



The Clapboardtree Spire

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

FEBRUARY, 2009

Music in the Meetinghouse!

Save these dates for special music brought to you by Music Director Josh Nannestad and the First Parish music program!

Amahl & the Night Visitors

Sunday, Feb. 1st at 10AM

Come to the Meetinghouse at 10AM for the re-scheduled, snow-date performance of this Epiphany-themed opera, presented by our junior and senior choirs and Three King guest soloists during the regular worship hour! It promises to be a truly wonderful experience, suitable for all ages. Worship will be intergenerational, with an optional church school class for pre-school through grade 2 students who choose not to remain for the entire service. Communion will be served on the next Sunday, Feb. 8th.

The New England Brass Band

Sunday, Feb. 8th at 4PM

Don't miss the return of this popular 30-piece brass and percussion ensemble, center stage in the Meetinghouse at 4PM on Sunday, Feb. 8th! We will be treated to works specifically written for brass bands, as well as transcriptions of music by classical composers, including John Philip Sousa and John Williams, and selections written and arranged for the group by contemporary composers. It's a performance not to be missed! Tickets are \$15 (\$12/seniors & children \$40/family pack) and will be available at the door or in advance through the church office.

Mardi Gras Pot Luck Supper

All are invited to come to the Parish Hall at 5 PM on Sunday, Feb. 22nd for a festive "last celebration" before the start of the more somber 40-day Lenten season.

Bring food to share – we'll provide the festivities! We're thinking King Cake, beads, masks, kids' activities – and maybe even some facts on how all this Mardi Gras revelry came to be in the first place!

So mark your calendars now – and we'll see you on the 22nd!



Ash Wednesday Worship- Wednesday, Feb. 25th at 7PM

The forty-day season of Lent begins on Wednesday, Feb. 25th – and this year we invite all to begin their Lenten journey by joining together in worship at 7PM in the

Meetinghouse.

Pastor Chris will lead us in an Ash Wednesday service, designed to set the tone for Lent by remembering our humanity and our dependence

on God while preparing ourselves for the spiritual journey toward receiving Easter more fully into our lives.

Why not join us?

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 1 | Heather Ellis, Karen Ellis |
| February 2 | Louise Domina, Eleanor Johnson |
| February 3 | Bruce Smith, Nicholas Underhill |
| February 4 | David Aldinger, Marge Eramo Kevin Murray, Russell Verzino |
| February 5 | Matthew Hurley, Tommy Miskell, Jr. |
| February 6 | Margaret Carr |
| February 8 | Olivia Haines |
| February 10 | Doug Joseph, Pam Kane |
| February 12 | Andrew Cutler, Katie Gorman Matthew Hiller, Libby Youngdahl |
| February 13 | Amie Colcord, Barb Delisle |
| February 14 | Lauren Werth |
| February 18 | Benjamin Anderson |
| February 19 | Marshall Atkins, Elizabeth Cushing |
| February 19 | Cathy Ellis |
| February 21 | Scott Delisle, Edna Matthei Dan Wagner |
| February 22 | Christopher Burgess, Jessica Osenton |
| February 23 | Arthur Millos, Mason Shaw |
| February 24 | Richie Kendall |
| February 25 | Robert Blomquist |
| February 27 | Joyce Marsh, Caroline McDonough |
| February 28 | Gordie Bailey |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------|-----------------------|
| February 22 | Philip & Molly Speros |
|-------------|-----------------------|

Lifetimes

Phone Number Corrections:

- *Dave & Jen Atkins:* 781-929-5850
- *Fred & Wan Li Pierce:* 781-326-7651

Moved:

- *Donna Bertazzoni: (as of 2/2/09)*
10 Conservation Way
Stoughton, MA 02072
781-436-5837

Pastor Chris's Contact Info:

- Except in the most formal occasions, our Pastor prefers to be called "Chris" ("Pastor Chris" is fine for those who prefer a more formal greeting)
- Telephone:
781-326-0135
- Email:
revchris@firstparishwestwood.org
- Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs, 9-12, or by appointment.
Chris is not available on Fridays.

