

THE SUNDAY NEWS

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA 01742

March 1, 2015

This Week

Sun., Mar. 1	Celebration Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 New to UU Orientation 11:30 Sunday Forum 4:00 RE Conversations
Mon., Mar. 2	7:00 RE Conversations
Tue., Mar. 3	1:30 First Tuesday Group
Wed., Mar. 4	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 RE Conversations 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs 6:00 Arts Council 7:00 Concord Area Humanists 7:30 Environmental Leadership Group
Thu., Mar. 5	10:00 RE Conversations 1:00 Finding Meaning in Later Life 7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Mar. 6	6:00 Denominational Affairs Meeting
Sun., Mar. 8	Sunday Service at 10:00 9:00 "Investing Your Values" Discussion 11:30 New to First Parish Orientation 11:30 Sunday Forum 11:30 Nominating Committee 6:00 Standing Committee

All Are Invited to the Ordination of Rachel Baker
Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m., Offsite
First Parish in Bedford, 75 The Great Road

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The March Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Dana Snyder-Grant. Dana can be reached at danag@newview.org or 978-266-9409.

"Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving"

The two-session workshop originally scheduled for Saturdays, February 21 and 28, has been postponed to *Saturdays, March 28 and April 11*, because the weather intruded on people's ability to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the front office next to the volunteer desk, or contact Fred Van Deusen at FredVanDeu@gmail.com or 978-369-0435.

"Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life"

The six-session program based on "*Lasting Words*" by Claire Willis originally scheduled for Thursday afternoons, February 26 – April 2 has been postponed until *Thursday afternoons, March 26 – April 30*. To register for this program, contact Sue Dobbie at 978-501-6969 or susandobbie@gmail.com or sign-up on the clipboard in the front office next to the volunteers' desk.

Looking for Leaders—Terrific Tuesday

First Parish engages in a vast variety of terrific traditions. One of these traditions is the community Lenten meals. Terrific Tuesdays

(or Marvelous Mondays or Fantastic Fridays) have been a wonderful community building opportunity for many years. Each week during the time of Lent, the congregation has gathered together for a delicious meal cooked by members of a committee (or a potluck). The meal was followed by an evening worship service. After vespers there were a number of different programs, including religious education and theological discussion for adults, multiage projects, and other activities. This tradition is well attended and much loved. Would you like to help carry this tradition into the future? This year we are looking for leaders to plan, facilitate and lead these wonderful evening activities in March. If you are interested, send an email to Rachel Baker at rbaker@firstparish.org. She will connect you with others who also express interest.

The First Tuesday Group (65+) "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"

Tuesday, March 3, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Brian Chenoweth, Ministerial Intern, will lead us in a discussion about how our lives have been shaped by those whom we admire, especially our mentors. Who inspired us? How has that made us who we are today? And how have we stepped into the mentor role? The First Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:00 p.m., and don't worry about your age. All are welcome; you determine whether the topic is for you. Hope to see you there! Tuesday Group Steering Committee: Berni Jenkins (contact person), berni.jenkins@verizon.net or 978-369-2876; Bob Andrews, Mary Clarke, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Bill Maxwell, Jack Nevison and Virginia Taylor.

Responding to Escalating Inequality—Talk and Discussion Led by Chuck Collins—March 6, 7:00 p.m. Parlor

Join our investigation of the UUA's study/action question on Escalating Inequality. Sponsored by the Denominational Affairs Committee, this is the second event in a multiyear learning and acting process. Chuck Collins is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies, where he directs the Program on Inequality and the Common Good (www.inequality.org). Chuck will discuss why our national conversation about how to address the challenge of inequality is stuck and polarized, and what we can do about it. He will also bring news from the UU National Conference on Income Inequality and lead a discussion following his talk.

Sunday Forum March 8, 11:30 a.m.

