



# The Chimes

**Worship ~ Sundays at 10 AM**

## Fall Notes

As I write this, I am preparing for two weeks away on vacation. I am grateful for the opportunity our congregation gives me to “unplug” in order to rest, relax, and spend time with family. As you read this, we will be just about ready to launch our program year with lots of activity at First Parish. Here are a new notes and highlights. More information is available elsewhere in this issue.

- A new year of Confirmation and Youth Ministry will get started on September 13. Donna Evans will be coordinating our youth program this year.
- Sunday morning Adult Education, at a slightly changed time of 8:50 to 9:40 a.m. will begin on September 20 when the group will meet to reconnect and be introduced to our book for the fall, *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*, by Martin B. Copenhaver. This engaging book will give us much to discuss! (Copies will be available for approximately \$15 from the church office and at the first class session. There is no reading assignment for September 20.)
- All Church Picnic Sunday, including the launch of our new Sunday School schedule, will take place on September 20. The choir will be back and everyone is encouraged to dress casually for church and head right down to Henry Law Park for the picnic following the service.
- On Sunday, September 27, we will feature a special Men’s Chorus and the Commissioning of our 2016 Confirmation Class and their Mentors. Also on that Sunday we will be serving as a “neutral pulpit” for a ministerial candidate being considered by one of our sister New Hampshire UCC congregations.
- I am happy to report two bits of nice news from my ministry as it extends beyond the walls of First Parish. Two of my essays were published this summer in *Feasting on the Gospels*, a respected lectionary commentary series from Westminister John Knox Press. It was fun to see “Michael S. Bennett” and “First Parish Dover” in print between hard covers! (Twist my arm and I’ll show you my copy.) Also, the Nominating Committee of the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC has offered me, and I have accepted, the position of President Elect of the New Hampshire Conference. I will spend two years learning the ropes and then two years chairing the Conference Board of Directors. I consider this a nice honor for First Parish.

See you in church!

--MSB

## **Cocheco Challenge Update**

**FPC race day for the Cochecho Challenge 1/2 Marathon is fast approaching.** Race day this year is Saturday October 17. If you can help with this important day **we need many volunteers** to work in the following jobs:

- Registration helpers on Friday evening, October 16 and Saturday morning, October 17
- Route Marshals to direct runners along the course
- Adult Supervisors and High-School-age students to work the 5 water stations
- Food and Provision Helpers to feed an anticipated 300 hungry runners\*

\* Some people are needed to bake desserts. A crew of 4-5 drivers are needed to pick up food donated by area restaurants and bring the food to the church, on the day of the race. Also would like a crew of 4-5 people who will help clean up and do dishes. If you are able to help in any of these ways, **contact Cheryl Glidden** at 603-330-9578 or at [stevecherylsam@myfairpoint.net](mailto:stevecherylsam@myfairpoint.net).

For all other volunteer opportunities, please **contact Kathy Daniels** at 603-767-8747 or at [moments9@live.com](mailto:moments9@live.com).

Like the Annual Church Fair, this event has come to be a major fund raiser for FPC and could not be a success without the many needed volunteers. Thank you in advance for volunteering!

Questions about the Cochecho Challenge Half Marathon and Relay can be directed to the Committee Members: *John Straight, J Bent, Kathy Daniels, Scott Daniels, Evan Cook, Cheryl Glidden and Joe Stieglitz.*

## ***Adult Education***

The Adult Education Group will begin a new season with *Pastor Mike* on Sunday morning, **September 20<sup>th</sup>**, starting at a slightly earlier time of 8:50 AM and ending at 9:40 AM. All who are interested please come, get acquainted and be introduced to the fall study book, *Jesus is the Question: the 307 Questions Jesus Asked and the 3 He Answered*. Copies are \$15.00 and will be available at the first session as well as in the church office. All are welcome!

## **Parking Reminders**

On Sunday mornings, please leave the entire church lot open for those who have mobility issues.

The parking at Bob's Gulf will not be available for several weeks as construction takes place at the station.

# Music Notes

With the start of the new church year in September, all our music groups will begin anew. This is a wonderful time to join one of our dynamic music groups!

