

The Chimes March 2011



The In Between Time “Give Up Neglecting God”

Here's my advice: Don't give up chocolate for Lent this year. Or rather, give up chocolate — or whatever else you give up — if it helps you think about God more often. But if all it does is make you think about chocolate, then let me suggest some other Lenten practices to you.

In the sixth century, St. Benedict wrote a "guidebook" to living in a monastic community, a document we know today as The Rule of St. Benedict. "The life of a monk ought to be a continuous Lent," he wrote. In the next sentence he gets a bit more realistic. Since not many have the strength to live Lent all the time, Benedict advises us to "wash away the negligence's of other times."

What most of us neglect— with more regularity than we might care to admit — is God. So this Lent, instead of giving up chocolate, give up neglecting God. Here are a few ways for doing that, all of them straight from ancient and contemporary monasteries. I know — you're not a monk or nun! And I'm not suggesting that you start going to church seven times a day during Lent or wearing black robes and hoods. But you might be surprised at how much there is to learn from monastic life, even for those of us who live secular lives. But don't try to follow all of them or you'll end up just paying attention to your Lenten discipline — instead of God. Debra Farrington, a retreat leader and author, offers these suggestions.

Have a heart-to-heart with God

"Pray temperately and simply. Prayer is a heart-to-heart talk between yourself and God and needs no brilliant ideas, no flood of words" (The Jerusalem Community Rule of Life, Jerusalem/Paris, 1978).

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

Take some time out for a long walk, or go to a quiet place you enjoy and just have a heart-to-heart with God. Put away all your notions about trying to impress God by being brilliant or by using carefully chosen words. Pretend you're talking to a friend you've neglected and say what's on your heart. Don't forget to do some listening as well.

Give up annoyance

"Don't be irritated by the brother who sings off-key" (Rule for a New Brother, Brakkenstein Community of Blessed Sacrament Fathers, Holland, 1973).

Can you imagine standing next to a brother who sings off-key, and having to do that three or more times a day, for the rest of your life? But that's just what this monastic rule, or guidebook, suggests. Just for Lent, try to avoid being annoyed by others who do things differently than you would. See if you can find Christ in that brother or sister who "sings off-key" and see what difference that makes in both of your lives.

Seek a spirit of detachment

"Trusting in the Father, Christ chose for himself and his mother a poor and humble life, even though he valued created things attentively and lovingly. ...[S]eek a proper spirit of detachment from temporal goods by simplifying [your] own material needs" (The Rule of the Secular Franciscans, Rome, 1978; based on Francis' rule, 13th century Italy).

Most of us own much more than we need. All too often our sense of self-worth and confidence rest on how much we own, rather than on knowing ourselves as God's beloved daughter or son. Take a Lenten break from buying unnecessary things. Give the money you would have spent on that CD or silk blouse to an organization that feeds the homeless or shelters the abused. Let your money do something good for some of God's other beloved children.

Pursue God through study

"Our pursuit of knowledge is an expression of love for God's world and the riches of revelation. ...

Since our gifts and ministries vary we need to encourage one another to value not only reading and study but many other ways of learning, every method that helps us become more responsive in heart and mind to the whole creation" (The Rule of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge, Mass., 1997).

St. Benedict decreed that every monk be given a book to read during Lent. Find a book that opens up your relationship with God and read it through, either by yourself or with a group. Or find another way to study God's world. Take a course. Visit an art exhibit. Go to a concert. See a movie. Do these things with the intention of learning more about God's world and the riches of revelation.

Take care of yourself

"The hermit listens to his body, giving attention to health, exercise, work, proper diet, fasting and leisure. Because the Holy Trinity dwells within him, making him a 'Living House of Bread,' he nurtures and cares for the gift of his body and the sacredness of life" (A Way of Desert Spirituality: The Plan of Life of the Hermits of Bethlehem, Chester, N.J., 1998).

Scripture tells us that our bodies are God's temples (1 Corinthians 3:16). So do things to take care of one of God's dwelling places this Lent: Get enough exercise. Eat better. Take time for leisure and play. And do it in the knowledge that you are caring for one of God's great gifts and nurturing the sacredness of your life.

