

THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

December 13, 2015

This Week

Sun., Dec. 13	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Standing Committee Meeting 1:30 Eighth Grade Play 6:00 Standing Committee Meeting
Tue., Dec. 15	7:30 Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 Amnesty International Meeting 7:00 Diversity Committee Meeting 7:30 Blue Holiday Vespers
Wed., Dec. 16	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Dec. 17	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Dec. 18	7:30 Rise Up Caroling
Sun., Dec. 20	Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m. 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 1:00 Caroling through the Town 3:00 Barbara Forman Art Reception

Parish Notes

Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.”

The December Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Sue Dobbie.

Sue can be reached at Susandobbie@gmail.com or

978-456-8432, or bycell phone: 978-501-6969.

New to First Parish?

If you are new to First Parish (or not so new) and would like to speak with someone, please look for the friendly person holding a red mug at the First Parish Cafe (each Sunday 9-10 a.m.) or at coffee hour after the service.

Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath, located at the front of the Sanctuary, is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a ribbon to the wreath for those you wish to remember. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary through out the holidays. As we did last year, we invite you to tie a black ribbon on the wreath in memory of black lives lost to injustice.

Worship Sharing Circle

Everyone is invited to gather in Rev. Howard Dana’s study 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 11:15 a.m., and is open to everyone. First Parish volunteers are present to help facilitate this event.

Sunday Forum Today, December 13, 11:30 a.m.

“Clover Foundation: Disrupting the Cycle of Poverty for Young Children in Kampala, Uganda”

Clover Foundation (clover-foundation.org) is a Concord-based nonprofit that partners with the NGO Clover Uganda to provide early education, nutrition, and medical services at Clover Preschool for 40 children, ages one to six. Graduates of the preschool are then supported in a local private primary school. The forum will present the creation, current work, and vision of Clover as well as opportunities to volunteer locally and in Uganda.

First Parish Women’s Retreats—2016

“She Changes Everything She Touches and Everything She Touches Changes”

—1st Weekend Away: Friday evening, January 22 - Sunday afternoon, January 24, at Senexet House, Connecticut.

—2nd Weekend Away: Friday evening, January 29 - Sunday afternoon, January 31, at Senexet House, Connecticut.

—“At Home” Retreat: Friday evening, February 26, and morning through afternoon, Saturday, February 27, at First Parish.

This year’s retreats will focus on “She changes everything she touches . . .” as we share our time together. Banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, get to know each other, and explore what these words mean to us and how we manifest and incorporate change into our lives. All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome! Registration at coffee hour today, December 13. Registration forms will also be available in the church office. Questions? Contact Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

Diversity Committee—Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.

The Diversity Committee will meet this Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Ripley Room. We are currently planning events around racial justice work and transgender awareness education that will take place in the next couple of months. We encourage anyone who is interested in helping us make First Parish a more diverse and welcoming place to attend.

Blue Holiday’s Vespers, “Dark of Winter”

Tuesday, December 15, 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel

For those who are less than joyous this holiday season, come, breathe, and gather your thoughts in the quiet beauty of candles, music, and understanding. Rev. Marion Visel, Beth Norton and the By Your Side Singers will offer a holiday alternative, a quiet space to share reflective words of remembrance, solace and comfort. Though the winter holidays are not always merry, this time can be a time of loving kindness and gentle community. All are welcome.

Rise Up Caroling—Friday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.

Singers of all ages, please bring voices, instruments, and cookies to share. Carol lyrics and sheet music for instrumentalists are provided.

Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 20, 1:00 p.m.

This is what the Christmas season is all about! Children and adults are invited to bring the gift of musical cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. We will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m., and carpool to area nursing homes to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. All are welcome! Please feel free to bring cookies to share. For more information, contact Lora Venesy at 978-254-5433 or venesy@comcast.net.

Art Reception—December 20, 3:00 p.m.

The reception for Barbara L. Forman's art exhibit will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday December 20, in the Parish Hall. Highlighting acrylics and watercolors, artwork will be displayed on the stage and in Altshuler stairwell galleries. A 30-year Concord resident, the artist creates an exhibit with international and New England flavors. All are welcome.

Holiday Bells Are Ringing—Tuesday, December 22, 7:00 p.m.

Please join the Lincoln Ringers for their annual Candlelight Concert in the charming sanctuary of First Parish in Lincoln on Tuesday, December 22, at 7 p.m. You'll be treated to an evening of Christmas carols and holiday favorites, both sacred and secular. The concert is free—and all ages are welcome!

Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. A few of us are thinking that we might begin making bouillon the first Sunday in January, as we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? And that smell drifting upstairs? We need volunteers. Can you help one Sunday a month by buying, preparing and serving during the First Parish Café, serving during social hour, or cleaning up after? Please email Kel at kel@rkeleher.com or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested.

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The first book of the New Year for the Women's AM/PM Book Group will be *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join a discussion. The evening session will be held on Monday, January 25, 7:30-9:00 p.m., and the morning session on Tuesday, January 26, 9:30-11:00 a.m., both at First Parish in the Brooks Room. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com.



Social Action

Secret Santa This Season

Become a Secret Santa in three easy steps: 1. Select an organization and person to sponsor. 2. Purchase the wish list item or items of your choice and budget. 3. Bring the unwrapped gifts, with a name tag affixed, to coffee hour today, December 13. Again this year, we are sponsoring the Eliot Center (Lexington), Renewal House (Roxbury), and the Walden Street School (Concord). Volunteers still needed for the week of December 14-18 to deliver gifts. Thank you for your goodwill to others during this holiday season! For questions, contact Tricia Haut at triciahaut@gmail.com.

Religious Education News

This Week, December 13 –RE Classes

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

10:15 a.m. – “Folktales on Stage” RE Classes attend 8th Grade play, Parish Hall

Folktales on Stage

Today, December 13, at 10:15 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

First Parish 8th Grade players proudly present “Folktales on Stage.” The 10:15 a.m. performance is for the RE classes and the 1:30 p.m. one for family and friends. Directed by Katherine Akerley, “Folktales on Stage” presents a series of stories, poems and dances celebrating the variety of storytelling from around the globe. The stories come to us from South African, Japanese, and Caribbean origin. The cast illustrates humorous and heartwarming moments from each folktale as it was passed down originally, and even make, their own ties into modern-day culture.

Next Week, December 20 –Winter Solstice Intergenerational Service

9:50 a.m. – Little RE (0-4 years) – Lower Level

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service (No RE Classes)

Guest at Your Table Boxes

Guest at Your Table boxes support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. If you missed our Thanksgiving service and would like to participate, boxes are still available in the main and RE offices. *Please count up your total donations and write a check payable to the UUSC.* Return your checks to the basket in the RE Office anytime during the holiday season until Sunday, January 3. Contributions of \$40 or more earn you annual UUSC membership benefits. In addition, all contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. For more information, visit uus.org.

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at firstparish.org