

The Chimes



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

The In Between Time Glenn Beck needs a History Lesson

Are 68.1 million Americans connected with a Communist front movement? Yes, if they are Roman Catholic. Are another 20 million citizens listening to “coded” Nazi messages? Yes, if they are mainline Protestant. Are tens of millions more in danger of being part of a similarly coded Fascist front? Yes, if they are in a growing wing of Evangelicalism; and yes, if they keep hearing social justice messages in thousands of African-American congregations.

Unless you were in a coma, you probably heard that last month the conservative broadcaster Glenn Beck called on Christians to leave their churches if they hear preaching about social or economic justice, saying they were code words for Communism and Nazism. Mr. Beck said on his radio show on March 2, “I beg you, look for the words ‘social

justice’ or ‘economic justice’ on your church Web site. If you find it, run as fast as you can. Social justice and economic justice, they are code words.”

In attacking churches that espouse social justice, Mr. Beck is taking on most mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic, black and Hispanic congregations in the country — not to mention plenty of evangelical churches and even his own, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He would also have to give up reading the Bible.

Mosaic legislation that governed the new nation of Israel is laced with instructions to care for the the foreigner (i.e., the immigrant), the orphan and the widow—those most vulnerable to hunger and poverty—and ties this instruction to the exodus, an event always at the back of any faithful Jew’s mind. Look at Deuteronomy:

When you gather your crops and fail to bring in some of the grain that you have cut, do not go back for it; it is to be left for the foreigners, orphans, and widows. . . . When you have gathered your grapes once, do not go back over the vines a second time; the grapes that are left are for the foreigners, orphans and widows. Never forget that you were slaves in Egypt; that is why I have given you this command. (24:19-22 TEV). Here’s the first Social Security program!

Other laws provided for sharing one-tenth of the harvest with immigrants, orphans and widows (Dt. 14:28-29), for lending at no interest to those in need (Ex 22:25), and for the cancellation of debts every seventh year (Dt. 15:1-2, 7-11). Every fiftieth year was to be a Year of Jubilee during which property was to be returned to the family of the original owner. The intent of this law, which may never have been carried out, was to prevent the concentration of wealth and make sure that each family had the means to feed itself.

continued

The prophets, too, insisted on justice for everyone. Amos, for example, denounced those who trampled on the needy and destroyed the poor in order to gain wealth. He railed against those who lived in luxury while the poor were being crushed.

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

(Isaiah 58:6 & 10 (NRSV))

The prophets' main judgments were leveled against idolatry and social injustice. The living God insists on personal morality and social justice, while idols offer fertility and prosperity without social responsibility.

The New Testament ethic builds on the Hebrew Scriptures. Its teachings emerge from a divine act of salvation—the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because "the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" conquered sin and death for us, we are forgiven, reconciled to God, born anew to be imitators of God, called to sacrificial love for others. Through the gift of eternal life, Jesus sets us free to make the doing of good our purpose in life (Eph 2:8-10).

The gospels depict Jesus repeatedly reaching out to those at the bottom of the social pyramid—poor people, women, Samaritans, lepers, children, prostitutes and tax collectors. Jesus was also eager to accept people who were well-placed, but he made clear that all, regardless of social position, needed to repent. For this reason he invited the rich young lawyer to sell all of his possessions and give the proceeds to the poor.

Churches are already doing a lot to take care of hungry people directly through charity work. *Giving USA*, a non-profit foundation that studies philanthropy in the United States, in its 2008 report found 33.4% of estimated

total giving, \$103.32 billion, went to houses of worship and denominational organizations in 2007. Unfortunately, 85 percent of all church activity and funds is directed toward the internal operations of the congregation. But Christians devote much less effort to influencing what governments do.

God, however, requires both charity and justice, and justice can often be achieved only through the mechanism of government. The view that nations, as well as individuals, will be judged by the way they treat the weakest and most vulnerable among them is deeply embedded in the witness of prophets such as Isaiah, who said:

How terrible it will be for those who make unfair laws, and those who write laws that make life hard for people. They are not fair to the poor, and they rob my people of their rights. They allow people to steal from widows and to take from orphans what really belongs to them. (Is 10:1-2 NCV)

Religion scholars say the term "social justice" was probably coined in the 1800s, codified in encyclicals by successive popes and adopted widely by Protestant churches in the 1900s. The concept is that Christians should not merely give to the poor, but also work to correct unjust conditions that keep people poor.

