

# 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

Dear Child of God,

Pentecost Season is upon us. We will celebrate four Sundays of Pentecost together, beginning with May 24, which is also Memorial Day. Indeed the Spirit of God is with us as we remember the sacrifices that our loved ones in the armed forces have made to ensure our safety. Indeed the Spirit of God was with each one of them as they lived out Christ's message, "No greater love has a person than when they lay down their lives for another." Sunday morning my emotions overcame me as I read the story of the "Four Chaplains", one of whom was from New Hampshire. Truly an inspiring example of faith and of the greatest love.



The Spirit of God continues to breath mightily among us.

For the next three Sundays, we will continue to sing songs of Spirit and to hear sacred scriptures of Spirit breaking through the veil and moving among humans. We will read Jesus' promises of the Advocate, the Comforter; we will read about the tongues of fire that captured the hearts of so many different people and how Peter understood this divine opportunity and stood up to preach.

The Season of Pentecost, the day of Pentecost, the underlying meanings of Pentecost include a realization that things are not always as they seem, and things don't remain as they always were, that changes are afoot, and that God is with us every step of the way.

Come! Join us for worship as we celebrate Spirit! In fact, I hope you'll join us June 14 for "Celebration Sunday!" Peace and all good, *Pastor Deborah*

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> Century Church in Hampshire, England



## CE News from Pastor Heidi

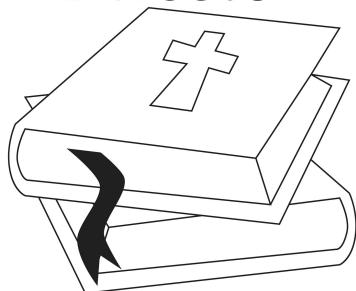
Beloved,

Happy spring/almost summer! It feels hard to believe we are looking ahead to the end of the program year already. And yet, that time is upon us.

As many of you know, the youth group is beginning a time of transition. After a year of incredibly dedicated and faithful leadership, Matt and Kerri Simpson have decided it is time to hand the reigns of the youth group off to new leadership. We give thanks to God for these saints of the church and their skilled shepherding of this group. Please give your love and blessings to the Simpsons in gratitude for their work with our young people.

This means, the CE Board, Youth Ministry Committee, and I are doing some visioning together about the future of youth group. We want to continue and build on the good ministry the Simpsons have done over the last year, but **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

### Christian Education Director



If you've been looking for a way to get involved with our middle and high school youth, now is the time! Here are some options:

1. Might you be feeling a call to lead or help lead regular youth group meetings? We want to hear from you!
2. Do you have a passion for our elders, or mission and outreach? Help us by helping lead monthly trips to the Aurora Senior Center!
3. Do you have a child-like spirit and enjoy having fun? We need you to help chaperone fun, social outings like our trip to Canobie Lake this summer!
4. **Do you have other ideas? We want to hear them!**

On behalf of CE, Youth Ministry, me, and Jesus, I hope you'll consider prayerfully our need and call for volunteers. Our middle and high school youth are not the church of tomorrow, but the church of today. I promise you won't be sorry if you make the choice to spend time with them. They are one of my favorite parts of my work here at First Parish.

Please see me with any questions or interest in volunteering!

As always, it's a blessing to be in ministry together.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Heidi*

## Christian Education Updates

### Young Adult Gathering

Are you home from college for the summer? Are you recently graduated? Are you a young professional, under 30, looking to connect with other young adults in the church? This gathering is for you! Join Pastor Heidi and friends for lunch offsite following worship June 7th! We will meet in the CE office after fellowship hour and leave from here. Please let Pastor Heidi know if you can drive! Email: [pastorheidiheath@gmail.com](mailto:pastorheidiheath@gmail.com) with questions.

### Save the Date!

First Parish is off to an Amazing Race this summer for Vacation Church School! Monday July 20<sup>th</sup>- Friday July 24<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Graders) Update

The K-5th graders wrap up the regular program year with a unit on Queen Esther. Esther rounds out our year long focus on "God's Friends".

Queen Esther is one of Pastor Heidi's favorite people in the Bible!

