



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

## The Meeting House News

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### *REVeries*

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Ash Wednesday is March 1 and it marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent, leading to Easter. I have known Lent ever since I was a little boy growing up in a largely Roman Catholic town, and though my family was white-bread Protestant, we fell into the culture of it all, if not with the dark smudge on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, then with the notion of giving up something for Lent and inevitably eating fish sticks on Friday. Unitarian minister Barbara Rohde says she remembers the same, giving up, she says, “liver, Brussels sprouts, and spelling tests,” and though she is joking, she is coming close to the truth that some kinds of self-denial can become self-righteousness in the blink of an eye.

Here at First Parish, we covenant together to go deeper into ourselves, deeper not surgically or even psychologically — but deeper spiritually, as in the matters of the spirit, of the soul, of the essence of those ultimate things. We covenant to go deeper, as in cutting away all those scars of past hurts that have obscured the purity with which we were born; “with a shining in your eyes like the sunlight,” we say at child dedications here. We covenant to go deeper, clear the obstructions away and let the light shine. We at First Parish covenant to go deeper spiritually: here in worship, walking in the labyrinth outside, on retreats, in groups together, small group ministry, short story discussion, Wright Tavern wonderings, meditation, prayer, singing in the choir, spending time teaching our children, daydreaming, walking, playing golf, gathering around the table with family. We do not pass you any instruction sheet on how it is you must “go deeper” here. There are no magical prayers. There is no one story. We find our scripture in many places. It is one of life’s big adventures, and there is no owner’s manual.

—*Gary E. Smith*

### Sunday Worship Schedule

#### **March 5**

**Gary Smith**, preaching  
**9:00 & 11:00 – Gospel Music**  
with **Jonathan Singleton**

#### **March 12**

**Chris Walton**, preaching  
**9:00 – Adult Choir**  
*Celtic Gloria* – Shaw  
*A Gaelic Benediction* – Ulrich  
**11:00 – Silver Bass Trio**

#### **March 19**

**Gary Smith**, preaching  
**Celebration Sunday**  
**9:00 – Handbell Choir**  
*Down in the River to Pray* – arr. Page  
*Within the Darkest Night* – Hakes  
**11:00 – Adult Choir**  
*Everyone Suddenly Burst Out Singing* – Willsher  
*I Have Had Singing* – Stametz

#### **March 26**

**Gary Smith**, preaching  
**9:00 – Junior Choir**  
**Pamela Schweppe & Tamasin Foote**, sopranos  
*Simple Gifts* – Traditional  
*Quis Es Homo* – Rossini  
**11:00 – Chalice Choir**  
**Adult Choir**  
*Lean on Me* – Withers  
*Bright Morning Star* – arr. Squatrito

### **COME BUILD A DREAM!**

See page 2 for information  
about the upcoming First  
Parish Capital Campaign.

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There are two inserts with this newsletter:

**Las Vegas Night**  
**Gospel Music Weekend**

*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, Mar. 20	Wednesday, Mar. 29
Friday, April 14	Wednesday, April 26
Monday, May 15	Wednesday, May 24

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

## FROM THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE



The First Parish Capital Campaign continues moving forward. Cochairs **Melissa Perdue Gallo** and **Don Dembsey** are forming committees, participating in a myriad of meetings, and organizing processes and procedures for this multi-year effort. They are meeting regularly with our ministers and capital campaign consultant, Molly Turlish.

Three committees are being formed: Building, Organ, Fundraising

- The Building committee will begin by prioritizing the deferred maintenance projects.
- The Organ committee's first task will be to create an Request For Proposals (RFP), which will be used to solicit at least three bids for the organ rebuilding.
- The Fundraising committee is beginning work on soliciting "leadership" donations, which will form the first phase of the fundraising efforts.

The "case statement" (a capital campaign brochure) is being drafted.

Our architect's (Robert Olson's) first task will be to study how to best improve handicapped accessibility.

There's lots more work to do and much help is needed. If you're interested in participating in the Capital Campaign, send an e-mail to **Melissa Perdue Gallo** ([mp.gallo@verizon.net](mailto:mp.gallo@verizon.net)).

Look for a Capital Campaign update each month in *The Meeting House News*.

## Sunday Forum

Forums are held Sunday morning 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.

### MARCH 5

*Palestinian Election Impacts*  
Jan Hayden

Jan is a Jewish-American peace activist and has just recently returned from Israel and Palestine. She will give her impressions of the impacts that the recent Palestinian elections will have on the Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

### MARCH 12

*Help with Medicare Part D*  
SHINE Counselors

The recent changes to Medicare Part D have caused much confusion and concern. Trained counselors will be at this Forum to offer important advice on selecting appropriate prescription plans for you, your parents or friends.

