



The Meeting House News

October 29, 2013
Volume 50, No. 3

Our fiftieth year!

IN THIS ISSUE

REVERIES

I am a fan of a cooking show called “Chopped” on the Food Network. Maybe you have seen it. In this culinary competition four chefs battle it out through three timed rounds — and one chef is eliminated after each round. They also have to work with ridiculous mystery ingredients like kumquats, frozen waffles, snails,



or a chocolate Santa Claus. At the end of each round, dishes the chefs create are all judged on taste, presentation, and creativity — and then the judges “chop” someone! I have seen the show enough to know that the winner is rarely the chef with the most experience or the fanciest restaurant. Just the opposite — it is usually a quiet, earnest chef who takes home the \$10,000 prize. One of the most amazing aspects of the show is how the fancy, smack-talking, boastful chefs fall one by one to the more humble, sincere ones. This is so much the case that by the end of the show, crowning the winner

is usually a bit anticlimactic. The humble chef who has cooked his or her way to the finish line just stands there smiling sheepishly. Often there are tears in his or her eyes — and in the eyes of the judges. One of the things I like best about “Chopped” is that sincerity pays off.

And so it is with us at church. Work and leadership at First Parish can sometimes feel like being in the Chopped kitchen — lots of pressure, too little time, talented competitors, and odd mystery ingredients to work with. But I assure you, at the end of the day, it will be the First Parish leaders who proceed with grace and humility that will have the most lasting impact. Church is not a competition. It is not a race. There is no prize for crossing the finish line first — just the opposite. Church is about relationships. It is about tending to the process so that everyone’s voice is heard. It is about moving forward at a pace that allows everyone to keep up. One of the ways that I am called to minister to our congregation is to remind us all over and over to go at a sustainable pace. I am here among you to show that the way we are with one another is just as important as getting things done. I am here to model a way to be spiritual and effective — a way to be gentle and productive. And when the kitchen starts to heat up, when tempers flare, and when it seems like we are all in a great big hurry, I will remind us to stop watching the clock. I will ask us to turn the heat down on the stove. And I will ask us to do what doesn’t happen on “Chopped” — I will ask us to eat together, taking turns serving and receiving. It is a joy to be among you.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

Page 1	REVERIES In This Issue
Page 2	Worship Services Schedule Sanctuary Flowers Newsletter Notice Parish Notes
Page 3	Parish Notes, continued Stewardship Meeting Note Arts Corner Events
Page 4	Parish Notes, continued Ministerial Intern Reflection
Page 5	Standing Committee News Parish Notes, continued
Page 6	Congregational Life
Page 7	Congregational Life, continued Nominating Committee News Transylvania Partnership News
Page 8	SAC News and Events
Page 9	Pastoral Care Notes
Page 10	Reflections and RE News
Page 11	RE News, continued MUSings
Page 12	Women’s News UU News
Page 13	November 2013 Calendar
Page 14	First Parish Contact Info and Staff

There are **FOUR** inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ Food Coops Film Information
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs
- ◆ Coffee Hour Snack Host List
- ◆ First Parish Publicity Information

First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

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

WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

Sunday, November 3

All Souls Service — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 Choir and Junior Choir

11:00 Choir and Chalice Choir

Sunday, November 10

Service in Time of War — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 & 11:00 – Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, November 17

Recipe for an Ugly Cake — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 Gospel Choir

11:00 Choir

Sunday, November 24

Pray Before Eating — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 & 11:00 – 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.

Newsletter Submission Note

To all who submit *Meeting House News* items/articles:

Please: Be On Time – No late items will be accepted.

Be Brief – Who/What/Where/When only.

Avoid Duplication, i.e. a Parish Note item and an insert.

December deadline is Friday, November 15.

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
January: Friday, December 13	Friday, January 3
February: Friday, January 24	Tuesday, February 4
March: Friday, February 20	Tuesday, March 4

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.

Reserving Tables to Distribute Information during Coffee Hours

All individuals or groups wanting to display or distribute information and/or sign people up for various events need to make application through the facilities manager (**Doug Baker**). He knows most of the events that are approved by the church, and any that he has questions about he will pass to the Director of Operations and/or the Minister for their input. Anyone who asks people to sign petitions must have their sign-up sheets on a table, not carried around to individuals. There have been a few complaints about parishioners being approached by individuals carrying clipboards and aggressively insisting that people sign their petitions. Please respect people's rights to not have an interrupted social hour and not be pressed to join or sign up for programs.

WPA Boutique at the Artisans Fair

Do you enjoy sewing, knitting, crocheting or creating works of fiber art, crewel work, etc.? There's still time for you to donate 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 and knitted or crocheted clothing. Also, we welcome home decorating items, quilted items, jewelry, and the like. Many thanks for your contributions.

It's Time to Attend the Holiday Artisans Fair — Saturday, November 2

Don't forget to come to 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

Parish Notes

continued on page 3

attracts great artists, artisans, and holiday shoppers. Many great artisans will be showing and selling their latest offerings. 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 pekindc@comcast.net to volunteer your help at this great community event.

Author Talk by Eve LaPlante — Save the Date: December 8

On Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m., author Eve LaPlante will talk about her 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 May's Mother*. A reception and book signing will follow. This event is presented by the Women's Parish Association and the Transcendentalism Council.

