



April 29, 2014
Volume 50, No. 9

Our fiftieth year!

The Meeting House News

IN THIS ISSUE

REVERIES

A few words about email. Email is a useful communication tool — for some types of communication. As a minister, I get dozens of emails each week. Many of them I can answer quickly. Some take more time. Others sit around too long. And a few need to be responded to on the phone or in person. I am happy to receive emails and to respond to them. And how quickly I am able to respond will depend on what else is going on in the life of the church. So here are some tips for communicating by email with me — or anyone else at church.



- If you need to communicate with me quickly, don't email me — call me on my cell phone.

- If you have sent me an email and have not heard from me in a few days — nudge me with another email or call me on my cell phone.

- Ask me only one or two questions in an email — emails with a string of questions are harder to digest and take more time to answer.
- Think about whether everyone on the email chain needs to see your response before hitting “reply all.”
- If your communication needs a conversation with me, make an appointment to see me.
- If your communication is sensitive or pastoral in its content, call me on my cell phone or make an appointment with me.

One of the most difficult aspects of this first year of ministry at First Parish has been the sheer barrage of requests and communications from people. I have been simply inundated. We all know that First Parish is much too large a church to be served by just one minister — yet the expectations of many members of the congregation have not changed. I look forward to the time when the congregation funds more ministry. Until then, it will be up to me to set some boundaries. It is a pleasure to be among you and I urge you to be patient with me. We all are simply doing the best we can. See you in church.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

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- ◆ Starhawk Events
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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, May 4

Earth Was Given as a Garden — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 First Parish Choir and Children's Choirs

11:00 Gospel Choir and Children's Choirs

Sunday, May 11

Mother's Day — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 – First Parish Choir

11:00 – The Con-Chords

Sunday, May 18

Music Sunday — ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra – J. S. Bach's *Magnificat*

Sunday, May 25

Theology of the Flock — Tony Fisher preaching

ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

Sunday, June 1

ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

Youth Sunday

Gospel Choir and Youth Musicians

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.

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
June: Friday, May 23	Tuesday, June 3
September: Friday, August 22	Tuesday, September 2

Newsletter items should be **brief — ideally limited to 100 words** — and may be delivered, faxed or emailed 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 appointments to meet with people at other times. Please call or email **Cassy Bosworth** at 978-369-9602 or 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.

"A Yankee Home Companion" on May 2 and May 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Laugh and sing with your First Parish community as we celebrate our musical talent and creativity in honor of **Beth Norton's** 20 years of music ministry. Tickets are still available in the church office — suggested donation ranges from \$20-2000 to support the Music Reserve Fund. Join with **Doug Hardy, Pam Howell, Beth Norton, Gail Carey, Chris Randall, Lauren Evans, Tom and Sue Beck, the Con-Chords**, and many others for a fun evening! You won't want to miss it! (But note that if you can't make it we would welcome a contribution to the Music Reserve Fund, which allows us to hire musicians for special services such as Jazz Sunday or holiday offerings, and gives Beth the ability to undertake ambitious musical offerings.)

Are You Qualified to Vote at Annual Meeting?

Remember that in order to vote at the First Parish Annual Meeting on June 8, you must have been a signed member for 30 days. So if you are not yet a signed member and wish to vote, please stop by the office and sign the membership book before May 9.

Spring Celebration — May 11 Special Continental Coffee Hours

There will be Music – Appreciation – and Great Food to honor Mother's Day, Mother Earth and Everyone that Adopted a Solar Panel.

Please plan to attend one of the coffee hours to share in the celebration.

Evening Worship, Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

Join **C.C. King, Rachel Baker** and others on the First Parish labyrinth for an evening of worship, dance and meditation. Stay tuned for more information in the *Sunday News* and emailed FP Announce.

Parish Notes

continued on page 3

Calling All Creative Web Designer(s)!

First Parish seeks a volunteer (or team of volunteers) to redesign our website. We would like to make the website more accessible and user-friendly, as well as easily updateable by staff and volunteer staff as needed. If this sounds like a project you'd love to take on, contact **Kate Keleher** at kate@rkeleher or 978-369-4550. Thanks!

WPA Luncheon Program — Wednesday, May 21

The Women's Parish Association invites you to an interesting and inspiring luncheon program on May 21, featuring Marilene Phipps-Kettlewell, a world-acclaimed and highly celebrated author, poet and artist, who will share some of her amazing talents with everyone. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$10.00. Contact the office by May 18, or **Dian Pekin** at Pekindc@comcast.net, for reservations or for food and transportation needs.

Can You See through Your Fears and Live Happily in the Present?

On Saturday, May 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at First Parish, Lila Kate Wheeler will teach us "how to train our brain to wake up to the present, release fermented hallucinations, and connect with life's natural balance and richness." Lila says, "We humans have a big brain that easily gets mesmerized by its own creations. With his typical humor, the Buddha suggests that clinging to this present moment is the key to letting go of all the fears, anxieties and regrets that make us miserable." Suggested donation: \$40. Space limited. Register with **Bill Seaver**: billseaver@earthlink.net or 978-369-7318.

