

January 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

Nativity Sunday

Sunday, 1/3 10AM (page 4)

Baptism of Jesus Sunday

Sunday, 1/10 10AM (page 4)

“Vertical Habits” Sermon Series

Sundays, 1/10-2/14 10AM (page 4)

FELLOWSHIP

SHYF Extreme Breakfasts

Sundays 1/10 & 1/24 10:15 (page 6)

Senior Moments Fellowship

Thursday, 1/7 11:30AM (page 10)

Book Group

Wednesday, 1/13 7:30 (page 10)

Retired Men’s Fellowship

Thursday, 1/21 9:30AM (page 10)

MUSIC IN THE MEETING HOUSE

New England Brass Band

Sunday, 1/10 4PM (page 2)

Rutter’s Requiem

Sunday, 3/28 4PM

Synergy Brass Quintet

Sunday, 5/16 4PM

MEETINGS

Worship Ministry

Thursday, 1/7 7:30PM Vogel Rm.

Pastor-Parish Committee

Monday, 1/11 7PM Vogel Rm.

Special Church Council

Tuesday, 1/12 7:30PM Vogel Rm.

Communications Committee

Tuesday, 1/19 7:00PM Stage Classroom

Church Council

Tuesday, 1/19 7:30PM Stage Classroom

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, 1/31 11AM Meeting House (page 2)

A Word from Our Moderator

Special thanks to the entire church staff (Chris Dodge, Judy Holbrook, Joshua Hawkins Nannestad, Joanna Hawkins Nannestad, Karen Westerfield Tucker, Donna Bertazonni, Margery Eramo, and Denis Wholey) for their hard work and dedication during Advent Season and Christmas. The Advent Vespers Worship and Longest Night Worship Service were welcome additions to the Advent Season this year and were very meaningful for those who attended.

Grateful appreciation is also extended to Vicki Pariyar for designing and constructing the beautiful Advent banners; and all the families who participated in Lighting the Advent Candles.

A reminder that Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 31 immediately after worship. Ministry Chairpersons are reminded that Annual Re-

ports are needed in the church office no later than Monday, January 18th.

One of the major purposes of the Annual Meeting is to hear and act on the Proposed Budget for 2010. Our goal has been to be honest and transparent about the budgeting process. We intend to present a balanced budget, but as of December 17 currently projected operating expenses exceed income. This is due to the fact that current pledge income is lower than last year. If you have not submitted your 2010 pledge or are in a position to increase your already submitted pledge, please thoughtfully consider your support of First Parish.

Bob Deininger, Moderator



The Clapboardtree Spire

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

JANUARY, 2010

ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR JAN. 31ST

First Parish's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31st in the Meeting House immediately following the morning worship service. We hope that holding this important meeting early in the day will make it possible for more members of the congregation to attend.

Copies of the 2009 Annual Reports will be available in the Meeting House narthex on Sunday, Jan. 24th.

Ministry chairpersons and committee leaders are reminded that individual annual reports are needed in the church office no later than Monday, January 18th.

THE NEW ENGLAND BRASS BAND IS BACK

Sunday, January 10th is the new date for the New England Brass Band concert which was snowed out in December! Plan to come to the Meeting House at 4PM to *finally* hear this great 30-piece, all brass ensemble rock the rafters at First Parish!

Tickets are \$15 (\$10/ seniors & children; \$30 family cap) and are available at the door or in advance through the church office. Tickets purchased in advance for the December concert will be honored at the door.

Mark your calendars now, tell your friends and neighbors – and be sure you're front and center on Jan. 10th at 4PM!

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER

Giving Statements for 2009 will go out around the end of January. They will be emailed to those for whom we have email addresses, and mailed to all others. 2009 pledge payments need to be in the church office by January 6th in order to be reflected in your 2009 tax records.

2010 offering envelopes are available in the church narthex for those who requested them. If you do not find a box with your name on it and would like envelopes, please sign up on the sheet provided. *Please do not use 2009 offering envelopes after January 1st!*

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

As we all know, the weather in New England is nothing if not unpredictable, so it's often difficult to decide what's "on" in the face of possible nasty weather. We hope the following helps:

- *Sunday worship will always be offered, no matter what the weather, thanks to Pastor Chris' close proximity to the church. However, please use your best judgment about*

safe travel - but if you can get here, we will worship together.

