



The Meeting House News

December 2014

Table of Contents

[REVeries](#)
[Intern-al Dialogues](#)
[MUSings](#)
[REflections](#)
[Social Action Community](#)
[Pastoral Care Team](#)
[Standing Committee](#)
[Events This Month](#)
[Winter Storms](#)
[Re•MEMBER•ship and Communications](#)
[The Arts](#)
[Gratitude and More](#)
[Nominating Committee](#)
[Listens!](#)
[History Project](#)
[Transylvania Partnership](#)
[RE News](#)
[RE Curricula](#)
[RE Teacher Orientations](#)
[RE Church School Calendar](#)
[SAC Action](#)
[Reserve a Room](#)
[Accessibility and Parking](#)
[Winter Solstice Celebration](#)
[Women's Book Group](#)
[Worship Sharing Circle](#)
[Tuesday Group for 65-Plus](#)
[Speak Spanish?](#)
[Denominational Affairs Committee](#)
[Women's Retreats](#)
[Vegan Potluck and Holiday Songs](#)
[WPA](#)
[Charlie Brown and Peanuts](#)

Greetings!

Welcome to the December *Meeting House News*. Enjoy!

Worship Services

Sunday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.

"We Walk this Path Together"

Rev. Marion Visel, First Parish Choir, and By Your Side Singers

Sunday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.

"Season of Longing"

Rev. Howard Dana, First Parish Choir, and the *Little Angels!*

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

"Dark of Winter"

Rev. Howard Dana and By Your Side Singers

Sunday, December 21, two services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Winter Solstice

Rev. Howard Dana, First Parish Choir with Julie Spring, harp

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24

Led by Rev. Howard Dana and Worship Planning Team

4:00 p.m. – Children's Choirs

7:00 p.m. – Youth Gospel Ensemble and Contemporary Ensemble

9:00 p.m. – First Parish Choir

Sunday, December 28, 10:00 a.m.

"On the Shoulders of Giants"

Brian Chenowith, Ministerial Intern, and Pamela Schweppe, soprano

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.

Winter Solstice Sunday, December 21, 2014

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015

[Children's Holiday Craft Workshop](#)
[Candle Elves Needed](#)
[Sunday Bouillon](#)
[Concord Area Humanists](#)
[Pet Loss Healing Circle](#)
[GLBTQ Holiday Potluck Dinner](#)
[Editor's Notes](#)

Quick Links

[Website](#)
[Reserve a Room](#)
[Facebook](#)
[Pledge Now](#)

Pastoral Care

Lay Ministers

December 1-13

Bev Bringle
bevbringle@yahoo.com
978-369-4793

December 14-31

Dana Snyder-Grant
danasg@newview.org
978-266-9409

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

Ministerial Intern

Brian Chenowith
630-877-5371
bchenowith@firstparish.org

Caring Connection

Rides
Suzanne Hogan
978-318-9035
suzanne.hogan@comcast.net

REVeries

An excerpt from my sermon delivered Sunday, November 16.

I am inconsistent in my response to panhandling. When someone on the street asks me for money, sometimes I give it and sometimes I don't. I find that I am more likely to give money to a street musician than to a simple beggar. And I find that an elaborate story tends to make me more suspicious of the person's motives than a simple cup held out to drop a few coins in. I am inconsistent in my response to panhandling—and this inconsistency does not leave me feeling very good. I am painfully aware of how many material possessions I have and how stingy and judgmental I feel when someone begs from me. A beggar always leaves me wondering about my own humanity.



What does it mean to have beggars living in our midst? Where are they welcome? Where are they tolerated? And where are they banned outright? And what do people of faith—like you and me—do about their plight? For the truth is that you and I have much to lose if our hearts become calloused to those in need. I know my reaction to begging is complicated by well-known words attributed to Jesus of Nazareth. In a collection of his sayings found in the sixth chapter of Luke, Jesus is remembered to have said, "Give to everyone who begs from you." This command from a wise spiritual teacher puts me in a difficult position when I come face-to-face with someone who wants money from me. What does it mean if I give? What does it mean if I refuse? Likely, this command from the gospels leads to forms of charity that may, in fact, hurt the person more than helping him or her. In that a dollar bill given to a beggar is awfully cheap grace, it may also hurt the person giving the money.

Though we seem to need to be told over and over again, we know that relationship is the highest goal of human interaction. It is through relationship that we can really see another person and, thereby, see ourselves. This is exactly what happens when someone begs from us. Yes, he or she wants money—and will be content with whatever we choose to give. But what the person wants more is what we all want. The person asking you for money wants to be seen and heard. They want to know that their humanity is still intact. Money may be the goal, but relationship is the true purpose.

By not indulging in the "cheap grace" of a handout, we all can serve many more people a year in ways that begging never will accomplish. We can only say "yes" to people in a more generous way by saying "no" to their desire for "spare change." We can decide that we will take Jesus' words seriously and "give to everyone who begs from us"—just not in the way that they expect it. We can decide that we will focus our resources on programs that truly help people rather than assuage our own guilt by pulling out our wallets and giving the smallest bill we find there. This way of giving works—because it is grounded in relationship. It works because it requires much more from us. Relationship requires true generosity. May each of you be blessed this holiday season. And may each of you be a blessing in return.

Love, Howard

Meals Delivery

December
Pat Kane
cstmcloth@yahoo.com
978-369-8418

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Coffee, tea, and hot chocolate
Happy December! Muffins are
free this month.

