



First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Gathered in 1636

January 23, 2008
Volume 44, No. 6

The Meeting House News

REVeries

The Social Action service (January 6, 2008) reminded me of the first three lines of the covenant written by L. Griswold Williams: "Love is the doctrine of this church, The quest for truth is our sacrament, And service is its prayer." Rosa Anaya's personal reflection on the meaning of receiving sanctuary from people who opened their hearts and homes so that Rosa and her siblings "know of looking into people's eyes and being able to clearly see straight into their souls" was an example of receiving unconditional love. As he lit the social action candle, **Jim Reynolds** reminded us what we needed to do to in the quest for truth: "to avoid the temptation to think social action is a matter of changing others to be like us; but rather a matter of responding to the world and allowing ourselves to be changed by it, so that we become the change the world needs." **Gary Smith's** powerful sermon exploring what it means to "Help the Suffering" reminded us that helping is not just about doing. It also includes being. Being transforms the act of service so it becomes prayer.

I thank you all for your warm welcome of Rosa and your interest in El Salvador. If you would like a copy of Rosa's reflection, please e-mail me at mksaphier@comcast.net. On February 24, during the Forum, I will talk about my trip with the Sight and Bite Team to El Salvador. On March 9, the Social Action Community will host a luncheon to discuss the youth service trip to El Salvador.

On a very different topic, do you know that Buddhists believe death is an opportunity for enlightenment, Europeans believe death is inevitable, and Americans believe death is a choice? In all seriousness, none of us know when or how this unpredictable event will come to us, but we can take some steps to prepare for it. I will be offering a four-session workshop on *The Rest of Your Life and Beyond* (details on page 7). We will explore how to prepare for this final act as well as how dying can inform our living. I hope you will come to the first session in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 26, at 3 p.m. to hear **Sidney Wanzer**, M.D. talk about his book *To Die Well: Your Right to Comfort, Calm, and Choice in the Last Days of Life*. Dr. Wanzer, a dynamic speaker and writer — and as an added bonus, a member of First Parish — offers information that is comforting and empowering. Please register with the church office.

In faith,

— *Margie King Saphier*

Sunday Worship Schedule

February 3

John Hickey,
UU Urban Ministry, preaching

9:00 – Handbell Choir

The Great Gate of Kiev

– Moussorgsky/Wagner

Song of the Morning

– Lee Burswold

11:00 – Gospel Choir

Lead Me to the Rock – Mencer

Corner of the Sky – Schwartz

February 10

Gary Smith, preaching

**9:00 – Junior Choir and
Adult Choir**

If I Had a Hammer – Seeger

Set Me As A Seal – Clausen

**11:00 – Chalice Choir and
Kristin Moore, violin**

One Tin Soldier

– Lambert & Potter

Traditional Fiddle Music

February 17

Becky Johnson, preaching

**9:00 & 11:00 – The Vocal Section
a capella Jazz and Gospel**

February 24

Jenny Rankin, preaching

9:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano

11:00 – First Parish Adult Choir

It Takes a Village – Szymko

You Are the New Day – David

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The Meeting House News, the newsletter of First Parish in Concord, is published monthly — in print and online — 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, Feb. 15	Wednesday, Feb. 27
Monday, Mar. 17	Wednesday, Mar. 26
Friday, Apr. 18	Wednesday, Apr. 30

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

SPECIAL NOTICE: ACOUSTICS, CARPETING AND THE SANCTUARY

As part of the upcoming capital improvements to the First Parish Meeting House, the carpeting in the Sanctuary is scheduled to be replaced, replaced in part, or a new hard surface installed on the floor. These options will all be considered when we begin an experiment at the end of April (while our regular services are continuing) by removing the carpeting completely. This is proposed as an experiment to see how removal of the carpeting will impact the acoustics in the Sanctuary and affect our worship experience, including hearing the spoken word, our congregational singing and the wonderful music that is so important to our worship services. You as parishioners, the ministers and the staff will have a chance to weigh in on how much of the carpeting should be replaced or whether it should be replaced at all.

The removal of the carpet will also assist in the process of refinishing all the pews over this coming summer. With the carpet completely up, the refinishing will proceed faster and we will be able to refinish more of each pew.

This experiment will begin by removing the carpeting during the week of April 21 (school vacation week), and will run through the month of May and into the summer. By next September we will have new carpeting installed completely, partially or not at all, with a new hard surface on the floor.

We realize that when the carpeting is removed, the aesthetics of the Sanctuary will definitely be affected, and we ask for your patience and thoughtful response to this experiment.

—Gary Smith, Beth Norton, Doug Baker

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.

