



The Meeting House News

October 1, 2013
Volume 50, No. 2

Our fiftieth year!

IN THIS ISSUE

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

REVERIES

So, let's talk about pastoral care. My definition of pastoral care is: "the care members of First Parish give one another, which occasionally involves the minister." For any of you who are used to a smaller church (or long for one), this definition may seem strange. In smaller, pastoral-size churches the minister plays a much bigger role in pastoral care. But First Parish in Concord is far from being a pastoral-size church. With 600 or 700 adult members, First Parish is a large church. It needs to approach pastoral care like a large church. With just one minister and one half-time intern, there is no way that the pastoral care at First Parish will be done by the Senior Minister. This is where the Pastoral Care Team and the Lay Ministers come in. We are lucky to have trained, caring church members who are eager to attend to most of the pastoral care needs of the congregation.

The main way I will provide pastoral care to First Parish is through Sunday morning worship. Sunday morning is the best time for our members to see one another, get the support they need, and leave church feeling better able to face the week ahead. The pastoral care I provide on Sunday morning involves greeting people warmly, leading a worship service rich with spiritual sustenance, preaching a pastoral sermon, and connecting after the services with anyone who would like a little more time with me. Greeting, leading, preaching, and connecting — for me, Sunday morning is pastoral care en masse! Besides that, my personal involvement in pastoral care will be quite limited. Should there be a true emergency or some great tragedy, I will respond as quickly as I am able. I am happy to meet with people in my office as needed. And I will officiate at memorial services and other rites of passage. Beyond that, the Pastoral Care Team will take the lead.



I know that it will disappoint some of you that I do not have a personal relationship with you. It will feel like rejection when I do not accept your invitations to socialize. And I want to reassure you that good boundaries on my time will be the only thing that allows me to do this very large job without getting burned out. I care for each of you. I simply am unable to share that care one-on-one with most of you and still do the rest of my job. First Parish is large enough that it could use a full-time minister for pastoral care. That would be a wonderful goal for us to work for. It would require many people to significantly increase their financial giving to the church. And if we want more pastoral care, I believe we can raise the money to do it. See you in church.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

There are SEVEN inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ Transcendentalism Council Programs
- ◆ Frog and Toad Play
- ◆ First Parish Activities Guide
- ◆ Coffee Hour Snack Host List
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs
- ◆ Artisans Fair Information
- ◆ Women's Potluck Invitation

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

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

WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

Sunday, October 6

The Power of the Story — Tony Fisher
9:00 – First Parish Choir and Junior Choir
11:00 – Gospel Choir and Chalice Choir

Sunday, October 13

Building Beloved Community — Rachel Baker
9:00 – First Parish Choir
11:00 – Lauren Evans, alto

Sunday, October 20

Humility — Saving Us From Ourselves —
Rev. Howard N. Dana
9:00 – Kristin and Ava Moore, violin duo
11:00 – First Parish Choir
Gail Carey, Guest Conductor

Sunday, October 27

We Each Will Die One Day — Rev. Howard N. Dana
9:00 & 11:00 – The Lincoln Ringers
Diane Burke, Director

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
November: Friday, October 18	Tuesday, October 29
December: Friday, November 15	Tuesday, November 29
January: Friday, December 13	Friday, January 3

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.*

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.

Thanks to All!

The Installation Committee gives our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped to make the Installation and Reception such a special occasion for the entire congregation on Sunday, September 29. Many, many parishioners contributed in ways large and small to make this event happen and run so smoothly. It's a pleasure to work with such a caring and wonderful community that is so ready to respond when called upon!

The Installation Committee: **Sara Ballard, Tamasin Foote, Valerie Holt, Caroline McCloy, Suzie Weaver and Darien Smith**, chair

Play Reading Group Meeting on October 4

Play Reading group is back! We read plays aloud together for pleasure and discussion. Save the first Friday of each month. All are welcome. No theater experience is necessary. For our meeting on October 4, at 7 p.m., we continue reading *Oleanna*, by David Mamet. 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 X ray of the mechanisms of power, censorship, and abuse.

This play ignited debate when it was performed. Please join us as we discover the subtle messages within the dialogue of these two characters. Copies are available within the Minuteman Library network. Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text.

Join the Catnip Ball Workshops

In preparation for the WPA Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 2, three catnip ball assembly workshops will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October, 15, 16

Parish Notes

continued on page 3

and 17, from 9 to 11 a.m. Volunteers welcome and no special skills needed. Instructions, good fellowship and coffee provided. For questions, contact **Becky Blodgett** at becky.blodgett@verizon.net.

Calling All First Parish Artists

We will have a group showing of 2-D work in the Altshuler galleries during November and December. Please contact **Marcia Schloss** at marcialou28@gmail.com or 978-371-2751 for more details.

Transcendentalism Council — Upcoming Programs

The First Parish Transcendentalism Council has an incredible array of programs this fall, many cosponsored with the Thoreau Society, beginning in October and reaching into December, with a very special program on December 8, cosponsored by the Women’s Parish Association with Eve LaPlante, who will talk about her two latest books, *Marmee and Louisa: The Untold Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Mother* and *My Heart Is Boundless: Writings of Abigail May Alcott, Louisa’s Mother*.

You will find all the information about this and all the Council’s programs on the two-page insert at the end of this issue of the *Meeting House News*.

If you’d like to be added to our Program Notification e-mail list, please contact **Dianne Weiss** at diannemcweiss@comcast.net or **Victor Curran** at vacurran@comcast.net. Please “Like” us on Facebook for program reminders! See our page at Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord.

“Wild and Precious!” A Poetry Memoir — Performed by First Parish Member, Steve Cadwell

Steve Cadwell shares stories, poems, songs and photos from his discovery of what it means to be a man: a wild and precious boy born in Vermont in the fifties becoming a hearty gay man in Massachusetts. His poetry-memoir describes a liberated view — coming out of the “strait” jacket into full celebration of what it means to be a man. Although specific to his own experience, the coming-of-age themes are universal. Think Mary Oliver meets “Our Whole Lives” meets Show Time! This is adult entertainment with sexual content — not appropriate for children, October 26, 7:30 p.m., hosted by **Caitlin Selle** and **Alec Walker**. Please contact Alec at alecwalker@aol.com for location/reservation. There is a suggested donation of \$10, which will go to the First Parish Guatemala Recovery Project’s Sponsorship of Mil Milagros. (www.milmilagros.org).

First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

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

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

October 2 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

October 4 at 7:00 p.m. – Play Reading Group – *Oleanna*, by David Mamet

October 12 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club meeting, open to all First Parish adults

October 19 at 6:30 p.m. – Square Dance; all ages welcome

October 25 at 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Singing, First Parish’s monthly folk song circle, open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages.