### MARCH 19

No Forum  
Rescheduled Celebration Sunday

### MARCH 26

No Forum  
RE Chapel

### JOB OPENING — FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTERS (JOB OPEN LATE AUGUST 2006)

- 15 hours a week/flexible time
- Support to ministers and staff
- Support to First Parish and wider community
- Job description available;  
Web experience necessary

Resume to Gary:  
gesmith@tiac.net,  
by February 28

## Parish Notes

### COMING SOON TO THE PARISH HALL: VIVA LAS VEGAS!

The Special Events Committee invites you to a great Las Vegas style show and Casino Night on March 17 and 18, in the Parish Hall. Your admission ticket includes a "Big Vegas Cabaret," directed by **Tom Beck** and starring some of First Parish's best singers and dancers performing songs that made Las Vegas famous. Come and enjoy the show, some complimentary "funny money," and a variety of games — even blackjack and roulette! Try your luck, maybe win a prize, and have a great evening out. Tickets are on sale at coffee hours, and in the church office.

### HELP WANTED — JOIN THE FIRST PARISH USHERS

First Parish needs a few more ushers/welcomers for the 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock Sunday services. This is one of the easiest ways to offer your volunteer services. You usher only once a month, at the service you usually attend. The only qualification: you need a warm smile! (This is a great way to stay connected after your kids have moved on from RE.) Please join us by contacting **Victor Curran** at 978-618-1348 or [vacurran@comcast.net](mailto:vacurran@comcast.net).

### TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Our partnership activities have never been more healthy or more active than they are right now. Here's a recap of recent and ongoing activities.

In February we sent \$2,675 from our Christmas Eve collections, via John Gibbons, the minister of First Parish in Bedford and member of the executive committee of the UUPPC. Also in February we wired \$21,545 to Székelykeresztúr. This includes \$15,045 from 69 families/individuals to support 64 high school and college students. Thanks to **Sue Beck** for leading this great effort and to **Ivan Kristoffy** for all his help. Also included was \$6,500 to help with flood relief, \$1,500 of which was raised by the youth group. Thanks to everyone for these wonderful efforts in support of our friends in Transylvania.

We're also getting ready for a number of visits and activities during the coming 18 months. **Beth Norton** and **Lillian Anderson** have formed a steering committee to coordinate the August 2007 choir trip. **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** and the Youth Group are planning a pilgrimage for July of 2007. **Valerie** and **Rachel Holt** and **Donna Peterson** are coordinating this Thanksgiving's visit by József & Anna Szombatfalvi and others from Keresztúr. Istvan Csaka (one of the Keresztúr youth we have enjoyed on our last two youth pilgrimages) will be coming here from July to September, sponsored by Dana and Kathy Booth of Carlisle; we're coordinating a varied program for him. Last, many of our youth and adults are in frequent contact with their friends and students in Keresztúr via e-mail and instant messaging. All are welcome at our Partner Church committee meetings, the second Wednesday of each month, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. —**Rodger Matlage**, chair

### CELEBRATE THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER ON MARCH 3

World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical event of informed prayer and prayerful action, has taken place for decades. Concord faith communities will hold the Concord World Day of Prayer 2006 service this year at the Holy Family Church in Concord on Friday, March 3, at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by a luncheon in the parish hall. All men and women are invited to attend this historical event. This year's service was written by the World Day of Prayer Women of South Africa, whose many cultures will be celebrated.

### WPA SPRING CONCERT AND TEA

Celebrate the coming of spring and treat yourself to a delightful recital by violinist **Siri Smedvig** and pianist **Sue Minor**. The concert will begin at 3 p.m. on Monday, March 20, in the Sanctuary, followed by tea in the Parlor at 4 p.m. All men and women and interested children of First Parish and their friends are welcome. There is no charge for this event. Contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by March 17, for child care reservations.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

Response has been enthusiastic to — of all things, what might seem to be a real “downer”— the recent series on end-of-life issues, “The Rest of Your Life and Beyond.” Several people have asked if it will be offered again. We can’t offer the whole series again this spring, but **Sue Dobbie** has offered to repeat her session on “Five Wishes.” “Five Wishes” is a document we fill out to express how we wish to be cared for at the end of our life, especially if we cannot express our wishes at that time. It includes the equivalent of a healthcare proxy (naming the person who will make our care decisions if we can’t) and a living will (naming what kinds of care we want and do not want).

Sue’s “Five Wishes” workshop is currently being scheduled. Look for notice of it in the *Sunday News*. You may pick up a copy of “Five Wishes” documents from the Exchange Shelf in the office, whether or not you attend Sue’s workshop.

I am so very grateful to Sue, **Jenny Rankin** and **David Pohl**, for leading several sessions of “The Rest of Your Life.” Each brought his/her expertise in a particular area and engaged the group’s interest and attention, provoking lots of questions and discussion. I personally have gained a great deal from doing this series. I’ve learned much that I didn’t know — or of which I was previously vaguely aware — about end-of-life planning. And I’ve learned how very compelling this subject is for so many people, and how very much such educational opportunities are needed!