<b>SESSION 7: QUEEN ESTHER BOOK OF ESTHER</b>	Week 1 (5/31)	Art	Cooking
	Week 2 (6/7)	Cooking	Art
	No Class (6/14)	Celebration Sunday! Worship together!	
	Week 3 (6/21)	Games	With Pastor Heidi
	Week 4 (6/28)	Video	Games

## 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.



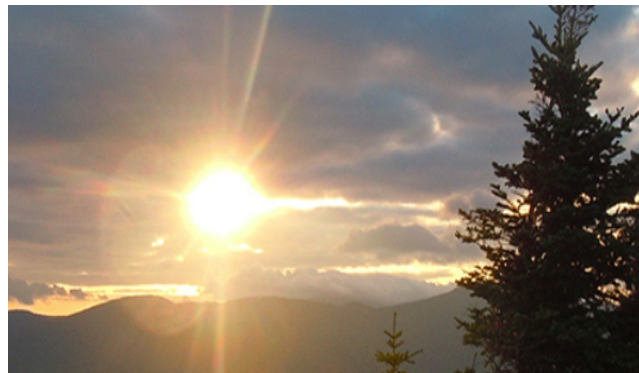
## Horton Center

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 opened with a work weekend for volunteers with all levels of ability on May 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. 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.

For more information – or to register for camp – go to [www.hortoncenter.org](http://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.



## Board of Christian Outreach and Missions (BOCOM)

**Thank you** – The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions would like to say many thanks to the Fund-Raisen' Committee for donating 10% of the fundraising proceeds to Missions. All funds will be used to benefit local charities. We also would like to say many thanks to the Congregation for supporting this effort and making it a success. Please continue to participate in these fun activities in support of our Church and its Missions work.

**Photographs Needed** – Missions is producing a brochure containing many of the charities supported by your contributions. With assistance from our talented Administrative Assistant, Lindsey, we are nearing completion and need your help to carry it to its final state. We are looking for photographs which can be included in the brochure. The photos should be relevant to First Parish Church Missions (Mission trips, providing meals, providing care, etc.). Please have all photos submitted no later than June 13th. You can e-mail them to Joe at [jweaver775@comcast.net](mailto:jweaver775@comcast.net) or give them to a BOCOM member. We will return them after they are scanned. Missions will meet on June 14th to make the final selections. Space is limited in the brochure only allowing us to include approximately four photos. Our brochure will be available later in June and will be placed in the pews. They will also be available in the Church office. Please feel free to provide them to anyone who may be interested in joining our Church and use them to point out different local, state and global missions we support. Feel free to introduce them to BOCOM members as we would love to share more information with them. Thank you.

**Donations** – BOCOM provides regular monthly support to these local charities, as well as contributing 35% of monthly BOCOM income to UCC ministries:

Sonshine Soup Kitchen - **\$100**  
Vintage Grace - **\$250**  
First Baptist Food Pantry - **\$100**  
Community Caregivers - **\$100**  
The Upper Room - **\$100**  
Family Promise - **\$100**  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund - **\$100**  
Pastoral Counseling Services - **\$100**  
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

In the Book of Acts, when it was the time of Pentecost, Peter understood the divine opportunity before him, a time when peoples of different languages and different cultures were provided an opportunity to understand what was being said. In fact, there are leaders among us that understand that we have a divine opportunity among us currently at First Parish. The leadership, made up of Council and Chairs of Board, has known for some time that our faith family is in need of more than one pastor. We can only function with one pastor and with two we can thrive! There is much fear that “we can’t afford it”. The Stewardship Board, led by the Holy Spirit, is asking the questions: how will we know, unless we ask the question: how much would you be able to give in the form of a pledge in order for us to call our current CE Director to be our Ordained Minister of Faith Formation? Council saw the wisdom of this idea, calling it a “feasibility study”, because members of Council have heard your voices. Some of you think this is a bad idea because of the timing and some of you think this could work because of the opportunity and blessing we have in our current CE Director. One pledging unit approached Pastor Deborah and said, “We are tapped out. We cannot give another penny”. That’s ok. We understand – we hope we all do – that life circumstances are real. Another pledging unit said to her, “We see the amazing opportunity this is for the church. We are not in the same situation that we were when we filled out our pledge in the fall. We will add \$200 to our monthly pledge”. Life circumstances change: sometimes we get lemons, small and sour, and sometimes we get watermelons, large and sweet and lots to go around.

As we move forward with these conversations, whether we agree or disagree, please remember who God is calling you to be: a member of a faith community. We agree to disagree. We remember the behavioral covenant that we made as a church last year using common sense, common courtesy and common communication.

