



June 3, 2014
Volume 50, No. 10

Our fiftieth year!

The Meeting House News

REVERIES

We are planning two exciting new developments for next year at First Parish — one ten o'clock service each week and a second minister. Both these developments come after listening closely to the congregation and hearing a desire for more cohesiveness and for more pastoral care. I hope you are as excited as I am.

Going to one ten o'clock worship service will be a big change for our congregation. For 24 years, First Parish has had two worship services on Sundays. If nothing else, the first thing that you all will notice is how full the Sanctuary is many weeks. Rather than having the pew to yourself, we will all have to scoot in and share more. But it is my hope that any inconvenience in seating or parking will be more than made up for in good energy and enthusiasm during the service. I suspect we will sing better, laugh more, and feel better held by our congregation when we all worship together.



Along with the ten o'clock worship service, we are planning some exciting Sunday morning additions. I plan to teach adult religious education classes before the service, likely starting at 8:30 or 8:45 a.m.. We are planning to have the First Parish Café open with coffee and muffins at 9:00 a.m.. People will be able to arrive at church early and enjoy coffee and time with their friends before the service. After church, the Forum and other adult religious education classes will be offered from 11:30 a.m. on. A time of fellowship with coffee and other beverages will follow the service. Children and youth will have their religious education classes during worship as they do now. Naturally, we will try this model for a year and tweak it as needed.

The addition of a second minister will allow us to serve First Parish much better in the coming year. Whether I hire a full-time Assistant/Associate Minister or a part-time Minister of Pastoral Care, most of that person's job will be pastoral care. He or she will work with the Lay Pastoral Care Ministers and the Caring Connection volunteers to extend our care to those in our congregation who are in need. This minister will also be available to do pastoral care directly with people and to officiate at roughly half of the memorial services next year. Additionally, the second minister will preach occasionally and offer classes and workshops. Best of all, you will have two ministers to get to know you and to love you!

Of course, we must wait for congregational approval of the fiscal year 2014-15 budget before formally offering the position of second minister to someone. There are people interested in the position and I believe we will attract a high-quality person. If having a second minister at First Parish is something you value, it is important that you be present at the Annual Meeting on June 8 to vote in favor of the budget. Additionally, it will be important that we all do a good job of fundraising next year so that the second minister position can be sustained.

It has been a good, full first year. I am looking forward to a terrific year next year. See you in church.

Love,

Howard N. Dana

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1** REVeries
In This Issue
- Page 2** Worship Services Schedule
Parish Notes
- Page 3** Parish Notes, continued
Arts Corner Events
- Page 4** Standing Committee News
Coming Up...
- Page 5** Pastoral Care News
Transylvania Partnership News
- Page 6** Congregational Life
Ministerial Intern
- Page 7** MUSings and Music Notes
Solar Update
- Page 8** SAC News and Events
- Page 9** Women's News
UU News
- Page 10** REflections and RE News
- Page 11** RE News, continued
Senior Youth News
Community News
- Page 12** Summer 2014 Calendar
- Page 13** First Parish Contact Info and Staff

There are two notices at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ [Summer Worship Schedule](#)
- ◆ [2014-2015 Newsletter Schedule and Information](#)

First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

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

WORSHIP SERVICES AT FIRST PARISH

Worship Going Forward: One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 1

Youth Sunday

Gospel Choir and Youth Musicians

Sunday, June 8

Making Space for Summer — Rev. Howard N. Dana

10:00 First Parish Choir

ANNUAL MEETING follows at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, June 15

Father's Day — Rev. Howard N. Dana

10:00 First Parish Combined Choirs

Sunday, June 22

Flower Communion — Rev. Howard N. Dana

10:00 Larry Gall, bass

Sunday, June 29

Mark Richards preaching

10:00 Tamasin Foote, soprano

Please Note Summer Office Hours

The office at First Parish will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, beginning on Tuesday, June 17, and continuing through Friday, August 29. The office will be closed for Independence Day on Friday, July 4. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

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
September: Tuesday, August 19	Tuesday, September 2
October: Tuesday, September 16	Tuesday, September 30

Newsletter items should be **brief — ideally limited to 100 words** — and may be delivered, faxed or emailed to the church office. **Please see page 15 for 2014-2015 deadline dates and more information about the “new” Meeting House News.**

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.

Looking for Teddy

Nancy Beeuwkes and **Kathleen Elcox** would like to thank the young EMT who expertly bandaged Nancy's hand and knee after a fall on the stairs on Easter. He may have been a guest. Does anyone have his address?

Catnip Ball Time

Among the favorite attractions of the First Parish Artisans Holiday Fair each year are beautiful handmade catnip balls at the Women's Parish Association's booth. The knitted balls make adorable gifts, appreciated by cat owners almost as much as their cats. The catnip ball covers are knitted by volunteer knitting “elves” over the summer, and the balls are assembled in October. If you would like to join the catnip ball brigade, you will find copies of the knitting directions in the First Parish office, as well as some bags of appropriate yarn. This is an ideal summer project — light, easy and fun. Please call or email **Margaret Stewart** for more information at 508-662-6348 or mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com.