Lenten Blessings, *Rev. Norm*

Characteristics of a Healthy Congregation

The Board of Deacons are excited to have engaged the services of *Rev. Billy and Nancy Brown* to lead us in this 2nd phase of our work together as a "Healthy Congregation." **Please join us** on Saturday, March 19th from 8:45 to 2pm at FPC. Lunch will be served for a suggested \$5 donation. Sign-up by than Sunday, March 13 on the bulletin board or by emailing Bill Leslie at moharimet@comcast.net.

From Rev. Jessica

"It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last of the evening."

Reformer Martin Luther, 1483-1546

"Prayer is not a substitute for action, it is an action for which there is no substitute"

Attributed to Jane Edwards

The last thing we may want to do, or even think about doing, is prayer. Though it was the action Jesus did the most of...even more than healing, telling parables or preaching.

It's not that prayer is difficult. From the perspective of spiritual practices it is a virtual pipeline to God. So why are we are reluctant, even afraid to engage in it?

In talking to people about prayer, I've come to appreciate the uncertainty if not awkwardness that can accompany this practice. Christians assume that their ambivalence must stem from a lack of faith. If they truly believed, then praying wouldn't be a problem. Yet faith and seeking nourishment through practices such reading scripture and prayer go hand and hand. You and I were not created to subsist on a meager diet when it comes to the spiritual riches of our Lord.

For one thing, you don't need to pray out loud for your prayers to be heard. Nor should you be concerned that your prayer must adhere to some standard of excellence. **You may not even be even sure what to pray for**, other than the awareness that at that moment you're in dire need of an assurance beyond human understanding.

There is a wonderful passage from the New Testament that reassures us of God's loving purpose concerning this practice of prayer, no matter where we are in our spiritual journey. It goes as follows: ***"Meanwhile, the moment we get tired... God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray for, it doesn't matter; God does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. The Sovereign knows us far better than we know ourselves..."***

(Romans 8:26-27)

(continued)

Of course, it does help immensely to learn more about prayer - to appreciate its power and its capacity to transform us and others when everything else tells us to despair. Yet as with all disciplines, it begins first by practicing...one day, hour and moment at a time.

*O God who knows me better than I know myself, **thank you for this new day.***

*If I awoke this morning with frustration and even anger - **help me to turn these over to you** - so I may serve you with greater intention.*

*If I awoke this morning with uncertainty - **give me a spirit of thankfulness** - so that all I encounter may be assured of your promises.*

*If I awoke this morning with confidence - **help me share this joy with others** - so that they too may be made glad.*

*Yet if I awoke this morning disheartened given the injustice I see and the despair within - **then make me an instrument of your peace** - so that others may take heart and know that there is a God. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

(inspired by St. Francis of Assisi)

Yours on the Journey, *Rev. Jessica McArdle*

Opportunity for Study and Discussion of Immigration Issues. – March 6 at the Durham Community Church (3:30 pm) As a follow-up to the NH Conference Annual Meeting vote to stand in solidarity with immigrants and to seek and learn more about the issues of immigration in our state and nation, the Immigration Working Group of the Conference will present an opportunity to learn about this timely social justice issue. Rev. Liana Rowe, a member of the Southwest Conference in Arizona, will focus her discussion on the biblical and theological resources that can help deepen our understanding and actions regarding this issue. Rev. Sandra Pontoh of the Maranatha Indonesian Fellowship, one of our sister congregations in Madbury, will also share their experiences with immigration issues, which are a part of their daily life and faith. This is a great opportunity to be engaged in a current social justice issue.

First Parish Church will be hosting a Blood Drive

Wednesday March 23 from 1-6pm.

Please consider giving blood if you can. It just might save a life! Volunteers are needed to check in people and to keep the snack table clean and moving along. Bakers needed too!! Please contact Kathy Daniels at 742-3481 for more information. Appointments to give blood can be made in advance. Please call the Red Cross at 1-800 Red Cross. DO NOT call the Church as they do not schedule blood draws. Walk-in's always welcome. Thank you!



They're Back!

Monthly Blood Pressure Clinics.

Blood pressure clinics will be held the third Sunday in the parlor directly after church services. The first one to be March 20th. If you are an LPN, RN or in the Health field, have been trained to take blood pressures and would like to be a part of this ministry please contact Kathy Daniels 742-3481.



Thank you

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, cards, and prayers at the time of my mother's death. A special thanks goes to the choir for the flowers, and to Jane Kennedy for a timely suggestion. God bless you all.

