



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

December 21, 2005  
Volume 42, No. 6

# The Meeting House News

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## REVeries

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Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas to one and all! Eliz and I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! We thank you for all the kindnesses you have extended to us in years past, and we count ourselves blessed to be here among you.

Thanks to the two hundred fifty of you who showed up here on a snowy December 4 to consider the warrant article for a capital campaign. Your overwhelming support for our leadership and for the years and years of preparation was One Big Affirmation, and we are all grateful. There will be much news to come, as we will need to raise the dollars to match the enthusiasm. I am confident we will do so.

And now, as we round the corner into 2006, it is time once again to respond to the First Parish Annual Campaign for the 2006-2007 operating budget. **Cynthia Ellis** and **Jonathan Hurd**, cochairs for Pledge.2006, will have information elsewhere in this newsletter about the calendar and goal of the campaign, but I want to add my own personal word here.

Please read the material. Please respond when asked. Please tell us up front if there are any circumstances that should alert us not to ask for your financial support this year. Please pretend we are one big family, living together, and it is now time to pass the hat to keep our house maintained, our staff paid, and our connections with neighbors healthy. It's not a tax. There are no bills. You live in the house voluntarily, but all are needed to keep it open. We are in this together. It's even better than a family! We choose to be together!

Everyone contributes! Everyone is generous! Happy New Year!

—*Gary Smith*

P.S. Please check out our new website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org). If you drop down the worship tab, go to sermons and then choose podcast. The sermon is audio! Thanks to **Stoney Ballard** for setting up the podcasting.

## Sunday Worship Schedule

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January 1

**One Service Only**

**Jenny Rankin**, preaching  
**11:00 – Beth Norton and  
Eric Kilburn**

**Music for Hanukkah and  
the New Year**

January 8

**Gary Smith**, preaching  
**9:00 – Adult Choir**

*The Storm Is Passing Over*  
– Tindley

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*  
– Dawson

**11:00 – Sarah Whitney, Violin**

January 15

**Gary Smith**, preaching  
**9:00 & 11:00**

**Intergenerational Gospel Choir**  
**Directed by Anderson Manuel  
and Beth Norton**

(see page 5 for details)

January 22

**Jenny Rankin**, preaching  
**9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir**

*We Are* – Barnwell

*The Twenty-Third Psalm*  
– McFerrin

January 29

**9:00 Guest preacher**

**11:00 Gary Smith**, preaching  
**Bluegrass Sunday with  
Southern Rail**

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:

- Pledge.2006 Information
- Women's Retreat Registration

*The Meeting House News*, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly August to June, to provide parishioners and friends with information about our congregation and our larger community.

Please send address changes to:  
First Parish in Concord  
20 Lexington Road  
Concord, MA 01742

Noon Deadline	Mailing Date
Monday, Jan. 13	Wednesday, Jan. 25
Monday, Feb. 13	Wednesday, Feb. 22
Monday, Mar. 20	Wednesday, Mar. 29

Newsletter items should be limited to 100 words and may be delivered, faxed or e-mailed to the church office.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: "SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER!"

Dance and swing the New Year in at the great First Parish New Year's Eve Party, "Saturday Night Fever!" The Special Events Committee is hosting the evening, and DJ Steve Springer will be on hand to play everyone's favorite tunes, from waltz to salsa to swing. Tickets will be available in the office (check the holiday hours) and at the door. The party is a fun(d)-raiser for First Parish, and the tickets, at \$50, not only cover the cost of the DJ and all the festive goodies, but also help support First Parish operations. So put on your dancing shoes, your best seventies outfit or other party garb, and be at First Parish at 9 p.m. on New Year's Eve, for the best party in town!

## Sunday Forum

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Forums are held between 10:10 a.m. and 10:55 a.m. in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact **Dian Pekin** if you wish to recommend a topic or speaker.

### **JANUARY 1**

No Forum  
Happy New Year!

### **JANUARY 8**

No Forum

### **JANUARY 15**

No Public Forum

### **JANUARY 22**

*Mistaken Assumptions?*  
**Marian Wheeler** and  
**Peter Mitchell**

Who was the first minister of First Parish — Peter Bulkeley or John Jones? Marian and Peter will discuss First Parish's first ministry and the circumstances under which the Reverends Bulkeley and Jones came to Concord.

### **JANUARY 29**

No Forum  
RE Chapel

## Parish Notes

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### **MANY THANKS TO SUE BECK AND THE HARMONIC DIVERSION**

The Women's Parish Association extends heartfelt thanks to **Sue Beck** and the Harmonic Diversion for a wonderful program of holiday songs prior to our annual Christmas Tea. Their creative arrangements and joyful singing added just the right sparkle to our holiday season!

### **ALL-PARISH ARTISTS' EXHIBIT**

We are planning an all-parish art exhibit in the newly named Suzanne Altshuler Gallery during the month of January. If you would like to display a painting, pastel, drawing or print, please contact **Doug Baker** at the Meeting House. The exhibit will run from January 9 to February 6, 2006.

