



The Meeting House News

April 2, 2013
Volume 49, No. 8

REVERIES

Meditation on Covenant

Our Puritan forbears living in a land that was far harsher and more demanding than it is now, saw within themselves all that they needed to create beloved community.

Inside their circles of kinship, all were called, all were holy. Congregations of “saints,” as they called themselves, not too big and not too small, harkened back to the original free churches: the church of Abraham and Sarah, the new Christian communities seeded by Paul and the apostles.



The form of each church was the “visible covenant,” the consent among equals to join together in right relation with one another and to something greater than themselves. There was no need to bow to any other power but God, with whom every woman and man professed a personal connection. No presbytery, no bishop, no pope would have dominion over these saints. If and when their community needed help, they would call on their neighboring churches to offer wisdom or support.

When we walk through the doors of our Sanctuary, we come seeking something similar to that beloved community the Puritans believed they could achieve. We may not be as confident as they that we will find it, but why else would we come? Whether we claim to be Humanist, Christian, Buddhist, Pagan, or anything else, we seek that communion of souls that will help us to deepen as individuals, because we sense — we know — it can't be done in solitude.

We feel a need for connection, but we have a hard time giving up our individualism. We have taken the concept of individual freedom and, to our peril, have separated it from the idea of responsibility one to the other.

What we lack, perhaps, is the humility of those early settlers who knew that the world was too harsh to go it alone, who felt unworthy to join themselves into a church but pursued the ideal anyway by covenanting with one another, “to cleave each to the other as fellow members of one body in brotherly love.” (*From the first covenant of First Parish in Lexington, <http://www.fpcuu.org/index.php/history>*)

Early in February, as a response to the great work done by both the Governance Task Force and the Our Whole Congregation group, both **Elaine Peresluha** and Stefan Jonasson spoke to the value of making a more formal commitment to one another.

So let us consider a new covenant.

Let us, together, find language that will inspire that commitment to beloved community that transcends the desires of the individual. Let us truly learn how to live in right relation and walk together in love.

May it be so.

Blessings,

Tony Fisher

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1 REVERIES
In This Issue
- Page 2 Photo Directory Update
Worship Services Schedule
- Page 3 Parish Notes
Arts Corner Events
- Page 4 Parish Notes, continued
- Page 5 Parish Notes, continued
Labyrinth Information
- Page 6 Pastoral Care News
Women's News
- Page 7 Ministerial Search Committee
Transcendental Council
- Page 8 Congregational Life
Money Matters
- Page 9 MUSings
Stewardship Note
- Page 10 REflections and RE News
- Page 11 RE News, continued
Senior Youth News
- Page 12 SAC News and Events
- Page 13 SAC News and Events, continued
Partner Congregation Committee
- Page 14 Standing Committee News
UU Note
Community News
- Page 15 April 2013 Calendar
- Page 16 First Parish Contact Info and Staff

There are two inserts at the end of this newsletter:

- ◆ Megan Marshall Book Event
- ◆ Wright Tavern Center Programs

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.

The First Parish Photo Directory Has Arrived!

Our long-awaited photo directory is here. Our first copies have been reserved for people whose pictures appear in the book and can be picked up at coffee hour after either service on April 7. Some copies for people whose pictures do not appear will be available at a later date. The office will maintain a resource copy for general use. Our roster will be placed on our First Parish website under double password protection this spring after parishioners have had the opportunity to make changes in their online information. Warm thanks go to **Anne Fortier, Berni Jenkins, Kate Keleher and Victor Curran** for their leadership on this project.

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

May: Friday, April 19
June: Friday, May 17

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

Editor's Note: *We are delighted that writers are so enthusiastic, but gently suggest using fewer exclamation marks. A former editor's rule was to use an exclamation mark only to announce the Second Coming — and only if He actually did come. Thanks.*

Ministerial Search Committee Announces Our Candidate! See Page 7 for details.

Sunday, April 7

Reflecting on Rhythm and Rhyme — Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha

This Sunday we celebrate National Poetry month by honoring with poetry and song the more than 50 people who have signed the membership book this year. This reflective service holds up the power of words, poetically structured to inspire and comfort us, challenge and surprise us.

9:00 – First Parish Choir

11:00 – Gospel Choir

Sunday, April 14

A Glorious Morning — Tony Fisher

There is so much more to remember on Patriot's Day than the lively skirmishes in Concord and Lexington (though there are some wonderful stories that spring from that day 238 years ago). The roots of our Unitarian faith are also inextricably tangled with the people and ideas that helped foment a revolution.

One service at 10:00 — First Parish Choir

Tuesday, April 16

Taize-style Vespers Service — 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for a Taize-style vespers service led by the By Your Side Singers, with **Beth Norton, Tony Fisher, Bethany Lowe and Rachel Baker**. Gather in the Chapel for a candlelit worship service of songs, poetry, scripture and silence. Come experience an hour of contemplative worship, where we will let our hearts and lungs sing. May it help us to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

Sunday, April 21

Earth Day — Intergenerational Service

Today it is all about the grandeur of our Earth, the beauty of this planet that carries us so graciously through our lives. Come to sing, celebrate and own our human place amongst the family of creation.

9:00 – Pamela Schweppe, soprano

11:00 – First Parish Choir

Sunday, April 28

First Candidating Service — Rev. Howard N. Dana

9:00 & 11:00 – Children's Choirs and First Parish Choir

Finding Your Interim Minister

Elaine Peresluha will be traveling some this month. April 3-4 she will be retreating in North Andover with other district ministers. April 10-19 she will be attending two conferences for interim ministers, one in Taos, New Mexico and one in San Antonio, Texas. At the end of the month, she will be working from home, discreetly invisible as you welcome your ministerial candidate to First Parish and begin that new relationship. She will be available as needed. Other than those specific dates, Elaine's hours are the following:

- 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, or at 20 Lexington Road, Concord, 978-369-9602, ext. 411.

In addition to regular office hours, Elaine makes appointments to meet with people at other times. E-mail Elaine at uurevdoc@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

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

Wright Tavern Open House

What was it like to run a tavern in 1775?

How did First Parish come to own a National Historic Landmark?

Stop over at the Wright Tavern on Thursday evening April 4, from 7 to 8 p.m.

And also, plan to come celebrate our history in front of the Wright Tavern on April 15, Patriot's Day, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call **Pat Brinkman** for more information, 781-259-9639.

Sponsor the Sunday Flowers

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

A Visual Celebration

Join other First Parish photography lovers at the First Parish Photography Club's 11th annual exhibit and reception in the Parish Hall, from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 5.