The Council charged the Stewardship Board to conduct a Feasibility Study. “Pledge cards” are given to a portion of our Faith Community. The Board will present their findings to Council at the June 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting: the number of people who were invited to fill out a feasibility pledge card and the amount of money that this control group would add to their pledge IF the Congregation approves calling our CE Director to be our Minister of Faith Formation. (This is a different title but similar job description of an Associate Pastor.) At the Council meeting there will be a determination whether the Feasibility Study has shown whether or not we have enough financial backing to proceed with a congregational meeting. Whereas the Stewardship Board is contacting a specific group of people, if anyone wishes to participate in this effort, they will not be turned away.

Watch for more information regarding this wonderful divine opening. If you have any questions or concerns, please see any member of Council.

Faithfully,  
Your Stewardship Board

## Stewardship Board

### “TRY A TITHE SUNDAY” – POSTPONED

With Joy and Thanksgiving!

***The “Try a Tithe” even will be postponed to a later date. This event WILL NOT take place on the June dates mentioned in this article. Thank you for your understanding.***

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 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **What is “Try A Tithe Sunday”?**

It is first an invitation for those to give one week’s tithe on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup> (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 14<sup>th</sup> to be added to your regular weekly pledge amount.

#### **What if I won’t be in church that Sunday?**

If you can’t attend church on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, please use one of these options:

1. Mail in your “Try A Tithe” envelope so it will arrive prior to June 14<sup>th</sup>.
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.

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### What if I'm already tithing?

Again, this is an "additional" special tithing offering, like a 53<sup>rd</sup> 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?

## Nominating Committee

### "WHAT CAN FIRST PARISH CHURCH DO FOR YOU??"

This month we are focusing on the "**Membership Committee**" which has (5) vacancies.

#### Purpose:

The Membership Committee seeks to connect, to nurture, and to sustain evolving relationships within the First Parish Church Family.

#### Responsibilities:

- Seek out visitors and identify non-members attending church
- Maintain a list of prospective members and assist the Pastor in contacting them
- Cultivate, prepare and assimilate new members
- Identify members who have become inactive in the Church's life
- Inform the Records clerk concerning active and inactive members

Did you know that being a member of First Parish Church included "Duties"? And those duties include – **"to share in its organized work"**.

**We currently have (13) Vacancies available.**

#### VACANCIES

Board/Committee	# of Vacancies	Meeting Time	Chairperson(s)
Board of Missions	1	3rd Sun. @ 11:30a	Joe Weaver/Gloria Bingel
Board of Christian Education	1	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Lianne Deranian/Janet Wetherbee
Stewardship Board	2	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Fran Berube/Margie Ives
Nominating Committee	1	2nd Sun. @ 7:30a	Carl Hepworth
Library Committee	2	TBD	TBD
Membership Committee	5	TBD	TBD

**Nominating Committee Still has a place for You in 2015!!**

And as always, our motto is – **"NO VACANCY!!"**

The Nominating Committee - Bill Armstrong, Paul Dionne, Carl and Gail Hepworth, and Joe Merrill



## Board of Diaconate

The Diaconate usually meets the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 9:00. To say that these meetings can be lively is a severe understatement. Not that we are like the politics of today, but our views are varied and sometimes determined. We try not to do things the “way they have always been done” versus attempting to keep some of our age old traditions in tact. Like politics (the way they should be), we always come to a place where we are pretty certain that our decisions are the right ones for all as we come to our blessed services. In this regard, at the May meeting we talked about the order of worship on Sunday. What are the important elements? Do we move anything? Is the sermon too short? Where do we place Mission Moments? What should we do to make sure we remember those who served or are serving in the Armed Forces as we look at Memorial Day? On its surface these may not seem like important items to you but we want things to flow and to be reverent and meaningful. Please talk to any Deacon if you have any suggestions or comments at any time.

We also talk a great deal about neighborhoods. You may or may not be aware that we each are assigned neighborhoods of members that we endeavor to keep in touch as needed. When someone has not been seen at church for a few weeks for example we reach out to see if any assistance is needed. If someone has had an unfortunate event or impending unfortunate event in the making we hope to find out so that we can let Pastor Deborah and the congregation know as may be desired. You probably would not be surprised to know that we have a wonderful pipeline of people who can send cards or food, provide rides, sit with the sick or lonely and many other acts of kindness. We also add these people to the prayer list as they wish. Births and happy news announcements are blessedly welcomed. Since we have had an influx of new Deacons we are reassigning our neighborhoods and will be in touch as needed. Lindsey Roman, our office manager, has a current list if you would like to know who your Deacon is. Please help us by letting us know what you may need.