No WPA Luncheon Meeting in November

Due to the busyness of the Artisans Fair, Thanksgiving, and other events in November, there will be no WPA luncheon meeting this month.

Here Comes the Sun! (And a Congregational Vote on November 10)

What do you get when you mix the sun, a south-facing roof, and First Parish's Environmental Leadership Team? Right, a solar-panel project proposal! We propose an 18.5-kilowatt system to supply roughly 25 percent of First Parish's electricity. High on the Walden Street-facing roofs, the installations' visual

Congregational Stewardship Meeting — Tuesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

How will we help First Parish grow, change and thrive?

Getting involved in stewardship is an opportunity to influence the future of First Parish and to help shape fundraising and budgetary priorities. You are invited to participate in a conversation begun on October 16, when committee/council chairs came together with members of the Standing Committee and staff to discuss fundraising opportunities, tactics and strategies.

At this meeting, we will discuss the meaning of stewardship and plan ways that we, the congregation, can use fundraising to reflect and support our collective priorities. Come and bring your friends. Refreshments will be served.

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.

November 5 – January 2 – All-Parish Art Show – Altshuler Gallery

November 1 at 7:00 p.m. – Play Reading Group – *Clybourne Park*

November 6 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

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

November 17 at 7:00 p.m. – Sarasa Chamber Music Concert

November 22 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.

impact is minimal — it got unanimous Historic District Commission approval. But its "green" impact is *big*. The electricity produced over the project's 30-year life is equivalent to planting 18,660 trees or taking 133 cars off the road for a year. The project breaks even in about ten years and helps First Parish fulfill its Green Sanctuary status by reducing our carbon footprint and honoring our seventh UU principle. Sustainability, financial prudence, and an institutional model for Concord all in one! But it's not a done deal. It depends on *you!* The congregation votes on the project on Sunday, November 10. Have questions? Want to know more? Check out an information session, display, or coffee-hour table. Or contact someone on the ELT or solar task force. No matter what, come be part of the historic vote on November 10.

Play Reading Group

The Play Reading group is generating interest. 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 November 1, at 7 p.m., we begin reading *Clybourne Park*, by Bruce Morris. "Winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize and London's Olivier Award for best play, *Clybourne Park* is a bold new play about race, real estate and the volatile values of each. Inspired by Lorraine Hansberry's classic play *A Raisin in the*

Sun, this acclaimed work explodes in two outrageous acts set 50 years apart. Act one takes place in 1959, as nervous community leaders anxiously try to stop the sale of a home in a white community to a black family. Act two is set in the same house in 2009, as the now predominantly African-American neighborhood battles to hold its ground in the face of gentrification.” Copies are available within the Minuteman Library network. Two copies have been requested for sharing. Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text.

Eighth Graders to Present “A Year with Frog and Toad” — Save the Dates, December 20 and 21

On Friday evening, December 20, and on Saturday, December 21, at matinee and evening performances, our First Parish Eighth 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. Frog and toad are joined by birds, snails, turtles, lizards and moles, singing songs about the power of friendship. Plan to join us for this holiday treat.

Discussion with Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

November’s Jewish Awareness Affinity Group will discuss Kati Marton’s memoir, *Enemies of the People*. Marton is a Hungarian-American journalist, daughter of UPI and AP reporters Ilona and Endre Marton. Her parents survived the Holocaust, but never spoke about it. They served two years in prison on false charges of espionage for the United States — Kati and her sister were placed in the care of strangers. Raised a Roman Catholic, she learned much later that her grandparents were Jews who were murdered at Auschwitz. Read this fascinating story and join us in the discussion on Friday evening, November 15, at 7 p.m. at First Parish.

Wanted: Housing for Next Year’s Intern

Ministry is an itinerant profession. A minister needs to be able to pull up stakes and move — and to be comfortable in the new setting. One of the opportunities of an internship is to experience a different environment — a different part of the country, a different culture. In order to make it possible for an intern from somewhere else to spend a year at First Parish, we are looking for a rent-free apartment. If you can offer one or know of one, please contact **Alec Walker** at AlecWalker@aol.com.

Policy on Committees Task Force Update

As part of its continuing governance improvement process, the Standing Committee formed a special task force to refine and improve the existing Standing Committee Policy on Committees, which provides guidance on types of committees and their establishment, disbandment and general governance. The current policy is available on the First Parish website at the following link: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/policies>.

Since its first meeting on September 9, the Policy on Committees Task Force has been working to understand what it is that makes committees successful and what issues can arise that create challenges. The task force’s goal is to include in the policy supporting

MINISTERIAL INTERN

An Opportunity to Make a Difference

It’s been a beautiful autumn in the Boston area. We revel in the mild sunny days and cool crisp nights. For some, however, the lowering temperatures signal the coming of the cruelest season. There are about 17,000 people experiencing homelessness in Massachusetts, including approximately 3500 families, all of whom face uncertainty about how they will stay warm and keep a roof over their heads this coming winter.



At St. Francis House, in downtown Boston, the staff and volunteers work to provide their guests with nutritious meals, access to medical care, counseling, vocational rehabilitation and housing services, but one thing that is always needed and is always in short supply are winter coats. This is where you come in.

