



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

## The Meeting House News

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### REVeries

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*This is the light I crave  
the first light  
the new creation light  
that falls softly  
on all it touches  
the light that does not invade  
but leaves some spaces  
in shadow  
waiting their own time to be seen*

*This is the light I crave  
the first light  
the waking light  
the renewing light  
the touch of creative love  
that warms but does not blister  
this is the light I crave*

wilma gayle waddell

I am reading this poem at retreats in which we focus on emerging into greater light at this time of year. And how many of us have been feeling, these recent weeks, especially during the unseasonably cold days, exactly like this about the lengthening light? We are encouraged, enlivened. The light literally brings us life — photosynthesis creates nourishment for our very bodies.

The light is external — it comes because earth's axis tilts — but perhaps it seems to come as a blessing. The light is internal as well, and that, well, that is more complicated. Maybe your internal light is emerging and growing with the lengthening days and maybe it isn't. We may not have much more control over our internal light than over the sun's. But we can choose to allow to shine whatever light is in us, however little it may be. And we can choose to search out the light in each other, and be grateful for it.

Blessings of light and peace,  
— Karen Foley

### Sunday Worship Schedule

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**April 2**

**9:00 & 11:00 – Youth Service**  
coordinated by Mary-Wren  
vanderWilden

**Youth Musicians and Gospel Choir**

**April 9**

**Palm Sunday**

**Gary Smith**, preaching

**9:00 Adult Choir**

*Hosanna to the Son of David* – Willan

*Shalom Rav* – Sargon

**11:00 – Handbell Choir**

*All Glory Laud and Honor* – arr. Tucker

*Allegro Glorioso* – McMichael

**April 16**

**Easter Sunday**

**Gary Smith**, preaching

**9:00 & 11:00 – Adult Choir**

**Brass, Organ and Timpani**

*I Thank You God* – Pfautsch

*Alleluia* – Thompson

**April 23**

**Carl Scovel**, preaching

**9:00 – Donne Musicale**

**11:00 – Adult Choir**

*I Will Sing with the Spirit* – Rutter

*Deep Peace* – Douglas

**April 30**

**Gary Smith**, preaching

**9:00 & 11:00 – Men's Quartet**

*Adoro te Devote* – Winter

**9:00 – Chalice Choir**

*You Are the Light of the World*

**11:00 – Junior Choir**

*The Bear Necessities* – Gilkson

**COME BUILD A DREAM!**

See insert for updated information about the First Parish Capital Campaign.



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There are two inserts with this newsletter:

**Capital Campaign**  
**Pledge 2006 Update and**  
**Transylvanian/Partner Church Notes**

*The Meeting House News*, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly September 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
Friday, April 14	Wednesday, April 26
Monday, May 15	Wednesday, May 24
Monday, June 19	Wednesday, June 28

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

We're delighted to announce that **Caroline McCloy** has agreed to fill the position of Director of Member Services, beginning later this summer. Following the amazing work **Stephanie Chiha** did for several years, this position has been vacant this year because of a tight budget. Though Caroline resigned as director of the Wright Tavern Center, we're lucky to have her remain on the staff in this important job!

### **JOB OPENING—PROGRAM DIRECTOR, WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**

We have an opening for this 15 hour/week job, 40-42 weeks (not summer weeks), coordinating and publicizing our Wright Tavern programs, our center for adults and teens to come to deepen spiritually. We are looking for someone with a vision for developing this important program. Contact **Gary Smith** (gesmith@tiac.net) for a job description and more information. Deadline: April 15.

## 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.

### APRIL 2

*Afghanistan —Four Years Later*  
**Carl Robichaud**

Afghanistan, four years after the ousting of the Taliban, has become America's forgotten war. A cross-border insurgency, narcotics trafficking, and rampant criminality have undermined the nation's substantial progress in refugee repatriation, democratic governance, and women's rights. **Carl Robichaud**, director of the Century Foundation's Afghanistan Watch program, will discuss the future of Afghanistan. What is really going on there? Will the new Afghanistan Compact or the NATO expansion help establish a sustainable peace? What obligations does the United States have to this troubled nation?

### APRIL 9

*In Support of Spindletop*  
**Mark Richards** and **Paul Minor**

First Parish is leading a national partnership in support of the Spindletop Unitarian Church in Beaumont, Texas. **Mark Richards** and **Paul Minor** have visited with the folks in Beaumont and will report on the progress that this small band of liberal missionaries is making in the conservative cacophony of Southeast Texas.

### APRIL 16

No Forum — Easter

### APRIL 23

No Forum

### APRIL 30

No Forum — RE Chapel

## Parish Notes

### NEW ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR PASTORAL CARE ANNOUNCED

The Reverend Margaret (Margie) King Saphier has agreed to become our new part-time Associate Minister for Pastoral Care, filling the position being vacated by **Karen Foley**. Karen and her husband are moving to Maine, where she will explore venues for her ministry. Margie makes her home in Carlisle, was graduated from Russell Sage College with a B.S. in Nursing in 1967, and from Andover Newton Theological School with a Master of Divinity in 2000. She was ordained the same year by the First Religious Society of Carlisle. She currently serves as the Affiliate Minister at the United First Parish in Quincy, and has significant experience as a Hospice Nurse. We are thrilled to find someone of this caliber and experience to continue the strong Pastoral Care Ministry Karen has developed. Margie will begin sometime after July 1.

