



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

The Meeting House News

REVeries

In Paul Rasor's book, *Faith without Certainty*, he concludes, "Liberal theology is not for the faint of heart. It points us in a general direction without telling us the specific destination. It refuses to make our commitments for us but holds us accountable for the commitments we make. The liberal religion is an invitation, not a mandate. It invites us to live with ambiguity without giving in to facile compromise; to engage in dialogue without trying to control the conversation; to be open to change without accepting change too casually; to take commitment seriously but not blindly; and to be engaged in the culture without succumbing to the culture's values. Liberal religion calls us to strength without rigidity, conviction without ideology, openness without laziness. It asks us to pay attention. It is an eye-open faith, a faith without certainty."

At the beautiful Coming of Age Services on Sunday, May 20, the youth in their own words embraced the ambiguities of life and of liberal religion. One ingredient the youth agreed needed to be present for the development of their faith was the compassionate and loving presence of family, friends and this congregation. It is in the presence of love and acceptance that each one of us, no matter our age, can gain strength and courage, even when the outcomes are uncertain.

The same is true in Pastoral Care. The willingness to be with another in life's ambiguities, the willingness to engage in dialogue without dominating the conversation, the willingness to be present, to pay attention and to have compassionate curiosity brings its own kind of knowing — a knowing full of awe of the mystery of life and death, a knowing full of gratitude for the gifts of life.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Sunday Worship Schedule

June 3

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Adult Choir

The Road Not Taken – Thompson
Choose Something like a Star
– Thompson

11:00 – Handbell Choir

Morning Dance – Moklebust
Shades of "Forest Green" – Waugh

June 10

ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 A.M.

Jenny Rankin, preaching

Adult Choir, Gospel Choir and Children's Choirs

O Had I a Golden Thread
– Seeger/Page

The Storm Is Passing Over – Tindley
As Torrents in Summer – Elgar

Annual Meeting at 11:30 A.M.

June 17*

Margie King Saphier, preaching
Joan Esch, cello

June 24*

Margie King Saphier, preaching
Robert Goodearl, baritone
(and friends!)

*Single Summer Service: 10:00 A.M.

**COME
BUILD A DREAM!**



See page 7 for the
latest update on
the Capital Campaign.

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Summer Worship Services

There is one insert with this newsletter:
Summer Worship Schedule

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The office at First Parish will be open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. from Monday, June 18, to Friday, August 31. Also note that the office will be closed Wednesday, July 4, for Independence Day; and Monday, September 3, for Labor Day.

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
Monday, Aug. 20	Thursday, Aug. 30
Monday, Sept. 17	Wednesday, Sept. 26
Monday, Oct. 15	Wednesday, Oct. 24

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

THANKS AND REMINDER FROM THE COLLECTOR

Many thanks to all who chose monthly or quarterly automatic deductions to fulfill their pledges. Please remember that we can't change or discontinue your current deduction schedule without a signed authorization form from you. The forms are available in the office. Please allow 15 days for any change to take effect.

Sunday Forum

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

JUNE 3

Analysis of First Parish Numbers
Patrick Everett

Pat, a member of First Parish, will give a presentation of his latest analysis of various First Parish numbers. He finds that over the last three years, individual yearly pledge amounts have risen substantially and that Capital Campaign pledging is also generous. However, he finds that the numbers of our annual pledging units and RE enrollments have decreased significantly and that the pledging total is rising quite slowly despite the increasing individual generosity of the current base of donors. Is this a concern? Come to the Forum for an open discussion of the numbers and their implications and any related actions.

JUNE 10

No Forum
Annual Meeting at 11:30 A.M.

Note: There will be no Sunday Forums throughout the summer months.

A NOTE FROM SALLY HAMLIN

Is it possible for a heart to be so full that it feels itself to be overflowing? I don't know what other interns at First Parish have experienced in your hands; I can only speak from my own perspective. But I really don't have words to express how much I appreciate your good care of me this past year.

It is in your loving, capable hands that I have really found the depths of my ministry. It is in our exchanges with one another that you have shared your lives with me: your joys, your challenges, your stories, and your passions. I feel honored to be among those you have chosen to call to ministry. You have inscribed yourselves upon my heart. Forever, I am changed, moved into deeper knowledge of what is possible for our beloved community.

Your devoted intern,

—Sally

Parish Notes

FIRST PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Come to the Parish Hall after the (*one and only*) worship service at 10:00 o'clock on June 10 for a sustaining snack before the meeting begins in the Sanctuary at 11:30. The Annual Meeting is the place to find out what's new at First Parish, hear the ministers' assessment of the year, elect officers and committee chairs, express thanks to those who are leaving the staff or offices, and welcome the new officers and committee chairs. The budget will also be discussed and approved, and the First Parish delegates to the UU General Assembly will be introduced and approved. Don't miss this important day in the First Parish year.

