

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

April 13, 2014

## This Week

- Sun., Apr. 13 **Services at 9:00 and 11:00**  
10:30 Sunday Forum  
12:15 Worship Reflection  
12:30 Congregational Meeting  
6:00 Standing Committee
- Tue., Apr. 15  
2:00 Needleworkers Affinity Group  
7:00 Evening Worship  
7:00 Amnesty Group  
7:30 Congregational Meeting
- Wed., Apr. 16  
9:30 Buddhist Group  
4:30 Junior Choir  
5:15 Chalice Choir  
5:15 Gospel Choir  
7:30 Forum Committee  
7:45 Adult Choir
- Thu., Apr. 17  
10:00 Creative Practice Affinity Group  
11:00 Maundy Thursday Service  
12:00 Chowder Lunch  
7:00 Pastoral Thursday  
7:30 Buddhist Group  
7:30 By Your Side Singers
- Fri., Apr. 18 **Newsletter Deadline**
- Sat., Apr. 19  
5:00 Cooperative Seder
- Sun., Apr. 20 **Easter Sunday—Services at 9:00 and 11:00**  
12:15 Worship Reflection

**Next Meeting House News deadline: Friday, April 18.**

**Please keep article length to 100 words.**

**Be aware that all items (including contact information) posted to the *Sunday News* or *Meeting House News*, or on First Parish–related email lists, may be published online at [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org).**

**Pastoral Thursdays—7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

*Rev. Howard Dana and the Pastoral Care Ministers will be holding evening programs on certain Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.*

April 17—Job Insecurity

## Parish Notes

**Taizé-Style Vespers Service**

**Tuesday evening, April 15 at 7:00 pm.**

“I’ll bring you hope, when hope is hard to find.” Join Beth Norton, Rachel Baker and the By Your Side Singers for a service of song, poetry and reflection on hope. The service will be held in the Chapel and will last approximately one hour. All are invited.

## Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The Pastoral Care Lay Minister on call for April is Diane Clap. If you need a meal or support, please contact Diane at [d.clapp@comcast.net](mailto:d.clapp@comcast.net) or 781-257-5025.



## First Parish Annual Campaign: “Build On to What Is Good”

Have you pledged yet? If so, you’re one of 288 families that have participated—well over half! If you haven’t, you may have received a letter and pledge card at your home. Please return it this week. Today at Coffee Hour, you can get personalized help with an online pledge. See the insert in today’s order of service for other updates. Thank you.

## Ferry Beach Registration!

The annual First Parish Retreat will be held Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26, at the UU Ferry Beach Camp and Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Join First Parish families, couples and singles of all ages for a relaxed weekend of fellowship at the beach! Please see the Ferry Beach table at coffee hour **today** for more information or to register. Registrations will be accepted from April 13 to 27 at coffee hours or in the church office. Forms are also available in the church office and online at [www.firstparish.org/forms](http://www.firstparish.org/forms). Questions? Please contact Darien Smith at [darien@firstparish.com](mailto:darien@firstparish.com) or 978-369-1471.

## The RE Council is Sponsoring a Lasagna Dinner Monday, April 14, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Dear Families, Join us for a special dinner with Reverend Howard Dana! Come enjoy good food and hear a brief update on possible RE Fee reductions, as children enjoy an opportunity to connect with our new Minister. Eric Moore will also be on hand to answer campaign questions and accept pledges. A suggested contribution of \$5/person to cover costs would be gratefully accepted.

## Yankee Home Companion

### Tickets on Sale Now During Coffee Hours

First Parish’s own version of Prairie Home Companion is happening on *Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m.*. You won’t want to miss the sound effects team and the wonderful music of Gail Carey, Beth Norton, the Con-Chords, the Becks, Lauren Evans, Pam Howell, Anna Huckabee Tull, Chris Randall and our own version of Garrison Keillor—Doug Hardy. Suggested donations range from \$20-\$2000 to benefit the Music Reserve Fund in honor of Beth’s 20 years of music ministry.

## Congregational Sessions—Today and April 15

Today, from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, April 15, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., the Task Force on Committee Policy will be hosting an open congregational session to discuss our work to develop a policy that supports the formation and management of groups at First Parish. Participation in committees, councils, and other groups is an essential element of First Parish. They share the responsibilities, build community and engage diverse perspectives. Our Task Force has been working several months to develop a policy on how we should manage our groups. Come hear what we are proposing, give us feedback, and help us shape the right policy for First Parish. For more information, contact Tom Wilson at [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com)

### WPA Luncheon Program — April 16

Howard Dana, Catherine Senghas and Becky Blodgett will join us to explore UU engagement in urban community ministry. Catherine is Senior Minister and Executive Director at the UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. First Parish has a long history of deep engagement in this ministry. She will report on current activities. Howard will share the experience of his congregation's outreach in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Becky will talk about her community ministry experience as a chaplain. Social time: 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program. Everyone is welcome. Cost is \$10.00. Contact the office by April 13, or Dian Pekin at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) for reservations, or for food and transportation needs.

