

Worship Services: *The*
Sundays at *Chimes*
10AM & 5:30PM



April
2011



Dear Covenanted Members of First Parish Church,
Congregational, United Church of Christ,

We write this letter on the eve of our departure as your interim ministers. By the time you receive this missive, the service of farewell will have come and gone. The nameplates changed. Our offices, emptied. The transitional work that we had begun together in earnest over one & half years ago, will have come to a close.

Goodbyes are never easy, for congregations and ministers alike. It is much easier to say, “See you later” or “We’ll remain in touch.” Saying “farewell,” on the other hand marks a decisive end. In some ways we’re prepared but in other ways we’re not.

Roy Oswald, who writes publications for the Alban Institute, an organization that provides consultative resources for churches, notes that throughout our lifetimes we will be confronted with needing to say farewell over and over again. Be it changing jobs, graduating from high school or college, moving across town or state lines, changing or losing a job, the dissolution of a marriage, children leaving home, loved ones serving overseas, the death of a spouse, child or close relative, the loss of a beloved friend or co-worker and ultimately our own demise, involves this difficult but most essential of practices, which is to say, “fare thee well.”

The image above is a photograph taken from a church’s stained glass window. It recalls Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode through the streets of Jerusalem surrounded by a jubilant crowd. People spread their cloaks while others cut branches from trees and spread them on the road. Palms were waved and there were cries of “Hosanna.” Everywhere there was joyous acclamation. It is a beautiful image but one filled with irony. For within mere days of this exultant event, his death imminent, Jesus gathered with his disciples to say, farewell.

In the Gospel of John, chapters thirteen through seventeen, Jesus’ words of farewell are recorded. Right to his arrest, desertion and ultimate death, the Son of Man through deeds and words, taught his followers then and models for us now, what it means to be truly human. To be truly human is not some idealized notion. Instead it is that paradoxical state that dares to walk in the midst of the full range of human experience: which is to take every opportunity to point to the way to God’s realm of costly love, audacious justice, liberating truth and long-awaited mercy.

Jesus, knowing how difficult this task of living fully into the human experience is, which includes all of our farewells, says to us, “I am the true vine, and my Father the vine grower. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. If you keep my commandments you abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.” (*Selected verses from John 15*)

So we say to you, fare thee well. Farewell is another way of saying, “May it go well for you on your journey.” May the power, peace and mercy of God-in-Christ be with you, now and always.

Rev. Dr. Norman Bendroth
Interim Senior Minister

Rev. Jessica McArdle
Interim Associate Minister

The In-Between Times.....

One of the jobs of an interim pastor is to prepare the way for an incoming settled pastor. We want to make the transition as smooth and seamless as possible. Serving as a pastor is a remarkable and awesome blessing and privilege, but sometimes pastors can be the most misunderstood people in the church. Often their hours are long, the pay low, and the criticism considerable. Despite the joys of serving God, feelings of disappointment and discouragement can plague the best of them. However, here are some ways God can use you to become a blessing in your pastor's life, which also will enhance your ability to receive from their ministry.

