**, chair, for more information: lillianand@comcast.net.

clothing, etc., depicting various French and France’s immigrant cultures that the planning committee could borrow for the day, please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net as soon as possible. There is no charge for the luncheon and reservations are not necessary.

Be a Part of the First Parish Cooperative Seder, Saturday, March 23

The Passover Seder is a 3000-year-old religious celebration of freedom. It is an enjoyable communal mixture of reading, singing, cooking and eating. This year, the First Parish Seder will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, with cooking before and cleanup afterward. All ages and faith traditions welcome. No special knowledge required; just come ready to work together and have fun together. When you sign up, you will get to pick a job — shopping, cooking, serving or cleanup. It won’t happen without you!

Ages 13-80, \$15. Ages 6-12, \$5. Under 6 or over 80, free.

For information, contact **Jim** or **Dana Snyder-Grant**, 978 266-9409, jim.and.dana@snyder-grant.org, or Peter Mitchell, 978 369-5869.

Play Reading Group to Meet

The pleasure of reading plays aloud with a group is happening this spring. All are welcome. We will be gathering the first Friday of each month beginning in March. Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text.

Friday, March 1, 7-10 p.m. “August Osage County”

A woman poet addicted to pills and alcohol is beyond the glory of her life. The play tracks her life across the month of August while she lives in Oklahoma. While making funeral arrangements, each family member has personal difficulties that they are unable to resolve.

Friday, April 5, 7-10 p.m. “Driving Miss Daisy”

A widowed Jewish woman is deemed too old to drive, and her son hires an African-American man to serve as her chauffeur. A troubled and hostile pairing blossoms into a profound, life-altering friendship that transcends all the societal boundaries placed between them.

Friday, May 3, 7-10 p.m. “Good People”

In South Boston, a sharp-tongued single mom is let go from another job. Scrambling to make ends meet, she looks up an old flame, hoping he’ll help her make a fresh start.

A Welcome Oasis

Have you noticed the newly transformed corner across from the church office? A beautifully arranged, artfully lighted floral piece has replaced the bunch of miscellaneous brochures on the chest. A most welcome oasis in that busy hallway! Thank you to **Doug Baker** for providing a visual cue for us to pause and be mindful of the beauties of the natural world.

Concord Area Humanists Presentation

Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 7 p.m. in the Emerson Room.

“Are We Really Rational?”

Dr. Joe Gerstein, M.D., who has given us instructive and entertaining talks in the past, is returning to speak on what “Near-Death, Alien-Abduction, Placebo-Response, Conversion Experiences, Temporal-Limbic Epilepsy and LSD” tell us about how we think — followed by our usual energetic discussion.

Joe has wide spread medical experience and is a leader of the Greater Boston Humanists and founding president of SMART Recovery, a world-wide program, free of the supernatural, aimed at addictions. It has recently added educational centers in India and Turkey.

Broadway Review on March 15 and 16

It’s almost here! On Friday, March 15, at 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 16, at both 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., 27 parishioners will bring you “The Family Way,” a Broadway review of songs dealing with all aspects of family life. We are all members of a family, and you will see aspects of yours in this musical journey that starts with wedding bells and ends with grand-parenting, providing commentaries on all sorts of family relationships that will make you laugh and cry. Tickets are \$25.00, on sale at coffee hour or in the office during the week.

Jazz and Tea in the Afternoon — March 19

The Women’s Parish Association cordially invites you to its annual spring concert, which will take place on Tuesday, March 19. A jazz concert will begin at 3 p.m. followed by tea in the Parlor and Parish Hall. All women, men and youth of First Parish and their friends are cordially invited. There is no charge for this event and no reservations are necessary. It’s not necessary, but if possible, please bring along some nicely plated cookies, brownies, bars, etc., to share with others. Further details will be posted in *The Sunday News* and on FPAnnounce.

Annual Flea Market/Recycle Sale

The Women’s Parish Association will hold its Annual Flea Market/Recycle Sale on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to rent a table, contact **Pat Kane** at cstmcloth@yahoo.com, or at 978-369-8418, as soon as possible. Tables go fast! Table rentals are \$35.00 per table. We will not be doing a general collection of items, so if you want to sell items, one or two families could get together to rent a table. Snacks and lunch items will be sold throughout the day. Tell all your friends and neighbors about this popular event!

General Assembly, June 19-23, 2013

Urgent! Make your travel and hotel plans now for General Assembly (GA) which will be held June 19-23 this year in Louisville, Kentucky. You can plan an interesting family vacation around GA. It’s important to note that hotel reservations open up on March 1 and the best rooms are taken almost immediately. Go to the UUA website to get more information about the various programs and ways to register for the hotels, programs and plenary sessions. This is a great opportunity for everyone to grow and experience Unitarian Universalism in ways that we do only when we’re together in one large body. There are still opportunities to become a delegate from our congregation. If you are interested in being a delegate at this GA, contact **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net as soon as possible.



This Sacred Essential Moment, *Now*.

First Parish in Concord 2013 Stewardship Campaign

Each Sunday at First Parish, we light a chalice, symbol of our UU tradition and share a unison response...

*O flame of our faith, open our hearts
And fill our bodies and souls with persistent strength;
Enliven our spirits and engage us deeply in this life of ours,
This sacred essential moment now. —Paul Sawyer*

This year is a defining moment in First Parish's 375 years of history.

We have titled this year's stewardship campaign "This Sacred Essential Moment Now," to capture the importance of this year's stewardship conversation. Starting in March, we will engage in a new process of relational and financial stewardship that you challenged your Interim Minister, the Parish Interim Team and the Standing Committee, to create. How we work together this spring will shape the institutional structure, communal strength and possibility for your next ministry. Mark these dates:

Saturday February 23: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Visiting Stewards and Ambassadors training

Sunday March 3: Stewardship Campaign opens

Saturday March 9: 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Visiting Stewards and Ambassadors training

This year First Parish Members, Stewards and Ambassadors will learn about a new relational context for supporting First Parish. We will define the future for First Parish. After the worship services March 3, we will officially open this stewardship process. Ambassadors will visit each and every member of First Parish, learning what you are passionate about, what changes you would like initiated, your likes and wishes, talents, desires for learning, engaging and dreaming. We want to know about your families and anything else you want us to know.