During this month of November, I will be sponsoring a coat drive for the homeless folks in Boston that are served by St. Francis house. I’ll be asking you to go through your closets to find coats and outerwear that you aren’t really using anymore. Make sure they are cleaned and bring them to church at the designated time at the end of the month. (Look for more details in the *Sunday News* and through FP Announce e-mails). It is such a simple thing to do, and it could be such an incredible blessings for people who have to spend much of their day out on the streets of the city. When I went through my own closet recently, I was able to identify three coats that I haven’t worn in at least a couple of years. They are at the dry cleaner’s as I write this message and will be the start of what I hope will be a large bundle of warm outerwear that First Parish will deliver in to the city to those in need.

I hope you’ll consider doing the same. ♦

Blessings,

Tony

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

The Standing Committee's (SC) October 6 meeting was even fuller than usual — and when we adjourned after 10 p.m., there were still a number of matters postponed to be taken up in the November meeting. We were pleased to have visitors from the Trustees, the Nominating Committee, the OWC, and the Environmental Leadership Team (ELT). Our lengthiest attention was on two major areas: understanding our current financial picture, and hearing from the ELT about their support for solar power for First Parish.

Our business manager, **Fifi Ball**, with assistance from Treasurer **Suzanne Lowe**, walked us through the details of First Parish's budget and the few necessary changes to what had been projected. A major item was the cost of our financial audit, already under way; half of its cost will be covered by the Trustees.

Our visitors from the ELT presented comprehensive summaries of their research on possible solar power for First Parish. A lengthy discussion followed their descriptions of options, costs and benefits to placing solar panels on our roof. You will have the opportunity to hear more from the ELT as we approach a congregational meeting to be held on November 10, 2013. The SC and our minister agreed that, because this is such a major physical change for the church, decision-making responsibility should be extended to the congregation as a whole, and not rest solely with our paid staff (who would typically handle operations matters), or the Standing Committee. In the meantime, the SC authorized the ELT to submit a proposal to the Historic District Commission, and agreed, if necessary, to request a loan from the Trustees (which could be paid back from solar credits and electric cost savings in the future), and authorized **Rev. Howard Dana** to enter into a contract with Astrum Solar, contingent upon congregational support for the solar project at the congregational meeting on November 10. The SC supported moving forward with the larger of the proposed installations. We agreed with the proposal to move forward because project costs would be cancelled by credits and savings, and these would continue for the life of the solar equipment. Also, our seventh principle — respect for the independent web of all existence of which we are a part — would be honored through the reduction in our carbon footprint. However, whether and in what form the project goes ahead will be determined by the congregational vote on November 10.

Other highlights from this meeting:

Our staff is working with our chosen database vendor to complete its work on our membership database, which is past due. This project has been discussed for several years, and once established, the database should help guide multiple efforts, including identification of talents and interests among our parishioners.

The SC supported Rev. Dana's request for a full-time intern to begin when **Tony Fisher's** half-time internship ends at the end of this church year, and to begin the search soon, since opportunities are currently being listed by the UUA. He made the case that a church of our size needs full-time assistance.

Complete minutes from the October 6 meeting will be posted soon.

Stay tuned to hear more about the SC's annual goals in a later column.

Our next meeting will be held on November 10, 2013, in the Brooks Room, at 6:30 p.m. As always, visitors are welcome.

And finally, we hope you will be able to attend the second of our discussion meetings about our financial priorities, to be held after the 11:00 o'clock service on November 3. We appreciated so much the input of all of you who attended the first meeting on October 13. ♦

For the Standing Committee,

— **Laurie Van Loon**, Vice Chair

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@newleaf-pm.com.

Parish Notes

continued from page 4

structures that will address commonly faced questions. For example, what should be included in a committee's charter? How are decisions made? What is the relationship between committees and church staff members? How are committee members selected and how long do they serve? How does the congregation find out about committees and their work? How can we make it easier and more fulfilling for people to serve on committees?

The task force has been researching best practices and soliciting ideas from a variety of sources, and plans to schedule a congregational discussion in the near future. Task force members are: **Tom Wilson** (chair), **Suzanne Lowe**, **Jim Tenner**, **Richard Keleher**, **Mark Russell Prior**, **Suzanne Foley** and **Ken Estabrook**. If you have ideas that you would like to share, please feel free to reach out to task force members, or send e-mail to Tom at: twilson@wilsongroup.com.

— **Mark Russell Prior** for the Policy on Committees Task Force

First Parish engages in a vast variety of terrific traditions. Some of these include coffee hour, worship on Sunday mornings, Lenten Terrific Tuesdays, and Maundy Thursday chowder supper. This congregation has practiced these and other traditions for decades and centuries, while Christianity has practiced some for millennia.

Fabulous Fridays, Marvelous Mondays, Wacky Wednesdays, Thunderous Thursdays, or Terrific Tuesday, have been a wonderful community building opportunity for many years. Each week during the time of Lent the congregation gathered together for a delicious meal, cooked by members of a committee. The meal was followed by an evening worship service. After vespers there were a number of different programs, including religious education and theological discussion for adults, multiage projects, and other activities. This tradition was well-attended and much-loved.

Another (delicious) tradition was the chowder supper following the traditional Maundy Thursday worship service. I attended the Maundy Thursday service last year for the first time. It was a beautiful contemplative worship. Very traditional. Simple. It is the one time during the year that the congregation brings our communion silver over from the Concord Museum. We commune with each other and our ancestors through the silver. We step into the winding river of First Parish history and tradition.