October 26 at 7:30 p.m. – “Wild and Precious!” A Poetry Memoir (off-site)

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 Luncheon Program — October 23, 2013

The Women’s Parish Association’s luncheon meeting on Wednesday, October 23, will offer an opportunity for you to welcome **Rev. Howard Dana**, break bread with him, and engage in an informal conversation with him as well. Howard will give brief introductory remarks about his thoughts about our beloved First Parish now that he has had a chance to work here for a brief time. This will be followed by a question-and-answer period. Take time out of your busy schedules to catch up on the news with old and new friends and enjoy a tasty lunch. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and then Howard’s talk. Announced updates of various women’s issues and initiatives will also take place. This promises to be an informative and fun event! The price is ten dollars, payable at the door. Contact the church or **Dian Pekin** at pekindc@comcast.net by October 19 for reservations as well as dietary requirements, child care and transportation requests. All women and men and their friends are warmly welcome.

Get Ready for the Holiday Artisans Fair — Saturday, November 2

Plans are well under way for our annual Holiday Artisans Fair which will be held on Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. This is a major fundraiser for First Parish and charities organized by the Women’s Parish Association. This popular event has taken place for over 30 years and attracts great artists, artisans and holiday shoppers. Each year, new artists and artisans are included to offer different and unique handmade gift items for your holiday shopping. The WPA will have its own boutique, where you can purchase one of the famous catnip balls, special items for the dogs in your life, and a wide variety of lovely handmade items. A friendly café will be set up, where breakfast items, lunch, snacks, and beverages can be enjoyed throughout the day. Bring your family members, neighbors and friends and make a festive day for yourselves! Contact the church office or **Dian Pekin** at pekincd@comcast.net to volunteer your help at this great community event.

WPA Boutique at the Artisans Fair

Do you enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting, creating works of fiber art, crewelwork, etc.? If so, there’s an opportunity for you to have many people enjoy the fruits of your labors. The Women’s Parish Association will have its WPA Boutique again at this year’s Holiday Artisans Fair on November 2, 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. Handmade items such as the following are being sought: knitted or crocheted scarves, knitted purses, sewn, knitted or crocheted clothing or home decorating items, quilted items, jewelry, and others. Many thanks for your contributions!

Square Dance! Saturday, October 19, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

No need to know all the moves — our fabulous caller, Beth Parkes, will guide us through every turn and do-si-do. Please bring a snack or dessert and a drink to share. Admission is free and open to all ages. For more information, please contact **Kate Svrcek** at katesvrcek@hotmail.com.

First Parish Humanist Council

First Parish Humanist Council joins CAH in hosting Michael Werner on “Ethical Dilemmas and Humanist Ethics” on Wednesday, October 23, at 7 p.m. Humanist ethics requires we seek the best toward human and global ecological flourishing. But we humanists have many high values that conflict at times: freedom, justice, compassion, self-interest vs. social concern, human vs. nonhuman welfare — all with irresolvable downsides or

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

The Pastoral Care Library Gets a New Look!

The First Parish Pastoral Care Library is a wonderful resource for the church community, and it is about to get a facelift. An effort is under way to make the library more up-to-date, user-friendly, and comprehensive. The collection is in the process of being catalogued, and the books will soon have spine labels and be organized on the shelves according to Dewey number and/or author, as well as the familiar colored dots indicating a subject area. If you are interested in working on this library project, please get in touch with **Enid Boasberg** at harpplayer@comcast.net.

—**Enid Boasberg**, Pastoral Care Council

Pastoral Care Note Cards

Thank you to **Kathleen Elcox** for continuing to create and supply the beautiful photo cards for the Pastoral Care note card table set out at coffee hour. And, thank you to the many kind parishioners that take the time to write to those on the pastoral list. Your kind thoughts have a healing touch.

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

The Lay Minister for October is **Bev Bringle**: bevbringle@yahoo.com or 978-369-4793.

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).

tradeoffs. Complicated? Sure, but this is not an ethic for seeking simple answers. \$5 donation appreciated.

Michael Werner, ardent Humanist and UU has a prestigious background in UU and Humanist circles. He supports a balance of heart and mind, reason and compassion and a UU-ism that helps us discover how to be more fully human. Note he will also present his new book on UU-ism at the Sunday Forum on Sunday, October 20.

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

The Standing Committee (SC) has already held one-quarter of its monthly meetings for the 2013-14 church year!

Because we meet on a 12-month schedule, coffee hours in September are a funny time for me. Everyone I meet asks, "Have you had a good summer?" To which I reply with the above statement. We have been, and continue to be, busy on many fronts.

As the governing, policy-making body of the Church, we have been focused on developing a common understanding of our governance with Howard.

- We had a four-hour retreat on August 21, facilitated by Doug Zelinski from the UUA district office, where we compared our perspectives on shared leadership at First Parish.
- At our monthly meeting on September 3, we reviewed the First Parish by-laws, the Governing Policies, and Howard's contract, to be mutually informed on how we are expected to work together.
- At our second retreat on September 8, we developed the Standing Committee's annual goals.

Other policy work includes:

- The continuation of three task forces from last year (Congregational Discernment, chaired by **Laurie Van Loon**; Ministerial Evaluation, chaired by **Andrea Siani**; and By-laws Updates, chaired by **Patty Popov**).
- The formation of a task force, planned since last April (to review the policy on committee formation, chaired by **Tom Wilson** with SC member **Mark Russell Prior**).

In September, we approved the 2013-14 budget at \$850,000. Minutes of that meeting detail how Howard has adjusted the roles of the paid staff to meet our Strategic Ends and annual goals. Minutes are posted on the website (and the church bulletin board) every month after the SC has had a chance to review and approve them.

In our fast-moving world, by the time you read this we will have all celebrated the installation of our new minister, **Howard Dana**. We on the Standing Committee, as the representative body of the entire congregation, look forward to an exciting year. Make that, an exciting three-quarters of a year. ♦

— **Jack Nevison**, 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.

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Checking In

The road to becoming a UU minister has two distinct tracks. There's the academic side, which entails successfully completing a minimum of twenty-seven courses (81 credits) to earn a Master of Divinity degree, and there is the UUA credentialing process, which involves a lot of additional writing and the ability to demonstrate one's competency in 17 different areas of ministry. Sometimes the tracks overlap and a graduate course will provide the needed training to raise the level of competency in a given area. Sometimes the road gets a bit muddy and it's hard to figure out where you are, let alone if you're on the right track.



Internships are one of those places of overlap, both academic and credentialing institutions understanding the importance of direct experience in the parish setting. Being an intern provides not only the opportunity to grow into some of those competencies; it also provides the time to observe and make some informed decisions about where this call to ministry will lead.

As I move into our second year together, I want to express my gratitude to First Parish for being such a wonderful teaching congregation. Thankfully, and I mean this sincerely, no one is shy about sharing an observation or some constructive criticism, nor do you hold back on your appreciation. You take the role of training would-be ministers seriously; and I can say now from personal experience, those who learn and grow in your midst are indeed fortunate.

For me the two tracks are finally merging as I work through my last two courses at Andover Newton and I approach an important meeting with the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee. As all this comes together, I am buoyed by your support and by the knowledge that we still have the church year ahead, with more opportunities for you to teach and me to grow, and perhaps, vice versa.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TONY". The letters are stylized and slanted.

Tony

First Parish in Concord gets things done! Hallelujah! My question this month is, “How?” How does a congregation of 800 decide together how to proceed and then do so? And where does congregational life fit in?

