

The  
Chimes



Worship ~ Sundays  
at 10:00 AM

**Lenten Wilderness**

As much as we might prefer to avoid it, the wilderness is where God is. The wilderness is where God does some of God's best work. Long after his forty days in it were over, Jesus returned to refresh his vision and say his prayers. More than once a whole lot of people followed him and he fed them there, as he goes on feeding us today. May your own period in the wilderness this Lent be one in which you trust in his food, as well as in his presence. Remember: however far you go, he has been there first. Wherever you end up, he will meet you there.[1]

—Barbara Brown Taylor

Biblically-speaking, the season of Lent begins with the stories of Jesus facing temptation in the wilderness. His forty days of trial are an echo of the forty years of wilderness wanderings endured by the Old Testament Israelites. For both Jesus and the ancient Jews, these are tough times: hunger, thirst, physical and spiritual exhaustion. But they are also unique times of growth and transformation. In the wilderness, Israel is prepared to become a settled nation and Jesus is readied for his ministry of salvation.

In the season of Lent, we try to engage in practices that enable us to become closer to God. Sometimes our spiritual disciplines “work” and we feel God's presence. Often, however, our accentuated longing leads us to the disappointment of continued spiritual hunger. Our pain continues. Our bodies continue to trouble us. Our spirits do not soar.

But Christ is here with us in the wilderness. He's been there himself and he isn't afraid to enter into our wilderness times. Sometimes the hope of Lent is not the jubilant hope of Easter victory, but rather the quiet and assured hope of shared suffering.

As we all begin another Lent together, I pray that we will not be spared from the discipline of the wilderness. We need it. We need the growth and transformation it brings. But, I also pray that each of us will help to lighten the burdens that so many of us are called to carry.

See you in church!

--MSB

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[1] Barbara Brown Taylor, “Four Stops In The Wilderness,” in *Journal For Preachers*, Lent 2001, page 9.

## **Council Comments**

"Love came down at Christmas. Love, all lovely, love divine. Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign". An explosion of stars and angels, some young and some older, occurred at First Parish on Sunday, January 11th, surely one of the high points of my fifty year membership. Such a burst of joy and energy might have daunted a First Parish Church congregation a century ago, but our congregation embraced the love and joy which was present in every inch of our sanctuary with enthusiasm and laughter. God's love was definitely made visible that day!

This month we will be seeing Valentines, hearts, Cupids and other signs of "love" everywhere we go. However, you do not have to look far at First Parish to see the love shared within our congregation; to one another, to guests and visitors and to the wider community. It begins with our pastor and staff who welcome and care for all. It flourishes in the Sunday School with the devoted staff, teachers and Christian Education Committee members. It spreads through the Stephen Ministry caregivers who spend countless hours meeting with their care receivers. It is present in the extraordinary music ministry all of us appreciate. We see the love in the meals prepared by Inreach members, the monthly dinners that feed more than just hungry people, the receptions so lovingly presented, the coffee hours we enjoy every week, the Christmas dinner prepared by the Men's Group. We observe it in the Thrift Shop and the Food Pantry, the Friendly Kitchen and the Crisis Desk. We feel it during our worship services.

When you step through the doors of First Parish Church, you feel the love that binds us together. Christ calls us to love one another. May all of us put our hearts into that.

Pat Sorensen

## **Cochecho Challenge Update**

Your Road Race Committee last reported in November that we were very fortunate in our first year of the Cochecho Challenge Road Race produced by First Parish Church to have cleared \$6,475. Since then, we have further benefited from \$1,525 in donations from some very generous FPC members, bringing our total proceeds from this event to \$8,000. At this time, we are very pleased to announce that the Committee has instructed the Treasurer to transfer \$7,000 to the "Under One Roof" fund. The remaining \$1,000 will be used for start-up expenses in connection with the 2015 Cochecho Challenge. Your committee has already started planning for this year's event and we believe it will be even more successful than the first year. We extend an enormous thank you again to the many volunteers who helped make this event happen.