The Search for Earth 2.0, Prof. Sara Seager, MIT

Exoplanets are planets that orbit stars other than the sun. Thousands of exoplanets are known to exist and motivate the prime goal to find and identify a planet like Earth—an "Earth 2.0." Two recent factors make this goal achievable in the near term. First, astronomers have now ascertained, statistically speaking, that every star in our Milky Way Galaxy should have at least one planet and that small rocky planets are extremely common. Second, engineers have matured the required technology for the sophisticated space telescopes capable of discovering Earth-like exoplanets. For the first time in human history we therefore say with certainty that we are on the verge of being able to search for signs of life beyond our solar system, by way of atmospheric gases produced by life, on planets orbiting the nearest hundreds of stars.

“New to First Parish in Concord” Orientation

Sunday, March 8, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff and lay leaders, find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book. Childcare available. R.S.V.P. to rbaker@firstparish.org by Wednesday, March 4.

Tufts Humanist Chaplaincy—Wednesday, March 4, 7:00 p.m.

Concord Area Humanists will present Walker Bristol, Tufts’ Humanist in Residence. He serves the chaplaincy needs of non-religious, Humanist, or otherwise nontraditional students. He offers spiritual caregiving, and works with other campus chaplains to meet needs of the student community whether part of organized religion or not. Join Walker to explore. Next month on Wednesday, April 1, author David Niose, past president AHA, will discuss his book *“Fighting Back the Right: Reclaiming America from the Attack on Reason.”* For more, go to www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org and click on Events.

Children’s and Youth News

This Week, March 1 — Regular RE Week

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

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

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

4th and 5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Chapel; released to coffee hour

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – meet at First Parish at 10:00 a.m. for Grace Chapel service

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

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

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

Next Week, March 8 — Regular RE Week

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

2nd and 3rd Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to the Emerson Room

4th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Bulkeley Room, released to coffee hour

5th Grade – Begin in the Sanctuary, and dismissed to RE in the Brooks Room, released to coffee hour

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – meet at First Parish at 10:00 a.m. for Grace Chapel service

8th Grade – OWL – 4:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m., Emerson Room

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

RE Conversations

You are invited to join the **Religious Education Council, Reverend Howard Dana, and Interim Director Merrill Comeau** to discuss Religious Education at First Parish. What have you experienced in the past? What do you hope for the future? Seven Religious Education Congregational Conversations are scheduled in February and March (see dates/time below.) We will mine our history and envision our future. Broadly speaking, this is an opportunity to engage in an open discussion of learning at First Parish. Specifically, the information gathered will help to identify priorities for Religious Education programming and for the Director of Religious Education job description that will be used in the search for the next DRE. Please help us to nurture and sustain the culture of learning at First Parish. Lend your voice and share your understanding at this important time of transition. The Standing Committee is eager to hear what we discover and encourages everyone’s input. As we sing to our children during services: “Let us open our eyes to see what is beautiful, let us open our minds to seek what is true, let us open our hearts to love one another. . .” Come join in! Please sign up in the church office or email mcomeau@firstparish.org to reserve your spot.

Schedule of Religious Education Congregational Conversations:

Today, 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Monday March 2, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday March 4, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday March 5, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Sunday March 8, time TBD

Social Action

Communities Reaching Out to Support Homeless Families

Today, March 1, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

First Parish in Bedford, 75 Great Rd., Rt. 62, Bedford Center Programs:

- Homelessness Comes To Bedford: How A Community Responds, Bedford Housing Task Force
- Secure Jobs Partnership: Providing families with resources to obtain and maintain employment
- Eliminating Barriers To Employment
- Challenges of Mass Homelessness Programs and Key advocacy Issues for 2015
- How State Government Can Help: Comments from lawmakers
- Meet leaders of area homelessness and housing organizations: 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Free and open to all. See www.endfamilyhomelessness.net.

“Investing Your Values” Discussion

Sunday, March 8, 9:00 a.m.

Come to this discussion on how we invest with our values. Bethany Lowe, Director of Social Action, will lead us in a discussion of how we balance our desires to see a return on our investments and invest in companies that promote our personal values. We will not seek to inform how you invest, but ask you to examine how your current investment philosophy does or does not reflect your values. We will not provide investment advice, though resources on how to invest with your values will be provided. All are welcome. Coffee, tea and light snacks will be available.

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

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

Brian Chenowith’s email: bchenowith@firstparish.org

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org