Peter Grey, the author of the article, “The Play Deficit,” which can be found at this link, <http://www.aeonmagazine.com/being-human/children-today-are-suffering-a-severe-deficit-of-play/>, inadvertently answered my questions. I often pause during my daily tasks to consider the question, what *is* congregational life? We can read the job description to see the daily and weekly tasks for which the Director of Congregational Life is responsible. I welcome visitors, find volunteers to help with coffee hour snacks, staff the Welcome Table, design and produce helpful brochures, co-lead the New to Unitarian Universalism classes, work with the Congregational Life Council to promote and plan ways for the congregation to build a sense of belonging, among other responsibilities.

However, there is an aspect of congregational life that is not specifically written into the job description. The area of congregational life I have been musing about is decision making. How does a congregation make a decision that is both beneficial to the congregation and furthers its mission? How does a group of 800 listen to and then weigh and balance all the pros and cons involved in a decision making process? How does a congregation of 800 people with a thousand thoughts and opinions come to some sort of consensus, make the most favorable choice, and then follow through with appropriate action?

In his article, Peter Grey explains how children learn to cooperate, negotiate, manage high emotion, and share during play. Take this one example:

“The reason why play is such a powerful way to impart social skills is that it is voluntary. Players are always free to quit, and if they are unhappy they will quit. Every player knows that, and so the goal, for every player who wants to keep the game going, is to satisfy his or her own needs and desires while also satisfying those of the other players, so they don’t quit. Social play involves lots of negotiation and compromise. If bossy Betty tries to make all the rules and tells her playmates what to do without paying attention to their wishes, her playmates will quit and leave her alone, starting their own game elsewhere. That’s a powerful incentive for her to pay more attention to them next time. The playmates who quit might have learned a lesson, too. If they want to play with Betty, who has some qualities they like, they will have to speak up more clearly next time, to make their desires plain, so she won’t try to run

the show and ruin their fun. To have fun in social play you have to be assertive but not domineering; that’s true for all of social life.”

It is not just true for social life, but for congregational life as well. Being part of a congregation is voluntary. As Peter Grey says, “Every [congregant] knows that, and so the goal, for every [congregant] who wants to keep the [congregation] going, is to satisfy his or her own needs and desires while also satisfying those of the other [congregants], so they don’t quit.”

There is much more to congregational life than this and many reasons why we choose to join a religious community, but I love this notion of satisfying the needs of the whole community in addition to our individual desires. The desires of the congregation as a whole are expressed in our mission. But if we are trying to make a decision about, for example, the installation of the commemorative pole given to the congregation by our partner congregation, or placing solar panels on the roof of the Meeting House, or when the congregation voted to become a Welcoming Congregation and a Green Sanctuary — how do we, as a congregation of many voices, listen to, hear each voice, and then do what is best for the whole?

I get the sense that many of us at First Parish in Concord are accustomed to getting things done. Perhaps we are used to taking charge of a project, jumping through the hoops, and running the project over the finish line. Or maybe we know who to call in order to get the appropriate approvals. This tendency to get things done may not be a Concord trait because I am like this too! I invite us all to slow down, listen to each other, and challenge ourselves to hear what is needed for the whole congregation. ♦

In faith and fellowship,

— Rachel Baker

Director of Congregational Life

Coffee Hour Snacks

In beloved community, we care for each other. Sometimes we take care of others, knowing that on other days, we will be cared for. This is true for coffee hour snacks.

On advice from the Coffee Hour Snack Task Force and individual members and friends of First Parish, I have alphabetically assigned 20 families and/or individuals to each Sunday throughout the year. I invite these 20 families and individuals to work together to decide how they would like to provide set-up, clean up, and simple snacks for the two coffee hours on the Sunday to which they are assigned. Feel free to find someone to fill in for you if you are not available on the date you are assigned.

Congregational Life

continued on page 7

At the end of this newsletter you will find a list of about six weeks of Sundays with last names of 20 families and/or individuals responsible for snacks each week. I will send contact information and additional information to each group of 20 soon. A list for the entire year will be available on the "Building Community" bulletin board.

**New to Unitarian Universalism?
New to First Parish in Concord?
Considering Membership?**

Come learn more about Unitarian Universalism, First Parish in Concord, and what it means to become a member at two workshops.

**Saturday, November 9, 10:00 a.m.-12 noon
New to Unitarian Universalism Workshop**

Participants will learn about the rich history of our Unitarian Universalist faith, gain an understanding of congregational polity, and better understand the role of the UU principles and sources in our values-driven movement. Coffee and tea provided.

**Sunday, November 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
New to First Parish in Concord Workshop**

Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff and lay leaders, find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book. You are invited to bring your lunch and eat and talk with other participants. To participate, RSVP to **Rachel Baker** by November 5 at rbaker@firstparish.org.

**New Short-Term Covenant Groups
Forming Now**

Covenant Groups provide a way for about ten people to explore the meanings of life together. Participants agree to share deeply, engage in active listening, and practice Unitarian Universalist values and principles in community. The relationships created in these small ministry groups may help newer members, long-time members, friends, and regular visitors to deepen in spirit and connect with others within the wider First Parish community. The groups are not intended to be support groups or provide therapy.

Participants in a short-term covenant group will commit to meet six to nine times for two hours, once each month through June. Each group will decide the best day, time and place to meet. These short term covenant groups will be led by **Rachel Baker**, Director of Congregational Life. For more information, please contact Rachel at rbaker@first-parish.org or call the church office during office hours.

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP NEWS

September ended on a series of exciting "high notes" for the Transylvania Partnership Community (TPC), and the coming months promise additional opportunities to participate in and learn about this vital aspect of First Parish congregational life. Check out the TPC bulletin board in the kitchen hallway for the latest information on all our activities.

Visit by Rev. József Szombatfalvi. Rev. Howard Dana invited Rev. József Szombatfalvi, Senior Minister of our partner Unitarian congregation in Székelykeresztúr, to participate in his installation on September 29. József arrived in Concord on September 25 and received a warm welcome two days later at the Congregational Potluck Dinner hosted by the TPC. (Thanks to **Lillian Anderson** who oversaw dinner preparations, as well as many others who helped make the evening such a success.) On Sunday, József gave a reflection at our traditional Transylvania Thanksgiving service and did the Bible reading at Howard's installation.

Among the many special activities during József's visit has been the opportunity to observe him carving the commemorative kopjafa pole, a gift from József and the Székelykeresztúr congregation. There are still a number of events before József departs for home on October 8.

Save the Date. We will begin our ongoing series of educational/cultural forums on Thursday, November 14, in the Parish Hall.

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.

Twentieth Anniversary Photo Retrospective in the FP Photo Galleries. We hope that you've enjoyed the special photo retrospective of the people and events of our 20-year partnership with the Unitarian congregation in Transylvania. Thanks to **Peggy** and **Bill Claybrook**, **Val Holt**, **Rodger Matlage** and **Marcia Schloss** for making this happen!

Ways 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 or through the TPC bulletin board. Upcoming meetings are scheduled on Thursdays October 17, November 14 (Educational Forum), and December 12. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"

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

Since I took over the duties of Youth Program Director last August, I've often been reminded of a concept I learned from a seasoned youth advisor a few years back. He taught me about mixing and huddling as a framework to create stronger multi-generational communities.

