



# The Meeting House News

September 4, 2012  
Volume 49, No. 1

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## REVERIES

We are stepping into our second year of interim ministry, together. Last year was a year of discussion and discovery. This is a year of implementation, as we put what we discovered into practice. Process and product will both be important as we strengthen First Parish's relational skills, fulfill your newly affirmed mission, and call a new settled Senior Minister.



*When we respect and practice appreciative and relational process, we assure personal, spiritual and institutional integrity. The relational principles we introduced during the Listening Sessions and Springing Forward weekend will serve and guide us as we continue to review and adjust governance, finances, belonging, communication, staff structure, the best allocations for 7.5 per cent of annual pledges for Social Action and*

*the other institutional conversations that you asked to be reviewed during our interim time.*

*Our conversations have been, and will continue to be:*

- Direct
- Respectful
- Forgiving
- Actively listening
- Building consensus
- Welcoming
- Willing to speak the truth with love
- Promoting trust
- Sharing roles, responsibility and leadership
- Allowing enough time
- Allowing everyone to speak
- Allowing the choice to be silent

*First Parish no longer engages in conversations that:*

- Avoid or shift responsibility
- Use accusatory statements/blame
- Sarcasm
- Assume without clarifying
- Talk over someone else

**REVeries** continued on page 2

**There are FIVE inserts at the end of this newsletter:**

- ◆ Sunday Forums for September
- ◆ Photo Directory Information
- ◆ WPA 2012-2013 Schedule
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs
- ◆ Youth Retreat Information

## First Parish in Concord

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
Gathered in 1636

*First Parish in Concord is a welcoming Unitarian Universalist congregation that seeks ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.*

- Make threats
- Use humor to stop dialogue
- Emotional outbursts
- Hold on to being right
- Hold on to anyone being wrong
- Prevent opportunity for feedback
- Accept whispering or secrets
- Create meetings after the meeting  
(Emotional/controversial content shared at end of meeting without all meeting participants present)

We will continue to practice. We may not always get it right, but we have learned to say, “Go direct,” to ask “Do you want to be right, or do you want to be in relationship?” and to remind each other, “We don’t do that anymore.” We are practicing how to hold one another to a new relational standard, a covenant of behavior, for decision-making and engagement that will assure a sustainable future for First Parish. I am honored and inspired to walk this walk with you.

I am by your side, with much metta,



Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha,  
Interim Senior Minister

*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**

- Friday, September 21
- Friday, October 19
- Friday, November 16

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

- **Sunday, September 9**
- *Ingathering and Water Communion* – Rev. Jenny M. Rankin
- Today, First Parish welcomes members and friends back for another year of growing spiritually, building community and making a difference in the world. This intergenerational Sunday will welcome all ages of people, puppets and delightful music as we begin our second interim year. Be sure to look for details on the potluck gathering September 8 on page 3 of this newsletter. At the potluck you will have the opportunity to meet and greet one another, as well as share in the creation of Sunday’s worship.
- **One Service at 10:00 – First Parish Choir**
- **Sunday, September 16**
- *Our Belief Net* – Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha
- At beliefnet.org you can find out where you fit in the theological world. At First Parish, our religious diversity is our Belief Net. What we believe, and why, creates the identity of First Parish. Today you will think about your beliefs, about life, death, God, Jesus, prayers or meditation. You will appreciate one another, and the integrity of the safety net we create to engage the diversity that defines Unitarian Universalism. Come to be seen, counted and celebrated for your humanist, agnostic, Christian, Jewish or other, self.
- **9:00 – Elizabeth Norton, vocalist**
- **11:00 – First Parish Choir**
- **Sunday, September 23**
- *A Service of Atonement* – Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha
- The Jewish High Holy Days celebrate the Jewish New Year and affirm the importance of atoning. Atonement is an honest reflection of what has been, gleaned wisdom and maturity from taking responsibility for one’s choices. To own, accept, and forgive oneself and others is how we begin a new year in love. Today, we will reflect on the past of First Parish, the wise and the wonderful, and the less than wise or wonderful. We will speak the truth in love, and begin again, with new hope, new honesty and renewed connections.
- **9:00 – Joan Esch, cello**
- **11:00 – First Parish Choir**
- **Sunday, September 30**
- *Partners in Giving Thanks* – Rev. Ferenc Miko
- Today, during the closing week of their visit, we celebrate and give thanks with our partner congregation. We welcome Rev. Mikó to our pulpit as we honor the depth of First Parish’s 25-year relationship with the Unitarian Church of Székelykorszút, Transylvania, Romania.
- **9:00 – Siri Smedvig, violin**
- **11:00 – First Parish Choir**

## PARISH NOTES

### Finding Your Interim Minister

Elaine Pereshuha will be traveling from August 27 through September 10.

Upon her return to the office September 11, Elaine's hours will be

Tuesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.

You may contact Elaine at [uurevdoc@gmail.com](mailto:uurevdoc@gmail.com), or at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, MA, 978-369-9602, extension 411.

In addition to regular office hours, Elaine makes appointments to meet with people at other times. Please e-mail our ministerial assistant **Christy McKellips**, [cmckellips@firstparish.org](mailto:cmckellips@firstparish.org), to schedule an appointment.

Elaine is unavailable except for emergencies on Monday, her day off, and Friday, her sermon-writing day.

### New Faces at First Parish

Starting in September, three new people will be joining the staff of First Parish. **Bethany Lowe** has accepted the position of Director of Social Action, **Rachel Baker** has accepted the new and revised position of Director of Congregational Life, and **Tony Fisher** will join us as our new ministerial intern. All three will be starting to settle into their First Parish routine during the first weeks of September. You will have the opportunity to meet and greet them officially on September 16. They will provide information about themselves, and their vision for their program in the October *Meeting House News*.

### First Parish Homecoming

Saturday, September 8, 2012

Picnic at 5:30 p.m.

All ages. All First Parish. Bring your whole family. Visit with your friends, catch up on the summer news, and meet other First Parish folk. This is an evening for everyone.

#### Croquet Potluck Dessert Labyrinth

Additional desserts by Reverence for Life

Please bring:

A finger food dessert to share

Your own picnic, food and beverage

Lawn chairs and blankets

The party will be on the front lawns of First Parish weather permitting; in the Parish Hall in case of rain. No admission charge. Mark your calendar now.

**This is an event not to be missed!**

### From the New First Parish Subcommittee on Congregational Discernment

This September is an exciting transition time at First Parish. By establishing a subcommittee on congregational discernment, the Standing Committee is building on the work our congregation did last year in our Listening Sessions and our Spring Forward Retreat.

Four Listening Sessions will be offered early this fall to provide a forum for feedback and discussion of critical areas of church functioning, and to encourage continued involvement as we go forward. We hope you will be able to attend one of them.

These sessions will focus on essential interrelated topics, all of which look toward our future:

**Strategic ends:** "What are those?" you ask. These are the statements that will give us the direction we need to turn our vision for First Parish — a vision we put into words last spring — into goals. These will be drafted at our Standing Committee retreat in early September, and presented for your review.

**Structure and Budget:** Our Organizational Structure Review Team, led by the **Rev. Elaine Pereshuha** as part of our interim process, is drafting a revised First Parish organizational structure to help us achieve those ends, targeted for implementation in the 2013-2014 church year. This plan will be presented and discussed at the Standing Committee retreat, and then offered for your reflection at our listening sessions. In addition, you will have an opportunity to consider the connection between our vision, our strategic ends, our organizational structure, and the budget recommendations for 2013-2014 that flow from these.

The four sessions will be held at the following times:

Thursday, September 20 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Friday, September 21 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 22 3:00–4:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 23 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Please RSVP to sign up for one of these sessions at coffee hour or by sending an e-mail to **Jake Nunes** at [jake\\_nunes@shs.org](mailto:jake_nunes@shs.org).

### First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month, in this "corner," the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events for the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish.

Saturday, September 8, at 9:00 a.m. — Photography Club meeting

Sunday, September 16, at 4:00 p.m. — **Jack DeMuth** Photo Exhibit reception

Parish Notes

continued on page 4

Friday, September 21, at 7:00 p.m. — Theater Workshop led by **Kate Svrcek** (continuing on first and third Fridays in October and November). Contact [katesvrcek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrcek@hotmail.com).

Friday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m. — Rise Up Singing, First Parish’s monthly folk song circle open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages. Contact [bethnorton@firstparish.org](mailto:bethnorton@firstparish.org).

For up-to-date information on these events, watch the FP Announce and the *Sunday News*.

The purpose of the First Parish Arts Council is to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting, and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection.