Simultaneously, Visiting Stewards will call to share their stories, hear your stories and invite you to make a monthly, sustaining contribution to First Parish, slowly eliminating the need for annual campaigns through a process of ongoing sustainable giving. We invite you to be involved as a steward, an ambassador or a sustaining member. Contact any member of the Stewardship Team for more information.

This is an exciting opportunity for First Parish. Engage deeply in this, a sacred essential moment, now.

Your Stewardship Team,

**Elaine Beth Peresluha, Rachel Baker, Sue Dobbie, Richard Fortier and
Melissa Perdue Gallo**

Trustees Applying for Concord CPA/CPC Funding for the Wright Tavern

If voters at Concord's April Town Meeting vote to grant funding, we will have funds to replace the roof and complete a Historic Structures Report. The Historic Structures Report will help guide us in our stewardship of the structural and architectural future of this historic building.

Application for CPA/CPC Funding. In Concord, a surcharge on property tax bills funds the Community Preservation Act program, administered by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Projects for historic preservation, open space, housing and recreation are eligible for CPA funds.

Last September, the First Parish Trustees of Parish Donations applied for close to \$100,000 of the roughly \$150,000 required to do much needed work on the windows and shutters, and the historic Main Street door and roof, all in ways to maintain the architectural integrity of the 1747 building.

The CPC has recommended funding \$50,000 to be used for the roof and for a study of and long-term plan for the building. The Town of Concord Finance Committee's public hearing on all CPC Warrant Articles is scheduled for February 27, 2013.

Background on Wright Tavern. The Wright Tavern was given to First Parish in 1885. The Trustees of Parish Donations manage these donations, which include buildings (other than the Meeting House) — as well as funds invested for First Parish.

The Wright Tavern is historically significant nationally and is one of six Concord buildings eligible for National Historic Landmark status. It is important because:

- In 1774-75, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress met in First Parish and the Wright Tavern, passing measures to organize militias and end tax payments to the British Crown.
- On April 19, 1775, during the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Concord Minutemen assembled at the Wright Tavern. Later that day, when British troops arrived in Concord, leading British officers occupied the tavern.
- The original building was a fine example of Georgian architecture, and was later modified in the prevailing Federal style.
- The building helps orient modern-day visitors to Concord's 18th- and 19th-century landscape near the historic center of town.

How does the Wright Tavern Relate to First Parish?

The rent from the tavern (and from the three white cottages) directly benefits First Parish. The net rental income and investment fund return support roughly 12 to 15 percent of First Parish's operating budget.

Want to know or share more on this? Come to a Wright Tavern Open House! Check *The Sunday News* for the schedule. Open Houses will be held at 12:30 p.m. on two Sundays: March 3 and 10; and 7 p.m. on two Thursday evenings: March 28 and April 4. There will also be a gathering on Patriots' Day, April 15, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. ♦

— Trustees of Parish Donations: **Laura Bernstein, Pat Brinkman, Tim Jacoby, Dick Waters**

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) wants to share how an offer to a minister is made. All UU churches follow the same process. First, search committees screen initial applicants. They narrow that list to 3-4 precandidates and host each for a weekend that includes attending a service at a neutral pulpit. All search committees then determine who their top candidate is. All offers from all churches are extended at the same time, on the same date. No congregation may make an offer earlier. In this way, ministers who have precandidated for multiple congregations can see who makes them an offer and decide where they feel most called. Where there is a match, the next step is to finalize a contract. As soon as that contract is signed by the Standing Committee, the minister's name is announced to the full congregation. If we made an offer to a minister who decides to go to another congregation, the MSC could then extend an offer to its alternate choice. If however we have not reached consensus on an alternate choice, then ours is called a failed search. If this were to happen at First Parish, the Standing Committee would then hire a new interim minister for one year, and a new search committee would launch a new search during the 2013-14 church year. ♦

If you have questions, please contact any member of the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC):

John Boynton (jb@firehousecapital.com)

Terry Rothermel (terroth@verizon.net)

Caroline McCloy (cmccloy51@aol.com)

Mary-Wren vanderWilden

(vanderwilden@verizon.net)

Rhoda Miller (rhodamill@aol.com)

Fred Van Deusen (fredvandeus@aol.com)

Toby Smith Ropeik (tsr@tobyasmith.com)

Alec Walker (alecwalker@aol.com)

One Billion Rising

On Valentines' Day, a group of Concord residents led by First Parishioners **CC King** and **Twinkle Manning** joined together with billions around the world to stand up and demand an end to violence against women. In an incredible display of solidarity, people from Manila in the Philippines, to Taiwan, to Daci, in New Zealand, to Byron Bay in Australia, to Bali in Indonesia, to Mumbai and New Delhi in India, to Johannesburg in South Africa to The City of Joy in the Congo, to Sao Paulo in Brazil, to Atlanta and San Francisco, in many spots in between and all around the globe, people stood and danced and gave speeches and chanted and prayed for an end to abuse in whatever form it might take. This is the fifteenth year of an event that was started by Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Monologues," but this year's action was by far the largest.



The statistics are truly staggering. According to the United Nations, one in three women on this beautiful planet of ours will be beaten, raped or assaulted in her lifetime. *That amounts to well over one billion women.* One billion! One sixth of the world's population!

Perhaps the numbers are too staggering, because as Twinkle shared, what is more unbelievable is the universal lack of public outrage, "an overall deafening silence."