**The Youth Choir** is a group of children Grades 1-5 and youth that will rehearse Sunday mornings from 11:00-11:25 am. For more information, please contact Carol Seely, at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com). FIRST REHEARSAL will be Sunday, September 27th.

**The Joyous Ringers** is a youth handbell group open to all youth Grade 5 and up. This group meets on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Carol Seely at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com). FIRST REHEARSAL will be Monday, September 14th.

**The Senior 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. 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 12th; FIRST SUNDAY EVENING REHEARSAL will be Sunday, September 20th.

**The First Parish Ringers** is open to all senior high school students through adults. Rehearsals are Sunday evenings from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please contact Carol Seely at [k9vet@rcn.com](mailto:k9vet@rcn.com). FIRST REHEARSAL will be Sunday, September 13th.



**Wednesday September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 1-6pm.**

First Parish Church will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, September 16th, from 1:00 – 6:00 PM. All blood types are needed and appreciated. Appointments can be made by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Walk-ins are always welcome. Come and give the gift of life!

## Church Supper!



Our first Church Supper of the new program year will be **Saturday, October 3rd** from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

# Congratulations!



to Jeannie and Dale Goodwin on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Best wishes from their First Parish Church family for many more happy anniversaries to come!

## **\*\*Holiday Fair News\*\***



Planning is well underway for our Holiday Fair which is just 4 months away! Save the date: **Saturday, November 21, 2015** for this church-wide, community outreach and fund-raising event.

We have a request for **small jelly jars**. Many friends have been busy preparing jelly and jam over the summer and additional donations of small bell jars would be greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the church office marked to my attention, Kathy Baker.

During the less hectic days of summer, you can also contribute to the success of our Fair by:

- Recruiting friends and family to rent table space to market various treasures. Contact Jane Kennedy or Joe Stieglitz for more information.
- 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 FPC for our Tiffany Collectibles & Antiques Room. Contact Jim Prue at 749-6897 or [jeprue@comcast.net](mailto:jeprue@comcast.net) for more information.

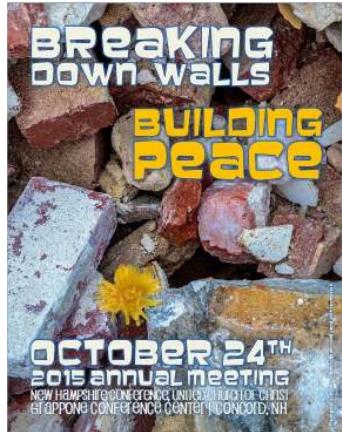
If you would like to learn more about our Fair or get involved with the planning contact Kathy Baker – 742-5976, [skmbaker@comcast.net](mailto:skmbaker@comcast.net) or Jane Kennedy – 749-1042, [janewkennedy55@comcast.net](mailto:janewkennedy55@comcast.net).

## **Find it At the First**



The Thrift Shop would like to request that no more donations of clothing be brought in until September. At that time they would like only fall and winter clothes. They are still accepting donations of household items.

A huge ‘thank you’ to *Barbara Rowe* for volunteering to be the “fill-in manager” from June through September. The hours will go back to its usual 1:00 to 4:00 PM on Thursdays beginning in September. The shop is also in need of more volunteers. If you have an interest and are available to help out even if on a ‘stand-by’ basis, please contact *Erin Pender* at [pender66erin@gmail.com](mailto:pender66erin@gmail.com). Thank you to *Barbara* and *Erin* and everyone who has helped to keep Thursdays running!



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**2015 Annual Meeting of the New  
Hampshire Conference of the  
United Church of Christ**

This is a powerful day full of fellowship, worship, essential business of the Conference and a chance to meet and talk with other members of the NH Conference and the wider UCC. The theme for this year's meeting will be "Breaking Down Walls, Building Peace." The keynote speaker will be the Rev Dr John C. Dorhauer who has been nominated to be the next General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. This will be a wonderful and timely opportunity to open a new dialog on racial justice, prejudice and healing our communities as we work together to break down the walls that divide us and build peace anew in God's kingdom.

Event registration opens August 24<sup>th</sup>. You may go to the NH Conference website – [www.nhcucc.org](http://www.nhcucc.org) to register and check for updates.