Events This Month**Women's AM/PM Book Group**

Monday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 2, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday Group (65+)

Tuesday, December 2, 1:30 p.m.

Arts Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 6:00
p.m.

Concord Area Humanists

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00
p.m.

All Parish Art Exhibit

December 4 – 30, Altshuler
Gallery

Speak Spanish?

Thursday, December 4, 6:30
p.m., offsite

**Children's Holiday Craft
Workshop**

Saturday, December 6, 1:30-4:30
p.m.

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Sunday, December 7, 10:00 a.m.

SAC Candle Writing Workshop

Sunday, December 7, 11:30 a.m.

Worship Sharing Circle

Every Sunday, 11:10 a.m.

Intern-al Dialogues

December is significant for more than one reason this year. There is Christmas, of course, and all of the other lovely holidays that come during this month. However, for me, it will be significant for another reason. On December 4, I will be meeting with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee at the UUA headquarters in Boston. This committee will review my credentials, interview me, and decide if I am ready to be affirmed as a Unitarian Universalist minister. This has been a long time coming.



The fact that this is happening during the season of Advent couldn't be more perfect in my mind. For our Christian brothers and sisters, Advent is the "darkest" time of the church year. The expectation and hope that comes with this season is more of a deep spiritual longing for the light to return in our lives and in the world. It's a season where we are taught that in our anxieties, fears, and doubts there is always a way out of the darkness. Whether we are guided by points of pale light or glaring epiphanies, the way to spiritual renewal is not lost.

This season, my own path is taking me to Boston and the culmination of more than three years of work and discernment. There is a natural level of anxiety. Will the meeting go well? What if it doesn't? These and so many other questions creep into my mind. But I know that no matter the outcome, there is a hope for new beginnings, growth, and further discernment. That is the promise of Advent.

And so as this month unfolds, ask: Where is this season taking you? Is the way radiant or barely visible? What hopes do you have? May this Advent and holiday season show you that there is always a way out of the darkness.

Warmly, Brian

MUSings

"It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year . . ."
My inner Scrooge groaned recently when, on my first visit to an American grocery store after 10 autumnal days in Transylvania, I encountered multiple aisles of Christmas decorations, foods and wrapping paper. Here, a few days shy of mid-November, the holiday marketing machine was already in full swing! This included the music of the season piping cheerily over the store's loudspeakers. Part of me wanted to get right back on that plane to a place where I had been assured the Christmas lights wouldn't come on until mid-December. . . Humbug!



But of course, as a musician, I have grown accustomed to anticipating the winter holidays with rehearsals of Christmas carols and Hanukkah melodies as early as mid-October. While it can be strange to be singing about snow, holly, and dreidels when the

Pet Loss Healing Circle

Sunday, December 7, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
382 Walnut Street, Brookline

Vegan Potluck Dinner and Holiday Songs

Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Friday, December 12, 7:00 p.m.

Photography Club

Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Saturday, December 13, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Sunday, December 14, 10:00 a.m.

Worship Sharing Circle

Every Sunday, 11:10 a.m.

Holiday Concert and Tea

Sunday, December 14, 3:00 p.m.

Denominational Affairs Committee

Monday, December 15, 7:30 p.m.

Evening Worship

Tuesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m.

By Your Side Singers

Thursday, December 18, 7:30 p.m.

Rise Up Caroling

Friday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.

Concord Women's Chorus

Saturday, December 20, 3:00 p.m.

autumn colors are at their peak, the discipline of an early return to these traditional songs and texts year after year foreshadows the season in a deeper way that contrasts to the hype of the stores and the pop radio stations.

This year has been no different. In September or October, the First Parish music staff was already discussing repertoire and ordering music for the December services. And so we found ourselves contemplating (and singing) such texts and tunes as "Gazing out into the skies on the eve of the longest night...", "Joy to the World," "O Magnum mysterium (O great mystery)," "Joy, joy... down in my soul," "I wonder as I wander out under the sky..." texts and melodies that encourage us with the promise of the Solstice's returning light, and embrace us in the mystery of the Christmas story and the magic of the winter season. It is true, musicians anticipate the holiday season even earlier than the marketing machine, but we are privileged to begin in a place close to the heart and deep in the soul, where music and faith reside.

And so we will offer many ways to enter into the spirit of the winter holidays through music at First Parish. Be sure to check the worship schedule, the Arts Corner and the "Celebrate" insert for opportunities to hear concerts, sing carols in community, and to contemplate the wonder of the season. Welcome, Yule!

Blessings, Beth

REflections

Dear Parish Families,

This month many of you have reminded me of your favorite children's messages. I am touched you remember so many so well. As you describe them to me, a smile comes across your face and I smile too. Each one pops into my own head as fresh as the day it was written. Those stories live in my heart but are also tethered to your heart. We will always be connected with one another in this special way.



Those stories were like my little presents to you. I got to wrap them up and give them to you each Sunday morning. There were hundreds, you know. And on Sundays, when I called the children forward, we all got on the edge of our seats. Me too, because we were in it... together.

I love you, I love our children and I have loved this work with my whole heart. I never held back, and you have allowed me to take whimsical risks with you. Saying goodbye to you and your children is incredibly hard for me. It may well be the hardest thing I have ever done in my life.

Thank you for your generosity in allowing me to serve this parish for the best ten years of my life.

With love and peace, Pam

Worship Services

Sunday, December 21,
[Two services at 9:00
and 11:00 am](#)

Winter Solstice Celebration

Sunday, December 21, 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Wednesday, December 24,
4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 9:00
p.m.

