

The Chimes



The In Between Time "Hunger: Justice & Charity"

November is usually the month we think about hunger and homelessness because of our association of the Thanksgiving holiday with food. We all know the story of the celebration the Pilgrims held at Plymouth Plantation in 1621 in thanksgiving for their survival of that first winter and their first harvest in the new world. This celebration was modeled after harvest festivals that were commonplace in Europe at the time. It also has biblical roots. Known as the Sukkot ("Feast of the Tabernacles" or "Feast of the Ingathering") it was a thanksgiving for the crop harvest. (See Ex. 23:16 and Deut. 16:13).

It is also the time of the year when we have food drives, stock food pantries and serve turkey dinners with all the fixings. Americans do a good job of helping people in need directly, as we should. Since the early 1980s the United States has developed a massive system of charitable feeding, and the U.S. religious community has been a driving force. Food banks and food charities distribute an estimated \$5 billion worth of groceries every year. This is a telling demonstration of concern, and food charities provide urgently needed help to many people.

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

David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World, an organization of individual Christians and churches urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad, says there is another way to help people in need: citizen activism. Many of us don't realize that the food provided by all the charities in the country amounts to only about 6 percent of the food that poor people in the U.S. receive from federal food programs such as the National School Lunch Program.

Imagine: if Congress increases the federal food programs by just 6 percent, that one decision provides as much help to hungry people as all of our food charities combined. If Congress trims the government's food programs by 6 percent, the effect is the same as if we eliminated all the charitable feeding programs in the country. Beckmann argues that it's impossible to food-bank our way to the end of hunger in America. If we want to make serious progress against hunger, we will have to make our government an active and effective part of the solution.

Many say that progress against hunger and poverty depends mainly on what families and individuals do for themselves. Community organizations and faith-based institutions do provide vital, personal help to people who are struggling. Well-managed businesses and a strong economy create jobs. But the U.S. federal government is especially important in this endeavor, because it establishes the framework within which individuals, charities, businesses and state and local governments make their contributions. The U.S. government also affects the prospects of hungry and poor people worldwide.

continued

Government involvement in alleviating hunger is also part of our biblical heritage. Joseph managed one of the largest government feeding programs in history while working for Pharaoh in Egypt (Gen. 41). Legislation in ancient Israel required that farmers leave any of the crops that dropped while harvesting behind them and not to glean the corners of their fields. (See Deut. 24: 19-22). They were to be left for the poor among them. It was God's first "social security" plan, if you will. Other laws provided for sharing one-tenth of the harvest with immigrants, orphans and widows (Dt. 14:28-29), for lending at no interest to those in need (Ex 22:25), and for the cancellation of debts every seventh year (Dt. 15:1-2, 7-11). Every fiftieth year was to be a Year of Jubilee during which property was to be returned to the family of the original owner. The intent of this law, which may never have been carried out, was to prevent the concentration of wealth and make sure that each family had the means to feed itself.

Beckmann suggests that our government could do much more and be much more effective if we citizens participated in the political process. In an era of historic possibilities to reduce economic misery, our nation can open opportunity to hungry and poor people within its borders and around the world—but only if there is a significant and sustained increase in activism among people of faith and conscience. The United States has always had high ideals, and people of faith can rouse our nation to contribute actively to accelerate our progress against hunger. Big changes for hungry and poor people depend on people like you and me. God is calling us not only to feed hungry people but to challenge the policies and practices that keep them hungry.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Norman

Norman B. Bendroth
Sr. Interim Minister



Pastor's Hours

Revs. Bendroth and McArdle are at First Parish all day Sunday and Monday afternoon until Wednesday evening. Rev. Bendroth prepares the bulletin at home on Monday morning and his sermon on Thursday at home. Rev. McArdle is here on Monday mornings and often on Thursday mornings. We frequently work on Saturdays for weddings, funerals or special events. It is best to make an appointment through the church office or via email since our schedules vary greatly from week to week. Thank you for your love and support.

Your interim ministers,
Norm and Jessica

***Would you like to
have communion
brought to you
in your home?***



If you or someone you know would like to have communion brought to your home because you are unable to attend church for any reason, please contact the church office or one of the pastors to let us know. The deacons are compiling a list and will be available to bring you the Lord's Supper during the Advent season in particular. You are still part of our church community even if you aren't able to always attend worship!



**Order
Your
Poinsettias**

Memorial Poinsettias

are available to order for our Christmas services. The cost will be \$8.00 per plant. Please sign up on the church bulletin board by **December 5th**.