As numbing as the numbers may be, all of us need to shake off our indifference and accept that there are far too many women and children living under the dark weight of fear. Fear of everyday violence in a home that should be their refuge, on the street where they should feel safe, or in the company of others where they should be treated with equity and respect.

Our combined prayer is that the action on Valentines' Day, and our continued awareness of the real and immediate issues at hand, will offer new energy to those who have for so long been there to offer safety and compassion and support of victims of abuse. Our hope is that this action will spur others to join in the ongoing effort. Our dream is that our simple presence and our willingness to stand and be counted will provide a vision for a new and different future, even if it's just for one person in this community.

Domestic abuse affects women, children and, yes, some men, across all races, nationalities, religions, classes and sexual orientations. One of the most chilling things I heard in a recent presentation on domestic violence was that it is pretty much guaranteed that those of us present knew people who were living in abusive relationships. It therefore behooves each of us to be more informed and more vigilant. No longer can we accept violence against women and girls as a given. We all must stand together in the hope that One Billion Rising marks a new time and a new way of being. ♦

Blessings,


Tony

New Pastoral Care Librarian Named

The First Parish Pastoral Care Library is one of our unsung treasures. How many people are aware that it even exists. The library is located in the hallway leading to the Peter Bulkeley room, just behind the Parish Hall stage. There you will find a wall of bookcases filled with books about Living and Spirituality, Motherhood, Relationships, Children's Development, Illness and Health, Mental Health, Addiction and Related Issues, Dying and Death, and Grief and Loss. Currently the collection is color-coded by subject and we are also in the process of cataloguing the collection with Dewey numbers and authors. You can find a list of the library's books online at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/pastoral-care/library-list>.

The library is self-serve. Browse the collection and let us know if there is a book or a subject that you would like to see added to the library. **Enid Hart Boasberg** is the new Pastoral Care librarian; contact her at harpplayer@comcast.net. She looks forward to hearing from you.

Online Resource Library

Did you know that there is also a Pastoral Care Online Resource Library, which can be accessed by going to the church's website at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/> and clicking on Pastoral Care.

Tracey Hurd has compiled an extensive list of pastoral care resources, which include Care Giving; Families and Parent Resources; Family Support; Food and Benefits; and Health, Illness, and Wellness.

The Pastoral Care Team at First Parish — Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

The Lay Minister for March is **Carolyn Shohet** at careshohet@aol.com or 978-369-6231.

Minister, **Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha** (uurevdoc@gmail.com) and Ministerial Intern, **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org). Or call the church office at 978-369-9602.

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

Caring Connection, for meals or rides:
Contact **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org) or call the office at 978-369-9602.

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

In February, I had the opportunity to attend the Alban Institute’s workshop “Dealing with Difficult Behavior,” with **Rev. Elaine Peresluha** and **Bethany Lowe**. It was an informative workshop attended by about 50 ministers, rabbis, pastors, and one music director. We heard beautiful stories of healthy congregations working to better themselves and others. We heard distressing stories of congregations wrestling with how to deal with conflict.

I left the workshop with a number of tools to help mediate or resolve conflict. The tool I have been mulling over most since returning home is the question, “What do I have control over vs. what does someone else have control over.” Figuring out what I have control over can lead to creative solutions. How do *you* deal with conflict?

In preparation for the vote to call our next settled minister I would like to invite friends, regular visitors, and those considering membership to join the church now. **Only those who have become members by signing the membership book in the presence of a minister 30 days in advance may vote for the new minister on May 5, 2013.** April 5 will be the last day to sign the membership book in order to vote. Please contact **Elaine Peresluha**, **Tony Fisher** or me if you would like to arrange a time to sign the membership book.

Anne Fortier and I will lead the next series of orientations for people new to the congregation. The New to Unitarian Universalism workshop will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (note the time change). Participants will learn about the rich history of our Unitarian Universalist faith, gain an understanding of congregational polity, and better understand the role of the UU principles and sources in our values-driven movement. The New to First Parish class will be held Sunday, March 10, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff and lay leaders, find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book. If you would like to sign up for the orientations, please contact me at rbaker@firstparish.org ♦

In faith,
—*Rachel Baker*
Director of Congregational Life

Congregational Life Events

Each month in this box the Congregational Life Council will list events in the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of building community. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to rbaker@firstparish.org.

Terrific Tuesday Dinner and Vespers, each Tuesday in March; contact Rachel Baker, rbaker@firstparish.org.

Appetizers: 5:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Dinner: 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Vespers: 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Stay tuned for information on possible classes sponsored by the Wright Tavern.

Dinners prepared by:

March 5 – Potluck with set up and clean up support by the RE Council (no charge)

March 12 – Social Action Community; \$5 per person/\$20 per family

March 19 – Choir; \$5 per person/\$20 per family

March 26 – Reverence for Life; vegan potluck (no charge)

Vespers led by:

March 5 – First Parish and Wright Tavern Buddhist Group

March 12 – Social Action Community

March 19 – By Your Side Singers

March 26 – Reverence for Life

The Congregational Life Council and its meetings are open to all members and friends of the First Parish community. If you would like to add a discussion or action item or event suggestion to the next meeting agenda, please send your request to **Kate Svrcek** at katesvrcek@hotmail.com, or **Twinkle Manning** at twinklemanning@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's AM/PM Book Group

The March selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *Parallel Lives: Five Victorian Marriages*, by Phyllis Rose. The evening session will be Monday, March 25, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of **Steph Chiha**. (Note: We may need to change the site this month, and if so, will send an update to the e-mail list). The morning session will be Tuesday, March 26, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Brooks Room at First Parish.

