



The Clapboardtree Spire

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

January, 2012

ANNUAL MEETING

Save Sunday, January 29th at 11AM for an important part of our congregational life – Annual Meeting!

This year's January meeting will be a little different, focusing on the financial reports and 2012 /budget vote, as well as an important update of the Property Consolidation Committee.

A previous vote by Parish Council agreed that Ministry reports and Nominating Committee appointments would be highlighted at a meeting in the late spring.

Material for the January 29th meeting will be available in advance of the meeting. Watch your mail and email!

A WORD FROM OUR ASSISTANT TREASURER

Giving Statements for 2011 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. 2011 pledge payments are needed in the church office no later than **December 31st** in order to be reflected on your 2011 tax records.

2012 offering envelopes are available in the church narthex for those who requested them on their pledge card. If you do not find a box with your name on it and would like envelopes, sign up on the sheet provided. *Please do not use 2011 offering envelopes after January 1, 2012!*

FROM OUR MODERATOR

Happy New Year! January has always been a time for looking back to the past, and more importantly, forward to the coming year. It's a time to reflect on the changes we want (or need) to make and to resolve to follow through on those changes. In this spirit, I would like to provide an update on the Crossroads program.

As you may know, Crossroads is a program that First Parish is participating in that will help us determine "*What is God calling our congregation to do and be in this time and place?*"

THE FOUR PHASES OF THE CROSSROADS PROGRAM are as follows:

- Phase One: On-Site Assessment (completed 12/7)
- Phase Two: : Cluster Event (2/10/12 - 2/11/12)
- Phase Three: Small Group Meetings (March - April 2012)
- Phase Four: Making a Bold Decision about First Parish's future (June 2012)

ON DECEMBER 7, First Parish completed the on-site assessment with Patti Case, the consultant with the Crossroads program. Patti obtained membership demographics, reviewed financial information,

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BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

January 3	Matthew Anderson
January 4	Matthew Hichar, Sophia Tempesta
January 5	Samuel Jacobson, Steven Larch Shelley Reeve, Karen Wagner
January 6	Brock Thomson
January 7	Alex Adourian, Katie Holbrook
January 8	Shelby McKim
January 9	Jake Liebrock, Kelly Porter Megan Porter
January 11	MaryAnn Archambo
January 15	Emily Werth
January 17	Brian Bayer, Ava Connaughton
January 19	Gladys Dunsford, Gunther Guleserian Lillian Guleseria

January 21	Thea Roper, Brad Rutan Billy Storey
January 22	Katherine Millos
January 23	Elvin Fowell, Will Vaccaro
January 25	Stephen Werth
January 25	Rebecca Whalen
January 27	Drew Pfaff
January 28	Alexandra Brind, Derek Peterson
January 30	Michael Peterson
January 31	Matt McClellan, Evvie Sanborn

Anniversaries

January 20	Charlie & Louise Domina
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LIFETIMES

Deaths:

- On Nov. 25th, *Norman Slack*. A memorial service was held at First Parish on Dec. 2nd.
- On Dec. 15th, *Rev. John F. Callahan*, former Interim Minister at First Parish prior to Rev. Lovett's pastorate. Services were held on Dec. 19th in Swampscott, MA.

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, and via email or mail.

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**FROM
PASTOR CHRIS**



A BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR...

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around 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 reach out into the future with a deeper understanding of God's way for you. Amen.

Happy 2012!

Pastor Chris

PLEASE NOTE

Pastor Chris will be away from January 24-28 in Grand Rapids, MI at a Worship Symposium sponsored by the Calvin Institute for Christian Worship.

If a need for pastoral care arises please contact the church office.

2012 CONFIRMATION CLASSES BEGIN

The 2012 Confirmation Class will meet for the first time on Sunday, January 8th at 11:30AM in the Stage Classroom. All 9th graders and their parents are invited to attend this first organizational meeting. Confirmation Class will also meet on Sunday, January 22nd.

If you have questions about the class, please contact Pastor Chris.

**JANUARY
WORSHIP SERVICES**

January 1:
New Year's Worship
Intergenerational Celebration
of Holy Communion

January 8:
Epiphany Sunday

January 15:
Baptism of Jesus Sunday
Renewal of Baptismal Vows



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS THANK YOU'S

A heartfelt thank you from me to the many who contributed to our Advent and Christmas worship services!