Christmas Eve Tableau

Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m.

First Parish Café

Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service

Sunday, December 28, 10:00
a.m.

Worship Sharing Circle

Every Sunday, 11:10 a.m.

**A Cappella Concert –
The Conchords**

Tuesday, December 30, 7:00
p.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

**Members of the
Standing Committee**

Kate Crosby
kate_crosby@newview.org

David Elwood
daveelwood@hotmail.com

Kristin Haddad, Clerk
kristin.haddad@gmail.com

Social Action Community

I visited to new UUA headquarters last month with our Coming of Age class. I wanted our COA youth to have visited the new headquarters and meet UUs outside of their own church community. Personally, I was curious about how the new space would feel. I spent a good amount of time at 25 Beacon St, the old UUA headquarters, and I wanted to know if 24 Farnsworth would feel like home to me.



As we walked up the main stairs at the UUA headquarters, we were brought up to a landing which held one of the relics from the Beacon St building: a wooden wall hanging with the faces of three of our activist ancestors carved into it, Rev. James Reeb, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Viola Gregg Liuzzo. If you had asked me beforehand what would have been the first thing I saw after walking up that main staircase, this would not have been my first...or tenth guess. But it has made more sense to me as time goes on.

The image of the worn wooden wall hanging, positioned against the modern, painted-white brick wall has stuck with me ever since. It's got me thinking about what we bring with us when we transition from one phase to another; how we make our new home, job, family, or identity feel like home. What relics have you brought with you from one stage of life to another?

And, for the UUA, what does it mean to have these three activists continuing to look down upon us in such a prominent place in our denomination's new home? As someone who grew up only hearing about the Civil Rights movement, this wall hanging has a different meaning to me than it has for many UUs across the country. I don't have the same emotional memories of the Civil Rights Movement, because I wasn't even a thought in my parents' minds yet.

But it got me thinking, next time we move, what will we bring with us? Will we bring a Standing on the Side of Love banner? A picture of UUs marching in the People's Climate March? The picture of our lights outside the Maricopa County Jail in June 2012? Only time will tell.

What mark will we leave on this denomination? How will our children remember us?

In faith, Bethany

Pastoral Care Team**Walking with One Another through the Changes Life Brings**

Minister for Pastoral Care: Contact Rev. Marion Visel at mvisel@firstparish.org, or by calling her cell phone at 201-931-5239, or the church at 978-369-9602, ext. 414.

Jake Nunes
Jake_Nunes@shs.org

Patty Popov
ppopov@nichols-pratt.com

Mark Russell Prior, Chair
mark.russell.prior@comcast.net

Kitsy Rothermel
kitsy.mcr@icloud.com

Toby Smith Ropeik
tsr@tobyasmith.com

Lora Venesy
venesy@comcast.net

Alec Walker
alecwalker@aol.com

Tom Wilson, Treasurer
twilson@wilsongroup.com

Ministers & Staff

Rev. Howard N. Dana
Senior Minister
hdana@firstparish.org

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

Brian Chenowith
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
and Communications
rbaker@firstparish.org

Bethany Lowe
Social Action Director and
Youth Program Director
blowe@firstparish.org

Senior Minister: Contact Rev. Howard N. Dana at hdana@firstparish.org, or by calling the church at 978-369-9602, ext. 411, or his cell phone at 717-412-8543.

Ministerial Intern: Contact Brian Chenowith at bchenowith@firstparish.org, or by calling the church at 978-369-9602, ext. 412, or his cell phone at 630-877-5371.

The Lay Minister for December 1 through 13 is Bev Bringle at bevbringle@yahoo.com or 978-369-4793.

The Lay Minister for December 14 through the 31 is Dana Snyder-Grant at danasg@newview.org or 978-266-940.

Meals delivery for December is provided by Pat Kane at cstmcloth@yahoo.com or 978-369-8418.

The above information is always available as the first item in the left-hand column of the Meeting House News for easy access.

Blue Holidays

The winter holidays are a time some anticipate with excitement and others with dread. We don't want to dampen the enthusiasm of those who welcome the season, but we do want to be sensitive to the many among us for whom this season intensifies feelings that are difficult to navigate on a normal day. "Blue Holidays" recognizes that for many the holidays are not welcomed or weathered easily, because of grief at the loss of a loved one (or many loved ones), feelings of loneliness, or anxiety and sadness over the serious illness of one dear to us.

Holidays are about rituals, especially family rituals, and when a family changes or begins to disappear around us, we struggle to adapt new ways of reenacting at least the spirit of a holiday that once gave us joy. If we are struggling, it's important to set limits to what part of the holidays we participate in, take charge of our own space—decorate or not—and be true to how we feel, especially in our own surroundings, and do something that does bring us feelings of peace, if not joy.

First Parish in Concord recognizes that everyone does the holidays differently. There is a "Dark of Winter" vespers on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. There will be two services on Sunday, December 21 (9:00 and 11:00), that will focus solely on "Winter Solstice." And of course there will be three services on Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m., tableau with the Children's Choirs; 7:00 p.m., the Contemporary Ensemble and Gospel Choir; and 9:00 p.m., the First Parish Adult Choir. Perhaps one of them will help you to find a new holiday ritual. And as always, if you are struggling and would like to talk, please contact me, Rev. Howard Dana or Brian Chenowith, Ministerial Intern, or one of our fine Pastoral Care Lay Ministers.

