



# The Chimes

**Worship ~ Sundays  
at 10:00 AM**

**Summer 2016 Edition**

## **August Thoughts from Mike**

As the calendar turns to August, there is much activity at First Parish. Summer worship has been meaningful and invigorating. Various boards, committees, and task forces have been meeting to plan for the fall and to envision new ways that the church can respond to financial challenges and position ourselves for faithful ministry and service in the future. There is excitement and energy in the air!

Our Church Council is newly committed to communication and dialog with the whole congregation. About forty people joined in the parlor for an annual meeting follow-up session following worship on July 31. I was very impressed with the spirit of the meeting, along with the quantity and quality of ideas exchanged. I am feeling optimistic for the year ahead.

One piece of information was communicated at the session on July 31 that I want to share in this issue of the *Chimes*. At the annual congregational meeting in June, the Congregation declined to approve the Church Council's proposal to reduce the Church Administrator staff position from full time to 50% time. At the July Council meeting, following a previous discussion with the Pastor Parish Relations Committee of the Deacons, Rick Gremlitz, our Church Administrator, requested that the Council reduce his position to 75% time. After a careful discussion, the Council voted to accept Rick's proposal. Though it involves a significant reduction in his duties, Rick and the Council feel this reduction is manageable and will also make a significant contribution to closing our financial shortfall for the current year.

Other positive financial news was also reported. Pledging for the current year now stands at \$263, 000, up from the \$250,000 budgeted. Thank you to all of our faithful and generous givers! In addition, a reduction in our Church Sexton hours is expected to save approximately \$6,000 over the course of the year. All of these steps move us in the right direction.

As your Pastor, I am so appreciative of the "can do" spirit of First Parish Church.

See you in church!

--MSB

## Music Notes



### **Youth Choir and Joyous Ringers:**

We are implementing a new plan this year with these two groups that will hopefully better accommodate busy family schedules. We will rehearse each group on a six week cycle from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Sundays.

The Joyous Ringers and Youth Choir will alternate in six week cycles. Specifically: The Joyous Ringers will begin rehearsals Sunday, September 25th at 11 a.m. and rehearse until 11:45 a.m. They will rehearse each Sunday through October 30th. The Youth Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, November 6th from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. and will rehearse through Sunday, December 18th.

We hope this change in rehearsal schedule will provide more opportunity for the youth of the church to participate in our musical groups. We recognize how busy families are and hope to provide the youth an opportunity to participate more fully in the music programs of our church.

The Joyous Ringers will be directed this year by Emily Grondin, assisted by Carol Seely and the Youth Choir will be directed by Carol Seely. The Joyous Ringers are open to all youth of the church from 1st grade and up. Youth Choir is open to all youth in the church. We hope to have many participate in one or both groups. Please call Carol Seely at 603 312-0771 or email her at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com) with questions

**First Parish Ringers:** Have you ever thought you might like to try your hand at ringing the handbells? We welcome those who would like to try ringing but have never had the opportunity before. We would love to have you join us for the coming year. Membership is open to adults and those who are in the 8th grade or older. Experience and the ability to read music is not necessary, but would be helpful. We will rehearse Sunday, August 28th at 5:15 p.m. and begin our regular schedule of Sunday evenings at 5:15 p.m. on September 18th. Please call Carol Seely at 603-312-0771 or email her at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com) with questions or to let me know if you will be there to give it a try!

**The First Parish Choir** is a group of singers, open to all ages, from high schoolers through to adults of all ages. Choir rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. The Choir sings almost every Sunday from mid-September through mid-June and for special services and events. For further information, please contact Rick Gremlitz, Director of Music, at (603) 868-1196 or at [rickgremlitz@yahoo.com](mailto:rickgremlitz@yahoo.com) FIRST REHEARSAL will be at the annual choir retreat on Saturday, September 10th; *FIRST SUNDAY EVENING REHEARSAL* will be Sunday, September 18th.

## ***Awesome Opportunities***

For many people summer is a time of relaxation and recreation but First Parish Church never goes on vacation. There is always something exciting going on, plans being made and opportunities inviting us to participate. Here are a few possibilities!

- Summer coffee hours are a wonderful part of our weekly worship and provide a delightful opportunity to visit with old and new friends. Please check out the link on Steeple Chat and sign up to help set up, clean up or bring some goodies.

- Children love music - especially live music! Fall is coming fast and Church School is just around the corner. Do you play the piano? The guitar? The autoharp? We need someone to occasionally provide some tunes for our Children's Worship. Could that be you?

- It is never too early to plan and a church-wide opportunity is coming on Tuesday, November 8th. Judy Edwards and Deb Gremlitz are co-chairing a Giant Food Sale to be held here at First Parish on Election Day. Here is a chance for every member of our church to participate and make a significant contribution to our budget resources. Stay tuned.

