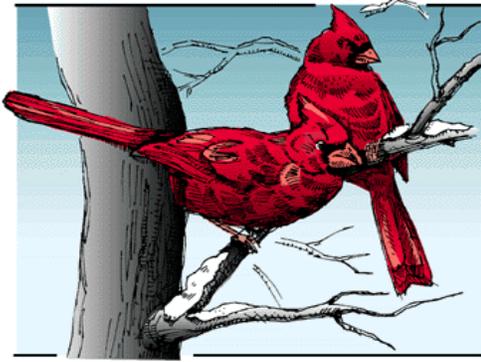


The Chimes



2011

JANUARY

The In Between Time “Let Your Epiphany Light Shine”

From January through the middle of February, we enter that portion of the Church year known as Epiphany. Epiphany is a composite of two Greek words—“*epi*” and “*phanos*”—which means “the appearance of light.” In Christian thought, the appearance of light reached its peak in the birth of Jesus Christ. But that knowledge was a dawning revelation. When Jesus was squirming in the manger, observers suspected there was something unique about this kid, but they had no idea how unique. That discovery was a process that took place over time.

In Western tradition, Epiphany begins with the arrival of the wise men from the East. The significance of their entrance is that at “the appearance of light,” they dropped what they were doing and followed it to the Bethlehem manger. The symbol and the message of that event/story is that the light of God has gone forth into the entire world—not just Israel—and is available to all true seekers after God. Christ did not come for a few, but for the world.

In the East, Epiphany happens at Jesus’ baptism. There, when John the Baptist pours water over Christ’s head, the heavens open, a dove (the symbol for the Holy Spirit) alights upon Jesus, and the voice of God says, “This is my Son the beloved.” Here is another “appearance of light,” a

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

deeper revelation that Jesus is uniquely related to God as “Son.” There is only one “begotten” Child of God; the rest of us are made children of God by adoption into that family.

Epiphanies continually happen if we are open and attuned to them. For me, my initial spiritual epiphany was when I was able to answer Jesus’ question: “Who do you say that I am?” I was able to say with conviction, “You are the Christ, the Son of God.” There have been countless times since then when Jesus has been the Christ for *me*—encouraging, enlightening, empowering, and confirming that he is just as he what he said he was. Epiphanies are those “ah ha” moments when the light bulb goes on and you finally get it. Or you reach an understanding about life, God, or reality that makes you shift all your categories. Sometimes God needs to hit you in the side of the head with a two by four, but you finally get it.

In order for that to happen, you need to show up. For those of you who have “checked out” during this interim time, come back. You need to immerse yourself with this weird body of people we call the Church and sing the hymns, pray the prayers, listen to scripture being read, hear the sermon, and say the prayers. On those days when you just can’t summon the faith to say the Affirmation of Faith, that’s O.K. We’ll say it for you until you can say it for yourself. If there are Sunday’s when you don’t feel particularly “sinful” and can’t enter into the Prayer of Confession, that’s O.K. We’ll say it for you because someone else needs it and someday soon you’ll need it again. If you think everything will return to “normal” when a settled pastor arrives, think again. As the Greek philosopher Heraclites put it, we can never step in the same river twice. Be a part of the amazing work God is doing today!

continued

We've accomplished a lot together this past year and made steady progress. With all growth comes "growing pains," as we make our way through the "in between time." God has been faithful. As we enter 2011, let us commit ourselves to be open to those "ah ha" moments, as the Holy Spirit shapes the future and the mission of First Parish Church.

A blessed new year to you all,



Norman B. Bendroth
Sr. Interim Minister

A Note from Rev. Jessica

Leading up to and into the month of January is traditionally a time of resolution making. Promising to start anew, we begin in earnest with our New Year promises: we're going to clear out that mess of a hallway closet, we'll take better care of ourselves through exercise or we decide to practice patience with families, co-workers, church members and others. As with all resolutions, we start with the very best of intentions.

Naturally, this longing to experience change or to have things go differently, is good. We don't want to repeat the same mistakes: we want to be better organized, take better care of the lives God gave us or master the art of self-control...only there's this problem of stamina. We may start off with the best of intentions but invariably we fall painfully short. Addressing this dilemma the Apostle Paul wrote, "What I don't understand about myself is that I decide one way, but then I act another...instead doing the very thing I despise." (Romans 7:15)

It is no accident that January 6th is Epiphany, marking the revelation of God through Jesus Christ. Epiphany signifies several things – all which are concerned with Christ's work in revealing God. There is the birth of Christ, the disclosure of God's love to the gentiles (The Magi or Three Kings) and the baptism of Jesus. All of these events demonstrated to the world

then and continue to do so - that it was no longer business as usual. Epiphany shows that through God, our lives can be profoundly different.