Peace to you, and all possible grace,
Rev. Marion Visel, Minister for Pastoral Care

Cassy Bosworth
Church Administrator
cbosworth@firstparish.org

Tina Storey
Assistant to the
Director of Operations
tstorey@firstparish.org

Doug Baker
Sacristan and Curator
dbaker@firstparish.org

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
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, MA 01742

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

Email: FPCConcord@firstparish.org

Volunteers Needed for Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is in need of additional volunteers. Forms are available on the Pastoral Care bulletin board. Fill out a form and place, in the pastoral care mail cubby (bottom shelf) in the office.

Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath will be located at the front of the Sanctuary beginning the first Sunday in Advent. It is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a ribbon to the wreath for anyone you wish to remember. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary through the holidays.

Judy Dembsey, Pastoral Care Council

Memorial Poinsettias

Come to the poinsettia table at coffee hour following the December 7 and 14 services if you wish to donate a plant in memory of a loved one. Their name and yours will be included in a memorial listing in the December 21 order of service, and the poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary throughout the holidays. Or you may contact Ellen Whitney at ellewhitney@verizon.net, or 978-369-7434, or leave a note and donation (suggested amount \$20) in the office before December 15.

Deliveries of the poinsettias will take place on December 26 at 10:00 a.m. Bring good cheer to a parish member and perhaps meet someone for the first time. Contact Caitlin Selle at selle.caitlin5@gmail.com, or 978-371-3915, or visit the poinsettia table to sign up to deliver flowers or to give us the name of someone who would appreciate a flower delivery.

Thanks for the Caring Connection

Thanks to Anne Fortier, Carol Boris, Denise Howard, Jeanne Williams, Lauren Evans, Leslie Fisher, Libby Kurten, Lou Toussaint, Marion Stanley, Ursula Kristoffy, and Vivienne Aldrich for a fun and productive November Caring Connection cooking session. Soup, savory bread, and a main course, all made with lead cook Carolyn Shohet's recipes, were completed in less than three hours, with time for coffee and chatting! Thanks so much. Save the date. The next cooking date will be February 4. All are welcome. Details to follow.

Standing Committee

At our last meeting on November 9 the Standing Committee reviewed financials for the current, fiscal year 2015 budget and also received a report from the new First Parish Finance Committee on congregational spending priorities for fiscal year 2016.

Our outlook for the current fiscal year is positive. Revenues are on target. While expenses have been slightly higher than expected, we are in a good financial position. The increase in expenses was due to restructuring in our religious education and financial departments and to a larger than expected expense for customization of our membership database. The database changes will allow us to keep better track of membership activities and pledging.

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>

Reserve a Room:

<http://www.firstparish.org/cms/reserve-a-room>

Winter Storms

Closures and Cancellations

The Meeting House will be closed if the Concord Public Schools are closed. Church will be cancelled in the event of a serious snow storm; a decision will be made by the Senior Minister and the Director of Operations by 8:00 p.m. on Saturday evening. A notice will be placed on the website, an email will be sent out on the FP-Announce list, and there will be a message on the church telephone. Please use your judgment to ensure your safety and that of your family.

The Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the Standing Committee, met with interested parishioners in late October to discuss current and future spending priorities and then compiled and presented their first report to the Standing Committee. The data gathered from the congregation was discussed, and along with other data collected throughout the year, will be fed into the planning efforts for the FY 2016 annual pledge campaign. Priorities gathered thus far include making the pastoral care minister position a permanent position, addressing questions surrounding the allocation of pledge monies directly to social action activities outside of the church, maintaining a strong religious education program, providing salary increases for our First Parish staff members, increasing our payment of dues to the UUA and the Mass Bay District, developing a plan for paying off our capital campaign debt to the Trustees of Parish donations, and funding major church maintenance projects.

There is very little room in the First Parish budget to accommodate an increase in spending, so implementing new priorities will be challenging. Since nearly 85% of our income comes from annual pledges and other generous contributions from congregation members and friends, inclusion of new priorities into our budget will require a long term effort on behalf of all to increase and maintain our pledge revenues.

Also, continuing efforts to improve our governance processes, our Evaluation subcommittee led Standing Committee members in a review of our annual goals. A number of activities that are underway and/or upcoming were discussed, including Standing Committee support for the Annual Pledge Campaign, additional engagement with First Parish congregational groups, and a new mid-year survey requesting congregational feedback on the Standing Committee's progress on its annual goals.

Happy holidays to all!

Mark Russell Prior, Chair, First Parish Standing Committee

Re•MEMBER•ship and Communications

Groups of the Congregation

Last year the congregation voted to accept a new policy on group formation at First Parish. This year we are beginning the group registration process. In late October I sent out packets to all of the known chairpeople of all the groups of the congregation. These packets included a copy of the groups policy, a copy of the charter form, a copy of the new facilities use guidelines, and an invitation to begin using our new online room reservation system. I followed up in November with an email with the same information. I have begun receiving the completed forms. Thank you to everyone who has already returned them! If you are a group leader and have not received the packet, please let me know; I will happily email a packet to you. If you want to start a group let me know I'll send you information about group formation.

The group registration process will help the congregation to better support your group and to better advertise your activities. We hope that discussing the form with your group will lead to interesting and

generative conversations about the mission and purpose of your group in particular, First Parish in general, and maybe even the role of Unitarian Universalism in the world.

