



First Parish in Concord  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

## The Meeting House News

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### *REVeries*

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*“When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom’d/And the great star early droop’d in the western sky in the night,”* wrote Walt Whitman after President Lincoln died. I think of these lines each spring as May rolls around and the lilacs bloom outside the window of my office in the Wright Tavern.

As I write this, the blossoms are beginning to fade, gone for another year. I realize that next year I won’t be sitting at this desk in this office but will be across the driveway in our new building. It has been a year of changes, and there are more to come. This will be the last printed newsletter as we cut costs everywhere in our budget.

We moved across town to worship at Kerem Shalom; we lit our Christmas Eve candles outside on what was mercifully a balmy night; we have come back to our Sanctuary and watched as walls have gone up and the roof has been covered over.

It has not always been convenient or fun or easy, but as I tell my kids, “That’s part of life.” You, the congregation, have rolled with the punches graciously. The choir has rehearsed in a Parish Hall piled high with boxes; the RE teachers and staff have turned on a dime to reinvent programs again and again with creativity. Social action has been strong, sending our youth to El Salvador and New Orleans — and this summer, to Transylvania.

Now it is May and as always, we are working hard to get the last pledges in to make decisions for our budget for next year. It is not an easy year “out there” in the economy and of course that affects us too. We are grateful to **George Gagliardi** and **Caroline McCloy**, who have led our Annual Campaign with determination; and to **Laura Graham**, who is working tirelessly with her follow-up team now. “Yes, we can!” is our slogan here in these weeks as we try to pull together as a community and come through as strong and intact as we can be.

Thank you for your presence here and for all you are and do to make this spiritual community so vibrant.

—*Jenny Rankin*

### Sunday Worship Schedule

**June 7**

**Jenny Rankin**, preaching

**9:00 – First Parish Choir**

**11:00 – First Parish Handbell Choir**

**June 14**

**One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**followed by the Annual Meeting**

**Gary Smith**, preaching

**Combined Choirs of First Parish**

**June 21\***

**Rev. Vic Carpenter**, preaching

**One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**Maddie Sifantus**, soprano

**June 28**

**Rev. Karen Lewis Foley**, preaching

**One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

**Silver Bass Trio**

*\*See Insert for All the Summer  
Service Leaders and Musicians*

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- **Summer Preaching Schedule**
- **Career Transitions Circle Info**
- **Wright Tavern Center Schedule**

*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	Publication Date
Monday, Aug. 17	Wednesday, Aug. 26
Monday, Sept. 14	Wednesday, Sept. 23

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

### *Standing Committee Information*

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The Standing Committee will meet at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 14, at 11:30 a.m. Please look for the monthly minutes online at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org) under Church Life (you must log in).

## Parish Notes

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### TRANSCENDENTALIST INITIATIVE

Have you always been curious about the Transcendentalists but were afraid to ask? Here is an opportunity to participate in a new First Parish initiative that is being started to understand our relationship to that very inspirational group of American philosophers, many of whom lived or worked in Concord during the middle of the nineteenth century. This committee will develop, with **Jenny Rankin's** inspiration, a mission statement that will provide the umbrella for many future activities, including the Emerson Forum, the Margaret Fuller bicentennial in May 2010, and possible future travel abroad to further trace the steps of the transcendentalists. Come and join cochairs **Lillian Anderson** and **Steph Chiha**, along with **Jenny Rankin**, on Tuesday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m. and help to create a transcendental vision for First Parish.

### FLEA MARKET AND PLANT SALE, MAY 30

Don't forget to come to the multivendor Flea Market and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., rain or shine. Snacks, coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available for sale all day. The plants from our best gardeners are sure to sell out early!

### UNITE YOUR IDEALS AND YOUR JOB!

First Parish in Concord, one of America's largest Unitarian Universalist congregations, is looking for that rare individual who can combine his or her fundraising expertise with a sense of mission, in the part-time position of Development Director. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, designing and implementing a comprehensive development program for First Parish. You'll work under the supervision of the Business Manager and in close partnership with the Membership committee.

First Parish is a busy, flexible and dynamic environment, and its professionals and volunteers work at a high level of expertise. The Development Director is needed a total of 20 hours per week for 10 months of the year, and flextime according to your needs can usually be accommodated. (Some Sunday mornings will be required.) A bachelor's degree is a requirement, as is a background in development or fundraising. What is most important, though, is your desire to have your work matter to a dedicated and caring community. Salary range is \$14,000-\$17,000, depending on experience.