The free exhibit features club members' photographs, hung on the Parish Hall stage and elsewhere in the church, slide shows of their other work — from landscapes and travel pictures to portraits, street photography, and impressions of nature; cards, calendars, and a startling exhibit of 3-D photography.

You and your family can also have your picture taken during the exhibit by the club's portrait photographers and receive a free 8 x 10 print.

First Parish Arts Corner — Fostering Community through the Arts

Each month, in this "corner," the First Parish Arts Council highlights events for the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of the arts at First Parish. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to music@firstparish.org.

April 3 at 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting

April 5 at 7:00 p.m. – Play Reading Group

April 7 at 4:00 p.m. – Hope Out Loud II Concert – UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury

April 10 at 6:00 p.m. – Gospel Choir Visioning Meeting

April 13 at 9:00 a.m. – Photo Club, open to all First Parish adults

April 21 at 7:00 p.m. – Oriana Consort Concert

April 26 at 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Singing, First Parish's monthly song circle, open to singers, instrumentalists and listeners of all ages.

April 27 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. – Members of the First Parish Choir at the District Assembly in Worcester.

For more information on these events, check the *Meeting House News*, 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. The council is open to all interested parishioners. Contact **Lillian Anderson**, chair, for more information: lillianand@com-cast.net.



Photography Club exhibit

There will be experts on hand to answer any questions you have about cameras, photography in the digital age, and techniques for taking good pictures. You can also learn about the activities of the photography club, which include tutorials, slide shows, field trips, and the use of a top-notch printing facility. First Parish members with an interest in photog-

raphy are always welcome to join the club.

All this plus refreshments, good conversation, and a guaranteed warm welcome. Mark your calendars now and come enjoy the art of photography— Sunday, May 5, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Taize-style Vespers Service — Tuesday, April 16, 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Taize-style vespers service led by the By Your Side Singers, with **Beth Norton, Tony Fisher, Bethany Lowe** and **Rachel Baker**. Join us for a candlelit worship service of songs, poetry, scripture and silence. Come experience an hour of contemplative worship where we will let our hearts and lungs sing. May it help us to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

Oriana Consort—Sunday, April 21, at 5:00 p.m.

The Oriana Consort, a 34-voice chorale based in Cambridge, sings at First Parish on Sunday, April 21, at 5 p.m. Director Walter Chapin and Assistant Director Caroline Harvey will lead the group in “A Choral Odyssey,” a program of choral works by four German composers and four American composers — J. S. Bach,



Several Oriana Consort singers

Felix Mendelssohn, Paul Hindemith, Georg Phillip Telemann, Samuel Barber, Irving Fine, Leonard Bernstein, and Eric Whitacre.

A reception in the Parish Hall for the audience and singers will follow the concert.

This July, the group takes its very first international tour; Oriana’s singers will travel to Germany, where they will present the above program twice in Frankfurt and twice in Leipzig.

Flea Market/Recycle Sale on April 6

The Women’s Parish Association will hold its Flea Market/Recycle Sale on Saturday, April 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to rent a table, contact **Pat Kane**

at cstmcloth@yahoo.com or at 978-369-8418 as soon as possible. There are still a few tables left, but they are going fast. Table rentals are \$35.00 per table. We will not be doing a general collection of items, so if you want to sell items, one or two families could get together to rent a table. We will be collecting some high-quality gift items in very good condition to be sold at the WPA table. Small, portable items such as jewelry, table decorations, high-quality paintings and photographs, nice candle holders, popular CD’s, and popular DVD’s might be appropriate. Bring your items to the WPA table at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 6. Since we have to pay a company to take away unsold items, the committee reserves the right not to accept items that it thinks will not be sold. Snacks and lunch items will be sold throughout the day. Tell all your friends and neighbors about this popular event.

Arts Council Play Reading Group

The pleasure of reading plays aloud with a group is happening this spring. All are welcome. We gather the first Friday of each month. Contact **Linda Hardiman** at lmhardiman@gmail.com or 617-909-1196, call or text.

Friday, April 5, 7-10 p.m. — “Driving Miss Daisy”

A widowed Jewish woman is deemed too old to drive and her son hires an African-American man to serve as her chauffeur. A troubled and hostile pairing blossoms into a profound, life-altering friendship that transcends all the societal boundaries placed between them.

Friday, May 3, 7-10 p.m. — “Good People”

In South Boston, a sharp-tongued single mom is let go from yet another job. Scrambling to make ends meet, she looks up an old flame, hoping he’ll help her make a fresh start.

Thank You from “The Family Way”!

The cast and crew of “The Family Way” would like to thank all who came to one of our shows or dress rehearsals for their support. You were an amazing audience. We could not have done this show without the help of **Doug Baker** and the sextons who endured many hours of rehearsal time, the encouragement of the staff, and the support of our church family. As we go forward, let’s all try to remember our final song — all that we have come through can only make us closer than ever!

Clara Barton/MassBay District Assembly and Annual Meeting

Beth Norton, Gail Carey and members of the First Parish Choir will have the honor of leading music for this year’s Massachusetts Bay/Clara Barton District Assembly on Saturday, April 27, from 1 to 5 p.m. Join them and hundreds of Unitarian Universalists at the United Congregational Church of Worcester for an afternoon of celebratory worship, vigorous conversation, and rampant optimism about the future of our faith. Our experience together will be cen-

tered around worship featuring live music, multimedia inspiration, and preaching from two of our districts' most respected ministers. Rev. Carolyn Patierno and Rev. John Gibbons will bring stories about how their congregations broke through common barriers to achieve real and lasting growth in soulfulness, spiritual practice, justice-making and size.

We will gather in small groups to listen to stories and share strengths from our own congregations, and we will do the modest work of each district's Annual Meeting. We will also hear from district leaders about how district staff and boards are working together to support a Great Awakening of liberal religion in New England. Whether you are a congregational leader, seminarian, religious professional or youth leader, or are just plain interested in Unitarian Universalism outside of your own congregation, join us!

Hope Out Loud II — UU Urban Ministry Concert on Sunday, April 7, 4:00 p.m.

Come join the First Parish children's, youth and adult choirs at the Urban Ministry in Boston for another collaborative interfaith concert on Sunday, April 7, Hope Out Loud II. At this celebration of song, dance and spoken word, we remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s prophetic words from his World House speech: "The large house in which we live demands that we transform this worldwide neighborhood into a worldwide familyhood." Several area faith traditions will be represented. Our choirs and other UU singers in the Boston area will partner with the gospel singers of the Boston Community Choir. Children from Union United Methodist Church's Liturgical Dance Team, and Radical Praise children's choir, will join the Roxbury Youth Program children. Multi-percussionist Matt Meyer will be drumming, and the UU Urban Ministry's Sam Williams will be contributing spoken word along with guest artist Kemi Alabi. Hope Out Loud II will be held on Sunday April 7, at 4 p.m. at the UU Urban Ministry (10 Putnam Street, Roxbury). The concert is free of charge and open to all. There will be lots of group singing, so bring your voice and help us make HOPE come alive!

