

The Chimes

Worship ~ Sundays
10:00 a.m.



January

2017

Veiled Manifestation

...in biblical religion direct epiphanies of God are spoken of with reticence, though they do occur, as notably at the burning bush (Exodus 3.2). Usually God manifests himself in the paradoxical act of veiling himself, supremely of course at the incarnation.

— Alan Richardson & John Macquarrie[i]

The church season of Epiphany, which lasts from January 6 until the beginning of Lent, gets its name from a Greek word meaning “manifestation.” During this season we celebrate God being made manifest—being made known—to the world. The “three kings” following the star are the best known characters. But it is the Light itself that we celebrate.

Epiphany can be a hard season for us to understand. It is unfamiliar, at least compared to Christmas. It is also abstract. “Manifestation” is not a very concrete concept. But beyond these difficulties, I think there is something more. It makes us uncomfortable. “If God has been made known to the world,” we ask ourselves, “why don’t I feel like I know God better?”

Do you ever have that feeling in the pew that you are surrounded by people who must certainly have a better idea of what is going on than you do? On many a Sunday, I’d venture to guess each person present in church feels that he or she has the smallest share of faith and understanding in the congregation.

The great news of scripture is that God is, in fact, hidden from all of us. Even as God is made known—made manifest—God’s being is disguised as a powerless baby. When we recognize that we *can’t* recognize God—that is when true faith takes hold. God is too big for our concepts—even our best concepts. And so the journey of faith continues...with just enough light for today’s segment.

See you in church!

--MSB

[i] “Epiphany,” in Alan Richardson & John Bowden, eds., *The Westminster Dictionary of Christian Theology* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1983), page 181.

Holiday Fair 2016 Report

Our First Parish community once again hosted a highly successful Holiday Fair on November 19, 2016. The success of our annual fair is in direct proportion to the many volunteers from our church family coming together. We welcomed nearly 700 guests to this year's Holiday Extravaganza and we raised over \$14,000 for the First Parish operating budget.

Under the direction of Joe and Carolyn, our vendors continued to enjoy a positive experience with our Fair. Vendor satisfaction is key to being able to offer a variety of high quality merchandise to shoppers. The lay-out in Nazareth Hall was repeated from last year, giving vendors additional space and dramatically improving "traffic flow", as well as making end of Fair clean up much more efficient.

The Raffle Room was also under the venue of a new coordinator, Paula Sterling. With the help of new member, Melanie Metz, and with assistance from many volunteers, they were once again a great success.

On that note, I was so VERY pleased to see so many of our new members step up to volunteer their help with the fair. It is always an exciting time, and I hope they enjoyed themselves as much as I enjoyed meeting and talking with them.

The Pantry, under the leadership of Sandi Potter this year, included a new format and some extra special and interesting offerings. Pies, pies, pies, galore...and I can attest to their deliciousness and profitability. Thanks to the many holiday bakers we have in our church. You make my holidays far more enjoyable!

The Raffle Quilt, put together Meth Munson this year, was just beautiful. Ticket sales were through the roof!

The Antique & Collectibles Room, again coordinated by Jim Prue, was extremely successful this year. Jim's knowledge and experience with unique antiques is invaluable to us. Many thanks to Jim for volunteering his time and expertise!

Our usual First Parish offerings were once again well organized and popular among shoppers. The Craft Room, Plant Room, Cookie Walk, Pantry Tables, and Candy Table were all very busy making sales and each added significantly to our proceeds. We had a few additional tables, a Yarn Sale and a second crafter's table, that helped to increase our profits significantly.

The Children's Activity Room, coordinated by Connie Ronda is a very popular aspect of our Fair for visitors and was busy throughout the day with face painting and holiday crafts for children to make and take home.

Our "Find it at the First" Thrift Shop had a full and successful day with expanded hours to correspond with the Fair day.

Boards and Committees contributed their traditional themes: Lobster Stew Luncheon by the Diaconate, Coffee Shop by Mission & Action, Children's Only Shopping by Christian Education, Stephen Ministry, and Historical Table by Historical Committee.

The Board of Wardens helped our Treasurer, Beth Wagner, with the monumental task of counting the innumerable dollar bills and coins which are taken in on Fair day!

We are so fortunate to have such a loving and dynamic church family! This could not have happened without all of you and I am blessed to be part of your family.