To learn more, visit [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org). Send resumes to [mpgallo@firstparish.org](mailto:mpgallo@firstparish.org). First Parish is an equal opportunity employer.

PARISH NOTES continued on page 10

## From the Intern Minister

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Dear Friends,

This is my last newsletter as your student intern minister. On Sunday, June 14, I will say good-bye. Last month I shared that this fall I'll be returning to school for my last few classes, seeing the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC), and "going into search" (for work as a minister). Now I have something exciting to add — Recently the First Parish Standing Committee voted unanimously for the congregation of First Parish to ordain me toward the end of this year (provided I pass my interview with the MFC, of course). I am deeply honored.

There is much to be grateful for as my internship comes to a close. It seems impossible to list all the learning and examples of First Parish members' wisdom, generosity and hospitality this year. So I'll leave you with some stand-out snapshots. These are just a few of the moments I'll carry forward as sources of continuing inspiration and gratitude.

It's my first time leading worship during the regular church year. **Gary Smith**, **Jenny Rankin** and **Margie King Saphier** are away, and have entrusted both services to me — a sure sign of their confidence, but I'm unbelievably nervous! As I begin preaching, I look out at your warm smiling faces. You too seem to trust that I can do this. You laugh raucously at my funny story, making me want to burst out laughing too. We'll be okay, I think.

A cool fall day, and **Margie King Saphier** and I are on a pastoral visit together. We sit by the side of a dear old parishioner in his last hours. We sing off-key but heartfelt renditions of *Spirit of Life* and *Find a Stillness*, a capella. He squeezes my hand.

Christmas Eve. Planning has been somber, as we realize construction delays will keep us from using our beautiful Sanctuary. To make matters worse, it has been raining on top of a foot of snow. But here we are, gathered around the front steps. Amazingly, the rain has stopped. Hot cocoa is served, and the candles are lit. Our voices rise up, up, up to the clock tower, where the brass is playing. I imagine the sound surrounding the church building. This year maybe we are sheltering it. In the shelter of each other. Rain begins again as I'm driving home.

Easter. As usual, **Jenny Rankin** leads the congregation in prayer, but this time she does something different. She invites you to speak the names you carry in your heart. Names pepper the Sanctuary in the front, back, sides, both balconies; an invisible congregation of loved ones we have brought in spirit. Truly we walk this journey together, with losses, worries, loves and celebrations. We are one.

And though we will part ways soon, the people of First Parish in Concord will always be present in my ministry, because you have helped make me into the minister I am. Thank you for a wonderful year.

Love,

— *Angela Herrera*

## Money Matters

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### UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL APPEAL 2009

As we write this update on the Annual Appeal, it is May 20. We are still \$120,000 shy of our goal of \$924,000. This means there will be additional and significant cuts to our staffing and programs for next year. If each “pledging unit” or family gave \$1680, we would reach our goal. This is a tough year to be asking for money, but this is exactly the kind of year when people need communities like ours the most. Please, if you have not pledged yet, do so now. Most people have been as generous as they can. Please do your part; we are all in this together.

— **Caroline McCloy** and **George Gagliardi**,  
Cochairs of Annual Appeal

## Pastoral Care News

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Did you know the average person experiences 100 fight/flight responses per day? The Pastoral Care Lay Ministers and Parish Visitors learned this during a presentation by **Pamela Katz Ressler**, a member of the Pastoral Care Council and founder of [www.stress-resources.com](http://www.stress-resources.com). One of Pam’s recommendations for living in the “mess and mystery of life” is not to try to change the outcome of an event, but to work to change the way we experience it. One way to do this, she says, is to choose to S.T.O.P. (S – stop; T – take a breath; O – observe your mind and body; P – proceed with your day) for one to three minutes every hour of the workday. Become aware of your breathing, allow your mind to settle and regroup, thereby reducing or eliminating the anxiety that can be produced by the racing mind.

First Parish has been going through a lot of changes this year. Because change often pushes us out of our comfort zone, it can elicit the fight-or-flight response. In September, we will experience the benefits of the many changes of the past year — an elevator giving access to all levels; two handicap entrances, one at the Chapel and the other at the side entrance; and of course more space. The Parlor will have its furniture back and Sunday coffee hours can again spread out. In addition to the new RE classrooms, there also will be a new all-purpose room.

