



The *Meeting House* News

REVERIES I

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

“What are you going to do when you retire?” I am asked, over and over, until it becomes almost clear to me that my stammering some vague answers and waving my arms about me will not be a sufficient response. Quite honestly, I look forward to waking up and having a blank calendar. It’s been a long time. We’ll go to Maine this summer, and we don’t have to be back by August 1st!! I’ll continue teaching at Harvard Divinity School next year. I’m serving again on the

New England Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy for the U.U.A., a further chance to work with student aspirants for the ministry as they seek to enter formal candidacy. I’ve accepted the position of Moderator of the Mass Bay District of the U.U.A. and will be working with their Board. There are other such opportunities within the Unitarian Universalist universe, and I am trying to be careful NOT to say “yes” each time.

We have four grandchildren in the area, two in our own home in Belmont, and I look forward to sporting events and school plays. We’ll travel. Some Sundays we’ll go to the Deluxe Town Diner in Watertown for breakfast. I’ll work on my family genealogy. We’ll deal with cartons we haven’t yet opened from our June 2010 move. I have a number of possible writing projects. I need to start a discipline of walking and exercise. I’ll read e-mail less compulsively. And I’ll miss you. I’ve been a part of your lives for a generation, and you have been a big part of mine. You know most of my jokes and all of my stories.

Over these past twenty-three years, I have grown to love all of you in such deep ways, and I cannot begin to tell you how

• much I shall miss each and all of you when I retire at the end
• of June. Please know that I shall rejoice when I read in the
• newsletter about your milestones, about the achievements of
• your children, your recovery from illness, your contributions
• to the community. You will always be in my heart, yet it is
• important that both you and I know that I can no longer be
• your minister. It is essential that you form a nurturing,
• mutual relationship first with your interim Senior Minister
• and then with your new settled Senior Minister, hopefully
• two years from now.

• This can happen when we acknowledge that I will no longer
• perform any ministerial duties at or on behalf of First Parish:
• I will be delighted to hear of your daughter’s forthcoming
• wedding, but I will not be able to participate, on-site or off; I
• will be saddened by any news of a death in your family, but I
• will not be able to officiate at the memorial service; I will
• continue to care about the personal issues we have discussed
• in pastoral counseling, but I will no longer offer such coun-
• seling; above all, though I will be pulling and praying for
• First Parish to thrive, I will no longer discuss with you the
• business of the congregation, nor offer any observation or
• advice. While no hard rule bars me from attending worship
• or other church gatherings, it is recognized best practice for
• me to absent myself for a significant time.

• Enjoy your work with your interim minister and then a
• growing and rich relationship with a new settled minister. I
• wish you all well, personally and as a congregation. It has
• been such an honor and delight to have served you and lived
• among you, doing amazing things.

With much love,

—Gary Smith

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There are two inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ WPA Herb Garden Party
- ◆ Summer Worship Schedule

Our Interim Minister Reverend Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha



Rev. Dr. Elaine Beth Peresluha will begin her interim ministry with First Parish August 1, 2011. Elaine closed a 20-year career in nursing with her graduation from Harvard Divinity School in 1995. First Parish will be Elaine's third interim ministry

following two years each in Portsmouth NH and Wilmington NC. Before becoming an Accredited Interim Minister Elaine served two settled ministries, Woodstock VT and Bangor ME. She has also served the Northern New England District, the UUA of Congregations and as adjunct faculty for Bangor Theological Seminary and Meadville Lombard Seminary

Elaine is an avid four-season outdoor enthusiast. In addition to gardening, she loves to bike long distances for fun and funds. She annually rides the 180-mile *Trek Across Maine* to raise money for the American Lung Association of Maine. She owns four pairs of skis for the winter and almost as many boats for the summer. Dancing, cooking and reading keep her content when blizzards or downpours keep her inside.

Elaine's warmth and energy create safe and inclusive environments for sharing, learning and growing. She is excited about bringing both to First Parish.

PARISH NOTES

Celebrate Gary Smith's Last Weekend Here

The day quickly approaches — **Gary Smith's** last weekend as Senior Minister at First Parish is June 4 and 5.

On Saturday night, June 4, from 5 to 7 p.m., the church will host a celebration to send him off happily to retirement. All are welcome! The tone of the evening is festive and even a little dressy. Come in your best creative black tie! From 5 to 6 p.m., there will be a cocktail reception (with appetizers!) in the Parish Hall. At 6 p.m., **Sean Kavanagh** steps in to emcee a humorous tribute to Gary. Known best as our own home-grown humorist, Sean promises an entertaining salute to Gary in honor of his ministry here at First Parish. And yes, there will be some special guest appearances. On Sunday, June 5, Gary will preach one last sermon at 10:00 o'clock, followed by a very special coffee hour.

Parish Notes

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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

Monday, August 29
Monday, September 26

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

REVERIES II

Dear Friends:

I am looking forward to seeing many of you this coming weekend, June 4 and 5, as we celebrate **Gary Smith's** long ministry here and say good-bye. I hope you can join us at the party on Saturday night and for worship, one service at 10:00 a.m., on Sunday to hear Gary preach.



We are delighted to welcome **Rev. Elaine Peresluha** as our interim minister. She will begin on August 1, but before then, the staff and I will be in consultation with Elaine to make sure she has everything she needs for a smooth transition. I was able to meet with Elaine this week and am very excited about working with her. She has thought long and hard about this specialized form of ministry; I know I will be learning a lot from her!

This summer, **Gary Smith** and **Margie King Saphier** will provide pastoral coverage through July 1. I will have hip replacement surgery on June 6 and be out of the office recovering for a few weeks after that. I will be back in the office in July and on vacation in August. Elaine begins at First Parish on August 1 and I will be available to her, as needed, by phone and e-mail in August.

I know there are big changes afoot at First Parish. It is a time of celebration as well as a time of letting go and saying good-bye. A whole host of emotions comes along with this territory, and we are doing our best to stay present with these changes and the emotions they provoke. We are a caring community and will support one another as we walk through this time of transition together. First Parish stands on the threshold of a new chapter; and while there is anxiety, there is also a sense of discovery and new possibilities. Thank you for your continued presence and engagement during this time.

