

The Chimes

JUNE 2017
Ministry and Mission



“After staying there [at Corinth] for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria...” –Acts 18.18

“Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” –2 Corinthians 13.11

One of the great New Testament models for ministry is the Apostle Paul. Though we tend to think of Paul as a “missionary,” he could just as aptly be described as a “pastor.” Paul’s love and concern the Christian Church was both deep and broad. It was deep in that he paid attention to particular places. He spent “considerable time” working to establish and strengthen individual congregations. But his concern was also broad. He had a vision for the missionary work of the church that called him to travel and work in new places. Every visit, every letter ultimately came to a “farewell.”

Our modern-day models of ministry are more settled and stable than Paul’s, but nevertheless the time comes for every pastor to say “farewell” and move on to new forms of service. Retiring just down the road is not the same as “sailing to Syria,” but the animating impulse is similar. The Body of Christ is not tied to one particular place or one particular pastor. Christians everywhere need different leaders and new challenges to keep the Gospel vibrant and fresh.

My departure from First Parish will probably be followed by a few bumps in the road. After five years together, we’ve developed a certain rhythm of shared ministry. You are accustomed to me and I am accustomed to you. New pastoral leadership here may feel slightly jarring and unfamiliar at first, just as it will be an adjustment for me to sit in a pew every Sunday. (No matter how great the Methodist preacher happens to be!)

But for centuries, this has been the Christian way. The Church is not an institution that operates like clockwork. Paul and Peter did not wind up the church and set it to ticking for all eternity. Each generation, each set of unique personalities, each congregation must discover the patterns of ministry to which God has uniquely called them. Change necessitates growth.

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I am going to miss the familiarity and everyday ease that we have developed together. But I also have great confidence that you will be able to “put things in order” and “live in peace” after I am gone. I thank you for the ways you have lived out the Gospel in your lives and inspired me to do the same in mine. My time as your pastor has been a joy and a wonderful finish to 31 years of ministry. I am forever grateful for your love—which held me close for 5 years and which now sets me free to explore a new chapter in my life.

Farewell, and may the God of peace and love be always with you.

--MSB

50-Year & New Members Dinner

On May 15th, we celebrated the lives of 27 people who have been members of First Parish Church for 50 years or more! Twenty-seven people have spent most of their lives as members of this church! A special recognition went to *Ruth Keene* who has been a member for 90 years! *Shirley Klare* attended in honor of Walter who would have been a 50-year member this year. We also celebrated the additions of 17 new members who joined in the last year.

The 50+-year members being honored this year are:

Ruth Keene (90 yrs), *Dorothy Seawards* (75 yrs), *Nancy Boyle* (72 yrs), *Kay Towle* (70 yrs), *William*

Willey (69 yrs), *Ruth Wiggan*, *Joanne McCormick*, *Esther Amato* (67 yrs), *Sylvia Donahue*, *Patricia Marston* (63 yrs), *Eleanor Janetos*, (62 yrs), *William Carswell* (61 yrs), *Doris Goodwin* (59 yrs), *Margaret McDaniel* (57 yrs), *Sally Chenard*, *Marion David*, (56 yrs), *Norma Willard* (55 yrs), *Peter Donahue*, *Bill Hill*, *Margaret Purdy*, (54 yrs), *Diana Allen*, *Richard Allen*, *Cheryl Smalley* (53 yrs), *Pat & Pete Sorensen* (52 yrs) and *Marion Nossiff*, *Margaret Berry* (50 yrs).

The newest members honored who joined during the past year are:

Nicole Ashford, *Richard Ashford*, *Deborah Cayer*, *Joseph Cayer*, *Brian Crowley*, *Hilary Crowley*, *Marcia Dolley*, *Ann Drysdale*, *Danielle Fillion*, *Chris Fonda*, *Serena Fonda*, *Jack Lynes*, *Kris Lynes*, *Tim Pietras*, *Matt Rogers*, *Allen Williams* and *Janet Williams*.



Go and Do the Same: Our 2017 Pledge Covenant UPDATE: We are currently \$ 25,000 less than last year's pledge amount on the income side of the proposed budget. The Church Council may need to revisit the proposed budget for potential adjustments. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Your pledge does make a difference! Pledge cards are in the pew racks and on the tables at the entrances. Please leave your completed pledge card in the offering plate or in the church office.

Holiday Fair News



Planning is well underway for our Holiday Fair which is just 5 months away! Save the date: **Saturday, November 18, 2017** for this church-wide, community outreach and fundraising event. Our enthusiastic fair committee needs your help recruiting vendors (contact Joe Stieglitz at bertramstieglitz@twc.com or Carolyn Ricker at clricker@comcast.net); donating items for our raffle table (contact Paula Sterling at pandasterling@gmail.com or her assistant, Ann Drysdale, at aedrysdale@sbcglobal.net); donating homemade preserves to the Pantry Table; rooting cuttings of your favorite plants (especially unusual varieties) for the Plant Room or gathering Tiffany type donations (new or nearly new items) for the FPC Thrift Shop.