But change will continue. Because of the downturn in the economy, there are new changes First Parish is implementing to economize. By now most of you have read that starting next year the *Meeting House News* will be available to members on the website. This will result in savings, as well as being ecologically sound, since no paper is involved. But we want to make sure those of you who do not have access to a computer receive a paper copy. In early June, members will receive a letter advising them about this change and how to receive a paper subscription. If this is a financial hardship, please speak to **Gary Smith**, **Jenny Rankin** or me.

The Pastoral Care Council and the ministers want to hear from you — letting us know what is working and what is problematical — so we can be creative in problem solving. It is also important to remember that all change is an example of the Buddha’s Law of Impermanence. So to reduce anxiety, remember to “S.T.O.P.”

I will be taking short trips this summer but I am here most of the time, so please call if you have questions or concerns, or just want to talk.

In faith,

— *Margie King Saphier*

## *Pipeworks*

### **A NEW COLUMN TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT THE FIRST PARISH ORGAN PROJECT**

Our organ renovation has begun! This winter and spring Steve Russell, our organ builder, has been working on the design and doing prep work in his shop in Vermont. During the month of May, pipes were removed from the Swell division (right side) of the organ. This was the first work on site here at First Parish. The pipes were lifted out individually, laid on trays and placed in the “pipemobile,” Steve’s van, to be taken to Vermont. About a third of the organ’s pipes have now been removed. The rest will be taken to Vermont over the next few weeks. Once the pipes are removed, the rest of the organ will be dismantled and the organ chamber will be refinished. By late summer, installation of the rebuilt and reconfigured organ will have started, with pipes being added back in throughout the fall.

The organ is a cornerstone of our music program — accompanying congregational singing and all the different choirs and soloists, as well as performing as a solo instrument for preludes, offertories, postludes and special occasions. This project to rebuild and reconfigure our organ includes a significant amount of repair and replacement, as well as upgrading the instrument to create a more coherent, cohesive sound. We anticipate these changes with great excitement!

## *MUSings*

“Was that really this year?” I say that a lot these days. It’s almost overwhelming to list the many changes we have experienced at First Parish in the last twelve months of construction.

Our choirs and music leaders have been intrepid leaders during this tumultuous year, constantly and cheerfully adapting to new circumstances and venues. For me, the defining image from this past fall is that of our adult choir members with their



white shirts and blue stoles surrounding the congregation each Sunday as they sang. They became living walls for

our nomadic congregation, helping us to create sacred space wherever we were. Through every transition they maintained their sense of humor and their strong dedication to one another and to the music we create together.

Weekly rehearsals in a construction site offer unique challenges. **Martha Goodman**’s First Parish ringers set up shop in our multi-use Parish Hall, surrounded by boxes and tools and accompanied the occasional hydraulic drill. They creatively adapted their configuration and their repertoire to the worship space at Kerem Shalom. I fondly remember the dramatic introit they offered one Sunday with bells positioned throughout the Kerem Shalom sanctuary.

**Anderson Manuel** and **Rob Castillo** guided the Gospel Choir through the multiple space transitions with grace and humor. Whether they were singing in a classroom at Kerem Shalom, the Icy Cave room of the Wright Tavern or leading worship, this choir of junior high and high school youth inspired us and lifted us up with their unique voice and perspective.

Our youngest singers in the children’s choirs adjusted to construction and a new director! **Gail Carey** guided her choristers with patience, understanding and humor through the many transitions they faced this year. The group has at least doubled in size and they have moved us deeply with their singing. They have even recorded a CD! Watch for more information on how you can get a copy in the near future.

**Eric Huenneke**, our organist, continued to tie our worship services together with carefully chosen service music. He introduced us to some lovely new piano repertoire while we were at Kerem Shalom and prepared us well for the prospect of several months without the organ, now that the work on our new instrument has begun (see “Pipeworks”).

Yes, it has been an extraordinary and challenging year; I am deeply grateful for the dedicated parishioners and staff who have so creatively sustained and invigorated the music ministry through it all.

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

## Social Action Community News and Events

This has been an incredibly busy year here at First Parish. The building construction did not slow anyone down! Thank you to everyone who moved their meetings and events off-site and accommodated the other



changes necessitated by the construction. I would like to give a huge thank-you to all of the amazing lay leaders of First Parish. We all know times are tough and stress levels are high; but you, the lay leaders, continued to want to give, do and act. The SAC Board and Grants Committee, SAC Program leaders, special event volunteers, and service trip chaperones — you made this year what it is!

