

The Chimes



Worship Services:

Sundays at 10AM & 5:30PM

2010

The In Between Time “Nothing New Under the Sun”

Last month First Parish member John Marshall told me about a picture he had seen. It was taken in 1932 in Kittery, ME, of a gathering of the women’s auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan. They were in the streets regaled in white robes and hoods protesting the plans to build....St. Raphael’s Roman Catholic Church. It seems as the Preacher says in the Book of Ecclesiastes that “there’s nothing new under the sun.”

The 21st century version of what’s described above is, of course, the brouhaha about the construction of an Islamic Community Center in lower Manhattan (also known as Cordoba House or Park 51), two blocks from Ground Zero.

While religious bigotry has left its scars on American history, it is not part of our founding documents. The Constitution of the United States is manifestly clear that any religious group has the right to build a house of worship any where it wishes, subject to the zoning laws of the local community.

Objections have been raised to the effect that “Muslims ought to be sensitive to the losses suffered on 9/11 and not place a Mosque in such close proximity to Ground Zero.” In fact, the center would be built two blocks away. Anyone who has visited New York City or any major metropolis knows that two blocks in lived urban

space is further away, in effect, than Dover is from Madbury. Ground Zero is not even visible from 51 Park. The Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, who had a vision for the center, is a moderate Muslim who was often used as an envoy to Islamic republics by the Bush administration.

At the heart of this controversy is not the proximity of the center to Ground Zero, but who would occupy it: Muslims. Across the country, the building (and even existence) of mosques is being protested, others mosques are being vandalized, alarming attacks on individual Muslims are occurring, and last weekend an obscure pastor in Florida, Terry Jones, got his face on the front page of USA Today for threatening to burn the Quran in the name of their extreme brand of Christianity.

Jones was acting in violation of the teachings of the very Christ he claimed to be following. Jesus called his followers to be peacemakers, and to love not only their neighbors, but also their enemies. Instead Jones and his church decided to become agents of conflict and division. What we need to remember is that it was not 1 billion Muslims who attacked the World Trade Center on 9/11, but a radical fringe of terrorists who distorted the message of Islam. It would be equivalent to branding all Christians as violent because a small group bombed an abortion clinic.

The 9/11 attacks were crimes against humanity, not against a religious faith. Muslims died in the World Trade Center and came to the aid of its victims. The misrepresentation that the 9/11 attacks were religiously motivated leads to allegations that Islam is intrinsically more violent than Christianity or Judaism. That is not the experience of the people of Iraq or Afghanistan. Moreover, the Crusades are still a vital memory for many in the Middle East and the Iberian Peninsula. Our Bible has as many violent passages in it as the Quran. (Cf. Deut. 20.16: “...you must not let anything that breathes remain alive.”)

We live in fearful times with an overabundance of coarseness in our culture. Humility and civility are at a premium. When we are afraid we divide

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the world into “us” and “them,” we blame the “other” for our woes, and it creeps into our churches, synagogues and mosques. John said, “Perfect love casts out fear.” I also believe the opposite is true: fear casts out love.

I think the presence of Nancy and Billy Brown at First Parish this month is timely. They will teach us skills to help us live with anxiety and difference, to respect and communicate with the “other,” to create a community of belonging for all followers of Christ, and to live out of a Covenant of respect, love, and trust. I hope as many of you as possible will join us.

As people of faith and principle we cannot remain silent in the midst of the fear-filled suspicion and vilification of the Islamic community that is sweeping the nation.

Whether in the Jewish, Muslim, Christian or other traditions, we share a sacred calling: to welcome strangers rather than fear them; to seek to recognize the presence of the divine in all whom we meet, and to be instruments of love and reconciliation for all with whom we interact.

Faithfully in Christ,
Norman B. Bendroth
Sr. Interim Minister



A Word from Rev. Jessica

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:36-38

“I always had mixed feelings when the harvest was ready,” a woman raised on a farm once told me. Her remark surprised me but then I hadn’t been raised on a farm in Iowa either. Yet for my friend, the eldest daughter of eight children, the harvest meant hard work. The ripening corn on the tall stalks, the tomatoes which had turned a deep red from the summer sun and the slender green beans whose vines were pinned back on the lattices wouldn’t wait...couldn’t wait. It must have been a beautiful if not reassuring sight to see all that

earthly abundance but for my friend and her family: there was farm machinery to operate and keep running, work crews to organize and fresh produce to be rushed to market...all within that relatively short window of time known as harvest.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers few...” Jesus said. We think of this image and the rich imagery of fall colors, waving stalks of corn and the vibrant array of vegetables and pumpkins come to mind. Yet what Jesus speaks of concerns God’s harvest. In the realm that Jesus speaks of, God’s people cannot wait. In God’s realm, the kingdom and realm that Jesus spoke of then and directs our attention to now, cannot wait. God’s harvest is ready and beckons us.

