

Meeting House News

June 2015



[Worship this Summer](#)

[Intern-al Dialogues](#)

[MUUsings](#)

[REflections](#)

[Social Action Community](#)

[Standing Committee](#)

[Pastoral Care](#)

[Doug Baker's Anniversary](#)

[Budget Review](#)

[The Arts](#)

[Small Group Ministry](#)

[SAC Events](#)

[RE News](#)

[Denominational Affairs](#)

[WPA](#)

[Goodbye Brian](#)

[Intern Committee](#)

[Love History?](#)

[Pride Parade](#)

[Homecoming Celebration](#)

[Partner Congregation Council](#)

[Tuesday 65+ Group](#)

[Concord Area Humanists](#)

[Photo Directory](#)

[Thanks!](#)

[MHN Schedule](#)

[Editors Notes](#)

[Contact First Parish](#) and Summer Office
Schedule

Please note that some email programs truncate long newsletters. To access the entire newsletter scroll to the end. Then click on "view entire message." The newsletter is available as a PDF on the website as well.

Worship this Summer

Sunday, June 7, 10:00 a.m.

"It's Tomorrow Today"

Rev. Howard Dana and the First Parish Choir

Sunday, June 14, 10:00 a.m.

"Hand In Hand"

Rev. Howard Dana and the First Parish Adult and Children's Choirs

Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.

Racial Justice Vespers Service

Beth Norton and Bethany Lowe

Sunday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.

Flower Communion

Brian Chenowith and the First Parish Choir

Sunday, June 28, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Margie King Saphier; Lauren Evans, alto, and Robert Humphreville,
accompanist

Sunday, July 5, 10:00 a.m.

Bethany Lowe, Social Action and Youth Director, First Parish in Concord;
Kenneth Griffith, accompanist, and Tamasin Foote, vocalist

Sunday, July 12, 10:00 a.m.

Transcendentalism Council, First Parish in Concord; Kenneth Griffith,
accompanist, and the Conchords, guest musicians

Sunday, July 19, 10:00 a.m.

Matt Meyer, Percussionist and Friend of First Parish in Concord; Kenneth
Griffith, accompanist, and Matt Meyer

Sunday, July 26, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Napoline; Kenneth Griffith, accompanist, and Larry Gall, bass

Sunday, August 2, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Daniel Kanter, Minister, First Unitarian, Dallas, Texas; Mary Jane Rupert, accompanist, and Kristin Moore, violin

Sunday, August 9, 10:00 a.m.

Sam Teitel; Mary Jane Rupert, accompanist, and Jane Barnes, vocalist

Sunday, August 16, 10:00 a.m.

Music as a Spiritual Practice

Bob Goodearl; Mary Jane Rupert, accompanist, and Bob Goodearl & Friends, guest musicians

Sunday, August 23, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard Dana, Minister, First Parish in Concord; Mary Jane Rupert, accompanist, and Pamela Schweppe; soprano

Sunday, August 30, 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Howard Dana; Mary Jane Rupert, accompanist, and Kimberly Brainerd, flute

Sunday, September 6, 10:00 a.m.

Ministerial Intern, First Parish in Concord; Eric Huenneke, accompanist, and Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

Sunday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.

Intergenerational Homecoming

Rev. Howard Dana and the First Parish Choir

Intern-al Dialogues



Dear Members & Friends,

It has been quite the year! First Parish has continued to explore its future while tackling many transitions. As rough as some of these changes were and will continue to be, I feel fortunate to have been your intern for this church year. Under the steady, thoughtful and healthy leadership of the ministers, staff and lay leaders of this congregation, I have learned more than I could possibly imagine.

I am thinking back to ten months ago when I first landed here in Massachusetts and had no idea what I was getting into. It was isolating and felt “too big” to handle. But First Parish helped me to see New England as home. I will miss it. From conquering the Concord rotary to discovering Erikson’s ice cream, from trips to Vermont to learning how to properly say “Leominster”—this was a year well spent. On top of it all, I got to experience the richness of history at First Parish and get to know so many wonderful people in this faith community.

As I begin to embark on another grand adventure—from Concord to Lexington (the other one)—I know I will carry with me the lessons learned at First Parish and remember the people. It was not a perfect year, but ministry is like that. Ministers, staff and lay leaders have goals and visions that often need to be set aside in order to address what is happening in the present. This lesson is necessary, not just for me as a younger minister, but for all of us. So, it may not have been a perfect year but it was the year I needed. Hopefully, it was for you as well.