Mixing, in this context, is when people of all ages are in community with one another, doing the same social justice work or listening to the same story in worship. Huddling is when we separate by age-group to foster a sense of community with those whom we are closest in age. We need both of these, mixing and huddling, to create a strong multi-generational community.



Although I learned about this concept in the context of creating a thriving multi-generational community, I think it can apply to other areas as well.

Say... activism. Many of us are drawn to activism because of a specific cause. We find a social issue that has particular meaning to us and we devote our energies to working for that cause. Whether it be anti-racism, environmental justice, LGBTQ rights or worker rights, we quickly identify ourselves with that cause. We do a lot of huddling with others who are working for similar ends.

But how often do we mix with other activists doing similar work on a different issue? If we do mix, is it intentional? That is, is the mixing we do for the purpose of fostering a stronger activist community? What could come of this mixing if we met with other activists with this intention?

In multi-generational community, and in activist communities too, we need to create space for mixing. We need to share our talents and our resources. We need to take a step back from our particular cause and see how the roots of justice run through many social issues. We also need to find time to support our fellow justice-seekers; and also those activists who have become disillusioned by their work and are just seeking supportive community.

I think that the SAC Council's new structure is set up to get us here. But it takes all of us to make it happen. Please tell us if you feel that you could use a little mixing in your activist work. We'd love to hear from you. ♦

In faith,

—Bethany Lowe

blowe@firstparish.org

Vegan Potluck — Tuesday, October 6, 6:00 p.m.

Come one, come all to the vegan potluck dinner on October 8, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall, hosted by Reverence for Life. Please bring a plant-based dish to share that is without meat, fish, cheese, milk and eggs. (Please note if nuts are in the recipe.) A simple salad or loaf of bread is just fine. Please bring your own place setting and beverage. If you would like recipe ideas or can help with set up or clean up, e-mail **Marcia Schloss** at marcialou28@gmail.com, or call 978-371-2751. Two dollar donation and RSVP appreciated.

All Are Welcome at Amnesty International Group Meeting, Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.

Group 15 of Amnesty International will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 15, at 7 p.m., in the Greeley Room at First Parish. The group anticipates an active fall season, with a number of projects aimed at advancing the cause of human rights under consideration. All are welcome to join us.

2013 Concord Area CROP Walk for the Hungry

Join us for the CROP Walk on Sunday, October 20, starting at First Parish. Registration is at 1:30 p.m., with music by the CCHS Pep Band; the step-off is at 2:15 p.m. This walk raises funds for the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service, and for ten local food pantries and suppers. Our minister, **Rev. Howard Dana**, will walk; please consider walking with or sponsoring him. Go to www.concordcrop.org to sponsor him or another walker online, join the First Parish team, or get info. You may also sponsor Howard or pick up a form for yourself at coffee hour.

"The Climate Crisis: Why Only a Movement Can Save Us": a Special Event with Craig Altemose on Friday, October 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

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

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.



Autumn is my favorite season. It is ingathering season; a time of harvest, a time of reunion. A New England October, with its glowing colors and crisp air expresses the atmospheric energy I feel during the fall.

This energy has been abundant mid-week here at First Parish as our various choirs gather in once again to rehearse and to welcome new members. On a recent Wednesday I was delighted to hear the children's choirs singing together in the Parish Hall, while parents and siblings met for tea and snacks with **Pam Howell** in the Parlor. From down the hall, I could hear the percussion of the small children in the Wright Tavern's Music Together class in the Chapel. Later on, the teens and adults in the Gospel Choir shared stories of their summer over snacks in the Brooks Room and then joined in spirit-filled song up in the Sanctuary. This year their rehearsal time has moved from Sunday morning to Wednesday afternoon and it is wonderful have them "in the house" along with the other choirs on Wednesdays. Wednesday evening the music continued as First Parish Choir rehearsed in the Sanctuary, rounding out a music- and fellowship-filled day for parishioners of several generations.



The next afternoon, it was thrilling to hear, once again, the mellifluous tones of handbells wafting down the hall from the Chapel as the Lincoln Ringers settled in for their first rehearsal of the season. This year, they will be "in residence" at First Parish, rehearsing in our Chapel each week while their home rehearsal space is being prepared for renovation. They will also provide music for several worship services. You can hear them for the first time at both services on Sunday, October 27. I was especially pleased to see some of our own handbell players joining in with the Lincoln Ringers. Director Diane Burke welcomes Concord parishioners who are interested in ringing to come and observe and join in.

For most of our First Parish musical groups, September is a month of ingathering and preparation. By October, like the leaves in their glory, our music ministry bursts forth with its many tones. Look forward to hearing our Children's Choirs, Gospel Choir, Adult Choir and the Lincoln Ringers in worship during this month of glowing colors and bracing air. And come join in if you're inclined. Happy Autumn!

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

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 our First Parish ringers for a year of musical collaboration, and we'd love to have you be a part of it!

Come and join a Thursday rehearsal 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.

SAC Notes

continued from page 8

kinds of action are most 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."

Open Table Is Seeking to Fill Important Volunteer Positions at Our Maynard Site, Clock Tower Place

Volunteer Coordinator: Looking for an outward going, organized person who is comfortable using the computer. The Volunteer Coordinator (VC) recruits and schedules dinner servers, pantry guides and clean-up crew, and welcomes volunteers and assists in orientation programs for new volunteers. He or she would have a VC assistant to share Monday's 4:30-6:00 p.m. shifts. Working from home to schedule and recruit takes approximately five hours a week.

Guest Service Liaison: Experience in social work, community outreach, or public health helpful. Works with a dynamic team of individuals who make important referrals and support guests with life challenges. Two to five hours a week.

Check-in: Likes to meet new people, enjoys working with the public, comfortable multi-tasking (4:00-7:00 p.m. Mondays)

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Jeanine Calabria: jeaninecalabria@comcast.net.

Should religious education be fun? Hmmmm. Now that truly is a theological question! Let me ask this a different way: Is there room for joy when life can be so difficult? The answer is there must be room for joy. Having fun together is one of the important ways children bond with one another. When we laugh and find things funny in religious education, we are truly participating in the experience of being part of a religious community. Our kids make

friends here. Our kids make friends with people who are both younger and older than they are. Our kids learn that our differences are minimal compared to the things we have in common. If religious education teaches our children that we are more alike than different, if it teaches us that we are in need and needed, if it teaches us that joy can spill out of where we are broken, then yes, religious education should be fun for our children.

And I am glad for that. ♦

Love,

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Welcome, New Families!

Are you new to First Parish? Do you want to learn more about our RE programming? Our RE Council and other knowledgeable parents are happy to speak with you and/or guide you on Sunday mornings. We will have an RE Greeter at the main entrance to the Sanctuary through October. The Greeter will be wearing a red sash. Please introduce yourself and let them help you find your way into our RE family.

On our website, there is a pdf document called “Your First Visit.” This may also help guide you into our parish. At coffee hour, there are many calendars and brochures about our program. And, of course, you can feel free to visit with me or others on our RE Council.

