

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

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

January 17, 2016

## This Week

Sun., Jan. 17	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum
Mon., Jan. 18	7:00 Auction Planning Meeting
Tue., Jan. 19	<b>Meeting House News Deadline</b> 7:00 Amnesty International 7:00 Denominational Affairs Committee 7:00 Diversity Committee
Wed., Jan. 20	9:30 Buddhist Group 4:30 Junior Choir 5:15 Chalice Choir 5:15 Gospel Singers 7:45 Adult Choir
Thu., Jan. 21	7:30 Buddhist Group 7:30 By Your Side Singers
Fri., Jan. 22	7:30 Rise Up Singing
Sun., Jan. 24	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.</b> 11:15 Worship Sharing Circle 11:30 Forum 7:00 Sarasa Concert

## Parish Notes

### Pastoral Care

"Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life." The January Pastoral Care Lay Minister is Virginia Taylor. Virginia can be reached at 978-263-9777, by cell phone 978-727-3619 or at [virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net](mailto:virginiarosstaylor@verizon.net).

### 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 Café (each Sunday 9:00-10:00 a.m.) or at coffee hour after the service.

### Sunday Bouillon

Bouillon has started for another year. Did you get a cup last Sunday? We still need people to make and serve bouillon. We have seven Sundays that are open between now and the end of March. If you love the bouillon, perhaps you would be willing to help out for a Sunday or two. If interested call Kel at 978-944-2734 or email at [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com).

### 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.

### Nominations for the First Parish Standing Committee

The Nominating Committee, charged with identifying nominees to serve on the First Parish Standing Committee, is currently accepting nominations. Members of the Nominating Committee will be available during coffee hour. Contact Alane Wallis at [alanewallis@icloud.com](mailto:alanewallis@icloud.com) or 978-505-7363 with questions.

### Exhibit in the Altshuler Gallery

Bill Claybrook is currently presenting another collection of his fine-art images on the Parish Hall stage and in the Altshuler Gallery (stairwell). The photographs were shot in various parts of Africa, Canada, Germany and the United States. Bill is primarily a landscape photographer, but his collection includes a variety of

subjects. In late March, Bill will have eight images in an exhibit at the Three Stones Gallery in West Concord. The exhibit runs for approximately two months. He sells many of his images at Frames on Thoreau Street in Concord. You can visit his website at [www.newriverphotography.com](http://www.newriverphotography.com).

### Sunday Forums

**Today, January 17:** Heather Wightman on "Sex Trafficking . . . A Community Issue." This happens globally, to all ages and genders, violating basic human rights. Heather founded RIA House, Inc., which helps support people who have been sexually exploited.

**Next Sunday, January 24:** Peter Lowitt from the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team will discuss the Green Sanctuary recertification. Learn the requirements, FP's progress to date, and share your thoughts on future First Parish environmental efforts.

### Small Group Ministry : "Topics of Meaning" (6 Sessions)

In-depth explorations of our experiences and beliefs that underlie topics of meaning in everyday life. Those willing can choose a topic and lead a session. (Hundreds of sessions available, online and hard copy.)

**Facilitator:** Francie Nolde

**When:** Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

*Starts:* January 26 *Ends:* April 5

(6 Sessions: 1/26, 2/9, 2/23, 3/8, 3/22 and 4/5)

**Where:** First Parish (Room TBD)

**Who:** Limited to 10 participants so if interested sign-up A.S.A.P.

**How to Sign Up:** On the clipboard in the front office by January 24, or contact Rev. Marion Visel at [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org) or 978-369-9602, x414.

### First Parish 2016 Auction

We are forming the Auction Committee to plan a night of fun and fundraising for First Parish. The Auction is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2016. We need your help! Here's what you can do.

- *Join the Auction Committee.* The kickoff planning meeting is on Monday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room. We'll toss around ideas for themes, entertainment, etc. Refreshments will be served. Please consider coming to help plan an event worth remembering! Or, if you can't make it but would like to get involved, contact the Auction chair, Jennifer Izzo, at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com) or 617-869-5563.
- *Get involved.* We need lots of volunteers to make this event successful. There are many ways to get involved: gathering donations, party planning, decorations, ticket registration, cooking, hosting/serving, setting up and cleaning up, etc.
- *Make a donation.* Get creative! What do you love? Chances are other people will love it too. Here are some ideas to get your creative juices flowing: host a poker night or dinner party, offer a guided tour, donate season pass tickets or frequent flyer miles, share your babysitting, pet-sitting, handyman or organizing services, donate a vacation home or time share, make a meal. Donation options are limited only by your imagination.
- *And, of course, come to the Auction on Saturday, April 30.* If you have any questions, please contact Auction Chair, Jennifer Izzo, at [jbizzo@hotmail.com](mailto:jbizzo@hotmail.com), 617-869-5563. We hope to see you on Monday, January 18, at 7:00 p.m., in the Emerson Room for the kickoff planning meeting.

### Friday Night with Friends on Friday, February 5

Join other First Parish folks on February 5, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., for a light supper, socializing and learning to make something

special. Barbara Forman will give an informative talk on the history of lighting, after which we will learn the easy, fun craft of customized candle decorating, which will enable us to add delightful lights to long winter nights. No prior experience is necessary. Hands-on advice and all necessary supplies will be available and you can bring your creations home. Cost: \$12. For reservations: Contact the office or [Pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:Pekindc@comcast.net) by February 2. All are welcome.