### Sponsor the Sunday Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to provide Sunday flowers for a memorial or celebration, please contact **Barbara Wheeler** at 978-369-9518.

### Put Your Family in the 2012 Photo Directory — Your Own FP FaceBook!

Sign up online (<https://www.securedata-trans14.com/ap/firstparishconcord/index.php?page=10>) to schedule your photo session so you’ll be sure to

have your photo included in the updated First Parish Photo Directory — sessions are being scheduled during September, October and November. See all the information on the insert



with this *Meeting House News*. Go to the First Parish website or contact Anne Fortier at [randafortier@comcast.net](mailto:randafortier@comcast.net), or Kate Keleher at [kate@rkeleher.com](mailto:kate@rkeleher.com), for more information.

### Celebration of the Fall Equinox

Come celebrate the arrival of fall on Thursday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wright Tavern. The entire First Parish community is invited to participate in welcoming the arrival of autumn with the Women’s Circle. We’ll also enjoy some seasonal refreshments. Hope to see you there! Contact **Martha Kilcoyne** with any questions at [mkilcoyne@comcast.net](mailto:mkilcoyne@comcast.net).

### We Are Looking for Rooms

The First Parish Choir is excited to be hosting members of the Jefferson Unitarian Church choir in Denver, Colorado, the weekend of October 12–14. We need local and overnight accommodations for Friday, October 12, and Saturday, October 13, for 26 people. If you have a single or double spare bedroom, please call **Bill Maxwell** at 978-369-5257.

### Mark Your October Calendar for “Klezamir”!

The Music Events Committee is hosting the group “Klezamir” in the Parish Hall on Saturday evening, October 27. New England’s own dynamic, roots-rockin’ klezmer band serves up traditional Jewish favorites and a great variety of rock, pop, jazz, swing, classical, and even country music! More details will be forthcoming.

### Reproductive Justice: Expanding Our Social Justice Calling — It’s About More Than Choice!

Delegates to this year’s UU General Assembly chose “Reproductive Justice” as the Congregational Action/Study Issue (CASI) for our congregations’ attention in the next two years. The reproductive justice framework — the right to have children, not to have children, and to parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments — is based on the human right to make personal decisions about one’s life, and the obligation of government and society to create conditions where these rights can be upheld.

First Parish will offer an introduction to the new approach to Reproductive Justice on Tuesday evening, September 18, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The discussion, facilitated by **Margaret Stewart**, will follow a process similar to the “small groups,” or “covenant groups,” that allow everyone to participate. Please make a note in your calendar, join members of the Denominational Affairs Committee and plan to find out more about why Reproductive Justice is important to First Parish in Concord!

### WPA Luncheon Program and Annual Meeting — September 25

The Women’s Parish Association will begin its year by hosting a delegation from Transylvania at their September 25 luncheon, during which our Keresztúr visitors will give a presentation that will include a summary of their current and future church programs, an overview of the Keresztúr Unitarian School and related scholarship programs and a summary of our supported student’s activities. Social time will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by a delicious lunch at noon and by the presentation at 12:45 p.m. After the program, the WPA will hold its Annual Meeting. Reservations are required for this catered event. Cost is \$10. Contact the church office or **Dian Pekin** at [pekindc@comcast.net](mailto:pekindc@comcast.net) by September 21 for reservations, as well as dietary requirements and child care and transportation requests. Join old and new friends as we begin a new church year of friendly luncheons, interesting programs, and enjoyable, fundraising events!

### Save the Date — Holiday Artisans Fair, Saturday, November 3

It’s not too early to start planning for the annual Holiday Artisans Fair on Saturday, November 3, from 10 a.m until 4 p.m. This is a major fundraiser organized by and benefiting the Women’s Parish Association. Fifty artists and artisans will

## MONEY MATTERS

Thanks to the auction proceeds, we ended FY12 only \$1500 short of our income goal — despite the fact that for the first time in five years we did not receive 95 percent (or more) of our pledged dollars before the fiscal year closed.

Because of the mild winter, some personnel departures, and Wright Tavern adjustments, our expenses were below budget by nearly 6 percent, enabling us to put \$60,000 into retained earnings, bringing the total in that account to \$253,000.

First Parish financial policies call for us to have 20 percent of the total annual budget in retained earnings. With our budget at \$1.123M for the new year, we have not only reached the retained earnings goal but exceeded it.

As of today, August 24, we have received 480 pledges for a total of \$808,972 against a pledge goal of \$906,000. We want to make up the \$97,000 remaining to our goal this fall, as we discussed at the Annual Meeting. Planning is beginning for an event to be held Saturday, November 10. Details will be announced in the coming weeks.

And, as we do each summer, we “cleaned” the database. We currently have 798 members, 257 friends, and 625 pledge units (households).

Speaking of the database, **Cassy Bosworth** and **Tina Storey** have been diligently testing our new database (with me pitching in as I am able) throughout the summer. We are looking to go live probably sometime in early September. We will be maintaining our old database during the ramp-up to ensure we have accurate data. I am excited about this project; it will take a while for us to fully use the power in this new database, but all of us are looking forward to better tracking, thank-you notes to you, our donors, and improved ease-of-use pledge statements.

Here’s the kind of news that gets the Business Office excited: we got new copiers this summer! We were approached by Ricoh to replace our existing copiers, whose leases were set to expire at the end of 2012. We have gotten faster, better copiers for the same price as our previous copiers. ♦

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

Business Manager

## PASTORAL CARE NEWS

### The Caring Connection — Open Arms of Pastoral Care

Whether you have just walked through the doors of First Parish or have been a member forever, the Caring Connection is there for you. We offer small acts of help and care that are useful and impart the message, “First Parish is here for you during this moment in your life’s journey.” We connect drivers to those who need rides to appointments. We bake small chocolate cakes to go with delivered meals. We visit families with new babies, giving them a book, and homemade baby blanket. We take photos, paste them on cards, and set them out during coffee hour so that congregation members can write notes to those mentioned during the Sunday service. We work together to crochet or knit shawls, offered by pastoral care lay ministers to those they visit. We cook together and freeze delicious healthy meals that suit vegan, vegetarian and omnivore preferences. We work with RE so that parishioners can receive cherished, kid-decorated bags with their meals. We write notes acknowledging life changes and challenges. We’re simply ready to offer kind, humble support to each other.

The Caring Connection is open to all. Last year over 100 people were involved in all sorts of ways. Some people are “on call when needed” lists for cooking or driving, while others have specific roles. It feels great to help others and it is easy to do so through the Caring Connection. Be part of it! We would love to have your help — in any way that fits your life. If you might be interested or have questions, contact **Tracey Hurd** at [thurd@aol.com](mailto:thurd@aol.com), or 978-369-2366.

### The Pastoral Care Team at First Parish Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

The Lay Minister for September is **Caitlin Selle** at [sells.caitlin5@gmail.com](mailto:sells.caitlin5@gmail.com), or 978-371-3915.

Ministers: **Rev. Jenny Rankin** ([revjenny@comcast.net](mailto:revjenny@comcast.net)) and **Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha** ([uurevdoc@gmail.com](mailto:uurevdoc@gmail.com))  
Or call 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers:  
Contact **Diane Clapp** ([d.clapp@comcast.net](mailto:d.clapp@comcast.net))

Caring Connection: Contact **Tracey Hurd** ([thurd@aol.com](mailto:thurd@aol.com)) for meals or rides.

Pastoral Care Advisory Council:  
Contact **Judy Dembsey** ([dembsey@verizon.net](mailto:dembsey@verizon.net)).

Pausing here, in the relative quiet between an eventful summer and a dynamic new church year, I've been listening for a musical theme that would weave the two seasons together. This round from the 1983 Greenham Common Peace Occupation floated into my head.

*Building bridges between our divisions  
I reach out to you, will you reach out to me?  
With all of our voices and all of our visions  
Friends, we can make such sweet harmony.*

Building bridges; reaching out. This is what we do through this First Parish music ministry, and in the music of our wider association. In June, at General Assembly in Phoenix, I led a workshop on social justice music that highlighted the bridge-building wrought with the songs of the American labor and civil rights movements. Singing those songs together built palpable connections! I also witnessed with pride, as our Unitarian Universalist Association reached out to local partners in Phoenix and the United Church of Christ to raise our voices together for immigrant rights at our Justice GA.



During the UU Musicians Network conference at All Souls in Tulsa, Oklahoma, I was inspired by music's role in uniting two diverse congregations and cultures. This large UU congregation answered the call to live its values by opening its sanctuary to members of a local Pentecostal congregation that had embraced Universalism — and been shunned by their wider denomination. The faith and trust that this requires of both congregations is astonishing. And music — inspiring, eclectic music — is an essential element in this partnership.