On Sunday, January 9th, we will recall the Baptism of Christ during our 10am and 5:30pm worship services. As done during last year's service, you will be invited to come forward during worship to renew your baptismal vows. Although a simple observance, by participating we acknowledge that our efforts alone cannot suffice. To undertake abiding by our baptismal vows is to acknowledge that genuinely walking the Christian path, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days a year tests our resolve and our stamina. How tempting it is to throw up our hands and walk away. What's a Christian man or woman to do?

Instead Jesus gently reminds us, that we can't do this alone. We fall down. Somehow we have to get back up again. Each of us needs God's grace, the unmerited favor whereupon our Sovereign says to each of us, "You are my beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22) What does this mean for us? While making New Year's resolutions reveal that we want our lives and circumstances to be different, the practice of renewing one's baptismal vows underscores the primacy of God's grace in each moment, day, week and year of our lives. I'm not suggesting that we throw up our hands and leave everything to the Almighty. Yet perhaps if we are willing to prayerfully share our dreams and concerns with the One Who is in Solidarity With Us, then we would know that we need not struggle alone. Remembering the words of scripture:

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

May the joy and peace of Christ be with you
in the coming year!

Deacon's Bench



Transition Team Update

Happy New Year! This is typically what we wish one another in the passing. Some of us also make resolutions on things we would like to improve upon or accomplish in the New Year ahead. It is also a time for us to learn from the past and move forward to the future. As we know, life is full of change, but growth is optional, so take your journey wisely. The Diaconate wishes each and every one of a truly blessed New Year filled with joy and happiness while you walk your journey with God.

This past year your Diaconate has been very busy in moving towards the future of First Parish Church. We have grown from key events and challenges that have shaped us. We have learned how to have spiritual discussions on topics that have never been discussed in the past. We have set a tone of cooperation amongst each other and have learned how to openly and honestly hear differing points of view and work through the “tough” issues through the discernment and process. We have had an honest discernment on the evening worship service and the diaconate supports having the evening service. All of this has been and will continue to be done with the help of God.

This year we will be bringing in the Rev. Billy and Nancy Brown for the Healthy Churches workshop. This will be open to the entire congregation and will be scheduled for a Saturday in March or April. We will also discuss ways that we can improve upon congregational care, community involvement, and evangelism. Also the Search Committee is in full swing and working towards the goal of calling a Settled Sr. Minister.

Lastly, we thank the following deacons that have served the Diaconate this past year: *Betsy D’Arcy, Carolyn Hutton, Desmond Keefe, J Bent, Lana Black, and Tim Foley*. These deacons will be missed on the Diaconate but their commitment to First Parish Church remains and we will see them on other boards, committees, Sunday School, and other areas of the church.

In Christ, *Bill Leslie*, Chair

The Transition Team is excitedly preparing the way for the work the Search Committee will be undertaking in the upcoming months. Please join us in these steps along the way by participating in the scheduled cottage meetings.

The purpose of the ninety minute meetings will be to provide information for the Search Committee through guided discussion in small groups. There are a variety of locations established in different geographical areas (parishioner homes and at church) and several times from which to choose (Sunday afternoon, Saturday morning, weeknights). Please sign up at the church or by contacting Judy Edwards at 749-2130 or zipper65@comcast.net.

The Pastoral Search Inventory has provided us with valuable insights into our congregation’s vision for the future. We appreciate the efforts many of you made to attend the Transition Team’s presentation of the survey results. For those of you who were unable to attend, you are welcome to view the results on our church website.

We are very grateful for all of the support we have received throughout recent months, and we are encouraged by the progress 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

Sew & Serve Ministry

Come join us for fellowship and community service as we sew pillowcases for local organizations. Any skill level is welcome. The third Wednesday of every month from 7-9pm.

Contact Kris Palazzo (749-4412),

Susan Chase (868-1937) or Judy Edwards (749-2130) if you have any questions or would like to donate materials.

Search Committee News

Dear members and friends,

We are honored to have been asked to be members of your Senior Pastor Search and Call Committee. On behalf of all the members of our FPC committee, I thank you for your confidence and support. We ask for your prayers as the process continues. As you read this in the New Year, our FPC committee will have attended a meeting at the NH Conference Office with our Conference Minister, Rev. Gary Schulte, who will be working closely with the committee throughout the search and call process. The first report to you is to briefly summarize the process in the United Church of Christ and under the By-Laws of First Parish Church Congregational (UCC).

