



The Meeting House News

October 2014

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Greetings!

Welcome to the October *Meeting House News*.

Worship Services

Sunday, October 5, "What Makes Forgiveness Possible, High Holy Days"

Rev. Howard Dana, Youth Gospel Singers, and First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 12, "Why We Mess Things Up"

Rev. Howard Dana and Contemporary Vocal Ensemble

Sunday, October 19, "Taking the First Step"

Brian Chenowith and First Parish Choir

Sunday, October 26, "Risk Stumbling toward the Holy"

Rev. Howard Dana, Children's Choirs, and First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 2, "All Souls"

Rev. Marion Visel and Bell Choir
(Remember to fall back, as daylight savings ends.)

Additional parking on Keyes Road

All Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 a.m., except as follows:

Two worship services, at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 23, 2014

Winter Solstice Sunday, December 21, 2014

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015

Additional Worship Services

Tuesday Vespers

October 7, 7:00 p.m., Parlor

Please join us for a vespers service filled with original songs and story from Anna Huckabee Tull, and poetry and meditations from Bethany Lowe. Our theme this month is CHANGE. We'll sing, we'll listen, and we'll have time for reflection. All are welcome! We'll start right at 7:00 and end before 7:45.

Quick Links

[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Pledge Now](#)

Pastoral Care

Lay Minister for October

Diane Clapp
781-257-5025
d.clapp@comcast.net

Minister for Pastoral Care

Rev. Marion Visel
978-369-9602, ext. 414
mvisel@firstparish.org

Senior Minister

Rev. Howard Dana
978-369-9602
hdana@firstparish.org

Caring Connection

Meals and rides
Rev. Marion Visel
978-369-9602
mvisel@firstparish.org

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate
Muffins available for \$.50

Sunday Forum

All Sunday Forums will be held at
11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

October 5

Carol Dwyer
Singing in the Dark

October 12

Columbus Day
No Forum

October 19

Claire Willis

REVeries

The antidote to loneliness is community. Community is the place where we are seen and heard. It is the place where we don't have to be anyone other than ourselves. It is community that can hold us when we succeed and when we fail. It can hold us when we are our best selves and when we are at our most sinful. Community can celebrate joy with us and mourn our losses, too. In groups large and small, community is what helps humans regulate themselves and each other. One of the main reasons for religious community—for First Parish in Concord—is to assist all of us to live into our best selves. It is here to acknowledge our humanness and to link that humanness to something much larger than our own selfish egos.



I like to think of community, and religious community in particular, as the gravitational core of a living system. Community pulls at us and we need it. It draws us in when we are lonely. It restores us when we are tired. It heals us when we are wounded. Yet, the pull of community can be so strong that we run the risk of being sucked into the core itself, losing our own sense of self. We run the risk of identifying too much with the group—being too enmeshed in it. When the gravitational pull of community becomes too much for us, we must resist it by seeking solitude. We must restore ourselves in a way that resembles loneliness, but is qualitatively much different than being lonely. When the pressures of community become too great, we must move away from the core for a time so that we can refresh ourselves again.

Just as humans are not meant to live lives of loneliness, they are not meant to live lives devoid of solitude and reflection. The extremes of too little community and too much community are equally damaging. And this is hard for competent, effective people to remember. We fool ourselves into thinking that if we are busy then we must be happy. If we are over scheduled, we must be effective. If we are stressed out, we must be productive. This over functioning is as soul numbing as the dreaded loneliness. Unless we seek out solitude, we will never know the rich rewards of a spiritual life.

Love, Howard

Intern-al Dialogues

It is hard to believe that it has been a month already! I wasn't sure what to expect here at First Parish, but, I have found a warm and welcoming community. You have already shared your insights, challenged me, and been patient with me as I learn the ropes of FPC. This first month has reaffirmed that I am thankful beyond measure that I get to be your ministerial intern for this church year.



People keep asking me what differences I've noticed between the Midwest and New England. I often hesitate to answer. The differences are mostly subtle and could easily be missed. What I have found to be true, though, is that all of the "warnings" and stories about how radically different New England is are simply exaggerated. The people are more

Lasting Words: A Guide to Finding Meaning Toward the Close of Life

October 26

Tom Beardsley
Edward E. Simmons: American painter and muralist

Tentative schedule

Additional information will be available in FP-Announce (sign up for email news on the website)

Events This Month

Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.
Income Equality
Denominational Affairs
Offsite

Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 p.m.
Accidental Universe
Concord Area Humanists

Thursday, October 2, 6:30 p.m.
Spanish Language Practice
Offsite

Tuesday, October 7, 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday 65-plus Group

Tuesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.
Women's Wisdom Brainstorming

Tuesday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.
Vespers
Anna Huckabee Tull
Bethany Lowe

Wednesday, October 8, 9:00 a.m.
Catnip Ball Assembly

Thursday, October 9, 6:00 p.m.
Dance Performance and Reading
Sheila Collins

Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Vegan Potluck

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.
Diversity Committee meeting

Friday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.
Jewish Awareness Group

direct, but, they are warm and friendly. The roads are all over the place, but, the landscape is beautiful in ways I cannot describe. There are no Chicago-style hot dogs, but, the ice cream is out of this world. It is safe to say that after these first weeks as a New Englander, I am starting to feel at home.

Much of this feeling is thanks to all of you at FPC. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you and I know there are many more of you I have yet to meet! I encourage you to reach out and stop by the office, meet me for coffee or lunch, or call me. I look forward to where the rest of the year takes us!