Best wishes,

—*Jenny Rankin*

STANDING COMMITTEE

The next Standing Committee meeting will be held at First Parish on Monday, June 13, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on the Wright Tavern sunporch. Please look for the monthly minutes online at firstparish.org under Church Life (you must log in) or on the church bulletin board. ♦

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 5

Gary Smith, preaching

One service at 10:00

First Parish Choir, Gospel Choir and Children's Choirs

June 12

Sarah Lammert, Director of Ministries and Faith Development at the UUA, preaching

One service at 10:00

First Parish Choir

June 19

Anastassia Zinke, worship leader
D Block Quartet, Colin Nevins' jazz band

Sam Copeland, singer/songwriter

Jenn Lindsey, singer/songwriter

June 26

Pam Howell, worship leader

Jane Barnes, vocals; **Rob Hamilton**, guitar

Don't Miss...

GARY'S LAST SERVICE

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, June 5: 10:00 a.m.

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 12: Service at 10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

FROM THE INTERN MINISTER

Dear Friends,

The time has come to say good-bye ... for now (I will be back at First Parish in September). I offer my sincerest gratitude to the congregation and staff of First Parish for welcoming me as your intern minister, and for encouraging and supporting me in my learning and in our ministry together.



I also wish to thank **Jenny Rankin** for her support and guidance as my supervisor this year. I look forward to being together again next church year — a year I anticipate will be full of promise and exciting opportunities as we welcome our interim senior minister, **Rev. Dr. Elaine Peresluha**.

While my parting is temporary, I'm mindful of the imminent departure of five people I have come to know and love these last nine months ... **Gary Smith, Pamela Hathaway, Jane Johnson, Margie King Saphier** and **Anastassia Zinke**. Kahlil Gibran wrote, "Ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation." Indeed, as the months have given way to weeks and now only days before we part, I'm more aware than ever how deeply I've been touched through each of my relationships with Gary, Pamela, Jane, Margie, and Anastassia.

I knew of Gary long before I ever met him. Thank you, Gary, for surpassing your reputation as a loving, wise and gentle man and minister with a playful sense of humor. Pamela and I, given our mutual concern for social justice, hit it off right away. Thank you, Pamela, for the many rich conversations and laughs that we shared. By the end of my first day at First Parish I was plotting to lure Jane to whatever church I might find myself serving in the future. Thank you, Jane, for your welcome smile and willingness to always help, and most especially for just being one of the sweetest people I've ever worked with. I worked less with Margie and Anastassia, but I'm grateful for their warm smiles and friendly conversation; thank you.

My best wishes and prayers to you all. ♦

Blessings,

—*Craig Nowak*



Mark Your Calendar — October 14-23! Celebrate 375 Years of First Parish!

We look ahead with excitement to a mid-October celebration of the 375th anniversary of First Parish in Concord. Please make note on your calendar. Plans are coming together for a wonderful week-plus of events that honor the legacy of First Parish and its very special relationship with Concord.

The purpose of this 375th celebration is to recognize our vibrant history as a faith community, acknowledge First Parish's impact on the larger world and strengthen our ties with Concord and with one another. In preparation, we are delving into our past, looking at our UU history and our deep cultural and political ties that go back in time to First Parish's Puritan beginnings as the Church of Christ in Concord, gathered on July 5 (old date) in 1636.

October 14 through 23, First Parish will mark its 375th anniversary with an array of esteemed speakers, conferences, music, historical exhibits, special events and walking tours. We are partnering with many organizations in town that are richly connected to our heritage — the Concord Free Public Library, Old Manse, Concord Museum, Emerson House and Thoreau Society.

As the October calendar of events continues to evolve, we can mention some anniversary highlights, including an exhibit at the Concord Library of First Parish's oldest documents, a reenactment of Thoreau's defense of John Brown, an amazing fashion show of UU history (sponsored by the WPA) and a scholarly conference on the legacy of First Parish. The celebration will come to a close with a grand Saturday night dinner for the congregation, followed by worship services on Sunday, October 23.

All parishioners are welcome. We will be inviting other Unitarian Universalists to join us, along with historians, social activists and scholars who are interested in our fascinating and important history.

Please stay tuned. More 375th details are forthcoming. **Anne Fortier** and **Bruce Blumberg** are cochairs of First Parish's 375th Celebration. ♦

PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Preparation for the fifth Youth Service Pilgrimage (YSP) to Székelykeresztúr is now in the homestretch for our July 6 departure. For ongoing updates about the YSP program in general, be sure to check the PCC Web page (as noted below).

Joan Wesolowski and her daughter **Hayle** are now in Transylvania, as they are representing First Parish at this year's Berde Mózes Unitarian High School graduation in Székelykeresztúr. Joan delivered a message from our congregation and Student Sponsorship Program sponsors as part of the ceremony on Thursday, May 26. Look for the graduation photos on the First Parish photo gallery (on the link below) upon their return.

Joan and Hayle are carrying a number of cards and letters from student sponsors here at First Parish, which will be duly delivered to the sponsored students. For those interested, we will be looking for new sponsors (for at least ten new students) this fall. And for those whose student will be graduating next year, we are currently looking for our official delegate for next year's commencement.

As she has done for years now, Emese Nagy will provide the translation for Joan and we are pleased to pass along that she and (assistant minister) Sándor Lakatos have announced that they're expecting their second child this winter.

Our next First Parish PCC (supper) meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, at the home of **Winslow** and **Linda Pettingell**. We would love to have you join us! For further information, drop Winslow a line; and for our all our latest PCC news and information, see:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/committees/partner-church>, or click this link: <http://bit.ly/fx1voH>. ♦

Minden jót! "Best wishes!"

— **Winslow Pettingell**, PCC chair,
LondonSW11@aol.com

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

This is my last column before I leave my position at the end of June. Although I will miss being your minister for pastoral care, I am confident that the pastoral care program will continue to be strong, with the continued ministry of the pastoral care lay ministers.