— *Pastor Chris*

- The Ministry of Worship - Roger Christian, Marge Eramo, Kathleen Davis, Judy Thompson, and Pam Kane - for everything from helping to discern a theme for Advent to greening the church, to setting up flowers and overseeing their delivery, to staying after the Christmas Eve service to clean up in preparation for the Christmas Day service. Special thanks to Kathy Davis for making cards to accompany poinsettias delivered to home bound and shut-in members.
- The Senior Choir, the Junior Choir, and the special musicians for adding so much to our worship experience
- The Staff – Judy Holbrook, Donna Bertazzoni, Josh and Joanna Nannestad, Karen Westerfield Tucker, and Denis Wholey
- The 3rd Grade Church School class for making Christmas Cards for homebound or shut-in members.
- Young readers and worship helpers at the 5PM Christmas Eve service, and their supportive parents.
- Readers, ushers and communion servers at the 9PM Christmas Eve service.
- Sheldon Blaney for polishing the chandelier in the Meeting House
- Ron Arntz for completing the kings and a camel to add to our nativity scene.
- Those who attended and helped to lead the Longest Night Service and the Christmas Day service.

Moderator

(Continued from page 1)

toured all of our church properties, had dinner and conversations with the staff, and listened/recorded notes at the appreciative inquiry meeting. **THANK YOU** for those who attended the appreciative inquiry; we were very pleased with the participation.

WE ARE ENTERING INTO PHASE TWO, where 6-10 lay leaders will attend a Cluster Event on February 10 (6-9 PM) and February 11 (8 AM - 3:30 PM) at Edwards Church in Framingham. During this Cluster Event, the lay leaders will review results of the assessment, receive leadership training, network with other churches, and be asked to lead small group meetings in their homes. **Please let me know if you are interested in attending this Cluster Event and leading small group meetings.**

PHASE THREE will be during March and April. During Phase Three, parishioners will be invited to small group meetings in members' homes to review the assessment and help us determine First Parish's energy level (what initiatives we want to devote time and talent) and change readiness.

We need participation from the entire congregation during Phase Three to make Crossroads a success! You will be helping to shape the future of First Parish, and your input and feedback are greatly appreciated! Thank you; and please let me know if you have any questions.

Bob Deininger



Donna Bertazzoni
Church School

As I write this in early December, I've only begun preparing my house for Christmas. In truth, the house reflects Alison's impending move more than the approaching holiday. Soon enough the crèche will be joined by angels and stars, garlands and candles. Opening their cartons each year is like a party with old friends. I know each one well, remembering where or when we first met and the good times we've had together. Politely, they reveal changes in fashion, finance, outlook and expectations over the time it has taken to accumulate them.

Holiday decorations are portable little reminders that heighten the senses and jog the memory. Like a whiff of peppermint that can simultaneously bring to mind the enchantment of candy canes and a trip to the dentist's office, there is room for nostalgic sentiment to meet sometimes aching reality. The year Great-grandma spent Christmas in the hospital and the year we had no income sit unperturbed beside the Christmas I was surprised with my engagement ring and the year Alison got her first bicycle. Celebrating Christmas is about more than newborn promise. For me, hanging ornaments helps bring the bigger picture into focus. I like to think that putting them away at the end of the season doesn't include putting away expectations that seem so much easier to come in contact with at this time of year: expectations to experience God, meet Christ at the manger, and feel the power of the Holy Spirit flow through the congregation.

What can parents do to make space to encourage that spirit to stay present through the year? What do you do? In *The Religious Potential of the Child*, Sofia Cavalletti gives us this perspective, "In helping the child's religious life, far from imposing something that is foreign to him, we are responding to the child's silent request: 'Help me to come closer to God by myself'".

The stars that shine at Christmas
shine on throughout the year;
Jesus, born so long ago,
still gathers with us here.
We listen to his stories,
we learn to say his prayer,
We follow in his footsteps
And learn to love and share.

Author unknown



Congratulations Third Graders

Congratulations to our 3rd graders who received their gift Bibles on December 11. Alex Adourian, Graham Bayer, Heather Ellis, Karen Ellis, Alex Peters, Laura Peters, Will Vaccaro, Reagan Wagner and Evvie Sanborn were treated to breakfast and presented with Bibles provided through the Bruce E. Mather Memorial Bible Fund.

Communion Education

Communion Education class will begin in February. The class is offered to third graders and older students who have not yet participated. Watch for an explanatory letter to arrive soon.

CHURCH SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday, January 1:

- 10AM intergenerational Communion worship; no church school

Sunday, January 8:

- 10AM worship – Epiphany
- 10:20AM church school in the Parish Hall
- 11:30AM Confirmation Class informational class in the Vogel Room – Parents invited!