DEBBY GREELEY HERB GARDEN 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

The Women's Parish Association and the Herb Garden Committee, in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden, are sponsoring a special coffee hour following the 11:00 o'clock service on June 3. The celebration will be held outside, weather permitting, with Victorian dress or hats and gloves optional! All parishioners and their friends are welcome to join us as we remember Debby and enjoy the garden that was inspired by her love of herbs.

HERB GARDEN AVAILABLE FOR USE

The renovation of the Herb Garden is complete, and the garden is ready for use. Bring a book, a lunch or a friend and enjoy the garden anytime.

ANOTHER GREAT RECYCLE SALE

Thanks to the hard work of a lot of First Parish folks, we had another successful Flea Market/Recycle Sale in April. The Women's Parish Association extends special thanks to the following people for their organization and dedication: **Pat Kane, Roselyn Romberg, Francene Amari-Faulkner, Lois Suarez, Rhoda Miller** and **Dian Pekin**. Not only did many people find great treasures at great prices, but 100 percent of all donations were recycled either by sales or donations to charities. A great community effort!

CONGRATULATIONS, SOKOL!

The Zejnullahu family came to the Concord area several years ago as refugees from Kosovo with the help of many First Parish folks and families in the Boston area. Sokol Zejnullahu received his diploma at Connecticut College's commencement on May 20. His beloved siblings, Amella, Aida and Kreshnik, marked the occasion with an enthusiastic standing ovation. Dorothy Austen, Diana Eck, Ruth Barron, Jennifer Leaning, and **Dian** and **Tarik Pekin** added their unabashed smiles and cheers to the moment of collective pride and joy. Well done, Sokol! We are all proud of your many accomplishments. May your future be wonderful.

COME ALL YE COOKS!

One last Caring Connection cooking session for the season is planned for Wednesday morning, June 6, at 9:30 a.m. to replenish our busy freezer. Home-cooked meals prepared by our First Parish chefs are welcomed by members just home from the hospital, new moms, and others in times of stress. Please contact **Diane Bleday** (Bleday@aol.com or 978-371-7080) or **Rhoda Miller** (Rhodamill@aol.com or 978-369-6639) to let us know you can help stir and chop. Busy hands make new friends!

PARISH NOTES continued on page 10

Pastoral Care News

In her book titled *Faith*, Sharon Salzberg writes, “Faith is the ability to offer our heart to the truth of what is happening, to see our experience as the embodiment of life’s mystery, the present expression of possibility, the conduit connecting us to a bigger reality.” Salzberg also explains despair is the opposite of faith. “When we despair, our most visceral torment is that we feel separate from everyone and everything around us, alone and abandoned.” Because all of us have experienced times of faith and times of despair, the pastoral care volunteers and the ministers at First Parish are here to be with you in the truth of what is happening and to let you know you are not alone, not abandoned — even at the darkest moments of life. There are many ways pastoral care volunteers weave this blanket of faith and compassion to hold us in community.

Today I would like to acknowledge several members who are retiring. **Jiffy Read** and **David Pohl** have bridged three ministers — **Becky Blodgett**, **Karen Foley** and me — sharing their wisdom and energy to develop the Pastoral Care Council and serving on it. I am happy to report David will continue as Pastoral Visitor. **Rhoda Miller** is stepping down after many years of excellence as Memorial Reception Coordinator, but is continuing as cochair of Caring Connection. As reception coordinator, Rhoda has offered a wonderful service to families at their time of grieving by insuring that after the memorial service, the caterer followed the family’s wishes, and that the Parish Hall was welcoming to all. **Diane Bleday**, who has served with Rhoda as cochair of Caring Connection, will be stepping down. Diane and Rhoda have worked beautifully together, periodically recruiting kitchen helpers to prepare meals in First Parish’s kitchen and storing them in the freezer so there are meals ready to be delivered when a parishioner is in need. Diane and her husband Michael are moving to Plymouth, Mass. We will miss them, but we wish them well. As was announced earlier in the year, **Sandie** and **Tom Kennedy** have retired from serving as cochairs for Holiday Flowers.

Di Clymer, who presently serves as Pastoral Care Lay Minister, and was a member of the Council years ago, is also stepping down. I know many of you have been the beneficiary of Di’s gentle ways and compassionate wisdom. And of course, **Toby Wesselhoeft**, who died April 16, is no longer with us. Toby served as Pastoral Care Lay Minister knowing he had terminal lung cancer. Toby was a man of great faith. He was able “to offer his heart to the truth of what was happening, and to see his experience as the embodiment of Life’s mystery,” and he shared his faith by his presence in his relationships.

I hope you will join me in offering a big *Thank You!* to all these folks, whose contributions have been significant in creating this caring faith community .

