

First Parish Congregational Church

United Church of Christ East Derry, New Hampshire

We are a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education. In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

Come visit us! Worship is at 10 am.



From the Pastor's Desk

"The Law of Giving and Receiving"

Jesus taught: "give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Jesus taught: "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7,8)

The resurrected Jesus asked Peter three times: "Do you love me?" And when Peter said: "Yes, Lord, you know that I do" Jesus replied: "Feed my lambs." "Tend my sheep." "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-19)

Indian born American spiritual guru, Deepak Chopra M.D., explains in his book, "The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success", that in spiritual terms, success is measured by how efficiently, and effortlessly, we are able to co-create with the universe. "Hard work, struggle, and frustration are the opposite of what the ancient sages taught, because they knew that Spirit lies at the source of all achievement in life."

Continued on Page 2

ALL ARE WELCOME

"Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God. Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips, and offer God today your love and your service."

- Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England

Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 2nd

FPC Car Wash Fundraiser (p. 10)

Saturday, May 9th

Mother's Day Flower/Cake/Pie Sale (p. 10)

Friday, May 15th

Horton Center (p. 5)

Saturday, May 23rd

Church Clean Up Day (p. 14)

Tuesday, May 26th

Applebee's Fundraiser (p.10)

Sunday, May 31st

Public Field Day (p. 14)

Sunday, June 14th

Celebration Sunday (p. 14)



Continued from Page 1:

One of these laws that aligns with Jesus' teaching is what Chopra calls "The Law of Giving and Receiving". Chopra points out that on a metaphysical level everything is energy and therefore constantly moving. If we – intentionally or unintentionally – stop the flow of energy, we interfere with nature's intelligence. He says that we must give and receive in order to keep anything we value circulating in our lives. Think about love. To a Christian, Jesus said that the greatest commandment was to love God, to love neighbor and to love one's self. Love. Pure and simple. And we know that God loved us while we were yet in our mother's womb. So we were "loved" into being and God's greatest imperative in our lives is that we love. It's like a giant revolving door with us on one side and God on the other. We were loved and so we love and so we are loved and the more we love.

Chopra points out that the Law of Giving and Receiving relates to love, to success, to joy and to money. Think about the word we use for money: "currency". By definition, our word for money means "to run or flow". Money is a symbol of the life energy we give and the life energy we receive as a result of the service we provide to others. Like a river, money must keep flowing, otherwise it begins to clog and stagnate. Circulation keeps it alive and vital. If we stop the circulation of life energy, if our intention is to hold on to our money and hoard it, we literally prevent it from circulating back into our lives. "Give and it will be given to you." Paul understood God's economy and taught: "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Therefore, the intention, i.e. our attitude, behind our giving and receiving is of vital importance. When the act of giving is joyful, when it is unconditional and from the heart, then the energy behind the giving increases many times over.



And if we give begrudgingly, there is no energy behind our giving. If we feel we have lost something through the act of giving, then the gift is not joyfully given and will not cause increase.

In these days of capital campaign, pledging, and fund-raising, let us be mindful of Paul's message: "not reluctantly or under compulsion." Let not your heart be troubled. Prayerfully participate in whatever way you are able. Be joyful. Remember God's love for you and remember to love God in whatever ways you are called.

Peace be with you.

Pastor Deborah

Minister's Study Leave

Please note that **Pastor Deborah will be away on her annual Study Leave from May 8 through May 15**. She will attend the Festival of Homiletics in Denver, CO, where she will be one of nearly 1,500 pastors from around North America, learning from the best preachers and teachers of preaching.

Pastor Heidi will be on call for pastoral emergencies, please call her at 508-564-2179.

Pastor Heidi will also conduct the worship service on May 10.

CE News from Pastor Heidi

Beloved,

Picture with me a mountaintop. One so beautiful it is like God carved out a little slice of heaven here on earth with God's own hand. There is a lake as far as the eye can see with a glistening cross on its banks. There is a big porch around the lake full of rocking chairs. Faint guitar music plays in the background. You take a deep breath of crisp, clean, mountain air and feel instantly at peace. Can you picture it?

The place I'm describing to you is the place that had perhaps the most profound impact on me as a young person of faith, Kanuga Camp and Conference Center in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. I spent many a Christmas break there as a high school student and later a staff member walking the depths of my faith with other high schoolers from across the country. I can say beyond the shadow of a doubt that I would not be a minister today without my experiences that outdoor ministries made possible.