FEBRUARY 3

No Forum

FEBRUARY 10

Peace Making

Shep Gurwitz of Veterans for Peace and Liam Madden of Iraq Veterans against the War

Veterans for Peace is dedicated to the abolishment of war. These veterans, having dutifully served our nation, affirm their responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. Iraq Veterans Against the War is a voice to active duty service people and veterans who are against the Iraq war. Among their calls to action is an immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces in Iraq, control of Iraq by Iraqis, adequate benefits and healthcare for returning veterans and victims of war. Shep and Liam will speak about their personal experiences with war and share their ideas on how to achieve a peaceful world.

FEBRUARY 17

No Forum

FEBRUARY 24

El Salvador

Rev. Margie King Saphier

Margie will present the history of El Salvador from the 1930's to the present. She will have slides that she took this past November. Her presentation will cover the capitol, San Salvador, and the two towns (Cabanitas in Apopo and Suchitoto) where the Sight and Bite Team delivered free eye and dental care to the poor. There will also be photos of Centro Arte Para La Paz, which is run by Sister Peggy O'Neill. Peggy was awarded a grant from our Social Action Grant Committee. Come and learn about the compelling story of the Salvadoran people. Note: *This program will also be offered to participants of our youth work trip to El Salvador.*

Parish Notes

CHRISTMAS EVE COLLECTION THANK-YOU

Many thanks for your very generous contributions on Christmas Eve. We received \$7,200 in the collection, for which we are truly grateful. We are moved by your kindness. This money has already been passed along to UU Service Committee, the UU Urban Ministry, and our partner church in Transylvania.

FIRST PARISH SNOW CANCELLATION POLICY

If the decision is made to cancel or postpone any meetings, events, Sunday religious education or Sunday worship, this information will be promptly communicated to the congregation by FP Announce, RE Announce, by an announcement on our Web page (www.first-parish.org), by the telephone message at 978-369-9602, and by radio and television announcements, if applicable.

In the event of a weekend storm, a cancellation decision will be made as early as possible, preferably by early Saturday evening, to first cancel Religious Education, with all the announcement mechanisms activated.

IMPORTANT NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

It is essential that information for the newsletter be received, in final form, by the deadline. The editor works hard to get everything into twelve pages, and cannot rework the pages with late entries. The deadlines are printed in the preceding newsletters, in the *Sunday News*, on the website, and are available in the office. Also, please remember that submissions should be no longer than 100 words. So many people want to convey information that keeping items short is essential. The newsletter staff may find it necessary to reject items that are longer than 100 words.

NEW: CHANGE IN POLICY FOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

If you would like to provide the Sunday flowers for a memorial or for a special occasion, please leave your name at the office to arrange a date.

THANKS FROM SANTA!

Santa Claus sends heartfelt thanks to the Women's Parish Association for sponsoring his trip from the North Pole to First Parish for the December 16 Santa Forum. Special thanks go to the children and their parents who literally walked through the storm that day to see him! He and his helpers were absolutely delighted to visit with such sweet and sincere children and their devoted parents. They extend their best wishes to everyone for a peaceful and happy new year.

INTERN WANTED — WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Learn the workings of an adult religious education center from the inside out. An energetic, capable, enthusiastic and thorough person with good communication, writing and people skills is needed for a wide variety of tasks and projects, ranging from registration to database management to publicity and marketing — and more! Contact director **Mary Elizabeth Wheeler** at FPtavern@aol.com or 978-369-9602, ext. 421.

CHILD DEDICATIONS

If you are interested in having **Gary Smith** or **Jenny Rankin** dedicate your child or children, please contact abigay@firstparish.org.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 5

Money Matters

PLEDGE 2008

The First Parish Annual Campaign is well under way. You'll be receiving information and pledge forms by February 1, and we ask that all parishioners make their pledges by Celebration Sunday on March 2. Please consider how important First Parish is to you and your family as you read the pledge materials and determine the amount of your pledge. You'll be hearing more from fellow parishioners as the annual campaign progresses, so we ask that you stay tuned and pledge as generously and as soon as you can after you receive your pledge materials. Thank you for your continued generosity!

—**Dave Dawson** and **Mary Ellen Connell**,
Annual Campaign cochairs

NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COCHAIR

We are pleased to announce that **Jill Appel** has accepted the position of Capital Campaign cochair. She will be serving with **Richard Fortier**. Jill is taking the position vacated by **Melissa Gallo**, who has recently accepted the position of First Parish Business Manager. Jill has been a strong contributor to the Capital Campaign as a member of the Building Committee, and we are delighted to welcome her to this new role.

DON'T MISS THE BOOK SALE!

First Parish in Concord will host its second annual Book and Media Sale on Saturday, February 9. Donations of gently used books, DVD's, videos and CD's are encouraged. Please leave your contributions in the box in the coatroom. Questions? Please contact **Jason Truluck-Williams** at 781-354-8664, or e-mail at jason@jasontw.com. Children's items are especially welcome.

