



September 3, 2013
Volume 50, No. 1

Our fiftieth year!

The Meeting House News

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1	REVeries In This Issue
Page 2	Worship Services Schedule First Parish Homecoming Parish Notes
Page 3	Howard Dana Installation
Page 4	Parish Notes, continued Arts Corner Events
Page 5	Pastoral Care News Ministerial Intern Reflection
Page 6	Standing Committee News
Page 7	Congregational Life Partner Congregation Committee
Page 8	SAC News and Events
Page 9	Women's News SAC, continued
Page 10	MUSings and Music Notes
Page 11	Music Notes, continued
Page 12	REflections and RE News
Page 13	RE News, continued
Page 14	RE News, continued YRUU Youth Group News
Page 15	September 2013 Calendar
Page 16	First Parish Contact Info and Staff

REVERIES

I want to thank all of you who have offered me a warm welcome to First Parish in Concord. It is good to be among you and I am eager for our work together. It is clear to me that you all have done a tremendous amount of work during the interim years. You are clearly a healthier institution for your work with Rev. Elaine Peresluha. And there is much more work to be done in bringing First Parish to a place where it can fully function as the large church that it is.

During my first month as your minister, many people made appointments to talk with me privately. Some people were eager to meet me and to let me know what is going on in the church. These and other conversations have been eye opening. I have learned things about your history I did not know. I have become acquainted with various sides of various issues. I have heard stories of betrayal and hurt feelings. I have seen tears. And all of this was to be expected.



First Parish in Concord has been through some tough times in the last five years. I am not surprised by the grief, anger, frustration, and resentment that shows itself here. The healing of the congregation will take a few more years at least.

And this healing is the good work to which we must all attend. Money is the other factor that seems to overshadow every conversation I have had this first month. Money is a huge issue for our congregation — how much money is needed, how it is raised, how it is spent, who gets to spend it, and how trustworthy are those handling it. Moving First Parish from a mentality of scarcity to a place of abundance will not come easily either. And it is good work too.

As we all settle in together this first year, I hope we will continue the good work started in the interim. I hope we will attend to the healing work that can bring a fragmented congregation back together. Then I hope we start thinking about what our future might look like. It will be years before First Parish is ready to live out a larger mission, but we can begin imagining what that mission might look like right now. And that is exciting. See you in church.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

There are SIX inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ Concord Ag Day
- ◆ Minerva Potluck
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Special Event: The Soul of Money
- ◆ YRUU Retreat
- ◆ Homecoming Picnic
- ◆ 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

Opening Sunday, September 8

Coming Back Together — Rev. Howard N. Dana
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 15

How Long Must Forgiveness Last — Rev. Howard N. Dana
9:00 – First Parish Choir
11:00 – Folk Ensemble

Tuesday, September 17

Evening Worship
Water Communion: Swimming through the Waters of Life — Tony Fisher, Rachel Baker and Bethany Lowe
7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 22

Discovering You You — Rev. Howard N. Dana
9:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano
11:00 – First Parish Choir

Sunday, September 29

Friendship across the Waters — Rev. Howard N. Dana and Rev. József Szombatfalvi
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir

Sunday Flowers for the Sanctuary

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.

The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — online and in print, 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	Published
October: Friday, September 20	Tuesday, October 1
November: Friday, October 18	Tuesday, October 29
December: Friday, November 15	Tuesday, November 29

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.*

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. Enjoy the labyrinth, Rise Up Singing, croquet, Flower Fairies.

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.

PARISH NOTES

Finding Your Minister

Howard Dana's hours are the following:

Tuesday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

You may contact Howard at hdana@firstparish.org, or at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9602, extension 411. His cell phone number is 717-412-8543. In addition to regular office hours, Howard makes appointment to meet with people at other times. Please call or e-mail him to schedule an appointment.

Howard is unavailable, and does not look at e-mail except for emergencies, on Monday, his day off, and Friday, his sermon writing day.

First Parish Service Directory

A First Parish Service Directory is being compiled so that we can support the members of our parish, who in turn support First Parish. **Francene Amari-Faulkner** is collecting and compiling the information.

If you would like your services or products listed in this directory, e-mail your information to: francene99@gmail.com. Please include the "type" of service you provide. Note: You must be a supporting member of First Parish to be included in this directory.

Play Reading Group

Play Reading group is back! We will read plays aloud on the first Friday of the month, beginning on September 6 at

Parish Notes

continued on page 4

**A First Parish "State" Event —
Installing Our New Minister!
Sunday, September 29, 4:00 p.m.**

Our entire congregation is invited to participate as we install our new senior minister, the **Rev. Howard N. Dana**. The Service of Installation will be held Sunday, September 29, 2013 at 4:00 p.m., immediately followed by a festive reception. During the service, Howard and our congregation will formally covenant with each other for his time of ministry with us. There will be special guests and speakers and a processional of invited clergy from our UU District, the UUA, our partner congregation in Székelykersztúr, and Concord's other faith communities. Howard Dana will be just the 18th senior minister to serve our congregation in our 375+ year history. Please join us for this most special and historical ceremony and celebration! Children are welcome and optional childcare will also be available.

More Information and How You Can Help

The Installation Committee is hard at work planning for this special event. The service is expected to last approximately 90 minutes and will be followed by a festive reception. Weather permitting, the reception will be outdoors. Participation is needed from many of you to make this event happen and we would love your help with:

- Cooking for the reception (see note below from **Caroline McCloy**)
- Reception set-up
- Reception clean-up
- Ushering and parking direction
- Childcare during the service (perhaps your teen?)
- Welcoming and refreshments for participating clergy

For more information or to sign up to help, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com, or 978-369-1471, or speak to another committee member, or stop by the Installation Committee table at coffee hour on September 8 and 15. (See note below to help with reception food.)



the Congregation of the First Parish in Concord

requests the honor of your presence at

the Installation of

Rev. Howard N. Dana

Sunday ♦ September 29 ♦ 2013
four o'clock in the afternoon

First Parish Meeting House
20 Lexington Road
Concord ♦ Massachusetts

Reception immediately following

*Clergy and Seminarrians are invited
to gather at 3:00 P.M. to robe and process*



Calling All Cooks!

The Installation Committee is looking for people to make hors d'oeuvres for the reception following **Howard Dana's** Installation Service on September 29. For ease of heating, plating and serving, there will be a set menu. We will provide recipes and instructions. All you do is drop off your contribution in the kitchen before the service. Many hands make light work, so if you are willing to help, please contact **Caroline McCloy** at cmccloy51@aol.com or 978-371-1039 by September 15, or stop by the Installation Committee table at coffee hour on September 8 and 15.

Thanks in advance for everyone's help!

From the Installation Committee:

- Darien Smith**, Chair
- Sara Ballard**
- Valerie Holt**
- Tammie Foote**
- Caroline McCloy**
- Suzie Weaver**

7:00 p.m.; all are welcome. Bring a copy of *Oleanna* by David Mamet, to read and discuss.

Oleanna: A male college instructor and his female student sit down to discuss her grades and in a terrifyingly short time become the participants in a modern reprise of the Inquisition. Innocuous remarks suddenly turn damning. Socratic dialogue gives way to heated assault. And the relationship between a somewhat fatuous teacher and his seemingly hapless pupil turns into a fiendishly accurate Xray of the mechanisms of power, censorship and abuse.

Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text

WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting — September 25

The Women’s Parish Association will begin its year with a special luncheon program on Wednesday, September 25, by Jason Bond, renowned chef of Bondir Restaurant. Bondir is opening at 24 Walden Street in Concord Center very soon, and Jason will talk about his plans to offer a unique and very exciting restaurant for everyone’s enjoyment. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a delicious lunch at noon and the presentation thereafter. After the program, the WPA will hold its annual meeting. Reservations are required for this catered event. The price is ten dollars. Contact the church office or **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net by September 21 for reservations, as well as dietary requirements, child care and transportation requests. Join old and new friends as we begin a new church year of friendly luncheons, interesting programs and fun fundraising events!

Save the Date — Holiday Artisans Fair, Saturday, November 2

It’s not too early to start planning for the annual Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a major fundraiser for the church, which the Women’s Parish Association organizes. This fair has been a popular Concord tradition for over 30 years and attracts great artists and artisans. This year, 50 artists and artisans will offer very high quality handmade items for sale throughout our church facilities. The WPA will have its own boutique, and delicious breakfast, lunch and snack foods will be sold throughout the day. A fun time will be had by all! Contact the church office or **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net to volunteer your help at this great community event.

First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month, in this “corner,” the First Parish Arts Council highlights events for 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.

September 1 – October 31 – Transylvania Photo Exhibit – Altshuler Gallery

September 4 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

September 11 at 7:00 p.m. – Shakespeare Reading Group

September 14 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club meeting – open to all First Parish adults

September 27 at 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Singing, First Parish’s monthly folk song circle open to singers and instrumentalists 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.

WPA Boutique at the Artisans Fair

The Women’s Parish Association will have its WPA Boutique again at this year’s Holiday Artisans Fair and is looking for donations of handmade items to sell at that time. Please contact the office or **Marilyn Lowitt** at Marilyn.Lowitt@verizon.net if you have items to contribute. Homemade items such as the following are being sought: knitted or crocheted scarves, knitted purses, knitted or crocheted clothing or home decorating items, quilted items, jewelry, handsewn items, etc.

Pastoral Care Is "Us"!

The Pastoral Care team at First Parish has continued to work throughout the summer to tend and offer help to fellow parishioners who need a meal or a ride, or just a shoulder to lean on. In truth however, Pastoral Care at First Parish can't happen without you!

Of course we would love to have you join the wonderful group that gathers in the kitchen every once in a while to cook meals for members in our congregation who are facing challenges. We would love it if you were willing to provide transportation for someone who needs to get to a doctor's appointment or just to get out to the grocery store. It would be great too if you wanted to join the knitters whose beautiful shawls wrap some of our members in the warm embrace of community, or if you simply wanted to help deliver flowers during the holidays. If you have a desire to help with any of these activities or to participate in the pastoral ministry of the church in any way; please let me know, the more hands and hearts, the better.

What is equally important, however, is that each of us takes it upon ourselves to minister to each other. To ask the question, "How are you?" and be ready to listen with active ears and an open heart and be prepared to respond when it seems that things aren't perfect. Most of the time it just takes an extra moment to let someone know they've truly been heard and that you care. Sometime it can take the form of letting the minister know you are concerned about someone.

I have a teacher in seminary who constantly reminds us future ministers that while it's important to keep honing our pastoral skills, the truth is that a church that truly takes care of its own has a power for healing far beyond that of any one pastor. Pastoral Care is *You!*

— *Tony Fisher*

Ministerial Intern

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

The Lay Minister for September is **Sue Dobbie**
susandobbie@gmail.com or 978-456-8432.

Minister: **Rev. Howard N. Dana** (hdana@firstparish.org)

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 or
781-257-5025

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).

There is a long-standing debate in the Fisher household as to when summer ends and fall begins. This conversation hinges on whether one gauges things according to the weather and sees the soft sunny days of summer extending well into September or early October (depending on global warming), or whether the uptick in activity around the start of school and church and social events signals the end of the season.

I had long been an advocate of the former view, wanting to hold on to the spirit of summer as long as possible, while my wife Ann usually started to bemoan the end of summer sometime in late July. More recently, however, the tide has begun to turn. As I move further into the ministerial process, I find myself eager to begin the church year and the attendant planning that goes with it. I look forward to the ingathering of community, to reconnecting, and to the joy of working and worshiping together. I'm already whistling one of my favorite hymns, the words forming in my mind as I enjoy these beautiful, end of August days:



From hand to hand the greeting flows,

From eye to eye the signals run,

From heart to heart the bright hope glows,

The seekers of the light are one!

As both learner/observer and participant in the process of church, I can tell you that this eagerness is shared among your lay leadership and the staff at First Parish. If you haven't been around since June (or even longer), the only missing ingredient is you! I hope to see you soon!

Blessings,

Tony

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

Yes! The Standing Committee (SC) do meet during the summer! Our First Parish Standing Committee calendar begins in June. Here are a few high points from our August 11 meeting.

We continue working with our organizing template of areas to be covered; some of these are reviewed each month, and some are slotted for special attention once a year. We add other items to our agenda as issues arise. Our summer areas of focus have been to look back at unfinished business, and to begin preparations and brainstorming for the upcoming church year. We will meet for a retreat to deepen this work, beginning August 21. We'll reassess our end statements (linked to our mission) and our goals.

Our August 11 meeting was made special by the presence of our new minister **Howard Dana**. We welcomed him with enthusiasm, and appreciated his input. He encouraged us to continue to expand our role to provide warm facilitation for congregational initiatives, and to clarify the appropriate levels of support to a diversity of groups and committees.

Howard underscored the expectation that the work of the SC include more than our regular monthly meetings — for example, subgroups the SC organizes for specific purposes, and collaborations with other groups in the church. At this meeting, several established sub-committees were reconfirmed, and several proposed ones discussed.

Our new clerk, **Kristin Haddad**, has taken on the Herculean task of recording our proceedings so you can all see what takes place at each meeting. (Note: *The Standing Committee meets monthly at First Parish on the second Sunday of the month from 6:30-9:00 p.m.*)

Fifi Ball, our new Director of Operations, and **Suzanne Lowe**, our Treasurer, presented updated information on First Parish's financial picture. They are working hard to streamline and clarify our budget and our stewardship efforts.

We voted to give **Rev. Elaine Peresluha** a special payment of \$20,000 in recognition of her extraordinary efforts during her tenure as Interim Minister at First Parish.

Stay tuned for the more complete and formal minutes from this meeting. Minutes are posted on the website and the bulletin board at First Parish every month after the SC has had a chance to review and approve them.

And ***make sure to mark your calendars*** for **Howard Dana's** Installation ceremony, to take place on September 29 at 4 p.m. ♦

— **Laurie Van Loon**, Vice Chair,
Standing Committee

Stay in touch with us at:

Laurie Van Loon, lvanloon@comcast.net; **Kristin Haddad**, Kristin.haddad@gmail.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.

NOTE: Standing Committee Update; Revised Meeting Times

Heads up, everyone! As you all know by now, the Standing Committee meets on the second Sunday of each month in the evening. However, this will not be the case for September and October. The Standing Committee's annual retreat is causing a conflict in September, and we thought it would be a good idea to avoid the Columbus Day Weekend in October.

Therefore, the regular monthly SC meetings have been rescheduled as follows:

Tuesday, September 3 and Sunday, October 6; both meetings are at First Parish 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Come November, everything returns to normal.

