

# Holy Week at First Parish

## **PALM SUNDAY** Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>

9:45AM: Palm Procession from the Parish Hall (weather permitting)  
10:00AM: Worship in the Meeting House  
10:15AM: Church School classes

## **MONDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> & TUESDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>**

7-9PM: Labyrinth walk in the Parish Hall

## **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

4-5PM: Kids' Labyrinth walk in the Parish Hall  
7-9PM: Labyrinth walk in the Parish Hall

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

12-3: Labyrinth walk in the Parish Hall  
7:30PM: Worship in the Meeting House

## **GOOD FRIDAY** Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

12-3: Labyrinth walk in the Parish Hall  
7:30PM: Worship in the Meeting House

## **HOLY SATURDAY** Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>

7-9PM: Labyrinth walk in the Parish Hall

## **EASTER SUNDAY** Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>

6:30AM: Sunrise worship in the Meeting House garden  
(a light breakfast will follow)  
10AM: Worship in the Meeting House  
11AM: Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall



# The Clapboardtree Spire

News From First Parish of Westwood, United Church  
340 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, MA 02090

April, 2011

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

On Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> our contributions to the United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing annual appeal will be gratefully accepted.

This year's appeal is titled, "Sharing Brings Joy: To Us, To Others, To God". In the weeks prior to the offering, watch the weekly bulletin for information on how you can make a difference to the lives of others by giving generously.

OGHS offering envelopes will be included with the bulletin on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## PLAIN CLOTHES SUNDAY

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for our annual Spring clean up! Plan on wearing your yard work clothes to worship and remaining after worship for an hour or so to neaten up the grounds after a very long winter. Bring your favorite work gloves and rakes – we'll supply the tarps!

This is a perfect service project opportunity for the whole family – there are lots of ways school age children can help our.

Lunch will be served to all workers around 1PM.

## APRIL MUSIC AT FIRST PARISH BENEFITS OTHERS

April is a great month to hear wonderful music at First Parish *and* help others at the same time! It doesn't get any better than that!

**Saengerfest Men's Chorus**  
Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 7PM

Join us in the Meeting House on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> for a joint concert by the ever-popular Saengerfest Men's Chorus and the Boston City Singers, 30 very talented high school age singers from the inner city who are gearing up for their next international engagement.

Tickets are \$20, and proceeds benefit the Boston City Singers' fundraising efforts for their next international concert engagement.

**The Natick Barbershoppers**  
Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> 3PM

Be sure to be front and center on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for First Parish history – Barbershop music in the Meeting House!

The 20-voice Natick Barbershoppers Chorus is hosting a benefit concert for Project Healing Waters, a charitable organization offering emotional healing for disabled veterans through fly fishing training and trips.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased in advance from Doug Joseph at 781-424-7150

## GRADUATE RECOGNITION AND SCHOLARSHIPS

On Sunday, May 8th First Parish will recognize all our 2011 graduates. If you know someone who is graduating from high school, college or graduate school, let us know so we can mention them!

We will honor our high school graduates by presenting them with a gift from the church. 2011 scholarships will also be distributed.

High school graduates will be receiving more information in the mail soon. The deadline for applications is April 17<sup>th</sup>.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

April 1 Suzanne Peterson  
 April 2 Kathryn Egizi  
 April 3 Douglas Clay, Betsy Daki  
 April 4 Lucia Vaccaro  
 April 7 Joy Sudduth  
 April 10 Eric Burgess, Rebecca McClellan  
 April 12 Ava Peters  
 April 13 Kevin Bean, Joan Stefans  
 April 14 Landon Bayer, Bob Deininger  
 Stefanie Joe, David Liebrock  
 Peter Stefans  
 April 15 CJ Adourian, Mitchell Pfaff  
 Susan Shaw  
 April 16 Emma Archambo, Scott Blomquist  
 April 17 Lisa Locklin, Jeslyn MacClary  
 April 18 Connor Blaney, Drew Donovan  
 Karen Poreda  
 April 19 Nicholas Hawes  
 April 20 Joshua Belinsky, Austin Russell  
 April 21 Joshua Blaney, Andrew Gettings  
 April 22 Bridgette Fiumedora, Ginnie Mather  
 April 22 Jason Sullivan,  
 April 23 Lisa McKeown, Nikki Oliveri  
 Fred Rice  
 April 24 Jim Dakin, Owen Heidelberger  
 April 26 Genny Roger, Gail Bean  
 Linda Perry, Carol Robinson  
 April 29 Kylie Arnold  
 April 30 Delaney Russell