- *If church school classes are cancelled, that information will be available by watching the storm cancellations on Channel 7.*
- *All other program cancellations will be announced on the church voicemail and website (www.firstparishwestwood.org).*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

January 2	Isaiah Ritchey
January 3	Matthew Anderson, Donna Schock
January 4	Matthew Hichar, Sophia Tempesta
January 5	Samuel Jacobson, Steven Larch Shelley Reeve, Karen Wagner
January 7	Alex Adourian, Katie Holbrook
January 8	Shelby McKim
January 9	Jake Liebrock, Kelly Porter Megan Porter
January 11	MaryAnn Archambo
January 13	Alex Archambo, Jim Ritchey
January 15	Emily Werth
January 17	Brian Bayer
January 19	Emily Christian, Gladys Dunsford Emily Wright
January 21	Thea Roper, Brad Rutan Billy Storey
January 22	Katherine Millos
January 23	Elvin Fowell, Will Vaccaro
January 24	James Christian
January 25	Wyatt Ritchey, Stephen Werth Rebecca Whalen
January 26	Jacey Anderson
January 27	Drew Pfaff
January 28	Alexandra Brind, Derek Peterson
January 30	Michael Peterson
January 31	Matt McClellan

Anniversaries

January 20 Charlie & Louise Domina

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).

LIFETIMES

New Address:

- *Ruth Corsini*: Emeritus at Wilson Mountain Assisted Living, 391 Common St., Dedham MA 02026
- *Bill Reiland*: 10 Longwood Dr., #249, Westwood, MA 02090

Emails:

- Michael Gettings: mjgettings@gmail.com
- Vicky Pariyar: v.pariyar@ieionline.com

WHO'S WHO AT FIRST PARISH

Pastor:	Rev. Christoph L. Dodge
Phone:	781-326-0135
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CE Admin.:	Donna Bertazzoni
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From Pastor Chris

A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR

By Lynda Wright, (*Hay and Stardust*, ed. Ruth Burgess)



May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you and your sense of mystery be deepened.

May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness, and that the darkness can never put it out.

May you be blessed with companions on the journey, friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence.

May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your heart, daring to face the questions and holding them until, one day, they find their answers.

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.

May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for you. Amen.

COMING UP IN WORSHIP

January 3rd – Nativity Sunday

We will celebrate Epiphany, the visitation of the Magi, during this service and reflect on all of the characters who came to visit the Christ Child at his birth. Every family is encouraged to bring their nativity sets to church - or at least some of their favorite figures. There will be a table to display these in the front of the church. Family-friendly worship on this Sunday will be intergenerational, with Communion, and the Festival Choir will sing.

January 10th – Baptism of Jesus Sunday

On this Sunday, we will gather around the font to hear the story of Jesus' baptism and to remember our own baptisms.

Sermon Series: "Vertical Habits"

Beginning Jan. 10th, we will engage in a sermon series focusing on "vertical habits". We will reflect on the practices that define and grow our relationship with God, many of which are found in the elements of Sunday morning worship and personal devotion. This series will take us through the season after Epiphany, right up to the beginning of Lent.

PASTOR'S THANK YOU

My deepest thanks to everyone who put so much time and energy into providing so many meaningful ways to celebrate the Advent and Christmas season –

- To the Worship and Christian Educations ministries, the Senior and Junior choirs, our Candle Lighters and Lay Readers of all ages, Josh & Joanna Nannestad, Karen Westerfield Tucker, Margery Eramo, Donna Bertazzoni and Judy Holbrook for helping make our worship services complete;
- To our Mission Ministry for guiding us through this important outreach season – particularly Michael Gettings for leading the Christmas Family outreach project, and Martha Crawford for offering the Alternative Gift Market;

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Pastor's Thank You
(Continued from page 4)

- To Head Shepherd Robin Ostrander and all our volunteer shepherds for caring so faithfully for the sheep – and to Denis Wholey, Dave Blomquist and Stuart Maynard for working together to put up the sheep shed;
- To Matt Hurley and Matt Cannon for jumping in as readers at the Living Nativity – and to Sharon Hobbs and that cutest of shepherds, Meghan.

ABOUT OUR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS BANNERS

The Advent Banners began with a vision from Pastor Chris. He had the idea to enhance our parishioners' experience of Advent by stimulating our visual senses.

It takes a team so we gathered together, Pastor Chris, Donna Bertazzoni, Marge Eramo, Judy Thompson, June Clay and me. The design of the banners began with key words like; movement, blue, angels, crèche, hope, joy, peace, and of course the light! What you see now is how I interpreted and created those concepts through fabric.

