

The
Chimes

FEBRUARY
2016

Worship ~ Sundays
at 10:00 AM

Dust and Ashes

The heavens measure carnage,
And civilizations past, with all
Their lessons, laws, and liturgies,
Have gone like dust, swept aside
By Time's impatient, violent hand.
--Kevin Hadduck[1]

In words of beautiful simplicity, the Episcopal Church's *Book Of Common Prayer* elucidates the meaning of Ash Wednesday: "Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen."

And then, with the imposition of ashes, each believer is ushered into the season of Lent with a stern reminder.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Even this beautiful liturgy, the poet reminds us, will not survive the dust-sweeping power of "Time's impatient, violent hand." All that remains is God. But instead of being a counsel of despair, the Church has learned to hear these words as a message of hope. If we repent, if we return to God, if we hold on for dear life, then we will once again be joined to a power—the only power—that is strong and secure.

Growing up, it was not my church's custom to offer ashes on Ash Wednesday. Consequently, the practice seemed strange and foreign to me. For many in our church today, it doesn't feel right, or it feels "too Catholic." Nevertheless, we offer it during the hours of 7-8 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. on Ash Wednesday (February 10 this year).

In recent years, even though it once felt "odd," it has started to feel essential to me. I need this stark reminder of where I stand without God. It helps to orient me for the Lenten journey ahead. I hope you will join us for our annual journey from dust and ashes to Easter joy.

See you in church!

--MSB!

[1] "The Heavens Measure Carnage" *Theology Today*, January 2005, page 543.

Historical Timeline

The Historical Committee has been concerned about the deterioration of the church Historical Timeline which was created for our 375th anniversary in 2008. It currently hangs in the conference room off of Fellowship Hall and time and heat have taken their toll. It was determined that the best option will be to frame the several sections of the timeline and put them behind plexiglass for preservation. The cost for this project is \$1,300. Since the Historical budget is unable to fund this very important project, the congregation is invited to contribute to the restoration. Checks may be made payable to: First Parish Church with "Timeline Restoration" written on the memo line. The Historical Committee is thankful to anyone who is able to help with this project.

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.



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

New Members

We have joyfully received fourteen new members into First Parish Church in the last two months. Those who joined on December 6th are: *John (Mick) Carroll, Daniel Peyton, Kristen Peyton, Chris Thompson and Cindy Thompson*. Joining on December 13th was *Jeff Caddle*. Those who joined on January 17th are: *Timothy Dupuis, Kate Knight, Melanie Metz, Nan Nutt, Erin Pender and Rosa Smith*. New members received on January 24th are *Crista Woolley and Mark Woolley*. Congratulations and we wish you all a warm welcome!

2016 Lenten Book Study

Presented by Pastor Mike & Stephen Ministry
Still Alice by Lisa Genova

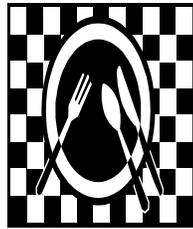
5 Thursday Evenings in Lent Starting
February 18th. 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Parlor

In Lisa Genova's extraordinary New York Times bestselling novel, an accomplished professor diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease learns that her worth is comprised of more than her ability to remember. Based on the recommendation of several of our Stephen Ministers, we will discuss this book in the context of Christian care giving. A few copies will be available at church, but the book is widely available on Amazon (new and used) and from other booksellers. Please get a copy and read the first quarter in time for the first session. We will discuss the book over four evenings.

At our final session, we will view and discuss the motion picture from Sony Pictures Classics starring Julianne Moore, Alec Baldwin, Kate Bosworth, and Kristen Stewart.

Join us for this fun, important, and eye-opening conversation.

Church Supper



Saturday, February 6th

Come and enjoy a feast!
All for just \$8 for 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
and Jean Ellison*.



Congratulations to *Kate
Knight* and *Tim Dupuis* on
the birth of a son, *Julian
Lowell Dupuis*, on January
22nd. *Julian's* proud older
brother is *Everett*.

Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to Dot
Goodwin who turned 96 years
young on January 24th.
Congratulations and best wishes
to Dot from her FPC family.



Adult Discussion



Pastor Mike is leading a new round of
Adult Discussion classes which
started on January 17th. The topic is
based on the Yale Bible Institute video
series on the book of Isaiah. Come join
the group and get in on the
conversations!

Prepared to Serve



You may register
online at
www.nhcucc.org.

February 20, 2016

Pembroke Academy, Pembroke, NH

“Embrace the Spirit: Growing our Gifts for the Greater Good”

Prepared to Serve is a special training
event that welcomes participants with
fellowship, inspiring worship and
educational, faith-building workshops
on a wide variety of topics, including
stewardship, church leadership, church
finances, global missions and Christian
education. We will have over 70
workshops on a wide range of topics.
The day also includes a delicious
catered lunch and refreshments
throughout. Registration opens in
January, so please stay tuned for
updates and information about this
exciting event! If you have any
questions, please don't hesitate to
contact Conference Office Manager &
Event Planner, Jesse Evans at
jevans@nhcucc.org. This event is
open to anyone interested.