For my friend, Judy, the harvest meant that the cycles of the seasons, the planning and waiting, had yielded abundance while reminding all of the necessity to reap its fruits. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we too have a harvest of abundance which manifests the diligent and faithful work of so many in our church and wider community. The creativity, innovation, leadership, kindness, hospitality, generosity, self-restraint, patience, fortitude, courage, hopefulness, faith and love that we have witnessed testifies to the capacity for health and wholeness as we continue during this harvest time of transition. God’s harvest awaits us. Let us go forth into this season with renewed confidence and hope. Abundant peace and blessings be with you, beloved. Rev. Jessica



First Parish is a Stephen Ministry Church

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
Rev. Jessica McArdle, 742-5664



Deacon's Bench

World Communion Sunday – At First Parish Church, as in most Christian churches, there is a long tradition of gathering together around food. After worship each Sunday, we adjourn to Fellowship Hall to share in conversation, catching up with one another and enjoy a cup of tea, juice or coffee, and a cookie or two. We meet for special events with pot-luck suppers, and other celebrations with cake and cookies. The sharing of food is part of our celebration of friendship and togetherness. The most important reason, though, for this constant meeting around food is that this is what Jesus did. He persuaded a lot of people who wouldn't normally appear at the same table to do so. Rich, poor, sinners and saints. There were no distinctions among them in Jesus' eyes. The moment in church when we live this vision of community best is when we share communion – the Lord's Supper – Holy Communion – the Eucharist – there are many names for this celebration.

On the first Sunday in October, many Christian denominations and churches celebrate World Communion Sunday, a day for all Christians, of whatever background, and of whatever theological tradition, to recollect that we are in fact one in Christ, and that the table we receive from and communion at is God's table, not our own. Think of the image of men, women and children of every language, color, and nationality gathering in fields, straw huts, brick schools, wooden shacks and stone cathedrals and praising God and entering into both a physical and spiritual communion with one another as the planet turns under the gaze of the sun and the stars that God has placed over us all.

As you share in communion this World Communion Sunday, think about the church of your youth, think about all our sister churches in Dover, in New Orleans, and in every part of the United States, and think about our Christian brothers and sisters as far away as Zimbabwe, Iraq, Israel and Palestine.

All are invited to the Lord's Table. We believe that Jesus would have no one kept away.

Search Committee – The Diaconate will meet in early November to form the Search Committee for the Senior Settled Pastor. This truly is an exciting time in the life of First Parish Church. If you have a calling to serve on this important committee, please talk with a deacon so that you will be considered. The final selection will be composed of a broad mix of members to ensure that the congregation is fully represented. One of the key inputs that will be provided to this committee is the survey that is ongoing as mentioned by the Transition Team. Please take some time to complete this important survey so that your voice will be heard.

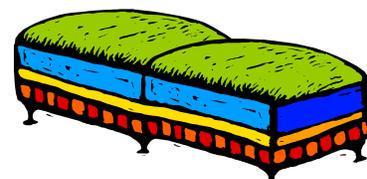
What to do right when things go wrong:

Conflict Transformation within a healthy congregation...

Your Board of Deacons has engaged the services of Rev Billy and Nancy Brown to provide training to our congregation for moving forward in a healthy manner during a period of conflict and transition. The training will take place in 2 or 3 phases. All board and committee members along with the church staff have been invited and encouraged to participate in Phase I during the month of October.

Please watch for an upcoming announcement concerning Phase II, which will involve our entire congregation. This will be an exciting opportunity for our church as we move forward. You'll want to save the date and plan to attend. More details will be shared at a later time.

Please continue to keep our beloved church in your prayers throughout this important work.



Stewardship Committee

It is wonderful to see the re-emergence of so many activities at FPC, following a fantastic summer that seemed to go by all too quickly. Taking a theme from several years ago, indeed “Good is Happening”.

Several weeks ago we sent out a special funding appeal letter in order to provide increased support to our CE program, and to fund the conflict resolution team recommended by the Diaconate. To date, we’ve received contributions of over \$10,500 towards the \$12,000 goal. Thank you for to all who responded so generously.

As we enter the fall season, the Stewardship Committee is busy planning and preparing materials for an early October launch of our 2011 pledge campaign. Our intent is to provide materials that are clear, informative, and inspirational. Look for them in the mail in a couple of weeks.