Pastoral Care News

As we leave the wintry days of January, February brings the hint of change. February 2 is a cross-quarter day, which means the sun is halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. From this point on, daylight hours will grow noticeably longer, and new growth will begin to stir underground. With the daily increasing of sunlight, we too can begin to feel new stirring of life in our heart.

This time of year always reminds me of Kay Kumala, who lived in Carlisle and was a member of the First Religious Society. She died several years ago. While she was ill, members of the congregation drove her for radiation treatments. I drove Kay on a sunny February morning with snow covering the ground. We shared that we both loved winter. I told Kay I loved seeing trees without their foliage because then I could see the complexity of their limbs and branches. Kay explained that the low winter sun created shadows, outlining the trees and their limbs and giving them high definition. She then pointed to a white clapboard house, explaining how the same effect also outlined each clapboard, giving the house a crisp distinct appearance. I always give a prayer of thanks to Kay during the winter months for opening my eyes to the everyday wonders of winter.

In faith,

—*Margie King Saphier*

The Pastoral Care Ministry is organizing a support group for parishioners living with chronic conditions. With guidance from the ministers, **Peter Nobile**, who has lived with multiple sclerosis for several years, will facilitate the group in a variety of possible venues including phone support, small gatherings, and advice from speakers on subjects ranging from pain management to the spiritual awakening that may result from living with a chronic condition. If you are interested in participating in this group, or if you have a specific idea for how you might best be supported, please contact Peter at 978-369-5857, or peter.nobile@gmail.com.

RECOMMENDED READING ABOUT EL SALVADOR AND OTHER TOPICS

El Salvador

Witness to War, by Charlie Clements

When the Dogs Ate Candles, by Bill Hutchinson*

Oscar Romero

Memories in Mosaic, by Maria Lopez Vigil

Governmental Policies

Shock Doctrine, by Naomi Klein*

World Upside Down, by Eduardo Galliano*

War Is a Racket, by Smedley Butler (recommended by Al Armenti)

*Recommended by Rosa Anaya

If you are interested in beginning a book club to read and discuss these books, please contact Margie at mksaphier@comcast.net or call the church office to leave a message on her voice mail (ext. 422).

PARISH NOTES continued from page 3**DIVERSITY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP—FEBRUARY 26**

The Diversity Committee will host a workshop on the topic of racism on Tuesday, February 26, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parlor. Our guest speaker will be Deann Bonnar, who teaches classes on this subject at Boston University. Please look for further details in the *Sunday News*.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – MARCH 7

Concord's World Day of Prayer 2008 Interfaith Service will be held at the West Concord Union Church at 1317 Main Street, on Friday, March 7, at 11 a.m., followed by a free celebratory luncheon at noon. All men, women and interested children are invited. This year's service was written by the WDP Women of Guyana, whose diverse arts and cultures will be honored. There is no charge. Charitable donations will be collected at the service. Contact **Dian Pekin** at 978-263-0426 or pekindc@comcast.net by February 29 for child care or transportation arrangements or to lend any decorative items that depict the cultures of Guyana and the Caribbean.

FROM THE DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

First Parish's Denominational Affairs Committee calls your attention to Rev. Fred Small's article entitled "Ecology, Justice, and Compassion" which can be read in the Upperspectives section on the UUA's website, www.uua.org. In it, he reminds readers that people of faith around the world are coming to understand that threats to the environment are threats to the principles of justice and compassion at the core of every religion. This is one of many articles on the site giving Unitarian Universalist perspectives on many theological and social issues.

SAVE THE DATE AND SAVE YOUR TREASURES — SATURDAY, APRIL 5

Get your treasures ready to donate to the WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale, which will take place on Saturday, April 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — rain or shine. Gently used furniture, antiques, lamps, kitchen stuff, artwork, jewelry and clean toys are all welcome. No books, magazines, clothing, plants, sports or exercise equipment, or electronics can be accepted. Items can be dropped off at the church the day before between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Bring yourself and your friends to this fun event to search for your own treasures! Call **Pat Kane** at 978-369-8418 if you wish to rent a table or to volunteer your help. This is a major fund raiser and a great opportunity to recycle items that you no longer need.

FAIR TRADE BASKETS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY.

If you missed the opportunity to purchase a Fair Trade gift basket during the holidays you will have another chance. We will have a few baskets available for Valentine's Day giving on Sundays, February 3 and 10, at coffee hours.

MUSings

If you know me at all, you know that I love snow. I love the way a good snowstorm transforms the world with its blanket of quiet; I love that feeling of oneness with the snow and with nature as I glide through the woods on skis; I love to sit by the fire on a stormy day while the snow falls outside.



