



The Clapboardtree Spire

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

FEBRUARY, 2008

First Parish Small Group Ministry Begins This Month!

Small Group Ministry is a program intended to create opportunities for people to come together to nurture spiritual growth, develop personal relationships, and experience Christian community through caring and sharing in support for one another. Group members meet to enjoy common interests and activities, to engage in discussion of a specific book, or simply to experience community in a social event.

This month we are excited to introduce First Parish's Small Group Ministry program, which will begin during Lent. To help this important ministry continue into the future, a task force has been established, consisting of Rev. David Stryker, David Blomquist and Brian Bayer.

The program's first offerings are described on page 5. If you are interested in participating in one (or more), complete the registration form on page 6 and send it to the church office. If you have questions, please contact the group facilitator.

Just For Fun Pot Luck Dinner

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Feb. 10th – and come to the Parish Hall at 5:30 PM for our ever-popular "Just For Fun" Pot Luck Dinner!

This is an informal evening devoted to just being together and enjoying each other's company. It's for parishioners of all ages. Bring the whole family, your friends or your neighbors – and don't forget to bring food to share.

Sign up in the Parish Hall or contact the church office. See you then!

One Great Hour of Sharing 2008 ~ Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have." This call to action from Hebrews 13 is a personal reminder that our conduct as Christians speaks as loudly as our words and our worship services. Doing good and sharing what we have, the epistle reminds us, "are sacrifices pleasing to God".

God's call to share what we have extends to people everywhere. Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help families and villages around the world to build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable. Our donations

- create sustainable sources of income for rural villages
- provide micro-credit to women to start

- poverty-escaping businesses
- teach trades and job skills to people maimed by land mines
- rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- resettle refugees into new lives

Everyone is invited to participate in this 4-week outreach effort. Our fundraising will begin on February 10 when devotional sharing calendars will be available to the congregation. Church School children will be given Sharing Calendars and offering boxes in their classrooms that day. Offering envelopes will be available in church on March 2 when we will dedicate each person's offering during worship.

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 10	Doug Joseph, Pamela Kane
February 12	Andrew Cutler, Katie Gorman Matthew Hiller, Libby Youngdahl
February 13	Barbara Delisle Stephen Wright III
February 14	Lauren Werth
February 18	Benjamin Anderson
February 19	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 5	Gerald & Caroline Hart
February 22	Philip & Molly Speros



Lifetimes

Born:

- On Dec. 28th, *Porter Wesley Friedl*, the 7th grandchild of Don Friedl, and son of Lawrence & Jenny Friedl.
- On Dec. 31st, *Chase Bennett Dobra*, grandson of John & Sallie Dobra, and son of James & Candace Dobra.

Baptized:

- On Jan. 6th : *Caroline Emma Gray*, daughter of Josh & Annie Gray; and *Meghan Bei Elizabeth Hobbs*, daughter of Sharon Hobbs.

Deaths:

- On Jan. 23rd, *Dorothy M. Anderson*, mother of parishioner Jim Anderson. Services were held in Kansas.

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.

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Dr. David Stryker
Phone:	781-326-0135
Email:	revstryker@firstparishwestwood.org
Asst. Minister:	Joshua Gray
Phone:	781-326-3997
Email:	jgray@firstparishwestwood.org
Moderator:	Doug Hyde
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
Secretary:	Judy Holbrook
Sexton:	Denis Wholey
Office Hours:	Mon.-Fri., 9AM-3PM
Phone:	781-326-5344
Email:	parish1st@firstparishwestwood.org
Fax:	781-326-5954
Web Site:	www.firstparishwestwood.org
Cottage:	781-326-3997

Who's Who at First Parish - 2008

Moderator Doug Hyde
Clerk Martha Crawford
Treasurer Cathy Ellis
Collector Shirley DeFeo

Nominating Committee: Rev. David Stryker, Martha Crawford, Elizabeth Vaccaro

Church Council Members-at-Large: Lois Breese, Margery Eramo, Louise Domina

Ministry of Worship: Jim McKenzie, Barb Worth, Bob Deininger, Mike Ellis, Allison Bayer, Judy Thomson

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

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

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

**Ministry of Spiritual
Life & Fellowship:** Gail Bean, Dave Blomquist, Jim Aldinger, Susan Abbadessa, Bill Holbrook, _____

