



The Meeting House News

November 2014

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Greetings!

Welcome to the November *Meeting House News*.

Worship Services

Sunday, November 2, All Souls Remembrance, "Seasons of Grief"

Rev. Marion Visel and Lincoln Ringers, Diane Burke, director

Sunday, November 9, "The Spiritual Practice of Being an Ally"

Bethany Lowe, Contemporary Vocal Ensemble, and Gospel Singers

Sunday, November 16, "Give to All Who Beg from You"

Rev. Howard Dana and First Parish Choir

Sunday, November 23, Thanksgiving Sunday, "We Dedicate This Child"

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

Two services at 9:00 and 11:00

Sunday, November 30, "An Abiding Delight"

Brian Chenowith and Bob Goodearl, vocalist

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

Pastoral Care

Lay Minister for November

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Minister for Pastoral Care

Rev. Marion Visel
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Senior Minister

Rev. Howard Dana
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hdana@firstparish.org

Ministerial Intern

Brian Chenoweth

bchenowith@firstparish.org

Caring Connection

Rides

Suzanne Hogan

978-318-9035

suzanne.hogan@comcast.net

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate

Muffins available for \$.50

Events This Month

Worship

Sunday, November 2, 10:00
a.m.

Rev. Marion Visel

Piano and Clarinet Concert

Sunday, November 2, 2:00 p.m.

65-Plus Tuesday Group

Tuesday, November 4, 1:30
p.m.

November 5 – December 3

All-Parish Art Exhibit

Environmental Leadership Team

Wednesday, November 5, 7:30
p.m.

Additional Worship Services

Taizé-Style Vespers Service

Tuesday, November 18th at 7:00 p.m.

“Go to the very edge // Where the old one ends. // And something else begins. // Something else begins.” Join Beth Norton, Rachel Baker, Bethany Lowe and the By Your Side Singers for a service of song, poetry and reflection on the topic of transitions. We all experience transitions. As a community, as a family, and personally. We, as a church community, have been transitioning for the past five years, as staff and friends have left the church. The departure of Pam from her staff role is currently on our minds and hearts. And during all of this, we have carried our personal transitions, and we have asked to be held by this community. In this time when we are feeling the transitions of seasons, we examine all the transitions that are currently informing our experience and take some quiet time to reflect on these changes in our lives and this community.

REVeries

An excerpt from my sermon delivered Sunday,

October 12, 2014—One of the hallmarks of

First Parish in Concord is its high standards.

We do things right! The building is beautiful.

The flowers are beautiful. The classrooms are

well stocked. The newsletter is perfectly

edited. The music is top-notch. The potlucks

are sumptuous. The social justice projects are tasteful and

sincere. All the women are strong. All the men are good-

looking. And all the children are well above average! (Insert big

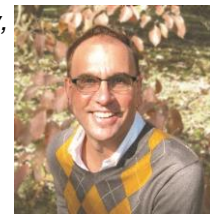
smile here.) There is nothing at First Parish in Concord that

cannot be made more complex, more beautiful, or more perfect.

And mostly, this is a good thing. It is a good thing until it gets in

the way of real human connection. It is a good thing until it no

longer leaves room for brokenness, guilt, shame and remorse.



One of the most painful things I have heard about First Parish in Concord is how families and individuals feel the need to pull away from the church when their lives take a turn for the worse. Rather than being seen as a place of support during a divorce or the loss of a job or a house, some people have stayed away from First Parish out of shame. Rather than being seen as a place where parents might be upheld during a teenager's drug addiction or eating disorder, some families have stayed away from First Parish out of guilt. Rather than being seen as a place where tears are welcome, some people have avoided First Parish after the death of a spouse or a child or a parent out of brokenness—a brokenness that somehow did not feel welcome here. My people, we have to change this! Our congregation should be the first place people come when their lives have been turned upside down. Our congregation should be the first to say, “Oh, appearances don't really matter. What we want is to see you. How can we help?”