When we walk through the doors of a house of worship, we come in for different reasons. Some may come because it is what we have always done on certain mornings. Some may come to visit with friends or have a job to do. You may have been invited. You may be missing something, but you don't know what. Maybe you come so that your children will receive a pluralistic, comprehensive and fun religious education. Perhaps some are going through a rough time and need the kind of support one receives in worship.

We come through the door for different reasons; but when we choose to stay, it is because it has become our congregation, our religious community. We have a stake in it. We care that it exists. We want it to persist. When you reach out to touch the pew in front of you, you want that pew to support someone else someday.

Unitarian Universalist minister, Rev. Alicia Forde reminds us, "In our covenantal faith, we abide not by creeds, but by negotiated and renegotiated bonds that hold us together in relationship. We attend deeply to the question, 'How are we together?' We ask: 'How do we behave toward ourselves and others in ways that demonstrate our commitment to affirming the inherent worth and the inherent dignity of each of us?'"

When we choose to join a religious faith, we commit to being in community. This community includes those who came before, those who will come after, and those sitting beside you. With intentional community comes responsibility. Our responsibility is to care for the community, care for each other, and care for the Meeting House. We nurture and support each other within the community in order to go out into the world in peace, have courage, honor all beings, and strive for just and equitable lives for all.

I am honored to walk again with First Parish in Concord this coming year. This is an exciting time in the life of this congregation as we commence new ministries together. May we abide by our covenant that holds us together in relationship. May we behave toward ourselves and others in ways that demonstrate our commitment to affirming the inherent worth and the inherent dignity of each of us. May we walk and roll through the coming months remembering why we came, why we stay, and where we are going.

May it be so! ♦

In faith and fellowship,
— *Rachel Baker*

Director of Congregational Life

The Transylvania Partnership Community (TPC) has been very busy with this summer's events, as well as with planning a program of interesting and meaningful activities for the coming year.

1. Family Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr from July 17 to 29 was a great success. Thirteen pilgrims (including four children ages 9-13) experienced the warm hospitality and transformative experience of Transylvania. Photos have been posted to the partnership page at www.facebook.com/ConcordKeresztur, and there will be opportunities to hear about the pilgrimage in the weeks ahead. Many thanks to those across the FP community for their support!

2. Visit by Rev. József Szombatfalvi. Rev. Howard Dana extended an invitation to Rev. József Szombatfalvi — Senior Minister of our partner Unitarian congregation in Székelykeresztúr — to visit FP in September. József arrives on September 25, just in time for our traditional Transylvania Thanksgiving service and to participate in Howard's Installation on Sunday, September 29. Be on the lookout for information on special events taking place during his visit.

3. Potluck Supper. Please join us on Friday, September 27, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in Parish Hall, as the Transylvania Partnership Community hosts a fun-filled all-parish potluck Supper to celebrate our connections to each other and to our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, our 20-year partnership that continues to thrive and grow. More information at coffee hours and in the *Sunday News* beginning on September 8, or by contacting **Lillian Anderson** at 978-36-1468 or lilliananad@comcast.net.

4. Photo Retrospective. During September and October, First Parish's Photo Galleries will provide a special photo retrospective of the people and events of our 20-year partnership with our partner Unitarian congregation in Transylvania.

5. Student Sponsorship Program. For many years, First Parishioners have provided support to our partner congregation by sponsoring students of financial need at the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. Our annual sponsor recruitment drive will begin soon. For more information, please contact **Dana Booth**, Student Sponsorship Program coordinator, 978-369-5702 or dana.a.booth@gmail.com.

6. Way to Join in the Fun! The Partner Congregation Committee (PCC) invites you to join in the camaraderie of the Transylvania Partnership Community. There are many ways — big and small, but all important — to get involved in this effort. Learn more at one of our upcoming meetings. Our next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Emerson Room on Thursday, September 19. Future meeting dates are October 17, November 14 (Educational Forum), and December 12. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"

— **Ken Estabrook**,
Chair, Partner Congregation Committee (PCC)
ken.estabrook@gmail.com

Having taken over the duties of the Youth Program Director, my mind is buzzing with excitement at the idea of further integrating youth programming and social action.

This past June, I took a course on how churches engage in social movements. Our class was roughly split between

Baby Boomers and Millennials, so we frequently discussed the means by which the two generations have sought to create change. We discussed Woodstock and Occupy, antiwar movements and environmentalism, house meetings and social media, folk music and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis (listen to *Same Love* if you haven't already). These conversations revealed a beautiful 40-year history, dappled with activism.



But there was a tension in these conversations too. It was reflected in questions like: How can social media be a reliable vehicle for social change? What happened to folk music? We never resolved this tension.

But these conversations got me thinking, How do we pass on the spirit of activism? To our friends? To our children? To our church family? And how do we separate that spirit of activism from the particular movement to which we've set our own heart?

From what I know about this community, I know the youth I'll be meeting this year have the spirit of activism already. I'm eager to see where their passions lead us — ALL of us. ♦

In faith,

— Bethany Lowe

blowe@firstparish.org

Join the Social Action Reflection Group

The Social Action Reflection Group (SARG) meets about monthly on a Sunday afternoon or evening to discuss books that connect our social action work to our theology and philosophy. We invite you to join us this year. Authors we have read include Rev. Richard Gilbert, Rev. Howard Thurman, Rev. Rebecca Parker, Sharon Welch, Karen Armstrong, and the Dalai Lama. We have been meeting at members' homes with a very informal format. This month we are reading essays of Abraham Heschel in *Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity*. If you would like to join us, please contact Mark Richards at marksrichards@com-cast.net or 978-771-9823.

Honoring the International Day of Peace at First Parish — Saturday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The International Day of Peace is on Saturday, September 21, and special activities and celebrations will take place all across the world. At First Parish, we will be celebrating the Day of Peace with a participatory dance by Sacred Dance Guild Global Outreach Dance demonstration. In addition to music, inspiration and practical insight into peace activism, the featured speaker will be Massachusetts State Senator Jamie Eldridge, sponsor of Senate Bill S52, "An Act Promoting Restorative Justice Practices." Dance at 6:30 p.m. on First Parish lawn; 7:15 p.m. Invocation by Rev. Howard Dana, speakers and discussion in the Parish Hall. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace, a program supported by the First Parish Social Action Community.

Save the Date! Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry on Sunday, October 20

The Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 20, starting at First Parish; registration begins at 1:30 p.m.; step-off is at 2:15 p.m. Funds raised go to support ten local hunger relief organizations, and the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service. Howard will be walking with the First Parish Team; put this date on your calendar and plan to join him! See www.concordcrop.org for more details, and look for the Crop table at coffee hours starting in mid-September. You may register to walk, or make a donation to sponsor a walker (including Howard) online. This is a great social action project for families to participate in together!

Save the Date — "The Climate Crisis: Why Only a Movement Can Save Us"

Special Event with Craig Altemose, Friday, October 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at First Parish. Craig Altemose, Executive Director of the Better Future Project, is the inspiring young activist leader of a strong climate action movement in Massachusetts. He became a climate activist after earning a law degree from Harvard Law School. He speaks knowledgeably and passionately about how much deeper the climate crisis is than many people understand; how it profoundly impacts human beings; what kinds of action are most

SAC Notes

continued on page 9

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.



Drop in on Rise Up and Call Her Name

All women of the Parish are invited to join the ongoing monthly class — Rise Up and Call Her Name: A Woman-Honoring Journey into Global Earth-Based Spirituality.