Diane Clapp, who has been a lay minister for five years and is a practicing infertility therapist, will be the lay leader of the lay ministers. She will work closely with **Jenny Rankin**, who will oversee the program. In addition to Diane, the lay ministers are **Carolyn Shohet**, **Eric Read**, **Pat Ellis**, **Dale Pfeiffer**, **Bev Bringle**, **Fred Van Deusen**, **Carol Boris**, **Dana Snyder-Grant** and **Lois Suarez**. As always, the ministers are available if you want to call them. Caring Connection meals and transportation will continue, as well as will the New Baby

Welcomers — **Bridget Neale Paris** and **Louisa Paushter**. The Pastoral Care Advisory Council will continue to promote the First Parish networks of pastoral care in order to extend and strengthen their reach. The council members — **Judy Dembsey**, **Tracey Hurd**, **Ursula Kristoffy** and **Pam Ressler** — are exploring new ways to convey pastoral information to the congregation. **Tracey Hurd** is updating the pastoral care section on the First Parish website so it will be a resource to access current information.

My last sermon, delivered Memorial Day Sunday, is titled "Remembering the Peacemakers." It talked about my upcoming ministry in restorative justice. Since many of you were at Ferry Beach, I hope you will read it or listen to it online. My ministry will now be out in the greater community, but I will be coming to services at First Parish so the roots of our faith can hold me close and its wings will help me to be free in my newfound ministry.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and for your support and trust. These past five years have been a time of deepening meaning and joy in my ministry and my life. ♦

In faith and with love,

— *Margie King Saphier*

Pastoral Care Lay Coverage for the Summer

If you are in need of transportation to a medical appointment, or would like a Caring Connection meal delivered to you, or would like to have a compassionate listener visit you, please contact:

June: **Bev Bringle** bevbringle@yahoo.com 978-369-4739 or
Dale Pfeiffer dpfeiffer@berklee.edu 978-808- 3418

July: **Lois Suarez** Call First Parish Office or 978-302-3444 or
Bev Bringle bevbringle@yahoo.com 978-369-4739

August: **Lois Suarez** Call First Parish Office or 978-302-3444 or
Carolyn Shohet careshohet@aol.com 978-369-6231

MUSINGS

"We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within.

And we will get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will.

It will be hard, we know, and the road will be muddy and rough,

But we'll get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will."

Woyaya, woyaya, woyaya, woyaya.

—Woyaya (*Singing the Journey* #1020)

This song has been going through my mind a lot during this exciting, challenging and turbulent year. Even as we prepare for **Gary Smith's** retirement and celebrate his extraordinary ministry with us, we have been experiencing some anxiety and conflict about our future. "Heaven knows where we are going, and heaven knows how we will get there," is a thought that I'm sure has crossed many a mind!



Yes, sometimes the road has been muddy this year. And there are bound to be rough patches ahead. One of the things I like about *Woyaya* is that it names that reality. If we can name it, if we as a congregation can help one another navigate those passages, offering one another a steadying hand and pointing out the obstacles on a muddy and stone-strewn path, we'll get through together. We might be a little dirty and scratched, even stumble once in a while, but we will get there!

What gives me the most hope, though, is that phrase "we know within." I believe that is true for First Parish in Concord. We know within. We will celebrate our 375th anniversary next fall. Within us we have a deep well of identity, resources and history from which to draw. I find it comforting to look back on the many storms we have weathered and changes we have survived, both within our congregation and in the wider world. At our best, we are a resourceful and creative congregation. It will serve us well to remember that, with humility and faith, as we navigate the road ahead.

Woyaya was written by Ghanaian drummer Sol Amarifio, and was originally performed by *Oisibisa*, a group of Ghanaian and Caribbean musicians. The phrase *Woyaya* doesn't have a literal translation; it's an affirmation, like "Yes!" or "Amen!"

So let's sing it: We are going, heaven knows where we are going, but we know within. And we will get there, heaven knows how we will get there, but we know we will. *Woyaya*. Amen. So be it. ♦

Blessings,

—*Beth Norton*

Music Director

Kudos to Gail Carey!

Gail Carey, our incredible Children's Choir Director, has been awarded the status of Credentialed Music Leader by the UUA's Music Leader Credentialing Committee. She will be recognized by the UUA during the Service of the Living Tradition at GA in Charlotte later this month.



This is a big honor. There are only a few music leaders in our congregations who have achieved this status. To earn this credential, Gail completed a rigorous three-year program of course work and created a portfolio that demonstrated her skill and knowledge in 11 competency areas deemed critical for excellence in music leadership in Unitarian Universalist congregations.

Our entire music ministry has benefited from Gail's work in this program. We offer her our congratulations and thanks!

PIPEWORK

Since the last *Pipework* update, we have gained several new additions to the organ. The mutations (color ranks that sound at intervals above the note played) have been installed in the organ's Choir division on the right side facing. The Nazard is a completely new rank, made from scratch by Russell & Co., while the Tierce is revoiced from the old organ. This past week, the organ's new Oboe was installed, and it added a much-needed new dimension to both the Swell and Pedal organs.

The first complete pedal rank of pipes, comprised of some of the large pipes from the old organ are almost ready for installation, as well as the Swell Mixture pipes. This mixture is again made new from scratch and comprised of some 297 pipes to nicely crown the top of the Swell division for clarity and sparkle in Baroque music, as well as hymn playing.

Once the remaining pipe chests are completed, the builder will then turn themselves totally to the making and remanufacture of the remainder of the organ pipes. Hopefully, most of the pipework should be in by early fall. ♦

—*Eric Huenneke*,

Parish Organist

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

As the church year comes to a close, remember that first-time visits happen during the summer. I remind you to continue greeting visitors with red mugs during coffee hours, making them feel at home. Invite them to the Parish Connections table so they can get information about First Parish and Unitarian Universalism. Show them around the church. Invite them back. Your continued effort to make sure all who come to First Parish feel welcome is an essential part of growing our church and our faith.



