



**Worship Services
Sundays at 10AM
and 5:30PM!!!**

**The In Between Time
Keep In Step with
the Spirit**

On May 23rd the Pentecost Season began. "Penta" means fifty. It was fifty days after Christ rose from the dead that the promised gift of the Holy Spirit came. "*I will not leave you as orphans,*" said Jesus to his disciples the night before his execution, "*I will come to you*" (John 14: 18). Who, or what, is "the Holy Spirit" (or "Holy Ghost" in the King James Version)? Is it a specter who attends church? I can wrap my mind around the idea of God as the Creator and Caretaker, and Jesus as the Teacher and Redeemer, but what about this Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit would bring many things, Jesus said. "*The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you*" (John 14: 26). "*When [the Spirit] comes he will convict the*

world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment..." (John 16: 8). "But when the Spirit of Truth comes he will guide you into all truth...the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you" (John 16: 13-15). So the Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus imparted to us. The Spirit is the mysterious presence of God given to comfort, guide, convict, teach, and empower those who would follow Jesus.

Billy Graham, I believe, once said, "*If the Holy Spirit was taken from the church, 90% of our activity would continue like it always has.*" Sad, but true. We often wind up "playing church" instead of letting the Spirit empower and direct our activities. Prayer becomes a perfunctory activity used to open meetings, but do we really expect that God might show up and ask us to put our agenda aside and listen for the Spirit's call?"

The Holy Spirit is also known as the "Advocate" in John's writings. An advocate is one who argues on your behalf, who fights for your position. The Holy Spirit is an advocate during those times when your conscience accuses you and compels you to bring it to God or to the one you've wronged. The Spirit reminds us that Christ took that sin away and we can approach God without fear of rebuke or punishment. But there are also false voices that accuse us; voices that say we are incompetent, unlovable, and unworthy. The Spirit says to our spirit, "*No, you are loved with an inestimable love. You are an accepted, forgiven, gifted person from Me to the world. Yes, you fail and fall short, but that never affects my love and support for you. I have a dream, a vision of wholeness for you. Live in my love and power.*"

I try to practice what I call, "*spiritual breathing.*" It's based on the idea of exhaling the bad air and inhaling the good air. Whenever I am aware of an area of my life that is displeasing to God (and to me), where I feel weak and unsure, when I need a word of encouragement

couragement and insight, I will breathe out the bad air by confessing it to God. "God, I know you don't want me to harbor that resentful attitude toward so and so..." "God, I'm having a hard time trusting you with my money right now..." "God, I'm feeling really crummy about myself right now and I need some divine perspective..." "God, I know that there are hungry people in the world while I am overweight, but I really don't care..."

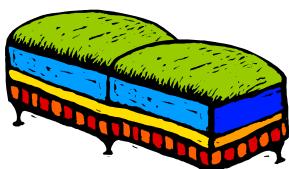
In place of the bad air, I breath in the refreshing breath of the Spirit of God. "Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit. In place of unbelief, give me faith. Instead of resentment and bitterness, change my heart to love that person. Grant me peace instead of worry because I can trust your power and grace in my life."

I doubt if you will hear bells ringing or choirs of angels singing the Hallelujah Chorus. But, by faith, you can know that God the Spirit has filled your life. *Paul wrote, "be filled with the Spirit."* And elsewhere John said, *"If you pray according to my will, I will....grant you the requests you have made."* It is surely God's will to fill us with the Spirit. The promise of Jesus is not only favor toward you, but also power through you by the Holy Spirit. *"Keep in step with the Spirit"* one translation of John's writing puts it. Happy walking!

Blessings,

Norman

Rev. Dr. Norman Bendroth



Deacon's Bench

This has been a painful time in the life of our church. Last week, after a particularly difficult Council meeting, our two interim ministers felt they had no choice but to resign. They were convinced that because of longstanding issues in the church and within the leadership their ministry could no longer be effective.