The good news is that we have a wealth of opportunities right here in New Hampshire! As of the writing of this letter, many of you will have met my friend the Rev. Mollie Landers, NHCUCC Director of Outdoor Ministries, and Director of Horton Center. Horton Center is one of the jewels of UCC outdoor ministries, and one with whom we've long had a relationship. There is opportunity for children of all ages to renew our relationship with this incredible place. Star Island is one of the best-kept secrets of the coast of Portsmouth, and offers care and feeding for singles, parents, families, youth and all of us alike!

Many of you have asked how you can help to invest in our incredible youth – this is one opportunity. Help promote and encourage our young people to attend camp at Horton Center! Visit our bulletin board in the hallway by my office to read about the wonderful opportunities. Attend a week or weekend at Star Island yourself, or send one of your family members! Our outdoor ministries of the UCC can only go on with our support. Congregations like ours hold a unique opportunity to help support them, and allow them to thrive.

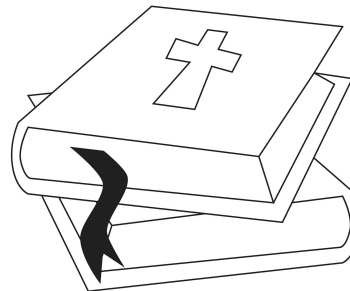
You never know how an experience can change a life. I'm living proof that a week on a mountain really can change your life

Remember, scholarship assistance is available. Don't hesitate to come talk to me. See you at camp!

Blessings,

Pastor Heidi

Christian
Education
Director



Christian Education Updates

Thank You, Pastor Deborah!

A HUGE thanks to Pastor Deborah for the time she spent visiting our Sunday School classes in April. It is a blessing to have a Senior Pastor invested in faith formation of ALL ages. We look forward to future visits and fun sooner rather than later!

Save the Date!

First Parish is off to an Amazing Race this summer for Vacation Church School! Monday July 20th-Friday July 24th from 9 AM – 12 PM, join Sarah Keller, Libby Keller, Pastor Heidi, and your First Parish friends. Together we'll journey with some of our favorite Bible characters and have a lot of fun while we're at it. Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for registration forms. All are welcome.



SPARK (Pre-K to 5th Graders) Update

The K-5 classes are part way through their unit on Mary and Martha! They'll continue on through Memorial Day Weekend. The Middle School and High School classes are excited to return to church school as they continue to follow the lectionary through Seasons of the Spirit. As always, many thanks to those who have taught in our most recent rotation.

Special thanks to Katie Cobban and Courtney Desrochers for going above and beyond!

SESSION 6: MARY & MARTHA LUKE 10:38-42	Week 1 (4/12)	Large Group Gathering: Pastor Deborah Teaches!	
	Week 2 (4/19)	Art	Science
	No Class (4/26)	School Vacation Week: Nursery Care Only	
	Week 3 (5/3)	Cooking	Art
	Week 4 (5/10)	Games	Cooking
	Week 5 (5/17)	Science	Games
	No Class (5/25)	Happy Memorial Day! Nursery Care Only	

Star Gathering UCC 1/2

Are you looking for a fun, island getaway for the summer with your family? Looking for a family vacation that doesn't involve the hassle of a lot of travel, and is rooted in UCC values? Then look no further.

Join Pastor Heidi, and other UCC clergy, lay people, families, and more for Star Gathering UCC 1 and/or UCC 2 on Star Island in the Isle of Shoals this August! Star is a crown jewel and one of the best kept secrets of the UCC and UUA! Offering programming, nature, activities, and more for all ages just off the coast of Portsmouth, NH, it makes a wonderful addition to our outdoor ministry offerings.

You can learn more about Star Island and the various programs via their website here:

<http://www.starisucc.com/new.php>

Star Island offers their own scholarship funds, and you are invited to see Pastor Heidi if additional help is needed.



Registration Has Begun for Horton Center

Located on top of Pine Mountain near Gorham, New Hampshire, Horton Center is a beautiful camp run by the UCC. Registration opened on January 28th, and recruitment has already begun for camp counselor positions!

The 2015 season opens with a work weekend for volunteers with all levels of ability on May 15th-17th. The first weekend with campers is the Elementary Half Week (grades 3-5) June 24-27. Other highlights on this summer's schedule include a grandparent/grandchild weekend, a women's weekend, a young adult weekend (for those over 19), and several canoe and hiking weeks.

Rev. Mollie Landers, NHCUC Director of Outdoor Ministries and Director of Horton Center will be with us on Sunday, April 26th to talk about camp, and answer questions. She'll be joining us for worship and a brief presentation afterward.

For more information – or to register for camp – go to www.hortoncenter.org. Paper registrations are available by calling 603-545-9660.

Partial scholarships toward camp tuition are available through the CE Board. Please let Pastor Heidi know when you have submitted your camp application, and she will ensure you receive our FPC scholarship. There is also tuition assistance available through Horton Center – you must turn in your application by May 15th.