All the Best, Brian

MUSings

First Parish in Concord is a pilgrim's destination. This was brought home to me one beautiful October Sunday when I was leaving church during peak foliage season. I had to make my way carefully through a large group of visitors, all excitedly lined up in front of the church, taking pictures. Clearly, this was a place that held meaning to folks from far away. Our identity as the "Transcendentalist church" of Emerson and Thoreau made us a destination for these pilgrims.



Each year youth from several UU congregations arrive at our doorstep to tour the church. Howard is particularly fond of speaking with these groups, having brought the Harrisburg youth here when he was their minister. Not surprisingly, musicians and artists are also drawn to Concord, compelled to respond artistically to the writings of our famous Transcendentalist residents. Musicians, especially, are moved to perform these inspired works in our historic Meeting House.

Thus, we will host two special Transcendentalist music events this year. On October 18, the Unity Singers, the acclaimed nineteen-voice choir of Unity Church-Unitarian in St. Paul, Minnesota will give a concert featuring movements from *Walden* by Dominic Argento, as well as other choral works that "speak... to the human experience through words, harmony and spirit." The singers are traveling with Unity's Coming of Age youth, who will visit Concord and Boston that weekend to learn about UU history. A double pilgrimage! Our Transcendentalist Council will be cosponsoring this event with the music ministry of First Parish.

Even as we prepare for the Unity Singers' visit, we are laying the groundwork for another exciting concert of music inspired by the Transcendentalists. On May 1, Triple Helix, the well-known New England area piano trio, and a student choir from the Rivers School Conservatory in Weston will premiere a new work by Amherst composer Eric Sawyer based on the writing of several Transcendentalists.

I hope many of you will join in welcoming the Unity Singers on October 18 and celebrate our Transcendentalist heritage in music!

Blessings,
Beth

Wednesday, October 15, 11:30 a.m.
WPA Luncheon and Program

Friday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.
Jewish Awareness

Friday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.
Mom's Night Out

Sunday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
Sacred Drum & Chant

Tuesday, October 21, 11:59 p.m.
Newsletter Submission Deadline

Saturday, October 25, 7:00 p.m.
Trivia Night

Monday, October 27, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, October 28, 9:30 a.m.
Women's Book Group

Thursday, October 30
Harmony and Heritage pilgrims depart for Transylvania

Every Sunday, 11:10 a.m.
Worship Sharing Circle

Additional details elsewhere

Music & the Arts Events

October 1 – October 28
Photo Exhibit, Altshuler Gallery
Celebrating Transylvania Partnership

Wednesday, October 1, 6:00 p.m.
Arts Council Meeting

Saturday, October 11, 9:00 a.m.
Photo Club

Saturday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.
Unity Singers Concert

Sunday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.
Drum Ceremony

Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.
Rise Up Singing

Additional details elsewhere

Reflections

We are so happy to be gathering once again in the Children's Chapel. Using that space for children's worship has been a joyful experience this fall. The children enter the space with reverence, recognizing an innate sense that humans have been gathering together for generations around a flame, in a circle, sharing stories, and talking about the complexities of life.



In our first Chapel Sunday, we talked about the Biblical story of Adam and Eve and the Native American story of the Two Wolves. Both were rich with discussion. Both demonstrated how all people wrestle with some of the same struggles. Was it bad that Adam ate the apple? Was it bad that he and Eve now knew the difference between good and evil? Well...as Unitarian Universalists, we actually didn't think it was bad. We welcome wisdom from the tree of knowledge and we accept that life is complicated with its ups and downs, with its friendships and troubles. But through it all, we return to community. We return to the trusting relationships found within a sacred circle of faith. Paradise isn't really a 'place' after all. Real paradise is a feeling grounded in the trust that we are here for each other, we are not alone and we belong to one another.

with love,
Pam Howell

Social Action Community

This past month, the People's Climate March took place in New York City, just before meetings at the United Nations to discuss a global reaction to climate change were to take place.



I first heard about this march—which promised to be the biggest assembly addressing climate change in history—in the early summer. And while I knew I wouldn't be able to attend, I watched in amazement at what unfolded as September drew nearer.

Some estimate that as many as 400,000 people marched in NYC on September 21, with at least 1,500 UUs among them. And while I'm impressed by those numbers, I'm more impressed by the community building that took place as a result of this demonstration.

The People's Climate March brought together peace activists and interfaith organizers, anarchists and capitalists—all marching under the banner of supporting global agreements to save our planet. The march included organizations which represent people of color, who have too often felt ostracized by environmentalism's message. For the first time that I can remember, all these groups came together to advocate on behalf of this planet we all love. And I kept telling myself: this is what social action looks like when we decide that the power of our unified voice is more important than our individual messages.

The moment feels like a turning point. I cannot wait to see where this movements takes us. May we build upon this momentum and work together for a better future.