Come explore stories, legends and folklore from various cultures on this interactive journey of cultural awareness, which also includes music, dance and crafts. Examine themes relating to women's issues while reflecting on women's spiritual traditions of the Middle East, the Pre-Hellenic Mediterranean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific Islands, as well as the cultures of African-Americans, MesoAmericans, and Native Americans. This curriculum was developed by the UU Women's Federation.

Classes meet monthly and drop-ins are welcome. Next meeting is on Wednesday, September 11, from 9:30 to noon at First Parish.

Questions? E-mail **Bozena Smith** at bozenasmith@mindspring.com, or **Twinkle Manning** at twinklemanning@gmail.com.

All-Parish Women's Potluck Dinner Party: Friday, October 18, at 6:00 p.m.

All First Parish women are invited to this evening of informal socializing, with a chance to learn about ongoing women's groups and activities. Sponsored by the Women's Retreats Committee.

First Parish Women Invited to Gather

A former vital offering to our community of women has been reanimated at First Parish:

Minerva* Potlucks!

Please join us on the first Tuesday of each month as we gather together to enhance our relationships and connect on a deeper level. Bring something you would like to eat, along with a bit to share with others. Please also bring a place setting for yourself: plate, fork, knife, spoon and cup so we can be environmentally mindful. Our first gathering is Tuesday, September 3, in the Parish Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Save Upcoming Dates: October 1, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6 and June 3

*Minerva is the Goddess of Wisdom and Poetry. Together, we will share both.

The Women's AM/PM Book Group New Schedule!

Welcome to a new year of book discussions with the First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group! Please note that we are always open for drop-ins and you don't need to sign up to attend. If you'd like to join the dis-

- cussion one month, just come to either the morning or evening session. The morning meetings are held at First Parish, usually in the Brooks Room, 9:30-11:00 a.m. The evening meetings are from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and will be held at members' homes, since the church is closed on Mondays.
- Contact **Darien Smith** or join the Book Group e-mail list for information on where each month's evening group will meet.
- Discussions are usually the fourth or fifth Monday and Tuesday of the month, with a few exceptions as indicated in the date list below. The morning session is facilitated by **Darien Smith** and the evening by **Siri Smedvig**. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Books and Dates for 2013-2014:

- Sept. 30, Oct. 1 *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach
- Oct. 28, 29 *One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life — A Story of Race and Family Secrets*, by Bliss Broyard
- Dec. 2, 3 *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake: A Novel*, by Anna Quindlan
- Jan. 27, 28 *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx*, by Adrienne Nicole LaBlanc
- Feb. 24, 25 *The Language of Flowers: A Novel*, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
- Mar. 24, 25 *Flight Behavior: A Novel*, by Barbara Kingsolver
- Apr. 28, 29 *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce
- June 2, 3 *Eighty Days: Nelly Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*, by Matthew Goodman

SAC Notes

continued from page 8

effective; and how we can become part of that action.

Put this event on your calendar and stay tuned. It is the kick-off for a new speaker series focusing on solutions to the climate crisis. The title of the series is "Climate Solutions: Meeting the Challenge."

Representatives of ConcordCAN!, the League of Women Voters of Concord-Carlisle, Musketaquid Arts and the Environment, the Social Action Committee at Trinitarian Congregational Church, and the Social Action Community at First Parish in Concord are working together to plan this event and series.

*Do not leave your cares at the door
Do not leave them there when you come into this place
Be open to forgiveness and transformation
Come on in, you are welcome here.ⁱⁱ*

I love these words from UU composer Elizabeth Alexander's anthem. They express, for me, what First Parish can be at its best. And as we begin a new era with our new minister, my hope is that welcome, forgiveness and transformation will be at the heart of our music and arts ministry.

This year, as a "seasoned" UU music leader, I am pursuing UUA Music Leader Certification following the "Portfolio Path" for musicians of long tenure. Through my portfolio, I will demonstrate that I have fulfilled the requirements for UUA certification in three general areas of competency: Music Skills and Resources, Unitarian Universalist Heritage and Theology, and Leadership and Interpersonal Skills.



In this, my 20th year at First Parish, I welcome this opportunity to reflect on the music ministry at First Parish, how I have shaped it over the years, and how it has shaped me.

Candidates for certification must express their philosophy of music ministry. Some prompts for reflection are: "How is music in your congregation a ministry?" "How does music change lives, nurture healing and inspire hope?" Here is part of my answer.

In my experience, music can bring comfort to the grieving and release to the dying; music can nurture confidence in the timid and awe the skeptic. Music can calm an anxious meeting or invigorate an exhausted work group. In times of upheaval and transition, we can embrace one another through music, remembering our capacity for harmony in the midst of conflict.

This answer comes directly from my experience with this remarkable congregation. I hope it reflects some of your experience as well.

Fall is a great time to join in the ministry of music and arts at First Parish. There are many open doors to enter: choirs for singers of all ages, play reading, Rise Up Singing, photography, art exhibits, theatrical productions,

concerts, Arts Council, Music Events Committee. The possibilities are limited only by the creativity, aspirations and resources of our members.

So come on in, you are welcome here . . .

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

ⁱⁱ *Rev. Norman V. Naylor, adapted by Elizabeth Alexander for her anthem "Do Not Leave Your Cares at the Door".*

We Meet Again in Love

We meet again in love. For me, this has been a summer of replenishment, of lake swims and new music. **Rev. Howard Dana** joins us this fall. Familiar faces return and our new singers await the joy of belonging. I am on the edge of the water, about to immerse, anticipating being enveloped by senses and spirit. I am so excited for this new year of shared song.



Our children's choirs will be resuming on Wednesday, September 11, and all are welcome. There is no need for any singing experience. It is an especially nice way for new families to build friendships. We will continue to rehearse on Wednesday afternoons in the Parish Hall. Registration forms are available on the First Parish website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

In song,

— *Gail Carey*

Children's Choir Director

Music Ministry Associate

loonbeams@aol.com, 781-626-3043

Gospel Choir Is Back with a New Rehearsal Time!

We rehearse Wednesday afternoons from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. This is the annual invitation to all 7th through 12th graders to join Gospel Choir. We welcome new members with open arms and hope that you are ready to inspire and be inspired. We start rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11 in the Sanctuary. We will meet a little early, at 5:00 p.m., for

Music Notes

continued on page 11

refreshments and catching up. **Rob Castillo, Mark Weltner** and I are looking forward to working with each of you again. We will do some reggae, blues, gospel and a little contemporary gospel flair just to spice things up. I know that many of you have friends who love to sing. Please invite them to come and share their gifts and talents with people who will really enjoy and appreciate them! This year we will also be involved in a YRUU band. It will be a great opportunity for you to be involved with something really new. I am so excited and I hope that you will be too.

— *Anderson Manuel*

By Your Side Singers — Thursday, September 5, at 7:30 p.m.

By Your Side Singers, First Parish’s pastoral choir will begin the new season on Thursday night, September 5, at 7:30 p.m. By Your Side Singers welcomes adults who love to sing and long to serve through music. We sing together to deepen our experience of music’s comforting power. When invited, singers go to parishioners’ homes or hospital rooms in groups of three or four to offer a musical presence with people who seek comfort and strength during times of illness or transition.

By Your Side Singers meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or music@firstparish.org.

First Parish Choir — Open Rehearsals in September!

