



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

August 30, 2007
Volume 44, No. 1

The Meeting House News

REVeries

Dear Friends,

These past months of sabbatical leave have been a gift, and I thank you all for this time, thanking especially **Jenny Rankin** who assumed the duties of Head of Staff, thanking the entire staff who assumed additional responsibilities, the hardworking Standing Committee, and all of you who continue to make this institution of First Parish the vibrant place it is. Thanks to Capital Campaign folks who are turning dreams into realities, especially the amazing **Melissa Gallo**. Thanks to our fundraisers, especially **Cynthia Ellis**, who served a second year as a dedicated leader of this important function.

People have asked me, “What did you *do* on sabbatical?” and I have answered that this time has been more about being than doing, though I did plenty. This summer marked the 35th anniversary of my ordination into ministry, and this fall will mark the beginning of my 20th year here in Concord with you. These months were a good time to look back and to look forward, and to discern what this next chapter of my ministry with you might be like, what retirement might be like.

I read about three dozen books, divided equally between fiction and nonfiction, and if you ask, I’ll share the list with you. From some, sermons will emerge; others were mysteries and novels by favorite authors. I saw lots of my grandchildren, especially the newest, Anita Rose, and I can say just holding and snuggling her was renewal in itself. I wrote about spiritual discipline, about the stories of my own life. I scanned old photographs and slides onto my computer. I visited family cemeteries in western Maine.

I traveled: on business for my wider Unitarian Universalist connections, to Houston, to Santa Barbara, to Berkeley, to Portland, Oregon. Elizabeth and I traveled to northern California, to Nashville, to Monhegan Island and to Crescent Lake in Maine. We were in Nashville in May for the Festival of Homiletics, an amazing week of listening to outstanding preachers and teachers and of participating in worship of the highest caliber.

Nashville is where we went to school 35 years ago, so we walked the Vanderbilt campus, found the vacant lot where our rental apartment had been, and reconnected to the small congregation where I had done my field education. A new sunroom has been added to the side of our home. I walked the neighborhood. We sorted out clutter. I gave away clothes and books. What a time! Many thanks.

It will be good to be together. Please join us on Opening Sunday, the ninth of September. We will celebrate our community and all we stand for.

—Gary Smith

Sunday Worship Schedule

September 2*

Leslie Becknell, preaching
Nancy Ackerman, clarinet
Eric Huenneke, organ
**Single Summer Service: 10:00 A.M.*

September 9

OPENING SUNDAY
Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir
Songs from The Social Harp
The Promised Land
Parting Friends

September 16

Jenny Rankin, preaching
9:00 – First Parish Choir
Avinu Malkeynu – Janowski
Sim Shalom – Janowski
11:00 – Larry Gall, bass

September 23

Gary Smith, preaching
9:00 – John Hayes, tenor
11:00 – First Parish Choir
A Quiet Moment – Snyder
To See the World – Douglas

September 30

Transylvanian Thanksgiving
9:00 & 11:00 – First Parish Choir
Vybehla Briza Belicka – Dvorak
Tábortüznél – Bárdos

**COME
BUILD A DREAM!**



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

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There are three inserts with this newsletter:
Project Connection 2007
Wright Tavern Center, 2-sided
Annual Meeting Proceedings

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, Sept. 17	Wednesday, Sept. 26
Monday, Oct. 15	Wednesday, Oct. 24
Monday, Nov. 12	Wednesday, Nov. 28

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

Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee met on June 18. Please look for the minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in), or look for the minutes on the bulletin board in the downstairs hall. The next Standing Committee meeting will be on Monday, September 10.

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 **Robert Hilsinger** or **Charles Lowell** if you wish to recommend a topic or a speaker.

SEPTEMBER 2

No Forum — Summer Schedule

SEPTEMBER 9

No Forum — Opening Sunday

SEPTEMBER 16

No Forum

SEPTEMBER 23

Wright Tavern Center Update
Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Director

Since its inception in 1997, The Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal has provided significant enrichment to the lives of many within the First Parish and Concord area communities. This Forum will give participants an opportunity to meet Mary Elizabeth and hear about the latest plans for this year's course offerings.

SEPTEMBER 30

The Caregiver 24/7
Kathleen Elcox, Anna Foote and Margie King-Saphier

Most of us will be caregivers at some time in our lives — now, next week, or years from now. The incapacity of a loved one does not usually announce itself ahead of time. Making plans, recognizing limitations, and realizing that you cannot do it all alone are all important. During this Forum, Kathleen, Anna and Margie will discuss the sadness, challenges and decisions facing the 24/7 caregiver. The following topics will be included in the discussion: one's feelings and emotions; need for getaways; communicating with friends, family and professionals; keeping yourself healthy; and finding resources to help.