We look forward to seeing you and your children in our historic pews.

Milldam Playground Update

The playground will be closed until October 18 due to Yellow Jackets (the bee kind).

October 2013 RE Calendar

- Sun., Oct. 6 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists (Gaining Ground Trip)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 10:00 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
9th Grade Coming of Age, 4:30 p.m. (Emerson Room)
- Fri., Oct. 11-12 9th Grade Coming of Age Retreat
- Sun., Oct. 13 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Columbus Day Weekend, no RE classes
- Tues., Oct. 15 Youth Advisory Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun., Oct. 20 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 10:00 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
9th Grade Coming of Age, 4:30 p.m. (Emerson Room)
- Sun., Oct. 27 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists (Brooks Room)
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 10:00 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
9th Grade Coming of Age, 4:30 p.m. (Emerson Room)

Second to Fifth Grade Middle RE Fall Term — Our Humanist Teachings of Science, Wonder and Awe

October 6 – Chapel Sunday – Water as a Spiritual Practice: This Sunday will focus on how water is used as a powerful symbol of healthy living.

October 2 and 27 – We will break into grade level groups and learn how rocks and water inspire people to wonder. Wonder is the root of scientific thought.

November 3 – Chapel Sunday – All Souls Day – we will explore how rocks are an important part of marking the passing of loved ones. Please bring a photo of a pet or a loved one who has passed in your child’s life.

RE News

continued on page 11

Sixth/Seventh Grade Neighboring Activists

Our Neighboring Activists will be getting dirty this month at Gaining Ground, our Community Garden plot, and on the CROP Walk. Please consider sponsoring this group on their walk. The CROP Walk is on Sunday, October 20, stepping off from First Parish at 2:15 p.m.

Eighth Grade Dramatic Arts

This year there will be three formal showings of the eighth grade play, "A Year with Frog and Toad." Please mark your calendars for Friday evening at 7 p.m. on December 20, Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. on December 21 and Saturday evening at 7 p.m. on December 21. All are invited to attend this amazing play. Proceeds will go to pay for the performance rights and to support youth service trips.

RE Leader Orientation

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. The following is a list of upcoming orientations.

Orientation Schedule for Little RE, Babies – 4 years, Little RE Classrooms:

9:00 a.m. Fall Term B – Sunday, October 13, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
10:30-11:00 a.m. Fall Term B – Sunday, October 13, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Orientation Schedule for Spirit Play – K/1st Grade Teachers, Spirit Play Rooms, Lower Level:

9:00 a.m. Holiday Term – Sunday, November 3, 8:30-10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. Holiday Term – Sunday, November 3, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Orientation Schedule for Middle RE, Second – Fifth Grade Teachers, Emerson Room:

9:00 a.m. Fall Term – Sunday, September 15, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m. Fall Term – Sunday, September 15, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists, Holiday Term:
Tuesday, November 5, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

YRUU YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group is up and running! So far, the YRUU Band has reunited and regular Sunday night Youth Group activities have resumed. Also, with the help of **Marcia Schloss** and **Lyell Slade**, we started a vegan cooking activity on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7 p.m. (before Youth Group). We'll continue this activity in October. If your youth is in Coming of Age and also wants to come to Youth Group, this is a great way for them to have dinner in between these two activities.

At the end of September, we went on retreat to Ferry Beach, where we enjoyed beach walks, games of volleyball and cooking stew over a campfire. Thanks to **Sue Wood, David Ropeik, Rodger Mattlage, Mark Howell** and **Pam Howell** for chaperoning that retreat.

On the way home from this retreat, the vans were buzzing with ideas for our service trip to West Virginia from April 19 to 26. We're planning to have an information session on this trip in October or November. If your youth is high school aged and interested in going on this trip, look out for an exact date for that information session. We're looking for chaperons for that trip too! Get in touch with me if you're interested in being a chaperon.

To make this service trip more affordable, we've asked the youth who are going on this trip to raise \$200 apiece. To kick-off this fundraising, the youth will be hosting a haunted house and other Halloween-y activities on Saturday, October 26. This event will be geared toward families with children of all ages. We'll have dunking for apples, doughnuts on a string, pumpkin painting, and of course a scary haunted house for the older kids. Funds raised will go towards the youth's fundraising goal for the trip to West Virginia.

This year is off to a great start and the youth are leading the charge on planning many of the activities we're putting together this year. I'm looking forward to seeing what they do! ♦

— *Bethany Lowe*

Haunted House and Halloween Activities Sponsored by Youth Group on Saturday, October 26

The Youth Group invites families and friends of First Parish to come enjoy an evening of Halloween-themed activities. The funds raised from this event will support the Youth Group's service trip to West Virginia in April. There will be dunking for apples, doughnuts on strings, face painting and pumpkin painting. For an additional admission, there will also be a haunted house open to older kids who dare enter. Bring the whole family to enjoy this evening of Halloween activities, while also supporting the Youth Group's service trip to West Virginia.

Rise Up and Call Her Name

All women are invited to drop in and join us in studying Goddess- and Nature-centered faith traditions around the world. On Wednesday morning, October 2, at 9:30 a.m., we will journey to Japan and become acquainted with the Shinto religion, Japan's indigenous faith. We will also meet the sun goddess Amaterasu and reflect on her and on ourselves at the same time. Please reply to **Bozena Smith** at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

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

All First Parish women are invited to an evening of informal socializing, with a chance to learn about ongoing women's groups and activities. Please bring food to share. 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 next gathering is Tuesday, October 1, in the Parish Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Save Upcoming Dates: 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.

Women's Parish Association

The WPA is a federation open to all women of First Parish. We seek to foster social ties and provide creative programming to support charities and our church community. We invite women of all ages to join us this church year. Come to a Wednesday lunch, volunteer to help or make something for our Fall Artisans Fair, invite your parents or children to our Holiday Tea. We look forward to a great year! Look for our news in the *Sunday News* or the *Meeting House News*. Officers of the WPA this year: **Marilyn Lowitt**, President; **Lois Whitney**, Vice President; **Carol Boris**, Treasurer; **Irmi Doane**, Secretary; **Gerrie Madigan**, Social Secretary. **Dian Pekin** is our Program Chair. Contact any of us for more information. Other board members are **Ginger Lang**, **Melita Tiechert**, **Becky Blodgett**, **Claudia Nimar**, **Barbara Wheeler**, **Elfie Knudson**, **Helen Stoddard**, **Lois Mitchell**, **Lois Suarez**.

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 discussion 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 email 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:

- 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

OCTOBER 2013 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Essence of Buddhist Thought and Practice</i>	Tuesday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
<i>Hum Strum and Drum Class</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Gospel Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
Lincoln Handbell Ringers	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Worship Reflection	Sunday	12:15 p.m.

