



March 4, 2014  
Volume 50, No. 7

*Our fiftieth year!*

# The Meeting House News

## IN THIS ISSUE

### REVERIES

There will be no clearer indication of First Parish’s ability to move into the next chapter of its 380-year life than the outcome of the 2014 Annual Pledge Campaign starting this month. The ability of the congregation to raise the money First Parish needs to carry out its mission will be a clear sign of the commitment of its members and friends. I am hopeful that we can both live within our means and increase the effectiveness of our programs next year. This will take your participation.

I am a minister who likes to know what is really going on. And I like to speak the truth. That the congregation of First Parish passed a budget last June with a \$30,000 hole in it has made this year a difficult one. The promise of an auction that would raise \$30,000 did not materialize. So, other than some money that came in from the solar panel fundraiser, the line items for increases in programing have gone unfunded.



We have lived within our means this year, but it has been disappointing not to have more flexibility to do new and interesting things. This June we are not passing a budget that is not backed up by pledges.

We can be proud of the gains we have made this year. First Parish paid one third of its UUA dues after years and years of not paying anything. And First Parish staff members received long-overdue raises to their salaries. But these gains are only helping us get from the “basement” to the “first floor” when it comes to supporting the work of First Parish. It may take us a couple of more years to get on truly solid financial footing — and I am ready and willing to lead us there. Step by step we can get our congregation back on track for more stability, more ministry and more outreach. There is nothing glamorous about an Annual Pledge Campaign — it simply must be done. I hope you will join the team of dedicated First Parish members who are working on this year’s campaign and give generously when you are asked.

Don’t miss the exciting opportunity to be some of the first people to pledge to First Parish during our Celebration Sunday services on Sunday, March 9. Come ready to make a pledge that morning. As we “spring forward” into Daylight Savings Time that morning, let us spring forward into First Parish’s bright, realistic future too. Together we can do it. See you in church.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

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- ◆ Coffee Hour Snacks Host Lists
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### First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

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

## WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

Sunday, March 2

*Giving Up Something* — Rev. Howard N. Dana  
9:00 & 11:00 – Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, March 9

**Celebration Sunday**  
*Living in Abundance* — Rev. Howard N. Dana  
9:00 – Junior Choir and First Parish Choir  
11:00 – Chalice Choir, Contemporary Ensemble,  
Gospel Choir and First Parish Choir

Sunday, March 16

*No Divine Will for Your Life* — Rev. Howard N. Dana  
9:00 – Contemporary Ensemble  
11:00 – First Parish Choir

Sunday, March 23

*The Halcyon Days Are These: Seeking the Golden Haze  
in the Humdrum Here and Now*  
— Rev. Mary Margaret Earl\*  
9:00 – Sophie Hibben, piano  
11:00 – First Parish Choir

Sunday, March 30

9:00 & 11:00 – Our UU Heritage in Hymns – This Sunday  
we will explore our Unitarian Universalist heritage and  
history through song and story. Come ready to sing!  
—Tony Fisher and Beth Norton

\* Rev. Mary Margaret Earl is the Associate Director of McAuley Ministries, a nonprofit serving those who are poor and homeless in Providence, Rhode Island, through a meal site, transitional housing program, and clothing ministry. In addition, Rev. Earl is the President of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, which works to end homelessness in Rhode Island.

*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
April: Friday, March 21	Tuesday, April 1
May: Friday, April 18	Tuesday, April 29
June: Friday, May 23	Tuesday, June 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](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org), or at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA, 01742, 978-369-9602, extension 411. His cell phone number is 717-412-8543. In addition to regular office hours, Howard makes appointments to meet with people at other times. Please call or email **Cassy Bosworth** at 978-369-9602 or [cbosworth@firstparish.org](mailto:cbosworth@firstparish.org) to schedule an appointment with Howard.

Howard is unavailable, and does not tend to email except for emergencies, on Monday, his day off, or Friday, his sermon writing day.

### 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](mailto:ellenwhitney@verizon.net).

### Looking for a Trustee of First Parish Donations

On July 1, 2014, the First Parish Trustees of Parish Donations will be in need of a replacement Trustee for **Pat Brinkman**, who has served with distinction for the past 10 years. The new Trustee should have an interest in, and experience with, property management, along with available time to help manage the properties for which the Trustees are responsible. These properties include the Wright Tavern and the three white cottages to the left of the church. If you are, or know of someone who might be, interested in being considered for the position of Trustee, please contact me at your earliest convenience at [tjacoby295@aol.com](mailto:tjacoby295@aol.com). —**Tim Jacoby**, chair, on behalf of the Trustees: **Laura Bernstein, John Boynton, Pat Brinkman** and **Dick Waters**

### Mission Statement — Trustees of First Parish Donations

The Trustees affirm and support the mission of First Parish to be a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world. In support of that mission over the long term, the Trustees are the stewards of the funds and properties donated to First Parish over more than two centuries.

The Trustees use their best judgment to balance the following objectives for the assets:

- To preserve and build the funds so that they can provide a portion of First Parish's annual operating funds in perpetuity

Parish Notes

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- To serve as a reserve fund for extraordinary situations
- In pursuing these objectives, the Trustees work to:
- maximize the return on assets, in light of the need for preservation of capital
  - maintain the properties under their control, and oversee their operation and finances

### March Is Circle Supper Month

Circle Suppers are small, intimate potluck dinners at a member’s home. Some people sign up to host and others sign up to attend. We now have hosts for March 15 and 29 and April 5. So come out and join us for an enjoyable, relaxed evening of good food and fun. If you’d like to come to a supper, email **Caitlin Selle** at [selle.caitlin5@gmail.com](mailto:selle.caitlin5@gmail.com), and let her know which night you’d like to attend. Then she’ll let you know who your host is. That’s the fun of it. If you would like to host on either March 8 or 22, contact Caitlin.

### Yankee Home Companion Is Coming!

There is still time to join the fun, either as part of the show onstage, or by helping by to sell tickets or refreshments. The show on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3, will feature many of our talented parishioners so you won’t want to miss it. We’d love to have you help make this fundraiser for the Music Reserve Fund, in honor of **Beth Norton**’s 20 years at First Parish, a great success. Contact **Lillian Anderson** at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net).