Sunday, January 15:

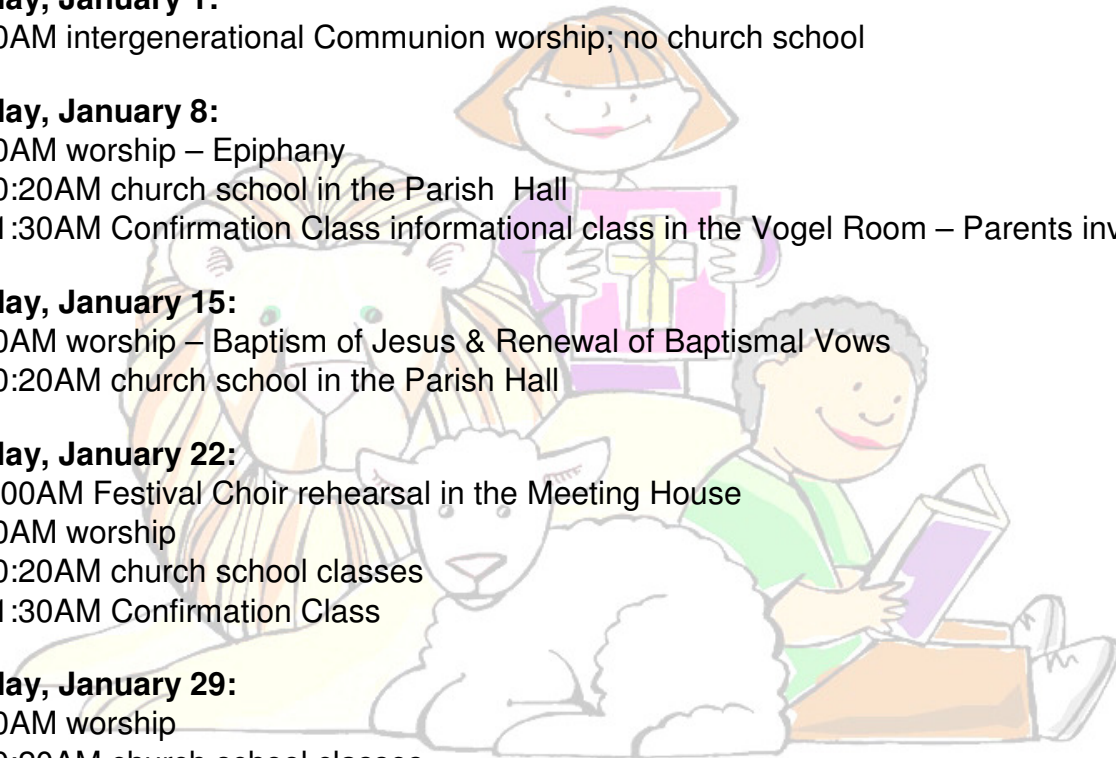
- 10AM worship – Baptism of Jesus & Renewal of Baptismal Vows
- 10:20AM church school in the Parish Hall

Sunday, January 22:

- 9:00AM Festival Choir rehearsal in the Meeting House
- 10AM worship
- 10:20AM church school classes
- 11:30AM Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 29:

- 10AM worship
- 10:20AM church school classes
- 11AM Annual Meeting in the Meeting House
- 5-7PM: JHYF “A Minute to Win It” meeting at the Werths’



HELP! WE NEED COFFEE HOUR HOSTS!

With the exception of Sunday, January 1st, **all Sundays are available, January 8th through June 10th!**

Sign up in the Parish Hall, on the bulletin board near the door to the kitchen!

JHYF FAMILIES!

Please save the date, Sunday January 29, 5-7 pm for a special "Minute to Win It" party at Sarah Werth's house!

If you've ever seen the fast paced and fun game show on T.V., you know how crazy things can get! To top it all off, we'll enjoy pizza and ice cream sundaes...doesn't get better than that!

Hope to see all JHYFers and their friends on the 29th for lots of fun!

FRESHNESS

a new year is moving in
just as surely as the winter
walks along in snowflakes

and I sit here wondering
in the breath of his bless
and the glance of his grace

I think about the year now gone
and how I walked across it
(it grieves me some and joys me some)

and as the new year stretches
I wonder how I'll meet it
will I let his grace find me
and will I let him charm me
and will I let his truth possess me
and will I let him lead me
and will I take his love to heart
and fix my gaze on him

oh how I wonder with this heart of mine
so often gone astray

so often found in the desert
so often hid in hills of wind and wild

I wonder how I'll meet this year
and if I give myself the chance
to catch the breath of bless
and glance of his dear grace
to rise and walk from sinfulness
to come return and find him waiting
to reach and know that he can heal
to turn around and give up all and let him be my
treasure

a new year is moving in
just as surely as the winter
walks along in snowflakes
my God is moving in again
and just like winter snow
he breathes my life full freshness

by Joyce Rupp
from "Fresh Bread and Other Gifts of Spiritual Nourish-
ment"

