

THE SUNDAY NEWS

January 18, 2015

This Week

Sun., Jan. 18 **Sunday Service at 10:00**
Tue., Jan. 20 Meeting House Newsletter Deadline
7:00 Amnesty International
7:30 Finance Committee
Wed., Jan. 21 9:30 Buddhist Group
11:30 WPA Luncheon
4:30 - 9:00 First Parish Choirs
Thu., Jan. 22 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Jan. 23 7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., Jan. 25 **Sunday Service at 10:00**
11:30 Sunday Forum
6:30 Transylvanian Pilgrimage Report
to the Congregation

Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, January 20.
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

Today: Hot bouillon will be served after the 10:00 a.m. service. Come downstairs and try some of this delicious tradition.

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The January Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Sue Dobbie. Sue can be reached at susandobbie@gmail.com or 978-501-6969.

Worship—Sunday, January 25, 10:00 a.m.

“Good News Abounds”

Brian Chenowith and the First Parish Choir

Sunday Forum—Sunday, January 25, 11:30 a.m.

Is Caring the Secret to Happiness?— Bill Seaver, speaker

Worship Sharing Circle

After the service, parishioners will gather in Rev. Dana’s study to take turns sharing what stood out for them about the service. This simple event runs from 11:10 to 11:30 a.m. and is open to everyone.

The Fruits of Our Friendship—Continuing Our Relationship With Our Transylvanian Partners

Twenty travelers went to Transylvania in November, returning home with Howard and Beth after sharing once more in our deepening relationships with our friends in Keresztur. On Sunday, January 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, They will have a special opportunity to share their experiences with the congregation. There will be some very special Hungarian desserts, followed by songs, stories and pictures. You won’t want to miss this!

Women’s AM/PM Book Group

For January, the Women’s Book Group will be discussing *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor. The evening session will be Monday, January 26, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning on Tuesday, January 27, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Both will meet in the Brooks Room at First Parish. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women’s Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Join a Covenant Group

One of the long-term covenant groups is looking for additional members. Men and women, young and old, are welcome. This group thinks married couples benefit from being in covenant groups, but they prefer not to have spouses in the same group. This group meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. If you are interested or have questions, contact Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org.

You’re Invited to Come Cook on Wednesday, February 4

As you know, the Caring Connection of First Parish provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition (often because of illness or family loss) as part of our shared pastoral care outreach. We are going to cook and you’re invited. Come help! No experience or skills necessary; we supply the recipes and provisions. Breakfast snacks will be served.

Date: Wednesday, February 4

Time: 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Place: First Parish kitchen

If we have many volunteers, we may consider two shifts (please indicate your interest or availability). Prep and Cooking: 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. Finishing Cooking, Packaging, Labeling and Stocking Freezer: 10:30 a.m. to noon. Come help out, enjoy some breakfast, and connect to others. R.S.V.P. to Tracey Hurd (thurd@aol.com or 978-369-2366) and indicate if you are interested in one or both shifts.

WPA Luncheon Meeting—Wednesday, January 21

Join old and new friends at the Women’s Parish Association’s luncheon meeting on Wednesday, January 21. Social time: 11:30 a.m. Lunch: 12:00 p.m., followed by the program. In a slide presentation of their recent pilgrimage to Transylvania, Concord parishioners who visited our partner church community in Székelykeresztúr will show highlights of their trip. Cost of the luncheon is ten dollars. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net by January 18 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements. All women and men are cordially invited.

Social Action

Sarah Chayes Speaking on Thursday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m.

You might remember Sarah Chayes, who came to Concord a few years ago to raise funds to rebuild a village outside Kandahar, Afghanistan. Chayes became familiar with Afghanistan while reporting for NPR following the U.S. intervention there. While in Afghanistan, Chayes reported on the corruption that perpetuated both the U.S. intervention in Afghanistan and the public corruption

in Afghanistan. Chayes's newest book, *Thieves of State*, is due out January 19. Learn more about Chayes's new book here: <http://www.thievesofstate.com>. On January 29, Chayes will speak about her current work in Nigeria, and also about her experiences in Afghanistan. This event is free and open to the public.