Exciting Potential

Have you seen Pastor Heidi in action? She is serving as our CE Director and doing an amazing job! In addition, she has made herself available by providing valuable Pastoral support services to our Congregation in cooperation with the Board of Deacons. Some of her recent activities include leading Lenten Services, planning and coordinating with Youth Group to lead the Easter Sunrise Service and delivering the sermon on the Ten Commandments on Sunday, April 19.

At the Communication Cohort there was a lively discussion about possibilities. A proposal was presented to Council suggesting that we explore using Pastor Heidi's additional talents, because the need for greater pastoral presence exists and Pastor Heidi is wonderful. And then at the Congregational Meeting on April 26, there was resounding applause at the idea. What an opportunity!

Therefore, at the May meeting Council will discern how her role might be expanded to include Pastoral support services within our church while also benefiting her professional development.

Why do you need to know this? Council wants to hear your thoughts on this development, they want to hear from YOU: the congregation. Please talk with any Council member before the next Council meeting on May 20.

This is a very exciting vision for us as a congregation to consider. Thanks and hope to hear from you.
- Ed Sullivan and Lianne Deranian, Board of Education

Finance Committee

ENDOWMENTS...PLANNED GIVING

Our Church is 296 years of age. Our Church has \$230,000 in investments. We have other funds, mostly saved toward our major rehabilitation, but our long term invested funds are \$230,000. There have been and there still are many generous friends of First Parish, but very few have asked us to save the principle (Dr. Addison, Helen Bachelder, Eddy Wentworth). We should think of those investment accounts as ENDOWMENTS. It would be nice if we could add to those efforts and build the endowments of First Parish UCC.

PLANNED GIVING has many different opportunities: IRA beneficiaries, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, bequests by wills and others. Have you remembered First Parish in your will? Would you like to have conversations on this subject? Let us know.

Your Finance Committee: Linda dos Santos, Fay Chary, Chris O'Brien, Fran Berube, Debbie Ambler, Pat Crowell, Ken Gould

Board of Christian Outreach and Mission

EXCITING NEWS FROM THIS MONTH'S BOCOM MEETING! At its last meeting, BOCOM decided that the needs of this world are too great to let the almost \$8,400 in its treasury sit idle, and that the funds should be put into the Lord's service. The first one-time gift of \$2,940 will be sent to UCC's Our Church's Wider Mission. BOCOM hopes to identify several local missions to receive one-time gifts from the remaining funds in the near future.

So how is First Parish's contribution going to be used by Our Church's Wider Mission? Here are a few of the many ministries:

- Missionary presence around the world
- Justice and peace advocacy
- Sponsorship of children in foreign countries
- Health and medical support, including clean drinking water initiatives
- Human trafficking awareness
- Human Rights issues, including those for women, immigrants and indigenous peoples.
- Immediate and long-term help for those facing extreme poverty

BOCOM will continue its regular monthly support to these local charities, as well as its contribution of 35% of monthly BOCOM income to UCC ministries:

Sunshine Soup Kitchen - \$100.00
Vintage Grace - \$250.00
First Baptist Food Pantry - \$100.00
Community Caregivers - \$100.00
The Upper Room - \$100.00
Family Promise - \$100.00
Pastors Discretionary Fund - \$100.00
Pastoral Counseling - \$100.00
Kairos - \$100

The Mission Board is grateful to all of you for so generously being God's hands and heart in our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM):

Joe Weaver, Gloria Bingel, Sue Brown, Beth Hunter, Katelyn Whittier,
Karen Wilson, Linda McCarthy



Stewardship Board

“TRY A TITHE SUNDAY” – JUNE 14, 2015

With Joy and Thanksgiving!

In an effort to connect giving with discipleship and faith practices, the focus of Try a Tithe Sunday is to invite and encourage each household to grow toward a tithe, to a tithe and beyond a tithe as they have been blessed.

Stewardship is more than just giving to a budget. Living and growing as faithful stewards means that we give of our Time, our Talents, and our Treasures with Joy and Thanksgiving. Stewardship is a statement of faith that who we are and everything we have, not just possessions, but all of creation, belongs to God. Stewardship is an act of worship, an expression of our faith in God our creator, redeemer, and sustainer, and a discipline for spiritual growth that helps us become the kind of faithful, grateful, generous people we want to be.

We want everyone to experience a taste of God's abundance, and what is possible when we become grateful and generous stewards of all that belongs to God, through **“Try A Tithe Sunday”**.

“Try A Tithe Sunday” an invitation for those who call First Parish Church their church home to try for one Sunday giving **one week's tithe** (10 percent of your households net weekly income), on **Sunday, June 14th**.