Deacon's Bench

The autumn is upon us and soon the excitement and miracle of Christmas will be here. As we begin to reflect back on the happenings at First Parish Church and look to the bright future Christ has in store for our church community, the Diaconate prays that you continue to find peace and happiness in your life.

Your Diaconate Board will soon be selecting the Pastoral Search Committee to choose a candidate to become the next settled Senior Minister of our church, First Parish Church, Congregational, United Church of Christ.

According to our By-Laws, the Pastoral Search Committee shall be composed of 7 or 9 members. The committee chosen will have a balance of church members with respect to age, gender, and length of time as an active member of the church. The committee will work closely with the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC.

Selecting the Pastoral Candidate is a very demanding and time-consuming process. The search For a Pastoral Candidate may take as little as 9 months or as long as 18-24 months. Initially, the Pastoral Search Committee will likely meet weekly. Later in the process, the committee may need to meet more frequently.

As a first. step in the process of selecting the Pastoral Search Committee members, the Diaconate Board seeks nominations or recommendations for potential members of this committee. A church member may nominate themselves or may nominate/ recommend another member of our church community to the Diaconate.

Specific characteristics sought for those individuals nominated/recommended for the Pastoral Search Committee include:

- a person who is an active member of the church
- a person respected by the congregation -a person known for spiritual maturity and being in communion with God
- a person who works well with other people and in group settings
- a person with available time and energy to complete the task



- a person who will be committed to attending the committee's meetings
- a person with the ability to maintain confidentiality
- a person with positive can-do attitude
- a person who shares honestly, openly, wisely, and appropriately
- a person known for a commitment to excellence because God is worthy of it
- a person with no hidden or private agendas
- a person who is able to look at the facts wisely, logically and objectively
- a person with willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit in the selection process

The Deacons will meet in an executive session during their day-long retreat on November 13 to select the members of the Pastoral Search Committee from the list of submitted nominations.

If you would like to place your name or another name in consideration for this critical task, please speak with or contact one of the deacons listed below. Thank you for prayerfully considering your response to this critical event in the life of our church.

Board of Deacons

Bill Leslie, Chairperson . 749-0021 .

moharimet@comcast.net

J Bent . [743-3549](tel:743-3549) . jbent@987thebay.com

Ken Berry • [335-2781](tel:335-2781) . berryl@metrocast.net

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tdimambro@comcast.net

Margie Edmunds • 742-7631 . jonsar3@comcast.net

Diane Fiske • 749-0933 • nonnagolfer@comcast.net

Debbie Gremlitz . [868-1196](tel:868-1196) . debgrem@yahoo.com

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Desmond Keefe . 343-5335 • j.keefe@snhu.edu

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bonniep75@comcast.net

Pete Sorensen . [742-7360](tel:742-7360) . patpopster@comcast.net

Bruce Whitney. 207-384-2051 bwhitney@gwi.net



The Joy of Belonging

Greetings as we continue to move into the fall season! Indeed, the air is getting crisper outside. We may find ourselves grabbing a jacket as we head outdoors. The indoor heat has been switched on and a cup of soup is has become an attractive alternative to the summer food offerings we had only weeks before. The sunlight hours have considerably shortened. Soon daylight saving time will be upon us.

The month of November ushers in anticipation. Soon, very soon, we will celebrate through vibrant worship, jubilant song and God's wondrous Word, the joy that comes with belonging. This celebratory event will take place on **Stewardship Sunday**, November 14th, when the Nubian Gents & Feminine Fire will join us during worship, which will include a time to recommit ourselves to caring for and ensuring the continued financial welfare of our church. After the festive service, we invite you to join us a bountiful soup luncheon. All are welcomed!

As God's people, we attest to the abundance that Christ has made known to us. As people caught up in the joy of belonging: when we gather for worship, celebrate the sacrament of communion, witness a baptism, observe how our children learn through the dedication of committed teachers, are caught up by the vitality of our youth, attend an adult Bible study, work on a mission project, serve on a board or committee, enrich our worship through music, offer compassionate care, laugh and talk together during times of fellowship; we realize that God's love to us made known in Christ enriches our lives, buoys our hopes and equips us to live life together as a covenanted people.

This is what we boldly believe as followers of God's way. We on the Stewardship Committee ask that you come prepared to participate in this time of joyful giving AND belonging. Our church is called to nurture others, yet it also needs the financial support of its members and

friends in order to exist. Our church depends on the good will of others, and it stubbornly insists that this goodwill and generosity exists in each of us.

Can and join us! Be a part of the joy of belonging! In faith and in hope, let us continue to seek the blessing of abundance that God longs to shower upon us.