### **DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MOVIE**

The Diversity Committee invites you to a showing of the film "Tying the Knot" on Thursday, January 12, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. This powerful and moving documentary explores the importance of marriage to same-sex couples, and introduces the people behind the politics by profiling several Massachusetts couples. A short discussion will follow, and refreshments will be provided.

### **HERB GARDEN NOTE CARDS**

The Women's Parish Association is continuing to offer for sale the note cards that feature a copy of **Doug Baker's** painting of a part of the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden here at First Parish, either at Sunday coffee hours or by contacting **Dian Pekin** at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net). Proceeds from the sale of the cards will go to the WPA funds to help maintain the main building and furnishings of First Parish.

### **THE LAST NOTE FROM RACHEL HOLT**

My last few weeks in Szekelykeresztur were very nice. I was fortunate enough to attend the Zsinod, a large church event that occurs every five years when the next group of young ministers is ordained. This year was very special because both Jozsef's son, Jozsef Jr., and Keresztur's own Andrasi Benedek were in the group being ordained.

On a cold day later in the month, I joined many people, including Bishop Szabo and Cathy Cordes; of Bedford, as they trudged through the mud in Kobatfalva to admire the repairs done since the flooding in August; and to celebrate all the fundraising efforts, including donations from First Parish, that have helped this village and others so much. There was a church service, traditional Hungarian dancing, a celebratory dinner and plenty of wine and palinka for everyone!

My last night in Keresztur was bittersweet as I said good-bye to my English class and my other friends, but promised that I would be back to see them again. After five months I was eager to return to Concord, but now I wait for my return to my other home, in Szekelykeresztur. — **Rachel Holt**

### **MORAL VALUES SURVEY**

Our parishioners have the ability to assist the UUA significantly with its number one 2005/2006 Moral Values study issue. Please complete and return your Moral Values Survey by January 10 so that the D.A.C. can tally and report our views. — **Nancy James**, D.A.C. chair

### **WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER**

Check your mailboxes for the new Wright Tavern Center catalogue. There are lots of new offerings for this winter and spring.

Check out the Pastoral Care bulletin board, renovated in December by **Jiffy Read**, with new photos of our caregiver groups. It really is beautiful! You'll also find there thank-you notes received by the church and our various caregiver groups for support and outreach, offered at times of transition or difficulty in people's lives, as well as notices of special events and articles of interest about life issues.

### **Thinking about the Rest of Your Life, and the End of It**

I was only forty-three and in excellent health, divorced, with two children, when a lawyer put together my will, a living will and durable power of attorney document, so that my children would not have to face the unknown without guidance in case I died suddenly or became ill and incapacitated. It was Valentine's Day (and I had no valentine or prospects) when I signed my documents in the presence of a notary public, who said to me, "This is a perfect gift of love for your children on Valentine's Day!" It probably was the best Valentine I ever gave anyone.

It's so important to plan for the end of our lives, even at a young age, that Pastoral Care and the Wright Tavern are offering this program of five sessions on living your life intentionally, as well as end-of-life planning. Come to as many sessions as you wish, and please call the church office/Wright Tavern to register so we know how many people to plan for for each session.

### **THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND BEYOND**

Tuesday evenings, January 10, 17, 24, 31 and February 7, at 7:30 p.m.

**January 10: The Rest of Your Life — Make It What You Want It To Be!** I'll help you look intentionally at your hopes and dreams and plan for what you want to happen in your life.

**January 17: Five Wishes — Sue Dobbie** leads us through this document, legal in Massachusetts, with advance directives, and addresses how to have end-of-life planning conversations with your loved ones. The document will be available for you.

**January 24: Hospice 101 — Sue Dobbie** explains hospice care and how/when to look into it, from her extensive experience with hospice.

**January 31: Preparing Your Way — David Pohl** and I address how to approach getting your affairs in order, advance directives, memorial and funeral planning, from a ministerial perspective.

**February 7: Your Ethical Will — What Do You Want to Leave Behind? — Jenny Rankin** introduces how to write a "living will", the nonmaterial aspect of what you want to leave those you love.

What a thoughtful way to begin the new year, for yourself, for those you love — at any age!

Blessings in 2006,

—*Karen Lewis Foley*

Pledge.2006, First Parish's annual fundraising campaign, begins January 2 and will continue for five weeks, culminating on Celebration Sunday, February 12. The first week of

January we will all (First Parish members and friends alike) receive a mailing that includes a letter, a pledge form (showing your 12-month pledge for last year's 2005 campaign), a new "fair share" giving table (please see the insert in this newsletter), and financial information on how your pledge money will be used.



All of our pledges go to support the operating budget for July 2006 to June 2007.