Our FPC committee will seek your perspectives on our church and its ministry through the surveys recently done, through a questionnaire and through the small group “cottage” meetings planned by the transition team for early in the year. Following this listening process we will incorporate your ideas about new pastoral leadership into the “Local Church Profile” which we will develop. We will also develop a “want ad” for posting on the national church's website and a brochure about FPC which the New Hampshire Conference will share with pastors who express an interest in knowing more about our position. When we have completed these three promotional pieces, our vacancy will be listed in the “UCC Employment Opportunities.”

Those authorized to serve as ministers in the United Church of Christ will submit their Ministerial Profiles through the Conference office. The Profile includes information about the candidate's education, experience, a faith statement, eight written references, a background check and a criminal record report. The names and backgrounds of all of these candidates will be held in strictest confidence by the committee; we ask that you respect the essential confidentiality of this process. We will keep you informed about our progress.

We will share our Local Church Profile with candidates and will follow up with candidates in whom we have particular interest. We will read the Profiles with great care, use telephone reference checks and telephone interviews, and listen to CDs of sermons. And we will continue to review new Profiles as they arrive. Meanwhile, working with appropriate church committees, we will develop a compensation package for our new pastor.

The committee, working through consensus, will identify a small number of candidates for personal interviews and we will make arrangements to worship with some candidates, either in the current church or in a neutral setting arranged through the Conference. Once again these events will be conducted and held in strict confidence

We will re-interview a select few candidates and prayerfully, seeking God's guidance, make a decision on a candidate. If the candidate chooses to accept First Parish, compensation arrangements will be clarified and a “candidating Sunday” will be set. On that weekend you will have the opportunity to meet the candidate and family in an informal setting as well as to be led in worship and to hear a sermon from the candidate.

Following worship, a congregational meeting will provide an opportunity to ask questions of the Search and Call Committee and to vote on the Call to our new pastor.

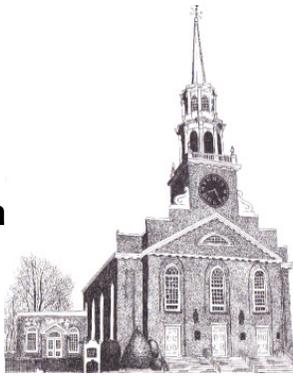
We continue to be grateful for the leadership of the Reverends Norm Bendroth and Jessica McArdle during this interim time. We trust that God will guide our candidates and the committee. We again ask you to pray for us regularly. We have a wonderful church community; we will be blessed with a wonderful settled pastor to guide us in the name of Jesus Christ.

Faithfully yours, *Gordon Quimby*, Chair



First Parish Church Annual Meeting Announced

Notice is hereby given to the 377th Annual Meeting of the Parish and 372st meeting of the Church to be held Sunday, January 30, 2011 following worship in Fellowship Hall for the following purposes:



1. To receive the reports of the ministers, the Director of Music and the several boards and committees.
 2. To hear the reading of the necrology.
 3. To act on the report of the Treasurer.
 4. To act on the proposed budget.
 5. To act on the report of the Nominating Committee.
- Conducting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By order of the Church Clerk, Rebecca Henry

Committee Chairs:

Annual Report information is due in the church office no later than **Friday, January 7, 2011.**

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa in the office. Thanks for your cooperation.



Music Notes

Hymn Sings!

We are re-introducing a monthly hymn sing this winter and will continue throughout the year on the last Sunday of each month at 9:45 a.m.. Come to church a few minutes early and request your favorite hymn!

Senior Choir: Rehearses Sunday evenings at 7pm. All are welcome!

First Parish Ringers: for adults; rehearses Sunday evenings at 5:15pm.

Youth Choir will meet on Sunday mornings from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. beginning on Sunday, January 9 and will continue when Sunday school is in session. The group is open to elementary through middle school students.

Joyous Ringers: youth handbell choir rehearses Monday afternoons at 5:30.

Choir Chimes: our choir chimes group rehearses Monday afternoons at 4:30

Inreach

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 207-752-2214.



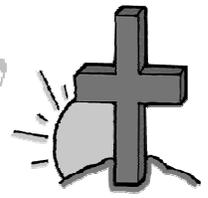
First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church

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, Carol Davenport, Mary Norris and Rev. Jessica and Rev. Norm.*

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!



Children, Youth & Family



Sunday School

Worship Schedule



January



Youth Choir

Jan 2nd – **No Sunday School or E-Club**

Jan 9th – Baptism of Jesus

Jan 16th – Jesus announces his ministry

Jan 23rd – Deep waters

Jan 30th – Observing the Sabbath

New Plans for Youth Choir!