Tue Oct 1	4:00	Shawl Ministry	•	Fri Oct 18	Newsletter Deadline
	6:00	Minerva Gatherings Potluck Dinner	•		6:00 Women's All-Parish Potluck
Wed Oct 2	9:00	<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	•		7:00 <i>Concord Area Humanists</i>
	6:00	Arts Council	•	Sat Oct 19	6:30 Square Dance
Thu Oct 3	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Sun Oct 20	12:30 Nominating Committee
Fri Oct 4	7:00	Play Reading Group	•		1:00 CROP Walk
Sun Oct 6	6:30	Standing Committee	•	Wed Oct 23	11:30 WPA Luncheon
Tue Oct 8	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•		7:00 Humanist Council and CAH
	6:30	Vegan Potluck	•	Thu Oct 24	7:00 <i>Vegan 101</i>
Fri Oct 11	12:30	<i>T'ai Chi</i>	•	Fri Oct 25	7:30 Craig Altemose Talk and Reception
Sat Oct 12	9:00	Photography Club	•		7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Tue Oct 15	7:00	Evening Worship	•	Mon Oct 28	7:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i> off-site
Thu Oct 17	7:00	Transylvania Partnership Community	•	Tue Oct 29	9:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i>
	7:00	<i>Vegan 101</i>	•	Fri Nov 1	7:00 Play Reading Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Sat Nov 2	10:00-4:00 Artisan Fair
			•		
			•		

OCTOBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

The November Newsletter deadline is Friday, October 18, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, October 29.

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, Assistant to 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

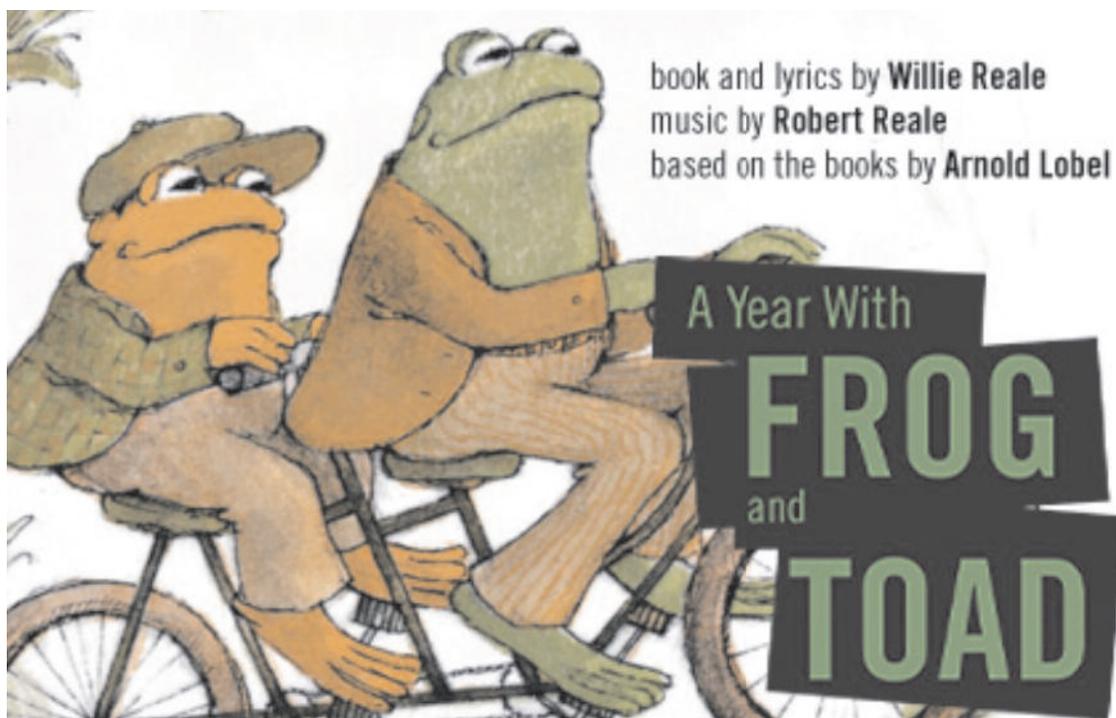
• Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector

• Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

• Kaye Harvie, Volunteer Copy Editor

8th Graders to Present *A Year with Frog and Toad*

Save the dates! On Friday evening, **December 20**, and on Saturday, **December 21**, at matinee and evening performances, our First Parish 8th Graders will be presenting the musical children's play *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Based on the stories by writer and illustrator Arnold Lobel, the musical tells of the friendship between a rather fretful toad and his more rambunctious frog friend. Joined by the other woodland animals, they will delight children and adults of all ages! This is a holiday treat you won't want to miss!



TRANSCENDENTALISM COUNCIL OF FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD



FALL 2013 CALENDAR OF CONCORD-AREA TRANSCENDENTALISM EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 3:30–5:30 PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 3:30–5:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2:00–4:00 PM

Sense of Place—Concord: *Monthly Walks in the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Concord*

The marsh moves through many changes in the autumn months. Colors peak and fade, migrants fill the sky then are gone, muskrat lodges appear, spiders drape the landscape with gossamer, and sunsets deepen their fiery glow. Join Cherrie Corey for late afternoon walks around the refuge when autumn's majesty is most palpable.

Co-sponsored with Musketaquid Arts and Environment Program and Friends of the Assabet River NWR.

FEE: \$5 donation/person will be gratefully accepted.

PLACE: Meet at the information kiosk at Great Meadows NWR in Concord. Take Bedford Rd. 1.3 miles east from Monument Square and turn left onto Monsen Road. Great Meadows entrance is on the left.

CONTACT: Cherrie at cherrie.corey@verizon.net or 978-760-1833

4 MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 28

Book Group: Megan Marshall's *"Margaret Fuller: A New American Life"*

Jenny Rankin will lead a book group on Megan Marshall's *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*.

FEE: \$59

TIME/PLACE: 7:00–8:30 pm, Concord-Carlisle High School, 500 Walden St., Concord, MA

CONTACT: Concord Carlisle Adult & Community Education, 978-318-1432 or www.ace.colonial.net

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Innermost House: Coming Home to the Peace of a Simple Life

Diana Lorence will share her experience of living in a 12x12-foot cabin in the California woods. Co-sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord, The Thoreau Society, the Walden Woods Project, and Thoreau Farm. Space is limited. Please contact info@thoreausociety.org.

ADMISSION: Free

TIME/PLACE: 7:30 pm, Thoreau Birth House, 341 Virginia Road, Concord, MA

CONTACT: info@thoreausociety.org or 978-369-5310

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 AND SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 19**

Concord Orchestra Concert

Concord: The Transcendentalists

Hector Berlioz, *Symphonie Fantastique*

Charles Ives, *The Unanswered Question*

Eric Sawyer, World Premier of *Fantasy Concerto: Concord Conversations*

Soloists are Triple Helix: Bayla Keyes, violin;

Lois Shapiro: piano; Rhonda Rider: cello.

TICKETS: Adults \$30, Seniors \$25, Students \$10

TIME/PLACE: 8:00 pm, 51 Walden St., Concord, MA

CONTACT: www.concordorchestra.com/Tickets.html, 978-369-4967

Shaded events are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord. Please contact sponsoring organizations to confirm the time, date, location, and price of all events, as details are subject to change.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

A Life with Thoreau

Jeffrey S. Cramer, Curator of Collections at the Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods, celebrates publication of his 7th volume of Thoreau's writings with thoughts from a life with Thoreau.