A performer's bus will leave First Parish at 1:00 p.m. and, if there is enough interest, an audience bus will leave at 3 p.m. Both buses will return to Concord by 7 p.m. If you are interested in riding the audience bus, please contact **Bethany Lowe**, blowe@firstparish.org, by Thursday, April 4.

Don't Miss the Beatles Night on May 4

The Beatles Night concert/sing has been rescheduled for the evening of Saturday, May 4, in the Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m. Come hear (and sing!) many of your favorite songs by the Fab Four. Watch the *Sunday News* and FP Announce for more information.



The First Parish Labyrinth — Time to Build!

The Labyrinth Committee is pleased and excited to announce that we have accepted a bid for the professional part of the Labyrinth Project and are making plans for an April installation. Excavation, base layers, and final

compaction will be done professionally, but

First Parish will provide the labor for laying the pavers to form our beautiful Labyrinth!

We need helpers in shifts on one Saturday to lay pavers, serve as paver porters, and to help feed and hydrate those crews. All tasks are open to adults (training provided), and

we welcome parent-child teams and high schoolers to help as paver porters and with refreshments.

Please contact **Darien Smith** at darien@smithquest.com to sign up to help build our Labyrinth.

Paver-laying will take place on one Saturday, but the specific date is dependent on weather and the contractor's schedule. So, we are asking folks to sign up for each Saturday in April that they could help for at least one 90-minute shift for any of the jobs. We need lots of crews and want to be prepared for whichever day the paver-laying will take place.

Thanks so much to all who have supported the project with their energy, ideas or donations. A special thanks to the WPA for their generous support of the project. We could not have come to this exciting point without your help. Now all hands on deck are needed to complete the project!

The Labyrinth Committee

Darien Smith, Chair

Beth Dawson

Dave Dawson

Valerie Holt

Richard Keleher

Martha Kilcoyne

Pam Ressler

Bozena Smith

Irl Smith

Margaret Stewart

Dianne Weiss

Lois Suarez, Liaison to the WPA

Pastoral Care Retreat

On Sunday, March 10, eighteen members of the Pastoral Care Team — including Lay Ministers, the Caring Connection and Advisory Board Members — participated in a retreat facilitated by **Elaine Peresluha** and **Tony Fisher**. Elaine indicated that this church program is highly valued and thanked the volunteers for their service. We shared our experiences as members of the Pastoral Care Team and our dreams for a restructured Pastoral Care Program in the future, with the ability to expand as needed.

A work in progress, the goal is an integrated Pastoral Care Council, with representatives from the Lay Ministers, Caring Connection, the Pastoral Care Library, and a newly forming Information and Resource Committee. — **Berni Jenkins**, Advisory Council member

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

The Lay Ministers for April are **Petra Betts** for the first two weeks, at petrajordan2002@msn.com or 978-897-8368; and **Dana Synder-Grant** for the second two weeks, at danasg@newview.org or 978-266-9409.

Minister, **Rev. Elaine Beth Peresluha** (uurevdoc@gmail.com) and Ministerial Intern, **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org). Or call the church office at 978-369-9602.

Lay Ministers:
Contact **Diane Clapp** (d.clapp@comcast.net) or 781-257-5025.

Caring Connection, for meals or rides: Contact **Tony Fisher** (tfisher@firstparish.org) or call the office at 978-369-9602.

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

You're Invited

Help Cook for the Caring Connection!

The Caring Connection provides meals to members of our congregation who are facing challenges or might be cheered by a caring meal offered by First Parish. It's one way we reach out to each other. Our freezer is low; we need to cook and restock! Can you join us? Please let us know if you are coming (thurd@aol.com) so that we have enough supplies. No experience necessary — we'll provide everything. Breakfast snacks for cooks on hand. It's a lot of fun!

When: Friday, April 26

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon (or whatever portion you are able to give)

Place: First Parish kitchen

RSVP: **Tracey Hurd**, 978-369-2366 or thurd@aol.com

WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's AM/PM Book Group

The March selection for the Women's AM/PM Book Group is *Denial: A Memoir*, by Jessica Stern. The evening session will be Monday, April 22, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the home of **Lydia Fillingham** (contact **Darien Smith** for details). The morning discussion will be Tuesday, April 23, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. in the Brooks Room at First Parish

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both 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 or 978-369-1471.

The final book and meeting dates for 2013 are:

May 20, 21 *Caleb's Crossing*
by Geraldine Brooks

June (date to be determined) Potluck and book-choosing for next year

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Meet the Reverend Howard N. Dana, the Ministerial Search Committee's candidate for Senior Minister. Howard is currently Senior Minister at the UU church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, <http://www.harrisburguu.org>, and will spend the week of April 28 to May 5 with us, when he will preach on both Sundays. The main goal of Candidating Week is for us all to become sufficiently acquainted with Howard to participate responsibly in the vote to call, which takes place



Rev. Howard N. Dana

on May 5, 2013 at 12:30 P.M. Our congregation must vote in favor of calling Howard by more than 90% for him to become our next Senior Minister. So please plan to spend as much time as you can with him during Candidating Week.

This is a historic moment in the life of our church and culminates two and a half years of intense work by your

Ministerial Search Committee. If you are not currently a member of First Parish, you have until April 5 to sign the book, in order to participate in this once-in-a-generation vote to call our Senior Minister.

Our goal is to plan the most exciting and fun Candidating Week in the history of our denomination! We are planning multiple open meetings, social gatherings, and meals at different times of the day, while also making sure the candidate has adequate time to meet with staff and attend to personal matters. Please help us make a great first impression by volunteering your help to **Twinkle Manning**, twinkle-manning@gmail.com, **Gretchen Nelson**, ghnelson@me.com, **Rebecca Curzon**, rebeccacurzon@comcast.net, or **Sue Ryan**, susanryan101@comcast.net. ♦

As always, please direct questions to any member of the Ministerial Search Committee:

John Boynton (jb@firehousecapital.com)
Terry Rothermel (terroth@verizon.net)
Caroline McCloy (cmccloy51@aol.com)
Mary-Wren vanderWilden (vanderwilden@verizon.net)
Rhoda Miller (rhodamill@aol.com)
Fred Van Deusen (fredvandeu@aol.com)
Toby Smith Ropeik (tsr@tobyasmith.com)
Alec Walker (alecwalker@aol.com)

TRANSCENDENTALISM COUNCIL

Transcendentalism Council Sponsors "Margaret Fuller in Love" on April 5, 7:00 pm



The Transcendentalism Council of First Parish will sponsor Pulitzer finalist Megan Marshall's presentation, "Margaret Fuller in Love," an intimate portrait of the groundbreaking author, war correspondent, hospital director, and romantic. Marshall takes the occasion of Margaret Fuller's first meeting with her lover Giovanni Ossoli to give an account of Fuller's years in revolutionary Rome.