### **PLEDGE EARLY THIS YEAR**

This year, we encourage you to pledge early and generously. You can mail your pledge into the church office, pledge on the First Parish website ([firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)) or bring your pledge form to the service on February 12. No matter which way you choose to pledge, we hope everyone will come to Celebration Sunday when we will worship and celebrate together as a faith community.

If everyone pledges, if everyone is generous, we will reach our financial goal of \$940,000 — a 7.3 percent increase in giving from last year to cover the increased costs of day-to-day operations.

### **HOW YOU WILL BE CONTACTED**

Approximately one quarter of the congregation will be contacted by a canvasser. If you are a member of the choir or RE Council, you will be contacted by an affinity group canvasser. All other parishioners will receive a mailing with information about the pledge process.

### **A GENEROUS HEART AND 100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION**

Our vision is to increase financial support for First Parish by encouraging 100 percent participation in Pledge.2006. Each one of us is connected to First Parish in our own meaningful way, through our ministers and worship and through the many programs and activities of this vibrant, historic UU church. Now each of us has the opportunity to show a generous heart as we make our annual financial pledge to this faith community that enriches our lives.

As we enter the pledge season, we ask you to think about the value of your connection to First Parish.

Please pledge generously. Please increase your gift this year.

— **Cynthia Ellis** and **Jonathan Hurd**; cochairs, Pledge.2006

## Music Notes

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### WELCOME TO JUDY BURROWS — OUR NEW CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR

We are delighted to announce that **Judy Burrows**, one of our fellow parishioners and the mother of Chalice Choir member Melissa Burrows, has accepted the position of Acting Children's Choir Director, beginning in January 2006. Judy is an experienced music teacher and children's choir director with wonderful creative energy and ideas.

We are very fortunate that Judy is able to step into this position on short notice and continue First Parish's fine tradition of children's choirs. Welcome, Judy!

### INTERGENERATIONAL GOSPEL CHOIR!

On Sunday, January 15, to honor the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., we will assemble our second annual Intergenerational Gospel Choir to sing at both services. The choir, which will be co-led by **Anderson Manuel** and **Beth Norton**, will sing songs from the African American tradition. The repertoire is still being decided, but it may include spirituals, gospel and freedom songs.

In addition to the Sunday commitment, there will be one rehearsal on Thursday evening, January 12, at 7:30 p.m. This group is open to singers of all ages, and you do not have to read music to join. We ask that singers who decide to join commit to singing both services on January 15.

For more information or to sign up, contact **Beth Norton** by e-mail at [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org) or by phone at 978-369-9602, ext. 420.

### VIENNESE MUSIC WITH SARASA

On Sunday, January 29, at 7 p.m., the Music Events Committee will present an evening of Viennese music with clarinet, fortepiano and strings by the Cambridge based, nationally acclaimed chamber music ensemble, Sarasa. The performance will include selections by Beethoven and Mozart. Tickets are \$20, seniors \$16, students \$13, children free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or on line at [www.sarasamusic.org](http://www.sarasamusic.org). The public is invited. For information call 617-492-4758, 978-369-3779 or 978-369-9602

## Community Music Note

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### HOLIDAY SPIRIT OF GIVING

The Concord Library is interested in acquiring a grand piano (concert quality) to continue bringing best quality music to the public through the Music Series. If you have plans to downsize or would like a new home for your beloved instrument, please contact the library Director, Barbara Powell, to discuss your intentions at 978-318-3377. The library would accept the piano as a tax-deductible gift or as a loan.

## MUSings

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Several years ago, the First Parish Music Committee sponsored a wonderful night of Gospel singing by an inspiring choir from Cambridge. The Sanctuary was packed with parishioners and guests and when the choir invited us to join in the singing, dancing and clapping (on the offbeat!) I was moved and



amazed at the abandon and enthusiasm with which many in that audience joined the choir. I will always remember the beaming parishioner who came up to me after the concert and said, "I just love this music — but I can't relate to the words."

This is common dilemma for UU's in relation to Gospel music. And yet so many of us are drawn to this uniquely American musical tradition, defying the old joke that UU's sing hymns poorly because "they are always reading ahead to see if they agree with the words." Gospel quickly carries the singer and the listener beyond any specific doctrine to the Christian message of hope and redemption that much of this music conveys. I believe that the core of this music transcends creed and theology. Our own Youth Gospel Choir demonstrates this to us on a regular basis. My advice to those who balk at the words is to let the music take you beyond the words to the essential spirit that it has to offer.

The New Year will bring two opportunities for folks in the wider congregation to sing Gospel music. On January 15, the Sunday of Martin Luther King weekend, **Anderson Manuel** and I will lead an intergenerational Gospel Choir at both services, which is open to singers of all ages (see item to the left). In March, First Parish will host a Gospel Weekend with guest artist Jonathan Singleton, a well-known Boston area Gospel artist. Jonathan will lead a morning workshop on Saturday, March 4, that will be open to singers in the parish and the community. That evening, he'll give a concert with other guest artists, and include the members of the morning workshop. And then on Sunday, March 5, Jonathan will lead the music at both of our worship services, again with the participation of Saturday workshop attendees.