What is “Try A Tithe Sunday”?

It is first an invitation for those to give one week's tithe on Sunday, June 14th (10 percent of net household weekly income). * **“Try A Tithe Sunday” is above and beyond your regular weekly pledge.** * The purpose is to demonstrate what our giving potential could be if every household in our church family tithed (gave 10%).

Why are we doing this?

God's Work is accomplished on earth through the tithes and offerings of God's people. By having a **“Try A Tithe Sunday”**, we will experience the abundance of God's provision and witness the possibilities for ministry and mission. As we witness the resources available through being grateful and generous givers with the Tithe (10%), we become excited about what God can accomplish through us. Another reason we do this to have a starting point and plan to take steps toward becoming Tithers together.

How are we going to “Try A Tithe Sunday”?

You will be receiving a letter, spreadsheet, and a special “Try A Tithe” envelope two weeks prior to “Try A Tithe Sunday”, June 14th (we will also have them available at church). Find your weekly giving level if you were to tithe and write a check for that amount, put it into the “Try A Tithe” envelope and bring that to worship on June 14th to be added to your regular weekly pledge amount.

Cont. on page 9...

Cont. from page 8...

What if I won't be in church that Sunday?

If you can't attend church on Sunday, June 14th, please use one of these options:

1. Mail in your "Try A Tithe" envelope so it will arrive prior to June 14th.
2. Give your "Try A Tithe" envelope a week earlier.
3. Drop off your "Try A Tithe" envelope in the church office ahead of time.

What if I'm already tithing?

Again, this is an "additional" special tithing offering, like a 53rd week!

What if I do not feel I am able to participate in "Try A Tithe Sunday" or tithe?

God calls us to give what we can, not what we can't. The Bible reminds us that God loves a cheerful giver. If you are unemployed, underemployed, in school, under the financial care of someone else, then there may be no income to tithe. God's challenge in the Scripture is for each Christian to become a generous giver by giving our first and our best to Him. Therefore, tithing becomes less an issue of the wallet, and more an issue of faith and trust. Maybe God is calling you to give more of your time in service, through the church or in the community?

A Word About a Minister's Work Week

At the congregational meeting on April 26, I was deeply touched by the concern that was raised regarding the number of hours that I work. I am rethinking what was said and would like to further clarify some things.

Whereas the standard full-time "job" consists of a 40 hour week, a minister's average full-time week hovers around 50 hours, plus being "on-call" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That is an average and it is an "industry standard", if you will. Are there weeks when I work 60 hours? Yes, that happens, but it does not happen every week. I want to reassure everyone that I do take care to honor my "Sabbath rest". I take my days off and I take my vacations seriously. In other words, I do work very hard AND I work very hard to take care of myself. We use the term "the ethical imperative of self-care" and I honor this imperative.

Am I able to accomplish everything that a faith community our size needs from their ministerial staff? No. A church our size ought to be able to support two worship services, more book groups and Bible wonder groups. You, as parishioners, have a right to pastoral visits when you are healthy and happy – not just when you are hospitalized or a loved one is dying.

My door is always open to you. I welcome conversations with each and every one of you. I encourage you to come to meetings of the church, as well as the gatherings of the Communication Cohort. Every day I thank God for you and for this community. ---- Pastor Deborah

Fund-Raisen' Committee

Update from the FPC Fund-Raisen' Committee

We have **three exciting events** planned this month to meet the fourfold goals of fun, faith, fellowship, and fund-raising for the church. We will be donating 10% of our proceeds from all fundraisers to community missions such as the Upper Room and Sonshine Soup Kitchen.

Saturday, May 2nd we will be holding a community Car Wash at the Derry Circle BP Station. Donations will be accepted (as will prayers for good weather!) Hours **9am to 2pm**. Clean off all the sand, salt, and grime of this nasty winter to be ready for those exciting spring and summer road trips!

Saturday, May 9th Mother's Day Plant Sale and **Pie/Cake Sale** at First Parish Church Currier Hall 9am to 2pm. Come buy Mom a beautiful plant and a delicious home baked pie or cake to celebrate her special day in style – after all, none of us would be here without our moms!!

Tuesday, May 26th FPC “**Dining for Discount Dollars**” fellowship, fun, and food event will be hosted by **Applebees Restaurant** in Derry, from **4-9pm**. 15% of our check will be donated to the church, so grab your friends and family and join us!

Future Events to look forward to:

July 18th and 19th: All church clean up at NH Motor Speedway in Loudon, NH following Nascar Races. This has the potential to be a **huge** fundraiser for us if we get enough participation – so mark your calendars and watch for more details!