Rev. Norm

- 1. Roll up your Sleeves and Become a Part of the Team** ~ Attend church faithfully and give generously. Show that you're eager to be a part of the ministry that God brings through their leadership. Look for opportunities to use your gifts and talents for the work of Christ.
- 2. Respond to Their Ministry.** Nothing excites a spiritual leader like seeing people respond to their preaching, teaching and leadership. Show them that you're listening, and even say "Amen" once in a while. Eph. 4:29 teaches that we should speak that which "builds up." You minister grace to your pastor when you share how they have helped you. Praise doesn't cost – it pays great dividends – in the home, in the church, in the school, and on the job.
- 3. Pray, Pray, Pray for Your Pastor** (see Eph. 6:18-20; II Thess. 3:1-2) - Pray for your pastor every day, and ask God to shower your pastor with an abundance of love, hope, joy, faith, peace, power, wisdom, and courage. Pray for your spiritual leader's maturity and growth in the faith.
- 4. Squelch Gossip and Bad Mouthing** (see Eph. 4:29; Prov. 6:16-19) - Do not speak against or listen to gossip or slander about your pastor. If you hear negative comments, respond with a positive one. If misinformation is being spread, correct it with the accurate information. Or, if people are gossiping, challenge it.
- 5. Toss out the Cookie Cutter** (see John 1:5 and James 5:17)- Don't expect your pastor to do everything the same way the last pastor did. Trust God to use your spiritual leader to bring about relevant and effective ministry to the present need... and don't stereotype him or her either with other ministers you've known. Let your pastor be him or herself. Your pastor is an imperfect human being, and is unique with their own distinct personality, gifts and talents.
- 6. Knock off Behind-the-back Criticism** - Ministers, as well as virtually all public authority figures, are often the subject of incessant criticism. If there is a legitimate matter that concerns the leader, it should be addressed to your pastor personally... but criticism behind one's back certainly doesn't help them, and when distributed about can cause a lot of harm to a leader's reputation and credibility.
- 7. Support Your Pastor Financially** - so they can keep their mind on the work of the ministry (see I Tim. 5:17, 18 and Phil. 4:10-19). It costs your pastor just as much to live as it does you. The ministry is not just a means to make a living. If a pastor cannot properly care for his or her family, they will be distracted from the ministry.
- 8. Commit to Stand with your Pastor through Tough Times** - Be a REAL friend... not just a fair-weather fan. A genuine friend is someone who remains steadfast with you regardless of what may come. Your pastor stands with you in the adverse circumstances of life, does not forsake you when others may abandon you, helps guard you when you are off guard, helps hold you accountable to your values, forgives and encourages you if or when you fail.
- 9. Treat Your Pastor with Proper Respect.** Treat him the same way you would a doctor, a lawyer, or a teacher. A Pastor's role is more important than all of these professional roles because they are God's called leader for the church. Therefore esteem them highly in love for their work's sake (1 Thess. 5:12-13).
- 10. Give Your Pastor the Benefit of the Doubt** ~ Support your pastor even when he or she can't publicly explain why certain decisions or actions have been made. Oftentimes, to protect the privacy of others, pastors and leaders frequently cannot disclose everything publicly...and professional ethics sometimes demand silence over issues that are very sensitive. If a tough decision takes place, support your pastor and avoid the criticism that usually comes along with such situations.

11. Respect your Pastor's Time - remember, they have a family and a personal life just like you do. They need time to refuel their emotional, physical and spiritual batteries and to keep their personal relationships strong. Encourage your pastor to guard and develop his or her own personal time – then as a layperson, respect and honor your pastor's private and personal life.

12. Stay focused on the big picture – the big picture is the mission of the church and introducing others to the love of God made known to us in Jesus. Don't get weighed down by church politics, rumors or whatever else goes on, but keep your focus on Jesus and on what the church and the ministry are really all about!

Deacon's Bench



At the end of the month, we will say farewell, and “God be with you” to Rev Norm and Rev Jessica. Although their leaving was not expected at this time, we owe a great debt of gratitude to our interim pastors.

We want to express our deep thanks to Norm and Jessica for all they have brought to our church in the past 18 months. There is a long list of accomplishments achieved during their time with us as individual ministers and as a pastoral team. Our ministry and Christian Education programs are stronger. We have been stimulated on a weekly basis by a series of thought-provoking and faith-building sermons. Small group ministries have been expanded, along with new fellowship opportunities.

We have benefited from Rev Norm and Rev Jessica's leadership in developing our core values, work with the transition team, stewardship, Stephen Ministries, visioning events, book studies, confirmation, Sunday School, pastoral calling and supporting the work of boards and committees, and many more!

The deacons express our sincere appreciation to Norm and Jessica, and wish them well on the next steps in their journeys in the service of God.

For the deacons,
Bill Leslie, Chair



From Bach to Broadway... Bay State Winds of US Air Force Band of Liberty In Concert at FPC Saturday, April 9 at 7 p.m. Admission is free

Please join the Air Force Band of Liberty's Bay State Winds clarinet quartet for a memorable evening of music on Saturday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in our sanctuary. Stationed at Hanscom Air Force Base, these four musicians bring audiences of all ages to their feet with a program that features classical, contemporary, patriotic, jazz and folk music as well as original pieces for the clarinet quartet. This concert is free and open to the public.

