



The Meeting House News

IN THIS ISSUE

REVERIES

“Oh, the days dwindle down to a precious few...” We will party hearty on the evening of June first, and share our closing worship on June 9. I feel our approach farewells with both gratitude and awe. You did it! And me? I got to be your doula, witnessing and accompanying you through this mighty rebirth.

Was it really two years ago when, upon arrival, I wrote:

The most important things to remember about being in the middle are:

It absolutely feels like it will be like this forever.

It absolutely won't.

You have to be in the middle until you are not.

It absolutely did sometimes feel like the uncertainty, discomfort and challenges would last forever. It absolutely has not. You have patiently and trustingly stayed in the middle until you are not. First Parish successfully practiced awareness, direct communication resistance, and appreciation for not knowing — and now you know. **Rev. Howard N. Dana** will be First Parish's next settled Senior Minister.



I have walked with you, been your confidante, your nemesis, your cheerleader and your advocate. I tried not to tell you what to do, but I probably did. I tried to listen well, but sometimes I probably did not. I told you things you do not want to hear. In spite of any errors or omissions, we did well. We have shared much, accomplished much, grown lots, confronted challenges, savored gains, and suffered loss. Together we stayed in the excitement, the disappointment, the anger, the confusion, the hurt and the hope, right smack in the middle, until we were not. First Parish — you — are so, so ready to embrace what comes next.

Until our Annual Meeting June 9, we will be completing our interim work (see “Finding Your Interim Minister” on page 3) and planning for Howard's arrival August first. The staff and I are assuring that First Parish is well cared for, and prepared. We will say farewell, letting go of a very special two years. Saying *good-bye* and *thank You* are essential parts of our interim process, bringing closure to our time together. There are stories to tell, truths to be honored, and moments to celebrate. I will be right here with you until I am not.

Much metta,

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- ◆ Concord Area Humanists Speaker
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs
- ◆ Homecoming Information

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.

Come One, Come All, to the First Parish Annual Meeting!

On June 9 at 11:30 p.m., we will hold our 377th (give or take) Annual Meeting. Among other items of business, the budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year will be presented. The priorities for this budget include raising staff salaries toward the midpoint for a church our size, and increasing First Parish's contribution to the UUA. Come listen and participate as we begin the next chapter in our church's history.

First Parish Homecoming Saturday, September 7, 2013

Picnic at 5:30 p.m.

All ages. All First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news and meet other First Parish folk. This is an evening for everyone.

Potluck Dessert

Please bring:

A finger food dessert to share

Your own picnic, food and beverage

Lawn chairs and blankets

The party will be on the front lawns of First Parish weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now. This is an event not to be missed.



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.

Editor's Note: *We are delighted by writers' enthusiasm, but gently urge fewer exclamation marks. My former editor's chief rule was to use an exclamation mark only to announce the Second Coming — and only if He actually did come. Thanks.*

Please send address changes to:

First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

Issue	Noon Deadline	Published
September	Friday, August 23	Tuesday, September 3
October	Friday, September 20	Tuesday, October 1
November	Friday, October 18	Tuesday, October 29

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

WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

ONE SERVICE ONLY from June 2 through September 1

Sunday, June 2

Annual Youth and RE Service — First Parish Youth, Avi Salloway, Pam Howell and Elaine Beth Peresluha

Come to celebrate our youth, deliver Bibles, and applaud our youth as they step up, graduate, and acknowledge their roots and their wings with their stories and songs.

10:00 a.m. ONE Service

Youth Musicians and Gospel Choir

Sunday, June 9

The Last Word — Elaine Beth Peresluha

This is it — the end of the middle, the close of our interim. It is time for “Thank you’s,” “Well done’s!” and “Fascinating!” as First Parish prepares to step into a new and exciting ministry.

10:00 – First Parish Choir and Children’s Choirs

Sunday, June 16

Keeping It Together — Tony Fisher

We live our lives, many of us, somewhat on the edge. If we’re really good at it (and contrary to what we say, many of us seem to be working hard at perfecting this life style), we move at a pace too fast to even consider what the consequences may be. This service will explore exactly what this church and our UU faith offers us in our struggle to stay healthy and whole.

10:00 – Tamasin Foote, soprano

Sunday, June 23

Living in Tension — Mark Richards

10:00 – Maddie Sifantus, soprano

Sunday, June 30

This Land Is Your Land? — Rev. Colin Bossen

At its 2012 General Assembly, the Unitarian Universalist Association passed the Responsive Resolution Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. This service will explore what this resolution means and how it is a call for personal, associational and theological action.

10:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano

Please Note: Summer Office Hours

The office at First Parish will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, beginning on Tuesday, June 11, and continuing through Friday, August 30. The office will be closed for Independence Day on Thursday, July 4. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 3.

Save the Date — Installation of Our New Minister!

