

Meeting House News

November 2015



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 (Home page, far right column).

Do you have pictures of First Parish you'd like to share here? If so, please send a JPEG as an attachment to the Editor (see end of MHN).

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Photo by Douglas Baker

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Worship This Month

All Sunday Worship Services are held at 10:00 a.m. The First Parish Café is available for fellowship and light fare before services at 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 1 – "All Souls: Honoring Our Kin"

Rev. Marion Visel

First Parish Choir and By Your Side Singers

Sunday, November 8 – "Lucy Stone—Ours to Follow"

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 15 – "Numbing Out with Alcohol and Drugs"

Rev. Howard N. Dana

Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, November 22 – "The Sharing of Food," Intergenerational Service

Rev. Howard N. Dana and Rev. Amy Freedman

Combined First Parish Choirs

Sunday, November 29 – "Ready and Waiting"

Rev. Marion Visel

Lincoln Ringers

Sunday, December 6 – "Jesus' Imperfect Family"

Rev. Howard N. Dana

First Parish Choir and Festival Orchestra—selections from Handel's Messiah



MUUsings

"There's a river flowin' in my soul . . . and it's tellin' me that I'm somebody." This song has been meandering through our music ministry this fall. The Contemporary Vocal Ensemble presented a stirring rendition during worship focused on racial justice; the By Your Side Singers offer the song, in soft encouragement, at our meetings and at bedsides. It is one of the songs that we can sing "off book" in the congregation, looking one another in the eye as we sing in community.

The song was written by Faya Ora Rose Touré [b.1945], a Harvard-educated Civil Rights and litigation attorney based in Selma, Alabama. A Google search provides the remarkable details of her commitment to the cause of equality for African Americans. Touré speaks out courageously on matters of race, injustice and education, but she says, "I'm not fearless; I just won't let others define me."



My Merriam-Webster dictionary offers two short definitions of “somebody”: “some person” and “a person of importance.” The first is a generic acknowledgment of existence, the second a recognition of significance—usually of social or political prominence. In Touré’s lyric, “somebody” moves beyond this second meaning to deeply affirm the singer’s identity, humanity and spirit, with the metaphorical river as the source of this assurance.

Last fall, I translated the song into Hungarian for our Harmony and Heritage pilgrimage to Transylvania. It’s a challenging task, translating songs. Not only do you need to translate the meaning; you need to choose words that scan with the poetic rhythm of the song and make sense to the target culture, all the while respecting the intent of the original writer. Here’s what happened in translation: *Ez a folyó folyik lelkemben . . . azt mondja nekem az igazi nevem*—literally, “this river flows in my soul. . . it tells me my real name.”

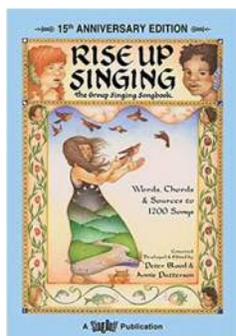
Only recently did I make this connection: Faya Ora Rose Touré was born Rose M. Gaines. She became Rose Sanders when she married. In 2003, she shed what she had come to consider her “slave name” and changed it to Faya Ora Rose Touré, literally claiming what she recognized as her “real name.”

“There’s a river flowing in my soul . . . and it’s telling me that I’m somebody.” May every soul tap that source and know their real name.

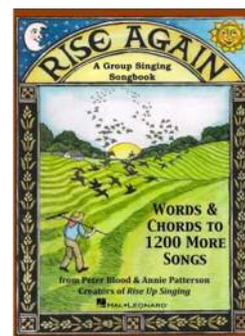
Blessings,
Beth Norton, Director of Music

Rise Again—New Songbook

Friday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m.



At our monthly Rise Up Singing song circle on November 20 at 7:30 p.m., we plan to introduce the new *Rise Again* songbook, which was released in August. *Rise Again* features 1200 new songs in genres including “Motown and R&B” and “Millennial Songs.” Copies of *Rise Again* and *Rise Up Singing* will be available to borrow, or you can order your own copy at <https://www.riseupandsing.org/productdisplay/rise-again>.



Wandering Hymnals

Does a stately grey volume with silver print on its cover grace your upright piano or maybe a shelf in your living room? Have you come across one of those pretty teal paperbacks under a pile of papers on your desk or maybe in your guitar case?

You may have borrowed one of these books to plan for a memorial, a wedding or another rite of passage. Or you may have wanted to practice a piano part or some guitar licks. And you are welcome to borrow them! But we would also love it if folks could corral those wandering hymnals, *Singing the Living Tradition* and *Singing the Journey*, and return them to the pews in the Sanctuary. That way we’ll have enough for everyone in worship. Thank you!