Save the Date:

May 21, 2011 ~ Saturday 9 am – 12 noon,
“378 Years of First Parish Places and Faces”

The FPC Historical Committee is planning a bus tour of some of the sites our Church holds near and dear: from our first location on Spur Road, to the Historical Meeting House on Dover Point Road, to our current location and the many markers in Pine Hill Cemetery. Narration and handouts will help bring our past to life for those who want to remember and those who want to discover and learn. A sign up sheet will be posted at church in mid April. We invite our new members especially as this is a great way to learn the history of our beloved Church. Space will be limited so make sure you watch for updates in the weekly bulletins. The tour is estimated to take about 2 hours and will be followed by a light luncheon in Fellowship Hall. This will be a fun event and we look forward to seeing you there.

Historical Committee News!

First Parish Church Historical Committee:

Committee Chair: *Dottie Donovan*; Committee

Members: *Ann Reid, Paul Smith, Finn McElroy*;

Archivist: *Jeannie Goodwin*; Historian: *Diane Fiske*



Facts About Stephen Ministry at FPC

The Name

The name **Stephen** comes from St Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

Important to Note

- *Stephen Ministers* are not counselors. They are trained Christian caregivers. Their role is to listen and care—not counsel or advise. Please do not refer to them as counselors.
- *Stephen Ministry* is a supervised ministry. Stephen Ministers engage in twice-monthly supervision to ensure that they are providing the best-quality Christian care.
- *Stephen Ministry* is a confidential ministry. What a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister remains confidential. Even in supervision, the names of care receivers and specific details are never discussed.
- *Stephen Ministers* do not make cold calls. They are assigned only to people who agree to receive the care of a Stephen Minister.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis--large or small--and could benefit from the caring presence of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: *Beth Martindale, 742-2419 or Carol Davenport, 742-9817.*

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Warden's Schedule Spring Clean-up Day



Yes, Spring **REALLY** is coming and our annual "**Spring Clean-Up Day**" is just around the corner. Mark your calendar for **SATURDAY, MAY 7th** 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



Walk and Talk

Would you like to join with others for a "Walk and Talk" group on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.? With good weather ahead (yes it is coming!), it would be fun to have a walking group to chat and stroll through the month of May and June. The walks could continue through the summer if the group decides to do so. Athletic shoes and an hour to walk would be the only requirement to join in the evening. It would be at "the group's pace" depending on the needs of the group. If you are interested, sign up at the bulletin board across from the office, talk to Jane Kennedy at 749-1042 or email her at JaneWKennedy55@comcast.net.

The Christian Education Board invites you to a Palm Sunday (April 17th) Pot Luck Luncheon & Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Sign up on the bulletin board opposite the office door and join us directly after worship in Fellowship Hall for an 'All FPC Family' event. Bring a main dish or salad to pass (dessert will be provided) and enjoy a meal with your FPC Family. After lunch, all children up to 4th grade will participate in an Easter Egg Hunt. If you can help us be "nut-free" or label any dish that is not, it would be appreciated. Thank you!



Children, Youth & Family



Worship Schedule

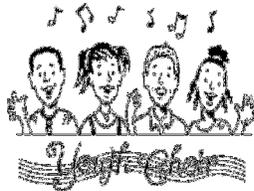
April 3rd – “Another Side of Jesus”
 April 10th – “The Lord’s Supper”
 April 17th – **Palm Sunday:**
No Sunday School/EClub
 April 24th – **Easter Sunday:**
No Sunday School/EClub

Acolytes

Apr. 3rd – Goulds
 Apr. 10th - Noah Thorpe
 Apr. 17th – Nate Stewart
 Apr. 24th – **Easter Sunday**
 Jace & Hannah Quitugua



APRIL



Youth Choir will perform in the sanctuary on both Palm & Easter Sunday



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

See Schedule on back of Chimes

EClub Buzzzzzzz

This month we have a guest talking to us about raising **Honey Bees!!!** Do you have a gift or hobby that you would like to share with the children of FPC? It’s only 15-20 minutes downstairs during enrichment.