- The "Grab and Go" program is in full swing and many of you have donated funds and volunteered hours of your time. We have prepared between 190 and 215 bags

each week this summer to provide weekend food for eligible children. We continue to need funds and volunteers. Please call Pat Sorensen, 742-7360, if you are able to help.

As fall approaches, more opportunities to help our church and community thrive will present themselves. Volunteering is fun and fulfilling. Give it a try!

## ***Deacon's Bench...***



The Board of Deacons held its first meeting of the new church year on July 12. Laurie Ashe and John Russell are the new co-chairs. We are excited about the coming year and happy to welcome six new members.

The following committees were formed (new members are indicated with an asterisk):

- Congregational Care:** Fin McElroy, Gary Munson, Susan Dunker\*

- Hospitality:** Nate Swanson, Deb Gremlitz\*, Carol Foley, Daniel Peyton\*

- Parish-Pastor Relations:** John Russell, Joe Stieglitz, Matt Endrizzi\*

- Worship:** Priscilla Johnston, Cindy Thompson\*, Laurie Ashe, Bonnie Marshall\*

The Deacons' Retreat will be on September 17 when we will complete planning how we can best serve First Parish in the coming year.

Peace and Grace,  
John Russell

# Holiday Fair News



## Holiday Fair News

Planning is well underway for our Holiday Fair which is just 5 months away! Save the date: **Saturday, November 19, 2016** for this church-wide, community outreach and fund raising event. During the less hectic days of summer, you can contribute to the success of our Fair by:

- Recruiting friends and family to rent table space to market various treasures. Contact Joe Stieglitz ([bertramstieglitz@comcast.net](mailto:bertramstieglitz@comcast.net)) or Carolyn Ricker ([clricker@comcast.net](mailto:clricker@comcast.net)) for more information.

- Donating items for the raffle room. Contact Paula Sterling, our raffle coordinator, at 556-2448 ([psterling01@myfairpoint.net](mailto:psterling01@myfairpoint.net)) or her assistant, Melanie Metz, at 734-4273 ([melanie.metz@yahoo.com](mailto:melanie.metz@yahoo.com)).

- Setting aside homemade preserves to donate to the Pantry Table.

- Rooting some cuttings of your favorite plants (especially unusual varieties) for the Plant Room.

- Gathering Tiffany type donations (new or nearly new items) for the FPC Thrift Shop.

- Considering a donation of specialty/antique furniture or other items to the FPC for our Tiffany Collectibles & Antiques Room. Contact Jim Prue at 749-6897 or [jeprue@comcast.net](mailto:jeprue@comcast.net) for more information.

If you would like to learn more about our Fair or get involved with the planning, contact Kathy Baker at 742-5976, [skmbaker@comcast.net](mailto:skmbaker@comcast.net).

## Book Discussion

As part of the New Hampshire Conference UCC's *One Book, One Conference* initiative, Pastor Mike Bennett will be leading a discussion of *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving on Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please purchase the book prior to that evening and join the conversation. All are welcome.

## Suggestions??

YOU are invited to write down any ideas or suggestions you may have regarding our church's revenue, membership growth, mission projects, Christian Education & Youth or other areas of church life and place them in the suggestion box which is located on the table across from the office. Suggestion forms are provided beside the box. All suggestions will be forwarded to the appropriate board, committee or task force.

## In Appreciation

*This year marked 20 years that Paul Smith has been volunteering at the Dover Food Pantry. In appreciation of all he has done, we presented him with a plaque. He is such a vital part of helping the Pantry operate smoothly. Thank you Paul!*

*Karen and the Food Pantry Volunteers*



Are you interested in becoming one of our awesome **Sunday school teachers?** We are looking for two individuals to teach our kids in grades 5-8. Curriculum provided.

If interested, please contact Donna at [hondagirl1967@msn.com](mailto:hondagirl1967@msn.com)

## Save the Date!

**\*ALL CHURCH PICNIC\***  
To celebrate the  
Opening day  
of  
Sunday school  
**September 18<sup>th</sup> @**  
**Henry Law Park**  
\*\*\*\*\*

- Committee Chili Cook-off
- All Congregation Apple Pie Cook-off
- Face Painting
- Balloon Animals

A colorful illustration of a picnic basket filled with a watermelon, two burgers, and a blue thermos. To the right of the basket are three yellow flowers with green leaves.