REflections

*"We are here, here together in this holy moment; and we're grateful for the winding road that brought us to this place."
—David Glasgow*



Take a moment to think of something “good” you did today. Did you help someone? Were you kind? Perhaps you were honest when it would have been easier to tell a lie. Maybe you acted with courage. How did you stand up for justice and fairness? Perhaps you witnessed someone else who did something good today. What did you notice? How did that one person make a difference?

As a part of the “Moral Tales” curriculum, our Grades 2 and 3 are using “Gems of Goodness” in their classes. Each Sunday, they are invited to take a colorful glass gem and place it in a clear vase, naming their accomplishments. By affirming and encouraging our children to recognize goodness in many different forms, we are teaching them that they are agents of justice and goodness.

In our busy lives, we often focus on our mistakes or the areas where we’d like to improve. So, it is a meaningful spiritual practice to reflect on and name our acts of goodness. I encourage you to try it sometime with your family. Perhaps at dinnertime, before bed or during a long car ride. Ask your child(ren) and youth to tell you how they acted for justice or goodness today. Share with them how you made a difference in another person’s life or in what ways your work advanced a worthy cause. Or let them know what you noticed about their kindness, generosity and courage.

In teaching our children how to be responsible, loving and compassionate, we are reminded what matters most.

Blessings,

Rev. Amy Freedman, Minister of Religious Education, afreedman@firstparish.org

Upcoming Events

RE and Family

November

- 7 Artisans Fair, 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.
- 22 Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service
- 29 Chapel: K – Grade 7 and Little RE

December

- 5 Elf Workshop, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
- 6 Little Angels, 10:00 a.m.
- 13 Grade 8 Show, 10:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- 20 Winter Solstice Intergenerational Service
- 24 Christmas Eve Services: 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.
- 27 Chapel: K – Grade 7 and Little RE



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: 203-931-5329

Senior Minister, Rev. Howard N. Dana

Email: hdana@firstparish.org

Church: 978-369-9602, ext. 411

Cell: 717-412-8543



November Pastoral Care Lay Minister, Dana Snyder-Grant

Email: danasg@newview.org

Phone: 978-266-9409 or cell: 978-760-1129

Small Group Ministry

Groups Forming Now

Small Group Ministry provides an opportunity to listen and to share our own experiences and beliefs in committed groups of 8 to 10 members. Topics of meaning and purpose are considered in a way that supports connection and community. Participants agree to regular attendance and to guidelines on how the group will be together (a covenant).

Each meeting includes: lighting a chalice, opening words, focused check-in, a reading on the topic of that meeting, questions that elicit individual sharing from your experience, a brief sharing of likes and wishes for the session, and a closing reading.

Small Group—6 Sessions

“Ourselves, Our World, Our Faith”

We will gather to affirm, practice and express our Unitarian Universalist faith as we read and explore a short piece of contemporary writing about a local, regional or world challenge. As we look through the lenses of self, group and UU values. We will listen, observe, think, share and process our common human challenges. Selections will be drawn from blogs, op-ed columns, essays and books. Members will have an opportunity to suggest possible readings.

Group Details for “Ourselves, Our World, Our Faith”

Facilitator: Merrill Comeau

When: Six sessions on alternating Monday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m., October 26 – January 4 (Six sessions: 10/26, 11/9, 11/23, 12/7, 12/21 and 1/4)

Where: First Parish, Parlor

Who: Limited to 10 participants. If interested, sign-up as soon as possible.

Sign Up: You can sign up in any one of the following ways:

1. On the clipboard in the front office.
2. At the SGM table after services, on Sundays.
3. By contacting Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, x 414.

Small Group—5 Sessions

“Topics of Meaning in Everyday Life”

There will be in-depth explorations of our experiences and beliefs that underlie topics of meaning in everyday life: Friendship, The Practice of Gratitude, Joys and Challenges of the Winter Holidays, and Endings and Beginnings.

Group Details for “Topics of Meaning in Everyday Life”

Facilitator: Marian Stanley

When: Five sessions on Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, November 4 – January 6 (Five sessions: 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16 and 1/6)

Where: First Parish, Brooks Room

Who: Limited to 10 participants. If interested, sign up as soon as possible.

Sign Up: You can sign up in any one of the following ways:

1. On the clipboard in the front office.
2. At the SGM table after services, on Sundays.
3. By contacting Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, x 414.

Human Resources Professional

Volunteer Wanted

Do you find health insurance fascinating? Want to help First Parish explore the Massachusetts Unemployment Tax System? Understand Section 125 or the Mass. form 3ABC? If so, your Director of Operations needs you. I'd like to form an HR committee for help with these topics and more—a working group to research, propose and implement improvements to our current benefits and other HR systems. Time commitment? As little or as much as you've got—occasional consults and/or ongoing work would all be valuable. Please contact Fifi Ball at fball@firstparish.org. Thank you.

