

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

June 7, 2015

## This Week

Sun., Jun. 7	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:30 Celebration for Doug Baker's 35th Anniversary
Mon., Jun. 8	7:30 Congregational Conversation 2016 Budget 7:30 Denominational Affairs Meeting
Tue., Jun. 9	9:30 WPA Board Meeting 2:00 Shawl Ministry
Wed., Jun. 10	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 - 9:30 First Parish Choirs
Thu., Jun. 11	7:00 Race Conversations 7:30 Buddhist Group
Fri., Jun. 12	7:00 Economic Fairness Meeting
Sat., Jun. 13	9:00 Photography Club
Sun., Jun. 14	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:30 Annual Meeting 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting

## Parish Notes

### Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The June Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Dana Snyder Grant. Dana can be reached at [danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org) or 978-760-1129.

### Visiting or Considering First Parish?

If you would like us to be in contact with you, please fill out the Welcome Card found in the hymnals. You may place the cards in the offering plates or give them to the ushers.

### Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the new pledge year are in. They will be available downstairs after the service today.

### Summer Office Hours Start June 16

First Parish Summer Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., beginning Tuesday, June 16, and continuing through Friday, August 28. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

### It's Budget Review Time

Based on the pledges and other projected income for 2016, Rev. Dana, Fifi Ball, the Finance Committee, and the Standing Committee have developed a budget for 2016. Because we did not meet our pledge goal (we came close) and we heard a number of critical concerns from parishioners (thank you), we have developed a budget that should meet our priority needs. It will be submitted for a vote at the Annual Meeting on June 14. If you want to see a preview and engage with the Finance Committee on what, why and how, come to one of these two meetings: **today, from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.** (after Doug Baker's reception) and **Monday, June 8, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.** If you have questions, send them to Tom Wilson, our humble Treasurer, at [twilson@wilsongroup.com](mailto:twilson@wilsongroup.com). Hope to see you at a meeting.

### Intern Committee Seeks New Members

The Ministerial Intern Committee, which searches for, supports and advises First Parish interns, is seeking fresh faces to join its

ranks. The requirements are few — a love of First Parish; willingness to help guide each intern to become the best minister he or she can be; and diverse, inclusive perspectives. We are open to all and particularly encourage younger and young adult members to consider serving the Parish in this all-important way. First Parish has always been proud to be a "teaching congregation"; come join us! Contact Kate Keleher at [kate@rkeleher.com](mailto:kate@rkeleher.com) with interest or questions.

### Worship Sharing Circle—Every Sunday, 11:10 a.m.

**In Rev. Howard Dana's Study or on the Keresztúr Terrace**  
Everyone is invited to gather in Rev. Howard Dana's study or on the Keresztúr Terrace (weather permitting) to take turns sharing what stood out for them about the service. This simple opportunity to share, listen and get to know others starts soon after the service ends, around 11:10 a.m., and is open to everyone. First Parish volunteers are present to help facilitate this event.

### Doug Baker's 35th Anniversary—Today at Coffee Hour

Come to Celebrate Doug Baker's 35th Anniversary as our Sexton. Join us for coffee hour today as we extend a special thank-you to guest of honor Doug Baker for all that he does for First Parish! There will be special treats, so bring the entire family. This is our opportunity to let Doug know how much we appreciate his artistic talents, his dedication, his knowledge, his love of history, his kindness to parishioners "young and old and canine," and his stamina for putting up with us for 35 years!

### Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting

The Denominational Affairs Committee will hold its monthly meeting on June 8, at 7:30 p.m. It is important for all delegates to this year's General Assembly to attend. All who wish to learn more about the activities at GA or share information with those who are attending and representing First Parish are warmly invited. Other agenda items will include event planning for the fall. There will be home baked goodies!

### Americans for Economic Fairness Meeting

#### Friday, June 12, 7:00 p.m.

The "Escalating Inequality" group, formed here at First Parish earlier this year, has redefined itself to focus on goals rather than problems. Our new name is "Americans for Economic Fairness"; and our goals are economic fairness in elections, taxes, wages, education and healthcare. We hope our new and more inclusive title will encourage you to get involved with our group. It's a fine time to join with us as we identify and prioritize the work we want to do to learn, to raise awareness, and to partner with others. If you are interested, or just a little intrigued, please come to our next meeting on June 12, at 7 p.m. here at First Parish. For additional information, please contact Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeusen@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeusen@gmail.com).