Ambassador Program: Second Step

Did you know that the second phase of the Ambassador Program is just wrapping up? It is true! Patrick Everett with a team of volunteers, including some of the Ambassadors from phase one, have just finished reaching out to a small group of members of the congregation that we had not heard from within the last two years. Great work, everyone! Thank you.

The Ambassador Program was started two years ago with a mission to reach out to all members of the congregation over time. The purpose is to help build a sense of belonging through personal interactions between members. Ambassadors are trained to engage in friendly relational conversations and ask questions such as “How has First Parish enriched/been an inspiration in your life?” and “How have these opportunities helped you to feel that you are a part of this congregation?” Ambassador conversations have led to new friendships and discovering shared interests.

Website Changes

Did you know that you can access the church calendar and the Sunday News from the front page of the website? Take a look at the right-hand column the next time you are there. Sermon topics are listed on the front page as well.

Rachel Baker, Director of Membership and Communications

The Arts

Fostering Community through the Arts

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

December 3, 6:00 p.m. – Arts Council Meeting – all welcome
December 4-30 – All-Parish Art Exhibit – Altshuler Gallery
December 12, 7:00 p.m. – *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* – Eighth Grade Players
December 13, 9:00 a.m. – Photography Club meeting – open to all First Parish adults
December 13, 2:00 p.m. – *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* – Eighth Grade Players
December 13, 7:00 p.m. – *You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown* – Eighth Grade Players
December 14, 3:00 p.m. – WPA Holiday Concert - The Egg Rock Quartet
December 19, 7:30 p.m. – Rise Up Caroling
December 20, 3:00 p.m. – Concord Women’s Chorus Concert
December 30, 7:00 p.m. – A Cappella Concert by “The Conchords”

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.



Concord Women's Chorus in Concert

Saturday, December 20, 3:00 p.m.

The Concord Women's Chorus will perform their winter concert, "A Ceremony of Carols," at First Parish in Concord on Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 p.m. This concert features Britten's beloved cantata (with harp), and Rutter's companion piece, "Dancing Day." A festive reception will follow. Buy tickets at www.concordwomenschorus.org, or at the door. We hope to see you there!



A Cappella Concert – The Conchords

Tuesday, December 30, 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Founded in September 2013, the Conchords are a six-person a cappella vocal ensemble with styles ranging from jazz, the great American songbook, barbershop, doo-wop, and gospel to popular music. At 7:00 p.m. on December 30, the Conchords will present a special performance of timeless favorites from their eclectic repertoire – including selections arranged exclusively for the

Conchords by ensemble members Lauren Evans and Larry Gall. A free-will donation is requested. For more about the Conchords, visit their website at www.TheConchords.us.

First Parish Choirs

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

Gratitude and More

First Parish in Concord now on AmazonSmile

Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you could help First Parish at no additional cost to you. Here's how. AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) has the same prices and products as Amazon. Amazon will donate half of one percent of the purchase price (minus rebates, shipping, handling, gift-wrapping, tax, and service charges) to your favorite charity (First Parish, of course!). Use the same account on AmazonSmile as on Amazon. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are the same.

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Charitable Giving

December 31, 2014—just days away. Thinking about your charitable giving for 2014? If you'd like to make a pledge payment or other donation to First Parish in Concord before the end of this calendar year, date your check 12/31/14 or earlier and get it to First Parish shortly thereafter. To pay by credit card or direct debit from your bank, go to www.FirstParish.org, click the green Donate Now button, and follow the prompts. Thank you for your support of First Parish.

Gratitude

"Both abundance and lack exist simultaneously in our lives, as parallel realities. It is always our conscious choice which secret garden we will tend.... When we choose not to focus on what is missing from our lives,

but are grateful for the abundance that's present—love, health, family, friends, work, the joys of nature, and personal pursuits that bring us pleasure—the wasteland of illusion falls away and we experience heaven on earth.” – Sarah Ban Breathnach

As we move into another beautiful New England winter, we, the staff at First Parish, want you to know how grateful we are to you—member, friend, volunteer, visitor—for sharing your light with us; for the thankful humility that comes from witnessing another's joy, pain, aging, and consequent transformation; for the opportunity to do this good work with you and for you.

In addition to worship, religious education, music, social justice, historic building and grounds, and church administration, this year, your generosity enabled First Parish to invest in professional pastoral care. All of our lives are enriched when we dedicate resources to celebrate and care for those among us with special accomplishments and life challenges.

Thanks for all you do for First Parish,
Fifi Ball, Director of Operations

Nominating Committee Listens!

Members of the Nominating Committee want to talk to YOU. We are conducting research on **Leadership at First Parish**, what it is, what it is not, and how to get involved if you are interested. Please stop by the Welcome Table on Sunday mornings during social hour and talk with us, or email susanryan101@comcast.net to schedule a ten minute phone call with a member of the Nominating Committee.

History Project

A Video of Doug Baker's History of First Parish



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 having 100 percent participation. Please help by giving to the First Parish History Project. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. You can give by mailing or bringing a check to the church office, or you can give through our website. Simply click the "Donate" button, then scroll down to the fourth box that says "History Project," and 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 978-369-8445.

Transylvania Partnership Partner Congregation News

The pilgrims have returned from Székelykeresztúr, in Transylvania. They are tired and happy and have stories to tell about their adventures and their connections with the very generous people of Keresztúr. In the early stages of planning the trip, the committee in charge set three broad goals: Learn more about the history and heritage we share with our partner congregation; deepen connections with the people there; and start the process of a songbook project, “music as a bridge.” All expectations were met, and the travelers feel that they have gone deeply into a new understanding of our roots.