The First Parish Choir begins each season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights. This year, we start on September 4. Rehearsals are from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Singers of all voice parts are welcome to attend with no obligation during this time. The choir will sing in church for the first time on Sunday, September 8, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or e-mail music@firstparish.org.

Making Music with Handbells — The Ultimate Team Sport!

Have you been looking for something fun to do with a couple of new friends on Thursday afternoons? The Lincoln Ringers from nearby First Parish in Lincoln are joining with your First Parish ringers for a year of musical collaboration, and we’d love to have *YOU* be a part of it!

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall. And consider joining a choir!

Choir Rehearsal Schedule — Fall 2013

Adult Choir

Wednesdays from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m.
Beginning Wednesday, September 4, in the Sanctuary

Beth Norton, director

Gospel Choir — NEW TIME!

(Youth in grades 7-12)

Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.
Beginning Wednesday, September 11, in the Sanctuary

Anderson Manuel, director

Junior Choir

(Grades 1-3)

Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.
Beginning Wednesday, September 11, in the Parish Hall

Gail Carey, director

Chalice Choir

(Grades 4-6)

Wednesdays from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m.
Beginning Wednesday, September 11, in the Parish Hall

Gail Carey, director

For more information contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or music@firstparish.org.

Come and join an open rehearsal on Thursday, September 12 at 2 p.m. in the Chapel, and see what we’re all about. No experience is necessary (although the ability to read music is helpful), and we welcome any and all newcomers. Questions ahead of time can be directed to Diane Burke at dpburke9@gmail.com.

Do you feel it too? Summer is waning and yet it feels like it barely got started. Maybe your children are tossing in bed before falling into a restless sleep. Maybe you are too. Fall brings with it the excitement and challenges of a fresh start, a new beginning. But for many of us, both kids and adults, it begs the question, “Am I ready to do this again?” “Am I up to all that is expected of me?” “Will I measure up to my own hopes of what I want to accomplish this year?”



While the slightly more relaxed lifestyle of the summer is ending, the memories will linger: adventures outside, the shock of the icy cold ocean on the skin, the view of the night sky from a remote mountaintop, family stories around a campfire. These memories of summer feed our souls; they are the whispers that we cling to in the darkness of winter.

Church is ready for you to return. We are ready to be whatever it is that we are becoming, together. ♦

Love,

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Concord Farm and Garden Harvest Fair, September 7 and 8

Come celebrate harvest time and meet local food growers at the Farm and Garden Fair. First Parish will host its own site at our First Parish Community Garden plot on Walden Street from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, September 7. We will be making Flower Fairies, finding treasures and picking rotten tomatoes for our Annual Tomato Bash at the First Parish Homecoming Picnic that evening at 6 p.m. Learn more about the fair at www.concordfood.ning.com. Our own **Debbie Barr** has been planning this important event for Concord and there are many great ways for kids to be involved.

Second to Fifth Grade Workshop Rotation, Fall Term — Our Judeo-Christian Teachings

This term will focus on Humanist Teaching of Science and Reason. We will be exploring water and rocks both scientifically and spiritually. Science and

September 2013 RE Calendar

- Sun., Sept. 8 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Intergenerational Service for K-8th Grades
- Sun., Sept. 15 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grades Neighboring Activists (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 10 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
9th Grade Coming of Age at 4:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)
- Fri., Sept. 20 YRUU Retreat to Ferry Beach
- Sun., Sept. 22 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grades Neighboring Activists (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 10 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Sept. 29 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grades Neighboring Activists (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 10 a.m. (Wright Tavern)

religion are often so closely related because each inspires wonder. We will be wondering together all through this first fall term.

This year, we will be celebrating our Water Communion together in our religious education class. Please have your child bring his or her “summer’s water” to our first class in RE, September 15 (not Homecoming Sunday).

Sixth/Seventh Grade Neighboring Activists

This year we will be exploring our dreams for social justice through the power of dirt. Our kids will be headed out to harvest the First Parish Garden that many of them planted in the spring. They will be collecting food and flowers for Open Table, joining in on the Crop Walk and working at Gaining Ground. They will end the term with a service project: The Bucket Brigade. The Bucket Brigade brings much needed sand to our seniors in Concord so they are prepared for that first winter snowstorm. This term will be active: hands-on, get dirty and get outside in our community, doing the physical work of social justice.

RE News

continued on page 13

Eighth Grade Dramatic Arts

We are continuing the tradition of the Eighth Grade Play. This year, **Sue** and **Tom Beck** are leading a production of *Frog and Toad Are Friends*. At the end of the term, these 8th graders will put on this play for the entire parish. Please mark your calendars now for the weekend of December 20.

Why do we do theater in Religious Education? Plays require commitment, accountability and presence. Theater allows our young teens to take safe risks. Theater also creates something unique and special between a group of people. We want our kids to be connected to each other, to caring adults and to our First Parish community. Year after year, our kids report that this play accomplishes all this and more.

Ninth Grade Coming of Age

We are starting the year off well with great lay leadership for Coming of Age. **Jamie Atkins** will be leading this year's program. Their first meeting is on September 15 at 4:30 p.m. This first meeting includes parents too. Please bring a potluck appetizer for all to enjoy.

We are fortunate to have dedicated mentors this year: **Alyssa Bigay, Sarah Sharpe, Laurel Doggett, Mark Howell, David Ropeik, John Atkins** and **Paul Caliandro**. Our parish is blessed to have such dedicated adults who enjoy working with our teens.

Youth Group — Ninth to Twelfth Grades — Sunday Evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. starting September 9 in the Wright Tavern

A big welcome to **Bethany Lowe**, our new Youth Program Director. Bethany will be adding this responsibility to her current role as Social Action Program Director, making her a full-time dedicated First Parish employee. I am excited about mixing these two important ministries at First Parish. Social justice work and youth leadership are a perfect fit, and Bethany will be a strong presence in bringing our Unitarian Universalist values to our youth.

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. — Our own band! YRUU Band will be rehearsing each Sunday in the Wright Tavern just before Youth Group.

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. — Regular Youth Group in the Wright Tavern.

We hope your teen begins coming in September. This year is going to focus on our service trips to CityReach and to West Virginia. We will be building, collecting clothing, and working toward these trips all year. Don't miss them. They will be all that you are hoping for in service trips. Spaces are limited. Sign up as soon as possible. Contact Bethany for details: blowe@firstparish.org.

Our First Parish Community Garden

Thanks to the commitment many people this year, we have been able to continue our garden through the summer, and it is still going strong. Many parishioners signed up to care for the garden this summer, and it is the best it has ever been. Our Sixth Graders prepared the soil well in the spring with so much organic material (code for manure), and it is really paying off. A special thanks goes out to **Ellen Matheson** (for all of her seedlings and maps), the **Hamors** (for all of their planting in the spring), **Mark** and **Emma Weltner**, the **Sullivans**, and **Rita** and **Jasmine Tsang**, who each did many weeks, and kept the thread of garden-knowledge going from week to week.

We still meet each Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. to work, pick and deliver food to Open Table. This is a great way for our children (and our adults) to learn how to grow food and help others. This is an intergenerational opportunity to get your body moving and your hands dirty. Please join us.

The RE Council, Supporting Our RE Program

We have an amazing council this year. This council makes all of our programming possible. Together, we plan curriculum and make decisions about our program and its mission. Our RE Council is there to support you as parents too. We understand that a child cannot be raised alone, in isolation. We need others. The council makes RE a caring community for your child to belong to and to serve others.