Please save the date of Sunday, September 29, 2013, in the afternoon (likely beginning at 4 p.m.) to attend the Installation service for our new minister, **Rev. N. Howard Dana**. In this ceremony, our congregation and Rev. Dana will formally covenant with each other for his time of ministry with us. We will invite all the ministers from our UU district as well as clergy from all the Concord faith communities to share in our formal celebration, and to welcome Howard as a member of the local clergy. Our entire congregation is invited to this most special service with gala reception following. Stay tuned for more details in early September.

Time to Celebrate the Labyrinth!



Come celebrate the completion of our new First Parish Labyrinth immediately following the one 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, June 2 (rain date June 9). We'll gather around the Labyrinth, hear words of blessing and dedication, and enjoy a special coffee hour on the Keresztúr Porch.

Finding Your Interim Minister

Time to say our good-byes. **Elaine Peresluha** will be in the office June 1–17 for her regular hours. On June 17, she goes to General Assembly. Following GA she is the minister in residence on Star Island, Maine, for the Natural History week June 22-29. She will be in the office through July 10, then on vacation July 10-29. Until June 9, she is available at uurevdoc@gmail.com, or at First Parish, 978-369-9602, ext. 411, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. After June 9, Elaine will be making appointments Tuesday through Friday to meet with people at other times. Her last days in the office will be July 30 and 31.

Sponsor the Sunday Flowers

If you would like to donate pulpit flowers in memory or celebration of a loved one, or are interested in arranging flowers for a Sunday service, please contact **Ellen Whitney** at 978-369-7434 or ellenwhitney@verizon.net.

GA Service Project Will Promote Energy Conservation

General Assembly (GA) and the many UU's it brings to its host city strive to have a positive impact on the local community. This year GA is supporting the Kentucky branch of Interfaith Power and Light. IP & L is a national organization with local chapters that provides an interfaith response to global warming. Their mission is to be faithful stewards of creation by responding to global warming and the social injustices it creates. This campaign intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard the health of all creation, and ensure sufficient, sustain-

First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

First Parish Arts Council provides this “corner” to highlight events this summer which offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.

June 5 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

June 7 at 7:00 p.m. – Play Reading Group

June 8, July 13 and August 10 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club-open to all First Parish adults

First and third Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. – By Your Side Singers

June 28, July 26, August 23 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@com-cast.net.

able energy for all. Go to the UUA website for more information about this initiative and other information about GA2013, June 19-23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Coffee Hour Herb Garden Party — June 16

One of the most delightful places on our First Parish campus is the Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Herb Garden. **Doug Baker** and a group of dedicated volunteers have been very busy getting the Herb Garden ready for the summer season, and we extend heartfelt thanks to each of them for creating such a beautiful sanctuary that brings joy to so many of us. The Women's Parish Association cordially invites everyone to gather for a special Coffee Hour/Herb Garden Party on Sunday, June 16, right after the 10:00 a.m. service. Special herb-flavored food and beverages will be served. See you in the Herb Garden!

Play Reading Group

The Play Reading group is switching format for the summer. We will read poetry aloud on the first Friday of the month, with the exception of July 5. All are welcome. Bring poems to share and discuss. The pleasure of poetry is enhanced by sharing the story of the poet as well. In September, we will resume reading plays with themes of social justice, spiritual attainment and family conflict. Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text. The next meeting is Friday, June 7, from 7 to 9 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

Still basking in the glow of our vote to call **Rev. Howard Dana**, the Standing Committee (SC) held its May meeting on Monday, May 13, at **Alec Walker**'s house (because the church is closed on Mondays). It was our eleventh monthly meeting of the year.

First order of business was the introduction of our new Director of Operations, **Fifi Ball**, who began work on the May 13. Fifi will hit the ground running as she handles the final stages of next year's budgeting, being coordinated with the late stages of the annual pledge drive. We all extended a hearty welcome to her. (*See box on this page for an introduction to Fifi.*)

We heard from two groups of parishioners who wanted to inform the SC about their proposals for RE staffing and Wright Tavern operations. We thanked the parishioners for giving the SC some useful background and assuring us that the proposals are aligned with our mission and strategic ends. They will continue to work with **Elaine Peresluha** so that concerns may be addressed in the coming year.

Treasurer **Suzanne Lowe** reported on the feedback of the May 7 and 11 congregational discussions on the budget and on additional meetings with Elaine and Fifi. She emphasized that the goal was a balanced budget to be completed by June 2 for consideration at the June 9 Annual Meeting (see page 2 for meeting notice).

Discussion emphasized the importance of building a "sustainable" budget that would allow us to live within our means, with an additional ranked list of items available if our revenues exceeded our plan.

