

## December At-a-Glance

*First Parish is a busy place –  
so keep this one-page summary on the 'fridge to help you keep it all straight!*

### WORSHIP

#### **Vesper Worship Services**

Tuesdays, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
(page 2)

#### **Hanging of the Greens**

Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 10am  
(page 2)

#### **Longest Night Worship**

Monday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm  
(page 5)

#### **Christmas Eve Worship**

5pm: Service of Celebration  
9pm: Lessons & Carols

#### **Creche Sunday**

10am: Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Bring your favorite crèche figure to worship!

### INREACH/OUTREACH

#### **Alternative Gifts**

During Coffee Hours  
Sundays, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> (page 6)

#### **Giving Tree**

During Coffee Hours  
Sundays, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> (page 6)

### MUSIC

#### **New England Brass Band**

Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm (page 2)

### COMMUNITY

#### **Living Nativity**

Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm (page 8)

#### **Christmas Outreach Wrapping Party**

Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30 pm (page 6)

### FELLOWSHIP

#### **Senior Moments Lunch**

Thursday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> (page 10)

#### **SHYF Extreme Breakfast**

Sunday, Dec 13

#### **Advent Adventure Coffee Hour**

Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am (page 7)

#### **Retired Men's Fellowship**

Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> (page 10)

#### **Leaders Dinner**

Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm (page 6)

#### **Fox Hill Bible Study**

Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> (page 10)

## **PASTOR'S OPEN HOUSE** **in the Parsonage, Saturday, Dec. 5th 3-6pm**

*You are invited...*

Come to the Parsonage to enjoy some holiday cheer with Pastor Chris  
and your First Parish friends!



# The Clapboardtree Spire

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

## DECEMBER, 2009

### ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP AT FIRST PARISH

#### Advent Vesper Services

Tuesdays at 7PM  
Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Living Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM

#### Longest Night Service

Monday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7PM

#### Christmas Eve Worship

5PM Intergenerational Service of Celebration  
9PM Service of Lessons & Carols

#### Creche Sunday

10AM on Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Meeting House

### HANGING OF THE GREENS

On Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> everyone is invited to participate in a hands-on service of preparation for the Advent and Christmas seasons. The focus of the 10AM worship will be understanding the Advent symbols and decorating the chancel.

This service will be intergenerational, with church school children remaining in worship to enjoy the entire service. Nursery care will be available in the Parish Hall. In addition, Communion will be served, and the Festival Choir will sing.

We hope worshippers of all ages will join us in the Meeting House as journey toward the Christ Child's birth.

### ADVENT VESPER SERVICES

December has become one of the busiest and craziest months on the calendar. It often finds us running around, worrying and stressing far too much. Yes, there is a lot of preparation for Christmas but sometimes in all our "busyness" we forget "to be".

Advent Vespers will be offered in the season of Advent on Dec. 1, 8 and 15 at 7pm in the Meeting House. These brief (half hour) services are an opportunity to be in a calm, quiet, reflective moment. With the help of candles, simple music, meditation and prayer we will have a chance to take a deep breath so that we can keep our focus on "the reason for the season".

This is for YOU, the entire First Parish faith family, your neighbors and friends, and the whole community.

### NEW ENGLAND BRASS BAND HOLIDAY CONCERT

Save Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4PM for a concert by the New England Brass Band, back at last for a holiday concert guaranteed to fill you with holiday cheer! It's been a while since we've been able to book this band so close to Christmas – and those of you who have attended one of these concerts know that this is an event for all ages, not to be missed!

Tickets are \$15 (\$10/seniors & children; \$30 family cap) and are available in advance through the church office.

Mark your calendars now, tell your friends and neighbors – and be sure you're front and center on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4PM!