Are you interested in stepping into the winding river of great First Parish traditions? If so, grab four friends, and let me know if you would like to bring the chowder back to Maundy Thursday or the terrific back to Tuesdays in March.

If you are thinking about something new and different, I offer you this little poem, "Next Big Thing," from the book *Traveling Light*, by Brian Andreas.

on the lookout
for the next
big thing
because it
would solve
a lot of the
problems
of having
to deal with
the same
old stuff

We have a new tradition, thanks to **Kate Svrcek**. The lower half of the bulletin boards in the downstairs hallway are crammed full of gratitude. (Kate and her daughters came up with idea of a gratitude board. I thought that layers upon layers of gratitude would

create a rich metaphor.) Feel free to add your own thank-you cards. ♦

Blessings to all,

—*Rachel Baker*

Director of Congregational Life

Note: Date and Time Changes for New to Unitarian Universalism and New to First Parish in Concord Workshops

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

Sunday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 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, tea and a light snack provided. Participants are encouraged to attend worship at 9:00 a.m., followed by the workshop.

Sunday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 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. Coffee, tea and a light snack provided. Participants are encouraged to attend worship at 9:00 a.m., followed by the workshop. Reply by November 5 to rbaker@firstparish.org.

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, simple snacks, light table monitoring, and clean-up for the two coffee hours on the Sunday to which they are assigned. Feel free to ask a friend to fill in for you if you are not available on the date you are assigned.

At the end of this newsletter you will find about six weeks' worth 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 over the weeks.

Last Call for Fall Short-Term Covenant Groups!

Covenant Groups provide a way for about ten people to explore the meanings of life together. Participants agree to share deeply,

Congregational Life

continued on page 7

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

The Nominating Committee is off to a busy start. We welcome our newest member, **Alane Wallis**.

We've been developing goals for the 2013-2014 church year:

- (1) To clarify pathways to lay leadership in church governance
- (2) To facilitate communication between the Nominating Committee and the congregation
- (3) To give the congregation more time to get to know nominees before Annual Meeting by creating an earlier time line for nominations (January-March) and slate preparation (April)
- (4) To be guided by the principles in Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom's book, *Serving With Grace*

Erik is a former First Parish ministerial intern, and his short book is a gem. We highly recommend it to anyone engaged in church work. Wikstrom describes ways to transform committee work from what can be a difficult, and sometimes frustrating, experience to a blessed, spiritually gratifying form of service.

As always, we appreciate your thoughts, comments, and suggestions.

The Nominating Committee: **Russell Herndon** (rherndon@hydrabiosciences.com), chair, **Doug Hardy** (Doughardy@gmail.com), **Donald Leopold** (dleopold@sherbrooke.com), **Shawna Reid** (shawnaeid@gmail.com), **Sue Ryan** (susanryan101@comcast.net), **Kate Svrcek** (katesvrcek@hotmail.com), **Alane Wallis** (awallis@nut-ter.com), **Dianne Weiss** (diannemcweiss@comcast.net)

Congregational Life continued from page 6

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, longtime 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@firstparish.org or call the church office during office hours.

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Rev. József Szombatfalvi, Senior Minister of our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, recently visited to participate in **Howard Dana's** installation. During his visit, he carved a traditional Hungarian commemorative kopjafa pole. He presented it to the First Parish congregation on Sunday, October 6, as a gift from him and his congregation as a permanent record of our 20 years of partnership. See the TPC bulletin board and <http://bit.ly/H7x6bv>.

Partnership Commemorative Kopjafa Task Force. To determine where the kopjafa will be placed on the First Parish grounds, the PCC is forming a task force to incorporate the thoughts and expertise of congregation and staff, and to seek final approval from the Historic District Commission. All members of the First Parish community are invited to participate on the task force. An organizational meeting for the task force will be held in November. If you are interested in participating, contact **Rodger Mattlage** at rmattlage@mac.com.

Annual Student Scholarship Drive. We are in the final stages of gathering scholarship donations for 46 Transylvanian high school and college students, including 12 new freshmen. Many thanks to all who have contributed so generously to this incredible program over the last 17 years. For more information about sponsoring, contact **Dana Booth** at dana.a.booth@gmail.com.

Educational/Cultural Program. The educational/cultural forum that was scheduled to be held during our November 14 meeting has been postponed to January.

2014 Transylvania Pilgrimage. The target dates for our next pilgrimage are October 30–November 10, 2014, allowing pilgrims to participate in both the moving All Souls Day events and the annual gathering at the fortress in Deva, commemorating the death of Dávid Ferenc, founder of Transylvanian Unitarianism. We will also explore Székely culture, heritage and places; renew old friendships and establish new ones; and work and sing together with the goal of creating a bilingual partnership songbook. The estimated cost is \$2000–\$2500 per person, all inclusive.

Ways to join in the fun! The 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 on the TPC bulletin board. Upcoming meetings are scheduled on (Thursdays) November 14 at First Parish, December 12 at the Booths' in Carlisle, and January 9 at First Parish. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"

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

Beloved community has been on my mind this past month. And as we look toward having a congregational conversation on whether or not to install solar panels on the roof of the church, I think this is a paradigm we need to consider.

To me, the transition to become a beloved community requires a paradigm shift. In Western culture, and in UU communities, we are not always trained to think through a lens of beloved community. A beloved community honors people and relationships over ideas and deadlines. A beloved community is open and always changing to meet the needs of its people. The goal of beloved community, in a social justice context, is not to win elections or install solar panels; it is to deepen relationships within the community and develop a shared voice.