I want to give a special thank-you to the service trip chaperones who made the El Salvador and New Orleans trips happen. We truly could not have done it without you. So, thank you to **Jane Blumberg, Alice Hogan, Rebecca Curzon** and **Mary Yntema** for New Orleans; and **Jim Reynolds, Kate Crosby, Janet Donovan, Laurie van Loon, Tony Rodriguez** and **Nancy Kerr** for El Salvador. I know you feel you got as much as you gave, but I have spoken to the youth; and because of you, they really have been transformed. Thank you.

I will see everyone back in September. Have a wonderful summer.

— *Faith Bade*

### **DR. HOWARD ZEHR AND COMMUNITIES FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

Dr. Howard Zehr helped to create and shape restorative justice programs around the globe, including South Africa and Northern Ireland. He recently visited Communities for Restorative Justice in Concord and praised the partnership between C4RJ, regional police departments, and our 100 volunteers who are working together to make restorative justice a vital part of our communities. Restorative justice, with its emphasis on addressing victims' needs, holding offenders accountable constructively, and healing the community are concepts that clearly resonate widely. We are grateful for the support of the First Parish Social Action Committee. For more information, contact **Barb Chase** at 978 660-1717.

### **BOSTON PRIDE PARADE IS JUNE 13**

Please join the First Parish contingent of the Boston Pride Parade on Saturday, June 13; the parade starts at noon. Come with us to

this fun, family-friendly event, and help show our congregation's support for the LGBT community. Sign up at coffee hour on May 31 or June 7, or e-mail **Sara Ballard** at [sara@sb.org](mailto:sara@sb.org) for more information. Our participation is sponsored by the Diversity Committee.

### **WALK FOR HUNGER SUCCESS**

The Walk for Hunger took place on May 3, with over 44,000 walkers raising approximately \$3.8 million. Thank you to all who participated!

### **CLOTHES FOR LOWELL**

Homelessness knows no season. So, as you do spring cleaning, please keep bringing bags of gently used clothes to **Bill Seaver's** porch at 294 The Valley Road, Concord. Contact **Bill** at 978-369-7319 with questions. Donations can also be left in front of the garage doors.

### **UUSC NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT**

With the poor economy, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has had to cut back their operating budget by 26 percent. Grants to partner organizations have been cut by just 6 percent. Why is it important to join UUSC? When UUSC meets with elected officials, they make it known that they represent 40,000 members and supporters around the country who are committed to positive change. Imagine if that number were 150,000! In these troubled times, it is even more vital that we practice our principles through UUSC membership. When you sit down to consider your most important charities, please include the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Join today!

### **UUUM'S APRIL VACATION CAMP**

During April vacation, 60 elementary school children descended on the First Church in Roxbury to participate in the UU Urban Ministry's second annual April Vacation Camp. The camp was planned and conducted by 30 youth from the UUUM's Roxbury Youth Program and the Youth Group of the Winchester Unitarian Society. With several adults in attendance, the total number of people was right at 100. Through the generosity of your donations, First Parish in Concord provided 1,000 bottles of water and more than 300 individual and bulk-packaged snacks. The peace of mind offered to those children's parents was priceless.

### **THE ADVOCACY NETWORK TO END FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

The Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness (SAC grant recipient) is excited about two legislative victories. First, the Mass. Rental Voucher Program, which benefits 5,100 families, has been level-funded for next year, after being threatened with a 45 percent cut for FY2010. Second, basic shelter eligibility protections have been included in the House budget. The Senate budget process will be more challenging. The Advocacy Network, which started five years ago, now has 120 people who will make calls and write letters on behalf of the state's poorest families. We need your voice! For information call **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520.

**SAC** continued on page 7

### **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](mailto:SAC-join@lists.firstparish.org); see our website, [www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/](http://www.firstparish.org/cms/content/view/97/70/); visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at [FBade@firstparish.org](mailto:FBade@firstparish.org).

