

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 15, 2013

This Week

Sun., Dec. 15	10:30 Forum 12:15 Worship Reflection 12:30 Nominating Committee 12:30 Ministerial Intern Committee 7:30 Men's Group
Mon., Dec. 16	First Parish Closed
Tue., Dec. 17	2:00 Needleworkers Affinity Group 6:30 <i>T'ai Chi</i> 7:00 Evening Worship—Blue Christmas 7:00 Amnesty Group
Wed., Dec. 18	9:30 <i>Buddhist Group</i> 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Choir 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 19	10:00 <i>Jingle Jams</i> 1:30 Lincoln Ringers 1:30 Pastoral Care 7:30 <i>Buddhist Group</i> 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Dec. 20	7:30 "A Year with Frog and Toad"
Sat., Dec. 21	7:30 Men's Group 2:00 "A Year with Frog and Toad" 5:00 "A Year with Frog and Toad"
Sun., Dec. 22	12:15 Worship Reflection 3:00 Lincoln Ringers Concert 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, January 24.
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.

Blue Christmas—Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.

For some, Christmas does not bring joy. It can amplify financial concerns, loneliness, loss or sorrow, leaving people on the outside looking in. Howard Dana, assisted by Tony Fisher and Rachel Baker, offers this evening worship to remember the other side of the holidays. This service is a special time to be together in loving kindness and gentle community, to share reflective words of remembrance, solace and comfort. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Services—Note New Times

Four Services: 4:00, 5:30, 7:30*, 9:30* Family-oriented service at 4:00, with lots of Christmas carols, Children's Choirs and the

Christmas story tableau. Lessons and carols with Gospel Choir at 5:30. Chamber Choir at 7:30, and First Parish Choir at 9:30. Each service concludes with candlelighting and "Silent Night."

***NOTE NEW TIMES.**

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

First Parish Eighth Grade Players present "*A Year with Frog and Toad*" on Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 21, at both 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.. Children and adults of all ages will enjoy this humorous musical play based on the stories by Arnold Lobel about the enduring friendship between a fretful Toad and an exuberant Frog. Complete running time, with intermission, is an hour and a quarter, "perfect for young children". Tickets are available Sunday and in the church office, with a suggested donation of \$10 per adult and \$5 per child. Tickets will also be available at the door.

After paying for rights, proceeds will be donated to The 52nd Street Project, founded in 1981 by the lyricist of "*A Year with Frog and Toad*," Willie Reale. The 52nd Street Project is dedicated to the creation and production of new plays for kids between the ages of nine and eighteen who reside in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City through a series of unique mentoring programs that match children with professional theater artists to create original theater. The project also provides programs, after-school homework aid and academic mentoring.

Give A Gift That Turns Our UU Values Into Action!

By adopting one of our soon-to-be-installed solar panels, you can make our church more sustainable, help improve our finances through reduced electrical costs, and teach our children about giving back to the community and putting our ideals to work. A win-win if ever there was one! Your tax-deductible contribution of \$1200 for a full panel (or \$300 or \$600 for a partial) also saves us from having to take out a loan for installation. Then your contribution keeps giving by reducing our carbon footprint for at least the next 20 years.

Contact **Berni Jenkins** berni.jenkins@verizon.net or **Kate Crosby** kate_crosby@newview.org this week to participate.

Bonus: And if you're thinking about putting solar panels on your own roof, our vendor, Astrum Solar, is now offering to give both a \$500 gift to First Parish and a \$250 discount in price to any First Parish member who commits following the November 10, 2013 congregational vote.

Heifer Gift Cards

Heifer gift cards will be on 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.

Women's Retreats 2014: Living Joyfully

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 and 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.

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.

“Write for Rights” to Seek Justice for Victims of Human Rights Abuses on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m.

Arbitrarily detained for a week, Miriam Lopez, a mother of four, was raped and tortured by Mexican soldiers to coerce a self-incriminating confession, implicating herself in drug-trafficking offenses. Miriam is one of a group of victims of human rights abuse whose cases will be included in “Write for Rights,” an event sponsored by Group 15, the Concord-area group of Amnesty International, on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:30 p.m., in the Greeley Room at First Parish. Participants will join hundreds of thousands of others around the world contributing to Write for Rights by signing and addressing typed letters seeking justice in cases of human rights abuse.

Wild & Precious—Tickets on Sale at Coffee Hour

In this theatrical production of his poems, stories, music and photographs, Steve Cadwell shares what he's found it means to be a man: a wild and precious boy born in Vermont in the fifties who becomes a hearty gay man in Concord, Massachusetts. The audience will find coming-to-terms themes that resonate with their own journey to adulthood. Engrossing entertainment for adults and mature teens. Performances are Friday, January 10, and Saturday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$18.00 for seniors and \$15.00 for students. Purchase tickets by calling the First Parish church office at

978-369-9602. Cash or checks only, made out to First Parish Concord. Sponsored by the Social Action Community First Parish, Concord.

Children's and Youth News

This 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-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 – 9:00 a.m. to Noon – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room for the Bucket Brigade

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

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

Friday, December 20, at 7:30 p.m. – “A Year with Frog and Toad” a play put on by the 8th Graders, directed by Sue and Tom Beck.

Tickets \$5 per child, \$10 per adult.

Friday, December 20, at 6:00 p.m. – Youth Group Lock-in – We will go to the play, bake some cookies and fry a midnight turkey and cook a pancake breakfast in the morning.

Saturday, December 21, at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. – “A Year with Frog and Toad” a play put on by the 8th Graders, directed by Sue and Tom Beck

Next Week, December 22 – Regular RE Week – Angel Sunday

8:30 & 10:30 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years), K and 1st Grade –

Lower Level – *Arrive early to don Angel Robes*

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Services

K-1st Grade – Begin in Lower Level this week, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms after message.

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.

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