### REMINDER: FLEA MARKET/RECYCLE SALE — APRIL 1

Don't forget to donate items to and attend the WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale, which will take place on April 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. Gently used furniture, antiques, kitchen stuff, artwork, jewelry and clean toys are all welcome. No books, magazines, clothing, plants or sports equipment can be accepted. Please drop off your items at the church the day before the sale. Call **Pat Kane** at 978-369-8418 if you want to volunteer at this enjoyable fund raiser.

### FIRST PARISH AND THE FAITH QUILTS PROJECT

The Faith Quilts Project is a three-year initiative bringing together faith groups, artists and quilters to collaborate on quilts that explore their faith paths and reach out to the wider world. On April 6, a four-day exhibition of 60 Faith Quilts will open at the Cyclorama at the Boston Center for the Arts. One of these quilts will be First Parish's own quilt — exploring our commitment to social action. Many of the children in the RE program have contributed to the quilt by making fabric pieces in the shape of their hands, which illustrate their "hands that are ready to serve." For more information, e-mail **Merill Comeau** at [mlcomeau@verizon.net](mailto:mlcomeau@verizon.net) or visit the Faith Quilts Project website, [faithquilts.org](http://faithquilts.org).

### FIFTH ANNUAL NICK RESSLER MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE

Are you looking for a way to put the First Parish benediction into practice? Why not consider donating blood during the annual Nick Ressler Memorial Blood Drive on Saturday, April 8. Nick, a vibrant member of the First Parish community, was 14 when he died of cancer in 2001. Over 300 blood donors helped Nick during his illness, and now others need the same help. Mass General's bloodmobile will be at First Parish on Saturday, April 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. If you are 17 years old, you may be eligible to donate. Call **Pam Ressler** (978-369-0869) or **Cindy Tenner** (978-371-0306) for an appointment to donate, or to ask questions.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

First Parish's annual observance of "The Last Supper" is on Maundy Thursday, prior to Easter Sunday. A service of Communion in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. is followed by the traditional Chowder Supper in the Parish Hall. Tickets for the Chowder Supper are \$10, and will be available at coffee hours and in the church office prior to the dinner. (Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased prior to the event.) **Caroline McCloy** will be making the traditional fish chowder that day and will need help in the kitchen. Please contact her at 978-369-9602, ext. 421, or [FPTavern@aol.com](mailto:FPTavern@aol.com).

### JOIN THE ANNUAL FIRST PARISH PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, April 15, at 5 p.m., is the date for the annual Seder at First Parish, a very special experience for everyone who participates. Together we prepare a kosher-style dinner and listen to the story of Passover (a shortened child-friendly version of the Haggadah).

PARISH NOTES continued on page 7

## Pastoral Care News

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Learn the art of Parish Visiting. The Parish Visitors, a group of caring individuals who visit regularly with some of our older members and friends, meet monthly with me for reflection and mutual support and supervision. It is a monthly “meeting” to which I look forward with delight because they are a wonderful group of people, and the conversation is always engaging and thought-provoking. The Visitors report that their visits feel less like “visits” that they “give” someone and more like developing friendships. Which says a lot about the quality of their presence in these relationships.

Most of the Visitors have been doing this for some time and received training before I arrived at First Parish. As we now have a couple of new Parish Visitors, I will give a training session on listening, presence and visiting issues. Current Visitors are invited to participate in this as a “refresher” course. If you’ve thought about joining our Parish Visitors, either now or sometime in the future, or even if you visit someone in your own life and some learning may be of value to you, I invite you to this training on Saturday, April 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Please call the church office (978-369-9602) if you plan to attend so I can have enough handouts and snacks on hand.

**“Questioning Faith”** — We all do it at some time. Come see and discuss this video on Tuesday, April 11, 7 to 9 p.m. It was created by a seminary student who found his faith shaken when a friend died of AIDS. He interviewed others who experienced losses or anticipated their own deaths, to learn what sustained them in their time of deep need. I found this video powerful and moving.

Good-bye but Hello. Elsewhere in this *Meetinghouse News*, you’ll see **Gary Smith’s** announcement that the Reverend Margie King Saphier will be joining the staff in my place this summer. Margie is a friend and very well-respected colleague with solid experience in pastoral care. I look forward to welcoming her here as she visits this spring with some of the groups with whom I have been working. It will be hard to leave you, yes, but I feel blessed to be able to do so with Margie entering among you.