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

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Pastor: | Rev. Christopher L. Dodge |
| Phone: | 781-326-0135 |
| Email: | revchris@firstparishwestwood.org |
| Moderator: | Bob Deininger |
| CE Admin.: | Donna Bertazzoni |
| Phone: | 781-326-3141 |
| Email: | dbzoni@firstparishwestwood.org |
| Treasurer: | Cathy Ellis |
| Phone: | 781-326-5344 |
| Email: | treasurer@firstparishwestwood.org |
| Music Director: | Joshua Nannestad |
| Phone: | 978-562-5614 |
| Email: | nannestad@gmail.com |
| Parish Nurse: | Margery Eramo |
| Phone: | 781-326-3997 |
| Email: | meramo@firstparishwestwood.org |
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| Sexton: | Denis Wholey |
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| Cottage: | 781-326-3997 |

Thank You to Our Lay Leaders

A huge thank you to all our Lay Leaders – those who give so generously of their valuable time to further the work of the church by volunteering to serve on one of First Parish's many ministries or committees.

Special thanks to

- **Moderator Doug Hyde** for his years of selfless attention to the needs of our church, and to outgoing Ministry chairpersons Dave Blomquist (SL&F) and Jim McKenzie (Worship) for their countless hours of hard work on behalf of First Parish,
- **The members of the Interim Steering Committee** – Jim Aldinger, Martha Crawford, Sharon Hobbs, Doug Hyde, and Jim McKenzie- for helping to make Rev. David Stryker's ministry here much easier.
- **The following out-going ministry and committee members** for their hard work on their respective ministries: Lois Breese (Church Council At-Large), Bob Deininger (Worship), Mike Gettings (Auditor), and Christine Andrus (Sanctuary Guild).

And, as always, a grateful welcome to our 2009 Lay Leaders, listed below:

Moderator: Bob Deininger

Clerk: Martha Crawford

Treasurer: Cathy Ellis

Collector: Shirley DeFeo

Nominating Committee: Pastor Chris, Martha Crawford, Elizabeth Vaccaro

Church Council At-Large: Marge Eramo, Louise Domina, Lee Adourian

Worship Ministry: Allison Bayer, Mike Ellis, Jim McKenzie, Judy Thomson, Barb Worth, _____

Stewardship, Finance & Operations Ministry: Barb Delisle, Louise Donovan, Roy London, Mark McClellan, Bart Smith, Jim Worth

Mission & Service Ministry: Martha Crawford, Mike Gettings, Doug Joseph, Carol Maynard, Peg Underhill, Tish Verzino

Education & Discipleship Ministry: Brian Bayer, Nancy Brind, Andrea Deininger, Tricia McKim, Robin Ostrander, Maureen Sullivan

Spiritual Life & Fellowship Ministry: Susan Abbadessa, Jim Aldinger, Dave Atkins, Gail Bean, Bill Holbrook, Linda Johnson

Auditors: Jim Ritchey, Robbie Werth

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee: Dave Aldinger, Bob Deininger, Marge Eramo, Mike Gettings, Roy London, Tish Verzino, Barb Worth

Interfaith Delegates: Thelma Bruno, Anne Christian, _____

Denominational Delegates: Donna Bertazzoni, Dave Blomquist, Martha Crawford

Memorials: Ron Arntz, Dave Blomquist, Betsy Dakin, Shirley DeFeo, Jane Forsberg, Marj Higgins

Flower Coordinator: Louise Domina

Usher Coordinator: Bill Holbrook

Rosie's Place Coordinator: Thelma Bruno

Fair Chair: Pam Kane

Sanctuary Guild: Ron Arntz, Sheldon Blaney, Dave Blomquist, Thelma Bruno, June Clay, Shirley DeFeo, Louise Donovan, Elvin Fowell, Linda Johnson, the Kanes, Roy London, Jim McKenzie, Joan Stefans

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, January 25, 2008, First Parish held its 60th Annual Meeting in the Meetinghouse after worship. Below is a summary of the meeting's highlights (information was taken from the Minutes, recorded by Clerk Martha Crawford):

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 AM by Moderator Doug Hyde.