The Occupy Movement is an example of a community that attempted this paradigm shift. Since fall 2011, Occupies around the country have created a place where people gather to build community and imagine a better world. Sometimes these communities have sought concrete change, but the goal was not to change the world, but to develop a community that was strong enough to transform in the world.

The process was not always smooth, but a smooth process was not the goal of Occupy. Relationships, people, love, community — those were the goals of Occupy. These relationships are the foundation of our climate justice movement in Massachusetts today, as well as the first response to Hurricane Sandy last year. I think we will continue to see that the community that came out of Occupy is not done making its mark on history. And Occupy has been able to continue making its mark because it sought to form healthy relationships and build a strong community.

As we move into the next few weeks of conversation and consideration of solar panels, I hope we continue to ask ourselves these questions: Are we, First Parish in Concord, being transformed for the better through this conversation? Are we building community? Are our actions and voices encouraging a shift toward beloved community? ♦

In faith,

—*Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

Thanksgiving Vegan Potluck Dinner

Come one, come all, to the Thanksgiving vegan potluck dinner on November 12, 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 “Thanksgiving-themed” recipe ideas or can help with set-up or clean-up please email **Marcia Schloss** at marcialou28@gmail.com or 978-371-2751. Special guest **Anna Huckabee Tull** will sing for us! Two dollar donation and RSVP appreciated.

Does Amnesty Support Your Views on Human Rights?

Everyone is welcome to attend the regular monthly meeting of Group 15 of Amnesty International on Tuesday, November 19, at 7 p.m., to explore whether the group reflects their aspirations for the future of human rights worldwide. The meeting will be held in the Greeley Room at First Parish. The death penalty will be among the topics reported on, letters seeking urgent action on behalf of prisoners of conscience will be written, and plans for a number of future special events will be discussed.

CROP Walk Thanks

Thanks to everyone who helped make Concord Crop Walk for the Hungry a success; the walkers, sponsors and all the volunteers who participated in various ways. Congratulations to the 9:00 a.m. Neighboring Activists RE class for winning the Youth Group Banner Contest! The preliminary total that the 350 walkers raised is over \$52,000, and we expect that total to go higher. You can still sponsor **Howard Dana** online at <http://tinyurl.com/mvhothc>.

Food for Change, a Provocative New Documentary Film

Saturday, November 23, 7:30 p.m. at First Parish. Donations requested. The Social Action Community Council presents “Food for Change,” a provocative new documentary that filmmaker Steve Alves describes as “one part food, two parts politics, three parts economics.” Interviews, rare archival footage and commentary by co-op leaders and historians tell the story of the co-op movement in the U.S. and the vital role consumer-led food co-ops played in the decades-long debate between profit-driven capitalism and locally-controlled enterprises. Alves tracks the co-op movement’s quest for whole and organic foods, sustainable food systems and the renaissance of American food co-ops that has revived entire communities. Come and meet Concord-raised associate producer **Andrew Curran**, who will be on hand for this showing.

Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

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



Who Needs Us?

Who needs us? You do! Given the sentiments that **Howard Dana** expressed in his “REVeries” article in the October issue of the *Meeting House News*, pastoral care falls not just to the minister. At First Parish we have a trained group of Pastoral Care Lay Ministers to help and support you through difficult times. The six of us come from various backgrounds: social workers, nursing, hospice, and the business world. We each have experienced challenges in our lives and we care about reaching out to others. We are not professional ministers but we have had training and do have skills. We meet regularly for supervision with the minister.

It is difficult for most people to ask for help or support. We want you to know that we are here for you or for any parishioner that you know who could use some comfort or support. Pastoral care is an everyday need. Each Sunday we say, “Strengthen the fainthearted. Support the weak. Help the suffering.” This is the foundation of the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers team.

If you need a meal, a new baby celebrated, a shawl for comfort or someone to talk to, the Pastoral Care team is here for you. If you are in grief after losing a friend or a loved one, or are dealing with an illness that presents not just physical challenges but spiritual ones as well, we will be by your side.

What is missing is that we need to hear from you. Pastoral care is like a circle — one shares information, we give support and by doing that we get enriched as well. Let the Pastoral Care Minister on call for the month (listed in the *Meeting House News* and *Sunday News*) know if you, or anyone you know, could use some extra support. It would be an honor for us to be of assistance.

— **Diane Clapp**, Team Leader, Pastoral Care Lay Ministers

Walk Side by Side

“I feel responsible,” said my mother on the phone. “Wasn’t it my job to protect you from all this?”

My mother in New York City had called me in Boston, having just heard about my diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. Thirty-two years later, I can’t remember my reply. I now know how to respond.

‘I wish it were that simple, Mom. We still don’t know what causes multiple sclerosis, but we do know it’s a complicated host of triggers — biological, environmental, genetic, and chance, to name a few.’”

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

The Lay Minister for November is **Diane Clapp**: d.clapp@comcast.net or 781-257-5025.

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

When feelings of guilt or blame or anger simmer in families affected by illness, these powerful emotions come into conflict with the love that also exists. If my family is supposed to act as a buffer against the world, didn't someone do something wrong? Such paradoxical feelings may hinder honest communication.