Herb Garden Coffee Hour Party — Sunday, June 22

The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular annual coffee hour Herb Garden party on Sunday, June 22, following the Sunday Service. Everyone is welcome. Come and enjoy the beauty of the Deborah Webster Greeley Memorial Herb Garden and the herb-flavored sweets, savories and cold drinks. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Parish Hall.

“Yankee Home Companion” — An Amazing Success

Many thanks and congratulations to the 45 people who helped make the production so very special. From ticket sellers to performers, all worked together to create a theatrical and musical evening that will long be remembered.

Parish Notes

continued on page 3

The show was a fundraiser to celebrate **Beth Norton**'s 20 years of musical ministry and a benefit for the Music Reserve Fund, which allows her to produce outstanding Sunday music such as the Bach *Magnificat*. I am happy to report that thanks to our many generous donors we were able to raise a total of \$10,435 for the fund.

— **Lillian Anderson**, producer

Calling All FP Mothers of Young and School-Aged Children

Come join other First Parish mothers for Mom's Night Out on Friday, June 20, at 7 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 Out (MNO) group is new and looking to connect mothers in friendly and fun ways, as well as to share wisdom and inspiration for raising children and meaningful living. Join our Google Group First Parish MNO to stay updated. Contact **Melissa Chaffee** at mamacha.tea@gmail.com or **Val Vallancourt** at valvallancourt@gmail.com if you have any questions.

The Forum Committee Welcomes Your Input

The Forum Committee is planning its list of forums for next year and would like to ask anyone who has a suggestion for one or more forums to please let us know. Just email us at fpsunforum@gmail.com, give us the name of the speaker, the topic, your name and how to reach you. Thank you for your interest in the Sunday Forum. We wish you a great summer and we're looking forward to seeing you next year. — **Sally Schloemann**, Secretary, Forum Committee.

Lost and Found...Going, Going, GONE!

Please check the coatroom, where there are many items of clothing left behind over the winter. They will soon be taken to Goodwill.

This Is Kate Keleher's Last Newsletter

Our heartfelt thanks to **Kate Keleher** for the many years of dedication and hard work she gave to the *Meeting House News*. We will miss her artistic talent and eye for detail.

[Thanks, it has been a pleasure! ed]

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.

June 1-August 31 – Altshuler Gallery, First Parish Photo Club Exhibition

June 1 at 7:00 p.m. – Sarasa Chamber Music Concert, Tracing Vienna's Lineage

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

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

June 22 at 4:00 p.m. – Organ Dedication Recital by James Welch

June 27, July 25 & August 22 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.



The Fruit of the Year's Progress

Many different groups have reached their goals. Here are some of them:

- Our annual pledge campaign achieved over \$900,000 from 444 households.
- The budget based on that amount will allow the Minister to make significant progress in addressing the serious needs of Pastoral Care for the next year.
- Standing Committee (SC) increased the use of task forces and congregational participation on task forces.
- By the time you read this note, the proposed budget will have been available for public inspection for a week.
- The Standing Committee approved the revised Governing Policy for Congregational Groups that the task force presented in final draft at the May 11 meeting. Copies available from **Kristin Haddad**, Clerk of the Parish, or **Fifi Ball**, Director of Operations.
- The Standing Committee considered suggestions on how a potential Finance Committee might be usefully organized and chartered.
- The Standing Committee has reserved a special meeting to review the written evaluations of both the performance of the Head-of-Staff and the Standing Committee itself. We anticipate this review will provide helpful feedback to guide our future work.

All of this progress lays a strong foundation for the new church year that begins in July.

Standing Committee Transition

Planning is under way for a potluck transitional dinner with both the retiring five, new five, and continuing six, members. Also under way is some planning for initial briefings of our new members, pending approval of their candidacy at Annual Meeting.

First Parish Annual Meeting Is Sunday, June 8

By the time this note is published, the Annual Meeting will be less than two weeks away. Please mark your calendars for 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and plan to attend.

Conclusion

The year has been a busy, active series of events, with a new minister in place. Sunday worship has seen imaginative changes. The roof of the Meeting House has been covered with solar panels. The Minister, the congregation, and the Standing Committee have all demonstrated new ways of working together. The Treasurer (representing the Standing Committee), the Director of Operations (representing the paid staff), and the Chair of the Trustees of Parish Donations have begun a strategic realignment

of finances and financial reporting. The annual pledge drive reached its goal on time. A new spirit of generosity and stewardship is growing in the congregation. We, as the elected representatives of the whole congregation, look back on the past year with satisfaction and pride in our joint accomplishments. We look forward with anticipation to the challenging events in the year to come. ♦

Jack Nevison

Chair of the Standing Committee

Stay in touch with us at:

Laurie Van Loon, lvloon@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

COMING UP...

IN SEPTEMBER

First Parish Homecoming Sunday
September 7

Welcome Back Picnic at 5:30 p.m.