May you all go well into your lives knowing that you are loved and that you

are enough. Thank you, dear friends.

Warmly,
Brian

MUUsings

*Gracias por el amor del cielo,
Gracias por el inmenso mar,
Gracias por el cantar del bosque,
Alleluya.*



This anonymous Spanish hymn has been going through my head. It beautifully evokes what I love about the summer: “Give thanks for the love of heaven, for the immense ocean, for the singing forest. Alleluia!” *Gracias*: gratitude and grace. *Alleluia*: praise and celebration. Let me now say *gracias* and celebrate those who have graced us with music this year:

Gracias for our committed and intrepid First Parish Choir, who faithfully inspired us in worship and stretched beyond their individual and collective comfort zones to learn some especially challenging repertoire. *Alleluia*.

Gracias for our Junior Choir and our Chalice Choir and their creative leader, Gail Carey. These young musicians moved us to tears, laughter and dancing with their pure voices and their obvious love of singing. *Alleluia*.

Gracias for our Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, also led by Gail, and the “house band” that rocked several of our services this year. They have greatly expanded our repertoire of praise. *Alleluia!*

Gracias for the mighty trio of young women who were our Youth Gospel Ensemble this year. And *gracias* to their leader, Anderson Manuel, and to

their accompanist, Rob Castillo, who playfully coaxed spirited performances from these young singers. *Alleluia.*

Gracias for the By Your Side Singers and their ministry of pastoral singing. Working closely with our Pastoral Care Council, these gentle singers brought comfort, company and encouragement to a widening circle of parishioners. *Alleluia.*

Gracias for our talented organist, Eric Huenneke, who weaves worship services together with colorful threads of keyboard repertoire and continues to guide our organ project toward completion. *Alleluia.*

Gracias for the expanding community of folk singers and instrumentalists who gather for “Rise Up Singing” each month, lifting their voices in harmony and sharing beloved songs. *Alleluia.*

Gracias to the Lincoln Ringers and their director, Diane Burke, for continuing the tradition of fine hand-bell music in our worship. *Alleluia.*

Gracias for the Conchords and their harmonic *a capella* offerings in worship and congregational events this year.

Gracias for the Arts Council, led by Susan Page, and the Music Events Committee, led by Rob Hamilton. These groups facilitate and promote arts events at First Parish, fostering new and creative ways to express our congregational mission and our faith. *Alleluia.*

Muchas gracias for all the volunteers and staff who have created beauty and wonder through music and the arts at First Parish this year. *Alleluia!*

Blessings,
Beth

REflections

To all the First Parish community members that attended the Religious Education Congregational Conversations: Thank you for your thoughtful, creative, and caring participation. Your feedback steered the design of next year's Religious Education program, influenced next year's worship planning process, contributed to the job description for our next religious education professional, and helped formulate criteria for reviewing candidates. On my desk I keep a notebook with a compilation of themes from our conversations, formulated by Leslie Pelton, Caroline Minkin and Lora Venesy, transcripts of our discussions, and a quantitative analysis of participants' recorded thoughts. I refer to this information on a daily basis. Thank you for guiding our RE Program and search process to reflect First Parish's needs, hopes and dreams.

Many hands are planning for the next year and the new settled professional. Rev. Howard Dana, RE Council Chair Jeff Brainerd, Standing Committee member and RE Council liaison Lora Venesy, RE Council member Leslie Pelton, previous RE Council Chair Eric Moore and longtime First Parish members Suzanne Foley make up the Search Committee and are well into their tasks of assessing candidates. Council members, volunteers, and staff are reviewing our calendar, sending out surveys to assess this year's implementation of the UUA Tapestry of Faith Curriculum, coming up with ideas on how to welcome new families to the church and creating our new on-line registration process. RE Council member Sarah Wilfert is planning an appreciation, family-friendly dinner to acknowledge all the many folks that contributed to making this year of transition as steady and successful as possible. Please attend. You will also hear about our exciting plans for next year.

Keep an eye out for an email asking you to register—online!—children and youth for RE, as well as giving you a chance to sign up to teach next year. A roster of dedicated, experienced teachers in the fall will support our new RE professional's transition.