Understanding Our Social Structure: Steps for Cultural Change

This three-part workshop will take place on consecutive Thursday evenings starting on May 1. Through a blend of presentation and open sharing, we will explore the possibilities for change in a culture that works very hard to maintain the status quo when it comes to gender roles and identity. **Tony Fisher** and **Pat Simon** will lead the discussion.

A bonus film, "Who's Counting: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics," will be shown after coffee hour on May 4. Contact **Tony Fisher** at tfish@firstparish.org.

Calling All FP Mothers of Young and School-Aged Children!

Come join other First Parish mothers for Mom's Night Out on Friday, May 16, at 8 p.m. in the Parlor. Bring a snack to share and a beverage of your choice to this casual and fun gathering. The Mom's Night

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.

May 1-31 – Altshuler Gallery – First Parish Photo Club Exhibition

May 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. – Yankee Home Companion

May 7 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

May 10 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club meeting – open to all First Parish adults

May 17 at 3:00 p.m. – Lincoln Ringers Handbell Concert

May 30 at 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Singing, First Parish's monthly song circle.

June 1 at 7:00 p.m. – Sarasa Concert

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.

Out (MNO) group is new and looking to connect mothers in friendly and fun ways, as well as sharing wisdom and inspiration for raising children and meaningful living. Join our Google Group First Parish MNO to stay updated.

Honoring Hawthorne: A Memorial on the 150th Anniversary of His Death

On Friday, May 23, at 6 p.m., First Parish and the Transcendentalism Council will host a program honoring Nathaniel Hawthorne on the 150th anniversary of his death. The program will feature a welcome by **Tony Fisher** and readings by author-parishioners **Polly Peterson** and **Rick Frese**. Other presenters include Leslie Perrin Wilson of the Concord Free Public Library and Jan Turnquist of Louisa May Alcott's Orchard House, as well as representatives of Emerson House, Thoreau Farm, the Old Manse, and the Wayside.



Participants are then invited to walk to Hawthorne's gravesite in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. The procession will pass the horse-drawn hearse believed to have carried Hawthorne's coffin. Finally, all are invited to a reception of light refreshments at The Old Manse. All events are free and open to the public.

COMING UP...

IN JUNE

Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 8 at 11:30 a.m. after the service

Saturday, June 14: Boston Pride Parade

The Diversity Committee will take a group of parishioners to march in the Boston Pride Parade, which starts at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 14. Look for more details in the June *Meeting House News*, or contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions.

Sunday, June 15, at 2:00 p.m.

Invitation to a 90th Birthday Party for Al Armenti

The Armenti family invites you to attend a 90th Birthday celebration for Al. Come and enjoy an afternoon of music, refreshments, camaraderie and merriment.

Location: First Parish, Parish Hall, 20 Lexington Road

Casual attire and No Gifts, please!

RSVP required by June 1 to Nancy at 978-263-1186 or Hodgmans@comcast.net with the number of attendees

Parish Notes

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Hawthorne's funeral was held on May 23, 1864, at First Parish. Mourners included Ralph Waldo Emerson and Bronson Alcott, as well as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, scientist Louis Agassiz, and former President Franklin Pierce. Rev. James Freeman Clarke officiated at the service. Visit fptranscendentalism.org for more details.

Solar Sundraiser — Final Update

Our church campus is now greener! And not just because of the blossoming trees! First Parish is now generating its own electrical energy from our 70 fully functioning solar panels, which began operating on the first day of spring.

These panels will reduce our electrical consumption for the next 20+ years! Thanks to generous contributions from literally hundreds of parishioners (some named, some anonymous, some participating in group gifts), the cost of 50 of the panels has already been covered. The remainder will be financed through a loan from our Trustees. We are now living more sustainably.

This effort also demonstrates a pilot program of project-based fundraising, which allows parishioners to contribute to targeted programs at the church. This fundraiser included a goal of returning 20% of funds raised to support our congregation as a whole through our operating budget. Of the \$60,000 raised in total, \$48,000 (80%) will pay for the purchase and installation of the solar array, and \$12,000 (20%) will support general operations in the spirit of stewardship.

Thank you for your generous support of this project, First Parish!

MINISTERIAL INTERN

The Spirit of Adventure

When I launched myself into this journey toward ministry over four years ago, the vision of where I might end up looked a lot like what I had known as a life-long, old New England Unitarian



Universalist. There would be a small white church on some village green, with a stark but beautiful sanctuary with tall, clear windows lining the walls. The minister's study would be small but serviceable (with the mandatory space heater to offset the drafts).