Come the fall, First Parish will celebrate its 375 years as a congregation at the same time it will enter into its two-year journey of interim ministry. You will be celebrating your past and looking toward your future. These are exciting and transformative times for First Parish. All the while First Parish will be going through this transition, keep in mind that visitors will still come. People will continue to come through the front door seeking a place of worship that reflects their values, their ideals and their faith.

Working together, the First Parish community can help make those who are seeking a liberal religious home find exactly what they were looking for — a gathering of people who “hold on to what is good.” ♦

*“We gather in community to rest from our labors,
to greet our neighbors,*

*and to open our being to insight and intuition of
that greater reality*

of which we are a part.

*May we find our time together inspiration and
renewal.*

*May we touch the holy in each other and be
touched by the graciousness of life.*

*May we find here a calm peacefulness that will
carry us through the days ahead.”*

—Rev. Paul L’Herrou

—Jane Foley

Membership Director

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS

June is a month when we realize that the First Parish youth have taken one more step toward adulthood. It is the month of good-byes and new beginnings, of free time and service, of friends and families. In youth group, it is a time of fun activities, building new relationships and good-byes. Of course, just when you have to say good-bye, you recognize how precious your time is together. There is a lot planned for the last few weeks of youth group.

June 5: 10:00 a.m. All youth are encouraged to attend **Gary Smith’s** last service

5:00 p.m. Transylvania Trip Meeting

7:00 p.m. YRUU — Concord Scavenger Hunt

June 9: 6:00 p.m. Dinner for High School Seniors and their Parents — a time of reflection and conversation about the transitions ahead

June 12: Afternoon Field Trip to Canobie Lake Park

June 17: 6:00 p.m. End-of-Year Lock-In at First Parish
June 18 at 10:00 a.m.

I thank you for the opportunity that you have given me to spend this year with you, and to foster a strong lay ownership over First Parish’s youth program. It has been an honor for me personally to have witnessed these creative, loving, talented, conscientious young individuals grow up and grow into a community this year. As many of you know, I am leaving First Parish to serve as the intern minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis next year. My focus has been on ensuring that there will be a vibrant youth program at First Parish next year, and there are incredible youth and adults committed to seeing this happen. My thoughts and best wishes go with each of you in your lives and in this work. ♦

—Anastassia Zinke

Youth Program Director

This last Sunday was our last day in RE together for this calendar year. Our Second to Sixth Graders and I said our good-byes. We laughed and told animal stories. We said “farewell” to one of our Third Graders. We felt teary and joyful. We know things are changing, but we are also counting on each other. We are learning about trust.

Next year will feel different. I will be counting on the many hands of our congregation to keep our program going. We may need to change a few things to make it manageable. But one thing that will not change is the simplicity of just being together, of sharing time on Sunday morning, of experiencing the sacred in gathering around something more, something deeper.



While it is hard to say good-bye for the summer, I am also thankful for the impending rest. With so much personal loss this year, I wondered where I would gather the strength to pick up the pieces and show up each Sunday. The answer became clear: I gathered strength from the inherent healing nature of our children and our congregation. While the emptiness is and will always be present, the fullness that comes with human kindness surrounds this vacuum with meaning and purpose. That is the greatest gift, a life of meaning and purpose. I’m glad to be part of a place that still grows such things within all of us. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

Carol Duane Is Leaving Us

After many years, **Carol Duane**, our Young Children’s Programming Coordinator, is leaving. Carol has provided our families with consistent and caring leadership for our youngest children. She has helped us transition to a strong Spirit Play program and has helped us become more organized downstairs. I have relied on Carol to keep things running smoothly every Sunday morning, and she has done that beautifully and with careful attentiveness.

I feel one of Carol’s most important gifts is her work with our teens. Carol reached out each year to our teen youth and welcomed them into our

June 2011 RE Calendar

Sun., June 5 10 a.m. ONLY Regular RE for Babies–4 Years Intergenerational Service

Sun., June 12 10 a.m ONLY Regular RE for Babies–4 Years

RE programming as caring mentors. Our teens often provided the consistency necessary for our youngest children, and Carol made this possible. Carol truly cared about our teenagers and helped steward their connection to First Parish in a meaningful way.

I am thankful to Carol for her many gifts. Her presence will be greatly missed; but whatever she decides to do in the coming years, I know her dependability, her integrity and her commitment will be highly valued. These virtues are hard to come by and our First Parish community benefited from them every Sunday morning. Thank you, Carol.

Come Work in the First Parish Community Garden!

Just because there is no RE on Sunday mornings does not mean there is no RE this summer! Our RE program here at First Parish is a hands-on experience filled with wonder and play. We carry this into the summer through our First Parish Community Garden. It is five minutes from First Parish on Thoreau Street (across from the court house).

Starting in June, each week on Thursday afternoons (3-4 p.m.) **Sue Ryan** and/or I will be present for digging, weeding, watering, planting and harvesting. These are ancient skills that connect us deeply with our environment and with ourselves. Many kids have forgotten how engaging real dirt is. This is a chance for your child to experience work, to be hot, to get rained on and muddy. I do hope you can join us and experience the joy of searching for cucumbers and picking beautiful flowers for Open Table.

RE Registration for 2011-2012

Please return your forms as soon as possible so we can be ready for the fall term. I am really looking forward to working with you and your children. Our commitment to our children through religious education is one of the ways we keep our congregation and our faith strong and alive.

Our Coming of Age Service

What an amazing Coming of Age service! Our youths’ credos were thoughtful and spoke passionately about what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Their credos reflected our faith as an active one, as a faith expressed through the work of social activism.

I would like to thank **Jane Barnes** for leading Coming of Age this year. Jane did an outstanding job of leading our mentors and mentees through this COA journey. I would also like to thank **Alyssa Bigay, Cynthia Ellis, Tom Hammond, Jim Reynolds, Heather**

RE News

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Wilson and **Ted Hibbens**. Mentoring our youth is a big commitment and these mentors truly “gave back” to our parish. The relationships our teens make with caring adults is incredibly powerful. These adults are not “paid” to be there; they are there because mentoring is important. They showed up because, like many of us, they also had mentors when they were teens. Our mentors dedicated their time because real relationships take real time.