The current five basic assumptions in the budget are:

1. A 5 percent increase in health care costs
2. The Trustees' level revenue funding
3. A \$30K fundraising event occurring in the fall
4. All other expenses, the same
5. Revenue at the conservative projection of the Treasurer's Advisory Committee

The current top three new priorities in the budget remain:

1. An increase in Senior Minister's salary to the contracted amount
2. An increase in staff salaries toward midpoints for Large Church One
3. A beginning of a process to reestablish UUA fair share

The stewardship drive is going well and there is UU evidence that a first year with a new minister will see a "bump" in pledging. The stewardship groups are working to ensure that we benefit from this opportunity.

In our monthly discussion of a governing policy, we affirmed that we will continue the regular time at each monthly meeting devoted to policy review and revision. Suzanne suggested and everyone approved that we also include in the series a budget tutorial to introduce attendees to our revised budget reports and to basic accounting principles.

We assigned a team to review our own SC progress toward our SC annual goals, and a second team to review the Executive Team's progress toward its annual goals. Both teams will report back at the June 2 meeting.

Short discussions on a series of other topics included the 464-vote meeting, Trustees revised loan agreement, financial audit, bylaw committee concerns, recognition events for **Melissa Gallo** on May 19, **Elaine Peresluha** on June 1, **Howard Dana**'s Installation on September 29, and reports of contacts with other committees (For additional details, please see the minutes of the meeting when they are posted.)

The Standing Committee will hold three meetings before the September *Meeting House News* appears. 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. Our meetings are open to the public, at 6:30–9:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month. ♦

— **Jack Nevison**, Chair, 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@newleaf-pm.com.

Director of Operations Joins Staff

On May 15, 2013, we welcomed **Fifi Ball** to our staff as First Parish's Director of Operations (the position formerly known as Business Manager and held by **Melissa Gallo**). We are thrilled with both her financial experience and her relational skills.

Fifi lives in Maynard and attends the Harvard UU Church. Since 1994, Fifi has worked in her own business as an office organizer and productivity consultant; she has an MBA from Simmons School of Management. Fifi enjoys working with both numbers and people and is delighted to be here with us at First Parish. She can be reached at fball@firstparish.org. In her spare time, Fifi enjoys hiking, biking, reading and sewing.

MINISTERIAL INTERN



A minister friend of mine recently said that after deep, serious reflection, she had determined that the call to ministry she felt so long ago must have really been the result of sleep deprivation from a youth weekend retreat and the concomitant coffee jag. After four years and many long hours of hard and difficult work building up trust in a church still dealing with a previous failed ministry, my friend was obviously having trouble connecting to her true, original call.

I offer this up as a precautionary tale. Most of us who participate regularly in the various programs and missions of First Parish have followed a call of sorts. We are here for a reason — many reasons actually. To borrow and adapt the chalice lighting words from Mel Harkrader-Pine I used back in March:

- Some of us come here looking for solace.*
- Some of us come here and gave it to them.*
- Some of us come here seeking music.*
- Some of us come here and gave it, joyfully.*
- Some of us come here seeking learning, growth.*
- Some of us come here and provided it.*
- Some of us come here looking for a sense of security, a safe haven.*
- Some of us come here and provided it.*
- Some of us come here seeking the joy of community.*
- Some of us come here and created that.*
- Some of us come here wanting to serve.*
- Some of us come here and made it possible for them.*

It is true that our call to be here might shift back and forth from seeker to provider, and it is also true that with all things there is a continuum of dedication, a range of passion attached to our sense of belonging; but we are here, together, nonetheless, because some energy has moved us to come.

You'll note that nowhere in the reading above does it say, "Some of us come here to engage in long, arduous

committee meetings," or "Some of us come here to go over the line-item budget 20 times to be sure the allocation of funds is as fair as possible." Of course it occasionally becomes necessary to engage in the sometimes tough work of doing church, but my long-arrived-at point is that to stay balanced, to be all that we can be together, we need to continually reconnect to our own church calling clearly and faithfully, even as we go about the day-to-day work that makes this place possible.

In seminary we are taught that in order to stay connected to our call, we need to maintain a healthy spiritual practice. And so what is good for the minister should also be good for the congregation. It is truly beneficial to take the time to remember why we arrived here in the first place, and our reasons for staying. It's also a good practice to share our story with others in the community and to be reminded that they too are here following a call, that their gifts and needs complement our own. Finally, it is important to remember that we are here to take care of each other, to celebrate those individual callings, and rejoice in the often-incredible things that result in our coming together as one.

With our "regular" church year coming to a close, I wanted to remind you that we're really still here during the summer, and the opportunity for reflection and connection is still available to you. There are still interesting services every Sunday and there is still good fellowship to be had afterward. If you should want to show up during the week for a conversation, I'd be happy to oblige. Tuesday through Thursday mornings are good. Just give me a call! ♦



—Tony Fisher,
Ministerial Intern

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

What a year it has been in the life of the congregation!

I arrived in September into the middle of the interim process. I heard from many of you about your excitement for the future. I heard about your passion for building a deep sense of belonging within this faith-full community. The last nine months we have looked at our governance structure and membership policies. We have considered the routes of communication within the congregation. We have discussed the meaning of right relationships and how we want to be together in community.