Outside there would be graceful steps leading up to the open double doors, and the wayside pulpit would stand off to the side offering thought provoking messages to passersby.

Still, it was with the spirit of adventure that I signed up for my first semester in seminary, and through all the difficult courses and flaming hoops, the hospital chaplaincy and, of course, this great internship at First Parish, that spirit has never waned. So I guess I shouldn't be surprised that the spirit has called me somewhere completely different!

My wife Ann and I have often talked about the possibility of living somewhere else, at least for a few years, since neither of us has ventured too far from our Greater Boston roots, but I can tell you that Florida never came up as a possible destination. And yet it was to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, Florida, that my imagination kept returning. Yes, there were other possibilities closer to home, my "precandidating" weekends all went well and I enjoyed each of the search committees. And no, this past winter didn't drive us away (we love all four seasons). It was that I literally felt called to that church, and they seemed to like me as well. Go figure!

So now, if you find yourself in Southwest Florida on a Sunday morning with nothing to do, you know you have to stop by and find out where the spirit of adventure has taken your former intern. I can promise you will be welcomed warmly! ♦

Blessings,

Tony

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS

Rapid Progress

April began with my fruit trees unpruned because the March snows prevented me from safely placing a ladder beneath the limbs that needed trimming. Happily our church year has not been as adversely affected by our dramatic winter weather. Many different groups have been making not just steady, but accelerated progress towards their goals.

- Our annual campaign is off and running well ahead of any recent year's schedule. We will base our budget on the clearly defined pledges received by May 1, giving our staff the opportunity to develop the budget earlier and with greater care.
- The task force on defining the governing policy for committees has taken its second draft to various church groups and two Congregational Discussions. Their input will inform the third draft to be submitted to the Standing Committee.
- Next year's slate of Standing Committee candidates has been completed by the Nominating Committee 12 weeks early. These names will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- A recent Congressional Discussion collected ideas on the purposes and roles of a potential Finance Committee.

All of these efforts have demonstrated our expansion of the Standing Committee's commitment to increase congregational involvement in the ongoing life of First Parish.

This rapid progress has left more time for some important end-of-the-year Standing Committee (SC) activities. Two of these are our obligation to evaluate the minister in his role as Head of Staff, and our obligation to evaluate ourselves as a board. This year, written formats for both of these efforts are already under way. We anticipate that these evaluations will add depth to our report to the Annual Meeting, and will provide helpful feedback to guide the work ahead.

Standing Committee Transition

Looming large in our organizational thinking is the significant change in SC composition next year, after five of our 11 members move on — very different from last year, when 10 of our 11 SC members remained in office. This year's experienced group provided organizational continuity as **Howard Dana** began his first year as our minister. Planning is under way for initial briefings for our new members, pending approval of their candidacy at Annual Meeting.

Annual Pledge Campaign Is Done Soon!

By the time this note is published, the Annual Pledge Campaign will be within two days of being over! The Pledge Campaign literature has clearly shown us how our generosity can enable our strategic priorities. If you are reading this and have not made your pledge, please call the church office (978-369-9602) and pledge today!

Remember, our budget will be constructed within what we have pledged by May 1. (Your gifts beyond that date will, of course, be gratefully received.)

To repeat the last two months' concluding words, 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, ivanloon@comcast.net; **Kristin Haddad**, Kristin.haddad@gmail.com; **Jake Nunes**, Jake_Nunes@shs.org; **Mark Russell Prior**, mark.russell.prior@comcast.net; **Suzanne Lowe**, slowe@expertisemarketing.com; **Kate Crosby**, kate_crosby@newview.org; **Andrea Siani**, Andrea.Siani@gmail.com; **Alec Walker**, alecwalker@aol.com; **Gretchen Nelson**, ghnelson@me.com; **Patty Popov**, PPopov@nichols-pratt.com; **John Nevison**, jmn@newleafpm.com.

UU NEWS

Don't Forget! General Assembly will be in Providence, Rhode Island, June 25-29. Watch for the GA table at coffee hour to learn more about the events and opportunities.



Annual Pledge Campaign 2014-2015:
“Build On to What Is Good”

For the last seven weeks, we have shined a light on what we love at First Parish, on our priorities for the future, and on the essential role that our financial gifts play. This was our Annual Pledge Campaign, a rewarding story of commitment and energy.

In response to your input, this year’s campaign was different. We simplified. We were transparent about budgets, salaries, and the impact of funding goals attained or missed. We pledged together in worship on March 9. We pledged at Coffee Hour and online. We hand-wrote thank-you notes to each other, and we received and took pleasure in them. We became stewards to each other, listening and speaking and asking. And we will finish as promised, on May 1 — you can see the results here: http://bit.ly/RIFm7X. Throughout this time, we were practicing new ways of working and being together. The campaign was different because you asked that it be so. Next year,



the lessons learned will help it be even better.