Please consider a donation of specialty furniture or other items to FPC for our Tiffany Collectibles & Antiques Room. Contact Jim Prue at 749-6897 or jeprue@comcast.net. A letter of donation can be provided for you to use for Income Tax purposes.

If you have any long, portable tables we could borrow for fair day, please contact Bethany Gould at 335-1847, gould5980@gmail.com or Kathy Baker at 742-5976, skmbaker@comcast.net. We need about a dozen more to ensure all church groups have enough.

Please give prayerful consideration to helping with these needs. The committee will not be meeting again until September when things really heat up!

We are still looking for a co-chair to work with Kathy Baker and Bethany Gould this year to take over the Fair in 2018. If interested in this important role or if you would like to learn more about our Fair or get involved with the planning, please contact Kathy or Bethany.

GRAB AND GO SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM PROVIDING WEEKEND FOOD

We are looking for volunteers to bag the food, volunteers to drive the food to distribution sites and volunteers to distribute the food to the children.

We are committed to providing food bags to 200 children over a 10-week period at 7 different sites. The cost for this will be \$12,000.

Our Mission and Action Committee has made a donation of \$750. We are hoping that together members of our congregation will match that amount. Please keep in mind that you may make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one or friend. Checks may be made out to: Community Action Partnership with *Grab and Go* on the memo line and mailed to:

Community Action Partnership
P.O. Box 160
Dover, NH 03820

No child should experience hunger when we have the means to prevent it.

Stephen Ministry



Our Stephen Ministry team has been blessed with five newly commissioned Stephen Ministers: *Donna Tetreault, Janet Williams, Chris and Cindy Thompson and Gail Dickson*. After 50 hours of in-class training and many hours of class preparation using the two Stephen Ministry training manuals and three books, each of these dedicated individuals is ready to serve you with their listening skills.

Sometimes I wonder why members of our congregation don't take more advantage of this important service. Stephen Ministers are not your pastor or minister but are there to share your burden while you are going through a difficult time. This is a totally confidential, one-on-one service that our church community believes in and supports financially. Nancy Talbot came to the Board many years ago and sponsored our joining the National Stephen Ministry program. We have been involved and trained Stephen Leaders and Ministers ever since. Yet many times when we ask people to be open to the service they are reluctant.

Please give Pastor Mike, Judy Edwards or me a call if you have questions about the program or might be interested in having a Stephen Minister.

Dave Dickson
Stephen Leader & Minister

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with Church By-Laws 11.3 and 11.7, notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of First Parish Church to be held on Sunday, June 11, 2017 immediately following the morning worship service in the sanctuary.

The purposes of the meeting will be:

1. To receive the reports of the minister, church program staff and the several boards and committees.
2. To hear the reading of the Necrology.
3. To act on the report of the Treasurer for the previous fiscal year.
4. To act on the proposed budget and income for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.
5. To act on the report of the Nominating Committee.
6. To conduct other business as may properly and legally be brought before the meeting.

The Annual Meeting is called by order of the Church Council.

Find it At the First



The Thrift Shop will be closed on **Saturday, June 17th**, due to the Farewell Retirement Celebration for Pastor Mike Bennett.



Congratulations!
Class of 2017!

High School

- Beverly Allen** ~ Dover High School
- Sarah Daniels** ~ Dover High School
- Abby Ecker** ~ Dover High School
- Bethany Gould** ~ St. Thomas Aquinas
- Jessica Holderbaum** ~ Dover High School
- Alekz Munoz** ~ Spaulding High School
- Johanna Rewicki** ~ Dover High School
- Mackenzie Stewart** ~ Dover High School
- Emily Vinciguerra** ~ Spaulding High School
- Ashley Vining** ~ Portsmouth Christian Academy

College

- Stefan Dutka** ~ Clark University; MBA
- Daniel Salzer** ~ Southern New Hampshire University; B.A. Communications

*Mark
Your
Calendar*

September 17th
Sunday School Kick-Off/
Annual Picnic



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

JUNE 4th, 2017



Children's Worship Service

The **CHILDREN of FPC** offer the service today!
Rehearsal in the sanctuary beginning at 8:30 AM



THANK YOU TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS for making the 2016-2017 Sunday school year such a success!



Thank You

for making our **Heifer International** mission so successful! With your help, we raised \$2,160.00 and were able to send . . .

- 6 - Llamas**
- 11 - Tree Seedlings**
- 20 - Honeybee Packages**

Horton Center

Visit Horton Center's website for a full list of summer programs
hortoncenter.org



Rev Jonathan Carey Goodell

Our Interim Minister

The Board of Deacons is extremely pleased to announce the selection of Rev Jonathan Carey Goodell as Interim Minister of First Parish Church beginning July 17. Pastor Jonathan's first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 23.