This year the council will be chaired by **Lora Venesy**. As members, we have **Dawn Van Patten, Patty Popov, Alyssa Bigay, Suzanne Hogan, Jeff Brainerd, Rachael Morris, Sarah Napier** and **Jan Goddard Taylor**. Each will take on a specific role in the RE Program. I am deeply grateful for this team of very dedicated adults, who realize how lucky we are to have such an amazing community of RE families. If you are interested in joining the council (because it is really fun too), then let one of us know of your interest. We would love to include you.

Fall Term Orientations for Religious Education Teachers for 2013-2014

Our orientations are critical to the success of our RE program. When all leaders are on the same page and understand the deeper goals of the program they are leading, the experience is much more meaningful for both our children and the leaders themselves. This year, we want to make it easier for you. We are going to do many (but not all!) of our orientations on Sunday mornings, as part of your teaching term. Please note your orientation time on page 14 based on your RE Service Assignment enclosed in this mailing.

Orientation Schedule for Little RE Babies, 4 years:

Fall Term A – Sunday, September 8, 8:45 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Group) or 10:45 a.m. (11:00 a.m. Group) in the Little RE Classrooms, Lower Level.

Fall Term B – Sunday, October 13, 8:30-10:30 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Group), 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (11:00 a.m. Group) in the Little RE Classrooms

Orientation Schedule for Spirit Play, K/1st Grade Teachers:

Fall Term – Sunday, September 15, 8:30-10:30 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Group), 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (11:00 a.m. Group) in the Spirit Play Room, Lower Level

Orientation Schedule for Middle RE, 2nd – 5th Grade Teachers:

Fall Term – Sunday, September 15, 8:30-10:30 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Group), 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. (11:00 a.m. Group) in the Emerson Room

Orientation Schedule for Teen RE, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Grade Leaders and OWL Parents:

6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists, Fall Term: Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., Brooks Room

9th Grade Mentor Orientation: Sunday, September 8, 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Wright Tavern

YRUU YOUTH GROUP NEWS

This year, we are starting a youth-led rock band. The YRUU Band will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. If you play anything at all, just show up (including singers).

The YRUU Band will be followed by Youth Group from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Come to one or both. All 9th through 12th graders are welcome. Sunday nights will be filled with jamming and youth-led activities. We are also planning a service trip to West Virginia in April and a trip to CityReach in January, as well as lock-ins.

We will also be running YAC (Youth Advisory Council) on the third Tuesdays of each month. This is when youth plan what will happen in the coming month. They also do the work of planning for their service trips. If you would like to be involved in YAC (teens and adults welcome), then contact me by email (below).

If you are in high school and would like to join us on the first retreat to Ferry Beach September 20-22, please contact me (Blowe@firstparish.org) by September 13, to let me know you're interested. The cost will be between \$80 and \$100, depending on how many youth sign up. We will be camping, cooking on an open fire, and hanging out on the beach.

I am very excited about meeting the youth and serving as Youth Program Director for First Parish. ♦

— *Bethany Lowe*

SEPTEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

ABC Music Together 10)	Tuesday	9:30 & 10:30 a.m. (Starts Sep
Buddhist Group	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Hum Strum and Drum Class	Wednesday	5:00 p.m. (Starts Sep 11)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m. (Starts Sep 11)
Gospel Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m. (Starts Sep 11)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
ABC Music Together	Thursday	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Buddhist Group	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
ABC Music Together	Friday	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Tue Sep 3	4:00	Shawl Ministry	.	Wed Sep 18	2:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers
	6:00	Minerva Gathering, Potluck Dinner	.		7:00	Reproductive Justice
	6:30	Standing Committee	.	Thu Sep 19	12:30	Mangalam Yantra Yoga
Wed Sep 4	2:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	.		7:00	Transylvania Partnership Community (TPC)
	6:00	Arts Council	.		7:30	By Your Side Singers
Thu Sep 5	7:30	By Your Side Singers	.	Fri Sep 20		Newsletter Deadline
Fri Sep 6	7:00	Play Reading Group	.	Sat Sep 21	6:30	International Day of Peace
Sat Sep 7	5:30	Homecoming Picnic	.	Tue Sep 24	6:30	T'ai Chi
Sun Sep 8	9:00 and 11:00	Services, Opening Sunday	.		7:30	Essence of Buddhist Thought & Practice
	6:30	Crop Walk Recruiters	.	Wed Sep 25	11:30	WPA Luncheon
Wed Sep 11	9:30	Rise Up and Call Her Name	.	Thu Sep 26	12:30	Mangalam Yantra Yoga
	7:00	Shakespeare Reading Group	.		7:00	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists	.	Fri Sep 27	9:30	Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)
Thu Sep 12	12:30	Mangalam Yantra Yoga	.		6:30	Transylvania Partnership Community Potluck Dinner
Fri Sep 13	12:30	T'ai Chi	.		7:30	Rise Up Singing
Sat Sep 14	9:00	Photography Club	.	Sun Sep 29	4:00	Installation Service
Sun Sep 15	12:30	Nominating Committee	.			for Rev. Howard N. Dana
Tue Sep 17	6:30	T'ai Chi	.			
	7:00	Evening Worship	.			
	7:30	Talking about the Soul of Money	.			

SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

The October Newsletter deadline is Friday, September 20, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, October 1.

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:
• Howard N. Dana: hdana@firstparish.org

• Ministerial Intern's E-Mail:
• Tony Fisher: tfisher@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Howard N. Dana, Senior Minister

Tony Fisher, Ministerial Intern

Fifi Ball, Director of Operations

Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life

Bethany Lowe, Social Action Director

Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus

Tina Storey, the Director of Operations

Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Emily Wheeler, Religious Education Administrator

Bethany Lowe, 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, Executive Director, Jericho Road

• Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

• Cassy Bosworth, Office Manager

• Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector

• Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

• Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Copy Editor

CONCORD AG DAY FARMERS' MARKET



& FARM AND GARDEN FAIR



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

10AM TO 2PM: Ag Day Farmers' Market in Concord Center
Fresh produce, flowers, meat, and eggs from Concord farms.

2PM TO 5PM: Home and Community Gardeners
Garden Tours and hands-on fun. Check out the chicken coops, meet the goats, save seeds, learn how to grow your own food. Be inspired!

2PM TO 3:30PM: Kids Film Fest
At Emerson Umbrella for kids ages 3-10 and post-film activities at the Musketaquid community garden.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

1PM TO 5PM: Farm Open Houses and Tours
Cooking demos, vintage tractors, historic greenhouses, small-scale farming & selling, and solar panels.

Dig potatoes, pull carrots, gather eggs, tour a horse barn, take a hay or tractor ride. Pony rides will delight children ages 10 & under.

Afternoon Farm and Garden events are held at 24 gardens and farms around town.
Look for our table at the Ag Day Farmers Market for details. For information and to sign up in advance for home garden tours, go to: www.concordfood.ning.com.