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee (SC) met on May 14, with **Lisa Cole** attending as a guest. **Don Leopold**, **Sara Ballard** and **Rob Richardson** were absent. We attended to a lot of end-of-year business, including our own self-evaluations, plans for the Annual Meeting (June 10 at 11:30 a.m.), head of staff evaluation, and plans for a meeting with **Gary Smith** in June to prepare for next year. The SC is also working on a sabbatical policy, an evaluation policy, revision of our Ends Statements, a method of setting goals for the year with the staff and strategic planning. Several SC members met with the Trustees, and we plan to initiate two meetings per year in order to improve communications. **Jenny Rankin** and **Lisa Cole** presented ways to help balance our projected budget for 2007 with the pledges that have come in. Currently, we are \$115,000 short of our goal and will need to make cuts to the current proposed budgets if more pledges do not come in by early June. The SC gave their input to Jenny’s ideas for ways to balance the budget, and she will have the revised budget ready for the Annual Meeting. Jenny hopes to initiate a “think tank” in mid-June that will look at how we raise money at First Parish to see if we can develop a model that will better serve our needs.

We would like to urge everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on June 10. There will be a report from the Come Build a Dream campaign as well as the usual reports from the SC and committees. A light lunch will be available beforehand.

Submitted,

—*Sue Beck*, Clerk

Money Matters

Financially, this is a busy time at First Parish. We are coming to the end of our fiscal year and planning for next year. The FY’07 financial picture looks good. We have received 90 percent of our budgeted subscription income, which is slightly higher than last year. Assuming our pledges come in as budgeted, we expect to end the year with a surplus. This is due to a number of factors, including some additional monetary gifts received by the church this year and higher than projected interest income.

Looking ahead to FY’08, the picture does not look as good. We have not reached our pledge goal for next year. This may mean making cuts in various program areas. It is hard to cut back on programs we know are so important to our congregation. If you are planning on pledging, but have not yet filled out your pledge form, it would be very helpful if you could do so in the next few days. Pledged income represents approximately three-quarters of our budgeted income each year, so it is important to know our pledge income for next year in order to put together the budget. I am hopeful that any cuts will be minimized by the generous contributions of those families who have not yet pledged.

—*Lisa Cole*

Business Manager

Music Note

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is now approaching seven years since I accepted your kind invitation to serve as your organist at First Parish. This time has been an opportunity for me to share with you a part of my cumulative musical repertoire and experience from the past 30 or so years as a church and concert musician. During this time together we've shared some sorrows, as well as wonderful joys and victories, in the progress of this church, its members, and the whole world. It has been amazing to witness your overwhelming commitment and support to rebuilding the sanctuary organ in the coming years to be better than ever and truly worthy of the special church in which it resides. The organ committee is well on its way to selecting the most appropriate organ builder for this significant project.

Many of you know that in my other life, I actually work around the clock in my business as an inn owner/operator in Cambridge, as well as on an occasional basis as guest organist for my own church in Boston and concertizing as opportunities arise in that area. I truly love these parts of my life and serving the varied and fascinating international clientele that flow through our doors every week of the year. These activities have steadily increased over these past years. Therefore, the commitment and demands of this work along with my weekly organist duties at First Parish sometimes make another drive to Concord for rehearsals or services a bit much for my sanity, and have, more than a few times, left me quietly questioning just how wise it is to continue all these activities at this particular time in my life. So after much soul-searching and quiet contemplation, as well as gratitude for these years we've had together, it has become very clear to me that it is now time for me to move on from regular weekly duties at First Parish by the end of 2007. I am very much at peace with this decision and know that your next organist will surely be as blessed as I've been to collaborate musically with this forward looking musical staff, the choirs, and this thriving congregation. I will be available to help out on an occasional basis as needed after that time. I also very much desire and hope to continue the musical collaboration with many of the musical friends I've made at First Parish over these past seven years.

In peace and gratitude,

—*Eric Huenneke*

MUSings

I have written in this space before about my annual June “file-shifting ritual.” As we head into summer each year, I move the file folder containing all the orders of service since September from an active file drawer to an archive. I then start a new folder in anticipation of the summer and fall. There is something



about marking the transition into summer with this simple administrative task each year and I try to notice it. As

I write, it is still some weeks before I perform that annual ritual. But I was reminded of it recently.

One afternoon, when I was browsing through this year's orders of service to look for a composer's name, I was startled at how the life of this congregation leapt out at me from that folder. Every page reminded me of traditions, transitions and milestones we have marked and celebrated with and for one another this year. As I turned the pages, I saw faces of friends and loved ones who had died this year, some tragically young and some at the end of long productive lives; I saw names of youth leading our Coming of Age and Ways of Worship services who had been dedicated not that many years ago; I saw children being dedicated who will be speaking their credos from our pulpit before we know it. There were music titles that vividly recalled for me a particular Sunday and season. There were sermon titles that reminded me of a valuable insight.

And I was struck by the variety in our worship from Sunday to Sunday. An observance of the Jewish High Holidays, of Divali, of Christmas, Passover and Easter. A service led by a percussionist; children's messages that made us catch our breath in anticipation — or laugh out loud. Songs and sermons and credos that made us weep. Silences that embraced those in need of our care and concern. In those few minutes of browsing I was drawn into the rhythm of our lives together as a congregation; swept up in the dance of the year and awed by the energy, variety, and depth of this community.

