

April

Worship ~ Sundays
at 10:00 AM

2015

The Chimes

The Catcher: An Easter Parable



Catholic priest and Christian writer, the late Henri Nouwen, found an unusual story to illustrate what a difference it makes to know that “Jesus Christ is risen.” It means we can entrust the death of our loved ones and our own death to God. Visiting a circus in Germany, Nouwen was captivated with the trapeze artists, The Flying Rodleighs. He became friends with the group’s leader and asked him how they manage to fly through the air. The leader responded:

As a flyer, I must have complete trust in my catcher. The public might think that I am the star, but the real star is my catcher....The secret is that the flyer does nothing and the catcher does everything. When I fly I have simply to stretch out my arms and wait for him to catch me. The worst thing I can do is to try and catch the catcher. A flyer must fly and a catcher must catch and the flyer must trust, with outstretched arms that the catcher will be there for him.[i]

For Christians, the season of Easter is the great season of trust. From the Bible, particularly the character of Mary, we learn that Easter means letting go and “trusting in the catcher.”

As you prepare for our Easter celebration, don’t over think the holiday. Don’t get yourself all twisted up trying to “understand” it or “make sense” of it. Just stretch out your arms and let go. The catcher will take care of the rest.

See You In Church!

--MSB

[i] Trapeze Artist “Flyer Rodleigh,” quoted by Henri Nouwen in *Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring* (SanFrancisco: Harper, 1994), pages 66-67.

Deacon's Bench



Greetings from your winter weary Board of Deacons. It has been a real challenge to this Board as we work to carry out those pieces of our church life that are our responsibility.

DECEMBER. Our December meeting was cancelled due to dangerous weather conditions. SO...with three services on Christmas Eve to plan, we managed to set things in place via e-mail and phone. A few of us sat in the furnace room one morning cleaning and counting those little cups that hold the candles our congregation holds up during the Christmas Eve services. (Who'd have thought?) With some help from members of the congregation we were able to have eight greeters/ushers/candle lighters at each of the services.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY. In spite of the stunning winter weather, we prepared and served Communion on the first Sunday of each month and greeters were at the door each Sunday. The greeters also delivered the altar flowers to homebound members of our congregation after church. We were responsible for overseeing Coffee Hour in February. This was a challenge as there was some level of a snowstorm every weekend, but if there was church there was Coffee Hour.

MARCH. Our February meeting was cancelled so our March meeting was devoted to planning the Maundy Thursday Silent Supper and service that follows. We also made sure that everything was in order for Easter Sunday. This year the service will include Communion. I want to extend a special thank you to our Communion

bread bakers, Lorraine Keazer, Sandi Potter and Laurie Ashe. THANK YOU!
APRIL. May it bring Spring.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Norris

Council Comments - April

With mounds of snow remaining here and there it is hard to believe that another church year will soon come to an end. Spring is a busy time at First Parish Church with many wonderful services and events planned. The Tenebrae service, followed by our joyful Easter celebrations, will mark the end of Lent. The annual Fifty Year/New Member dinner will honor new and long time members. Confirmation Sunday and Children's Day will mark important moments in the lives of First Parish youth. Interspersed with all of these special events will be the ongoing activities all of us enjoy, made possible by our staff, our boards and committees, and countless indefatigable volunteers.

Spring is a busy time for our Nominating Committee as well. While some board and committee members' terms will end, new volunteers will be needed to replace them. First Parish thrives because of the strengths, skills, talents and dedication of all of its members. Each of us has something unique and important to contribute to our fellowship. Together we serve our church to the Glory of God.

Pat Sorensen

Men's Group meets Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM in the Parlor.

NHCUCC State Women's Fellowship

The annual Spring Gathering for the State Women's Fellowship will be held in East Derry on Saturday, April 18, 2015, with registration starting at 9:30 a.m. The theme for the day is Recharging our Spiritual Batteries. Guest speakers will be *Rev. Dr. David Reynolds*, "Replenishing Spiritual Energy;" and *Debbie Gline Allen*, "Recharging our Singing Spirits." The program will end around 3:00 p.m. The \$12 registration fee includes coffee in the morning and lunch. Registration forms available from Trudie Bergeron (email: TrudieGlenn@Yahoo.com or phone 603-828-4200). Please make check payable to NHCUCC Women's Fellowship, and mail to Trudie Bergeron, 46 Nantucket Place, Greenland NH 03840 by April 10th.

****Looking Ahead**** ****Committee Chairs****

Annual Reports from each Board and Committee Chair covering July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 are due in the church office by **May 1st**. Please send your reports electronically.
Thank you!

Dear First Parish,

Our family would like to say thank you for the thoughts, flowers and cards received on the loss of our brother. We have talked much about when we were younger and all the good times we had. He will be in our hearts always. Thank you for thinking of our family.

Bless you all,
Paul Smith & Family

50 Year Member ~



New Member Dinner

Our Annual Dinner celebrating those who have been members of FPC for 50 or more years and those who have recently joined the parish will be held on **Monday, May 18**, at **5:30 P.M.** in our Fellowship Hall. We will conclude before dark so folks can still be home early. Please call the Church Office to let us know you are coming so we can plan the food.

This is an **ALL CHURCH** event.
PLEASE JOIN US!