All ages. All First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news and meet other First Parish folk. This is an evening for everyone.

Music and potluck dessert

Please bring:

A finger-food dessert to share
Your own picnic food and beverage
Lawn chairs and blankets

The party will be on the front lawns of First Parish, weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now. This is an event not to be missed.

Shawl Ministry Meeting

The next meeting of the Shawl Ministry is Tuesday, June 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Brooks Room. All parishioners interested in knitting or crocheting shawls are welcome.

So Many Caring Hands

So many parishioners provide pastoral care. I would like to thank all of you for your continued devotion to caring for those among us.

Pastoral Care Council: **Enid Boasberg, Sue Dobbie, Berni Jenkins and Fred Van Deusen.**

Lay Ministers: **Diane Clapp** (team leader), **Petra Betts, Bev Bringle, Sue Dobbie, Carolyn Shohet, Dana Snyder-Grant.**

Caring Connection: Meals: **Carolyn Shohet and Tracey Hurd**; *Food Delivery:* **Petra Betts, Bev Bringle and Pat Kane**; *Plant Deliveries:* **Caitlin Selle**; *New Baby Welcomers:* **Louisa Paushter, Bridget Neale and Jane Stewart**; *New Baby Blankets and Note Writing:* **Kitsy Rothermel**; *“Thinking of You Cards:”* **Kathleen Elcox**; *Rides:* **Suzanne Hogan**; *Shawl Ministry:* **Regina Hugendubler and Holly Cratsley.**

The Cooks: **Lois Whitney, Carol Boris, Joyce Biggs, Jini McCoubrey, Petra Betts, Ursula Kristoffy, Toby Smith Ropeik, Priscilla Smith, Donna Peterson, Val Holt,**

Catherine Bovey, Leslie Fisher, Linda Reynolds, Darien Smith and Berni Jenkins.

Shawl Ministry: **Sue Cornwall, Carol Boris, Valerie Holt, Carolyn Shohet, Linda Hardiman, Regina Hugendubler, Ginger Lang, Susan Dobbie, Marlyn Lowitt, Lillian Anderson, Lauren Evans, Darien Smith, Diane Clapp, Donna Peterson, Dinny McIntyre, Donna Blakestone, Holly Cratsley, Judy Dembsey, Lois Whitney, Lou Frackert, Marcia Schloss, Pat Brewer, Susan Wood, Kathy Mayer, Tracey Hurd, Peggy Wacks, Becky Blodgett, and the Women’s Retreat Group.**

The Pastoral Care Council also thanks **Tony Fisher** for all his support and guidance, and sends good wishes for great success in his new ministry in Florida.

— **Judy Dembsey**, Pastoral Care Council

Caring Connection Thanks!

The Caring Connection provides foods for pastoral care outreach to parishioners in need. **Rhoda Miller** retired from her volunteer role as cooking coleader last year, after serving for well over a decade. Chef **Carolyn Shohet** is entering her third decade of cooking coleadership, a role she took on when she retired from professional cooking class leadership. We are grateful to Rhoda and Carolyn.

The Caring Connection freezer is full of delicious healthy vegetarian, omnivore and vegan foods prepared this April. Thanks to all the amazing cooks who made this such a fun, productive event.

— **Tracey Hurd and Carolyn Shohet**,
Caring Connection Cook Coleaders

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY (TPC)

Our own **Rodger Mattlage** will be receiving the UUPCC Steward of Partnership Award for 2014 at General Assembly on June 27 — well deserved.

Plans are afoot for a multigenerational trip to Székelykörtút in the summer of 2015. This could be an opportunity for our young Pen Pals to meet their Keresztúri Pen Pals.

Our kopjafa (memorial pole) will be “planted” outside, near the patio, on September 28 — Transylvania’s Thanksgiving.

We have learned that there will be lots of opportunities in the coming year for the congregation to support Berde Mozes High School students with scholarships. ♦

— Minden jót, (Best wishes),

Valerie Holt (valholt@comcast.net)

Partner Congregation Committee

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

The Lay Minister for June is **Dana Snyder-Grant**:
danasg@newview.org or 978-266-9406.

The Lay Ministers for July are **Carolyn Shohet** at
careshohet@gmail.com or 978-369-6231 and **Bev Bringle**
at bevbringle@yahoo.com or 978-369-2793.

The Lay Ministers for August are **Diane Clapp** at
d.clapp@comcast.net or 781-257-5025 and **Dana
Snyder-Grant** at danasg@newview.org or 978-266-
9406.

Minister: **Rev. Howard N. Dana**
(hdana@firstparish.org) Ministerial Intern (until the
end of June): **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).

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

This month, on June 15, we will be celebrating our nine newest members. Come and participate in the New Member Recognition ceremony as we formally welcome these wonderful folks to First Parish. Including these nine, we have had 21 new members join the congregation this year.