The new Congregational Life Council (CLC), like a phoenix, emerged out of the dying embers of the long-standing Membership Committee. Under the expansive Congregational Life umbrella, we have experimented with different ways of sharing food during coffee hour and where to place the First Parish Connections and Welcome Table. We have modernized some communications with visitors, and streamlined the New to Unitarian Universalism classes and “path to community.” And most recently we have launched the successful Ambassador Program, where members of the congregation engage fellow members in appreciative inquiry about First Parish.

Candidating Week introduced me to the fun-loving and motivated congregation that the entire Unitarian Universalist Association looks to for inspiration. What a joy it was to be present during your meetings with **Rev. Howard Dana** and at the vote to call him as your next senior minister. I look forward to the coming year to see what we will all do together. It is a true blessing to be here with you.

In the past, the position of Membership Director was a ten-month agreement; but with the expanded hours and role of the Director of Congregational Life, I will be working through the summer. I will be working with other staff to gain the skills I need to work proficiently with the new database. I hope to develop, with members of both the Congregational Life Council (CLC) and the Nominating/Leadership Development Committee, an effective method

to gather useful and usable data from individual members and friends of First Parish, in order to facilitate the community building programs and volunteer needs of the congregation. Because the Ambassador Program is a separate initiative from the Visiting Stewards program of the financial stewardship campaign, the ambassador conversations will continue throughout the summer. (Please let me know if you would like to have a conversation sooner rather than later.) This summer there will be summer picnics, like last summer. Information about the picnics will be e-mailed out on FP Announce, or you may send me an e-mail to double-check the date, time, and location. ♦

In faith and fellowship,
— *Rachel Baker*

Director of Congregational Life

Congregational Life Events

Each month in this box, the Congregational Life Council will list events for 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.

Summer Picnics, 4:00 p.m. — We will gather every other Sunday by the Labyrinth in the side yard of the church beginning June 16 through August 25. Contact **Rachel Baker** at rbaker@firstparish.org.

Homecoming Celebration, September 7 — You will find more information on page 2 of this issue of the *Meeting House News* and in the insert at the end of the newsletter.

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.

MUSINGS AND MUSIC NOTE

Source of all to thee we raise our grateful hymns of praise.

We sing this adaptation of F. S. Pierpont’s “For the Beauty of the Earth” to at least three different tunes. All of them run through my mind in these days approaching summer. It is easy to give thanks during this season of growth and rebirth, when the seeds sown during

Elaine’s interim ministry have sprouted into the hope of a new ministry and a new era for First Parish in Concord.

I am grateful for all who regularly came together to deepen spiritually, build community and make a positive difference in the world through the music and arts ministry — even in the cold days of winter.



So, a few “grateful hymns of praise”:

For the First Parish Choir, who faithfully lead worship in song. Their combined voices remind us that we are much more than the sum of our parts, and together we can accomplish what no individual can alone.

For our Chalice and Junior Choirs and the joy of their singing. For **Gail Carey**, whose creativity and love for our children and for music ministry have guided us to build musical bridges with the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury.

For the Gospel Choir and Anderson Manuel: Small in numbers, but huge in spirit, they invited us to “tear down every wall” and let love be our religion. **Rob Castillo, Mark Weltner, Rebecca Curzon** and **Roselyn Romberg** were there each week to support the youth with musical accompaniment, rhythm and harmony.

For the By Your Side Singers, who create a sacred, meditative space, and who provide comfort and laughter with their singing. Their leadership in two Taize vespers services introduced a new worship experience.

For Eric Huenneke, our organist, who continues to reveal beautiful new sounds in the new instrument that edges towards completion.

For our Handbell Players and Martha Goodman, who reminded us how we thrill to the sound of bells in our Sanctuary.

For Tom and Sue Beck, who conceived and directed “The Family (Broad)Way,” building a community of parish performers who touchingly reminded us of the connective tissue in our church family.

For those who “Rise Up Singing” each month, sharing songs and building community through music. Our “regulars” have welcomed a growing number of “friends” from the wider community.

For the Artists and Photographers who graced the walls of the Altshuler Gallery with their beautiful creations.

For the Music Events Committee, who brought us the wonderful music of “Klezamir” and the “Sarasa” Chamber Music series

For the Arts Council, who met together to coordinate and facilitate the variety of arts events at First Parish, inspiring us and bringing us together in creative community.

... for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: Source of all to thee we raise, this, our hymn of grateful praise! ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

Exciting Changes for Gospel Choir and Youth Music Next Year!

Next year we’re making some changes to the Gospel Choir schedule that we hope will allow for and encourage more participation by our youth. Starting in September, the Gospel Choir will rehearse regularly on Wednesday afternoons from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m., concurrent with the Chalice Choir rehearsal. We expect that this change of schedule will work better with our youth schedules. And it will allow for easier collaboration between the various music groups. Gospel Choir is open to singers in 7th–12th grade.