Blessings in this blooming (soon) season,

— *Karen Lewis Foley*

## Membership Corner

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### AFFINITY GROUPS

Are you interested in participating in a Painting Group? We now have a contact person for this group. A few more people are needed to start a creative writing group that would meet on a weekday evening or on the weekend. The Walking Group sign-up gets larger, but a contact person is still needed. Are you interested? Sign up for the adult Bicycle Group with **Peggy Walker**, the Kayaking Group with **Karen Kashian** or French Conversation with **Stephanie Chiha**. The Jewelry Group meets on April 24, at 7 p.m. at First Parish and the Needleworkers Group, on Sunday, April 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Tavern Room.

Stop by the Affinity Groups table at the coffee hours on Sunday, April 9. This will be the last time that the table will be available this church year. However, you can still contact **Judy Dembsey** at home, 978-263-3272 or dembsey@surfglobal.net.

### Money Matters

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As spring arrives, we are two thirds of the way through the fiscal year. In February, we collected \$64.1K in subscription income, bringing the fiscal year total to \$693.5K. This represents 76 percent of our budget. Please continue to make contributions toward your pledge. This will help us reach our year-end goal of \$907.9K, which was planned for based on your pledges. On the expense side, we continue to be on track as our YTD expenses through February represent 64 percent of total budgeted expenses for the year. Although in total we have slightly lower spending YTD than expected at this time, in some areas of the facility and administrative accounts we are working quite hard to stay within budget. At this time, we do not expect any areas to run over budget.

#### Other financial highlights:

You will receive pledge statements in April with your pledge and contribution amounts for the first 9 months of the pledge year. Please review this carefully and contact **Peg Gallo** or me if you have any questions.

The audit of our 2005 financials is almost complete. **Tim Jacoby** and I will be meeting with the auditors in late March, and the audited financials should be finalized thereafter.

The staff has begun putting together the budget for FY ’07. A preliminary version was presented to the Standing Committee in February. We will be able to update this version when the pledge campaign is complete. Your pledges typically represent over 70 percent of the budgeted income, so pledges play a very important role in determining how much money we can spend on our programs, staffing, facilities, UUA contributions, etc.

— *Lisa Cole*, Business Manager

#### FROM THE COLLECTOR

For those who fulfill pledges by donations of appreciated stock, our brokerage information has changed. Please contact **Peg Gallo** at 979-369-9602 for new instructions. Thank you.

## AN INVITATION TO AN ORDINATION

Three years ago, I left First Parish with your blessings to complete my education for the ministry. As I made my exit, **Gary Smith** reminded me that the children and families of First Parish had already ordained me with their love and trust. My education would only be a rounding out of what I had already learned from you. He was right. In the Unitarian Universalist tradition, only our congregations have the authority to ordain our ministers. It is an awesome honor for me to ask you, the members of this church, to officially ordain me on May 7, as you have already done in your hearts.

With much gratitude,

—**Diane Rollert**

The congregation is invited  
to the ordination of  
**Diane Olenick Rollert**  
into the Unitarian Universalist  
Ministry  
at First Parish in Concord,  
Sunday, May 7, 2006, at 4:00 p.m.  
Reception to follow in the Parish Hall.

## CAN YOU HELP?

Would you like to help make this a special day for Diane? We are organizing a reception for the day of her ordination. We welcome contributions of flowers and food for the table, and we need volunteers to help at the occasion. Donations may be offered to defray expenses. If you can provide sandwiches or goodies and/or if you can volunteer, please contact **Caroline McCloy** at 978-371-1039 or [FPTavern@aol.com](mailto:FPTavern@aol.com). Thank you!

—The Ordination Committee: **Merill Comeau, Cynthia Ellis, Caroline McCloy** and **Mary-Wren vanderWilden**.

## MUSings

*Be sure to give the rest its full value. The silence is as important as the sound.*

I regularly say this to the choir as we rehearse together. Musicians focus so much on playing or singing the right notes, concentrating on correctly producing the sound that composers indicate through the written music.



But a musical score also has rests telling us to be silent, and composers use this silence as effectively as they use sound to create their music. Often in our eagerness to get to the next note or chord singers

shortchange the rests, and we have to practice giving those moments of silence their full value. Times of silence indicated by rests are just as important as the times of sound indicated by the notes. There are some rhythms that simply can't happen without rest: What would the opening of Beethoven's 5th symphony be without that important eighth rest of silence before the "da-da-da-daah?"

This is all obvious when one is preparing a musical score. Why is it so hard to acknowledge and incorporate rest and silence into the symphony of our day-to-day life? During this season of Lent I am reading a book that was given to me at Christmas, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in our Busy Lives*, by Wayne Muller. Muller's book approaches the concept of Sabbath (from the Hebrew *shabbath*, or "rest") from a variety of religious traditions and cultural perspectives. And he suggests simple practices that help create Sabbath time in the midst of our lives, whether it is just a few minutes, a few breaths, or a whole day of rest and renewal. As I read, I am exploring some of these practices and learning to appreciate and develop the Sabbath practices I have already incorporated into my life's rhythm, but not really acknowledged as such. I recommend this slim volume to anyone who would like to make more space in their lives for rest and renewal.