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Other books and dates for 2013 are:

Apr. 22, 23 *Denial: A Memoir*
by Jessica Stern

May 20, 21 *Caleb's Crossing*
by Geraldine Brooks

COMMUNITY NEWS

Peace Institute Founder to Speak

Tina Chery, the founder of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, will talk about the work of the Peace Institute on Sunday, March 17 at 12:30 in the Chapel. In addition to assisting and empowering families impacted by violence by providing on-going support, the Peace Institute also raises awareness to the cause and consequences of violence on the individual, the family, and the community through education, collaboration, and policy advocacy. In October 2012, the Social Action Grants Committee of First Parish awarded the Peace Institute \$4000 to implement its PeaceZone Curriculum in Dorchester. Come learn how you can support this vital work by supporting or participating in the Mothers' Day Peace Walk in Dorchester.

MUSINGS

D'ou Venons Nous? Que Sommes Nous ? Où Allons Nous?
— Paul Gauguin

Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?
— Brian Tate

A vibrant painting with this title graces the walls of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Artist Paul Gauguin's self-proclaimed masterpiece portrays a series of human figures at all stages of life pondering the existential questions of the title. It is a painting I return to on each visit. (Click to see Gauguin's masterpiece: <http://www.artchive.com/artchive/G/gauguin/where.jpg.html>).

My musical "earworm" as we head into March is Canadian composer Brian Tate's setting of Gauguin's words (No. 1003 in *Singing the Journey*). It is fitting that this song should run through my head these days. During our interim time at First Parish, we have considered the first two questions. We answered "Where do we come from?" through the "living history" stories of current members and the voices of our forebears brought to life during the amazing 375th Anniversary celebration in 2011.



"What are we?" has been an intricate question to ponder. We have wrestled with it as a congregation through last year's Listening Sessions and the Springing Forward weekend. Our ongoing efforts to gain clarity about governance, membership and finance have this question at their core. The new mission statement we voted on last spring provides valuable guidance in our decision making.

March 2013 brings a new phase in our process. By the end of this month, we will know our candidate for Senior Minister. "Where are we going?" will become the dominant question. In Gauguin's painting, the narrative of the three questions is linear, moving from right to left — from birth to death and beyond. In Brian Tate's musical setting, the questions are layered one on top of another, woven together in melody and harmony. It seems to me that this is how we will continue this process: "Where are we going?" is entwined with "where do we come from" and "what are we?" With **Elaine Peresluha's** guidance, we have created a fabric of those two questions. Moving forward, with new leadership, we will embroider it with our response to "where are we going?"

Brian Tate composed an intriguing addendum to Gauguin's words: "Mystery. Life is a riddle and a mystery." This is my discipline for the month of March: living with the questions and the mystery.

Where are we going? I am filled with excitement and hope for the answers we will create together. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

Our Coming of Age Service was amazing. We had 23 youth, 6 mentors and 1 leader, and they all showed up. They all hustled out of bed early on the Friday morning before Sunday's service. It was a snow day. A record blizzard was coming. School had been cancelled. They could have all slept in, but no. They were all there at 9 a.m. sharp. Ready to go. No complaining. These teens were excited about what they were about to do on Sunday: share what makes them tick.

When our teens wrestle with what they believe, they are doing much more than throwing words down on a paper. They are considering what motivates us to get up each day. They are exploring what they value and how they



view the world. They are assessing their internal compass and thinking about their integrity. Without integrity, we are lost.

When our teens stand up in the pulpit and share their credo, they are expressing what lies deep within. They are being vulnerable by allowing all of us to see

what it is they hold dear and what it is that is sacred to them. As a congregation, we were there, ready to listen and strengthen our own faith about the future of Unitarian Universalism. Each teen was carrying his or her own chalice, his or her own light, into the world. And the world needs their light.

The night before the service, I got an e-mail from a parishioner who was stuck in Boston for the weekend because of the snow. "Are you still having the service tomorrow?" "Why, yes." I responded.



"Really?" he wrote, "Do you think the kids will show up with the snow and all?" I smiled. I had worried about many things, but that had not even crossed my mind. The next day, he inquired, "Well? How many came?" "100 percent," I said. 100 percent. Those teens came, you came, past COA leaders and mentors came. We all came.

March 2013 RE Calendar

Fri., Mar. 1	7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, Beth El, 5 p.m. at First Parish
Sun., Mar. 3	Regular RE for Babies—4 years Regular RE for 2–6th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists Jiffy's Farm. 9 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, Grace Chapel 10 a.m. 8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m. (Emerson Room)
Sun., Mar. 10	Regular RE for Babies—4 years Regular RE for 2-6th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists Drumlin Farm. 9 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths. Mormon Visit (Brooks Room) meet at 8:15 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 17	Regular RE for Babies—4 years Regular RE for 2-6th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists Drumlin Farm. 9 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths. (Brooks Room) 11 a.m.
Sun., Mar. 24	Regular RE for Babies—4 years Regular RE for 2-6th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists Drumlin Farm. 9 a.m. 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths, Islamic Visit (Brooks Room) 11:45 a.m. 8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m. (Emerson Room)
Sun., Mar. 31	Easter Service Regular RE for Babies—4 years

Let's learn from our kids. Let's show up for each other. Let's show up for the Becks' show. Let's show up for the Beatles concert. Let's show up to vote for our new minister. Let's show up to pledge to our annual campaign. Let's show up. 100 percent. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Coming of Age

I would like to thank our mentors — **Cynthia Mousseau, Susannah Elliott, Abby Russell Prior, Tim Jacoby, Mark Howell** and **Peter Nobile**, for all of the work toward making this year's COA program a great success. These adults were fantastic with our youth. They had fun, and they helped make this slightly new format a big success.

RE News

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I would also like to hold up **Jamie Atkins**. Jamie was a wonderful leader: organized, committed, and kind. She shepherded this program with love and compassion for our kids and for our faith. It is hard to explain why a person

would take on this intense role but she did, and she did it with grace and humor. I am so grateful to her and to all of those who have said yes to leading this program. Year after year, it is this adult commitment that carries our faith forward, into the future. These leaders are awesome! Thank you, Jamie.