Again this summer we will be having two outdoor services. Those dates are July 12 and August 9. This year we are urging everyone to bring their own lawn chairs if you are able. If you cannot, or you forget (I will), then be assured there will still be chairs available. Also, as in years' past, Sunday summer services will begin at 9:00 for the months of July and August. We will return to 10:00 service on September 6 which is different than in past years so mark your calendars.

Deacons are always available during church and by getting in touch with Lindsey. Each and every one of us wants to serve you in any way that we can as true servants of God. Together we can make our church family strong and faithful, attempting to emulate our Savior, Jesus Christ, as he would want us to.

- Submitted by Cyndi Gray

Other Deacons include: Steve Davis, Pat Plouff, Julie Turner, Brian Williams, Fred Merrill, Cindy Pingree, Reni Harnden, Diana Sweeney and Sarah Keller

## Building Advisory Committee

### Meetinghouse Rehabilitation Update

And we're off! Actually, what *will* be off is the top of the tower: the belfry and lantern sections of the tower (everything above the clock) must be taken down this calendar year.

On May 14 the Building Advisory Committee met with our historic architect Norman Larson from CPW Associates and Arron Sturgis and Ed Bell from Preservation Timber Framing (PTF) to kick off the tower top removal and tower rehabilitation project.

PTF recently completed a meetinghouse and tower inspection. The main purpose of the inspection was to determine if there had been any structural damage or significant structural changes during the winter of 2014-2015. PTF has worked with us on the meetinghouse for several years – and did the Urgent Stabilization Project in 2013 – thus they are very familiar with First Parish.

PTF's report concludes that the top of the tower must come down soon and be repaired. PTF has vast amounts of experience with this type of work and has discussed many aspects of the project with people at FPC. Specific plans are being finalized for FPC and members of the BAC are looking forward to sharing more information once details are available.

During the month of June, the BAC plans to complete and LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) grant application relating to the tower rehabilitation project. If funded, a grant would supplement the funds that are coming in from the Capital Campaign. The grant application is due on June 26, and LCHIP will announce the awards at the end of November.

Watch for more details on the tower take down and rehabilitation plan in the July newsletter.

- Nancy Heywood for the Building Advisory Committee (Paul Ambler, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, Bill Mann)



*Flying down the top of the Center Meeting House in Newbury. Photo Source: <http://centermeetinghouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/>*



*Acworth Meetinghouse Steeple Raising Photo Source: <http://acworthmeetinghouse.org/gallery/index.html>*

## Summer Opportunities for Youth!

### JUNE

**June 7th** – Youth Group meeting at church 6-7:30 with Pastor Heidi and Reni Harnden

**June 14th** – Celebration Sunday

**June 25th** – Cookout, boat rides, and games at the Cobbans on the Lake

### JULY

**July 8th** – Fireworks Cruise

**July 11th** – Pool party and Games at the Deranians

**July 18th** – Speedway clean-up

**July 20th-July 24th** – VCS, youth helpers wanted and needed!

**July 26th-July 31st** – Senior High Week at Horton Center

### AUGUST

**Friday, August 14th** – Family Movie Night at Church

Movie and times to be announced as the date gets closer.

Pajamas welcome, we'll provide snacks, bring a friend!



**Youth Ministry will also be continuing monthly visits to the Aurora Senior Center with the Youth Group. Stay tuned for more info!**

**Other things you'd like to see happen? See Pastor Heidi with ideas!**

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## Derryfest

It may seem far off to be thinking and planning for Derryfest on September 19th already, but it will be here before we know it! Historically, this has been a Youth event of our church. However, at our recent meeting while we agreed to apply for space for First Parish at Derryfest again this year, we would like to expand the vision for our participation! We would like our presence at Derryfest to be a church-wide Community Outreach event. Our vision is to have a helium tank with First Parish "Filled with Spirit" balloons to hand out to community members. Our booth can be attractively decorated, filled with brochures and flyers for our upcoming church events like Harvest Supper, Fall Auction, and Sugar Plum Fair.