Have you filled out a Personal Information Form for the ministers’ file? There’s a new one. This form lets us list important information that may be needed in the event that we are seriously ill or die, including our wishes for disposition of our body and funeral or memorial service. It is completely confidential and used only by the ministers in the event it is needed. It has been updated to allow for important information not previously included. So if you have one on file, do ask the church office for the new blank form and fill it out. It is a good idea to update all end-of-life documents every few years anyway, as our desires may change. If you haven’t filled one out, please consider doing so, whatever your age or health status. It is not easy to contemplate the reality that our good health may leave us at any time, but the best time for contemplating our wishes about that is just when we are healthy and thinking well.

And by the way, “Rest of Your Life and Beyond” participants report that it was FUN to contemplate the shape of their lives to date, what they want to accomplish before they die, and how to go about making all that happen.

Blessings all through your life and beyond,

—*Karen Lewis Foley*

### PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism and/or First Parish as a faith community? The New U is our very popular orientation course, and is facilitated by our ministers and lay leaders. The next session starts on March 12, and will run for three consecutive Sundays (March 12, 19 and 26) from 4 to 6 p.m., in the Wright Tavern. It is ideally suited to people who are considering membership to First Parish and who are seeking some additional information before they join. It is also a great opportunity for spouses or partners to ask questions and become more familiar with the faith community you have discovered. The New U takes place only twice a year, and this will be the last session until next fall, so don’t let it slip by. And remember, it is not just for newcomers — I have attended over a dozen New U’s, and I learn something new each time.

If you are looking for a Minister’s Orientation this month, we are providing that during our second session of the New U. **Gary Smith** will be coming on March 19, at 4:00, to facilitate a spiritual odyssey. He will also share with you our vision and our dreams for First Parish, and how important your contribution is to make those dreams a reality. If you do not want to attend all three sessions of the New U and are ready to sign the membership book, we encourage you to attend just that session on March 19.

Advance sign-up is required for either the entire New U session or the Minister’s Orientation on March 19. Please call the office at 978-369-9602 or e-mail me at [fpsalud@aol.com](mailto:fpsalud@aol.com). You may also sign up during coffee hour at the Newcomer’s Table. Child care is available, but needs to be requested in advance.

Thanks, and hope to see you there!

—*Steph Chiha*

### AFFINITY GROUPS — NEW AND PROPOSED

The Affinity Groups table will be at coffee hour on March 5. Sign up for the Needleworkers Affinity Group, which will meet Sunday, March 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. at church. Bring whatever needlework you like and come to socialize. Teens are welcome. **Stephanie Chiha** at [steph@pierre.com](mailto:steph@pierre.com) has agreed to be the contact for a new French Conversation Group. The Jewelry Group will meet on Monday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at First Parish. The Walking and Theater groups have enough interested people to become established groups if someone would volunteer to be the contact. A contact is needed for each group. Other groups looking for people are: Bicycling (adults), Concerts, Dollhouse Miniatures, Games, Museums, Painting, Planning a Productive & Creative Retirement, Scrapbooking, Theological Discussion, Young Adults (18-35 years) and Creative Writing in the evening or Saturday. Contact **Judy Dembsey** at 978-263-3272 or [dembsey@surfglobal.net](mailto:dembsey@surfglobal.net).

### WINTER SEASONAL DINNER PARTIES

Many people braved the cold to attend festive dinners hosted by **Debbie Page**, **Pat Everett** and **Linda Reynolds** and **Kathleen Elcox** and **Robert Hilsinger**. Let’s continue this lively and fun tradition in the spring. Mark your calendars for March 25, and look for information in the *Sunday News*. —**Vivienne** and **Dean Aldrich**, Membership Committee

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 19  
PLEDGES CONTINUE TO COME IN**

Due to the wild blizzard on February 12, Celebration Sunday at First Parish was postponed. This special service that celebrates our faith community is now rescheduled for Sunday, March 19.



The Pledge.2006 campaign season is now winding down. Pledges continue to come in and each day we are closer to our budget goal of \$940,000.

Please make your pledge today if you have not already done so. Our goal is to have 100 percent participation of First Parish's pledge households this year.

Within the next two weeks we will be e-mailing/sending letters to parishioners whose pledges are outstanding. Then we will begin to follow up with a phone call. So please, avoid this intervention, and send your pledge in now. Please make First Parish a priority as you make your pledge!

Your support is critical to First Parish's well being. Thank you for your generosity!

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

## Music Notes

### SINGING THE JOURNEY: WE HAVE ARRIVED!

Many thanks to all who contributed copies of the hymn-book supplement *Singing the Journey* to First Parish. We have reached our goal of 450 copies for the Sanctuary and Chapel and will not be taking any more orders at this time. If you wish to order a copy of *Singing the Journey* for home use, you can buy it online through the UUA Bookstore at [uua.org/bookstore](http://uua.org/bookstore).

### IS THERE A CHILD SINGING IN YOUR HOME (OR CAR)?

If there are any children between the ages of six and 12, (first through sixth grades) who are filling your home with song, **Judy Burrows**, our Children's Choir Director would love to meet them. Please accept our invitation to popsicles, music, and a little demonstration of our Children's Choir program on March 15, from 5:00 to 5:45 p.m. RSVP to Judy at 781-254-6761 by March 1. Choir is a wonderful place for singing children to sing.