In a time of illness, family members need to stay open to one another, not hide. Hiding only fuels the shame. This may be a time when you want to consider seeing a counselor or therapist to help you transform those moments when self-doubt and twisted perceptions interfere with positive action.

In a time of illness, staying open to each other can help us live into the unknown as a spiritual quest — learning to let go of assumptions, expectations and control. We can begin to accept our limitations by honoring our whole selves.

So neither my mother nor I did anything wrong to cause the MS. All we can do, when illness shadows our path, is walk side by side, from that moment on.

— **Dana Snyder-Grant**, LICSW, FPC Pastoral Care Lay Minister

When my daughter was in ninth grade, she decided to play a little experiment with her friends and teachers at school. For an entire year, she decided not to talk on Fridays during school. Her observations were quite fascinating. To give some perspective, it might help to understand that oral participation was, let's just say, a strength for her, so not speaking one-fifth of the year really wouldn't affect her grade and might even improve it.



Not speaking changed the way she viewed the world. By not speaking, she became a much better listener. She also developed unique body language, fooling the teacher into thinking she responded to the question. Eventually, her peers began to notice. At first, they were frustrated, but as the year progressed, there developed a fondness for her dedication to this unusual practice.

After a time, her peers would even cover for her in class, jumping in with an answer or feigning an excuse for her silence: "Oh, Andie has a sore throat today ..."

What I, as a parent, found most interesting was which adults actually noticed her silence. Would anyone know my child well enough to see when she



was not acting normal? I was impressed that many of her teachers did notice. These teachers would reach out and ask what was going on. And, if they asked on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, they might even get an interesting response.

Who notices your child? Who inquires when your teen is acting unusual? Our children need to be noticed and understood. I believe church is one of those places where people intentionally try to do just that: notice. It is just one of the great gifts our RE program has to offer. ♦

Love,

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Nine O'clock First Graders

Since our Kindergarten/First Grade group was bigger than we had originally anticipated, we split this

November 2013 RE Calendar

- Sun., Nov. 3 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level) 9 a.m.
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., Nov. 10 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Veteran's Day Weekend, no RE classes
- Tue., Nov. 12 Youth Advisory Council 7:30 p.m.
- Sun., Nov. 17 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
1st Grade Wonderful Welcome (Lower Level) 11 a.m.
Middle RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th/7th Grades 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., Nov. 24 Regular RE for Babies – 4 years
Spirit Play for K/1st Grade (Lower Level)
1st Grade Wonderful Welcome (Lower Level) 11 a.m.
Middle RE for 2nd-3rd Grades (Greeley Room)
Middle RE for 4th-5th Grades (Ripley Room)
6th/7th Grades Neighboring Activists (Brooks Room)
8th Grades Dramatic Arts at 10:00 a.m. (Wright Tavern)
9th Grade Coming of Age, 4:30 p.m. (Emerson Room)

group in two. For our first graders, we will use the Unitarian Universalist curriculum called Wonderful Welcome. Please visit the website if you would like to learn more: www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/index.shtml

Eighth Grade Our Whole Lives (owl)

The *mandatory* parent orientations for OWL are coming up on the evenings of November 19 and November 23, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both parents must attend these important orientations for their child to attend OWL.

Children's Craft Workshop Is Coming!

All you little elves, get ready to have fun making home made treasures for your holiday gifts. This year, the craft workshop will be on December 7 at 1:30 p.m. Be sure to be there for this amaz-

ing annual event. Thank you to **Jan Goddard-Taylor, Marilyn Lowitt, Patty Popov** and **Sarah Napier** for making this all possible.



Second to Fifth Grade Middle RE Program

This Holiday Term in Middle RE we will be doing things a bit differently. We will be using our Unitarian Universalist curriculum for our children. If you are interested in learning more, please visit

these links:

Second and Third Graders will do the first five sessions of "Moral Tales": <http://www.uua.org/re/tapes-try/children/tales/index.shtml>

Fourth and Fifth Graders will do the first five sessions of "Tool Box of Faith": <http://www.uua.org/re/tapes-try/children/toolbox/index.shtml>

RE Leaders 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 and 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 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. Kindergarten Holiday Term – Sunday, November 3, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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

Holiday Term Teachers – November 13, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Orientation Schedule for Teen RE, Brooks Room:

6th/7th Grades Neighboring Activists, Holiday Term: Tuesday, November 5, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

MUSINGS

Against my better judgment, I will now share my least favorite Unitarian Universalist joke:

Q: Why do Unitarian Universalists sing hymns so poorly?

A: Because they are always reading ahead to decide if they agree with the words.

There are so many reasons for me to dislike this joke. It plays upon several negative stereotypes of our faith — we are too rational, too critical, too argumentative . . . the list goes on.

I also dislike this joke because, in my experience, it just isn't true. In general, I have found UU's to be enthusiastic singers. First Parish in Concord is certainly a singing congregation. Yes, we are more comfortable with some hymns than others, both musically and theologically. But I have found our congregation to be wonderfully open to new hymns and new musical styles, while treasuring the traditional hymns. Our choirs — children, youth and adult — all understand that the support and encouragement of congregational singing is an important part of their role. We deepen spiritually and build our sense of community through common song. Singing together is one of the most important activities of our worship.



