

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

March 15, 2015

This Week

Sun., Mar. 15	Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Congregational Discussion on Divestment 11:30 Membership Team Meeting 11:30 Sunday Forum 4:00 Rachel Baker Ordination—Offsite 5:00 Oriana Consort
Tue., Mar. 17	Meeting House Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:00 Taizé-Style Vespers Service
Wed., Mar. 18	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs 6:00 Community Dinner
Thu., Mar. 19	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Mar. 20	7:00 Jewish Awareness Group
Sun., Mar. 22	Sunday Service at 10:00 11:30 Sunday Forum 2:00 Advocacy Skills Workshop 3:30 The Future of Water Discussion

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.

Pastoral Care Table at Coffee Hour Today

Stop by the Pastoral Care table at coffee hour this morning. Information will be available regarding these two upcoming programs: “Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life” and “Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving” We’d love to hear from you if you have any questions or comments, wish to volunteer, or just want to say hello. —Pastoral Care Council

“Finding Meaning through Reflection in Later Life”

This six-session program based on “Lasting Words,” by Claire Willis, is scheduled for 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.

“Coping with the Challenges of Caregiving”

The two-session workshop is scheduled for Saturdays, March 28 and April 11. 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.

The Conversation Project—Important Talk (2 sessions)

Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care, will help us explore the Conversation Project Starter Kit. The Conversation Project (CP) emphasizes having a conversation about values; what matters to you, not what’s the matter with you. Copies of the Conversation Starter Kit will be provided to help you to think about and talk about your wishes for care at the end of life. And how to talk with family members about their wishes at the end of their life. This isn’t about filling out forms; it’s about talking about

what you and they want for end-of-life care based on values. We will meet **Sunday, March 29, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** to review the CP Starter Kit and to talk about what holds us back from having the conversation (Emerson Room). We will meet again on **Sunday, April 26, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** (Emerson Room) to talk about our successes and stumbling blocks. No need to sign up; just show up!

Cooperative Seder Ticket Sales Today

Come on down to the Seder table at coffee hour in the Parish Hall, get your questions answered, sign up for a task, and get yourself a ticket for this April 11, 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. event. Tickets are \$18 for everyone 13 to 80. Over 80 or under 7 are free; 7-12, \$5. New this year: two or more young people, half price. Join a celebration of freedom that’s thousands of years old. No experience necessary. Price includes all-you-can-eat food, wine or grape juice for all, and the very popular “leftovers for sale” right after the meal. For more information, contact Jim Snyder-Grant at 508 572-2985 or write to the team at fpseder@googlegroups.com.

Congregational Discussion on Divestment Today, March 15, 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome today to help consider draft language for a potential warrant article on divestment for this year’s First Parish Annual Meeting in June. The Divestment subgroup of the Environmental Leadership Team is meeting today to consider draft language to augment the Socially Responsible Investment commitment already in place at First Parish. The Divestment subgroup has been meeting over the past year and working alongside the Standing Committee, Trustees and the Environmental Leadership Team to research the current fossil fuel divestment movement and possible action on the part of our congregation. This inquiry is spurred by the divestment commitment adopted at General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association last year, and also the recent vote at Concord Town Meeting. Please come to ask any questions you have, and give input on how you’d like First Parish to respond to this international movement. Can’t make it today? Join us for conversations on Sundays April 12 and May 17, at 11:30 a.m. Or questions and comments can go to Bruce Blumberg (ELT), Laura Bernstein (Trustees), Bob Andrews (ELT), Kate Crosby (Standing Committee), or Bethany Lowe (FP staff).

Membership Team—Today, March 15, 11:30 a.m.

The new and revitalized Membership Team has come together! All are welcome to meet on the third Sunday of every month through June. We will be thinking creatively about how to be the most welcoming congregation we can be. We will step up to do the actual work of welcoming new people onto the path toward membership. Would you like to be present at the Welcome Table during coffee hour to answer questions about the congregation? Would you like to learn how to lead a visitor reflection circle? Curious about how to get involved? Come join us today, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ordination of Rachel Baker

Today, March 15, 4:00 p.m., Offsite

First Parish in Bedford cordially invites the members and friends of First Parish in Concord to witness and celebrate the Ordination of Rachel Allen Baker to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Clergy and seminarians are invited to robe and process at 3:30 p.m. Reception to follow. 75 The Great Road, Bedford, Massachusetts.