### SAC NEWS/EVENTS

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#### SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS

The Social Action Grants committee reviewed 12 grant proposals sponsored by pledging First Parish members to support a variety of local, regional and international social justice projects. A total of \$34,500 was awarded to 10 proposals, and grant funds continue to support the position of First Parish's Social Action Program Director on a transitional basis. Grantees in the Concord area include: Communities for Restorative Justice; the Concord Area Pre-School Association; Concord Carlisle High School's Be the Change program; Concord Climate Action; Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts; and the Restoration Project. Grantees serving the broader region include the UU Mass Action Network and the programs of the UU Urban Ministries program. In addition, support was awarded for the community house of First Parish's partner church in Székelykeresztúr, and an education program, Head to Head, Inc., in Haiti.

#### NEW SOCIAL ACTION GRANTS PROCEDURES

The Social Action Grants Committee, working with **Faith Bade**, recently revised grant submission guidelines to ensure clarity for applicants and fairness in grant making. The guidelines specifically prohibit committee members from sponsoring grant applications and continue the policy that committee members recuse themselves from discussion and voting on grants to organizations with which they are directly involved. Information about current and prior SAC Grants awards as well as the guidelines can be found at <http://www.firstparish.org/cms/social-action/grants>. The next grant application deadline is October 15.

By the time you read this there is a chance that the First Parish Youth Group will have beaten the Tri Con Youth Group in our annual Ultimate Frisbee Championship on May 31. Every year we gather as many youth as we can, dress in ridiculous clothes, prepare our UU cheers (with good humor), and head over to Emerson Field for this annual competition. I won't lie to you, it's competitive, but both groups come back to First Parish for ice-cream sandwiches and laughs, having made new friends.

June is a time for hellos and good-byes 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 7: Fun and Games to welcome 8th Graders to YRUU

June 19-20: Phishbowl Lock-In, permission slips on the website

The YAC also decided that summer is too long to go without a youth group so we will meet in the newly opened Chapel on:

August 2 at 7:00 p.m.

August 23 at 7:00 p.m.

I am trying something new this year by having a youth group for college-age youth on June 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. Please get the word out to all college youth who are home.

I would like to say a special thank-you to **Jake Nunes** and **Nat Carr**, who have been the Youth Advisors for the Youth Group for this year. They have been friends and mentors to our youth and an incredible support to me.

Finally, 17 youth and six chaperones are off to Transylvania in July. They will be excited to share their experiences with all of you. Come by First Parish and wish them a *bon voyage* on Thursday, July 9, at 3:15 p.m.

Happy Summer!

—*Mary-Wren vanderWilden*

## Reflection and RE News

Are you curious what it takes to run a large religious education program like the one we have here at First Parish? I thought I would give you the recipe so you would know how we keep more than 300 youth and 150 parents engaged, learning and growing spiritually throughout the year.

### INGREDIENTS FOR A SUNDAY SCHOOL WHERE CHILDREN WANT TO GO:

1 RE Administrator: **Jane Barnes** is the organizational wizard behind all of the RE programs. Jane juggles space needs, curriculum, volunteers, registration, our Story Play curriculum, meetings, our moves during the transition and much more.

1 Youth Director: **Mary-Wren vanderWilden** works passionately with our teens to create a supportive, vibrant youth community at First Parish.

1 Workshop Rotation Coordinator: **Liz Davis-Chaffin** breathes life into our 2nd-6th grade program. Liz coordinates with our parent community to bring the unique resources our parish members have to offer our children.

1 Young Children's Coordinator: **Carol Duane** ensures that our young children and new parents transition easily into our First Parish community. Carol also coordinates our Teen Assistant program, a program that is just one more way our teens can stay connected to First Parish.

1 RE Council Chair: **Gretchen Nelson** has calmly and enthusiastically led our RE community through several transitions over this last year. As chair, she and the council explored many possible iterations of what RE could look like this year, and I think we have all benefited from a relatively seamless year despite having to create a new program in two new spaces, Kerem Shalom and the Parish Hall.

6 RE Council Members: **Karen Economopolous, Susan Ward, Gianna Drew, Dan Trinkle, Dave Elwood** and **Lisa Gainsboro** have come to the table with fresh ideas and a willingness to guide our program in ways that benefit our entire RE family.

20 First Parish Staff Members: Our sextons, ministers, music staff and administrators each do their part in helping us with space, information, music and spiritual guidance.