Parish Notes

NEW OFFICE HOURS

The office at First Parish will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, this church year. As always, there is a voice mailbox on the First Parish telephone, where messages may be left. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

PASSING THE SUNDAY FORUM BATON

I can't believe that 17 years have gone by since I first started working on the Forum Committee and served as chair for most of that time! It's been rewarding and fun, but at this point in my life, I want more flexibility in my schedule and have been looking for someone for a while now to take over the Forum responsibilities. I am very pleased that **Robert Hilsinger** and **Charles Lowell** have volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the committee and have already started working on this year's programs. If you want to suggest a topic or a speaker for a Sunday Forum, please contact Robert at rhilsinger@verizon.net, or Charles at chaslo@ziplink.net. Best regards to all for a wonderful year of Forums! —**Dian Pekin**

HEADS-UP, KNITTERS!

Anyone who has the directions for catnip ball "jackets," don't forget to keep on knitting. (Thanks, **Mimi Samour**, for such a profusion of jackets already!) Those who would like directions for knitting these popular little cat toys, which are sold at the November 3 Artisans Fair, e-mail cindy-bin@verizon.net. Leave completed jackets at the church office for **Cindy McLean-Greeley** or at the back door of 1515 Main Street in West Concord.

CALLING ALL FIRST PARISH ARTISTS

Do you have a framed painting or drawing that you would like to exhibit in the "all-Parish display"? The exhibit will go up on September 5 and remain up until the first week of October. Please drop off items you would like to display during the last week of August or in September, before September 5.

TRANSYLVANIA PARTNER CHURCH REFLECTIONS — SAVE THE DATES!

Join the Partner Church Committee in welcoming our returning travelers from Székeleykeresztúr at a potluck supper on Saturday, September 29, at 6 p.m. Both the choir and the youth pilgrims will be on hand to share their experiences through songs, words and pictures. The following day is the Transylvanian Unitarian Thanksgiving, and we will be celebrating our connection to our partner congregation and friends with pictures and completely different sets of reflections during each of our two worship services. To get the full picture, plan to come to the potluck and both services!

CAN YOU NAME AN ACTOR WHO WON THE OSCAR FOR "BEST ACTOR" IN TWO MOVIES?

First Parish will host its first Trivial Pursuit Night on October 20, beginning at 7 p.m. Create your own team of eight or take this opportunity to compete, have fun and test your skills with new First Parish friends. This will be a fast-paced night of entertainment, with ten categories guaranteed to challenge. Trivia categories include First Parish History, Media, Music, Movies, Sports, Literature and Arts, Science and World Religions. Tickets are \$10 per person, on sale at coffee hour beginning September 16. They are limited, so sign up while they're available. Wine, beer and soft drinks will be on sale, and hors d'oeuvres served.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 10

Money Matters

I hope everyone had an enjoyable summer. Here at First Parish, the summer is a transition time as we close the books from one fiscal year and set up the financial information for the next year.

We finished FY'07 with a strong net income of \$46K. We were very fortunate to receive a significant amount of pledge income in the month of June, \$74K as compared to \$42K in June of FY'06. We also received subscription income this year to fulfill pledges from prior years. Income in other areas contributed to our strong net income as well. We received several monetary gifts, and higher interest rates led to higher interest income. The Wright Tavern ended the year with a higher income than projected, while program expenses came in close to budget. The net income from FY'07 will be added to our retained earnings and serve as a reserve for future years to compensate for unexpected negative changes in our income or extraordinary expenses.

Looking forward, as most of you know, our pledges for FY'08 were significantly lower than we had hoped. When we finalized our budget in June, our pledges for FY'08 were actually lower than our pledges were in FY'07. This makes budgeting difficult because certain expenses automatically increase due to inflation. We were fortunate in receiving gifts to help close this gap, but it was still necessary to make budget cuts in each of the program and operational areas. If you have not made a pledge for this year, we hope you will still consider doing so. We appreciate the support of both time and money that you give to First Parish.

—Lisa Cole

Business Manager

Lisa Cole has resigned as our Business Manager effective August 31. We thank her for her two years of dedicated work at First Parish.