### Concord Area Humanists — Wednesday, March 5

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday March 5, in the Parish Hall, Tom Clark will speak on “Who are we essentially? — challenging the soul and its free will.” Tom founded and directs the websites [CenterForNaturalism.org](http://CenterForNaturalism.org), and [Naturalism.org](http://Naturalism.org), on world view naturalism. He wrote *Encountering Naturalism: A World View and Its Uses*. He has researched addictions and mental health, working on developing a fully naturalistic model of behavioral disorders. Tom is on the cutting edge of science-based naturalism. He will give fresh and positive perspective on secularism and naturalistic challenges to conventional wisdom on free will, moral responsibility, justice, addiction and the culture wars.

### World Day of Prayer — Friday, March 7

Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer Friday, March 7. This year, the women of the WDP Committee of Egypt will remind participants that it’s possible to transcend religious and cultural differences to build common ground toward peace and

## 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](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

**March 4-31** – Altshuler Gallery – First Parish Young Artists Exhibit

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

**March 8 at 9:00 a.m.** – Photo Club meeting – open to all First Parish adults

**March 14 & 15 at 7:00 p.m.** – David Ballard in “Having it All” Cabaret

**March 21 at 3 p.m.** – WPA Spring Concert and Tea

**March 23 at 3 p.m.** – Sarah Whitney and Julia Salerno in “Seeing Double” Violin Duo from Baroque to Jazz.

**March 28 at 7:30 p.m.** – Rise Up Singing, First Parish’s monthly song circle.

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](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net).

harmony. Concord’s 2014 Commemoration of World Day of Prayer will take place at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary of the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, Concord. A festive luncheon celebrating Egypt’s people and cultures will follow the service. Reservations are not required.

### Performer/songwriter David Ballard performs “Having It All” Cabaret on March 14 and 15

**David Ballard** (son of Sara and Stoney Ballard) will present his critically acclaimed solo cabaret show “Having It All” at First Parish on March 14 and 15. Social time is at 7 p.m. (wine and beer available for purchase), performance at 8 p.m. The admission of \$20 benefits the Trevor Project, <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>. This is a musical tale of a young man’s struggles with his sexual identity, his search for love and experiences of loss, and his ultimate acceptance of himself and his life. Advance tickets available at coffee hours or in the church office. Some adult-themed material included. Cosponsored by the Diversity and Music Events committees.



**IN APRIL**

**April 4 at 8:00 p.m.: Oriana Consort** — The Oriana Consort, a Cambridge-based chorale, makes its fourth visit to First Parish on Friday, April 4, at 8 p.m. to present “Choral Reflections: Human Experience as Revealed in Choral Music Old and New.” The program includes madrigals from 16th- and 17th-century Italy and England, English part-songs, and the East Coast premiere of Abbie Betinis’s “The Waking.” The concluding work is “The Unicorn, the Gorgon, and the Manticore: A Madrigal Fable” — Gian Carlo Menotti’s 1956 sendup of hypocrisy, sham and social conformity. Director Walter Chapin and Assistant Director Caroline Harvey will conduct. Tickets at \$20 and \$15 will be available at the door, or online at [www.orianaconsort.org](http://www.orianaconsort.org).

**April 5 at 9:00 a.m.: Flea Market/Recycle Sale** — The Women’s Parish Association will hold its Flea Market/Recycle Sale on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To rent a table, contact **Pat Kane** at [cstmcloth@yahoo.com](mailto:cstmcloth@yahoo.com) or 978-369-8418 as soon as possible. Table rentals are \$35.00 each. We will be collecting high quality gift items in good condition to be sold at the WPA table. Examples: small portable items, jewelry, table decorations, paintings, photographs, candle holders, popular CD’s, DVD’s, etc. Bring items to the WPA table at 8 a.m. on April 5, or contact **Marilyn Lowitt** at [Marilyn.Lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:Marilyn.Lowitt@verizon.net) or 978-793-0267 to arrange for pickup of your items.

**Thursday, April 17 — Communion Service at 11:00 a.m. Followed by a Chowder Lunch at Noon.** More information will appear in next month’s *Meeting House News*.

**Saturday, April 19 — “Not Your Traditional Seder” Is Coming!** What kind of Passover “Seder” did Jesus experience? The Jewish Awareness group will attempt to help us understand the differences and similarities of the Passover story during Jesus’ time and how the seder, as we know it, evolved. Even the food will be different! And we would really love your help to make this dinner spectacular. For more information contact **Rhoda Miller**, [rhodamill@aol.com](mailto:rhodamill@aol.com); or **Dana Snyder-Grant**, [danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org).

**Starting in April! Ferry Beach Registration** — Mark your calendar now for the annual First Parish Ferry Beach Retreat Weekend, May 23-26 (Memorial Day Weekend). Join families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. For questions, contact **Darien Smith** ([darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com), or 978-369-1471). Also, check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach at [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org).

**IN MAY**

**Mother’s Day Peace Walk on Sunday, May 11 Walk with Rev. Margie King Saphier**

Last year, through personal donations from First Parishioners, and family and friends of walkers, First Parish raised \$1,791. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Rev. Margie King Saphier** at [mksaphier@comcast.net](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net) or 781-424-2179. More information will appear in upcoming newsletters.

**Parish Notes**

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**Concert and Tea, March 21, 3:00 p.m.**

The Women’s Parish Association cordially invites you to its annual spring concert featuring jazz and rhythm and blues musician, Pat “Hatrack” Gallagher, it will take place on Friday, March 21. The concert begins at 3 p.m., followed by tea. All women, men and youth of First Parish and their friends are cordially invited. There is no charge for this event and no reservations are necessary. If possible, please bring along some nicely plated cookies, brownies, etc., to share with others.

**Megan Marshall on Margaret Fuller: A Heroine for the 21st Century, Sunday, March 16**

Margaret Fuller [1810-1850] was a passionate advocate of personal liberation and political freedom. On Sunday, March 16, at 3 p.m., Megan Marshall, author of *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*, will discuss ways that Fuller was ahead of her time, and ways that the issues of her day are still alive in ours. Books will be available for sale and signing at the reception to follow. The event is sponsored by the Transcendentalism Council of First Parish and the William Munroe Special Collections of the Concord Free Public Library. \$5 donation.