This event celebrates the publication of Marshall's biography, "Margaret Fuller: A New American Life," which has received widespread critical acclaim. An Italian dessert buffet and book signing follow Marshall's talk.

Other event sponsors include the Thoreau Society; William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library; and Thoreau Farm: Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau.

Free and open to the public, the event will be held at the Concord Free Public Library, 129, Main St. For information, see <http://margaretfullerinlove5apr2013.wordpress.com/>.

*Volunteers are needed to help with the reception. Please contact **Dianne Weiss**, diannemcweiss@comcast.net or 978-505-3417.



Megan Marshall



New Member Recognition: Our annual New Member Recognition will be held during both worship services on April 7. Please come meet and joyfully welcome the 30 (as of this writing in mid-March) fabulous people who have joined our faith community since September 2012.

Ambassador Program: The Ambassador program of First Parish in Concord is launching! The mission of the Ambassador program is to build a sense of belonging within the congregation through regular conversations with each member.

When I was hired in September, I was asked to help create and support a program to reach out and connect with all members of First Parish. After months of conversations and strategic planning, we have Phase One of the Ambassador program.

This program grew out of the Springing Forward conversations about First Parish members' enthusiasm for finding additional methods for building community. In those conversations, the congregation voiced a strong desire to cultivate a deep sense of belonging within this faith community. I believe we can do this through these Ambassador conversations. I hope you will participate in the coming months when you are contacted by your Ambassador.

Welcome Table: I am looking for volunteers to greet and answer visitor questions at the "Welcome Table" on Sunday mornings during coffee hour. Please contact me if you are interested.

Photo Directory: The new photo directories are in! Thank you, **Anne Fortier**, for heading up this important project. Details are on page 2 of this *Meeting House News*. By the way there are still quite a few of the free 8x10 photos that came with each photo session. Please pick them up in the front office on the exchange shelf, behind the door to the copier room.

Website/Social Media Task Force: If you are interested in participating in a task force to gather information about the First Parish website and social media use, please let me know.

Wayside Pulpit: I'd like to offer deep gratitude to **Nancy Kerr** and **Jane Fisher**, who stepped forward a few months ago to take care of the Wayside Pulpit. Thank you! They catalogued the signs, created a schedule to rotate the messages, and have been changing the signs regularly. However, Mictlanpachecatl, the north wind, and/or Thraskias, the north-northwest wind, had a different plan and blew off the door to the Wayside Pulpit. The Wayside Pulpit will be back in service soon! ♦

In faith and fellowship,
— *Rachel Baker*

Director of Congregational Life

Congregational Life Events

Each month in this box, the Congregational Life Council will list events for the upcoming month that offer opportunities to participate in the ministry of building community. Unless otherwise noted, questions may be directed to rbaker@firstparish.org.

Sunday, April 7, at 9 and 11 a.m.: New Member Recognition — Come welcome and meet new members of First Parish!

The Congregational Life Council and its meetings are open to all members and friends of the First Parish community. If you would like to add a discussion or action item or event suggestion to the next meeting agenda, please send your request to **Kate Svrcek** at katesvrcek@hotmail.com, or **Twinkle Manning** at twinklemanning@gmail.com.

**A Membership Reminder —
Be Included in the Vote to Call!**

Remember *you must be a signed member of First Parish to vote to call Rev. Howard Dana as the next Senior Minister on May 5*. If you are not a signed member and would like to be, you may sign the membership book in the church office on Tuesday April 2 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. **Elaine Peresluha** or **Tony Fisher** must witness your signing. We will celebrate new members during worship on April 7.

MONEY MATTERS

This will be the last column I write as your Business Manager. I have accepted a position at Partners in Health. This is a dream opportunity for me to work for a mission-driven organization that I have long admired.

My last day will be Thursday, April 5. It has truly been a privilege to serve this congregation I love so dearly. There is certainly good energy and excitement in the air here, and I know that bright days are ahead for First Parish. ♦

Sincerely,

— *Melissa Perdue Gallo*

MUSINGS

“Draw the Circle Wide”

There are joyous sounds ringing from the sunlit walls of our UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury. Children from the Explorer’s Club have been singing as a choir again this year. I have again had the honor of leading this dynamic group and am excited to bring them together with our own First Parish Children’s Choirs on April 7 for our interfaith concert, Hope Out Loud II. The concert starts with the voices of our children and builds to include adults of many faiths and cultures.



All First Parish in Concord choirs are participating — joining together in an intergenerational rendition of Mark Miller’s “Draw the Circle Wide.” Music serves as our common language, our bridge to deeper relationship with our Roxbury neighbors. We can all join together with shared voice, as there will be plenty of opportunity for audience participation.

Featured in the concert will be the fabulous Boston Community Choir, a renowned gospel group led by Brother Dennis Slaughter. We also welcome the liturgical dancers and singers from Union Methodist Church in Boston, spoken word by UU Urban Ministry’s Sam Williams and guest artist Kemi Alabi, and drumming by the much loved Matt Meyer. Hope Out Loud II is an invitation to live into our benediction, to go out into the world in peace. We help to keep programming alive for our at-risk friends in Roxbury. We do this with money and service — in relationship. We congregations *are* the Urban Ministry. Come help us “draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.” ♦

In song

— *Gail Carey*

First Parish Children’s Choir Director



UU Urban Ministry Choir prepares for Hope Out Loud II concert, led by Gail Carey, Children’s Choir Director, First Parish in Concord.



This Sacred Essential Moment, *Now.*

First Parish in Concord 2013 Stewardship Campaign

Thank you all who have affirmed this historic moment for First Parish by returning your pledge cards and committing to a sustaining contribution to the operating budget. With the announcement of Rev. Howard Dana as the Search Committee’s choice as the candidate for senior minister, we are expecting many more members and friends to join in supporting this year’s stewardship process. A strong and sustainable operating budget will assure the success of a new ministry.