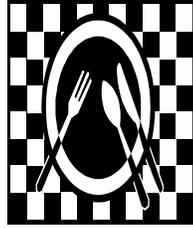
Your Road Race Committee

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**Annual Giving Statements** are available in the atrium on the table outside the office. Please pick yours up at your earliest convenience to save the church postage costs. Also, there are still several boxes of offering envelopes for the new year that have not been picked up. If you would like envelopes and do not have yours yet, please stop by; they are on the table beside the statements.

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# Church Supper



## Saturday, February 7th

Come and enjoy a feast!  
All for just \$8 (adults) and \$5 for  
children 12 or under.

Served from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

*LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WHILE YOU  
EAT!* The supper will feature popular  
music and show tunes by *Rick  
Gremlitz* at the Hammond Organ with  
the vocal stylings of *Sally Gallagher*.

**Wednesday Evenings 7:00 PM**  
**Men's Group** meets each  
week in the Parlor.



## Adult Education



*Pastor Mike* is leading a new round of  
Adult Discussion classes which  
started on January 25th. The topic is  
the book of Exodus. Please come join  
the group and get in on the  
conversations!



**FIND IT AT THE FIRST** Thrift  
Shop days and hours are Thursdays 1:00  
PM to 4:00 PM; Fridays and Saturdays  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The shop will not  
be closing for a winter break this year,  
however, it will close during severe  
weather conditions.

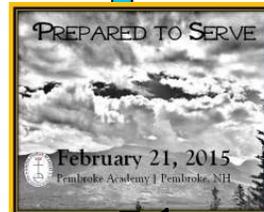


## **AED Installed at FPC**

Our Board of Wardens and Church  
Council have arranged for an  
emergency AED (Automated External  
Defibrillator) unit to be installed in our  
church. The AED unit is located on the  
wall next to the church bulletin board  
on the main level of the church.

Training sessions will be held for  
anyone interested in learning how this  
vital piece of emergency equipment is  
operated.

## Prepared to Serve



You may register  
online at  
[www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org).

## February 21, 2015 Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH

Register today for *Prepared To Serve  
2015*. With 30+ Exhibitors, great food  
and fellowship, inspiring worship, and  
over 70 workshops to choose from  
throughout the day, *Prepared to Serve* is a  
fantastic and fun learning opportunity  
and is open to all. Come interested, and  
enjoy this wonderful annual event. This  
year's theme is "*Take Pride in how far  
we've come. Have Faith in how far we can  
go!*". Plan to join us at Pembroke  
Academy on February 21st. If you have  
any trouble registering for the event  
online, please contact Office Manager,  
Jesse Evans for assistance at 603-715-  
9526.



A HUGE **THANK YOU** to all of the kids, parents & teachers who made our Annual Epiphany Pageant such an **AWESOME SUCCESS!**

**Our FPC Family ROCKS!!**

**Sunday School  
Mission Project for  
February**

***Pet Products***



**CVHS Shelter Wish List**

**The items in red are of greatest need**

*Preferred food brands are:  
Iams, Purina One, and Wellness.  
Dye free foods are best.  
No seafood flavored cat food please!*

- **Exam Gloves (latex, medium)**
- **Dry Kitten Food**
- **Dry Cat Food**
- **Cat Litter (non-clumping)**
- **6ft Leashes**
- **Bleach**
- **Laundry Detergent**
- **Paper Towels**
- **Wet Dog Food**



Have a child away at college? Give us their address and we'll send them a **Valentine from FPC!** Contact Donna with address info at: [hondagirl1967@msn.com](mailto:hondagirl1967@msn.com) or call: 742-5664 x 13 by **February 3rd**

**February 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Special 2-hour program **beginning @ 9:00 am**  
Activities to include:  
a presentation from CVHS and animal related activities!

- Stainless Steel Litter Pans
- Stainless Steel Cat Food Dishes
- Collapsible Cat Huts
- Dry Dog Food
- Timothy Hay/Straw
- **Trash Bags (39 gallon)**
- Marrow Bones
- KONG Dog Toys—All Sizes
- Rope Toys for Dogs
- Rawhide Chews
- Stuffed Animal Dog Toys
- **Toys for Cats/Kittens**
- Ice scraper for shelter van
- Small animal food (guinea pig, gerbil, rabbit, etc.)