Social Action Events

Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.
Diversity Committee

Tuesday, October 14, 6:00 p.m.
Vegan Potluck

Sunday, October 19, 1:30 p.m.
Concord Crop Walk

Monday, October 20, 6:30 p.m.
Interfaith Environmental Potluck

Friday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.
Climate Solutions Speaker Series
Dr. John Carroll, Tri-Con

Additional details elsewhere

Members of the Standing Committee

Kate Crosby
kate_crosby@newview.org

David Elwood
daveelwood@hotmail.com

Kristin Haddad, Clerk
kristin.haddad@gmail.com

Jake Nunes
Jake_Nunes@shs.org

Patty Popov
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Mark Russell Prior, Chair
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Toby Smith Ropeik
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Lora Venesy
venesy@comcast.net

Alec Walker
alecwalker@aol.com

Tom Wilson, Treasurer
twilson@wilsongroup.com

Ministers & Staff

Rev. Howard N. Dana

Bethany

Re•MEMBER•ship

Membership: Benefits and Responsibilities

Joining a spiritual community is an important decision, one that calls for personal discernment and commitment. When you sign the membership book of First Parish, you covenant to participate in and contribute to the life and mission of the congregation. The primary benefit of membership is to be part of an open, diverse, and inclusive community of religious seekers who support each person's spiritual journey and who practice living in kind, compassionate, and healthy relationships with each other. As signed members of a Unitarian Universalist congregation, you hold the responsibility to participate in the business of the congregation, vote at annual and special congregational meetings, pledge generously, chair committees, represent the congregation at regional and national events, plus many other benefits.



Before signing the membership book...

Explore whether your worldview, beliefs, and values resonate with Unitarian Universalism and First Parish in Concord. Consider the gifts and strengths you bring to this congregation and how this faith community might support you. Is First Parish “your” faith community? Are you ready to support the mission of First Parish in Concord and Unitarian Universalism in the world today and carry it into the future?

First Parish in Concord encourages all people interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and the congregation, or considering membership, to attend orientations offered in the fall and spring.

New to Unitarian Universalism?

New to First Parish in Concord?

Considering membership?

At two orientations, come learn more about Unitarian Universalism, First Parish in Concord, and what it means to become a member.

Sunday, October 5, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

New to Unitarian Universalism Orientation

Participants will learn about the rich history of our Unitarian Universalist faith, gain an understanding of congregational polity, and better understand the role of the UU principles and sources in our values-driven religious movement. Child care is available.

RSVP or Questions: Contact Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications at rbaker@firstparish.org by Wednesday, October 1.

Sunday, October 26, 11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

New to First Parish in Concord Orientation

Participants will hear from the ministerial team, staff, and lay leaders, find out how to become engaged in congregational life at First Parish, and have the option to sign the membership book. Child care is available.

RSVP or Questions: Contact Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications at rbaker@firstparish.org by Wednesday, October 22.

Senior Minister
hdana@firstparish.org

Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications

Rev. Marion Visel
Minister for Pastoral Care
mvisel@firstparish.org

Brian Chenoweth
Ministerial Intern
bchenowith@firstparish.org

Fifi Ball
Director of Operations
fball@firstparish.org

Pam Howell
Director of Religious Education
phowell@firstparish.org

Rachel Baker
Director of Membership &
Communications
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Bethany Lowe
Social Action Director &
Youth Program Director
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Cassy Bosworth
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Tina Storey
Assistant to the
Director of Operations
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Doug Baker
Sacristan and Curator
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Beth Norton
Director of Music
music@firstparish.org

Eric Huenneke
Parish Organist
music@firstparish.org

Gail Carey
Music Ministry Associate
music@firstparish.org

Anderson Manuel
Director of Youth Gospel Choir
music@firstparish.org

Dawn Van Patten

Standing Committee

The First Parish Finance Committee is here! As reported in August, the Standing Committee (SC) approved a Finance Committee charter at the July 20, 2014, meeting. We also created a Finance Committee implementation group, led by the First Parish Treasurer and Standing Committee Chair. Communicating through the First Parish Announce email list, the SC bulletin board, committee leaders and other networks, the implementation group invited interested parishioners to apply. During early September, applications were evaluated, applicants were interviewed, and final candidates were identified.

At the SC meeting on September 14, the implementation group brought forward the names of three people. After discussion, the Standing Committee appointed Fred Van Deusen, Carol Smith, and Gib Metcalf as new members of the Finance Committee. Treasurer Tom Wilson and Standing Committee member Patty Popov will join these parishioners to round out the voting membership. By charter, the Standing Committee Chair and the Director of Operations will also serve as ex officio, non-voting members of the Finance Committee. The first duties of the new Finance Committee will be to organize fall congregational discussions on spending priorities.

Also at the same meeting, the Standing Committee appointed Marilyn Lowitt and Suzanne Foley as new members of the Nominating Committee.

Thank you to all of these new committee members who stepped forward to take on these vital and challenging roles.

Standing Committee member Dawn Van Patten has assumed the position of Assistant Director of Religious Education, so there is an opening available on the Standing Committee. According to First Parish bylaws, the Standing Committee can fill unexpected vacancies for a term that runs until the next Annual Meeting. Because our year is already well under way, we would like to appoint someone who can come up to speed quickly. We are seeking a congregation member who has experience in leadership roles on committees such as the Standing Committee, Nominating Committee or Trustees of Parish Donations, and who is available and interested in serving in a provisional capacity until our Annual Meeting in June 2015. Anyone interested in being considered for this position is encouraged to contact Mark Russell Prior.

At our September meeting, we also affirmed Standing Committee annual goals. This year we will continue efforts to improve our governance work by modeling healthy communications and transparency, facilitating opportunities for the congregation to be more engaged in decision making and congregational life, increasing awareness concerning the importance of financial stewardship, and working in shared ministry with Rev. Dana to fulfill our roles as spiritual leaders. We will be tracking our efforts throughout the year and are very much interested in hearing from the congregation. Please reach out to Standing Committee members if you have any thoughts you'd like to share.