There is a blue banner for each of the four Sundays of Advent, moving from dark to light, as does our spirit in faith with the coming of baby Jesus. Additionally, each Sunday has its own biblical story and message as we travel along the journey to Christmas, therefore each week there is a smaller banner to implicitly represent that concept.

I would like to thank those that helped conceptualize, create and install the Advent banners from yards and yards of fabric - Pastor Chris, Donna Bertazzoni, Marge Eramo, Judy Thompson, and June Clay. Marge and Judy made the trip to my studio, joined by my mother, Carol Devlin who appears wherever there is a stitched to be saved. My dear friend and spiritual confidant, Carol Asiaghi joined in the sewing and designing on her trip in from NY. I cannot in good faith, not mention the wonderful Surgeon, Dr. Evan Schumer and Occupational Therapist, Kym Cohen, who put my hand back to working order. And lastly, but oh so important, Keva, my sweet daughter, made sure I was fed and well caffeinated through the hours of the construction process.

I thank Pastor Chris for the opportunity and challenge to design and create these banners. I offer them as my gift to the parish in this the season of thanks and giving.

As he often ends his reading from the bible with "may God add a blessing to reading, hearing and understanding of these holy words", It is my hope that God adds a blessing to the viewing and understanding of these banners.

Peace,
Vicki Pariyar

PASTOR CHRIS WILL BE AWAY...

Pastor Chris will be out of his office, attending a conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan from January 26th through January 30th.

In case of emergency please contact Judy in the church office.

UNSUNG HEROES

December's Unsung Heroes are *Matthew Hurley* and *Matthew Cannon*, for stepping up to the plate for First Parish when we needed them most.

On a cold and snowy mid-December Sunday evening, Matt and Matt were the sole SHYF representatives to brave the after-effects of the winter's biggest snow storm and show up to support our annual Living Nativity. AND, once they got here, they found themselves not only in full costume but also front and center – in the spotlight as narrators for the whole event.

In spite of all this doubtless unwanted attention, they both conducted themselves with maturity and enthusiasm, helping to adapt the event to fewer participants and effectively saving the day. Our sincere thanks to them both for being such good sports – we really couldn't have done it without you!



Donna Bertazzoni
Church School
Administrator



It's snowing and bitterly cold in Vermont as I write this, but my family is together and that creates its own satisfying sense of warmth and Christmas cheer. I hope all of you have enjoyed spending Christmas with your loved ones, renewing your family rituals, too.

One of the holiday greetings I received this year decried the hackneyed use of the phrase, "Keep the Christ in Christmas". Like many clichés, this one originates from a place of truth. Everybody knows that it is hard to keep focus on the religious aspects of Christmas, but the writer's point was a happy reminder that celebrating Christmas is not an either/or proposition. "Christmas is and always has been a combination of sacred and secular, a harmonic blend of sentimentality and sanctity". We are not obligated to only seek Christ in church. God is with us in all our practices of hospitality, goodwill, generosity, and community. The balance we have struggled to maintain the last month or so is evidence that the sacred is always in the secular. It's the only place we *can* find it. We just need to look.

So, wherever you are, whatever your circumstances, whenever your Christmas high wears off, my new year's wish for you is to remember that God is always with us in the real world.

Happy New Year!
Donna

2010 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The 2010 Confirmation classes will begin on Jan 10th. Students will meet at 11:30AM in the Stage Classroom, and the class is open to all who are in Grades 9 or above who have not yet completed the confirmation process.

If you missed the introductory meeting but are still interested in participating in the class, please contact Pastor Chris.



CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday, January 3rd: Nativity Story Sunday

- 10AM intergenerational Communion worship, with Festival Choir. No church school classes.

Sunday, January 10th:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 10:15 AM Extreme Breakfast in the Cottage
- 11:30AM Confirmation Class/Stage Classroom (Thank you to the Whalens for providing lunch)

Sunday, January 17th:

- 10AM worship & church school

Sunday, January 24th:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 10:15 AM Extreme Breakfast in the Cottage
- 11:30AM Confirmation Class in the Stage Classroom

Sunday, January 31st:

- 10AM worship & church school
- 11AM Annual Meeting in the Meeting House
- 11:30 AM Confirmation Class in the Stage Classroom



**From Our
Parish Nurse**

I hope that you all had a Blessed Advent and Christmas season and that those blessings will continue into the New Year. To start the New Year off in the right direction health wise, I would like to share the following:

ASK ME 3, Good Questions for Your Good Health

Every time you talk with a doctor, nurse or pharmacist, use the **Ask Me 3** questions to better understand your health.

