

The Chimes

2010

July

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

The In Between Time Fighting In Church

Well, the time has finally come to air the dirty laundry of the church. I'm going to lay out the whole mess before you—name names, tell it like it is before the whole congregation in order to deal with this matter head on. So here goes: *"I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord."*

Scared, weren't you? Thought that I was really going to tell all? What I just quoted was about a fight in church, but it took place some 2,000 years ago. In fact, most of the New Testament would never have been written if early church life had been all peaches and cream. Paul wrote most of his letters to address church conflict. In fact, the two women, Eudodia and Syntyche, whom Paul told to get along were part of his church in Philippi (*Phil. 4: 1-9*).

Scripture scholars have long pondered this weird outburst right in the middle of one of Paul's most sublime epistles. After three chapters of high-sounding theological discourse, it is as if Paul can restrain himself no

longer, as if he has finally tired of beating around the bush and finally must get off his chest what is bothering him. The whole book, up to this point, is filled with lofty talk about "joy," "peace," and "love." Maybe this is so because what he really wants to say is: "I urge Euodia and Syntyche to get along with one another!"

I take heart from this brief line in Paul's letter because it reminds me that conflict is normal in a church. It's been around for 2,000 plus years. Jesus well could have said, "Whenever two or three gather in my name, there's always a disagreement." Conflict, disagreements, differing opinions are as common in churches as they are in any other human institution. Christians need to disabuse themselves of the notion Christians don't fight. Too often there is a tendency to sweep differences under the rug, pretend they don't exist, and act as if everything is all sweetness and light. Churches are so invested in being "nice" that they will tolerate all kinds of disruptive behavior to keep peace at any price.

While conflict may be normal, what should be different in our churches is *how* we manage our conflicts. The world is quite right in assuming that it ought to be able to look at the church, at folk like Euodia and Syntyche, and see people who look and act differently. It is yet another reason not to believe; to confirm people in their prejudice that Christians are not any better than they are.

On one hand, we shouldn't be surprised when we see conflict erupt in the church. One of the fundamentals of our faith is this: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." I don't care whether you call it your shadow side, your alter ego, your lower nature or sin. The scriptures are quite clear and human history confirms it, that we are all bent in on ourselves and have the capacity to do some pretty ruinous things. We may be justified, forgiven, and loved, but the cloven hooves of our personality can still come forth and show our dark side at any moment.

continued

On the other hand, we are called to be new creations in Christ, living in covenant with one another to live at the highest standards of conduct. “But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator,” (Col. 3:8-10).

So, how do we do this? I’ve recommended some procedures to the deacons and the Council and I commend them to you as well.

1. If a fellow parishioner comes to you with a concern or complaint about a pastor, staff member, board chair or anyone else, advise them to take their concern directly to the person they have an issue with (this is in accord with Matthew 16 where Jesus says, “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one,” (Matt. 18:15)).

2. If they are not willing to do so, send them to the appropriate board or committee chair, e.g., to the chair of the deacons for pastors, chair of wardens for support staff, etc.

3. If someone shares a concern with you that they want you to communicate to the pastors, staff, etc. tell them that you will do so if they will put it in writing and sign it.

4. If they are unwilling to do this, then do not agree to share the information, but tell the party that you will be sharing the fact that you had the conversation. This will help to establish direct, honest lines of communication where people take responsibility for their comments, and congregational health is maintained.

5. The same applies to rumors. Ask the individual who shares a rumor to a.) not spread the rumor for it may not be true and will become divisive, and b.) tell the person to check out the truth or falsehood of the rumor with the party involved.

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6. Use email only to share information. This is a wonderful medium to schedule meetings and share minutes, but not to air grievances or discuss controversial subjects that could be misinterpreted or hurt people unintentionally. It’s always better to pick up the phone or have a face to face conversation.

Remember, “rules” alone won’t change a church. These guidelines must be used in a spirit of love to build up the body. Follow your best instincts in the spirit of the “Golden Rule.”