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

Dec. 1	Ian Bailey, Jimmy Cutler Christopher Martin, Heidi Ullmann Matthew Wagner
Dec. 2	Lois Breese, Matthew Powers
Dec.3	Kristian Peters
Dec.4	Elese Gaydos, Heather Poreda
Dec.5	Chapin Atwood
Dec.6	Peter Anderson, Jenny Germano
Dec.7	Don Friedl, Lauren Kemalian
Dec.8	Ruth Very
Dec.10	Carol Mather
Dec.11	Skyler Beach, Ivar Johnson Richard Osenton
Dec.12	Kara Belinsky
Dec.14	David Friedl
Dec.15	Kate McMurray, Valerie Vancura
Dec.16	Jaclyn Germano, Christopher Rogers Lindsay Tisdale
Dec.17	Mark Hichar, Sarah Werth
Dec.18	Sophie Ostrander
Dec.20	Karen Robertson
Dec.21	Paul Robinson
Dec.24	Drew Walker
Dec.27	Connor Murray, Marilyn Nelson Janice Russell
Dec.28	Christine Andrus
Dec.30	Bobby Gorman, Jan Hooker
Dec.31	Thelma Bruno, Colin Kelly Jesse Weatherbee

### Anniversaries

David & Lynne Liebrock	December 9
Peter & Carol Neyland	December 10
David & Bonnie Blomquist	December 27
Marilyn & Jim Chetwynd	December 27
Todd & Madeline Anderson	December 30
Bruce & Marj Higgins	December 31

## 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), via email, and through the mail (by request only).

## Lifetimes

### New Address:

- *Tommy Miskell Jr.*: 48 Homeside Ave., Apt. 2, West Haven CT 06516

### Congratulations:

- to *Scott Delisle* and *Brad Baldwin* on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout at a ceremony at First Baptist Church on Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>;
- to *Ivar Johnson* and *Fred Lea*, who are both 94 years young, on Nov. 28 and Dec. 11, respectively.

### Our Sympathy:

- to *David & Lynn Porter*, on the death of David's mother on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- to *Parker & Kelly Harrington*, on the death of Parker's brother Steve on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Who's Who at First Parish

Pastor:	Rev. Christopher L. Dodge
Phone:	781-326-0135
Email:	revchris@firstparishwestwood.org
Moderator:	Bob Deininger
CE Admin.:	Donna Bertazzoni
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Treasurer:	Cathy Ellis
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Music Director:	Joshua Nannestad
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Secretary:	Judy Holbrook
Sexton:	Denis Wholey
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Phone:	781-326-5344
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Cottage:	781-326-3997

## From Moderator Bob Deininger

### Membership/Stewardship Campaign

"God, fulfill beyond our dreaming, all our stewardship began." That's my favorite verse from our stewardship hymn, "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" and is what I used as a prayer while conducting stewardship visits. With the help of your time, talent, and treasure, God will fulfill the dreams of First Parish.

Thank you to all the members and friends who welcomed the visiting stewards into your homes to listen to your hopes and dreams for First Parish. All the visiting stewards enjoyed our visits; and we plan to present some of the insight and feedback we received during Annual Meeting in January.

We also truly appreciate your generous pledges. We are encouraged by the response to date; and will keep you apprised during the month of December of our stewardship goals. If you have not been contacted by a visiting steward and/or have not had the opportunity to pledge, there is still time. Please contact me to arrange a visit and receive stewardship materials.

### Leadership Meetings

The lay leaders of the church have been reading *Power Surge: Six Marks of Discipleship for a Changing Church* by Michael Foss. The book looks at how the world is changing and how some churches are adapting to foster greater spiritual growth. In October, we read the first three chapters and answered the questions that the author poses for prayerful reflection. This helped prepare us for reading the next three chapters, which we will discuss on December 6. We especially look forward to discussing Chapter 6: Beliefs, Values, Vision, and Mission. First Parish's current Mission and Vision Statement is almost 17 years old; and the Long Rang Plan is almost ten years old. While they have nothing on the Meetinghouse's 200 years, the mission and vision of First Parish probably also needs "a fresh coat of paint." The First Parish mission and vision and how we share this with others will be a focus area for 2010. This work will, of course, involve participation from a much larger group of parishioners. Stay tuned!