Social Action Community

Movement Moment

In the social action world, people often speak about being in “a movement moment.” In movement moments, we can learn more, experience more, and engage more deeply with specific social justice issues.

Right now, we are in the midst of such a moment in racial justice. Many people harken back to the Civil Rights movement when thinking about our modern Black Lives Matter movement



because they see similarities between the two. If you have memories of the sixties, think about how much you learned and experienced in that “movement moment.” We again have an opportunity to learn about racial justice, and witness injustice through the Black Lives Matter movement. We have to take advantage of this “movement moment.” *Now*. Because both “movements” and “moments” are temporary, the time for expanding our understanding and compassion is *now*.

Thinking about this idea of a “movement moment,” I think we’re in one in terms of social action at First Parish. We have launched and are in the depths of a year-long conversation about how we do social action here at First Parish. We have no idea where we are going, only that we are on the path toward something more clear and open. If you didn’t get a chance to take part in a SAC Listening Session, I hope you’ll add your voice to the conversation by taking our Survey (see details below). Even if you did take part in a Listening Session, take the survey! The more input we have, the better this process will be.

Embrace this movement moment of your life. Make a positive difference. Together, we can transform ourselves and our world.

In faith,
Bethany Russell-Lowe, Social Action Director and Youth Program Director

SAC Survey **Open until November 20**

As part of the continuing SAC Conversations project this year, the SAC Council has published a survey that all members of First Parish are invited to take. The aim of this survey is to collect information about our current social action programming so that we can make it better. If you want to contribute to this revisioning of social action, please take the survey. Results will be combined with comments gathered from the SAC Listening Sessions and published publicly in December. The survey will take 15 to 20 minutes. Paper copies are available in the front office. The survey will be open until November 20. Find the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSACSurvey>.

First Tuesday Group (65+) **Tuesday, November 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m.** **First Parish Seniors as Environmental Activists**

The First Tuesday Group (65+) meets November 3, 1:30-3:00 p.m., to focus on “First Parish Seniors as Environmental Activists.” A four-person panel consisting of John Lang, Vivian Walworth, Barbara Wheeler and Alan Whitney will describe how they have continued to work hard on environmental issues into their senior years. Each, in his or her own way, will describe what they are doing and, even better, what drives and inspires them to do it.

Come discuss your own environmental values and learn how best to get involved with those environmental issues that interest you the most! For more information, contact Berni Jenkins at Berni.jenkins@verizon.net, 978-369-2876.



Race Conversations Group

Sundays, November 1, 8, 15, 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

“Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement”



Have a desire to get more involved in the Black Lives Matter movement as a white ally? The Race Conversations Group at First Parish is sponsoring a four-part series of courses on “Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement,” on four consecutive Sundays in November (1, 8, 15, 22) from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 20 people. Sign up with Bethany Russell-Lowe

(Blowe@firstparish.org) to reserve your space. This course is free and open to anyone hoping to be a white ally in the movement for racial justice.

UU Mass Action Story Slam

First Parish in Bedford

Saturday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Don't miss this opportunity to build relationships with your fellow Unitarian Universalists and hear stories you won't hear anywhere else—all while supporting UU justice organizing in Massachusetts! The second annual Story Slam (similar to NPR's *The Moth*) will be hosted by First Parish in Bedford, and will feature a stellar line up of UU ministers. The theme is “*Out of the Pulpit and into the Frying Pan: Stories at the Intersection of Hindsight, Hope and Humor.*” Tickets are \$30 each, or \$25 when buying two or more. Purchase tickets at <http://tinyurl.com/p9tgac4>. All proceeds will support UU Mass Action, our state's Unitarian Universalist advocacy network.



Amnesty International

Group 15

Meeting Tuesday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m.

The plight of Leyla and Arif Yunus, a 60-year-old couple sentenced in August to a decade of imprisonment in Azerbaijan for their efforts to promote peace with Armenia, will be the groups' focus. Each of these human-rights advocates have life-threatening medical problems and are also experiencing their first total lack of communication in 37 years of marriage. In addition to our regular monthly advocacy projects, the group will also finalize outreach plans to table at the November 22 Friends Meeting in Framingham, and at First Parish in Sudbury on December 6. AI Group 15 meets on the third Tuesday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Greeley Room, and all are welcome. For more information, contact Kathy Taylor at Kly.taylor@gmail.com or 781-718-7640.