After much conversation and prayer, the interim ministers are staying, but with the proviso that the church deal with these matters head on. The deacons have met with denominational officials and with independent specialists—Drs. Billy and Nancy Brown from the Cornerstone Institute in Concord, NH—about undertaking a program of conflict resolution and healing.

We are resurrection people and the last word is not despair but hope, not death but life. This is a time that is really going to stretch us but we believe this is what Jesus asks of us. We have a core of health, but have work to do before we are ready for our next pastor.

It is clear that some longstanding issues have surfaced during this interim time—as they should. The deacons are getting the best help we can that will give the church the skills we need to act with the highest standards of Christian relationships. Please keep our pastors, the diaconate, and our church in your prayers.

A Note from Rev. Jessica

Come and join us! **On Sunday, June 13th**, the children and youth of First Parish will be leading worship that day. During worship, children from our Sunday school will be taking part, through liturgy, prayer & song (including I am told a rap number)! Also featured will be an anthem by the Joyous Ringers. The E-Club Youth Choir have joined with the Joyous Ringers for the first time ever, embarking on a joy-filled musical collaboration called, "Spirit Boundless." We are delighted that this year's Confirmation class along with members of the First Parish Youth Group will also be taking part.

Transition Team News

Mission Possible!

What a wonderful turnout we had at our 'Mission Possible' retreat last Saturday! Almost 80 members of our congregation were in attendance, enthusiastically sharing food, conversation, and a common love of God and First Parish Church. Not only was it a time of fellowship and sharing, we got a lot of work done in a short amount of time.

Within small groups we formulated drafts of mission statements for our church. The Transition Team will now craft these into one cohesive statement, which will in turn be presented to the congregation by the middle of June for feedback.

Many thanks to all of you who helped us reach this milestone in our journey. If you have any questions or ideas you would like to share with the Transition Team, we encourage you to speak with one of our Team members. Approach any of us at coffee hour, or call us on the phone – your opinion matters!

Our Next Steps

Over the summer, we will be holding "cottage meetings" to further discuss what we value about First Parish Church. Prayerfully consider the following questions as you prepare to attend one of the meetings: What is the single most important thing that First Parish has contributed to your life? If you had three wishes for First Parish, what would they be? It is our hope that these meetings will provide a comfortable setting for the sharing of ideas, and will provide flexible scheduling for those whose busy lives may have prevented them from attending our past large-group events. More information soon!

In the meantime, we are also researching options for an all-church survey. The survey will provide an important opportunity for our congregation to share together in assessing who we are and where we see ourselves going. It will also be a helpful means of reflecting on

your faith and the meaning of your church experience. When the Search Committee is established by our Diaconate, the data collected in this survey will aid in providing an up-to-date profile of our church for prospective candidates.

We are very grateful for all of the support we have received throughout recent months, and we are encouraged by the progress that we have made. May God continue to be with us on this journey as we travel our road of faith with one another.

Faithfully,

Your Transition Team

Rev. Bendroth will be away from June 5-8 at the Interim Ministry Network Conference. He has been invited to do a workshop and to join the IMN Faculty. He is also attending aboard meeting of the Association of United Church of Christ Intentional Interim Ministers (AUCCIM). Congratulations to our interim pastor!

Baptisms

On Sunday morning, May 9th
(Mother's Day) we celebrated the baptism of
Lillian Elizabeth Purdy Nossiff;
daughter of *Alex & Stephanie Nossiff* and
the granddaughter of *Marion Nossiff*.
Congratulations!

Births at First Parish

Congratulations to *Dan Lucas & Caitlin Setear Lucas*
on the birth of their son,
Ashton James Lucas,
born May 8, 2010; the grandson of
Jim & Beth Setear.



A Stewardship Update

Do you suppose it's possible for us each to reach around behind ourselves, and give ourselves a "Well Done!" pat on the back?

We've completed our 2010 Stewardship Pledge campaign, with encouraging results. In spite of challenging economic times, and a myriad of other issues and concerns during this "transitional" period, "Good is Happening" at FPC.