Fall Auction with our own Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Bill Burke! Yes, folks the famous FPC Auction will be returning due to popular demand! Date in September or October to be announced soon!

Also, new this year, we will be selling advertising for paper placemats to be used at our Harvest Supper. So if you have ideas for businesses we should approach to place ads, let one of us know!

- Submitted on behalf of your FPC Fund-Raisen' committee
by Liz Greenberg.



Building Advisory Committee

Last November, before the Building Advisory Committee (BAC) was formed, Council supported a proposal to postpone the foundation project until 2016, because we weren't selected for an LCHIP grant and didn't have sufficient funds in hand to complete the project in 2015. It was suggested that 2015 be used to plan and stage the various construction projects to maximize the efficient use of the capital funds through economies of scale by combining work projects where practical. To accomplish this Council formed the BAC and assigned us the responsibility to develop the detailed building project plans as well as oversee the execution of those plans.

The BAC has been moving full steam ahead on our next rehabilitation goals of repairing the foundation and building a new connector with elevator. We are also working on answering the question of when the tower needs to be taken down for repair. Following is the status of work as of late April:

- The tower was assessed last fall by our timber frame consultant, Preservation Timber Framing (PTF), and determined that it should withstand the winter. As we all know, our winter was not typical, with heavy snow and high winds. So, our consultants performed another review of the tower a couple weeks ago and we are waiting to receive the official report. As we await the PTF's recommendation for when we need to take down the tower, we are considering applying for an LCHIP grant to help fund this project. We will then coordinate the work with the grant application round which will occur in June.
- The foundation project that was drafted included maintaining the heating system for the meetinghouse within a new furnace room/bunker below the first level floor. A desire would be to eliminate the heating system located in the meetinghouse. This would remove a potential fire hazard from within the historic structure and eliminate the 2 chimneys that exit through the roof. Consideration is now being given to address the heating requirements of both the meetinghouse and the Noyes building by putting a heating complex in the new connector. This proposal would reduce by one the heating systems in our complex.
- The Facility Board has taken charge of the project to have our facility-wide HVAC requirements evaluated by some heating contractors. Four potential contractors visited on April 20 and reviewed our current heating systems and our needs. Some of these contractors will likely make proposals on how to best address these needs in an economical and efficient manner.
- We desire to combine the foundation project with the connector project as this would be more efficient in excavation and concrete costs. Overall it might also reduce the amount of time the sanctuary cannot be used. This will also require having the funds available from our capital campaign commitments.
- We will be meeting with our architect Normal Larson of Christopher P. Williams Architects and Arron Sturgis of Preservation Timber Framing to review proposed changes to our construction plans. We would like to have the proposals from the heating professionals to aid in these discussions.

Cont. on page 12...

Cont. from Page 11...

- Paul L. attended the NH Preservation Alliance Workshop April 17, learning from sessions on preservation, communication, and fundraising, and representing FPC in networking with our architect and his boss, LCHIP board members and staff, and Maggie Stiers and other principals in NH historic preservation circles.

The BAC is deeply involved in the planning process to assure we develop the best path forward to accomplish the most work with the available funds and provide a facility complex that will meet the needs of our congregation and other groups who use our buildings, while retaining its local heritage.

Consider this “The Year of Preparation”. If you have questions, please speak with one of us.

- Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann



Calling All Clock Winders!

First Parish's tower includes a wonderful clock! [Extra trivia question below.] The Historical Preservation Committee (HPC) is working to establish a revised schedule to ensure that the tower clock is wound and maintained to keep time consistently. We truly appreciated the work of our current clock crew but want to ensure that there is adequate coverage. Over the next few weeks we will coordinate information and training by in-house caretakers and/or external clock experts to ensure that everyone is consistent and meticulous. (The goal is the correct amount of winding and no over-winding!)

If you either currently wind the clock or feel that you have the expertise (or potential) to be part of the clock crew, please email Nancy Heywood (nancyheywood@yahoo.com) who is working with the HPC to schedule the training.

Clock Trivia Question: Which side of the tower of First Parish doesn't have a clock?



Reverend Matthew Clark

2nd Minister of First Parish Church

1729-1732

When Reverend James MacGregor passed on to the heavenly domain in 1729, he left behind 320 communicants. The Rev. Matthew Clark, ordained in Ireland, was asked and took over the pastoral care of the people, although not formally installed as their pastor. He was almost 70 years of age. He also officiated as an instructor in the higher branches of education.