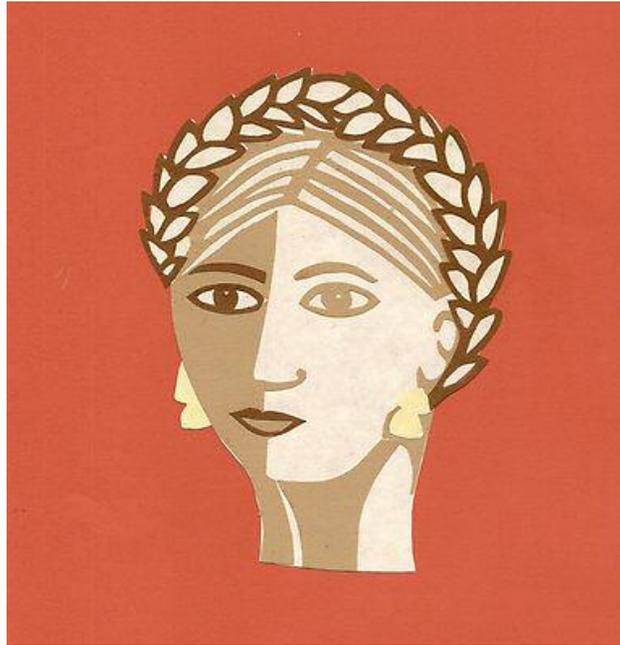
Pick up maps at the Concord Visitor Information Center, Concord Public Library, Town House and at participating farm stands and businesses



Sponsored by the Concord Agriculture Committee and the Concord Gardeners' Cooperative with thanks for support and donations by First Parish in Concord, the Concord Agriculture Committee, ConcordCAN, Budget Printing, Concord Lumber Company, Debra's Natural Gourmet, Middlesex Savings Bank and individual donors.

MINERVA GATHERINGS

NEW MONTH WOMEN'S POTLUCKS



Please join us for monthly Minerva* New Month Women's potlucks.

These gatherings are a time for spiritual renewal and nourishment. A safe space for all women of First Parish to connect with one another, share food, conversation and spiritual exploration.

Based on the tradition of *Rosh Chodesh*, the celebration of the beginning of each month in the Jewish calendar; **Minerva Gatherings** are a diverse celebration of women and femininity.

**Minerva is the Goddess of Wisdom and Poetry.
We will share both at these gatherings.*

First Tuesday of the Month

Parish Hall

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Requested donation \$3



Please RSVP:

"Twinkle" Marie Manning
TwinkleManning@gmail.com
(760) 889-5428

2013 Dates:	2014 Dates:
- July 2nd	- January 7th
- August 6th	- February 4th
- September 3rd	- March 4th *
- October 1st	- April 1st
- November 5th	- May 6th
- December 3rd	- June 3rd

The Wright Tavern Center Presents “Talking About The Soul Of Money” with *Lori Jacobwith* and *Kristi Scarpone* September 17th at 7:30 p.m.

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.

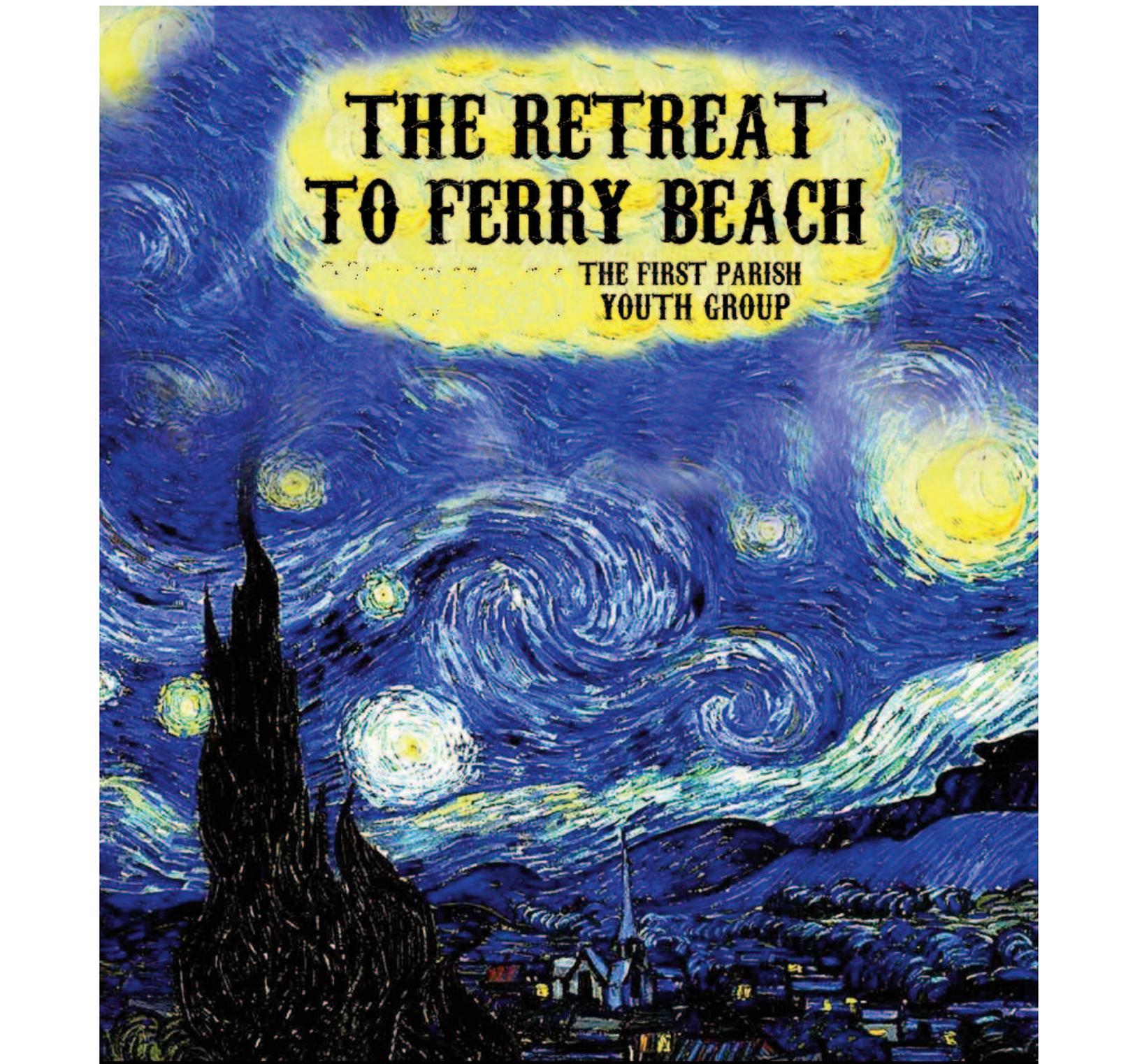


Lori L. Jacobwith has a passion for the positive. Her strategies & tools have helped organizations to collectively raise more than \$200 million from individual donors over the past decade. She has coached and trained thousands across North America to raise more money and powerfully share their stories. Lori is the founder of the *Ignited Online Fundraising Community*, the author of *Nine Steps to a Successful Fundraising Campaign* and the “must-read” fundraising coaching blog: *Withism’s From Lori: Boldness, Clarity and Wisdom for Fundraising Professionals*. In 2013 Lori created the *Imagine What’s Possible Step-by-Step Storytelling System* for non-profits who want to raise more money from individual donors with ease.



Kristi Isabelle Scarpone is a nationally-recognized fundraising practitioner who specializes in integrating effective mission-based fundraising into the core of social profit organizations. Her transformative work engages key stakeholders in both systematizing & honoring fundraising as a practice. With more than 40 million dollars raised, her approach to community engagement & strategic coaching to campaign leadership are vital tools to these campaign successes. Kristi’s successes range from education and human services to spiritual and arts-based organizations, where she helps her clients embed their fundraising into the very core of the work that they do.