Historian Timothy Smith argues in his book *Revivalism and Social Reform* that social reform followed in the heels of the Second Great Awakening in this country. Conversion led to child labor laws, abolition, literacy programs, homes for unwed mothers, hospitals, job training, direct assistance, and unions *as well as* preaching the gospel. Historians also believe John Wesley's revivals in England prevented a bloody revolution such as the one in France because Christians established reform in factories, commerce, industry, government, and trade.

What would Mr. Beck say to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement? To Lech Walesa and the Solidarity Labor Movement in Communist Poland? To Bishop Desmond Tutu and his heroic battle against apartheid in South Africa? All of which were fueled by a passionate and abiding conviction that our God is a God of justice.

Mr. Beck himself is a convert to Mormonism. Philip Barlow, the Arrington professor of Mormon history and culture at Utah State University, said, "One way to read the Book of Mormon is that it's a vast tract on social justice. A lot of Latter-day Saints would think that Beck was asking them to leave their own church."

Biblical verses wisely do remind readers, "Put not your trust in princes." That usually means governments, but also "princes" in the media, banking, punditry, universities, and, yes, churches demand scrutiny, and their programs deserve careful evaluation, as well. But those who say that you must therefore keep government out of everything have to face other biblical reminders: The Hebrew prophets all dealt with "nations," and the apostle Paul, writing to people suffering under Nero, also said that civil "authority...is God's servant for your good" (Romans 13:4). Paul even goes so far in 13:6 to urge believers to "pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants."

The Bible never puts preaching and evangelism at loggerheads with ministries of charity and justice. They are all practices of faithful churches. Contrary to Mr. Beck I say if churches are doing social justice, run to them. They are following God's call.

Blessings,



Rev. Norman Bendroth
Senior Interim Minister

A Note from Rev. Jessica

2010 Easter Sunrise Service

Bright and early on Sunday, April 4th at 6am in the morning, a group of eleven brave confirmands, their mentors, parents, musicians, ministers, staff and over 120 congregants gathered for the annual Easter Sunrise Service which is held each year at Hilton Park in Dover. It was a beautiful, sunlit morning and celebratory occasion! Our confirmands, having carefully reviewed and prepared for the worship service beforehand, were well prepared, delivering their parts with care and enthusiasm. Besides strong speakers, some confirmands played musical instruments, such that a drum set and percussion, trumpet and saxophone joined with others who played acoustic guitar.

This year, two of our confirmands, Taylor Bent and Wesley Hutton became a part of the wider faith community by consenting to enter into the covenant of baptism. Following their baptism, all were invited to at the table to celebrate communion. The benediction was offered by the combined 2009-2010 Confirmation Class.

Words of gratitude for all who participated and/or provided able assistance before, during and afterward the service including the 2009-2010 Confirmation Class: *Taylor Bent, Josh Evans, George Harmon, Andrew Henck, Cassie Henry, Wesley Hutton, Eric Leslie, Natasha Nary, Heather Raimer, Deanna Rochefort and James Rochefort; Joe Stieglitz, Sharon Tehada, Mike Towle, Gary Pouliot, Ken Berry, Carolyn Hutton, Beth Martindale and Rev's Bendroth and McArdle.*



Transition Team News

So when's the Search

Committee going to start?

That's a question a number of you have been asking us, but before a Search Committee can form we need to ask you a question: what kind of a pastor should we be searching for? Do we want a pastor who will concentrate on church growth and attracting young families or do we want a pastor who will focus on pastoral care of our members? Do we want someone who's strong in administration or spends more time in worship and preaching preparation? Do we want someone who will help us do community outreach or focus on spiritual formation? Do we want someone who is theologically liberal, conservative, or somewhere in the middle?

Another set of questions we need to answer are: who are we as a congregation? What is God calling us to do and be? What is our purpose, our vision, our mission? Is there a special ministry we wish to begin? On which strengths do we wish to concentrate? Where do we want a pastor to lead us? Because we are a diverse congregation, if we do not take the time to answer these questions we may call someone who is not a good match for the congregation or there will be differing expectations between the pastor and various groups in our church.