Best wishes to all,
Mark Russell Prior, Chair, First Parish Standing Committee

Assistant Director of
Religious Education
dvanpatten@firstparish.org

Gary E. Smith
Minister Emeritus

David Huston
Music Director Emeritus

Contact First Parish

Office Hours:

Tuesday – Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Address: 20 Lexington Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Phone: 978-369-9602
Fax: 978-369-8701

Email: FPCConcord@firstparish.org

Website: www.firstparish.org

Church Calendar:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/hours-directions-services/church-calendar>

Sign up for emailed First Parish Announcements:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/about-first-parish/e-mail-lists>

"Like" our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-Parish-in-Concord-Unitarian-Universalist/343822177494>

Pastoral Care Team

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

From Our Minister for Pastoral Care

Thank you for your warm welcome of me as your Minister for Pastoral Care. You have been most gracious in giving me time to settle in among you, but please know that I am not too busy to talk with *you*. I hope you feel that you can reach out to me, either when we are at First Parish or by making an appointment for us to talk. At the heart of my ministry is knowing you and helping as I can.



I come to you with eight years of experience in my previous congregation, the Unitarian Society of New Haven (USNH) in Hamden, Connecticut. My portfolio there and my portfolio here are exactly the same: pastoral care, to which 75 percent of my time is devoted; Covenant Groups; offering spiritual enrichment retreats and courses; and participating in worship. I am familiar with First Parish's wonderful pastoral care program because it is similar to the program I oversaw at USNH, and because of the great folks you have volunteering in Pastoral Care, who have been generous in sharing their time and experience with me. But I find that there are many small details that one can only learn by doing, so please be patient with me as I learn more about how First Parish does pastoral care, and well, everything else!

I was a hospice chaplain for 14 years and cared for my own mother for many years before her death, so I know about being a caregiver and end-of-life issues. I have been with individuals and faith communities as they have gone through tragedies and times of celebration. I hope that I can be there with you when you are going through a time of struggle or transition, as well as through life's joyful events. Our lives are a tapestry of events, small and great. My ministry is to be with you as the pieces of that tapestry are sewn together, helping to see the story it tells.

Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

New Caring Connection Coordinator

We are thrilled that Anne Fortier has agreed to help support and strengthen our already wonderful Pastoral Care program by becoming the new Caring Connection Coordinator. Anne brings a wealth of knowledge and experience of First Parish. She will join the Pastoral Care team in reaching out to coordinators of our various Caring Connection functions to find out how things are going, to help recruit volunteers or leaders, and to aid in communication between the Caring Connection and the Pastoral Care Lay Ministers and Pastoral Care Council, and to find ways to promote and celebrate all the wonderful work of the Caring Connection. Welcome, Anne, and thank you!

A Pastoral Care Program

Sunday Forum, October 19, at 11:30 a.m.

The Pastoral Care Council has engaged Claire Willis, author of *Lasting Words: A Guide to Finding Meaning toward the Close of Life*, to speak. She has spent the last two decades helping people answer important questions as they near the end of their lives: "How do we want to be remembered? What difference did our lives make? Did we feel that we were known?" Confronting these questions in a way that brings "peace and coherence" is one of the goals of her book, and she has found that

writing the answers to these questions has helped individuals reflect back on their lives and close them with a minimal amount of loose ends.

Fred Van Deusen, Pastoral Care Council

The Arts

Fostering Community through the Arts

The First Parish Arts Council is a committee of parishioners involved in various aspects of the performing and fine arts. It meets monthly from September to June. Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room and are open to all. In this coming year of change, we will reach out to the congregation to spark your participation and to share your ideas and talents.

The First Parish Arts Council serves to further the mission of First Parish through facilitating, promoting, and coordinating a diverse arts ministry that inspires and celebrates creativity and connection. Simply put, we confer with and advise groups and individuals on their proposals for arts events, considering alignment with First Parish's mission, feasibility, scheduling, legal requirements, and more. We produce the overall schedule for First Parish Arts events and share it with the First Parish community. Although some members of the arts council participate in some arts events, the council does not sponsor events itself.

Taking part in arts events is a great way to form connections with people. We want to hear from you—and we will create opportunities in the coming months for you to tell us what you like or not, and what changes, programs, or events you would like to see expanded or added to the First Parish arts calendar. Our goal is to have a dialogue with the congregation that animates and refreshes our arts community and opens the door for all to participate.

Susan Page, Chair, Arts Council

The Arts at First Parish

Each month the First Parish Arts Council will highlight arts events in 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.

October 1 – 28, Photo Exhibit, Celebrating 20-plus years of Transylvania Partnership, Altshuler Gallery

October 1, Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., Arts Council Meeting

October 11, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Photography Club meeting, open to all First Parish adults

October 18, Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Concert by the Unity Singers of Unity Church, St. Paul, Minnesota

October 19, Sunday, 7:00 p.m., Drum Ceremony

October 24, Friday, 7:30 p.m., Rise Up Singing, First Parish's monthly folk song circle, open to singers and instrumentalists of all ages

For more information on these events, check this *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 Susan Page, Chair, for more information: srpage10@verizon.net.

First Parish Choirs

For information about singing with the choirs at First Parish contact Beth Norton, Music Director, at music@firstparish.org

History Project

A Video of Doug Baker's History of First Parish



The Doug Baker History Project needs your help! You all know our dedicated Sexton and Curator Doug Baker is a historian as well as an artist, gardener, Bonsai master, and guardian of our church property. We have long wished to be able to present Doug's history of First Parish to visitors and new members, and to have it available online for parishioners and anyone considering joining our community. With your help, we hope to hire a professional videographer who will work with Doug to produce a quality presentation of his work. In October, we will be asking for your donations to make this a reality. Please keep an eye out for further information and for our table at coffee hour in the coming months. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net.