In September, we will welcome friends from our partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr and strengthen the bond of faith and friendship that has connected us over the past two decades. Music has been an important part of our relationship, bridging chasms of culture and language when we come together.

And in October, we will welcome the choir of Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado, for their Unitarian Heritage pilgrimage. Our collaboration with other UU choirs in a Saturday night concert, and our revival of movements from *Missa Gaia* on Sunday morning, will forge new connections with our fellow American UU's.

This year we hope to strengthen our ties with the UU Urban Ministry through musical collaboration; we will gather for Rise Up Singing on a regular basis; we will sing together in worship, at bedsides, in living rooms; we will

be led by our children and youth. There are so many musical ways for us to reach out to one another.

With all of our voices and all of our visions, friends, we can make such sweet harmony. ♦

Blessings,

— *Beth Norton*

Music Director

## By Your Side Singers — Thursday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m.

The By Your Side Singers, First Parish's pastoral choir, will begin the new season on Thursday night, September 6, at 7:30 p.m. We are a group of musicians who practice singing together to deepen our experience of music's comforting power. We are not performers so much as partners. Through our singing, By Your Side Singers creates a musical presence with people who seek comfort and strength during times of illness or transition. When invited, we go to parishioners' homes or hospital rooms in groups of 3 or 4 to share soft, soothing song. Our singing has evoked smiles, tears, laughter — even dancing!

By Your Side Singers welcomes adults who love to sing and long to serve through music. We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information, contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, or [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org). A visit from By Your Side Singers can be arranged through a minister, a pastoral care lay minister, or by contacting Beth directly.

## 7th–12th Graders: Sing with the Gospel Choir!

This is the annual invitation to 7th through 12th graders to join the Gospel Choir! We welcome new members with open arms and hope that you are ready to inspire and be inspired. For those of you who have simply taken a break, I would love you to come back and join us. **Rob Castillo**, **Mark Weltner** and I are looking forward to working with each of you again. We will do some reggae, blues, gospel and a little contemporary gospel flair just to spice things up. Now, I know that many of you have friends who are good singers and know how to play an instrument. We would love to have them join us. So please invite them to share their gifts and talents with people who will really enjoy and appreciate them! We will start on Sunday September 16, and meet on the Wright Tavern porch. I will be waiting eagerly to welcome you back. We will start at 9:30 a.m. with refreshments and catching up.

— *Anderson Manuel*

Music Notes

continued on page 7

### I Hear Music in the Air

I am basking in the warm memories of our First Parish children’s choirs, singing “Hand in Hand,” “One Voice,” “Joyful Noise...” I am watching lilting liturgical dancers, the ones who so mesmerized our children as part of our Hope Out Loud Concert at the UU Urban Ministry. I am grinning out loud through snippets of “Chicken Man.” We surely will not forget the “Garden Song” and “Sophia’s Song.” What a full year we have had. There is music in the air!



Our childrens’ choirs will be resuming on Wednesday, September 12, and all are welcome. There is no need for any singing experience. It is an especially nice way for new families to build friendships. We will continue to rehearse on Wednesday afternoons in the Parish Hall. Registration forms are available on the First Parish website. If you any questions, please feel free to contact me directly. ♦

In song,

— *Gail Carey*

Children’s Choir Director

[loonbeams@aol.com](mailto:loonbeams@aol.com) or 781-626-3043

### Attention, Handbell Ringers!

We are happy to announce that Bell Choir Director **Martha Goodman**, will be returning to First Parish for two limited engagements, leading the worship services on November 4 and March 17.

The fall season will begin with rehearsal on Sunday, September 23, at 1 p.m., and continue for five consecutive Sundays, culminating with the worship services on November 4. The winter/spring season will begin with rehearsal on February 3 and continue through services on March 17. Ringers may join for both sessions or for either the fall or winter/spring, as schedules allow.

If you can count to four and identify a whole, half and quarter note, and if you can commit to attending most — if not all — rehearsals, then this is the opportunity for you! For more information, and to reserve a place at the handbell tables, call **Martha Goodman** at 508-928-2078 or write to her at [mgtrek@earthlink.net](mailto:mgtrek@earthlink.net).

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

### First Parish Choir — Open Rehearsals in September!

The First Parish Choir begins each season with “open rehearsals” on Wednesday nights. This year, we start on September 5. Rehearsals are from 7:45–9:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Anyone interested in singing in the choir is invited to attend with no obligation during this time. Singers of all voice parts are welcome. The choir will sing in church for the first time on Sunday, September 9, during the 10:00 o’clock Homecoming service. If you plan to attend a rehearsal, or have any questions, please contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or e-mail [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

### Choir Rehearsal Schedule — Fall 2012

#### Adult Choir

Wednesdays 7:45–9:30 p.m.  
Beginning Wednesday, September 5, in the Sanctuary

**Beth Norton**, Director

#### Gospel Choir

(Youth in grades 7–12)  
Sundays 10:00–11:00 a.m.  
Beginning Sunday, September 16, in the Wright Tavern

**Anderson Manuel**, Director

#### Junior Choir

(Grades 1–3)  
Wednesdays 4:30–5:00 p.m.  
Beginning Wednesday, September 12, in the Parish Hall

**Gail Carey**, Director

#### Chalice Choir

(Grades 4–6)  
Wednesdays 5:15–6:00 p.m.  
Beginning Wednesday, September 12, in the Parish Hall

**Gail Carey**, Director

#### Handbell Choir

Sunday afternoons 1:00–3:00 p.m.  
Fall session beginning Sunday, September 23, through October 28

**Martha Goodman**, Director

For more information, contact **Beth Norton** at 978-369-9602, ext. 420, or [music@firstparish.org](mailto:music@firstparish.org).

Cuts? Scrapes? Bruises? Sound familiar? These are the marks of a good summer. They are the real tattoos of adventure, the stuff of stories, bragging rights for kids. “Look what happened to me!” as they roll up a pant leg ... or two. As parents, we are in a difficult spot. We want our kids to go out and play,

but the thought of them getting hurt is scary. We pad them and warn them and watch over them. We want to be good parents. We are good parents. But kids also have a need to take risks and test their physical, mental and spiritual limits. Somehow, we must learn to trust their judgment and continue to stand by them even when — especially when — they do end up with a box of Band-Aids on their face. That is love too.



Me? What kind of summer did I have? One wasp sting, three yellow jacket stings, and a minor stress fracture in my foot from dancing. Not too bad, for a summer. ♦

— Pam Howell

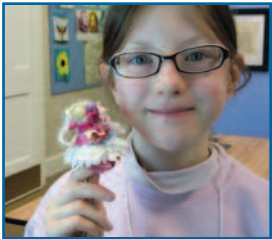
Director of Religious Education

### Homecoming Sunday on September 9

We will have an Intergenerational Service. Please remember to bring a small amount of water from a special place for our Water Communion.

### Second–Fifth Grade Workshop Rotation Fall Term — Our Judeo-Christian Teachings

This term will focus on the Hebrew Scriptures and some of the fundamental stories of the Bible. We will be starting with Adam and Eve and discussing temptation. We will explore Noah’s Ark, the Tower of Babel, Jacob and Esau, Jacob’s Ladder and the stories of Jacob. We will also be welcoming our Transylvania



visitors and inviting their children to be pen pals with our kids.

On All Souls Sunday, we will remember our losses, which has become an important ritual in our Sunday morning gathering on October 28. Photos and small mementos are always welcome for this important Sunday.



## September 2012 RE Calendar

- Sun., Sept. 9 Regular RE for Babies–4 years  
Intergenerational Service for K–8th Grades at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Sun., Sept. 16 Regular RE for Babies–4 years  
Regular RE for K-5th Grades (Emerson Room)  
6th/7th Grade Art in Action at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)  
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 4 p.m. (Wright Tavern)  
9th Grade Coming of Age at 5 p.m. (Emerson Room)
- Sun., Sept. 23 Regular RE for Babies–4 years  
Regular RE for K-6th Grades  
6th Grade in the Icy Cave, Trip to Cemetery  
7th Grade Art in Action 11a.m. (Brooks Room and Trip to Garden)  
8th Dramatic Arts at 11a.m. (Wright Tavern)
- Sun., Sept. 30 Regular RE for Babies–4 years  
Regular RE for K-5th Grades  
6th Grade in the Icy Cave, Trip to Cemetery  
7th Grade Art in Action at 11p.m. (Brooks Room)  
8th Grade Dramatic Arts at 11p.m. (Wright Tavern)  
9th Grade Coming of Age at 5 p.m. (Emerson Room)

### Sixth/Seventh Grade Neighboring Activists

This year the Fall Term will be exploring our dreams for social justice through the power of dirt! Our kids will be headed out to harvest the First Parish Garden that many of them planted in the spring. They will be collecting food and flowers for Open Table, joining in on the Crop Walk and working at Gaining Ground. They will also be taking our Transylvania visitors over to the garden to show them our beautiful Community Garden in Concord. Their last service project will be The Bucket Brigade. The Bucket Brigade brings much needed sand to our seniors in Concord so they are prepared for that first winter snowstorm. This term will be active — hands-on, get dirty and get outside in our community doing the physical work of social justice.