HELP WANTED: BUSINESS MANAGER

First Parish has an opening for a half-time position as Business Manager. Please send resumes to Gary Smith, garysmith@firstparish.org.

Pastoral Care News

We at First Parish are returning for another church year in the midst of Lughnasadh (pronounced loó nassa), beginning August 1 and ending October 31, which is the Celtic autumnal season of harvesting crops and of harvesting the gifts of spiritual maturity. As we return to be in community, we can give thanks for the gifts we have received and we can apply those gifts to create another dynamic year at First Parish.

Unitarian Universalists often joke that coffee hour is “UU communion.” That’s not a bad analogy if we think of communion as that time when we “break bread together,” becoming one in community. Coffee hour at First Parish is also the time to reconnect with friends or make new ones, and learn about social action initiatives and social functions. Unfortunately it can be a chaotic time, with children and adults moving rapidly in a very crowded area. As a result, coffee hour is not always accessible to everyone, because they may not be steady on their feet due to age, physical disability, pregnancy, etc. In the spirit of “promoting and affirming the inherent dignity of the individual,” the Pastoral Care Council (**Judy Dembsey, Pam Ressler, Ursula Kristoffy and Dianne Weiss**) and I, with the support of the ministers, plan to have a “designated safe space,” with a few tables and chairs set up in the Parish Hall. To ensure the appropriate people use the space, Council members will oversee it until people get used to its purpose. Please help us make coffee hour a time for all who would like to attend.

Once a month, on Tuesday afternoons, there will be two new events. “Matinee at First Parish” will show a movie followed by a discussion (see the *Sunday News* for specifics). In addition, through the Wright Tavern, **Lorraine Loviglio** and I will host “Tea and Poetry,” inviting people to share their favorite poetry and enjoy some tea. Please check the Wright Tavern website or the *Sunday News* for more information.

Nicole Sheehan is one of our new reception coordinators for memorial services. Over the summer Nicole did a wonderful job, with the support of **Rhoda Miller**. We are still looking for at least two more coordinators, a position that includes a modest financial remuneration. If interested, please contact me by e-mail or phone for an interview.

In faith,

—Margie King Saphier

Music Notes

CHOIR REHEARSAL SCHEDULES – FALL 2007

Keep this information handy as you make plans for fall. And consider joining a choir!

ADULT CHOIR

Wednesdays, 7:45 – 9:30 p.m.
beginning September 5
Beth Norton, Director

BELL CHOIR

Wednesdays, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
beginning September 5
Martha Goodman, Director

GOSPEL CHOIR

(Grades 7 – 12)
Sundays, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
beginning September 16
Anderson Manuel, Director

CHALICE CHOIR

(Grades 4 – 6)
Wednesdays, 5:00 – 5:40 p.m.
beginning September 12
Judy Burrows, Director

JUNIOR CHOIR

(Grades 1 – 3)
Wednesdays, 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
beginning September 12
Judy Burrows, Director

For more information, contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, x420, or music@firstparish.org.

MUSings

I am writing this column in mid-summer, on what promises to be one of the hottest days of July. It cools me to think about fall. Our return to the autumn rhythm is only six weeks away. But what a six weeks that will be!

At the end of July, I will be in Clearwater, Florida, for the annual conference of the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network. It promises to be a busy and exciting week, highlighted by a performance of *Sources*, a Unitarian Universalist Cantata with music by Rev. Jason Shelton and lyrics by Rev. Kendyl Gibbons. Each movement of the work focuses on one of the sources we draw on in our Living Tradition. I am looking forward to this chance to learn this new work and perform it with my UU music colleagues.



And then, on August 7, we set off on our Musical Pilgrimage to Transylvania! Our choir of 29 voices has been rehearsing throughout the summer, learning to sing in Czech and Hungarian and developing an ensemble sound and character that is unique to this group of singers. Our pilgrimage group of 45 has been getting to know one another over monthly dinners, sharing our hopes and fears for the pilgrimage, paying attention to the myriad details of traveling and preparing ourselves for an adventure that we know will transform us.

I look forward to sharing this experience when we meet again in September. And I hope that your summer has provided opportunities for adventure and transformation as well.

Blessings,

—Beth Norton

ADULT CHOIR — OPEN REHEARSALS IN SEPTEMBER!

The Adult Choir will begin the season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights in September, beginning on September 5. Rehearsals are from 7:45 to 9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary balcony. Anyone interested in singing in the choir is invited to attend, with no obligation during this time. Singers of all voice parts are welcome. The choir will sing in church for the first time on Sunday, September 9, at the 9:00 and 11:00 o’clock services. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or music@firstparish.org.