In addition, please consider joining the newly forming Religious Education Pool of Volunteers. The RE Council is organizing an additional layer of support by identifying a group of 30 to 40 volunteers willing to help with specific, short-term tasks. Requests will go out via email as needs arise. Examples include greeting visiting families, reviewing class curricula, creating publicity materials, and/or assisting with a children's Chapel service. In addition to sustaining the program, this is an easy way to become or stay involved, meet people, and provide for our children's faith development.

As my time as your interim draws to a close, I am working hard to provide for a smooth transition of leadership—much needs to be documented to be passed on. As I am occupied with these transitional tasks, I am thankful I have had the opportunity to be with you as you process leadership change. I am so thankful to have met and gotten to know so many First Parish folks—children of all ages, RE Council members, teachers, parents, and the many congregants who provided happiness, support, help and encouragement. I am so appreciative of Assistant Director of Religious Education Dawn Van Patten with whom it is a joy to collaborate. She brings such gifts. I have loved working with all the First Parish staff—to a person, they are supportive, humorous, optimistic and caring. This is a strong community able to withstand, and even thrive, through change. I am excited for the future.

Best,
Merill

Social Action Community

Back in January, I took a class on community organizing with Rev. Burns Stanfield, the long-term minister of the Fourth Presbyterian church in South Boston. Community organizing is based upon the principle that power is neutral. That is, power



itself is not bad or good. Under this basic assumption, community organizers bring people together to address commonly held passions: to change social policy, create affordable housing, etc. Obama's 2008 election, which was run on basic community organizing principles, showed our country the power of grassroots organizing for social good.

The more time passes, the more I realize that people of faith—religious professionals and active laity alike—could learn a lot from community organizers. We have the people resources we need to build power; we just have to figure out what our members are passionate about, and bring them together and work on that.

Imagine if we lit a fire under the neutral power in our congregation and used that power for good. What would that look like? What would we do? Who would be involved?

—Bethany

Standing Committee

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Update: The Annual Pledge Campaign finished up on May 3. Despite a very well-run Annual Pledge Campaign and the generosity of many parishioners who pledged, we are still short of our lowest fundraising goal. At our meeting on May 10, the Standing Committee reviewed a first draft budget, presented by Rev. Howard Dana and Director of Operations, Fifi Ball. A number of measures were discussed to reduce costs and increase revenues. Congregation members will have an opportunity to provide input on the budget at congregational discussions to be organized and facilitated by the First Parish Finance Committee, with presentations by Fifi Ball and Treasurer Tom Wilson.

Annual Meeting 2015: The First Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 14 at 11:30 a.m. Child care will be provided. At the meeting, the congregation will hear reports from staff and committees, vote on officers and committee members, approve delegates to General Assembly, approve the budget for

next year, and more. All First Parish members and friends are invited and encouraged to attend. However, only members who signed the Membership Book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote. If anyone has questions about the Annual Meeting or thoughts about warrant articles, please contact Mark Russell Prior by email at mark.russell.prior@comcast.net, by phone at 978-369-4901; or Moderator John Stevens by email at john_stevens43@comcast.net.

Standing Committee Nominations for the First Parish Nominating Committee:
At our May 10 meeting, the Standing Committee voted to nominate Jan Goddard-Taylor and Eric Moore as candidates for the First Parish Nominating Committee. Jan and Eric have each been active, engaged First Parish members for a number of years. Brief biographies are available on the Standing Committee Reports Web page and also on our bulletin board. Thank you to Jan and Eric for their willingness to serve. Thank you also to all the First Parish members who expressed an interest in serving.

Standing Committee Evaluation: The Standing Committee's annual self-evaluation is under way. Standing Committee members and Howard have provided input to our Evaluation group, and this information is being compiled for review at our June 14 Standing Committee meeting. This evaluation, combined with the congregation's response to our mid-year survey, will guide us in our goal setting for next year.

Finally, congratulations to Mark Richards, a member of our congregation who is moving forward in his quest to become a Unitarian Universalist minister. On behalf of First Parish, the Standing Committee voted to sponsor Mark for entry into Unitarian Universalist ministry. Beginning this summer, Mark will be working in a one-year hospital chaplaincy program in Kansas City.