Living as long as I have in New England, I have experienced the major disruptions that a "good" snowstorm can produce. It amuses me that in this place where snow is expected, we feel the disruption of a snowstorm as an affront!

Our December storms brought bounteous beauty. But my enthusiasm for the early snows was tempered by the havoc the storms wrought with schedules — most notably, the postponement of our Saint Saëns *Christmas Oratorio* on December 16.

This disruption brought unexpected gifts: With the storm predicted, singers and instrumentalists savored our Saturday morning rehearsal, knowing it might be our only chance to create the music together. This collective "in the moment" attitude profoundly enriched the quality of our time together.

Though the (wise) decision to cancel the special music that Sunday was disappointing, the ad hoc worship we created that day was a revelation. The simplicity of the stories, poems and carols we shared and the intimacy of that small congregation were a reminder to me that worship is central to my ministry at First Parish. I returned home that day with a full heart and a light spirit.

And then there was the gift of presenting the work on December 23, complete with the entrance — on cue — of our precious angels. Many people said, "Didn't this work out for the best?" I had to agree. The chance to share the music with the large Christmas Sunday congregation and the dedication and spirit exhibited by our choir and orchestra players were a blessing.

Our December snows brought many gifts. Bounteous beauty, a reminder that worship is central to my ministry at First Parish and a deeper appreciation of the music of all kinds that we share in our spiritual journey together. I hope to carry these gifts with me into the New Year — and be open to the gifts that the next storm might bring.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Social Action Community News and Events

THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL ACTION

Sharing the Christmas Eve service at First Parish gives me a stronger sense of connection. It makes me see more clearly how connections create a sense of shared purpose that pushes me to action.

This is true wherever I look at First Parish: the bond of the staff and ministers, the shared purpose of our Social Action board. Jericho Road creates a "shared road" between Concord and Lowell, opening our eyes to see how we can make a difference. Our Transylvanian connection is all about the sharing of two communities and of both our needs. Gulf Coast Works strengthens their ties with First Parish and our ties with victims of Katrina. Rosa Anaya, our Salvadoran guest, spoke eloquently on January 6 about connecting with First Parish, opening our eyes to El Salvador's struggles, and creating a momentum for change. Our UUUM weekend (February 1-3) will strengthen our connections with the Urban Ministry and their amazing work with urban youth, galvanizing us to take part and "do." Social Action involves creating connections, sharing a purpose, and taking action. We can make a difference.

Wishing you more connections in your lives during 2008!

— *Faith Bade*
Social Action Associate

WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY FOR THE NEEDY IN LOWELL

In December you donated gifts, warm clothes (including mittens and hats from the mitten tree), and fuel assistance to families in Lowell who do not have the heat and clothing we take for granted. Your outpouring of generosity is truly amazing! Thank you. Although you gave much, their needs do not go away after the holidays. If you have gently used housewares or clothing (for all sexes and ages), please leave them on **Bill Seaver's** porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. He will deliver them to the needy in Lowell. — **Bill Seaver** and **John Boynton**

UU URBAN MINISTRY WEEKEND FEBRUARY 1 TO 3:

UU URBAN MINISTRY AT FIRST PARISH POETRY BLAST FRIDAY, FEB. 1, AT 7 P.M.

Join the UU Urban Ministry at First Parish for a Poetry Blast! From middle school to old school, bring your best poetry or your best interpretation of your favorite poet — spoken or sung. Poets from the UUUM's Roxbury Youth Program and United Souls will be on hand to share their work

for an evening of humor, tears, reflection and inspiration. Don't miss this event for the whole family on Friday, February 1, 7 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Admission is \$10 per person or \$20 per family. Proceeds benefit the UU Urban Ministry General Fund. Contact **Claudia Nimar** at cnimar@aol.com or **Mark Richards** at mark.s.richards@verizon.net for more information.

EL SALVADOR UPDATE

Thanks to everyone for giving our guest speaker, Rosa Anaya, such a wonderful welcome. Our Social Action luncheon was a huge success and interest in the service trip in April 2009 is strong. As we continue on our journey of learning, please mark your calendars for a Forum on February 24, by **Margie King Saphier** on the history of El Salvador, and a March 9 luncheon (12:15 p.m.) that will include a slide show about the service trip (destinations, accommodations), further information on the trip details, and application packets. Parents and future 8th and 9th graders are encouraged to attend.

APRIL 2008 SERVICE TRIP TO NEW ORLEANS

A January 27, 6 p.m. parent/youth meeting is planned for the April vacation service trip with Gulf Coast Works. This week-long trip for high school members is sponsored by the First Parish Social Action Community and Youth Program. If you are unable to attend the meeting and need more information, contact **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org or **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** at vanderwilden@verizon.net.