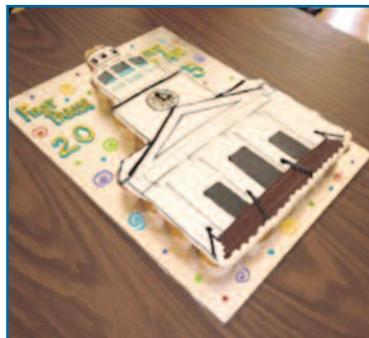
The Coming of Age Chalices

For the last four years, **Sarah Sharpe** has been making the chalices of our faith for our Coming of Age kids. I would like to acknowledge the thought, care and dedication of Sarah and her artistic talents. These chalices are unique and seem to emanate the spirit of our congregation. Thank you, Sarah, for sharing your gifts with our teens.

Second- to Fifth-Grade Workshop Rotation

This term, we are continuing the Winter Term and are exploring the “Wisdom of the World’s Religions” by looking at food restrictions in various faiths. Why is food restricted? What does that say about Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism?

Each week, we will look at these faiths through the lens of food, but also experience how each faith prays and shows respect for something bigger than the self. We will meditate and make prayer rugs and prayer beads. We will experience how such practices serve to calm the body and spirit. But most of all, we will be enjoying the companionship of each other through the rest of this Winter Term.



Orientation for Religious Education Teachers for Spring 2013

Orientation Schedule for Little RE Teachers in the Nursery:

- Babies-2 years, Spring Term #4 – Saturday, March 23, 9:30–10:30 a.m.
- 3-4 years, Spring Term #4 – Saturday, March 23, 11:00 a.m.–12 p.m.

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

- Second–Sixth Grades, Spring Term #4 – Wednesday, April 3, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Orientation Schedule for Seventh Grade Teachers in the Emerson Room:

- Neighboring Faiths, Spring Term #4 – Wednesday, March 20, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

A few weeks ago I found myself driving through Lowell, where I had spent many hours in the past volunteering at the International Institute, a refugee resettlement agency. I worked with new refugees — setting up their apartments, going to doctors' appointments, answering their questions. One Somali family still holds a particularly large space in my heart.

There were eight of them — a mother, her four children and two grandchildren. Whenever I drove up their street, their beaming faces would greet me from the third-story porch. "Bee!" they'd scream as I came up the stairs. There was always a glass of orange juice on the table, set there just for me. We would sit and communicate the best we could. There were always practical questions: How do you use an ATM? How do you set up a baby crib? How do you fix a door knob? And then there were unanswerable questions: How would they support themselves after their Refugee Cash Assistance ran out? When would the 19-year-old mother of two be able to go to college? These questions illuminated the holes in our resettlement system and society at large.

I went out of my way to drive by their apartment a few weeks ago. They had moved on to another apartment, maybe another city, but the memories I had — the raucous laughter and the somber moments — came flooding back to me.

I came to help them, but they helped me. They uncovered injustice before my eyes, but also helped me imagine a more perfect world. ♦

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

The Adverse Effects of Housing Insecurity on Children's Health, Mental Health and Overall Development

Sunday, March 3, 3:00–5:00 p.m.

- There are 50,000 units of affordable housing in Massachusetts, and there are 200,000 families whose incomes qualify them for assistance.
- Between 2008 and 2012, the number of Massachusetts families living in motels and shelters paid for by the state increased 46 percent, with the numbers in motels increasing by 145 percent.
- The barrage of stressful and traumatic experiences on homeless children has profound long-term effects on brain development and the ability to learn.

- It is state policy to deny teenage boys the right to join their families in shelters.

- Learn about state programs such as HomeBASE and the Unaccompanied Youth Bill, and how you can focus your advocacy efforts to have the greatest impact.

- Keynote speaker: Christina Murphy from the National Center on Family Homelessness. Additional speakers from state government and small group discussions with area legislators will round out this program. The forum, organized by the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness, is free and open to all. Contact **Jane Blumberg** for more information, jane_blumberg@mac.com.

"Dare to Rise" Is Chosen as Song of the Month to Launch New Website

- Recently, **Anna Huckabee Tull** and **Kathryn Shane** gifted the song "Dare to Rise" to the Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry. Because this song was initially commissioned, written and recorded by First Parish members, they would like as many church members as possible to listen to the song as it debuts. We are all very proud of the collaborative effort and the final product. Anna has chosen the launching of her new website to highlight "Dare to Rise" as song of the month. To listen to this beautiful song, inspired by the last line of our benediction, "honor all beings," visit: <http://www.custom-craftedsongs.com/2/post/2013/01/dare-to-rise1.html>.

Social Action Grant Application Is March 15

- Each year, First Parish allocates 7.5 percent of annual pledge income to Social Action grants. Twice a year, in the fall and spring, the Social Action Grants Committee distributes this grant money to local, national and international organizations. The committee actively encourages social entrepreneurship and gives extra weight to grant requests to provide seed money for a specified and limited time period to "incubate" new ideas. Grant award priority is given to these new concepts and ventures. Please keep in mind that grant applications must be sponsored by a First Parish pledging member. Further details on the grant application process, policies and requirements can be found at <http://sac.firstparish.org/cms/grants> or by contacting **Wendy Holt** at wendyholt48@yahoo.com.

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/sacemallist; or visit the Social Action bulletin board.



First Parish Celebrates International Water Day on Friday, March 22

Rev. Elaine Peresluha will be leading an interfaith worship service on International Water Day this year. Please come and learn about how we relate to and understand something that sustains us all — WATER.

Home Drop-Off Day Collection a Success!

Despite the mounds of snow, SAC collected six giant bins filled with children's books, games, toys, and clothing for Cradles to Crayons. BIG thank-you's to all who donated, as well as to Abby White, who organized the collection drive, and Emmy White and Jane Blumberg, who stayed out in the rain for two hours to help to collect and organize the items.