A HEALTHY, FESTIVE LASAGNA FOR HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING –

1 jar (24.5-oz) low-sodium marinara sauce
4 twp olive oil, divided
1 lb. cremini or baby bella mushrooms, cut into ¼'s (5
cups)
1 (10-oz) package frozen spinach
1 large egg
1 (16-oz) container 1% low-fat cottage cheese or part-

skim ricotta cheese
1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
Pepper to taste
12 whole-wheat lasagna noodles
2/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
1 1/3 cups shredded part skim mozzarella cheese, divided

- Cook lasagna noodles until just tender, about 8 minutes, transfer to large bowl of cold water
- Heat 2 tsp oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook ½ the mushrooms, turning occasionally, until browned and tender, 4-6 minutes. Transfer to plate. Add remaining oil, sauté remaining mushrooms and transfer to plate.
- Cook spinach according to package directions, drain, refresh with cold running water, press out excess moisture.
- Whisk egg and cottage/ricotta cheese until smooth; add spinach, 1/3 cup of Parmesan, nutmeg and pepper; mix well.
- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Coat a 9 x 13 baking dish with cooking spray. Spread about ½ the marinara sauce in baking dish. Arrange 3 noodles over sauce. Spread 1/3 of the spinach mixture over noodles. Scatter ½ of the mushrooms over spinach layer. Sprinkle with 1/3 cup of mozzarella. Repeat the layering 2 more times. Arrange remaining 3 noodles over lasagna and spread remaining marinara sauce evenly over noodles. Reserve remaining cheeses to sprinkle over top towards the end of the baking.
- Cover with a sheet of parchment paper, then foil. Bake covered for 35 minutes, sprinkle with the remaining cheeses. Bake uncovered until lasagna is hot in the center and top is lightly browned, 10 to 20 minutes more. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Can be prepared ahead and refrigerated for 2 days: bake covered for 50 minutes and then proceed as above.

Yield – 9 servings: 1 serving provides more than 3 ½ servings of vegetables.

Per serving – with cottage/ricotta cheese – 345/78 cal; total fat – 11/15 gms., Carb – 39/40 gms., Protein – 25/24 gms.

FIRST PARISH VOLUNTEERS & GROUPS

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday, January 1:

Given by Clapboardtree Nursery School, in appreciation of our wonderful facilities.

Sunday, January 8:

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

Sunday, January 15:

Given by the Dorey family, in memory of Pearl & William Klingenberg.

Sunday, January 22:

Given by Kathy Forsberg, Bruce Smith and Linda Perry, in loving memory of their special education teacher, Ruth H. Doorly.

Sunday, January 29:

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

USHER SCHEDULE

Sunday, January 1:

Martha Crawford
Ron Arntz

Sunday, January 8:

Fred Rice
Charlie Domina
Peter Kane
Nancy Hyde

Sunday, January 15:

Doug Hyde
Jerry Verzino

Sunday, January 22:

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

Sunday, January 29:

Bob Kadehjian
Bob Robertson
Jim & Linda McKenzie

ROSIE'S PLACE

Monday, January 16th

Drivers:

B. Jorgensen & B. Jorgensen

Fruit (canned fruit cocktail: \$5-7 maximum)

B. Jorgensen T. Bruno R. Dettbarn B. Macdonald
L Domina

Sandwiches (14 ham & Swiss cheese on whole wheat bread)

R. Dettbarn T. Bruno S. DeFeo J. Marsh
J. Holbrook D. Howard S. Reeve P. Sullivan
J. Germano

LAY READERS

Sunday, January 1:

Michael Ellis

Sunday, January 8:

Amie Colcord

Sunday, January 15:

Bob Deininger

Sunday, January 22:

Don Friedl

Sunday, January 29:

Jim McKenzie

FOX HILL BIBLE STUDY

The Fox Hill Bible Study group will meet on Thursday, January 12th at 10:30AM at Fox Hill Village.

Pastor Chris Dodge meets with the group at Fox Hill Village each month, September through June. If you live at Fox Hill Village and would like to begin attending the Bible study, please contact Pastor Chris for the meeting location.

WESTWOOD MEN'S GROUP

The Westwood Men's Group will meet on Thursday, January 19th at 9:30AM in the Parish Hall.

Guest speaker is T. P. Eliot Smith.

LUNCH BUNCH!

On Thursday, January 5th, you are invited to come to the Parish Hall at 11:30AM for food and conversation. All ages are welcome.

Pack up a bag lunch to bring to the gathering. Coffee and dessert are provided. We hope to see you there!