Now, we budget. Through our pledges, we declared what we are willing to pay for. Based on this, we will create a realistic plan on which we will vote at our Annual Meeting. Of course, additional pledges — or even pledge increases — are always welcome and will be gratefully received. But we are finished with the campaign itself, and we will budget only those programs supported by pledges received as of now.

You will see your gifts at work in innumerable ways that together are First Parish. Thank you for helping to build on to what is good.

— Eric Moore and Jim Reynolds, Campaign Cochairs

Eric.aron.moore@gmail.com

Jim.reynolds@caringcompanion.net

Learn more at www.firstparish.org/cms/stewardship/pledge.

Summer Is Coming!

Some Unitarian Universalist congregations take a break and almost disappear during the summer, but not First Parish in Concord. We keep on going. We are a year-round church. We have worship on Sunday and community-building activities throughout the week.

“What community-building activities?” you might wonder.

The answer is up to you!

Two years ago a lovely tradition of casual late Sunday afternoon picnics was begun by a small group of members and friends. This core group chose a few dates and locations. They advertised the picnics and personally invited other individuals and families to join them.

When I arrived two years ago, I heard wonderful stories about these Sunday picnics.

Perhaps you would like to find a group of members and friends to organize summer picnics or some other fun activities. If so, let me know and let’s make it happen. ♦

In faith and fellowship,

— Rachel Baker

Director of Congregational Life

Comfort in a Song

A unique pastoral resource available to our members is the By Your Side Singers, First Parish’s pastoral choir. Members of this group offer a musical presence for people who seek comfort and strength during times of illness or transition. When invited, they come to parishioners’ homes or hospital rooms in groups of 3 or 4 to share soft, soothing song. By Your Side Singers sing songs and chants from our hymnals and other sources. Their singing has evoked smiles, tears, laughter — even dancing! A visit from By Your Side Singers can be arranged through a minister, a pastoral care lay minister, or by contacting Music Director **Beth Norton**.

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

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

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

Ministerial Intern: **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org)

Or call the church office at 978-369-9602.

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

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

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

Starhawk Is Coming to Concord!

Starhawk is one of the most respected voices in modern Goddess religion and earth-based spirituality. She is an author, activist and permaculture designer, and was influential in the decision by the UUA to include earth-centered traditions among our sources of faith.

Tuesday, June 3: Starhawk will be joining us at our June Minerva Potluck at First Parish, which will be followed by a Women’s Workshop and Spiral Dance. Tickets: \$60 for the Workshop and Dance

Wednesday, June 4: Starhawk will take the stage at The Umbrella (formerly Emerson Umbrella), where she will first be interviewed for “The Goddess Show,” a TV production focused on explorations of the sacred feminine. This will be followed by a talk, a ritual and a spiral dance. Tickets: \$25

The workshop and talk are on creating sacred community, holding our own power, and stepping into leadership. Please note: If the fees are a hardship, please email TwinkleManning@gmail.com to request a reduced fee or waiver. You can purchase tickets at www.TVforYourSoul.com/STARHAWK.html.

Interested in Women’s Earth-Based Spirituality?

The First Parish Women’s Goddess Covenant Circle, which focuses on the Feminine Divine and Earth-Based Spirituality while celebrating the Wheel of the Year, invites interested women to learn more about us and our path to membership at a Learning Circle at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 12, in the Brooks Room. R.S.V.P. to **Twinkle Manning** at twinklemanning@gmail.com.

The Women’s AM/PM Book Group

The Women’s Book Group selection for May is *Eighty Days: Nelly Bly and Elizabeth Bisland’s History-Making Race Around the World*, by Matthew Goodman. The evening discussion will be Monday, June 2, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning discussion will be Tuesday, June 3, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. 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 or 978-369-1471.

Remaining date for 2013-2014:
June potluck dinner and choosing books for next year — date to be determined

Change Is Hard — We Know That



Those of us working for social change also know that creating change is sometimes more difficult. In our justice-seeking lives, “burnout” is more than a reality; it is a given. I’ve heard this from friends active in the movements for climate justice and immigration reform.

I’ve also heard this from members of First Parish working to change our church’s culture. In the work of activism — whether we are

addressing immigration reform, hunger, animal rights, queer rights, or climate change — I find that I have to remember that even small victories are still victories.

- When someone asks me why I use the word “queer” to describe my gay and lesbian friends.
- When a parishioners contacted the Reverence for Life group to ask if they could suggest a vegan dish to serve at a church-wide event.
- When a volunteer placement is found for another change-seeker.

It’s these seemingly small signs of change that bring me out of my tiredness. These small victories counter the despair of my burnout. Onto the next small moment! ♦

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

“Dementia: Mapping the Journey” Panel Discussion, Friday, May 9, at 7:00 P.M.

