

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 1, 2013

## This Week

Sun., Dec. 1	12:15 Worship Reflection 7:30 Men's Group
Mon., Dec. 2	<b>First Parish Closed</b>
Tue., Dec. 3	9:00 WPA Board 9:30 <i>Women's Book Group</i> 1:30 First Tuesday Group 2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Minerva Potluck Dinner 6:30 <i>T'ai Chi</i>
Wed., Dec. 4	9:30 <i>Buddhist Group</i> 9:30 Rise Up and Call Her Name 2:00 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Choir 6:00 Arts Council 7:00 ELT 7:00 Concord Area Humanists 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 5	10:00 <i>Jingle Jams</i> 1:30 Lincoln Ringers 6:30 Women's Retreat Committee 7:30 <i>Buddhist Group</i> 7:30 By Your Side Singers 7:30 Diversity Committee
Fri., Dec. 6	7:00 Play Reading Group
Sat., Dec. 7	7:30 Men's Group 1:30 Holiday Craft Workshop
Sun., Dec. 8	10:30 Forum 12:15 Worship Reflection 12:30 Ministerial Intern Committee 3:00 Eve LaPlante Lecture 6:30 Standing Committee 7:30 Men's Group

*Listings in italics represent classes offered through the Wright Tavern Center ([www.wrighttavern.org](http://www.wrighttavern.org)).*

**Next Meeting House News deadline: Friday, December 13.**  
**Be aware that all items (including contact information) posted to the Sunday News or Meeting House News, or on First Parish-related e-mail lists, may be published online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).**

## Parish Notes

### Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath, located at the front of the Sanctuary, is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary through the holidays.

### Music Events Committee—Opportunity to Get Involved

The Music Events Committee is looking for a few new members to help coordinate and support upcoming music events. If you're a lover of music and would like to contribute to the vibrant music ministry at First Parish, this would be a great way to get involved.

Particularly useful skills include selling tickets online, graphic design, contract negotiation, and an interest in attending and hosting weekend concerts. Call Rob Hamilton at 508-272-6850.

### "A Year with Frog and Toad"—Tickets at Coffee Hour

Don't miss it! First Parish Eighth Grade Players are presenting the musical play "A Year with Frog and Toad" on Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, December 21, at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., providing holiday entertainment for all ages. Tickets on sale at coffee hour: \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children.

### Make First Parish More Sustainable!

Help us respect the interdependent web of all existence by "adopting" one of our soon-to-be-installed solar panels. Your year-end contribution of \$1200 for a single panel (\$600 for a half or \$300 for a quarter share) will help get First Parish on a stronger financial footing in three important ways:

1. Once operational, the panels will cover 25% of our church's electrical costs each year, for at least the next 20 years.
2. A percentage of your dollars will help defray a \$30,000 deficit in this year's operating budget.

If all solar panels are adopted, we can avoid taking out a loan and paying interest for the installation. Donate your panel in the name of a loved one or to honor the future of your children. Check out the bulletin board across from the kitchen or for more information contact Berni Jenkins [berni.jenkins@verizon.net](mailto:berni.jenkins@verizon.net) or Kate Crosby [kate.crosby@newview.org](mailto:kate.crosby@newview.org).

### Rise Up and Call Her Name

All women of First Parish are invited to become acquainted with the diverse range of feminine imagery in Mexico and Central America, including the Earth Goddess Tonantzin and the Virgin of Guadalupe, as well as the important meaning of corn to these cultures. We will meet this Wednesday, December 4, from 9:30 to noon in the Parlor at First Parish. Questions? Ask Bozena Smith at [bozenasmith@mindspring.com](mailto:bozenasmith@mindspring.com)

### Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee will hold an open meeting next Thursday, December 5, at 7:30 p.m. in the Emerson Room. We would love to have some new participants who are interested in helping us welcome and advocate for those who may feel marginalized, and help raise awareness in the congregation on issues that they may face. These groups include those who are LGBT or questioning, those of differing ethnicities or races, or those dealing with disability. We'll discuss the events we are already planning or sponsoring this year, and brainstorm about other possible events, such as workshops and/or film series. Please come if you are interested in making sure we live up to our mission of being a truly Welcoming Congregation. If you have questions, or would like to participate but can't attend the meeting, please contact Sara Ballard at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org).

### Reminder: Author Talk by Eve LaPlante on December 8

Don't forget that on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 p.m., author Eve LaPlante will talk about her latest books, *Marmee and Louisa: The Untold Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Mother* and *My Heart Is Boundless: Writings of Abigail May Alcott, Louisa May's Mother*. A reception and book signing will follow. Books will be available for sale at First Parish by Orchard House during

the reception. All are invited. Don't miss this chance to meet the author of two of the most interesting books written in the last couple of years. There is no charge for the talk or the reception.