I hope you will consider participating in one of these events, either as a singer or as a listener. This tradition has so much to offer us as people of faith.

Happy New Year to All!

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

### JERICO ROAD VOLUNTEERS

The 2005 Catalogue for Philanthropy has selected Jericho Road, the United Teen Equality Center and 71 other charitable organizations for inclusion in this year's catalogue from a pool of 2,000

Massachusetts nonprofits. UTEC just announced the impending purchase of a church in downtown Lowell, to be converted into a new teen center serving over 1,500 at-risk teens and launched a \$4 million capital campaign for renovations and an addition.



Jericho Road

volunteers **David McGaffin, Rebecca Curzon** and **Paul Minor** have provided many hundreds of hours in database, accounting and architectural services to help UTEC reach this remarkable milestone.

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM SUSSY

Sussy writes on Thanksgiving Day, "Good morning. I just wanted to say that I wish each one of you from the bottom of my heart a nice and peaceful holiday. One more time I want to express my gratitude for the support and dedication that I have received. In the name of my six children, I hope you have a lovely Thanksgiving. Love always, Sussy Hidalgo."

First Parish's support over the last three years means a lot to Sussy. Thank you All.

—**Bill Seaver** (978-369-7318)

### FAMILY HOMELESSNESS FORUM — JANUARY 15, 7:00 TO 8:45 P.M.

As part of its ongoing work to address the problem of homelessness, SAC is cosponsoring a roundtable discussion with our state legislators, to be held on Sunday evening, January 15, from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at First Parish in Concord. The goal of this forum is to inform residents of Concord and surrounding towns about the growing problem of homeless families, and about federal and state policies that can prevent and ameliorate family homelessness.

Forum speakers include State Representative **Cory Atkins**, State Senator Susan Fargo, State Senator Pam Resor, and State Representative James Eldridge. **Gary Smith** will moderate.

### RENEE — LIFE AFTER KATRINA

First Parish has been partnering with Renee Yang and her six-year old daughter for some time now, shortly after they lost their home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Much has happened. Renee, her daughter and dog Einstein live with Renee's sister in Worcester. Renee works at Lowe's and is looking into attending architectural school (she has a BA in design). We've really enjoyed spending time with Renee and her daughter. It seems to be mutual — Renee recently told us that, with our friendship and support, she doesn't feel like an "evacuee" anymore. She feels at home. We are still trying to help Renee reestablish her life and career. If you're interested in helping out, let us know. —**Margot Kimball** and **Deb Dormitzer** 978-264-9047; debbie@lhlogic.com)

### REBUILDING AFGHANISTAN — TALK BY SARAH CHAYES

Sarah Chayes, who spoke at First Parish last year about the work she's doing in rebuilding the Afghanistan economy, will be speaking again on January 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brooks Middle School in Lincoln. She will discuss her organization's current project, which includes setting up a soap factory in Afghanistan, using the oil of pomegranates and roses, which grow in beautiful profusion near Kandahar. One of the hopes is to use the fields to grow fruits and flowers instead of poppies — making soap instead of heroin. Soap, of course, can be transported much more easily, and with much less spoilage, than roses and pomegranates. SAC is cosponsoring this event. For more information, call **Mary Clarke** at 978-369-1081.

### AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR GRANTS: MARCH 15

If you are interested in applying for a grant from the First Parish Social Action Giving Committee, the deadline for receiving proposals is March 15, 2006. We are interested in supporting the work of First Parish individuals with commitments to nonprofit organizations. Grants range between \$500 and \$6,000. Please visit the First Parish website and click on "Programs" then Social Action, where you will find a list of grantees from 2005 and a list of questions you need to answer in your grant application. For more information, contact **Alane Wallis** at 978-369-1114 or [awallis@nutter.com](mailto:awallis@nutter.com).

### WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH?

The Social Action Community (SAC) helps parishioners connect with a diverse and exciting range of social action projects. To find out more about what is going on, join our e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to [SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org](mailto:SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org), see our website, [www.firstparish.org/sac/](http://www.firstparish.org/sac/), <http://sac.firstparish.org/>, or look at the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church. If you would like to volunteer and don't know where to start, contact **Bill Seaver**, 978-369-7318, [billseaver@earthlink.net](mailto:billseaver@earthlink.net); or **Dave Dunn**, 978-263-2273, [dave\\_dunn@bose.com](mailto:dave_dunn@bose.com).

### REMEMBER THE MEETING HOUSE BOUILLON?

Many people have missed the appealing aroma and nourishing warmth of the Meeting House bouillon on cold winter Sundays. If you would like to make the bouillon on one or more Sundays and/or coordinate scheduling of bouillon cooks, please contact **Margaret Stewart** in the First Parish office, 978-369-9602 ext. 412, or at [fpmom@aol.com](mailto:fpmom@aol.com).