MUSIC EVENTS COMMITTEE

Don’t miss these upcoming musical programs at First Parish — mark your calendars:

- Saturday, October 20, 4 p.m. — RESQ (the Really Eclectic String Quartet), a unique quartet of world-class musicians performing music from the classics to contemporary jazz
- Sunday, October 28, 7 p.m.—Sarasa, an internationally acclaimed chamber music ensemble

More details will appear in subsequent monthly and Sunday newsletters.

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

I hope everyone has returned from summer re-energized for another full year. Both old and new social action programs and events are planned for this year, and new ideas and causes are always welcome.

Our Social Action Community begins the year with the introduction of our new Social Action Community board: Eric Van Loon (cochair), Claudia Nimar (cochair), Alane Wallis, Lynn Randall, Alec Walker, Kim Novick, Bob Andrews, Suzanne Rutstein, Dave Dawson and Maile Hulihan. This high-

energy, strongly committed group of individuals will be on hand at coffee hour



on Sunday, September 16, to discuss your hopes, dreams and causes. Please take any opportunity to speak with them.

Social action activities occur daily here at First Parish but I would like to highlight a few upcoming events — The Jericho Road Bike Ride, Sunday, September 30 (contact jerichoroadproject.org for more information or to register); Father Leonel Naervez, speaking on forgiveness and reconciliation, Thursday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m., presented by SAC and the Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal; Crop Walk, Sunday, October 14; SAC grants fall application deadline, Monday October 15 (contact Alane Wallis at awallis@nutter.com); and Ned Wright, guest speaker from Veatch, with a SAC luncheon following, on Sunday, October 21.

Please join this vibrant community to act upon our beliefs and make a difference in the world. Please contact me at FBade@FirstParish.org. I look forward to an exciting year at First Parish!

— Faith Bade
Social Action Associate

CROP WALK 2007

The 2007 Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 14, with registration at 1:30 p.m. at First Parish. This six-mile walk raises funds for Church World Service to use in hunger and disaster relief and development projects, both domestically and internationally; and also for seven local hunger relief organizations. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to

join us; this is a great activity for the whole family! Sponsor forms will be available at coffee hour starting September 16. See concordcrop.org for more details, and to find out about online pledging.

BUILDING A SYSTEM OF FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION

Come to First Parish on Thursday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m. to hear internationally recognized, Father Leonel Narvaez, founder of the Foundation of Forgiveness and Reconciliation, speak about building a national system of reconciliation and a culture of peace in Colombia by bringing the experience of forgiveness and reconciliation to the daily lives of victims of injustice or violence. The foundation's vision is to consolidate a social movement in Colombia, in the U.S. and in other parts of the world that permanently promotes new and innovative means of creating community, provides solutions for social injustice and inequality, as well as pro-active methods for overcoming familial, community and national conflicts. For more information, contact Tamasin Foote at tamasinfoote@feete.com.

CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

If you would like to explore volunteering in the prison this fall, you may visit one of the programs we run there. People may attend a prison program twice before going through official orientation. Programs we offer include job search skills, book discussions, fathers support groups, art, music theory, emotional awareness/emotional healing, tutoring, and many others. This year there is a special need for people to teach a short (6- to 8-week) course in various life-skill areas. You would work as part of a team of volunteers, with others to support you. The rewards are great! Call Lenore James at 978-369-1430 for details.

WANTED — FEMALE LEGAL MENTORS

One Family, Inc. (onefamilyinc.org/index.shtml), the organization that helped Sussy get her degree, is looking for women who would be willing to meet once a month with formerly homeless and at-risk mothers who are pre-law students, to share their experiences about how women succeed in the legal arena while juggling work, studies, career and family. As I learned from working with Sussy, the rewards are immense and the time commitment is minimal, although you may end up with a friend for life. Please contact Bill Seaver at billseaver@earthlink.net if you are interested.

SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS DEADLINE IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

The Social Action Grants Committee will be accepting grant applications until Monday, October 15, 2007. Further information and grant application forms can be found on the social action page of the First Parish website at firstparish.org. Applications can be left in or mailed to the church office or sent to Alane Wallis at awallis@nutter.com. Please feel free to contact Alane at 978-369-1114, or at the above e-mail address, with any questions. Other members of the committee to whom questions may be addressed are Dave Dawson, Tony Gallo, Wendy Holt, Alice Kaufman, Betty King, John Lowe and Eric Van Loon.