1. Total pledges for 2010 were \$311,382, up over \$5,000 from 2009.
2. The average pledge increased from \$1,431 to \$1,483.
3. We had 33 new and "restored" pledges in 2010.

Sure we "lost" 36 pledges for various reasons (death, moving from the area, declinations, or "no responses"). We must continue work hard to provide adequate financial support for our many activities and programs. One can always view the glass as "half empty", but those of us with positive attitudes and views on life prefer to see the glass as "half full".

For over 375 years, and through ever changing times, members and friends of FPC have responded to current needs with their time, talents and treasure. We are (thankfully, in my view) a diverse group of people. Yet we share a common bond in our concerns for each other, and the world at large. We are each at a different stage in our "faith journey" as we try to live a Christian life.

It's not easy being a responsible of Steward of the gifts God has provided us. But the world is a much better place because we try!

Bill Bauman

For the Stewardship Committee

*Steve Hall, Carol Salava, Carol Seely,
Joyce Tugel, and Rev's Norm & Jessica*

A Christian Education Thank You

As we look forward to Children's Sunday and the end of another school year, we wish to thank the dedicated staff, teachers and other volunteers who are an integral part of the religious education of our youth as well as adults each week.

Donna Evans organizes the Sunday morning program, including E-Club, and always makes sure there are a sufficient number of volunteers to keep us in compliance with our Safer Spaces Policy. *Rev. Jessica* leads opening worship for the Sunday School and musical programming has been given this year by *Carol Seely, Adam McDougall and Karen Henck*.

Our gratitude goes to the teachers of our youth from nursery through eighth grade. They are: *Kara Gray, Brad Gould, Gerri Vining, Sara Stewart, Cheryl Glidden, Lana Black, Erica Helm, Cindy Chase, Peter Allen, Irene Boyle, Tiffany Brand, Jenn Munoz, Amy Bennington, Beth Setear, Tim Foley, Mike Vining, Rich Henck and Jon Gray*. We also have a richness of Adult Education leaders at First Parish. Adult classes have been taught by *Rev. Norm, Rev. Jessica, Cindy Bouman, Elaine Case, Bill Leslie and Terry Dargan* this year.

We appreciate all these educators as well as others who volunteer to make our Christian Education program at First Parish strong.

*The Christian Education
Board*

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

Mission & Action News

It is this time of year that the Mission and Action Board solicits applications for a **Nursing Scholarship** and a **Business Scholarship**. The Martha Rowe Scholarship is available for students pursuing studies in the nursing field and the Richard Abbot Scholarship for Business majors. Mission and Action also awards a grant(s) to an individual(s) who wish to continue their education on the post-secondary level in any field or who wish to participate in a community service project.

Applicants will receive consideration based on: contribution to our church, their school and community; their application essay and the recommendations of two people. For more information and to apply please contact the scholarship coordinator: Darcie Russell. The deadline is June 15th. She may be reached at 603-742-9403 or you can email her at johndarcie@comcast.net.

First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church



For more information, contact one of the Stephen Leaders:

Mary Norris, 742-6587

Carol Davenport, 742-9817

Joe Stieglitz, 659-8345

Beth Martindale, 742-2419

Margie Edmunds, 742-7631

Check out this Stephen Ministry website:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/episodes/april-9-2010/stephen-ministries/6044/>

Thank You....

from the Wardens: Thank you ALL for making this year's Spring Clean-Up Day a tremendous success! With everyone's help we were able to complete a thorough cleaning of the church building. A multitude of thanks goes out to those who donated their time and talents cleaning our church building and the outside grounds. Our gratitude also goes out to all those who provided delicious snacks for our hard working volunteers. We had over twenty energetic volunteers (not including the Boy Scouts who volunteered to clean up the parking lot and outside walkways) demonstrating the old adage that many hands make light work. Special thanks to the Board of Christian Education for taking charge of cleaning the classrooms. Additionally, thank you to our ever faithful staff, Lisa, Jane and Sharon for all you do year round as well as in preparation to make this day a success and to Jane and Paul for their assistance connecting with the organizations that utilize our church in the evenings! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! Blessings! ~