Finally, Stewardship is much more than “all about the money”. Every day dozens of members and friends of FPC are engaged in the wide variety of programs and activities offered here. Sure, we need money to keep the place going, but equally or more important is the contribution of your time and talent. Thank you all for your generous response to this need too. It makes our faith community “come alive”!

Bill Bouman For your Stewardship team,
Steve Hall, Carol Salava, Carol Seely, Joyce Tugel, Rev’s. Norm & Jessica and yours truly

Nominating Committee

“Fuel your Passions!” The Nominating committee invites everyone—members and non members-- to attend the Ministry Fair October 17 during Coffee Hour. Whether you have served, thinking about serving or are interested in starting a ministry or committee, we invite you to come learn and share your experience. Learn how committees are formed. Ask those burning questions you have wanted to know!! Come find for yourself what you Passion is!

Transition Team Happenings

What a cheerful sight greets us these days as we enter the Atrium and see the colorful display, “Paving The Way To Our Future”. Crafted by Heather DiMambro and Carolyn Ricker, the poster depicts the steps our congregation has taken in preparation for calling a settled minister as well as those steps that lie ahead of us. Along the way we are working together to make our shared vision a reality.

The Transition Team is encouraged by the response to the Pastoral Search Inventory. Postcards are arriving at the church daily indicating those members who have completed the survey to date. If you have not yet filled out a survey online you may access the survey at the First Parish Church website. Paper copies of the survey are available at the office and may be picked up there or mailed to you.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share in shaping the future of First Parish Church as together we work out God’s purpose for our beloved church.

Faithfully,

Your Transition Team



Building a More Peaceful World

On Sunday, October 3rd during afternoon Youth Group, Confirmation and the 5:30pm evening service, a group of Christians who represent the Peace Pilgrimage will have spent six weeks walking throughout the New England area, engaging with congregations and envisioning how we might build a more peaceful world. They speak to people of all ages, hoping to challenge all of us to be renewed by the Spirit at work amongst all of us. Please come and join us during the 5:30pm service. The next morning, they will continue their trek up to 1st Parish in Somersworth, another sister UCC church in the Carroll-Strafford Association who will be hosting them. Come and join us!

Music Notes



****The Senior Choir** is open to all ages from high school through to adults. Choir rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. The choir sings for nearly every Sunday morning worship service, from September through June. The choir sings a range of music from sacred, classical, to contemporary. Choir membership is always open throughout the year. For further information, please contact Rick Gremlitz, Director of Music, at (603) 868-1196 or at rickgremlitz@yahoo.com

****The First Parish Ringers** is an intergenerational group of handbell ringers. This group is open to all Sr. High School students through adults. Rehearsals are Sunday evenings from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome. It is helpful if you are able to read music. For more information, please contact Carol Seely at k9vet@rcn.com.

****The Joyous Ringers** is a youth handbell group open to all youth Grades Four through Eight. This group meets once a week on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and rings in church every six weeks. New members are welcome. For more information, please contact Carol Seely at k9vet@rcn.com.

****The Choir Chimes** is a youth choir that rings choir chimes and is open to all youth Grades One through Three. This group meets once a week on Mondays from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. and rings in church every six weeks. New members are welcome. For more information, please contact Carol Seely at k9vet@rcn.com.

****Sunday Night Worship Ensemble** meets at 4:30 on Sundays to go over the music for that evenings worship. If you would like to join us, please contact Lisa at 742-5664 or firstparish@comcast.net. We encourage any one that likes to sing praises to the Lord to join us. We especially LOVE having "special music" be it vocal or instrumental. Come and join us!



A NOTE FROM YOUR MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music Committee has regrettably received a notice of resignation from our Youth Music Leader, Adam MacDougall. We enjoyed having Adam share his talents with us last year, and wish him well in his new endeavors. We are pleased to announce that Carol Seely has agreed to serve as Interim Youth Music Leader during this year of transition in our church. Our Youth Music Program continues to evolve as we look for ways to best meet the desires of our children and the needs of busy families. Our goal is to integrate music into all aspects of worship for our children and youth. Toward that end, there will be musical offerings during the Sunday School Worship service, as well as during E-club, along with other Christian Educational programs and activities. Children who are interested will be invited to sing songs they have learned during the 10AM Worship Service at various times during the year, and for special services such as Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Please feel free to talk with any member of the Music Committee if you have questions or concerns.

Faithfully, *Margie Buckingham*, Chair

HYMN SINGS!

We are re-introducing a monthly hymn sing this fall 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!