Matthew Clark had served as an officer in the Protestant Army during the civil commotions in Ireland. He was wounded during the memorable siege of Londonderry, which began in December 1688 and continued until July 1689. The facial injury did not heal properly and he sometimes wore a black patch to conceal it. After the fighting in his native land subsided, he quit the military and became a preacher of the gospel. He is listed as one of the first settlers of Nutfield. Although sound in his faith, he seems a bit eccentric – had a sense of humor – refused to eat any animal flesh – enjoyed martial music, or as he said, “the toot o’ drums”.

Rev. Clark married Marion Cargil, the widow of Rev. James MacGregor, who already had seven children. He lived only six years in the Nutfield Colony, dying January 25, 1735 at the age of 76. His time as a pastor was short, but more is known of him than is known of his two successors – Mr. Thompson and Mr. Davidson – though their united pastorates amounted to 55 years. It seems as though he was well loved and highly regarded by his communicants. He and his wife are buried in the cemetery behind our Church.

A poem, written by Marian Douglas, commemorating him was read at the 150 year Londonderry Celebration in 1869. A copy of the poem and a picture of Rev. Matthew Clark can be seen on the Historic Preservation bulletin board in the Noyes Building. Stop and read it and you will form a picture of

“a man of prayer and mark –
Grave and reverend Matthew Clark”

- Submitted by Ginny True for the Historic Preservation Committee

The information for this report was obtained from Wiley's Book of Nutfield, 1895 and A History of Londonderry by Rev. Edward L. Parker, 1851.

Around Our Church

Celebration Sunday!

June 14, 2015

"Ce-le-brate good times: come on!" So goes the famous song from the '80s. What can we celebrate here at First Parish Congregational? What is the music of your faith? What has made your heart sing over these last few months? A definition of music, found online, states that music is "indefinable by words alone. It is not only something you hear but what you feel. It is something your soul can reach out and touch".

We want to know where you have found your "music" here among the First Parish family. We will be celebrating all of the many programs and projects of FPC during the worship service on Celebration Sunday on June 14th. Toward the end of May, we will offer you the opportunity to give a "word" of celebration and we will make another "wordle" like the ones we created during "Operation Good Word".

Celebrate good times: come on!



Public Field Day

On **Sunday, May 31st**, there will be a "Public Field Day" held by Taylor Library, Nutfield Cooperative School and First Parish for all in our community to attend.

Each location will provide open houses to visitors, and our wonderful Historic Preservation Committee will be providing guided tours of our church.

The time of the Public Field Day is still to be determined, but will either be in the late morning or early afternoon. Mark your calendars and join us for a day of fun, learning and community!

The Music Board would like to thank **Hilary Gorgol** for her tireless work on [the Music Board sponsored] "FPC Theater Nights". Hilary handled the bookings with the theaters, picked up tickets for distribution to the congregation members and even arranged for a huge discount on the *Godspell* tickets at the Palace. Thanks a million, Hilary! We look forward to next year's shows!

Church Clean Up Day

Save the Date! Our Church Clean Up Day will be Saturday, May 23rd from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Rain Date will be May 30th. Please join us as we work together to make our church beautiful and keep it a sacred space for all! More details to come.

In the Community

Art in Action

The annual Art in Action show returns Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, at Mack's Apples Farm Market, 230 Mammoth Road, Londonderry from 10am to 4pm.

Twenty-five artists will demonstrate painting, fiber art, weaving, jewelry making, woodworking and clay gardening figures. Admission is free.

Skin Cancer Screening

Wednesday, May 6

**Oncology Specialist, Colleen Summer, APRN
31 Stiles Road, Salem, NH, Suite 2400**

May is Melanoma/Skin Cancer Detection and Prevention Month! Early detection is one of your best defenses against skin cancer. Learn about melanoma and your risk for skin cancer by attending a free screening event.

Limited appointments are available. Open to adults and children. Registration is required.

"Sharing Our Stories" Author Fest

Saturday, May 2, 10am-4pm
Derry Public Library

The "Sharing Our Stories" Author Fest features authors talking about writing, as well as book signings and children's activities. Featured speaker is novelist Emmy Laybourne. "In Praise of Small Stuff: The Writing and Research of Nonfiction" with Derry Town Historian Richard Holmes is set for 12:40 to 1:25pm. Simon Brooks presents Celtic Stories from noon to 12:45pm, and Cora Jo Ciampi will tell folk tales from 1:00 to 1:45pm. For details, visit www.derrypl.org or call 432-6140.



Congratulations to Brother Joe from St. Thomas Aquinas who will be ordained on Saturday, May 2! We rejoice with the faith community of St. Thomas and pray that God's anointing upon Brother Joe's life be palpable.



Family Promise Update

Helping the Homeless: Family Promise Update

Thanks very much to our Family Promise volunteers for another successful co-hosting week April 3-9. Gloria Bingle, Marge Palmer, Beth Nelson, Sarah Keller, Connie Cox, Sue Brown, and Ken Gould provided invaluable assistance.