Jackie Williams

Thank you all for your cards and prayers during the loss of our daughter/sister, Tracy. The comfort we felt was truly a blessing and helped us get through it. The support of First Parish Church during times like this is such a gift. And, the prayer shawl continues to be a great comfort as well. God Bless you all,

Elaine, Earl and Samantha Case

Deacon's Bench



Have you ever heard the expression “spring is right around the corner”? This winter season here in New England, God has given the abundance of snow to fill our ponds and lakes so we can start enjoying the warm days ahead. Whether it is fishing or swimming or just looking out at the beauty and stillness of the waters on an early summer morning, this is God’s gift to us.

Your Diaconate has started off the year with a retreat that was held on February 5. We learned the Biblical background of the deacon (Acts 6:1-7 and I Timothy 3:1-13) as well as set goals for this year. Some key goals are mission, discipleship, and communication, as well as others. Our goals will keep us focused on what we hope to accomplish this year.

On Saturday, March 19, from 9am -2am, the Rev. Billy and Nancy Brown will be here for Phase 2 of the Healthy Congregations workshop. Topics of this workshop will include:

- Introduction to what makes for a Healthy Congregation
- Focus on developing strengths by addressing the basic needs and creating a sense of belonging
- Understanding human systems (Focus on: nothing happens in isolation; the change/anxiety connection - including the resistance to change and concept of homeostasis; triangulation and why it is a problem; scapegoating.)
- Understanding and constructively engaging in conflict (nature of conflict; managing difficult emotions; caring communications and CRAPS model for addressing conflicts), and
- Beginning work on covenants - particularly around issues of communication and conflict.

This Phase 2 workshop is open to the entire congregation. Just let a deacon know by March 13 if you will be at the workshop so we can make sure we have enough packets available on that day.

Easter this year is on April 24. As we prepare for the Lenten Season, we should ask ourselves how we can support this interim ministry. This interim time will come to an end with the call of a settled Sr. Minister. The Pastoral Search Committee is working very hard at that task and we will have a settled Sr. Minister at some point.

Let us be positive and work towards the good of the First Parish Church community. Complaining and gossiping does not help the church advance its ministry, rather it does just the opposite. Positive, constructive ideas do help the church advance its ministry. Let’s look beyond ourselves and at the potential of this shiny beacon on a hill, First Parish Church.

Search Committee News

As announced in church on Feb. 20, your search committee is pleased and excited to have completed the major task of writing the Church Profile. The Profile is the document describing our church...past, present and future...in exhaustive detail which will be sent to interested candidates for our senior minister position. The First Parish job will be advertised nationally within the next few weeks and we will begin to receive Ministerial Profiles. The committee continues to work on a brochure for our church and to develop a compensation package. We continue to appreciate your prayers and support in this time-consuming series of tasks.

Faithfully yours,

Gordon Quimby

Chair of the Search Committee



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

Highlights of First Parish's Stephen Ministry Program

With the Annual Meeting behind us and continuing into our 2011 program year, Norm and I want to take the opportunity to point out the highlights of the Stephen Ministry Program, which is a significant and vital endeavor here at First Parish Church.

An essential dimension of First Parish's identity is revealed by the fundamentals tenants of the Stephen Ministry program whose charge is to be "Compassionate, Full of Faith, Skilled & Trustworthy." As a highly functional and organic system designed for use in church communities, the outcome of those who dared to dream and enact this vision of care has born much fruit. At the initiative of the pastors and key lay leaders, a leadership team was built, values & a plan were established, awareness and ownership was cultivated and Stephen ministers were recruited, selected & trained. The program has continued to take hold here at First Parish, building upon a carefully laid out system of referral, education, supervision and support.

As interim ministers, we delight in the continued success of this program, particularly during this period of transition. For those who continue about their work diligently: meeting together for support, caring for the lonely, reaching out to those who are suffering and tending the broken-hearted, we recall

those words spoken by the Apostle Paul, "...be confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

And now for a few highlights of this past year!

