

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 7, 2014

This Week

Sun., Dec. 7	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Sunday Forum
Tue., Dec. 9	9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:30 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Vegan Potluck
Wed., Dec. 10	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:00 First Parish Choirs
Thu., Dec. 11	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 Reverence for Life
Sat., Dec. 13	9:00 Photography Club 2:00 <i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i> 7:00 <i>You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown</i>
Sun., Dec. 14	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 3:00 WPA Concert and Tea 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, December 16.
Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.
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.

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The December Pastoral Care Lay Minister from December 1 to 13, is Bev Bringle. Bev can be contacted at 978-369-4793 or bevbringle@yahoo.com. Dana Snyder-Grant is the Pastoral Care Lay Minister from December 14 to December 31. Dana can be reached at danasg@newview.org or 978-760-1129.

Pastoral Care Needs You

Our wonderful Pastoral Care program needs more volunteers to help reach out to those who are going through a time of illness, injury, bereavement or difficult transition, and those who aren't able to come to First Parish (FP) any longer. Please help support and keep them connected to FP. There are so many ways you can help. The Pastoral Care Volunteer form will be included in the order of service today, but you can always find copies on the Pastoral Care bulletin board located in the hallway on the lower level. Thank you for helping to make FP a caring congregation.

—Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Information Table at Coffee Hour Today

Stop by the Pastoral Care table at coffee hour this morning if you have any questions or comments, or wish to volunteer, or just to say hello.

Memorial Poinsettias

Come to the poinsettia table at coffee hour if you wish to donate a plant in memory of a loved one. Their name and yours will be included in a memorial listing in the December 21 order of service, and the poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary throughout the holidays. To donate, please visit the poinsettia table at coffee hour

following the December 7 and 14 services, contact Ellen Whitney at ellewhitney@verizon.net, or 978-369-7434, or leave a note and donation (suggested amount \$20) in the office before December 15. Deliveries of Christmas poinsettias will take place on December 26, at 10 a.m. Bring good cheer to a parish member and perhaps meet someone for the first time. Contact Caitlin Selle at 978-371-3915 or selle.caitlin5@gmail.com, or visit the poinsettia table to sign up to deliver flowers or if you know someone who would appreciate a flower delivery.

Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath has been located at the front of the Sanctuary since the first Sunday in Advent. It 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.

—Judy Dembsey, Pastoral Care Council.

Holiday Concert and Tea—Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.

The Women's Parish Association cordially invites you to add sparkle to your holiday season by attending its annual Holiday Concert and Tea on Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m. Siri Smedvig with the Egg Rock Quartet will offer a program of lovely holiday and classical music in the Sanctuary, followed by a traditional tea in the Parish Hall and Parlor. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are requested for food planning purposes. Contact the office or Pekindc@comcast.net by December 11 to make reservations. If possible, bring a nicely plated offering of sweets to share. All men, women and youth are warmly invited.

Beyond Finances—Sunday, December 14, 9:00 a.m.

After productive meetings about financial priorities for First Parish, the Standing Committee (SC) plans to host open discussions about visions for the future. Do you see us a focus for the arts, for social action, for spirituality, for community education, for self-education? Do we want more engagement with local faith communities, more with the denomination? The parish community already has initiatives in all these directions. Do we want to go in other directions too? The first meeting is planned for Sunday morning December 14, at 9 a.m. in the Chapel. We will use the time to raise ideas and plan topics for further discussion. The session will be moderated by Mark Richards and SC members Dave Elwood and Alec Walker. We hope to see you there.

Concord Women's Chorus—Saturday, December 20, 3:00 p.m.

The Concord Women's Chorus will perform their winter concert, “A Ceremony of Carols,” at First Parish on Saturday, December 20, at 3 p.m.. This concert features Britten's beloved cantata and Rutter's companion piece, “Dancing Day,” both with harp. A festive reception will follow. Buy tickets at coffee hour today, at www.concordwomenschorus.org, or at the door. Sponsored by the Music Events Committee.

Christmas Caroling—Tuesday, December 23, 2:00 p.m.