150 Parent Teachers: Our entire parent community — each one offers time and talent to make our programming possible.

### JUNE RE CALENDAR

Sun., June 7	Regular RE for Babies – 4 years, 9 and 11 a.m. Chapel Sunday for K-6th Grade, 9 and 11 a.m.
Sun., June 14	Regular RE for Babies-4 years at 10 a.m. Intergenerational Service for K-6th Grade

314 Unitarian Universalist Children: Ultimately, it is our children who make our program real, for they are our future. We want them to be strong and feel safe in being the person they truly are.

558 Pledging Members: We cannot overlook the importance of the support of our First Parish membership. Without this commitment of time, attention and financial pledges, none of this would happen at all.

A program of this size takes many people. It is built on love and trust. It is one of the last refuges of an intergenerational community. It is a respite from our “instant” life. It is “live,” in the moment, unedited, living. And I am so happy to be a part of cooking up such a caring and vibrant program.

— Pam Howell

### COME WORK IN THE FIRST PARISH GARDEN

**Sue Ryan** and I have secured a garden plot in the Hugh Cargill Community Garden (across from the Concord Court House). We will work with our First Parish kids planting seeds, digging beds, weeding and picking produce in the summer and fall. We will donate our vegetables and flowers to Open Table.

Would your children like to be involved? If so, please let me know. I will be at the garden on Thursday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m. assisting young gardeners. We will weed, plant, pick and then deliver food to Open Table. **Sue Ryan** will be at the garden on Sunday evenings from 5 to 6 p.m. to assist young gardeners with watering and weeding. Gardening and growing food is one way your child can experience the power of our earth. By giving to others your child can experience the power of the human spirit. These are two great aspirations of our Unitarian Universalist sources. I hope your child and family have the time to participate in this simple but powerful ministry this summer.

In Rudyard Kipling's story about “how the camel got his hump,” there are these words within a poem.

*“The cure for this ill is not to sit still,  
Or frowst with a book by the fire;  
But to take a large hoe and shovel also,  
And dig till you gently perspire.”*

### RE REGISTRATION

Late registrations are still being accepted for our religious education program for next year. Our program will continue to be one that uses the Cooperative Teaching Parent model. When you register

RE NEWS continued on page 9



## Partner Church Committee

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The roster of First Parish attendees is growing for the September 18-20 Community House Dedication in our partner church community of Székelykeresztúr. All are invited and we have much to celebrate. Built in the 19th century, the old school building had been confiscated and neglected by the former Communist regime. By the time the new Romanian government finally returned it to the Keresztúr community in 2007, only the historic shell could be salvaged.

Through generous SAC grants, individual donations, a special collection, and energetic youth service pilgrimages our First Parish community has been actively involved with the reconstruction project from the start. It will soon house ministers' offices, a library for the church's 300-year-old archives, a parish hall with full kitchen, women's and youth centers, along with six guest rooms accommodating up to 24 guests.

In addition to a remarkable chance to participate in the weekend festivities, our own **Rodger Mattlage** and **Ivan Kristoffy** will coordinate excursions to area sites that make this such a special place to visit. With roundtrip airfares of about \$1,000, this is a singular opportunity to experience rural Transylvania with friends. For further information, contact Rodger at [rmattlage@yahoo.com](mailto:rmattlage@yahoo.com).

We are also pleased to announce that **Elena Siani** will serve as our First Parish representative at the June 11 graduation for the high school in Székelykeresztúr. Elena will speak for all of us at the ceremony, with Emese Nagy translating.

On other fronts, college student and friend to many, Réka Gagy, will be returning to Concord this summer to work at Verrill Farm. She will be living with **Bill** and **Sherry Seaver** and looks forward to seeing everyone soon.

Certainly our happiest news is the March birth of daughter Réka to Rev. Sándor Lakatos and Emese Nagy, who were among our visitors in September. Pictures of the newborn can be found on our PCC Web page.

*Minden jót!* "Best wishes!" —**Lillian Anderson** and **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC cochairs

## Membership Corner

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### NEW MEMBERS HONORED

On May 10, we were delighted to recognize and welcome a group of new members who have signed the membership book of First Parish this year. Congratulations to all!

### THE NEW U WILL BE BACK IN THE FALL

More than 40 people participated in the New U orientation sessions this church year. Resuming again in the fall, the New U orientation sessions will be offered to anyone interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and First Parish.

### PICK UP A PHOTO DIRECTORY

Copies of the latest photo directory are still available. This is a handy reference, with pertinent church information all together in one place. Directory photos provide an opportunity to recognize the faces and identify the details that comprise our faith community, and to put a name with a face. Enjoy your free copy, available just outside of the church office or at the Newcomers' table.