YOUTH AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR APRIL UUUM VACATION CAMP

First Parish is collaborating with other suburban/urban UU churches to provide an April 2008 day camp at First Church in Roxbury for 40-50 Roxbury elementary school children. Join together to provide the kids with a safe, enriching environment while easing their parents' lives! Volunteers are needed: Youths to be assistant counselors from Monday to Friday, April 21-April 25 (community service credit), and adults with educational design experience. Project planning led by Roxbury/Winchester youth groups. Contact **Mark Richards** at 978-897-9674 or e-mail mark.s.richards@verizon.net for information and transportation.

DID YOU RESOLVE TO BETTER THE WORLD IN 2008?

Jericho Road needs professionals from a wide range of fields — including marketing, business planning, interior design and finance — to work with Lowell nonprofits. Your time and expertise can make it possible for a nonprofit organization to improve the services they provide to Lowell's neediest residents. Join other First Parishioners in making the world a better place! Contact **Jodi DeLibertis** at jdelibertis@jerichoroadproject.org or 978-500-1722 .

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.



Wright Tavern Center for Spiritual Renewal
presents

**The Rest of Your Life and Beyond:
A Pastoral Care Program**

Rev. Margie King Saphier
Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

This program presented by Rev. Margie King Saphier consists of four sessions, beginning with guest presenter Dr. Sidney Wanzer, nationally recognized authority on issues of death and dying, and co-author of *To Die Well: Your Right to Comfort, Calm, and Choice in the Last Days of Life* with Dr. Joseph Glenmullen. Pre-registration in the First Parish office is appreciated.

The series may be attended as a whole at a discounted rate of \$40 for all four sessions, or as individual sessions at the \$15 drop-in rate. Please see the Wright Tavern web site for full details: www.wrighttavern.org. For information and questions: (978) 369-9602.

1. To Die Well

with Dr. Sidney Wanzer

In this presentation and in his book, Dr. Wanzer provides comforting and empowering information, including: our rights to refuse treatment; legal ways to bring about death if pain or distress cannot be alleviated; sparing us the frightening helplessness that can rob our last days of meaning and connection with others.

Saturday 1/26 3:00-5:00 p.m. \$40 all 4 sessions/\$15 drop-in

2. Five Wishes

Five Wishes is a document, unique among all other living will and health agent forms, which walks us through the decisions we need to make NOW in the event that we are not able to articulate our wishes at our life's end. We will go through the document and fill it out, answering any questions that arise. Attend either the evening or morning session.

Tuesday (2) 1/29 7:00-9:00 pm

Wednesday (2a) 1/30 9:30-11:30 am \$40 all 4 sessions/\$15 drop-in

3. The Undertaking

(as seen on Frontline by PBS)

with Charles Dee (evening)
and Glenn Burlamachi (morning)

This moving and powerful film illuminates the heartbreak and beauty between the living and the dead through the intimate stories of families coming to terms with grief, mortality, and a funeral's rituals. The film will be followed by discussion. Attend either the evening or morning session.

Tuesday (3) 2/5 7:00-9:00 pm

Wednesday (3a) 2/6 9:30-11:30 am \$40 all 4 sessions/\$15 drop-in

4. The Tasks of the Dying Are the Tasks of the Living

How many times have you attended a memorial service and heard someone tell a moving story about how their life was significantly changed by the deceased, only to be followed by an expression of regret that they did not share this personally with the one who died. Come learn what the five tasks are, and how they can transform your life.

Tuesday (4) 2/12 7:00-9:00 pm

Wednesday (4a) 2/13 9:30-11:30 am \$40 all 4 sessions/\$15 drop-in

NEW: SPIRIT IN PRACTICE — TEN WORKSHOPS FOR UU ADULTS

Introductory session March 10, 7:30 p.m., following third Marvelous Mondays dinner and vespers. Join First Parish staff and lay leaders to explore what spiritual practice means to us as a community, and how each of us can benefit from integrating spiritual practice into our everyday lives. *See the Wright Tavern insert for more details*, or visit www.wrighttavern.org.

Reflection and RE News

From time to time people ask me about the stories I tell for the children's message. One in particular has sparked a number of questions from children and adults. So, I thought I might explain a little about how I put these stories together while briefly trying to answer the questions about this one particular story.

Some may recall the Sunday I told the story of the Macabees and their exile from Jerusalem. In this story, I used a seven-candle menorah (lamp), as described in the Hebrew scriptures by God to Moses. Moses was instructed to make a lamp with six branches and a seventh central branch. The lamp was described in great detail and it was this very lamp that the Macabees hid away when the temple was being destroyed.