This was only one year in the long history of this remarkable congregation! We really are part of an “unbroken line” that moves “forward through the ages.” Together we are traveling just one leg of the spiritual journey we covenant to make together.

It is easy to forget this when we are focused on the day-to-day demands and details of our life together. I was thankful for this opportunity to step back, get some perspective on the past year and appreciate the gift it is to be part of this congregation at this moment in time.

Blessings,

—*Beth Norton*

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

Since joining the First Parish staff, I have had many fascinating discussions about what motivates us to participate in Social Action. Some motivators include a desire to have a positive impact on the world, to model for our children, to help others as we have been helped, to express gratitude for our own lives, to achieve spiritual fulfillment, or simply because that is “what you do” in life. **Jim Reynolds** spoke eloquently on this topic during our February Social Action Sunday. He said “Social Action thus gradually became no longer a zero-sum game in which hours and dollars dedicated to service were removed from the total available for my own enjoyment. Instead, it became an integral part of the spiritual disciplines I follow . . .”



I hope the First Parish Social Action Community provides you with an outlet, no matter what motivates you to volunteer your time or money. Social Action can simply become “what we do”— as UU’s, as people. We are in the process of planning next year’s Social Action calendar here at First Parish. Contact me (at FBade@firstparish.org) if you have any ideas or causes you would like to have supported by SAC. Come September, we will have a new SAC Board and we will be off and running. Come be a part of this vibrant Social Action Community!

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Associate

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

“I want to send my thanks to all of the congregations that purchase our coffee. Thanks to you, we have a seed of hope in our lives.”

—Jose Luis Castillo Vasquez, coffee farmer, El Salvador

Since Fair Trade coffee was formalized in 1988, the price paid to farmer cooperatives has been \$1.26/lb., plus 15¢ per lb. if the coffee was certified organic. Now the global Fair Trade community is raising the minimum prices paid to coffee farmer cooperatives. The new prices, effective June 1, will be \$1.31/lb., and \$1.51 for organic. Equal Exchange is raising the prices to \$1.36 for conventional, and \$1.56 for organic, coffee. In order to continue our Fair Trade program, we need people to help sell Fair Trade products at coffee hour. Contact **Sue Beck** at sbeck345@com-cast.net or 978-369-8445.

WHY SHOULD YOU BUY THESE FAIR TRADE SNACKS?

Equal Exchange’s roasted pecans are grown and shelled in southwest Georgia by the members of the Southern Alternatives Agricultural Co-op (SAAC), a co-operative of AfricanAmerican farmers and workers. A group of devoted women kept the operation alive for years when it was difficult to find a committed buyer for their products. Since Equal Exchange, SAAC and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FOSC) decided to build a partnership, over 300 congregations have ordered more than 2,000 pounds of pecans, almonds and cranberries from U.S. farmers! We are creating a more just, sustainable and democratic food system around the world and here in our own backyard.

GREELEY GRANT FOR EXCELLENCE

Jericho Road Project is pleased to announce that **Ed Bernard**, Carl Genatossio and **Pierre Chiha** have been awarded the Greeley Grant for Excellence in a Jericho Road Collaboration for their work on the Lowell Works poster campaign with members of the Lowell Nonprofit Alliance. Ed, Carl and Pierre were honored along with the Nonprofit Alliance at Celebrate Giving, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation’s Annual Philanthropy Day, on May 22. If you are interested in becoming a Jericho Road volunteer or learning more about their work, please contact Jodi DeLibertis, Program Director for Jericho Road Lowell, at jdlibertis@jerichoroadproject.org.

CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH

Final Spring Orientation at NECC (the Farm) is on June 11 at 6:30 p.m. for those who wish to volunteer at the prisons next fall. Now’s the time to come to orientation, as it takes several months for the Department of Corrections to process new volunteers, and people are needed next fall in lots of areas: tutoring in basic English, ESL, GED prep, etc., and for programs assisting in Family Days, Job Search Skills, Alternatives to Violence, Chess skills, Library and more! Call Lenore James, Executive Director, at 978-369-1340, or Linda Reynolds at 978-371-0562, for more information.

CAN YOU HELP THE HOUSEHOLD GOODS RECYCLING MINISTRY?

Household Goods Recycling Ministry is looking for some people to spend three hours on a Sunday afternoon helping clients at the HGRM warehouse in Acton. The shift is from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. HGRM is open 12 Sundays a year, on the third Sunday of the month. There is no need to commit to every Sunday — several Sundays (or even one) would be a great help. There are needy people who simply can’t get to HGRM any other day, so your participation would be a tremendous service to this population. If you can help at all, please contact **Debbie Dormitzer** at 264-9047 or Debbie@lhlogic.com.

SOCIAL ACTION COUNCIL GRANTS MADE 2006-2007

Congratulations to the 21 Social Action Grant recipients; they received a total of \$60,500 to help make change possible. Look for exciting new changes in the grant making program for next year! Call **Alane Wallis** at 978-369-1114 with any questions. Thanks

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL ACTION AT FIRST PARISH?