### SEE YOU IN THE SUMMER

Membership committee members will be on hand to greet attendees and discuss participation in First Parish with new members and visitors after Sunday services this summer. Look for us!

—**Marilyn Lowitt**, Membership Committee

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### RE NEWS

continued from page 8

your child in RE, you also register yourself. When choosing your teaching assignment, consider the season and the topic to find the best fit for you. We know that you count on us to plan for your child's time in our program. At the same time, we truly count on your commitment to fulfill your teaching obligation as well. The sooner you register the more likely you will be able to teach your first or second choice.

### A GLIMPSE AT NEXT YEAR IN RE

Fall Term: Earth-Centered Themes of Water and Ground

Holiday Term: Judeo-Christian Theme of the Golden Rule (Love Thy Neighbor)

Winter Term: Unitarian-Universalist Theme of Experiencing the Transcendent

Spring Term: World Religions Theme of Inspiration in Art

### REGISTER ONLINE THIS YEAR!

- 1) Go to [Firstparish.org](http://Firstparish.org)
- 2) Select Education & Spirituality
- 3) Click on the RE Registration Link.

Please call **Jane Barnes** in the RE office with any questions.

## Women's News

### WOMEN'S AM/PM BOOK GROUP

The final meeting of the First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group this year will be a potluck dinner and discussion of books to choose for next year's reading list. This festive event will be held on Monday, June 8, at 6 p.m. Please contact **Darien Smith** for details if you would like to attend (darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471).

## Sunday Forums

Because of the ongoing renovations, Forums have been suspended for now. Please call **Charles Lowell** or **Robert Hilsinger** about future topics.

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**PARISH NOTES** continued from page 3

### CATNIP NEEDED!

Catnip is needed for a Women's Parish Association project. Anyone who grows catnip and can spare some for harvesting this summer, please contact Cindy at 978 371-1057 or cindy-bin@verizon.net. Thanks!

### HUMANISTS AREA GROUP

The Concord Area Humanist group continues to host lively monthly events centered on humanist discussions. To add your name to our mailing list, to learn about our developing program, to host or attend potlucks, to participate in discussion groups, or to suggest a meeting topic, please e-mail **Maria Cox** at mc2cox@comcast.net or **Pat Everett** at pne@aol.com. Check out the website at [www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org](http://www.ConcordAreaHumanists.org), where we are working to collect our group's events and information.

## Wright Tavern Center

Wright Tavern programming is winding down as our spring semester and the academic year come to a close. We have had a successful and rewarding year, and we're grateful to have survived the upheaval of reconstruction in good standing. Now we are gearing up for fall, sorting through all the course proposals for the offerings that will provide the greatest benefit to First Parish members and the greater community.

Thanks to all who responded to the May 31 deadline and inquired about presenting, or referred qualified candidates. It is exciting to have members of our community stepping forward to contribute their time and talent to Wright Tavern by offering their knowledge and expertise. We are looking forward to our return to the Meeting House and another year of excellence in programming.



I've been meeting with parishioners to discover more about where Wright Tavern lives in the hearts and minds of the First Parish community, and I have learned a great deal in the past couple of months. As we turn our sights to the coming year, it is understood that Wright Tavern will need a deeper level of engagement, participation and support in order to fulfill its potential and its unique function. In that spirit, I thought this might be a good time to share the Wright Tavern mission statement with you — please see the back of the insert in this newsletter.

### SUCCESSES:

Fifteen people enjoyed *The Art of Heart Centering in the Day-to-Day Experience of Life*, a three-day retreat with Brugh Joy, M.D., who was brought to First Parish by **Cynthia Riddle**.

The *Emerson Forum*, facilitated by **Mel Bernstein** and Wendell Refior, discussed how the 1837 financial panic influenced Emerson's thinking as seen in his "Self-Reliance" essay, and how that thinking relates to the current financial crisis.

### JUNE HIGHLIGHTS:

*The River Blessing Ceremony* at Egg Rock is part of the 10th annual RiverFest Celebration. Join me, **Caroline McCloy** and others at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, for this simple but profound early morning ceremony. All are welcome.

**Andrea Sheffield's** Chi Kung and T'ai Chi for Health and **Sue Wood's** T'ai Chi classes continue through the middle of June.