"Give the rest its full value. The silence is as important as the sound." May we all hear and heed these words as we sing the song of life.

Blessings,

—*Beth Norton*

## Music Notes

### VOICE AND PIANO RECITAL

On Sunday, April 2, at 4 p.m., **Larry Gall**, baritone, and **Eric Huenneke**, pianist, will present selections of piano music by Brahms, Mozart and Chopin. The program will include songs of travel and love by Brahms, Fauré, Schumann and Vaughn-Williams. The performance will be held in the Sanctuary. The recital is open to the public as well as to First Parish members. A suggested donation of \$15 will benefit the organ fund.

### DUST OFF THOSE "MESSIAH" SCORES! EASTER IS COMING!

Singers from the congregation are invited to come to the choir loft during the final hymn on Easter Sunday, April 16, and join the choir in our traditional Easter benediction response, G. F. Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*. If you have a copy of the *Messiah*, please bring it with you. If not, there will be some extra music available, and choir members are always willing to share. Even if you don't wish to make the climb to the balcony, feel free to join in this joyous chorus on Easter morning.

### SISTER CITY 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Concord–San Marcos Sister Cities Committee invites all to join in a celebration of its 20th anniversary, Sunday, April 23. The celebration will be held at the Concord Greene clubhouse, 1024 Main Street, West Concord, from 4 to 6 p.m. The occasion will be an opportunity to commemorate 20 years of friendship and mutual association with Concord's Nicaraguan sister city. There will be live music, lively conversation and varied refreshments. Sra.

María Dolores Vado, the manager of the Sister City's micro-

bank program, will be on hand to join in the festivities. For more information, contact **Al Armenti**, 978-369-3779, armenti@world.std.com or Steve Bloomfield at 978-369-369-1314, sbloomfield@wcfia.harvard.edu.

### CALL FOR VETERANS TO JOIN VFP IN PATRIOTS' DAY PARADE

This year, on Monday, April 17, the Concord contingent of Veterans for Peace (VFP) will be participating in the Patriots' Day Parade to help the town memorialize this important day in its history and the history of our country. The VFP has been an important presence in the parade for the past two years, several First Parish veterans have taken part in the march. If you are a veteran, you are invited to join the VFP contingent in the Patriots' Day Parade. VFP membership is not required. Please contact **Al Armenti**, 978-369-3779, armenti@world.std.com

### SAC BULLETIN BOARD IS OPEN TO ALL

SAC has a bulletin board outside the Tuttle Room in the hallway below the Sanctuary. If you want to post flyers on this board, please leave them in **Kaye Harvie's** mailbox (under the FAX machine in the church office). This is another way to tell people about social action opportunities. —**Bill Seaver**, 978-369-7318

### CLICK TO END HUNGER

Visit [thehungersite.com](http://thehungersite.com) every day, and click to help feed people around the world. Also check out their fair trade products, which make perfect gifts any time of year.

### FOR MOTHER'S DAY, CONSIDER THIS...

May 6 to 11: Five Days in Biloxi, Mississippi, volunteering to help rebuild a house, a community and ultimately, a life. Put aside all your at-home responsibilities and join an interfaith "sisterhood" of women from

Concord and Carlisle as they roll up their sleeves together. What a great Mother's Day gift to yourself! If interested contact **Demi Ayres** (Tri-Con, Concord) at 978-369-4250 or [RAYres9200@aol.com](mailto:RAYres9200@aol.com).

### YOU CAN HELP THE UU SERVICE COMMITTEE TAKE ACTION

The UUSC is sponsoring three important initiatives that speak to our mission to go out into the world. Hopefully, each member of our congregation will join the UUSC (visit their website at [uus.org](http://uus.org)), but even if you are not a member, you can participate in these three actions.

- Join the Million Voices for Darfur. The UUSC, along with other organizations, is hoping to present one million signatures to President Bush at the rally in Washington D.C. on April 30. Go to [savedarfur.org](http://savedarfur.org) or [millionvoicesfordarfur.org](http://millionvoicesfordarfur.org) to sign up.
- The UUSC has joined religious groups around the country for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Go to [nrcat.org](http://nrcat.org) to find out how you can take action.
- Join the campaign to promote a fair minimum wage in the United States and across the globe. For more information, contact **Sue Beck** at 978-369-8445 or [sbeck345@comcast.net](mailto:sbeck345@comcast.net).

### FIRST PARISH LEADS SUPPORT FOR SPINDLETOP UNITARIAN

First Parish in Concord is leading a partnership of three UU churches that are supporting the efforts of Spindletop Unitarian Church in Beaumont, Texas. The church is ravished with termite infestation and must move. The congregation of Spindletop would like to have folks from the partner churches come to Beaumont to help renovate their new space and receive thanks for our support. On April 9, **Mark Richards** and **Paul Minor** will speak at the Forum about Spindletop Unitarian. On Friday, May 5, there will be a fundraising dinner at First Parish to raise money to partially fund the construction of a parking lot on the new property. For more information, contact **Mark Richards**.