Yours in Joyful Ministry,
The Stewardship Committee

Bill Bauman, Steve Hall, Carol Seely, Carol Salava & Joyce Tugel

Transition Team Happenings

Warmest thanks to all of you who completed the Pastoral Search Inventory and shared your vision for the future of our church. The response was enthusiastic and, by early October, one hundred and seventy surveys had been filled out by members of our congregation. The Transition Team is gratified at the widespread participation and will be sharing the results of the survey soon.

We hope you are following the "Paving The Way To Our Future" poster displayed in the atrium which illustrates the progress our church has made during our interim time together. In the near future the Transition Team footsteps will be joined by another set of steps as the Search Committee is selected and begins its task.

The Transition Team continues to meet regularly and welcomes your ideas for working and worshipping together.

Faithfully,

Your Transition Team





It's shaping up to be quite an election year! We will likely face an uphill battle in efforts to get people to participate in the electoral process, but the stakes are as high as ever. The midterm elections will determine the make-up of the 112th Congress, which will be charged with addressing issues of fundamental concern to all communities.

In this election cycle we face the additional challenge of a growing public cynicism toward the political process and an increasingly mean-spirited tone in public debate on the key issues of the day. To address this growing problem, our own United Church of Christ created new resources on civility and public debate (www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote/civility.html) in addition to tools and issue updates to reflect upon how our faith and our vote intersect.

Last month, a group of more than 130 former legislators, both Republicans and Democrats, released a letter urging civility and encouraging candidates, once elected, to focus on cooperation to face our country's greatest challenges instead of rancorous partisanship (www.fmocforcommonground.org/homepage.html). This past spring over 100 religious leaders ranging from Southern Baptists to members of the United Church of Christ signed a statement called "A Covenant for Civility" (www.sojo.net/index.cfm?action=action.display&item=100308-civility-covenant). In addition, Sojourners magazine (www.sojo.net) has put together a *Truth and Civility Election Watch Pledge* to guide Christians during the next round of elections.

Now more than ever, our voices and efforts are needed! As people of faith, we can play a unique role in this election cycle by encouraging civil, respectful dialogue that builds community and a hopeful vision for the future.



Rejoice! Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns

Explore the rich emotional and experiential meaning of the lyrics to some of the most beloved hymns of the Christmas season. Join your fellow parishioners in home based small groups in reflection and conversation of the following hymns.

- "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
- "Silent Night, Holy Night"
- "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
- "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

We will look at the biblical basis for the text of the hymn and the personal impact these truths have on our lives. Come and refocus your spirit and be reminded of the holiness and mystery of God's incarnation of this advent season Mondays, November 29 to December 20, 7 - 8:30 PM.

Sign-up during Fellowship time after services. For more information, contact *Sheldon and Sue Chase* at 868-1937, sheldon@kdsoftware.net or ue@dksoftware.net.

HYMN SINGS!

We are re-introducing a monthly hymn sing this fall and will continue throughout the year on the last Sunday of each month at 9:45 a.m.. Come to church a few minutes early and request your favorite hymn!



Music Notes



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

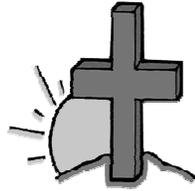
First Parish Ringers: for adults; rehearses Sunday evenings at 5:15pm.

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

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



Children, Youth & Family



Nursery
Helpers



Important Upcoming Dates
 Dec. 1st – 6:00 pm
 Advent Dinner for FPC Families
 Nov. 29th -Dec. 20th
 ‘Journeying Through Advent’

We are in immediate need of childcare help in the nursery Sunday mornings from 9 to 11:15 a.m. This is a paid position. Please contact Donna Evans if you are interested at hondagirl1967@msn.com. We are also in need of E-Club volunteers during the school year.



Worship Schedule

Nov. 7th –
 Jacob’s Family
 Nov. 14th –
 Joseph in Egypt
 Nov. 21 –
 Reuniting Jacob’s Family
 Nov. 28th –
 NO Sunday School/Eclub

SAVE THE DATE
 NOV. 7th – Daylight Savings Time
 Ends - “Fall Back” one hour

Acolytes

WE NEED HELP!!

We need two volunteers to coordinate acolytes every Sunday. Please contact Donna Evans or Lisa Marshall.