Open Table Volunteer Sign-Up



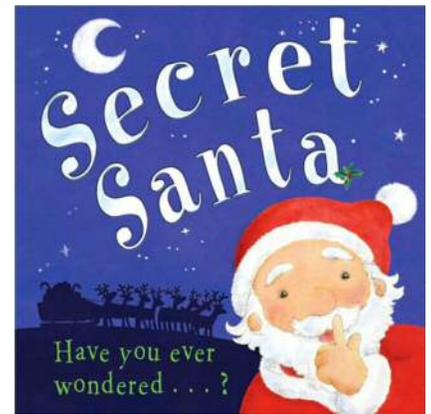
A Helping Hand
Can Change the World

Do you want to know about volunteer opportunities with First Parish partner organizations? Can you occasionally fill a last-minute need for volunteers at Open Table, a weekly dinner and/or food pantry? The SAC Council administers a Sign-Up Genius for those exact purposes and more. You can sign up ahead of time, or we will intermittently send last-minute calls to fill specific direct-service opportunities to anyone registered to our group. If you'd like to stay in the loop about these local volunteer opportunities, contact Tricia Haut (thaut@mac.com) or sign up directly here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c44aaa82da13-first2>.

Secret Santa Volunteers Needed December, for Two to Three Hours

Secret Santa will be coming back this holiday season, but only if you sign up to help! Secret Santa is a holiday program in which First Parish members fulfill wish lists of children and families who cannot afford to purchase gifts this year. This is a great activity to do with kids, and can fit in easily with the holiday shopping you're already doing. We are looking for folks who have 2 or 3 hours to commit in December to help this program be successful. Volunteer opportunities include: creating gift "tags," distributing tags at coffee hours, organizing gifts, and dropping gifts off at partner organizations. If you would like to give two or three hours to help make this program a success, get in touch with Tricia Haut (thaut@mac.com) or Bethany Russell-Lowe (blowe@firstparish.org).



Denominational Affairs

Next Meeting: November 16, 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Vail Weller, UUA Congregational Giving Director, joined our First Parish Sunday service on October 18, where she expressed gratitude for our contributions to the UUA Annual Program Fund. The excellent UUA resources have enriched First Parish for decades and we are attempting to get closer to our "fair share" support. Upcoming First Parish listening sessions for the budget will be an opportunity for all of us to speak up on returning to our full fair share support of the UUA.



For more information, please attend our November 16 DAC meeting, 7:30 p.m. at First Parish; or contact Paula Vandever at VandeverP@aol.com.

Standing Committee

Congregational Discussions on Budget and Next Year's Spending Priorities:
Sunday, November 8, at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday, November 15, at 9:00 a.m.

At our October 4, 2015, meeting, Standing Committee (SC) members continued refining goals for the coming year. Six goals have emerged from our work.

1. Improve SC operational effectiveness
2. Strengthen two-way communications between the SC and the congregation
3. Model right relations in SC communications
4. Function with a proactive outward vision
5. Build a culture of stewardship
6. Provide support for our senior minister

Each of these goals will be accompanied by actions that we plan to take and measurable outcomes that we hope to achieve. Our goals are scheduled to be finalized at our next meeting on Sunday, November 8 at 6:00 p.m.

The SC also approved a "Line of Credit" agreement negotiated with the Trustees of Parish Donations. This line of credit will allow the Senior Minister and the Standing Committee to quickly access funds should an emergency arise that cannot be addressed using available operating funds. Any money borrowed will be paid back within five years at a pre-negotiated interest rate. This funding mechanism will allow First Parish to minimize the amount of cash kept on hand for unexpected financial needs.

The Standing Committee also wrapped up work on its first year review of the Finance Committee charter. The charter and more information about the Finance Committee and church finances is available at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/finance-committee>.

Mark your calendar! The Finance Committee's annual congregational discussions about the church budget and the next year's spending priorities will be at First Parish on **Sunday, November 8, at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday, November 15, at 9:00 a.m.** These meetings provide a formal opportunity for the congregation to be educated about and involved in the budget development process. Drop by one of the sessions, learn how our money is spent, and share your opinions.

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

Mark Russell Prior, chair

RE News

Repeated here for you from October's MHN.

Fall RE Program

Our program is designed for children, youth, and their adult mentors to explore big questions, to celebrate life, to build character, and to grow spiritually. Through hands-on activities, spiritual practices, sharing, and social justice projects, our young people experience how to bring more love and understanding into the world. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged to support community building and a sense of belonging.



A detailed write-up of the RE programs by grade is available in the *October Meeting House News*, which can be downloaded from the First Parish website: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/news/meeting-house-news> .

Sunday Service

Kindergarten – Grade 7

Kindergarten through Grade 7 begin in the Sanctuary with their families. Following the Message to Children, teachers accompany children to their classrooms. All groups will meet until 11:15 a.m. this year to allow for an hour-long session. Parents of infants to 3rd graders are asked to pick up their children in the classrooms at 11:15 a.m.. Older kids will be dismissed to coffee hour.



Cooks Wanted!