Your Board of Wardens

To the people of First Parish Church,

The family of *Laura Carey* wishes to thank you for your extra special efforts to make our beloved mother's funeral the best it could be. A special thank you to Rev. Jessica McArdle for taking the time to get to know us and for the eloquent sermon. Thank you also the choir for singing and playing for the service. We are indebted to you for your good deeds.

Bless you all, The *Carey* Family



Children & Adult Education

Faithful Stewards

Youth Group offering was collected from November through January. The youth chose as a community, to divide the funds and give to two local organizations; \$150 to The Cocheco Valley Humane Society and \$150 to My Friend's Place. Way to put your faith in ACTION!

The Dover Food Pantry was also the recipient of \$324.99 as a result of The Souper Bowl Day of Caring. Many thanks to the congregation for supporting our youth ministry efforts.

Please pray for our youth while attending the UCC New England Regional Youth Event Finding Our Way in God's World, June 24-27th Boston.

Youth Summer Events...Stay Tuned....

for a Lock-In, mini golf, movie night and other fun stuff. Please make sure Beth has your email and updated email to ensure you receive all event notices.

Mission Day of Service

Seven youth, Natasha Nary, Heather Raimer, Ben Ashe, Josh Evans, Wesley Hutton, George Harmon and Eric Leslie represented First Parish, UCC on Saturday May 22nd as volunteers for Ethos Organization who hosted a Living Fair event in West Roxbury, Mass. The youth were complimented for their helpfulness and a good time was had by all! Way to put your faith in ACTION! ..."at the dance.."

Will Youth Ministry Continue at First Parish, UCC in 2010-2011?

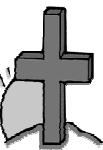
It is uncertain as of this date if youth group and Confirmation, AKA youth ministry, will continue into the 2010-11 year. Budget cuts have affected the continuation of youth ministry at First Parish Church, UCC. Nonetheless, youth leaders have begun to assess, evaluate and begin visioning a sound youth ministry program at FPC, UCC should funding become available. Questions such as "*What changes or enhancements can we add that will be effective in: building community, enhancing communication with our youth, worshiping together and providing spiritual growth and mission opportunities for our youth?*" We are crafting a new mission statement building upon our church's new core values. The youth leaders will continue to meet throughout the summer thoughtfully developing a comprehensive youth ministry program. We will be contacting you for support, ideas and ways to partner with parents and community organizations. Please keep us in your prayers as we discern the future of youth ministry at First Parish Church, UCC.

My God Glimpse....

The Confirmands and Mentors did an excellent job sharing their God Glimpse's this past week. I am always awestruck to listen to the youth share their opinions of each story they have heard and how they *truly listen* and how a certain story affects them. As we drove back to Dover from West Roxbury on Saturday afternoon, the youth were singing and laughing and making plans to go to the movies together that night, the night before their Confirmation. I realized in that moment that it is not so much about the work we did, or why we came together, but what was most impactful was simply *being* together. It is Christ who brings us together in His name as we work, pray, laugh and play together and we are truly grateful.



Children, Youth & Family



FPC's Sunday School
Program THRIVES
because of our
Childcare
Volunteers,
Staff and Sunday
School Teachers

Elizabeth & Bowe Hanson •
Allison Friend-Gray • Carin Lee
•Christie Hallowell• Nan Nutt • Aimee
Marchesi • Deb Harmon • Bob & Jo
Daniel • Liz Holderbaum • Dana
Leggett • Denise Dutka • Michelle
Whitehouse • Sydney Evans • Becca
Jacques • Heather Smith • Kristin
Simunac • Joe & Peggy Mace • Jen &
Brian Spargo • Susan & Matt Endrizzi •
Cindy & Tim Brassil • Kim & Dave
Gibson • Heather & Tony DiMambro •
Connie Ronda

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!!!