Since I was telling the story of how the eight holy days of Hanukkah came to be, I needed to use a seven-branched menorah, as that would have been what was used in the temple prior to Hanukkah. The miracle of Hanukkah celebrates the eight days these seven candles remained glowing despite the lack of oil.

After this miracle, the Hanukkah menorah, called a Hanukiah, was created. The Hanukiah is a nine-branched menorah: one candle for each of the eight days of Hanukah and a ninth in the center, which is the service light.

This can be confusing, and as I researched the story, I was amazed at how much I learned about the Hebrew scriptures and the Jewish faith. I consulted many texts and several people from First Parish and Karem Shalom. I tried to represent the story as accurately as possible, but with only five minutes, sometimes it is hard to explain everything.

At the end of the message at the 11:00 o'clock service, I finished with, "...and that is the story of the eight days of Hanukkah." One child called out, "Seven" because of the seven candles of the menorah. I wasn't able to explain then, but I went to that class and answered his question about the story in more detail. And then I thought maybe you might like to know a bit more too.

—Pam Howell

FEBRUARY RE CALENDAR

- Sun., Feb. 3 Regular RE, Pre-K – 6th Grade 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
7th Grade Buddhism, 11:00 a.m.
8th Grade OWL, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 10 Regular RE, Pre-K – 6th Grade 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
7th Grade Buddhism, 11:00 a.m.
- Sun., Feb. 17 Regular RE, Babies–Pre-K, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Chapel Sunday, K-6th Grade, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
- Sun., Feb. 24 Regular RE, Babies–Pre-K, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Social Action Project, K-6th Grade
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WORKSHOP ROTATION THREE AND MORE

Our third rotation is in full swing. We are learning about one of our sources of Unitarian Universalism: the Hebrew scriptures. We are focusing on the story of Noah. Our children are dancing and using clay. They are learning about our work helping people affected by Hurricane Katrina. And they are learning the science behind the flood through Ballard's work in the Black Sea.

I would like to give a special thanks to **Jan Power** and **Donna DeAngelis** for their work in designing two of our workshops. If you have a personal interest you would like to share with our RE program, please contact **Liz Davis-Chaffin**. When our adults create workshops that grow from personal experience, our curriculum becomes much more personal and relevant to our children.

Also, please take a moment to wander through our classrooms. **Liz Davis-Chaffin** designs beautiful bulletin boards for our program. Kids notice when we take the time to make things interesting and artistic. In essence, they notice when we take the time to care for them.

RE ORIENTATION SCHEDULE FOR 2008 RE

Workshop Rotation #4: Wednesday, February 6, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Please Note: This is a new date!

Coming of Age Mentor Orientation 8th Grade:
Sunday, February 10, 2:00–6:30 p.m.

Standing Committee Information

The Standing Committee met on January 14. Look for the minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log on), or look for them on the bulletin board in the downstairs hall. The next Standing Committee meeting will be Monday, February 11.

Membership Corner

PICTURE DIRECTORY UPDATE

Thank you to those who came to have your photograph taken by Olan Mills for the new church directory. It will be a great resource for us all. If you were unable to have your photograph taken for the upcoming directory, you can still be included. All you need to do is put the digital photograph of your choice on a CD, include family names, address, phone number and e-mail information that you want in the directory. Drop it in my mailbox in the office at First Parish sometime in the next three weeks. Thanks —**Caroline McCloy**

NEW U COMING IN MARCH

Are you interested in learning more about First Parish? Are you thinking of becoming a member? The spring session of the New U will be held on March 9, 16 and 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. Learn about the Wright Tavern Center, Social Action opportunities, the music program, the Standing Committee, our partner church in Transylvania, and so much more. To sign up, visit the Newcomer Table at coffee hour, or e-mail **Caroline McCloy** at memberfp@aol.com.

From Our Intern Minister

Last month marked Martin Luther King's birthday. This month we celebrate African American history. These holidays are times not only for commemorating the lives and good deeds of prophetic people of color throughout history, but contemplating our own obligation to respond to their calls for justice and reconciliation. Our analysis, our theologies of liberation, and our actions for justice are as important today as they were in the 1960's. This year, as a white person with wealth who has influence with financial institutions and as a religious person called to acts of justice, I commit to join together with others in fighting to make banks accountable for their lending practices that discriminate against people of color across the United States. Will you join me and commit to using your own power and community to work for racial justice this year?

—*Becky Johnson*

Jericho Road Intern Minister

Senior Youth News

At our first Youth Group of the new year, we all shared our goals, hopes, and/or resolutions for 2008. Over half the group talked about being present and appreciating and living in the moment. Sometimes the life of a high school student can be so focused on the past (Did you build a good resume?) or the future (What are your plans?). It is my hope that First Parish can be a place for our youth to be present, to stop and take a breath, and take in this precious moment now.