Friday, December 11, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Calling all First Parish cooks to save the date for our Fall/Winter cooking session: Friday, December 11, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Details in the December newsletter. All are welcome!

Shop Crosby's; Help First Parish

November 1-7: submit voucher to earn 5 percent and help First Parish

As part of Crosby's Market Community Commitment Program, First Parish will earn 5 percent of pre-tax grocery purchases at Crosby's Market by people who *submit a voucher when shopping during three weeks this church year:*

November 1-7, 2015

March 6-12, 2016

June 5-11, 2016

Vouchers are available outside the church's front office and from Peg Gallo. Peg works at First Parish Tuesdays, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., and Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. You may email Peg at pgallo@firstparish.org. Thanks for supporting First Parish.

Holden Fund of First Parish

The Holden Fund was established at First Parish in 1901, when Ellen Emerson contributed \$3,500 in honor of Nancy Holden for “daughters taking care of mothers in straitened circumstances.” Those original instructions have been interpreted more liberally since then to support residents of Concord who require care so they can continue to live in their own homes. Monthly stipends of varying amounts, based upon need, are awarded to help support caregivers (family members or paid professionals).

The Trustees of First Parish have shepherded the fund for over 100 years. They continue to manage the fund, but as of July 1, 2015, the Holden Fund Panel, part of our Pastoral Care program, will handle the administration. The panel has broadened eligibility to include members of First Parish *no matter the town in which they reside*. The Holden Fund Panel reviews applications/extension requests twice a year, in May and October, and reviews emergency applications as needed.



Eligibility Criteria are:

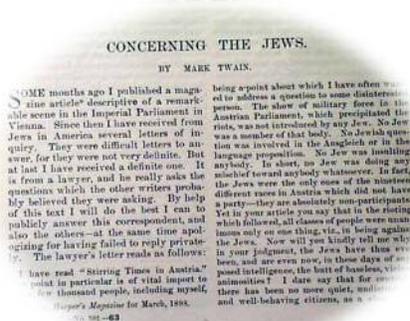
1. Financial support is needed to provide for care in the home; no age requirement.
2. Applicant is a resident of Concord or member of First Parish in Concord.

The Holden Fund Panel consists of Rev. Howard N. Dana, Susan Dobbie, Alice Van Deusen, and Rev. Marion Visel. Questions or requests for an application: contact: Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, mvisel@firstparish.org or 978-369-9602, X414.

Jewish Awareness Affinity Group

Friday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m.

Please join us at the next the Jewish Awareness Affinity group, November 20 at 7:00 p.m. at First Parish in Concord. All are welcome: Jews, non-Jews, friends and relatives of Jews, and those that just want a warm place to sit and snack and talk for a while.



Our main topic in November will be a look at Mark Twain's writing on Judaism and Jews, in particular his article from 1896 in Harper's Magazine "Concerning the Jews".

You can read the article online beforehand if you want, but no need. Mark Ramras, this month's discussion leader, will take us through the relevant points before we launch into our usual discursive, respectful, funny conversation.

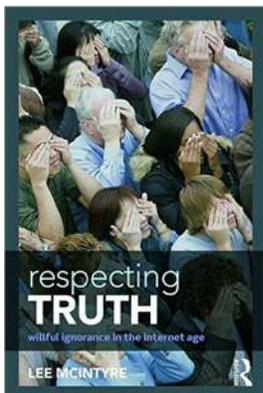
Come share wine and snacks, and enjoy others' company as we learn about Twain's views on European and American anti-Semitism, and discuss how it relates to anything we want to relate it to.

Contact Dana Snyder-Grant at 978 760-1129 with any questions.

Humanists

Wednesday, November 4, at 7:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Marie Manis (photo) will speak about Compassion and Choices, the leading nonprofit organization committed to helping everyone have the best end of life possible. Marie has a background in performance as a professional speaker, dance instructor, singer and actress, so we can expect the session to be entertaining, as well as informative. And, we always have good discussion after our talks. See her website: <http://neactor.com/profile/MarieManis>.



Save Wednesday, December 2, when Lee McIntyre is speaking on his book *Respecting Truth: Willful Ignorance in the Internet Age*.

For more on both talks, visit www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org and click on "Events."

Energy Use at First Parish Carbon Footprint Diminished By 7 Percent

A step toward reducing the cost and emissions from energy used at First Parish was taken in March 2014 with 70 solar panels atop the south-facing roof, generating up to 18.5 kilowatts (kW) of electricity. Annual cost savings are almost \$7,000 (including SREC¹ sale income), and the First Parish carbon footprint diminished by 7 percent. Thanks to project leader Mike Jacobs, the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team, and many donors for making that happen.

The next step is under way, involving an energy audit to determine building, lighting and heating system improvements with greener, less expensive technology. For more information, contact committee chair Brad Hubbard-Nelson at bradhn@mindspring.com.