Important Summer Dates & Notes

No summer service time change

August 25th – SS Registration

& Ice Cream Social

August 27, 28, 29 –

Horton Center
Family Retreat

September 12th - Rally Sunday

1st Day of SS/Annual Picnic



- 6/6** –Stephen Geuther & William Marchesi
- 6/13** – Alekz & Jason Munoz
- 6/20** – Ashley Vining & Caleb Mace
- 6/27** – Beverly Allen & Alexandra Brand

CHILDREN'S DAY JUNE 13th, 2010



The children offer the service today!
This is also the
**LAST DAY OF SUNDAY
SCHOOL!!**
**WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN
IN SEPTEMBER!!**

3rd Graders receiving bibles On Children's Sunday

Brian Jason Downer
Isabella Antoinette Ecker
Stephen Peter Geuther
Ashley Rose Gould
Sebastian Gilbert Karas
William Marchesi
Anastasia V. Marchuk
Nicholas V. Marchuk
Thomas Sargent Stewart
Reagan Jennifer Smith



ACOLYTES



June Sermon Schedule

June 6, 2010

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

1 Kings 17:8-24

Psalm 146

Galatians 1:11-24

Luke 7:11-17

"Courageous compassion"

Rev. McArdle preaching

June 13, 2010

Third Sunday After Pentecost

Children's Sunday

1 Kings 21:1-21a

Psalm 5:1-8

Galatians 2:15-21

Luke 7:36-8:3

June 20, 2010

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1-15a

Psalm 42

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

"The Still, Small Voice"

Rev. Bendroth preaching

June 27, 2010

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Luke 9:51-62

"Spirit Fruit"

Rev. Bendroth preaching

E-Mail Prayer Chain

Please contact Kathy Daniels at 742-3481 or

shesababe@hotmail.com

to be added to our email prayer chain.

Funeral Receptions

IS THIS YOUR MINISTRY?

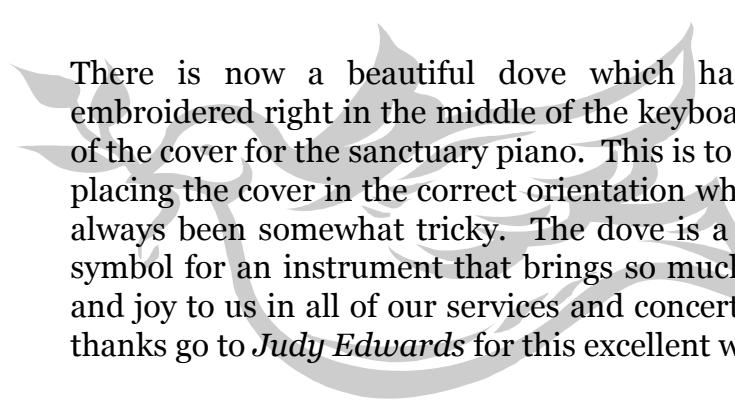
Helping to prepare food, set-up, serve and or clean-up for funeral / memorial receptions. We are looking for more people who are able and willing to lend a hand at FPC for the many receptions we need to provide for when members of our congregation find it is time to go home to God. Please call Lisa in the office or call Barbara Rowe at 742-7936 if you have any questions about what would be needed.

Music News

The Music Committee has received notification from *Joanne Houston* and *Cheryl Richardson* that due to their commitments at Spaulding High School, they will not be able to return as Choir Directors this fall.

First Parish Church has been blessed to be able to fill these vacancies with *Rick Gremlitz* returning as Director of the Senior Choir, and the addition of *Adam MacDougall* as leader of our Children and Youth Music Program. Thanks be to God for the gifts that these talented individuals offer

us! Faithfully, *Margie Buckingham*, Chairperson



There is now a beautiful dove which has been embroidered right in the middle of the keyboard part of the cover for the sanctuary piano. This is to help in placing the cover in the correct orientation which has always been somewhat tricky. The dove is a perfect symbol for an instrument that brings so much peace and joy to us in all of our services and concerts. Our thanks go to *Judy Edwards* for this excellent work.