The Family Promise program (http://familypromisegr.org/Family_Promise_GRC/Home.html) is nationwide and has been around for many years. The program provides homeless families with children a place to sleep and eat, and ensures that the kids continue to go to their school, while providing support to the moms in finding a suitable and affordable apartment and (if unemployed) a job. The program does NOT accept mothers or teens who have drug or alcohol problems or behavioral problems. The families (up to 4 at a time, but no more than 14 people in total) are hosted by a network of area churches that rotate hosting, each church taking a week at a time. We share the hosting responsibilities with People's United Methodist Church, but they are a very tiny church and really need our help. Since neither People's nor our church has the facilities to host the families, the guests stay at the Calvary Baptist Church, which is about a mile down the road from our own church, and which is where the Family Promise office is located. So while we don't physically host the families, we (with People's) do have to provide all the meals and other responsibilities of hosting when it's our turn. Since there are about 11 churches in the network, we co-host with People's every 11th week.

So what do we do as participants? There are 3 roles that a host church fills:

1. Provide a meal for the families every night at 6pm. This has to be cooked at your home, since they do not have an oven at the Baptist church, only a microwave. There are typically about 10-12 people – 4 or 5 adults or teens, and the rest children of various ages. The families like ordinary food such as pot roast, chicken, lasagna, etc. You should plan on eating with the guests, if you can. But you just put the food out at 6; the guests often wander in at various times, as they return from work or other commitments. They will heat up their food in the microwave.

2. Spend the night there. Monday through Friday, arriving by 9pm and leaving whenever you need to be out the next morning (anytime after 7am is fine). You sleep on air mattresses in the living room area, which you can lock from the inside if you wish. The church itself is locked to outsiders. Families are supposed to be in their rooms by 10pm so everyone can get the sleep they need – a bit later on Friday night. The families are responsible for getting themselves up and out on time – kids are picked up by the FP van, right there at the church, which takes them to school; adults go to their jobs if they are working, or to interviews, or into the office there at the Baptist church to work with their case manager. The families should get their own breakfast for themselves and their kids; they often pack lunches as well. There's a Keurig coffee maker so no need to even make a pot of coffee. Again, like the host, you mainly just need to be there in case something goes awry or they need something. There are numbers to call on the door should something come up that you don't know how to address.

So, to volunteer for Family Promise, you just pick out which night you want to make a meal, or host, or spend the night, and then call and tell me. Some volunteers do multiple things, like bring the meal and host by staying through to 9pm. Or hosting and staying overnight; or all 3 things. But you should do whatever is comfortable to you.

Our hosting weeks this year are the following: June 21-27; September 6-12; and November 22-28. I hope you'll be able to find the couple of hours it takes to help in some way; it's a very rewarding program to be part of, and it's very cool when a family "graduates" to their own home. Please come and be a part of it. --- **Sue Brown**

612-0489

Commonly Christian Conduct

A faith community is very much like a family. Every family has accepted behaviors and behaviors that are unacceptable. In early 2014 the leaders of First Parish contributed to a document that became a code of conduct, otherwise known as a “behavioral covenant”.

In March, this covenant was approved unanimously by the congregation. Recently the Council revisited this behavioral covenant and is earnestly suggesting that it be read at all business meetings. This is how we want to be with one another in this faith family at First Parish Congregational Church, UCC.

“Commonly Christian Conduct”

- that is uncommonly Spirit-led and Spirit-filled
- as we work to build up the body of Christ!

“Common Sense”

- Let us be governed by the Light and Love of God in Christ, thereby thinking things through thoroughly with kindness and love, setting aside any tendency to be governed by Law, by “should”, or by shame. The dictum “we’ve always done it this way” may no longer make sense today.

“Common Courtesy:

- Let us remember the lessons we were taught in kindergarten, saying ‘please’, ‘thank you’ and ‘excuse me’; introducing ourselves by name; speaking directly with a person rather than about a person – whether we agree or disagree; remembering compassion and kindness as we speak the truth in love. Let us take responsibility for our own truth and our actions, without pointing a finger or blaming someone else. Let us strive to treat one another the way we would like to be treated.

“Common Communication”

- Let us work diligently to speak openly to one another, always in honesty – listening carefully to what the beloved Other is saying. Let us be transparent in communication: speaking with others, seeking input, clarifying understanding, resolving to include others in all ways whenever possible. Let us work to say “I feel”, “I believe” and “the way I understand it is this”, rather than “you should” and “you need”.