I am grateful to **Nancy Kerr** and **Jane Fisher**, who have been taking care of the Wayside Pulpit over the last two years. Your efforts to change the signs regularly help share the message and values of Unitarian Universalism in the wider community. Special thanks to **Anne Fortier**, who coleads the New to UUism and New to First Parish orientations, and to **Caitlin Selle**, who hosts an annual new member brunch. Thank you to **Lois Suarez**, **Allelu Kurten**, **Jennifer Burgess**, the members of the Standing Committee, and the Trustees of Parish Donations for helping out at the Welcome Table. Your presence has helped visitors become acquainted with First Parish and made it possible for longer-time members and friends to talk with you about governance and other concerns. Thank you to all those who spoke with people with red mugs, welcomed visitors, and helped out on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Without everyone's efforts, we could not do this thing called church.

The move to one worship service each Sunday is an exciting transition. Not only will the entire congregation be together, but the opportunities for Sunday morning programs, events, adult religious education and faith development are significant. The UUA offers a number of excellent adult religious education programs through their Tapestry of Faith programs. I encourage you to take a look at the possibilities. Follow this link: <http://bit.ly/1mFbrrQ>. These can be led by members of the congregation, and may lead to deep and meaningful friendships and relationships. Many of the programs can be adapted into shorter sessions or occasional workshops.

Another interesting possibility is changing how we do social hour on Sunday morning. One idea that appeals to me is beginning Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. with the First Parish Café. This would allow folks to arrive early, park their cars, have coffee or tea, purchase a small pastry, and talk with a few other folks around a small table before worship. Then after worship, we would have our regular social hour, before participating in whatever programs are planned that morning.

One other change that will be coming along in the future is my job title. We will be changing my title to the more transparent Director of Membership and Communications. I will continue to do much of what I do now, but will take on more communication pieces, including the *Meeting House News*. We will be figuring out additional details through the summer.

I look forward to seeing how the coming year unfolds at First Parish for all of us. ♦

In faith and fellowship,

— *Rachel Baker*

Director of Congregational Life

MINISTERIAL INTERN

Gratitude

If I were to thank everyone who helped make my experience at First Parish a meaningful one, it would fill this entire newsletter. I know because I tried!

Needless to say, I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served and to have learned from each and every person in this fabulous congregation. I hope to have the chance to give my individual thanks to as many of you as possible! I would be remiss, however, if I didn't express my deep gratitude for those with whom I worked most closely — the staff, the Intern Committee, and the Lay Ministers.



In case you were unaware, First Parish has an incredible staff! If we were talking about a sports team, we'd be saying there are no holes in this line-up! Their collective guidance and wisdom will continue to be of benefit throughout my ministry. Each has had something to teach and, together, they have modeled a beautiful balance of compassion and excellence. I will always be grateful for their caring and the sharing of their gifts.

I will be forever thankful for the Intern Committee who met with me for that first interview and who chose me from among other worthy candidates to come to Concord. What a gift you gave and what wonderful support you have been, individually and collectively, along the way! You have asked the right, and sometimes tough, questions and you have left me with some excellent advice (make sure you get yourself a good administrator!). I will continue to be held by the memory of your love.

While doing angelic work within this congregation, the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers have demonstrated how true compassion involves a willingness to give of one's self. This group of six beautiful human beings has been doing a large portion of the pastoral care work of the church for some time. They have accepted me as one of their own, and as such I have been blessed. They also deserve more than just my own personal thanks for the work that they do and the love that they spread so let them know how you feel.

I look forward to the next time we meet, either at a UU event or at some future time back here at First Parish. While I am moving on to a new adventure, part of my heart will always remain.

Thank you so much, and blessings! ♦

Tony

Tony

*As torrents in summer,
Half dried in their channels,
Suddenly rise, though the
Sky is still cloudless,
For rain has been falling
Far off at their fountains;*

*So hearts that are fainting
Grow full to o'erflowing,
And they that behold it
Marvel, and know not
That God at their fountains
Far off has been raining!*



These verses by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) represent a long-term First Parish musical tradition that was established by my predecessor, **David Huston**. Typically, at their last service in June, the choir would sing these verses in a setting by English composer Edward Elgar (1857-1934). We'll sing it again this month, in a service where Howard will reflect on "Making Space for Summer."

The two verses come from Longfellow's epic poem, "The Musician's Tale: The Saga of King Olaf." A character modeled after Norwegian violinist, Ole Bull (1810-1880) tells the story in this poem from Longfellow's *Tales of a Wayside Inn*. Elgar based his 95 minute oratorio "King Olaf" on Longfellow's poem, and composed a beautiful a capella setting of these verses for the final chorus. Those last two minutes are the best known of the whole piece.

Delving into these details about music energizes and inspires me. It is just one aspect of my work that refills my own "half-dried channels," even in the busiest season. Longfellow's words and Elgar's music remind me that summer is a time to rest, refill, refuel and renew. And I hope to do all of those things this summer. At the end of June I will attend General Assembly with a large delegation from First Parish. Though GA is often exhausting, it also inspires me by deepening my connection to the wider association and to our faith. The annual UU Musicians Network summer conference in San Diego will help to refill the stream of musical ideas that sometimes runs dry and allow me to connect with treasured colleagues in music ministry. I particularly look forward to our vacation in the White Mountains, where the beauty of the scenery, the quiet of the woods and the companionship of old friends fill us "full to o'erflowing."

