

# The Chimes



## The In Between Time “The State of the Church”

A new year and an Annual Meeting are always an opportunity to take stock of where we've been and where we need to go. Rev. Jessica and I thought we would take some time to review what has been accomplished in our relatively short time here. Since I arrived 17 months ago and Rev. Jessica 14 months ago these are some of the wonderful things we have accomplished together as pastors and people:

- Provided inspiring worship services that remind us of God's faithfulness during wilderness times.
- Have been educating the congregation concerning the vital role of Stephen Ministers as ones who work closely with the ministers to provide follow-up care, while the pastors address critical pastoral concerns.
- Took a look at our history celebrating our rich heritage, enduring strengths and some unhelpful patterns that needed to be addressed.
- Meet weekly with the co-chairs of Christian Education/CE staff, working towards a vision while developing a process where we work collegially and purposely together.
- Held an after church workshop to discover our Core Values, which is the gun- powder of any group's mission.
- Put together a crack Stewardship Team with a wonderful narrative budget and ongoing stewardship education.

## Worship Services: Sundays at 10AM & 5:30PM

- Held a Saturday morning mini-retreat to discern God's mission and vision for FPC.
- Conducted a church-wide survey and held cottage meetings in people's home to help us flesh out our mission further, to discover folks hopes for the future and what they wanted in a settled pastor.
- Vital youth ministry and Confirmation classes where youth, mentors and youth leaders alike are challenged through mission work, fellowship and reflection.
- A lively Sunday school program with attention given to the gathering worship time, teacher training and classroom visitation, regular meetings with teachers and board chairs, and curriculum review and coordination.
- A revitalized diaconate focusing on spiritual matters within FPC.
- Two leadership training events with more scheduled.
- A seminar entitled “How to Make it All Right When Everything Goes Wrong,” with Rev. Dr. Billy and Ms. Nancy Brown and plans to offer it to the whole congregation.
- Spiritual gifts training.
- Ongoing adult education opportunities with a Sunday morning Bible study for adult, Monday night book and discussion groups, and after church forums.
- A study of the City of Dover exploring needs and ways churches can help.
- A balanced Search Committee ready to go.

### What lies ahead?

Work creatively to resolve our budget crisis by putting together a fundraising team and a growth and vitality team.

Finish the Mission and Vision statement that takes our many voices and presents one clear voice.

Explore the needs of our community and how we might minister.

Continue to develop leadership

Begin strategic planning and asset mapping

We also have reviewed with you the patterns and expectations of the interim time that most churches experience. While this process may seem time-consuming for those who are anxious for the settled leadership to arrive, even under the best of circumstances the search for a pastor in the United Church of Christ takes 18 to 24 months. Rev. Bendroth's average interim ministry has lasted 2½ to 3 years, which isn't unusual. Studies have shown that following a long-term pastorate can take even longer.

Why is this? One of the most important roles we perform as interim pastors is to help you as a church do a self-evaluation. The self-evaluation in turn assists your Search committee in developing a "Profile." Think of the Profile as a snapshot of your church, which captures your hopes and dreams that will need to be shared with perspective ministerial candidates. The interim time allows you to look at what you do best as a church, what you'd like to do better, what you might decide to discontinue, and even what you've dreamed of starting up. We call this mission. God has something unique for every church to do based upon their gifts, resources, and location. It is the engine that runs the train.

It's also a time to look at infrastructure. Models that worked well in one generation may not be as effective in another as society, families, and daily demands change. It's also a time to develop leadership: to help people discover their gifts and passions, to raise up and train new leaders, and allow others who are ready to step aside.

During the interim time unresolved conflicts often emerge as they have at First Parish. Again, this isn't unusual. This happens to other churches in transition too. Instead of ignoring them, we learn that conflict means people care about things deeply but need to discover new ways to talk about differences and find new ways to communicate more effectively.

Each pastor has his or her own style and strengths so the interim time provides opportunity to hear a different style of preaching, worship leadership, and pastoral care so that the congregation can adjust to different ways of ministry before calling a new pastor.

If the above work is not done and there is a rush to find a new settled pastor, the new person usually has a short tenure because unresolved issues continue to emerge. Churches are not corporations where when a CEO resigns the company hires a head hunter and gets someone within 6 months. Churches are complex emotional organizations that require an intentional process. This is why we are here to help you.

For those of you who think the process is taking too long, we respond by saying, we are right on schedule. We would be further along except that unexpected crises around staffing, budget and internal conflict slowed the process but needed to be dealt with. This too is part of the normal ebb and flow of ministry.

Many in leadership have said that First Parish has turned a corner. Attendance is up, anticipation is in the air, and we are doing hard but good work. For those of you who have decided to sit it out until a new pastor is called we ask why? As a coal that is placed on a hearth by itself goes out, so does a Christian who is not worshiping and meeting with fellow Christians regularly. We need everyone's participation to make this interim time as productive as possible. Withholding money or participation only weakens the presentation of the church to pastoral candidates.