Who says that a rift between two church members, "co-workers in Christ," as Paul calls them, is petty and inconsequential? Perhaps nothing could be of more consequence than the way we relate to one another in the church, the witness we make to the world that people who are very different still manage to "be of the same mind in the Lord."

Blessings,



Norman



Words of Appreciation

As the 2009-2010 church program year has drawn to a close, Norm and I want to express our gratitude to those in positions of leadership and the wider church who have sought to be supportive during this period of transition. Your good works and acts of compassion, generosity and openness have been a source of refreshment and a blessing for your church. We wish all an enjoyable summer: full of balmy evenings, great barbecues and restful nights. May the spirit of the living Christ continue to dwell in you richly.

Rev. Norm & Jessica

Deacon's Bench



This has been a painful time in the life of our church. Three weeks ago, after a particularly difficult Council meeting, our two interim ministers felt they had no choice but to resign. They felt that because of longstanding unresolved issues in our church their ministry could no longer be effective.

After much deliberation and prayer, our interim ministers are staying, but with the understanding that our church deal with these matters head-on. The deacons have been in consultation weekly with an official representative from the New Hampshire Conference of the UCC and with independent church mediation specialists about undertaking a program of conflict resolution and healing. The deacons are working as swiftly as possible. To ensure that we make the best choice possible for First Parish Church, we are also researching other professional organizations that could assist us through the process of conflict management and equip us with the skills we need to act with the highest standards of Christian relationships and create a healthy church. At this point, no funds have been spent or committed. When a selection has been made, the Diaconate will present it for approval.

First Parish Church has always succeeded at the tasks it undertakes. Our church facility is an area where we have excelled. Now is the time to invest in our spiritual well being, which is the soul of our church. Our legacy will be passed along to generations to come. Your Board of Deacons is taking the leadership and responsibility to resolve our current issues with great care so that our

spiritual life at First Parish will flourish. We are committed to keeping you informed of our process. As members and friends of First Parish Church, we will all move together, with the help of God, towards our goal of reconciliation and wholeness. Please continue to keep our pastors, the diaconate, and our church in your prayers.

The Beauty of Flowers!

Many thanks to the dedicated gardeners who donated their flowers and time to the 50 Year and New Members Dinner:

*Margie Edmunds
Donna Sgrignuoli
Sally Chenard
Nancy Ekola
Christie Hallowell*

All of the flowers were lovely.

The Diaconate



*Rev. McArdle will be away
on vacation from
July 19th until August 3rd*

Interested in praying before church this summer? During this time of transition our church needs to be bathed in prayer. Any who are interested may join the pastors in the parlor at 9:15 am for a time of meditation and prayer. We'll begin with a poem or a passage of scripture to center our thoughts and then offer petitions or sit in silence, whatever is most comfortable. Come see what might happen!

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



Summer Greetings from the Transition Team

Many of you have asked for Heather's "cookie analogy", and we're pleased to share it as part of our monthly update:

I am not a patient person, and I do understand the desire to "get the show on the road" to find a settled pastor. I have two children, who are also impatient. When they want to bake cookies, they do not want to have to wait!

When baking chocolate chip cookies, there is a process that you must follow, in order for the cookies to come out the way that they should. First you must cream the butter with the sugar, then add the egg and vanilla. After that you pour in the flour and baking soda. After mixing those ingredients together, it is time to pour in the chocolate chips. When the cookies are placed on a baking sheet, it is time to place them in the oven at 350 for 8 to 10 minutes. It is hard to wait, however you will gain nothing by turning the oven up to 500, for 3 minutes. Instead, you will discover that the cookies are burned on the bottom, but still raw on the top, and you will need to bake another batch of cookies to replace the burnt ones.

The Transition Process is much like that of baking cookies. The Interim Ministry Network & the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ has counseled us on the interim process, and provided a recipe that we are utilizing in order to come out with the desired results.