In addition to this new rehearsal time for Gospel Choir, **Avi Salloway** is starting “The Heard Band,” which will rehearse on Sunday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m., right before YRUU meetings. We’re planning for several opportunities next year for the Gospel Choir and the Heard Band to combine forces for worship and for other musical events. Stayed tuned for details — and save Wednesday afternoons and Sunday evenings!

Can you remember the moment when you became an activist?

I can't. But I have a few inklings.

It might have been when I first learned how to cross religious boundaries, spending my days with a Mormon day care provider and my nights with my atheist-by-default, soon to be Unitarian Universalist family.

It could have been when, at the age of 8, my parents first took me to Boston Pride and I came home with rainbow flags and Planned Parenthood keychains.

Or, perhaps it was when I took my first service trip abroad, to Zambia, at the age of fourteen, and saw how AIDS had reaped that country of an entire generation.

Maybe it became concrete when I made a human chain of loving kindness to block the Westboro Baptist Church from spewing their hatred on members of my high school's Gay Straight Alliance.

All I can say is that, somewhere along the line, doing good unto others became deeply embedded in my spirit.

Can you remember when you first felt the spark of social justice within you? Please tell me your story. I'd love to hear from you! ♦

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

Join Other First Parishioners Marching in the Boston Gay Pride Parade, June 8

The Diversity Committee will take a group of parishioners to march with our First Parish banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 8. The parade starts at noon near Copley Square. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event, and help us show our support for the LGBT community. E-mail **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org, or sign up at coffee hour on June 2 if you'd like to participate. Those who wish may attend the Pride Service at the Arlington Street Church at 11:00 a.m. before the parade.

ELT Has Launched the Coffee Ground Composting Project

Twenty-five parishioners have been scheduled to pick up the coffee grounds and take them home to nourish their own composting piles. When you get your morning

coffee next Sunday, stop to admire the elegant orange bin under the sink. Sign up with **Berni Jenkins** to help. Your garden will appreciate it.

Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM) Walk in Wakefield on Saturday, June 29

The RIM Refugee Week Walk is a public event to raise awareness about issues related to refugees, asylum seekers, and asylees on both a global and local scale. The walk is scheduled to coincide with worldwide events celebrating World Refugee Day and will showcase the impact of RIM's programs as well as providing walkers with an opportunity to be engaged as global citizens. To register, go here: <http://rimwalk2013.eventbrite.com>.

Mother's Day Peace Walk Recap

Thank you to everyone who supported the 17th Annual Louis D. Brown Institute Peace Walk. First Parish in Concord, through personal donations from parishioners, as well as family and friends of those who walked, donated \$1791. When Louis was eighteen, he joined the group Teens Against Violence. Louis said to his mother, Tina Chery, "How can we be the problem when 18 years ago we were just babies? We were born into this and it is up to OUR generation to make it better for the next generation." To make Louis's vision a reality, The Peace Institute works with youth and families to focus on internal healing so they can turn their pain and anger into power and action which brings healing.

— **Rev. Margie King Saphier**

Amnesty Group 15 to Sell Household Goods, Baby Clothes at Yard Sale

A variety of household goods, including furniture, children's bikes, and clothes for babies and toddlers will be among the items for sale by Group 15, the Concord-area chapter of Amnesty International, at a yard sale to be held on Saturday, June 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the First Parish lawn. A large number of babies' and toddlers' clothes for sale will be brand new, with sales tags attached. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the work of Amnesty USA as well as that of Group 15.

Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

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



From year to year, I just never know who will step up to be the big leaders in RE. Most of the biggest leaders, you hardly even see. People like **Jamie Atkins**, who led Coming of Age this year ... and stepped up again to lead it next year too. Or **Caroline** and **Jim McCloy**, who led the Eighth Grade Play two years in a row — **Tom** and **Sue Beck** have stepped up to lead it for their second time next year. **Jan Power** stepped up for Neighboring Faiths and has held her hand up for next year too. Our OWL Teachers, **Lora Venesy**, **Gianna Drew**, **Jeff Brainerd** and **David**



McGaffin, who come back for one, two and even more years. Stepping up. These programs count on people who are willing to put themselves out there enough to say, “Yes, I am willing to lead.”

Those programs are the big ones, the ones that cannot happen without a serious commitment of time, patience and — well — love. Love for First Parish and our youth. Can I ever thank them enough? Not really. I must count on the relationships they make with our teens as their real thanks. These adults show they care and that matters a lot to our teens. They are worth it, and these adults let them know that with their leadership.



What a year it has been. ♦

Love,

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

(My new address is drepamhowell@gmail.com.)