### Eighth Grade Dramatic Arts

We are continuing the tradition of “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” with our eighth graders, and we are thrilled that **Caroline**

RE News

continued on page 9



and Jimmy McCloy will once again be leading this dynamic group of eighth graders in this timeless play. At the end of the term, these eighth graders will put on the play for the entire RE program. Why drama in RE? Plays require commitment, accountability and presence. Theater allows our young teens to take safe risks. Theater also creates something unique and special between a group of people. We want our kids to be connected to each other, to caring adults, and to our First Parish community. Year after year, our kids report that this play accomplishes all this and more.

**Ninth Grade Coming of Age**

We are starting the year off well with great lay leadership for Coming of Age. Jamie Atkins will be leading this year's program. Their first meeting is on September 16 at 5 p.m. This first meeting includes parents too. Please bring a potluck appetizer for all to enjoy.

**Youth Group for Ninth–Twelfth Graders on Sunday Evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. starting September 9 in the Wright Tavern**

Our youth have really stepped up to take on leading Youth Group with Avi Salloway, our Youth Director. This year our Sunday night programming will be lots of fun and filled with youth-led games and food. If your teen is in Coming of Age, he or she should plan to stay for Youth Group. COA ends at 6:30, and we will have something for them to eat at Youth Group. We have so much going on this year for youth — El Salvador, Transylvania, the fall and winter retreats. Our Sunday Night Youth Group is where all the fun begins.

**Our First Parish Community Garden**

Thanks to the commitment of Ellen Matheson and Dinny McIntyre, we have been able to continue our garden through the summer, and it is still going strong. So many parishioners have signed up to care

for the garden this summer and it is the best it has ever been. Our Sixth Graders prepared the soil well in the spring with so much organic material (code for manure), and it is really paying off. We still meet each Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. to work, pick and deliver food to Open Table.

This is a great way for our children (and our adults) to learn how to grow food and help others. This is an intergenerational opportunity to get your body moving and your hands dirty. Please join us.



**NOTE: Teacher Orientation Info on page 11**

**SENIOR YOUTH NEWS: THE HEARD**

Hello, First Parish friends! After a summer on the road playing concerts and working on the Israeli-Palestinian youth music movement, I am inspired to be back to work with the spirited youth of the church. What an incredible year we shared last year. There is so much to look forward to ahead!



**September 8:** El Salvador Trip Meeting, the Wright Tavern, 5:00 p.m. All folks traveling to El Salvador will be getting together to get to know one another and learn about the April trip.

**September 9:** Youth Group Homecoming, the Wright Tavern, 6:30 p.m. Come one, come all to the welcome back party. We'll be playing games, eating pizza, catching up and getting to know new friends.

**September 21–23:** Retreat to Ferry Beach, Saco, Maine

Join us for a weekend on the beach, with bonfire jams, camping, cooking, games, sharing and discussion. We'll be joined by some visiting friends from our Transylvanian partner church in Székelykeresztúr. This trip is a highlight for The Heard. Come join the fun! Pick up your permission slips in the church office and submit them to me by September 9.

Can't wait to see you all soon! ♦

Yours truly,

— *Avi Salloway*

Youth Program Director

**The RE Council**

Our Religious Education program has an amazing council this year. This council makes all of our programming possible. Together, we plan curriculum, make decisions about our program and its mission, building community and supporting you, as parents. Most of us understand that we cannot raise our children alone, in isolation. We need others. The council makes RE a caring community for your child to belong to and serve others.

This year the council will be chaired by Dawn Van Patten, with Lora Venesy serving as vice-chair. As members, we have Kate Svrcek, Patty Popov, Alyssa Bigay, Suzanne Hogan, Jeff Brainerd, Rachael Morris and Jan Goddard Taylor. Each will take on a specific role in the RE Program. I am deeply grateful for this team of very dedicated adults who realize how lucky we are to have such an amazing community of RE families. If you are interested in joining the council (because it is really fun too), then let one of us know of your interest. We would love to include you.

## School Supplies Needed

It's "Back to School" time, and the Advocacy Network to End Family Homelessness is teaming up with Mass. Coalition for the Homeless to collect school supplies. For the homeless children whose parents are struggling to fund the basic necessities, there is no fun back-to-school shopping trip, but we can help! Please help us collect school supplies to be given to the hundreds of homeless children in Massachusetts. New or gently used backpacks are especially needed. However, pens, pencils, lined paper, highlighters, Wite-Out, erasers, etc., are needed too. Please place your donations in the marked box in the coatroom through the month of September. Thank you! For more information, please call **Jane Blumberg** at 978-369-8520.

## Get involved in Drop-Off Day

A relatively new Social Action activity at First Parish is the Drop-Off Day in January. This has proven to be a really fun and highly successful event, one that is possible for the whole family to enjoy and support. People from our community bring nice used clothing, toys and household goods to the Parish Hall, where they are carefully organized and packed up for distribution to groups that supply needy families in Massachusetts. There are ways for the whole family to participate. If you would like to become involved, please contact **Abby White** at [abbywhite@comcast.net](mailto:abbywhite@comcast.net).



## Join Jenny and Elaine on the Crop Walk!

The Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 14, starting at First Parish. Registration begins at 1:30 p.m.; step-off is at 2:15 p.m. Funds raised go to support several local hunger relief organizations, and the global disaster relief and development projects of Church World Service. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to join **Elaine Peresluha** and **Jenny Rankin** walking with the First Parish team, or sponsor a walker. Go to [www.concordcrop.org](http://www.concordcrop.org) for more details, and look for the Crop table at coffee hours starting in mid-September. You may register to walk or make a donation online. This is a great social action project for families to participate in together!

## Making First Parish Greener

First Parish is committed to helping us live in environmentally sustainable ways. Here are some services First Parish's Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) is offering to help our community realize this goal.

**Tips.** We developed a menu of actions about how First Parish groups can incorporate sustainability into their work. Get a copy from the SAC website or we can send you one.

**Expertise.** We are available to help First Parish groups reduce the environmental impact of their activities and events. As your group plans an event, invite us to a meeting to brainstorm and discuss options that make sense.

**Resources.** We have a wealth of books, DVD's and information from the UUA, forums, environmental groups, etc. We're happy to share these resources with you.

Want more information? Contact cochairs **Peter Lowitt** ([PeterLowitt@devensec.com](mailto:PeterLowitt@devensec.com)) or **Chris Randall** ([chris\\_randall@wgbh.org](mailto:chris_randall@wgbh.org)).

## Transgender Film Series Offered at the First Religious Society in Carlisle This Fall

What is gender? How is gender different from male and female? Why is the word *Queer* being used today? What does *cisgender* mean? What does *transgender* mean? Are you informed about this aspect of human experience? Are you an ally and an advocate for justice? Three films will be presented at the First Religious Society in Carlisle, with an opportunity for reflection and asking questions. The goal is to apply our quest for knowledge toward deeper understanding of an evolving area of human identity. Who should attend? Adults and youth age 16 and up (or who have completed the eighth grade Our Whole Lives — OWL — curriculum).

Films are as follows:

- *Ma Vie en Rose*  
<http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi1855389977/>
- *Two Spirits*  
<http://www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi1540620825/>
- *TransAmerica*  
<http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi1593770265/>

Sundays, September 30, October 21 and November 18, from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is at School and Church streets in Carlisle, overlooking the green. Use the side entrance on Church Street. Suggested donation is \$4. For more information, contact Rev. Diane Miller, [minister@uucarlisle.org](mailto:minister@uucarlisle.org), or call 978-369-0284 or the church office at 978-369-5180.

## 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, [sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist](http://sac.firstparish.org/cms/sacemaillist); or visit the Social Action bulletin board.

