

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 8, 2013

This Week

Sun., Dec. 8	10:30 Forum 12:15 Worship Reflection 12:30 Nominating Committee 3:00 Eve LaPlante Lecture 6:30 Standing Committee 7:30 Men's Group
Mon., Dec. 9	First Parish Closed
Tue., Dec. 10	6:00 Vegan Potluck Dinner 6:30 <i>T'ai Chi</i> 7:30 "Celebrate Music" Planning Committee
Wed., Dec. 11	9:30 <i>Buddhist Group</i> 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Choir 7:00 Concord Area Humanists 7:30 Forum Committee 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 12	10:00 <i>Jingle Jams</i> 1:30 Lincoln Ringers 1:30 Pastoral Care 7:30 <i>Buddhist Group</i>
Fri., Dec. 13	12:30 <i>T'ai Chi</i> 3:00 WPA Concert and Tea 7:30 Rise Up Caroling
Sat., Dec. 14	7:30 Men's Group 9:00 Photography Club
Sun., Dec. 15	10:30 Forum 12:15 Worship Reflection 12:30 Nominating Committee 12:30 Ministerial Intern Committee 7:30 Men's Group

Listings in italics represent classes offered through the Wright Tavern Center (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.

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 throughout the holidays.

Seasons Greetings for our Transylvania Partners

Today is the last opportunity to put your greetings to your friends and students in Keresztúr into the *Keresztúr Christmas Mailbox* in the First Parish office. Please print recipients' names on the envelope, using the traditional Hungarian style (last name, first name)—*no gifts, please, but photos are all right*. "Many thanks to all the children and adults who created cards for Keresztúr the last

two Sundays. They are already on their way to Keresztúr."

Women's Retreats 2014: Living Joyfully Registration Starts Today

All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome to attend this year's retreats, where we'll focus on Living Joyfully as we share our time together. Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, and reflect on finding, creating and sustaining joy in our lives. Choose either of the two weekend retreats (Friday evening through Sunday lunch) at Senexet House in Connecticut, January 24-26 or January 31-February 2; or the mini retreat at First Parish, Friday evening, February 7, and morning through afternoon Saturday, February 8. Registration forms at coffee hours or in the church office. Questions? Please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

"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 or in the office: \$10.00 for adults; \$5.00 for children.

You Can Make First Parish More Sustainable

First Parish voted unanimously to install solar panels on our back roof! Please consider giving the gift of an "adopted" solar panel this holiday season. Your adoption fee of \$1200 for each panel (*\$600 for a half or \$300 for a quarter share*) improves First Parish finances because we can avoid the need for a loan (with interest) to cover the installation. Then, your contribution keeps on giving because the solar panels will cover about 25% of our church's yearly electrical costs. Consider using this as an opportunity for your entire family to jointly make a concrete commitment to the interdependent web of life. For more information contact *Berni Jenkins* at berni.jenkins@verizon.net or *Kate Crosby* at kate_crosby@newview.org.

Heifer Gift Cards

Heifer gift cards will be for sale at the coffee hours today, December 15, and December 22. Heifer gift cards are a gift that keeps on giving and a wonderful nonconsumer holiday gift. Poor farmers in villages around the world are gifted animals after weeks of training in proper feeding of optimal crops vs. free-grazing, manure collection for fertilizer, marketing techniques, etc. After passing on their first female offspring to another villager, the farmer then owns the animal outright. Contact Mary Lou Toussaint by e-mail at mlou512@yahoo.com if you can't make one of the coffee hours. Patty Keane and Dave and Diane Clapp will be assisting.

Today: Author Talk by Eve LaPlante

Today, December 8, at 3 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. These books will make outstanding holiday gifts. All are warmly 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. Bring your neighbors and friends!

Celebrate Music at First Parish

The Arts Council has an idea to create our own First Parish “Yankee Home Companion” to celebrate music. We’ll be gathering on Tuesday, December 10, at 7 p.m. to brainstorm ideas to create the framework for the show. If you are interested in writing or helping to create the show, please plan to attend. We’ll be looking for performers in January. If you can’t make the meeting but want to be involved, contact Lillian Anderson at lillianand@comcast.net.

Reminder: Holiday Concert and Tea—December 13

Don’t forget to attend the Holiday Concert and Tea on Friday, December 13. The 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 3:00 on Friday, December 13, followed by a traditional tea. There is no charge for this event and reservations are not required, but for planning purposes, please send an email to Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net to let the planning committee know that you are planning to attend. If possible, bring nicely plated sweets to share.

Creative Practice Affinity Group

Coming in January 2014: Join us every month for support, inspiration, discussion, resource sharing, accountability, and a sense of community—*whatever* your creative outlet. Everything from writing to photography to music is welcome. Meets on the third Thursday of every month in the Brooks Room, from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact Derek McCarthy at dsm32@cornell.edu.

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.

Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. We are thinking that we might begin serving bouillon the first Sunday in January, just as 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, either by 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, or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested.

Social Action Community

Go to sac.firstparish.org for news and calendar information.

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.

Gentle Reminder: Secret Santa Gift Drop-Off TODAY

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 TODAY. There will be a designated drop-off table. If you forgot your gift today, please contact Sarah Wilfert sarahwilfert@gmail.com or Meghan Giannetto meghangianetto@mac.com.

Children’s and Youth News

This 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, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

8th Grade – A Year with Frog and Toad– Meet in the Wright Tavern at 8:30 a.m.

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

Next Week, December 15 – Regular RE Week

8:50 & 10:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool
9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Services

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

2nd-5th Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Emerson Room

6th-7th Grades 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room for the Bucket Brigade

8th Grade, 10:00 a.m. – Drama – Meet in the Wright Tavern

9th Grade, 4:30 p.m. – Coming of Age – Meet in the Emerson Room with parents

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

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). 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.

Howard’s e-mail: hdana@firstparish.org

Tony’s e-mail: tfisher@firstparish.org

Visit our website at firstparish.org