Neighboring Faiths

This year our Neighboring Faiths curriculum was totally revitalized. **Jan Power** took this important program in a way that reflects our deep commitment to our youth’s understanding of other faiths. We do not just “tolerate” other religious traditions; we embrace them as representing the many ways of expressing divine and human love. This incredible program helps our seventh graders understand our faith in relationship to other faiths, not separate from other faiths. Jan has done so much to summarize each faith’s traditions and spiritual practices, but her work is much more than facts and figures. This new curriculum asks our youth to

June 2013 RE Calendar

Sun., June 2	10:00 a.m. ONE Service Only Regular RE for Babies – 4 years Regular RE for 2nd–4th Grades (Emerson Room) 5th & 6th Grades Neighboring Activists – First Parish Garden 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths. 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
Sun., June 9	10:00 a.m. ONE Service Only Regular RE for Babies – 4 years Regular RE for 2nd–4th Grades (Emerson Room)

begin the journey of understanding what they believe about life and death, about being good, about what is a “justice-filled” life. Our youth begin to understand the privilege and responsibility of being a good Unitarian Universalist, and that is the primary goal of our religious education program here at First Parish. Thank you, Jan!

First Parish Community Garden — Summer RE!

If you want your family to be part of some real social justice work, sign up to care for our community garden. All summer, we grow flowers and vegetables for Open Table, Pastoral Care ministries and green supplies for our RE program. Here is the Doodle link if you would like to sign up with others to work for a week in our garden:

<http://doodle.com/esp2dxagsbyfu55w>



I encourage multiple families to sign up for the same week. Gardening with others is way more fun.

If you would just like to show up and work, come on Thursdays between 3 and 4 p.m. If you are lucky, others will also be there at that time to care for the garden. Kids learn so much working in the dirt.

OWL — Our Whole Lives...

This year was a whirlwind! We had an energetic group of 24 teens. We were constantly amazed by this smart and engaging bunch, as we plugged through topics like consent, relationships, gender roles, STI’s, and decision making with speakers, games, and plenty of snacks! I feel particularly lucky to have taught with



Jeff Brainerd, Gianna Drew and Dave McGaffin. We had lots of laughs, learning new things as answered questions posed by our 13-year-olds! We had a lot of fun getting to know each other better, while laying UU foundations for healthy adulthood. — **Lora Venesy**

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS: THE HEARD

YWOW, what a great year it has been! We are thrilled to be culminating our journey with The Heard–Senior Service on Sunday, June 2. We have designed our service around our solidarity and pride for our home and dedicate Sunday to BOSTONSTRONG! Come join us in song, story, and reflection as we honor our community and graduating seniors.



Music has been an underlying thread in our experience together and we are excited to announce the beginning of THE HEARD BAND! The group will be open to all high-school-age youth, and we will meet weekly on Sunday evenings before youth group. The band will practice material of the participants’ choice and will work to perform at church and Concord area events, such as the cabaret night, worship services, town fairs, and FP fundraiser events and parties. I will also be leading songwriting workshops and will help the members develop their creative craft. Can’t wait to rock it with y’all!

Mark your calendars:

June 2, The Heard Youth Service and Senior Recognition — Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m.; service at 10:00 a.m.

June 9, End of the Year BBQ Party — 6:30 p.m. We’ll be grilling up a storm and playing Frisbee™ and games with the seniors for the last time of the year! All COA and OWL members are encouraged to come. Please RSVP to avifirstparish@gmail.com. Instruments welcome. ♦

See you soon!

— *Avi Salloway*

Youth Program Director

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP NEWS

This summer will be a busy time for the Transylvania Partnership Community!

On the evening of July 14, please join us for a special “send-off” celebration for the 14 First Parishioners who are participating in the first Family Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr July 17-29. (Look for more details to come in the *Sunday News* and FP Announce.) If you have a letter or other item (think small, flat and light!) that you’d like to have carried to Transylvania, please let **Rodger Mattlage** or **Ken Estabrook** know by July 1.

Although some of the pilgrims (**Rodger Mattlage, Jess Atkins, Cam Vilain, Sarah Napoline, Linde Ghery,** and **Ken Estabrook**) have been to Transylvania before, this will be the first trip for most of them (**Pam Howell, Suzie Weaver, Tophier** and **Sarah Buck**, and our four young pilgrims **Nory** and **Sanche Buck, Aurora** and **Haven Estabrook**). It will be so interesting to see our kids and the Transylvanian kids sharing their crafts and other activities with one another. Will Old World craftsmanship ever be the same after gimp, duct tape, and iron-on beads?

We will continue to meet during the summer as we create and plan an exciting new vision for the Transylvania Partnership. We are putting together the coming year’s program of quarterly events, including these two in September and October; an amazing photo celebration of our Transylvania Partnership at First Parish, and on the evening of Friday, September 27, a potluck dinner with a special speaker and presentation on this summer’s pilgrimage.