Even though we do not have Sunday school again until September, **childcare is still provided** for Nursery, Toddler and Preschool age children **during the service hour.**



Our first mission for the 2016-2017 school year will be **End 68 Hours of Hunger.** If you've participated in the past, you know the basic items they require. Please keep this in mind over the summer and maybe pick up a few things to start us off when we return in September. A list will be published at the beginning of August. **THANK YOU!!!**

**Join us for First Parish Family Fun Day** on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>! We will gather after worship and travel to Blue Job Mountain in Farmington for a hike. Everyone is welcome! Please sign up across from the office and let us know if you would like to carpool. Rain date is August 28<sup>th</sup>. Watch for information on September Fun Day coming soon.

A colorful illustration of three children painting a mural of a sun and flowers on a wall. One child is on a ladder, another is holding a paintbrush, and a third is standing nearby. There are paint cans on the floor.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS** for making the 2015 - 2016 Sunday school year such a success!

## **Council Comments**

Your church Council has had its first meeting of the new church year, and we are looking forward to a productive and exciting year. New things will be happening and we hope all of you will be involved.

By now you likely know that there has been a change in the staff work time, with the Church Administrator position being reduced to 75% time, at Rick's request. Also, our Sexton Sharon Hilton is reducing her hours. These are changes which reduce our budget needs by approximately \$20,000, but there is still much work to do and Council is on it!

We have initiated a task force for researching new ways to increase our income by fundraising, which will reduce our dependence on our endowment. They will be meeting and reporting to Council monthly and are looking for volunteers and ideas for this endeavor. All are welcome! Please let Joyce Tugel know how you would like to help with fundraising, or use the Suggestion Box.

We have also held the first of our post annual meeting meetings and are excited with the enthusiasm this has generated in moving our church forward for the next year. We received good input and are working hard with the information.

In early August there was a meeting of our staff leaders and Sunday school parents and teachers, brainstorming the church school year.

All these are positive outgrowths from the annual meeting, and we are excited about the future. Come and be a part of it!

See you in church!

Jane Greenslit  
Council Chair

**NHCUCC WOMEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP**  
**Tuesday, August 16, 2016**  
**NH Conference, UCC**  
**140 Sheep Davis Road**  
**Pembroke, NH 03275**



**Wednesday September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 1-6pm.**

First Parish Church will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. All blood types are urgently needed! Did you know every 3 seconds someone needs the precious gift of blood? Come give the gift of life! You may call 1-800-Red-Cross to make an appointment or simply walk in. If you have donated before at First Parish, email *Kathy Daniels* at [moments9@live.com](mailto:moments9@live.com) or call her at 603-742-3481 and she can set up an appointment for you.

## In Sympathy

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

**Ethel Hindle** ~

*Tom & Judith's mother*

**Alice Scanlon** ~

*Kate Knight's grandmother*

**J Bent** ~

*Emma Bent's husband*



### Thank you.....

*For the lovely flowers and to Gary Munson of the Board of Deacons who brought them and visited with me on July 10<sup>th</sup> following my cardiac procedure.*

*Sincerely*

*Suzanne Clement*

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[www.firstparishdover.org](http://www.firstparishdover.org)

First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue  
Dover, NH 03820

Email: [firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)

Summer Office hours: M-F 9 am-12 pm  
(603) 742-5664;

*Rev. Michael Bennett, Pastor & Teacher*

[msb@firstparishdover.org](mailto:msb@firstparishdover.org)

*Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator*

[rickgremlitz@yahoo.com](mailto:rickgremlitz@yahoo.com)

NH UCC: [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org)

**Bulletin Deadline:** Tuesdays by 9:00AM

**Chimes Deadline:** The 15<sup>th</sup> of every month ~ Please email bulletin and chimes information to Joanne at

[firstparish@comcast.net](mailto:firstparish@comcast.net)

## Altar Flowers

**June 12** in loving memory of *Don Boardman* from his family

**June 19** to the glory of God and in loving memory of her grandparents from *Bonnie Peterman*

**June 26** in loving memory of *Nathan Dow Daniel* from the *Daniel* family

**July 3** in loving memory of *Gil Davenport* from *Carol* and *the girls*

**July 10** from the wedding ceremony of *Vickie Donahue & Sheldon Chase*

**July 17** in loving memory of *Jenny Woodward* from sister *Joy*, daughter *Marilyn* and granddaughters *Marnie & Meghan*

**July 24** in loving memory of *Marilyn Worcester* from her daughter *Sandi Potter*

**July 31** with loving thanks for the life of *John L. McDaniel* from his family

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



**\*All Church Picnic\***

**Sunday, September 18**

Following the service

Henry Law Park

\*\*\*\*\*

Food – Fellowship - Games

*Stephen Ministry at  
First Parish Church, UCC*



**First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church.** For more information, contact one of our Stephen Leaders: *Judy Edwards*, 603-978-4789; *Dave Dickson*, 603-781-9791 or *Pastor Mike Bennett*, 742-5664.



Return Service Requested

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