As I complete my first year of moderator, I want to thank everyone for their guidance and support. As my dad says, first you have to learn the job, then you get better at doing the job, and then once you have mastered, you can pass on the job to someone else. Well, I'm still learning but hope to get better in my second year.

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## NEWS FROM THE JOB TRANSITION GROUP

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If you or a family member are "in transition" due to job loss, please realize that you are not alone and your First Parish faith community is here to support you. To that end, please take note of the following:

- The Job Transition Group met for the first time on Monday, November 23 and we are planning additional meetings. This group provides an opportunity to openly and honestly discuss unemployment/underemployment challenges and support each other. We are planning meetings in December but need to determine the most convenient day of the week and time to meet. If interested in joining us, please contact Bob Deininger and indicate the most convenient time for you to meet.
- If you are facing immediate financial difficulties, the Deacon's Fund provides assistance for parishioners in need. Assistance from the Deacon's Fund is disseminated at the discretion of the pastor and confidentiality is strictly maintained. Please contact Pastor Chris Dodge if you require assistance from the Deacon's Fund.

## From Pastor Chris



Advent is the beginning of the new year in the Christian Church calendar. Walking through the life of Jesus, the year actually begins with a season of preparation for the arrival of “Immanuel” or “God with us”. In this season we hear some powerful words - *wait, watch, prepare*.

I think we also hear and say these words in our culture but not in the way they were intended. *Wait* in line. *Watch* for the best deals. *Prepare* for the perfect Christmas by buying things.

Malls, radios and televisions try to prepare us for Christmas by giving us Christmas (from October on sometimes). The Church prepares us for Christmas by giving us Advent. Take some time to *wait* quietly and *watch* carefully and *prepare* room in your heart. For God’s coming to us was not just an event in the past or one for the future but it is a promise for the present. And it is harder to recognize God if we spend most of our time letting the secularized Christmas drive us.

In his book, “Whistling in the Dark”, Fredrick Buechner writes this,

*“The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton...the extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.”*

Maybe we are less convinced or too uneasy with the wisdom of *wait, watch and prepare*. We don’t see that the “quieting down” before the concert, makes a difference to how we receive the performance.

But this is the wisdom of our faith and of our God. So in the four weeks until Christmas, I encourage you and challenge you to take as much time as you can to *wait, watch and prepare*. Let us be Advent people so we can more clearly see God being born into our present lives.

Peace,  
*Pastor Chris*

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### LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

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This season before us is filled with words like hope, peace, joy and love. But sometimes we have things going on in our lives that make those words foreign to us.

So it is important to have the time and space to acknowledge that people are in those places where it can feel like there is more darkness and shadow. Perhaps you or someone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one, or a job, or a relationship. Or you are at a place of doubt and uncertainty in your life.

On the longest night of the year, Monday, December 21st, there will be a service in the Meeting House at 7PM. The First Parish family, neighbors and friends, and the whole community are invited. We will gather in prayerful support and reassurance. We will gather in the light of the promises of God to bring hope, peace, joy and love to us in our present and future moments.

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### BRINGING ADVENT INTO YOUR HOME

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Advent is the time to prepare for celebrating Jesus’ birth on Christmas. This happens not just on Sunday morning but in our homes too!

So to help every heart prepare him room, there are a number of “take homes” on the Hospitality Table in the back of the sanctuary. These include Advent Calendars, family and personal devotion booklets.

You are invited to take them into your home.

## CHRISTMAS AT FIRST PARISH MEANS REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

### Christmas Family Outreach

Again this year, the Ministry of Mission & Service will sponsor outreach to local families who are in need of a little extra help this holiday season.

On the second and third Sundays of Advent – Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> – family gift ornaments will be available on the Christmas tree in the Parish Hall. Each ornament will have the name, age and Christmas gift wish of a child or parent. Choose an ornament, buy the item, and bring it to the Parish Hall (wrapped with the gift ornament attached) by Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>.