Transylvania Partnership Partner Congregation News

Thanks to all who have sent in their donations for the scholarships for Transylvanian students. We're still looking for donors for this year's new freshmen. Check the PCC table on Sunday mornings for the freshmen's photos and intro letters, and consider becoming a sponsor.

Hungarian is a truly difficult language to master, but the 20 travelers on the Harmony and Heritage pilgrimage have found that it is easier to sing in Hungarian than to speak it. Lillian Anderson, Rachel Baker, Sara Ballard, Linda Benua, Pat Brinkman, Peggy Claybrook, Ellen Crompton, Howard Dana, Amy Ellsworth, Susan Ellsworth, Nancy Harrison, Val Holt, Marilyn and Peter Lowitt, Bill Maxwell, Peter Norton, Donna Peterson, and Darien Smith are working with Beth Norton to learn some fun songs, so that they may share some music and trade songs with our Keresztúr friends. They along with Howard, our Senior Minister, will visit there from October 30 through November 10, and are looking forward to renewing our bonds of friendship and partnership.

We are still in urgent need of donations of used (or new) Windows PC-compatible laptops (no Macs) for our pilgrims to take to Transylvania for the use of the Unitarian High School language lab when they travel to Keresztúr at the end of October. The memories will be wiped clean before they are transported there. Please contact Dana Booth at dana.a.booth@gmail.com if you have a PC to donate.

WPA Women's Parish Association

WPA Luncheon Program and Meeting

Join old and new friends at the Women's Parish Association's luncheon program on Wednesday, October 15. Liz Clayton, Executive Director of the Drinking Gourd Project will give a slide presentation about the Drinking Gourd Project and the Caesar Robbins House. Lunch and Program: 11:30 a.m. Tour of Robbins House: 1:15 p.m. Charge: Ten Dollars. Contact the office or Dian Pekin at Pekindc@comcast.net by October 11 to make reservations and to communicate food requirements. All women and men are cordially invited to join us.

WPA Boutique at the Artisans Fair

The Women's Parish Association will have its WPA Boutique at this year's Holiday Artisans Fair and is looking for donations of handmade items to sell. Please contact the office or Melita Teichert at mmtconcord1@gmail.com if you have items such as knitted or crocheted scarves, purses, clothing or home decorating items, as well as hand-sewn or quilted items, also high-quality, like-new regifting items such as jewelry, artwork, home decorating items, and the like.

Get Ready for the Holiday Artisans Fair

Plans are well under way for our annual Holiday Artisans Fair, which will be held on Saturday, November 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This major fundraiser has taken place for over 30 years and attracts great artists and artisans. Many new artisans will be selling their latest unique handmade items. Bring family members, friends, and neighbors for a day of great browsing, shopping, and festive socializing at the café. Contact the church office or Dian Pekin at pekindc@comcast.net to volunteer your help at this great community event.

RE News

Special Thanks

Do you wonder how all of your kids have nametags ready for them on the first day of Sunday School? A tremendous *thank you* goes out to Lois Suarez for all of her careful attention to each handwritten tag. Lois moved into our RE office for almost two weeks this summer, helping us get ready for our first day together, and making your child feel welcome and expected. Thank you, Lois.

RE Staffing Changes

I am pleased to announce we have filled our Assistant Director of Religious Education position. Dawn Van Patten will be serving our youngest families, with children aged from 0-1st grade. Dawn will be present on most Sunday mornings, making sure we are staffed with our parent teachers and using our new Teen Assistant force to make your child's experience a pleasant and caring one.

Because of Dawn's role, we now are offering child care before the service (9:00 a.m.), during the service (10:00 a.m.), and after the service until 12:30 p.m. This is a big change for us, and we hope it will enable parents to have some time together to take advantage of some of the interesting programs and committees that will be meeting before and after service time.

Child Dedication Service and Covenant Circle

This November 23, our congregation will gather for an important part of the life of our church, our children. We believe that every child brings new life and hope into the world. This Child Dedication Ceremony allows families who are part of our congregation to formally bless the life of their children of all ages, signifying their hopes as well as the congregation's promise to support and nurture our children throughout their spiritual lives.

Prior to the dedication, the RE Council will be hosting a Covenant Circle for Parents. We will meet three Sundays following the service and there will be child care provided for all ages. This is a chance for parents to connect with each other in a meaningful way and contemplate parenting from a Unitarian Universalist perspective. The book *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting*, by Michelle Richards, is not required reading but will help to focus our conversations.

Save the Date: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

This winter, the First Parish 8th Grade Players will be presenting the musical production *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. Based on the beloved Peanuts characters, it appeals to all ages and will make a great holiday outing for all First Parish families. Performances will be December 12 at 7:00 p.m. and December 13 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Put the dates on your calendar now and plan to join us.

RE Curricula

We will be using the UUA's Tapestry of Faith curricula this year in grades K-7. Below are the curriculum names for each grade level as well as the link to the curriculum resources. This will help you follow what your children are learning in Sunday School each term.