Learn more about this year’s stewardship focus. We will be hosting the final training for stewards and ambassadors from 9:00 a.m. until noon, April 6. Come to participate. Come to learn about the meaning of stewardship. Belonging is the core of First Parish generosity. Come to support your visions of belonging and community. RSVP to **Rachel Baker** if you plan to attend at rbaker@firstparish.org.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS

We invite your nominations for two parish Officers, Clerk and Moderator. You are welcome to nominate either yourself or others, with their permission. Please send us any names by Thursday, April 18 for full consideration.

The Clerk is a full voting member of the Standing Committee and records the minutes of Standing Committee meetings. The Clerk is elected by the congregation for a one-year term.

The Moderator facilitates the Annual Meeting, and is elected by the congregation for a one-year term.

Please let us know about people who might be interested in and qualified for these positions by contacting **Eric Read** eric@theworld.com or **Marianne Zasa** mariannezasa@gmail.com.

While the First Parish bylaws charge the Nominating Committee with selecting a slate of candidates, we are seeking names of potential candidates from the congregation, as we begin this process.

If you have any questions, we hope you will contact a member of the Nominating Committee. **Eric Read** (Chair) eric@theworld.com, **Doug Hardy** doughardy@gmail.com, **Russ Herndon** rherndon@hydrabiosciences.com, **Don Leopold** dleopold@sherbrooke.com, **Shawna Reid** shawnareid@gmail.com, **Sue Ryan** susanryan101@comcast.net, **Kate Svrcek** katesvrcek@hotmail.com, **Dianne Weiss** diannemweiss@comcast.net and **Marianne Zasa** mariannezasa@gmail.com

Connection. People are all about connection. Being in relationship is probably the most important part of what it means to be human. When something happens to jeopardize this fundamental piece of our human nature, we can feel “out of control” and vulnerable.

People of all ages feel this way. When we communicate with someone and there is no response, it shakes us. “What did I say?” “Did she take it the wrong way?” “He must be mad at me.” Even a bad response is almost always better than no response at all. It is the “not knowing” that is painful.

I have heard of times when teens will stop talking to parents. It is amazing how unsettling it is to a person to be ignored.



This is a method that has even used as a form of torture. To be ignored is to be unseen.

I am focused on this because of my recent e-mail disaster. My e-communication world collapsed on Monday morning, March 18. I have had my First

Parish e-mail address for over eight years now. It is my primary way of communicating and serving you, my Parish family. When the reality started to set in that I was going to be “locked out” for 8 hours, then 24 hours, then 48 hours and then ... for-ever hours, I truly felt a sense of panic. The fact that there was no way to set a bounce-back message was inconceivable to me. The thought that people I care about were e-mailing me and wondering why I was ignoring them was very upsetting to me.

In this age of uber-networking, of LinkedIN, of FaceBook friends, of Listservs and twittering, a sudden “dis-connection” from e-worlds can put us all at risk of becoming a Miss Manner’s poster child of virtual impropriety: perceived, but not real, unresponsiveness.

How will this turn out? I’m not sure just yet. But, as always, I reached out to my fellow parishioners, and some were able to help. What does this Parish mean to me, during this Annual Campaign? Well, when I need a hand, this is always where I turn. These are the people I trust. Priceless.



I know you have been waiting for our new minister. At the time of this writing, he has not yet been named. [Ed note: candidate named 3/24 is Howard

April 2013 RE Calendar

- Sun., April 7 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for 2-4th Grades (Emerson Room)
5th & 6th Grade Neighboring Activists – FP Garden
7th Grade Neighboring Faiths. 11 a.m. (Brooks Room)
8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m. (Emerson Room)
- Sun., April 14 Regular RE for Babies–4 years, 10 a.m. only
- Sun., April 21 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
8th Grade OWL at 4 p.m. (Emerson Room)
- Sun., April 28 Regular RE for Babies–4 years
Regular RE for 2-6th Grades (Emerson Room)
6th Grade Neighboring Activists – Drumlin Farm. 9 a.m.
7th Neighboring Faiths. Union Baptist 9:30 a.m.
8th OWL at 4 p.m. (Emerson Room)

Dana, see page 7.] But today, I feel like Dorothy, clicking my ruby slippers and knowing, deep inside, there is no place like home. This congregation is just that: home. ♦

— Pam Howell

Director of Religious Education

(My new address is: drepamhowell@gmail.com)

Sixth Grade Neighboring Activists

We had a great term during the winter season. Everything seemed to just magically fall into place. In December, we weren’t sure what the focus of the Winter Term would be, but we did know that the 6th and 7th graders had really enjoyed the first two terms that focused on spiritual activism. This is not surprising; “spiritual activism” is at the root of First Parish in Concord.

As we thought about the possibilities, manure came to mind. Let’s consider: Fall Term focused on DIRT (harvesting from our garden, feeding Open Table, working at Gaining Ground, marching in the Crop Walk); Holiday Term focused on WATER (Guest at Your Table, sand for seniors for ice, ice and snow sculptures, and low flow toilets); Spring Term would focus on MUD (preparing the soil for the community garden). Hmmmmmm, what was missing? Yes, the interdependent web: manure. Manure and compost is what turn water and dirt into organically rich and fertile mud. We worked with Drumlin Farm

RE News

continued on page 11



learning and understanding how our faith applies to every aspect of living, not just church.

and parishioners **Susannah Elliott, Sue Beede and Deb Allen**, and set up a whole program learning about organic compost and farm animals. The kids were outside,



Sixth Grade is a notorious age in most RE programs. It is when many kids say, "I'm not going to church!" I think we finally hit on something they love, while still fulfilling the mission of this place. Attendance was high, they showed up, and with big smiles. Nothing makes me happier.

A special thanks to the leaders that made these field trips possible: **Jane**

Stewart, Natalie Bartlett, Jake Nunes and Jiffy Read.

Mother/Daughter Book Group at First Parish

Calling mothers and daughters! In April we are starting a mother/daughter book group, with a focus on third through fifth grade children. We will read one book per month and meet the first and third Sundays of each month, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., to discuss. Our intent is to share reflections, ideas, experiences, laughter and (of course) yummy snacks. Our first meeting will be on April 7 at 3:00 at First Parish. Please contact **Leslie Nichol** at lpelton@lpconsult.com if you are interested in exploring this idea with us.

Orientation for Religious Education Teachers for Spring 2013

Second – Sixth Grade Teachers in the Emerson Room:

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

SENIOR YOUTH NEWS: THE HEARD

Happy SPRING! As New England begins to turn green again, may we be inspired to grow and renew our spirit. March brought along some tough decisions and we made the move to postpone the El Salvador trip to avoid travel safety risks. We are sending our positive vibes to the good people of El Salvador and have faith that the stability of the region will improve.