On a final note, I would like to formally inform you that 2017 will be the last year I will lead the charge on this important fundraiser for our church. I am asking for a "shadow" co-chair to assist me and learn the ropes to take over in 2018. I will remind church members that this is the plan and hope you can help me find a person to mentor for the next 3 or 4 years.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Baker, Chairperson

Happy New Year from Council to Everyone at First Parish

We have now completed half of our fiscal year, and the Council invites everyone to a Congregational Conversation on January 22, after services, in order to review our budget concerns and anything else you wish to discuss. This will be the third conversation and feedback has been positive. Through these sessions, we have come up with good suggestions and unexpected gifts, such as the new freezer which was donated in the fall. What a blessing. First Parish has wonderful food activities, and the extra space is appreciated.

The FUNdraising task force has been busy with unique ways to raise funds for our church needs, and many have completed their offerings. If you haven't yet, please consider doing something or receiving something from the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

Coffee Hours appear to be running smoothly; please continue to make use of the Sign-Up link in Steeple Chat so that the hosting committee can know what to expect each Sunday and fill in the blanks. If everyone does this, it's much easier on the hosts and it's so easy to do. If you need help, just ask. Thanks so much for your generosity.

We look forward to the next six months with optimism.

See you in church!

Jane Greenslit
Council Chair

Craft Group

The Tuesday morning craft group at FPC is a time of conversation, fellowship, fun and sharing of creative ideas when we craft items for the annual holiday fair as well as for the display case. This year we have decided to include items that could be purchased for the Time, Talent and Treasure FUNdraiser. Everyone is welcome to join us at 9:00 a.m. every Tuesday.

Find it At the First



The Thrift Shop will resume its normal schedule on Thursday, January 5th. The store plans to remain open during the winter months. The Thrift Shop's hours are:

Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



First Parish Church

CONGREGATIONAL ~ UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

White Gifts Party



"This is one of the best things First Parish does and I hope it continues."

Those were the words of Rick Gremlitz as he and other First Parish volunteers left the Central Towers White Gifts Party on December 10, 2016.

Members and friends of First Parish donated 111 gifts, plates of sandwiches, mounds of fruit, piles of cookies, and gallons of soft drinks to the Christmas parties at Central Towers and St. John's in Dover.

Carolyn Ricker and Susan Spence recruited volunteers, monitored White Gift donations, and made sure all the pieces came together at the right time on Party Day. Debbie Gremlitz oversaw the division of goodies between the two party sites. Music was provided by Rick Gremlitz and Marcia Goodnow who provided piano accompaniment to the revelers at Central Towers and St. John's, respectively.

The real stars of the day were the residents of Central Towers and St. John's. Their smiles, singing, laughter, tears, and loud "Thank You's" made the parties a rewarding event for all. It was they who brought the Spirit of Christmas to the parties.

And, as happens with Mission and Action projects, the real beneficiaries were the many First Parish volunteers who contributed to this joyous Christmas event.

Rick Gremlitz need not worry. Mission and Action and First Parish Church members and friends had so much fun on December 10th that the event will be held next year and into the future.

AARP Smart Driver Course

This course will be offered at the Wentworth Douglass Hospital in the Decolfmacher Room, Central Avenue in Dover, NH located in the south end of the building. The date will be January 23, 2017 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost will be \$15.00 for AARP members and \$20.00 for non-members. Some insurance companies offer discounts when the course is completed.

Objectives: safety strategies, increased confidence, affects of aging and medications. The course is geared for age 50 and over but is open to all ages.

Contact instructor James Guyett at 603-742-6075 or 603-953-6386. Please leave your name and number on the answering machine to confirm your reservation.

Family Game Night



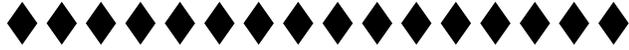
at First Parish Church in Dover, NH, will be **Friday, January 13th**, at 6:00 p.m. Feel free to bring your favorite game or just bring yourself to this fun family night out; there will be plenty of games on hand. Chili and desserts will be provided. ALL AGES are invited! Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board across from the office and come join the fun!

Offering Envelopes...

for the new year are available in the atrium on the table right outside the office. Please stop by and pick yours up at your earliest convenience. If you do not have envelopes for 2017 but would like them, there is a sheet next to the envelopes where you may request them.

JANUARY YOUTH EVENT

Sunday, January 15th
Indoor Rock Wall or
Snow Tubing



Looking Ahead . . .

February 5th

Super Bowl Sub Fundraiser



February 19th

Annual

Dover Children's Home

Bowl-A-Thon!



www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ea8aa29a3f85-epiphan

Please watch for the donation table during coffee hour and support our youth as they raise money to offset mission trip expenses and to help other kids in their community.

**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 5th***

***Our Wisemen arrive on
Sunday, January 8th***



PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Saturday January 7th at 4:00 pm,
followed at 5:30 pm by POT LUCK DINNER
which will be served downstairs in
Nazareth Hall
*****Please bring a main dish to share**
Copy the link below to sign up for
a dish or pageant help***



Baby/Infant Care Items



Our food pantry has a great need
for the following

Baby/Infant Care items:

Baby Food - Cereal and jarred food
Formula

Wipes - We need lots!