First Parish Church is part of the Christian adventure. This congregation makes a difference in people's lives. Together we give witness to the Prince of Peace in a manifestly violent world; we practice hospitality in an inhospitable world; we study kindness in an unkind world; we exercise forgiveness in an unforgiving world; and we mediate the love of a God so big and wide that it blows your mind.

Come and be a part of it! Join us!

*Norman*

*Jessica*

Revs. Bendroth and McArdle



## Deacon's Bench



Have you seen Jesus? Most of us will probably answer no; however, we have seen the Jesus that lives within our hearts and within our church. The New Testament details the life of Jesus and documents the many lessons that Jesus has taught. God has left it up to us to follow those teachings and allow Jesus to live within our hearts. Find a moment out of your day and read the below teaching and what the meaning is to you.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.*

*Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of  
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Yes, these are The Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-10. Your Diaconate will remember these and the many other teachings of Jesus as we embrace the bright future that God has for the First Parish Church community. A prayer for tonight – Ephesians 3:14-21

## Music Notes



**Hymn Sings** ~ On the last Sunday of each month at 9:45 a.m.. Come to church a few minutes early and request your favorite hymn!

**Senior Choir:** Rehearses Sunday evenings at 7pm. All are welcome!

**First Parish Ringers:** for adults; rehearses Sunday evenings at 5:15pm.

**Youth Choir** will meet on Sunday mornings from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. The group is open to elementary through middle school students.

**Joyous Ringers:** youth handbell choir rehearses Monday afternoons at 5:30.

**Choir Chimes:** our choir chimes group rehearses Monday afternoons at 4:30

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## Search Committee News

The FPC Pastoral Search Committee is meeting regularly and is working on the first of its tasks: the creation of a church Profile for First Parish. We are compiling the results of the recent survey and the data gathered through the recently concluded cottage meetings to develop a picture of our church and congregation for potential ministers. We are attempting to accurately describe who we are and what kind of church we have been, are and want to be. Once completed, the Profile will be placed on a national bulletin board as one part of an effort to attract qualified candidates. We are also working on advertising materials to be sent in response to inquiries. We are proceeding as promptly as possible, knowing that our members anxiously await a settled senior pastor. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact me.

Faithfully yours, *Gordon Quimby*  
Chair of the Search Committee



## Adult Ed. Opportunities

### Life together

Small groups will be meeting for the 4 Mondays in February for discussion and to encourage one another. The topics will be:

*We are a chosen group, Is my group better than your group?,*

*Why can't our group just get along?* and

*Our group has the power.* The book of

Ephesians will be used to see what God

has to say on this topic. Meetings will be

held at Beth Martindale's house in Dover

from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. All are welcome for

any or all the meetings. Sign up today in

the atrium. For more information contact

Sue or Sheldon Chase

([sue@kdsoftware.net](mailto:sue@kdsoftware.net),

[sheldon@kdsoftware.net](mailto:sheldon@kdsoftware.net), 868-1937)

# Children, Youth & Family



Sunday School

## Worship Schedule

February 6th



Boy Scout Sunday

- Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – “Sermon on the Plain”
- Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – “Jesus Appoints Seventy Leaders”
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – **No Sunday School/EClub**
- Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – “Come to the Banquet”

Ministries of  
Christian Education  
**Teacher Training  
Dinner**

Wednesday,  
February 9<sup>th</sup>  
@ 6:30 pm ~  
A dinner honoring  
our Teachers,  
Volunteers, Mentors  
and Youth Leaders



All children participating  
in **Youth Choir**  
will rehearse after the  
service on Sunday  
mornings in the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
grade classroom with  
**Mrs. Seely**

### Safe Spaces Training

**Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 – 1:00 pm**

Anyone working with children and youth must go through training, as well as screening. All CE board members and others interested in the First Parish Safe Spaces policies are also encouraged to attend. These policies apply to adults as well as children/youth and include procedures for dealing with incidents and emergencies as well as standards for interactions among participants in church activities. Sign up for this session on the bulletin board across from the office. Childcare is available. Questions? Contact Nan Nutt (drnutt@comcast.net)

### Acolytes

- Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> – Stephen Geuther & William Marchesi
  - Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> - Goulds
  - Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – Noah Thorpe & Julia Mathieu
  - Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – Nate Stewart & Cassie DiMambro
- FPC'S ANNUAL  
**Bring-A-Friend  
Sunday!**  
February 13<sup>th</sup>  
refreshments served  
8:30-8:50 am  
Come Early!



# Youth Ministry



## SUPER BOWL SUB FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH MINISTRY!!!

Place your orders now for \$5 foot-long subs for your Super Bowl Party! All proceeds go to FPC Youth Ministry! Order via email at [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net) in subject heading write “SUBS”, or complete an order form available outside the Youth Ministry office on the bulletin board. ALL orders must be received by midnight Wednesday February 2nd! Choose Italian cold cuts, turkey or tuna!

### IT’S A GIRL!!!!!!

*Beatrix Claire Swanson* arrived January 13th, 7 pounds 7 ounces and 19” inches long to Youth Leader parents *Nate & Rachel Swanson*. Many many Blessings on our new parents! She is beautiful!