Standing Committee members are always available to talk with First Parish members and friends about issues of interest and concern. Please reach out to any of us—at coffee hour, at an event, or by phone or email—to talk about

your First Parish experiences. If you don't know us yet, look for our faces and contact information on our bulletin board. If you have an account for the First Parish website, you can go to the Standing Committee Web page and view minutes of our meetings, our contact information, meeting schedule, and governance policies. (Accounts may be requested online on the First Parish web site.)

Best regards,

Mark Russell Prior, chair, First Parish Standing Committee

Members of the Standing Committee

Kate Crosby, kate_crosby@newview.org

David Elwood, daveelwood@hotmail.com

Kristin Haddad, Clerk, kristin.haddad@gmail.com

Jake Nunes, Jake_Nunes@shs.org

Patty Popov, ppopov@nichols-pratt.com

Mark Russell Prior, Chair, mark.russell.prior@comcast.net

Kitsy Rothermel, kitsy.mcr@icloud.com

Toby Smith Ropeik, tsr@tobyasmith.com

Lora Venesy, venesy@comcast.net

Alec Walker, alecwalker@aol.com

Tom Wilson, Treasurer, twilson@wilsongroup.com

Standing Committee webpage:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/standing-committee>

Pastoral Care

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

Minister for Pastoral Care, Rev. Marion Visel

Email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 414

Cell: 203-931-5239

Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543

June Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant and Sally

Brandon Bemis

Email: Danasg@Newview.Org

Phone: 978-760-1129

June Meal Delivery, Marian Stanley

Email: Marian.Stanley@Gmail.Com

July Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Sue Dobbie and Virginia Taylor

Email: Susandobbie@Gmail.Com

Phone: 978-501-6969

July Meal Delivery, to be determined

August Pastoral Care Lay Minister, to be determined

August Meal Delivery, Pat Kane

Email: Cstmcloth@Yahoo.Com

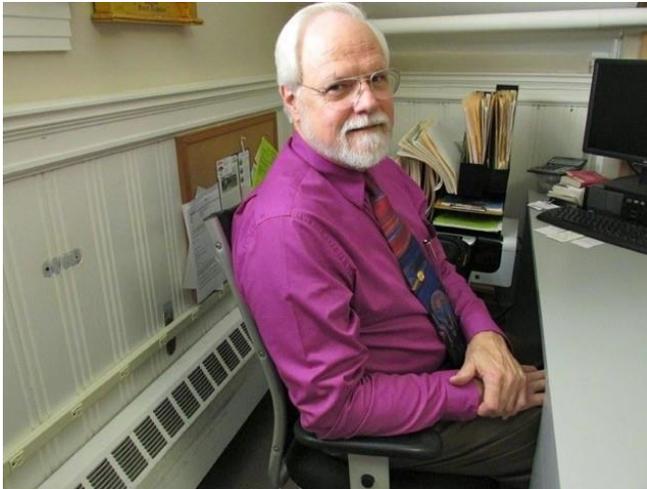
The Caring Connection

Continuing its deep tradition of caring, the Caring Connection programs have been especially energized by Rev. Marion Visel's leadership this year. The Pastoral Care Council chose April 12 to host a luncheon in appreciation of over 100 women and men who have volunteered this year in one or more of our 15 programs. Forty volunteers attended. This year has seen the

beginning of a Friendly Visitor Program and the growth of the First Tuesday Group. We say a fond and grateful farewell to Carolyn Shoheit, who has directed the Meals Program for 30 years and, Tracey Hurd, who has been a hard-working partner in this endeavor for many years.

If you would like to join us or to learn more, please let us know by filling out a volunteer form on the downstairs bulletin board and placing it in the Pastoral Care mailbox in the office.

Anne Fortier, Coordinator, Caring Connection



Doug Baker's Anniversary

Come to Celebrate Doug Baker's 35th Anniversary as Our Sexton

Join us for coffee hour on Sunday, June 7, as we extend a special thank-you to guest-of-honor Doug Baker for all that he does at First Parish! There will be special treats, so bring the entire family. This is our opportunity to let Doug know how much we appreciate his artistic talents, his dedication, his knowledge, his love of history, his kindness to parishioners young and old and canine, and his stamina for putting up with us for 35 years! We hope to see everyone there.