Please join us in growing the Transylvania Partnership. There are many ways — big and small, but all important — to support the partnership. Learn more at one of our upcoming meetings scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Emerson Room on Thursday, June 13, July 11 and August 15.

Wanted: Laptops As we travel to Transylvania this summer, we will be carrying laptops for the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. If you or someone you know has a laptop that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to this effort. The laptops are refurbished by Ed Sterling (ed@edsterling.com), so they can be outdated or even no longer working. For more information, please contact **Dana Booth** at dana.a.booth@gmail.com or by phone at 978-369-5702.

We’re on Facebook! Please visit (and “like”) the “Concord Székelykeresztúr Partnership” Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ConcordKeresztur. ♦

Minden jót! “Best wishes!”

— **Ken Estabrook**,
Transylvania Partner and TPC Chair
ken.estabrook@gmail.com

SUMMER 2013 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

Buddhist Group

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.

Buddhist Group

Thursday 7:30 p.m.

Men's Group

Saturday 7:30 a.m.

Sat Jun 1	9:00	Photography Club	•	Fri Jun 14	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	6:30	Celebration of Elaine Peresluha's Interim Ministry at First Parish	•		12:30	<i>Tai Chi</i>
Sun Jun 2	11:00	Labyrinth Dedication	•	Sat Jun 15	10:00	Amnesty Yard Sale
	6:30	Standing Committee	•	Sun Jun 16	11:00	Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party
	7:00	Environmental Leadership Team	•		3:00	Needleworkers Group
Tue Jun 4	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Tue Jun 18	7:00	Amnesty Group
	9:30	WPA Visioning Workshop	•	Wed Jun 19	6:00	SAC Grants
	1:30	First Tuesday Group	•	Thu Jun 20	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	4:00	Shawl Ministry	•	Fri Jun 28	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Wed Jun 5	4:30	Junior Choir	•	JULY		
	5:15	Chalice Choir	•	Thu Jul 4	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	6:00	Arts Council	•	Thu Jul 11	7:00	Transylvania Partner Community
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists	•	Sat Jul 13	9:00	Photography Club
	7:45	Adult Choir	•	Thu Jul 18	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Thu Jun 6	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Fri Jul 26	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	AUGUST		
	7:30	Congregational Life Council	•	Thu Aug 1	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri Jun 7	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•	Fri Aug 2	7:00	Poetry Reading Group
	7:00	Play Reading Group	•	Sat Aug 10	9:00	Photography Club
Sat Jun 8	9:00	Photography Club	•	Thu Aug 15	7:00	Transylvania Partner Community
Sun Jun 9	11:30	Annual Meeting	•		7:30	By Your Side Singers
Tue Jun 11	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	•	Fri Aug 23	September	<u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE!</u>
Thu Jun 13	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>	•		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	7:00	Transylvania Partner Community	•			

JUNE/SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER

The September Newsletter deadline is Friday, August 23, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, September 3.

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: FPConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

Minister's E-Mail:

Elaine Beth Peresluha: uurevdoc@gmail.com

Ministerial Intern's E-Mail:

Tony Fisher: tfisher@firstparish.org

* **PLEASE NOTE:** The office is CLOSED on Mondays. Summer Office Hours in effect June 11 through September 3.

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Elaine Beth Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister

Tony Fisher, Ministerial Intern

Fifi Ball, Director of Operations

Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life

Bethany Lowe, Director of Social Action

Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus

Tina Storey, Assistant to the Director of Operations

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

Summer Worship Schedule

June 16 through September 1 — Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

	WORSHIP LEADER	ORGANIST/PIANIST	GUEST MUSICIAN
June 16	Tony Fisher Ministerial Intern First Parish in Concord	Joyce Painter Rice	Tammie Foote, soprano
June 23	Mark Richards Member, First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	Maddie Sifantus, soprano
June 30	Rev. Colin Bossen PhD Student, American Studies, Harvard University, and Unitarian Universalist Minister	Joyce Painter Rice	Pam Schweppe, soprano
July 7	Sarah (Keleher) Napoline Andover Newton Theological School Student and Member, First Parish in Concord	R. Phipps-Kettlewell	Mark Weltner, voice and guitar
July 14	Bob Goodearl Member, First Parish in Concord	R. Phipps-Kettlewell	Bob Goodearl & Friends
July 21	Kim Novick Member, First Parish in Concord	R. Phipps-Kettlewell	Norma Floyd, viola/violin
July 28	Rachel Baker Director of Congregational Life First Parish in Concord	R. Phipps-Kettlewell	Nancy Ackerman, clarinet
August 4	Heather Concannon Andover Newton Theological School Student	Mary Jane Rupert	Joan Esch, cello
August 11	Bethany Lowe Director of Social Action First Parish in Concord	Joyce Painter Rice	Lauren Evans, alto
August 18	Matt Meyer Percussionist and Friend of First Parish in Concord	Joyce Painter Rice	Matt Meyer
August 25	Women's Circle Bozena Smith	Joyce Painter Rice	Larry Gall, bass
September 1	Pam Howell Director of Religious Education First Parish in Concord	Eric Huenneke	Rob Hamilton & Friends