Auditors: Michael Gettings, _____

Interfaith Delegates: Thelma Bruno, Anne Christian, _____

Denominational Delegates: Dave Blomquist, Martha Crawford, Donna Bertazzoni

Memorials: Ron Arntz, Marj Higgins, Betsy Dakin, Sylvia Rice, Jane Forsberg, _____

Flower Coordinator: Louise Domina

Usher Coordinator: Bill Holbrook

Rosie's Place Coordinator: Thelma Bruno

Fair Chairperson: Pam Kane

Sanctuary Guild: Christine Andrus, Thelma Bruno, Louise Donovan, Linda Johnson, Jim McKenzie, Ron Arntz, June Clay, Elvin Fowell, the Kane family, Joan Stefans, Sheldon Blaney, Shirley DeFeo, Holly Joe, Roy London

Interim Steering Com: Rev. David Stryker, Jim Aldinger, Martha Crawford, Sharon Hobbs, Doug Hyde, Jim McKenzie, Sharon Hobbs

Search Committee: Margery Eramo, David Aldinger, Linda Johnson, Michael Gettings, Roy London, Barb Worth, Tish Verzino, Bob Deininger

From Our Pastor



“Small Group Ministries is a program intended to create opportunities for people to come together in small groups to nurture spiritual growth, develop personal relationships, and experience Christian community through caring and sharing in support for one another. Group members meet to enjoy a common interest or activity, to engage in discussion of a specific book, or simply to experience community in a social event.”

In an effort to further assimilate new and present members into our church life, First Parish will launch a small group ministry program this month. I have run three facilitator training sessions to prepare leaders for small group work, and we are excited about the small group opportunities which will be available to our church. In order to ensure that small groups continue to thrive at First Parish, we have established a Small

Group Task force consisting of myself, Brian Bayer, Dave Blomquist, and Martha Crawford. Additional members are most welcome. If you are interested, please see me.

Feeling connected to a community is an important aspect of spiritual growth. This connection encourages deeper relationships and a heartfelt commitment to one another. It is the hope of our leadership to provide a variety of opportunities for everyone to feel connected. One such opportunity is the Small Group Ministry Program.

Are Small Groups Needed in Our Church?

- Are church members seeking to better understand how the Bible applies to their life situations?
- Has the work of committees become a chore rather than a blessing?
- Do members of the church need personal care beyond what the staff can provide?
- Do members need opportunities to identify, use, and further develop their spiritual gifts?
- Do members and potential members need opportunities to connect with one another?
- Do members seek opportunities outside worship to hear and receive God's grace?
- Is there a need to develop leaders in your church?
- Has your membership failed to increase in numbers for several years due to members leaving or moving into inactivity?
- Is your church searching for new ways to retain members and reach inactive members?
- Does your church have a commitment to reaching people who are unchurched? Should your church have a commitment to reaching people who are unchurched?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, then small groups can help our church. Please see the small group offerings included in this Spire, and register, so together we can continue to grow spiritually.

Peace,
Rev. David Stryker

Fox Hill Bible Study

On Thursday, February 21st, at 10:30 AM, Rev. David Stryker will lead a Bible study group at Fox Hill Village.

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

First Parish Small Group Ministry Offerings

First Parish's Small Group Ministry program offerings are listed below. If you would like to participate in one or more of them, complete the registration form on the next page and send it to the church office.

ONCE A MONTH BOOK GROUP

This group, facilitated by Martha Crawford, will meet one evening a month, and will read a book a month, chosen by the group. Members will lead the discussion, and at each meeting we will decide on the book and arrangements for the next month. Meeting locations will be decided by the group. New members will be welcome to join at any time.

Possible choices for our first book are: Three Cups of Tea (Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin), about a mountain climber who builds a school in an impoverished town between Pakistan and Afghanistan; and Mountains Beyond Mountains (Tracy Kidder), describing Dr. Paul Farmer's effort to cure infectious diseases and to bring the lifesaving tools of modern medicine to those who need them most. Both books are available in paper back.

An organizational meeting will be held Thursday, 2/28 at 7:30 in the Cottage.

MEDITATION GROUP

*"Seek and ye shall find;
knock and it shall be opened unto you"*

Meditation is a very valuable but seldom used tool at the heart of all of the world's great religions. Through practice, we can claim it for ourselves, increase our own faith and improve our lives by reducing stress and increasing our ability to focus.