As a team we have been meeting regularly, and have designed events to take us through the transition process. In February, we hosted "Back to the Future" where we invited the congregation to map out the history of First Parish Church and talk about past triumphs and hurts while bringing healing and closure to those chapters. Peggy Bendroth, the Executive Director of the American Congregational Association, also preached on the on the

importance of understanding our history and conducted workshops on "Understanding the Congregational Way" and "Understanding the UCC" as part of fulfilling the developmental transition tasks, which are:

- Learning From our Past and Preparing for the Future
- Developing Leadership
- Discovering Our Identity and Mission
- Renewing Linkages to our Heritage and Denomination
- Preparing for New Pastoral Leadership

In March, we held a "Core Values" event, where we articulated what it is we all hold near and dear that keeps us a vital congregation. This document is available in the Narthex.

In May, we hosted our "Mission Possible" event where groups of parishioners crafted mission statements. Members of the Transition Team have synthesized these into a draft "Welcoming Statement" and "Mission Statement" and will be sharing these for discussion and feedback in the upcoming weeks.

During the summer, we will be having "Cottage Meetings" as another way for all to participate in the interim process. Stay tuned for more info!

As the Diaconate establishes the Pastoral Search Committee, we look forward to working in partnership to develop the First Parish Church profile – another of the steps in our path to calling our next Settled Pastor. Please know that we are all eagerly anticipating this moment, but like a good cookie, we need to make sure we're not taking shortcuts. If we short-circuit the process we may miss important information and conversations.

As our work progresses, we are deeply grateful for our guides, Revs. Norm and Jessica. They are working closely with us, and are our trusted advisors.

May God continue to be with us on this journey as we travel our road of faith with one another.

4 Faithfully, *Your Transition Team*

For more information,
contact one of the
Stephen Leaders:

Mary Norris, 742-6587
Carol Davenport, 742-9817
Beth Martindale, 742-2419
Margie Edmunds, 742-7631



First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church

During the lazy days of summer Revs. Norm and Jessica are often here during the evening or Sunday afternoon between services and would love to share a meal with anyone who would like to get better acquainted or has a pastoral concern. If you'd like to get together, please call the church office.

What is Distinctively Christian Care Giving?

STEPHEN MINISTRY is rooted in compassion, faith, trust and skill with Christ at the center. But what does it mean to give *distinctively* Christian Care? Perhaps the best example is to visualize that Jesus is sitting by your side listening to you, simply listening with all his heart, mind and soul...fully present. When was the last time someone was fully present for you? No interruptions, no one interrupting your conversation, no one anticipating what they think you might say next? Do you remember what that felt like? When a relationship is created in Christ's name, with Christ at the center and a care giver is completely and fully present listening to you, this is one characteristic of distinctly Christian care giving. Care giving that is offered through FPC's Stephen Ministry. There is a time in everyone's life that we need to simply be listened to in confidence and love. Stephen Ministers do that with skill, trust, compassion and faith. Let us know if you or a loved one would like to be cared for in a distinctively Christian way, we are here to help. Check out the Stephen Ministry video on PBS go to www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/tag/stephen-ministry



Elizabeth Burns
Samantha Case
Samuel Christenbury

Nick Ghatak
Samantha Phelps
Thomas Sinclair

Samantha Goodwin

Scott Leslie
Katy Marshall
Jacob Rheume

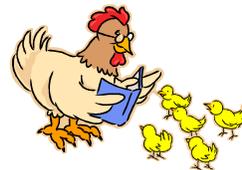
Graduate of UNH, Masters of Education, Secondary French
UNH, BA in Communications and Justice Studies.
BS in Leisure & Sport Management; minor in BA, Elon
(grandson of *Priscilla Clement*; nephew of *Suzanne Clement*)
BU, BA in Business Management
Keene State, BA in Communications
Univ. of Richmond, B.S. in Bus. Admin.