### SIGN UP NOW FOR WINTER SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES

Chase the winter blues away with fun, food and conversation! Sign up for these popular dinners at coffee hour on Sunday, January 15, and Sunday, January 22, or by calling **Vivienne** or **Dean Aldrich** at 978-369-228. The sign-up deadline is 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 22. Last year participation was extensive at the Winter Dinner Parties. These will take place on Saturday, January 28. Join old friends and new for potluck dinners of 8 to 10 people held in participants' homes.

—**Vivienne** and **Dean Aldrich**, Membership Committee

### PARTY ORGANIZATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Do you have a few hours three times a year to arrange fun dinner parties? The Membership Committee is looking for one or two people to take over organizing the Seasonal Dinners next October. This is an attractive opportunity to meet interesting people and dine in pleasant informal settings in members' homes. **Vivienne** and **Dean Aldrich** will provide details and work with you during the transition. Please contact them at 978-369-1228.

### AFFINITY GROUPS — NEW AND ESTABLISHED

Are you looking to be a part of a small group in this large church? Consider becoming a member of an Affinity Group. We have 16 functioning groups: Birding, Bridge, Cooking, Chess (adults & teens), Dancing, Humanists (a non-theist group), Jewish Awareness, Photography, Songwriters Circle, Spanish Discussion/Social, and Groups I and II of "Writing Down the Bones" (creative writing). Genealogy meets monthly on the second Monday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at church; no prior notice is necessary and all are welcome. Jewelry Making will have an initial meeting on January 18 at 7:00 p.m. at First Parish. The Walking Group will get organized at a meeting sometime in January. A Theater Group has recently come on board. Stop by the Affinity Groups table at the Sunday coffee hours on January 8. To join a group, fill out an interest survey or contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or [dembsey@surfglobal.net](mailto:dembsey@surfglobal.net).

### NEW! MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

We want everyone who walks in our doors to feel welcome, to easily learn more about us easily, and to find a meaningful connection to the First Parish community. Here is a chance to join a small group that will explore and act the ways we can help welcome and support newcomers. We will meet, share ideas and help each other as we undertake this important mission. If you are interested, leave your name in the office or call or e-mail **Stephanie Chiha** at 978-369-7569 or [steph@pierre.com](mailto:steph@pierre.com), or **Anne Fortier** at 978-369-6303 or [randafortier@comcast.net](mailto:randafortier@comcast.net).

## Reflections

The dark days of winter are upon us. I always remind myself that we are climbing out of the darkness by January. But it just doesn't feel that way.

I can't pretend not to love winter, however. The cold, the darkness, the weather. Weather is one of the few things left that we all can 'watch' and share together these days. I watch kids and parents bundled up, playing outside, their shrieks of laughter hanging in the air and crystalizing on their scarves. It is not summer, but it is still joyful.

### A VERY BUSY DECEMBER IN RE

December was a busy month in RE. The holiday craft workshop was a huge success. The Lead Elves, **Jeanine Calabria**, **Patty Popov** and **Roselyn Romberg**, did an amazing job organizing the event and gathering other elves to help with the day. To see the excitement on each face while making gifts was priceless. The stories about the future recipients were wonderful to hear. Thank you to all who helped make this happen for our kids.

With the help and guidance of the Social Action Committee at First Parish, we collected cans of food for the people of Biloxi, Mississippi, and mittens for Jericho Road. We collected boxes of money for Guest at your Table and we collected presents for Secret Santa. Showing our children we care about others is an important part of the vibrancy of First Parish. It is worship in action.

On December 4, our 7th and 8th graders shared their vision of worship with all of us at First Parish. The combination of dance, drama, music and social action created a special and memorable service. Our benediction was put into action through the dedication and talent of these young people and their leaders, **Barb Caddell**, **Steph Chiha**, **Pierre Chiha**, **C. C. King** and **Jay Vogt**. Thank you, All.

**Dian Pekin** invited Santa Claus to the Forum where kids and parents could revel in the Christmas spirit — and parents could take a couple of photographs to remember these special moments of wonder and mystery.

A special thanks to **Sue Beck**, **Abby Burnham** and **Jenny Schloss** for helping our "Little Angels" sing *This Little Light of Mine* with such spirit on December 18. It was a personal pleasure

## Religious Education Notes

### JANUARY RE SCHEDULE

January 1:	Nursery care only at 11:00 a.m.
January 8:	Regular RE program; OWL begins
January 15:	Intergenerational Sunday; RE for fours and under
January 22:	Regular RE program
January 29:	Chapel for K-3; regular RE for other grades

to see 3's, 4's, 5's, teens and adults working together, singing together and getting to know each other while preparing for this service.