This program, crafted to educate and provide support for families facing Alzheimer’s, will be presented on Friday, May 9, at 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall. There is no admission charge. The discussion will focus on day-to-day caregiving rather than on medical research or cures. Four panelists will be featured: Will Reiter, Vice President of Education and Community Engagement of the MA/NH chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association; Janet Simpson Benvenuti, Founder of Circle of Life Partners; **Jim Reynolds**, CEO of Caring Companion Home Care; and Margaret Hoag, Elder Law Attorney. For more information, contact **Jim Reynolds** at jim.reynolds@caringcompanion.net or 978-234-1305.

Mother’s Day Peace Walk on Sunday, May 11, at 8:00 A.M.

Tina Cheri, founder of the LDB Peace Institute, writes: “This month is a special time of reflection, not only for me (Tina’s son Louis was killed 21 years ago), but also for

our great City of Boston, the Commonwealth and the Nation. In honor of Victim Rights Month in Massachusetts, and as we remember not just the victims of the tragic marathon bombing of last year but all victims of violence, may we take a moment to recommit to the journey toward peace.” To learn more about the walk, contact **Rev. Margie King Saphier**, 781-424-2179 or mksaphier@comcast.net. Last year we raised \$1791. This year let’s try for \$2014.

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day on May 13

Put your “Faith in Action” on Tuesday, May 13, by planning to attend the 9th Annual UU Advocacy Day, sponsored by UU Mass Action, at the Arlington Street Church and the State House. This year we will be delivering wedding cupcakes to each of Massachusetts’ 200 Senators and Representatives in boxes that say: “Thank You for 10 Years of Marriage Equality! Now it’s time to raise the minimum wage, reform drug sentencing, and change our immigration policies.” To register and get additional information, go to <http://bit.ly/1nHa5fO>.

Vegan Potluck on Tuesday, May 13, at 6:00 P.M.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, May 13, at 6 p.m., hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish to help out those with allergies or special diets. Don’t have time to cook? A simple salad or a loaf of bread is just fine. Need a recipe? Contact **Lyell Slade** at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Calling All Composters!

The Coffee Composting Project, sponsored by The Environmental Leadership Team, has been a big success with 10 volunteers rotating through the twice-a-month winter schedule. Each person is scheduled to pick up one bag of coffee grounds once a month to enrich their own compost piles. It is a small but major step in the right direction to help First Parish become more sustainable. Now is also the time when many of you are planning your gardens and enriching your personal compost bins. Your help is needed and your garden will thank you. Please email **Berni Jenkins** for more information, berni.jenkins@verizon.net.

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; see our website, sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist; or visit the Social Action bulletin board.

MUSINGS AND MUSIC NOTES

The *Magnificat* is a passage from Christian scripture that I know by heart, both from singing it in liturgical and concert settings and from reading it as part of the Christmas story. Found in the Gospel of Luke 1:46-55, the *Magnificat* is the song sung by Mary after she has learned that she is to be the mother of Jesus. She sings it to her cousin Elizabeth, who has also become pregnant after years of infertility.

The *Magnificat* resonates for me as a song of faith and hope sung by a young woman in extraordinary circumstances. It is a hymn to power of the Holy within us to work miracles in our lives and to bring about a just world.

It is also a song of vocation: Despite her humble origins and social stature,

Mary accepts the call to be part of great change in the world — in a way she could never have imagined.

The First Parish Choir has offered several musical *Magnificat* settings over the years — mostly during the Advent season, when the story makes the most narrative sense in our liturgical

year. On May 18, at 10:00 a.m., we will offer J. S. Bach's *Magnificat*, with soloists from the choir and a 13-piece orchestra. Bach wrote two versions of the work. The first was composed for Christmas in 1723, Bach's first year as Music Director at the Thomas Church in Leipzig. Ten years later, he adapted and transposed the work to be presented for the Marian feast of the Visitation in July of 1733. It is this version that we have learned.

Bach's setting is an ambitious undertaking for our choir. Indeed, you may have heard choir members grumbling, in a mostly good-natured way, about "all those notes." It is a stretch for all of us. From the celebratory "laughter" of the "Magnificat" opening to the surging triplets of the final "Gloria," Bach's *Magnificat* calls all of us to be part of something much larger; to trust our ability to reach beyond perceived limits; to create something glorious that none of us could accomplish individually. The choir's spirit in this endeavor has inspired me, and reminded me of Frederick Wooden's interpretation of the text, *Magnificat anima mea Domine*:

"My soul magnifies God
We are enlarged"

We are indeed enlarged and uplifted by this canticle and by Bach's majestic setting. We invite you, with joy, to be part of this experience on May 18. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director



Rise Up Singing — a Week Later!

Because of the early Memorial Day weekend, our May "Rise Up Singing" will meet on the fifth Friday of the month, May 30, at 7:30 p.m.. Singers and instrumentalists of all ages are welcome to this informal and spirited evening of shared music making. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you have one. Copies will be available for those who don't.