We hope to have 2 hour time slots to be staffed by representatives from all our Boards and Committees. We can also use this opportunity to get the word out to the community in a BIG way about our historic preservation project with a scale model steeple/wishing well to accept donations! Surely we have some fine woodworkers among us who could build one! Jesus said, "Don't hide your light under a bushel basket!"

First Parish Friends, let's let our light shine forth this year at Derryfest!

## Fund-Raisen' Committee

### Update on your FPC Fund-Raisen' Committee Activities to date:

Margarita's Dining for FPC Dollars: **\$290**

Car Wash: **\$849.93**

Flower & Bake Sale: **\$2444**

Grand Total to Date: **\$3583.93**

10% tithed to mission: **\$358.39**

We'd like to thank all First Parish members and friends for their support and for participating in these events!

### Upcoming Events:

**Tuesday, May 26th, 4-9 p.m.** – Applebee's (Derry) FPC Dining for Dollars event

**Saturday, July 18th** – NASCAR Race Trash Pick-Up in Loudon NC (Joint Fundraiser with this Committee & Board of Christian Education)

**SAVE THE DATE:** October 4th FPC AUCTION\*\*\*\* More details to follow soon

It is the prayerful hope of this body of committed and dedicated members of First Parish that future pledge drives will be successful enough to support the programming and goals of our beloved community without having to resort to fundraisers in the future to close budget gaps. We don't want to be "that church always asking for money at every turn" throughout the year. It takes a lot of energy and planning and preparation to carry out successful fundraisers. We are happy to do it with your support and backing, but believe in future years our church should be restricting ourselves to "project fundraisers" following successful pledge drives.

- Submitted by Liz Greenberg on behalf of the Fund-Raisen' Committee





## Who Was Helen Noyes?

### ADDED UPON

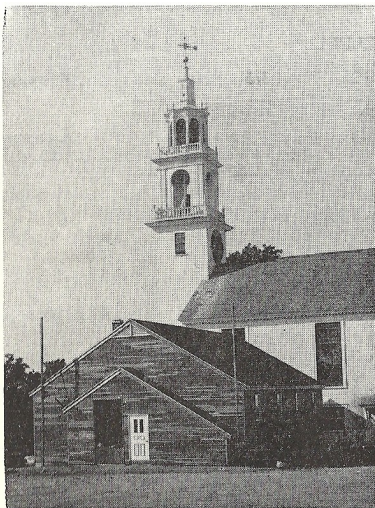
In 1973, the Helen Noyes Christian Education building was built on to the original building. The congregation had grown so that Sunday School classes were held in every location of the building (the third floor, the balcony, the library, the kitchen). It has been said that a member living nearby took the nursery infants and toddlers in her home while the parents worshipped. Helen Noyes was a long time superintendent of the Christian Education Department of First Parish. It was appropriate that her generous bequest fund the new Noyes building. This addition provided for four classrooms, a nursery, a pastors office, restrooms and Noyes Hall in the lower level.

Helen Ethelena Flanders was born to George A. and Caroline O. (Emmons) Flanders on September 6, 1884 in Lowell, MA. At the age of 14 her father had passed away; she and her mother were living in Lowell with her grandmother, Algine Emmons, and Helen was working in a shoe shop.

Helen and James Allen Noyes were married on June 12, 1906 in Londonderry. She was 21

and Allen, which is the name he was known by, was 25. Allen had been born and brought up in Derry and was working as a cutter at Perkins, Hardy & Company in W. Derry (a manufacturer of Fine Shoes). In 1930 he worked "on his own account" lumbering "in the woods" and by 1937 owned and operated a lumber mill with Eugene True called True & Noyes on Lane Road in East Derry.

Helen and Allen most likely met through family members, since they immediately moved in with a Sidney M. Noyes, who was an uncle to Allen and a cousin to Helen's mother. By 1920, they were living with Allen's mother, Mary A. (Head) Noyes, in the "Thornton Betton House" in East Derry. This house was one of the largest and most elaborate homes in the District and has been beautifully restored recently by Scott Hayward, owner of the Tupelo Music Halls.



Roppel

Reportedly, Mrs. Noyes became quite the socialite in Derry and was even elected Queen of Derry's Winter Carnival in the 1940s. She became a member of FPC on July 4, 1943. Since she loved children but had none of her own, she immediately became involved with the church school and eventually became Superintendant of the Christian Education Department.