Church is the place where we get to practice living the way we would like to live in the rest of the world. Church is the place

Speak Spanish Potluck
Thursday, November 6, 6:30
p.m.
Off-site

By Your Side Singers
Thursday, November 6, 7:30
p.m.

Minns Lectures
November 7-9
Off-site

Discussion on Food
Sustainability
Friday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.

Photography Club Meeting
Saturday, November 8, 9:00
a.m.

Worship
Sunday, November 9, 10:00
a.m.
Bethany Lowe

Sarasa Chamber Music
Sunday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Denominational Affairs
Committee
Monday, November 10, 7:30
p.m.

Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, November 11, 2:00
p.m.

Vegan Potluck Dinner
Tuesday, November 11, 6:30
p.m.

Arts Council Meeting
November 12, 6:00 p.m.

Cooking Meals
Thursday, November 13, 9:00
a.m.

Worship
Sunday, November 16, 10:00
a.m.
Rev. Howard Dana

Forum on Divestment
Sunday, November 16, 11:30
a.m.

where we get to try leadership—and followership. Church is the place where we get to be kinder than we thought possible. It is the place where we get to practice acting and reacting in a different way. Church is where we get to learn to love ourselves more, knowing that it will help us love others more too.

Love, Howard

Intern-al Dialogues

They say one of the most stressful things in life is moving. I can almost agree with this. I would've never thought that I would move more than once for this internship. The thought never crossed my mind! But as things happen, I now find myself living right near the heart of Concord. I am thankful for the opportunity to be closer. For the duration of this internship with all of you here at First Parish, I am certain I will look back at this move and realize it was a necessary and helpful thing to do. This move wasn't that strenuous. It certainly wasn't 1200 miles away and I didn't bring much with me to begin with. I packed up my essentials and left behind my anxieties. I knew this was the right thing to do, as sudden as it was. Was it still stressful? Sure. But was it worth it? You bet.



The holidays will soon be upon us. They'll be here whether you're ready or not. We are entering into a season that is thought of as joyful, relaxing and restorative. But this is often not the case. For many of us, we find ourselves carrying the full weight of all the expectations that come along with the months of November and December. It can be stressful. The anxiety is often lumped on top of the expectations and it is carried with us. It doesn't need to be that way. We can leave some things behind as we move toward the coming winter.

Realistically, there is a natural level of stress that comes with any big event. The holidays are no exception. However, when we find ourselves losing focus looking for those perfect presents, pulling out our hair over candied yams, or running a marathon for that once-in-a-lifetime deal the day after Thanksgiving, it might be time to step back and figure out what we need to leave behind. How can we breathe a sigh of relief and rediscover the joy that is sung in so many of the carols we will soon be hearing? May this coming season be one of restoration and relaxation for you all.

Oh, and one more thing! I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you that offered furniture for this move. I was blown away by the amount of responses and have tried to get back to each and every one of you. Please know that I am so very thankful. First Parish is truly a generous and wonderful community. Thank you.

Warmly,
Brian

Women's Retreat Reunion
Monday, November 17, 6:00
p.m.

Film Viewing and Discussion
Sunday, November 16, 4:00
p.m.

Taizé-Style Vespers Service
Tuesday, November 18, 7:00
p.m.

Diversity Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 7:00
p.m.

Jewish Awareness
Friday night, November 21, 7:00
p.m.

Mom's Night Out
Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

Rise Up Singing
Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.

Worship
Sunday, November 23
Two services at 9:00 and 11:00
Rev. Howard Dana

Worship
Sunday, November 30
Brian Chenoweth

Women's AM/PM Book Group
Monday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 2, 9:30
a.m.

Every Week
Worship Sharing Circle
Sunday, 11:10 to 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Howard Dana's study

Buddhist Group
Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Additional details elsewhere

MUSings

I write this reflection as I prepare to embark on our Harmony and Heritage Pilgrimage to Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania (Romania) with 19 other First Parish pilgrims. This will be my sixth pilgrimage to Transylvania since 2002. Each time I have made this journey, the experience has opened my mind and heart and taught me more about myself, my fellow pilgrims and our Unitarian heritage. Like peeling an onion, each return brings me closer to a core understanding of the complex interaction between Transylvanian culture and my own. The prospect of this journey evokes a full range of emotions, from excitement and wonder to mild apprehension.