On March 24, the Heard gathered with fellow parishioners for the El Salvador Movie Night. Veteran youth travelers shared tales of their experiences, including first-hand stories of Salvadorians who had lived through the civil war. Through all their struggles, our youth gathered a sense of hope from the people they met. This is hope that will keep us moving forward!

This April, the Heard will celebrate the season with some great activities, Sunday nights at 6:30 p.m.

April 7 – Spring Roll & Sushi Making Party

April 14 – Vacation, No Meeting

April 21 – Twister & Games

April 28 – Manhunt & BBQ

p.s. Big thanks to all the people who support the Heard. ♦

See you soon!

— *Avi Salloway*

Youth Program Director

Jubilation! One of My Favorite Words

I was blessed with a feeling of jubilee *twice* this month: once when our candidate for senior minister, Howard Dana, was announced; and prior to that, when the Social Action Community board and Grants groups voted to become a single Social Action Council. You can read more about the new structure in the article below.

In the Jewish tradition, the “jubilee” is the 50th year of a cycle. It is a sacred year, “a time of freedom and of celebration when everyone will receive back their original property, and slaves will return home to their families” (Lev. 25:10). After unpacking my feelings of jubilation a bit more, a deeper meaning rose to the surface: hope ushers us through times of change. We hope for that 50th year, the time for jubilation, when all of our regenerated hopes are realized and we take a breath of fresh air.



In social justice work, work and hope, hand-in-hand, bring jubilee. In Massachusetts, we worked and hoped for the equal marriage rights, and that hope was realized! Jubilation! Now, that hope is spreading — to other states and the Supreme Court, with fibers of LGBTQ equality sneaking into our army’s policies and some right-of-center political platforms. Jubilation came before that, too, with the Civil Rights Act, the 19th Amendment, the Emancipation Proclamation and so many more. Looking back at hopes that have been realized, we see that jubilee is a time for rejoicing, but also a time to look forward to the next jubilee and to the work we must do in the next 50 years to achieve a more perfect world.

We have formed a new Social Action Council, but what will be our next horizon? What justice shall we seek? Who will come with us on this journey? ♦

In faith,

— *Bethany Lowe*

blowe@firstparish.org

Groups Join to Form Social Action Community Council

The Social Action Community Board and Grants Committee have merged into the Social Action Community Council (SAC Council). There are currently 23 SAC Programs and we provide grants to over 18 organizations each year. We have now organized all of these programs and grant recipients into four “Spheres of Engagement,” tentatively dubbed: Global Action, Social Justice, Quality of Life, and Substantiality. The

• topics of these spheres will be subject to revision to reflect the direction of social action within the Parish. The council will seek to foster and support new initiatives and cross-sphere events (e.g. “Chicken Man”) that support its mission. Each member of the council will be involved in one of the spheres, and represents that sphere in our council meetings. If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact Social Action Director, **Bethany Lowe** (blowe@firstparish.org).

Hope Out Loud II Concert Rescheduled for Sunday, April 7, at 4:00 p.m.

• On Sunday, April 7 there will be a celebration of song, dance and spoken word, sharing the hopes that unite us across communities. All are welcome, and having heard some of the music selections recently, you will NOT want to miss it!

• At this year’s Hope Out Loud, we remember Martin Luther King Jr.’s prophetic words from his World House speech: “The large house in which we live demands that we transform this worldwide neighborhood into a worldwide familyhood.” UU Musicians Anne Watson Born (Newton), **Beth Norton** and **Gail Carey** (both of Concord) will be bringing singers from their congregations to partner with Norris Welch and the Boston Community Choir; children from Union United Methodist Church’s Liturgical Dance Team, co-directed by Lisa Palmer and Zalikah Lewis, and Radical Praise children’s choir, directed by Angela Whetstone, will join Roxbury Youth Program children; UU multi-percussionist Matt Meyer will be drumming us together; and the UU Urban Ministry’s Sam Williams will be contributing spoken word along with guest artist, Kemi Alabi. Put it on your calendar, and plan to join us at 3 p.m. for a Children and Family banner-making; and 4 p.m. for the concert! There will be lots of group singing as well, so bring your voice and help us make HOPE come alive! First Parish will sponsor a bus to transport people to and from the event. Please contact **Bethany Lowe** (blowe@firstparish.org) to reserve your space.

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day and Acts of Faith Breakfast — April 23

• Should Massachusetts lead the country on reforms of Gun Control, Climate Change and Immigration? On Tuesday, April 23, you can help make it happen. Join fellow Unitarian

SAC News and Events

continued on page 13

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/sacemallist; or visit the Social Action bulletin board.



Universalists from across the state for UU Advocacy Day in Boston. You can choose to start your day with a breakfast with Sister Simone Campbell of “The Nuns on the Bus.” Then you will be trained with background and talking points on key legislation for this year’s three top issues. Afterwards, you and others from your area will go to the State House to visit your Senator and Representative. Get details and register at <http://www.uumassaction.org/uuma/advocacyday2013/>. Please tell **Bethany Lowe** (blowe@firstparish.org) if you plan on going so we can organize a car pool.

Mother’sDay Peace Walk on May 12

Join a walk in support of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and families seeking peace on Sunday, May 12, from 8–10 a.m. (We will be back at First Parish in time for the 11:00 o’clock service.)

During the month of April, please visit the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute’s table during coffee hour to sign up to walk with **Rev. Margie King Saphier** and other members of First Parish and/or to make a donation to the LDB Peace Institute to support their work supporting families who are victims of violence, as well as their work in the public schools to teach conflict resolution through peaceful means. If you have any questions, please talk with **Bethany Lowe** or e-mail Margie at mksaphier@comcast.net.

Coffee Grounds Composting Program Sponsored by the Environmental Leadership Team

First Parish makes a lot of coffee! Coffee grounds add nutrients and heat to home compost bins. Leveraging these two facts, the Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) will implement a new program to compost coffee grounds starting in April. Coffee grounds will be saved in a small composting bucket. Several volunteers are needed each week to pick up the coffee grounds and take them home to add to your own compost bin. If you have your own home composting bin and would like to participate in this program, please contact **Bethany Lowe** at blowe@firstparish.org. It is a win/win for your garden, for the church and for the environment. Please help to make this new program a success.

PARTNER CONGREGATION COMMITTEE

An Evening in Transylvania

Join the many Friends of Transylvania on Saturday, April 27, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a fun and memorable evening of singing, dancing, storytelling, and good food and drink. The PCC is hosting the “Evening in Transylvania” gala as the beginning of our formal send-off for this summer’s Family Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr.