- If you are unable to shop for a gift and would like to make a monetary donation, you are more than welcome to leave the money with the church office. A First Parish Elf will do the shopping for you.
- If you are interested in being a Shopping Elf this year, please contact Tish Verzino at 781-320-8217.

On Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> all are invited to the Parish Hall after the Living Nativity (around 6PM) to help wrap presents and put the finishing touches on them for delivery to the families.

The Ministry of Mission & Service thanks you in advance for bringing joy into the lives of so many who are having trouble making ends meet this year!

### Alternative Gifts

Again this year, the Ministry of Mission & Service will offer an ALTERNATIVE GIFTS MARKET during Coffee Hours on the Sundays in Advent, beginning Sunday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. This year's gifts will be offered from the original Alternative Gifts catalogue.

Here is your chance to give a gift that will help the hungry, sick and those living in abject poverty in the US and across the world. All of us have relatives, friends or co-workers we would like to honor at the holidays, but many want no more stuff or you do not know what to buy. Instead, select a project from the catalogue and choose a card, and you will receive a slip describing the project to enclose.

Questions? Contact Martha Crawford at 781-326-0710.

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### **FAIR LUNCHEON THANK YOU**

I want to give a big thank you to everyone who helped out with the Fair Luncheon, including Tish Verzino, Janice Russell, Marge Eramo, Josh Belinsky, Sara Hyde, Steven Kane and William Gettings and to all others who stopped by to see if we needed help.

Special thank you's go to Nancy Hyde (especially for the chili), Judy Holbrook (particularly for the early morning onion chopping), Chris Dodge (who didn't know peeling and dicing potatoes was in the pastor job description), and of course Pam Kane who holds it all together.

And finally, a big thank you to all of you who enjoyed the good food and fellowship of the Fair.

*Barb Delisle*

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### **DECEMBER LEADERS' SUPPER**

On Sunday, Dec. 6th, all Ministry members are invited to a Lay Leaders Dinner at 6PM in the Parish Hall. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to the church office.

The main course for the dinner will be provided by the church; Ministry members are asked to bring donations as follows:

- Worship and Mission: desserts
- SL&F: coffee & beverages
- SFO: bread and salad
- CE: salads

In addition, all are asked to read Chapters 4-6 in *Power Surge*.

**Donna Bertazzoni**  
Church School  
Administrator

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION: PENNIES FOR PEACE



Our children have chosen Pennies for Peace as their mission focus for this year. This international service program promotes peace through education and literacy and provides community-based education in remote mountain regions of Central Asia.



The goal of the Pennies for Peace program is to encourage our children to practice the values of charity and compassion by using their offerings for global peace. We will join tens of thousands of children around the world who are participating in Pennies for Peace program and who are working together to become members of a global family dedicated to peace. Pennies for Peace curriculum enrichment materials are designed to broaden cultural horizons by learning about the cultures of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

How can a penny bring peace? It doesn't buy much in Westwood. However, in the villages of Pakistan and Afghanistan, a penny can buy a pencil, start an education, and transform a life. In a region where terrorist organizations recruit uneducated, illiterate children, that pencil can empower a child to read, write, and learn.

The children's Sunday school offerings will add up quickly to make a real difference.

- 1 penny = a pencil
- 2-3 pennies = an eraser
- 15 pennies = one notebook
- \$20 = one child's school supplies for one year
- \$50 = one treadle sewing machine and supplies
- \$100 = maternal healthcare supplies for one year
- \$300 = one advanced student's annual scholarship
- \$600 = one teacher's annual salary
- \$5,000 = support for existing school for one year
- \$50,000 = one school building and support for up to five years



Pennies for Peace is a program of Central Asia Institute (CAI), founded by Greg Mortenson, author of the #1 New York Times best seller, *Three Cups of Tea*. CAI is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Founded in 1996, CAI has built, to date, nearly 100 schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which serve more than 28,000 students – over 14,000 of whom are girls. For more information you can visit the Pennies for Peace™ website at [www.penniesforpeace.org](http://www.penniesforpeace.org). You can also visit Central Asia Institute's home-page at [www.ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org) to learn about how CAI projects promote peace in these regions.