The Transition Team has been hard at work behind the scenes planning events, talking to people, collecting data and helping Norm and Jessica understand who we are and how we work together. Now we need your help. We had a wonderful turnout for our Back to the Future event which helped us learn from our past. A smaller group attended our Core Values exercise and found it to be a time of inspiration and affirmation. These values define who we are.

4



On May 8, we are hosting a half day retreat to write a Mission Statement for our church. A mission statement clearly says in 30 words or less who we are as a church and what our purpose is. It's the compass and pole star for all of our ministry work. We need your input so that we can have an accurate picture of our church to give to pastoral candidates.

We will begin at 9 am with coffee and treats and end our day at 12:30 pm with a pizza and salad luncheon. During our time together we will worship, gather in small groups for Bible study and discussion, write mission statements, and collect them. The Transition Team will draft a statement that gathers up what we have heard during our time together. We will then report back to you for your input and several rewrites.

After this we hope to start the selection process for the Search Committee so they can begin to build community and start working on the Profile. During the summer we will have house meetings all around town to ask "dream" questions. What are your dreams, hopes and aspirations for First Parish? What kind of pastor do we need to help us reach those? For those who aren't around the summer, we will have more in the fall.

If all goes according to plan we expect to have the Search Committee up and running no later than September. By that time Norm will have been with us for a year and Jessica for 10 months, which is about the average length of time before a Search Committee starts for a church our size after having a long term pastorate. The Search Committee's first task will be to write a comprehensive profile of our church.

We ask you all to be patient with and enjoy this "in between time" process. Studies show that this is one of the richest times in the life of a church for self-evaluation and growth. Let's take full advantage of it.

Please pray for us and for our church during this time. We are eager to hear your ideas and look forward to seeing you on May 8th (child care available). Please sign up with a member of our Transition Team or call the church office in advance so we are prepared with plenty of pizza.

Faithfully in Christ,

Your Transition Team

A Stewardship Moment

The motto of UMCOR (the United Methodist Committees on Relief) is “Rebuilding hope, rebuilding faith, rebuilding lives.” This past March a mission team from First Parish Trip made its fourth sojourn to Louisiana. It has been my privilege to be a part of this group for the past two years. Our volunteer service is used to repay part of the federal loans granted to the region to rebuild the area. Over four years, 48 members and friends of First Parish Church have donated over 3000 hours of service for a total repayment of nearly \$60000. I can tell you from personal experience that those numbers cannot begin to capture the wealth conferred on those of us who have served.

The lessons I have learned are numerous. The first is: Recovery can take time. Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005 followed by Rita in September. The homes we worked on this year were the homes of homeowners who have yet to return. Their lives in many ways remain displaced and disjointed. Community connections are challenged by relocation and many choose not to come back. The people we help can come back. They are putting the pieces back into place as time and money allows. We see that in one week a dedicated group of volunteers can make dramatic changes

towards making a house a home (again). A tour through the heavily damaged Ninth ward this year showed massive improvements over the course of 12 months with the feeling of a rebirth more prevalent than the feeling of destruction. This lesson follows me when I am impatient with myself in my own recovery from challenges in my own life. It reassures me that God walks with me on my faith journey and He sets the pace.

The second lesson is one that I ponder a lot. Who is the giver in this situation? Yes we all donate our time, our expertise and “willing to learn and do” spirit. In my case it is less expertise and more spirit. We work with the homeowners. We share our lunches. We laugh and hear about plans for the family’s return. We hear stories of the devastation and the persistent faith in God. Many of us are frequently moved to tears by these testimonies. I have received so much more from my “giving” than I feel I have given. The time in Louisiana provides a renewed opportunity to be thankful for my home, my family, my friends and my church. Our return to New England this year was punctuated by several days of rain. My basement had water in it after the rain. It was minimal. I was thankful for that and thought again of those not so fortunate. On my two trips, I have met people who have experienced CHALLENGES that make mine seem inconsequential. I have consistently seen hope and felt honored to be among those with so much Faith. I find it reassuring that our presence and assistance provides continued support for these amazing people. They repay us in ways that cannot be articulated with their warmth, friendship and a sense we now belong to their extended families.