- Stephen Ministers have continued unabated to offer care and support to those in need, acting as advocates and friends
- The need for additional care is increasing; prayer shawls are being sought and new Stephen Ministers are needed to meet this need.
- Last October, Norm and I hosted a Celebration Dinner for Stephen Leaders and Ministers, which was appreciated by all
- In November, the Stephen Leaders & Ministers attended a Continuing Education session at the Tasker Funeral Home to better care for those facing death
- In December, Norm offered a Continuing Education session called, "Getting Through the Holidays" for those experiencing depression during the holiday season.
- Given the increased visibility of the Stephen Ministry Program and thereby the need for care, we are envisioning having additional leaders trained.

We look forward to another year of high quality care giving and continued growth. Thank you all for your continued commitment of spiritual and loving care for others, especially during this period of transition in the life of FPC, UCC.

Grace, mercy and peace,
Rev's *Jessica and Norm*

A Story from Zimbabwe



The Rev. Andy Jepson and Ms. Lindley Kinerk are spending this year serving in Zimbabwe. We will feature stories that Andy and Lindley share with us in issues of The Weekly News during the year. Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Zimbabwe and freely share this news with others in your churches.

Dear Friends and Family,

Here's the February weather and climate report for southeastern Zimbabwe:

'Tis the season of ants, little bitty ones, all over everything. We put the cat's food dish down, and if he doesn't move fast, he has to fight for his share of what's there.

'Tis the season of rain and the need for it, so we don't mind carrying our umbrellas and getting our feet muddy. We DO mind when socks get dirty. In Zimbabwe, white laundry is expected to be WHITE, regardless of red sticky mud. Women soak whites in washing powder, and scrub, scrub, scrub, and there is not a trace of stain when they are finished. Only Americans, especially I, commit the sin of permanently-stained socks. Lindley is smart enough to wear black socks, while I brought low white socks. Oops....(to see the rest of the article go to: www.nhcucc.org)

Children, Youth & Family



Youth Ministry



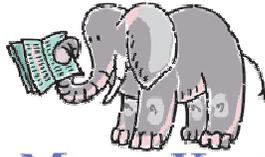
Sunday School

Worship Schedule

- March 6th – “Count the Cost”
- March 13th – “The Ten Lepers”
- March 20th – “The Transfiguration”
- March 27th – “Zacchaeus Meets Jesus”

Acolytes

- March 6th – Jace & Hannah Quitugua 
- March 13th - Zack & Patrick Helm
- March 20th – Samantha Glidden & Cassie DiMambro
- March 27th – Stephen Geuther & William Marchesi



Memory Verse

*“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves”
(Luke 22:27)*



SUPER BOWL SUB FUNDRAISER

Thank you, thank you to all who supported our SUB fundraiser! We had 108 orders and 108 sub buns! The youth and youth leaders did an excellent job working together to ensure each order was filled and deliciously made! Many thanks to Kathy Daniels who baked hundreds of cookies for each order! Special thanks to Nate Swanson for leading this successful event!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING DATES IN MARCH

Youth Group meets 3:30 to 5:30 on Sunday March 6th & March 13th.

Bring a Friend!

March 6th is a *Minute to Win It Tournament!!* Come Test Your Skills! March 13th the 7th & 8th graders will help cook a meal for youth group!

DOVER CHILDRENS' HOME BOWL-A THON FUNDRAISER!!!

The youth once again raised money and bowled for *The Dover Children's Home* on Sunday February 27th. First Parish Church youth have won 1st place for the last two years in a row. Stay tuned next month for the final outcome! We thank you gain for supporting our community outreach efforts!

CONFIRMATION DATES IN MARCH

Sunday, March 6th & 13th at 3:30-5:30
Sunday, March 20th at 11:30a.m.

HIGH SCHOOLERS BOWLING

The High Schoolers will go bowling on Sunday March 20th at 3:30 at Dover Bowl. RSVP to Beth if you will attend. Bring a friend if you wish.



3rd Graders!
Don't miss coming to **Sunday School** every week to prepare for receiving your **VERY OWN BIBLE** on **Children's Day, June 12**



March 9th
The church will be open at 7am for ashes & meditation
7pm ~ Ash Wednesday Service



Youth Choir

All children participating in **Youth Choir** will rehearse after the service on Sunday mornings in the 2nd grade classroom with **Mrs. Seely 11-11:30 am**

Daylight Saving Time begins
March 13th



Lenten Bible Study



FPC Adult Lenten Series
Mondays evenings beginning March 21st
See page 8

Survey Says...