Rufus King High School, Milwaukee, WI
(Granddaughter of *Jeannie & Dale Goodwin*)
Oyster River High School
Marshwood High School
Dover High School



Christian Education



In the June issue of the Chimes there was an article entitled "Will Youth Ministry Continue at First Parish, UCC in 2010-2011?". As a member of the Christian Education Board I would like to take a moment to respond to that article. As most of you are aware, this has been a difficult year for our church from a financial perspective. Pledges and plate offerings are down and all budgets have been cut. The CE Board has been working diligently to assess what the needs of the Youth Ministry are for the remainder of 2010 so that we can address them. The Youth Ministry is an integral part of FPC, and we have no intention of discontinuing programs. The CE Board has just created several subcommittees to focus on different areas of Christian Education (Sunday School, Youth Group, Adult Education, Confirmation, Crib Room and Safer Spaces). It is our hope that these subcommittees will allow the CE Board to be in closer contact with these groups and help us to better understand and respond to their needs. As the article in last month's Chimes indicated, it is always important for parents, children and youth leaders to work together to share ideas on how we can improve our programs. As members of FPC we should all be thinking of new ideas of how we can continue to operate in a way that benefits children and adults alike while being fiscally responsible. Please brainstorm ideas, talk to your children about what their favorite events and activities are and what they hope to get out of their experience at FPC. Please share that information with the youth leaders and staff. Opening the lines of communication is essential to the success of our church! If you have any questions at all please feel free to talk to any member of the Christian Education Board, we would be happy to hear from you.

Jenn Hanscom,
Secretary, CE Board

C. E. Sub-committees:

Adult Ed: Kristie Downer, Irene Boyle

Safer Spaces: Susan Read, Vickie Donahue

Crib Room: Barbara Downer

Sunday School: Jen Spargo, Heather Smith, Sara Stewart

Youth Group: Heather Dimambro, Jenn Hanscom

Confirmation: Emma Bent, Michelle Cole

Dover Food Pantry



Donations needed:

Personal Care Products such as shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, feminine hygiene products; Soap Products: hand soap, laundry & dish detergents, Paper Products: toilet paper, towels, napkins, tissues and diapers. Paper grocery bags are also needed. Items may be left at the food pantry drop off box outside the office. Thanks for your generous support.

Community Service News

The FPC Community Service Desk has had the opportunity to serve many folks in need throughout the Dover community. Due to the economic climate, we are seeing two to three times the number of people we saw even a year ago. As a result, the budgeted amount of money has been depleted and the desk is closed.

Any donations to the Community Service Program would help us to reopen. Donations should be made to First Parish Church and designated on the check or envelope for the Community Service Program. If we each gave a little, together we can make a big difference in the lives of those in need.



Children & Adult Education

Blending in to Survive

Many kids seem to decide that blending in is the best way to survive their “tweener” years. After all, that’s safer. Middle School is tough, and young teenagers can be ruthless, so standing out from the crowd can feel dangerous. But I want my kids to stick out, go against the flow, and

_____ (insert your favorite “be different” analogy). I take seriously the various analogies God uses to describe his children (salt, light, a city on a hill, aliens and so on). But what does that look like? How can Middle Schoolers stick out from the crowd, and how can I possibly convince them it’s a risk worth taking? I can:

- Remind kids they’re each a handcrafted masterpiece. God knit each of us together in our mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13); none of us came from a cookie cutter. When kids embrace the truth that they’re each a one of a kind, handcrafted original, they can begin to understand that trying to be just like everybody else doesn’t make sense.
- Point out kids’ unique gifts, traits and skills. If you want to see their eyes light up, just point out something positive you see in them that they may not see in themselves. Every middle schooler has special talents to offer but might not have identified them yet. Help kids discover what makes them unique.
- Give kids opportunities to “practice”. Church should be a safe place for young people to experiment with their talents. By providing lots of chances for middle schoolers to try and fail and try again, you’re sending the message “That’s Okay. Keep at it. God knew what he was doing when he made you!”.

(Group Jan Feb 2010)

The “**Stranger Danger**” class scheduled for June 26th was cancelled due to lack of response. If you would be interested in attending this class in the future please contact Jenn Hanscom at jennrh29@yahoo.com or 948-2770. If there is enough interest we will organize a class for a future date.