What do I most look forward to in this pilgrimage? I look forward to renewing connections with friends in Székelykeresztúr, some of whom I've known now for over a decade, through graduations, marriages and births. I look forward to sharing in the annual November pilgrimage to the ruined citadel in Déva, where Frances David, the founder of Unitarianism in Transylvania, died. And I look forward to singing with our hosts and deepening our connections through music and worship.

What makes me most nervous? It seems that whenever and wherever I travel, the hardest thing is letting go here at home. At these points of departure I must acknowledge that I live a juggler's life. It is a challenge to toss each ball in the air and trust that it will be caught and held while I am gone. But once I've packed my bags and headed for the airport, I feel light and free and focused on the adventure ahead.

And this, I suppose, is the part I love about being a pilgrim. Travel to a foreign land, with unfamiliar culture and language, with fewer possessions and responsibilities takes me closer to the core of my being. In becoming a "foreigner" for a short time, I learn once more what is essential to my identity, my faith and all that I love.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for the long and ever-growing relationship we have with our partner congregation. I am grateful for my fellow travelers, both here at home and on the journey ahead. May we all grow in faith and harmony.

Blessings,
Beth

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Pam Howell
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Reflections

Last year, a couple of our parishioners had a dream. They wanted to know if it were possible to dedicate their children even though their children were no longer babies. We talked about their ideas in the spring, reviewed materials and possibilities over the summer, and jumped right into organizing the biggest Child Dedication this parish has ever seen.



In addition to the ceremony itself, Sarah Wilfert, Dawn Van Patten, the RE Council and I organized three Covenant Circles for parents to gather and talk about their dreams for their children. We shared deeply and personally about our love for our children and the steadfast values that our parish teaches their children. We shared why we were drawn to First Parish and what we hoped for our children as they grow up within these walls and among each other.

We also ran a circle for our children. We let them ask questions about the Dedication Service. One child asked, "But will people be looking at me?" I smiled. "Why, yes, they certainly will. You and your presence will give many people hope. People will look at you because you will be carrying our values into the world and into our future." Sacramental ceremonies are actually less about the individual receiving the sacrament, and more about the community witnessing the sacrament received. Sacraments assure us that important sacraments that mark milestones have always been happening and will always be happening. They are the ritualistic glue that ties one family to another and one generation to the next.

The best things in life are rarely just about you; they are about us.



Losing a best friend is hard. Tucker managed to move into my heart and live inside it for nine beautiful years. He and I were inseparable. I feel out of balance without his presence: his breath, his lapping of water, his waggily tail for me. Tucker brought me great joy every single day. I miss him terribly and I know many of you loved my pup too. Thank you for the rich life you gave my dog. He loved church, every day and every minute. He never once asked to go home, because church was his home.

With love and peace, Pam Howell

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and Communications
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Beth Norton
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Eric Huenneke
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Gail Carey
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Anderson Manuel
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Dawn Van Patten
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Religious Education
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Gary E. Smith
Minister Emeritus

David Huston
Music Director Emeritus

Social Action Community

Lots of great new ideas are brewing in the Social Action world at First Parish in Concord.



For the past few months, members of the Environmental Leadership Team (ELT) have been organizing potlucks alongside other green groups at Concord's churches and temples. After less than a year of meeting, the group has decided to embark on a cooperative composting program. We'll be looking to co-create practices by which our religious institutions can find ways to put less organic material into trashcans. Look out for more details in the future. And come to our next potluck if you're interested!

Finally, members of our Social Action Community Council have been working with the UU Service Committee (UUSC) over the past year to find a way to connect better with that organization. We're currently considering if First Parish might be a good candidate to work directly with the UUSC and one of their international partners.

I'm excited by these two projects—among others—because they are bringing us into new relationships. We are learning how the different houses of worship in Concord work, and we are also learning how highly regarded our own ELT is. We are deepening into the work of the UUSC and finding how small, but mighty, that organization is; by learning about the UUSC's partners, we are finding new exciting projects and wondering how we might learn from these projects.