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

September 2007

It's been a productive summer, with many volunteers and staff members meeting regularly.

Our Capital Campaign fundraising total is now a little over \$3,015,000.

The RFP (Request for Proposal) from the Organ Committee went out in June, and proposals are due August 31.

During the summer, work began on some of the routine maintenance issues.

- Most noticeable is the regilded dome, which looks beautiful.
• A new sound system is under way.
• The windows are being reglazed and repainted.

The Massachusetts Architectural Access Board voted unanimously to grant First Parish a variance for the front entrance of the Meeting House, which means we will not have to build a ramp outside the columned entrance.

As we begin getting more details on maintenance and building, we're finding we have quite a complex site — with overlapping jurisdictions and requirements. For example, the Historic District Commission has already asked for several revisions to our plans. The Natural Resources Commission's concern about vegetation around and run-off into the Mill Brook will impact site engineering. The Zoning Board plays a role. In addition, because some maintenance items have been delayed for so long, our old electrical and plumbing systems will require substantial work to meet current codes.

A more complete update will be available on Opening Sunday. Hope to see you then.



Membership Corner

"HONOR ALL BEINGS" AFFINITY GROUP

The "Honor All Beings" affinity group is a First Parish group that addresses animal issues and hosts vegetarian dinners for members and the general Parish community. We are meeting on Sunday, September 16 (room to be determined), at First Parish from 7 to 9 p.m. to develop our 2007/2008 agenda and schedule of events. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. Desserts will be served. Contact Kathryn Shane at kdshane@comcast.net or at 978-263-1456 with any questions.

Wright Tavern Center

WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER PRESENTS

So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle over Church and State

with Rev. Dr. Forrest Church

Thursday, September 27

Lecture, Questions and Answers

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

\$15

Reception and Book Signing

8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

We are honored to welcome religious historian Rev. Dr. Forrest Church to First Parish in Concord. Based on his book by the same title, Forrest Church discusses our first great culture war: a tumultuous yet nearly forgotten conflict that raged from George Washington's presidency to James Monroe's. From the proponents of order, who believed that the only legitimate ruler of a nation state is God, to the defenders of liberty, who believed that only the separation of church and state can preserve people's freedom, he offers a new vision of our earliest presidents' beliefs, reshaping assumptions about the debates that still reverberate across our land. Come hear Rev. Dr. Church talk about his critically acclaimed new book on religion and presidential politics in the early republic: So Help Me God.

Rev. Dr. Forrest Church is now Minister of Public Theology of All Souls, NYC, after serving almost three decades there as Senior Minister. Dr. Church has written or edited 23 books. His most recent book, So Help Me God: The Founding Fathers and the First Great Battle over Church and State is being published by Harcourt in September 2007.



The summer. Often my dreams of summer in May are not representative of the reality of summer in July and August. In May I look forward to not having the hectic schedule imposed by the school calendar. In July, however, that unstructured time becomes a random tapestry of appointments and activities for my children — almost all of which require . . . driving. Driving around Concord was not in my lemonade visions of an idyllic summer last May. Suddenly in late August I find myself marveling at all our schools and our First Parish community have to offer. While there is some suffering involved — like getting up early, making lunches, and filling out forms — both school and church provide community. They are places we go where we can count on being with others, where we can count on stretching ourselves, and where we are usually surprised about something. Once again I am looking forward to being in worship with you and your children, together creating this unpredictable fabric of being in community.

— Pam Howell

SPIRIT PLAY, STORY PLAY AND CAREGIVING FOR ROTATIONS 1, 2 AND 3

These programs will be similar to last year’s. At our orientation we will introduce you to each program and provide the curriculum for Rotation Number 1. We will go over safety and answer any questions you may have about these programs.

WORKSHOP ROTATION NUMBER 1

The summer has been restful compared to the remodeling that occurred last summer. However, Liz, Jane and Pam have been busy working on the different workshops for the first rotation. The first rotation is “We Are UU,” which explores what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. What do we believe and why? What is our history? The focus of this rotation is Unitarian Universalism: Our Roots and Wings. Our five workshops will explore our UU Principles, our UU Sources, and how these principles and sources manifest themselves here at First Parish.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE FALL PROGRAMMING

Our 7th graders will explore the curriculum Lessons of Loss. This curriculum introduces our young teens to the universality of the experience of loss. Through readings and activities children will discuss this important topic and its meaning in their lives.