### YOUTH GROUP MEETING DATES IN FEBRUARY

Youth Group meets Sunday *February 6th* and *February 13th:30-5:30p.m.* Join us for games, small group discussion and worship. *February 27th* for the Bowl A Thon! 11:30 at Dover Bowl.

### DOVER CHILDRENS’ HOME BOWL-A THON FUNDRAISER!!!

We must keep our FIRST place position that we have won two, count ‘em, two years in a row! Last year we won \$500 for Youth Ministry!! The Youth will be asking for your support now through February 27th! The youth teams will bowl on February 27th.

### CONFIRMATION DATES IN FEBRUARY

- February 6th 3:30- 5:30p.m.
- February 13th 3:30-5:30
- February 20th at 11:30 a.m.

### TUBING!!!!

The youth are hoping to go snow tubing Tuesday, February 22nd during vacation week at Amesbury Sports Park. We will need adults and drivers. Stay tuned!

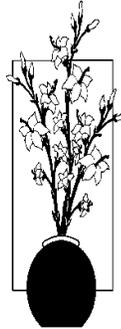
# First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church



If you or someone you know is facing a crisis large or small--and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: *Beth Martindale, Carol Davenport, Mary Norris, Margie Edmunds and Rev. Jessica and Rev. Norm.* **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**

## Thank You!

Dear Members of First Parish Church,  
I am overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness in giving me the beautiful prayer shawl to enjoy as I go through this very difficult time in my life and the lives of my family who sadly mourn the loss of a beloved husband, father and grandfather. Thank you more than words can express for your wonderful Christian love to our family. We've also been grieving the loss of our much loved granddaughter in October. Its wonderful to have a faith family to turn to and I know Laurie, Tim & Ben have that with you. Thank you again. God bless you all! In Christ's Love, *Calleen Ashe*



## E-Mail

### Prayer Chain

Please contact Kathy Daniels at 742-3481 or [shesababe@hotmail.com](mailto:shesababe@hotmail.com) to be added to our email prayer chain.

## E-Chimes

To start receiving the chimes via email, please send an email to [chimesfpc@gmail.com](mailto:chimesfpc@gmail.com) with the subject "eChimes".

## In Sympathy

*We mourn the loss of our dear friends, called home by God to share in the everlasting kingdom of Heaven...*

**Tracey Newton** ~ Earl Case' daughter

**Matthew Stern.** ~

Angela Sgrignuoli's husband

**Roger Hayden, Sr.** ~ Roger's dad

## Worship Attendance

<b>Sunday:</b> 1/2/11	AM: 144	PM: 35
<b>Sunday:</b> 1/9/11	AM: 193	PM: 21
<b>Sunday:</b> 1/16/11	AM: 197	PM: 15
<b>Sunday:</b> 1/23/11	AM: 297	PM: 24

**The next Baptism class** will be Tuesday, February 1st at 6pm in the Parlor. **Baptisms** will take place on Sunday, February 13th at our 10am or 5:30pm worship services. For more info and to sign up, please contact Lisa or Jane in the church office at 742-5664.

## Altar Flowers

**January 2** Memorial Poinsettias

**January 9** in loving memory of our family by *Lloyd and Beverly Jordan*

**January 16** in honor of *Mara Marshall* by her children and grandchildren in recognition of her 9pth birthday on Jan. 18

**January 23** in loving memory of *Margaret Sundeen* by Pat & Pete Sorensen, Ann Schultz, Jack Callahan, Marion Nossiff and Rick & Debbie Gremlitz

If you would like to purchase altar flowers, please contact Jane or Lisa in the church office at 742-5664.

## Births in First Parish

Congratulations to

*Beatrix Claire Swanson, b. 1/13/11*

*to Nate & Rachel Swanson;*

*and Evan Deane Palmer,*

*b. 1/18/11, the great grandson of Irene & Jerry Boyle*



The United Church of Christ daily devotional. Go to <http://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> to sign up. Daily inspirational thoughts, messages, and insights!

## ***Prepared to Serve February 26, 2011***

A training event designed for all church members in the New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ! Over 50 workshops on a variety of topics including stewardship, spirituality, church leadership, church finances, global missions and Christian education. Join us for worship, workshops, exhibits and more! Prepared to Serve will be held at Pembroke Academy. This is a wonderful opportunity for the laity of the church to participate in workshops that will train them for leadership in many areas of the church. Registration is \$32 for the whole day and includes a delicious lunch. Please contact Deanna Bennett at the New Hampshire conference for more info ([dbennett@nhcucc.org](mailto:dbennett@nhcucc.org)), or pick up a registration form across from the office on the bulletin board.

**[www.GoodISHappening.org](http://www.GoodISHappening.org)**

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Rev. Dr. Norman B. Bendroth

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Rev. Jessica McArdle:  
Interim Associate Pastor  
[jessicamcardle@gmail.com](mailto:jessicamcardle@gmail.com)

**Bulletin Deadline:**

Tuesdays at 9:00AM

**Chimes Deadline:**

The 15<sup>th</sup> of every month ~  
Please email bulletin and  
chimes information to Lisa at  
[firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)

**CONTACT  
US**