**Seeing Double — Violin Duo from Baroque to Jazz! in the Parish Hall Sunday, March 23, at 3:00 p.m.**

Violinist **Sarah Whitney** (daughter of **Lois** and **Alan Whitney**) returns to her hometown with violinist **Julia Salerno**, marking the duo’s first Boston area appearance. Sarah and Julia are out to prove that the music of two violins is much more than the sum of its parts! Don’t miss a chance to hear the serene baroque style of Telemann, the lush Hungarian folk melodies of Miklos Rosza, the carefree bluegrass tunes of Mark O’Connor, the raw beauty of Prokofiev and the jazzy swing of Mark Summer. Sponsored by the Music Events Committee.



Tickets are on sale at coffee hours (\$20 general, \$15 student), or at [firstparish.org/cms/music/music-events](http://firstparish.org/cms/music/music-events), or call the 24-hour hotline, 1-800-838-3006.

# STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

One regular feature of the annual calendar of the Standing Committee's (SC) is to query the congregation in the fall about the next year's strategic budget priorities. We order these priorities in the early winter and pass them along to **Rev. Howard Dana** and **Fifi Ball**. They prepare a draft budget to be reviewed by all in late April before the congregation's vote to approve it at the Annual Meeting in June.

This year the SC held two budget listening sessions in the fall and sent its integrated results to Howard and Fifi on January 24 (see below). Howard and Fifi wove these priorities into three possible budget goals for the Annual Pledge Campaign.

In past years, First Parish has been challenged by the overlap of creating a draft budget while also running an annual pledge campaign. This year, we will remedy this problem by concluding the Annual Pledge Campaign by May 1. In April (on a date to be announced), the Standing Committee, Howard, and Fifi will present the draft budget for congregational review.

## 2014-15 Strategic Budget Priorities of First Parish

In order to help everyone prepare for this April budget review, here is a copy of our January 24 memo.



To: **Rev. Howard Dana** and **Fifi Ball**

From: First Parish Standing Committee

Date: 24 January 2014

Subject: Strategic Priorities for 2014-2015 Budget for First Parish

Over the past seven months we on the Standing Committee have been assessing the congregation's expressed desires for next year's budget. We have integrated these desires with needs that we, as representatives of the congregation, feel are important. Below is our integrated list of Strategic Budget Priorities:

1. Continue the following new initiatives of last year's budget.

- A. To move staff salaries toward the UUA's median salary.
- B. To ensure staff salaries match contracted portion of each role's median salary.
- C. To include a cost-of-living adjustment in staff salaries.
- D. To move closer toward recommended level of contribution to the UUA.

- 2. Strengthen First Parish ministries in Pastoral Care and Religious Education.
- 3. Address further repayments of remaining portion of the building loan from the Trustees.
- 4. Enhance First Parish technological infrastructure in ways that improve clarity and accessibility of information and streamline communication among church groups and activities.
- 5. Consider creative funding approaches for specific congregational initiatives.
- 6. In general, ensure that the budget efficiently and effectively supports the mission, ministries and activities of the Church.

We believe these priorities are in large measure congruent with your priorities and we look forward with anticipation to seeing your draft budget(s). We would like to request that you prepare three versions of the budget: likely, pessimistic and optimistic.

First Parish Treasurer **Suzanne Lowe** would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



## Looking Ahead

The Standing Committee looks forward with enthusiasm to our 2014 Annual Pledge Campaign and to our spring congregational discussion. Together, our commitment to stewardship ensures our continued healthy growth and the fulfillment of our mission. ◆

**Jack Nevison**

Chair of the Standing Committee

Stay in touch with us at:

**Laurie Van Loon**, [lvanloon@comcast.net](mailto:lvanloon@comcast.net); **Kristin Haddad**, [Kristin.haddad@gmail.com](mailto:Kristin.haddad@gmail.com); **Jake Nunes**, [Jake\\_Nunes@shs.org](mailto:Jake_Nunes@shs.org); **Mark Russell Prior**, [mark.russell.prior@comcast.net](mailto:mark.russell.prior@comcast.net); **Suzanne Lowe**, [slowe@expertisemarketing.com](mailto:slowe@expertisemarketing.com); **Kate Crosby**, [kate\\_crosby@newview.org](mailto:kate_crosby@newview.org); **Andrea Siani**, [Andrea.Siani@gmail.com](mailto:Andrea.Siani@gmail.com); **Alec Walker**, [alecwalker@aol.com](mailto:alecwalker@aol.com); **Gretchen Nelson**, [ghnelson@me.com](mailto:ghnelson@me.com); **Patty Popov**, [PPopov@nichols-pratt.com](mailto:PPopov@nichols-pratt.com); **John Nevison**, [jmn@newleaf-pm.com](mailto:jmn@newleaf-pm.com).

I got \$1.00 per week for my allowance from my father. I was to then divide the dollar up into three glass jars. I put fifty cents in the jar labeled “Long-Term Goals,” twenty-five cents into “Short-Term Goal,” and fifteen cents into the [Specific Toy] jar. My dad would then ask what I wanted to do with the remaining ten cents. One Saturday morning he drove me to the candy store. I zipped into the store, looked all through the tantalizing candy, and chose one piece of scarlet red, lipstick-shaped candy. I had to choose carefully because I knew I only had that one dime in my pocket.

My father taught me how to build savings, plan for specific expenses or luxury items, and how to make financial choices in the moment. These lessons have served me well throughout my life. I have held a wide variety of jobs; all have been emotionally, spiritually or mentally enriching, but few have been financially enriching. I learned early how to survive on little income and how to make financial choices. As a socially conscious adult I actively make financial decisions based on my desire to do good in the world. Money is power and I choose to use my power to heal the earth so that my seventh generation grandchildren have access to life’s bounty. I choose to live in a tiny studio in Concord Center so that I can walk to work, rather than drive. I chose to cancel my gym membership, reduce the data option on my smart phone, and I no longer receive DVD’s from Netflix, so that I am able to fulfill my financial pledge to First Parish in Waltham, where I am a member.

Last year, when I received my request from the Waltham annual appeal team, I thought long and hard about how I wanted to approach my pledge. In previous years I gave a small lump sum directly from my student loan checks. However, last year was the first year in five that I had a regular income and I wanted to do something different and generous. I love church. I love Unitarian Universalism. I believe we are doing good in the world and I want this movement to flourish.