OCTOBER Children, Youth & Family

Save the Dates:

Oct. 10th – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL/EClub

Nov. 3rd – 6:00 pm Dinner for our Teachers, Youth Leaders & Mentors

Dec. 1st – 6:00 pm Advent Dinner for FPC Families

Kids sing in 10:00 am service

October 24th; Come see what they've been learning to sing in E-club with Mrs. Seely



Children's Worship Schedule

Sundays @ 8:45 am

October 3rd – Abraham & Sarah

October 10th – NO Sunday School

October 17th – Birth of Isaac

October 24th – When Siblings Fight

October 31st – When Siblings Make Up



Coming in October . . .



Acolyte Training

Anyone interested in being an acolyte for the 'upstairs' service

Must be First Grade or older (no age cut-off)

Contact Donna Evans at:

hondagirl1967@msn.com

The church year for 2010 through 2011 promises to be another year full of discovery. We are pleased to announce that the 2010/2011 Confirmation class is underway, and that Youth Ministry already has some exciting projects and planned. The Sunday School teachers have taken part in a Teacher Training, the current curriculum has been expanded to focus on the same lesson for preschool through sixth grades. Please stay posted concerning Adult Education and other plans!

Youth Ministry

October 3rd Youth Ministry

begins a new year! 3:30-5:30pm!

Check out the youth calendar on

www.goodishappening.org.

(To receive youth ministry email blasts make sure *Beth Martindale* has your current email address.)

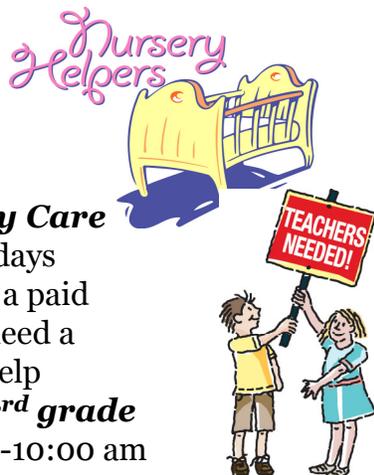
Join us for a new year of thoughtfully planned mission and service opportunities, community building, fantastic meals and faith discussions.

Confirmation begins October 3rd

This year's confirmands will be inducted in the 10:00a.m. worship service. Please support us in thoughtful prayer as we assist them in their faith journey for the coming year.

(continued)

We need a **Nursery Care Provider** for Sundays 9-11:00 am~ this is a paid position. We also need a second teacher to help Mrs. Brand in the **3rd grade classroom** from 9-10:00 am



Youth Ministry~continued

FPC YOUTH ATTEND PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINAR

Three of our youth leaders; *Stefan Dutka, Natasha Nary and Ben Ashe* took part in the Princeton Theological Seminary Pathways Seminar with the Youth Ministry staff on Saturday September 25th. We look forward to hearing from them of their experience.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP TEAM

First Parish Church, UCC will launch a youth leadership team this year with opportunities for post confirmands to use their leadership skills in a variety of faith formative ways! We ask First parish Church, UCC to keep us in your prayers as we begin this very important work in the lives of our young adults.

Adult Education Opportunities

Sunday Morning Adult Study

While the children are in Sunday school, adults meet with Rev. Bendroth in their own classroom for study and discussion. Last year we studied the Book of Acts; this fall we are beginning a series on *Characters of the Bible*. What do Abraham, David, Ruth, and Priscilla have to say to us today as we try to live the Gospel in our generation? We will also be taking a vote as we move forward to see what other topics we might like to explore. Don't just drop your child off for church school or come to church at the last minute, feed your own soul and make some new friends!

Monday Night Book Study

Reading/Discussion with Revs. *Bendroth & McArdle* on Mondays at 7pm in the parlor. They are discussing "An altar in the World: A Geography of Faith" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Join us!

Thank you!

Dear FPCers,

A unexpected bouquet is a real spirit booster. I was delighted to receive the altar flowers last Sunday because they lightened up my whole house. Thank you for that kind outreach.

Marion Nossiff

Thanks to all for your generous support to the **Special Appeal 2010**. Thus far we have raised over \$10,290 and now moving forward with the Youth Ministry and Leadership Training Phase1 and Phase 2. We could not have achieved this without you!

Church Council

Worship Attendance

Sunday: 8/29/10	AM: 92	PM: 21
Sunday: 9/5/10	AM: 118	PM: 24
Sunday: 9/12/10	AM: 193	PM: 28
Sunday: 9/19/10	AM: 191	PM: 26

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

E-Chimes

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

Newcomer Classes

Interested in learning more about FPC? Come join us
Sunday, October 3 at 11:30 am
Tuesday, October 5 at 7 pm
Sunday, October 17 at 11:30 am and
Tuesday, November 12 at 7 pm.
New Members will be received on
Sunday, November 21st.