Thank You, First Parish, from the Lincoln Ringers!

Your 2013-2014 handbell choir-in-residence will be presenting a spring concert on Saturday, May 17, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for our farewell performance of the season here at the church.

"We have been so blessed to 'live' here for the year — to rehearse in the serenity of the Chapel, to perform both on Sundays in the grand balcony and on the expanse of the Sanctuary floor for our Christmas concert. This concert celebrates our appreciation for your warm welcome and wonderful hospitality, and will include many of the pieces you've heard in church over the last nine months. Please join us!"

Please Help Us Find a Lost Organ Pipe . . .

Have you seen a pipe resembling this one? An organ pipe approximately 2.5 feet long and two inches wide has gone missing from inside the organ case. If you find this pipe anywhere, please leave it on the organ console or bring it to the music office. We will be so grateful. If it isn't found, we will need to pay for a new one to be made; each organ pipe is individually crafted.



Our organ is approaching completion. It's very exciting! But because the organ enclosure is not complete, there are still some openings that lead into the area where the pipes rest. It may be tempting to explore the inside of the organ through these open-

ings. Please don't! The only people who can safely enter the organ chamber are trained technicians. There is much that can be damaged by someone who is inexperienced. Recently, our builder found some pipes that had been bent; we assume this damage was done unintentionally, through curious exploration.

We are so fortunate to have this beautiful instrument coming to life in our Sanctuary. With your help, we can find this lost pipe and help bring it to completion.

— Beth Norton and Eric Huenneke

In April, the RE Council organized a lasagna dinner for our RE families. We came together to be in community and to show our support for our annual campaign. We certainly have a lot to celebrate.

There was so much excitement and hope in the air. We made crafts out of our left-over palms, we jumped rope, and we attempted to hula-hoop in the Parish Hall. We ate, we baked cookies, we cared for a burned finger, and we laughed together — because we all know that life isn't always easy but that community does make it easier.

Howard Dana sat with the children and answered some questions. We learned why he loves ministering and that he has a favorite color: blue. Deep blue.

I looked around the room and saw all of the people, all of the colors, all of the hope. Hope Everlasting. These are our people, our friends, the ones we

count on in the dark and in the light. Our door is open, and those who walk through and stay are rooting into the sacred fabric of our parish, rolling forward, through the ages.

This place is not for every person, but it is the place for those who can hear our song, for those who see our deeper message, and for those who sense that our message is their message. Our parish becomes its own favorite color, a color that may be hard to describe, and impossible to reproduce, but you know it when you see it. ♦

Love,

— *Pam Howell*

Director of Religious Education
Email: drepamhowell@gmail.com

Teen Assistants in Our Little RE Program

This is the time of year when we start searching for teens to carry on the ministry of caring for our littlest UU's on Sunday morning. We have such dedicated teens doing this work, and the relationships they make with our parents and our young children are precious. I love seeing our kids light up when they see "their teens" coming to care for them.

If your teen would like to be involved in this special role, please ask him or her to contact me directly at drepamhowell@gmail.com.

May 2014 RE Calendar

Sun., May 4	Regular RE for Babies-4 years Regular RE for 2nd-5th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists – First Parish Garden 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths – 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
Sat., May 10	8th Grade Swap Day Sculpture 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sun., May 11	Regular RE for Babies-4 years Regular RE for 2nd-4th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists – First Parish Garden No 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths
Sat., May 17	7th Grade Neighboring Faiths – Sandwich Making at 3:30 p.m.
Sun., May 18	Only One Service at 10 a.m. Regular RE for Babies-4 years Regular RE for 2nd-4th Grades (Emerson Room) 6th Grade Neighboring Activists – May Pole 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths. 11 a.m. (Common Cathedral)
Sun., May 25	Only One Service at 10 a.m. Regular RE for Babies-4 years
Sun., June 1	Only One Service at 10 a.m. – Youth Service Regular RE for Babies-4 years Regular RE for 2nd-5th Grades – Attend Youth Service 6th Grade Neighboring Activists – Attend Youth Service 7th Grade Neighboring Faiths – 11 a.m. Attend Youth Service
Sun., June 8	Only One Service at 10 a.m. Regular RE for Babies – 4 years 7th Grade Meeting for 8th Grade Play – 9:30 a.m., Brooks Room

2014-2015 RE Registration to Begin

Late in May, you will receive your RE Registration materials. In addition to these materials, we will also have one Sunday, June 1, for you to come and register in person and ask questions about our extensive RE programming for your children.

We are trying to add some additional teaching options for parents. We are hoping to add some support staff back to our Babies to 4-year-olds programming, and reduce the RE fees for next year. This will all depend upon a healthy annual campaign and pledging from all of us, every one. I am waiting to see the budget when our annual campaign closes on May 1. Once we have these numbers, I can send out our registration forms.