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

Our *FPC Youth* will have two teams participating in the **Annual Dover Children's Home Bowl-A-Thon!**

Please watch for the donation table during coffee hour and support our youth as they raise money for this very special community organization.

Pledge online if you like at:

www.bowlathon.net/event/DCH_Bowlathon_2016



8th Annual BOWL-A-THON
Sunday, February 14, 2016

Four available session times:

- 10:00am to 11:30am
- Noon to 1:30pm
- 2:00pm to 3:30pm
- 4:00pm to 5:30pm



Our Youth are raising money by selling **Super Bowl Subs**

Fresh and made to order for pick up on the morning of the big game!

Order for the whole family!

Cookies, chips and drinks available as add-on items that day.

Please help the Youth fund their mission trip!

Have a child away at college? Give us their address and we'll send them a **Valentine from FPC!** Contact Donna at: hondagirl1967@msn.com or call: 742-5664 x 13 by **February 7th**



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

Pet Products **for**

Cochecho Valley Humane Society



February 21st
 Special Program
beginning @9:30 a.m.
 Activities to include:
 a presentation from CVHS and
 animal related activities!



Grades 9-12
(including *Confirmands*)

Sunday, February 7th
ALL HANDS ON DECK @
8:30 a.m. to make subs
(No evening gathering)



Sunday, February 14th
DCH Bowl-A-Thon
12-1:30 p.m.
at Dover Bowl
Costume Theme: DISNEY



Sunday, February 21st
Winter Break
UNH Women's Hockey Game
@ 2:00 p.m.
at Whittemore Center
(Meet at FPC by 1:00 p.m.)
Tickets \$7

Sunday, February 28th
(No evening gathering)



Sunday, February 7th
Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser
8:30 a.m. @ FPC
(No evening gathering)

Sunday, February 14th
DCH Annual Bowl-A-Thon
12:00-1:30 p.m.
@ Dover Bowl
(No Evening Gathering)

Sunday, February 21st
(Winter Break)
UNH Women's Hockey Game
@ 2:00 p.m.
Whittemore Center, Durham
Meet at FPC by 1:00 p.m.
Tickets \$7
(No Evening Gathering)

Sunday, February 28th
Regular Class
@ 5:00 p.m.



Each month the church newsletter, CHIMES and calendar are available on the website at:
www.firstparishdover.org

Stephen Ministry



Why is this lay caring ministry system called the Stephen Series?"

The Stephen Series is named in honor of Stephen whose story is told in the sixth chapter of the book of Acts. As you may recall, the Apostles, guided by the Holy Spirit, commissioned a group of individuals to work with them to do the acts of caring ministry, and Stephen was one of those persons. Hence, Stephen became one of the first lay persons to be sent forth to do caring ministry.

Because Stephen Ministers are commissioned to do acts of caring ministry, it seemed appropriate for this program of lay ministry to be named in honor of Stephen. The founder of the Stephen Series, Dr. Kenneth Haugk, was serving as an associate pastor at St. Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri when the program started.

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

First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office hours: M-F 9am-3pm
(603) 742-5664;

Rev. Michael Bennett, Pastor & Teacher
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



In Sympathy

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

Walter Fischer ~ Father of Carolyn Ricker

Rev Ray Wilbur ~ Long-time member and father to Pam and Kym

Denise Hills ~ Dear friend of Donna Tetreault

Altar Flowers



January 3 ~ Poinsettias

January 10 ~ Poinsettias

January 17 ~ From the Seely and Vinciguerra families in loving memory of parents and grandparents

January 24 ~ In memory of her parents Mae and Frank Hooper, sister Virginia Johnson and nephew Eric Johnson by Dorothea Hooper

January 31 ~ In loving memory of and in celebration of the life of her parents, Sydney and Helen Newton Peterman, from Bonnie Peterman

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

Stormy weather!

On Sundays, any closures or curtailment will be listed on the church website (www.firstparishdover.org), a special weather email will be sent and announced on local radio stations. If driving conditions warrant, we will cancel Sunday School and choirs but still hold our church service at 10:00. If extreme conditions prevail the church service will also be canceled. Monday through Fridays the church office and building will follow weather-related closures/delayed openings/early releases as announced for the Dover School District.

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Lenten Schedule ~ 2016



Ash Wednesday, February 10th

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

Sunday March 20th 10:00 a.m. 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, March 24th

6:15 p.m. ~ Silent Meal

7:00 p.m. ~ Tenebrae and Holy Communion

Good Friday, Friday, March 25th

**Ecumenical Good Friday Service at 12 Noon
First Parish Church, 218 Central Ave., Dover**

Easter & Stewardship Covenant Sunday, March 27th

**7:00 a.m. ~ Sunrise Service at Hilton Park
led by FPC Youth**

7:45 a.m. ~ Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

**10:00 a.m. ~ Festival Easter Worship in sanctuary
with Pastor Mike Bennett**



**First Parish Church Supper
Saturday, February 6th
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

Adults \$8.00; Children under 12 just \$5.00
Come enjoy some fabulous First Parish ham 'n beans,
homemade coleslaw, breads, green bean casserole and
a variety of desserts.
Live musical entertainment while you dine!



Return Service Requested

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