## MUSings

*For my village I am yearning*

*Someday there I'll be returning;*

*Tell the people in Romania*

*I'll come back to Transylvania.*

These are the final words of Bela Bartok's *Evening in Transylvania*, a piece that the Adult Choir sang earlier this year for our Partner Church Sunday. I have known this choral adaptation of Bartok's instrumental work for quite a while. But I had always found Benjamin Suchoff's English words to be a bit sentimental.



That is, until I went to Transylvania in 2002 on the Choir's Musical Pilgrimage. That trip opened up new vistas for me and for the 43 other pilgrims who traveled together to share music, food, fellowship and faith with UU brothers and sisters in our partner church in Székelykeresztúr. No one who experienced that pilgrimage can deny the deep connection we established with the people and land in the "U" of the Carpathian Mountains. Since that trip, two more delegations of youth have returned to Transylvania, and our relationship with these people on the other side of the world has flourished.

So now it is time for the choir to return. In August of 2007, the First Parish Adult Choir will make another musical pilgrimage to Transylvania. Our purpose will be to strengthen our connection to our Unitarian sisters and brothers in Transylvania, to deepen bonds of friendships that have already been established, to increase our understanding of the roots of our Unitarian faith, which began in Transylvania in the 16th century, and of course to share beautiful music with our international friends.

We are in the early phases of planning for this journey. You may be wondering, "Can I come along?" The answer is yes! Those who wish to go on the trip and sing in the pilgrimage choir will be asked to join the choir for the 2006-2007 season. Our pilgrimage repertoire will be drawn from pieces sung during the church year. There will also be space on the trip for nonsinging family members and friends (or "roadies," as we called them in 2002).

Look for more information about this trip in the coming months. If you have any questions about the 2007 Musical Pilgrimage to Transylvania, please feel free to ask me. I am looking forward to returning to the place and the people that welcomed us as family in 2002.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

## Social Action Community News and Events

### THANKS TO COMMON CATHEDRAL HOSTS

Thank you to the many First Parish groups that have been taking our benediction to the streets by hosting a monthly lunch for Common Cathedral, the ministry for the homeless that meets on Boston Common for a worship service every Sunday. December traditionally sees the choir with **Beth Norton** at Common Cathedral, while February belongs to the Youth Group that prepares and delivers personally decorated Valentine cookies each year.

March is already spoken for, but volunteers are needed to host

April 9, May 14 and June 4. This is a great way for families, Parish groups such as Small Group Ministry, and RE classes to go out into the world in a significant way. To volunteer and for instructions, please e-mail **Mary Lou Toussaint** at [mlou512@yahoo.com](mailto:mlou512@yahoo.com).

### STEEL BAND TO PLAY BENEFIT CONCERT

The Atlantic Clarion Steel Band is coming to the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 54 Walden Street, on Sunday, March 5, from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., to play a Benefit Concert for the One Family Scholars Program, part of the One Family Campaign to End Family Homelessness, and the Domestic Violence Victim Assistance Program. The band's music ranges from concert classics to calypso, and is ideal entertainment for families. There is a suggested donation of \$20. Refreshments will be served for \$1.00. The SAC Education Committee is cosponsoring the event as part of its ongoing initiative to address homelessness. For information, call **Jane Blumberg** 978-369-8520.

### IT IS ALL COMING TOGETHER FOR SUSSY

Sussy is working full-time as a Housing Advocate at the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership. She is also working weekends with juveniles at the Metropolitan Treatment Center and is taking her last course at Northeastern so she can graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. On top of that, her oldest daughter, Syra, has been accepted at Salem State for next fall. First Parish's support over the last four years has meant a lot to Sussy. Thank you, all, for helping her in so many ways.

— **Bill Seaver** 978-369-7318

### LEARN TO BE AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE

On Sunday, March 12, from 2 to 5 p.m., Miriam Stein from Cooperative Metropolitan

Ministries will be coming to offer a workshop on advocacy training. Miriam is an experienced social worker who lobbies at the State House on behalf of poor families. She will be discussing how to write effective letters to elected officials and to newspapers, as well as providing tips for face-to-face meetings with representatives. This workshop is being cosponsored by SAC's Education Committee. For information, call **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520.

### GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 15

If you have been working with a nonprofit organization that could use funding to enhance programming, now is the time to submit your grant proposal to the Social Action Giving Committee. The final deadline for this church year's applications is March 15, 2006. Approximately \$30,000 is available for organizations nominated by parishioners. Throughout the year we hear from organizations that have received First Parish grant funds. We maintain a notebook of these letters of thanks and special testimonials. Just let us know if you are interested in reading through the comments we receive. In each *Sunday News* we try to feature a grantee to let you know where your pledge dollars go. You can also read about the social action giving on the First Parish website. Under the drop down menu, click on "program," then click on "social action" and then "grants."