**The Women's AM/PM Book Group  
New Schedule!**

Welcome to a new year of book discussions with the First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group! Please note that we are always open for drop-ins and you don't need to sign up to attend. If you'd like to join the discussion one month, just come to either the morning or evening session. The morning meetings are held Tuesdays at First Parish, usually in the Brooks Room, 9:30–11:00 a.m. The evening meetings are from 7:30–9:00 p.m. and have moved back to Mondays this year, they will be held at the home of **Steph Chiha**, since the church is closed on Mondays.

Discussions are usually the last week of the month (fourth or fifth Monday and Tuesday), with a few exceptions as indicated in the date list below. The morning session is facilitated by **Darien Smith** and the evening by **Siri Smedvig**. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group e-mail list, please contact **Darien Smith** at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com), or 978-369-1471.

Books and Dates for 2012-2013 are as follows:

- Sept. 24, 25 *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, by Isabel Wilkerson
- Oct. 29, 30 *The 19th Wife: A Novel*, by David Ebershoff
- Dec. 3, 4 *The Art of Racing in the Rain: A Novel*, by Garth Stein
- Jan. 28, 29 *The Unlikely Disciple: A Sinner's Semester at America's Holiest University*, by Kevin Roose
- Feb. 25, 26 *State of Wonder: A Novel*, by Ann Patchett
- Mar. 25, 26 *Parallel Lives: Five Victorian Marriages*, by Phyllis Rose
- Apr. 22, 23 *Denial: A Memoir*, by Jessica Stern
- May 20, 21 *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks

**Orientation for Religious Education Teachers for 2012–2013**

**Orientations for Little Folks' RE Teachers (0 years–1st Grade) in the Emerson Room:**

Caregiving, Story Time and Spirit Play, Fall and Holiday Terms: Saturday, September 8, 9:30–11:00 a.m.

Caregiving, Story Time and Spirit Play, Winter and Spring Terms: Saturday, January 12, 9:30–11:00 a.m.

**Orientation Schedule for Middle RE ( 2nd–5th Grades) Teachers in the Emerson Room:**

Fall Term #1: Wednesday, September 12, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Holiday Term #2: Wednesday, November 14, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Winter Term #3: Wednesday, January 23, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

Spring Term #4: Wednesday, April 3, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

**Orientation Schedule for Teen RE — 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Grade Leaders**

6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists, Fall Term: Wednesday, September 5, 7:30 p.m.

6th/7th Grade Neighboring Activists, Holiday Term: Wednesday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.

6th Grades Winter Term, Race to Justice: Wednesday, January 23, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

6th Grades Spring Term, First Parish Garden: Wednesday, April 3, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

7th Grade Neighboring Faiths Winter Term: January 9, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

7th Grade Neighboring Faiths Spring Term: March 20, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

8th Grade Dramatic Arts, Fall and Holiday Terms: Sunday, September 9, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

8th Grade Our Whole Lives (OWL) Leader Orientation: Wednesday, November 28, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

9th Grade Mentor Orientation: Sunday, September 9, 4:30–7:30 p.m. (Wright Tavern)

9th Grade COA Opening Reception for Parents and Teens: Sunday, September 16, 5:00–6:30p.m.

9th-12th Grade Youth Group

First Youth Group Meeting, Sunday, September 9 at 6:30 p.m. (Wright Tavern)

Youth Fall Retreat to Ferry Beach: September 21–23

## STANDING COMMITTEE

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### First Parish Standing Committee — Annual Calendar for Discussions about Governing Policy 2012-2013

(August 23, 2012, **John M. Nevison**, Chair of the Standing Committee)

The calendar of Standing Committee (SC) meetings includes many topics such as finances, mission, congregational discernment, strategy and policy, transition issues, and evaluation of performance. Below is the 2012-2013 calendar of the discussions that will be about Governing Policies. We expect additional topics on policy to be added to the agenda as we discover areas that require SC subcommittee attention to collect further data and formulate recommendations.

The Standing Committee now meets at First Parish on the second Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Copies of the policies are available from either **Melissa Gallo** or **Suzie Weaver**.

**July** – Discussion of First Parish By-Laws. Draft definition of terms for policy, goal, and organizational discussions. Introduction to First Parish’s Governing Policies and to First Parish’s Operating Procedures and Policies.

**August** – Framework for Strategic Ends development at retreat. Discussion of “How to Write Strong Strategic Ends.”

**September** – At SC retreat, write and revise Strategic Ends, Annual Tactical Goals, and begin work on Annual Operating Goals for the Executive Team (ET) and SC. At SC meeting, work from Strategic Ends to SC Annual Operating Goals.

At Congregational Listening Sessions, review fresh Strategic Ends. Also review Structural Changes and Financial Goals for 2013-2014.

**October** – Discussion of the Standing Committee/Head-of-Staff Policies

**November** – Discussion of the Means Policies

**December** – Discussion of Congregational Discernment as reflected in Governing Policies

**January** – Discussion of evaluation and monitoring of Head-of-Staff as reflected in Governing Policies

**February** – Discussion of the SC Operations Policies and SC Operating Procedures

**March** – Discussion of second-level, detailed Governing Policies with special attention to the Policy on Committees

**April** – Discussion of Tactical, Annual Goals for 2013-2014

At Congregational Listening Sessions, review Tactical Goals and Financial Goals for 2013-2014

**May** – Emendations and updates to existing Governing Policies as recommended by SC subcommittees

**June** – Congregational Meeting approval of changes to By-laws. At SC meeting, review the year’s work on Governing Policies (as part of reviewing our own SC Annual Operating Goals), and refresh the policy calendar for next year

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

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It’s been a busy summer for members of the Ministerial Search Committee. We have been drafting sections of the Congregational Record, the first published information seen by ministers in search. The Ministerial Compensation Committee met with our district compensation consultant and sent recommendations to the Standing Committee on the range we need to offer in order to attract the best candidates. The Standing Committee will make the final determination of what compensation range we ultimately offer. We hope you will participate in the following important events:

- September 19, 7:30 p.m. – Discussion of the results from the 2012 Spring Survey (open to everyone)
- September 23, 12:45 p.m. – Discussion of the results from the 2012 Spring Survey (open to everyone)
- October 20, Time TBD – Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop with Rev. Keith Kron (open to everyone)

During September and October, we will work on polishing the Congregational Record and additional elements for our search packet. We will be putting together a video as part of that. Everything we create will be completed by October 31 and will ultimately be available for you to see.

offer high-quality handmade items for sale throughout our church facilities. The WPA will have its own boutique and delicious breakfast, lunch and snack foods which will be sold throughout the day, and a fun time will be had by all! Contact the church office or **Dian Pekin** at [pekindc@com-cast.net](mailto:pekindc@com-cast.net), to volunteer your help at this great community event.

### Upcoming "Green" Events at First Parish

First Parish's Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) sponsors and cosponsors films, events and forums. Here's our fall calendar:

**October 7:** Learn about Concord's local food network. **Debbie Barr** and members of the report's steering group will host a Sunday Forum (10:30 a.m.) and present "Building Local Food Connections: A Community Food System Assessment."

**October 14:** Celebrate the harvest with the "Bounty of the Earth" worship service (planned by the Springing Forward group, the ELT, and **Elaine Peresluha**), followed by the Crop Walk.

**November 18:** Attend the Sunday Forum on Climate change.

**December 14:** Join us for a presentation on fracking by expert Stephen Cleghorn.

**December 16:** Discuss fracking with Stephen Cleghorn at the Sunday Forum.

Stay tuned. Join one of the ELT's occasional dialog sessions to discuss such questions as:

- What does it mean to be a Green Sanctuary?
- How can our choices about food, beverages, dishes, cups, trash, etc., lessen the environmental impact of coffee hour and events?
- How can we promote recycling, reusing and composting?
- How can we promote energy efficiency (e.g., heating, lighting, carpooling, cycling, walking, etc.)?

### Jewish Awareness Group to Meet

The Jewish Awareness group holds its first meeting of 2012-13 on Friday evening, September 21, from 7 to 9 p.m. at First Parish. After lighting Sabbath candles, sharing challah and more, **Jim Snyder-Grant** will lead a discussion on *Using Hitler's Name in Political Discourse*. All are welcome. For more information, contact **Dana Snyder-Grant** at 978-266-9409 or [danasn@newview.org](mailto:danasn@newview.org).