Valerie Holt for the PCC (valholt@comcast.net)

RE News

Darlingside Concert and Fundraiser

Darlingside is a terrific new band that plays a variety of stringed instruments that harmonize together. Their music is beautiful. Join Pam Howell to hear their music at First Parish on January 9 at 7:00 p.m. This concert is scheduled to end about 8:30 p.m., so kids could attend (probably eight and up). The tickets are \$20. If you would like Pam to save you a seat, please go to doodle and enter your name and the number of tickets your family would like. It is the honor system. We will collect your money at the door. There are only 150 seats available, so sign up soon: <http://doodle.com/vn2quh2xs7symbnc>



Little Angels

On Sunday, December 14 don't miss this yearly tradition of joy. Imagine all of the wonder that is sparked by marching our Little Angels out to sing their song of hope: "This Little Light of Mine." This year, our angels will be led in song by Kimberly Brainerd and Matteo Paris. Thanks to them, the donning of robes and halos, is possible!

Need More Christmas Cheer? – The Tableau

On Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. come have fun with your children dressing up as cows, angels, sheep, shepherds and all the other characters that make the ancient Christmas story come alive for our Christmas Eve services. Please email Dawn Van Patten if you want to be part of this joyful experience on Christmas Eve. Cider, eggnog, and holiday cookies will be provided. It is simple. Come at 3:30 p.m., dress up and have fun.

8th Grade Drama – *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*

We are expecting a great show this year from our 8th Graders. They are putting on a new play this year, with plenty of music too. People ages five and up are invited to attend the show. Come once or come three times, but COME! Friday night, December 12, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. \$10 will be charged at the door to support the cost of the play rights and our amazing director, Jen Jarvis.



Children's Craft Workshop Is Coming!

All you little elves, get ready to have fun making home-made treasures for your holiday gifts. This year, the craft workshop will be on December 6 at 1:30 p.m. Be sure to be there for this amazing annual event. Thank you to Jan Goddard-Taylor, Marilyn Lowitt, Patty Popov and Sarah Napier for making this all possible. \$15 per child, \$45 family maximum.

Youth Service Trip to NYC: Deadline to Commit and Call for Chaperones

Last year the youth group had a wonderful service trip to West Virginia. This year we'll be exploring urban poverty and doing service through the Youth Service Opportunity Project in New York City. If you or your high-school aged youth are interested in going on the service trip to New York City between February 15 and 21, the deadline to register for this trip and give a \$400 nonrefundable deposit is NOW. We are also looking for adult chaperones; contact Bethany Lowe at BLowe@firstparish.org to learn more.

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: 0-4 years 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: 0-4 years 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 12, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 13, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

MANDATORY OWL 8th Grade Parent (BOTH) Orientation: Monday & Tuesday, December 8 & 9, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

RE Church School Calendar

Sunday, December 7

Regular RE for Babies – 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/5th – Children's Chapel

6th – Wright Tavern, Right-Hand Room

7th – Wright Tavern Sunporch

8th Grade Play – Wright Tavern, 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 14

Regular RE for Babies – 4 years Lower Level Classroom

K&1 (Lower Level Classrooms)

2nd – Ripley Room, pickup in the Emerson Room

3rd – Greeley Room, pickup in Emerson Room

4th – Bulkeley Room

5th – Brooks Room

6th – Wright Tavern, Right-Hand Room

7th – Wright Tavern Sunporch.

9th Grade Coming of Age at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 21

Regular RE for Babies – 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

Sunday, December 30

Regular RE for Babies – 4 years Lower Level Classroom
No regular RE

SAC Action**Give the Gift of Language for a Holiday Gift**

Dave and Diane Clapp will be selling holiday gift cards during the December pre and post coffee hour to benefit the Framingham Adult ESL program, where they volunteer. Over 700 students of all ages, 18 and older, from 40 different countries with 25 languages represented are enrolled, with 400 on the waiting list. A gift card can support students and the program with anything from textbooks and easel pads to U.S. Citizenship student costs for one semester. Call us with questions about volunteering, or if you would like some cards if we missed you at coffee hour (781-257-5025).

SAC Candle Writing Workshop

Sunday, December 7, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Every Sunday, we light the Social Action Community (SAC) Candle to remember our community's commitment to make a positive difference in the world. In an effort to expand our concept of what falls under the category of "social justice," and hear from new voices during the SAC Candle, we're hosting a SAC Candle Writing Workshop on Sunday, December 7. Bethany Lowe, Director of Social Action, will lead small groups through the process of writing compelling, inspiring SAC Candle testimonials. After you attend one of these workshops, you will have the opportunity to sign up to light the SAC Candle during a Sunday worship service. Workshops will run from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Workshops are limited to 10 participants. Sign up with Bethany Lowe at BLowe@firstparish.org if you'd like to attend.

Youth Service Trip to NYC: Deadline to Commit and Call for Chaperones

Last year the youth group had a wonderful service trip to West Virginia. This year we'll be exploring urban poverty and doing service through the Youth Service Opportunity Project in New York City. If you or your high-school-aged youth are interested in going on the service trip to New York City between February 15 and 21, the deadline to register for this trip and give a \$400 nonrefundable deposit is NOW. We are also looking for adult chaperones; contact Bethany Lowe at BLowe@firstparish.org to learn more.