I would also like to thank **Sarah Sharpe**, our local pottery artist and a member of First Parish. Sarah hand-made each chalice with the care that reflects the love from within our parish. We care about our teens; we hope they carry our Unitarian Universalist values into the world throughout their lives. This chalice will be a reminder of our congregation and this journey toward our shared vision.

YRUU Parent Listening Session

We had a productive and thoughtful meeting in May. Forty parents and youth came together to talk about youth programming for next year. It was clear that our congregation wants to support a strong youth community at First Parish. We discussed programming options, scheduling, linking Coming of Age more closely to youth group and what our congregation can do to support youth initiatives. The most important outcome, however, was the number of parents and teens who are interested in doing the work toward building a strong youth program for the coming year.

Farewell to Anastassia!

In one short year, **Anastassia Zinke** has really made a mark on our youth programming at First Parish. Our youth program is in a period of transition right now, and Anastassia really challenged our congregation to explore what our teen programming could look like in the near future. Anastassia engaged youth, parents and staff in discussing possibilities for creating a more sustainable program as we move into a fiscally restrained period. I appreciate Anastassia’s willingness to invite these conversations and wrestle with our vision during this year.

Anastassia was fun to work with and an engaging young leader. She is moving on in her journey toward becoming a Unitarian Universalist minister, and I look forward to following her developing ministry.

New RE Council Members

I am thrilled to welcome **Alyssa Bigay**, **Patty Popov**, **Lora Venesy** and **Dawn van Patton** to our council. They will join **Eric Moore**, **Kate Svrcek**, **Amy Capofreddi** and **Brad Hubbard-Nelson**.

I’d like to thank **Susan Ward** and **Dan Trinkle** for their service on the council over the last three years. This REprogram could not work without the attention and dedication of these willing and caring parents.

Wanted: Key Leadership

I am still looking for leadership for next year’s Holiday Craft Workshop. Last year, **Susan Ward** was Head Elf. Susan fulfilled this ministry for two years and she shared her joy with all of us. While I have many elf-helpers (and good ones!), I still need a Head Elf. Could that be you? Please let me know if you would consider this important First Parish ministry of hand-made gift making in a community atmosphere.

Time to Say Good-bye

As many of you already know, this will be my last season as Coordinator for Young Children. My last day will be June 12. What will I do on Sunday mornings? I will for the first time in seven years attend UU services — at the Chelmsford UU church, where I live. I’m looking forward to becoming a part of that community as a parishioner.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure supporting the RE families of Concord. Many thanks for all the opportunities afforded me. I’ve enjoyed helping launch the Spirit Play curriculum for Kindergarten and First Graders, which has become popular with the children and teachers alike; working with and mentoring First Parish’s outstanding teen assistants; welcoming new families; and safeguarding the young children. It has been delightfully fulfilling to watch the little ones flourish in the nurturing environment of their RE classes.

No one could have asked for a better supervisor than **Pam Howell**. Pam (a person of many talents) managed me in her merry, unobtrusive way, always making me feel supported and appreciated. I look up to her as a role model even though she is younger than me.

I will miss everyone — the First Parish staff, parents, teens — and most of all the children.

All the best,

— *Carol Duane*



What is an activist? Do you picture someone who is standing outside holding a sign or marching for a cause? Writing letters to elected officials?

Delivering food to the needy? But what about serving on a committee?

Supporting a fundraiser? Or offering support, respect and caring in often subtle ways? We often do not recognize

activists or realize the impact of activism if it is not loud and forceful. But I have often found activism in those who believe in humanity's ability to act justly; in those who believe in people's best intentions; in those who through these beliefs help others to act as their best selves. The ripple effect of this is immeasurable. I believe **Gary Smith** is an activist. He has raised the bar high for us all through his sermons — but also through a nod of his head, a smile, or a sideways glance. His impact is priceless. Thank you, Gary.

And thank you to everyone who made this another productive year in our Social Action Community. During the year we have welcomed four new SAC programs—Immigration, “Chicken Man”, the Guatemala Recovery Project, and Reverence for Life. I look forward to more programs and activities during the coming year! Enjoy your summer. ♦

— *Faith Bade*

Social Action Program Director

First Parish Selected for “Reverence for Life” Pilot Program

Join us for a plant-based potluck dinner at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 13, followed by an introduction to the Reverence for Life program and its focus on the interconnected web of all life. Children welcome!

Kids, bring a picture of your favorite animal.

Everyone bring your own plate, silverware and drinks and an entrée or salad (no dairy, meat or eggs please). Please RSVP to Kathryn at

kdshane1@verizon.net or Marcia at

marcialou28@gmail.com

Come Join *Chicken Man!*

Chicken Man, a First Parish musical set in the South American rain forest, is looking for two stage managers, two costumers and a set designer for our March 2012 production. Roles are still available.

Please contact **Claudia Nimar** at cnimar@aol.com if you are interested in an audition or crew.

Upcoming Events:

Immigration

- Our Immigration Study Group will continue with educational events in the fall. We will be presenting a film screening and also a possible panel discussion. Stay tuned and join us as we learn more about the many complicated issues concerning immigration.

SAC Grants History Project

- Thank you to **John Lowe** and **Dave Dawson** who have been working on a history of our Social Action Grants program. The final product will be available for our 375th Birthday celebration in October. We have truly “gone out into the world” and made a huge impact.

Activists at Homecoming Sunday

- On Homecoming Sunday, September 11, 2011, we invite Social Action programs to display information about their activism during coffee hour. Please speak with **Faith Bade** at FBade@firstparish.org if you wish to participate.

Social Action Three-Part Course

- Stay tuned for more information on a new course that will explore your activist roots, help you frame your activism now, and provide support as your activism goes forward and grows. Ministerial Intern **Craig Nowak** and Social Action Program Director **Faith Bade** will offer a three-part course at First Parish this fall.