For a copy of the grant application or a listing of organizations that have received funding already this year, visit the First Parish website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org). For additional information, contact **Alane Wallis** at 978-369-1114 or [awallis@nutter.com](mailto:awallis@nutter.com).

### SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN FOR A U.S DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

The state campaign for a U.S. Department of Peace ([maDoP.org](http://maDoP.org)), launched at First Parish a year ago, will hold its second conference on Sunday, March 19, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. at First Parish in Arlington, 630 Mass. Ave. Dot Maver, director of The Peace Alliance, will discuss national strategy for passage of legislation, the importance of national dialogue on nonviolent conflict resolution, and the effects of a Department of Peace — not only internationally, with sophisticated advice for the President and Congress, but in our communities, with policies to reduce the levels of societal discord. Patty Roeding, Education Director in the national campaign, will describe the programs inspiring youth to be peace activists. Congressmen Markey and Meehan, new cosponsors of Kucinich's HR 3760 as a result of successful lobbying by constituents, have been invited to address the meeting. An important segment of the conference will be spent in organizing in district circles for ever-widening participation in creating a "culture of peace." We hope that many First Parishioners and friends will attend and join this campaign. Coordinators are **Pat Simon** and Jason White. For more information, contact Jason at 781-621-0353.

### 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).

**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MOVIE**

On Thursday, March 23, the Diversity Committee will present the Oscar-winning film *My Left Foot* in the Wright Tavern at 7:30 p.m. This is the true story of Christy Brown, who was born in Dublin in the 1930's with severe cerebral palsy. He learned to communicate by writing with his left foot, the only part of his body he could control, and eventually became a writer and artist. This is an inspiring movie of triumph over great odds, and dealing with other people's perceptions based on extreme disability. The movie will be shown on a large screen, and snacks will be provided.

**FLEA MARKET/RECYCLE SALE**

Get your treasures ready to donate to the WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale, which will take place on Saturday, April 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Gently used furniture, antiques, kitchen stuff, art work, jewelry, clean toys are all welcome. No books, magazines, clothing, plants or sports equipment can be accepted. Items can be dropped off at the church the day before. Call **Pat Kane** if you have any questions or to volunteer your help. This is a major fund raiser and a great chance to give away items that you no longer need.

**NOTE FROM THE OFFICE —  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
AT FIRST PARISH**

The newly refurbished First Parish website, [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org), makes it easy to find information about news and programs, recent sermons, including an audio (or podcast) version, and much more! There are several dedicated e-mail lists for particular interest groups, as well as a general list, FPAnnounce, for distribution of up-to-the-minute news and notes. To see the lists that are available, and to add your names to those in which you're interested, just go to [firstparish.org/email\\_lists](http://firstparish.org/email_lists). It's easy to sign up, and great to be "in the loop"!

*Standing Committee*

The Standing Committee (SC) met on February 13 with **Lou Fackert** in attendance for the Trustees. **Pat Everett, Charles Lowell** and **Helen Stewart** attended as visitors. The SC continues to work toward executing effective policy governance. 1) Our first goal is to have an Ends Statement (which should declare not only who we are but who we strive to be) that truly defines us as a congregation. Our benediction, which is known by all who attend Sunday services, seems to be a logical starting point. We are putting a lot of thought and time into this important process, as the Ends Statement is the starting point for the goals that we set for ourselves each church year. 2) Another important feature of policy governance is good communication, with a steady flow of information between the SC and the members of the congregation. In the past, the SC has relied on informal methods of staying in touch — chatting at coffee hour, being on other committees, etc. We are working on finding ways to have a more formalized approach that will ensure not only that the SC knows the thoughts of the parishioners, but also that the parishioners feel connected to and involved with the SC and the governance process. 3) An important job of the SC under policy governance is to constructively evaluate its own ability to meet its goals for the year and the staff's ability to meet its goals. Since a church is in many ways different from a corporation, and our ministers have a much more intimate relationship with their parishioners than a CEO has with his employees, this presents a special challenge.

Changing the way things are done is always difficult, but we are confident that First Parish will rise to the challenge. We are learning as we go along, and each year we are more confident. Policy governance allows all of us to have a vision for the future and to work together to achieve that vision. Please look for the members of the SC at coffee hour and talk to them about First Parish.

Submitted,

—*Sue Beck*

Clerk

I'll never forget the first day we brought our newborn son home. We brought him inside, placed him in the cradle and then just stared at each other. "Now what?" It seems from that moment on, our lives have just accelerated. No longer was time something we could control. Instead, time has an agenda of its own. Our schedule has been driven by feedings, naps and diapers; then by nursery school, play dates and music class; later by elementary school, soccer, and piano lessons; and finally by sports teams, college tours, SAT test dates, and bio labs.