RE News

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We are also waiting to see if we are going to one service or remaining with our current model of two services. This has required the RE Council and me to come up with two different programming models for next year. Once we know what the congregation wants, we will send out the forms to you so you can see the adjustments we have made. I always love to see how

our leaders respond to change in a way that seems to offer our children a program that grows and improves year after year. I feel our "Sunday School" breathes with the congregation and continues to be a living expression of our faith community.



When you do receive your forms, please send them in as soon as possible to get your first or second choice. I know many parents love to teach and serve our children, and I want each of you to get your first or second choice. Delaying costs our limited staff so many extra hours of undoing and redoing work in order to meet your needs. Please consider this as you decide which "pile" to put your RE Registration forms in. Thank you!

Come Join Us in Our Community Garden

Looking for a multigenerational way to engage with your parish community and invoke your social justice values? Come and work in our First Parish Community Garden on Walden Street in Concord.

This is the sixth year of our garden. We have been feeding people at Open Table, supplying our RE program with organic materials for crafts, and using produce to stock our freezer with meals for our parishioners in need of sustenance. We are grateful that our sixth graders are preparing and planting the garden. We are also grateful that **Regina Hugendubler** has stepped forward to organize the care of the garden over the summer.

We need your help too. Please contact me to sign up for a week of caring for our garden. I will send you a doodle link so you can choose a week or two to share in this ministry. Maybe you will be lucky and can dig up potatoes? Every year, I marvel at how child-like we all become when we reach down into the mud



and pull out a giant spud. Now that is living!

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

The youth service group — 15 youth and six chaperones — had a fabulous time in West Virginia! Working through Appalachia Service Project (ASP), we helped three families do construction on their homes — two needed new porches built and one needed a retaining wall constructed. The youth have been planning for this trip for over a year, and it felt so good to finally be doing the service work they've been itching to do.

We're looking forward to two things, now: next years' service trip and our youth worship service on June 1, where we'll share with you more reflections on the trip. An integral part of this service trip will be sharing our stories and experience. We hope you'll join us on June 1. ♦

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY (TPC)

Our 21 pilgrims who are going to Transylvania in the fall have had their first gathering, and will continue to meet regularly for education and language lessons in the coming months.

The Berde Mozes Unitarian School in Keresztúr just celebrated its 220th anniversary, and the 20th anniversary of its restarting after the fall of Communism in Romania; we sent greetings to be read as part of the celebration. See links on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/1lg3urg> or FP Photo Gallery at <http://bit.ly/1lfZkPX> for more information and photos.

Rodger Mattlage will be our representative at the school's graduation ceremony. Those who sponsor graduating seniors are encouraged to send cards to their students; Rodger will take them with him if delivered to the First Parish office before it closes at 3 p.m. on May 5.

The high school needs to replace outdated computers in their language lab, and will be grateful for the donation of used PCs. Please contact **Dana Booth** at dana.a.booth@gmail.com if you have one to donate.

The kopjafa (memorial pole) will be installed on our campus and dedicated sometime this fall.

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 5, at 7 p.m. at First Parish; all are welcome to join us.

— Minden jót, (Best wishes),

Sara Ballard

Partner Congregation Committee

MAY 2014 CALENDAR

Every Week...

Music Together	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
T'ai Chi	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
Buddhist Group	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Music Together	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.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
Music Together	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
Lincoln Ringers	Thursday	1:30 p.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Worship Reflection	Sunday	12:15 p.m.
Men's Group	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Thu May 1	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Sun May 18	ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
Fri May 2	7:00	Play Reading Group	•	Tue May 20	2:00 Needleworkers Affinity Group
	8:00	"A Yankee Home Companion"	•		7:00 Evening Worship
Sat May 3	8:00	"A Yankee Home Companion"	•		7:00 Amnesty Group
Sun May 4	10:30	Forum	•	Wed May 21	11:30 WPA Luncheon
	12:15	Congregational Discussion	•	Fri May 23	Newsletter Deadline
Tue May 6	1:30	First Tuesday Group	•		6:00 Hawthorne's 150th Anniversary
	2:00	Shawl Ministry	•	Sat May 24	10:00 Buddhist Group Workshop
	6:00	Minerva Gathering Potluck	•	Sun May 25	ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
Wed May 7	6:00	Arts Council	•	Fri May 30	7:30 Rise Up Singing
	7:00	Environmental Leadership Team	•	Sun Jun 1	ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.
	7:00	Concord Area Humanists	•		7:00 Sarasa Concert
Thu May 8	7:00	Transylvania Partnership Community	•	Mon Jun 2	7:30 Women's Book Group
Fri May 9	7:00	Dementia – Mapping the Journey	•	Tue Jun 3	9:30 Women's Book Group
Sun May 11	6:30	Standing Committee Meeting	•		1:30 First Tuesday Group
Mon May 12	7:00	Learning Circle	•		6:00 Minerva Gathering Potluck
Tue May 13	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	•	Wed Jun 4	6:00 Arts Council
	6:00	Vegan Potluck	•		7:00 Environmental Leadership Team
Wed May 14	7:30	Forum Committee	•		7:00 Concord Area Humanists
Thu May 15	10	Creative Practice Affinity Group	•	Thu Jun 5	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	•	Fri Jun 6	7:00 Play Reading Group
Sat May 17	3:00	Lincoln Ringers Concert	•		

26 Years of First Parish Passover Meals

These 26 years have been a joy to me. Yes, I enjoyed the cooking but more important to me was watching and hearing the “other cooks” in the kitchen making new friends.