Last, I'd like to thank our RE Winter teachers for starting the new term without a hitch. Although we still need one more 5th grade teacher, so many of you stepped up to fill the open slots we had. Thank you.

— Pam Howell

### WORKSHOP ROTATION PLANNING TO BEGIN

In January, we will be creating lesson plans for the Workshop Rotation model. If you attended one of our information sessions and/or if you completed a survey about Workshop Rotation, you may be called to provide your valuable insight and skills in developing the curriculum for next year. If you haven't yet been involved and would like to learn more about this important initiative, please give **Pam Howell** a call or stop by the office at First Parish. The RE Council, the Workshop Rotation subcommittee and Pam want this to be a positive experience for parents, volunteer teachers and, most important, for our kids. The more you know now and the more you share now, the better the program will be next year.

### MANY PARTICIPATE IN SPIRIT PLAY

This program continues to be a positive addition to our RE program. Thanks to the leadership of **Carol Duane**, our Preschool Administrator, and **Betsy Siebert**, our Spirit Play subcommittee chair, the program is thriving. Many people have volunteered to take "story baskets" home to make with their families. These baskets are then returned and used with our four-year-olds. One of our sixth grade classes helped to create a basket for Spirit Play as well. Thank you for all those helping hands.

### RE AFFINITY GROUP FOR THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

This year the RE Council is piloting an Affinity Group for the annual campaign — Pledge.2006. This is a chance for us, as a dedicated group of individuals who care about the RE program, to come together and express our commitment financially to our current program as well as our hopes and dreams for the future of RE. One of the ways we can make our vision for RE a reality is through our pledges. We will be expressing our commitment to our children and to our First Parish community by pledging together this year.



## Senior Youth News

At our last youth check-in, it was funny to hear the diverse reactions to winter. Some dread the snow, cold and dark. Others live for the chance to ski, play in the snow and snuggle by the fire. But the one thing they all agree on is that the best part of winter is NO SCHOOL on snow days!

There is a lot going on for our youth in January. Please look at your monthly newsletter "What's the Deal" or look at the youth calendar at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org) to find out what we are doing at YRUU. We will be meeting on the following days in January:

Monday, January 2

Sunday, January 8

Monday, January 16

Sunday, January 22

Retreat weekend, January 27-29; No YRUU —

At the end of January, we will go to Madison, New Hampshire, for our Winter Retreat. It's an amazing experience for the group to keep warm with no heat and make do without running water. While we're up there, we do everything from relaxing by the fire to hiking up a mountain — whatever the youth need to rejuvenate. The retreat forms are online at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org); click on Youth.

The YSAC is getting ready for our trip to Common Cathedral in February. We are also looking into a youth service trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. The Transylvanian Partner Church Committee has also informed us that our friends in Szekelykerestur would love another youth pilgrimage to come in the summer of 2007. If any adults are interested in helping to plan either of these trips, then please let me know.

For most of our youth, final exams are at the end of January (right before our retreat). It is a stressful time as they try to remember/relearn/cram in everything they learned from the fall. It is our hope that the Youth Group can be an oasis of peace, a refuge of good friends and a place to let loose during these stressful times.

May you have a wonderful 2006!

— *Mary-Wren  
vanderWilden*

## Standing Committee

### PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD, CALLED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR DECEMBER 4, 2005

Moderator **Loretta Ho Sherblom** called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and established that a quorum was present.

"Article I: To determine whether the Parish will authorize a capital campaign to raise up to \$4,500,000 to be expended under the direction of the Standing Committee for the general capital needs of the Parish, including the following purposes: (i) to perform deferred maintenance on the Meeting House and grounds, including the Sanctuary organ; (ii) to establish in accordance with applicable procedures a capital reserve fund of between \$1,000,000 and \$1,250,000 to be administered by the Trustees of Parish Donations and to be used to fund in perpetuity the maintenance of the Meeting House grounds; (iii) to fund building improvements and expansion to provide for, among other things, code compliant accessibility to the Meeting House and the construction and furnishing of additional multipurpose spaces for the Meeting House; (iv) and to finance design services, project managers and other consultants to prepare architectural and engineering plans, bid specifications, contract documents, cost estimates and other services needed to carry out the foregoing; or take any other action relative thereto.

"In carrying out the provisions of this warrant, the Standing Committee shall do the following: (a) it shall prepare and present to the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Parish a capital spending plan that will provide policies governing the expenditure of funds raised in the capital campaign, including standards for bidding out the work, authorizations required to undertake various types of work and the like; (b) it shall present to the congregation (at an Annual or Special Meeting) a proposed design for the building improvements and expansion referred to in item (iii) above and shall not authorize the preparation of final construction plans and specifications unless such design has been approved by the congregation at such Annual or Special Meeting."

Article I was read, moved and seconded.

