

Next issue deadline
Sunday, September 7

The Spire

JUNE 1, 2025

THE FIRST SUNDAY RECORD

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The Spire Rests

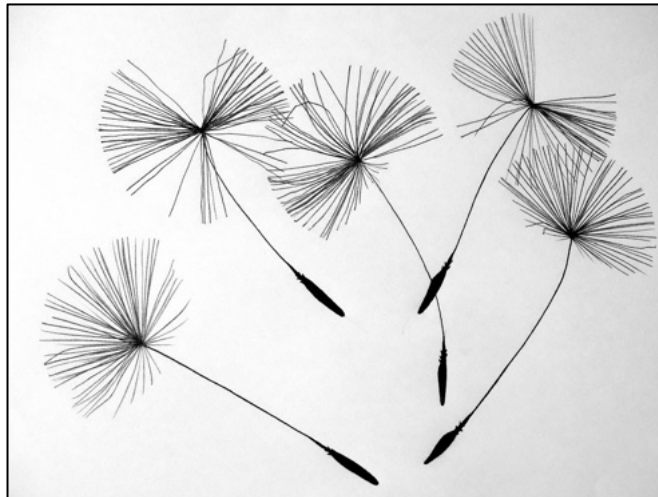
Each July and August *The Spire* goes on summer hiatus, along with the regular staff at First Parish. Check the church website for summer office hours, at www.firstparish.info.

See you in September, the one month when *The Spire* does not appear on the first Sunday of the month. It is deferred a week due to Ingathering, our first service of the program year, on September 14.

Rockin' for Refugees

On Saturday, June 14, the church will host Rockin' for Refugees from 7 to 10 pm, featuring Kemp Harris and Stanley & the Undercovers. Kemp Harris is an activist singer-songwriter with a deep and colorful history. Stanley and his band specialize in classic rock songs that are ideal for dancing.

The Arlington Brewing Company will offer beer, and proceeds will support services provided by the ArCS Cluster for people seeking asylum in Arlington, Cambridge, and Somerville. Tickets at arcscluster.org.



Looking Ahead to Ferry Beach

Registration is open for our annual church retreat October 3 to 5 at the Ferry Beach Conference Center in Saco, Maine. Sign up now — space is limited! All are welcome, and scholarships are available.

To register, visit www.firstparish.info/event/ferry-beach-weekend-in-saco-maine/

If you have questions or want to volunteer, contact ferrybeach@firstparish.info.

Musing on Ministers

First Parish has had many ministers over the centuries. Until we called Rev. Barbara Whittaker-Johns in 1991 they were all men. As we bid a fond farewell to Rev. Marta Flanagan, here's a look back at some of her predecessors, who have uttered oceans of words and ideas from the pulpit or the podium.

The first, Samuel Cooke, served for 44 years. In 1829 we called our first Unitarian Minister, Frederick Hedge. Samuel Abbot Smith was beloved and deeply mourned when he lost his life after spending time in the South helping freed people after the Civil War.

My favorite is Rev. Parrot. Like the comic character Hyacinth Bucket, who insisted that her name was pronounced "Bouquet," William Parrot pronounced

his name *à la Française*, "Pair-oh," for he was born in France. He immigrated to New Orleans and married a Creole woman. Her death in childbirth led him to abandon the Catholic church; he became a Unitarian minister in 1867.

Rev. Parrot's second wife was Georgette Josephine Grubb. She was from a well-off Philadelphia

family who were less than thrilled with her choice — a foreign-born, ex-Catholic, liberal, Unitarian minister. William and Georgette ignored them and proceeded to have nine children, who no doubt romped around a previous meetinghouse.

Rev. Augustus Mendon Lord had a sense of humor, an invaluable asset for a minister. He liked to refer to himself as "The Lord," with a twinkle in his eye. Before he spoke he would sometimes intone, "Thus saith the Lord."



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and mission of First Parish.

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The Spire

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Items may be edited for space and clarity.

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