## Social Action

### First Parish Social Action T-Shirt Design Session

**Sunday, January 24, 11:30 a.m.**

It's been a while since we've had church t-shirts . . . and because we are amping up to do more out in the world together, the Social Action Community Board thinks we need T-shirts so that we can show the world that we are showing up. The SAC Board has asked Merrill Comeau to lead a T-shirt design session on Sunday, January 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. People of all ages, all experiences with art, and all abilities are welcome. All you need to bring is your ideas for what would best represent our church community. We'll order pizza for those who attend. R.S.V.P. to Bethany ([Blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:Blowe@firstparish.org)) or Wendy ([wendyholt48@yahoo.com](mailto:wendyholt48@yahoo.com)).

### In Our Own Voice—Sunday Forum

**January 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

This National Alliance on Mental Illness talk changes attitudes, assumptions and stereotypes by describing the reality of living with mental illness. *In Our Own Voice* is a first-hand account of what it's like to live with a mental illness, demonstrating through personal testimony that it's possible—and common—to live with mental illness. The Social Action Community Board and the Pastoral Care Council of First Parish cosponsor this event to help us address the stigma associated with mental illness and offer hope to those with mental illness and their families. Child care is provided, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### A Thank-You from Eliot Clinic

Dear First Parish Families who participated in the Secret Santa gift giving with Eliot Clinic (ECHS): On behalf of the clinicians and families of ECHS, I wanted to express the overwhelming gratitude, amazement and joy that your gifts brought during this holiday season. Holiday time is stressful and painful for many of our clients. Knowing that they were receiving some much needed or hoped for gifts brought relief, and connection to the larger community. Thanks again for your generosity of gifts, time and thoughtfulness during the busy season. Best Wishes from all of us at Eliot Clinic!

—Elisa Pearmain, LMHC.

### “Waking Up White” Reading Groups Starting in February

This fall, members of the Race Conversations group have been reading Debby Irving's *Waking Up White* together. All members are encouraged to read this book this winter. To provide space for members to discuss the issues brought up in the book together, we are hosting small group discussions of this book. Groups will meet six times, every other week starting the week of February 7. There are currently leaders for groups to meet at the following times: Sundays at 11:30 a.m., Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., Wednesdays at noon, and Fridays at 8:30 a.m. We will read a few chapters before each session and come together to discuss what we read. The discussion will focus on exploring our own racial identities, and what we learned from Debby Irving's experience. If you are interested in being part of a small group, contact Don Miller ([donaldbmiller@comcast.net](mailto:donaldbmiller@comcast.net)) and let her know which time(s) work for you. If you cannot make a session or two, do not let that deter you from signing up.

### Social Action Grant Application Deadline—January 25

The Social Action Community's Grant Application deadline is Monday, January 25. Each year, First Parish allocates 7.5 percent of annual pledge income to the Social Action Community Board. The SAC Board distributes this grant money to local, national and international organizations. Grant award priority is given to these new concepts and ventures. Please keep in mind that grant applications must be sponsored by a First Parish pledging member. Further details on the grant application process, policies and requirements can be found at <http://bit.ly/1xJgxu2> or by contacting Wendy Holt ([wendyh@dmahealth.com](mailto:wendyh@dmahealth.com)) or Bethany Russell-Lowe ([blowe@firstparish.org](mailto:blowe@firstparish.org)).

## Religious Education News

### This Week, January 17—“Black Lives Matter”

#### Intergenerational Service, MLK Weekend

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

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

*Join us for a service celebrating the ministry of Dr. Martin*

*Luther King, Jr. All ages will reflect on the importance of racial justice work today and lift their voices in song with special music from the children's choirs.*

### Next Week, January 24—RE Classes

Friday-Sunday, January 22-24, Takodah Retreat II—Coming of Age

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

10:00 a.m. – Worship Service

*Children in Kindergarten through Grade 7 begin in the*

*Sanctuary with their families. Following our Children's*

*Message, the children leave the Sanctuary for their classroom*

*with their teachers. All RE classes are held until 11:15 a.m.*

*Parents of children 0-Grade 3 are asked to pick up their children in their classrooms listed below. Older children and youth will be dismissed to coffee hour.*

Kindergarten – Lower Level

1st Grade – Lower Level

2nd Grade – Greeley Room

3rd Grade – Emerson Room

4th Grade – Ripley Room\*

5th Grade – Bulkeley Room

6th Grade – Loft\*

Neighboring Faiths (7th) – Meet at 10:00 a.m., Visit Holy Family Parish, Concord

8th Grade OWL – Emerson, 4:00 p.m.

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

*\*Please note room changes.*

### Moms' Night Out (MNO) Event: Game Night, Friday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

We'll end the week together with a fun and relaxing evening of games, food and drinks at the home of one of our members. Feel free to bring your favorite game, snack or beverage—or just yourself. R.S.V.P. to Leanne Baxter, [leanne\\_gauthier@yahoo.com](mailto:leanne_gauthier@yahoo.com). The Moms' Night Out (MNO) group at First Parish was created by moms as a way to socialize, build a support network, and share resources and ideas about raising kids in today's world. All First Parish moms are welcome. Any mom can organize an event; if you have an idea and would like to host an event, contact [courteje@bc.edu](mailto:courteje@bc.edu). For details on these and other upcoming MNO gatherings, please join the MNO listserv by sending an email to [valvallancourt@gmail.com](mailto:valvallancourt@gmail.com).

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

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

Church Office—978-369-9602

Visit our website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)