### A Bit of Universalist History

Gloucester's new Harbor Walk includes a plate for our first Universalist church in the country, founded in 1779. This church boasts being a part of the United States Supreme Court's ruling on the separation of church and state (with the church's split with the Congregational Church, they

refused to pay church-supported city taxes, and subsequently won their court case). The Independent Christian Church building of 1806 still stands today in the center of Gloucester, Massachusetts: "Our lighted steeple remains a focal point in Gloucester's skyline." — Submitted by **Nancy P. James**

### Humanist Council September 21 Event

At the Phoenix 2012 "Justice" General Assembly, UU Humanists joined with local Mexican Librotraficantes in a successful "book smuggling," to protest the Tucson Public Schools' banning of 83 book titles from their schools to comply with Arizona House Bill 2281, prohibiting teaching courses in Mexican-American Studies. GA attendees "smuggled" 400 of these books for display at the HUUmanist booth. The books were later donated to create a community lending library at the new Puente Headquarters.

UU HUUmanists are now joining with the Librotraficantes (see <http://www.librotraficante.com>) to support 50 "Freedom of Speech" events across the United States on September 21. The First Parish Humanist Council is supporting this effort. If you would like to help organize, or attend, such an event at First Parish, please contact **Patrick Everett** at [pne@aol.com](mailto:pne@aol.com), for details.

### Sign Up for Improv and InterPlay Workshops

Whether you're a veteran of the theatre or just wish you were more at ease in front of a crowd, join **Kate Svrcek**, **CC King** and **Doug Hardy** in a series of workshops designed to help you think on your feet and trust your own creative instincts. (This workshop is part of the Spring Auction offerings, there are a few spaces left, so join us!) The series will include:

- theatre games (silly and fun)
- InterPlay (hard to explain, easy to do)
- improv (not scary, don't panic)
- stage craft and scene work (for those who want some real theatre to sink their teeth into)

Kate and Doug are both former professional actors; CC is the Boston area InterPlay Coordinator.

There are four two-hour workshops on Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; dates are September 21, October 5 and 19 and November 2. \$80 for the series. Maximum 18 participants (adults only, though maturity is not prerequisite).

For more information, contact **Kate Svrcek** at [katesvrcek@hotmail.com](mailto:katesvrcek@hotmail.com).

### Spring Musical! Save the Dates!

We are pleased to announce that First Parish will present a musical production on March 15 and 16, 2013, filled with Broadway songs dealing with all aspects of family life and directed by **Tom** and **Sue Beck**. Ranging in mood from funny to poignant, the songs will be instantly meaningful to anyone who has ever been part of a family. All interested

### Our Székelykeresztúr Visitors Arrive September 20!

It's nearly time to welcome our 14 partner congregation guests! The PCC, our ministers and staff, and other members of the First Parish community have planned an event-filled itinerary, open to all from September 20 to October 1, including:

- Thu., Sept. 20 Please join us in welcoming at First Parish (around 8:30 p.m.)
- Sat., Sept. 22 Local day hike, square dancing in the evening
- Sun. Sept., 23 Afternoon/evening — Revels RiverSing and picnic on the banks of the Charles — fun for the whole family. For information see <http://bit.ly/O8k6l9>
- Mon., Sept. 24 Day trip into Boston
- Thu., Sept. 27 Day trip to Plimouth Plantation and Cape Cod
- Sat., Sept. 29 Congregation potluck dinner and show at First Parish
- Sun., Sept. 30 Services celebrating Transylvanian Thanksgiving, sermon by Rev. Ferenc Mikó, with special music and other activities
- Sun., Sept. 30 Student sponsorship luncheon — meet students, learn about the program and education in Keresztúr

Look for further details on these and other events in the *Sunday News*, and on the PCC webpage: <http://bit.ly/xZwDwA>.

Calling all Volunteers! Help with the following activities would be appreciated:

- Greeters on September 20 to help make the arrival a special one. Please join us around 8:30 p.m.; it won't take long.
- Hosts for the Keresztúri visitors. This is an extraordinary opportunity, and, NO, you don't need to speak Hungarian to host. We especially need hosts for the youth, who will be making their homestays in pairs.
- Dinner hosting (i.e., providing a dinner at a host family's home). For those who are not able to host a visitor, but would like an opportunity to engage with our Keresztúri visitors. It's pretty simple ... just coordinate with one of the host families and bring and serve a prepared dinner to their home.
- Help with congregational meals at First Parish. We've scheduled a few Meeting House meals to help the Keresztúri visitors and FP congregation get to know one another. These are always great fun, with marvelous food and music. Helpers, both large and small, are needed!
- Drivers for tours and other recreational activities. Join us for fun events scheduled throughout the visit!

The PCC and RE communities are also beginning to plan for the July 2013 Family Visit Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr, especially for middle and high school youths and their parents. On Sunday, September 30, after the noon coffee hour, we will hold an information session about this exciting opportunity for First Parish families to visit Transylvania and explore our Unitarian roots.

If you can help out with any of these events, or if you have any questions, be sure to send an e-mail to our new PCC chair, **Ken Estabrook**.

As always, we invite you to join us at our next Partner Congregation Committee monthly supper meeting at the home of **Dana** and **Kathy Booth**, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. For further information, drop us a line.

*Minden jól!* "Best wishes!"  
— **Ken Estabrook**, PCC Chair  
[ken.estabrook@gmail.com](mailto:ken.estabrook@gmail.com)

- folks will be cast in the show, and we
- are seeking all ages, from youngsters to
- oldsters, so please mark the dates.
- There will be a range of numbers from
- ensembles to duets to solos. Our first
- meetings will be on December 7 and 9,
- and rehearsals will begin in earnest on
- January 4. We rehearse Friday and
- Sunday evenings, but extra meetings
- may be scheduled during the week
- (with special arrangement for young-
- sters). For more information, contact
- **Sue Beck** at [sbeck345@comcast.net](mailto:sbeck345@comcast.net).

### Calling All Knitters

- Catnip-ball-cover knitters needed for
- WPA Artisans Fair project to be sold at
- November 3 fair. Workshops will be
- held in October. Dates announced
- later. Please contact **Becky Blodgett** for
- directions or questions at 978-369-
- 2564, or [becky.blodgett@verizon.net](mailto:becky.blodgett@verizon.net).

### Intergenerational Sewing Circle Getting Started

- We are organizing a sewing/knitting
- circle for any age! Please come and join
- us for four Friday evenings for sewing,
- conversation, tea and cookies. We will
- meet beginning Friday, September 21,
- from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Future dates
- are September 28, October 12 and
- October 19.

- While anyone is invited to come and
- bring their fabric art project, we will
- also be working on a group project as a
- present for our Transylvania Partner
- Church. Our RE children will be mak-
- ing a Pen-Pal Quilt of a patchwork of
- their faces. This quilt will serve as a
- carrier for pen-pal letters between our
- children and those of our partner
- church. This project is an extension of
- our work in our Sunday RE class.
- Questions? Please ask **Susan Nash** at
- 781-697-0008. All ages are welcome!

# SEPTEMBER 2012 CALENDAR

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

## Every Week...

Ministerial Search Committee	Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Neighboring Activist	Sunday	9:00 and 11:00 a.m. (Starts Sep 16)
Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m. (Starts Sep 16 at 9:30)
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m. (Starts Sep 12)
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m. (Starts Sep 12)
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Sun Sep 2	10:00	Last Summer Service	.	7:30	Women's Circle Equinox
Tue Sep 4	1:00	Over-65 Planning Meeting	.	7:30	Keresztúri Welcome Reception
Wed Sep 5	6:00	Arts Council	.	Fri Sep 21	9:30 <i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>
	6:00	Standing Committee Retreat	.		10:00 Congregational Discernment Listening Session
	6:30	<i>Concord Area Humanist</i>	.		10:00 <i>Music Together Open House</i>
	7:30	Teacher Orientation	.		12:00 Meeting House News Deadline
Thu Sep 6	7:30	By Your Side Singers	.		7:00 Jewish Awareness Group
Sat Sep 8	9:00	Photography Club	.		7:30 Theatre Workshop
	9:30	Teacher Orientation	.		3:00 Congregational Discernment Listening Session
	5:30	All Church Picnic	.	Sat Sep 22	5:00 Kereszt'ri Program
Sun Sep 9	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Opening Sunday, One Service</b>	.	Sun Sep 23	12:30 Congregational Discernment Listening Session
	10:30	Sunday Forum	.		12:45 Survey Review Presentation
	12:30	Communications Committee	.		1:00 Bell Choir
	4:30	COA Mentor Orientation	.		1:00 Keresztúri Program
	6:30	Standing Committee Meeting	.	Tue Sep 25	4:00 8th Grade Dramatic Arts
	6:45	Crop Walk Recruiters	.		9:30 Women's Book Group
	7:00	ELT	.		9:30 <i>Music Together</i>
	7:30	Teacher Orientation	.		11:30 WPA Luncheon
Mon Sep 10	6:00	Standing Committee Retreat	.		12:00 <i>Yoga</i>
Tue Sep 11	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	.	Wed Sep 26	1:00 Photo Directory Session
	1:00	Photo Directory Sessions	.		1:00 Pastoral Care Lay Ministers
	7:30	Forum Committee	.		1:00 Photo Directory Session
Wed Sep 12	1:00	Photo Directory Sessions	.	Thu Sep 27	9:30 <i>Music Together</i>
	7:30	Teacher Orientation	.		7:00 <i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>
Sun Sep 16	4:00	8th Grade Dramatic Arts	.	Fri Sep 28	9:30 <i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>
	4:00	Jack DeMuth Photography Reception	.		9:30 <i>Music Together</i>
	5:00	COA Opening Reception	.		7:30 <i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	5:30	YAC	.	Sat Sep 29	5:00 Keresztúri program
	6:30	Youth Group	.	Sun Sep 30	1:00 Bell Choir
Tue Sep 18	10:00	<i>Music Together Open House</i>	.		1:00 Keresztúri Program
	7:00	Reproductive Justice	.		4:00 8th Grade Dramatic Arts
Wed Sep 19	7:30	Survey Review Presentation	.		6:30 Youth Group
Thu Sep 20	10:00	<i>Music Together Open House</i>	.		
	7:00	Congregational Discernment Listening Session	.		
	7:00	<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program</i>	.		
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	.		