The First Parish 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, see our website, www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/, e-mail our Social Action Associate **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org, or check out information on the SAC bulletin board downstairs in the church.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE JUNE 2007

A complete update on our Capital Campaign will be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 10 in the Sanctuary.

Contributions are coming in from the General Parish Fundraising. A current total is maintained on the First Parish website, BOTH on the Capital Campaign Landing Page AND on the Capital Campaign News Page. Check it often.



This summer, First Parish will undertake the steeple maintenance. It will be repainted and regilded.

The Organ Committee plans to send out its Request for Proposals (RFP) during the summer, and prospective organ builders will be meeting with **Eric Huenneke** and **Beth Norton** during the fall.

Members of the church staff continue planning for the construction transition period, as well as working on a plan for allocating new office space, under the leadership of **Caroline McCloy**.

There will be no monthly newsletter updates during the summer. Check the website instead. The next monthly update will appear in September's *Meeting House News*.

Have a great summer!

Membership Corner

On April 29, we welcomed as a congregation all the new members that joined this church since last May. It feels good to know that 49 new members are pledging to walk together with us on this journey of faith and questioning. My hope for each of them is that they find a way to become involved here, either by joining a committee, teaching in RE, joining an affinity group, taking a class at the Wright Tavern Center, joining one of the choirs, helping out on a social action project — I could go on and on. There are so many ways to become involved and I know it has been said before, but the more you give, the more you get.

This fall the membership committee is going to offer all parishioners a chance to be part of a new pictorial Parish Directory. Starting in September we will be registering members for photo sessions. Stay tuned for more information.

Have a wonderful summer.

— *Caroline McCloy*

Wright Tavern Center

Welcome to Wright Tavern Center. Check out the Spring 2007 catalog for full course descriptions and registration details. Visit our beautiful updated website with downloadable catalog at www.wrighttavern.org. Questions? Contact Wright Tavern Director **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler** at 978-369-9602 or FTTavern@aol.com. Please check the white board in the lower church entryway for course locations.

RUSTIC ARBOR WORKSHOP

Jack DeMuth

From start to finish, build an arbor born of the woodlands for your very own garden! This builder of award-winning rustic furniture will teach you to scout out suitable trees and vines, demonstrate safe hand tool use, and guide you through the design, layout and construction process. Sense of humor required. Tool and materials list mailed upon registration, along with directions to Jack's barn.

2 Saturdays 6/2 & 6/9 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. \$150

RIVER BLESSING CEREMONY

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Caroline McCloy and Sally Hamlin

Come lift your hearts with us! Wright Tavern Center will host a river blessing ceremony at Egg Rock near the confluence of the Assabet, Concord and Sudbury rivers during the sixth annual RiverFest, celebrating the designation of 29 miles of the three rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In a simple ritual of music, song, poetry, silent reflection and prayer, we invite you to express your gratitude for these waters and all the blessings they bring. Park on Nashawtuc Road and follow signs to Egg Rock. Bring your instruments, and please leash your dogs. You can also arrive by boat. A guided walk along the river with the Concord Land Conservation Trust will follow the event.

Saturday 6/16 8:00-9:00 a.m.

KRIPALU YOGA

Edi Pasalis

The yoga of compassion — this class teaches us the ultimate spiritual practice: to view ourselves without judgment. Each class includes centering, gentle warm-ups, postures, breath work, meditation and relaxation.

10 Wednesdays 6/13 – 8/22 (no class 7/4)
7:30-9:00 p.m. \$140/\$15 drop-in

KUNDALINI YOGA

Dharm Singh

The yoga of awareness — this class is designed to help you strengthen your body, relax and focus your mind, bring harmony and balance, and lift your spirit. Exercise, postures, mantra, meditation and relaxation.

2 Tuesdays 6/5 & 6/12 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$28/\$15 drop-in

2 Thursdays 6/7 & 6/14 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$28/\$15 drop-in

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER continued on page 9

REFLECTION FROM RE COUNCIL MEMBER ALLISON ALEY

This church is blessed with so many talented and involved people and I have come to know many of them through my time serving on the Religious Education Council. The RE Council is a great group of volunteers that meets monthly with our DRE, **Pam Howell**. We advise her on the myriad of issues that arise with such a large and vibrant RE program. We raise issues, suggest changes, and act as a sounding board for ideas. It's interesting and challenging work that has a huge impact on our kids and the church. And it's often fun — we laugh a lot.

The last four years has been an exciting time to be on the Council — lots of changes and lots of enthusiasm from the parents and the kids. We've searched for and hired a talented and dedicated DRE, helped her settle in and then hire an equally talented and dedicated staff. We've implemented new programs and kept the old ones going strong. We've harnessed the talent and dedication of our parish to create Spirit Play baskets, transform boring classrooms into vibrant workshops, and develop a new and exciting curriculum. We've worked with the Capital Campaign to make sure that any changes to the physical space will accommodate the needs of the RE program as well as the needs of the church as a whole.