This group is open to elementary through middle school students and will begin a new rehearsal format on Sunday, January 9th. Youth Choir will now meet from 11:00 to 11:30 am on all days that Sunday School is in session. Mrs. Seely will continue to direct the Youth Choir and welcomes all children and youth who would like to sing for Sunday morning worship about every five to six weeks. The Youth Choir will no longer be a part of the E Club program, although singing will still occur during E Club. Mrs. Seely welcomes all children and youth who love to sing and can make a commitment to the weekly rehearsal time and the occasional Sunday morning worship, where they will sing the first anthem in the service. For more information, please contact Carol Seely at k9vet@rcn.com or (603) 964-5423



January 17th

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Acolytes



Jan 2nd – Noah Thorpe & Julia Mathieu

Jan 9th – Nate Stewart & Thomas Stewart

Jan 16th – Jace Quitugua & Hannah Quitugua

Jan 23rd – Zack Helm & Patrick Helm

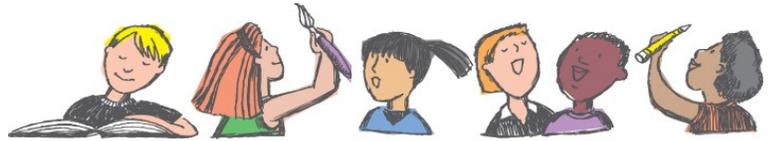
Jan 30th – Samantha Glidden & Cassie DiMambro

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.



Youth Ministry



ICE SKATING FOR ALL AGES ALL FAMILIES OF FPC!

Join us on Sunday January 2nd at Dover Ice Arena at 1:30-3:00p.m. for ice skating! Bring your skates if you have your own!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING DATES IN JANUARY

Youth Group resumes Sunday January 9th and January 23rd 3:30-5:30p.m. Join us for games, small group discussion and worship. Bring a friend!

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM
PIZZA AND A MOVIE JANUARY 30TH
3:30P.M. RSVP to Beth with your movie and pizza choices!

CONFIRMATION DATES IN JANUARY

Confirmation class dates are January 9th, and 23rd 3:30-5:30.

Confirmation and Mentor class
January 16th at 11:30a.m.

Please join us on Sunday January 16th in the 10:00a.m. worship service as we induct our 2011 Confirmands and Mentors on their faith journey.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

FPC youth (ages 14 and up) will be participating in the Martin Luther King Day of Service on Saturday January 15th with the Somersworth UCC Church. Adults and Mentors are invited to participate along side us. Kick off is at 8:00a.m. at the First Parish UCC Somersworth Church. Our service day will include a variety of hands on service projects, ending with a celebration. The cost is \$10 per person. RSVP to Beth and/or a sign up sheet is on the board outside the Youth Ministry Office. JOIN US!

CRAFTING A RHYTHM OF LIFE IN YOUTH MINISTRY

First Parish Church, UCC Youth Ministry has adopted a “Rhythm of Life” covenant, learned from the Princeton Theological Seminary Pathways Seminar in September. Our covenant includes:

- We value being present to one another (because our presence is a gift we give to others), so we put away our cell phones or distractions when we gather together
- We value building one another up (because the world so often cuts us down), so we refuse to even joke or putdown or diss.
- We value remembering who we are (because competing voices in our world attempt to define us), so we mark each year by observing the church calendar, which retells the Christ story and helps us be shaped by His story.
- We value our lives together as God’s children (because God has not created us to worship alone), so we mark each week by gathering for worship, Scripture, prayer, and communion (Acts 2).

Thoughts from UCC.org

The Need for Love Continues

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up..." Matthew 2:13

Christmas and all the surrounding hoopla are over, and it is very tempting to just sit back, digest the season, and rest from giving for a while. There are credit card bills to pay, trees to take down, and houses to clean, and that seems enough for January.

The thing about babies, though, is that they continue to need all sorts of care, and we have just celebrated the birth of a baby! Joseph was called to flee with Mary and the infant Jesus to save him from Herod's dangerous fear. Mary needed to feed him, change him, and rock him to sleep as they traveled. Seasons change, but the need for love continues.

And that's what giving springs from, is it not? Love. Parents, foster parents, grandparents, godparents, churches, and all who care for children continue to give to them in season and out because they love them. God remembers what it is like to be a child! Consider the children of your church and of your town; what kind of love do they call forth from you today? How can we continue our Christmas love of children all through the new year?

Rochelle A. Stackhouse is the Senior Minister of The Church of the Redeemer, United Church of Christ, New Haven Connecticut.