FPC's ANNUAL **Bring-A-Friend Sunday!**

February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Refreshments served in Nazareth Hall from 8:30 am. Come Early!

## Stephen Ministry



As you walk into church you can relax in the comfort of God's care, knowing our church friends and family are there when we need them. We know we have shortcomings but realize that God accepts you with all your limitations and problems.

In Stephen Ministry, sometimes it's hard for a person with difficulties in their life to reach out to others for support. It can be hard to accept there may be a spiritual aspect available through God to help with a problem we can not solve alone. Stephen Ministers do not "fix" your life, your difficulties or your faith. They help you find opportunities that God has for you. You decide what works for you. With God in your corner, solutions can begin to light your path, making your journey easier.

So, do you need help with a problem? Small or large, whether short-term or long, if the difficulty is important to you, trust that your issue is important to a Stephen Minister.

Please contact Judy Edwards at 749-2130 or Pastor Bennett at 742-5664, ext. 12.

## E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

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

First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue  
Dover, NH 03820

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

Office hours: M-F 9am-3pm  
(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)



## In Sympathy

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

**David Dopp** ~ Former long-time member  
dear to many in our church family

**Louise Fallon** ~ Emma Bent's aunt

**Robert Smalley** ~ Former member

## Altar Flowers



**January 4** ~ Poinsettias

**January 11** ~ Poinsettias

**January 18** ~ From the Seely and

Vinciguerra families in loving memory of  
parents and grandparents.

**January 25** ~ In memory of her parents

Mae and Frank Hooper, sister Virginia  
Johnson and nephew Eric Johnson by  
Dorothea Hooper

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

To start receiving the chimes  
via email, please send an  
email to

[chimesfpc@gmail.com](mailto:chimesfpc@gmail.com)

with the subject "eChimes".

## E-Chimes

## Stormy weather!



It has happened once this season  
already and we hope it does not  
happen again, but in case of inclement  
weather on Sunday mornings, please  
listen to WTSN radio and WMUR  
Channel 9 for cancellation notices. We  
will also send out an email blast and  
list the info on our website. When  
possible, we will announce the  
cancellation the evening before.

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**FRIDAY**  
**INVA**  
**AT THE FIRST**



**Tuckermans at 9**  
contemporary a cappella

***FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 7:00 PM***

***A contemporary a cappella group that entertains audiences of all ages. Their voices make all the music; no instruments or pre-recorded instrumental tracks are ever used. Everything you hear is just them!***

***Admission Donations:  
Adults-- \$ 10; Children under 12-- \$5.00  
Special family admission--\$ 25.00***

***Concert proceeds benefit the  
Under One Roof project***

# **Lenten Schedule ~ 2015**



## **Ash Wednesday, February 18th**

*Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a special time for prayer and confession, meditation and reflection. The imposition of ashes is available as a visual symbol to remind us of who we are and whose we are as this holy season begins. There will be two opportunities for silent prayer and meditation, receiving communion and the mark of ash from Pastor Mike, 7:00-8:00 a.m. and 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.*

## **Palm Sunday & Stewardship Covenant Sunday**

**Sunday March 29th 10:00 am Worship with Pastor Mike Bennett**

*Followed by Our **Annual Potluck Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt** Every one is invited. This meal is hosted by our Christian Education Board and beverages, salads and desserts will be provided. Please bring a main dish to share. Easter egg hunt for children will be immediately after lunch.*

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**

**6:15 pm ~ Silent Meal**

**7:00 pm ~ Tenebrae and Holy Communion**

## **Good Friday, Friday, April 3rd**

**Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 12 Noon  
St. Thomas Church, 5 Hale St., Dover, NH**

## **Easter, April 5th**

**6:30 am ~ Sunrise Service at Hilton Park  
led by FPC Youth**

**7:30 am ~ Breakfast in Fellowship Hall  
10:00 am ~ Festival Easter Worship in sanctuary  
with Pastor Mike Bennett**

# Church Supper

Saturday, February 7th  
4:30 – 6:30 PM



*Upcoming Open and  
Affirming Sharing &  
Listening Session*  
**6:30 PM**  
**Monday, February 2**  
*Personal Stories*

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 at 7:00 PM**



**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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