### SECOND ANNUAL JERICHO ROAD VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Seventy parishioners, family members and other volunteers filled the Parish Hall to capacity at the Second Annual Volunteer Recognition Event in the Parish Hall on February 27. Highlights of the evening included volunteer **Marty Schumacher's** receiving an award for his outstanding contributions to Jericho Road over the past three years, and First Parish members **Don Leopold** and **Paul Minor's** speaking about their current project collaborations with the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association and the United Teen Equality Center, respectively. For more information on Jericho Road and pictures from the volunteer event, please see our website at [jerichoroadproject.org](http://jerichoroadproject.org).

### 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).

Everyone over the age of six chooses or is assigned a job, for this is the most labor-intensive meal prepared at First Parish. Assignments will be made when people sign up and pay for reservations, which will be accepted until Tuesday, April 11. Adults and children 13 years of age and over will pay \$17, those ages 6 to 13 will pay \$5, and all those younger than 6 are free but must have space reserved. There is room for only 70 people.

Reservations will be taken at both coffee hours on Sundays, April 2 and 9, or you can leave your name, phone number, ages of children and payment in the office. **Rhoda Miller**, who is coordinating the Seder, will call you with your job assignment. You may contact Rhoda for further information at 978-369-6639.

Kerem Shalom will also be hosting a Seder celebration, the Second Night Passover Seder, on Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m., led by Cantor Rosalie Gerut and Rachmiel Langer. They invite you to join them as they follow the pathway of the Exodus story as a roadmap for spiritual growth and freedom. For reservation information contact [rosalieg@comcast.net](mailto:rosalieg@comcast.net).

#### PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION

First Parish Photography Club's fourth annual exhibit and reception will be held on Sunday, April 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. Each member of the club will have pictures hung. There will be slide shows, a variety of photograph-oriented articles and, of course, refreshments. Watch for further details. For more information, contact **Kathleen Elcox** at [Kelcox@net1plus.com](mailto:Kelcox@net1plus.com).

#### DIVERSITY COMMITTEE MOVIE

On Thursday, April 27, the Diversity Committee will present the movie *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* at 7:30 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. This Oscar-winning film, which stars Terence Stamp and Hugo Weaving, is both funny and poignant as it chronicles the travels of two drag queens and a transsexual through the gorgeous Australian Outback on their way to a gig at a desert resort. As always, the movie will be shown on a big screen, and refreshments will be provided. This movie is rated R, so no children, please.

#### SIGNS OF SUMMER: FERRY BEACH DATES

Mark your calendar now for the Ferry Beach Weekend, May 26 to 28. Join families from our own congregation and First Parish in Lexington for a relaxed weekend on the beach. Watch for details in *The Sunday News*. Also, don't forget to check out the excellent summer camps and conferences for all ages at Ferry Beach, at [www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org).

#### UU SUMMER CAMPS

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), [starisland.org](http://starisland.org) (Star Island), and [rowecenter.org](http://rowecenter.org) (Rowe Camp). Information about UU camps can also be found at the UUA website, [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org).

We're delighted to announce that **Pam Howell** has agreed to be our Director of Religious Education, no "acting" or "interim" in front of the title. Hooray!

## Standing Committee

Minutes from all Standing Committee (SC) meetings are available on the First Parish website and are also posted on the church bulletin board as soon as they are approved. At the March 13 meeting, the SC unanimously approved a new vision statement to be incorporated into our Policy Governance. The SC will use this Ends Statement to formulate our annual goals.

#### NEW VISION STATEMENT

"First Parish in Concord is an open, diverse and inclusive Unitarian Universalist church that supports each person's spiritual journey, as they strive to:

Go out into the world in peace,  
Have courage,  
Hold onto what is good.  
Return to no person evil for evil.  
Strengthen the fainthearted,  
Support the weak,  
Help the suffering,  
Honor all beings.

These words, our benediction, come to life when we actively promote spiritual growth and nourishment through connecting, reflecting, praying, singing, listening, acting and giving.

The people of First Parish:

Connect through worship services, small group ministry, and community events. An important part of our community is our commitment to value our children's spiritual development in religious education, social action projects and music;

Reflect through child and adult religious education and in weekly services;

Pray together in worship and in meditation;

Sing in worship, in choirs, in concerts and shows;

Listen to each other, to sermons, to their inner calling;

Act to improve the world through social justice programs;

Give within to sustain our community both spiritually and financially, and without to the larger community to bring love, peace and justice to the world."

## REflections and RE News

Have you noticed? RE is going to look quite a bit different next year. The RE Council members and the RE staff have been working all year to bring several improvements to our RE Program.

For our youngest children (0-3 years), we are creating a mixed age classroom. This way siblings can often be together, and children socialize best in mixed aged settings.

For our 3's and 4's, we are using our "Story Time" curriculum as a precursor to SpiritPlay. We are choosing the best stories, based on parent volunteer feedback forms, and allowing children to explore them based on the Montessori model.