SEPTEMBER RE CALENDAR

- Tue., Sept. 4 Orientation for Spirit Play, Story Play and Caregiving, 7:30 p.m.
- Thur., Sept. 6 RE Orientation for Workshop Rotation Number 1, 6:30 p.m.
- Sun., Sept. 9 RE for Pre-K only, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Homecoming Sunday: Intergenerational Service and Water Communion
- Sun., Sept. 16 Regular RE for Pre-K through 6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Pre-K begins in classrooms
K-6 begin in Sanctuary
Regular RE for 7th and 8th Grade, 11:00 a.m. *sharp*
7th Grade begins in Parlor
8th Grade begins on Wright Tavern Sun Porch
9th Grade COA Mentor Orientation, 2:00 p.m.
- Sun., Sept. 23 Regular RE for Pre-K through 6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Regular RE for 7th and 8th Grade, 11:00 a.m.
- Sun., Sept. 30 Regular RE for Pre-K through 6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Regular RE for 7th and 8th Grade, 11:00 a.m.
9th Grade Coming of Age gathering, 4:00 p.m.

Our 8th graders will be using the curriculum *You the Creator*. The lessons selected from this curriculum will focus on the importance and power of each person’s creativity to our society. It explores a variety of aspects of personal creativity — engineering, humor, ethics. This will be an interactive and hands-on program for our 8th graders.

9TH GRADE COMING OF AGE

Our 9th graders’ Coming of Age program is off to a great start this year. Supervised by **Mary-Wren vanderWilden**, our Youth Program Director, **Cynthia Ellis** and **Deb Welch** are pulling together what promises to be a meaningful experience of self-exploration. We are looking forward to meeting each participant and his or her parents at our informational celebration on Sunday, September 16, at 2 p.m. in the Parlor. Updated calendars will be provided at this important gathering.

RE NEWS continued on page 9

RE NEWS continued from page 8

RE ORIENTATIONS

Our RE Orientations will be critical to the success of our programs. We have organized them by curriculum and rotation. Teachers are required to attend. If one person doesn’t know the expectations, it could really throw the whole program off.

ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR '07-'08 RE

- Caregiving, Story Play and Spirit Play Rotation terms 1, 2 and 3 —
Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 p.m.
- Workshop Rotation Number 1 —
Thursday, September 6, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Coming of Age Mentor Orientation for 9th Grade —
Sunday, September 16, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- Workshop Rotation Number 2 —
Thursday, October 18, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Workshop Rotation Number 3 —
Thursday, December 6, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Caregiving, Story Play and Spirit Play Rotation terms 4 and 5 —
Tuesday, February 5, at 7:30 p.m.
- Workshop Rotation Number 4 —
Thursday, February 7, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- Coming of Age Mentor Orientation for 8th Grade —
Sunday, February 10, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGY NOTE

If you are missing a calendar, we have included calendars for all of our programs on the First Parish website at firstparish.org. Are you late in registering? Please use our First Parish website at firstparish.org for all the forms necessary for registration. We hope you find our website a useful resource this year.

It has been an exciting summer for youth at First Parish, beginning with the Youth Pilgrimage to Transylvania in July. We had an amazing two weeks, developing and strengthening our friendships with the people of Székelykeresztúr. We also worked hard digging out the basement of a church building that had been taken away during the Communist era, raking and baling hay for an older couple, and chopping and stacking wood for a paralyzed man. Many thanks to the hardworking chaperones, who were a calm, reassuring presence for our young people — **Jamie Atkins, Cynthia Ellis, Peter Fischelis, Winslow Pettingell** and **Deb Welch**.

We started a new tradition this year with a college-aged youth group on a Sunday night in August. It was wonderful to reconnect and share experiences. It is my hope that even after our youth graduate, they will always know they have a home at First Parish.

I met with the senior leaders at my house in August to begin planning the year. The backbone of our program is YRUU, which will continue to meet on Sunday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Chapel. Our aim this year is to create a welcoming community where youth can feel comfortable coming every week or dropping in when they can. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, September 9, and we hope to see lots of new faces and old ones too.

We are trying a new place this year for our fall retreat, September 21-23. The Farm and Wilderness Center in Plymouth, Vermont, will offer us a large space to be together and wonderful outdoor opportunities. This retreat is always well attended and a wonderful way for youth to feel connected to the youth program at First Parish. See the website for information and forms.