¹SREC = solar renewable energy credit, which is given to people who generate solar power and is sold to organizations that need to get credit for generating renewable power. It acts like a subsidy from the energy industry to encourage renewable generation.

Reverence for Life

Before November 16, 1,000 Signatures Needed

Do you want to help farm animals by freeing them from extreme confinement cages?

Come sign an Initiative Petition. Reverence for Life has a goal of collecting 1,000

signatures before November 16 for the Citizens for the Protection of Farm Animals. With enough signatures, they can put a measure on the statewide November 2016 ballot that would phase out battery cages, gestation crates, and veal crates in Massachusetts. It would also assure that if you purchase meat in Massachusetts, the animal you are eating has not been extremely confined. Petitions will be available every Sunday at coffee hour. For more information, contact Caitlin Selle at selle.caitlin5@gmail.com.



The Arts at First Parish

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.

Saturday, November 7, at 10:00 a.m: WPA Artisan's Fair

Sunday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m: Sarasa Concert

Saturday, November 14, at 9:00 a.m.: Photography Club

Friday, November 20, at 7:30 p.m: Rise Up Singing –
Introducing *Rise Again*

Saturday, December 5, at 1:30 p.m.: Children's Crafts
Workshop

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.

For more information, contact chair Susan Page at srpage10@verizon.net.

Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble

Sunday, November 8, at 7:00 p.m.

On Sunday evening, November 8, at 7:00 p.m., First Parish hosts the Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble for their first of four concerts this season. The program, "Beethoven Up Close," includes *Cello Sonata in A major, Op. 69*; a violin sonata (TBA); and *Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 3*.



Tickets are \$24 general, \$20 seniors, and \$12 students, and are available online at www.sarasamusic.org. Come hear this delightful program of chamber music by Beethoven, as played by these outstanding musicians.

Visit www.firstparish.org/music/music-events for more information about the Sarasa 2015-2016 concert season at First Parish.

All-Parish Art Exhibit Mounted Second Week of November

The annual display of parishioners' drawings, paintings and prints will be mounted during the second week of November. The exhibit will run from November 10 until about December 15. Artwork may be delivered anytime during the first week of November and stored in Doug Baker's office. Each work should have a wire or hook installed so it can be hung.

Also, please provide on the back:

- the name of the artist
- the title of the work
- your phone number

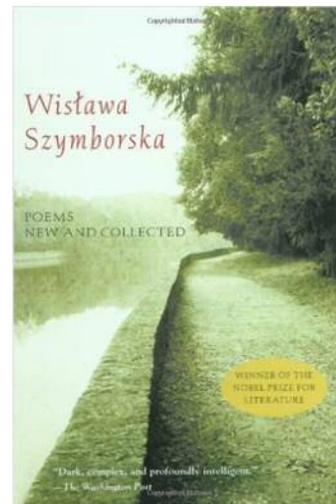
This exhibit is open to high school through adult submissions, and is a noncompetitive and noncommercial exhibit for First Parish artists to share their works. For more information, contact Douglas Baker, dbaker@firstparish.org.

Douglas Baker, Sexton and Curator

Women's AM/PM Book Group Monday, December 7, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Brooks Room Tuesday, December 8, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Brooks Room

As usual, the Women's Book Group will discuss just one book for November and December. The selection is *Poems, New and Collected*, by Wistawa Szymborska. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion.

If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.



Books and Dates for 2015-2016

- Dec. 7/8 (Nov. and Dec.) – *Poems, New and Collected*, Wistawa Szymborska
- Jan. 25/26 – *The Invention of Wings*, Sue Monk Kidd
- Feb. 29/Mar 1 – *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*, Madeleine Albright
- Mar. 28/29 – *Me Before You*, Jojo Moyes
- April 25/26 – *Shakespeare Saved My Life: Ten Years in Solitary with the Bard*, Laura Bates
- May 23/24 – *All the Light We Cannot See: A Novel*, Anthony Doerr

WPA Holiday Artisans Fair

Saturday, November 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Don't miss this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on November 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. More than over 45 outstanding artists and artisans will be selling their latest handmade items, which include jewelry, household goods, table decorations, scarves, clothing, children's items, photography, paintings, wooden and glass table items, food gifts and ceramics. Bring family members, friends and neighbors for a day of great browsing, shopping and festive socializing at the café.

Contact the church office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to volunteer your help at this fun community event.

Donations Needed for the Boutique

Saturday, November 7

The Women's Parish Association will hold its popular WPA Boutique again at this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 7, and is still looking for donations of handmade items as well as high-quality, like-new, regifting items, such as jewelry, artwork, holiday and general home decorating items.