## Two Auction Parties Coming Up! (And More to Come!) Don't Miss Out!

There is a First Parish Auction party every month from now through February! Here are the first two on the horizon.

*Tickets are on sale at coffee hours and in the church office.*

### Indian Summer Fiesta, September 29, 7:00–10:00 p.m. at Hacienda Olson!

Come celebrate in grand Fiesta style en la casa de **Janine** and **Sven Olsen**, 141 Caterina Heights, Concord.

Gather with First Parish friends (the more the merrier!) for an evening of good company and comida deliciosa.

Your ticket (\$30 per person) includes authentic Mexican hors d'oeuvres and an open bar serving the best margaritas north of the border.



- **Show Tunes Party, October 6, 7:30 p.m., 225 Holden Wood Road (Corner of East Circle), Concord**
- Do you find yourself belting out “I Feel Pretty” while stuck in traffic? Do you secretly love the music of Andrew Lloyd-Webber?
- Do you sing “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair” while actually washing your hair?
- No use sitting alone in your room! Join us at the Show Tunes Party! We'll provide the piano, guitar accompaniment and all the lyrics.

You choose the songs. Your ticket (\$25 per person) includes an array of wine, beer, appetizers and desserts. The evening is hosted by **Tim Jacoby, Gail Carey, Jim Reynolds, Rick Moore, Rob Castillo** and **Kate Svrcek**.

## SEPTEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

The October Newsletter deadline is Friday, September 21, at noon.  
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, October 2.

**Office Hours:** Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.\*

Phone: 978-369-9602

Fax: 978-369-8701

E-Mail: [FPConcord@firstparish.org](mailto:FPConcord@firstparish.org)

Website: [www.firstparish.org](http://www.firstparish.org)

\* **PLEASE NOTE:** The office is CLOSED on Mondays.

### First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

#### Staff

**Elaine Beth Peresluha**, Interim Senior Minister

**Jenny M. Rankin**, Minister

**Melissa Perdue Gallo**, Business Manager

**Tony Fisher**, Intern Minister

**Bethany Lowe**, Director of Social Action

**Rachel Baker**, Director of Congregational Life

**Gary E. Smith**, Minister Emeritus

**Christy McKellips**, Assistant to the Ministers

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• **Emily Wheeler**, Religious Education Administrative Assistant

• **Avi Salloway**, Youth Program Director

• **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

• **Douglas Baker**, Sacristan and Curator

• **Cassy Bosworth**, Office Manager

• **Peggy Gallo**, Volunteer Collector

• **Kate Keleher**, Volunteer Newsletter Editor

• **Kaye Harvie**, Volunteer Copy Editor



# SUNDAY FORUM

10:30 - Noon in the Chapel  
First Parish Church, Concord, Massachusetts

*September 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 – Noon*

## **Lawrence Lessig: How Money Corrupts Congress**

The influence of money in politics has exploded. While the Citizens United case has helped focus the public's attention on Corporate money in elections, we have a Congress that's dependent upon funders. And that dependency leads Congress to do things they otherwise wouldn't be doing. It leads Americans to believe that Congress is just bought. We are very pleased to have Professor Lessig for the first Sunday Forum of the fall to discuss these issues in what he calls a "dependency corruption."



*September 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 – Noon*

## **Phil Villers: Healthcare Reform**

Philippe Villers is the co-founder of Families USA. In 1981, he and his wife, Kate, founded the organization (initially called The Villers Foundation). He has served as its President and as a member of the Board of Directors since the inception of Families USA. He is deeply committed to Families USA's mission of achieving universal access to high quality, affordable health and long-term care for all Americans.



*September 30<sup>th</sup> 10:30 – Noon*

## **General Assembly Delegates: 2012 General Assembly Events**

All General Assemblies, without exception, are filled with informative and inspirational events. We had a great group of delegates representing First Parish at GA this year and some of those delegates will report on their GA experiences.





# Join us as we CONNECT our families

Please be a part of our new family directory program—we need YOU to make our new family album complete!

Let's put names with faces. We have chosen to partner with Lifetouch for professional photography that will connect our members and tell our story.

## Convenient

Lifetouch will photograph at our location.

In your one-hour session you will:

- Check-in
- Be professionally photographed
- Immediately view your portraits
- Have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

When was the last time you or your family had a professional portrait taken?

Portraits are valued family keepsakes. Watch for more information coming soon about the opportunity to schedule your portrait session.

We look forward to seeing you!



Each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating



Exciting products turn your portraits into cherished memories

*Products may vary*

# The Women's Parish Association

First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts

2012 – 2013 Schedule of Events

(Check *The Meeting House News* each month for any updates and further details.)

## September, 2012

**Tuesday, September 25:** WPA Luncheon & Annual Meeting – 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Note: At this luncheon meeting, we will host visitors from Transylvania who will give a presentation about their church and women's activities. Following the presentation, we will hold our Annual Meeting.

## October, 2012

**Tuesday, October 23:** WPA Luncheon Meeting – 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## November, 2012

**Friday, November 2:** Set-Up For Artisans' Fair – 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 3:** Holiday Artisans' Fair – 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, November 4:** Coffee Hour Sale of Artisans' Fair Items at both coffee hours.

**Tuesday, November 20:** WPA Luncheon Meeting – 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## December, 2012

**Tuesday, December 11:** Holiday Concert and Tea – 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

## January, 2013

**Tuesday, January 22:** WPA Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## February, 2013

**Tuesday, February 26:** WPA Luncheon Meeting- 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## March, 2013

**Tuesday, March 19:** WPA Spring Concert and Tea– 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

## April, 2013

**Saturday, April 6:** WPA Flea Market/Recycle Sale - 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 23:** WPA Luncheon Meeting- 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## May, 2013

**Tuesday, May 21:** WPA Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## June, 2013

**Tuesday, June 18:** WPA Luncheon Meeting - 11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Note: All luncheon meetings will include lunch and a program. Details about each program and reservation and cost information will be published in *The Meeting House News* each month.



for **Spiritual** Renewal

# The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • Fall 2012

The Wright Tavern Center is pleased to offer a variety of meaningful, thought-provoking and creative courses that provide for our infinite spiritual curiosity and development. Brief course descriptions are listed by day of the week. Please see the WTC website ([www.wrighttavern.org/cms/courses](http://www.wrighttavern.org/cms/courses)) for full course details and facilitator bios. To register contact Christy McKellips at, 978-369-9602, ext.412, unless a different registration contact is listed with the course description..