Kindergarten: Wonderful Welcome, Lessons 1-6

First Grade: Spirit Play (not UUA)

Second and Third Grades: Love Will Guide Us, Lessons 1-4

Fourth and Fifth Grades: Faithful Journeys, Lessons 1-4

Sixth and Seventh Grades: Heeding the Call, Lessons 1-4

<http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/index.shtml>

RE Teacher Orientations

Orientations for Religious Education Teachers for 2014-2015

Our orientations are critical to the success of our RE program. When all leaders are on the same page and understand the deeper goals of the program they are leading, the experience is much more meaningful for both

our children and the leaders themselves. Please take a moment to mark your calendar with your teaching assignment's orientation date.

Orientation Schedule for 2014-2015

Holiday Term, October 25: Meet in the Emerson Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4years Teachers
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd – 5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th – 7th Grade Teachers

Winter Term, January 24: Meet in the Emerson Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4years Teachers
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd – 5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th – 7th Grade Teachers

Spring Term, March 28: Meet in the Emerson Room

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Little RE: 0-4years Teachers
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Junior RE: K-1st Grade Teachers
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Middle RE: 2nd – 5th Grade Teachers
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m., Teen RE: 6th – 7th Grade Teachers

Important Dates for 8th and 9th Grade Parents and Leaders

8th Grade Play Dates:

Friday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 14, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MANDATORY OWL 8th Grade Parent (BOTH) Orientation:

Monday & Tuesday, December 8 and 9, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

RE Church School Calendar

Sunday, October 5

0 – 4 Years: Lower Level Classroom
K/1 Grades: Lower Level Classrooms
2nd/3rd Grades: Craft Activity, Emerson Room
4th Grade: Bulkeley Room
5th Grade: Brooks Room
6th/7th Grades: Craft Activity, Wright Tavern, Sunporch
8th Grade: Play, Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.
9th Grade Coming of Age Mentors: 4:30 p.m.

Friday, October 10-11

Coming of Age Retreat

Sunday, October 12

0 – 4 Years: Lower Level Classroom
K – 8th Grades: Sanctuary Service

Sunday, October 19

0 – 4 Years: Lower Level Classroom
K/1 Grades: Lower Level Classrooms
2nd Grade: Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room
3rd Grade: Greeley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room
4th Grade: Bulkeley Room
5th Grade: Brooks Room
6th Grade: Wright Tavern, Right-Hand Room
7th Grade: Wright Tavern, Sunporch
8th Grade: Play, Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.
9th Grade: Coming of Age, Emerson Room, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 26

0 – 4 Years: Lower Level Classroom

K/1 Grades: Lower Level Classrooms

2nd Grade: Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

3rd Grade: Greeley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

4th/5th Grades: Chapel Sunday, Chapel

6th Grade: Wright Tavern, Right-Hand Room

7th Grade: Wright Tavern, Sunporch

8th Grade: Play, Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.

9th Grade: Coming of Age, Sanctuary, 4:00 p.m.

SAC Action

Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee will meet on Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m., where we will work on finalizing some plans for events for the coming months. In response to what happened in Ferguson, MO recently, we have decided to focus much of our energy this year on programming aimed at educating about and combatting racism, and the attitudes that contribute to it. Please join us if you'd like to be involved in this important work. Contact Sara Ballard at sara@sb.org with any questions or suggestions.

Vegan Potluck, Tuesday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious pot-luck dinner in the Parish Hall, October 14 at 6:00 p.m. hosted by Reverence for Life. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey and dairy. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Don't have time to cook? A simple salad or a loaf of bread is just fine. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Concord Crop Walk, Sunday, October 19, 1:30 p.m.

The Concord Area Crop Walk for the Hungry will take place on Sunday, October 19, starting at First Parish; registration begins at 1:30 p.m., step-off is at 2:15. 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 walk or sponsor a walker. See 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.

Interfaith Environmental Potluck, Monday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. at First Parish

The Environmental Leadership Team of First Parish in Concord invites everyone to an interfaith environmental potluck on Monday, October 20 at 6:30 p.m. This group of laity and staff from Concord's houses of worship is currently working on a cooperative composting initiative. We're meeting regularly to work on this and other projects that arise. Please RSVP to Laura Bremner Benedict (bremben@comcast.net) and bring your favorite dish.

Climate Solutions Speaker Series

Friday, October 24, Dr. John Carroll, Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, 7:30 p.m.

What will it take to ensure food sufficiency and farm sustainability in New England as climate change advances? John Carroll, UNH Professor of Natural Resources, will speak about the rising movement toward small-scale, sustainable agriculture in New England. Because we rely heavily on food imported by using fossil fuels, New Englanders are highly vulnerable to food insecurity. Adapting to climate change as well as reducing the carbon footprints that fuel it require of us that we reinvest in locally grown food. John Carroll provides a road map for achieving regional food security.

Women's Book Group

For October, the Women's Book Group will be reading *The Art Forger: A Novel*, by B. A. Shapiro. The evening discussion will be Monday, October 27, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning on Tuesday, October 26, 9:30 to

11:00 a.m., both 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 of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women's Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at darien@smithquest.com or 978-369-1471.

Books and Dates for 2014-2015

October 27/28: *The Art Forger: A Novel*, B. A. Shapiro

December 1/2: *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, Elisabeth Tova Bailey

January 26/27: *My Beloved World*, Sonia Sotomayor

February 23/24: *Main Street*, Sinclair Lewis

March 30/31: *The Art of Travel*, Alain De Botton

April 27/28: *The Orphan Train: A Novel*, Christina Baker Kline

June 1/2: *Moloka'i*, Alan Brennert

Women's Wisdom

Brainstorming Session

Are you seeking a deeper connection with other women of the First Parish community? You are invited to bring your ideas and energy to a brainstorming session about continuing the monthly Minerva Supper Gatherings, on Tuesday evening, October 7, with potluck supper and conversation, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Brooks Room. Questions? Contact Margaret Stewart mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com.