September is a crazy time for youth as they transition from the lazy days of summer to the stress of busy schedules and worries about grades, colleges and other things. On the other hand, it can be an exciting time to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and learn and try new things. We are hoping that the Youth Group at First Parish can be an oasis of peace, a place to connect with others, a time to pay attention to our spiritual needs, and a place for fun. Come join us on September 9 and find out more!

— Mary-Wren vanderWilden

WPA SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

The Women's Parish Association will hold its September meeting on Tuesday, September 25. A catered buffet luncheon will be served at 12 o'clock immediately followed by a delightful program in which Richard Hughes will show famous Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy silent movies accompanied by authentic piano mood music. After the program, there will be a very brief business update. All men and women of First Parish and their friends are welcome! Please contact **Dian Pekin** at pekinc@comcast.net or 978-263-0426 by September 22 for reservations as well as child care and transportation requests. The price for the luncheon is eight dollars, payable at the door.

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP—NEW SCHEDULE!

Welcome to a new year of book discussions with the First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group! Meetings will be on Monday evenings and Tuesday mornings, usually the last week of the month (fourth or fifth Monday or Tuesday), with a few exceptions as indicated in the date list below. The morning session is facilitated by **Darien Smith** and the evening by **Siri Smedvig**. The book for September's discussions is *Suite Française*, by Irène Némirovsky. The evening group will meet September 24, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning group on September 25, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com. The books and dates for 2007-2008 are as follows:

- September 24 (p.m.), 25 (a.m.)
Suite Française, Irène Némirovsky
- October 29 (p.m.), 30 (a.m.)
The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals, Michael Pollan
- December 3 (p.m.), 4 (a.m.)
Say the Name: A Survivor's Tale in Prose and Poetry, Judith H. Sherman
- January 28 (p.m.), 29 (a.m.)
Midnight's Children, Salman Rushdie
- February 25 (p.m.), 26 (a.m.)
Bobbed Hair and Bathub Gin: Writers Running Wild in the Twenties, Marion Meade
- March 24 (p.m.), 25 (a.m.)
The Memory Keeper's Daughter, Kim Edwards
- April 28 (p.m.), 29 (a.m.)
One Thousand White Women, Jim Fergus
- May 19 (p.m.), 20 (a.m.)
The Year of Magical Thinking, Joan Didion

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3

DISABILITY AWARENESS FORUM

On October 23, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., the First Parish Diversity Committee will host an educational forum on disabilities. The focus of this forum will be to help us understand the variety of daily challenges by people with disabilities. A panel of guests with first-hand experience will discuss ways that we can all make First Parish more welcoming and accessible.

HOLIDAY ARTISANS FAIR COMING IN NOVEMBER!

Plans are well under way for this year's Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 3. Start setting aside treasures for our white elephant table. The fair committee is looking for donations of small gift items of high quality, appropriate for holiday gift giving — for example, lovely costume jewelry, small home decorations, silver and pewter tableware, teacups, serving plates, cocktail napkins, placemats, Christmas ornaments, luggage tags, up-to-date electronic games, artwork. The fair itself will feature an interesting variety of handcrafted items as well as photography and prints. There are many fun ways to participate in this community-wide event. You can volunteer to work for an hour or more. Contact **Jen Petersen** at 978-369-4103 or **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekinc@comcast.net to offer your services or gift items.

"BEING HEALTHY AND SAVING THE PLANET" PRESENTATION

On Sunday, November 11, from 1 to 3 p.m., Dr. Will Tuttle, author of *The World Peace Diet—Eating for Spiritual Health and Social Harmony*, will be speaking in the Sanctuary on "Being Healthy and Saving the Planet." Dr. Tuttle, a native of Concord, will deliver a no-nonsense talk about how our food choices affect our health, our planet and our spirituality. He will help us to make positive changes that promote health, encourage compassion, and minimize our footprints on the earth. Dr. Tuttle has lectured throughout North America, and we are fortunate to have him return to Concord for this presentation at First Parish. Contact **Kathryn Shane** at 978-263-1456 for additional information.

Classifieds

VIOLIN AND PIANO LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Thirty years' experience teaching; excellent references. See website at www.sirismedvig.com. Contact **Siri Smedvig** at 978-369-1470.