Copies of *Three Cups of Tea* (young readers version) *Listen to the Wind* and *Stones into Schools* are available for use by children, teachers, and parents.

### ADVENT ADVENTURE COFFEE HOUR - SUNDAY, DEC. 6TH

The hands-on theme begun in our Dec. 6th Hanging of the Greens worship service continues into Coffee Hour, with a festive - and yummy - opportunity for all to make a take-home Advent wreath from a variety of materials, some of which are edible! Bring your imagination - and your glue gun if you have one - and join us for this fun Advent Coffee Hour!

## The Sheep Are Coming!

Our wooly Advent guests will arrive at 9AM on Saturday, Dec. 5th!

If you are interested in helping to care for them during their stay, please be here to greet them—or contact Head Shepherd Robin Ostrander!



Save Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> for a favorite First Parish tradition – the Living Nativity! Come to the crèche outside the Parish Hall at 5:30PM to experience a live re-enactment of the nativity story, complete with live sheep! It's a great way for the entire family to experience "the reason for the season".

The 20<sup>th</sup> is a great day at First Parish! Bring the whole family to the concert at 4PM, carol your way across the street to the Living Nativity, then finish the evening with refreshments and present wrapping in the Parish Hall! It doesn't get more festive than that!

## LIVING NATIVITY

## CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

The 5PM Christmas Eve family worship service will include a pageant this year. There are plenty of speaking and non-speaking roles for all interested children. A rehearsal will be held after worship on December 13 at 11:00.

Many children have already signed up to participate. If so, their parents will be contacted. If your child is interested in participating and has not yet signed up (or you aren't sure) please email Donna Bertazzoni at

[dbzoni@firstparishwestwood.org](mailto:dbzoni@firstparishwestwood.org) and we will be happy to include him or her in the service.

We also will need parents to help with costuming and cueing. Contact Donna or any member of the Ministry of Education and Discipleship. Thank you!



## CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

### Saturday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>:

- **9AM:** Shepherds meeting, outside the Parish Hall. Help us welcome our wooly sheep Advent guests – and learn how to care for them too!
- **3-6PM:** Pastor's Open House. Goodies and Christmas cheer at the Parsonage!

### Sunday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>: Second Sunday in Advent

- **9AM:** Festival Choir rehearsal in the Meeting House.
- **10AM** worship: Hanging of the Greens intergenerational service with Communion & the Festival Choir.
- **11:00 AM:** Advent Coffee Hour– hands-on Advent activities for all ages

### Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday in Advent

- **10AM** worship and church school
- **10:15AM** SHYF Extreme Breakfast in the Cottage

- **11:00 AM:** Christmas Pageant rehearsal in the Meeting House

### Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Sunday in Advent

- **10AM** worship and church school
- **4PM** concert: New England Brass Band
- **5:30PM** Living Nativity
- **6PM** Christmas Family Outreach wrapping party

### Thursday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve

- 5PM: Intergenerational Service of Celebration
- 9PM: Service of Lessons & Carols, with communion

### Sunday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>:

- Intergenerational worship





**From Our Parish Nurse**

**THANKSGIVING** was National Family History Day and even though Thanksgiving has passed, knowing your family’s health history can save your life and the lives of those you love. Tracing the illnesses suffered by your parents, grandparents and other relatives can help your doctor predict the disorders to which you may be at risk, and take action to keep you and your family healthy. Many diseases such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease can run in families –and even rare diseases like hemophilia, cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia.

Make a list of blood relatives. The most important relatives to talk to are your parents, your brothers and sisters, and your children. Next should be grandparents, uncles and aunts, nieces and nephews and half-brothers and half-sisters. It is also helpful to talk to great uncles and great aunts as well as cousins.

Questions to ask can be:

Do you have any chronic illnesses: such as heart disease, high blood pressure diabetes?

Have you had other serious illnesses, such and cancer or stroke?

How old were you when you developed these illnesses?