From the Finance Committee

It's Budget Review Time! Based on the pledges and other projected income for 2016, Rev. Dana, Fifi Ball, the Finance Committee and the Standing Committee have developed a budget for 2016. Because we did not meet our pledge goal (we came close) and we heard a number of critical concerns from parishioners (thank you), we have developed a budget that should meet our priority needs. It will be submitted for a vote at the Annual Meeting on June 14. If you want to see a preview and engage with the Finance Committee on what, why and how, come to one of two meetings. They are Sunday, June 7 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. (after Doug Baker's reception) or Monday, June 8 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. If you have questions, send them to Tom Wilson, our humble Treasurer, at twilson@wilsongroup.com. Hope to see you there.

The Arts

Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month 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.

Wednesday, June 3, at 6:00 p.m.: Arts Council Meeting

Saturdays, June 13, July 11, August 8, at 9:00 a.m.: Photography Club meeting, open to all First Parish adults

Fridays, June 26, July 24, August 28, at 7:30 p.m.: Rise Up Singing, First Parish's monthly song circle

For more information on these events, check this 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 Susan Page, chair, for more information at srpage10@verizon.net.

Small Group Ministry Program

Small Group Ministry Program

Starts October 2015

What is SGM? Small Group Ministry groups meet during a term of four months with a trained facilitator. Small Group Ministry provides an opportunity to listen to each other, to bear witness to one another's stories and experiences. Groups of eight to ten members and friends of First Parish consider topics of meaning and purpose in a way that supports connection and community. Newcomers and longer-term members find it a good way to get to know a few people better, particularly helpful in a large congregation.

Group Meetings: Groups usually meet twice a month for two hours *with a trained facilitator*, although some groups meet monthly. Participants *make a commitment* to attend meetings for four months at a time, a SGM term, for a total of four to eight meetings. Groups meet at First Parish or in individual homes. Participants agree to a covenant or guidelines on how they will be together. Hopefully, enough facilitators will volunteer so that there will be groups that meet on many days of the week and times of day.

Topics: At the core of each meeting is a topic or activity that serves as a springboard for reflection on deeper issues of who we are and what gives our lives meaning. Topics cover a range of spiritual and experiential themes—such as forgiveness, creativity, mentors, conscious consuming, gratitude, and doubt.

Format: Groups meet with the goal of developing community and promoting spiritual and personal growth. The format usually includes lighting a chalice, opening words, focused check-in, a reading that focuses on the topic, questions that elicit individual sharing from your experience, a brief sharing of likes and wishes for the session, and a closing reading.

Signing Up: There will be a three-week sign-up period before each four month SGM term. Sign-up sheets will be available at coffee hour as well as email sign-up. Specific information will become available at terms approach.

SGM Terms:

Fall Term: mid-October to mid-January (holiday schedules determined by group)

Spring Term: mid-February through May

Summer Term (if there is interest): mid-June to mid-August

Contact Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, with questions about Small Group Ministry at mvisel@firstparish.org or 978/369-9602, x414

Call for Small Group Ministry Facilitators

Small Group Ministry (SGM) can't exist without facilitators. Facilitators will be trained and supported by the Small Group Ministry Steering Committee throughout the SGM term. If you are interested in being trained as a facilitator in late September, please contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 978/369-9602, x 414.

Facilitating a Small Group in the program requires a high level of commitment to a regular meeting schedule. The role of the facilitator:

- Being responsible for managing group process
- Modeling caring covenantal relationship
- Clarifying expectations, purposes and process

- Encouraging participation
- Facilitating group decision-making
- Dealing with meeting logistics

Sample Small Group Ministry

There will be sample sessions of Small Group Ministry this summer and early fall. Come and find out what Small Group Ministry is all about by experiencing a session; come to one or more sample sessions, as different topics will be covered each session.

Rev. Marion Visel will facilitate these hour-long groups Sundays after worship 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. No sign-up required—just show up!

Tentative Schedule:

Sunday, June 28

Sundays, July 12, 19 and 26

Sunday, September 20

Sunday, October 4

SAC Events

Join the Race Conversations

Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m.

Over the past few weeks, a group of parishioners has gathered twice to discuss how First Parish in Concord can address the racial injustice in our country. If you would like to join this discussion, join us on Thursday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Bethany Lowe at Blowe@firstparish.org for more information.

Join First Parishioners at the Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 13, 12:00 p.m.

The Diversity Committee will take a group of parishioners to march with our First Parish banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13. The parade starts at noon. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and

help us show our support for the LGBTQ community. Those wishing to attend the Pride Service at the 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 May 31 or June 7 if you'd like to participate.