January 2011

God is still speaking,

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

<http://www.youtube.com/uccvideos>

Resolutions

Many of us mark the New Year by making resolutions, which is really a very Christian thing to do. The Christian faith holds out to all people the continuing possibility of redemption. As church-goers, we are offered the opportunity for new life every Sunday. At worship, the ritual goes like this: confession of sin, assurance of forgiveness, promise of obedience. In resolving on New Year's Day to do better in the future, we may not be aware that we are recapitulating a rite of Christian worship. But that may be due to the kinds of resolutions we make. Instead of resolving to be punctual for a change, or to forego second helpings of dessert, why not adopt John Wesley's Rule this New Year's Day?

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can



January Sermon Schedule

January 2, 2011

Second Sunday after Christmas

Communion

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1: 1-18

Rev. McArdle preaching

January 9, 2011 | The Baptism of Christ (First Sunday after Epiphany)

Isaiah 42:1-9 with Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

“Jesus’ Baptism and Ours”

Rev. Bendroth preaching

January 16, 2011 | Second Sunday after Epiphany

Acts 10: 34-43

Mark 7: 24-30

John 4

“All Are Precious in God’s Sight”

Rev. Bendroth preaching

January 23, 2011 | Third Sunday after Epiphany
Beginning of a Five Part Series on FPC’s Core Values

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Acts 2: 42-47

Romans 12: 1-2

Colossians 3: 12-17

“Growth in Community”

Rev. Bendroth preaching

January 30, 2011 | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Colossians 3:16

James 2: 14-17

1 John 3: 11, 4: 7

Matthew 18: 15-17

“With All that You Are: Integrity”

Rev. Bendroth preaching

In Sympathy

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

June Lange ~ Tammy Williams’ Aunt
Manuel Esparza, Jr. ~ Manny’s son
Eleanor Kreuzer ~ Diane Fiske’s mom

E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

Worship Attendance

Sunday: 12/5/10	AM: 264	PM: 23
Sunday: 12/12/10	AM: 170	PM: 23
Sunday: 12/19/10	AM: 197	PM: 29
Christmas Eve	5pm: 190	
	7pm: 345	
	9pm: 105	
Sunday: 12/26/10	AM: 59	PM: no service

E-Chimes

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

*Thank you to all who ushered at the
Christmas Eve Services! Well done!
Head Usher, Paul Smith*

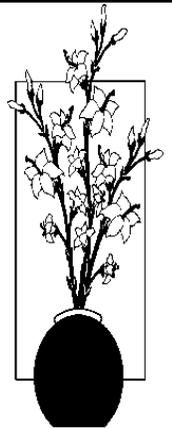
Altar Flowers

December 5 by *Dot Crandall* in loving
memory of her husband, *Paul*

December 12 by *Robert McGloan* in loving
memory of his wife, *Anne*

December 19/26 Memorial Poinsettias

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

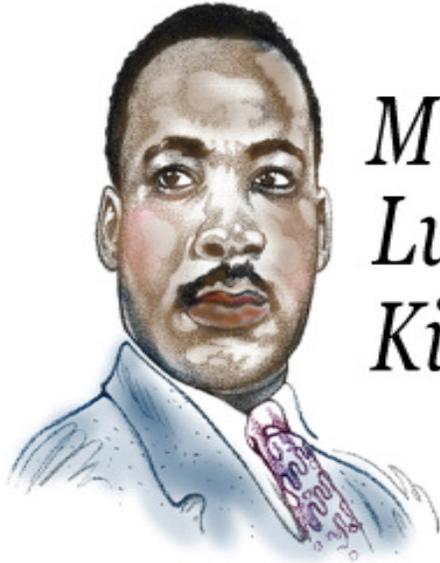


Births in First Parish

Congratulations to
Todd & Renee Allen at the birth of
their son, *Thomas Christopher
Allen* on 9/24/10;
and to *Bob & Jo Daniel, Elina &
Kelli* (sisters) at the birth
of their daughter/sister, *Jessica
Leigh Daniel* on 12/10/10.

Annual Meeting





Martin Luther King Jr.

The Dover Area
Religious Leaders
Association
(DARLA) is
sponsoring the
annual MLK, Jr.
Interfaith Service
on Sunday,
January 16 at
7 p.m.

**Interfaith Service at
Temple Israel
on January 17 at 7 PM**

www.GoodISHappening.org

First Parish Church
218 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Email: firstparish@comcast.net

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

Fax: 603-750-0411

NH UCC: www.nhcucc.org

Rev. Dr. Norman B. Bendroth

Senior Interim Pastor

nbendroth15@comcast.net

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