ADMISSION: Free

TIME/PLACE: 7:30 pm, The Thoreau Institute at Walden Woods, 44 Baker Farm Road, Lincoln, MA

INFORMATION: www.concordfestivalofauthors.com, The Thoreau Institute, 781-259-4700

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Thoreau's Mountain Journeys

Writer and outdoorsman John Gibson takes you on twelve of Thoreau's mountain journeys. Space is limited. RSVP to 978-451-0300 or nancy@thoreaufarm.org.

ADMISSION: Free

TIME/PLACE: 7:00 pm, Thoreau Birth House, 341 Virginia Road, Concord, MA

INFORMATION: www.concordfestivalofauthors.com, Thoreau Birth House, 978-451-0300

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man

A talk by Walter Stahr, the biographer of William Henry Seward, Lincoln's closest friend and advisor, target of the assassins who killed Lincoln, purchaser of Alaska, early architect of America's empire.

ADMISSION: Free

TIME/PLACE: 7:30 pm, Concord Museum, Cambridge Turnpike at Lexington Rd., Concord, MA

INFORMATION: www.concordfestivalofauthors.com, Concord Museum, 978-369-9763

3 TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 29—NOVEMBER 12

Digging Deeper

Jayne Gordon is offering this Concord history course, about community gatherings and holiday celebrations in Concord in five different centuries, and their origins.

FEE: \$59

TIME/PLACE: 7:00–9:00 pm, Concord-Carlisle High School, 500 Walden St., Concord, MA

CONTACT: Concord Carlisle Adult & Community Education 978-318-1432 or www.ace.colonial.net

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

A Henry David Thoreau Mystery

This debut novel by B.B. Oak is part of a new and unique historical mystery series, featuring Henry David Thoreau as crime solver. Space is limited. RSVP to 978-451-0300 or nancy@thoreaufarm.org.

ADMISSION: Free

TIME/PLACE: 2:00 pm, Thoreau Birth House, 341 Virginia Road, Concord, MA

INFORMATION: www.concordfestivalofauthors.com, Thoreau Birth House, 978-451-0300

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Ruth Ratner Miller Award for Excellence in American History

The award will be presented by the Friends of the Concord Free Public Library to Drew Gilpin Faust, President of Harvard College. President Faust is an historian of the Civil War and the American South. Faust will make a presentation on her areas of interest and sign copies of her award-winning books, which include *Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War* and *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War*.

TICKETS: Adults \$15, Students \$5. Available at the Concord Library, 129 Main St., and the Concord Bookshop, 65 Main St.

TIME/PLACE: 7:30 pm, Fenn School Meeting and Performance Hall, 516 Monument St., Concord, MA

INFORMATION: www.concordfestivalofauthors.com, Concord Free Public Library, 978-318-3300

4 MONDAYS, NOVEMBER 4–25

Discussion Group on Thoreau's "Walden"

Michael Frederick, Executive Director of The Thoreau Society, will lead a discussion group on Thoreau's *Walden*. Co-sponsored by The Thoreau Society and the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord. Enrollment limited to 12.

FEE: \$60

TIME/PLACE: 7:00–9:00 pm, Thoreau Birth House, 341 Virginia Road Concord, MA

REGISTRATION: info@thoreausociety.org or 978-369-5310

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Author Talk: Eve LaPlante on Abigail May Alcott, the visionary and inspiring mother of Louisa May Alcott

Eve LaPlante will talk about her two latest books:

☛ *Marmee and Louisa: The Untold Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Mother*

☛ *My Heart Is Boundless: Writings of Abigail May Alcott, Louisa's Mother.*

Followed by questions and answers, reception, and book signing. Reservations are not required.

ADMISSION: Free

TIME/PLACE: 3:00 pm, First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA

CONTACT: First Parish at 978-369-9602, or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net

First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

GATHERED IN 1636



A Brief Guide

Activities you can participate in:

- **Worship**
 - Sunday Worship Services, 9 and 11 a.m. (10 a.m. during summer), childcare is provided
 - Sunday Forum
 - Monthly evening (third Tuesdays), seasonal, and special worship
 - Worship Reflection and Conversation, after each 11:00 a.m. service in the Parlor
 - See the website for information about additional life-stance and theological opportunities
- **Regular Fellowship Events** (see newsletter, Sunday news, and website for details)
 - September: Homecoming Celebration, Dinner Celebration with Partner Congregation
 - October: Opportunities Fair, Congregation-wide Square Dance, and small dinner gatherings
 - November: Event to be announced
 - December: Children's Craft Fair, Women's Parish Association Concert and Tea
 - January: Congregation-wide Potluck and Game Night and Women's Retreats
 - February: Small dinner gatherings (referred to as Circle Suppers)
 - March: Terrific Tuesdays Dinner and Vespers
 - April: Maundy Thursday simple supper or dinner
 - May: Retreat to Ferry Beach, Saco, Maine
 - June: Gay Pride March in Boston with Diversity Committee
 - June – August: Summer Picnics
 - Monthly Women's Potluck (first Tuesday of each month)
 - Monthly Vegan Potluck (second Tuesday)

For information about:

- **Church Membership**, Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life, rbaker@firstparish.org
- **Choirs for adults, youth, and children**, Beth Norton, Music Director, bnorton@firstparish.org
- **Religious Education for children and youth**, Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education, drepamhowell@gmail.com
- **Religious Education for adults**, see listings at www.wrighttavern.org
- **Social Action Community**, Bethany Lowe, Social Action Director, BLowe@firstparish.org
- **Pastoral Care**, Tony Fisher, Ministerial Intern, tfisher@firstparish.org

Groups you can join (for personal enrichment*, strategic visioning[∞], and/or task completion[‡]):

	First Name	Last Name	Email
Adult Religious Education,* Wright Tavern			(To be determined)
Archives Committee [‡]	Winslow	Pettingell	LondonSW11@comcast.net
Arts Council [∞]	Lillian	Anderson	LillianAnd@comcast.net
Buddhist Group,* Wright Tavern	Bill	Seaver	billseaver@earthlink.net
By Your Side Singers* [‡]	Beth	Norton, staff	music@firstparish.org
Circle Suppers*	Caitlin	Selle	selle.caitlin5@gmail.com
Congregational Life Council [∞]	Kate	Svrcek	katesvrcek@hotmail.com
Covenant Groups Program*	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
Denominational Affairs Committee ^{∞‡}	Dian	Pekin	pekindc@comcast.net
Diversity Committee [∞]	Sara	Ballard	sara@sb.org
Environmental Leadership Team ^{∞‡}	Peter	Lowitt	peter.lowitt@verizon.net