New Coffee Grounds Composting Program

Coffee grounds add nutrients and heat to home compost bins. The Environmental Leadership Team will implement a new program starting in March or April. First Parish makes a lot of coffee. The coffee grounds will be saved in a new composting bucket. Volunteers are needed to pick up the coffee grounds several times a week to take home and add to your own compost bin. If you have your own home composting bin and would like to participate in this program, please contact Bethany Lowe at blowe@firstparish.org. It is a win/win for your garden, for the church and for the environment. Please help to make this new program a success.

Seeds for Success — Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Thoreau Birthplace Farm

Gardening for Life, the Concord Seed Lending Library and Thoreau Birthplace Farm present Seeds for Success. Reclaim the legacy of seed saving with Bryan Connolly, Ph.D. candidate, Massachusetts State Botanist for the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program. Come learn about seed production and how you can be part of Concord's ground-breaking Seed Lending Library, www.concordfood.ning.com.

Connolly brings his experience as a field botanist, author of a Northeastern Organic Farming Association (NOFA) seed production handbook, homestead farmer and FEDCO seed saver to speak on the how and why of the seed saving of locally adapted seeds. We are delighted to have him with us to reclaim the legacy of seed saving and sharing known by generations of gardeners and farmers. The program is free, though donations are welcomed. Space is limited! RSVP to deb01742@comcast.net.

PARTNER CONGREGATION COMMITTEE

Successful Student Sponsorship Program. Many thanks to all those who agreed to sponsor students with financial need at the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr, and continuing on to university-level studies. This year, we are sponsoring 31 returning high schoolers, 11 college students, and 7 new high schoolers. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, or want more information, please contact Dana Booth, our Student Sponsorship program coordinator, at dana.a.booth@gmail.com or by phone at 978-369-5702.

Wanted: Laptops. If you or someone you know has a laptop that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to the Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) so that we can pass it on to the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. These laptops are refurbished by Ed Sterling (ed@edsterling.com), so the laptops can be outdated or even no longer working. We will be carrying up to ten laptops with us as we travel to Transylvania this summer. To contribute a laptop, please contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com or 978-369-5702.

Speaking of which... Fourteen pilgrims, including Pam Howell, have signed up, booked their flight, and started planning our July 17–29 Family Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr. It provides an opportunity for middle- and high-school-age youth and their parents to enjoy the warm hospitality of our partner Unitarian congregation in Székelykeresztúr, and see interesting cultural and historical sites across Transylvania.

Save the Date... April 27 — for “An Evening in Transylvania” — meet our July pilgrims, enjoy sights, sounds and stories from the fascinating land of our partner congregation, learn more about our partnership, and savor dinner together. Proceeds will help defray the costs of the pilgrimage and gifts for our partners.

New This Month on Facebook... On February 23 and 24, Unitarians from around Transylvania gathered to honor and celebrate the 445th anniversary of the founding of the congregation of Székelykeresztúr. Saturday's full program of speakers spoke of the beginnings of Unitarianism in what was then Hungary and the importance of Székelykeresztúr. The Sunday service was led by one of the Unitarian professors at the Theological institute in Kolozsvár (Cluj). Please visit (and “like”) the “Concord Székelykeresztúr Partnership” Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ConcordKeresztur for more information.

Join the PCC effort. There are many ways — big and small — to support First Parish's relationship with our partner Unitarian congregation in Székelykeresztúr. The PCC meets monthly on a Thursday evening over dinner in a member's home, and we invite you to join us. Our next meetings are on March 21 and April 4. ♦

Minden jót! “Best wishes!”

— Ken Estabrook, PCC Chair
ken.estabrook@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

The February 10 Standing Committee (SC) meeting was a very full evening of activity.

In our monthly discussion of governing policy, the SC and the Executive Team (ET) focused on the third of our major Governing Policies — the SC’s policies for itself, its individual members, and its chair. Because the SC must govern itself, these policies tend to go into more detail than many of the others. Among the details is the obligation of every member to act in a manner that supports the overall, long-term well-being of First Parish. This duty has been a steadying force in many of our deliberations this year.

The draft set of annual goals for the ET and the SC (many of which have already been achieved) was tabled for final editing and a vote at our next meeting. Both parties feel they have sufficient details to continue their strong support of FP’s Five Strategic Ends. (The Strategic Ends are on the FP website and define 3- to 5-year targets for First Parish; the annual goals try to define this year’s efforts in ways that can be monitored.)

In a pilot project on discernment, the SC heard feedback from a parishioner on the topic of governance. We suggested he meet with others involved in this topic and informed him about already established common ground. Unfortunately, in a meeting with an already lengthy and detailed agenda, this conversation pushed our meeting to three hours. The SC continues to want to hear from members of the congregation and has decided to continue its present practice of delegating a pair of SC members to have such conversations and report back to the full committee.

The SC heard reports from **Alec Walker** about the Ministerial Search Committee, from **Suzanne Lowe** and **Mark Russell Prior** on the GAT final report, from **Suzanne Lowe** on the January 20 Trustees meeting, from **Mark Russell Prior**, **Melissa Gallo**, **Elaine Peresluha**, and **Suzanne Lowe** on the January 24 meeting with **Patrick Everett** and Mark’s upcoming report, and from **Laurie Van Loon** and **Jack Nevison** on the February 3 and 4 meetings with Stefan Jonasson and the congregation.

The SC detailed plans to fashion a written response to the various suggestions of the congregational groups on governance, including the final report of the Spring Ahead Governance Assessment Taskforce (GAT). The report will discuss the SC’s short-term and long-term responses and be made available in late February, well in advance of a congregational discussion on March 10. That event will conclude this year’s formal discussion of governance.

Melissa Gallo presented the preliminary budget for 2013-14. **Elaine Peresluha** discussed this year’s dual efforts at fundraising with stewards and relationship building with ambassadors.

We look forward to a congregational vote to call our new minister on May 5, 2013. *Anyone not currently a member who wishes to vote on May 5 must sign the membership book before April 5, 2013.*

As March unfolds, we continue to look forward to completing a year of healthy growth and meaningful change.