GREEN NOTES

- Have you completed an energy audit of your home or business yet? I did and they found mold in our attic! Remediation has been completed — fully paid for by my insurance company — and I am so glad I did the energy audit! A number of First Parish members have volunteered to answer your questions about the results of their energy audit. Contact **Anne Fortier**, **Chris Randall**, **Abby Russell**, **Barbara Wheeler**, **Don Dembsey** or **Kathy Peebles** to name just a few, or read more about their and other First Parish members' experiences at the First Parish Web pages. Go to sac.firstparish.org/cms/environmental and find the document at the bottom of the front page under Energy Audits Completed II.

First Parish Helps Head to Head School in Haiti

- Sophia Lubin has just returned from a trip to the Head to Head School in Haiti — a school that First Parish is supporting. The school was first founded in 1999 by her father, but this was the first time that Sophia (“SoSo”) had returned to Haiti, the land of her childhood, since 1999. I asked her to tell me if there was anything

SAC News and Events

continued on page 11

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, sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist; visit the Social Action bulletin board; or e-mail our Social Action Program Director, **Faith Bade**, at FBade@firstparish.org.

that disturbed her, and what she enjoyed. She was disturbed by how poor people were living in crowded tents, and cooking inside the tents with wood fires. She was happy to tell me about how much the children enjoyed her classes in art — the younger ones cutting out hearts, to send to children in a Connecticut School; making bracelets from beads SoSo brought from NY; and having a first chance to paint. The children were sweet and SoSo was pleased that they were very interested in the class. Some showed real talent. She was surprised that cement blocks for building were made on the school site, one block at a time, and that water for the cement had to be carried from a well nearly an hour away by volunteers. (A newly enlarged cistern has been built, and water will be collected from the roof, once the drought ends.) The trip changed SoSo. Recognizing what it means to live plentifully in the United States, now she understands the turmoil and the living circumstances in Haiti and appreciates all that she has. One way we can extend a hand to these children is to collect T-shirts they can wear and also ones to wear to protect their uniforms when doing art. We'll have a box in the coatroom for T-shirts that you are willing to donate. The children will enjoy them. Thank you for your support. — Carol Dwyer

UU Service Committee Continues to Battle for Human Right to Clean Water

On April 26, 2011, the campaign for the human right to water in California overcame its first legislative hurdle. The new human-right-to-water bill (AB 685) passed with an overwhelming margin out of the Water Parks and Wildlife Committee, and the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee passed four additional bills in this package. These developments mark the beginning of a new campaign for the human right to water — and more than 11.5 million Californians are depending on our victory for access to safe, sufficient, affordable water!

Please consider donating to the UUSC's annual appeal. Know that \$30 protects an orphaned Haitian child from abuse, trafficking and prostitution; \$65 pays for a small business loan for a woman in Kenya. Thanks to a generous matching grant, \$100 becomes \$200, providing 40 students in Afghanistan with innovative human-rights education; \$200 becomes \$400, buying a bicycle ambulance for a resettled village several miles from a health center in northern Uganda. Please help us reach our \$580,000 goal by June 30 — and make a difference in lives around the world. Please visit uusc.org to learn about the activities of the UUSC and to make an online donation.

Lobbying for Peace

Alec Walker, Rod Deck (with the blueberry pie that he had baked), and Pat Simon enjoyed a Mother's Day lobby at Rep. Tsongas' Acton office. They learned from staff that, given her extraordinary peace-building work, the congresswoman's only obstacle to support of HR 808 for a Department of Peace is the idea of a department. She wonders why the various branches of government couldn't include violence prevention programs. A cabinet-level department, with a Secretary of Peace, provides a necessary institutional platform for the wealth of expertise in violence prevention and intervention, domestically and internationally. It will coordinate a proactive, strategic approach in the development of policies that promote nonviolent solutions to conflict, throughout the government, and make peace a national priority. We were urged, in the Advocacy Skills Workshop, to be active citizens — to contact those elected to represent us; every call, every letter, every visit is tallied and gets attention to the issue. Calls to Rep. Tsongas (978-263-1951) from other towns in her district will be important in finally convincing her to support efforts that have been made for decades to create a Department of Peace in the U.S government! Go to <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/findyour-reps.xpd?state=MA> to find your representatives. Contact: psimon@gis.net.

Join the Boston Pride Parade!

The Diversity Committee will again sponsor a group from First Parish to march with our banner in the Boston Pride Parade, which starts at noon on Saturday, June 11. Please join us for this fun, family-friendly event and help us show our support for the LGBT community. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org or 978-371-0723 to sign up or get more information. Carpooling can be arranged.

Childbirth Deaths in Sierra Leone To Be Topic of Amnesty International Meeting

A physician whose research helped establish that thousands of women in Sierra Leone die unnecessarily each year from complications of pregnancy and childbirth will discuss her work at the monthly meeting of Group 15, the Concord-area chapter of Amnesty International, on Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m. Dr. Toyin Ajayi was a principal author of an Amnesty study showing that most of those deaths could have been prevented by accessible, affordable and timely medical care. The study report, "Out of Reach: The Cost of Maternal Health in Sierra Leone," was published last year as part of an Amnesty campaign aimed at reducing high rates of maternal mortality worldwide. Dr. Ajayi is a director of the Wellbodi Partnership, a team of local and international experts working to provide pediatric care in Sierra Leone. She served as medical coordinator for the partnership in 2008-2009 and is currently completing her residency in family medicine at Boston University. The Group 15 meeting will be held downstairs at the Harvey Wheeler Center, 1276 Main Street, in West Concord. All are welcome. For additional information, e-mail Lorraine Loviglio at loviglio@rcn.com.

What I've Learned from Gary

Would you like to write to **Gary Smith** on the occasion of his retirement? A favorite story or memory? Something important that you learned from Gary? Well, you are invited to join in and send a personal message to him via e-mail. Send your e-mail to this address: whatIlearnedfromGary@comcast.net. These messages will be compiled into a lovely book. The deadline to receive your e-mail is June 5. Details are available at the coffee hour table.