Disaster Response Mission

The Wider Church Relations Ministry of the New Hampshire Conference, United Church of Christ is forming a new mission group called The Disaster Response Mission Group. This mission group will develop a disaster response plan for the New Hampshire Conference and will activate when needed. Anyone interested in joining this mission group please contact **Rev. Janice Howe** at pnjhowe@comcast.net



First Parish Church will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, April 22nd, from 1:00 – 6:00 PM. Appointments can be made by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Walk-ins are always welcome. Come and give the gift of life! All blood types are needed and appreciated.

FRIDAY LIVED AT THE FIRST



Featuring Grammy Nominated

Lester Hirsh

FRIDAY, May 29th 7PM – 9:30PM

performing on both Spanish six string and acoustic 12 string guitars. His styles run country, folk and classical to Flamenco and Brazilian Jazz.

with Monica Nagle

Extremely talented folk, blues and jazz guitarist singer - songwriter. Original Artist, author, musician, educator uses her artistry as a tool to bring together youth, professionals and community.

Join us for an intimate evening of original story and song

Advance tickets will be available at the Church Office during normal business hours

First Parish Church Dover, NH

Admission Donations Adults \$10 | Children under 12 \$5 | Special family price \$25

Concert proceeds benefit the Under One Roof project

 facebook.com/fridaylivedover

First Parish Church | 218 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03820 | 603.742.5664 | firstparishdover.org



Lester Hirsh - Grammy nominated guitarist, songwriter, singer and poet. Lester performs on both Spanish six string and acoustic 12 string guitars. His styles run the gamut from country, folk and classical to Flamenco and Brazilian Jazz.

In addition to his musical accomplishments Lester has also served as the publisher and editor of "Bone & Flesh", has his poems published in numerous periodicals, and has written five books.

Residing in Pennsylvania Lester has pleased crowds across the country and is sharing his music with us Friday, May 29th on this limited New Hampshire tour.

For more information:

<http://www.bignoisenow.com/hirsh.html>

Monica Nagle – Artist, author, musician, educator uses art as a tool to bring together youth, professionals and the community.

Monica, an extremely talented folk, blues and jazz guitarist – singer – songwriter has performed all over the Northeast, California and toured for multiple years in Brazil. Originally from Buffalo, New York, Monica now calls the NH Seacoast her home.

Monica, a former Director of Arts and Humanities for the New Hampshire YMCA program, has used "The Art of Living" to help youth throughout New Hampshire to choose a drug free lifestyle through the arts. The prevention program has given back to the community and positively affected families for years.



Monica's Latest project, launching Spring 2015, is her new book of socially conscious poetry, lyrics and art called "If You Had Heard My Voice". She will be doing a book signing tour throughout the summer and will adorn our stage Friday, May 29th from 7PM – 9:30PM.

For more information, visit her website at www.monicanagle.com

We'd love to hear from you!

Contact Us: T: 603.742.5664

E: Fridayliveatthefirst@gmail.com

Find Us, Like Us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/fridaylivedover>



View the YouTube video on our Church Roof Replacement project:

[ROOF VIDEO](#)



Your church needs you! Click here to support our UNDER ONE ROOF project:

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In Sympathy



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

Aurora Cusolito ~Dear to FPC and close friend of Eileen and Gordon Drake

Mara Marshall ~Bonnie Marshall's mother

Theodore Kopanski ~ Ashley Thoel's grandfather

Ruth Goodwin ~Jeannie Goodwin's mother-in-law

Richard Butler ~ Pat and Pete Sorensen's brother-in-law

Ann Marsters ~ Former choir member

A memorial service for long-time church member *Ann Marsters* will be held on Friday, April 3 at 2:30 PM in the sanctuary. All are invited to this celebration of Ann's life and to the reception which will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.

A memorial service for *Mara Marshall*, long-time friend of this church and mother of *Bonnie Marshall*, will be held on Sunday, April 12th at 1:00 PM in the sanctuary. All are invited to this celebration of Mara's life and to the reception which will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Altar Flowers

March 1 In remembrance of *Nancy Rhine* and in celebration of the 102nd birthday of *Esther Rhine* given by *Fred and Kim Rhine*.

March 8 In loving memory of *Olive Piper* given by her niece, *Barbara Rencurrel*.

March 15 In loving memory of her parents, *David and Marion MacGregor*, and her brother, *Rob Roy MacGregor*, given by *Beth MacGregor Wagner*.

March 22 In loving memory of *Jean Libby Wilbur* given by her husband *Ray* and family.

March 29 In loving memory of *David David* given by *Marion, Larry and Cynthia David*.

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

E-Mail Prayer Chain

Please contact the office at 742-5664 or by email to be added to our email prayer chain.

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

E-Chimes

www.firstparishdover.org

First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office hours: M-F 9 AM -3 PM
(603) 742-5664;

Rev. Michael Bennett, Senior Minister
msb@firstparishdover.org

Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator
rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Bulletin Deadline: Tuesdays by 9:00AM

Chimes Deadline: The 15th of every month ~ Please email bulletin and chimes information to Joanne at firstparish@comcast.net

Contact Us

Open and Affirming Sharing & Listening Session

Perspectives from Science

Monday, April 20th at 6:30 PM

Fellowship Hall

Genetics, evolution, biochemistry;
Social history and psychology



Return Service Requested

The Chimes
The First Parish Church Congregational
The United Church of Christ
218 Central Avenue
Dover, New Hampshire
03820

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