May this summer fill all our hearts "full to o'erflowing," whether we seek the far-off fountains, or gather in our Concord Sanctuary. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

Words of Gratitude

Thank you to all of First Parish for the celebrations recognizing the 20th year of my music ministry here. The clever and moving "Yankee Home Companion," the inspired *Magnificat* on Music Sunday and the astoundingly generous gifts to our Music Reserve Fund all demonstrated the depth and breadth of this congregation's commitment to the arts. I am blessed to serve with you and look forward to all we will create together in the coming years.

— **Beth Norton**

Inaugural First Parish Organ Dedication Concert — June 22, at 4:00 p.m.

At the end of June, the American Guild of Organists will be holding its week-long convention in Boston. Since our organ pipework is finally nearing completion, we have taken the opportunity to include an organ concert at First Parish in the pre-convention events publicized to both the attendees and the general public. Our organ builder, Russell & Co., agreed and is aiming to have the pipework as close to completion as possible for this first in a series of dedication concerts. The concert is less than a month away on Sunday afternoon, June 22, at 4 p.m.

We are delighted that James Welch, from the San Francisco bay area, has agreed to play this concert for us. He will be in Boston to give a lecture at the convention about his recent book on Richard Purvis, who was organist of Grace Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco. Dr. Welch was happy to work this concert for First Parish into his trip. Dr. Welch is a well-known concert organist and teacher, who regularly plays concerts at venues such as the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City and the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. He has been University Organist and lecturer in music at California's Santa Clara University since 1993 and also serves as organist for St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Palo Alto, California. His concert will include a generous variety of shorter pieces that will show off the colors of First Parish's new organ with "no ugly music," to use his own words. We hope to see you there!

This organ dedication concert will be funded by your generous contributions to the Music Reserve Fund.

— **Eric Huenneke and Beth Norton**

Every so often, in a conversation with a parishioner, he or she softens their voice and says, “You know, not everyone is in favor of the “Seven-and-a-Half Percent.”*

“I’m not surprised.” I don’t always answer this way, but I do always mean to. I’m not surprised that there is more than one opinion as to how this congregation should support social action. I’m not surprised that in a group of over 700 people, there is some disagreement. I’m not surprised by controversy over money.

What I am surprised by is how little we talk about what the Seven-and-a-Half-Percent represents. This Seven-and-a-Half-Percent represents financial support for over 15 not-for-profits each year. For the majority of the last few years, it has represented the position I currently hold. It is a sign of this congregation’s commitment to extending our gifts to the wider community. It is the legacy of the late **Rev. Dana McLean Greeley**, the minister who initiated the first fund for social responsibility at this congregation.



The Seven-and-a-Half Percent is so much more than a number, or a figure.

The Social Action Community Council is ready to launch a few years of exploration into what the Seven-and-a-Half Percent could represent for this congregation. We aren’t sure exactly what this “exploration” will look like, but we’re excited for the challenge.

In faith,

Bethany Lowe

*The “Seven-and-a-Half Percent” refers to this congregation’s practice of giving 7.5 percent of its annual pledge income to social action.

Coming in September: SAC Candle Writing Workshops

Ever considered lighting the Social Action Community (SAC) candle? Wondering what you might say? Think you don’t have a story to share? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, consider attending a SAC candle writing workshop during the 2014-15 church year. **Bethany Lowe**, Director of Social Action, will lead small groups through the process of writing compelling, inspiring SAC candle testimonials. After you attend one of these workshops, you will have the opportunity to sign-up to light the SAC candle during a Sunday worship. Workshops will be held on Sundays, September 14, December 14 and March 8, and run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Workshops are limited to ten participants. Sign up with Bethany at Blowe@firstparish.org if you’d like to attend.

Vegan Potluck, Tuesday, June 10, at 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, June 10, 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. Your \$2 donation helps to cover expenses. 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 llsrdv@netscape.net.

Join First Parishioners at the Boston Pride Parade on June 14

The Diversity Committee will take a group of parishioners to march with our First Parish banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 14. The parade starts at 11:00 a.m., an hour earlier than usual this year due to construction at the Government Center “T” station. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show our support for the LGBT community. Those wishing to attend the Pride Service at Arlington Street Church beforehand may join us afterward, before the parade starts. Email **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org, or sign up at coffee hour on June 8.

Thank You for Supporting the Mother’s Day Peace Walk

With donations from First Parishioners, as well as family and friends, “Team First Parish in Concord” raised \$1,630 for the Walk and the Louis D. Brown Peace Walk. This is my fourth year participating, and I am always inspired by the families whose loved ones were victims of homicide. They walk carrying their grief, and they “transform their anger and pain into power and action.” This transformation is the heart and soul and work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. When a life is cut short, the Peace Institute is there to walk with the surviving families. They have published a Burial Guide to help families — the obituary, talking with police and reporters, etc. The guide is also for professionals who work with families of homicide. Through their PeaceZone Curriculum, the Peace Institute teaches communication skills to grades K to 12 that enable young people to achieve peaceful conflict resolutions. For surviving siblings and parents, the Peace Institute offers a leadership academy to transform the pain and anger into power and action. The list of the work of the Peace Institute is very long and is making a difference. So thank you for your support. — **Rev. Margie King Saphier**.