Some of the interesting changes over the years many of you aren't aware of. The first few years we would ask for volunteers to perform the service with the Maxwell House Passover Haggadah which has been around since 1932.

Then our student ministers performed the service each year, three of whom had a Jewish bringing up and wrote new versions of the Haggadah. **Dana Snyder-Grant** encourages and works with our Student Minister each year before they lead the service. **Jim Snyder-Grant** sees to the selling of the seder tickets. **Peter Mitchell** has done a fantastic job doing most of the food shopping, **Del Freedman** I can depend on to carve each year.

Our first Passover Meals included the foods our members remember sharing with their Ashkenazi relatives (Jews from Northern Europe). The Sephardic Jews (from southern Europe) then added some of their Mediterranean Passover foods to the First Parish menu as the years went by.

Because the date for our Passover meal has settled in recent years on the day before Easter this year I decided we would

- have a pre-First Century Passover meal. This was exciting for me to do for I am handing over the “pots and pans” to leaders of the next generation next year and they will decide what foods we will have in the coming years. I wanted to learn what the Jews would have eaten on Passover as well as Jesus would have eaten at his Last Supper. **Peter Mitchell, Holli Jones-White** and I did research to be sure we used only the foods that were available then. Naturally we ran into some disagreements of the “experts” — no apples (What was the fruit Adam and Ever ate?) no coconuts, pineapples, hearts of palm. No foods from the New World which included coffee, cocoa, tomatoes, squash, peppers, potatoes and corn. They had goat and lamb, no beef. We settled for leg of lamb.

- We had a wonderful service given by **Tony Fisher. Del Freedman** had help with carving four legs of lamb by our guest, caterer **Judy Saler. Peggy Wacks**, a new face at the Passover meal, was a great volunteer in the kitchen both in the morning and afternoon, bringing out the food and being so pleasant with fellow First Parish members, their family members and guests. Clean up went quickly and well with our sextons, **Bob and Pat** doing the major work.

— Rhoda Miller

MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

The June Newsletter deadline is Friday, May 23, at noon.

The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, June 3.

****This will be the LAST Meeting House News until September 2.**

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

Website: www.firstparish.org

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

Minister's Email:

Howard N. Dana: hdana@firstparish.org

Ministerial Intern's Email:

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

STARHAWK *is coming to Concord, Massachusetts*



Starhawk is the author and co-author of twelve books on Goddess religion, earth based spirituality, and activism, including: *The Spiral Dance*, *Circle Round - Raising Children in Goddess Traditions*, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*, *The Earth Path* and *The Empowerment Manual: A Guide for Collaborative Groups*, on power, process and group dynamics. She is currently working with Yerba Buena Films on a feature production of her novel, *The Fifth Sacred Thing*. Starhawk's Concord workshop and talk is on creating sacred community, holding our own power and stepping into leadership.

Tuesday June 3rd, 2014
Minerva Potluck followed by
Starhawk's Women's Workshop
+ Spiral Dance

First Parish in Concord
20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA
6:00pm - 9:30pm

Participation Fee: \$60

Wednesday June 4th, 2014
Live Studio Audience Interview*
TV Recording Session followed by
Starhawk's Talk

5:00pm - doors open (mingling, book signing)
6pm-6:40pm - TV interview: Starhawk is
interviewed for *The Goddess Show**
6:45-8:15pm Talk + Ritual/Spiral Dance
8:20-9:00pm (mingling, book signing)

The Umbrella Community Arts Center
40 Stow Street, Concord, MA

Tickets: \$25

All are welcome Wednesday evening.

Hosted by: "Twinkle" Marie Manning, Founder of TV for Your Soul and Executive Producer of *The Goddess Show** - an exploration of the Sacred Feminine. Twinkle has intentionally designed her career to produce media that is transformative, positive, and impartial. In both her professional and personal lives she weaves together small and large groups of like-minded people with the goal to build community, while enhancing the individual power of each person involved. She is the midwife of the Goddess Covenant Women's Circle at First Parish in Concord. *Should the ticket prices be a hardship, please email requests for discounts and waivers: Twinkle.Manning@gmail.com (760) 889-5428*



Tickets available online: www.TVforYourSoul.com/STARHAWK.html