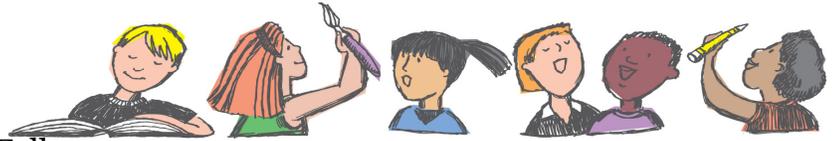


Ministries of
 Christian Education
 Appreciation Dinner
 Wednesday, November 3rd
 @ 6:30 pm



A dinner honoring our Teachers, Volunteers, Mentors and Youth Leaders
 Please RSVP to
 Donna Evans
 at hondagirl1967@msn.com

Youth Ministry



Nine high schoolers enjoyed a beautiful Fall evening running around Portsmouth last month for a pictorial Scavenger Hunt. Points for pictures of: the Prescott park whale, wearing kilts, one person “holding up” the steeple of the North Church, with the cook at Gilley’s, with Tugboats, a large dog, a construction vehicle, on a boat, on the memorial bridge, someone in uniform, with a book with your name on it, holding a Backstreet Boys CD, a person serving an ice cream cone, with a pinball machine or with an Overnight art installation was cause for teamwork, creativity and much fun! Some of the items that had to be gathered were: a cotton ball, hotel soap, a 4-foot stick (unattached to a tree), a copy of the nations’ oldest newspaper, a red leaf, a job application, NH Film Festival poster, a takeout menu, etc. Youth leader Nate Swanson was the creative force behind this High School event. A good time was had by all, we can’t wait for the next on....in Dover perhaps? Stay tuned....

CONFIRMATION HAS BEGUN.

We have six confirmands this year: *Ben Ashe, Ashley Eller, Emily Eno, Ryan Hayden, Cam Rewucki, and Virginia Scarponi*. The 2010-11 Confirmation program is a *disciple making*, theologically sound program that creates opportunities for spiritual relationship building within and outside the church community. Incorporated throughout are leadership opportunities with peers in worship, youth group and on mission /service activities. The curriculum is entitled *Affirming Faith, United Church Press*. Please keep these young disciples in your prayers as we begin this faith journey.

Confirmands and high schoolers spent an overnight in Boston experiencing first hand about the homeless population through Ecclesia Ministries **City Reach Program**. City Reach gives young people and adults a chance to learn about homelessness from people who have experienced it, and may still be experiencing it. We participated in this ministry by offering hospitality, food, clothing and as part of a street

outreach team. The youth will share this experience with the congregation in the near future.

Our Youth have been invited back to assist with the Seacoast’s Largest Food Drive, the Caring & Sharing Food Drive. Join us on Saturday November 6th in front of Hannaford’s on Central Avenue as we volunteer our time for this worthy event. Last year’s confirmands did such a wonderful job, we were personally invited back this year to help!

FIRST PARISH CHURCH, UCC YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

has hit the ground running! Three of our high schoolers attended the Princeton Theological Seminary’s Pathways’s seminar in Danvers, Mass in September. Seventeen high schoolers have been identified and invited to participate in the Youth Leadership Team. Several have led opening night youth group games, provided child care for our Leadership Training sessions, participated in the Boston mission project and Portsmouth scavenger hunt. This team of youth leaders will provide leadership amongst their peers, in youth group, in mission and service activities and in our worship services. Please keep this faithful group of disciples in your prayers as begin a new tradition at First parish church, UCC. We look forward to hear of their endeavors as well as support them in action!

YOUTH GROUP HAS BEGUN!

If you are in **5th grade and up Youth Group meets on Sunday’s from 3:30-5:30p.m.** Join us for games, small group discussion, meals, and worship. November meeting dates are: Nov. 7th and Nov. 14th Join us!

The Youth will be leading games and activities in the **Children’s’ Game Room** at the **Church Fair** on Saturday November 20th.



Thank you Phil!

Phil Read, our church treasurer for the past 8 years, will be stepping down from that position. Phil, his wife Susan and their children have been members of our church for over 30 years and in that time have made many contributions to our church and our church family.

Phil's efficiency as treasurer has been admired by many. It is not an easy job to keep the money flowing in a church of our size and Phil did his job with skill and care. We thank him for all his hard work.

Phil has served on most of our boards and committees and did his job with great dedication. He never shied away from a big task or one that was more than a little scary for most. *Did you know* Phil was the one who changed the burned out steeple illumination bulbs by crawling out on the roof and then hanging down to reach the bulb? He must have felt pretty close to God when he did that or maybe he was just praying to God !!

Phil never hesitated to roll up his sleeves and pitch in if he thought it would save the church some money. Like the time, with the help of others, he stripped and re-waxed floors downstairs and in the Parish Hall. Several times he cleaned all the floors in the Sunday School area.