Worship Sharing Circle

Starting in October, parishioners are invited to gather in Rev. Howard Dana's study or on the Keresztúr Terrace, weather permitting, to take turns sharing what stood out for them about the service. This simple event starts soon after the service ends from 11:10 to 11:30 a.m. and is open to everyone. First Parish volunteers will be present to help facilitate this event, previously known as the "post-worship reflection time".

Vegan Potluck

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, October 14 at 6:30 p.m., hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Please bring your own beverage and a dish to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey, and dairy. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish to help out those with allergies or special diets. Your \$2 donation helps to cover expenses. Don't have time to cook? A simple salad or a loaf of bread is just fine. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

Sacred Drum & Chant

Laney Goodman and The Mother Drum

Sunday, October 19, 7:00-9:30 p.m.

We will drum, chant and dance in the four directions of the Medicine Wheel. We will send prayers to the four corners of the Earth for Global Healing and healing For All Our Relations. We will invoke and celebrate the Grandmothers, the Grandfathers, and the Ancestors as we sing, drum, and dance them awake into our circle and into our lives. We will learn how to best be in balance together in a tribal way - once again bringing forth the old wisdom into our present time, where it is needed for healing our hearts, minds, and the global community. This ceremony teaches us the power of deep listening and helps take us deeper into community to find our commonUNITY... as we heal ourselves and our Mother Earth... For All Our Relations-A-Ho!

Please bring bells, shakers, rattles, and drums of all types.

Suggested donation is \$10. Space is limited. Reservations required.

For reservations or more information, call or email Tammie TamasinFoote@feete.com, 978-369-3666.

Concord Area Humanists

Concord Area Humanists (CAH) meet the first Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Additional information is available on the website, www.concordareahumanists.org under "Events."

Wednesday, October 1, "Accidental Universe," Prof. Alan Lightman, brilliant cosmologist and best-selling author will discuss his essay, originally in *Harper's Magazine* in 2011, <http://harpers.org/archive/2011/12/the-accidental-universe/1/>, and repeated in the January 2014 book with the same name. Dr. Henry Vaillant, who gave a memorable talk last February, entitled, "Darwin and Lincoln," will guide a discussion.

Wednesday, November 5, "Restorative Justice," A representative from Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University will describe what it is and why we should care, <http://www.suffolk.edu/college/centers/14521.php>.

Speak Spanish?

¿Hablas español, o quieres mejorar?

Do you speak Spanish—or want to speak it better?

Then please join other First Parishioners for some great evenings of conversation, fun, and food.

Primera reunion: jueves octubre 2 a las 6:30

Our first gathering will be Thursday, October 2, at 6:30 p.m. at Laurie Van Loon's house.* Come with your favorite music CD's en español, as well as a hearty snack and a beverage to share. We'll enjoy each other's music and discuss our ideas for future gatherings, to be held the first Thursday evening of each month.

Ven: No tienes que hablar bien!

Don't be shy: English is allowed. There will always be someone who can translate.

**Para Más Información* For more information,

Llama a Call Laurie Van Loon 978-369-8528

O manda or send email to vanloon@comcast.net

Jewish Awareness

On Friday evening, October 17, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Lillian Anderson will lead a presentation and discussion with the Jewish Awareness group. Topic: "The enduring legacy of Fiddler on the Roof," based on the *New York Times* article, "On Jewishness, as the Fiddle Played." All are welcome.

Denominational Affairs

Income Equality

The Denominational Affairs Committee invites you to join us at a screening of *Inequality for All* at 7pm on Wednesday October 1 at the Concord Town House hearing room (22 Monument Square). In the film, economist Robert Reich discusses the history of income in America since World War II and the reasons why inequality has widened. He explains complex economic trends in a clear, concise, and funny way. The film is in line with the UUA's Congregational Action/Study Issue of income disparity, voted at this year's General Assembly. The showing is being sponsored by FP member Rep Cory Atkins. There will be a discussion afterwards, where we will talk about next steps.

Catnip Ball Assembly

Everyone is invited to help assemble the ever-popular catnip balls for sale at the WPA's Holiday Artisan's Fair. Come to one or both catnip ball workshops, Tuesday, September 30 or Wednesday, October 8, beginning at 9 a.m. Come for an hour, or for two, enjoy coffee and conversation and the pleasant task at hand. No sewing skills required.

Tuesday Group

The Tuesday Group (65-plus seniors) will meet October 7, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Come meet Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care and Brian Chenowith, Ministerial Intern. The Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of each month 1:30 - 3:00 p.m., and don't worry about your age, you determine whether you are a senior! No need to sign up; just show up! Hope to see you there.

Warrior Mother Performance

Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy

Thursday, October 9, 6 p.m., Emerson Room

Sheila Collins, dancer, social worker, and author of *Warrior Mother: Fierce Love, Unbearable Loss and Rituals that Heal*, goes outside the bounds of the ordinary when two of her three adult children are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases. Witness the walk of life's challenges during this evening of reading and performance.