### Anniversaries

April 19 Robert & Jane Forsberg  
 April 25 Bob & Nancy Stoll  
 April 30 Thelma & Nick Bruno

## THE CLAPBOARDTREE SPIRE

The Clapboardtree Spire is published monthly, September - June by and for The First Parish of Westwood, United Church. Material should be submitted to the church office by the third Friday of the prior month. Available monthly at [www.firstparishwestwood.org](http://www.firstparishwestwood.org), and via email or mail.

## LIFETIMES

### Email Address:

- Carol Neyland: [cdnowl@metrocast.net](mailto:cdnowl@metrocast.net)

### Deaths:

- On March 16<sup>th</sup>: *Jean Blum*. A funeral service was held at Folsom Funeral Home on March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- On March 28<sup>th</sup>: *Gainor M. Ventresco*, a former member of First Parish, in Maine, after a brief illness. Her husband Joe passed away one year ago.

### Remembrances:

- On Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a memorial service will be held at First Parish at 11:30AM for *John Danforth*.

## WHO'S WHO AT FIRST PARISH

Pastor:	Rev. Christopher L. Dodge
Phone:	781-326-0135
Email:	<a href="mailto:revchris@firstparishwestwood.org">revchris@firstparishwestwood.org</a>
Moderator:	Bob Deininger
CE Admin.:	Donna Bertazzoni
Phone:	781-326-3141
Email:	<a href="mailto:dbzoni@firstparishwestwood.org">dbzoni@firstparishwestwood.org</a>
Treasurer:	Cathy Ellis
Phone:	781-326-5344
Email:	<a href="mailto:treasurer@firstparishwestwood.org">treasurer@firstparishwestwood.org</a>
Music Director:	Joshua Nannestad
Phone:	978-562-5614
Email:	<a href="mailto:nannestad@gmail.com">nannestad@gmail.com</a>
Parish Nurse:	Margery Eramo
Phone:	781-326-3997
Email:	<a href="mailto:meramo@firstparishwestwood.org">meramo@firstparishwestwood.org</a>
Secretary:	Judy Holbrook
Sexton:	Denis Wholey
Office Hours:	Mon.-Thurs., 9AM-3PM (Closed Fridays)
Phone:	781-326-5344
Email:	<a href="mailto:parish1st@firstparishwestwood.org">parish1st@firstparishwestwood.org</a>
Fax:	781-326-5954
Web Site:	<a href="http://www.firstparishwestwood.org">www.firstparishwestwood.org</a>
Cottage:	781-326-3997

## FROM PASTOR CHRIS



We are fast approaching the midpoint of our Lenten journey. We are walking through the scriptures of this season, paying particular attention to the stumbling blocks and stepping stones to a deeper faith and a more robust discipleship. Our journey will soon bring us to Jerusalem, where we will walk with Jesus through the final days of his earthly life.

These are the holiest days of the church year. These days comprise the core of the Christian faith and the life of discipleship. Bounded by the joyous parade of Palm Sunday and the good news from an empty tomb on Easter are the powerful stories that say so much about who we are, what God calls us to be, and the lengths God goes to in loving us.