We will be going on retreat from February 8 to 10 at the Reillys' house in Madison, New Hampshire. We will brave cold temperatures with no central heat or running water. I know this may not sound like fun to many of us, but youth just love the challenge of staying warm with a fire. A group of us will summit Mount Chocorua wearing crampons and using ice picks, which is always one of the most memorable highs of Youth Group.

Our calendar for February offers lots of fun in this cold month:

- Feb. 3 If the Patriots are in the Super Bowl, then *no* YRUU. If not, then we will have YRUU — come and chat
- Feb. 8-10 Winter Retreat (forms on website)
- Feb. 17 No YRUU — public school vacation
- Feb. 24 Yankee Swap (make-up from snow day on December 16)

Faith Bade, the Social Action Associate, and I are working with Gulf Coast Works to plan a youth mission trip to the 9th Ward in New Orleans to continue the rebuilding effort after Hurricane Katrina. Our first meeting was January 27. If you missed this meeting, but would still like to go (either as a youth or chaperone), then contact Faith or Mary-Wren ASAP.

The Red Sox are world champs, the Patriots are poised for a Super Bowl victory (as of this writing in January) and the Celtics are exciting again. Our youth think this is simply the way things are in Boston. I tell them it's good to live in the present and relish these days of being a winner!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

SUNDAY MORNING OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for help on Sunday mornings — before and after each worship service — to answer phones and receive questions in our busy office. Timing is 20 to 30 minutes before 9:00, between the two services, and for about 20 minutes after the 11:00 o'clock service. We will set up a schedule for folks who volunteer, with ample chances to swap off when needed. Job benefit: meet nice people! Contact abigay@firstparish.org if interested.

Women's News

GOING GREEN AT HOME: WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

The Women's Parish Association invites First Parish men and women to a luncheon and program on Tuesday, February 26. Green Sanctuary Committee members will talk about going green at home. **Barbara Wheeler** will talk about the Swap-Off/Drop-Off Days. **Berni Jenkins**, will explain the Low Carbon Diet. **Andy Proulx**, will give greening advice on what we can do at First Parish and in our personal lives. A sandwich and dessert buffet will begin at noon, with a charge of five dollars. The program runs from 1-2 p.m. Contact **Dian Pekin** at pekinc@comcast.net or 978-263-0426 by February 21 for luncheon or child care reservations.

THE WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The February selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *Bobbed Hair and Bathtub Gin: Writers Running Wild in the Twenties*, by Marion Meade. The evening session will be held Monday, February 25, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning session on Tuesday, February 26, 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 2008 are as follows:

- 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

WOMEN'S RETREAT—NOT TOO LATE

If you were meaning to sign up for the 2008 Women's Retreat — *Juggling Our Lives* — but lost track of time (probably from juggling all the balls in your life!), it's not too late! The second retreat still has space available, so contact Lillian Anderson (978-369-1468) or Barb Chase (978-369-5123) today and join the second weekend group.

Partner Church Committee Notes

The Partner Church Committee is working on many exciting initiatives for the coming year. We welcome your participation in all the activities needed to make these successful.

SUMMER 2008 PROJECTS

We are planning a, plus or minus, two-week trip in late July through early August to work on two renovation projects: the Memorial House in Bözödújfalú, Rev. József Szombatfalvi's home village, and the Community House in Székelykeresztúr. We'll spend about a week on each project. In addition to hands-on renovation work, the schedule will include sightseeing trips and group discussions. If you are interested in traveling this summer but couldn't attend our first meeting, please contact **Lillian Anderson** or **Rodger Mattlage**. For the Bözödújfalú project, **Rosie Nevins**, who attends Earlham College, has applied for a grant from "The Davis Projects for Peace" to fund the project.

Renovation Costs for Community House in Kerestur: We are raising money to help with the considerable costs of renovations to the historic building which will become the new Community House (Total cost approximately \$310,000). You can view images of the building, showing the initial work and the architectural plans on the First Parish photo gallery at firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/PCC-pics.

FOLKS FROM SZÉKELYKERESZTÚR VISIT THIS FALL

We will be hosting a delegation from Székelykeresztúr this fall, culminating with a worship service on their thanksgiving, Sunday, September 28. A subcommittee headed by **Dana Booth**, **Peter Fischelis**, **Bill Seaver** and **Winslow Pettingell** is coordinating these arrangements. If you would like to help with this project please contact them directly and look for upcoming announcements.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES TO COME

We are looking at multiple funding sources to support these initiatives: the UUPCC, our Social Action Council, the Davis foundation, individual contributors and a special spring fundraising event.

Look for updates on these initiatives in the coming months. If you have questions or are interested in participating please contact those mentioned above or the PCC, cochairs **Lillian Anderson** and **Rodger Mattlage**. *Minden jól!* (Best wishes!)