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/sacemailist; or visit the Social Action bulletin board.



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. Workshop and talk are on creating sacred community, holding our own power and stepping into leadership. Please note: If fees are a hardship, please email TwinkleManning@gmail.com to request a reduced fee or waiver. Purchase tickets at <http://bit.ly/1py9XjO>

Women's Parish Association

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Women's Parish Association this church year. If you attended or participated in the Artisans Fair or Flea Market, a sponsored lecture, luncheon, tea or concert, or purchased gift items from the WPA at coffee hour, we thank you. Special thanks to the many volunteers who faithfully appear to help with events, knit catnip balls, and donate handmade items for our own artisans table.

Everything we do germinates from our board of 15 special women of First Parish. After many years of leadership and service on the board, **Ginger Lang** and **Barbara Wheeler** stepped down this year. The board welcomed **Lois Whitney** and **Linda Benua** as new members of the board. We honor all of these marvelous women with much gratitude. Additional members include **Becky Blodgett**, **Carol Boris**, **Irmi Doane**, **Elfie Knudson**, **Gerrie Madigan**, **Lois Mitchell**, **Claudia Nimar**, **Dian Pekin**, **Melita Teichert**, **Helen Stoddard**, and **Lois Suarez**.

We look forward to hosting coffee hour again this month, in the Herb Garden. With the garden in season, and lovingly groomed, it is a wonderful way to end our season.

With gratitude,
— **Marilyn Lowitt**, President, Women's Parish Association

The Women's AM/PM Book Group

The final book for discussion by the Women's Book Group for this church year is *Eighty Days: Nelly Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World*, by Matthew Goodman. The evening session will be Monday, June 2, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session will be Tuesday, June 3, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.; both 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. Our annual potluck and book choosing evening will also be held in June, the date to be announced to the email list when it is set. 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.

UU NEWS

The UUA General Assembly will convene in Providence, Rhode Island, on June 25. General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect,

and make policy for the association through democratic process. Our official voting

delegation will be over 20 strong, but many more parishioners will attend one or more days of the conference.

Anyone may attend, and some of the highlights will include the Ware lecture on Saturday evening, featuring Sister Simone Campbell of "nuns on the bus" fame, and the Saturday night Waterfire

witness event.

The Sunday worship service is free and open to the public, as are the exhibit halls on Sunday. Details about these and the hundreds of other activities can be found at www.uua.org/ga.

If you plan to attend and are interested in sharing a ride, there is a Ride Exchange Board available at the GA information table at coffee hour and posted on the UU World bulletin board next to **Fifi Ball's** office.

The First Parish delegates are **Lillian Anderson**, **Sara Ballard**, **Debra Dunnington**, **Patrick Everett**, **Laura Graham**, **Val Holt**, **Peter Lowitt**, **Twinkle Marie Manning**, **Beth Norton**, **Darien Smith**, **Lois Suarez**, **Alice Van Deusen**, **Fred Van Deusen**, **Paula Vandever**, **Alec Walker** and **Lois Whitney**. We also have five ex officio delegates — **Howard Dana**, **Becky Blodgett**, **Margie King Saphier**, **Pam Howell** and **Gary Smith**. Please feel free to contact any of us to find out more about GA. We hope to see many of you there.



Last Sunday all of our children gathered on the front lawn to do the dance of the May Pole. There was so much laughter, music and joy. The kids went round and round, weaving the colors, dancing and singing.

And then ... one string broke loose. Help! I swooped in and picked up the loose end. I brought it to the May Pole and reached high to attach this string and this child to the pole. The kids danced round and round.



Once the string was attached, I looked out from the inside of the pole. I saw the church and the parents and the children and all of the colored ribbon and it was beautiful.

Afterward, I tried to walk away from the pole but found I could not. I had been woven into the pole. Are not we all? And ... there was laughter.

How far we have come in one year. ♦

Love,

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education
Email: drepamhowell@gmail.com

Note from the "Out-Going" RE Council Chair, Lora Venesy

It's been a wonderful year. I am grateful to have worked with this year's council: **Jeff Brainerd, Dawn van Patten, Jan Goddard-Taylor, Suzanne Hogan, Patty Popov, Sarah Napier, Rachael Morris and Alyssa Bigay.** I cherish my experience on the council and am fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend time with these amazing people. We met monthly to discuss how to build a better RE community and enhance our programming. I am thankful for everyone's time, ideas, experience and hard work.