Fifty dollars is not very much money for some of us. It is dinner and a movie, a week of groceries, just over a tank of gas, one month of a gym membership, three pounds of really great fairly traded coffee. Fifty dollars per month is what I chose to give last year, about two percent of my gross income. In my efforts to trust the abundance of life and sustain that which makes the world a better place for all beings, I choose to put my dime in the glass jar labeled “Church.” ♦

In faith and fellowship,  
—*Rachel Baker*

Director of Congregational Life

## All Help with 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, cleanup 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.

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 two weeks before your assigned week.

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

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

**Sunday, April 6, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 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 and tea will be available.

**Sunday, April 13, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**

### New to First Parish in Concord Workshop

Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff and lay leaders. They will find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book. Coffee and tea are available.

RSVP by April 2 to [rbaker@firstparish.org](mailto:rbaker@firstparish.org).



The story of money brought by my maternal family tells of hard work and abundance. My paternal story of money tells of community support and luck. The story of money brought to my family of origin is a blend of these two.

I grew up with all the financial resources I needed. I remember anxiety when we were living on one income. I was taught to save my allowance for personal use, but also to give from my savings to those who needed it. As a teenager, I pledged to my church before I was asked. It felt like what I was called to do by that community. I'm sure that action was not random, but modeling that of my parents and mentors.



As a young adult, I find myself living in between the upper-middle-class cushion of money and the prospects of my future in ministry and my partner's future in music, where we might not have that same cushion. And I'm beginning to learn about inheritances. I'm learning that my giving is not dependent on my current income alone.

Thinking of my money story, I'm brought back to a conversation I had with a member of the pledge drive team at my home church. Over coffee at Main Street Café, we talked about what our church means to us, what we love about Unitarian Universalism, class, community, Our Whole Lives, church membership, coffee hour ...

And then, a wide silence, and he shyly handed me my pledge card. Realizing I had forgotten to do the math on how much I'd planned to give, I asked if I could take the card home. I explained, "I know I'm giving away three percent of my earned income this year, but I'm splitting that among a few organizations close to my heart."

His eyes widened, when I mentioned the percent I planned on giving. I could see that that number did not fit the person he saw across the table: a young adult, a student, a debtor.

But he didn't see someone who saves six percent of her income each month; someone who feels blessed (and sometimes guilty) by the promise of inheritances; someone who thinks about what it would take to adopt a practice of tithing.

Three percent is a number that works for me, right now. It's a number that pushes me a bit out of my current comfort zone. My future inheritances. This is a privilege I have. A privilege that, I feel comes with a responsibility to give. ♦

In faith,

—*Bethany Lowe*

[blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:blowe@firstparish.org)

## Interfaith Environmental Potluck— Monday, March 17, at Trinity Church at 6:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church and the Environmental Leadership Team of First Parish in Concord invite everyone to an environmental potluck on Monday, March 17, at 6 p.m. We will share information about the "green" projects people from the different Concord faith groups have initiated or plan to initiate, as well as talk about how to increase environmental awareness and action locally. The focus will be on how to (1) create and facilitate a sense of environmental mission that works for each congregation and (2) increase member involvement in and awareness of issues, such as climate change. RSVP to **Bethany Lowe** ([Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org)) and bring your favorite dish.

## "Lives Worth Living" Screening Presented by the Diversity Committee on Sunday, April 6

The Diversity Committee will present the documentary "Lives Worth Living" about the fight for disability rights in America on Sunday, April 6, at 4 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This fascinating film chronicles one of the great civil rights struggles of modern times, from the end of WWII to the present; the rise of the disability rights movement, and the challenges faced to get the Americans with Disabilities Act passed and enacted into law. The film is an hour long, and will be followed by a discussion. No admission charge.

## Register for a Workshop on Intercultural Understanding

The Partner Congregation Committee and the Social Action Community are cosponsoring a workshop on intercultural understanding led by Rev. Parisa Parsa on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Parish. This workshop will use the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) to assess how we, as individuals and a group understand cultural differences. We believe that this workshop could be useful for those who have gone on pilgrimage to Transylvania, social activists, and anyone who interacts with difference (all of us). The cost of this workshop is \$50, which includes the cost of taking the IDI, workshop fees and lunch. To make this workshop self-sustaining, we are asking those participants who are able to help supplement need-based

SAC Notes

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## Learn More about Social Action at First Parish

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



### Annual Pledge Campaign 2014-2015: "Build On to What Is Good"

Something new is happening here. We are talking openly about money. We are transparent about our obligations, our income, our expenses. We are learning that we each have a part in stewardship.



Our annual pledge campaign begins with Celebration Sunday on March 9. This is when your choices will affect the future of First Parish.

Our pledge campaign will build on to the good that we have begun together with **Rev. Howard Dana**. It begins as you join others on Celebration Sunday for

special worship, music and coffee hour. It begins with you. You will be asked to pledge that day, in church. Will you give — generously?

See you on March 9!

— **Eric Moore** and **Jim Reynolds**, Campaign Cochairs

[Eric.aron.moore@gmail.com](mailto:Eric.aron.moore@gmail.com)

[Jim.reynolds@caringcompanion.net](mailto:Jim.reynolds@caringcompanion.net)

Learn more at [www.firstparish.org/cms/stewardship/pledge](http://www.firstparish.org/cms/stewardship/pledge).

### SAC Notes

continued from page 8

scholarships. If you are interested in taking this workshop, but cannot pay at this time, please register anyway. Online registration is now open at <http://bit.ly/1nTFien>. Members and Friends of First Parish in Concord will be given priority registration until March 10. At that time, we will open registration to other UU churches in the area with partners in Transylvania. Space is limited to 25 participants. If you have any questions, please contact **Rodger Mattlage** ([rmattlage@mac.com](mailto:rmattlage@mac.com)), **Lillian Anderson** ([lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net)) or **Bethany Lowe** ([BLowe@firstparish.org](mailto:BLowe@firstparish.org)).

Let me count the ways!

I've written often about being an intern here at First Parish and how valuable this experience is for a minister in training. You are a marvelous teaching congregation in so many ways.



First, you are a very welcoming group! You'll remember that there was a lot going on at the beginning of the 2012-2013 church year and a new intern might have easily been an unwelcome distraction, but from day one I was invited into the conversation and thus quickly felt that I was part of the community.

