



# The First Parish in Portland, Maine Unitarian Universalist

A Welcoming Congregation in the Heart of the City



We worship together  
every Sunday at  
10:00 am Join us!

## Sunday Bulletin

December 4, 2011

*The Mission of First Parish:  
Nurture the Spirit, Grow in Community  
and Help Heal the World*

425 Congress St. Portland, Maine 04101 207-773-5747 [www.firstparishportland.org](http://www.firstparishportland.org) [office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org)

### First Parish & You

Since 1674, we have aspired to be a  
"Warm and Welcoming Place in the  
Heart of the City."

*Welcome!*

Please join us for refreshments and  
conversation in the Parish House following  
our service and sign our guest register.

We are a non-creedal faith community, en-  
couraging folks to explore in their own way  
and at their own pace.

On the first Sunday of the month, we  
invite newcomers to join us after the service  
for lunch with the Minister, conversations  
about membership and First Parish history.

#### Rev. Christina Sillari's Office Hours:

Rev. Sillari's office hours are:

Tuesdays, 10am-2pm

Thursdays, 2pm-6pm,

and by appointment.

Please contact the First Parish Office to  
make an appointment with Rev. Christina.

#### November 27, 2011

Attendance 166 Religious Exploration: 18

Share the Plate: \$1043.39

**Please keep in mind that we need food  
and flowers throughout the year!**

**Thanks to Laura Sewell, Peter Osman  
Carin Seadler and their family, and  
Stone McFarquhar who contributed  
food for fellowship hour today, and any  
others who kindly brought in refresh-  
ments as well!**

It is much appreciated if you can sign up for  
future weeks [at the opportunity table] or  
contact Wendy Stanley at (207) 899-2530  
or [gwsgance@yahoo.com](mailto:gwsgance@yahoo.com). We would love to  
acknowledge you in the bulletin!

**Our appreciation goes to the Eglinton  
family for their donation of flowers for  
today's service.**

#### Suits for the Season

For perhaps a century, it has been the tradition that 'the Suits' are worn by  
Ushers on Sundays in December and on Easter Sunday. In belated recogni-  
tion of our culture's changed gender expectations, women in long skirts were  
added in 2002. This tradition carries special meaning for many because of  
connections to beloved friends and family remembered each year when the  
'suits' appear. Read more about the story in the December issue of Stone Soup  
or ask one of the wearers—each one has a story.

#### Join Us After This Morning's Service for a Newcomer Luncheon

On the first Sunday of the month, newcomers are invited to join Rev. Christina  
Sillari and lay leaders of First Parish for a light lunch and conversation about  
First Parish and the meaning of membership. This will take place in the First  
Parish Community Room, downstairs.

#### Next First Parish Neighborhood Dinner is Tonight. Will You Help Us?

A few more volunteers are sought for tonight's dinner. Please see Marge Stock-  
ford during fellowship hour if you can help out. We also need a full slate of vol-  
unteers for our next Neighborhood Dinner on January 1st—a wonderful way to  
spend the first evening of the New Year. Shifts for the Sunday 1/1 Neighbor-  
hood Dinner: meal prep and cooking (2-5pm); serving and clean-up (5-7pm).  
Contact Marge Stockford, [mstockford@maine.rr.com](mailto:mstockford@maine.rr.com), 619-7133 to get involved.  
It's a great way to be in true community!

#### New Member Conversation, with Chocolate

#### Sunday December 11th following the worship service

On Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>, immediately following our worship service, join Rev.  
Sillari, and members of the First Parish lay leadership for a conversation with  
chocolate. We will discuss becoming a member of our congregation, touching on  
the benefits of membership, the significance of membership for you and your  
family, and how you can become a member. RSVP to Emily in the office if you  
would like to participate: [office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org)/773-5747.

#### Pageant Music Rehearsals

If any singers are interested in being in the choir for this year's Pageant, please  
contact Deirdre McClure: [dmccclure@maine.rr.com](mailto:dmccclure@maine.rr.com) or leave a note in her box at  
church.

#### Christmas Dinner at First Parish

If you don't have other plans, please join Elissa and Allen Armstrong, and Allison  
Gammons for a Christmas Potluck at First Parish. Elissa, Allison and Allen will  
cook a turkey or turkeys (depending on how many can come) in the afternoon.  
Timing is still being finalized, but we will begin with an informal Christmas wor-  
ship service led by Allison, and then share a festive holiday meal. A signup sheet  
will be posted soon in the Parish House, or call the Armstrongs at 774-1682 to  
let them know you'd like to participate. Children, of course, are welcome, and  
though we won't have Santa, we will have a Yankee swap!