## ***Help!***

Soon our sanctuary will be finished and it will look lovely. But there is one problem. The pews will be very dusty. And so will the carpeting and everywhere else. The Wardens will be asking for your help on a Saturday morning. Come prepared with dust rags and vacuum cleaners to finish the job. We don't know the actual date yet, so keep watching your weekly edition of *Steeple Chat*. We'll let you know when to show up just as soon as we find out. Thank you!

**NHCUCC WOMEN'S  
FELLOWSHIP FALL TWO-DAY  
GATHERING**  
**'SHARING OUR STORIES'**  
**Friday & Saturday, Sept 18-19**  
**Woodbound Inn, Rindge, NH**  
**Contact Trudie at 603-828-4200**  
**or email [trudieglen@yahoo.com](mailto:trudieglen@yahoo.com)**

## **Steeple Lighting**

As a part of our exterior renovations, new energy efficient LED lamps have been installed to light the clock faces and the tower chamber above the bell area.

## ***Volunteer Spotlight – Shining the Light on Good Works***

Many folks here at First Parish are part of a large group of volunteers who manage and contribute to the works of the Church through their roles on committees and teams. We often hear about their work through year end reports and thank you messages from the pulpit. We are grateful for all the work of these volunteers.

Yet, for all those that we do hear about, there are many others who work more quietly behind the scenes, helping daily around the church building and grounds, quietly pitching in when they see work that needs to be done, or helping committee members complete a project or recruiting others to do the same. These volunteers take kitchen towels home to wash & return them clean and fluffy where they appear like magic in a kitchen drawer. They pick up trash outside, weed the beds, clean up dirty dishes left by others, collect donated items, sweep the parking lot, water a plant, make coffee, help rearrange tables and chairs, donate food for other volunteers, and so on.....

These quiet workers are many and often go unrecognized by the rest of us. It seems only right that we should occasionally shine a light on their good works, making their efforts more visible so they can be

acknowledged. To that end, we introduce a new column, called: "Volunteer Spotlight", to appear occasionally in our Chimes publication.

### ***This first Volunteer Spotlight shines on: Paul Smith.***

Paul has been active here at First parish for many years. We're all familiar with Paul's gregarious greetings. But he's a mainstay behind many of the infrastructure support and general operations at First Parish. Paul is often found setting up Coffee for Sunday services and clearing our driveway and sidewalks. (He swept out all the sand after last winter!) He can be seen mowing the grass areas or lending a hand at the Thrift Store. He assists with many local food drives and often helps to load and unload at our own Dover Food pantry. Paul is the go-to guy to take extra food and items needed for the Dover Children's Home or My Friends Place. He acts as Head Usher, coordinating the volunteers needed. When the kitchen refrigerator died recently, Paul arranged for a refrigerator to be placed in the kitchen for interim use. There seems to be no end to his good works on behalf of First Parish and we count ourselves lucky to have him among us.

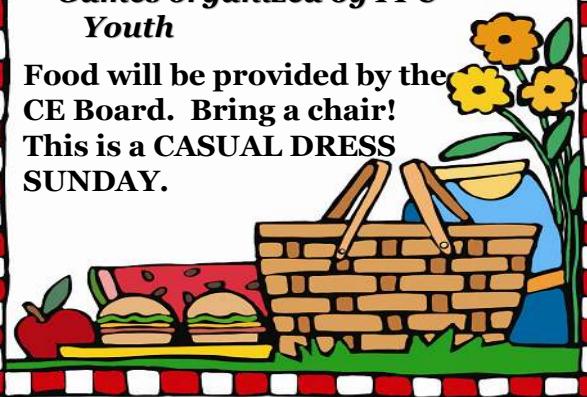
***Thank you Paul! We shine a light on your good works!!***

**\*ALL CHURCH PICNIC\***  
 To celebrate the opening day of  
*SUNDAY SCHOOL*  
 September 20<sup>th</sup> @  
 Henry Law Park

\*\*\*\*\*

- **All Congregation**  
*Apple Pie Contest &  
 Baked Bean Cook-off*
- **Face Painting**
- **Balloon Animals**
- **Games organized by FPC Youth**

Food will be provided by the  
 CE Board. Bring a chair!  
 This is a CASUAL DRESS  
 SUNDAY.