*"The peace of God be with you."
"Dona nobis pacem – Lord, Give Us Peace"*

Parishioner Bart Smith is interested in leading a practice and discussion group to explore meditation and silent prayer as an effective way to approach God more fully and achieve inner peace. **Those interested in participating should speak to Bart Smith to determine mutually agreeable meeting dates, times and locations.**

IMAGES OF LENT

Images of Lent is a small group spiritual encounter that uses art, scripture and prayer to lead you to a better understanding of yourself and of Lent. Each week we will focus on a different image and lectionary-based scripture reading for our conversation and reflection. An added benefit of the group is that when you come to hear the sermon on Sunday morning you will already have had time to think about and reflect on the scripture for that morning's sermon.

Images of Lent will be offered in the Vogel Room at two different times during the week to allow for greater chances of participation: **Thursday evenings (beginning Feb. 7) from 7:30-8:30 PM** led by Donna Bertazzoni and Brian Bayer, **and Sunday mornings (beginning Feb. 10) from 8:30-9:30**, led by Josh Gray. Maybe, if you have children, one parent could come Sunday morning and the other on Thursday night! However you work it, we hope that you will join us.

A COMPLAINT FREE WORLD

Author David Bowen believes that if people stop complaining and start focusing on the good things around them, they can transform their lives – and possibly the world.

Rev. David Stryker invites the congregation to join him in a fun, yet serious study of Bowen's new book A Complaint Free World. Participants are invited to bring a habit to the group as a "work in progress" – complaining, procrastinating or whatever it may be – and test Bowen's theory that "you can change a habit in 21 days."

Two sessions of the group will be offered: one on **Tuesdays (2/26, 3/4 & 4/8) from 7:30-8:30 in the Cottage**, and one on **Thursdays (2/28, 3/6, & 4/3) from 4-5PM at Fox Hill Village.**

Small Group Registration Form

Here's what you need to do:

- ◆ Indicate your group preference(s) below, and send this registration form to the church office.
- ◆ Questions? See the group leader associated with your choice(s).

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to attend:

_____ **Images of Lent – Thursday session
(7:30 -8:30 PM Feb. 7-Mar. 13)**

_____ **Images of Lent – Sunday session
(8:30-9:30 AM, Feb. 10 – Mar. 16)**

_____ **A Meditation Group (TBA)**

_____ **A Complaint Free World – Tuesdays
7:30-8:30 PM, 2/26, 3/4, & 4/8 at First Parish**

_____ **A Complaint Free World – Thursdays
4-5PM, 2/28, 3/6, & 4/3 ,for Fox Hill Village residents**

_____ **Monthly Book Study
Organizational meeting: 2/28 @ 7:30 PM/Cottage**

**From
Assistant Minister
Josh Gray**

What is Lent?

For many Christians Lent can be a mystery. For some, Lent is a period of going on a diet; for others Lent is a time when their Catholic friends wear ashes on their foreheads and eat fish on Fridays. In basic terms, Lent is the season before Easter, in the

West lasting liturgically from Ash Wednesday until the morning of Holy Thursday. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

The purpose of Lent for many is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversion, and simplicity. Lent, which comes from the Teutonic word for springtime, can be viewed as a spiritual spring cleaning: a time for taking spiritual inventory and then cleaning out those things which hinder our corporate and personal relationships with Jesus Christ and our service to him.

Put simply, Lent is a time to examine ourselves carefully. Here are some questions upon which you might pray and meditate during Lent:

- Am I sharing gladly what I have with others, especially the stranger and the poor?
- Do I have a gracious and patient attitude with others, especially those who irritate me?
- Do I feel the power of connection to God and the church in worship?
- How is my devotional and prayer life progressing? Am I listening to God more and complaining less? Is it time for a change or a growth in my Bible study and prayer life?
- What are the lurking problems, which still plague me?
- Am I as thoughtful and forgiving of family as others, or do I take my frustrations out on them?
- Do I speak up for the maligned and oppressed, or do I remain silent in order to remain popular?