We are combining our Kindergartners and First Graders and expanding the SpiritPlay program we started this year. We have heard very positive comments from teachers, parents and kids with regard to this Montessori approach toward learning and exploring spiritual stories.

Workshop Rotation is becoming a reality through the dedication of over 40 caring adults. We are close to completing the curriculum for next year's RE program and are about to start decorating the room space. Please call me or **Allison Aley** if you would like to get involved in this exciting work. Terrific people are coming forward with their amazing talents and it has been a pleasure working with so many of you.

We are formalizing a rotating "curriculum" for our 6th and 7th-8th Grade youth groups. These groups are primarily social and meet on Sundays in the late afternoon. Adults especially like leading these groups because they are a great group of kids and the adult is still able to participate in worship on Sunday mornings.

For 7th graders, we are embracing **Claudia Nimar's** concept of the "Young Activist" and bringing it into this grade level's Sunday morning curriculum. This is a hands-on program that enables our kids to put their faith in action.

Neighboring Faiths will be in the second semester for 7th graders. We have an interesting itinerary planned for both kids and leaders. Often we hear adults who lead Neighboring Faiths say that they learn much themselves about the different religious traditions.

8th Graders will be bringing their interpretation of *GodSpell* into worship for next year. These youth will explore the importance of Jesus' message in the world through drama, dance and social action. Their work will culminate in a youth-led worship service on December 3.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) will continue next year, but with a slightly shorter schedule. We hear you — your kids are busy, but we all want them knowledgeable and safe as they move into adulthood.

Coming of Age (COA) will also be a bit less time-consuming, but will still maintain the essential elements of the exploratory process of defining who we are as spiritual beings.

### PARENTING SUPPORT

Sometimes parenting can be difficult. There are normal ups and downs with raising children and teens. But sometimes it can be more. Supporting a child with mental illness can be particularly challenging because of its chronic nature. It can be draining for parents who are trying to keep it all together. If you are going through a difficult period with your child and are in need of some support yourself, either through our Pastoral Care program or from other parents who have already gone through something similar, please give **Karen Foley** or me a call. All information will be kept confidential.

Also, if you are a parent who has been through difficulties of this nature and would like to be a resource for other parents who are currently struggling with this issue, let **Karen Foley** or me know. Depression and mental illness are difficult to talk about, but they are serious realities many of us face. First Parish wants to be there for families who are facing this particular challenge.

— Pam Howell

### APRIL IN RE — REGISTRATION DAYS

This year, registration will be held on the first two weekends in April (April 2 and 9). We will also be having one weekday registration, Wednesday, April 12, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### PROJECTED OPPORTUNITIES AND TIME COMMITMENTS: '06-'07

Babies up to 3 years: Caregiving — 8 week commitment

3's and 4's: Story Time — 8-week commitment

5's and 6's: SpiritPlay — 7-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 — 9-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 — 6-session evening commitment

7th and 8th Grade Junior High Youth Group — 6-session evening commitment

### APRIL RE CALENDAR:

April 2 Regular RE Program, RE Registration during Coffee Hours

April 9 Regular RE Program, RE Registration during Coffee Hours

April 12 RE Registration 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 16 Easter Sunday — No RE

April 23 RE Program — Social Action Sunday

April 30 RE Program — Chapel Sunday K-6



## Senior Youth News

The youth have been talking about ways to bring more spirituality into the Youth Group. When we talked about bringing in various speakers, the youth realized that they could do a good job leading themselves. So three seniors will be leading the Youth Group on a "spiritual journey" one Sunday a month until the end of our year. In March we explored fears/passions and evils/virtues and how we define our spirituality, all together while contemplating our individual candles. We are excited to see how the other two seniors will lead their sessions. It is truly a joy to see our senior youth blossom into inspirational leaders.

Our April YRUU calendar looks like this:

Apr. 2 Youth Service at 9:00 and 11:00

No YRUU at night

Apr. 9 Spiritual Journey with the seniors

Apr. 16 No YRUU – public school vacation

Apr. 23 Hike on the Squaw Sachem Trail

Apr. 30 What really matters? — speaker

The YAC is getting ready to go on retreat into Boston, where we will spend the night at the First and Second Church in the Back Bay. It will be a good opportunity to think about the 2006-2007 year. We are working on getting more youth involved; and if you have any ideas, then please let **Mary-Wren** or a Youth Leader know.

Registration for Religious Education will take place on April 2 and April 9. We will have a table set up to register youth and answer any questions you might have. It is important that you register youth, even if they will only participate intermittently, so that we have critical information like allergies and emergency phone numbers on file. This year there is *No Registration Fee* for YRUU. The greater program costs are paid for by the annual pledges of our generous congregation during the Annual Campaign.

April can be the calm before the storm for youth. May and June are crazy with concerts, proms, graduation parties, spring sports, etc. It is my hope that First Parish continues to be an oasis of peace and a welcoming place for our youth in these busy times.