Because of the power of all of these stories, it is good for us to have a chance to sit with them as long as possible. Then they can speak more clearly to our present lives. To gather at the table of the Last Supper says something to us about brokenness, wholeness, community, covenant, sustenance and service. To sit in the Garden of Gethsemane says something to us about companionship, anger, prayer, betrayal, doubt and faith. To be with the dying Jesus on the cross says something to us about death, fear, politics, power, sacrifice, forgiveness and abandonment.

Easter is the answer to us for all of these things and for our lives as followers of Jesus. But to hear the answer without again “listening to” and “thinking about” the questions, makes the experience far less rich than it promises to be.

On Sunday we will focus on Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem and his encounters with people on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday we will gather in the evening to recall the Last Supper and the events of that evening, ending with Jesus’ arrest and his time before the religious leaders. This will include the ritual acts of darkening the sanctuary. On Friday we will gather at the cross to remember the last words of Jesus. Our meditations at this service will be enhanced by the voices of our wonderful choir.

I encourage you to take the time to be at the all or as many of the Holy Week services and opportunities as possible. Please note the schedule for Labyrinth walks during Holy Week. It is a great experience for personal devotion and meditation. Mark your calendars. Change your schedule if you can. This is a week worthy of lots of worship! It says everything about who God is for us and who we are as followers of Jesus.

Blessings be upon your Holy Week!

*Pastor Chris*

---

## COMING UP

---

### **Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>:**

- 10AM: Communion Class Celebration Sunday, with the Southern Rail Bluegrass Band;
- 1PM: Mini Walk for Hunger
- 3PM: Southern Rail Bluegrass Band concert

### **Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>:**

- 10AM: Graduate Recognition Sunday, with Mother’s Day Men’s Chorus

### **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>:**

- 10AM: Confirmation Sunday

### **Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>:**

- 8AM-2PM: Spring Yard Sale

### **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

- Church School Celebration Sunday

**FROM  
MODERATOR BOB DEININGER**

**SAVE THE DATE**

A special Coffee Hour in celebration of the upcoming wedding of Pastor Chris and Lynne Daige will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, immediately after worship.

We are working on the details, but please reserve the date – and see Bob & Andrea Deininger if you would like to help with the festivities.

---

**UPDATE ON FIRST PARISH FINANCES**

---

Welcome to Spring! This winter was the “perfect storm” in terms of impact on First Parish’s finances: higher than budgeted snow removal, electricity and fuel costs, combined with lower pledge income and Sunday offerings, have put us in a difficult cash flow position.

Here’s how you can help:

- If you are behind on your pledge, please consider catching up.
- If you have not made a pledge, please consider making one.
- If you receive a tax refund, please consider First Parish’s needs.
- Finally, please be generous with your Easter offering, as it will benefit First Parish’s operating fund.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful generosity.

*Bob Deininger*  
Moderator

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW...**

---

**PROPERTY CONSOLIDATION COMMITTEE**

---

The Property Consolidation Committee met in March and are already making solid progress on information gathering. Our goal is to keep open communication with the congregation about our activities throughout the process.

To date, the following activities have been completed:

- Met with Joanne Donahue, who led Wellesley Congregational Church’s capital campaign and building project, to discuss her insight and perspective.
- Reviewed prior plans, plot plans, assessments, building inspections, expenses by property, and deeds.
- Met with Tom Viti, Westwood Library’s Director, about the library’s planning process.
- Met with Nora Loughnane, Westwood’s Town Planner, to discuss First Parish’s properties and our options.

We have a knowledgeable and passionate committee consisting of dedicated people with relevant experience, and we look forward to keeping you apprised in the coming months.



**Donna Bertazzoni**  
Church School

## LENT INTO EASTER AND BEYOND

So much is happening in classes and around the church school in April and May that I broke it down into small bites.

### Walk through Holy Week

As we continue to observe Lent, April's Big Story will explore the Biblical accounts of Holy Week day by day. On Sunday April 3 all classes will gather at 10:00 AM in the Parish Hall for an experiential look at the events of Holy Week.