I hope you'll join us as we embark on these new adventures.

Bethany

First Parish Match

When First Parish had its congregational listening sessions last fall, one thing was certain—congregants wanted more pastoral care for the people they loved in this church.

In April 2014, a generous anonymous donor challenged others in the congregation to match a gift of \$20,000 with the expressed purpose of increasing professional pastoral care at First Parish. Several parishioners met this challenge by increasing their FY15 pledges. The combination raised a total of \$40,000 to help hire Rev. Marion Visel, our three-quarter-time Minister for Pastoral Care.

Here's a hearty and heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed—to the 2014 Annual Pledge Campaign, the challenge, and the match.

Congratulations, First Parish—you really know how to put your money where your heart is!

Fifi Ball, Director of Operations

Contact First Parish

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

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Concord, Massachusetts 01742

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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>

Standing Committee

I am very pleased to announce that at our October 19 meeting, the Standing Committee appointed Kitsy Rothermel to the Standing Committee, effective immediately, to serve in a provisional capacity until our 2015 Annual Meeting. Kitsy and her husband Terry have been coming to First Parish since 1968 and she has served in leadership positions on many committees, including the Standing Committee and the Nominating Committee. She is also a Deacon, and more than once has led the annual pledge campaign and other major activities. Kitsy is assuming the position vacated by Dawn Van Patten when Dawn assumed the position of Assistant Director of Religious Education.

The Standing Committee also met with the Fossil Fuel Divestment and Shareholder Activism group, formed under the umbrella of the First Parish Environmental Leadership Team. This group will be working in the coming months to educate the congregation about a resolution passed at the UUA General Assembly last summer intended to encourage "Unitarian Universalist congregations and Unitarian Universalists to review their congregational and personal investments with a view to taking action to end climate change, such as public divestment of their holdings in fossil fuel companies, supporting shareholder activism designed to end use of fossil fuels, and investment in renewable energy and conservation." There is much more to come on this important topic.

Believe it or not, the Fiscal Year 2016 budget season is upon us! At our next meeting on November 9, the Standing Committee will hear from the new First Parish Finance Committee. This subcommittee of the Standing Committee met with interested parishioners on October 26 and 28 to identify and discuss current and future spending priorities. They are now hard at work compiling results in preparation for their first report.

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

Pastoral Care Team

Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings

Rides and Drivers

Contact Suzanne Hogan at (suzanne.hogan@comcast.net) or 978-318-9035

if you are in need of transportation for medical reasons, to church for the Sunday service or other church activities. Drivers still needed. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne Hogan.

New Baby Welcomers: What We Do!

When the birth of a new baby is announced in our church community, we reach out to the family with a warm welcome on behalf of First Parish. We bring them a meal made by church volunteers, a book about spiritual parenting and a lovely baby blanket made by Kitsy Rothermel. We also check in with the new parents about how they are doing, and make sure they are aware of church and community resources available to them. We will make a follow-up call to see how things are going and to see if there is anything the family needs.
Louisa Paushter and Bridget Neale Paris
Caring Connection

Help Wanted! Please Come and Join In On the Fun

The Caring Connection of First Parish provides delicious meals for parishioners during times of transition (often because of illness or family loss) as part of our shared pastoral care outreach. We are going to cook and you're invited. We will make three dishes in a November cooking session and then more in January. Come help! No experience necessary; we provide recipes and provisions.

When: Thursday, November 13

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: First Parish kitchen

All are welcome! Breakfast snacks are served. It's a fun way to help out and connect to others. Please RSVP to Tracey Hurd (thurd@aol.com or 978-369-2366). If you can't help this time but would like to be on a list of potential January cooks, that is helpful too.

The Arts

Fostering Community through the Arts

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.