1. What is my main problem?
2. What do I need to do?
3. Why is it important for me to do this?

You can ask questions every time you see your primary care provider, you prepare for a medical test or procedure or you fill a prescription. Let the provider know if you still don't understand what you need to do. Everyone wants help with health information. You are not alone if you find things confusing at times. It can even be confusing for those of us in the health professions if it is an area outside of our expertise. Asking questions helps us understand how to stay well or to get better.

Don't be nervous about asking your health provider (PCP) questions. Your medical team wants you to let them know that you need help. Like all of us, your PCP's have busy schedule, but they want you to know all you can about your condition, why this is important to your health, and steps you can take to keep your condition under control. Asking these questions can help you take care of your health, prepare for medical tests and take your medicines correctly. Bring a list of your medications with you. Like many people, you may see more than one health provider. It is important that all your health providers know all the medicines you are taking so that you can stay healthy.

To learn more, visit www.npsf.org/askme3.

HERE IS A HEALTHY RECIPE FOR A COLD WINTER NIGHT.

Yukon Gold Potato Gratin

6 cups thinly sliced Yukon gold potatoes (about 6 potatoes)	¼ to ½ tsp. salt
1 tbsp. whipped butter with 8 grams of fat/tbsp. (replaces ½ stick of butter)	¼ to ½ tsp. pepper
½ cup finely chopped sweet onion	1 cup whole milk (fat-free half and half can also be used) (replaces cream)
½ cup finely chopped leeks (anise or fennel can be substituted)	2 tsp. flour
1 tbsp. fresh, finely chopped parsley (or 1 ½ tsp. parsley flakes)	2 tbsp. whole milk
1 tsp. fresh, finely chopped thyme (or ½ tsp. dried thyme)	1 large egg (higher omega 3 if available)
½ tsp. garlic powder (or 1 tsp. minced garlic)	¾ cup shredded gruyere cheese
	½ cup shredded parmesan cheese (quantities of cheeses cut)

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1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Coat a 9-inch deep dish pie plate or 9x9 baking dish with canola oil cooking spray.
2. Add sliced potatoes of a microwave-safe dish, cover and cook on high for 10 minutes or until potatoes are just tender
3. Meanwhile, add butter to a nonstick medium saucepan or skillet and melt over medium-high heat. Add onion & leeks and sauté for about 4 minutes or until lightly golden. Turn off heat and add parsley, thyme, garlic, salt, pepper, and 1 cup of milk and stir to blend.
4. Add flour and 1 tbsp. of milk to a 2 cup measure and stir with a fork to make a paste. Stir in remaining tbsp. of milk and egg and beat with fork to blend.
5. In a large mixing bowl, add potatoes, milk and onion mixture from saucepan, flour and egg mixture, cheeses and stir gently. Spoon mixture into prepared baking dish and bake until golden brown (about 20 minutes).
6. Enjoy!!

Makes 6 servings, **per serving**: 200 cal, 8 g total fat (4 g saturated fat) 9 g protein, 24 g carbohydrate, 45 mg cholesterol, 205 mg sodium. The original recipe had per serving, 375 calories, 24 g total fat (14 g saturated fat).

Have a Happy Healthy New Year,
Margery Eramo, RN, CHM
Faith Community Nurse

THANK YOU, GIFT DONORS

Heartfelt thanks to all who bought gifts, wrapped, and/or contributed money this holiday season for the purchase of gifts and essential household items for our Christmas Outreach Families. As always, special thanks to Michael Gettings for coordinating this big project!

This is the 14th year that First Parish

has shared Christmas joy with families struggling to survive the economic and physical demands of caring for a disabled child.

Thanks to you, several families in Norfolk County and children at the Massachusetts Hospital School wore bright smiles on Christmas Day! What you do really matters!

THANK YOU SHEEP VOLUNTEERS

Many, many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped care for the sheep in the weeks preceding Christmas – and to Denis Wholey, Dave Blomquist and Stuart Maynard for their hard work setting up the sheep pen! Your time and loving care this season, through the good weather and the bad, was invaluable. We hope you enjoyed your experience (we know the sheep did!) – and we look forward to working with you

again next year.

