

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

June 14, 2015

This Week

Sun., Jun. 14	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:30 Annual Meeting 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Tue., Jun. 16	7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:00 Vespers
Wed., Jun. 17	9:30 Buddhist Group
Thu., Jun. 18	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Jun 19	7:30 WPA Mother's Program
Sun., Jun. 21	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. Special Coffee Hour in the Herb Garden

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 or 978-760-1129.

Thanks for Food Contributions to Doug's 35th

We would like to thank Concord's Dunkin' Donuts and Crosby's Marketplace for their generous contributions to last Sunday's celebration of Doug's 35th anniversary. Please thank them the next time you visit them!

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 plate or give it to the ushers.

Summer Office Hours Start June 16

First Parish Summer Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., beginning this Tuesday, June 16, and continuing through Friday, August 28. Regular office hours, 9:00 to 3:00 will resume on Tuesday, September 2.

Racial Justice Vespers Service—Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m.

Join Beth Norton, Bethany Lowe and others for a contemplative, candlelit worship service of songs, poetry and silence. This vespers service is inspired by the current movement for racial justice in our country. We will ask how we as Unitarian Universalists can respond while acknowledging the inherent worth and dignity of people of color, and the police officers who are called to provide safety to all people. What are we called to do? How are we called to stand on the side of love?

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

Brian Chenowith will lead the congregation through the traditional Unitarian Flower Communion service 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."

Also the congregation will say good bye to Brian Chenowith, Ministerial Intern; Merrill Comeau, Interim Director of Religious Education; and Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications.

Special Coffee Hour—Sunday, June 21, 11:10 a.m.

The Women's Parish Association will host a special coffee hour in the Debby Greeley Herb Garden on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, immediately following the service.

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 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.

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

The First Parish Annual Meeting is scheduled for today at 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 or 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

Party to Say Farewell to Brian Chenowith

Saturday, June 20, 2:00 p.m.—Note Address Correction Below

You are invited to come and celebrate Brian's ministry with First Parish at the home of Janet Bailey and Bob Brack at **1347 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.

The Thoreau Society—"Thoreau's Sense of Place"

Register by June 15 for a Discount

Registration is now taking place for the Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. The keynote address by Robert Gross, Draper Professor of Early American History at the University of Connecticut, will be held at First Parish on Saturday, July 11, at 10:45 a.m. It is entitled "Henry David Thoreau and the Concord You Don't Know." A concert by jazz-blues trio Outrageous Fortune will also be held at First Parish, on Friday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m. A special worship service will be hosted by the Transcendentalism Council on Sunday, July 12, at 10:00 a.m.; Tom Potter, M.Div. and past president of the Thoreau Society, will give the sermon. Register by June 15 to receive a discount: info@thoreausociety.org or 978-369-5310.

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 can to help you find your way.

Social Action

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; or sign up directly here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c44aaa82da13-first2>.

Children's and Youth News

This 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.

Next Week, June 21 — Flower Communion

10:00 a.m. – No Child Care—Intergenerational Service
This was a beautiful service last year, and 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 in 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.

RE Registration Has Begun for 2015-2016

Registration for 2015-2016 has begun. This year registration is online, and you may register for both RE and the Children's Choir with one form. First Parish in Concord's Religious Education and Children's Choir Registration 2015-2016 is available on the First Parish homepage. Click on the yellow RE Registration button to get started: <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/>.



Questions or concerns about **domestic violence** or **suicide**?

Call...

Domestic Violence Services Help Line: 888-399-6111

Suicide Prevention Life Line: 800-273-TALK (8255)

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