Treasurer's Report:

- The 2008 budget was voted with a deficit of \$44,000. Due to the efforts of the staff, ministries and members, we ended the year with a deficit of only \$9,900. This was accomplished due to additional pledges of \$20,000, an increase of \$6,000 in investment income, and the Ministries returning \$6,000 from their budgets.
- The renovation and repair costs for the Parsonage totaled \$84,000 in 2008. Additional work will be done this spring. This was funded by using \$30,000 from the Catherine Barlow fund and borrowing from the Peter Thatcher Land Endowment fund. The Church Council has approved a loan of up to \$75,000 to be paid back to the Fund at the rate of \$10,000 a year and to be paid in full within 7 years.
- The Deacon's Fund, used to assist our own members in time of financial need, received approximately \$3,000 in contributions in 2008 and distributed \$1,200 to parishioners in need.
- The market value of our Endowment and Special Purpose Funds decreased due to the economic downturn by approximately 40%. Assets are carried at their original cost and appreciation is recorded only at the time of sale.

2009 Budget:

- Moderator Doug Hyde directed the Congregation to amend their reports to reflect a 2009 pledge total of \$202,605, and to therefore decrease the Income Minus Expenditures line to (27,419).
- The cost of Pastoral Leadership has decreased by \$10,000 from 2008
- The budget reflects no salary increase for staff; there is money included for a Seminarian for the second half of the year.
- A new item, "Parsonage Renovation – Debt Repayment" in the amount of \$10,000 has been added to the Buildings and Grounds budget
- While the budget shows a deficit of \$27,419, this is less than last year's, and may be subject to change, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to estimate our true income by the end of January.
- Church Council has voted to review the budget, income and spending in April or May of this year and propose to the Congregation at that time its recommendations for a balanced budget.
- The 2009 budget was unanimously approved by the Congregation.

Transitions:

- Incoming Moderator Bob Deininger thanked Dave Blomquist (out-going Chairperson of the Spiritual Life & Fellowship Ministry), Lois Breese (out-going Church Council Member-at-Large), and Mike Gettings (Auditor) for their work.
- Bob Deininger also thanked out-going Moderator Doug Hyde for his leadership during a difficult time.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

From Pastor Chris



As I write this I have been at First Parish about three weeks. Thank you to one and all for your warm welcome. The move went smoothly on the first days of January and I am feeling more settled into the parsonage. I appreciate all the needed work that was done to make it ready. The place looks wonderful and many thanks should go to Barb Delisle for coordinating the work and of course to Phil Eramo as the general contractor. With bits and pieces left for the next few months and more outside work in the spring, I look forward to the chance for all of you to see your parsonage when completed. But I thank you for letting it be my home.

After moving, there was little time for rest. There was Kitty Reiland's memorial service, budget conversations, visits, and meetings to plan for the months ahead. Also thrown into the mix were two consecutive Sundays with a snowstorm during morning worship. In the months prior to my arrival I did some advance work so I could "hit the ground running" in terms of ministry. However, I did not expect to hit the ground slipping and falling. As many of you know, my first day at the office was delayed by a trip to Norwood Hospital after slipping on the ice. The six stitches are out and the black eye is gone. It all looked worse than it actually felt.

So as we move into February, we will welcome new members onto ministries along with a new moderator, Bob Deininger. We will hear Amahl and the Night Visitors. There will be Music in the Meetinghouse. Communion Education classes and Confirmation will begin. There will be times for fellowship like the Mardi Gras Potluck. And of course times for weekly worship. And the month will conclude with the beginning of Lent and our journey to Easter. To mark this transition, I encourage you all to attend an Ash Wednesday Service on February 25 in the Meetinghouse beginning at 7PM.

A full calendar for this February, yet what wonderful opportunities here at First Parish to deepen both your faith and our fellowship.

Peace,
Pastor Chris

Lay Leaders Supper

On Sunday, Feb. 8th, members of the five Ministries are invited to gather in the Parish Hall at 6PM for dinner and discussion about the year ahead. Come "just as you are" – no food to bring, no agenda to prepare for. If you're attending the New England Brass Band concert at 4PM, just cross the street afterward. A simple meal will be waiting for you, and child care will be available for those who need it.

The evening's purpose is both to give Ministry members a chance to mingle and catch up and to offer everyone the rare opportunity to talk about the year ahead face-to-face, in a format other than the internet!