The third lesson is that we all are part of a much larger community and no one of us can do it alone. The scale of this disaster was so immense that it has taken years and thousands of volunteers to recover. As of the end of

January, UMCOR reports 72000 volunteers have come to the area to assist in rebuilding. It forces one to accept being part of a team that includes volunteers from all walks of life, all parts of our country and the world. The members of the First Parish team are at different stages of our lives. We have wildly different levels of expertise. We don't agree on everything. We work, eat, live, learn and pray together. We talk, as we work, about parts of our lives that may rarely be shared with others. We share a commitment to a common goal. I think we all leave feeling enriched. We make connections with people that we will never forget. I encourage all of you to think about giving your time to serve our church and fulfill its missions. Don't be surprised if you leave feeling richer for the experience and that you have received more than you have given.

God Bless,

Jill McCaughy



Prepared to Serve (are we?)

Each year the New Hampshire Conference UCC (NHCUC) puts on a day long conference called "Prepared to Serve". It is an educational conference meant for both clergy and lay persons and the workshops are lead by both the laity and clergy. The day begins with a worship service and then everyone disperses to the workshops they have chosen. There are many workshops offered on many different topics from social justice issues to church issues and clergy issues. It was hard to choose which to attend.

This year three of us attended the day and we all really felt it is worthwhile. It is a chance to learn about other churches in NH and to discern that many of us face the same issues. The three of us chose sessions that had to do with what we

are or have been involved in at the church. For instance, some of the workshops were about staffing issues (evaluations, retention and the NH labor laws) and another was about "Policies that Protect". All of this info can be applied to our workings. Diana attended these and she is part of our HR committee.

Norma will be chair of the Council next year and is involved in finances so she attended workshops that had to do with Robert's Rules and running a meeting and how to manage endowments in hard times. She felt that the info she gleaned will be helpful in the future. She also attended a workshop on worship for children and how important that is to keep in mind as we plan our activities.

Judy attended workshops on how to balance the life of the church employees, especially the clergy, with the life of the church and what each should expect. There were many "helpful hints". There was also a session in which the attendees dreamed about what they would do for the church with \$3 million. Many of the churches had the same needs as we do.

There are vendors to peruse at lunch time or whenever. There were book sales, vestment sales, seminary information, social justice issue info, etc.

We all found the conference very helpful and would encourage all to attend in the future.

*Judy Edwards
Norma Willard
Diana Allen*

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. She may be reached at 603-742-9403 or you can email her at [johndarcie@comcast.net](mailto: johndarcie@comcast.net).

The HUB Baby Shower

will be held on **Sunday, May 16th** during Coffee Hour, **Healthy Universal Beginnings** is an organization that helps parents give their children a strong and health start to their lives.  The HUB most often works with young single mothers, and relies on donations and grants to fund their operations. Starting on **April 25th**, there will be a box outside of the church office where you can drop off new and unwrapped items for the HUB. On May 16th we will celebrate all of the donations that are brought to the church during Coffee Hour. The most commonly needed items are: diapers (any size), baby wipes, clothes (newborn-3 years), bottles, feminine hygiene products, bath items, books, toys, and gift cards so parents can buy items needed for their children that can't be purchased with food stamps. If you have any questions, you can contact Chris Reishus at (603) 742- 6589 or [hreishus @comcast.net](mailto: hreishus @comcast.net)

First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church

On April 10th, Beth Martindale and Margie Edmunds travelled to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the Stephen Ministry Leader's Training Course. It is an intense week of training that will equip us with the tools and resources to expand and strengthen our Stephen Ministry Program here at First Parish Church. Both Beth and I were a part of the first Stephen Minister Class taught by Nancy Talbot, Carol Davenport and Mary Norris about 3 years ago. We have also both been working as Small Group Peer Supervision Facilitators.

After building our Stephen Ministry Program and supporting our ministry with ongoing dedication and hard work, Mary and Carol are ready to turn over the reigns. Beth and I look forward to creating renewed energy and interest in Stephen Ministry for our church community. We hope to help you as a congregation to know what Stephen Ministry is, understand how it works, and hear God's call to serve as Stephen Ministers, receive Stephen Ministry when it is offered and to recommend Stephen Ministry to others who need care.