Please contact Marilyn Lowitt at marilyn.lowitt@verizon.net or 978-793-0267 to arrange for your donations, or to offer your help in finishing catnip balls or making other selected handcrafts.

Friday Night with Friends

Friday, November 13 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m

Join other First Parish folks on Friday, November 13, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. for a light supper, socializing, and learning to make something special. On this fall evening, Rev. Howard N. Dana will demonstrate how to make a successful pie crust (just in time for the holidays!). Then, practice making one for yourself to take home. Lots of hands-on advice and necessary ingredients will be available. Bring copies of a favorite pie filling recipe to share, if you wish, as well as your tips for success. Dinner: Seasonal soup, bread, beverage and *pie*! Cost: \$12.



For reservations: contact the office or Pekindc@comcast.net by November 10. All are welcome!

Partner Congregation News

Next meeting: Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m., Brooks Room

Rodger Mattlage and Pat Brinkman traveled to Szekelénykeresztúr to represent First Parish at the retirement celebration of our partner minister, Jozséf Szombatfalvi on October 19. It began with a service in the church, where Rodger and Pat presented Jozséf with the beautiful commemorative plate we had made for him, a timeline of our partnership and the personalized memory book that was made by First Parish



members. The service was followed by a large dinner party at a restaurant and singing and dancing to a Hungarian trio. Afterward, back at the Parish House, Jozséf and his wife Anna were privately given the monetary gift from their many friends at First Parish, which came to \$5,013. He was stunned and overwhelmed by this generosity and expression of our love for them. We wish them much happiness in retirement.

You may see photos on the partnership Facebook page here: <http://bit.ly/fp-ker>, or on Rodger's Flickr page: <http://bit.ly/JSz151018fa>. The Keresztúr congregation Facebook page also has photos at <http://on.fb.me/1QNNCvM>. Scroll down to the post for "Szombatfalvi József lelkész kibúcsúzó istentisztelete."

All are welcome to join us for our next Partner Congregation Committee meeting on Thursday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. We will start with a potluck supper, so please bring something to share.

Photo Directory

Scheduling Your Photo Session

The 2016 First Parish Directory is in development. It won't be complete without your updated contact information and photo.

Register for your 30-minute photo session in one of these three ways:

1. Online at <http://tinyurl.com/FPphoto>
2. At coffee hour on Sunday
3. By calling the office at 978-369-9602; Cassy Bosworth will assist you.



Photos will be taken at First Parish. Choose a day and time:

- Thursday, November 12, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 13, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 14, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 17, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 18, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 19, 2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to get a free professional family or personal portrait. Additional photos can be purchased as well. Register today. Photos will be taken at First Parish.

Communications at First Parish

Meet Wendy Wolfberg and Victor Curran, two new people who are ready and waiting to help you send information to our First Parish community.

Meeting House Newsletter: Wendy Wolfberg (Compiling, Editing, Production, and Distribution)

Wendy Wolfberg has taken over production and distribution of First Parish's monthly newsletter, *The Meeting House News*. (Hasn't it been fun and beautiful?) Wendy's years as an instructional designer and technical course developer have given her the editing and software skills necessary for this role. Wendy welcomes parishioner and staff input.



With a number of folks involved in getting the newsletter out the door, she asks you to be on time or early, and to observe word count and style guidelines as outlined in the June 2015 newsletter. (Thank you!) With upcoming holiday travel in mind and to help everyone involved with the newsletter, please observe deadlines and email newsletter contributions to Wendy at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu before or by **November 17**.

Wendy has been a member of First Parish for over 20 years. She and her Scrabble-loving husband Mike, former longtime residents of Concord, now live in Westford.

Electronic Communications Specialist: Victor Curran

As First Parish's new electronic communications specialist, Victor Curran is responsible for collecting news and information about First Parish and broadcasting it through FP



Announce emails, social media (mostly Facebook), and the FP website (firstparish.org). In collaboration with FP webmaster Stoney Ballard, Victor will also help upgrade and maintain the look and functionality of the FP website, firstparish.org.

Victor has been a member of First Parish since 1996. He and his wife Dianne Weiss have served as cochairs of the Transcendentalism Council. Victor sings in the choir and has served as head of the Ushers Committee. He has designed

graphics for numerous FP events, including the First Parish 375th Anniversary and the 2015 Annual Pledge Campaign.

To send material for FP Announce, Facebook, or firstparish.org, please email Victor at vcurran@firstparish.org.

Events-at-a-Glance

The following information was taken from the Church Calendar, available 24/7 on our website. The events listed reflect the time frame of this Newsletter issue.