We can't slow down time, but we can pay attention to its passing. First Parish helps us do that through the RE program. I have heard several parents say how much they love teaching an age group their child has already passed. It brings back so many memories of that stage in their own child's life. At the same time, I have heard others say how much they enjoy teaching an age group a few years ahead of their own child. This glimpse into the future of their child's development is priceless. It helps give us perspective as parents, where we have been and where we are going.

Next year, when you volunteer for our RE program, you may be planning to volunteer in your own child's RE classroom. But you may want to consider choosing an age group you particularly enjoy, or a skill that brings your own passion to our RE program. This allows you to develop a relationship with other kids while, concurrently, your child develops a relationship with other adults in our community. Our kids are so fortunate to have such an amazing pool of capable, engaging and dedicated adults at First Parish. Thank you, all, for this important gift we give to each other.

— Pam Howell

### MISSING TEACHERS IN OUR RE PROGRAM FOR THE SPRING TERM

Yikes! Can you help?

9:00 O'clock Service Teachers Needed: Sandlot: 2 teachers, 2nd Grade: 1 teacher, 4th Grade: 1 teacher, 5th Grade: 2 teachers

11:00 O'clock Service: 1 teacher needed for 4-year-olds.

### JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

Although snow-tubing in February had to be cancelled, we are trying to find a mutual date with Tri-Con to reschedule. We will keep you posted on that process.

On Friday, March 17, our Junior High Youth Group will be viewing one or two episodes of the classic television series *The Twilight Zone*. Rod Serling, besides being a genius of the macabre, was also a Unitarian Universalist. We will be discussing these episodes, eating popcorn and celebrating a prominent UU legend. All 7th and 8th graders are welcome to attend. We will be meeting in the Wright Tavern, from 7 to 9 p.m.

### RE REGISTRATION ON APRIL 2 AND 9, PLUS MARCH 30

This year, registration will be held on the first two weekends in April (April 2 and 9). We will also have one evening, Thursday, March 30, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. for registration. We will offer refreshments at the evening registration, along with a chance for an informal discussion about the significant changes in our RE program for next year for both kids and volunteers.

### PROJECTED OPPORTUNITIES AND TIME COMMITMENTS FOR '06-'07 (SOME COMMITMENTS MAY CHANGE SLIGHTLY)

Babies through 2 years: Caregiving, 8-week commitment

3's and 4's: Story Play, 8-week commitment

5's and 6's: Spirit Play, 8-week commitment

2nd through 6th Grade: Workshop Rotation:

Workshop Leader: 5-week commitment

Workshop Guide: 7-week commitment

7th Grade, First Semester: 8-week commitment

7th Grade, Second Semester: Neighboring Faiths, 8-week commitment

8th Grade, First Semester: Ways of Worship (wow) Godspell, 10-week commitment

8th Grade, Second Semester: Our Whole Lives (OWL), 12-session commitment

5th and 6th Grade Youth Group, 7-session evening commitment

7th and 8th Grade Junior High Youth Group, 7-session evening commitment

### WORKSHOP ROTATION

Workshop Rotation is becoming a reality. Most of our "Pillar Teams" have met to begin the formation of the lesson plans that will be used next year in the RE program. We are also working on planning the physical space itself. Please give **Pam Howell** or **Allison Aley** a call if you would like to become more involved in the development of this engaging process.

### SPIRIT PLAY

Do you enjoy stories? Well then, "Spirit Play" might just be the thing for you. This is a powerful medium for touching the hearts and minds of our four-year-olds this year and our Kindergartners and First Graders next year. We are also looking for adults to create "story baskets" for some of the foundational stories from the Hebrew scriptures or the Christian parables. It's really quite simple and it is an engaging activity to do with your own children. Two steps are involved: First, develop a script for the story; and second, assemble a basket with important physical representations of the story. Please call **Pam Howell** or **Carol Duane** for more information.



## Senior Youth News

At our February YAC meeting there was so much energy around planning March activities for youth. It feels like our year is coming to a head. We will be doing everything from our favorite Yin/Yang game to Tai Chi to planning our youth service.

On April 2, the youth will be leading the two Sunday services — an annual tradition that we look forward to. We will plan out a theme and then the specific reflections, music and readings to bring it all together. This year we are lucky to have **Lauren Osornio** helping us with public speaking. I hope that the product will be good, but I have to say that the joy is in the collaborative process.

Our March YRUU calendar looks like this:

March 5: Spiritual Journey Part 1 of 3 — led by our seniors

March 12: Planning Youth Service. If youth want to participate but cannot come, then let a youth leader or Mary-Wren know.

March 19: Tai Chi with **David Zucker**

March 26: Yin/Yang Game

March 31(Fri.): Lock-in to rehearse Youth Service, all youth are welcome.

April 2: Youth Service at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

We have a new format for Time to Talk, which we hope will draw more youth who would like an intimate space to discuss things with their peers. We will meet on Wednesday, March 22, from 7 to 8 p.m. on the Wright Tavern Sun Porch. There will be pizza, and our discussion topic is popularity and stereotyping. We hope all youth feel free to just drop in.