GARAGE/BARN RENTAL SOUGHT FOR CAR

Rental space sought for a medium-sized automobile for four months — September 28 to end of January. Just sold our house and will rent in California while the new house is being built. Do you have one car in a two-car garage? There'll be no extra boxes, etc., just the car. Please call **Diane Bleday** at 978-371-7080 or Bleday@aol.com.

HOUSING NEEDED

Mature, responsible First Parish woman seeks 2-bedroom apartment, cottage or house-share by October 1-15. Would consider providing elder care or other support services. Please call **Dianne Weiss** at 978-318-0606.

September 2007 Calendar

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

Every Week...

<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00 p.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 (not 9/5)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00 (not 9/5)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 9/2)

Mon Sep 3	Holiday — Office Closed	Sun Sep 23	7:30	Women's Circle Equinox Celebration
Tue Sep 4	7:30 RE Orientation	Mon Sep 24	7:00	<i>Stress Reduction</i>
Wed Sep 5	7:00 Youth Advisory Committee		7:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
	7:00 <i>Stress Reduction Meditation Maintenance</i>	Tue Sep 25	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga Drop-In</i>
Thu Sep 6	6:30 Workshop Rotation Orientation		9:30	<i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i>
Sat Sep 8	9:00 Photo Club		12:00	WPA Lunch
SUN SEP 9	OPENING SUNDAY		7:00	Diversity Committee Movie
	6:45 Crop Walk Recruiters	Wed Sep 26	9:15	Newsletter Mailing
	7:00 SAC Board Meeting		12:00	<i>Listening for God</i>
Mon Sep 10	7:00 Jericho Road Meeting		5:30	<i>Restorative Yoga</i>
Tue Sep 11	9:00 WPA Board Meeting		7:30	<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>
Wed Sep 12	6:00 Partner Church Committee	Thu Sep 27	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga Drop-In</i>
	7:30 <i>Yoga Make-up Session</i>		7:30	<i>So Help Me God w/ Forrest Church</i>
Sun Sep 16	2:00 Coming of Age Mentors	Fri Sep 28	9:30	<i>Stress Reduction</i>
Mon Sep 17	12:00 Newsletter Deadline		7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	7:00 <i>Stress Reduction</i>	Sat Sep 29	6:00	Partner Church Committee Potluck Supper
Tue Sep 18	9:30 <i>Kundalini Yoga Drop-In</i>		7:00	Social Action Council Meeting
	7:00 Amnesty Chapter Meeting	Sun Sep 30	7:30	Jericho Road Ride
Wed Sep 19	7:00 Youth Advisory Committee		4:00	Coming of Age Gathering
Thu Sep 20	9:30 <i>Kundalini Yoga Drop-In</i>			
Fri Sep 21	9:30 <i>Stress Reduction</i>			
	11:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i>			
	YRUU Retreat (off-site)			



First Parish in Concord

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SEPTEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

The **October Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, September 17**, at noon.

The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, September 26.

News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

OPENING SUNDAY

September 9, 2007

Services at 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock

**First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Staff**

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister
Jenny M. Rankin, Minister
Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care
Rebecca M. Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

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

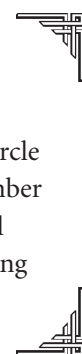
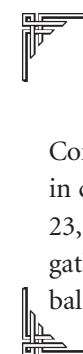
Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
Eric Huenneke, Organist
Martha Goodman, Handbell Choir Director
Judy Burrows, Children's Choir Director
Anderson Manuel, Music/RE Associate

Mary Elizabeth Wheeler, Wright Tavern Center Director
Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director
Leslie Koplou, Assistant to Executive Director, Jericho Road
Rebecca Johnson, Jericho Road Ministerial Intern
Jodi DeLibertis, Lowell Program Director, Jericho Road

A. Bigay, Assistant to the Ministers
Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
Jane Johnson, Office Manager
Peggy Gallo, Financial Secretary and Collector
Caroline McCloy, Director of Member Services
Faith Bade, Social Action Associate
Kate Keleher, Newsletter Editor
Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff

**CELEBRATE THE FALL EQUINOX
WITH THE WOMEN'S CIRCLE**

Come one and all — join the First Parish Women's Circle in celebration of the Fall Equinox. On Sunday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, the Women's Circle will gather to honor with story and song this time of finding balance at the turning of the year. All are welcome.



Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 3:00*
Phone: 978-369-9602
Fax: 978-369-8701
E-Mail: fpconcord@aol.com
Website: firstparish.org

**Note: New closing time*

Ministers' E-Mail:

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Jenny M. Rankin: revjenny@comcast.net
Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net