Pastor Jonathan is coming from just north of Boston where he served twenty years in two settled pastorates at UCC Churches in Tewksbury and Lynnfield MA, followed by a recent interim ministry in Scituate, MA.

Rev Goodell has a Bachelor of Arts from Vassar College, a Masters Degree in History from Central Connecticut University, and a Masters in Divinity from Andover Newton Theological School.

Jonathan has a background in youth ministry and loves the educational ministries of the church. He is looking forward to conversations within our church about the changing landscape of ministry and the preparations that we can do now to be ready for our next settled pastor.

Pastor Jonathan is a kayaker, enjoys bike riding and recently completed a class in water color painting. He and his wife Betsy live in Winchester, MA. They have a college age son, an older son in grad school and a daughter who is engaged to be married in September, currently living in New York City.

After being unanimously selected by the Deacons for the position of our Interim Minister, Jonathon wrote the words: *I am really excited about this opportunity and will do my best to care for your needs pastorally, preach faithfully, attend to leadership support in the church ... and really think and pray with you about your future in this moment when our culture so needs what we have to offer!*

More information about Pastor Jonathan's arrival at First Parish, including his contact information, will be shared as details are finalized.

SPONSORS NEEDED FOR COCHECHO CHALLENGE ROAD RACE ON SEPTEMBER 2nd

The Road Race Committee is pleased to announce that the Third Cochecho Challenge Half Marathon Road Race has been scheduled for **Saturday, September 2, 2017**. In a way, the “Challenge” part of our name is because it is a very challenging event to stage and make money at. There are probably too many road races scheduled in and around Dover now, and we are competing not only for runners but also for sponsors. Without the sponsors, we would lose money. But, with your help, we can make our 3rd race successful. Yes we need runners and yes we need volunteers (please mark your calendars now – it is Labor Day weekend), but **most importantly we need sponsors and donors**. We are beating the bushes so to speak asking the usual businesses in the area to be sponsors, but **the best way for us to sign on sponsors is for the members of FPC to make some connections**.

- ❖ If you own a business, would you consider being a sponsor for the race?
- ❖ Would the company you work for consider being a sponsor?
- ❖ Do you or your employer have any connections for obtaining donated food, porta-potties or other services we might need? Some companies encourage their employees to volunteer at community events.
- ❖ Are you friendly and outgoing? If the answer is yes, when you go into a business, for example a hair salon, you could ask someone there about sponsoring our race.
- ❖ We will do press releases, Facebook posts, provide space at the race for booths for our sponsors and donors.
- ❖ Depending on the level of sponsorship, we will put company names/logos on runners’ shirts, on the start and finish lines, at water stations, on poster boards, on our website, on finisher medal ribbons, and the lead sponsor can have its name/logo exclusively on the runners’ bibs.

Your church needs you! If you want to help, please contact John Straight, Kathy Daniels or Joe Stieglitz. THANK YOU!

Altar Flowers

May 7 in loving memory of *Bill Merrill*
given by *Laurie & Tim Ashe*

May 14 in honor of motherhood with
its many challenges and blessings
given by *Sharon Hilton*

May 21 in celebration of her father *Jim*
Anderson's 80th birthday given by
Laurie Ashe

May 28 in loving memory of their
parents given by *Mick & Betsy Carroll*

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

**Men's Group meets
Wednesday evenings at
7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.**

www.firstparishdover.org

C First Parish Church, 218 Central Avenue
o Dover, NH 03820

n Email: firstparish@comcast.net

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

c *Rev. Michael Bennett, Pastor & Teacher*

t **msb@firstparishdover.org**

a *Rick Gremlitz, Church Administrator*

c **rickgremlitz@yahoo.com**

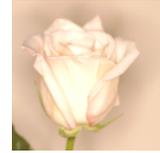
t NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

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

s **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...

Philip (Pete) Wright ~

Brother-in-law of Dave Dickson

Mark Rogers ~

Father of Bill Rogers

Congratulations!



to *Debbie Canada* on the birth of
her grand-niece, *Molly Elizabeth*
Branstetters on May 6th.

****Please Note****

*Beginning July 3rd until
September 5th, the church office
hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00
p.m., Monday through Friday.*



Church Supper



Saturday, June 3rd
4:30 to 6:30pm

A special menu for the final Church Supper of this season!
Barbecue chicken, pulled pork, potato, pasta, and tossed salads;
home-made rolls and desserts!

Adults \$10.00; Children under 12, \$5.00.

The first church supper of the new season will be on October 7th.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT WHILE YOU EAT!
Musical entertainment while you dine with
Jean Ellison and Sally Gallagher, vocalists,
and *Rick Gremlitz* at the Hammond organ!



Return Service Requested

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