We accomplished a lot this year. We tried a new curriculum and appreciate all of the hard work done by parents. The Elf workshop was a success in December, bringing together adults, teens and younger children for a day of fun. Recently, we raised over \$100 at the Flea Market that will be used to buy educational RE tools. We were also excited to attend Youth Group events like the Haunted House and Rock 'n' Roll Bingo which supported their

June 2014 RE Calendar

- Sun., June 1 **Only One Service at 10 a.m.** – Youth Service and Senior Recognition
Regular RE for Babies-4 years
K-1st Grade – Regular RE
Regular RE for 2nd-7th Grades – Attend Youth Service with their peers
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths –11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
- Sun., June 8 **Only One Service at 10 a.m.**
Regular RE for Babies-4 years
5th & 6th Grades – Meet in Chapel at 9:15 a.m. for Bridging and Steeple Tour with Pam
7th Grade Meeting for 8th Grade Play – 11:00-11:30 a.m., Brooks Room

service trip. The recent RE dinner was also a success. About 50 people enjoyed good food and **Howard Dana's** Q & A with the children. We look forward to continuing to build this remarkable community with more events that bring us all together. I am reluctantly finishing my term with the council, and I will miss working with this fabulous group. The council is stronger than ever. Next year, **Jeff Brainerd** will be serving as RE Council chair; and the council will have new members: **Leslie Pelton, Sarah Wilfert** and **Michelle Fortier.**

RE Council Is Organizing Subcommittees

The RE Council is interested in expanding their ability to help our families have fun, get to know each other, and care for one another. We are organizing four subcommittees to help with all of the opportunities we have to make First Parish a place of connection and community. These subcommittees are RE Program Support, Community Building, Social Justice for Children, and Pastoral Care for Families. If you would like to be involved in one of these working groups, please contact our RE Chair, **Lora Venesy.** It will be a great way to meet people, be part of a group, and make a difference for our parish.

First Parish Community Garden — Summer RE?

If you want your family to be part of some real social justice work, sign up to care for our community garden. All summer we grow flowers and vegetables for Open Table, Pastoral Care Ministries and green supplies for our RE program. Here is the doodle link if you would like to sign up with others to work for a week in our garden: <http://doodle.com/7b3vifuvs9mzn39k>. I encourage multiple families to sign up for the same week. Gardening with others is way more fun.

RE News

continued on page 11

If you would just like to show up and work, come on Thursdays between 9 and 10 a.m. If you are lucky, others will also be there at that time to care for the garden. Kids learn so much working in the dirt.

I will host a "Garden Orientation" on Sunday, June 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. at the garden. Please come and learn how to care for our stake in the future.

Water Communion and Homecoming Sunday, September 7, at 10:00 a.m.

Be sure to bring some water from your summer adventures on Homecoming Sunday. A small amount will do just fine.

Wanted: Responsible Teens

Next year we are trying something a little different with all of the possibilities of one service. We also want to provide our teens with the opportunity to be engaged with our children while learning how to apply, interview and keep a job.

We are sending home information to all of our teenagers and are encouraging our teens to apply for

this work. We have 16 seasonal slots available (four slots per term). Each term will have 10 weeks, and teens would be compensated \$12/hour for two and a half hours work per Sunday (\$30 per Sunday, \$300/term). We welcome our teens to sign up for more than one season if they wish. Please send the forms in early to get your first choice.

We are also looking for one more teen to cover Sunday services in the summer. This person would be compensated \$20 to arrive at 9:50 a.m. and stay until 11:05 a.m.

RE Registration Begins Sunday, June 1

We will have open registration beginning Sunday, June 1. There will be a table with RE information in the Parish Hall at coffee hour at 11 a.m. after the Youth Service on June 1. All registrations must be received by June 30. We have a lot of exciting options for next year and I am looking forward to a very strong year in our religious education program.

Transylvanian Pen Pal for You?

Do you want your own pen pal with our partner church in Transylvania? We will have cards and colored pencils during coffee hour on June 1. **Cindie Bryan** has graciously offered to help with this project of connection with our partner church in Keresztúr.

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

Coming off the energy of the West Virginia service trip and the Youth Service on June 1, I am feeling thankful for the wonderful youth this congregation has helped raise.

I've been blessed to be a part of our youth's leadership development, and look forward to taking on some additional responsibilities with the Coming of Age program next church year. I'll be working with **Pam Howell** to prepare the content for this wonderful program, and help create bridges between Sunday morning RE programming (Pre K-8th grade) and Sunday evening youth group (high school).

I remember my COA experience fondly because it was the first time when I was trusted to wrestle with difficult questions: What is god? Who is my family? Who am I to myself? To others? Because of the safe space of my COA program, I was able to be honest in my personal quest for truth. When I got stuck because I couldn't settle on one answer, I heard that my adult advisors were still searching for answers themselves. There was a particular comfort that came with knowing that I didn't need to settle on one answer; I could keep questioning for the rest of my life.

All this is to say, I am so excited to lead this program with your youth next year! It is an honor and a blessing. ♦

In faith,

—*Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Concord Farm and Garden Fair Saturday and Sunday, September 13-14

"Don't think of this as just another quaint New England farm festival..."