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, Feb. 2nd so we'll know how much food to prepare and how many children to expect.

Worship Calendar

Sunday, Feb 1
Amahl & the Night Visitors

Sunday, Feb 8
Celebration of Holy Communion
Dedication of Leaders

Sunday, Feb 22
Transfiguration Sunday

Journeying With the Magi

On a snowy Sunday that postponed the performance of Amahl and the Night Visitors, those who braved the weather gathered to reflect on the meaning of the visitation of the magi to Jesus. I offered a sermon based on a meditation by Ruth Burgess in her book *Hay & Stardust*. Some had asked for a copy of the guiding questions in this meditation so here they are:

- What have been your own 'awakening moments' of wonder that have led you deeper into mystery.
- How have you experienced the dark? Where/how did you recognize the light?
- What are the questions you live with?
- Who are the 'wisdom figures' for you? Who has helped you with your questions?
- Where do you experience community? What does this add to your journeying?
- In what ways are you most often pulled off course?
- Do you cultivate silence in your life so that there can be moments of knowing and of recognition?
- Identify your own gifts. What are you offering of yourself, your time and your material possessions?
- Revelation can come to us through our dreams. Have you ever experienced this? How else do you experience God's revealing of the way to you?

Pastor Chris

Question Box

On the Hospitality Table will be a question box from Pastor Chris. This is especially for children - but God's children of all ages are welcome to make use of it!

If there are questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, church, life, the pastor, etc., please feel free to write them down and place them in the box. Pastor Chris will make the effort to answer every question as best as possible.

Lenten Devotionals

For the season of Lent, there will be a number of devotionals available for adults and children, beginning February 22nd. These offer brief daily reflections to carry us through the season of Lent.

We hope that you will take them so that you may follow the journey through Lent in your homes as well as in worship here at First Parish.

Don't Forget the Deacons' Fund

In these uncertain economic times, we would like to direct your attention to First Parish's Deacons' Fund – both as a way to reach out to others and as a possible source of help.

The Deacons' Fund is a collection provided through the generosity of the congregation and used to support those in our immediate community who are in economic difficulty. It is administered in complete confidentiality, at the pastor's discretion, on behalf of parishioners and community members who have experienced job loss or another sudden financial crisis.

This fund offers both the opportunity to help and to be helped. If you would like to contribute to the fund, checks may be sent to the church office with "Deacons' Fund" on the memo line. However, if you are in need of the fund's help, please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Chris at 781-326-0135. In times such as these, it is both our duty and our privilege to care for each other.

Service of Installation Sunday, May 17, 2009

On February 12, Pastor Chris will meet with the Metropolitan Boston Association (MBA) of our Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, to proceed with plans for his installation as Pastor of First Parish. While already called by the congregation, the final step in the search process is the Service of Installation, which is an act of the Association.

In our polity, a minister's authorization for ministry is held in the association. Since Chris comes from the Central Association, he needs to have his standing transferred and accepted by the MBA. At this meeting a conversation ensues about the nature of the ministry at First Parish and the roles the church and Chris will play. Chris will be accompanied by Marge Eramo (Chair of the Search Committee), Doug Hyde (Moderator when

Chris was called) and Bob Deininger (member of the Search Committee and current Moderator).

While already called by the congregation, the final step in the search process is the Service of Installation, which is an act of the Association. This worship service reminds us of the all the partners that are involved in the covenant when a pastor is called – the church, the pastor, the association (representing area churches and the wider denomination) and God.

The Service of Installation has been set for Sunday, May 17 at 4PM. This is a special and important event for the life of the church and many in the church will be active participants in the service that day. Mark your calendars!

Pastoral Relations Committee

An important step in the process of welcoming a new Pastor to a Church is the formation of a Pastoral Relations Committee. As voted at the September 21, 2008 congregational meeting, this Committee will be made up of many of the members from the Search Committee, who will continue to meet with Reverend Chris Dodge over the course of 2009 to ensure the transition continues to go smoothly.

The Pastoral Relations Committee acknowledges the importance of a healthy relationship between the pastor and the congregation, and we are so pleased that we are off to such a great start! The Committee will meet at a minimum of every three months but will hold meetings more frequently as needed. We en-

courage and welcome honest and productive feedback from the congregation and Chris and will work to make sure any and all issues are addressed.