November 2, 2:00 p.m., Recital by Eric Huenneke, piano, and Nancy Ackerman, clarinet

November 5 – December 3, All Parish Art Exhibit, Altshuler Gallery

November 8, 9:00 a.m., Photography Club meeting, open to all First Parish adults

November 9, 7:00 p.m., Sarasa Chamber Music Concert, C.P.E. Bach and J.-P. Rameau Anniversary Celebration

November 12, 6:00 p.m., Arts Council Meeting, all welcome

November 21, 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.

Sunday, November 2, 2:00 p.m.

Pianist Eric Huenneke and clarinetist Nancy Ackerman will share a concert of International 20th Century Piano and Chamber Music by Isaac Albeniz, Gerald Finzi, Niels Gade, Alexander Scriabin and William Grant Still on Sunday, November 2, at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Eric and Nancy have performed together many times in concerts and services over the years at First Parish. It will be a great opportunity to hear a variety of lovely pieces composed over the last century or so. Eric is our Parish Organist and Nancy is well-known as a performer and teacher in the Concord and Worcester area.

Sunday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

Once again, First Parish welcomes the Sarasa Chamber Music Ensemble for a Sunday evening concert with a program titled, "C.P.E. Bach and J.-P. Rameau Anniversary Celebration." Portraying the genius of these two neglected, yet highly influential and forward-looking composers are Jennifer Morsches, cello, and acclaimed British harpsichordist Robin Bigwood. The program, in addition to Rameau's colorful and flamboyant solo harpsichord works, will include CPE Bach's two sonatas Wq 136 and 137, written for viola da gamba and continuo, presented here on an original five-string piccolo cello. The formidable and radical artistry of Rameau's harpsichord writing will be punctuated with cello sonatas by the mysterious Francesco Alborea and popular Salvatore Lanzetti, both highly influential 18th-century cellists. Come hear this delightful program in our Parish Hall, performed by world-class musicians. And help support their mission of bringing such performances to underprivileged and incarcerated youth. Visit www.sarasamusic.org for tickets and information.

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****Donate Generously to the First Parish History Project**

The year 2015 marks the 35th year that our Sexton and Curator Doug Baker has been our resident caretaker, historian, and artist. We would like to honor Doug's role as teacher and historian by producing a professional quality video of his history of the church so that we can share it with both current and future parishioners. Please help us to reach this goal by giving generously to the First Parish History Project. You can give by mailing or bringing a check to the church office, or you can give through our web site. Simply click the "Donate" button, then scroll down to the fourth box that says "History Project" to make your donation. If you did not

receive a letter concerning this project or would simply like more information, please contact Sue Beck at sbeck345@comcast.net or at 978-369-8445.

Transylvania Partnership**Partner Congregation News**

On September 28, our *kopjafa* (memorial pole) was dedicated, celebrating the 20 years of partnership with the Unitarian congregation in Székelykeresztúr. You can see photos of the event on the FP gallery at <http://bit.ly/FPKopjafa>.

Thank you to everyone who donated scholarships to Keresztúr students. They and their families are very grateful for your support.

On October 26, the 20 parishioners going on the October 30 to November 10 Harmony and Heritage

Transylvania Pilgrimage were recognized. We look forward to their stories and reflections when they return. See Pilgrims postings on the partnership Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/fp-ker>.

Also, many thanks for the contributions of laptops for the High School language lab. Some of them are being delivered by FP pilgrims who are in Keresztúr right now. The rest will be taken by future travelers. We're in the planning stage for a possible summer 2015 pilgrimage for First Parish children, youth and adults, including multiple nights of camping together with Keresztúr children, youth and adults. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Rodger Mattlage at rmattlage@mac.com.

RE News

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.

Celebrate the Holidays with Charlie Brown and the Peanuts Gang!

You won't want to miss the First Parish 8th Grade Players' presentation of the musical production *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. The entire family will enjoy watching the beloved Peanuts characters bring their unique outlook on life's trials and tribulations to our stage. Performances will be December 12 at 7:00 p.m., and December 13 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendar and plan to begin your holiday with this entertaining show.

Darlingside Concert/Fundraiser on January 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Darlingside is a terrific new band who play a variety of stringed instruments and harmonize together. Their music is beautiful and we would love for you to join us that evening to hear their music at First Parish.