Of course, we couldn't have done it without our new Head Shepherd, Robin Ostrander, who organized all the volunteers, and took over the day-to-day oversight of our woolly visitors. More than once Robin was sighted out in the sheep pen mucking out the shed and forking in clean bedding to keep our sheep warm. Many thanks Robin for all the loving care you lavished on our woolly friends! Great job!

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, January 3:
??????????????

Sunday, January 10:
????????????????

Sunday, January 17:
????????????????

Sunday, January 24:
Jim McKenzie

COFFEE VOLUNTEERS

Coffee Volunteers

Sunday, January 3rd:
Judy Holbrook and Donna Bertazzoni

Sunday, January 10th:
The Archambo family

Sunday, January 17th:
????????????????

Sunday, January 24th:
The Underhill family

Sunday, January 31st:
????????????????

ROSIE'S PLACE VOLUNTEERS Monday, January 18th

Drivers:
B. Jorgensen & T. Bruno

Fruit (canned fruit cocktail: maximum \$5-\$7)
B. Jorgensen T. Bruno R. Dettbarn
D. Lassen J. Holbrook B. Macdonald

Sandwiches (12-14 HAM & CHEESE ON WHEAT)
R. Dettbarn D. Lassen T. Bruno
S. DeFeo J. Marsh B. Jorgensen
S. Reeve P. Sullivan J. Germano

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday, January 3rd:
Given by all the children of the Clapboardtree Nursery School program, in appreciation of their wonderful facilities.

Sunday, January 10th:
Given through the Endowed Memorial Flower Fund by the Dorey Family, in memory of William & Pearl Klingenberg.

Sunday, January 17th:
Given by Jim & Betsy Dakin, in memory of loved ones.

Sunday, January 24th:
Given by Louise Donovan and family, in memory of Robin Asselstine.

Sunday, January 31st:
Given by Kathy Forsberg, Bruce Smith, and Linda Perry, in loving memory of their beloved special education teacher Ruth H. Doorly.

USHER SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 3rd:
Doug Hyde (C)
Jerry Verzino
Michael Gettings

Sunday, January 10th:
Dix & Dianne Howard (C)
Steve & Ingegerd Larch
Ron & Joy Sudduth

Sunday, January 17th:
Bob Kadehjian (C)
Bob Robertson
Jim & Linda McKenzie

Sunday, January 24th:
Bill Holbrook (C)
Sheldon Blaney
Don Friedl
Lee Adourian

Sunday, January 31st:
Thelma Bruno
David Friedl
Bill Holbrook
Michael Ellis

DON'T FORGET THE DEACONS FUND

As the winter season intensifies, I want to remind everyone in the First Parish family once again about the importance of making a contribution to the Deacons Fund. Our church has a long tradition of contributing to many worthy local, national and international causes. Our Deacons Fund however is used exclusively to provide assistance to our own members who may be experiencing financial hardship. In these difficult economic times when families are dealing with job loss, high energy costs and increasing food prices, this fund offers a source of financial assistance for those of us in need.

There are always pink envelopes in the pew racks where you can make a contribution by checking the box indicating the contribution is for the Deacons Fund. We will make a special appeal on the first Sunday of each month but contributions are accepted at any time. If you can not be in church consider making a donation by mail and sending it directly to Cathy Ellis, our Treasurer, c/o First Parish.

This fund is administered solely and privately by our Pastor Chris Dodge. Individuals or families needing financial assistance are urged to contact Pastor Chris directly at 781-326-0135. All inquires and responses are held in strict confidence. Similarly, if you know of anyone in our church family who might benefit from the assistance this fund can provide, please advise Reverend Dodge.

For the Worship Ministry,

Jim McKenzie

RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

On Thursday, January 21st, the Retired Men's Group will gather in the Parish Hall for its monthly meeting. Guest Speaker will be annual favorite, T. P. Elliot. All retired men in Westwood and surrounding communities are invited to attend.

The Men's Group meets on the third Thursday of each month in the Parish Hall, unless otherwise noted on the schedule. The meeting begins at 9:30AM with a coffee & doughnut social, followed by a guest speaker.

SENIOR MOMENTS FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Moments Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday, January 7th at 11:30 AM, and the February meeting is slated for February 4th. Mark your calendars now, and stop by.

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.

. It's a great opportunity to gather together, just because it's fun!

BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH

On Wednesday, Jan. 13th, The First Parish Book-of-the-Month Group will meet in the Vogel Room to discuss both *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows and *Hundred Dollar Holiday* by Bill McKibbens. A very busy holiday schedule forced the cancellation of the December meeting – so there's lots to discuss this month.

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?