#### New to UU Class with Reverend Sillari Saturday December 31st 9am

Join Reverend Sillari for a discussion of the history and theology of Unitarian  
Universalism. RSVP to Emily in the office if you would like to participate:  
[office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org)/773-5747.

#### Sunday December 4 Service

Peace

Sally Waite, Bob Fiske, Carolyn Barschow

#### Sunday December 11th Service

What is a UU?

Voices from the Congregation

#### Thursday December 8th Noonday Concert:

University of Southern Maine Choral Singers  
Robert Russel, director

#### 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NATIVITY PAGEANT AND VESPER SERVICE

*Save the date: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 4:45PM*

**We need cast members, costume assistants! We need YOU!**

*The First Parish Nativity Pageant was first performed in 1926, and has been an  
annual holiday tradition here in the city ever since. The Pageant itself is an unusu-  
al interplay of music, narration, and silent dramatization by a cast of over 80 mem-  
bers and friends of First Parish. We hope you will join our congregation as we  
bring the tradition to life once again! If you are interested in participating,  
please contact Laurie Hasty: [laurie@maine.rr.com](mailto:laurie@maine.rr.com) or 797-5661.*

#### Please Join First Parish in our Winter Holiday Celebrations

##### Sunday December 18th

Worship Service

10am

Reverend Christina Sillari will  
preach a sermon on  
Jesus.

##### Sunday December 18th

Pageant of the Nativity and

Vesper Service

4:45pm

A First Parish tradition

##### Saturday December 24th

Christmas Eve

Worship Service

5:30pm

A candlelight service.

##### Sunday December 25th

Christmas Worship and

Christmas Dinner

Time TBD

Please RSVP to Allen and Elis-  
sa Armstrong per notice above  
if you plan to attend!

### First Parish Shares the Plate!

Our Share The Plate partner for December will be the "Neighborhood" Faith in Action initiative that the congregation voted to pursue during last May's annual meeting. Neighborhood Faith in Action projects that will be supported by these funds include the restorative justice center we are scheduled to open here at First Parish early in 2012, the monthly neighborhood dinners held in our basement community room, the Portland High School tutoring project, and the Safe Harbor project that supports our Burundian friends who are seeking political asylum. We are thrilled to have so much going on in our neighborhood this year for which these funds will go to great use. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

### **FIRST PARISH & COMMUNITY NOTICES**

#### Meeting House History Tour Sunday December 11th!

Join Bette Brunswick for a 20 minute tour of our historic Meeting House. The tour will begin promptly at 11:20. After touring the meeting house those who wish may continue with Bette to also tour the Parish House facility (approximately 20 minutes more). First Parish friends, visitors and members are all welcome to attend. FMI contact Bette at [bettejnb@yahoo.com](mailto:bettejnb@yahoo.com).

#### First Parish Book Group

The next meeting of the First Parish Book Group will be on Monday, December 12th at 7pm at First Parish. We will be reading A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith. January's selection is Night of Many Dreams by Gail Tsukiyama. All are welcome! FMI: Mary Wheeler, [maryalisonwheeler@yahoo.com](mailto:maryalisonwheeler@yahoo.com).

#### Consider Participating in This Year's Ferry Beach Retreat!

Plans are being made for the annual Ferry Beach Retreat at the UU campus in Saco. This has been organized by the A2U2 church for a number of years. First Parish has been actively involved the last 2 years. The dates for this are April 20-22, 2012. We are in need of someone—preferably 2 people—to take over First Parish's role in this. We also are interested in knowing who is considering going to this wonderful event. For more information, please contact Wendy Stanley--- [gwsgance@yahoo.com](mailto:gwsgance@yahoo.com)

#### Support First Parish by Purchasing a Sunrise Guide (Nov. 19th-Dec. 10th only)

Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the SunriseGuide is a beautifully designed publication that contains tips and local Maine resources for healthy and eco-friendly living. It offers over 300 discount offers from area businesses, and using the coupons in the guide, it's possible to save mucho dollars while supporting great local businesses. Topics covered are dining, health & outdoor living, home & garden, weatherization & energy efficiency, travel & transportation, community & culture and more. Buy it for yourself and as a present for friends and family. Each copy is just \$20, and First Parish makes \$7 on each guide purchased (or more, depending on number sold). You don't use the coupons you say? The information on green living & resources is fantastic. **Available during coffee hour and by contacting Artha Freebury: 653-6072.**

#### Colder Weather is Right Around the Corner

First Parish has connected with a foundation which can supply coats, boots and clothing to members and friends of First Parish in need. If you or your family are in need of warm layers before the colder weather, please stop by the office to complete an application. We will submit your completed application to the foundation. Office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 9am-2pm. If you cannot come during those hours, call Emily at 773-5747, and she will mail you an application.