As always, you can find copies of the approved SC meeting minutes in the member section of the First Parish website. You may also find recent postings on the SC bulletin board in the first floor hallway. ♦

—**Jack Nevison**, Chair of the Standing Committee

Stay in touch with us at: **Suzie Weaver**, skatesuzie@aol.com; **Jake Nunes**, jake_nunes@shs.org; **Mark Russell Prior**, mark.russell.prior@comcast.net; **Suzanne Lowe**, slowe@expertisemarketing.com; **Kate Crosby**, kate_crosby@newview.org; **Andrea Siani**, Andrea.Siani@gmail.com; **Alec Walker**, alecwalker@aol.com; **Gretchen Nelson**, ghnelson@me.com; **Patty Popov**, PPopov@nichols-pratt.com; **John Nevison**, jmn@newleafpm.com.

MARCH 2013 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
Forum	Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Post-Worship Reflection Group	Sunday	12:10 p.m.
<i>A Seasoned Soul</i>	Tuesday	12:00 p.m.
Terrific Tuesdays Dinner & Vespers	Tuesday	5:45 p.m.
<i>Tai Chi</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>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Thu Feb 28	7:00	Handbell Rehearsal	•	Fri Mar 15	8:00	The Family (Broad) Way Performance
Fri Mar 1	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Sat Mar 16	2:00	The Family (Broad) Way Performance
	7:00	Play Reading Group	•		8:00	The Family (Broad) Way Performance
	7:30	Play Rehearsal	•	Sun Mar 17	12:30	Lois D. Brown Peace Institute
Sun Mar 3	12:30	Wright Tavern Open House	•		12:30	Trustees Meeting
	3:00	Family Homelessness	•		3:00	Needleworkers
	7:00	Environmental Leadership Team	•		8:30	Youth Advisory Council
	7:00	Play Rehearsal	•	Tue Mar 19	3:00	WPA Spring Concert
Mon Mar 4	7:30	Play Rehearsal	•		7:00	Amnesty Meeting
Tue Mar 5	1:30	First Tuesday Group	•	Wed Mar 20	7:30	<i>Bringing Forth Joy</i>
Wed Mar 6	8:00	Labyrinth Meeting	•	Thu Mar 21	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	9:30	<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	•		6:30	<i>Heartsong Collage</i>
	6:00	Arts Council	•		7:30	By Your Side Singers
	6:30	Concord Area Humanists	•		7:30	Spring Equinox Circle
Thu Mar 7	4:00	Shawl Ministry	•	Fri Mar 22	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	7:00	Handbell Rehearsal	•		6:00	El Salvador Event
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•		6:00	International Water Day Service
	7:30	Congregational Life Council	•		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Fri Mar 8	12:30	<i>T'ai Chi</i>	•	Tue Mar 26	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	7:30	Play Rehearsal	•		9:30	Women's Book Group
Sat Mar 9	8:00	Play Rehearsal	•		1:30	Senior Women
	9:00	Photography Club	•	Wed Mar 27	7:30	<i>Bringing Forth Joy</i>
	9:00	Stewardship Training	•	Thu Mar 28	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	10:00	<i>Healing Angels</i>	•		7:00	Maundy Thursday
	2:00	New to UU	•	Fri Mar 29	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
Sun Mar 10	12:30	Communications Team	•	Tue Apr 2	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	12:30	Wright Tavern Open House	•		1:30	First Tuesday Group
	12:30	Standing Committee/Governance Meeting	•	Wed Apr 3	6:00	Arts Council
	1:30	New to First Parish	•		6:30	Concord Area Humanists
	6:30	Standing Committee Meeting	•		7:30	<i>Bringing Forth Joy</i>
Tue Mar 12	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•	Thu Apr 4	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	1:30	Senior Women	•		4:00	Shawl Ministry
Wed Mar 13	1:30	Pastoral Care Lay Minister Meeting	•		7:30	By Your Side Singers
			•		7:30	Congregational Life Council
Thu Mar 14	7:00	Handbell Rehearsal	•	Fri Apr 5	7:00	Play Reading Group
	7:30	Play Dress Rehearsal	•	Sat Apr 6	9:00	WPA Recycle Sale
			•			

MARCH 2013 NEWSLETTER

The April Newsletter deadline is Friday, March 15, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, April 2.

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

• Minister's E-Mail:

• Elaine Beth Peresluha: uurevdoc@gmail.com

• Ministerial Intern's E-Mail:

• Tony Fisher: tfisher@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Elaine Beth Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Tony Fisher, Ministerial Intern

Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life

Bethany Lowe, Director of Social Action

Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus

Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager

Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Emily Wheeler, RE 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

• Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

• Cassy Bosworth, Office Manager

• Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector

• Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

• Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Copy Editor



Showtimes

Friday, March 15 – 8 PM

Saturday, March 16 – 2 PM & 8 PM

In the Parish Hall

Tickets: \$25

Now on sale at Coffee Hour
and in the Church Office

Directed by **Tom and Sue Beck**
Musical Direction by **Gail Carey**



for *Spiritual* Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • March 2013

The Wright Tavern Center (WTC) is pleased to offer a variety of meaningful, thought-provoking and creative courses that provide for our infinite spiritual curiosity and development. Brief course descriptions are listed by day of the week. Please see the WTC website (www.wrighttavern.org/cms/courses) for full course details and facilitator bios. To register, call 978-369-9602, unless a different registration contact is listed with the course description.

SPRING 2013 COURSES BEGINNING NOW

Meet and Work with the Healing Angels of the Energy Field — Ariel, Raphael, Gabriel, Celestina, Faith, Cassiel, Daniel, Sarah and Michael

This course will enable you to join together with other students and work as a team — meeting and working with the Healing Angels. You will learn how to call upon the healing angels with a special prayer of invitation. You will then learn how to use an angelic heartlink to connect with the angels' energy. You will discover the special healing gifts that each angel brings; and you will invite each of the healing angels to support you in your physical, emotional, mental and spiritual healing journey.