For me, being on the RE Council has been an opportunity to deepen my connections to the church and to be engaged with talented people on programs that directly benefit the whole First Parish community, as well as my own kids. I never stop being amazed at the depth of talent and generosity of the people who attend this church. Whenever we've asked for help — painting, wallpapering, brainstorming, planning, writing curriculum, sewing, building, creating videos, teaching, caregiving — there have always been people there to fill the need, and the children of First Parish have benefited enormously. The RE Council, like First Parish itself, is a great place to make friends AND make a difference.

—Allison Aley

JUNE RE CALENDAR

Sunday, June 3	Regular RE for 0-6th Graders 4:00 p.m., 6th Grade Youth Group and 7th/8th Grade Youth Group at First Parish
Sunday, June 10	Chapel Service for K-6th Graders Regular RE for 0-4-year-olds

LATE REGISTRATION PROCESS ONLINE

If you have not yet registered for next year's RE program, please do so as soon as possible. We plan our programs very carefully and knowing how many students will be participating is essential in this planning process. To make the process easier for you, we have put our registration forms on our First Parish website. Please call the RE office when choosing your RE commitment so that we can help you choose from the teaching assignments that are still available.

RE ASSIGNMENTS AND CALENDARS

We will be sending an RE packet to your home in late June. In this packet, we will include calendars for the upcoming RE year and your RE assignment. Please look for it in your mailbox. Thank you for registering, and we look forward to another exciting year in RE at First Parish.

9TH GRADE COMING OF AGE

It seemed like only yesterday that the Coming of Age program convened in October for the first time to unofficially kick off the 2006-2007 program year. On that beautiful warm October day at Camp Takodah, the group donned helmets and harnessed up to take their first steps to build trust and lasting connections with one another. Mentees and mentors alike took their turn to climb 30 to 40 feet to walk across a thin cable while below the group held steady the safety line. Yet, the May 20 Coming of Age Service was the culmination of what began on that warm fall day. It was a year of exploration into seeking, forging spiritual discoveries, and developing trust in a group that supported their voice in speaking their truth. As the COA leader, I feel truly blessed to have worked with such inspiring young people. I am also equally blessed to have worked with a great team of mentors; **Jeanine Calabria, Barb Chase, Peter Ciuffetti, Art Crooke, Jack DeMuth, Gretchen Hibben, Lisa MacDonnell, Heather MacPhee, Caroline McCloy, Jim McCloy, David McGaffin and David Ropeik**. I thank you for your dedication to this program. I am also grateful for **Mary-Wren vanderWilden's** support throughout this year. Last, I want to thank **Darien Smith** for bringing her organizational gifts as the "Parent Coordinator" for our COA program. Together these people made Coming of Age a special year.

—Debra Dunnington

Senior Youth News

May was a glorious month for the youth group. On Sunday nights we did everything from visiting with seniors at the Carlton-Willard Center to playing a friendly Ultimate Frisbee match against the youth of the Trinitarian Congregational church. The YAC had a successful leadership retreat at the First Church of Boston in the Back Bay, and we sent our seniors off at the 11:00 service on May 13 with tears of joy and sadness.

June is a time for hellos and goodbyes for youth. At our end of the year "Phishbowl" Lock-In, we say good-bye by letting each other know what we appreciate about each other. On the other hand, we will be saying hello to the 8th graders who will be joining us next year. We will also say hello to a new group of seniors who will be leading next year. It's an emotional time as we say good-bye to an incredible group of seniors, who have led our group with passion, creativity and humor.

June is a short, but very sweet month for youth at First Parish:

June 3 End of the Year Party to welcome 8th Graders to YRUU

June 10 Pizza and Discussion with the youth from the UU church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

June 15-16 Phishbowl Lock-In — permission slips on the website

I would like to say a special thank-you to **Jake Nunes**, who has been the Youth Advisor for the Youth Group these past three years. He has come every Sunday and has been an important friend and mentor to the youth as well as a wonderful support to me. We will all miss him as he goes off to Maine and Costa Rica on a sabbatical from teaching next year.

There is no YRUU over the summer, but there are 18 youth who are very excited about their pilgrimage to Transylvania for two weeks in July. I will miss seeing everyone each Sunday night, but truly look forward to our reunion in September. Happy Summer!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER continued from page 7

KUNDALINI YOGA

Dharm Singh

The yoga of awareness — this class is designed to help you strengthen your body, relax and focus your mind, bring harmony and balance, and lift your spirit. Exercise, postures, mantra, meditation and relaxation.

4 Tuesdays 6/19 – 7/10 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$56/\$15 drop-in

4 Thursdays 6/21 – 7/12 9:30-11:00 a.m. \$56/\$15 drop-in

RISE UP SINGING

Beth Norton and Others

An informal monthly musical gathering of adults and children provides participants with an opportunity to sing and share music in special fellowship. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome. Bring a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you own one.