Please contact me at hondagirl1967@msn.com to get on the schedule. We would LOVE to have you!



Sunrise Service

At Hilton Park
 Sunday, April 24th
 @ 5:30 AM. This inspirational service is led by the 2011 Confirmation class. Join us as we worship along with the rising sun. **Confirmands need to arrive by 5:15 AM.**

It is always beautiful and always COLD. Dress warm! Breakfast will be served at FPC immediately following the service.

Youth Ministry



SUPER BOWL FUNDRAISER RAISED \$502 FOR YOUTH MINISTRY!!!

Thank you for supporting our first sub fundraiser! The youth had a blast, the subs were delicious and we netted \$502!!!!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING DATES IN MARCH

Youth Group meets Sunday April 3rd and April 10th 3:30-5:30p.m. Join us for games, small group discussion and worship.

FIRST PARISH YOUTH RAISED \$1520 for The Dover Children’s Home Bowl A Thon! The “uniforms” were creative and the youth enjoyed bowling. Thank you all for your support of our community service endeavors.

CONFIRMATION DATES IN MARCH

April is a busy month for our Confirmands!...
 April 3rd 3:30- 5:30p.m.
 April 10th 3:30-5:30
 April 16th 8:00a.m. UCC Heritage Walking Tour in Boston
 April 17th Palm Sunday Brunch and Mentor class
 April 21st Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Meal and Service
 April 24th Sunrise Easter Service at Hilton Park

NHCUECC YOUTH EVENT AT FPC APRIL 30TH for 5th through 8th Graders!

In My Room youth event for Youth in grades 5-8 is being planned for April 30, 2011, here at First Parish Church, hosted by Jon Gray and our own FPC youth leaders! This event will explore all the "stuff" in our lives and how that can get in the way of our relationship with God and will include fun events designed to stretch our minds and bodies. More information and a registration form can be found at www.nheucc.org.

Chocolate for Lent

Based upon the award winning movie *Chocolat*, we will be looking at scripture and clips from the film to generate discussion about our Lenten journey. It runs on Monday evenings until April 11th, from 6:30-8pm. This series is being held at Bill & Jane Kennedy's house. All are welcome for any or all the meetings. Sign up in the atrium. For more information contact Sue or Sheldon Chase (sue@kdsoftware.net, sheldon@kdsoftware.net, 868-1937)



Memorial Easter Plants

Spring plants to decorate our Sanctuary for Easter may be ordered by pre-paying when you sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the office. The price is \$8/plant. Please indicate how you would like the dedication to read. *Deadline is Friday – April 8th*

Summer Church Camp 2011

The Outdoor Ministries Board of the New Hampshire Conference has launched its new website at www.hortoncenter.org. Summer schedules are up along with lots of information. Camps start for children entering Kindergarten (with an adult in our "Big Foot Little Foot" program), or 3rd grade for a time at Horton Center. Adults might be interested in our family camp, or helping out at one of our Spring or Fall work weekends. Opportunities abound for adult volunteers in the summer, from being a cabin leader, to working in the kitchen, to helping with maintenance, or being a chaplain! New camps this year include a week-long High School backpacking adventure, a return of Footloose (entering grades 5-7) at Geneva Point, and a new Mini-Elementary camp, just a half week for those who want to try Horton Center but might not be ready for a full week. Take a look at our website and start planning your summer adventures today.

The office will be CLOSED the Monday after Easter, April 25th.

Meet Our "Bridge" Senior Minister

The Rev. Dr. John W. Lynes joins our partnership in ministry in April as our Bridge Senior Minister. "Jack" will maintain regular office hours, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:00-1:00, and Tuesday, 9:00-10:00, 12:00-1:00 (staff Meetings on Tuesday 10:30-Noon). You are invited to stop in for a visit. If you prefer an appointment, or would like a home visit, please call Jack at the Church Office (603-742-5664) or on his cell phone (207-337-4294). He would like to get to know as many of you as possible!