We're on a **X** **MISSION!** September - October  
**Sunday School Mission**  
**END 68 HOURS OF HUNGER**

\*\*\*\*\*

Bring in food items anytime beginning now  
 through Mid-October.

Bags will be filled during our  
**Special Programming Day**  
 on October 11<sup>th</sup>

#### **Food Items Needed:**

Nutrition Bars, Mac & Cheese,  
 Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna/Chicken,  
 Canned Pasta, Canned Soup,  
 Peanut Butter-plastic, Crackers, Oatmeal,  
 Ramen, Jelly-plastic,  
 Cereal and Mayo

\*\* PLEASE BRING IN PLASTIC GROCERY  
 BAGS \*\*



[www.facebook.com/FPCDover.sundayschool](http://www.facebook.com/FPCDover.sundayschool)



and is going to be  
 better than ever this year!

JOIN US for  
**FIRST Kids Gathering**  
 in Nazareth Hall @ 9:30 AM  
**Classes will be held during the**  
**10:00 AM worship hour** and  
 classrooms will be combined as  
 follows:



**Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**



**Youth Group**  
for grades 9-12,  
including Confirmands,  
kicks off on  
**Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 6:00 PM.**  
Come hungry!  
Food will be provided.

**ALSO**  
A survey was e-mailed to all  
Youth Group-aged kids  
AND posted on the FPC Youth  
Facebook page  
([www.facebook.com/FPCDover.Youth](http://www.facebook.com/FPCDover.Youth))  
with programming questions  
for the upcoming year!  
This is YOUR program so help  
us to make it as fulfilling for  
you as possible!

*And*



## **Confirmation**

An invitation letter was mailed to  
youth in grades 9 and 10 regarding  
**Confirmation 2016.**

If you did not receive a letter or  
know of someone who is interested  
in Confirmation, please let  
Pastor Mike or Donna Evans know.

There will be a Confirmation  
meeting for prospective  
Confirmands on **Sunday,**  
**September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM**  
with Pastor Mike and Donna. Please  
RSVP to Donna at  
[hondagirl1967@msn.com](mailto:hondagirl1967@msn.com).

**FIRST Youth & Confirmation Event!**

**Picnic Games**

for

Sunday school kick-off on  
**Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** at Henry  
Law Park @ 11:30 AM



## In Sympathy



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

### **Fran Miliner ~**

Sue Nielsen & Art Miliner's mother and FPC member

### **Marilyn Phillips ~**

Paula Forbes, Cindy Comeau & Nancy Phillips' mother and FPC member

### **Elizabeth Abbott ~**

Scott & Kathy Daniels' grandmother

### **Beatrice Clarke**

Irene Boyle's cousin

## E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

**Contact Us**

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

First Parish Church  
218 Central Avenue  
Dover, NH 03820

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

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

Rev. Michael Bennett, Senior Minister  
[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



**August 2** to the glory of God in memory of loved ones and in honor of our FPC family by Donna and Gene Sgrignuoli

**August 9** in loving memory of our grandparents by Laurie and Tim Ashe

**August 16** in loving memory of my sister "Auntie B" and my husband Hugh from Lorraine Keazer and family

**August 23** to the glory of God and in celebration for the life of my beloved husband Wayne Perreault from Bonnie Peterman

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

## E-Chimes

To start receiving the chimes via email, please send an email to [chimesfpc@gmail.com](mailto:chimesfpc@gmail.com) with the subject "eChimes".

**The Church Office** will resume regular office hours beginning August 31st. The office will be open Mondays through Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The church office will be closed for the Labor Day holiday, Monday, September 7th.

# Rally Day Sunday, September 20th

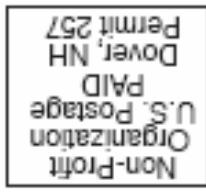


Join us for **FIRST Kids Gathering**  
in Nazareth Hall @ 9:30 AM.

Classes will be held during the 10:00 AM worship hour. We will celebrate the beginning of Sunday School with an **All Church Picnic** at Henry Law Park immediately following morning worship. All are encouraged to wear casual clothes to church that day to be ready to picnic!



## Return Service Requested



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