These are just a few of the questions that we can be asking ourselves in this time of reflection and prayer that Lent offers to us. Lent is a time for us to look inwards as well as outwards. It is a time for us to reflect on how we are and where we are. It is a time meant for us to carefully and prayerfully reflect upon our faith lives. At First Parish this Lent we will be given many opportunities to begin to do this reflecting through our small group programs that will begin in Lent. I invite you to prayerfully consider joining one or more of the small groups in Lent as a way to help you to carefully and prayerfully reflect in this Lenten season. I pray for God's peace to be with you through Lent, Easter and beyond.

A Little TLC!

Looking for an outreach opportunity in the New Year? The Lay Visitation Team, affectionately named "TLC" by its coordinator Kitty Reiland, is currently "accepting applications" for new members!

The team extends First Parish to the homebound and those in nursing homes by making phone calls and visits. The team gets

together every couple of months to share its experiences.

If this sounds like something that you would like to become part of, please contact Kitty or me.

Dave Blomquist
Lay Visitation Team



Sunday School

Donna Bertazzoni
Church School
Administrator

It seems impossible that Lent is already upon us. As I begin to write this in mid-January I happily admit that I have not put away any of my Christmas music collection or decorations yet (besides, Orthodox Christmas was only 3 days ago and I always enjoy honoring that tradition). But the calendar tells me that Lent begins momentarily, on February 6, this year!

ABOUT LENT

Similar in purpose to Advent, Lent is meant to be a forty-day season of reflection. The forty days are symbolic of fullness, as represented by the forty years Israel traveled through the desert towards the Promised Land, or the forty days Jesus lived in the wilderness to prepare for his life's work.

The traditions of Lent grew out of the ancient practice of preparing candidates for baptism during this period. Eventually it became a season of preparation not only for new Christians but also for the whole congregation. Reorienting our lives towards God is the theme of Lent. Historically, we do this by taking time for self-examination, study, prayer, fasting and works of love. As individuals and as a church community, we make an effort to look inward to reflect on our readiness to follow Jesus in his journey towards the cross.

Several small group options are being introduced this month for adults to encounter or explore possibilities of transformation. Write-ups appear in this issue of the Spire. For those of you who lean toward a virtual community, a guide to Lent and Easter will be posted on i.ucc.org to help you on your spiritual walk through these holy seasons.

CELEBRATING LENT AND EASTER WITH CHILDREN

For adults the relative quiet of Lent, in contrast to the commercial frenzy that precedes Christmas, may allow time for introspection and fewer distractions so we can deal with preparing ourselves for Easter. But, regardless of our age, how we spend the time of anticipation and preparation before a holiday matters. Children understand that Easter is not just about chocolate bunnies, brightly colored eggs and new clothes. They are familiar with the story of the Passion and its images of pain, death, and rebirth. They know Lent is a time for remembering Jesus and the way he taught us to live; that is why we stress the importance of doing something positive during this time. Encouraging acts of kindness is always age-appropriate. Children can enjoy the challenge of making small changes for the better. If there is a *specific* occasion for repentance, children can be reminded that the love of God is always with us but that Lent is also a time when we want to tell God we are sorry.

We can help them explore these ideas more deeply by experiencing the rhythm of the Christian year with them. A Lenten candle ceremony will be introduced during worship this year that may help fill in the liturgical dimension for children as well as adults. Beginning with seven candles, one for each week and one for Maundy Thursday, every worship service will begin with one less candle lit, slowly fading into darkness over the six weeks. A brief reflection and moment of stillness together will call us to spiritual transformation. At end of the Lenten journey on Easter Sunday the darkened candles will be relit in celebration of the resurrection.

Peace,

Donna Bertazzoni

Habitat for Humanity

The Ministry of Mission and Service will be coordinating a day to volunteer for The South Shore Habitat for Humanity. We have committed to Saturday, May 3. Volunteers

must be 16 years of age or older.

If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Margaret Carr at mawcarr@comcast.net or 617-506-2030.