### Plain Clothes Sunday

April 10 is the day we clean up the winter debris and beautify the grounds in time for Easter. Let the kids wear their play clothes to church and join us for the fun outdoors after worship.

### JHYF

The Middle School students will be assembling the materials donated for our Lenten mission projects. Watch for emails with details. If you would like to be on the JHYF mailing list and aren't, please contact me or Mission of Discipleship chair Nancy Brind. (Did you see them making sandwiches for Rosie's Place in March? Wow! Those were 17 impressive workers!)

### Children's Labyrinth

On April 20, the Wednesday of Holy Week, a Labyrinth walk designed for children will be held from 4-5 PM, with introduction and crafts, in the Parish Hall. Children are always welcome to accompany their parents walking the Labyrinth.

### Communion Education Class

On Saturday, April 30 the third graders will assist the Ministry of Worship in the preparation of the elements for the sacrament of Communion. On the following morning, Sunday, May 1, we celebrate the accomplishments of their six-week unit by leading worship. The curriculum includes a focus on the lives of the apostles. Join the students at coffee hour as they portray the disciples. See if you can guess who's who!

### Interfaith Mini-Walk for Hunger

Sunday afternoon May 1 is the date for our local walk to support Project Bread's critically important mission to feed the hungry in Massachusetts. Last year we raised over \$4500 together! Check the May Spire for details. *All Ages are Welcome*

### Church School Calendar Changes

Classes will continue through June 12 as originally planned but to accommodate various happenings around the church, the Ministry of Education and Discipleship has shifted the date for Church School Day to Sunday May 22. The children will celebrate the year and lead us in worship. The theme will be Pentecost, a Big Story celebrating the birthday of the church when God brought us all together as one family and gave us a job to do. Rehearsal will be May 15 during the church school hour. An additional teaching day has been added for preparations. Regular classes will be held on Palm Sunday, April 17.

### Nurturing Children

Everyone wants children to thrive. In order for them to thrive and succeed, research on healthy development suggests a three-pronged approach: a focus on each child, a focus on mentoring, and a focus on church family strengths. The Mass Conference of the UCC offers information including tips for parents and teachers at the following link: <http://macucc.org/pages/detail/2453>

**Thank You** As so many of you have shared in your cards, emails and conversations, losing a parent is difficult. Thank you for your support in the recent loss of my mother. It is a blessing to be part of such a loving community.

Wishing you Easter Joy,

*Donna*



I indicated in my 2010 Annual Report that I would expand on the aspects of Health Ministry from time to time in the Spire. This month I would like to provide more information on the following two aspects:

### **What is Health?**

From around the globe, the ten grass roots consultations on “health, healing and wholeness” wove a tapestry depicting their understanding of health. The major recurrent thread throughout that fabric is that the concept of health is not primarily medical. Although the “health industry” is producing and using progressively sophisticated and expensive technology, the increasingly obvious fact is that most of the world’s health problems cannot be solved this way. The churches are called to recognize that the causes of disease in the world are socio-economic and spiritual, as well as biomedical.

### **Health as a Justice Issue**

It is an acknowledged fact that the number one cause of disease in the world is poverty, which is ultimately the result of oppression, exploitation and war. Providing immunizations, medicines and even health education by standard methods cannot significantly ameliorate illness due to poverty. The churches are called on to see this as a justice issue to be raised in the center of power – local, regional, national and global.

Historically the prophets cried out against the oppression and exploitation of the poor. Jesus began his ministry by quoting Isaiah’s prophesy of liberation for the captives, freedom for the oppressed, sight for the blind and Good News for the poor.

Many study participants shared stories of their efforts to accompany the poor and the outcast in their struggles, proclaiming and demonstrating that there is healing in working for the liberation of the poor. In serving the poor we also discover that they have much to share. Christians in struggling for justice and human rights around the world have gained insights into the healing power of God and have learned to overcome despair and fear of death through trusting Him.