Our connections to our partner Unitarian congregation in Székelykeresztúr have been a vital part of First Parish life for over 20 years, and the upcoming visit in July will help to form yet another link as children from the two congregations establish friendships. At the “Evening in Transylvania” dinner, we’ll relate stories about how this relationship has grown over the years, and detail some recent initiatives to donate laptops and books to improve educational opportunities. We’ll even do some simple Hungarian dance instruction, so wear your dancing shoes!

Please support First Parish’s Transylvanian partnership. Tickets will be available at coffee hour beginning on April 7 for a suggested donation of \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under (maximum \$60 per family). We hope that you will also bring a beverage to share...perhaps that bottle of palinka you have been reserving for a celebration?

Wanted: Laptops. As we travel to Transylvania this summer, we will be carrying laptops for the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr. If you or someone you know has a laptop that is no longer being used, please consider donating it to this effort. The laptops are refurbished by Ed Sterling (ed@edsterling.com), so they can be outdated or even no longer working. To contribute a laptop, or for more information, please contact **Dana Booth** at dana.a.booth@gmail.com, or by phone at 978-369-5702.

Student Sponsorship News. Many thanks to those sponsoring 38 students of financial need at the Unitarian high school in Székelykeresztúr and another 11 students continuing into university-level studies. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, or for more information, please contact **Dana Booth** at dana.a.booth@gmail.com, or by phone at 978-369-5702.

Join the PCC effort. There are many ways — big and small, but all important — to support First Parish’s relationship with our partner Unitarian congregation. The PCC meets monthly on a Thursday evening over dinner in a member’s home, and we invite you to join us. Our next meetings are on April 4 and May 16. ♦

Minden jót! “Best wishes!”

— **Ken Estabrook**, PCC Chair
ken.estabrook@gmail.com

STANDING COMMITTEE NEWS AND NOTES

Our March 10 Standing Committee (SC) meeting ran opposite one of the final rehearsals of the Church Musical, so we found ourselves missing some of our dramatically inclined members.

Elaine Peresluha reported this month in a format that was organized around our Strategic Ends, making it faster and easier to see how church activities were organized in service to our Mission and our Strategic Ends. In addition, the presentation of a chronology of this year's budget's special increases and decreases showed how we have arrived in positive territory. Since September, the very busy **Rev. Elaine Peresluha** has raised an additional \$105,000!

The Standing Committee salutes her extraordinary efforts on behalf of our finances and extends a warm "Thank you" to all who contributed so generously.

In our monthly discussion of a governing policy, we focused on the second-level governing policy on committees. After reviewing the four kinds of committees described in the policy, the SC agreed that we would begin a review of this policy by forming a working group later in the spring, incorporating the Executive Team (ET), the Nominating Committee and the new minister, and returning recommendations for revisions in the fall of the year. **Mark Russell Prior** volunteered to chair the working group.

The 2012-13 annual goals for the ET and the SC (many of which have already been achieved) were finally approved.

Alec Walker reported that the Ministerial Search Committee has made its choice and the results will be revealed on March 24. [See page 7 for all that info.]

The SC also heard reports from **Gretchen Nelson** about the preparations for Candidating Week, from **Jack Nevison** reporting for **Suzanne Lowe** on the February Trustees meeting, from **Mark Russell Prior** on Suzanne and Mark's report on Membership at FP, from **Patty Popov** on the bylaw revision committee, and from **Laurie Van Loon** and **Jack Nevison** on the SC Report on Governance at FP and the congregational discussion about the report. (Both of these reports were sent out on FP Announce and are available on the Church website.)

As April unfolds, we are looking forward to the beginning of Candidating Week on Sunday, April 28, and to the congregational vote to call our new minister on Sunday, May 5. Anyone not currently a member who wishes to vote on May 5 must sign the membership book before April 5.

- As always, you can find copies of the approved SC meeting minutes in the member section of the First Parish Website.
- You may also find recent postings on the SC bulletin board in the first floor hallway. ♦
- Stay in touch with us at: **Suzie Weaver**, skatesuzie@aol.com;
- **Jake Nunes**, Jake_Nunes@shs.org; **Mark Russell Prior**, mark.russell.prior@comcast.net;
- **Suzanne Lowe**, slowe@expertisemarketing.com;
- **Kate Crosby**, kate_crosby@newview.org;
- **Andrea Siani**, Andrea.Siani@gmail.com;
- **Alec Walker**, alecwalker@aol.com;
- **Gretchen Nelson**, ghnelson@me.com;
- **Patty Popov**, PPopov@nichols-pratt.com;
- **John Nevison**, jmn@newleafpm.com.

UU NEWS

Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers

Author Anne Lamott will speak at First Parish in Bedford on Monday evening, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. She'll read from her newest best-selling book, *Help, Thanks,*



Wow: The Three Essential Prayers as well as from the new paperback release of her book *Some Assembly Required*.

Both of these books will be available for sale and Anne will sign them. This event is open to the public and free — though contributions will gratefully be received. A portion of all proceeds will go

the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, uusc.org. First Parish is on the Bedford Town Common, 75 The Great Road in Bedford. All facilities are accessible. For more information, go to uubedford.org, or call 781-275-7994.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ivan Massar Photography Exhibit

"The Cellar Doors of Kardiani," an exhibition of the photographs of Ivan Massar, will take place at the Brodigan Gallery at Groton School from April 9 through May 17. The photos were taken by Ivan on the Greek island of Tinos in 1979, and have never been exhibited publicly until now. The gallery is open from 9 to 5 Monday thru Friday. The artist's reception will be held on Sunday, April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m. All are invited.

APRIL 2013 CALENDAR

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

Every Week...

Gospel Choir	Sunday	10:00 a.m.
Forum	Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Post-Worship Reflection Group	Sunday	12:10 p.m.
The Heard: Senior Youth Group	Sunday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Tai Chi</i>	Tuesday	6:30 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Wednesday	9:30 a.m.
Junior Choir	Wednesday	4:30 p.m.
Chalice Choir	Wednesday	5:15 p.m.
Adult Choir	Wednesday	7:45 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Thursday	7:00 p.m.
<i>Buddhist Group</i>	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction</i>	Friday	9:30 a.m.
Men's Group	Saturday	7:30 a.m.