FPC Holiday Fair!



What's more fun than Christmas events with your friends? The Christmas season may seem a long way away but it's not too soon for FPC to start planning for the Christmas fair. Our fair is not only a fund raiser it is a way to share our building and our community spirit with others.

The fair brings hundreds of people to our church. We are looking for a Co-chair to work with Sharon, a publicity coordinator, a co-chair for raffle table, Tiffany room help, and many other positions. The more volunteers we can get, the more fun it is and the less work for

each person. Sign up NOW with:

Sharon Tehada 207-384-0186

sha2hada@myfairpoint.net

Margie Buckingham 603-343-2631

kraftyone@comcast.net,

or Norma Willard 603-742-4878

normawillard@comcast.net.

Whatever energy, time, and/or talent you have will be greatly appreciated.



Coffee Hour News

Seeking two people to partner as *Coffee Hour Coordinators*; this is a wonderful opportunity, particularly for newer members, to get to know our faith community by creating a rotation of members to pour coffee at coffee hour, and offer food donations for the table beginning in the month of April. Please call Terry Dargan at 498-5427 for details.

In Sympathy



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

Ken Kincaid ~ dear community member
Nancy Rhine ~ Longtime member

Baptisms

On Sunday morning, March 13th,
we celebrated the baptisms of

Sophia Darlene Sutton,
daughter of *Christopher & Mandy Sutton*
and *Jameson Roy Hardy,*
son of *Christopher & Crystal Hardy*

Thank you

I would like to thank *Rev. McArdle & Rev. Bendroth* for being here on Ash Wednesday. It was a lovely service and the bulletin was nicely written. It tells us what we should be praying for. Thank you for being here and showing us how to love one another in God's name.

Paul Smith

In-Reach

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 Donna Sgrignuoli at 742-3946.

E-Mail

Prayer Chain

Please contact the office at 742-5664 or firstparish@comcast.net to be added to our email prayer chain.

E-Chimes

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

The United Church of Christ daily devotional. Go to <http://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> to sign up. Daily inspirational thoughts, messages, and insights!

Worship Attendance

Sunday: 2/27/11	AM: 62	PM: 28
Sunday: 3/6/11	AM: 232	PM: 18
Sunday: 3/13/11	AM: 208	PM: 20
Sunday: 3/20/11	AM: 202	PM: 13

Altar Flowers

March 6 in loving memory of *Olive Piper*, by her niece, *Barbara Rencurrel*.

March 13 in loving memory of *Doris "Mimi" Clay Kopanski* by her husband *Ted "Buppa"*, daughter, *Kris Palazzo* and *Ashley & Sean Theol*.

March 20 in loving memory of *Rev. George Phelps* and grandfather *Otto Kassor* by *Rebecca Henry* and family.

March 27 in thanksgiving for the ministries of *Rev. Norm & Jessica!* God Bless You!

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

www.firstparishchurchdover.org

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First Parish Church
218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

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(603) 742-5664

Fax: 603-750-0411

Rev. Dr. Jack Lynes

Bridge Senior Minister
jwlynes@gmail.com

Rick Gremlitz

Church Administrator
rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesdays by 9:00AM

Chimes Deadline:

The 15th of every month ~

Please email bulletin and chimes information to Lisa at firstparish@comcast.net

See our newest ad on:
<http://www.youtube.com/ucvdeos>



Return Service Requested

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

Non-Profit
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Palm Sunday, April 17th

*Worship: 10:00am followed by
Potluck Luncheon & Easter Egg Hunt
Worship: 5:30pm*

Maundy Thursday, April 21st

*6:00 ~ Silent Meal
7:00 ~ Tenebrae in the sanctuary*

Good Friday, Friday, April 22nd

*Noon – 1pm
Ecumenical Good Friday Service
at St. Thomas Episcopal*

Easter, April 24th

*5:30am Sunrise Service at Hilton Park
6:45am Breakfast at First Parish
10:00am Easter Worship
NOTE: No Easter Evening Worship*