Oriana Consort at First Parish, Today, March 15, 5:00 p.m.

Director Walter Chapin and Assistant Director Caroline Harvey will lead the group in “Three Choral Visions: Musical Responses to Adversity.” Francis Poulenc’s “Un soir de neige” uses winter and snow as metaphors for the Nazi occupation of France. William Byrd’s “Mass for Five Voices” was written to be sung in secret at a time when Catholics were under oppression. And Leonard Bernstein’s “Chichester Psalms” cries out, “Why do the nations rage?” as a boy soprano, in contrast, gently sings the Twenty-Third Psalm. Please visit OrianaConsort.org for tickets.

Taizé-Style Vespers Service on Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 p.m.

Join Beth Norton, Bethany Lowe and others for a contemplative, candlelit worship service of songs, poetry, scripture and silence in the Taizé tradition. This Taizé-style service is inspired by water, a sacred resource that we all depend on.

Community Dinner, Wednesday, March 18

Please join us in the Parish Hall for an intergenerational community dinner on Wednesday, March 18, 6-8 p.m. Hosted by members of the Standing and Nominating Committees, this simple church supper will include the following menu: appetizers, pasta with three options (marinara [vegetarian/vegan], meatball and pesto), bread, salad, cookies and brownies. Please feel free to bring your own beverages. \$5/person with a maximum of \$20/family. R.S.V.P.’s are greatly appreciated so that we know how many to cook for, but walk-ins are also welcome. R.S.V.P. to Kate Svrcek at katesvrcek@hotmail.com or sign up on the board outside the office. Kate is also taking requests for gluten-free pasta.

“20 Years Later”—Dr. Rev. Sándor Kovács

On Thursday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., the Partner Congregation Committee will present “An Evening with Dr. Rev. Sándor Kovács: “20 Years Later.” Rev. Kovács is the current Balázs Scholar at Starr King School; he is an Associate Professor at the Protestant Theological Institute in Cluj (Kolozsvár), Transylvania, where he teaches church history and the history of religion. He will present a historical review leading up to modern Transylvanian reality, changes in culture, and the ramifications for Hungarian Unitarians in the region, as well as new initiatives in interfaith conversations there. Dessert and beverages will be served.

Spring Flower Arranging Workshop

Saturday, March 28, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Please join Flower Committee members Val Vallancourt and Ellen Whitney for this hands-on workshop. We’ll show you how to get started, select and process flowers, design and add structure to arrangements. Spring flowers and vases will be provided. Cost is \$30 per person. Sign up before March 23. Limited to 12 participants. Contact Ellen Whitney at ellewhitney@verizon.net or Val Vallancourt at valvallancourt@gmail.com—or use the clip board sign up on the wall beside the volunteer desk. If the cost is a hardship for you and you would like to participate, please reach out to Ellen or Val at the emails above.

Social Action

Advocacy Skills Workshop on Sunday, March 22, at 2:00 p.m.

Seize this opportunity to educate yourself and do something about policies that contribute to homelessness and legislation that addresses it. Miriam Stein, MSW, author of *Make Your Voice Matter with Lawmakers*, will facilitate this “no experience necessary” interactive workshop. The focus of our training will be on developing skills and comfort around communicating—over phone, email and in person—

with legislators. The free workshop will also demonstrate how to use the media to raise awareness about the crisis in family homelessness and solutions to it. Go to our website to learn more: <http://www.endfamilyhomelessness.net/advocacy/>. Email Jane Blumberg at jane_blumberg@me.com to sign up or if you have any questions.

Screening of “Cowspiracy”—Tuesday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m.

Have you considered reducing your intake of animal products? Perhaps you’re concerned about your health, or the environment, or the way animals are treated. Please join us on March 31 at 7:00 p.m. for a showing of “Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret.” While some object to the title, the film itself is an excellent exploration of the impacts of animal agriculture on our environment. Sponsored by the SAC Council and Reverence for Life.

Children’s and Youth News

This Week, March 15 — 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 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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – meet at First Parish at 11:10 a.m. for visit to Sri Lakshmi Temple

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

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

March 20-21 – Youth Group CityReach Retreat

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – meet at First Parish at 11:45 a.m. for visit to Islamic Center of Boston

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

9th-12th Grades, Youth Group – CityReach Retreat – No Youth Group

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