### Seasons Greetings For Our Transylvania Partner Congregation

For the fourth year, our children will create Christmas/Holiday greeting cards for the children in our Transylvania Partner Congregation in Székelykeresztúr. *Today, in the Parlor at coffee hour* there will be craft materials for children and adults to create a personal greeting card. Adults are encouraged to assist and help explain our Transylvania Partnership connection. Our friends in Székelykeresztúr will be doing the same for us! Also, the PCC is providing a *Keresztúr Christmas Mailbox* in the First Parish office to put your greetings to your friends and students in Keresztúr. Please print recipients' names on the envelope, using the traditional Hungarian style (last name, first name), and deposit them by December 8—*no gifts, please, but photos are all right.*

### Vegan Potluck

'Tis the season to enjoy carol singing and a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, December 10, at 6 p.m., hosted by the Reverence for Life committee. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Don't have time to cook? A simple salad or a loaf of bread is just fine. We will make optional the \$2 donation for folks who bring a nonperishable plant-based food item for the Open Table pantry. Ideas for items include cereal, pasta and sauce, vegetarian baked beans, chili and soup, nuts, vegetable oil, nut butters, jam, quinoa, couscous, and canned fruit and vegetables. R.S.V.P. by December 8, to Marcia Schloss at [978-371-2751](tel:978-371-2751) or [marcialou28@gmail.com](mailto:marcialou28@gmail.com).

### Reminder Holiday Concert and Tea—December 13

The Women's Parish Association has planned a special concert and tea to add sparkle and joy to your holiday season. Critically acclaimed jazz pianist, Molly Flannery, has brought together great musicians of the Boston area who will offer an entertaining program of upbeat jazz renditions of popular seasonal songs. All men, women, and youth of First Parish and their family and friends are warmly invited. The concert begins at 3 o'clock on Friday, December 13, followed by a traditional tea. There is no charge for this event. If possible, please bring nicely plated sweets to share. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) if you would like to help at this event.

### Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. We are thinking that we might begin doing bouillon the first Sunday in January, like we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? If this is going to happen, we need volunteers at both services. Can you help one Sunday a month, by either buying, preparing and serving for the 9:00 o'clock service or serving and cleaning up after the 11:00 o'clock service? Please e-mail Kel at [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com), or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested. Thanks!

### Social Action Community

Go to [sac.firstparish.org](http://sac.firstparish.org) for news and calendar information.

### Do You Have Clothing You Can Donate to the Needy?

Winter is coming and there are people who need clothing. Do you have some clean, gently used clothing you can donate? Your donations can be dropped off on Bill Seaver's porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. They will be taken to the Acton Pantry, where their dinner guests can use your donations. (Bill Seaver [978-369-7318](tel:978-369-7318) or [billseaver@earthlink.net](mailto:billseaver@earthlink.net).)

### Gentle Reminder: Secret Santa Gift Drop-off Times

Thank you to all of our First Parish Secret Santas. During this busy time, it is wonderful that you have thought of and shopped for local families whom you do not even know, but who will be so grateful for your generosity! You are probably busy gathering your gifts, and this is a gentle reminder to please bring them to either coffee hour on December 1 or December 8. There will be a designated drop-off table.

### Children's and Youth News

#### This Week, December 1 – Holiday Weekend

10:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 yrs) – Lower Level

11:00 a.m. – Children Welcome in Worship

#### Next Week, December 8 – Regular RE Week

8:50 & 10:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 yrs) – Lower Level

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Services

K-1st Grade – Spirit Play – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

2nd-3rd Grades – Middle RE – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Ripley Room

4th-5th Grades – Middle RE – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Greeley Room

6th-7th Grades – Neighboring Activists – Brooks Room, 9am and 11:00 a.m.

8th Grade, 10:00 a.m. – A Year with Frog and Toad – Meet in the Wright Tavern at 10:00 a.m.

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Wright Tavern

### Holiday Craft Workshop (a.k.a. The Elf Fest!)

On Saturday, December 7, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., all the little elves will be gathering to help our parish children *make* their own holiday gifts. Please join us. This is a First Parish tradition you just don't want to miss. Thanks to Marilyn Lowitt, Jan Goddard-Taylor, Sarah Napier and Patty Popov for gathering crafty materials, ideas and for herding elf helpers. \$15 per child with a family max. This is not a fundraiser, just a community raiser!

### Christmas Eve Tableau at 4:00 p.m. Only

All those interested in being part of our Christmas Tableau, please let Kristin Parlman know (Kristin Parlman [parlman@verizon.net](mailto:parlman@verizon.net).) We need kings, lambs, cows, an angel, Mary and rowdy shepherds. Fortunately, we have Jesus. Very little is required: Just show up at 3:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room on Christmas Eve and put on great costumes.

### RE Teachers Needed!

Please let Pam know if you can help teach our children. We have many slots open in the Holiday, Winter and Spring Terms. Could you help? New families are welcome to help too. Contact Pam Howell at [drepamhowell@gmail.com](mailto:drepamhowell@gmail.com).

### Winter Clothes for the Homeless Needed

Winter Clothes and other items are needed by COA kids to give away during their CityReach overnight in Boston. Eighty percent are men. Please especially donate large, warm clothes, carrying cases, travel-size toiletries, NEW white socks or white underwear, sleeping bags, blankets. Please no children's clothes or fancy, night, or out-of-season clothes. Box will be in the coatroom at church. Alternative drop-off is at 122 Upland Road in West Concord on the covered front porch. Please drop-off prior to December 6. Thanks!

Howard's e-mail: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Tony's e-mail: [tfisher@firstparish.org](mailto:tfisher@firstparish.org)

Visit our website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)