By the time you read this Beth and I will have returned from St. Louis. Look for monthly news and updates on Stephen Ministry at First Parish Church in the Chimes. We want you to really get to know what Stephen Ministry is about and the wonderful ways Christ is working among us through Stephen Ministry.

In Christ's Love, Margie Edmunds

For more information, contact one of the Stephen Leaders:

Norma Marshall, 207-439-0611

Mary Norris, 742-6587

Carol Davenport, 742-9817

Joe Stieglitz, 659-8345

Beth Martindale, 742-2419

Margie Edmunds, 742-7631





Children & Adult Education

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>

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

As our youth groups end another year of fun, fellowship and growth in faith through study and service, the Christian Education Board wants to thank the dedicated lay leaders who share of themselves in this service. The leaders are: **5th & 6th grades:** *Jon Gray, Laurie Ashe & Kile Townsend.* **7th & 8th grades:** *Rachel Swanson & Kathy Daniels;* **Confirmation:** *Beth Martindale & Paul Ernsting;* **High School:** *Kara Gray & Nate Swanson.* We appreciate the hard work put in by these volunteers to make another memorable year for our First Parish youth We are blessed by your gifts of service to our church.

The Christian Education Board

Confirmation News

** Confirmation mentor classes in May are **May 2nd & May 16th** from 11:30-1pm.

** Confirmation Mentor Dinner ~ Wednesday **May 19th at 7pm** ~ confirmation parents are hosting dinner for the Confirmation Mentors and Confirmands as an expression of love and gratitude for their commitment of faith to their sons and daughters. Our Mentors and Confirmands shared, learned and listened to each other about each ones faith journey throughout this Confirmation year of study. Many thanks to *Roddy Bryce, Tim Dargan, Allison-Friend Gray, Bill Kennedy, Aimee Marchesi, Gayle Richards, Joe Stieglitz, Sharon & Dan Tehada, Mike Towle and Mike Vining.*

Youth Group

Concludes on *May 2nd* ~ Parents, youth and friends, please join us for our last youth group meeting of the 2009-10 year. Fun, food and a meaningful worship experience are on the menu. Don't miss it! 4:00-6:30pm. Many, many thanks to our AWESOME youth leaders; **Laurie Ashe, Kile Townsend, Kathy Daniels, Rachel & Nate Swanson, Jon Gray, Paul Ernsting, Kara Gray, Beth Martindale and Rev. Norm. Kudos to a job well done and it was LOTS OF FUN!!

** Youth Leader Evaluation Meeting will be *Sunday May 16th* at 4pm to assess, evaluate and discern the 2009-2010 Youth program year.

Confirmation Sunday is May 23rd ~ Please join us as First Parish Church, United Church of Christ confirms *Taylor Bent, Josh Evans, George Harmon, Andrew Henck, Cassie Henry, Wesley Hutton, Natasha Nary, Deanna Rochefort, James Rochefort, Eric Leslie and Heather Raimer.*

Children, Youth & Family

The HUB Baby Shower

May 16th after worship! Check out the M & A page for more info



No Sunday School/EClub

May 23rd - No E-club

Sunday School is still on

(Confirmation Sunday)

May 30th

(Memorial Day Weekend)



It's not too soon to be thinking about summer and camp at Horton Center.

The Outdoor Ministries Program of the NH Conference, United Church of Christ offers trips and unit camping for all ages, even programs for parents and kids together. Check out the website at www.hortoncenter.org.

This will be my fifth year leading the Jr. High Canoe trip. I can tell you, there is nothing like it. *Donna*

2nd – Charlotte Leggett & Samantha Glidden

9th – Nate & Thomas Stewart

16th – Ethan Foley & Ashley Gould

23rd – Zach & Patrick Helm

30th – Bethany & Cassie Henry



For the safety of our children, the Church Street entrance to Nazareth Hall will be LOCKED at 9:10 am. Please use the Central Avenue entrance after that time. THANK YOU!



An Ark for Today's World

to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. Since 1944, Heifer has helped 10.5 million families in more than 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through the gift of livestock and training in environmentally sound agriculture. We will have a HUGE bake sale which all parents of Sunday School kids are asked to bake for. Each classroom has their own 'specialty' for sale.