—*The Boston Globe*

Activities around town include:

- The annual Ag Day Farmers' Market in Concord Center
- A dozen farm and garden talks and tours
- An exhibit of contemporary growing practices at the Concord Art Association
- Veggies, bees, chickens, flowers, vintage tractors — the works!
- The Stone Soup Dinner at Verrill Farm

What a weekend!

www.concordfood.ning.com



SUMMER 2014 CALENDAR

Every Week...

Buddhist Group	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Buddhist Group	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Worship Reflection	Sunday	11:15 p.m.
Men's Group	Sunday	7:00 p.m.

Sun Jun 1	ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.	•	7:30	By Your Side Singers
	7:00 Sarasa Concert	•	Fri Jun 20	7:00 MNO Mother's Night Out
Mon Jun 2	7:30 Women's Book Group	•	Sun Jun 22	4:00 Organ Dedication Recital
Tue Jun 3	9:30 Women's Book Group	•	Fri Jun 27	7:30 Rise Up Singing
	1:30 First Tuesday Group	•	JULY	
	6:00 Minerva Gathering Potluck	•	Thu Jul 3	7:30 By Your Side Singers
Wed Jun 4	6:00 Arts Council	•	Thu Jul 10-13	Thoreau Society Event
	7:00 Environmental Leadership Team	•	Sun Jul 13	6:30 Standing Committee Meeting
Thu Jun 5	7:30 By Your Side Singers	•	Thu Jul 17	10:00 Creative Practice Affinity Group
Fri Jun 6	7:00 Play Reading Group	•		7:30 By Your Side Singers
Sun Jun 8	11:30 ANNUAL MEETING	•	Fri Jul 25	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Tue Jun 10	9:00 WPA Board Meeting	•	AUGUST	
	2:00 Shawl Ministry	•	Thu Aug 7	7:30 By Your Side Singers
	6:00 Vegan Potluck	•	Sun Aug 10	6:30 Standing Committee Meeting
Wed Jun 11	2:00 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers	•	Thu Aug 21	10:00 Creative Practice Affinity Group
Fri Jun 13	12:30 Tai Chi	•		7:30 By Your Side Singers
Sat Jun 14	9:00 Photography Club	•	Fri Aug 22	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Tue Jun 17	7:00 Amnesty Group	•		
Thu Jun 19	10 Creative Practice Affinity Group	•		

JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

The September Newsletter deadline is Tuesday, August 19, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, 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.

Summer Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., June 17 to August 29

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

Minister's Email:

Howard N. Dana: hdana@firstparish.org

Ministerial Intern's Email:

Tony Fisher: tfisher@firstparish.org

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

One Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Date	Worship Leader	Organ/Piano	Guest Musician
June 22	Rev. Howard Dana, Minister First Parish in Concord	James Welch	Larry Gall, vocalist
June 29	Mark Richards Member, First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	Tamasin Foote, vocalist
July 6	Pam Howell Director of Religious Education First Parish in Concord	Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell	Rob Hamilton, Jane Barnes and Rebecca Curzon
July 13	Transcendentalist Council Polly Peterson	Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell	Pamela Schweppe, vocalist
July 20	Women's Spirituality Circle Twinkle Manning, Bozena Smith and Margaret Stewart	Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell	Lauren Evans, vocalist
July 27	Matt Meyer Percussionist and Friend of First Parish in Concord	Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell	Matt Meyer and Beth Norton
August 3	Rachel Baker Director of Membership and Communications First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	The Conchords
August 10	Bethany Lowe Social Action and Youth Programs Director First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	Joan Esch, cello
August 17	Rev. Howard Dana, Minister First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	Maddie Sifantus, vocalist
August 24	Rev. Howard Dana, Minister First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	Kimberly Brainerd, flute
August 31	Brian Chenowith Ministerial Intern First Parish in Concord	Mary Jane Rupert	Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

MEETING HOUSE NEWS: NEWSLETTER

Deadlines, Publication Dates and News Writing Suggestions

The Meeting House News Schedule for 2014-2015

ISSUE	NOON DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
September	Tuesday, August 19	September 2
October	Tuesday, September 16	September 30
November	Tuesday, October 21	November 4
December	Tuesday, November 18	December 2
January	Tuesday, December 16	December 30
February	Tuesday, January 20	February 3
March	Tuesday, February 17	March 3
April	Tuesday, March 17	March 31
May	Tuesday, April 21	May 5
June*	Tuesday, May 19	June 2

(*Include information for June, July, August, and first week of September)

News Writing Suggestions

Observe the deadlines!

Include information through the publication date of the following newsletter.

- E-mail your newsletter submission, either in the body of the email or as an attached Word document (not a PDF) to rbaker@firstparish.org.
- Minister, Program Staff, and Standing Committee columns: 350 to 400 words
- All other articles: 100 words
- Write out news articles, double-check dates and times.
- Inserts will no longer be possible as we transition to a new format.

Questions: Call Rachel Baker at 978-369-9602.