Please feel free to contact any of us in the weeks and months ahead. All things discussed in this committee are kept confidential.

Thank you for all your support during this process. We are blessed to have found Chris and look forward to a bright future at First Parish!

*Marge Eramo (Chair),
David Aldinger, Bob Deininger,
Mike Gettings, Linda Johnson,
Roy London, Tish Verzino and Barb Worth*

Westwood Food Pantry Needs Donations

The Westwood Food Pantry is in need of donations to meet the rising needs of local residents. *Perishable* items are needed at this time – fresh or frozen foods such as cheese, ground beef, fish, hot dogs and chicken.

If you can help, donations may be dropped off at the Westwood Council on Aging, Monday-Fridays 8AM-4PM and on Fridays 8AM-3:30 PM.



Come to
Mardi Gras!

See page 1 for details!

Choices

“Are you excited?”



As I write this, I am packing up the family home to move into a condo. People ask me this question, and I hear myself reply, “It’s closer to panic”. You know, that breathless moment of hesitation before the plunge into the next wild ride, moving into unfamiliar territory. I don’t know. Maybe it is more excitement than panic. Sometimes it’s hard to tell the difference.

This has been a long time coming. As a friend put it, I’ve been moving out of this house practically from the moment I moved in. Reframing it as excitement might work at this point. Circumstances may have forced this move but I’ve adapted, too. If this had been a rollercoaster, I could have chosen not to ride.

So I take on the task of sifting through all the stuff accumulated over decades. George Carlin is in my head, reminding me that without all this *stuff* I wouldn’t even need a house. Up to now moving has meant a bigger house, making it easy to keep too much stuff; easy to avoid making choices. Unlimited choice makes it hard to find true values, hard to say, “Yes, this is important to me,” or “No, I don’t need that”. Downsizing forces selectivity, but still, it’s easier to say, “I don’t need that ladder any more,” than it is, “I don’t need that bit of memorabilia”. Have you seen the PBS commercial that says some of the most valuable things our parents pass on to us have nothing to do with DNA? It’s for the Antiques Road Show. The obvious implication is that Stuff Matters. Sure it does, but what does it mean when we place stuff at the top of the list?

All this sorting and dumping and shedding of possessions feels a bit like a Lenten practice, like a spiritual house cleaning. It might be easier to have no choice at all, or to have choices made without consent, but is that any way to live? Not if it means anything to be a Christian. We can make the leap of faith that says I don’t know where I’m going, but I can trust that I don’t have to take the trip all by myself. Leaving things behind never means being left alone.

William C. Green writes, “...it is no sooner that we are freed from one set of problems that we’re anxious about the next and faith seems inadequate: we want the security of clear answers. God puts up with this but doesn’t spare us the cost of freedom and the risk of faith. That’s the price of the good future God wants for us.”

So, I’ll make my choices.

Moving on,
Donna

Church School Update

Sunday, Feb. 1:

- 10AM worship: Special Music Sunday – “Amahl & the Night Visitors” (intergenerational with optional pre-school through grade 2 church school class). Communion will be served the next Sunday.
- 10:20 AM: SHYF Extreme Breakfast in the Parish Hall kitchen
- 11:30 AM: 2009 Confirmation Class informational meeting for students and parents.

(Continued on page 9)

Friday – Sunday (2/6-2/8): SHYF ski trip

Sunday, Feb. 8:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 10AM: Communion Class – students should go to the Cottage without going to the Meetinghouse first
- 11:30 AM: CE meeting in the Vogel Room
- 4:00 PM: New England Brass Band concert in the Meetinghouse
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM: Lay Leaders Dinner – in the Parish Hall. Food provided, children welcome, childcare provided. Please RSVP to the church office by Feb. 3rd.

Sunday, Feb. 15:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 10AM Communion Class

Sunday, Feb. 22:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 10AM Communion Class
- 5:00 PM Mardi Gras Pot Luck Supper & Celebration (in the Parish Hall)

FIRST PARISH FELLOWSHIP

Fox Hill Bible Study

Pastor Chris Dodge will meet with the Fox Hill Bible Study group on Thursday, February 19th at 10:30 AM. All Fox Hill residents are invited to participate.