May 9th
Mother's Day
 is our annual
Heifer Fair!
 Heifer
 International
 is a global
 nonprofit
 working with
 communities

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Thanks to Jesse Caldwell (See Exodus 20:1-21)

02-07-2001

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'VE ONLY FOUND A COUPLE THAT WORK FOR ME

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, so please sign up on the bulletin board how many will be join us and what you would be able to bring that day. Dessert and beverages will be supplied by the deacons. Thank you.



Thank You....

The **Card Ministry** would like to give a BIG thank you to *Jane Kennedy* for buying the boxes to hold cards and organizing the conference room. It's also a big help to the Historical Committee as they are putting up the church "time line" in there. As we talk about what brothers and sisters are doing, we appreciate her fine touch, thank you.

First Parish Members,

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter Lily you sent in Don's name. Oh, how he cherished first Parish church! It is surely a loving group of people!

Sincerely, *Marianne Boardman*

Dear First Parish,

Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement. The rose colored glads, carnations and the white daisies make a lovely arrangement.

Love, *Jean Wilbur*

From Dover Friendly Kitchen,

Many thanks to all at First Parish for your sustaining support of the Dover Friendly Kitchen. In your giving of funds and service you truly are enablers for this service. On behalf of those receiving meals and a welcome and those on the advisory board a hearty thank you again.

Sally Puth, Treasurer for DFK

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts ~ A Stephen Ministry course offered by *Revs. Bendroth & McArdle*

Every Christian is given one or more gifts by the Spirit to build up the church as they share theirs in ministry. Would you like to know how God has gifted you? *Revs. Bendroth and McArdle* will be offering a 4-week course on Monday evenings (7-9 pm) from **May 3 to 24** on "Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts." This is the same course *Nancy Talbott* taught last year, so if you missed it now's your chance! Cost is \$15. Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the office.

Check out this Stephen Ministry website:

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

May Sermon Schedule

May 2, 2010

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Communion

Acts 16: 9-15; Psalm 97

Rev. 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17: 20-26

"The Importance of Vision"

Rev. Bendroth preaching

May 9, 2010

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Mother's Day

Baptisms

Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 148

Revelation 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35

"Converting the Converted"

Rev. Bendroth preaching

May 16, 2010

Seventh Sunday of Easter

(Ascension Day)

Stephen Ministry Commissioning

Acts 16: 16-34

Psalm 97

"Disturbers of the Peace"

Rev. McArdle preaching

May 23, 2010

Pentecost/Confirmation

Luke 19: 1-10

Psalm 104: 24-34-, 35b

Romans 8: 14-17

John 14: 8-17 (25-27)

May 30, 2010

Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8; Romans 5: 1-5

John 16: 12-15

"Our Relational God"

Rev. Bendroth preaching

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 to sign up or call Barbara Rowe at 742-7936 if you have any questions about what would be needed. While there is a good crew in place now it is good to have many hands available so the work is made light and more people get to participate in the love that is involved.

Usher Captains meeting

Immediately following worship on Sunday, May 2nd, please meet Paul Smith (head usher) and Rev. Bendroth in the sanctuary for a "training" session. All usher captains are encouraged to attend this important "mission" training.

E-Mail Prayer Chain

Please contact Kathy Daniels at 742-3481 or shesababe@hotmail.com to be added to our email prayer chain.



Yes, Spring is coming and our annual **"Spring Clean-Up Day"** is just around the corner. Mark your calendar for **SATURDAY, MAY 15th** starting around 9:00

AM and plan to join us for some good, clean (& sometimes "bubbly") fun! **ALL HANDS ARE WELCOME!** We have lots to do and there's something for everyone: general cleaning, window washing, sweeping, kitchen clean-up...even

"doorknob polishing!" Spend the whole morning, or help out for an hour or two. Please come and lend a hand to keep our beloved church home bright and beautiful! - P.S. Refreshments will be served! Questions? Contact: Bowe

Hansen Phone: (603) 397-5808 Email: bowe.hansen@unh.edu

Baptism's

The next Baptism class will be held on Monday, May 3rd at 5:30pm, with baptisms to take place on Mother's Day, May 9th (either service) Please call the church office to sign-up (742-5664).