— *Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

## Wright Tavern Center

**Mirrors of Masculinity** — Modern life often makes it difficult for men to remain in touch with their deeper feelings — whether it be their innate joy, zaniness, tender loving or repressed feelings of anger, anguish, shame, or the fear of being "found out." Between work, family and everyday life, men are finding it rare to have the 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 six-week course. As we combine discussion, poetry, and interactive exercises with our connecting to Spirit, each other and nature we will create a caldron for comraderie, change and consciousness.

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 nonprofit organization whose purpose includes "birthing the male Spirit." They have been co-facilitators 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

In addition to the six evening classes at the center there will be an all-day Saturday gathering on May 6, in the gorgeous rural setting of Harvard.

**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. LaPlante, one of Hutchinson's direct descendents, offers both balance and perspective to Hutchinson's story. The seeds of the American struggle for women's and human rights can be found in the story of this one woman's courageous life. *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.

**How Shall I Pray? A Weekend Retreat** — Whether you have a regular prayer practice, or would like to pray but aren't sure how to begin, or even, as many say, "I don't know how to pray," we all struggle at times with our concept or practice of prayer. This retreat, facilitated by **Karen Lewis Foley**, will start with your prayer life or lack thereof, and your thoughts or concerns about praying, and will introduce some ways of praying. It will also offer time for individual practice, as well as support and encouragement. The retreat will be held at Our Lady of Hope House of Prayer, in New Ipswich, New Hampshire.

Friday-Sunday, 4/21-23 (arrival after 4 p.m. Friday, departure after Sunday noon meal); \$175 (includes nonrefundable \$25 deposit)

## Women's News

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

The First Parish Women's Book Group's April meetings will be held on Monday evening, April 17 (yes, Patriots' Day) and Tuesday morning, April 25. The books for April are two collections of poetry: *And Still I Rise*, by Maya Angelou, and *Delights and Shadows*, by Ted Kooser. The morning group meets from 9:30 to 11 a.m., and the evening group, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read these current books and join one or both of the discussions.

The final book of the year is *The Jane Austen Book Club*, by Karen Anne Fowler, with discussions on May 15 (p.m.) and 23 (a.m.).

### WPA ANNUAL MEETING—APRIL 24

The Women's Parish Association will hold its annual meeting and a catered luncheon on Monday, April 24. Social time will begin at noon followed by lunch, reports and socializing. The cost for the lunch is fifteen dollars.

All First Parish folks are welcome. Contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekindc@comcast.net by April 19 for reservations and child care arrangements.

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## Community News/Classified

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### AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOTTERY

On May 8, 2006, sixteen new one- and two-bedroom apartments in the Warner Woods Apartments on Laws Brook Road in West Concord will be rented to qualified low income households. Applications are available at the Town Clerk's office and at the Concord Free Public Library. The deadline for completed applications and required income documentation is April 28.

### SUMMER CAMP RENTAL

By the week, at \$1,000, Friday to Friday, all amenities provided, on a tidal bay in Georgetown, Maine, 10 minutes from Reid State Park. Available the weeks of June 30 and August 18. References: **Betty** or **CC King**, **Tom Tarpey**, **Lyle Roeder**. Photos on bulletin board. Contact Cindy at 978-371-1057 or cindybin@verizon.net; or Penny at 978-352-4491 or pelwell@towerschool.org if interested.

## Miscellaneous

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### UU NIAGARA EXPERIENCE — JULY 16–19, 2006

If you have ever wanted to visit Niagara Falls or if it is already one of your favorite places, this is a chance to experience the wonder of Niagara Falls, including some great educational opportunities while in the company of UU's from around the country. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four-day UU Niagara Experience, which is a lifetime opportunity to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days with us exploring the rich history and natural wonders around the Falls. For information, visit our website, uunex.net, or call 716-791-4453.

## UU News

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### GOT FAITH?

Interested in what faith is for Unitarian Universalists? Take an online survey to help define it.

Rev. Daniel Kanter of First Unitarian Church in Dallas is conducting research on qualities of UU faith. Lend a hand and go online to take a short survey and contribute to a nationwide effort. Go to [uufaithsurvey.org](http://uufaithsurvey.org). Don't delay, participate today!

### MASS BAY ANNUAL MEETING

The Massachusetts Bay District of UU Churches (MBD) will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, April 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre. Gini Courter, Moderator



of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will be the keynote speaker. **Rev. Jim Sherblom** will lead the morning worship service, with the First Parish Choir.

Workshop topics include Sabbath Keeping, The Ministry of Welcoming, A Network of Mutuality: Systems Theory and Congregational Health, Conflict Transformation, and Membership Development Coordinator. Registration forms are available on the website, [mbd@mbduua.org](http://mbd@mbduua.org). Registration fee is \$35 per person, or \$15 for students. Child care is available at no cost with advance registration (by March 29).

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

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 25. 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. One highlight this summer will be the Ware Lecture, presented this year by poet Mary Oliver. First Parish is entitled to 15 delegates, and it's a great experience to attend and represent First Parish in the denominational process. You'll find lots of information about GA, including a schedule and the Tentative Agenda, at [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga). If you're interested in being a GA delegate, please contact **Margaret Stewart** (soon!) at [fpmom@aol.com](mailto:fpmom@aol.com).