Second, you provide wonderful feedback, given constructively. Everyone seems to understand that the best way to offer suggestions is to first offer praise and I have appreciated both. Internships are all about learning and growing and smoothing out the rough edges, and that doesn't happen without people taking an interest and providing their insights. You do this very well.

Third, you have in your midst some great role models. I have learned a lot simply by watching many of you go about your business with a sense of purpose and a clear connection to the mission of this church. And, if I'm going to be honest, there's a flip side to this. While I have been witness to the best of who you are, I've also been there when you haven't necessarily lived up to the ideals of our faith. This is no different from any other church, and an intern can learn more about themselves and their craft when walking with a congregation in difficult times.

Finally, you have shown how seriously you take this work of teaching new ministers by supporting the intern position with your financial contributions to the church. I count myself as lucky to be among a long and successful line of ministerial interns, each of whom, I know, are grateful for the ongoing commitment you have made to their formation. Next year First Parish will once again have the benefit of a full-time intern in **Brian Chenowith**; and your interest, your input, and your support will once again be welcome. ♦

Blessings,

Tony

Our annual pledge campaign is starting this month and sometimes I hear, “All we talk about is money!” In the denomination in which I was raised, we actually did not talk about money. Not at all. Nor did we talk about leadership, or sermons, or the problems within our parish. My family had no say in who spoke from the pulpit, who led our religious education programming, or how our parish spent its money. All decisions were out of our hands and we were ... led.

At First Parish, we must talk about money because all of these decisions are actually in our hands.

Here, we are not just led; we lead. We primarily talk about money in March. We talk about money because we do not have an archdiocese giving us money and making our decisions for us. Instead, we have the freedom to choose our leaders. We have the freedom to install solar panels and compost coffee grounds in our kitchen. We have the freedom



to have our parents share what is important to them about the values their children learn. Freedom like this comes with a cost.

Quite simply, you directly pay for the maintenance of your building that houses your congregation. You directly pay your staff’s salaries. You directly pay for educating the youth of this parish and caring for your elderly. You directly pay for the care of your parish community.

Sometimes this Parish even continues to talk about money into April and May and June. Leaders of the Parish do not like to do this either — it feels like begging for the support of something that many of us deeply believe in — this community. After all, it is this community that will dedicate your children, marry your children and bury the people you love.

First Parish is not a charity; it is a Parish that has a finite number of stewards who want to make sure the Parish is ready to be there when you need us most. Please consider your stewardship carefully and generously. I know my husband **Mark** and I will, because you trust us just as we trust you. This is no magic trick. We need you — your time, your talent and your treasure. ♦

Love,

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

### March 2014 RE Calendar

- Sun., Mar. 2 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years  
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade  
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades  
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists at Jiffy Read’s  
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths, 10 a.m. – Grace Chapel  
8th Grade – OWL at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 9 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years  
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade  
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades  
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists – Drumlin Farm  
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths, 11a.m. Classroom  
8th Grade – OWL at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 16 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years  
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade  
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades  
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists at Jiffy Read’s  
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths, 11 a.m. Hindu Temple  
8th Grade – OWL at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 23 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years  
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade  
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades  
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists – Wright Tavern  
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths, 11:45 a.m. Islamic Center  
8th Grade – OWL at 4 p.m.
- Sun., Mar. 30 Little RE – Regular RE for Babies-4 years  
Spirit Play – K-1st Grade  
Middle RE – 2nd-5th Grades  
6th Grade – Neighboring Activists – Wright Tavern  
7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths, 11 a.m. Classroom

### Great News: Child Caregiver Wanted!

First Parish seeks a personable, warm, mature, reliable and welcoming adult to care for infants/toddlers during services on Sunday mornings. You will work with one other paid adult to care for five to seven babies and toddlers during the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services — approximately 8:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. weekly at \$15/hour. In addition to the other paid adult, there will usually be one parent volunteer and one teen helping with child care. Please send **Lora Venesy** an email if you are interested: [lvenesy@gmail.com](mailto:lvenesy@gmail.com).

### RE Orientations for the Spring Term:

- Neighboring Faiths — March 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- Middle RE — March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

RE News

continued on page 11

Neighboring Activists — March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

**Middle RE Spring Term Starts March 30**

We will be continuing with our UU curriculum for Second through Fifth Grades. Second and Third Graders will continue with “Moral Tales” <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/tales/index.shtml>; the Fourth and Fifth Graders will continue with “Tool Box of Faith” <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/toolbox/index.shtml>. We will also have a couple of large group sessions, as some have said they missed this. If you would like to comment, I welcome your voice. The RE Council and I wish to provide a strong and engaging RE program. We are here to serve you and your child. Please let us know your thoughts.

**Neighboring Activists to Visit Drumlin Farm**

Our Sixth Graders will be traveling to **Jiffy Read’s** and Drumlin Farm during the month of March; they will shovel manure, visit a rescued horse and learn about our interdependent web. Thanks to **Kristin Moore, Darlene Vanstone, John Peterson** and **Louisa Paushter** for leading this active and odiferous program. Please have your child dress for the weather. We go RAIN or SHINE because ... it is only weather and it is good for our kids to feel something.

**Seeking Director for the Eighth Grade Play**

Recruiting leadership for the Eighth Grade Play is critical. You might wonder, Why a play in Sunday school? There is something about creating a performance with other people that bonds like nothing else. I believe a sacred trust develops, as each one is counting on the others. Building trust in our teens takes them into OWL and COA as a strong cohort of Unitarian Universalists.

Last year, **Tom** and **Sue Beck** did a great job bringing our Eighth Graders together and created a touching performance of “A Year with Frog and Toad.” The performance entertained all ages with three packed shows. It also gave our Eighth Graders a chance to “give back” to their community and be seen as leaders.

Now is the time to find next year’s leader. Could you do this? If you want to grow in this amazing way and get to really know our kids, come and share your gifts.

**Seeking Gardener to Lead Our Garden Ministry**

Can you weed and water? Do you like bringing people together to grow what we value: organic food, eating local, being green? Do you like teaching children about the power and mystery of the earth? Do you think it is important that First Parish grows food for the people who visit Open Table? Than please give **Pam Howell** a call and let’s talk. If you can dig a hole, handle a doo-dle poll and send an email, then you have the skills to keep this ministry alive over the summer. This could even be your RE teaching commitment for next year.