Single Service and Annual Meeting — June 12

There will be a single worship service on Sunday, June 12, at 10:00 o'clock. Rev. Sarah Lammert, Director of Ministries and Faith Development for the UUA, will preach. The Annual Meeting will follow at 11:30 a.m.

Summer services will be at 10:00 o'clock beginning on June 19, and will run through September 4. The summer worship schedule is included as an insert to this newsletter.

Good-Bye from the Office

I will be leaving First Parish the last day of June. I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you over the last 11 years, and I will miss the connections that I have made here. First Parish is a dynamic community, and I wish you all the best in the future. —**Jane Johnson**, Office Manager

Reserve a Sunday To Dedicate the Flowers

If you would like to contribute to the Sunday flowers as a memorial or celebration, please contact **Peg Hedstrom** at 978-369-1562.

Coffee Hour Garden Party—June 19

One of the most delightful places on our First Parish campus is the Deborah Webster Greeley Herb Garden. The Women's Parish Association cordially invites all men, women, children and youth to gather in the Herb Garden for a Coffee Hour Garden Party on Sunday, June 19, at 11:00 a.m. following the worship service. Special herb-flavored savories, sweets and beverages will be served. Debby Greeley was born 100 years ago on April 4 and the Women's Parish Association was founded 130 years ago on April 20. This event will provide a nice opportunity to remember Debby and to celebrate the founding of the WPA as well as the Herb Garden itself. We are very grateful to **Doug Baker** and the Herb Garden Committee for creating and maintaining this beautiful sanctuary for us over the years. In case of rain, the party will be held in the Parish Hall with special photographs of the garden reminding us of its beauty.

Brook Farm Discussion with Polly Peterson

On Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m., join the Transcendentalism Council for an exciting discussion about Brook Farm, the utopian community founded by transcendentalists that existed from 1841 to 1847. Our own **Polly Peterson**, author of *Stirring*

WOMEN'S NEWS

Women's AM/PM Book Group

The Women's AM/PM Book Group will hold its annual potluck dinner and discussion of books for next year's list on Thursday, June 16. Please contact **Darien Smith** (darien@smithquest.com) for details about the potluck or if you would like your e-mail added to the book group list for next year. Best wishes for good summer reading! ♦

UU NEWS

General Assembly 2011—Don't Miss It!

Yes, you can still be a delegate or general attendee at this year's General Assembly (GA), which will take place June 22–26 in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition to Karen Armstrong's delivering the prestigious Ware Lecture, GA will welcome **Feisal Abdul Rauf**, an American Sufi imam, author and activist, whose stated goal is to improve relations between the Muslim world and the West. Refer to the UUA website for details about the many planned events. Contact **Dian Pekin** as soon as possible at pekindc@comcast.net if you would like to attend GA. ♦



WRIGHT TAVERN CENTER

Concord Area Humanists

Concord Area Humanists (CAH), formed 30 months ago, is sponsored by the Wright Tavern Center. In the fall and spring we had three meetings per month — a featured speaker, a workshop and a discussion group. The last spring meeting will be Monday, June 6 at 7 p.m., with Ed Lowry speaking about "Deflating Theocrats."



for Spiritual Renewal

We have just broadened our outreach by affiliating with the American Humanist Association and UU Humanists. We hope to restore the strength of UU Humanism, and increase the rational approach nationally, by combining AHA energy with UU social and educational infrastructure and music.

We are now preparing our program for the fall season. If you would like to receive our information, and possibly help us, particularly with publicity, but also in other ways, please e-mail pne@aol.com.

—**Patrick Everett**, CAH Coordinator

SUMMER 2011 CALENDAR

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.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m. (not August)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.

JUNE

Wed Jun 1	4:30	Junior Choir
	5:00	<i>Yoga for Women</i>
	5:15	Chalice Choir
	6:45	<i>Yoga for Women</i>
	7:45	Adult Choir
Thu Jun 2	7:30	Threshold Choir
Fri Jun 3	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
Sat Jun 4	5:00	Gary's Special Celebration
Sun Jun 5	10:00	<u>Single Worship Service</u>
	10:00	Gospel Choir
	7:00	YRUU
Mon Jun 6	6:30	<i>T'ai Chi</i>
	7:00	<i>Humanists</i>
	7:30	<i>Everyday Enlightenment</i>
Tue Jun 7	9:30	<i>Kundalini Yoga</i>
	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
Wed Jun 8	4:30	Junior Choir
	5:00	<i>Yoga for Women</i>
	5:15	Chalice Choir
	6:45	<i>Yoga for Women</i>
	7:45	Adult Choir
Thu Jun 9	7:30	Transcendentalism Council

Fri Jun 10	9:30	<i>Music Together</i>
	12:30	<i>T'ai Ji</i>
Sat Jun 11	9:00	Photo Club
Sun Jun 12	10:00	<u>Single Worship Service</u>
	11:30	<u>Annual Meeting</u>
	7:00	SAC Board Meetings
Mon Jun 13	6:00	<i>Reverence for Life Dinner</i>
	6:30	Standing Committee
Tue Jun 14	9:30	WPA Board Meeting
Wed Jun 15	6:30	Membership Committee
	6:30	Open Table Board Meeting
Thu Jun 16	7:30	Threshold Choir
Fri Jun 17	6:00	YRUU Lock-In
Mon Jun 20	7:00	Open Table Board Meeting
Fri Jun 24	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>

JULY AND AUGUST

Thu July 7	7:30	Threshold Choir
Thu July 21	7:30	Threshold Choir
Thu Aug 4	7:30	Threshold Choir
Wed Aug 17	6:30	Open Table Board Meeting
Thu Aug 18	7:30	Threshold Choir

the Nation's Heart, will lead the discussion after giving a brief talk about Brook Farm, Fruitlands and some of the other alternative lifestyles and utopian communities of the day. Everyone welcome.