### Annual Meeting 2015—Today at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

The First Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 14, 11:30 a.m. 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. All voters must check in and obtain ballots in

the parlor during coffee hour immediately after the service and prior to the meeting. 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. All members and friends are welcome to attend the meeting, but only signed members who check in and collect a voting slip may vote. If anyone has questions about the annual meeting or thoughts about warrant articles, please contact Mark Russell Prior by email at [mark.russell.prior@comcast.net](mailto:mark.russell.prior@comcast.net) by phone at 978-369-4901; or Moderator John Stevens by email at [john\\_stevens43@comcast.net](mailto:john_stevens43@comcast.net).  
—Mark Russell Prior, chair, First Parish Standing Committee

### **Party to Say Farewell to Brian Chenowith Saturday, June 20, 2:00 p.m.**

You are invited to come and celebrate Brian's ministry with First Parish at the home of Janet Bailey and Bob Brack at 1437 Sudbury Road in Concord. We will gather from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20, to say good-bye and congratulations to Brian as he concludes his ministry at First Parish and begins his life as Minister at the UU Church of Lexington, Kentucky. R.S.V.P. to Kate Keleher at [kate@rkeleher](mailto:kate@rkeleher).

### **Flower Communion—Sunday, June 21, 10:00 a.m.**

Brian Chenowith will lead the congregation through the traditional Unitarian Flower Communion, created by Norbert Capek [1870-1942], who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. Please bring a flower or two to contribute to the service. The flowers may come from your garden, a field, or the roadside. One interpretation of the flower communion states, "Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with our church community; it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus this service is a statement of our community. By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us. Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else—thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community. This communion of sharing is essential to a free people of a free religion." The congregation will say good-bye to Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications, Brian Chenowith, Ministerial Intern, and Merrill Comeau, Interim Director of Religious Education.

### **Welcome Corner**

The yellow-covered table in the Parish Hall during social hour is set with markers, temporary name tags, a name tag request form, and information about how to get involved at First Parish. Often someone will be near the Welcome Corner who is available to help you find your way.

## **Social Action**

### **Join the Race Conversations—Thursday, June 11, 7:00 p.m.**

Over the past few weeks, a group of parishioners has gathered twice to discuss how First Parish in Concord can address the racial injustice in our country. If you would like to join this discussion, join us on Thursday, June 11, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Bethany Lowe at [Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org) for more information.

### **Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13, at Noon**

A group from First Parish, organized by the Diversity Committee, will march with our large banner in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13; the parade begins at noon, starting in Copley Square. All are welcome to participate in this fun, family-friendly event, so please consider joining us and help us show our support for the LGBT community. You may sign up at coffee hour today, or contact Sara Ballard at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org) or 978-371-0723 with questions or to let her know you will attend. Car pools can be arranged.

### **Volunteer Sign-Up for Social Action and an Immediate Need**

The SAC Council has a new way to distribute information about volunteer opportunities in the community. We have started a Sign-Up Genius, which allows First Parishioners to sign up for one-time and regular volunteer opportunities in the local community. You can sign up ahead of time, or we will intermittently send last-minute calls to fill specific, direct-service opportunities to anyone registered with our group. If you'd like to stay in the loop about these local volunteer opportunities, contact Tricia Haut, [thaut@mac.com](mailto:thaut@mac.com); or sign up directly here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c44aaa82da13-first2>.

## **Children's and Youth News**

### **This Week, June 7—Regular RE Week**

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 Emerson Room, released to coffee hour

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

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

7th Grade – Neighboring Faiths – 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Closing Sunday – on the Wright Tavern Sunporch

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

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

### **Next Week, June 14 — Intergenerational Worship**

#### **No Regular RE**

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

10:00 a.m. – Service

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

### **The Following Week, June 21 — Flower Communion**

10:00 a.m. – No Child Care—Intergenerational Service

This was a beautiful service last year. We are hoping that families will come and be part of this special service. During coffee hour we will have a thank-you send-off for our Interim DRE, Merrill Comeau.

### **Summer Services**

Summer services begin at First Parish on June 28. Children and youth are welcome to join their families in the Sanctuary for worship. In lieu of staffed child care, family members may accompany a restless child to the vestibule, where there will be storage bins filled with age appropriate-activities. Please remain with your child(ren). Family members are welcome to make themselves comfortable on the rocking chairs or sofa and listen to audio of the service as their children play.

Rev. Howard Dana's email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)

Rev. Marion Visel's email: [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)

Brian Chenowith's email: [bchenowith@firstparish.org](mailto:bchenowith@firstparish.org)

Church Office—978-369-9602

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