They have a pretty earnest following, so I want to reserve tickets for those of you who would like to attend. This concert is scheduled to end about 8:30 p.m., so kids could attend (probably eight and up). The tickets will be \$20. If you would like us to save you a seat, please go to "doodle" and put your name and the number of tickets your family would like. It is the honor system, so we will collect your money at the door. There will only be 150 seats available, so don't be slow: <http://doodle.com/vn2quh2xs7symbnc>.

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 7-12

First Grade: Spirit Play (not UUA)

Second and Third Grades: Love Will Guide Us, Lessons 5-8

Fourth and Fifth Grades: Faithful Journeys, Lessons 5-8

Sixth and Seventh Grades: Neighboring Activist Projects <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 2015

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, November 2

0 – 4 years: Lower Level Classroom
K&1: Lower Level Classrooms
2nd/3rd: Children's Chapel
4th: Bulkeley Room
5th: Brooks Room
6th/7th: Wright Tavern, Sunporch
8th Grade Play: Wright Tavern, 4:00 p.m.
9th Grade Mentors Coming of Age: 4:30 p.m.
9th-12th Grade Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 11

Coming of Age UU Heritage Tour, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 16

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

Sunday, November 23, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

0 – 4 years: Lower Level Classroom

Children over 4 years attend Worship Service for Child Dedication Ceremony

Sunday, November 30

0 – 4 years: Lower Level Classroom

No regular RE

SAC Action

Climate Solutions Panel Discussion on Food Sustainability in New England

Friday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.

This panel discussion will feature three experts in local food systems who will offer tangible ways to make New England more sustainable in the next few decades. Jen Hashley, director of the New Entry Sustainability Farming Project at Tufts University, will discuss initiatives to support new farmers and the role of animal husbandry in local food systems. Jack Kitteredge, policy director for the New England Organic Farmers Association, will present current research about carbon sequestration models. Brian Donohue, associate professor of American Environmental Science at Brandeis University, will discuss a vision for New England to produce 50 percent of its own food by 2060. This promises to be an excellent discussion. This event is part of the Climate Solutions Speaker Series, which is supported and organized by six local organizations. All are encouraged to come and learn about what you can do to promote local food sufficiency.

Vegan Potluck

Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, November 11, at 6:30 p.m. (please note new time) 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. Please also bring your own plate, silverware, napkin and cup to reduce paper waste and cleanup. (We will have paper in case people forget.) 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 llsrdv@netscape.net.

Forum on Divestment, Socially Responsible Investing and Shareholder Advocacy

Sunday, November 16, 11:30 a.m.

This past June, the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly passed a business resolution on divesting from fossil fuel companies, which included provisions for engaging in shareholder advocacy when appropriate. The business resolution also asked the UUA's congregations to engage with this issue in their own communities. A small group at First Parish has started organizing events to educate the congregation on these issues. If you are interested in the issue, and what it means for First Parish and your own investments, come to the Sunday Forum on the 16th!

Film Viewing and Discussion

Sunday, November 16, 4:00 p.m.

The Diversity Committee will show the film "Brother Outsider: the Life of Bayard Rustin" in the Chapel on Sunday, November 16, at 4:00 p.m. This documentary presents the vivid history of a largely unknown but pivotal figure in the civil rights struggles of the mid-20th century. "One of the first freedom riders, an adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., organizer of the march on Washington, intelligent, gregarious and charismatic, Bayard Rustin was denied his place in the limelight for one reason - he was gay. This film contributes a fascinating new chapter to our understanding of both progressive movements, and gay life, in 20th-century America." The film is 83 minutes long, and will be followed by a short discussion. Admission is free; please join us.

Diversity Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

The next Diversity Committee meeting is on Tuesday, November 18 in the Greeley Room from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; we welcome anyone to join us who is interested in helping us, make First Parish a more diverse and welcoming congregation.