Holiday Gift Bags for Prison Inmates

The Holiday Gift Bag Project of Concord Prison Outreach is a way to bring some hope and holiday cheer to each of the nearly 1700 inmates of Concord's two prisons. For a list of the gift items and their specifications required by the Department of Correction, go to www.ConcordPrisonOutreach.org, click on "Holiday Gift Bag Program 2014," then click on "Drop-off dates and a list of items to donate." OR, pick up a list during FP Café or coffee hour on November 30 or next Sunday, December 7. Donations of approved gift items are welcome in any quantity. Many people donate multiple units of one of the gift items. Also, tax-deductible checks can be made out to Concord Prison Outreach, Inc., earmarked "Holiday Gifts," and mailed to CPO, PO Box 383, Concord, MA 01742. For more information, contact Don Miller at donaldbmiller@comcast.net, or 978-610-6298.

Reserve a Room

We have a new system for reserving rooms!

Doug Baker, Facilities Manager, Lead Sexton, and Sacristan, and Bethany Lowe, Social Action and Youth Programs Director, have worked together to develop a system that makes reserving rooms easy and comprehensive. We have been at this for almost a year now. We are confident that this new method will improve communication with you and other groups. Go to www.firstparish.org/cms/reserve-a-room next time you need to reserve a room for your meeting or event. For your convenience, paper copies of this form are available in the front office. Please share information about this new system with your friends and groups.

Accessibility and Parking

Two designated handicapped parking spaces are located in the small circle at the church and two more are located by the small white houses to the left of the Meeting House. The elevator is located behind the Sanctuary to the left and is accessible on all floors. There are two spaces for people using wheelchairs in the balcony, near the doors to the Religious Education wing; and two spaces on the main floor of the Sanctuary, one on each side near the front row.

Everyone who needs to park a little closer is welcome to park in the unmarked spaces around the small circle. Those who do not have mobility issues are encouraged to park farther away to leave those spaces open for others. Ample parking is available behind the Concord Visitors Center on Keyes Road, and behind the Post Office.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Come one, come all to celebrate the Winter Solstice with stories, songs, blazing Yule log, seasonal refreshments, and more! The Women's Goddess Covenant Circle invites the entire First Parish community with families and friends to join this festive gathering on Sunday, December 21, at 7:30 p.m. at First Parish. Welcome, Yule!

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.

Tuesday Group for 65-Plus

Tuesday, December 2

Winter Holidays: Now and Then

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 2, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall and Parlor. Each meeting includes a time of focused sharing and a topic for facilitated discussion. This month's meeting will focus on remembering holiday traditions from our own past (bring an old photo or object), and new holiday traditions that you've created as times and families have changed. Also bring a snack to share, as we'll have our own holiday celebration.

The Tuesday Group meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30-3:00 p.m. Don't worry about your age; all 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, or 978/369-2876

Bob Andrews, Mary Clarke, Dave Dawson, Susan Dobbie, Patricia Ellis, Bill Maxwell, Jack Nevison and Virginia Taylor.

Speak Spanish?

¿Hablas español, o quieres mejorar? Do you speak Spanish—or want to speak it better? 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. *Ven: No tienes que hablar bien!* Don't be shy: English is allowed. There will always be someone who can translate.

Próxima reunión: jueves 4 de dic. a las 6:30. Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. *en la casa de Alec Walker.* We'll celebrate *tradiciones de la temporada* holiday traditions. Please bring *comida y bebida* for a potluck supper.

Para Más Información For more information, *llama a* call Laurie Van Loon, 978-369-8528. *O manda* or send email to lvnloon@comcast.net.

Denominational Affairs Committee

Sunday, January 30

The Denominational Affairs Committee (DAC) invites you to a special screening of the movie *Inequality for All*, on Sunday, January 30, 2015, at First Parish. Details will follow. In the film, economist Robert Reich explains complex economic trends in a clear, concise and funny way. The Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI), *Escalating Inequality*, was selected at the UUA GA. The DAC is participating in this process of four years of study, reflection and action and welcomes all First Parishioners. If you are interested, please come to the next DAC meeting, Monday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room, or contact AliceVanDeusen@gmail.com.

Women's Retreats

Women's Retreats 2015: Creativity

All women of First Parish are warmly invited to one of the three women's retreats. This year's theme is Creativity. Registration starts in December (exact date tba) and space is limited. Choose one of the two

"away" retreats at Senexet House in Connecticut, or the "at home" retreat at First Parish. The dates are as follows:

Friday, January 23 - 25 (2 nights at Senexet)

Friday, January 30 - February 1 (2 nights at Senexet)

Friday evening, February 6, and Saturday, February 7, at First Parish

Questions? Ask Bozena Smith at bozenasmith@mindspring.com.

Vegan Potluck and Holiday Songs

Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner in the Parish Hall, Tuesday, December 9, at 6:30 p.m., hosted by Reverence for Life and the Environmental Leadership Team. Chris Randall will lead us in a sing-along of holiday songs. Please bring your own beverage and a dish (4-6 servings) to share that is free of meat, fish, eggs, honey, and dairy. Please also bring your own place setting to reduce paper waste and cleanup. Also, attach a card with the ingredients of your dish, to help out those with allergies or special diets. Children welcome! Creative fun at children's craft table provided. Need a recipe? Contact Lyell Slade at 978-369-0636 or llsrvd@netscape.net.

WPA

Women's Parish Association

Thanks for Another Great Fair!