CONCORD AREA HUMANISTS and WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER
present **Alan M. MacRobert**

"Cosmology Today: The Big Bang, the Multiverse, and Everything"

Wednesday, June 5, 2013, 7:00 PM

At **First Parish In Concord**, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

Cosmology. The last 15 years have brought an explosion of astronomical discoveries about the universe as a whole, the earliest moment from which it erupted, how everything got from then to now, and hints about a wider "multiverse" of countless other Big Bangs separate from ours. Origin questions that used to be philosophy and religion are becoming addressable by science and experiment. Get caught up on 21st-century cosmology with Alan MacRobert, a senior editor of *Sky & Telescope*, America's leading astronomy magazine.



Sky & Telescope photo by Chuck Baker.

Meeting will start at 7:00 with socializing and announcements. Program then at 7:15, followed by discussion finishing by 9:45. Then more socializing and an open Steering Committee meeting, all invited.

Alan became an amateur astronomer in 1965 and a *Sky & Telescope* subscriber in 1966. He joined the editorial staff in 1982 and is now a senior editor. Over the years he has played a role in practically every part of the magazine, especially upcoming celestial events, amateur observing projects, equipment tests, and news articles. He also has a big hand in *Night Sky* and its Web site.

Among his most popular articles have been the Star-Hopping series of 28 deep-sky tours, which he scouted using the 6-inch reflecting telescope he built at age 15. Many of these are collected in his book *Star-Hopping for Backyard Astronomers*. More than a decade ago he built an observatory for his 12.5-inch f/6 reflector, shown here. Before joining *Sky & Telescope* Alan worked as a reporter and editor for alternative newspapers. His physics degree is from Cornell University in 1972. He has contributed to *Not Necessarily the New Age*, *The Fringes of Reason*, and many other books and magazines. He makes radio and TV appearances, writes an astronomy column for the *Boston Globe*, and speaks at amateur astronomy gatherings. In 2003 the asteroid (10373) MacRobert was named in his honor.



The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • Summer 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.

Apply to Lead a Course!

The Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal is inviting applications to lead courses this fall. Wright Tavern offers a wide variety of opportunities for deepening spiritually and life-long learning. We welcome both new ideas and returning programs. Applications are due by June 14. For further information or to request an application form, please contact **Lora Venesy** venesy@comcast.net; **Linde Ghere**, laghere@gmail.com; or **Tammie Foote**, TamasinFoote@feete.com.

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!

Friday: June 28, July 26, August 23 7:30-9:00 p.m.

The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the 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.

The September *Meeting House News* will list the 2013-14 book group titles, meeting days and times.

Concord Area Humanists (CAH)

Concord Area Humanists will present Alan M. MacRobert on the explosion of astronomical discoveries about the universe, the earliest moment, how everything got from then to now, and hints about other Big Bangs separate from ours. Origin questions that used to be philosophy and religion are becoming addressable by science and experiment. Get caught up on twenty-first century cosmology with Alan MacRobert, a senior editor of *Sky & Telescope*, America's leading astronomy magazine.

Wednesday: June 5 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation

Inquiries, or request to be on e-mail list, to pne@aol.com, with CAH in the subject line.

T'ai Ji and Qi Gong

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with Qi Gong and the simple movement of T'ai Ji, we can release blocked energy, create wellness, and bring our lives into balance. This class is geared to people of all ages. It offers gentle low-impact exercise to reduce stress, to enhance optimal health, and to simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: **Mae Pagan**

Friday: June 14 12:30-2:00 p.m. \$25/session

COMING IN THE FALL

Save the Date — Talking about the Soul of Money

First Parish is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world. How does our relationship with money relate to, inform, serve or compromise our mission? Examining our attitudes toward money — earning it, spending it, and giving it away — can offer surprising insight into our lives, our values, and the essence of prosperity. Mark your calendars now for this inspiring, paradigm shifting presentation by two nationally recognized fundraising practitioners specializing in integrating effective mission-based fundraising into the core of social profit organizations. Facilitators: **Lori Jacobwith** and **Kristi Scarpone**

Tuesday: September 17 7:30 p.m.

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD HOMECOMING

Saturday, September 7, 2013
picnic at 5:30 pm



For all ages and all of First Parish. Bring your whole family! Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer's news, and meet others at First Parish. **This is an evening for everyone!**

On the **front lawns of First Parish**, weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. **No admission charge.**

PLEASE BRING

- ▶ A finger-food dessert to share
- ▶ Your own picnic, food & beverage
- ▶ Lawn chairs and blankets

Croquet!
Potluck Dessert!
Labyrinth!
Rise Up Singing!