This is what the Christmas season is all about! Children and adults are invited to bring the gift of musical cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. We will meet at the church at about 1:45 p.m., and carpool to area nursing homes to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot

chocolate together. All are welcome. Please feel free to bring cookies to share. For more information, please contact Lora Venesy at 978-254-5433 or venesy@comcast.net.

Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. A few of us are thinking that we might begin making bouillon the first Sunday in January, like we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? And that smell drifting upstairs. We need volunteers. Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing and serving during the First Parish Café, serving during social hour, or cleaning up after? Please email Kel at kel@rkeleher.com or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested. Thanks!

Nominations for First Parish Standing Committee

The Nominating Committee, charged with identifying nominees to serve on the First Parish Standing Committee, is accepting nominations now through the end of the year. Nomination forms are available at the Welcome Table during coffee hour. Contact Alane Wallis, 978-505-7363 or alanewallis@gmail.com, with any questions. Thank you.

Social Action Community

Give the Gift of Language for a Holiday Gift!

Dave and Diane Clapp will be selling holiday gift cards during the December pre- and post-coffee hour to benefit the Framingham Adult ESL program where they volunteer. Over 700 students of all ages, 18 and older, from 40 different countries with 25 languages represented are enrolled, with 400 on the waiting list. A gift card can support students and the program with anything from textbooks and easel pads to U.S. Citizenship student costs for one semester. For questions about volunteering, or if you would like some cards if we miss you at coffee hour, contact Diane or Dave Clapp at 781-257-5025.

Vegan Potluck Dinner and Holiday Songs

Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Chris Randall will lead us in a singalong of holiday songs. Please bring your own beverage and a dish (4 to 6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Also bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and cleanup. And attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Children are welcome. Creative fun at the children's craft table is provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-3690636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Reverence for Life—Thursday December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Come join our Reverence for Life (RFL) team at our December meeting, Thursday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Come to listen or to join in. We are a group interested in promoting the last line of our benediction, "Honor all beings." We need ideas and energy to broaden and enhance our program, so please come and see what you think. No commitment. Please contact Diana Shoemaker Kelly, shoefolk@comcast.net, Lyell Slade, llsrvd@netscape.net, or Brooks Stevens, stevensbrady@comcast.net, for more information.

GLBTQ Holiday Potluck Dinner at First Parish in Bedford

Friday, December 12, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer (GLBTQ) people and families from Bedford and our surrounding communities are invited to a Holiday Potluck Dinner at The First Parish, 75 Great Road, Bedford, Friday night, December 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. This event is

geared toward sharing good food and conversation, and celebrating who we are. We encourage you to bring an appetizer, salad, entrée or dessert to share. Please note that this is not a religious event but a warm and welcoming place for support and connection. Help us spread the word! For questions or more information, contact Rev. Megan Lynes at mlynes@uubedford.org or call 781-275-7994.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, December 7 – Regular RE Week

9:50 a.m. – Regular Classes, Babies-Preschool

10:00 a.m. – Service

Kindergarten – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the lower level classrooms

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

2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Greeley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room, pickup on the Parish Hall Stage

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room, pickup on the Parish Hall Stage

6th & 7th Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Wright Tavern Sunporch

8th Grade Drama – Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Rehearsal at 4:00 p.m.

YAC – Wright Tavern Sunporch – 6:00 p.m.

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

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2nd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Emerson Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Emerson Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room, pickup on the Parish Hall Stage

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room, pickup on the Parish Hall Stage

6th & 7th Grades – Begin in the Sanctuary and dismissed to the Wright Tavern Sunporch

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

This Friday and Saturday—*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

This Friday and Saturday, the First Parish 8th Grade Players will be presenting the musical production *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Based on the beloved Peanuts characters, it appeals to all ages and will make a great holiday outing for all First Parish families. Performances will be December 12, at 7 p.m.; and December 13, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Please come and support our 8th graders. \$10 per family, \$30 family maximum.

Rev. Howard Dana's email: hdana@firstparish.org

Rev. Marion Visel's email: mvisel@firstparish.org

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

Visit our website at firstparish.org