Baby Snacks

We have several sizes of diapers right
now

but that could change over
the next several weeks.

Items will be collected throughout
the month of January

DARLA 2016 Dover CROP Walk Summary

The total for the 2016 CROP Walk is now \$15,341.08 – again – the 2nd-best year out of the six walks that have been sponsored in recent years. A great result! This brings the six-year total to \$76,995, with \$19,249 of that total coming back to our local charities.

Congratulations and much appreciation goes to everyone who helped make this year's CROP Hunger Walk a success!

Amazon Shoppers

A Reminder-----First Parish Church is now a registered participant in the Amazon.com Charitable Giving program. Through this program Amazon.com donates .5% of the price of your purchase to the charity of your choice when you register. To register, go to Smile.Amazon.com. You will be asked what charity you wish to support. FPC is listed as first parish church dover. Now when you shop at Amazon log in to Amazon Smile.com (bookmark it) and proceed as usual. That's all there is to it. Our FUNd Raising Task Force wants FUNd Raising to be fun. This sounds like fun. SMILE!!

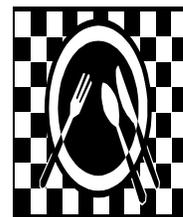
Congregational Conversation

Our Church Council invites anyone interested to attend the next in the series of dialogue sessions on church financial status and fundraising projects which will be held on Sunday, **January 22nd**, following the worship service. An end-of-calendar year financial update will be presented..

Weather Closures and Delays

It's that time of year again when we need to talk about "what if" regarding the weather. Here are the First Parish procedures for a "weather event": On Sundays, any closures or curtailment will be listed on our website (www.firstparishdover.org). In addition, a special weather email will be sent and also announced on local radio stations. Our closures are typically listed on WMUR Channel 9 as well. 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. Mondays through Fridays the church office and building will follow any weather-related closures, delayed openings or early releases as they are announced for the Dover School District.

Church Supper



Saturday, January 7th

Come and enjoy a feast!

All for just \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 or under.

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

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WHILE YOU DINE! The supper will feature popular music and show tunes by vocalists *Jean Ellison* and *Marty Thyng*, accompanied by *Sally Gallagher*.



Stephen Ministry

It's a new year. If you or anyone you know is carrying a heavy burden and would like to share it with someone else in confidence, please consider reaching out to a Stephen Minister. We are here to listen and offer compassionate, Christian spiritual care. We want to walk with you on your journey. Please contact *Judy Edwards* (603-978-4789), *Dave Dickson* (603-781-9791) or *Pastor Mike Bennett* (603-742-5664) to connect you with a Stephen Minister.

Adult Discussion

The Sunday morning Adult Education class that meets from 8:50 to 9:40 AM will resume after its short holiday break. We will begin a new discussion on the gospel of Matthew. Chapters 1 and 2 are the requested readings for the first session on Sunday, January 15th. All are welcome to join us--each week or any week!

Mike Bennett
Pastor and Teacher

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...

Ruth Jakubowski ~ Long-time member, mother of *Carole Herring* & *Sandra Daum*

Dorothy Colprit ~ Aunt of *Joanne Straight*

John Richardsdon ~ Former husband of *Bonnie Peterman*

Altar Flowers

December 4 in honor of the life of *Kris Palazzo* from her good friend *Judy Edwards*

December 11 in loving memory of her aunt *Dorothy Colprit* given by *Joanne Straight*

December 18 Memorial Poinsettias

December 25 Memorial Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase altar flowers during the new year or confirm a recurring date you have each year, please contact Joanne in the church office at 742-5664.

First Parish Church

is **Open and Affirming**, welcoming all to participate fully in the life of our church family, its ministries, fellowship, leadership, rites and sacraments, regardless of ability, race, ethnicity, social or economic situation, sexual orientation or gender identity.

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Seacoast Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration January 15, 2017

The annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will take place January 15, 2017, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Garrison Auditorium, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Dover. The event will draw on Dr. King's words "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," nearly a half century after the Civil Rights Leader's assassination. Panel speakers, Mr. Larry McGhee, Rev. Sandra Pontoh and Capt. Dave Terlemezian of the Dover Police Department, will focus on today's issues of Diversity, Courage and Challenges. Again this year, the Dover Middle and High School Choruses will perform. Light refreshments will be served by the Dover Cooperative Ministries. This program is presented, as it has been for over 30 years, by DARLA, the Dover Area Religious Leaders Association.



Return Service Requested

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