In March SOWL will meet for the last time this year. **Peter Fischelis** and **Susannah Elliot** did a wonderful job getting this program off the ground — the youth gave the class rave reviews and we hope to offer it next year.

As the Youth Director, it warms my heart to see me fade into the background as the youth grow into strong leaders. This spring we will plan our leadership retreat to prepare the next group of youth leaders. Our youth program succeeds because of the wonderful leadership our youth provide, and I happily try to be an engine of support.

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

## Wright Tavern Center

**Play With Purpose** — Through structured, playful practices rooted in storytelling, movement, song and stillness, you gently gain access to your own “body wisdom” — what works best for you, what gives you purpose, what makes you feel fully alive. No special skills are required — your own lovely body is all you need. Drop-in format. **CC King** leads this group, which is suitable for newcomers to InterPlay and continuing enthusiasts, [www.interplay.org](http://www.interplay.org).

Alternate Wednesdays: 1/11–5/7, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. \$12/session  
Alternate Thursdays: 3/2–5/8, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. \$12/session  
\$120 (sliding scale for financial hardship)

**Augustine’s Confessions** — *The Confessions* is the first spiritual autobiography and perhaps the most influential book (aside from the Bible) in Christian history. The author, who lived from 354 to 430 C.E., will teach us as much about our own culture, faith and selves, as he has taught others in preceding centuries. Please read the first three chapters before the first class. Choose from the following editions: Maria Boulding, O.S.B. Vintage Spiritual Classics, 1997, \$12; Philip Burton, Everyman, \$20; and Henry Chadwick, Oxford University Press, 1991, \$14. Garry Wills has a fine short introduction to St. Augustine, published by Penguin and costing \$13. Led by Carl Scovel, Minister Emeritus of King’s Chapel.

Mondays: 3/6–4/10 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

**Out of the Dark: A Saturday Retreat** — **Karen Foley** offers this one-day retreat at First Parish, a time for emerging from winter darkness into the light. Explore where you feel light emerging in your life, where it may be guiding you, and where the sacred is for you at this time of equinox and lengthening days. A light lunch will be served, prepared by Karen’s able chef (her husband).

Saturday, March 11 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \$50

**Listening for God** — Bring a bag lunch and join **Gary Smith** for a discussion of short stories taken from *Faith Stories*, edited by Michael Curtis. This month’s story is *Fisher’s of Men*, by Amy Tan.

Wednesday, March 15 12:15 p.m.

**Mirrors of Masculinity** — Between work, family and everyday life men are finding it rare to have time for sharing the company of other men and what they feel deeply for, and value, in their lives. Consciously placing ourselves in the company of other men who are looking at life’s larger pictures and asking important questions about who we are as men, is the framework for this course. As we combine discussion, poetry and interactive exercises with our connecting to Spirit, each other, and nature we will create a caldron for comradery, change and consciousness.

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER continued on page 10

## Women's News

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

This year's First Parish Women's Book Group meets on Tuesday mornings and Monday evenings. The book for March is Eve LaPlante's biography, *American Jezebel, the Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans*. The evening group will meet on Monday, March 27 — please note that this is a date change! — 7:30 to 9:00 o'clock, and the morning group will meet on Tuesday, March 28, from 9:30 to 11 o'clock. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the book and participate in one or both discussions.

Copies of *American Jezebel* are on sale during coffee hours and in the office, and the author, Eve LaPlante, will be at First Parish for a Wright Tavern Center Program on April 6. (See Wright Tavern Center item below.)

*Please note that the March evening session will meet on the fourth Monday, March 27.*

### Books and Dates for the Remainder of 2006

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

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### WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER continued from page 9

Blasé Provitola and Ron Kearns have each been involved in working with groups of men for over a decade. They are the founders of Menswork Inc., a non profit organization whose purpose includes "birthing the male Spirit." They have been cofacilitators at Rowe Conference Center for the Men's Wisdom Council for the last twelve years and developed a course for incarcerated men named "menswork," which they lead in a number of area prisons.

Tuesdays: 4/3–5/8      7:30 – 9:30 p.m.      \$175

**"American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchinson, the Woman who Defied the Puritans"** — As a follow-up to the First Parish Women's Book Group's reading of *American Jezebel*, author Eve LaPlante will join the wider community in a discussion of the life of the remarkable and polarizing Anne Hutchinson, a complex and fascinating woman. Written by one of Hutchinson's direct descendents, Eve LaPlante's book offers both balance and perspective to Hutchinson's story. *American Jezebel* illuminates the origins of our modern concepts of religious freedom, equal rights and free speech, and showcases an extraordinary woman whose achievements are astonishing by the standards of any era.

Thursday: 4/6    7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

## UU News

### JUNE 2006 — GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ST. LOUIS

The annual General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, also known as "GA," will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, this summer, June 21 to 28. GA is a virtual feast



of programming, from worship to workshops to performances, and of course, the business meetings of the Association, called plenary sessions. First Parish is entitled to 15 delegates, and it's a great experience to attend and represent First Parish in the denominational process. The Denominational

Affairs Committee receives delegate applications for GA, and it's not too early to begin planning now to participate. You'll find lots of information about GA at [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga); and if you're interested in being a delegate, please contact **Margaret Stewart**, at [fpmom@aol.com](mailto:fpmom@aol.com).

### INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON UU SUMMER PROGRAMS

Program books are now available for the New England summer camps and conferences centers. Check the UU bulletin board for informational posters, and request your own copies of program brochures from [ferrybeach.org](http://ferrybeach.org) (Ferry Beach) and/or from [starisland.org](http://starisland.org) (Star Island). Information about UU camps can also be found at the UUA website, [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

## Classified/Community News

### NANNY NEEDED

A parishioner who has recently been diagnosed with cancer is looking for a nanny to care for her four- and six-year-old children afternoons, and help with errands and light household chores. Please contact **Kathy Loving** or **Dennis Reilly** at 508-358-0722 or [kdloving@comcast.net](mailto:kdloving@comcast.net).

### LEND A HAND TO LEXINGTON UU'S

On March 25, at 6 p.m., friends and colleagues of Kathryn George, member and covenant group member of First Parish Unitarian Church on the Green will hold a Benefit with fabulous music and food and a silent auction to raise money for Kathryn. Kathryn, a psychotherapist with the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy, has donated her time and heart to the training and supervision of many young therapists, and is the inheritor of a genetic kidney disease for which she is on dialysis and on waiting lists for a kidney transplant. Please come, as a fellow UU, to the benefit and bring a friend, if you desire. Admission is \$30. and if you are able to donate a silent auction item, e.g. resume writing, dinner for four, your quartet, etc., please contact Amy Kavadlo at 617-738-0600 or [amykav@mcihispeed.net](mailto:amykav@mcihispeed.net). Introduce yourselves to Kathryn! —Janet Wiseman

## March 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 3/20, 3/27)
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	1:15 (not 3/20, 3/27)
<i>Augustine's Confessions</i>	Monday	7:30
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30
<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	Tuesday	7:00 (not 3/21 or 3/28)
Concord Interfaith Group	Wednesday	8:00
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 (not 3/29)
<i>Melt Chaos into Calm</i>	Wednesday	7:30 (not 3/29)
<i>Opening the Hand of Thought</i>	Wednesday	7:30
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30
<i>Melt Chaos into Calm</i>	Thursday	9:30 (not 3/30)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30
<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	Friday	9:30 (not 3/24 or 3/31)
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 3/12)

Wed Mar 1	7:00	Human Resources Committee	Mon Mar 13	9:30	Parish Visitors
	7:00	RE Council		7:00	Jewelry Affinity Group
Thu Mar 2	12:00	<i>Brown Bag Emerson</i>		7:00	Standing Committee
Fri Mar 3	9:30	Pastoral Care	Wed Mar 15	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>
	6:00	Fundraising Gathering		7:00	Youth Social Action Committee
Sat Mar 4	9:00	Just Neighbors Class	Fri Mar 17	7:30	Las Vegas Night
	9:00	Gospel Workshop		7:00	Junior Youth
	8:00	Gospel Concert	Sat Mar 18	7:30	Las Vegas Night
Sun Mar 5	12:15	Nominating Committee	Sun Mar 19	<b>Celebration Sunday!</b>	
	2:00	Coming of Age		3:00	Our Whole Lives A
	2:00	Our Whole Lives A and B		4:00	New U
Mon Mar 6	9:30	Pastoral Care		6:00	Our Whole Lives B
	7:00	Minister's Orientation	Mon Mar 20	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
Tue Mar 7	9:00	WPA Board		3:00	WPA Concert
	6:00	First Tuesdays Dinner		4:00	WPA Tea
	7:00	Senior Our Whole Lives	Tue Mar 21	7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee
	7:30	First Tuesdays Vespers	Wed Mar 22	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
Wed Mar 8	6:30	Partner Church Committee		7:00	Time to Talk
	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	Thu Mar 23	7:00	Diversity Committee
	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>	Fri Mar 24	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
Thu Mar 9	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>	Sat Mar 25	Seasonal Dinner Parties (off-site)	
	7:30	Songwriters Affinity Group	Sun Mar 26	2:00	Our Whole Lives A and B
Sat Mar 11	9:00	<i>Out of the Dark— A Saturday Retreat</i>		4:00	New U
	9:00	Photo Club	Mon Mar 27	7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Sun Mar 12	2:00	Homelessness Advocacy Workshop	Tue Mar 28	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	4:00	New U	Wed Mar 29	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
			Fri Mar 31	9:00	Pastoral Care
				5:30	YRUU Lock-In



**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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**MARCH 2006 NEWSLETTER**

The next **Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, March 20**, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, March 29.

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

**Don't Miss...**

**COME ONE, COME ALL!  
CELEBRATION SUNDAY**

*Rescheduled for March 19*



**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 Koplw**, 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**

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