The CE Board Presents Children's Safety: *Matt Randall's Black Belt Academy* has offered to host a "**Stranger Danger**" class for FPC Youth on Saturday June 26th at 11:30am. This class will be held at Matt Randall's Black Belt Academy on the corner of

Central Avenue and Broadway in Dover. Donations of any amount will be gladly accepted; 100% of donations received will be used to benefit the Youth Program here at FPC. The class is limited to the first 30 children to sign up. If you are interested in attending please contact Jenn Munoz at 948-2770 or jennrh29@yahoo.com. For more information on children's safety please visit <http://www.matrandall.com/ChildrensSafety.html>

Worship Attendance

Sunday: 5/2/10	AM:278	PM: 72
Sunday: 5/9/10	AM: 207	PM: 17
Sunday: 5/16/10	AM: 164	PM: 26
Sunday: 5/23/10	AM:266	no evening service ~ Hector's concert!

Summer worship times:

Sunday at 10am & 5:30pm

This is a change from previous years.

The Deacons have voted to keep the morning service time the same all year.

Office hours for summer:

(June, July & August)

Mon-Fri 9am to noon ~ Please call ahead to make sure someone is available to help you.

www.GoodISHappening.org

First Parish Church
218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00am to Noon
(603) 742-5664

Fax: 603-750-0411

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Rev. Dr. Norman B. Bendroth

Senior Interim Pastor

nbendroth@hotmail.com

Rev. Jessica McArdle:

Interim Associate Pastor

jessicamcardle@gmail.com

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesdays at 9:00AM

Chimes Deadline:

The 15th of every month ~ Please email bulletin and chimes information to Lisa at firstparish@comcast.net

To start receiving the chimes via email, please send an email to chimesfpc@gmail.com with the subject "eChimes".

C
o
n
t
a
c
t

U
S

In Sympathy

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

Leona Wise ~ Ed Wise' mom

Marie Lee ~ Carin Lee's mom

Dr. Robert Wiley ~ Mark Wiley's dad

Altar Flowers

May 2 in loving memory of *Thomas Donahue* from his wife *Vickie* and sons, *Mark & Brian*.

May 9 in loving memory of *Mary Hofemann* by her son *Roland*.

May 16 in loving memory of our dear friend, *Lucille McCrone* by *Margie Buckingham, Christie Hallowell, and Joanne Straight*.

May 23 in loving memory of *Ted Phillips* by his loving wife *Marilyn* and his 3 daughters.

May 30 in loving memory of her mother, *Jean Wilson Warren* and cousin, *Robert Wilson* by *Betsy Carroll*.

Are you interested in remembering a loved one or honoring someone special by **purchasing altar flowers**?

If so, you may bring flowers from your own florist or use the church florist at a cost of \$50.00. You may also share this cost with someone else. I am more than happy to have two dedications on a weekend. You can reserve the same dates year after year if they are available. Please contact Jane in the church office at 742-5664.



Do you have the gift of hospitality and caring for others? There are opportunities to prepare meals for those who have lost loved ones or who have just returned from a stay in a hospital. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Beth Werker at werker1@comcast.net or 207-384-2527.

I
n
re
ach

50 Year Member ~ New Member Dinner



The Ministers and Deacons of First Parish Church invite you to celebrate our past and our future by joining us at the 50 year/new member dinner on **June 6th** directly after morning worship in Fellowship Hall. We will be honoring our faithful members of 50 plus years and our new members within the past year, including our Confirmation class! This is a potluck dinner. Please sign up on the bulletin board indicating the number of attendees and the item you will be bringing. Dessert and beverages will be supplied by the deacons. Thank you.