The Standing Committee was then recognized to begin their presentation. **Don Dembsey** presented the findings of the Vision 2008 Committee. **Jim Liljestrand** (Chair of the Standing Committee), **Sara Ballard** and **Tim Jacoby** (Treasurer) made introductory comments on behalf of the Standing Committee. **Rev. Jenny Rankin** and **Rev. Gary Smith** made comments on behalf of the staff. The meeting was opened to discussion.

Amendment I, moved by **Alan Whitney**:

(1) In line one, change the sum of \$4,500,000 to \$4,000,000; (2) in line three, change the words "including the Sanctuary organ" to "excluding the Sanctuary organ"; (3) add the following new paragraph three to Article I — "The Standing Committee shall present to a Special Meeting of the Parish to be held within ninety days, a detailed proposal for expenditures related to the Sanctuary organ, specifically reflecting consideration of previous studies, and which will be preceded by open discussions with Parish members."

The motion was seconded. After a lengthy discussion, Amendment I was called to a vote and failed.

Amendment II, moved by **Phil Villers**:

STANDING COMMITTEE NOTES continued on page 10

**WPA LUNCHEON AND MUSIC PROGRAM —  
MONDAY, JANUARY 23**

Join old and new friends for lunch and delightful music! "La Jouissance," under the direction of **Sue Cornwall**, will offer a program of Renaissance and Medieval dances, madrigals and chansons. The group's instruments include the recorder, viola da gamba, guitar, harpsichord, krumhorn and voice. The social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., with luncheon served at noon. The program will begin at 12:45 p.m. Bring your own sandwich. Desserts, coffee and tea will be provided for a small donation. All men and women are cordially invited. No reservations are required.

**RISE UP AND CALL HER NAME**

All First Parish women are invited to participate in a collaborative class to research and explore spiritual aspects of Goddesses in various cultures, ancient and modern. Stay tuned for more information and details regarding time and place. The class will probably be held on Tuesday evenings at the Wright Tavern, beginning in January. To express interest, contact **Bozena Smith** at 978-371-1060 or bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

**FIRST PARISH WOMEN'S RETREATS AND  
REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

This year's Women's Retreats will take place on the weekends of January 20–22 and January 27–29. The retreats, held at Senexet House in Connecticut, provide First Parish women a couple of days to relax and have fun with new and old friends, learn something new, enjoy someone else's cooking — in short, to take a physical, mental and spiritual break from the daily routine. This year's retreats will focus on "turning points" in our lives, with readings, conversations, writing exercises and some crafts opportunities as well. Registration forms are available in this issue and on the table by the church office; and registrations are recorded on a first-come, first-served basis.

**THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP**

This year's First Parish Women's Book Groups meet on Tuesday mornings, usually the last Tuesday of the month, and Monday evenings, on the third Monday of the month. The book for January is *The Time Traveler's Wife*, a popular and imaginative debut novel by Audrey Niffenegger. The evening group will meet on Monday, January 16, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning group will meet on Tuesday, January 31, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and join either or both of these discussions!

"Moved that several architects be asked to propose historically compatible solutions to provide a cost effective solution to handicap access without requiring massive rearrangements of the building, and the best such solution be proposed to the historic preservation commission before finalizing the most cost effective solution meeting the Parish's needs for handicap access."

The motion was seconded. Following discussion, Amendment II was called and failed.

Amendment III, moved by **Eric Van Loon**:

"To guide our decision-makers in capital campaign spending, First Parish indicates the following expenditure priorities: (1) Immediate repairs/improved sound, approximately \$1 million (includes \$100,000 for the sanctuary sound system; (2) Elevator/additional rooms, approximately \$2 million; (3) Full organ restoration, maintenance reserve fund, approximately \$1.5 million."

The motion was seconded. Following discussion, Amendment III was called and failed.

Article I was called and passed.

Article II:

To hear and act upon any other business that may come before the meeting.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

—*Susan C. Beck*

Clerk

*The Standing Committee would like to thank all those who took the time on a snowy Sunday to attend this important meeting. The attendance was well over 200 people. The SC is meeting this month with a representative from the UUA to help us better understand policy governance and to ask questions about conducting a capital campaign. We will be meeting with the appropriate consultants during the next months and will have a plan of action ready to be voted on at the June Annual Meeting. Please contact any member of the SC with your questions.*

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**Books and Dates for the Remainder of 2006**

February 20 (p.m.) and 28 (a.m.) — *Song of the Lark*, by Willa Cather, Extra credit: *O Pioneers!*

March 20 (p.m.) and 28 (a.m.) — *American Jezebel*, by Eve LaPlante

April 17 (p.m.) and 25 (a.m.) — Poetry: *And Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou; and *Delights and Shadows*, by Ted Kooser

May 15 (p.m.) and 23 (a.m.) — *The Jane Austen Book Club*, by Karen Anne Fowler

## January 2006 Calendar

*Listings in italics represent classes offered through  
the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.*