## NEW COURSE OFFERINGS

### Seven Sermons of Unitarian Universalism

Join this forum for exploration and discussion about seven important sermons and lectures from the history of Unitarian Universalism. The seven sermons considered begin with “Men Rewarded According to Their Works in Present Life,” by Hosea Ballou, 1819; and conclude with “Growth Both Wide and Deep,” by Sophia Lyon Fahs, 1958. Instructor: **Mark Richards**

Sunday: Sept. 9, 23; Oct. 7, 21; Nov. 4, 18; Dec. 2, 16  
4:00–6:00 p.m. Fee: \$30/8 sessions

### Gentle Yoga to Energize and Heal Your Total Self — Mind, Spirit and Soul

In this mid-level class, be open to move, breathe deeply, meditate and relax. Exercises may be done on a chair rather than the floor. Bring: yoga mat, meditation cushion, blanket and water. There will be no scented candles. Instructor: **Jai Kaur Annamaria San Antonio**

Tuesday: Sept. 25–Dec. 11 12:00-1:30 p.m. Fee: \$18 drop-in or \$15 paid in advance for full 12 sessions

### Spirit in Practice

This class explores practices undertaken for the purpose of connecting with the sacred ground of being. Eight spheres of practice will be considered: personal spiritual and communal worship practice; spiritual partnerships; and mind, body, soul, life and justice practices, within a forum for learning, sharing, and growth that can enrich faith journeys along many paths. Instructors: **Tony Fisher** and **Debra Dunnington**

Tuesday: Oct. 2, 16; Nov. 6, 20; Dec. 4, 18 7:00–9:00 p.m.  
2013 dates to come Fee: \$40/10 sessions

### Sick of It! Living beyond Illness

Join others and give voice to the illness experience in a new way. Explore universal existential issues — letting go, accepting limitations, and living with uncertainty. Journaling, reading and discussion will help participants navigate and make meaning of the spiritual journey of illness. Instructor: **Dana Snyder-Grant, LICSW**

Sunday: Oct. 14, 21, 28 4:00–6:00 p.m. Fee: \$20/3 sessions

### • Mid-Life Moms: Creating Your Future “...your one wild and precious life ...” — Mary Oliver

• Reenergize the spirit through time and support to focus on the question, “What do I want the next phase of my life to be about?” Through exercises, writing and sharing, explore circumstances, transitions and opportunities typical at this life stage. Consider where you are now, where you want to be, and the strategies and resources to inspire and take you there in a variety of collaborative activities. Instructor: **Kate Kavanagh, M.Ed.**

• Wednesday: Oct. 10 7:00–9:00 p.m. Fee: \$19

### • Spiritual Autobiography

• Spiritual autobiography records our inner experience in story, reflection or meditation. Create and share the story of your life in a safe and supportive environment. Stories may be shared in the final four class sessions. Class limited to ten participants. Instructors: **Alec Walker and Susan Page**

• Thursday: Sept. 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1, 8 7:00–9:00 p.m.  
• Fee: \$25/8 sessions

### • Heartsong Collage

• A creative and satisfying process of art and self-discovery. Select images that resonate strongly and combine them to create uniquely significant personal collages. Then use these creations for reflection, to intuitively explore life’s questions. Instructor: **Tamasin Foote**

• Thursday: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 29 6:30–9:30 p.m.  
• Fee: \$10/class/3 sessions

### • How to Become a Seasoned Soul

• The goals of this course are to gain resilience and to embrace the spiritual aspects of growing older, through reconnection with the life-giving experiences, wisdom and relationships gained over time. Themes include how to heal relationships, bear change, grieve, deepen relationships, take risks that will help complete life, and serve others with joy and fulfillment, and of course mortality. Instructor: **Eliza Blanchard**

• Thursday: Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25; Nov. 1 12:00–2:00 p.m.  
• Fee: \$150/5 sessions; plus \$12 for book if desired.

## Pilgrimage

Since ancient times, pilgrimage has been a spiritual practice in many of the world's religious traditions. Explore the spiritual practice of pilgrimage as practiced in Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. Participants will be asked to do a small amount of reading about the tradition that most interests them, and contribute to the exploration in a collaborative learning community. Instructor: **Rev. Jenny Rankin**

Thursday: Nov. 1, 8, 15 7:00–9:00 p.m. Fee: Free to First Parish members and friends Others: \$25/session

## CONTINUING OR REPEATING COURSES

### T'ai Chi and Qi Gong

T'ai Chi and Qi Gong improve stability, immune function, and create many of the benefits of meditation. Learn a series of connected movements that create movement similar to a slow-motion dance. If you've tried meditation, but find it hard to sit still, gently moving your body with this practice may be the way to give yourself those benefits. No experience is necessary. Wear comfortable clothing. Instructor: **Sue Wood**

Tuesday: Sept. 13–Nov. 10 6:30–8:00 p.m.  
Fee: \$120/9sessions

### Tibetan Buddhism

The Buddhist group meets in the First Parish Chapel Wednesdays mornings and Thursdays evenings to accommodate various schedules. These weekly sessions are open to all who are interested in transforming love, compassion and wisdom into action, regardless of familiarity with Tibetan Buddhism.

Contact: **Bill Seaver**

Ongoing: Wednesday: 9:30–11:00 a.m. Thursday: 7:30–9:00 p.m.  
Donations gratefully accepted

### Concord Area Humanist (CAH) Group

CAH inclusively brings together various nonsupernatural life-stances that emphasize our being responsible for what happens around us. Explore the intersection of science and culture, ethics and social trends, books and ideas. Discussions are informed by Buddhist, Judaic, Religious and Secular Humanism, Ethical Culture, Naturalism, and others that have a life-stance consistent with Humanism. Facilitators: **Patrick Everett** and **Maria Greene**

Wednesday: Sept. 5–Dec. 5, Jan. 2 7:00–9:00 p.m. 5 sessions  
Donation appreciated.

### Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Program (MBSR)

Cultivating mindfulness, or awareness of the present moment, creates the framework for this popular course modeled after the internationally recognized program established by Jon Kabat-Zinn at UMass Medical School. Participants in this interactive course will be introduced to and practice guided mindfulness

- meditation, relaxation techniques, gentle yoga stretches, and self-inquiry exercises. To register, contact Pam Ressler, [pressler@stressresources.com](mailto:pressler@stressresources.com) or 978-369-5243. Instructor: **Pam Katz Ressler, RN, MS, HN-BC**

- Choose session: Thursday: 7:00–9:00 p.m. Sept. 20–Nov. 8  
• or Friday: 9:30–11:30 a.m. Sept. 21–Nov. 9  
• Fee: \$290, plus \$85 materials fee

- \*Continuing Ed Units for nurses and other health professionals;  
• discount for Blue Cross Blue Shield members

### T'ai Ji and Qi Gong

- By combining music with Qi Gong and the simple movement of T'ai Ji, blocked energy is released to create wellness and bring life into balance. This class is geared to people of all ages. It offers gentle low-impact exercise to reduce stress, enhance optimal health and simply create a sense of joy in our lives.  
• Instructor: **Mae Pagan**

- Friday: Sept. 7, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14 12:30–1:30 p.m.  
• Fee: \$25 per class

### The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

- Once again the Women's Book Group selections are diverse, ambitious and thought-provoking, and provide opportunity to reflect upon the meaning of life. Share discussion, responses and insights to this year's readings. Find the book list at [www.wrighttavern.org/cms/courses](http://www.wrighttavern.org/cms/courses). Choose either the Monday evening or Tuesday morning group session (there is no fee).  
• Monday: 7:30–9:00 p.m. (offsite: contact First Parish for directions to this session). Tuesday: 9:30–11:00 a.m. (at First Parish)

### Rise Up Singing

- This informal monthly musical gathering of adults and children is an opportunity to sing and share traditional and contemporary folk songs, spirituals, hymns, rounds and chants in fellowship. Singers of all ages and experience are welcome; bring instruments if you wish. Leader: **Beth Norton** and **Others**  
• Friday: Oct. 26, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Jan. 25 7:30 p.m.  
• No fee required — just come and sing!

### ABC Music Together (Ages 0-4 years)

- Mixed-age classes offer an opportunity for children to participate at their own level, while the adults (no matter what their level of musical ability) and older children provide models for ways of music-making. Everyone in a mixed-age class benefits by experiencing the music-making of those around them — children, who have a special originality and spontaneity in their approach to music. Instructors: **Deb** and **Tom Foote**. To register, go to [www.abcmusictogether.com](http://www.abcmusictogether.com). Visit Tom's site at <http://www.rhythmkids.com/>.  
• Choose a 9-week session: Tuesday (Sept. 25), Thursday (Sept. 27) or Friday (Sept. 29); at 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. or 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.



# THE RETREAT TO FERRY BEACH

FOR THE HEARD THE FIRST PARISH  
YOUTH GROUP

**SEPTEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>-23**

**A WEEKEND ON THE BEACH W/  
BONFIRE JAMS, CAMPING, GAMES,  
COOKING, & SHARING IN SACO, MAINE!**

**JOINED BY OUR VISITING FRIENDS FROM TRANSYLVANIA**

**PLEASE RSVP TO AVI SALLOWAY: AVIFIRSTPARISH@GMAIL.COM**

*\*Thanks to Van Gogh for the inspiration*