PASTORAL CARE NOTES AND NEWS

**Holiday Plant Delivery Thanks**

Thank you, **Caitlin Selle**, for organizing the distribution of the Christmas poinsettias to those on the pastoral care list. The efforts of the flower deliverers (**Caitlin Selle, Marilyn Lowitt, and Laurie and Eric Van Loon**) was very much appreciated.

**It Is Only a Dog!**

Soft fur, deep soulful eyes and a joyful welcome! Loyalty and delight all mixed into a furry body — a dog! What these animals give us is worth so much. Cats and dogs are our companions through the good and bad times in our lives. We can’t know what they are thinking but we can feel their love. Having a pet and losing one go together. When we get a new dog or cat, we know in our hearts that they will die and leave us. Some people say, “I can never get another pet because I can’t go through losing one again.” What a shame to fail to open to love and loyalty just because one fears the future loss.

The love I feel for my dog is real, and as she struggles with illness, my heart sinks and I can hear some folks say or think, “Well, it is only a dog.” Yes that is true, but dogs or cats give us the deepest kind of pastoral care; not to be open to that is sad. They teach us to love, to accept loss, and to feel all the feelings that go in between. Maybe we can learn a lesson from these furry creatures — to learn to love and care despite the reality that they will leave us ... yes, it is only a dog! — **Diane Clapp**, Team Leader, Pastoral Care Lay Ministers

**Pastoral Thursdays—7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

**Rev. Howard Dana** and the Pastoral Care Ministers will be holding evening programs on certain Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.

March 6 – The Challenges of Parenting Teenagers

March 20 – Dealing and Living with the Death of a Spouse

April 3 – Infertility, Pregnancy Loss, and Family Building Issues

April 17 – Job Insecurity

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

The Lay Minister for March is **Petra Betts**: [petrajordan@2002outlook.com](mailto:petrajordan@2002outlook.com) or 978-897-8368.

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

Ministerial Intern: **Tony Fisher** ([tfisher@firstparish.org](mailto:tfisher@firstparish.org))  
Or call the church office at 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers:  
Contact **Diane Clapp**, [d.clapp@comcast.net](mailto:d.clapp@comcast.net) or 781-257-5025.

Caring Connection, for meals or rides: Contact **Tony Fisher** ([tfisher@firstparish.org](mailto:tfisher@firstparish.org)), or Suzanne Hogan (978-318-9035), or call the office at 978-369-9602.

Pastoral Care Council:  
Contact **Judy Dembsey** ([dembsey@verizon.net](mailto:dembsey@verizon.net)).

## MUSINGS AND MUSIC NOTE

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Recently, *Creator* magazine, an ecumenical resource for religious leaders invited me to write an article about leading a music ministry in challenging financial times. This request invited me to ponder the practices and attitudes I have developed during these years of transition and reduced financial resources that have helped me stay centered and energized for this music ministry. As we begin our Annual Pledge Campaign this month, I'd like to share some of these with you:

**1. Keep making music:** This, after all, is my job — and my calling. Making music centers me spiritually and brings me joy. In my experience, music can bring comfort to the grieving and release to the dying, nurture confidence in the timid and awe the skeptic. In times of upheaval and transition, we can embrace one another through music, remembering our capacity for harmony in the midst of conflict.



**2. Use the music budget responsibly.** I support transparency in the budget process. I try to share financial information openly. Often non-musi-

cians are unaware of the expense associated with maintaining a choir library, music licensing and fair compensation for musicians. The costs of instrument maintenance and tuning may also come as a surprise. I document expenses thoroughly and promptly, following established policies and procedures.

**3. Stay in touch with the Director of Operations and the Bookkeeper.** I check in regularly with **Fifi Ball** and **Tina Storey**. It is better to be a part of the conversation when financial decisions need to be made — even difficult ones — than to be unpleasantly surprised by an outcome. By staying in the conversation and calmly naming my concerns, I try to be a constructive presence.

**4. Pledge as generously as possible.** My husband **Peter** and I have chosen to continue increasing our pledge each year, despite my level salary and some significant cuts to the music budget. Gradually, we've achieved a level of giving that helps us focus on our own abundance, rather than scarcity. Our pledge expresses our commitment to the whole ministry of the church, not just the music ministry. It also expresses our gratitude for this, our family's spiritual home.

May abundance lead to gratitude, then to generosity. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

## SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

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When **Pam Howell** and I first started talking about the youth service trip to West Virginia this April, we knew that we were going to ask the youth to fund-raise to make their trip sustainable. We set a goal of \$100 per youth going on the trip.

This challenge was important to me for two reasons: (1) it would encourage the youth to work for their service trip, not just have it handed to them, and (2) it would help the youth spread the message to the wider congregation that they are committed to making youth service trips financially self-sustaining.

The youth accepted our challenge and surpassed their goal. Between the Haunted House in October and Rock 'n' Roll Bingo in February, the youth group raised over \$1,500 to support their service trip to West Virginia. This will mostly be put toward need-based scholarships for youth going on the service trip, and an in-kind donation to the organization we're working with in West Virginia.

I'm so proud of our youth, and think they are a model for how many groups within our congregation could show their commitment to this community. Our youth love this church, and by making their trip self-sustaining they are giving back to our community. And...we ALL had a lot of fun in the process. ♦

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

[blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:blowe@firstparish.org)

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### Contemporary Vocal Ensemble Update — Still Time to Join!

Do you love gospel, jazz, folk? Do you love singing but feel unable to make a yearlong commitment to a choir? Do you long to share of your voice in a music ministry here at First Parish? If so, the Contemporary Vocal Ensemble may be just what you are seeking.

We will be rehearsing on Sundays in Wright Tavern from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. Folks will be able to commit by the service. We will have three to four rehearsals prior to singing at a service. We will always plan to warm up/run through pieces the morning of the service as well. If interested, contact **Gail Carey**, Music Ministry Associate at [improvgail@gmail.com](mailto:improvgail@gmail.com).

## WOMEN'S NEWS

### Spring Equinox Celebration — March 18!

Come and rejoice together in the return of Spring after our long winter! The Women's Goddess Covenant Circle invites everyone — women and men, boys and girls — to a Vespers Circle in honor of the Spring Equinox on Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We'll celebrate the turning of the wheel of the year with flowers, songs, and stories. The Circle will happen following the Terrific Tuesday supper and before other programs that evening.