Summer Office Hours

The office at First Parish will be open from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, beginning on Monday, June 20 and ending Friday, September 2. The office will be closed for Independence Day Monday, July 4, and for Labor Day on Monday, September 5. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, September 6.

Calling All Knitters!

Did you know that the famous catnip balls sold at the annual Holiday Artisans Fair are very popular fundraisers? The Women's Parish Association is looking for knitters to make covers for these colorful items over the summer months. Contact **Becky Blodgett** at becky.blodgett@verizon.net to get knitting directions. In addition to adding to the profits of the fair, you will help make a lot of cats happy!

Nominating Committee Update

- Each year, the Nominating Committee is charged with the responsibility of finding First Parish members to fill vacancies for our officers (Treasurer, Clerk, Moderator and Collector) and members of the Standing Committee. The slate is then presented to the congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting, which is on Sunday, June 12, this year. Additionally, we contact staff members responsible for committees such as SAC and RE, as well as other paid and unpaid leaders in order to recognize our committee chairs.
- First Parish is a very active community, with projects, committees, task forces, affinity groups, etc. In our attempt to acknowledge this contribution of commitment to our congregational life, the Nominating Committee is in the process of compiling a comprehensive list of activities and the leadership it takes to make them happen. We look forward to sharing this with the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- Committee members: **Lillian Anderson, Laura Graham, Russ Herndon, Kate Keleher, Patty Popov, Eric Read, Sue Ryan, Kate Svrcek, Marianne Zasa**

JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER

The September Newsletter deadline is Monday, August 29, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, September 6.

Summer Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 to 12 noon

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: FPCConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

- **Ministers' E-Mail:**
- Gary E. Smith: gsmith@firstparish.org
- Jenny M. Rankin: jrankin@firstparish.org
- Margie King Saphier: mksaphier@firstparish.org
- Craig Nowak: cnowak@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST Staff

Gary E. Smith, Senior Minister

Jenny M. Rankin, Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Cassy Bosworth, Assistant to the Ministers

Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager

Faith Bade, Social Action Program Director

Jane Foley, Membership Director

Pamela Hathaway, Development Director

Margie King Saphier, Associate Minister for Pastoral Care

Craig M. Nowak, Ministerial Intern

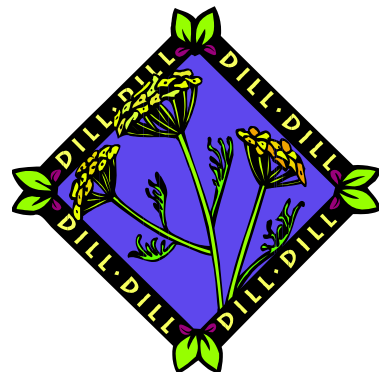
Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

- Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education
- Lorrie Clark, Religious Education Administrator
- Anastassia Zinke, Youth Program Director
- Carol Duane, Program Coordinator for Young Children
- Elizabeth Norton, Music Director
- Eric Huenneke, Parish Organist
- Anderson Manuel, Youth Gospel Choir Director
- Gail Carey, Children's Choir Director
- David Huston, Music Director Emeritus
- Dan Holin, Jericho Road Executive Director
- Leslie Koplrow, Operations Manager, Jericho Road
- Douglas Baker, Sacristan and Curator
- Jane Johnson, Office Manager
- Peggy Gallo, Volunteer Collector
- Kate Keleher, Volunteer Newsletter Editor
- Kaye Harvie, Jane Johnson, Newsletter Staff



**The Women's Parish Association
cordially invites you to
A Coffee Hour Garden Party
In
The Deborah Webster Greeley
Memorial Herb Garden
First Parish in Concord
on
Sunday, June 19, 2011 at
11:00 a.m.**

**All adults, children and youth are warmly invited.
Replies are not required. In case of rain, the party will be held indoors.**



FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
 SUMMER SERVICES—2011—FIRST PARISH IN CONCORD
 Sunday Services at 10:00 O'clock

<u>Date</u>	<u>Service Leader</u>	<u>Musicians</u>
June 19	Ms. Anastassia Zinke Youth Program Director, First Parish in Concord	D Block Quartet, Colin Nevins' jazz band Sam Copeland, singer/songwriter Jenn Lindsey, singer/songwriter Mary Jane Rupert, pianist
June 26	Ms. Pam Howell Director of Religious Education, First Parish in Concord	Jane Barnes and Rob Hamilton, soloists Ed Melegian, pianist
July 3	Mr. Matt Meyer Percussionist and Friend of First Parish in Concord	Ed Melegian, pianist
July 10	Mr. Don Miller Member, First Parish in Concord	Larry Gall, baritone soloist Ed Melegian, pianist
July 17	Rev. Dan Harper Assistant Minister for Religious Education UU Church of Palo Alto, California	Transylvania Troubadours Charles Bull, organist/pianist
July 24	Rev. Victor Carpenter Minister Emeritus, First Church in Belmont	Silver Bass Trio Charles Bull, organist/pianist
July 31	Rev. Karen Foley Former Associate Minister for Pastoral Care First Parish in Concord	Pamela Schweppe, soprano soloist Charles Bull, organist/pianist
August 7	Ms. Debbie Dunnington Member, First Parish in Concord	Kristin Moore, violinist Charles Bull, organist/pianist
August 14	Ms. Polly Peterson Member, First Parish in Concord	Lauren Evans, alto soloist Charles Bull, organist/pianist
August 21	Mr. Mark Richards Member, First Parish in Concord	Joan Esch, cellist Charles Bull, organist/pianist
August 28	Rev. Claire Feingold Thoryn Assistant Minister, First Parish in Lincoln	Tammie Foote, soprano soloist Ed Melegian, pianist
September 4	Mr. Jim Reynolds Member, First Parish in Concord	Nancy Ackerman, clarinetist D. Eric Huenneke, organist
September 11	Opening Sunday Services at 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock	First Parish Choir; Elizabeth Norton, director D. Eric Huenneke, organist