Contact CC King, sammykat@comcast.net, 978-369-1543

Trivia Night

Come to Trivia Night at First Parish on Saturday, October 25, at 7:00 p.m. Bring your favorite beverage. We will provide pizza. Sharpen your wits, laugh with your friends, and finally put to good use all that "stuff" filling your brain and taking up precious space. This event is *not* a fundraiser. It is a "fun*raiser." This is not a trivial event—we are serious about having fun. Join or create a team of six. Perhaps your team will go home with a Winner's Trophy! Sign up at coffee hour! \$5.00 per person. All adults and high school students welcome! Last day to sign up for Trivia Night will be on Sunday, October 19, during social hour.

All-Parish Exhibit

Annual All-Parish Art Exhibit

All First Parish artists are invited to submit a painting, drawing, pastel or graphic print they have created to be displayed in an exhibit this coming November. The exhibit will be in both gallery A and B of the Sue Altshuller Gallery (the stairs leading down from the sanctuary and the parish hall stage). All art should include some means to hang it, as well as the name, title and phone number of the artist on the back. The work can be brought to First Parish beginning the week of November 2, and left in Doug Baker's office. The display will be mounted on Wednesday, November 5, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The display will be up until Wednesday, December 3.

This is an annual exhibit to celebrate parishioners' art and is non-competitive and non-commercial.

Facilities Advisory

Facilities Advisory and Research Group

Parishioners are asked to consider joining the new Facilities Advisory and Support Group being started by Richard (Kel) Keleher at the request of Doug Baker, our Sexton. This committee will advise Doug on matters such as the performance of an energy audit, upcoming maintenance issues, priorities for building and grounds maintenance, budgeting, etc., and will support him by doing the necessary research for projects. If you can't join the committee, volunteering for individual projects will be possible. The number of meetings will be minimal, much of the correspondence being done via email. If you are interested in either way of participating, please contact Kel at 978-944-2734 or kel@rkeleher.com. If you already notified Kel of your interest last spring, you do not need to respond again, unless your email address has changed.

Applause All Around

Thank you to Tammie Foote for planning and organizing the wonderfully fun and successful Homecoming Celebration and Picnic!

Adult Learning

Adult Learning Opportunity at Kerem Shalom

Please allow me to bring to your attention an extraordinary adult learning opportunity that is being offered at Congregation Kerem Shalom, in Concord. The program, designed by Hebrew College, is called "Me'ah," the Hebrew word for "100"; true to its name, this two-year program consists of a total of 100 hours of college-level lectures and discussions. In the four semesters of the course, you will be exposed to the latest scholarship in the fields of biblical, rabbinic, medieval and modern history. The Me'ah program boasts thousands of graduates in greater Boston. We are delighted that Kerem Shalom has been selected to be a daytime Me'ah site this fall; classes will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, beginning October 21. To learn more details about the faculty and curriculum, please visit www.hebrewcollege.edu/meah. For questions about registration, including costs (please note that scholarships are available), please contact Rosalie Gerut at rosaliege@comcast.net or download the registration form at <http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/sites/default/files/kerem-shalom3.pdf>

UU Universe

UUSC

Have you heard about the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's](#) online store? **The Good Buy** is what online shopping should be: a carefully curated selection of ethically sourced products for sustainable living. When you shop at the Good Buy — for yourself or your loved ones — you can be sure you're spending your dollars with an organization that cares about the earth and the conditions of workers along the supply chain. Each purchase directly funds UUSC's human rights and social justice programs around the world. Together, we can make choices that make a difference. Say good-bye to shopping that's bad for workers and the earth. Say hello to www.thegoodbuy.com.

Cuba AyUUda Trips

Cuba AyUUda, a Social Justice Action Group of First UU of Portland, Oregon, connects U.S. travelers with personally enriching experiences in Cuba, building friendships and exchanging ideas with Cubans. We are currently offering affordable, 10-day/9-night, all-inclusive trips to Cuba scheduled throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

Among the places we will visit in Cuba is Muraleando, an arts education community project that we helped nurture through its infancy. We will also visit a neighborhood clinic to learn a bit about healthcare, we will take in several museums in Havana, and we will spend a couple days in the 500-year-old colonial town of Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Along the way, we will learn from and develop friendships with the Cubans we meet.

Space is limited to small groups in order to ensure authentic personal connection to the people and places of Cuba. Please visit our Web page at www.cubaayuuda.org for more information and to apply for this wonderful opportunity to visit Cuba legally and ethically.

Unitarian Universalist Buddhist Fellowship Convocation 2015

"After Buddhism: Recovering the Dharma for a Secular Age," with Stephen Batchelor
March 20-22, 2015, Garrison Institute, Garrison, New York
Register now at www.uubf.org.

By returning to the earliest texts of the Buddhist canon, we will seek to clarify the distinctive vision of Siddhattha Gotama before it evolved into the orthodoxy of an institutional religion. This weekend of talks, workshops, meditations and discussions will explore how such a vision might address the questions and crises of contemporary culture.

A former Buddhist monk, Stephen Batchelor is the author of *Buddhism without Beliefs* and *Confession of a Buddhist Atheist*. He teaches secular Buddhist meditation and philosophy worldwide, and lives in France. To learn more about him visit, www.stephenbatchelor.org

Editor's Notes

Next Meeting House News deadline:

Tuesday, October 21, 11:59 p.m. (yes, the middle of the night)

Email submissions, either in the body of the email or as an attached Word document (not a PDF), to Rachel Baker, at rbaker@firstparish.org. Inserts will no longer be possible, due to the new format.

Next publication date:

Tuesday, November 4

First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, is a welcoming congregation seeking ways to deepen spiritually, build community, and make a positive difference in the world.

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association.