### THEOLOGY ONLINE AT STARR KING

Starr King School for the Ministry offers online courses to Unitarian Universalist lay leaders interested in advanced study. Recent courses include "Our Theological House: An Introduction to Theology for Unitarian Universalists" and "Congregational Polity." For more information, visit [www.skism.edu](http://www.skism.edu).

## April 2006 Calendar

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

### Every Week...

<i>Morning Meditation</i>	Monday-Friday	7:15 a.m.
<i>Bones in Chairs</i>	Monday	10:00 (not 4/17)
<i>Bones for Life®</i>	Monday	1:15 (not 4/17)
<i>Augustine's Confessions</i>	Monday	7:30 (not 4/17 or 4/24)
<i>Mirrors of Masculinity</i>	Monday	7:30
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 (not 4/18)
Concord Interfaith Group	Wednesday	8:00
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 (not 4/19)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 (not 4/19)
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 (not 3/29)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 (not 4/20)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 4/2 or 4/16)

Sat Apr 1	9:00	WPA Recycle Sale	Thu Apr 13	7:00	Youth Social Action Committee
Sun Apr 2	RE Registration at Coffee Hours		9:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>	
	12:15	Nominating Committee	6:30	Maundy Thursday Service and Chowder Supper	
	3:00	Our Whole Lives Group A	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>	
	6:00	Our Whole Lives Group B	7:30	Songwriting Affinity Group	
	4:00	Recital for Organ Fund	Fri Apr 14	12:00	Newsletter Deadline
Mon Apr 3	12:00	Transylvania Travel Planning	Sat Apr 15	9:00	Nominating Committee Workshop
	7:00	Minister's Orientation	5:00	Passover Seder	
Tue Apr 4	9:30	WPA Board Meeting	Sun Apr 16	Easter Sunday	
	6:00	First Tuesdays Dinner		Services at 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock	
	7:30	First Tuesdays Vespers	Mon Apr 17	Holiday—Office Closed	
	7:30	Hungarian Lessons	7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>	
Wed Apr 5	7:00	Youth Advisory Committee	Tue Apr 18	7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
	7:00	RE Council	7:30	Denominational Affairs Committee	
	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>	7:30	Hungarian Lessons	
Thu Apr 6	7:00	Human Resources Committee	Wed Apr 19	7:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
	7:30	Eve LaPlante, <i>American Jezebel</i>	Sun Apr 23	4:00	Photo Club Reception
Fri Apr 7	9:30	Pastoral Care	Mon Apr 24	9:30	Pastoral Care
Sat Apr 8	7:30	Nick Ressler Blood Drive	12:00	WPA Luncheon	
	9:00	Parish Visitors Training	7:00	Jewelry Affinity Group	
	9:00	Photo Club	Tue Apr 25	9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Sun Apr 9	RE Registration at Coffee Hours		7:00	<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	
	1:00	Common Cathedral (off-site)	Wed Apr 26	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
	2:00	Coming of Age	Thu Apr 27	9:30	<i>Play with Purpose</i>
	4:00	Needleworkers Affinity Group	7:00	Diversity Committee Movie	
	7:00	Our Whole Lives Celebration	Fri Apr 28	9:00	Pastoral Care
Mon Apr 10	9:30	Parish Visitors	9:30	<i>Stress Reduction &amp; Relaxation</i>	
	7:00	Standing Committee	6:00	New Member Dinner	
Tue Apr 11	7:00	"Questioning Faith" Video and Discussion	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>	
Wed Apr 12	8:00	RE Registration to 5 p.m.	Sun Apr 30	4:00	Junior Youth Group
	12:15	<i>Listening for God</i>	7:00	Sarasa Concert	
	6:30	Partner Church Committee			



**First Parish in Concord**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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**APRIL 2006 NEWSLETTER**

The next Newsletter deadline is **Friday, April 14**, at noon.  
The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, April 26.  
**News items should be limited to 100 words.**

**Don't Miss...**

**WPA RECYCLE SALE**

*Saturday, April 1*  
*9 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE  
AND CHOWDER SUPPER**

*Thursday, April 13*  
*6:30 p.m.*

**PASSOVER SEDER**

*Saturday, April 15*  
*5:00 p.m.*

**SPRING FORWARD!**

*Sunday, April 2*

**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

**PATRIOTS' DAY COFFEE BREAK**

Concord's Patriots' Day Parade is Monday, April 17, and is a wonderful family event. The Special Events Committee will be selling coffee and donuts under our beautiful event tent, next to the Wright Tavern, rain or shine. Come join us for a cup of coffee. Or if you'd like to help out either selling or setting up the tent, please contact **Lillian Anderson** at [lillianand@comcast.net](mailto:lillianand@comcast.net) or 978-369-1468. FYI: The event tent is also available to rent for your own event.

**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)**