#### The Saco Coffeehouse presents Inanna in concert on Saturday, Dec. 17th, 2011

Inanna, Sisters in Rhythm, is a percussion and vocal ensemble that explores the heritage and rhythms of West Africa through original arrangements and compositions invoking ancient traditions of the drum. The ensemble plays African percussion instruments such as the Djembe, Kpanlogo, Doundounba, Kenkeni and Sangba, and other hand-crafted instruments such as the Balafon (an African Xylophone), kalimba (thumb piano), shekeres and a variety of bells and other small instruments. Inanna has recorded and released five full-length albums since forming eighteen years ago.

Open mic begins at 7pm, followed by the featured performer at 8pm. Suggested donation is \$10. Children under 12 are free. The Coffeehouse is located at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford, 60 School Street, Saco. FMI or directions visit [www.sacocoffeehouse.com](http://www.sacocoffeehouse.com) or call 207 282-0062.

### **The Coming Week at a Glance**

For Complete Calendar visit  
[www.firstparishportland.org](http://www.firstparishportland.org)

#### Saturday December 3rd

Memorial Garden Clean-up, 9am

#### Sunday December 4th

Pageant Committee Meeting 9am

Youth Choir 11:20am

Newcomer Lunch 11:30am

Neighborhood Dinner 5pm

#### Monday December 5th

Mindfulness Meeting 6pm

Buddhism for UUs 7:30pm

#### Tuesday December 6th

Pastoral Care Team Meeting 6:30pm

#### Wednesday December 7th

Tai Chi 9am, 6pm

#### Thursday December 8th

Noonday Concert 12:15pm

Choir Rehearsal 7:10pm

#### Sunday December 11th

Pageant Committee Meeting 9am

Youth Choir 11:20am

Meeting House History Tour 11:20am

Worship Committee Meeting 11:30am

Safe Congregation Meeting 11:30am

#### **Interested in participating in Chalice Groups (also known as small group ministry)? Unsure of which group to join?**

Please plan to join us on Wednesday December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00pm. Rev. Christina Sillari will facilitate a Chalice Group for us to experience first-hand, after which you will have the opportunity to choose a Chalice Group that meets your scheduling needs and interests.

#### **Are UU a Great Communicator?**

If you have web-site skills, are willing to help with PR and would enjoy connecting with our wider Unitarian Universalist community, First Parish needs you! We are seeking several people to serve on the **Communications Council**. Please e-mail Bette Brunswick at [bettejnb@yahoo.com](mailto:bettejnb@yahoo.com) for more information. Thank you for considering this most important ministry at First Parish.

#### **Friend of Rev. Sillari Looking for House Share**

Short-term or month-to-month house share sought (City of Portland preferred) beginning in November. Mature person, loves quiet. Please contact: Pam, 203-488-2667 or [prackliffe@comcast.net](mailto:prackliffe@comcast.net). Perfect references available.

#### **Safe Harbor Event a Success!**

We are grateful to the 65 volunteers and each of the attendees who helped us ensure that the launch of Safe Harbor was a success! We netted over \$3450 after paying food and band travel costs. *All the entertainers performed for no fee.* Many thanks to all, from Kitty Coughlin and Lars Whelan, event co-chairs!!

#### **Help Comes in Many Forms**

Members of First Parish come together to offer assistance to our community in many ways. When a ride or a meal would make a difference in your life the Caring Circle would love to help. Contact Pris Nelson at 772-3438 or [pris.nelson47@gmail.com](mailto:pris.nelson47@gmail.com). If the need for help requires spiritual support or involves a crisis the Pastoral Care Team is available to provide assistance along the journey. Contact the Team at 773-5747 or [office@firstparishportland.org](mailto:office@firstparishportland.org).