### Maundy Thursday and Chowder Lunch

Come join us on Thursday, April 17, for our traditional Maundy Thursday worship service at 11:00 a.m., followed by a chowder lunch. During worship we will share communion, using the congregation's centuries-old silver. Bring a simple salad, a loaf of bread, or a dessert to contribute to the meal. Or come join the staff at 9:30 a.m. to peel and chop potatoes and help prepare the chowder! All are welcome! No need to R.S.V.P.

### Cooperative Seder April 19—Tickets on Sale Today

Passover is the Jewish springtime festival that celebrates freedom from slavery. It commemorates the story of the Exodus, and echoes the freedom struggles of every oppressed group. Our annual First Parish Passover Seder is coming in April: come downstairs today to buy tickets and sign up to help out with a task. This year, we are exploring what a Passover meal might have been like in Jesus' time, with different food, and some small changes in our popular Seder (the order of service).

### You're Invited—Come Cook!

The Caring Connection of First Parish provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition (often from illness or family loss) as part of our shared pastoral care outreach. It's time for us to cook and restock our freezer. Come help! No experience or skills necessary; we provide recipes and provisions.

When: Friday, April 25

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Where: First Parish kitchen

All welcome! Breakfast snacks are served. It's a fun way to help out and connect to others. Please R.S.V.P. to Tracey Hurd at [thurd@aol.com](mailto:thurd@aol.com) or 978-369-2366.

### New Facilities Committee Being Formed

Parishioners are invited to join the new Facilities Committee (tentative name) being started by Richard (Kel) Keleher at the request of Doug Baker, our Sexton. This committee, acting under our present Policy Governance operation, will advise Doug on matters such as the performance of an energy audit, upcoming maintenance issues, priorities for building and grounds maintenance, budgeting, etc. If you can't join the committee, there will be opportunities to volunteer for individual hands-on projects. We'll keep the number of meetings minimal; much of the correspondence will be via email. If you are interested in either way of participating or need more information, please contact Kel at 978-944-2734 or [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com).

## Social Action Community

### South African Anti-Apartheid Champion and Mandela Colleague to Speak Today at 3:00 p.m. at Kerem Shalom

Albie Sachs, an anti-apartheid activist appointed by President Nelson Mandela in 1994 as a judge on South Africa's First Constitutional Court, has been named the UMass Lowell 2014 Greeley Scholar for Peace Studies. Today he will discuss his work and that of the anti-apartheid movement. Sachs' presentation, entitled "Finding Soft Vengeance in a Violent World," is free of charge and open to the public. Reservations are strongly encouraged as seating is strictly limited. To reserve seats contact Bob Rosenbaum at 978-263-5309 or [bob@littleoaklane.com](mailto:bob@littleoaklane.com).

## Children's and Youth News

### This Week, April 13 – Regular RE Week

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

9:00 & 11:00 a.m. – Services

K–1st Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE on the Lower Level

2nd–5th Grades – Middle RE – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Emerson Room

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Community Garden, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

7th Grade – Brooks Room, 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. – 8th grade – Meet at Emerson Umbrella for Earth Day puppet and float making

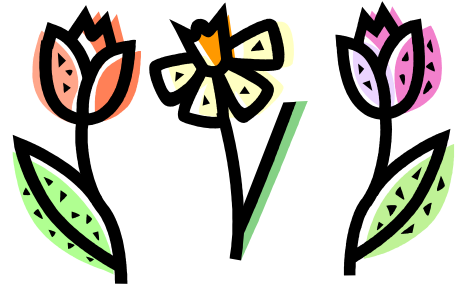
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – 9th–12th Grades Youth Group in the Wright Tavern – Making Easter eggs for the Hunt.

**Tuesday, April 15, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.** – YAC (Youth Advisory Council) in the Ripley Room

**Next Week, April 20 – Easter – Intergenerational Service,** followed by an Easter Egg Hunt

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

10:30 a.m. – West Virginia travelers meet at **Keyes Road parking lot** (behind Middlesex Savings Bank)



Howard's email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Tony's email: [tfisher@firstparish.org](mailto:tfisher@firstparish.org)

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

Questions or concerns about domestic violence?  
Call the Domestic Violence Services Network Help Line:  
888-399-6111