Amnesty International Group 15 Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m.

At our last meeting before the summer break, we'll focus on the issues that have been at the top of our list this year. They include advocating for two imprisoned Swazis, a journalist and a human rights lawyer, whose appeal hearing has been delayed indefinitely. We'll get the latest report on our initiative to curb solitary confinement and follow-up actions. And we'll continue to work on Amnesty's campaign to stop violence against women. All are welcome to join us. AI Group 15 meets regularly on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you'd like more information about Group 15, please contact Kathy Taylor, the group's coordinator, at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or [781-718-7640](tel:781-718-7640).

UUSC-UUA Nepal Relief Collection Update

The plate collection on May 10 was given to the UUSC-UUA's Nepal Relief fund, on the recommendation of the Social Action Community Council. In the end, we collected \$6,776 for this fund. This money will go directly to support Chetana and Tewa (Philanthropy for Equitable Justice and Peace), a Nepali nongovernmental organization that is distributing relief kits, setting up a temporary classroom, and helping mothers in labor and pregnant women around Nepal. Learn more here: <http://www.uusc.org/reaching-survivors-in-remote-quake-areas>. In addition to this donation, the SAC Council gave a \$2500 grant to the International Medical Corps, an organization recommended by a parishioner that is also providing grassroots relief to earthquake victims in Nepal.

Funds Raised for the UUSC's Blue Bucket Campaign

Over the course of many events between World Water Day (March 22) and

Earth Day (April 20), including the Rain Barrel program, we raised \$563 for the UUSC's Blue Bucket Campaign! That will translate to access to drinking water for six families in the Kakamega Region of Kenya. Big thanks to Leslie Fisher and Roselyn Romberg for their work to make these two projects huge successes.

Racial Justice Vespers Service

Tuesday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.

Join Beth Norton, Bethany Lowe and others for a contemplative, candlelit worship service of songs, poetry and silence. This vespers service is inspired by the current movement for racial justice in our country. We will ask how we as Unitarian Universalists can respond while acknowledging the inherent worth and dignity of People of Color, and the police officers who are called to provide safety to all people. What are we called to do? How are we called to stand on the side of love?

RE News

Summer Childcare and Religious Education Information

Religious Education 2014/15 at First Parish is heading into the final stretch. The last Sunday of RE Programming is June 7. On June 14 we will celebrate the completion of the church year together in an intergenerational service. Childcare will be provided for children ages 0-4 in the Mill Dam Nursery School space.

The Annual Meeting will follow the June 14 service from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For families attending the Annual Meeting, 1.) Childcare will be provided, 2.) Please pack a bag lunch or hearty snack for your child(ren), 3.) Please plan to pick your child(ren) up by 1:30.

Beginning on June 21 all children and youth are welcome to join their families in the sanctuary for worship. In lieu of staffed childcare, family members may

accompany a restless child to the vestibule where there will be storage bins filled with age appropriate activities. Please remain with your child(ren). Family members are welcome to make themselves comfortable on the rocking chairs or sofa and listen to audio of the service as their children play.

Child Dedication

Dedication certificates will be in the mail shortly for those families who participated in the child dedication ceremony in November 2014.

Denominational Affairs

First Parish will have a total of ten delegates participating in the 2015 General Assembly. Eight delegates will travel to Portland, Oregon and two will participate off-site from their homes. The delegates are Sara Ballard, Stoney Ballard, Wendy Holt, Beth Norton, Mark Russell Prior, Darien Smith, Alice Van Deusen, Fred Van Deusen, Debra Dunnington (off-site), and Paula Vandever (off-site). If you would like to speak with them about how they will be representing our congregation, please attend the June Denominational Affairs meeting on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. Even if you are unable to travel to Oregon, you can still experience some of the highlights of General Assembly. A number of the events, including Cornel West's Ware lecture will be streamed live and posted for viewing afterwards. For further details, go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/virtual/2015>.

WPA

Women's Parish Association

The WPA will wrap up this church year with our annual Flea Market on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Tables are available to rent by individuals or groups on a first come first serve basis. You

may contact Dian Pekin directly by email, pekindc@comcast.net or phone, 978-263-0426.

We will also be hosting a special coffee hour in the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden, on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, immediately after church.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us in many ways this year. Our updated brochure is available outside the church office. To learn about our history, mission, and programs, please do read up on us. And consider joining our membership, if you haven't already.