### Every Week...

<i>Morning Meditation</i>	Monday-Friday	7:00 a.m.
<i>Bones in Chairs</i>	Monday	10:00 (not 1/2)
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	1:15 (not 1/2)
Concord Interfaith Group	Tuesday	8:00
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00
<i>The Rest of Your Life and Beyond</i>	Tuesday	7:00 (not 1/3)
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 (not 1/3 or 1/10)
<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	Tuesday	7:00 (not 1/3 or 1/10)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 (not 1/4 or 1/11)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 (not 1/5 or 1/12)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30
<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30 (not 1/6 or 1/13)
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
Time to Talk (TTT)	Sunday	5:30 (not 1/2 or 1/15)
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 1/2 or 1/15)

Sun Jan 1	11:00	Single Worship Service	Wed Jan 18	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
Mon Jan 2		Holiday—Office Closed		7:00	Jewelry Affinity Group
Tue Jan 3	9:00	WPA Board Meeting		7:00	President's Round Table
Wed Jan 4	7:30	RE Council		7:00	Youth Social Action Council
Thu Jan 5	8:30	Katrina Relief Group	Thu Jan 19	7:00	Diversity Movie
	7:00	Human Resources Committee	Fri Jan 20	7:00	Junior Youth Group
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee		7:30	Vegas Night Rehearsal
	7:30	Vegas Night Rehearsal	Sun Jan 22	2:00	<i>Simply Pray</i>
Fri Jan 6	9:30	Pastoral Care		2:00	Coming of Age (off-site)
	5:30	Senior OWL Lock-in		3:00	OWL A and B
	7:30	Las Vegas Night Rehearsal	Mon Jan 23	11:30	WPA Luncheon
Sat Jan 7	8:30	Annual Campaign Training		7:30	Vegas Night Rehearsal
Sun Jan 8	12:15	Nominating Committee	Tue Jan 24	7:30	SAC Board Meeting
	3:00	OWL A		8:00	Social Action Council
	6:00	OWL B	Wed Jan 25	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
Mon Jan 9	9:30	Parish Visitors		7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
	7:00	Standing Committee		7:30	<i>Melt Chaos into Calm</i>
Wed Jan 11	6:30	Partner Church Council	Thu Jan 26	9:30	<i>Melt Chaos into Calm</i>
	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>		7:30	<i>Drumming Workshop</i>
Fri Jan 13	12:00	Newsletter Deadline	Fri Jan 27	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Sat Jan 14	9:00	Photo Club		7:30	Vegas Night Rehearsal
Sun Jan 15	7:00	Family Homelessness Forum			YRUU Retreat (off-site)
	7:30	Vegas Night Rehearsal	Sat Jan 28		Seasonal Dinners (off-site)
Mon Jan 16		Holiday—Office Closed	Sun Jan 29	3:00	OWL A and B
	5:30	Youth Time to Talk		7:00	Sarasa Concert
	7:00	YRUU	Mon Jan 30	7:00	Standing Committee
	7:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>	Tue Jan 31	9:30	<i>Women's Book Group</i>
Tue Jan 17	7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee			



## First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

20 Lexington Road  
Concord, MA 01742

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### JANUARY 2006 NEWSLETTER

The next Newsletter deadline is **Monday, January 13**, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, January 25.

***News items should be limited to 100 words.***

### Don't Miss...

#### SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER!

*New Year's Eve at 9 p.m.*

#### PLEDGE.2006

*January 1 to February 12 —*

*Ending with Celebration Sunday*



### First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

#### Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Karen Lewis Foley, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Christine Gay, Religious Education Administrator

Carol Duane, Toddler/Preschool Coordinator

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

Eric Huenneke, Organist

David Huston, Bell Choir Director

Judy Burrows, Acting Children's Choir Director

Anderson Manuel, Music/RE Associate

Caroline McCloy, Wright Tavern Center Director

Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director

Leslie Koplou, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road

Margaret Stewart, Parish Administrator

Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

Jane Johnson, Office Manager

Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector

Lisa Cole, Business Manager

Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor

Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Margaret Stewart,  
Newsletter Staff

#### WINTER NOTICE! STAFF PARKING FYI

Please be careful not to park in one of the staff-designated parking spaces unless you are *certain* that the staff person will not be needing the space. The staff often keep unconventional hours and appreciate having their space open. Thanks!

**Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00**

**Phone: 978-369-9602**

**Fax: 978-369-8701**

**E-Mail: [fpconcord@aol.com](mailto:fpconcord@aol.com)**

**Website: [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)**

#### Ministers' E-Mail:

**Gary E. Smith: [garyesmith@firstparish.org](mailto:garyesmith@firstparish.org)**

**Jenny M. Rankin: [revjenny@comcast.net](mailto:revjenny@comcast.net)**

**Karen Lewis Foley: [revklfoley@comcast.net](mailto:revklfoley@comcast.net)**