At the end of January, the Transition Team presented the results of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research Pastoral Search Survey to the congregation. Almost 200 of you filled out a comprehensive survey of what the church wanted in a pastor, its sense of itself and its theological identity. As you can imagine, the results were all over the place. The Transition Team asked me to share some observations that I gleaned from the survey noting trends and tendencies, strengths and growth areas of the congregation. I'd like to share them with the wider congregation as well.

Rev. Norm

Trends of First Parish

- An aging but active membership (avg. age 55?)
- Many long term members
- Many have lived a long time in Dover
- A stable population
- The membership is very similar to the surrounding community
- Well-educated, professional congregation
- Attendance is fairly decent (e.g., no. of respondents and times/month they attend worship)
- A small number of people do most of the work
- Little or no outreach or invitation of friends and neighbors to church
- High employment
- Two to one female to male membership
- The church is a source of friendship and support
- High levels of satisfaction
 - *The church does well in caring for one another
 - *The church does well at Christian education
 - *The church does well at music and worship
 - *Large numbers say the church has made a big difference in their spiritual life
- The number of empty nesters equals the number of couples with children at home
- Most want their personal, spiritual relationship with God strengthened
- The current morale is low
- Many think the church does not deal with conflict/differences in a healthy way
- The majority were raised UCC, but there is much denominational diversity

Characteristics

- The church is more influenced by history/heritage than by current trends
- The church is very involved in the community
- More individualistic than family feel
- Known as a “status” church
- Not an activist church
- Church that focuses on nurture vs. conversion
- Strong denominational and heritage identity
- Middle of the road on working with others (churches, community partners)

Desires in a pastor

- A solid preacher and worship leader
- Want challenging/thought provoking sermons
- Want “issues” preaching
- Focuses on the spiritual development of the congregation
- Want focus on spiritual development vs. Bible and theology
- Spiritual guide
- Fellow traveler
- Relaxed style
- Wants pastor to have his/her own life
- Do not want top down leadership
- Equips lay leadership (group facilitator)

Worship

- Want sermons that are intellectually challenging and emotionally moving
- Silence and prayer
- Focus on sacraments
- Time to greet one another
- Corporate prayer (sharing concerns)
- Use of inclusive language
- Enjoy contemporary music/blended worship

Theology

- In general center/left
- View of Bible center/left
- View of salvation liberal
- View of Christ historic/traditional
- Strong belief in evolution/place of science
- Social justice is important

continued

Possible Paradoxes

- The congregation feels more “loose knit” than a family but people take good care of one another.
- Tend to focus on care of the membership but the perception is that a lot is done in the community (small groups and individuals volunteer at agencies and serve on boards vs. whole church).
- People say they have a strong sense of the identity of the church and what it stands for, but have many different answers of what that means.
- People say they want the church to grow, but want a pastor who spends more time with parishioners than on outreach.
- Want issues preaching, but not politics in the pulpit.
- Strong sense of tradition, but strongly prefer new approaches.
- Want to pursue a vision but concerned about the cost.

This is a snap shot of First Parish today. It is a church with many strengths and areas of health that can be nurtured even further. There are good things happening here, but still lots of work to do.

The Season of Lent

Engaging in Conversations That Matter

Continuing with the success of the December and February Small Group Series, mark your calendars for the next series which will take place from Monday, March 21st through Monday, April 11th, from 6:30-8pm. Using material that promises to be both engaging and thoughtful, we'll explore how the Season of Lent can enrich our lives. As before, we'll be meeting in homes, followed by fellowship and refreshment. All are welcome for any or all the meetings. Sign up in the atrium. For more information contact Sue or Sheldon Chase (sue@kdsoftware.net, sheldon@kdsoftware.net, 868-1937)



Memorial Easter Plants

Spring plants to decorate our Sanctuary for Easter may be ordered by pre-paying when you sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the office. **Price still to be determined.** Please indicate how you would like the dedication to read. **Deadline is Friday – April 8th**

8

FPC Holiday Fair!

What's more fun than Christmas events with your friends? The Christmas season may seem a long way away but it's not too soon for FPC to start planning for the Christmas fair. Our fair is not only a fund raiser it is a way to share our building and our community spirit with others. The fair brings hundreds of people to our church.