Friday 6/1 7:30 p.m. no charge

ABC MUSIC TOGETHER

Deb Foote and Others

Music Together® is a fun music and movement program for children through age four and their parents or caregivers. The activities of singing, movement, rhythm chants, instrument play and listening foster a child's musical development, and instill a sense of music as a fun, creative and participatory activity.

6 Mondays 6/25 – 8/6 (no class 7/2) 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. \$110

ABC MUSIC TOGETHER

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Music Together® is a fun music and movement program for children through age four and their parents or caregivers. The activities of singing, movement, rhythm chants, instrument play and listening foster a child's musical development, and instill a sense of music as a fun, creative and participatory activity.

3 Fridays 6/1 – 6/15 10:00 & 11:00 a.m. \$60

3 Mondays 6/4 – 6/18 9:30 & 10:30 a.m. \$60

T'AI CHI — MEDITATION IN MOTION

David Zucker

The original no-impact aerobics, T'ai Chi promotes mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health by combining physical exercise with relaxation and meditation.

4 Tuesdays 6/5 – 6/26 6:00-7:30 p.m. \$60/\$20 drop-in

TIBETAN BUDDHISM (ONGOING DROP-IN FORMAT)

Lobsang Phuntsok

Lobsang Phuntsok, a Tibetan Buddhist monk from India, helps us understand how we can use the principles, rituals and practices of Tibetan Buddhism to further our own spiritual growth.

Wednesdays through 7/25 9:30 a.m. no charge/donation

Thursdays through 7/26 7:30 p.m. no charge/donation

Women's News

WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The final event for this year for the Women's AM/PM Book Group will be a potluck dinner gathering and discussion of books for next year's list. We will meet at the home of **Carolyn Copp** on Monday, June 11, at 6 p.m. Please contact Carolyn at 978-287-0492 if you would like to attend. Contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com if you would like to be added to the book group e-mail list for next year.

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Another year is drawing to a close. And thanks to all of you, what a year it has been! We've sponsored 50+ students to high school and colleges, hosted a Thanksgiving delegation from Székelykeresztúr, hosted a successful dinner and fundraising event, and, we are supporting the visits of many of our congregation this summer. This May, **Alex Atkins** and **Elena Siani** have both visited Keresztúr on their own; and **Bill** and **Sherry Seaver** are there celebrating the wedding of one of the students they sponsored. In June, my spouse **Pat Brinkman** and I are going to join the graduation celebrations of the student we have been sponsoring these last four years. The Youth Service Pilgrimage, with 18 youth and 6 adults, travels in July. The Choir Pilgrimage, with 46 choir members and supporters, will visit in August! And **Rachel Holt** will be teaching English in Keresztúr June, July and August. In addition to enhancing our personal connections with our brothers and sisters in Keresztúr, these pilgrims will be working with them to develop plans for projects and activities for enriching our partnership over the coming years.

We're planning for our new church year. The last Sunday in September is the traditional Unitarian Thanksgiving in Transylvania. Please mark your calendars for our potluck supper celebration on Saturday, September 29, and for the Thanksgiving celebration services on Sunday, the 30th. During these events you'll have a chance to hear reflections from the summer's pilgrims, see "slide shows" of the images taken during their travels, and hear selections from the choir's tour programs. Please note: Because we have so many pilgrims this year, there will be no duplication of pilgrims' reflections at these three events — you may just want to come to them all!

Köszönöm szépen mindenkinek (Thank you all) for an absolutely wonderful year!

Minden jót! (Best wishes!)

Rodger Mattlage, Outgoing Chair, Partner Church Committee

URGENT NOTE: PLEDGE 2007 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FACES SHORTFALL OF \$115,000.

We thank everyone who has pledged to this year's campaign. It is a compelling and challenging year at First Parish, with two important fundraising campaigns — Annual and Capital — running almost concurrently. The Annual Campaign funds the day-to-day salaries, programs and operational costs of First Parish, while the Capital Campaign, over five years, will fund a renovation and upgrade to the First Parish Meeting House.

As the June 10 Annual Meeting approaches, the Annual Campaign faces a serious shortfall of \$115,000. Our goal this year is to raise \$1,020,000 in pledges, representing a 7.4 percent increase over last year's budget. The increase is based on rising healthcare costs for First Parish employees (including one additional staff person added to healthcare benefits this year), modest 2.5 percent cost-of-living salary increases and several salary adjustments, and inflationary increases for operating expenses (utilities, postage, computer services, building supplies, etc.) and for small maintenance repairs. If the Campaign is unable to close this significant financial gap, there will be some difficult choices to make. Areas of consideration for potential cuts include cost of living increases for ministers and staff, music programs, religious education, youth programs, community suppers, administration and technology, Wright Tavern publications and the First Parish program guide.