Facilitator: *Mae Pagan*

You can call upon these healing angels whenever you need healing support. If you support others in their self-healing through energy therapies like Integrated Energy Therapy, Reiki, Therapeutic Touch, Healing Touch, Massage or other techniques, the Healing Angels can add a special spiritual dimension to your sessions.

Throughout his 12 years of facilitating Integrated Energy Therapy® sessions, international published author Stevan J. Thayer had many angels join with him and offer their healing gifts. He came to understand that these angels each brought a unique gift of healing and are delighted to be invited to offer you their healing gifts.

Saturday, March 9 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Fee: \$95

Rise Up and Call Her Name — NEW DATES

“Rise Up and Call Her Name” presents a textured spiritual inquiry focused on the Sacred Feminine. Join in this woman-honoring journey into global Earth-based spirituality to learn about goddesses from a variety of traditions, hear and tell personal stories, create sacred art, participate in rituals, discuss questions in feminist spirituality, and engage in personal discovery together. Needs 14 participants, so please express an interest ASAP to twinklemanning@gmail.com or bozenasmith@mindspring.com. (These two e-mail addresses are being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view them.)

Wednesday March 6 9:30 a.m.

Sick of It! Living Beyond Illness

Join others and give voice to the illness experience in a new way. Explore universal existential issues: letting go, accepting limitations, and living with uncertainty. Journaling, reading and discussion will help participants navigate and make meaning of the spiritual journey of illness. Instructor: *Dana Snyder-Grant, LICSW*

3 Sundays: April 21, 28; May 5 4:00–6:00 p.m. Fee: \$20

How To Become a Seasoned Soul

Gain resilience and embrace the spiritual aspects of growing older through reconnection with the life-giving experiences, wisdom and relationships gained over time. Themes include how to bear change, grieve, deepen relationships, take risks, and serve others with joy and fulfillment — and of course, mortality. Instructor: *Eliza Blanchard*

4 Tuesdays: March 5, 12, 19, 26 12:00–2:00 p.m.
Fee: \$135; plus \$12 for book if desired

Bringing Forth Joy: Somatic

Somatic Education in the tradition of Thomas Hanna is a natural, gentle way to end chronic pain, relieve stress, and restore freedom of movement. A system of neuromuscular education (mind/body awareness), somatic movement enables deep muscle relaxation, freedom from pain, and more comfortable movement. Instructor: *Nadine Kraman*

8 Wednesdays: March 20–May 8 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. Fee: \$120

Heartsong Collage

A creative and satisfying process of art and self-discovery. Select images that resonate strongly, and combine them to create uniquely significant personal collages. Use these creations for reflection, to intuitively explore life's questions. Register for both classes or individually. Instructor: *Tamasin Foote*

2 Thursdays: Mar. 21, Apr. 18 6:30–9:30 p.m. Fee: \$10 per class

CONTINUING OR REPEATING COURSES

Tibetan Buddhism

The Buddhist group meets in the First Parish Chapel Wednesdays mornings and Thursdays evenings to accommodate various schedules. These weekly sessions are open to all who are interested in transforming love, compassion and wisdom into action, regardless of familiarity with Tibetan Buddhism.

Contact: **Bill Seaver**

Wednesdays: 9:30–11:00 a.m. Thursdays: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Donations gratefully accepted

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**.

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. No fee required — just come and sing!

Fridays: March 22, April 26, May 31, June 28 7:30 p.m.

The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

The dates below are for Monday evening, 7:30–9:00 p.m.; and Tuesday morning, 9:30–11:00 a.m. There is no fee for either group.

March 25, 26: *Parallel Lives: Five Victorian Marriages*, by Phyllis Rose

April 22, 23: *Denial: A Memoir*, by Jessica Stern

May 20, 21: *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks

Monday: 7:30-9:00 p.m. (offsite: contact First Parish for directions to this session) Tuesday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. (at First Parish)

Concord Area Humanists (CAH)

Wednesday, March 6, 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall

“Are We Really Rational?”

“What Temporal-Limbic Epilepsy, LSD, Placebo Response, Near-Death, Alien-Abduction and Conversion Experiences Tell Us About How We Think.” Presenter: **Joe Gerstein**

- Dr. Joe Gerstein is a leader of the Greater Boston Humanists
- and founding president of the SMART Recovery program. The
- meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. with socializing and announce-
- ments. The program will start at 7:15 p.m., after which we will
- have open discussion with the presenter, followed by more
- socializing. At 9:00 p.m. we usually have an open steering
- committee meeting, which anyone is invited to attend.

• Inquiries please to pne@aol.com.

• Tuesday, March 19 Discussion at Free Concord Library

• **Small Discussion Group — Gun Violence and the Humanist Response**

- In the United States, firearms cause about 30,000 deaths per
- year. Humanism Manifesto III states: “Life’s fulfillment emerges
- from individual participation in the service of humane ideals.”
- What should humanists do about those 30,000 deaths? We start
- the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Trustees Room and discussion
- usually gets started at 7:15 p.m. We usually finish around
- 8:30 p.m. Hosted by **Paul Jameson** and **Maria Greene**

• Inquiries, please, to pne@aol.com.

• **ABC Music Together (0–4)**

- Mixed-age classes offer an opportunity for children to partici-
- pate at their own level, while the adults (no matter what their
- level of musical ability) and older children provide models for
- ways of music making they might want to try another time.
- Everyone in a mixed-age class benefits by experiencing the
- music making of those around them — some terrific teaching
- ideas come from very young children, who have a special origi-
- nality and spontaneity in their approach to music. For more
- information and to register, go to www.abcmusictogether.com.
- Instructors: **Tom** and **Deb Foote**

• Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9:30-10:30 a.m. 10:30-11:30 a.m.