Church School Update

Sunday, Feb. 3rd:

- 9:30 AM Teacher Communion/Vogel Room
- 10AM communion worship & church school
- 10AM 3rd Grade Communion Class in the Cottage (students should go directly to class, not to the Meeting-house)

Sunday, Feb. 10th:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 10AM 3rd Grade Communion class in the Cottage
- 11:30 AM Confirmation Class in the Stage Classroom
- 5:30 PM "Just For Fun" Pot Luck Dinner in the Parish Hall

Sunday, Feb. 17th:

- 10AM worship & K-8 Adventure lesson (in the Parish Hall)

Sunday, Feb. 24th:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 11:30 AM Confirmation class in the Stage Classroom

Church School February Mission Project

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sharing Resources, Changing Lives

The children of the church school join the adults of the congregation in supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing each year. This year's theme, *Sharing Resources, Changing Lives* will be introduced in worship February 10th during the Word for All Ages. Interactive sharing calendars and offering boxes will be distributed that day. The calendars highlight the impact the donations will have on neighbors in the US and around the world based on current information from the UN.

Children may bring their boxes to worship on Sunday March 2, when the whole church offering will be dedicated.

Senior Moments

The Senior Moments Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday, February 7th, at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall.

All seniors are invited to bring a bag lunch – coffee and dessert are provided

Attention All Walkers

The Westwood Inter-faith Council is interested in getting a group of walkers together to take part in the Walk for Hunger, Project Bread's annual fundraiser which supplies food pantries throughout Massachusetts. Each place of worship is hoping to field a team of volunteers who are willing to walk.

I know it seems early to start planning. The Walk isn't until the first Sunday in May – May 4th – but WIC needs to know if there is enough interest town-wide to start making arrangements. WIC will not provide transportation but will try to help with car pools and use of public transportation. The walkers will meet at a pre-arranged checkpoint on Boston Common and start the walk together, although of course, some people will walk faster and further than others. Walkers will also be expected to get sponsors, but Project Bread is just as happy to welcome those who walk one or two miles as those who complete the entire route (25 miles).

This is the 40th year for The Walk. It would be great to have a large contingent of Westwoodites to help celebrate this anniversary. Please contact me before WIC's next meeting on Feb. 25th if you have *any* interest in the project. I can be contacted at 781-329-9610, or you can see me after church any Sunday.

Thelma Bruno

As I am writing this, I am looking out on a winter wonderland that is beautiful but can prove deadly. As a summer resident of Plymouth, I read many articles about “Melanie” the young girl who died of unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. It was in weather such as this that the vent for the furnace in her family’s home became clogged with snow and caused a back up of CO in the home. There are several precautions that you can take to prevent this colorless, odorless gas from needlessly taking another life.

Where is CO found?

CO is found in combustion fumes, such as those produced by cars and trucks, small gasoline engines, stoves, lanterns, burning charcoal and wood, and gas ranges and heating systems. CO from these sources can build up in enclosed or semi-enclosed spaces. People and animals in these spaces can be poisoned by breathing it.

What are the symptoms of CO poisoning?

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. High levels of CO inhalation can cause loss of consciousness and death. Unless suspected, CO poisoning can be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms mimic other illnesses. People who are sleeping or intoxicated can die from CO poisoning before ever experiencing symptoms.

How does CO poisoning work?

Red blood cells pick up CO quicker than they pick up oxygen. If there is a lot of CO in the air, the body may replace oxygen in blood with CO. This blocks oxygen from getting into the body, which can damage tissues and result in death.

Who is at risk from CO poisoning?

All people and animals are at risk for CO poisoning. Certain groups — unborn babies, infants, and people with chronic heart disease, anemia, or respiratory problems — are more susceptible to its effects. Each year, more than 500 Americans die from unintentional CO poisoning, and more than 2,000 commit suicide by intentionally poisoning themselves.

How can I prevent CO harmful exposure?

- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Do not use portable flameless chemical heaters (catalytic) indoors. Although these heaters don't have a flame, they burn gas and can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- If you smell an odor from your gas refrigerator's cooling unit have an expert service it. An odor from the cooling unit of your gas refrigerator can mean you have a defect in the cooling unit. It could also be giving off CO.
- When purchasing gas equipment, buy only equipment carrying the seal of a national testing agency, such as the American Gas Association or Underwriters' Laboratories.
- Install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.
- All gas appliances must be vented so that CO will not build up in your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Chimneys can be blocked by debris. This can cause CO to build up inside your home or cabin.