Singing together is also pretty rare. Think about it: in contemporary American culture, there are few places other than church where people gather together regularly to sing. More and more, we've created a divide between those who perform and those who listen. Even the singing of the national anthem at professional sporting events, once a predictable opportunity for strangers to sing together, is often replaced by solo performances. One notable exception to this trend is the lusty rendition of "Sweet Caroline" belted out by Boston fans during the eighth inning at Red Sox games. No questions there: the spirit of community is fantastic.

Common wisdom says that strong hymn singing is a sign of congregational health. Who will forget the way the Meeting House rafters shook with our singing when we gathered to install **Rev. Howard Dana** as our new Senior Minister. That large congregation of UU's from all over sang powerfully of our living tradition's "ageless song," our aspirations for the future and our passion for love and justice: "Since love prevails in heaven and earth, how can we keep from singing."

May we continue to move "Forward through the Ages" as a singing congregation. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

Rise Up and Call Her Name

All women are invited to meet the Hawaiian volcano goddess Pele and to reflect on the sacredness of land on Wednesday morning, November 6, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, in the Parish Hall. For more information, please contact **Bozena Smith** at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

About the 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 weekly *Sunday News* or monthly *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.

First Parish Women Invited to Gather

A former 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, November 5, in the Parish Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Also save upcoming dates: 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!

As usual, the Women's Book Group will discuss just one book for November and December and the selection is *Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake*, by Anna Quindlan. The evening session will be Monday, December 2, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of **Leslie Fisher** (43 Middle Street, Concord). The morning ses-

sion will be Tuesday, December 3, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Brooks Room at First Parish.

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

Books and Dates for 2013-2014:

- 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

UU NEWS

The UU General Assembly (GA) is coming to New England next year — June 25-29 in Providence, Rhode Island. This will be a wonderful opportunity for members of First Parish to participate in GA without committing to significant travel. Much more information will follow, but now is a great time to mark the dates on your 2014 calendar. If you would like to become involved now in planning our involvement, please contact **Alice Van Deusen**, Denominational Affairs Committee, alicevan-deusen@gmail.com.



NOVEMBER 2013 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

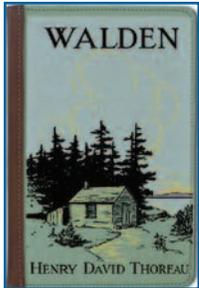
<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
<i>Hum Strum and Drum Class</i>	Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Childrens Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Gospel Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>ABC Music Together</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m. (not 11/28)
Lincoln Ringers	Thursday	1:30 p.m. (not 11/28)
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m. (not 11/28)
<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.
Sunday Forum	Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Worship Reflection	Sunday	12:15 p.m.
Men's Group	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Fri Nov 1	7:00	Play Reading Group	•	Sun Nov 17	9:00	New to First Parish Workshop
Sat Nov 2	10:00	Artisan Fair	•		12:30	Nominating Committee
Sun Nov 3	12:30	Congregational Discussion	•		7:00	SARASA Concert
Tue Nov 5	1:30	First Tuesday Group	•	Tue Nov 19	7:00	Evening Worship
	4:00	Shawl Ministry	•		7:00	Amnesty Group
	6:00	Minerva Gatherings Potluck Dinner	•		7:00	Congregational Stewardship Meeting
Wed Nov 6	9:30	<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	•		7:30	Youth Advisory Council
	6:00	Arts Council	•	Thu Nov 21	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:00	<i>Concord Area Humanists</i>	•	Fri Nov 22	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Thu Nov 7	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Tue Nov 26	1:30	Lincoln Handbell Ringers
Fri Nov 8	12:30	<i>T'ai Chi</i>	•	Wed Nov 27		First Parish closes at noon for Thanksgiving
	6:00	Alzheimers' Dance	•	Fri Nov 29		First Parish closed for the holiday
Sat Nov 9	9:00	Photography Club	•	Tue Dec 3	9:00	WPA Board Meeting
Sun Nov 10	9:00	New to UU Workshop	•		9:30	Women's Book Group
	12:30	Congregational Meeting and Vote	•		1:30	First Tuesday Group
	6:30	Standing Committee	•		4:00	Shawl Ministry
Tue Nov 12	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•		6:00	Minerva Gatherings Potluck Dinner
	6:00	Vegan Potluck	•	Wed Dec 4	9:30	<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>
	7:00	SAC Council	•		6:00	Arts Council
Wed Nov 13	7:30	Forum Committee	•		7:00	<i>Concord Area Humanists</i>
Thu Nov 14	7:00	Transylvania Partnership Community	•	Thu Dec 5	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Fri Nov 15	12:00	Newsletter Deadline	•	Fri Dec 6	7:00	Play Reading Group
	7:30	Climate Solutions Panel	•			
	7:00	Jewish Awareness	•			
	7:30	ELT Climate Panel Discussion	•			

Thoreau's Walden: Seminar and Discussion Group

Four Mondays, November 4 to 25, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Thoreau Farm, 341 Virginia Rd., Concord

Thoreau's worldview moves us from our work-a-day lives into the beauty and wonder that surrounds us. *Walden* is Thoreau's "Ode to Joy!"



We will explore key themes in this classic work — individual, as opposed to collective, action; living deliberately, but also authentically; and the importance of time, eternity, and myth. *Walden* gives voice to Thoreau's vision, but also to the spirit of the times — romanticism, science, and philosophy — of New England Transcendentalism, which you will finally understand, in all its esoteric splendor.