— Pledge 2007 Annual Campaign Committee

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

BOSTON PRIDE PARADE ON JUNE 9

Come march with members of the Diversity Committee, carrying our First Parish banner, in the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 9. The parade will start at noon; some of us will also attend the interfaith Pride service at the Arlington Street Church at 11 A.M. The parade route ends at the Pride Festival at City Hall Plaza. Join us at this fun event to help show First Parish's support for the LGBT community; all are welcome. Sign up at the coffee hours on June 3, or e-mail **Sara Ballard** at sara@sb.org.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Contributors to the Annual Reports for 2006-2007 are requested to submit their report to Office Manager, **Jane Johnson**, no later than June 20. Committees and all other First Parish groups are encouraged to write a report in order to leave a complete history of this church year for later generations at First Parish.

NEWSLETTER MAILERS NEEDED

Did you ever wonder who puts the labels and tape on your newsletter and gets it into the mail? Every month, usually on the last Wednesday morning of the month, a small group of volunteers get together in the Parlor to make the newsletters ready for mailing. More people are needed for this group. If you could spare one Wednesday morning a month to help with this important task, please contact **Jane Johnson** in the office at 978-369-9602. Refreshments are served!

Summer 2007 Calendar

Fri Jun 1	9:30	<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Wed Jun 13	9:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>
	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>		6:00	Pizza and Hungarian
Sat Jun 2	7:30	Men's Group		7:00	Pregnancy Loss Group
	10:00	<i>Rustic Arbor</i>		7:30	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>
Sun Jun 3	12:00	Herb Garden Celebration	Thu Jun 14	9:30	InterPlay
	4:00	Sally Hamlin's ordination		9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>
	4:00	Junior High Youth		10:30	Writer's Group
	7:00	YRUU		7:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>
Mon June 4	9:00	Partner Church Committee	Fri Jun 15	9:30	<i>Stress Reduction</i>
	7:00	Jericho Road Meeting		11:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
	7:00	<i>Meditation from the World Traditions</i>	Sat Jun 16	7:30	Men's Group
Tue Jun 5	9:00	WPA Board Meeting		8:00	<i>River Blessing</i> (off-site)
	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tue Jun 19	6:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>
	6:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>		7:00	Amnesty Chapter Meeting
	7:00	Diversity Committee Movie	Wed Jun 20	9:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>
	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction</i>		7:30	<i>InterPlay</i>
Wed Jun 6	9:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thu Jun 21	7:30	Green Sanctuary
	1:00	Bell Choir		7:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>
	4:30	Junior Choir	Sat Jun 23	7:30	Men's Group
	5:00	Chalice Choir	Tue Jun 26	6:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>
	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i>	Wed Jun 27	9:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>
	7:15	RE Council	Thu Jun 28	10:30	Writer's Group
	7:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>			
	7:30	<i>InterPlay</i>	JULY		
	7:45	Adult Choir	Sat Jul 14	9:00	Photo Club
Thu Jun 7	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Wed Jul 25	6:00	Pizza and Hungarian
	7:00	Human Resources Committee			
	7:30	<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	AUGUST		
Fri Jun 8	9:30	<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Sat Aug 11		Photo Club
Sat Jun 9	7:30	Men's Group	Tue Aug 28	9:00	Children's Choir Camp
	9:00	Photo Club	Wed Aug 29	9:00	Children's Choir Camp
	10:00	<i>Rustic Arbor</i>	Thu Aug 30		Children's Choir Camp
Sun Jun 10	11:30	Annual Meeting	Fri Aug 31		Children's Choir Camp
	7:00	YRUU			
Tue Jun 12	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>			
	6:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>			
	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction</i>			

Italics indicate programs of the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal.



First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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JUNE 2007 NEWSLETTER

The **September Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, August 20**, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is *Thursday*, August 30.

News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

ANNUAL MEETING

After the Single Service at 10 A.M.

Sunday, June 10

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Monday, June 18–Friday, August 31

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister (*on sabbatical January–June 2007*)

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Sally Hamlin, Ministerial Intern

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Jane Barnes, Religious Education Administrator

Liz Davis-Chaffin, Workshop Rotation Coordinator

Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children

Mary-Wren vanderWilden, Youth Program Director

Debra Dunnington, Young Teen Program Coordinator

Elizabeth Norton, Music Director

Eric Huenneke, Organist

Martha Goodman, Handbell Choir Director

Judy Burrows, Children's Choir Director

Anderson Manuel, Music/RE Associate

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Wright Tavern Center Director

Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director

Leslie Koplou, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road

A. Bigay, Assistant to the Ministers

Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator

Jane Johnson, Office Manager

Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector

Lisa Cole, Business Manager

Caroline McCloy, Director of Member Services

Faith Bade, Social Action Associate

Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor

Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff



SUMMER WORSHIP SERVICES

There will be a single worship service, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, from June 17 through September 2. A coffee hour will follow each service and child care will be provided. Please see the insert for a schedule of worship leaders, soloists and organists.



Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 4:00 *

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: fpconcord@aol.com

Website: firstparish.org

Ministers' E-Mail:

Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net

Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net

***See page 2 for Summer Office Hours**