Tue Apr 2	1:30	First Tuesday Group	.	Fri Apr 19	7:00	Jewish Awareness Group
Wed Apr 3	6:00	Arts Council	.	Sun Apr 21	12:30	Trustees Meeting
	6:30	Concord Area Humanists	.		3:00	Needleworkers Group
Thu Apr 4	4:00	Shawl Ministry	.		4:00	<i>Sick of It</i>
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	.		5:00	Oriana Consort
	7:30	Congregational Life Council	.	Tue Apr 23	9:30	Women's Book Group
Fri Apr 5	7:00	Play Reading Group	.		11:30	WPA Luncheon
Sat Apr 6	9:00	Stewardship Training	.	Fri Apr 26	7:30	<i>Rise Up Singing</i>
	9:00	WPA Recycle Sale	.	Sat Apr 27	6:00	Partner Congregation Committee Dinner
Sun Apr 7	7:00	Environmental Leadership Team	.	Wed May 1	6:00	Arts Council
Tue Apr 9	9:00	WPA Board Meeting	.		6:30	Concord Area Humanists
Wed Apr 12	9:30	<i>Rise Up and Call Her Name</i>	.	Thu May 2	4:00	Shawl Ministry
Sat Apr 13	9:00	Photography Club	.		7:30	By Your Side Singers
Sun Apr 14	12:30	Communications Team	.		7:30	Congregational Life Council
	6:30	Standing Committee Meeting	.	Fri May 3	5:00	Congregational Life Picnic
Tue Apr 16	7:00	Alternative Worship Service	.		7:00	Play Reading Group
	7:00	Amnesty Group	.	Sat May 4	7:30	Beatles Night
Wed Apr 17	1:30	Pastoral Care Lay Ministers Meeting	.	Sun May 5	12:30	All-Parish Meeting and VOTE
Thu Apr 18	6:30	<i>Heartsong Collage</i>	.			
	7:30	By Your Side Singers	.			

APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

The May Newsletter deadline is Friday, April 19, at noon.
The Newsletter will be published Tuesday, April 30.

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

Website: www.firstparish.org

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

• Minister's E-Mail:

• Elaine Beth Peresluha: uurevdoc@gmail.com

• Ministerial Intern's E-Mail:

• Tony Fisher: tfisher@firstparish.org

First Parish in Concord • UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Staff

Elaine Beth Peresluha, Interim Senior Minister

Melissa Perdue Gallo, Business Manager

Tony Fisher, Ministerial Intern

Rachel Baker, Director of Congregational Life

Bethany Lowe, Director of Social Action

Gary E. Smith, Minister Emeritus

Tina Storey, Assistant to the Business Manager

Becky Blodgett, Affiliate Minister for Pastoral Care

Pam Howell, Director of Religious Education

Emily Wheeler, RE Administrator

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

Margaret Fuller in Love

🐾 **Author Presentation** 🐾 **Book Signing** 🐾 **Elegant Reception**



Biographer Megan Marshall takes the occasion of the anniversary of Margaret Fuller's first meeting with her lover Giovanni Ossoli to give an account of Fuller's years in revolutionary Rome as war correspondent, hospital director, and romantic.

"A magnificent biography of a revolutionary thinker, witness, and writer."

—Booklist (Starred Review)

Friday, April 5, 7:00 pm
Concord Free Public Library
129 Main Street, Concord
Free and open to the public

<http://margaretfullerinlove5apr2013.wordpress.com/>



Sponsored by:

William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library
Transcendentalism Council of First Parish in Concord
Thoreau Farm: Birthplace of Henry David Thoreau
The Thoreau Society



for **Spiritual** Renewal

The Wright Tavern Center at First Parish in Concord

An Oasis in Our Busy Lives • April 2013

The Wright Tavern Center (WTC) 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) for full course details and facilitator bios. To register, call 978-369-9602, unless a different registration contact is listed with the course description.

SPRING 2013 COURSES BEGINNING NOW

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. Use these creations for reflection, to intuitively explore life's questions. Instructor: **Tamasin Foote**

Thursday: April 18 6:30–9:30 p.m. Fee: \$10 per class

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: April 21 4:00–6:00 p.m. Donations gratefully accepted

CONTINUING OR REPEATING COURSES

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**

Wednesdays: 9:30–11:00 a.m. Thursdays: 7:30–9:00 p.m.
Donations gratefully accepted

Rise Up Singing

This informal monthly musical gathering of adults and children provides participants with 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 a copy of *Rise Up Singing* if you own one. Individuals are encouraged to bring instruments if they wish. Led by: **Beth Norton** and **Others**.

Beth believes in the power of music to express what is beyond words, to deepen our spiritual experience and to build community. As a singer, conductor, violinist and folk musician, Beth enjoys making music in a wide variety of styles with people of all ages and abilities. No fee required — just come and sing!

Fridays: April 26, May 31, June 28 7:30 p.m.

The First Parish Women's AM/PM Book Group

The dates below are for Monday evening, 7:30–9:00 p.m.; and Tuesday morning, 9:30–11:00 a.m. There is no fee.

April 22, 23: *Denial: A Memoir*, by Jessica Stern

May 20, 21: *Caleb's Crossing*, by Geraldine Brooks

Mondays: 7:30–9:00 p.m. (off-site; contact First Parish for directions)
Tuesdays: 9:30–11:00 a.m. (at First Parish)

Concord Area Humanists (CAH)

Concord Area Humanists will present Steve Ahlquist on "Secular Activism in Rhode Island" at First Parish. Rhode Island has recently been the center of several interesting First Amendment issues, including the Cranston Prayer Banner. Steve and Rhode Island Humanists have been involved in all. Steve will talk about the state of the State of Rhode Island and his experiences in secular activism. Also see MHN supplement, and Steve's blog, <http://www.steveahlquist.com/2013/03/blog-post.html>

Inquiries, please, to pne@aol.com.

Wednesday: April 3 7:00 p.m. \$5 donation

T'ai Ji and Qi Gong

Being in touch with our own energy creates endless possibilities within ourselves. By combining music with qigong and the simple movement of T'ai Ji, we can release blocked energy, create wellness, and bring our lives into balance. This class is geared to people of all ages. It offers gentle low-impact exercise to reduce stress, to enhance optimal health, and to simply create a sense of joy in our lives. Instructor: **Mae Pagan**

Fridays: April 12, May 10, June 14 12:30–2:00 p.m. \$25/session

ABC Music Together (0–4)

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 they might want to try another time. Everyone in a mixed-age class benefits by experiencing the music making of those around them — some terrific teaching ideas come from very young children, who have a special originality and spontaneity in their approach to music. For more information and to register, go to www.abcmusictogether.com. Instructors: **Tom** and **Deb Foote**

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9:30–10:30 a.m. 10:30–11:30 a.m.