Have you or your partner had difficulties with pregnancies, such as a miscarriage?

What medications are you presently taking?

Also ask questions about other relatives both living and diseased such as:

What is our family’s ancestry-what country did we come from?

What illnesses did our late grandparents have?

How old were they when they died?

What caused their death?

If you can get a death certificates it can help answer some of these questions.

Family history is a powerful screening tool for you doctor so please share what you learn with you doctor and other members of you family.

Visit the Surgeon General’s Family Health Initiative at <http://www.hhs.gov/familyhistory/> or download a “Family Health Portrait” tool at <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov/fhh-web/home.action> which will allow you to create, update and maintain a family health history!

May you share the wonder of the preparation time of Advent with those you love and have a Blessed Christmas. And when you get together with family think about starting a Family Health History when you are sharing family stories and traditions.

God Bless,

*Margery Eramo*, RN, CHM

Faith Community Nurse

**Flu Season Has Arrived**

We are all aware that this year’s flu season has been – and may continue to be – longer and possibly more intense than we have previously experienced. Yet joining together in worship and community is an important part of our lives, so below are some guidelines to help

- make our time together both warm and healthy:
- Our Ministry of Worship is taking precautions to ensure that communion preparation remains sanitary and safe. Protective gloves are worn and appropriate food handling

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- guidelines are strictly observed during set up.
- During the Greeting and Passing of the Peace moments in our worship services, we encourage the congregation to refrain from shaking hands and hugging. Instead, a warm smile and a verbal greeting will help make everyone feel both comfortable and welcome. During the final “Go In Peace” segment of our worship, we will refrain from joining hands and simply face the center aisle, while maintaining connection with each other through

eye contact.

- Hand sanitizer is available at both the front and rear entrances of the Meeting House, as well as in all the classrooms and public spaces in the Parish Hall.
- During Coffee Hours, we ask that parents assist children at the serving table, and that everyone be especially careful to use the serving utensils provided and observe the “take what you touch” philosophy.

We look forward to the warmth and blessings that worshipping together brings. See you in church!

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## FIRST PARISH BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH GROUP

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**On Wednesday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>,** The First Parish Book-of-the-Month Group will meet in the Vogel Room to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Written with warmth and humor, this book is historical fiction, presented as a series of letters written in 1946 between an author in London and members of a book club formed on the island of Guernsey during the Nazi occupation. Through their letters, the reader learns about the island, their taste in books, and the powerful, transformative impact of the recent German occupation.

**On Wednesday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>** the group will gather after a busy and doubtless hectic

holiday season to discuss Bill McKibben’s *Hundred Dollar Holiday*, which explores the history of the “store-bought” Christmas, how out of tune it is with our current lives, and how it is possible to return to a simpler and more enjoyable holiday. Who knows, maybe we can all do better next year....

If you like to read a variety of books in a variety of genres, why not give the group a try? It is not necessary to come to all the meetings – just the ones that interest you. Reading suggestions are always welcome – so if there is something you are dying to read, why not see if the group wants to join you?

Questions? See Brian Bayer or the church office.

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## SENIOR MOMENTS FELLOWSHIP

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In December the Senior Moments Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30 AM, and in January on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now, and plan to attend

All Senior Moments meetings are on the first Thursday of each month, September through June, unless otherwise noted on the schedule. All seniors are invited to bring a bag lunch to the Parish Hall for conversation and fellowship. Coffee and dessert are provided.

See you then?

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## RETIRED MEN’S CLUB

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This month, the Retired Men’s Group will gather at Westwood High School at 9:30 AM on Thursday, Dec. 17th for the annual Holiday Concert. All retired men from Westwood and surrounding communities are invited to attend.

If you have questions, please contact Fred Rice.

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## FOX HILL BIBLE STUDY

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Rev. Chris Dodge’ will meet with the Fox Hill Bible Study group on Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM.

If you live at Fox Hill Village and would like to begin attending the Bible study, contact Pastor Chris.