The churches themselves have often demonstrated a top-down paternalism in their provisions of health care services, inhibiting the development of community resources and achievement of self-reliance. The resulting dependency on outside resources for the provision of health care services has ultimately served the rich and powerful rather than the poor. Examples continue to emerge of programs which have found ways to empower communities, through participatory learning experiences, to learn how to eliminate the major causes of illness and death in their midst.

### **The Congregation as Advocate for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation**

The message of liberation is an integral part of the life of the church. Participating with oppressed people in the building of a just social order leads the way to the reign of God, which is life-wholeness. The congregation can take the healing ministry into the political, social and economic arenas and:

- Advocate for the elimination of oppression, racism and injustice.
- Support peoples’ struggles for liberation.
- Join others of goodwill in growing together in social awareness.
- Create public opinion in support of the struggle for justice in health.

In working for a just social order as it relates to health, healing and wholeness, ethical standards must be advocated to protect the environment so that land, water, atmosphere and other forms of creation are not rendered useless or harmful to mankind.

### **What are we doing at First Parish to Advocate for Justice?**

I am going to put a sign on the Health Ministry bulletin board. On it, list what you individually or collectively are doing to help make our world, locally, nationally and internationally a “healthier” place to inhabit. I will share these with the congregation in another issue of the Spire. **Do not be shy, there are many things that members are involved in – share them and we just might get a big ball rolling!**

Peace and Good Health to All,  
*Margery Eramo*, RN, FCN

Excerpted from “A Guide to Developing a Health Ministry, Health Ministries Association, 2002

## IT'S ALMOST YARD SALE TIME!

Our Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, from 8AM to 2PM in the Parish Hall! So mark your calendars and save the date to help us with one of our biggest fundraisers.

There are lots of ways you can help:

- **We need lots of good, useable stuff!** Start making a pile of donations and bring them to the Parish Hall the week before the sale. *Remember: no clothes, computer equipment, books which are water damaged, musty or over 10 years old, or anything that is dangerous or broken! Please contact the church office before delivering heavy furniture or large items, as not all items of that nature are accepted.*
- **Donations of baked goods are always welcome.** Start browsing through all those cookbooks for goodies- and if you have too many cookbooks, donate them to the Used Books Table! *Food donations must be accompanied by an Ingredients Check-List, available in the church office.*
- **Spring plant donations are also most welcome!** Start those seedlings now, or just before the sale, thin out those perennial beds.
- **Lots of volunteers are needed!** Sorters, pricers and helpers are needed, both before and on the day of the sale. Those with vans and trucks are especially popular this time of year...
- **And of course, spread the word!** It's never too early to remind your neighbors and friends to mark their calendars too. They'll appreciate the reminder – and they might even have items to donate.

**Please deliver donations directly to the Parish Hall** starting on the evening of Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, so we don't have too much stuff to move across the street. If you need to bring your donations early, please contact the church office to arrange a drop off time. The barn storage area is locked.

**See you on the 21<sup>st</sup>!**

---

## LENTEN MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

---

### WESTWOOD FOOD PANTRY

**Starting on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>,** we will be collecting non-perishable food for the Westwood Food Pantry. All donations are welcome, but canned meats and fruits are very popular and in short supply.

### BIRTHDAYS in a Box

**On Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>,** we will be accepting donations for "Birthday Wishes". Juice boxes, cake mixes, frosting and birthday themed plates and napkins are needed so local shelters can throw birthday parties for children who are homeless and celebrating a birthday while living in the shelter.

### CARE PACKAGES FOR THE MILITARY

**On Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>,** care package items for those serving overseas in the military will be collected. Donations needed include: coffee, hot chocolate, peanut butter and jelly, crackers and healthy snacks. We are also looking for wet wipes, mosquito wipes and white socks.

In addition to collecting items, we will have paper and markers available at Coffee Hour so kids of all ages can make a card.