### The Women's AM/PM Book Group Meetings

The Women's Book Group selection for March is *Flight Behavior: A Novel*, by Barbara Kingsolver. The evening discussion will be Monday, March 24, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning discussion will be Tuesday, March 25, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Since the church is now open on Monday evenings, both the morning and evening sessions will be held 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 email list, please contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

### Remaining Books and Dates for 2014:

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

### Work with the Women's Parish Association

Calling all First Parish women! New to the area or been here a while? Have time to work on interesting programs and projects with other FP women? Then consider working on a WPA subcommittee. We could use your help on programs, membership, finance or governance. Our vision is simple: intergenerational appeal, social connection, raising funds for church, charities and women's causes, and enjoying what we do.

There are lots of ways to let us know you're interested.

- Contact **Marilyn Lowitt**, [Marilyn.Lowitt@verizon.net](mailto:Marilyn.Lowitt@verizon.net), 978-793-0267, or **Lois Whitney**, [awhitney@alum.mit.edu](mailto:awhitney@alum.mit.edu), 978-369-9515,
- Come to a board meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, in the Emerson Room at First Parish, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., or lunch at noon, usually the last Wednesday of the month.
- Visit our informational table at most coffee hours.
- Leave a note with your name and phone/email in our mailbox in the church office.
- Speak to a current board member: **Linda Benua**,

Carol Boris, Becky Blodgett, Irmi Doane, Elfie Knudson, Marilyn Lowitt, Gerrie Madigan, Claudia Nimar, Dian Pekin, Lois Mitchell, Helen Stoddard, Lois Suarez, Melita Teichert, Barbara Wheeler or Lois Whitney.

Committees meet at mutually agreeable times. Join us and help shape the future of the Women's Parish Association.

## UU NEWS

### New UUA Moderator to Visit First Parish — April 5 & 6!

On Saturday, April 5, 2:00-3:30 p.m., everyone is invited to meet the new Moderator of the UUA, Jim Key, when he makes



a special visit to First Parish! This is a rare and wonderful opportunity for us to learn firsthand from the UUA Moderator about what's new in our denomination, what the UUA does for congregations, the exciting plans for the new office headquarters of the UUA in South Boston, and what to expect at this year's General Assembly being held in nearby Providence,

RI this June. The April 5 event will be a Town Hall style meeting for Jim to speak with us about the above topics and anything you'd like to ask him regarding the UUA and its role in our movement.

### Going to General Assembly?

Would you like to attend General Assembly (GA) this June in Providence, Rhode Island? Please visit the UUA GA website ([www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)) to learn about the many activities and ways you can participate or stop by the GA information table at coffee hour. The housing reservation system opens on the website on March 3, and there are options for hotels, dormitories and homestays. If you think you want housing, it is important to reserve early, as many hotels near the convention center will fill up quickly.

If you are thinking of attending GA — especially if you would like to be a delegate, please get in touch with **Alice VanDeusen** at [alicevandeusen@gmail.com](mailto:alicevandeusen@gmail.com) ♦

## COMMUNITY NOTE

### Essence of Buddhism — A Five-Class Series

This five-week series provides an overview of key Buddhist topics presented logically and sequentially according to the Tibetan Lam Rim tradition. Each week a new topic will be introduced, combined with class discussion and meditation. Classes may be taken separately, although the complete series is recommended. Everyone welcome. Suitable whether you're knowledgeable or just curious about Buddhism. Preregistration or drop-in acceptable. Suggested donation \$15 per class; Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 p.m., March 5, 12, 19, 26; April 2. First Parish Chapel. Contact Wendy Garling, [garde-nofdharma@yahoo.com](mailto:garde-nofdharma@yahoo.com) for information or to register.

# MARCH 2014 CALENDAR

## Every Week...

<i>Music Together</i>	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
Terrific Tuesdays:	Set Up	5:30 p.m.
	Dinner	6:00 p.m.
	Evening Activities	7:00 p.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Gospel Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
<i>Essence of Buddhism Class</i>	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Music Together</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
Lincoln Ringers	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Contemporary Ensemble	Sunday	12:15 p.m.
Worship Reflection	Sunday	12:15 p.m.
Men's Group	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Sat Mar 1	8:30	Art of Leadership	•	7:00	Pastoral Thursdays
Sun Mar 2	10:30	Sunday Forum	•	7:00	Reverence for Life
Tue Mar 4	1:30	First Tuesday Group	•	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	4:00	Shawl Ministry	•	Fri Mar 21	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
	7:30	Emerson's Divinity School Address	•	3:00	WPA Concert and Tea
Wed Mar 5	6:00	Arts Council	•	7:00	Jewish Awareness Group
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists	•	Sat Mar 22	7:00 Department of Peace
	7:00	Environmental Leadership Team	•	Sun Mar 23	10:30 Sunday Forum
Thu Mar 6	7:00	Pastoral Thursdays	•	3:00	Seeing Double, Violin Duo
	7:00	Transylvania Partnership Community	•	Mon Mar 24	7:30 Women's Book Group
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Tue Mar 25	9:30 Women's Book Group
Sat Mar 8	9:00	Photography Club	•	7:30	Emerson's Divinity School Address
Sun Mar 9	10:30	Sunday Forum	•	Wed Feb 26	9:30 Rise Up and Call Her Name
	12:30	Nominating Committee	•	Fri Mar 28	7:30 Rise Up Singing
	6:30	Standing Committee Meeting	•	Sun Mar 30	10:30 Sunday Forum
Tue Mar 11	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	•	Mon Mar 31	6:30 Harmony and Heritage Pilgrimage
Wed Mar 12	2:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	•	Tue Apr 1	1:30 First Tuesday Group
	7:30	Forum Committee	•	6:00	Minerva Potluck
Fri Mar 14	7:00	"Having It All" Cabaret	•	Wed Apr 2	6:00 Arts Council
Sat Mar 15	7:00	"Having It All" Cabaret	•	7:00	Environmental Leadership Team
Sun Mar 16	3:00	Margaret Fuller Program	•	7:00	Concord Area Humanists
Tue Mar 18	2:00	Needleworkers Affinity Group	•	Thu Apr 3	7:00 Pastoral Thursdays
	7:00	Amnesty Group	•	7:00	Transylvania Partnership Community
	7:00	Evening Worship	•	7:30	By Your Side Singers
Thu Mar 20	10:00	Creative Practice Affinity Group	•	Fri Apr 4	8:00 Oriana Consort
	2:00	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	•	Sat Apr 5	9:00 WPA Recycle Sale

On March 4, after the Terrific Tuesday dinner, come to a presentation, with videos, on the History of Transylvanian Unitarianism and partnerships.