Help Create a World with Less Breast Cancer and more Birthdays!

The American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 3 mile walk will be held in Dover on October 17th at Henry Law Park.

This inspiring event unites the entire community to help create a world with less breast cancer and more birthdays. Participants will help the American Cancer Society save lives by helping people stay well, helping people get well, by finding cures and by fighting back against the disease. You can gather a team of your fellow parishioners at First Parish, family members, and friends, or walk as an individual. Volunteers are also needed to provide their time and talent to ensure that this year's Making

Strides event is a success. For more information, call 1-800-227-2345, visit cancer.org/strides or email tara.dickey@cancer.org.



Births of FPC families

Mikilea Ruth Perry, born 8-4-10
daughter of *Jennifer Kelewae & Aaron Perry*

Maximus Conner Boutwell, born 8-30-10
son of *Heather (Wagner) & John Boutwell*
grandson of *Beth Wagner*

Kelleigh Ann Parro, born 8-27-10
granddaughter of *Beth Martindale*

Liam Michael Houle, born 9-12-10
son of *Samantha Kelewae & Ryan Houle*

Looking for someone to bring my mom
TO the Sunday evening 5:30pm service from
Barrington. She will have a ride home.

If anyone is able to help, please
contact Elaine Case at 664-9138 or email
amitysinger@metrocast.net. Thank you.

FPC Sew & Serve Ministry



First Parish Church Sew & Serve! 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. This is a National Challenge!

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.

Neighbors in Need

The Annual Neighbors in Need Offering will be taken on *Sunday, October 3rd*. NIN is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministries, justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries.

Life Line Screenings

First Parish is pleased to offer a preventive health event. *Life Line Screening*, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on

Thursday, October 7, 2010. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems. Register for the Stroke, Vascular Disease and Heart Rhythm Package for \$139. The screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Call 1-888-653-6441 for more info.

October Sermon Schedule

October 3, 2010

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

World Communion Sunday

Lamentations 1:1-6, 3:19-26

Psalm 137; 1 Corinthians 10: 14-17

Luke 22: 14-20

"Communion as Community"

Rev. Bendroth, preaching

October 10, 2010

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Nubian Gents will be with us!

October 17, 2010

Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121

1 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

"Discovering Our True Identity"

Rev. Bendroth preaching

October 24, 2010

Twenty-second Sunday After Pentecost

Genesis 27:41-46; Psalm 133

Luke 12:49-56

"So Much for Family"

Revs. Bendroth & McArdle, preaching

October 31, 2010

Reformation Sunday/Intergenerational

Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7

2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10

"St. Zaccheus" ~ A sermon in drama

In Sympathy

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

Ruth Hodgdon ~ longtime member

Asenath Bennett ~ longtime member

Sylvia Ekola ~ Christie Hallowell's
grandmother

2010 First Parish Holiday Fair!

Mark your calendars for Saturday November 20th. It's the most wonderful time of the year! What better way to support First Parish than by spending a day, (or two), with friends and people of the community at our annual Craft Fair. We really need support so if you can donate time, crafts, bakery items, or something else that would be fantastic. We have a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, so come and join us! If you have any questions, please free to call Sharon Tehada at 207-384-0186. Thank You!

Baptisms

Held on Sunday, September 26th

Amy Jane Duff, b. 1-29-10

daughter of *Jason & Leslie Duff*

Caroline Claire Henning, b. 4/14/09

daughter of *Jeffrey & Lynne Henning*

Isabella Sherrill Papa, b. 5/19/05

daughter of *Michael & Angie Papa*

E-Mail Prayer Chain

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

Altar Flowers

September 5 in celebration of the wedding of *Sean & Ashley (Palazzo) Theol*

September 12 in loving memory of *Helen Phipps* from her family.

September 19 in loving memory of *Stanley Sinclair* from his family.

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



The Gents/Fire are coming!

Save the dates ~ Oct. 8 – 10th!

These are our friends from *New Life in NYC* that bring lots of ENERGY and step dancing with them. Interested in housing any of the Gents or Fire? Give Lisa a call in the church office.

- * **Potluck, Saturday Oct. 9 at 5:00pm**
- * **Concert with the Gents/Fire at FPC at 7:00 in the sanctuary.**

They will also be with us in worship on Sunday morning, Oct. 10th. Please plan on being a part of this wonderful ministry to First Parish Church.....you will be blessed!



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

www.GoodISHappening.org

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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

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