Visit the Wright Tavern Center website at [www.wrighttavern.org](http://www.wrighttavern.org) for the latest news and events, in-depth descriptions of courses and presenter bios. Contact us at [FPTavern@aol.com](mailto:FPTavern@aol.com) before July 1 and at [WTC@firstparish.org](mailto:WTC@firstparish.org) after July 1, or 978-369-9602. For short course descriptions, please see the Wright Tavern insert in this issue of the *Meeting House News*.

—*Mary Elizabeth Wheeler*

Director

## June 2009 Calendar

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

### Every Week...

Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.
Networking Group	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
"Imagine Being Happy at Work" Workshop	Wednesday	9:00 a.m. (thru July 8)
"Repackage Yourself" Workshop	Friday	9:00 a.m (thru July 24, not on 6/12 or 7/3)

**ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT FIRST PARISH UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

Tue Jun 2	9:00	Networking Group
	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga (First Parish in Weston)</i>
	7:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>
Wed Jun 3	1:00	Bell Choir
	4:30	Junior Choir
	5:15	Chalice Choir
	7:00	<i>Chi Kung and T'ai Chi for Health</i>
	7:45	Adult Choir
Sat Jun 6	6:00	Transcendentalists Dinner
Sun Jun 7	7:00	YRUU
Tue Jun 9	9:00	Networking Group
	9:30	WPA Board Meeting
	3:00	<i>Tea and Poetry</i>
	6:00	Cancer Support Group
	7:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>
	7:30	Transcendentalists Meeting
Wed Jun 10	1:00	Bell Choir
	4:30	Junior Choir
	5:15	Chalice Choir
	7:00	<i>Chi Kung and T'ai Chi for Health</i>
	7:45	Adult Choir

Fri Jun 12	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
Sat Jun 13	9:00	Photo Club
Sun Jun 14	10:00	Single Worship Service
	11:30	Annual Meeting
	12:15	Green Sanctuary Meeting
Tue Jun 16	9:00	Networking Group
	7:00	<i>T'ai Chi</i>
Wed Jun 17	7:00	<i>Chi Kung and T'ai Chi for Health</i>
Fri Jun 19	5:30	YRUU Lock-in
Sat Jun 20		YRUU Lock-In

### JULY

Sat Jul 11	9:00	Photo Club
Sun Jul 12	12:15	Green Sanctuary Meeting

### AUGUST

Sun Aug 2	7:00	YRUU
Sat Aug 8	9:00	Photo Club
Sun Aug 9	12:15	Green Sanctuary Meeting
Sun Aug 23	7:00	YRUU



**First Parish in Concord**

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

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**JUNE 2009 NEWSLETTER**

The **September Newsletter deadline** is **Monday, August 17**, at noon.  
The Newsletter publication date is Wednesday, August 26.  
***News items should be limited to 100 words.***

**Don't Miss...**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

June 14  
After the 10:00 a.m. Service

**SUMMER SERVICES!**

Starting June 21  
One Service at 10:00 a.m.  
In the Sanctuary

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

**Gary E. Smith**, Senior Minister  
**Jenny M. Rankin**, Minister  
**Melissa Perdue Gallo**, Business Manager

**Margie King Saphier**, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care  
**Rebecca M. Blodgett**, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care  
**Angela Herrera**, 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

**Elizabeth Norton**, Music Director  
**Eric Huenneke**, Organist  
**Martha Goodman**, Handbell Choir Director  
**Anderson Manuel**, Youth Gospel Choir Director  
**Gail Carey**, Children's Choir Director  
**David Huston**, Music Director Emeritus

**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  
**Faith Bade**, Social Action Program Director  
**Kate Keleher**, Newsletter Editor  
**Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson**, Newsletter Staff



**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**



The First Parish office will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning Wednesday, June 24, through Friday, August 21. The office will be closed on Friday, July 3, for Independence Day; and Monday, September 7, for Labor Day.



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

**Ministers' E-Mail:**

**Gary E. Smith: [garyesmith@firstparish.org](mailto:garyesmith@firstparish.org)**  
**Jenny M. Rankin: [revjenny@comcast.net](mailto:revjenny@comcast.net)**  
**Margie King Saphier: [mksaphier@comcast.net](mailto:mksaphier@comcast.net)**  
**Angela Herrera: [aherrera@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:aherrera@hds.harvard.edu)**