After input from the congregational sessions, **Howard Dana** has approved installing the kopjafa beside the Keresztúr Terrace. The Concord Districts Commission hearing is on March 20.

See <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-congregation>.

The PCC and SAC are sponsoring a workshop on intercultural understanding led by Rev. Parisa Parsa on Saturday, April 12, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. This workshop will give participants language and a model to understand how they view difference. See SAC page 8 for more information. For information on the Harmony and Heritage tour, see the following article.

## Harmony and Heritage: A Transylvania Pilgrimage — October 30–November 10, 2014

Traveling together to our partner church is a transformative experience. In addition to the beauty of the countryside, warmth of new and continuing friendships, sharing songs and stories, food and dance, visiting the historic towns and villages of Transylvania and experiencing All Souls Day on the hillside near Keresztúr, we will be creating an intentional community prior to our travels through potlucks, education and informal singing.

We are hoping to hold the costs to \$2000 for the ten-day trip. The deadline for the \$250 nonrefundable deposit to hold your place is March 10. For detailed information and registration form click <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-congregation/partner-congregation-programs>.

## MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

The April Newsletter deadline is Friday, March 21, at noon.  
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, April 1.

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

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: [FPConcord@firstparish.org](mailto:FPConcord@firstparish.org)

Website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org)

\* **PLEASE NOTE:** The office is CLOSED on Mondays.

- Minister's Email:  
Howard N. Dana: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)
- Ministerial Intern's Email:  
Tony Fisher: [tfisher@firstparish.org](mailto:tfisher@firstparish.org)
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## 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
-

**Coffee Hour Snack Co-Hosting Schedule  
March 2014**

3/9/2014	NUNES
	O'KEEFE
	OLSEN
	OLSON
	OSBORN
	PACKARD
	PAGE
	PAGE
	PAILET
	PALIN
	PARISH-COWAN
	PARLMAN
	PARROTT
	PASTUSZENSKI
	PAUSHTER
	PAVESIO
	PAZARIS
	PEACOCK
	PEKIN
	PENTZ
3/16/2014	PERKINS
	PERUGINI
	PETERS
	PETERS
	PETERSEN
	PETERSEN
	PETERSON
	PETERSON
	PETTINGELL
	PFEIFFER
	POHL
	POPOV
	PORTER
	POTTER
	PRATT
	PRESTON
	PRIOR
	PUTNAM
	QUANRUD
	QUIMBY
3/23/2014	QUINN
	RAINIS
	RANDALL
	RASMUSSEN
	REA
	READ
	REEVE
	REEVES

	REGAN-LOOMIS
	REID
	REILLY
	REILLY
	REMINGTON
	RENSKO
	RESSLER
	REYNOLDS
	REYNOLDS
	RICHARDS
	RIDDLE
	RILEY
3/30/2014	RINALDO
	RINDLIBACHER
	RINGWALL
	RIZZI
	ROBBINS
	ROBBINS
	ROBERTS
	ROBICHAUD
	RODMAN
	RODRIGUEZ
	RODWIN
	ROEHR
	ROGERS
	ROGERS
	ROLLINS
	ROOD
	ROOP
	ROPEIK
	ROTHERMEL
	RUTSTEIN
4/6/2014	RUZE
	RYAN
	RYDE
	RYMAROWICZ
	RYMER
	SABINE
	SAMNOTRA
	SAMOUR
	SAMUELSON
	SANTORO
	SAPHIER
	SATTERTHWAITE
	SAXENIAN
	SCANLON
	SCHEIBER-KURTZ
	SCHLOEMANN

	SCHLOSS
	SCHMIDT
	SCHUMACHER
	SCHWEPPE
4/13/2014	SEALE
	SEAVER
	SELLE
	SEMPLE
	SGARZI
	SHANE
	SHAPLAND
	SHARAKAN
	SHARPE
	SHEEHAN
	SHEFFIELD
	SHEPARD
	SHERBLOM
	SHIPE
	SHOHET
	SIANI
	SIEBERT
	SIEBERT
	SIEBERT
	SIEGEL

Climate Solutions Speaker Series presents:

An Evening with

FRANCES  
MOORE LAPPÉ



Author of  
*Diet for a Small Planet*  
will speak on  
her book ....

**EcoMind**

*Changing the Way We Think to  
Create the World We Want*

*Always brilliant, challenging and empowering,  
she offers a hopeful message of turning obstacles into  
opportunities. Solutions to the climate crisis are possible.*

**"A clarion call in this age of rising despair."**

*Peter Barnes, author of Capitalism 3.0*

Friday, March 14th 7 pm  
Trinitarian Congregational Church  
54 Walden St Concord Mass.

Sponsored by: ConcordCAN - LWVCC - TriCon Church  
First Parish of Concord - Trinity Episcopal - Musketquid Arts & Environ.  
[climatesolutionsmeetingthechallenge.com](http://climatesolutionsmeetingthechallenge.com)



# Open Table

*Caring for Families & Creating Community*

## Save the Date!

The DiGiovanni Family proudly sponsors

### Open Table's 25th Anniversary Iron Chef Competition and Fundraiser

Saturday April 12, 2014  
6:00 - 9:00 pm  
300 Baker Avenue, Concord

Join us for the Open Table 25th Anniversary evening of good food and lively competition! Cheer on local cooking teams as they create masterpieces from a secret ingredient. Fun and minute-by-minute commentary are all part of the show.

Tickets: \$55 per person  
Tickets go on sale **March 1st** online at [www.opentable.org](http://www.opentable.org) and at

Deborah's Natural Gourmet (Concord)  
The Concord Bookstore (Concord)  
Serendipity Café (Maynard)

Contact [ironchef@opentable.org](mailto:ironchef@opentable.org) for more information