Phil was sort of a *jack of all trades*. He would fix the paper cutter if it wasn't working. He has pulled up carpet in a rental apartment belonging to the church to reveal lovely wood floors. And again back to the steeple, he made many minor repairs there including the bell ringing apparatus.

Phil also has a wonderful tenor voice and has been a member of the choir for most of his time at First Parish.

Phil, we your church family, would like to thank you for your years of service as treasurer and for the service you have given the church over the years. We wish you well in the future and look forward to our continued fellowship at First Parish Church.

FPC Sew & Serve Ministry



First Parish Church Sew & Serve! Come join us for fellowship and community service as we sew pillowcases for local organizations. Any skill level is welcome. The third Wednesday of every month from 7-9pm. Contact Kris Palazzo (749-4412), Susan Chase (868-1937) or Judy Edwards (749-2130) if you have any questions or would like to donate materials.



**First Parish is a
Stephen Ministry Church**
*Christ Caring for People
through People*

That's the motto of Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Minister's role is to bring God's love into the lives of people who are going through a difficult time or experiencing a crisis. What do Stephen Ministers do? They listen to you, care for you, support and encourage you, and pray with and for you. And in the midst of this confidential, one-to-one, caring relationship, God's healing love comes pouring through. 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, Margie Edmunds, Carol Davenport, Mary Norris and Rev. Jessica and Rev. Norm.*

**Our Stephen Ministers are ready
to care for you!**

SAVE THE DATE

**NOV. 7th –
Daylight Savings
Time Ends –
“Fall Back” one hour**



November Sermon Schedule

November 7, 2010

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Daniel 7: 1-3, 15-18

Psalm 49; Ephesians 1: 11-23

Luke 6: 20-31

“Presente”

Rev. Bendroth, preaching

November 14, 2010

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65: 17-25

Psalm 98; 2 Thess. 3: 6-13

Luke 21: 1-4

Stewardship Sunday

Nubian Gents will be with us!

November 21, 2010

Reign of Christ Sunday

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Psalm 46; Colossians 1: 11-20

Luke 23: 33-43

“Together in Christ”

Rev. Bendroth preaching

November 28, 2010

First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Isaiah 2: 1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13: 11-14

Matthew 24: 36-44

“Ready and Waiting”

Rev. McArdle, preaching

2010 First Parish Holiday Fair!

Mark your calendars for Saturday November 20th. It's the most wonderful time of the year! What better way to support First Parish than by spending a day, (or two), with friends and people of the community at our annual Craft Fair. We really need support so if you can donate time, crafts, bakery items, or something else that would be fantastic. We have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, so come and join us! If you have any questions, please free to call Sharon Tehada at

207-384-0186. Thank You!

Worship Attendance

Sunday: 9/26/10	AM: 175	PM: 49
Sunday: 10/3/10	AM: 195	PM: 35
Sunday: 10/10/10	AM: 99	PM: 26
Sunday: 10/17/10	AM: 191	PM: 25
Sunday: 10/24/10	AM: 213	PM: 37

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

E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

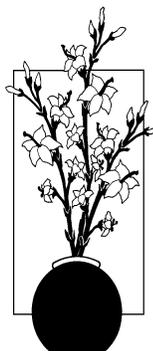
E-Chimes

To start receiving the chimes via email, please send an email to chimesfpc@gmail.com with the subject “eChimes”.

Altar Flowers

- October 3** in loving memory of *Donald Goodwin* by his mom, *Doris & family*
- October 10** in loving memory of *Lovell C. Hindle* by his wife, *Ethel & family*
- October 17** in loving memory of *Don Boardman* from his family.
- October 24** in loving memory of *LuAn Slauson and Bob Spears*

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



In Sympathy

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

Betty Merrill ~ longtime member

Dave Lawlor ~ Erin Pender's dad

DJ ~ dear friend of Jean Ellison

Linda Ward ~ Stephanie Eno's mom

The Gents/Fire are coming!

Save the dates ~ Nov. 12-14! For real!
These are our friends from *New Life in NYC*
that bring lots of ENERGY and step dancing
with them. Interested in housing any of the
Gents or Fire? Give Lisa a call in
the church office.

* **Potluck, Saturday Nov. 13 at 5:00pm**

* **Concert with the Gents/Fire at FPC
at 7:00 in the sanctuary.**

They will also be with us in worship
on Sunday morning, Nov. 14th.

Please plan on being a part of this
wonderful ministry to First Parish
Church.....you will be blessed!

<http://www.youtube.com/uccvideos>

www.GoodISHappening.org

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(603) 742-5664

Fax: 603-750-0411

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Rev. Dr. Norman B. Bendroth

Senior Interim Pastor

nbendroth15@comcast.net

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

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