The WPA is in the process of recruiting new board members to join us next fall. We seek to have a broad range of women on our board. Whether you are new to the church or a long time member, a mom with children, working or retired, we could use your skills and ideas as we develop future programs for all women at First Parish. We will have an information table at coffee hours throughout June, or you can contact any member of the board, listed below. Please consider joining us.

Current members of the WPA governing board are as follows: Linda Benua, Becky Blodgett, Carol Boris, Irmie Doane, Elfie Knudson, Marilyn Lowitt, Gerrie Madigan, Claudia Nimar, Dian Pekin, Helen Stoddard, Lois Suarez, Melita Tiechert, Val Vallancourt and Lois Whitney.

Party to Say Farewell to Brian

You are invited to come and celebrate Brian's ministry with First Parish at the home of Janet Bailey and Bob Brack at 1437 Sudbury Road in Concord. We will gather from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20 to say goodbye and offer congratulations to Brian as he concludes his ministry at First Parish and begins his life as Minister at the UU Church of Lexington, Kentucky. Contact Kate Keleher at kate@rkeleher with questions.

Intern Committee

Seeks New Members

The Ministerial Intern Committee, which searches for, supports and advises First Parish interns, is seeking fresh faces to join their ranks. The requirements are few—a love of First Parish; willingness to help guide each intern to become the best minister they can be; diverse, inclusive perspectives. We are open to all and particularly encourage younger and young adult members to consider serving the parish in this all-important way. First Parish has always been proud to be a “teaching congregation.” Come join us! Contact Kate Keleher at kate@rkeleher.com with interest or questions.

Love History?

New Members Sought

The Transcendentalism Council welcomes new members to join us in planning and hosting history programs related to First Parish and Concord throughout the year. An immediate need is for people who would like to work with us on a Thoreau-nature-themed worship service on July 12. To learn more, please contact Dianne Weiss at diannemcweiss@comcast.net or Victor Curran at vacurran@comcast.net.

Boston Pride Parade

Saturday, June 13, 12:00 p.m.

A group from First Parish, organized by the Diversity Committee, will march with our large banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13. The parade begins at noon, starting in Copley Square. All are welcome to participate in this fun, family-friendly event, so please consider joining us and help us show our support for the LGBTQ community. You may sign up at coffee hour on May 31 or June 7, or contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or

978-371-0723 to let her know you will attend, or with any questions. Car pools can be arranged.

First Parish Homecoming Celebration

Sunday, September 13, 5:30 p.m.

Music, Picnic and Potluck Dessert

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. 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.

Please bring:

A finger food dessert to share

Your own picnic of food and beverage

Lawn chairs and blankets

Partner Congregation Council

Each year we send a delegate from First Parish to attend the graduation at the Berde Mózes Unitarian High School in Székelykeresztúr; many of our members sponsor scholarships for some of the students there. Rodger Mattlage has traveled there to be our representative this year at their graduation on May 28. Our next PCC meeting will be on Thursday, June 18, at the home of Lillian Anderson, 149 Belknap Street in Concord, starting at 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in learning more about our partnership or getting involved is welcome to attend. The meeting will include dinner, so please let Lillian know at lillianand@comcast.net, if you plan to attend.

Tuesday 65+ Group

Tuesday 65+ Group

Tuesday, June 3, 1:30 p.m.

“Go Out Into the World”

In June we'll focus on how more freedom from work and family responsibilities opens up opportunities for us to go out into the world through community service, personal adventures or both. Come and talk about ways you have become involved in or would like to become involved in the wider world. As a summer send-off, we'll adjourn with a make-your-own ice cream sundae social. We'll bring the ice cream—you bring a topping to share! Hope to see you there.

Tuesday Group Steering Committee: Berni Jenkins, contact person, berni.jenkins@verizon.net 978/369-2876; Bob Andrews, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Jack Nevison and Virginia Taylor

Concord Area Humanists

Wednesday, June 3, 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Film viewing and discussion: Come view and discuss “The People Factor: Finding Home in Austin,” by award-winning film producer Jane Turville. This is the first in a series of six documentary films about the impact of population growth. The film is about the hidden role population growth plays in our daily lives, the lives of our communities, and the life of the planet. It is a fascinating view of a too-little discussed topic. This will be the last of this season's Concord Area Humanists First Wednesday events. We start again in September. See www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org for more.