Are you new in our church and/or looking for an event where you can mingle with other people, get something accomplished and have a great time? The fair committee is in need of new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Imagine how much fun it is to pull together such a big one day event with people like Margie Buckingham, Sharon Tehada, Jane Kennedy, Cheryl Glidden, Heather Di Mambro, and many other wonderful members of our church.

The schedule will be recruiting members in March, meetings starting in April and the fair taking place in November. Those of you who have attended that fair know how great it is but most of us don't realize how much planning and how many people it takes to make this happen.

We are looking for a Co-chair to work with Sharon, a publicity coordinator, a co-chair for raffle table, Tiffany room help, and many other positions.

It's exciting that Jane Kennedy has taken on the responsibility of working with all the vendors.

The vendors are a large part of the fair income and help attract many fair goers. Her job will be starting in the spring as she starts contacting them all.

The more volunteers we can get, the more fun it is and the less work for each person. Sign up NOW with: Sharon Tehada 207-384-0186

dan2hada@gmail.com,

Margie Buckingham 603-343-2631

kraftyone@comcast.net,

or Norma Willard 603-742-4878

normawillard@comcast.net.

Whatever energy, time, and/or talent you have will be greatly appreciated.

Coffee Hour News



Seeking two people to partner as *Coffee Hour Coordinators*; this is a wonderful opportunity, particularly for newer members, to get to know our faith community by creating a rotation of members to pour coffee at coffee hour, and offer food donations for the table beginning in the month of April. Please call Terry Dargan at 498-5427 for details.

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, Rev. Jessica and Rev. Norm.* **Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!**

Baptisms

On Sunday morning, February 13th, we celebrated the baptisms of *Jessica Elaine Brassil*, daughter of Tim & Cindy Brassil; and *Boden Patrick Sweet*, son of Todd & Katie Sweet

E-Mail Prayer Chain

Please contact Kathy Daniels at 742-3481 or shesababe@hotmail.com to be added to our email prayer chain.

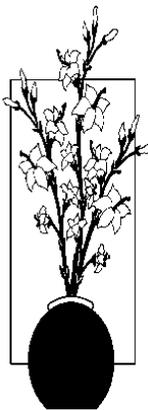
E-Chimes

To start receiving the chimes via email, please send an email to chimesfpc@gmail.com 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...

Sarah Brown ~ Longtime member
Phyllis Baldrige. ~ Joyce Tugel's mom
Margaret Cheney ~ Carol Salava's mom
Donald Marchesi, Sr. ~ Don's dad
Eleanor Martin ~ Jackie Williams' mom
Lorraine Lamonday ~
 Lloyd Jordan's younger sister
Iona Douville ~
 Lloyd Jordan's older sister
Stella Whitehouse ~ faithful friend of FPC
Arie Legerstee ~ longtime member



Worship Attendance

Sunday: 1/30/11	AM: 192	PM: 24
Sunday: 2/6/11	AM: 197	PM: 18
Sunday: 2/13/11	AM: 234	PM: 15
Sunday: 2/20/11	AM: 116	PM: 23

The next Baptism class will be Tuesday, March 1st at 5:30pm in the Parlor. **Baptisms** will take place on Sunday, March 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.

Births in First Parish

Congratulations to *Doug & Tara Kennedy* on the birth of their daughter, *Cora Jane*, born February 17, 2011. Proud grandparents are *Bill & Jane Kennedy!*



Altar Flowers

January 30 in loving memory of *Helen Newton Peterman* by *Sid & Bonnie Peterman*

February 6 in loving memory of *Lovell C. Hindle* by his wife, *Ethel*.

February 13 in loving memory of *Gladys "Mickey" Harris* by her daughter, *Lana Black*

February 20 in loving memory of *Elbridge Goodwin* by his wife, *Doris* and family.

February 27 in loving memory of family by *Judy and Meg Edwards*.

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

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



**March
9th**

Begin your Lenten journey by worshiping with us
either at
7 am or 7 pm on Ash Wednesday. The sanctuary will
be open in the morning for a time of reflection, prayer
and the imputation of ashes and the evening service
will be an informal gathering with song, prayer and
ashes.

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Senior Interim Pastor

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Rev. Jessica McArdle:

Interim Associate Pastor

jessicamcardle@gmail.com

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesdays at 9:00AM

Chimes Deadline:

The 15th of every month ~

Please email bulletin and

chimes information to Lisa at

firstparish@comcast.net