Extended Families Program*	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
First Tuesday Group for Seniors Affinity Group*	Dave	Dawson	dandbdawson@verizon.net
Flower Committee‡	Ellen	Whitney	ellewhitney@verizon.net
Forum Committee‡	Charles	Lowell	chasrlo@verizon.net
Herb Garden Committee‡	Val	Holt	valholt@comcast.net
Humanist Council∞‡	Pat	Everett	pne@aol.com
Jewish Awareness Affinity Group*	Dana	Snyder-Grant	dana.snydergrant@gmail.com
Men's Group*	Don	Dempsey	dembsey@verizon.net
Ministerial Intern Committee‡	Alec	Walker	alecwalker@aol.com
Music Events Committee∞	Rob	Hamilton	robh@netchromatics.com
Needle Workers Affinity Group*	Regina	Hugendubler	ode2joy@usa.net
Partner Congregation Committee‡	Ken	Estabrook	estabrook@ll.mit.edu
Pastoral Care Advisory Council‡	Judy	Dempsey	dembsey@verizon.net
Pastoral Care Lay Ministers‡	Diane	Clapp	d.clapp@comcast.net
Photography Club Affinity Group*	Kathleen	Elcox	kelcox1@verizon.net
Religious Education Council∞	Lora	Venesy	Venesy@comcast.net
Social Action Community Council∞	Tom	Wilson	twilson@wilsongroup.com
Spanish Conversation Affinity Group*	Laurie	Van Loon	ivanloon@comcast.net
Transcendentalism Council∞‡	Dianne	Weiss	diannemcweiss@comcast.net
Women's Book Group,* Wright Tavern	Darien	Smith	darien@smithquest.com
Women's Goddess Covenant Circle*	Bozena	Smith	bozenasmith@mindspring.com
Women's Parish Association∞‡	Dian	Pekin	pekindc@comcast.net
Wright Tavern Board∞‡			(To be determined)

Examples of volunteer opportunities‡:

	First Name	Last Name	Email
Co-host Coffee Hour	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
Co-organize Fellowship Events	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
Envelope Stuffers	Cassy	Bosworth, staff	cbosworth@firstparish.org
Friendly Visitors	Tony	Fisher, Intern	tfisher@firstparish.org
Host Circle Supper	Caitlin	Selle	Selle.caitlin5@gmail.com
Meal Delivery	Bev	Bringle	bevbringle@yahoo.com
Meal Preparation	Rhoda	Miller	rhodamill@aol.com
Newborn Outreach	Louisa	Paushter	louisa@wimoweh.com
Note Cards	Kathleen	Elcox	kelcox1@verizon.net
Order of Service Collators	Cassy	Bosworth, staff	cbosworth@firstparish.org
Rides	Suzanne	Hogan	suzanne.hogan@comcast.net
Set up, Serve, Clean up at events	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
Shawl Ministry	Regina	Hugendubler	ode2joy@usa.net
Teach at Wright Tavern			(To be determined)
Teach youth or children's RE classes	Pam	Howell, staff	drepamhowell@gmail.com
Ushers and Sound System Operators	Jonathan	Hurd	jahurd@aol.com
Volunteer Office Staff	Cassy	Bosworth, staff	cbosworth@firstparish.org
Wayside pulpit signage and care	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
Welcome Visitors and New Members	Rachel	Baker, staff	rbaker@firstparish.org
Winter Bouillon Makers	Kel	Keleher	kel@rkeleher.com

Groups you can be nominated for:

- Standing Committee∞: Jack Nevison at jmn@newleafpm.com
- Nominating Committee∞: Eric Read at eric@theworld.com
- Trustees of Parish Donations Council∞: Tim Jacoby at jacoby@deloitte.com

Descriptions are available on the website.

Sunday Coffee Hour Snack Offerings

10/6/2013, Coffee Hours after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

ALDRICH	AMARI-FAULKNER	ARMENTI
ALEY	ANDERSON	ARTHUR
ALLISON	ANDERSON	ATKINS
ALMGREN	ANDERSON	ATKINS
ALTERNATIVE	ANDERSON	BADE
ALTHOUSE	ANDREWS	BAILEY
ALTSHULER	APPEL	

10/13/2013, Coffee Hours after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

BAIRD	BARTON	BEER
BAKER	BAXTER	BEEUWKES
BALLARD	BEAN	BELIER
BARKER	BEATON	BELL
BARNES	BECK	BENEDICT
BARRON	BECK	BENUA
BARTLETT	BEEDE	

10/20/2013, Coffee Hours after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

BERGER	BIGGS	BODENRADER
BERNARD	BIRCHARD	BOOTH
BERNARD	BIRD	BORIS
BERNSTEIN	BIRKETT	BOTHE
BESTHOFF	BLODGETT	BOUDREAU
BETTS	BLUMBERG	BOUDROT
BIGAY	BOASBERG	

10/27/2013, Coffee Hours after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

BOVEY	BRENLE	BRYAN
BOYNTON	BRIEN	BUCK
BOYNTON	BRIGGS	BUCK
BRACK	BRINGLE	BUECHNER-VISCHER
BRADEN	BROCK	BURGESS
BRAINERD	BROWN	BUTCHER
BRANDHORST	BROWN	

11/3/2013, Coffee Hours after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

CADWELL	CAPOFREDDI	CHASE
CAFFREY	CARLTON	CHAVEZ
CALABRIA	CARPENTER	CHIHA
CALIANDRO	CARROLL-CRONIN	CHRISTIANSON
CALLAHAN	CASTILLO	CLANON
CAMPBELL	CHANG	CLAPP
CAMPBELL	CHASE	

11/10/2013, Coffee Hours after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

CLARK	COHEN	CONNELLY
CLARK	COHEN	COOK
CLARK	COHEN	COPP
CLARKE	COLLEN	CORELLE
CLAYBROOK	COLPAK	CORNWALL
CLAYTON	COMER	CRATSLEY
CLYMER	CONLEY	



for **Spiritual** Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • October 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.

NEW AND REVISED COURSES

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**

Tuesday: 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. Thursday: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Donations are gratefully accepted.

Concord Area Humanists (CAH)

CAH will present Mark Reimers on Evolution of the Human Mind and Brain. Our human mind and consciousness has evolved from an ape mind over the past six million years. How have our brains changed to bring this about? This talk will present genetic, anatomical and behavioral evidence, bearing on the changes to the brain that supported the emergence of the human mind. It will speculate on how changes in our DNA may have made that possible. Contact: **Patrick Everett**

Friday: October 18 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation

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.: 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.
- 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, non-fiction
- 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, to enhance optimal health, and to simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: **Mae Pagan**
- Friday: October 11, November 8, December 13
12:30-1:30 p.m. Fee: \$25 per session



Holiday Artisans Fair

Café: Lunch and Snacks All Day

50 Juried Artists & Artisans showing and selling latest works. Outstanding collection of handmade glass items, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, clothing, art prints, cards, photography, woodworking items, children's items, home decorations, food gift items, and more. Knitted scarves, pet gifts, catnip balls, crafts. Door prize & many raffle items.

Saturday, November 2, 2013
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Bring your family members and friends for a fun-filled day of browsing, shopping, eating delicious food and socializing. Contact Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to volunteer to help.

Admission: \$3. Children, \$1. Children Under 5, Free.

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road.
Concord, MA
(978) 369-9602 - Wheelchair Accessible

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 in the Parish Hall, with a chance to learn about ongoing women's groups and activities.

Please bring food and drink to share and your own dinnerware and placemat

RSVP to Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com

Sponsored by the Women's Retreats Committee