Social Action Grant Application Deadline Is Friday, January 30

The Social Action Community's Grant Application deadline is January 30. Each year, First Parish allocates 7.5 percent of annual pledge income to the SAC Council. The Council distributes this grant money to local, national and international organizations. Grant award priority is given to these new concepts and ventures. Please keep in mind that grant applications must be sponsored by a First Parish pledging member. Further details and the application can be found at <http://bit.ly/1xJgxu2> or by contacting Wendy Holt wendyholt48@yahoo.com or Bethany Lowe blowe@firstparish.org.

Volunteer to be a Grant Reader

Last year the Social Action Community Council invited parishioners to read and comment upon grant applications. The ratings and comments we received were a valuable addition to our decision making. This year we are again inviting parishioners to be grant readers. The commitment would involve an optional orientation meeting in early February. Readers will be asked to read five to seven short grant applications and complete a one-page review form. Applications will be distributed during the second week in February, and ratings will be due at the end of the month. Please contact Wendy Holt (wendyh@dmahealth.com) if you are interested in exploring this opportunity.

"Inequality for All," Screening and Moderated Discussion Friday, January 30, at 7:00 p.m.

The Denominational Affairs Committee invites you to a screening of Robert Reich's gripping film about the origins and corrosive effect of income disparity in America. First Parishioner and Massachusetts State Representative Cory Atkins, who brought this film to the community in October, will introduce the evening. Fred Van Deusen will moderate the follow-up discussion, starting with further materials Reich has provided. Atkins will be on hand to field questions on legislative action. The film is in line with the UUA's current Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of income disparity, and it may be the chance to kick off deeper engagement with UU's everywhere on the CSAI.

Funderburg Scholars Dinner on Saturday, February 7

Join us on Saturday, February 7, for the Funderburg Scholars fundraising dinner at church. Help Roxbury youth attend and graduate from college while you enjoy a nice meal with great company. These engaging students will tell stories about their college experiences. No fixed "price"—donate what feels right to you at the dinner. Reserve your place at dinner at coffee hour today, by calling Loretta Ho Sherblom's cell at 508-935-6750, or by emailing her at Loretta@LHSBenefits.com. Join us for wine and cheese at 6:30 p.m., dinner by Sven Olson at 7:15 p.m.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, January 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Intergenerational Service, No Regular RE

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

January 23 -25 – 9th grade – COA Winter Retreat at Camp Takodah

Next Week, January 25-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

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

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Emerson Room

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to RE in the Emerson Room

6th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, dismissed to the Wright Tavern

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – 11:00 a.m. meet at First Parish for visit to Holy Family

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 to 6:00 in the Emerson Room

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

Saturday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m.

Rock 'n' Roll Bingo Fundraiser for Youth Group Service Trip

On Saturday, January 31, the Youth Group will lead a night of Rock 'n' Roll Bingo. This event will be open to folks of all ages and families of all sizes. Pizza and homemade chili will be sold at the event. Youth will lead many rousing rounds of bingo. Each time a "bingo" is announced, we'll celebrate with music. Dancing will be encouraged. There will also be a silent auction of toys, games, babysitting services, etc. All proceeds will go to support the Youth Group's service trip to New York City this coming February. Please come and support the efforts of our youth to make their service trip financially sustainable.

Seeking a Garden Coordinator for 2015

Are you a gardener? Would you like to take on coordinating our First Parish plots in the Hugh Cargill Community Garden? We are hoping to be able to continue this hands-on spiritual practice that supports our social justice and environmental mission. If you are interested, please contact Dawn Van Patten dvanpatten@firstparish.org before February 1.

Teachers Needed

Thank you to the folks who have stepped up to fill open teaching spots. Teachers are still needed for the upcoming Winter and Spring terms to teach elementary-age RE classes. Please contact Dawn Van Patten, dvanpatten@firstparish.org, for more information.

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

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

Brian Chenowith's email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

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