Graduates

We would like to honor our high school, college and post-graduate students in worship on June 6th Please let the church office know who has earned a degree in your family by May 28th (firstparish@comcast.net)

Seacoast AIDS Walk

is **Sunday, May 16th**. The walk raises awareness and money to support educational programs and client services at AIDS Response Seacoast. You can be part of this year's team by walking or pledging. For more information on AIDS Response Seacoast please see www.aidsresponse.org. Rev. Bendroth will be walking this year. His pledge form is on the bulletin board if you would like to sponsor him.

Letter Carrier Food Drive on Saturday, May 8th ~ Can you help? We need volunteers to meet at the Dover Post Office at 9am (lunch will be provided) to help the letter carriers and Dover Food pantry workers as they unload all the donations that so generously come in.

News from the Wider Church

Press the comma on the homepage of www.ucc.org. and check out the new ad!

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Music Opportunities....

First Parish Music Committee Raffle

To benefit the refurbishing of our set of Handbells

- First Prize:** Handmade Afghan
Second Prize: Original Watercolor
Third Prize: Framed Photograph of Row Boats at Star Island
Fourth Prize: Handmade baby blanket

Tickets are \$1.00 each and will be available after the Worship Services or at the Hector Olivera concert.

Drawing will be held during Intermission of the *Hector Olivera concert* on May 23rd, (You do not have to be present to win)

Handbell Choir for Youth rehearses on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30-6:15pm. Grades 5 thru 8 are invited to join. Please call *Carol Seely* at 312-0771 or email her at k9vet@rcn.com



Choir Chimes meet on Monday afternoon from 4:30 – 5:15pm. First grade thru 4th grades are invited. Returning and new members are welcome.

Youth Choirs ~ Children in grades Kindergarten thru 4 sing during E~club.

Newcomers Classes

Thinking of Membership?

Stop by and check it out. Tuesday, April 27th at 7pm, Tuesday, May 4th at 7pm, and Sundays May 9th & 16th after morning worship in the parlor. New members will be received on Sunday, June 6th. Sign up on the bulletin board opposite the church office. Childcare is available, just let us know. For more info, please call the church office at 742-5664.

Worship Attendance

Easter	6am: 120	9am: 257
Sunday:	11am: 221	5:30pm: 30
Sunday:	4/11/10 AM: 209	PM: 43
Sunday:	4/18/10 AM: 221	PM: 36
Sunday:	4/25/10 AM: 202	PM: 28

Births in First Parish

Timothy & Andrea Mulder
on the birth of their son,
Kyler Johannes, born 3/21/10;
And Sgt. Ben & Jenna Williams
on the birth of their son
Jackson Mitchell on 4/12/10



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www.GoodISHappening.org

First Parish Church
218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm
(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".

In Sympathy

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

Laura Carey ~ friend of FPC

Marion MacGregor ~ Beth Wagner's mom

Lucille McCrone ~ friend of FPC

Joe Parks ~ Kathie Forbes dad

Loisann Schloth ~ Mike Towle's aunt

Altar Flowers

April 4 Memorial Easter flowers

April 11 in loving memory of *David David*
from *Marion, Larry & Cynthia*

April 18 in loving memory of *Charles Clement*
by his family. Additional flowers in loving
memory of *George & Elizabeth D'Arcy*

April 25 in loving memory of *Mike Hudson*
by his wife, *Nancy*.

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.

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**Hector
Olivera**

***Must Be Seen
and Heard to
be Believed!!***

Sunday, May 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

In addition to playing our organ, *Hector* will bring to First Parish an instrument he recently designed for the Roland Keyboard Company of Japan that duplicates the full range and breadth of a symphony orchestra. Concert selections will range from the classics to Gershwin to current Broadway hits. *Hector* is known for his fiery and passionate playing, coupled with his unique wit and humor.

Tickets for Hector's First Parish concert are available following Sunday services and in the church office during the week. Tickets are \$15 per person with a special deal for First Parish families: with the purchase of two adult tickets, children from the same family will be admitted free. To get a preview of the incomparable HECTOR OLIVERA, please visit: www.HectorOlivera.com.