UU News

UU BED AND BREAKFAST DIRECTORY

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel, where you can stay in the homes of people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area? The UU bed and breakfast directory, *UU're Home*, can fulfill your dream. The paper edition is published every year in April. For a copy of the 2008 directory and a year's access to the website listings, go to UUreHome.com and click on "become a member" and pay by credit card; or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.



February 2008 Calendar

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

Every Week...

<i>Tough Texts: Lenten Season Study</i>	Monday	7:30
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Tuesday	9:30 p.m.
<i>T'ai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Tuesday	7:00 (not 2/19)
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Bell Choir	Wednesday	1:00
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:00
<i>Gentle Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	5:30
<i>Kripalu Yoga</i>	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45
<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>	Thursday	9:30 a.m.
<i>Tibetan Buddhism</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 (not 2/22)
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30
YRUU	Sunday	7:00 (not 2/17)

<p>Fri Feb 1 7:00 Women's Retreat 2 (off-site) 7:00 SAC Poetry Bash</p> <p>Sat Feb 2 6:00 SAC Funderburg Dinner</p> <p>Sun Feb 3 12:30 Nominating Committee 12:30 SAC Event: Rev. Hickey's talk 2:00 OWL Dinner</p> <p>Mon Feb 4 7:30 Religious Education Council</p> <p>Tue Feb 5 7:00 <i>The Undertaking</i> 7:30 Religious Education Orientation 7:30 Special Events Committee</p> <p>Wed Feb 6 9:30 <i>The Undertaking</i> 7:00 <i>Fruitful Darkness 1</i> 7:00 Youth Advisory Committee 7:30 Workshop Rotation</p> <p>Thu Feb 7 7:30 Workshop Rotation</p> <p>Sat Feb 9 9:00 Photo Club 1:00 Book Sale</p> <p>Sun Feb 10 1:00 <i>Fruitful Darkness 2</i> 2:00 Mentor Orientation 3:00 Our Whole Lives 7:00 SAC Board Meeting 7:00 Sarasa Concert</p> <p>Mon Feb 11 7:00 <i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i> 7:00 Standing Committee</p> <p>Tue Feb 12 7:30 Concord Clergy Laity Meeting</p>	<p>9:00 WPA Board Meeting 7:00 <i>Tasks of the Dying/Living</i> 3:00 <i>Tea and Poetry</i></p> <p>Wed Feb 13 9:30 <i>Tasks of the Dying/Living</i> 12:15 <i>Listening for God</i> 6:30 Partner Church Committee</p> <p>Thu Feb 14 10:00 <i>InterPlay</i></p> <p>Fri Feb 15 11:30 <i>T'ai Ji</i> 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 <i>Kripalu Partner Yoga Date Night</i></p> <p>Mon Feb 18 Holiday—Office Closed 7:00 YRUU</p> <p>Tue Feb 19 7:00 Amnesty Chapter Meeting 7:00 Denominational Affairs</p> <p>Fri Feb 22 7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i></p> <p>Sat Feb 23 7:30 Cabaret</p> <p>Mon Feb 25 6:00 Marvelous Monday Dinner 7:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i></p> <p>Tue Feb 26 9:30 <i>Women's AM/PM Book Group</i> 11:30 WPA Luncheon</p> <p>Wed Feb 27 9:15 Newsletter Mailing</p> <p>Thu Feb 28 10:00 <i>InterPlay</i> 12:00 <i>Transcendental Awakenings</i> 7:00 <i>Stress Reduction Drop-In</i></p> <p>Fri Feb 29 5:30 Coming of Age Lock-In</p>
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First Parish in Concord
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
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FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

The March Newsletter deadline is *Friday, February 15, at noon.
 The Newsletter mailing is Wednesday, February 27.
News items should be limited to 100 words.

Don't Miss...

BOOK SALE!

Saturday, February 9

1 p.m.

SAC FEBRUARY 1-3 WEEKEND

Friday Poetry Blast!

7 p.m.

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

- A. Bigay**, Assistant to the Ministers
- Douglas Baker**, Sacristan and Curator
- Jane Johnson**, Office Manager
- Melissa Perdue Gallo**, Business 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

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR POSITION OPEN

Are you looking for a new challenge for the new year? We are looking for just the right person to be our Membership Director at First Parish. We want someone with high energy, great people skills, the ability to recruit and manage a volunteer team, good organizational skills, vision for First Parish, appreciation of Unitarian Universalism, a team player. Join our staff team and play an integral role in welcoming people to our community. Contact abigay@firstparish.org for a job description. The position is 12 hours/week, 10 months/year. Questions? E-mail **Jenny Rankin** at revjenny@comcast.net.

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

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Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@comcast.net