The Women's Parish Association extends heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who made this year's Holiday Artisans Fair another great success! This was a great community effort that enabled many people to have a fun day of helping and shopping. The proceeds of this annual fundraiser will be used to support facilities' maintenance requirements, community building and educational programs, and supported charities. The artisans greatly appreciated everyone's efforts!

Holiday Concert and Tea

The Women's Parish Association cordially invites you to add sparkle to your holiday season by attending its annual Holiday Concert and Tea on Sunday, December 14, at 3:00 p.m. Siri Smedvig with the Egg Rock Quartet will offer a program of lovely holiday and classical music in the Sanctuary, followed by a traditional tea in the Parish Hall and Parlor. There is no charge for this event, but reservations are requested for food planning purposes. Contact the office or Pekindc@comcast.net by December 11 to make reservations. If possible, bring a nicely plated offering of sweets to share. All men, women, and youth are warmly invited.

Charlie Brown and Peanuts

Celebrate the holidays with Charlie Brown and the Peanuts Gang! The First Parish 8th Grade Players' presentation of the musical production *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* is coming in December. The entire family will enjoy watching the beloved Peanuts characters as they sing about their unique outlook on life's trials and tribulations. Performances will be December 12 at 7:00 p.m. and December 13 at both 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The suggested donation is \$10 per person, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Hope to see you there! Donations will be taken at the door.

Children's Holiday Craft Workshop

Saturday, December 6, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

"Oh the weather outside is frightful, but inside it's so delightful..."

No, it can't be that time of year again! Well... not quite yet, but the First Parish Elves are busy at work (listen for the tiny hammers tapping) to make sure this holiday season is magical. The Children's Holiday Craft Workshop will be on Saturday, December 6, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at First Parish. So, bring your crafty kids, don your elf shoes and JOIN THE FUN!

Three (3) ways to have fun at the Children's Holiday Craft Workshop:

- Be a child and make up to 16 different crafts, including woodworking, ceramics, and jewelry making for your family, teachers or friends.
- Be an elf (adults and teens) and help at one of the craft stations in the craft workshop.
- Volunteer to make the First Parish (secret recipe) gingerbread cookie dough, prep wood projects, or set up or clean up.

It costs \$15/child, \$45/family. Contact Patty Popov at PPopov@wesleyan.edu (or 978-369-1990) or stop by the table at coffee hour. Sign up to be an elf and volunteer your time before, during or after the workshop. We ask that Elves, adults and teens, sign up in advance, but kids can simply show up on December 6; no advance sign up needed. Please join us at this wonderful workshop to watch our children with magic in their eyes and a smile on their face, and feel the joy that only making a gift for someone you love brings!

The Holiday Craft Elves

Marilyn Lowitt, Jan Goddard-Taylor, Sarah Napier, Dave Elwood and Patty Popov

Candle Elves Needed

First Parish is looking for three elves to help prepare candles for the Christmas Eve services. We will meet on Monday, December 8, at 10:00 a.m., for about an hour. Fresh hot tea and goodies will be served. If interested in helping, please call Doug Baker at the Church, 978-369-9602, ext. 419.

Sunday Bouillon

It is that time of year again. A few of us are thinking that we might begin doing bouillon the first Sunday in January, like we did last year. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? And the smell, drifting upstairs!?!

We need volunteers. Can you help one Sunday a month, by either buying, preparing and serving during the First Parish Café, serving during social hour, or cleaning up after?

Please email Kel at kel@rkeleher.com or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested. Thanks!

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." Questions to pne@aol.com.

Positive Humanism

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

"Introduction to Positive Humanism," applied humanistic philosophy based on positive psychology, Wednesday, December 3, by Bo Bennet in the Parish Hall. Social 7:00, program 7:20 p.m. Offers practical solutions to increase well-being. It is science-based and kind. No appeals to the supernatural, the magical, or the mystical. Bo is a secular Humanist and a PhD candidate in social psychology. His spiritual/intellectual journey began with a lifetime of unanswered questions. He authored the book *The Concept*, and administrates many blogs.

Pet Loss Healing Circle

Sunday, December 7, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline

Have you lost a beloved animal friend? Are you struggling this season with grief for your companion or anticipated loss of a dear one? Join with me and others who understand, holding a time and space for stories, pictures, memories and silence. All are welcome, as we light candles and reflect together on the loves we've known. Free. Led by Rev. Eliza Blanchard

We'll meet at First Parish in Brookline in the Dana Room, which is handicapped accessible. Parking is available on 382 Walnut Street, Brookline. (Off Route 9)

Call Rev. Eliza Blanchard at 774-551-6071 with questions.

GLBTQ Holiday Potluck Dinner

First Parish in Bedford

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer (GLBTQ) people and families from Bedford and our surrounding communities are invited to a Holiday Potluck Dinner at The First Parish, 75 Great Road, Bedford, Friday, December 12, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. This event is geared toward sharing good food and conversation, and celebrating who we are. We encourage you to bring an appetizer, salad, entrée, or dessert to share.

Please note that this is not a religious event but a warm and welcoming place for support and connection.

Help us spread the word! For questions or more information contact Rev. Megan Lynes

at mlynes@uubedford.org, or call [781-275-7994](tel:781-275-7994).

Editor's Notes

Do you have a photograph of the congregation that you would like to see in the newsletter header? If so, email it to Rachel Baker.

Next Meeting House News deadline:

Tuesday, December 16, 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 30

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.