(Continued on page 11)

- Never patch a vent pipe with tape, gum, or something else. This kind of patch can make CO build up in your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating. Using a gas range or oven for heating can cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a charcoal grill or a barbecue grill indoors. Using a grill indoors will cause a build up of CO inside your home, cabin, or camper unless you use it inside a vented fireplace.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal — red, gray, black, or white — gives off CO.
- Never use a portable gas camp stove indoors. Using a gas camp stove indoors can cause CO to build up inside your home, cabin, or camper.
- Never use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window, door, or vent.
- Have a mechanic check the exhaust system of my car every year. A small leak in your car's exhaust system can lead to a build up of CO inside the car.
- Never run a car or truck in the garage with the garage door shut. CO can build up quickly while your car or truck is running in a closed garage. Never run your car or truck inside a garage that is attached to a house and always open the door to any garage to let in fresh air when running a car or truck inside the garage.
- If you drive a vehicle with a tailgate, when you open the tailgate, you also need to open vents or windows to make sure air is moving through your car. If only the tailgate is open CO from the exhaust will be pulled into the car.

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Have a safe and healthy winter and enjoy the snow!

Blessings and Peace,
Margery Eramo, RN, FCN
Faith Community Nurse

Attention All Knitters

Knitters Needed

First Parish's supply of prayer shawls is getting low, and Parish Nurse Margery Eramo is looking for knitters interested in making either the adult or baby sizes. Typically knitters gather to work on shawls together (it's a great excuse for relaxed fellowship) but solo knitters are welcome as well. Please contact Judy Holbrook in the church office if you are interested in being part of a group – or if you would like directions for making a shawl.

UCC Medfield To Host Prayer Shawl Knitters Workshop

On Saturday, March 1st, the UCC church in Medfield center is hosting a Prayer Shawl Ministry workshop, featuring a chance to meet Prayer Shawl ministry founder Janet Bristow. UCC Medfield invites all knitters in surrounding communities to meet Ms. Bristow and learn more about this powerful ministry.

Although First Parish of Westwood already participates in a very effective Prayer Shawl ministry, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn directly "from the master"! If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office.

Altar Flowers

Sunday, Feb. 3rd:

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

Sunday, Feb. 10th:

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

Sunday, Feb. 17th:

Given by Nick & Thelma Bruno, in memory of Daisy Hardman.

Sunday, Feb. 24th:

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

Usher Schedule

Sunday, Feb. 3:

Martha Crawford (C)
Ron Arntz
Stuart & Carol Maynard
Brendan Morrison

Sunday, Feb. 17:

Doug Hyde (C)
Jerry Verzino
Michael Gettings

Sunday, Feb. 10:

Fred Rice (C)
Charlie Domina
Peter Kane
Nancy Hyde

Sunday, Feb. 24:

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

Rosie's Place Volunteers Monday, February 18

NOTE: Please make sandwiches with **low salt ham & Swiss cheese, on wheat bread** with no condiments, for a healthier meal.

Drivers: R. London & T. Bruno

Chips (2 large bags): R. London & T. Bruno

Cookies (2 dozen):

T. Lea V. Mather L. Owen T. Berg

Sandwiches: (1 dozen)

M. Nelson J. Holbrook C. Mather T. Bruno L. Domina
J. Clay J. Hansjon J. Germano S. Rice S. DeFeo

Where Your Money Helps

In 2007, the Ministry of Mission and Service contributed \$200 to the **New England Seafarers Mission**.

For 128 years the New England Seafarers Mission has ministered to seaman in Boston and more recently in Providence, Bridgeport and Portland, offering spiritual and sometimes material care.

The mission has a Boston chapel with a chaplain on duty, and Bibles in dozens of languages, as well as a store with simple necessities, e-mail and phones to connect seamen with their families, and clothes for those in need. For the seamen who cannot leave their ships due to increased security or quick turn around times, members of the mission visit bringing cell phones and bibles.

Also In 2007, the Ministry of Mission and Service contributed \$200 to **The Southern Poverty Law Center for their Teaching Tolerance Program**.

Founded in 1971 as a small civil rights law firm, today the Southern Poverty Law Center is internationally known for its tolerance education program, helping educators bring tolerance into the classroom.

The program produces and distributes free, high-quality anti-bias multimedia kits and a semiannual magazine that profiles educators, schools and programs promoting diversity and equity in replicable ways. It has received two Academy Awards, and more than 20 honors from the Educational Press Association of America – including the Golden Lamp Award, its highest honor.