

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

May 10, 2015

This Week

Sun., May 10	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Mon., May 11	7:30 Denominational Affairs Committee
Tue., May 12	9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry 6:00 Vegan Potluck
Wed., May 13	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs 8:00 Reverence for Life 7:30 Environmental Leadership Meeting
Thu., May 14	7:30 Race Conversation 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., May 15	7:00 Jewish Affinity Group 7:30 WPA Mothers Night Out
Sun., May 17	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Forum 11:30 Divestment Subgroup 3:00 Photography Club Exhibit and Reception

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The May Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Bev Bringle. Bev can be reached at bevbringle@gmail.com or 978-369-4793.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new pledge year are in. They will be available downstairs after the services on Sunday’s, May 17 and 24, and June 7.

First Parish in Concord—Photo Club Exhibit and Reception

Please join us next Sunday, May 17, from 3 to 5 p.m., for fantastic photos, a 3D demonstration, a 30-minute slide show with seating, and more. Members will be glad to discuss their images and techniques, and to help you with your photographic questions. We look forward to seeing you, your family and friends. Yummy refreshments will be available as well as some items for sale. The First Parish Photography Club is a noncompetitive group for adults, from novice to professional. We meet to learn and socialize.

The Wright Tavern’s Future—Monday, May 18, 7:00 p.m.

A forum on the future of the Wright Tavern will be held by the American Revolution Round Table on May 18, 7 p.m., at the Minute Man National Historical Park visitor center. Among the questions to be addressed: why the Tavern is so important to Concord; and how and why First Parish in Concord became the owner of this celebrated historic site. A panel presentation will feature Concord historian Jayne Gordon, noted professor of early American history, and author Robert Gross, as well as a written historical commentary by the Curator of Special Collections Leslie Wilson of the Concord Public Library. Audience questions and comments will follow the panel. Those interested in attending should reserve a place with the moderator, Mel Bernstein, mbern9@gmail.com or 781-259-9926.

WPA Luncheon—Skyloom Dancers—Wednesday, May 20

On Wednesday, May 20 the Women’s Parish Association is presenting, as part of the Beyond Mother’s Day Series, a special luncheon program by the Skyloom Sacred Dance Group on Wednesday, May 20, which will portray an escape from slavery to freedom and a woman’s journey of transformation. The program will follow a delicious lunch, which will begin at noon. The cost of the luncheon is ten dollars. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net by May 17 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements. All women and men are cordially invited.

Flea Market—Saturday, June 6

The Women’s Parish Association is holding a multi-vendor Flea Market on Saturday, June 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in our Parish Hall, rain or shine. Table rentals are \$35.00 per table. Snacks and lunch items will be sold throughout the day. Contact the office or Dian Pekin right away at Pekindc@comcast.net to rent a table or to arrange for donations of high quality gift items to the WPA Table. Vendors will be selling a variety of items—including household items, jewelry, children’s items, antiques, collectibles, and so forth.

Annual Meeting 2015

The First Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2015. At the meeting, the congregation will receive reports from staff and committees, vote on officers and committee members, approve delegates to General Assembly, approve the budget for next year, and more. Who can vote at our Annual Meeting? Our bylaws state that First Parish members who have signed the Membership Book at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting may vote. So, if you are considering joining our community and would like to participate and vote, you must sign the book by Thursday, May 14, 2015 at the latest! Please see Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications for details. If anyone has any questions about the annual meeting or thoughts about warrant articles, please contact Mark Russell Prior by email at mark.russell.prior@comcast.net, by phone at 978-369-4901; or Moderator John Stevens by email at john_stevens43@comcast.net.

—Mark Russell Prior, chair, First Parish Standing Committee

Social Action

Vegan Potluck Dinner—Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish (4-6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy as well as bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and cleanup. Also, 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 978-369-0636 or lslrvd@netscape.net.

Support First Parishioner in the NAMI Walk on May 16

NAMI stands for National Alliance for Mental Illness. NAMI works hard every day to dispel misconceptions and educate the private and public sector by presenting facts and not stereotypes.

One in 5 American adults experience some kind of mental health condition in a given year. Additionally, 1 in 20 adults is living with a serious mental health condition. Mental health conditions do not discriminate. Those living with such conditions experience stigma, which can lead to hiding a condition. Even if you don't think you know anyone with a mental health condition, chances are you do. Funds raised at the walk on May 16 will support NAMI's efforts. First Parishioner Kristin Stiles-Hall (kstiles@firstparish.org) works closely with NAMI and can answer any questions you have. She will also be walking on May 16. To support her, or join her, go to namiwalks.nami.org/KristinSH.

5th Annual G.R.A.C.E Summit: Growing Racial and Cultural Equity

As movements build to confront such racialized injustices as police brutality, immigrant deportation, mass incarceration and threats to voting rights, UU congregations committed to racial justice are asking how to respond meaningfully, wondering if they are ready to respond and asking what readiness looks like. Some have already taken bold responsive steps. Participants at this year's GRACE Summit will consider "Ministries in the Era of Ferguson." The elements for our time together will include engaged, multicultural worship; the keynote speech by Rev. Bishop John Selders, minister at Amistad UCC in Hartford, Connecticut; testimonials from a few congregations about how they have taken responsive action and what they have learned in the process; conversation about how these issues are being discussed and dealt with in our congregations; and spiritual practices to keep us grounded and focused as we consider the onslaught of opportunities for engagement. This event, sponsored by the New England Region of the UUA, will be held on Saturday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson. First Parish in Concord is sending a team. If you are interested in joining this team, and then bringing the information learned back to our congregation, contact Bethany Lowe (Blowe@firstparish.org).

Divestment Discussion—Next Sunday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.
Please join us on Sunday, May 17, at 11:30 a.m. to discuss the proposed warrant article on fossil fuel divestment that will be considered at Annual Meeting on June 14. This is the final gathering scheduled before Annual Meeting, so come find out what it's all about and share your thinking. This dialogue on social and responsible investing (SRI) and divestment is spurred by the fossil fuel divestment commitment adopted at the UUA General Assembly last June and other divestment discussions under way around the world. Questions and comments? Please speak with Bruce Blumberg, Laura Bernstein, Bob Andrews, Kate Crosby or Bethany Lowe.

Children's and Youth News

This Week, May 10 — Regular RE Week—Mother's Day

9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, 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 Chapel, released to coffee hour

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Classroom Sunday – 10:00 to 11:15 a.m.

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

Next Week, May 17 — Regular RE Week – Youth Sunday

9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, 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 Emerson Room

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

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

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – Classroom Sunday 9:00 to 9:55 a.m. and attend Youth Service together at 10:00 a.m.

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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Visit our website at firstparish.org