Suggested donation \$9. All proceeds will go to reestablishing the Wright Tavern Center.
Wright Tavern Center, First Parish in Concord (978) 369-9602 or wtc@firstparish.org
20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

The background of the poster is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by J.M.W. Turner. It features a dark, swirling blue sky filled with numerous bright, glowing yellow and white stars. In the foreground, there is a dark, silhouetted cypress tree on the left and a small town with a church spire in the distance under a dark, stormy sea.

THE RETREAT TO FERRY BEACH

THE FIRST PARISH
YOUTH GROUP

SEPTEMBER 20 - 22

YOUTH GROUP RETREAT

**CAMPING, BONFIRES, COOKING, JAMMING,
PLAYING GAMES AND SHARING IN SACO, ME**

Cost will be between \$80 and \$100.

RSVP to Bethany Lowe (BLowe@firstparish.org) by Friday, September 13th.

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!



for *Spiritual* Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • September 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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Have You Ever Wondered about Karma?

Karma can be a confusing, challenging, and sometimes debated concept, yet it is at the root of understanding Buddhist tenets. It is widely used in popular culture, yet its nuances are seldom understood. Fully appreciating the effect of causes and conditions will deepen and enrich your practice and understanding of Buddhism. Geshe Pema Dorjee is a dear friend of Jhamtse International and has given highly praised teachings to our community over the years. Let us know if you can attend by e-mailing jhamtse@jhamtse.net. Suggested donation: \$20. All are welcome, regardless of ability to donate. Presenter: **Geshe Pema Dorjee**

Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Talking about the Soul of Money — Lori Jacob and Kristi Scarpone

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, who specialize in integrating effective mission-based fundraising into the core of social profit organizations. Presenters: **Lori Jacob and Kristi Scarpone**

Tuesday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.

NEW AND REVISED COURSES

Mangalam Yantra Yoga

Explore your potential to dramatically improve your health and relax your mind through breathing exercises, gentle Tibetan yoga, mantra recitation and shamatha meditation. Based on the authentic teachings of Mahasiddha Virupa, a realized yogi from India. These teachings have been passed down to Tibetan Masters through an unbroken lineage. Please wear comfortable clothing. Instructor: **Suzan Doan**

Thursday: September 12-October 3 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$160 for the entire program. Registration required.

Essence of Buddhist Thought and Practice — a Six-Class Series

This is an overview of Buddhism, with a new topic introduced each week, meditation and group discussion. Topics include mind and meditation, life, death, karma, compassion, and more. Advance registration or drop in. Everyone welcome. Instructor: **Wendy Garling, MA**

Tuesdays: September 24-October 29 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Fee: \$15 per class

Vegan 101

Thinking of trying a healthy plant-based vegan diet but not sure where to begin? Come learn how to restock your pantry, to bake without butter and eggs, and to find recipes for delicious meals you and your family will love. We will sample common meat and dairy alternatives and strategize eating out, socializing, and enjoying the holidays. Instructor: **Marcia Schloss, PA-C**

Thursday: October 17 and 24 7:00-9:00 p.m. Fee: \$25

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**

Wednesday: 9:30-11:00 a.m. Thursdays: 7:30-9:00 p.m. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program (MBSR)

Cultivating mindfulness, or awareness of the present moment, creates the framework for this popular course modeled after the internationally recognized program established by Jon Kabat-Zinn at UMass Medical School. Research continues to suggest positive benefits from the practice of mindfulness-based stress reduction to the immune system, chronic illness, hypertension chronic pain, as well as to the daily stresses of our busy lives.

This interactive course consists of eight weekly two-hour group classes, where participants will be introduced to and practice guided mindfulness meditation, relaxation techniques, gentle yoga stretches, and self-inquiry exercises. Participants commonly report a reduction of stress-related symptoms, increased

awareness and concentration, and improvement of positive coping skills at home and in the workplace. Instructor: **Pamela Katz Ressler, RN, MS, HN-BC**. Fee: Tuition is \$300, plus an additional \$95 materials fee (including text, CD's, and manual) Continuing Education Units for nurses and other health professionals available. Discount for Blue Cross Blue Shield members. For more information about the MBSR program, visit www.stressresources.com. To register, contact Pam Ressler at pressler@stressresources.com. This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 978-369-5243. Enrollment in each class is limited to 15. Choose either Thursday evening or Friday morning:

Thursday: September 26-November 21 7:00-9:00 p.m.
(no class 10/31)

Friday: September 27-November 22 9:30-11:30 a.m.
(no class 10/4)

Concord Area Humanists (CAH)

CAH presents Carol Rose, on "Humanist Values and the ACLU" in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, September 11, followed by discussion. Since 1993, Carol has been Executive Director of American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts (www.aclum.org), a nonpartisan membership organization that uses litigation, legislation, communications and organizing to promote civil rights and defend civil liberties.

Carol worked as a journalist and attorney in Washington, D.C., Israel, West Bank and Gaza, Northern Ireland, Japan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. She was based in Peshawar, Pakistan, from 1990 to 1993, traveling and reporting extensively throughout the Af-Pak region. She returned to the U.S. in 1993, earned a law degree at Harvard ('96), clerked for Judge Patti Saris in the U.S. District Court in Boston, and spent six years as a First Amendment attorney at the law firm of Hill & Barlow. Inquiries or requests to be on the e-mail list should be sent to pne@aol.com, with CAH on the subject line.

Wednesday: September 11 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation requested

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. No registration required; just come and sing. Donations Appreciated. Leader: **Beth Norton** and others.

One Friday a month at 7:30 p.m.: September 27, October 25, November 22, December 20 (Rise Up Caroling), January 24, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27

The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

The following dates are for Monday evening, 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Tuesday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Tuesday sessions will be at First Parish. Please contact First Parish for directions to the Monday sessions. There is no fee for either group.

- September 30, October 1: *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach
- October 28, 29: *One Drop: My Father's Hidden Life — A story of Race and Family Secrets*, by Bliss Broyard, nonfiction
- December 2, 3: *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*, by Anna Quindlan, nonfiction
- January 27, 28: *Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx*, by Adrienne Nicole LaBlanc, nonfiction
- February 24, 25: *The Language of Flowers: A Novel*, by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
- March 24, 25: *Flight Behavior: A Novel*, by Barbara Kingsolver
- April 28, 29: *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce

T'ai Chi and Qigong

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

Friday: September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13
12:30-1:30 p.m. Fee: \$25 per session

T'ai Chi

- T'ai Chi and Chi Kung are slow and graceful movements that energize your body. In our practice, we gently move all the joints, and you will enjoy improved balance, stability, and better energy. Research shows that tai chi practice improves blood pressure, and can provide many health benefits. And it's a lot of fun! We practice the Hwa Yu form, supplemented with Chi Kung exercises, and short meditation to start our sessions. New and continuing students are welcome. Taught by Sue Wood, a student of David Zucker, who learned this form from Master Li. Instructor: **Sue Wood**

Tuesday: September 17-November 5 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fee: \$120 for 8 weeks

ABC Music Together (Ages 0-4)

- Mixed Age classes offer an opportunity for children to participate 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 originality and spontaneity in their approach to music. For more information and to register, go to www.abcmusictogether.com. Instructors: **Deb** and **Tom Foote**
- Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9:30 to 10:30 a.m., or 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.