- **Takeaways:** *Walden* demystified. Thoreau de-stereotyped.
- All your questions answered. And a greater sense of the wonder, to boot, of being awake, aware, and alive!
- **Enrollment:** Limited to 12.
- **Leader:** Michael Frederick, Executive Director of The Thoreau Society, will provide commentary and lead discussion. Michael did his graduate work at Harvard on Thoreau's Social Philosophy and post graduate work at the Thoreau Institute on Thoreau's natural history, *Wild Fruits*.
- **Fee:** \$60 donation to the Thoreau Society, includes refreshments at the birth house of Henry D. Thoreau. Participants will receive a paperback edition of *Walden* (Princeton University Press).
- **Preparation:** Please read the "Economy" chapter before the first session.
- **Sponsors:** Transcendentalism Council of First Parish and The Thoreau Society
- **Registration:** info@thoreausociety.org or 978-369-5310
-

NOVEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

The December Newsletter deadline is Friday, November 15, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Friday, November 29.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: 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 Community 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
-



for **Spiritual** Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • November 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.

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)

Preventing Youth Violence, with Dr. Stringham
Many youth resolve potentially violent conflicts peacefully. They have skills that all children could learn — the ability to be calm and think clearly under pressure; a positive, loving view of other people; and a feeling of connection to something positive that is vastly bigger than themselves. Dr. Stringham worked for 34 years as an adolescent and pediatric doctor in the East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and has written extensively to help medical professionals deal with violence. He will suggest ways to help youth become peacemakers. Inquiries or requests to be on the e-mail list should be directed to pne@aol.com, with CAH on the subject line. Contact: **Patrick Everett**

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. November 6 \$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.: 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. Contact: **Darien Smith**
- 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
- June 2, 3: *Eighty Days: Nelly Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*, by Matthew Goodman
- **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: November 8, December 13 12:30-1:30 p.m.
• Fee: \$25 per session



WHAT KIND OF FOOD SYSTEM DO YOU WANT?



FOOD



CHANGE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 7:30 PM

FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD, 20 LEXINGTON RD, CONCORD, MA

The Social Action Community Council of First Parish in Concord presents *Food for Change*, a provocative new feature-length documentary that filmmaker Steve Alves describes as "one part food, two parts politics, three parts economics." Interviews, rare archival footage, and commentary by co-op leaders and historians tell the story of the co-op movement in the U.S. and the key role played by consumer-led food co-ops during the decades-long debate between profit-driven capitalism and locally-controlled economic enterprises. Alves tracks the co-op movement's quest for whole and organic foods, the dream of sustainable food systems, and the renaissance of American food co-ops that has revived neighborhoods and entire communities.

Steve Alves is an award-winning documentary filmmaker based in western Massachusetts.



SUNDAY SNACK LIST FAMILY NAME

11/3/2013

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

11/10/2013

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

11/17/2013

CROMPTON	DAVE	DITMARS
CRONIN	DAVIS	DOANE
CROWELL	DAWES	DOBBIE
CUMINGS	DAWSON	DOGGETT
CURRAN	DEMBSEY	DOW
CURZON	DEMUTH	DOWNING
DANIELL	DIFFENBACH	

11/24/2013

DOYON	ELDRIDGE	ERNST
DREW	ELLIOTT	ESCH
DRISCOLL	ELLIS	ESTABROOK
DUNNINGTON	ELLIS	ESTY
DWYER	ELLIS	EVANS
EDWARDS	ELLSWORTH	EVERETT
ELCOX	ELWOOD	

12/1/2013

EVINS	FISHER	FORBES
FACKERT	FISHER	FORBES
FATTEL	FLOYD	FORMAN
FENNELL	FLOYD	FORSBERG
FERGUSON	FOLEY	FORTIER
FEY	FOLEY	
FISCHELIS	FOOTE	

12/8/2013

FORTIER	GAINSBORO	GEOGHEGAN
FOUSER	GALFORD	GIANNETTO
FRANGULES	GALLO	GIDLEY
FRESE	GALLO	GILL
FRITZ	GALUSZA	GLITZENSTEIN
FRY	GAUTHIER	GOGGIN
GAGLIARDI	GEFFKEN	

How do I advertise First Parish events, groups, meetings, or gatherings to other First Parishioners?

Outlet	Deadline	Contact Person	Guidelines	Format	Notes
Monthly Newsletter	Usually the 3 rd Friday of each month	Cassy Bosworth cbosworth@firstparish.org	100 words, photos are fun	Soft copy, Word Document or in body of email	
Sunday Weekly News (yellow)	Wednesday noon	Cassy	100 words or less, one time only unless there is extra space	Soft copy, Word Document or in body of email	
Sunday verbal announcements	Thursday noon	Rachel Baker rbaker@firstparish.org	Very brief, very rare	Soft copy, in body of email	We aim to have no verbal announcements.
First Parish Announce Email List	anytime	Cassy	One announcement per event per week	Soft copy, Word Document or in body of email	FP-Announce is sent out M-F at 3:00pm if there are submissions
FP Bulletin Board	anytime	Kaye Harvey in church office (hard copy) Cassy (soft copy)		Hard copy or formatted soft copy, PDF, Word Document	
Poster in front of church office	anytime	Cassy or Doug		Finished poster	We strive for less than one poster up at a time
Facebook	anytime	Rachel	Brief, one per week	In body of email	Or mention FP in your FB post