Important

****NO ECLUB UNTIL SEPT. 12TH****

August 25th – SS Registration & Ice Cream Social – 6:00 PM

**September 12th - Rally Sunday
1st Day of SS/Annual Picnic**

FPC Church Family Retreat!



At Horton Center

August 27-29th

Please send in your deposit of \$50 by August 1st to hold your spot! Relax and enjoy the company of your FPC friends and make new friends! For more info please contact Donna Evans at hondagirl1967@msn.com

Jesus Lurking in Our Lives

Talking with teens about their lives is one of the best ways to prepare the soil for later spiritual conversations. Paul wrote “We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us” (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Remember that you don’t always have to mention Jesus to point to him. *(Group Mar Apr 2010)*

Historical Committee

1. *TimeLine on Display:*

The Historical Committee has just finished a project that is for all our members to enjoy. Please stop by the Conference Room off Fellowship Hall to check out the newly painted walls and the detailed posters describing the development of our Church starting in 1623!. These posters were created for the 375th Anniversary Party(/Celebration)/ in 2008 and were stored away. We thought they were so informative that we should keep them on display. Note that the posters currently reside on three walls of the room. The 4th wall will be reserved for our future. Let's imagine what those posters will contain. It's (/It is/) in our hands to write tomorrow's History.

2. *Save the Date: Saturday Morning 9-noon, **September 25, 2010** "377 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 materials 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 toward the end of the summer. We invite our new members especially as this is a fun way to learn the history of our beloved Church.

Worship Attendance

Sunday: 5/30/10	AM: 111	PM: 17
Sunday: 6/6/10	AM: 139	PM: 34
Sunday: 6/13/10	AM: 177	PM: 20
Sunday: 6/20/10	AM: 128	PM: 23

Altar Flowers

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

June 6 in loving memory of *Paul Crandall* by his wife, *Dorothy*.

June 13 in celebration of all the graduate of First Parish Church. May God's grace continue to go with them.

June 20 in loving memory of *John McDaniel* from *Andrea, John D. & Margaret*.

June 27 in loving memory of *Nathan Dow Daniel* from the *Daniel* family.



- Marie Gray** ~ *Judy Gray's mom-in-law*
- Bernice Chisholm** ~ *Roland Hofeman's sister*
- David Mayhew** ~ *Miriam's husband*
- Laurie Ashe's Step-Mother**
- Mary Helen Wilson** ~ *long-time member*



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.

July Sermon Schedule

July 4, 2010

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:1-18

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

"Who Me?"

Kevin Stewart preaching

July 11, 2010

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 7:7-17

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

Rev. Bendroth preaching

July 18, 2010

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Amos 8:1-12

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15-28

Luke 10:38-42

Rev. McArdle preaching

July 25, 2010

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

Hosea 1:2-10

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-19

Luke 11:1-13

Rev. Bendroth preaching



If you play an instrument or like to sing, we would love to chat with you about helping out with the Sunday evening worship service! We have a place for you....young or old! We're looking for keyboard/piano players, drummers, guitar players, violins, flutes, trumpets....whatever! Please contact Lisa in the church office at 742-5664 or firstparish@comcast.net. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship God in a setting that is welcoming and prayerful. Please join us!

Births at First Parish



Congratulations to *John & Dana Leggett* on the birth of their son, *Peter Dwight*, born June 16, 2010;

*"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15:7*

Congratulations to Gayle Richards and Susan Michalsky who were married in May after 27 years of partnership. Gayle is a Stephen Minister and regular attendee of our Sunday night service.



Ann Reid will be displaying her photography at the Dover Public Library from July 2nd to 26th! Great work, Ann!



E-Chimes

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

Wednesday Evenings

7:00 pm

Men's Group meets each week in the Parlor ~ even during the summer!

E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

Contact Us

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

www.GoodISHappening.org

First Parish Church
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(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

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

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.

**The office will be CLOSED
Monday July 5th!**