# FIRST PARISH VOLUNTEERS

## GREETERS

Help us greet all who enter our Meeting House to worship on Sunday mornings with a warm smile. Sign up in the Parish Hall!

**Sunday, Dec. 6:**  
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**Sunday, Dec. 13:**  
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**Sunday, Dec. 20:**  
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**Sunday, Dec. 27:**  
Jim McKenzie

## COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed to supply refreshments and host Coffee Hour on the following dates. If you would like to help, please contact the church office or sign up in the Parish Hall.

**Sunday, Dec. 6:**  
The Holbrooks

**Sunday, Dec. 13:**  
The McKenzies

**Sunday, Dec. 20:**  
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**Sunday, Dec. 27:**  
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## ROSIE'S PLACE VOLUNTEERS Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

**Drivers:** S. Reeve & J. Forsberg

**Fruit (1 box of clementines)**

S. Reeve	J. Forsberg	J. Clay	C. Getman	J. Holbrook
J. Marsh	C. Robinson			

**Sandwiches (12-14 Turkey on wheat bread):**

S. Reeve	T. Berg	L. Owen	C. Gettman	J. Hansjon
S. DeFeo	J. Germano	J. Holbrook	B. Delisle	M. Speros

## ALTAR FLOWERS

**Sunday, Dec. 6:**

Given by Louise Donovan and family, in memory of John Donovan.

**Sunday, Dec. 13:**

Given by Jim, Ruth and David Aldinger, in memory of Ruth's parents, Lloyd & Edith Archibald.

**Sunday, Dec. 20:**

Given by Barb & Jim Worth, in memory of her parents, Ted & Jane Forrence.

**Sunday, Dec. 27:**

Given by John & Judy Danforth, in memory of loved ones.

## USHER SCHEDULE

**Sunday, Dec. 6:**

Bill Holbrook (C)  
Sheldon Blaney  
Don Friedl  
Lee Adourian

**Sunday, Dec. 20:**

Martha Crawford (C)  
Ron Arntz  
Stuart & Carol Maynard  
David Friedl

**Sunday, Dec. 13**

Dave & Bonnie Blomquist (C)  
Chris Pfaff  
Dan & Karen Wagner

**Sunday, Dec. 27:**

Fred Rice (C)  
Charles Domina  
Peter Kane  
Nancy Hyde

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## DON'T FORGET YOUR 2009 & 2010 PLEDGES

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It's hard to believe that another fiscal year is drawing to a close, but January 1<sup>st</sup> will be here before we know it!

Payments on 2009 pledges are needed in the church office by the end of December, in order to be reflected on your 2009 tax statement. If you have questions about the current status of your 2009 pledge, please feel free to contact the church office.

Our 2010 Pledge drive is still underway – and it is not too late to turn in your pledge card if you have not yet done so. Cards are available in Meeting House narthex and in the church office. 2010 offering envelopes will be available for those who requested them on the last Sunday in December. *Please do not use the green 2009 offering envelopes after Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>!*

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### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL GIFTS



If you would like to remember a loved one by placing a poinsettia in the chancel at Christmas – or by making a donation to the Special Music Fund or the Decoration Fund, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by Monday,

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### 2009 Christmas Memorial Gifts

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

Place  POINSETTIA PLANT(S) in the Meeting House (Dec. 20-25)

(Plants are \$10 each and will be ordered by the church on December 14<sup>th</sup>.)

I will pick up my plant after the last service on Christmas Eve or during the following week.

Please deliver my plant to a hospital patient, nursing home resident or shut-in.

Make a gift of \$  for CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS in the Meeting House

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

All gifts will be listed in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and on Christmas Eve.

I would like the bulletin to read: (*Please PRINT clearly*)

IN MEMORY OF

GIVEN BY

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

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

Enclosed is a check for \$  to cover the above gifts. (*Please make it payable to THE FIRST PARISH OF WESTWOOD and send or bring it with this order form to the church office, 340 Clapboardtree St., Westwood, MA 02090 by Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>*).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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