If you do not live at Fox Hill and would like to attend the meeting, please contact Rev. Dodge at 781-326-0135 for details.

Senior Moments Fellowship

The Senior Moments Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday, February 5th at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall. All seniors are invited to bring a bag lunch – coffee and dessert are provided.

This is a great opportunity to gather together, just because it's fun! The group meets on the first Thursday of every month in the Parish Hall, unless otherwise noted. If you did not receive a postcard with the yearly schedule, please contact the church office and one will be mailed to you.

Retired Men's Club

The Retired Men's Club will meet on Thursday February 19th at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall. The meeting will begin with a coffee & donut fellowship, followed by a discussion of "The Carpenter Poets".

All meetings are held in the Parish hall at First Parish on the third Thursday of each month, from 9:30-11:30 am, unless otherwise noted in the schedule. All retired men in Westwood and surrounding communities are welcome to attend.



This month I'd like to offer food for the mind, body and soul through links to "God's Yellow Pages", shared with me by my counterpart at Second Church Plymouth, UCC. The Yellow Pages give Biblical references appropriate to many life situations. This month's are titled "Where To Look When..."

I hope you find them helpful.

- **Afraid**
 - Psalm 34:4
 - Matthew 10:28
 - 2 Timothy 1:7
 - Hebrews 13:5,6
- **Anxious**
 - Psalm 46
 - Matthew 6:19-34
 - Philippians 4:6
 - 1 Peter 5:6,7
- **Backsliding**
 - Psalm 51
 - 1 John 1:4-9
- **Bereaved**
 - Matthew 5:4
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3,4
- **Bitter - Critical**
 - 1 Corinthians 13
- **Conscious of sin**
 - Proverbs 28:13
- **Defeated**
 - Romans 8:31-39
- **Depressed**
 - Psalm 34
- **Disaster threatens**
 - Psalm 91
 - Psalm 118:5,6
 - Luke 8:22-25
- **Discouraged**
 - Psalm 23
 - Psalm 42:6-11
 - Psalm 55:22
 - Matthew 5:11,12
- **2 Corinthians 4:8-18**
- **Philippians 4:4-7**
- **Doubting**
 - Matthew 8:26
 - Hebrews 11
- **Facing crisis**
 - Psalm 121
 - Matthew 6:25-34
 - Hebrews 11
- **Faith fails**
 - Psalm 42:5
 - Hebrews 11
 -
- **Friends fail**
 - Psalm 41:9-13
 - Luke 17:3,4
 - Romans 12:14,17,19,21
 - 2 Timothy 4:16-18
- **Leaving home**
 - Psalm 121
 - Matthew 10:16-20
- **Lonely**
 - Psalm 23
 - Hebrews 13:5,6
- **Needing God's protection**
 - Psalm 27:1-3
 - Psalm 91
 - Philippians 4:19
- **Needing guidance**
 - Psalm 32:8
 - Proverbs 3:5,6
- **Needing peace**
 - John 14:1-4
 - John 16:33
 - Romans 5:1-5
 - Philippians 4:6,7
- **Needing rules for life**
 - Romans 12
- **Overcome**
 - Psalm 6
 - Romans 8:31-39
 - 1 John 1:4-9
- **Prayerful**
 - Psalm 4
 - Psalm 42
 - Luke 11:1-13
 - John 17
 - 1 John 5:14,15
- **Protected**
 - Psalm 18:1-3
 - Psalm 34:7
- **Sick - In pain**
 - Psalm 38
 - Matthew 26:39
 - Romans 5:3-5
 - 2 Corinthians 12:9,10
 - 1 Peter 4:12,13,19
- **Sorrowful**
 - Psalm 51
 - Matthew 5:4
 - John 14
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3,4

(Continued on page 11)