Every Week Events	Time	Event Name
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Buddhist Group
	4:30 p.m.	Junior Choir
	5:15 p.m.	Chalice Choir
	5:15 p.m.	Gospel Singers
	7:45 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	7:30 p.m.	Buddhist Group

November Unique Events	Time	Event Name
Sunday, November 1	11:30 a.m.	Sunday Forum in the Sanctuary
	11:30 a.m.	Being White in The Black Lives Matter Movement
Monday, November 2	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group
Tuesday, November 3	7:30 a.m.	Finance Committee
	1:30 p.m.	First Tuesday Group
Wednesday, November 4	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Concord Area Humanists
	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Leadership Meeting
Thursday, November 5	7:30 p.m.	By Your Side Singers
	7:30 p.m.	Forum Committee Meeting
Friday, November 6	9:00 a.m.	Waking Up White Book Group
Saturday, November 7	10:00 a.m.	Artisans Fair, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 8	11:30 a.m.	Congregational Conversations
	11:30 a.m.	Drop-In Small Group Ministry
	11:30 a.m.	Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement
	6:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Sarasa Concert
	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Leadership Meeting
Monday, November 9	7:00 p.m.	Dreamwork Group
	7:00 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
Tuesday, November 10	7:30 a.m.	Finance Committee
	9:30 a.m.	WPA Board Meeting
	2:00 p.m.	Shawl Ministry

November Unique Events	Time	Event Name
	4:30 p.m.	SAC Council Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Women's Retreat Committee
Thursday, November 12	2:00 p.m.	Photo Directory
	6:30 p.m.	Partner Congregation Committee Meeting and Potluck
Friday, November 13	2:00 p.m.	Photo Directory
	7:00 p.m.	WPA Fun Night
Saturday, November 14	9:00 a.m.	Photography Club
	10:00 a.m.	Photo Directory
Sunday, November 15	9:00 a.m.	Congregational Conversation
	11:30 a.m.	Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement
Monday, November 16	7:30 p.m.	Denominational Affairs Committee
	7:30 p.m.	Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 17		Meeting House News, Deadline
	2:00 p.m.	Photo Directory
	7:00 p.m.	Amnesty International Meeting
Wednesday, November 18	2:00 p.m.	Photo Directory
Thursday, November 19	7:30 p.m.	By Your Side Singers
Friday, November 20	9:00 a.m.	Waking Up White Book Group
	7:00 p.m.	Jewish Awareness Group
	7:30 p.m.	Rise Up Singing
Sunday, November 22	11:30 a.m.	Drop-In Small Group Ministry
	11:30 a.m.	Being White in the Black Lives Matter Movement
Wednesday, November 25	12:00 p.m.	Office Closes for Holiday
Friday, November 27		FIRST PARISH CLOSED

December Week One	Time	Event Name
Tuesday, December 1	1:30 p.m.	First Tuesday Group
Wednesday, December 2	6:00 p.m.	Arts Council Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Concord Area Humanists
	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Leadership Meeting
Thursday, December 3	7:30 p.m.	By Your Side Singers
	7:30 p.m.	Forum Committee Meeting
Friday, December 4	9:00 a.m.	Waking Up White Book Group
Saturday, December 5	1:30 p.m.	Children's Craft Workshop

Website Wonder

Want to see at a glance what a cool place First Parish is? Want to look at the wide range of opportunities we offer to grow spiritually and build relationships with others within the congregation? On the Home page, click on *Spiritual Growth and Fellowship* (far left column) and scroll to view the hard work of many volunteers. How blessed we are! Visit <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/spiritual-growth-and-fellowship>



“Five minutes a week,” the teacher told me. “Take five minutes a week to learn something new on your computer; and by the end of the year, you will be amazed at what you can do.” What did you discover on our website? Let us know and we’ll share it here!

Editor’s Notes

Next *Meeting House News* **deadline: November 17, 2015**

Next publication date: **December 1, 2015**

With upcoming holiday travel in mind, please observe newsletter deadlines!!

Wendy, Is the deadline really the deadline? Well, we get over 30 submissions every month. Once I’ve cleaned up the formatting, all those words are organized into one document so our wonderful copy editor can provide accurate and consistent styling. The newsletter is handed off to her just one day after the deadline. Any late or incomplete entries or last minute changes create a lot of emails and handoff difficulties. Yes, the deadline really is the deadline. The publication date is given out so you and your committees can plan how much detail to include in your monthly submission. *It’s so very helpful to everyone involved when you are thorough, accurate, and on time.* We love you for that and thank you!

Please email newsletter submissions, with the word “newsletter” on the subject line, to Wendy Wolfberg at wolfberg@post.harvard.edu. Guidelines and House Style information are available in the June 2015 MHN, which can be downloaded from the website. Please adhere to recommended word limits. We know it’s hard but you can do it!

First Parish Contacts

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The building is closed Mondays. Meetings and events may be scheduled for Monday evenings.

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

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November 2015*

Add us to your address book.