Photo Directory

Next fall First Parish in Concord will create a new Photo Directory. All are invited to participate. Photography sessions are scheduled for October and November. Update your mailing address, email address, and phone number

now at 978-369-9602 or email contact@firstparish.org. More information will be available in late spring and summer.

First Parish Café

The last First Parish Café of the year will be on Sunday, June 14. The Café will resume on Homecoming Sunday in the fall.

Concord Area

Discovery Day for Seniors at the Playscape at Ripley

The Playscape at Ripley is a multigenerational, universally accessible nature-based park and playspace for all ages and abilities in Concord. Discover the Playscape at a Discovery Day for seniors on Monday, June 8, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This event is free and will have fun activities—including art activities; local experts speaking on the Playscape plantings, flora and fauna of the East Quarter, and local birds; a planting activity; and refreshments. The Playscape is located at the Ripley School Administration building, 120 Meriam Road. For information, contact Playscape committee member Jennifer Saxe at 978-369-6790 or at ccc-development@verizon.net, or visit www.ripleyplayscape.org.

Thank you!

Many thanks and deep gratitude goes out to Jane Fisher and Nancy Kerr, who have been updating the Wayside Pulpit for the last three years. I noticed that they even shoveled through four feet of snow this winter to change the sign!

Also, a loud round of applause for the ushers and sound operators of First Parish. This team of volunteers does some of the most important work each Sunday during worship. They are often the very first people visitors meet

when they walk through the front and side doors, and they are the people visitors turn to with questions about the congregation.

Thank you to everyone at First Parish in Concord. It has been a blessing to work with you over the last three years. I will be leaving my position at the end of June. Because I have not yet signed a contract I can not publicly say where I am headed, however, I am more than happy to talk about it in person!

Blessings,

Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications

Meeting House News Schedule

2015 - 2016

Month	Deadline	Publication Date
SEPTEMBER	Tuesday, August 18	September 1
OCTOBER	Tuesday, September 15	September 29
NOVEMBER	Tuesday, October 20	November 3
DECEMBER	Tuesday, November 17	December 1
JANUARY	Tuesday, December 15	December 29
FEBRUARY	Tuesday, January 19	February 2
MARCH	Tuesday, February 16	March 1
APRIL	Tuesday, March 15	March 29
MAY	Tuesday, April 19	May 3
JUNE*	Tuesday, May 17	May 31

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

Guidelines

- Observe the deadlines and house style (see below)!
- Include information through the publication date of the following newsletter

- Email your newsletter submission, either in the body of the email or as an attached word document (not a PDF) to the editor
- Minister, Program Staff, and Standing Committee columns: 350 to 400 words
- All other articles: 100 words
- Double-check dates and times
- No inserts

House Style

- a.m./p.m. (not AM/PM or A.M./P.M. or am/pm)
- 6 p.m., but 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- October 6 (month not abbreviated, no “th” after the numeral)
- Write out full state name, no abbreviations
- FPC does not use the serial comma:
- DO THIS: We read Thoreau, Emerson and Alcott.
- NOT THIS: We read Thoreau, Emerson, and Alcott.

Editors Notes

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Email newsletter submissions and articles to Wendy Wolfberg at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. Please include the word "newsletter" in the subject line. Limit articles to 100 words.

Next publication date: September 1

Editor and Producer Found!

First Parish member, Wendy Wolfberg, generously stepped forward to become the editor and producer of the Meeting House News! Welcome,

Wendy! Darien Smith will be the content editor, and Kaye Harvey will continue as copy editor. Thank you all!

Contact First Parish

Summer Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., beginning June 16 and continuing through Friday, August 28. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

Address: 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: FPCConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

Church Calendar:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/hours-directions-services/church-calendar>

Sign-Up for Emailed First Parish Announcements:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/e-mail-lists>

"Like" Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Parish-in-Concord-Unitarian-Universalist/343822177494>

Reserve a Room:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/reserve-a-room>

First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, is a welcoming congregation seeking ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Copyright © 2015 First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist, All rights reserved.
FPC MHN June 2015

Our mailing address is:

First Parish in Concord, Unitarian Universalist
20 Lexington Rd
Concord, Ma 01742

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

The MailChimp logo is displayed in a white, cursive font within a grey rectangular box.