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- **Tempted**
 - Psalm 1
 - Psalm 139:23,24
 - Matthew 26:41
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12-14
 - Philippians 4:8
 - James 4:7
 - 2 Peter 2:9,3:17
- **Thankful**
 - Psalm 100
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - Hebrews 13:15
- **Traveling**
 - Psalm 121
- **Trouble, in**
 - Psalm 16+31
 - John 14:1-4
 - Hebrews 7:25
- **Weary**
 - Psalm 90
- Matthew 11:28-30
- 1 Corinthians 15:58
- Galatians 6:9,10
- **Worried**
 - Matthew 6:19-34
 - 1 Peter 5:6,7

Blessings and peace as we come into this Lenten season,
Margery Eramo, RN, CHM
Faith Community Nurse

First Parish and the Weather

So far, it has been quite a winter – and we congratulate everyone on coping so well with the difficulties all the ice and snow have presented! Hopefully we have seen the worst of this long winter – but just in case, here’s what you need to know about First Parish and the weather....

- **Worship will never be cancelled**, now that we have a settled pastor living in the Parsonage. We ask only that you use your best judgment about the safety of travel – and that you let the appropriate person know if you will not be able to meet an obligation (such as teaching or ushering etc) due to the weather. But if you get here, there will be worship, however informal.
- **Non-worship activities** (such as choir practices, dinners or meetings) may be cancelled, depending on the severity and timing of the storm. When possible, cancellations will be announced via email and the office phone away message. Otherwise, closings will be posted on Channel 7 (NBC) or Channel 56 (CW).
- **Always feel free to dress appropriately for the weather.** God does not care if you wear more casual clothes and safer shoes to church! Even if it is not actually snowing, our parking lots are often snow-covered or icy. Wear your safest boots –and please ask for help if you need a steadying arm to get back to your car!

Getting to Know You...

The arrival of our new settled pastor, Chris Dodge, is a perfect opportunity for us all to “fill in the gaps” between all those faces we see each Sunday and the number of names we can actually put in place!

To help Pastor Chris (and lots of the rest of us) match the names to the faces, please wear a name tag whenever you are at a First Parish activity. On Sunday mornings, blank name tags are available at the Hospitality Table just inside the entrance to the sanctuary. During Coffee Hours in the Parish Hall, both permanent and temporary name tags are available beside the coffee table.

Please take a moment to put a name tag on - you’ll find it’s a great help to everyone!

Rosie's Place Volunteers

Monday, February 16, 2009

NOTE: Please make **turkey sandwiches on wheat bread**, with no condiments. Do not wrap individually.

Drivers: R. London & T. Bruno

Fruit (canned fruit cocktail; maximum \$5):

| | | |
|-----------|----------|----------|
| R. London | T. Bruno | T. Berg |
| V. Mather | L. Owen | D. DeFeo |

Sandwiches (12-14 **TURKEY ON WHEAT**)

| | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| M. Nelson | J. Holbrook | C. Mather |
| J. Hansjon | P. Sullivan | T. Bruno |
| L. Domina | J. Clay | J. Germano |

Usher Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 1:

Dix & Dianne Howard (C)
Steve & Ingegerd Larch
Ron & Joy Sudduth

Sunday, Feb. 8:

Bob Kadehjian (C)
Bob Robertson
Jim & Linda McKenzie

Sunday, Feb. 15:

Bill Holbrook (C)
Sheldon Blaney
Don Friedl
Lee Adourian

Sunday, Feb. 22:

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

VOLUNTEERS AT FIRST PARISH

Altar Flowers

Sunday, Feb. 1:

Given by Elvin Fowell, in memory of his father, Rev. Myron Fowell

Sunday, Feb. 8:

Given by Ruth Very and family, in memory of Robert Winslow Very

Sunday, Feb. 15:

Given by Nick & Thelma Bruno, in memory of Diane Mackys

Sunday, Feb. 22:

Given by Richard & Diana Lassen, in memory of loved ones

FIRST PARISH HOSPITALITY

Coffee Hour Hosts

Thank you to the following parishioners for volunteering to host Coffee Hour. If a date is blank, volunteers are still needed. Sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office!

Sunday, Feb. 1: The Pariyars

Sunday, Feb. 8: The Whitneys

Sunday, Feb. 15: ??????????

Sunday, Feb. 22: DeFeo/Bruno

Worship Greeters

Sunday, Feb. 1:

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

Sunday, Feb. 8:

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

Sunday, Feb. 15:

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

Sunday, Feb. 22:

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