## FIRST PARISH VOLUNTEERS

### ALTAR FLOWERS

#### Sunday, April 3:

Given by Barb, Scott & Jed Delisle and Susie Helgeson, in loving memory of Rudy & Katie Helgeson and James Delisle, Sr.

#### Sunday, April 10:

Given through the Endowed Memorial Flower Fund by the Dorey family and Nancy & Bob Stoll, in memory of Nancy's grandparents, Christine & Clifford Fiske.

#### Sunday, April 17:

Given by Louise Donovan and family, in memory of James Asselstine.

#### Sunday, April 24: Easter

The spring flowers in the chancel are donated by members and friends of First Parish, in honor and memory of loved ones.

### ROSIE'S PLACE VOLUNTEERS

Monday, April 18

#### Drivers:

T. Bruno & S. DeFeo

#### Fruit (canned fruit cocktail: \$7 maximum)

T. Bruno      S. DeFeo      D. Lassen      C. Mather      C. Getman  
B. Delisle

#### Sandwiches (14 turkey on whole wheat bread)

V. Mather      J. Holbrook      P. Sullivan      L. Owen      J. Marsh  
T. Bruno      B. Jorgensen      B. Macdonald      C. Getman      D. Lassen

### USHER SCHEDULE

#### Sunday, April 3

Dix & Dianne Howard  
Steve & Ingegerd Larch  
Ron & Joy Sudduth

#### Sunday, April 10:

Bob Kadehjian  
Bob Robertson  
Jim & Linda McKenzie

#### Sunday, April 17:

Bill Holbrook  
Sheldon Blaney  
Don Friedl  
Lee Adourian

#### Sunday, April 24:

Dave & Bonnie Blomquist  
Chris Pfaff  
Dan & Karen Wagner

### COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

#### Sunday, April 3:

Joyce Cannon & Janice  
Russell

#### Sunday, April 10:

????????????????

#### Sunday, April 17:

????????????????

#### Sunday, April 24:

Nancy Hyde & Friends

### LAY READERS & GREETERS

#### Sunday, April 3:

Lay Reader: Brian Bayer  
Greeter: Lloyd Clark

#### Sunday, April 10:

Lay Reader: Kathleen Davis  
Greeter: Pam Kane

#### Sunday, April 17:

Lay Reader: Denis Cabral  
Greeter: Robin Ostrander

#### Sunday, April 24:

Lay Reader: Michael Ellis  
Greeter: Judy Thomson

### WESTWOOD MEN'S GROUP

The Westwood Men's Group will meet on Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall. All men from Westwood and surrounding communities are welcome to attend.

This month's meeting will feature Guest Speaker Dennis Caar, Associate Curator of the "Art of the Americas" exhibit

The group's next meeting, on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, is the annual breakfast, at 8:30AM. Reservations are encouraged.

## EASTER MEMORIALS

If you would like to remember or honor a loved one by placing a plant in the Meeting House on Easter Sunday or by making a donation to the Special Music Fund, please complete the order form below.

This year, plants are \$7, and orders with your payment are needed in the church office by Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Each year, plants donated by parishioners are delivered to those who cannot get to church. If you would like to help, delivery tags will be in the chancel on Easter Sunday.



---

## MEMORIAL GIFTS AT EASTER, 2011

To honor the memory of loved ones, I would like to: (check space)

\_\_\_\_: Place a plant in church at Easter (\$7 each). I would like to order \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_: I will pick up my plant(s) after the 10 AM service on Easter Sunday.

\_\_\_\_: Please deliver to a hospital patient, nursing home resident or shut-in.

\_\_\_\_: Make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for SPECIAL MUSIC.

All memorial gifts will be acknowledged in the Easter worship bulletin. Please print your dedication below:

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above gift(s). **Please make checks payable to First Parish of Westwood, and send this form to the church office, 340 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, MA 02090 by Sunday, April 17th.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_