Scripture Readings

*Readings are from the Revised Common
Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals – Year B*

May 3rd – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

May 10th – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

May 17th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 24th – Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 31st – Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Worship Leadership

Deacons & Lay Readers

Deacons of the Month

Cyndi Gray and Steve Davis

May 3rd: TBD

May 10th: Sarah Keller

May 17th: Cindy Pingree

May 24th: Cyndi Gray

May 31st: Reni Harnden

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

May 3rd: Ushers: Diaconate
Greeter: Verna Elwell

May 10th: Ushers: Stanley and Holly Gorgol
Tom and Andrea Cooper
Greeter: Mark Pingree and Nancy Magee

May 17th: Ushers: Ross and Linda Webber
Kevin and Diane Gordon
Greeter: Ruth Honnors

May 24th: Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell
Rod and Sue Hunt
Greeter: Shirley Dickason

May 31st: Ushers: Ken Gould, Bill Burke
Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason
Greeter: Becky Fleury

Nursing Home Friends

Patricia Rankin & Theo Johnson,
Hillsborough Country Nursing Home
Phil Guertin, Leon Berry
Pleasant Valley Nursing Home

May 2015 Calendar

FPC officeadmin, [Contacts](#), [First Parish Church UCC](#), [Holidays in United States](#), [Nutfield](#), [Other Groups](#)

May 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 8am - Youth Ministry ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Worship ~		4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~	6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Community 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music 7pm - Stewardship ~	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	9am - Car Wash 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime	7pm - Board of Review 7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp405 PLC ~	9:15am - Nutfield Gym 4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6:30pm - Deacons ~	6:30pm - CE ~ CE Office 6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music 7pm - Stewardship ~	Pastor Deborah Away ~ Study Leave 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	9am - Flower & Bake 2:30pm - Tri-Ess ~ 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pastor Deborah Away ~ Study Leave						
Mothers' Day 7am - Best Breakfast ~ 7:30am - Nominating ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier	4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 6:30pm - Currier~GS 7pm - MusicBrd~Nurser 7pm - OA ~ A/B	12:30pm - K.I.T. ~ 6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 7pm - Communication	6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	9am - Williams 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 8am - HPC ~ Archive 8am - Youth Ministry ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime	7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp405 PLC ~	10am - Nutfield Gym ~ 4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 6:30pm - John~ GS 7pm - Finance ~ Cook 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 7pm - Council ~ Cook 7pm - Cub Pck405	6:30pm - Cub Pck405 ~ 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	9am - Church Clean Up 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
7am - Best Breakfast ~ 9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~	Memorial Day	4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 7pm - Facilities ~ Cook	6:30pm - Currier ~ Cub 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music	1pm - Currier ~ Spag. 5pm - Spaghetti 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	10am - HeartSaver 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
9am - Sr. Choir 10am - Sun. Sch. 10am - Worship ~ 11:15am - Handchime 11:30am - Sacred	7pm - Board of Review 7pm - Trp 405 ~ Currier 7pm - Trp405 PLC ~	9:15am - Nutfield Gym 4pm - GS Trp 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ Library 7pm - OA ~ A/B	6pm - GS Trp13152 ~ 6:30pm - Deacons ~	6:30pm - Currier ~ Cub 7pm - CE ~ CE Office 7pm - Sr. Choir ~ Music 7pm - Stewardship ~	3pm - Scrapbooking 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri Night	8am - Scrapbook Group 7:30pm - AA ~ Currier

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC

Church Office Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 am – 4:30 pm
Thursday: 10:30 am – 6 pm

You are most warmly invited:

10 am Sunday Worship & Church School
11 am Coffee Hour

Check us out on the web:

www.fpc-ucc.org

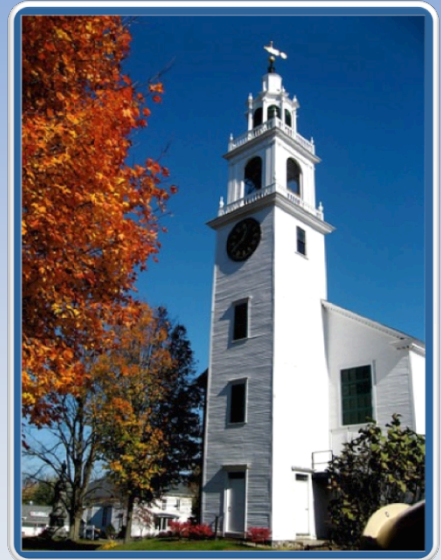
Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:

officemgr@fpc-ucc.org

Email our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof:

pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org

Call our office: 603-434-0628



First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road
Derry, New Hampshire 03041
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PERMIT #1
EAST DERRY, NH
03041