Women's Book Group

As usual, the Women's Book Group will discuss just one book for November and December, and the selection is *The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*, by Elisabeth Tova Bailey. The evening discussion will be Monday, December 1, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning, on Tuesday, December 2, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Both are 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

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

Worship Sharing Circle

Parishioners are invited to gather in Rev. Dana's study to take turns sharing what stood out for them about the service. This simple opportunity to share, listen and get to know others in the First Parish community starts soon after the service ends. It usually runs 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."

Tuesday Group for 65-Plus

Tuesday, November 4, 1:30 p.m.

"Coping with Transitions in Later Life"

The next meeting is Tuesday, November 4 (Election Day!), 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Each meeting includes a time of focused sharing and a topic for facilitated discussion. This month's meeting will focus on coping in a positive way with the many transitions in later life.

The Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month 1:30-3:00 p.m., Don't worry about your age; all are welcome, you determine whether the topic is for you. Hope to see you there!

Tuesday Group Steering Committee: Berni Jenkins (contact person) berni.jenkins@verizon.net, 978/369-2876, Bob Andrews, Becky Blodgett, Mary Clarke, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis and Jack Nevison

Concord Area Humanists

Concord Area Humanists (CAH) meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Additional information is available on the website www.concordareahumanists.org under "Events." **On November 5**, a representative from Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University will describe what "Restorative Justice" 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?

Thursday, November 6, 6:30 p.m., offsite

Then please join otros compañeros de First Parish for some great evenings of *conversación, diversión, y comida*. Gatherings are held on the first Thursday of every month.

Próxima reunión: jueves 6 de nov a las 6:30

Nuestra próxima reunión will be Thursday, November 6 at 6:30 *en la casa de Nancy Kerr & Richard Warren*. We'll celebrate *El Día de los Muertos*, so bring a reminder object from *alguien especial* who's gone before. Please bring *comida y bebida* for a pot luck supper.

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 ivanloon@comcast.net

Denominational Affairs Committee

Monday, November 10, 7:30 p.m.

Delegates at the 2014 General Assembly selected "Escalating Inequality" as the new Congregational Study/Action Issue for the coming four years. The UUA prepared a resource guide, and will offer workshops to share best practices, address challenges and identify opportunities for collaboration. Here at First Parish, the Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) is looking for congregation members who want to join in the planned process of study, reflection and action on economic inequality in America. If you are interested, please come to the next DAC meeting, Monday, November 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room, or contact AliceVanDeusen@gmail.com.

Women's Retreat Reunion

Potluck Dinner, Monday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Come socialize, brainstorm ideas, and get excited about the next retreat with other women who have attended other First Parish Women's Retreats.

Questions? Contact Bozena at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

Jewish Awareness

Mel Bernstein will lead a discussion on the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe on Friday night, November 21, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for the Jewish Awareness affinity group. The discussion will focus on such questions as: Where have acts of anti-Semitism taken place? Why is it happening now? What effect has it had on Jewish people in Europe? What is being done about it? All are welcome.

UU Universe

Minns Lectures in Boston; November 7 to 9

Best-selling author and UU minister Kate Braestrup talks about men, women, and children--and how to love one another in a complicated world. No topic could be more compelling as issues of domestic abuse and parent-child relations top the national agenda. Get the details and register to attend: <http://minnslectures.org//2014Series.php>.

Community Events

Compassionate Raising of a Troubled Child

On Saturday, November 15, from 5:30-9:00 p.m. at Lincoln-Sudbury High School, the Buddhist group, which meets weekly in the First Parish Chapel, will show the film "Tashi & the Monk," an inspiring, award-winning film about using compassion and wisdom to raise a troubled child. The film showing will be followed by a Tibetan dinner. (For those of you that remember him, Lobsang, who was in Concord from 2001 to 2006, is the monk in the film.) For more information and tickets, see <http://jhamtseinternational.org/tashi-and-the-monk-november-fundraiser/>.

Editor's Notes

From the Office:

First Parish closes at noon on Thursday, November 26, for the Thanksgiving recess.

The deadline for the November 30 *Sunday News* is noon on Thursday, November 20.

Next *Meeting House News* deadline:

Tuesday, November 18, 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, December 2

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.