Allen Noyes died on January 15, 1952. In 1962, Helen hired Dena Spofford as her live-in caregiver. Helen continued her dedication to FPC and donated the funds that were used to add on to the church. She was the person of honor at the dedication of the "Helen E. Noyes Christian Education Building" on Sunday, November 19, 1972. She died at the Elliot Hospital on June 4, 1975 at the age of 90. Rev. Chester Ham officiated at her service here at FPC. She is buried at Forest Hills.

- Submitted by Janice Braley for the Historic Preservation Committee



## 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".

The "words of celebration" you gave during worship in May showed that there are many places where you found your "music" here among the First Parish family. We will be celebrating all of these many programs and projects of FPC during the worship service on Celebration Sunday on June 14<sup>th</sup>. We will have another "wordle" like the ones we created during "Operation Good Word".

Celebrate good times: come on!



### Congratulations, Graduates!

Please join us in giving our warmest congratulations to the following youth of First Parish who are graduating high school this month:

**Harry Handy III**

**Lizzy Webber**

Your First Parish Family is so proud of you, and we know you will go on to do many great things in your future!



### Ask the Pastor

On June 21, we will have our first "Ask the Pastor". Rather than a sermon, Pastor Deborah will answer questions you have: about Scripture, about UCC polity, about church in general, etc. You will write your question on an index card and hand it to an usher that morning. Spontaneous! Honest! Spirit-filled!

### Fireworks Cruise

Save the Date! The ever-popular Fireworks Cruise will be held on **Wednesday, July 8th** this year. For more information, contact Jack Leonhard.

## In the Community

### Senior Center Art

Art classes are scheduled at the Londonderry Senior Center, 535 Mammoth Road in Londonderry. Pre-registration is required, with payment at sign-up. Classes include: ceramics Mondays, 12:30-2pm and jewelry making Thursdays, 10:15-11:15am. For most classes, no experience is required. For details, call 432-8554 or visit

[www.londonderrynh.org/Pages/LondonderryNH\\_Senior/index](http://www.londonderrynh.org/Pages/LondonderryNH_Senior/index).

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Open House/BBQ

at Family Promise

145 Hampstead Road, Derry  
Calvary Bible Church parking lot  
June 6 from 12pm-3pm

Come one, come all, step right up! Please come join us for a day of fun with a carnival themed atmosphere that will include: games and prizes, food, face painting and a clown or two.

Participate in our scavenger hunt to win a prize! For more information, call 432-0400.

### “Art of Healing” at PCS

Tuesday, June 2, 2015

5:30 – 7:30 PM

PCS Office, 2013 Elm St., Manchester

Pastoral Counseling Services (PCS) welcomes the community to an open house at our offices in the Manning House. Partnering with the NH Institute of Art, PCS will display many works of art from alumni of NHIA. This is an opportunity to see PCS offices, meet Staff and Board, and enjoy art by local artists. You may browse or purchase the art and 10% of all purchases will be donated to PCS. Come to see PCS and support the arts!



A **Christian Coffee House** will be held at 7pm, May 29 at Abundant Grace Church, 127 Rockingham Rd. featuring Joey Voices. The event offers Christian and wholesome music, open mic sessions, clean comedy, free coffee and refreshments, and free raffle tickets. For more information, call 432-0510 or visit [www.abundantgracenh.com](http://www.abundantgracenh.com).



## 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”.



Be Doers  
of the Word...

## Scripture Readings

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

### **June 7<sup>th</sup> – “Third Week of Pentecost” \***

Acts 2:1-21  
1 Cor 12:3-13

### **June 14<sup>th</sup> – “Fourth Week of Pentecost” \***

Romans 8:22-27  
John 20:19-23

### **June 21<sup>st</sup> – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Sam 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49  
2 Cor 6:1-13  
**Mark 4:35-41**

### **June 28<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Sam 1:1, 17-27  
2 Cor 8:7-15  
**Mark 5:21-43**

*\* According to Pastor Deborah (not Revised  
Common Lectionary)*

## Worship Leadership

### **Deacons & Lay Readers**

#### **Deacons of the Month**

Fred Merrill and Julie Turner

**June 7<sup>th</sup>:** MacKenzie Kittery

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** Brian Williams

**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Diana Sweeney

**June 28<sup>th</sup>:** Diane Breeden

### **Ushers & Greeters**

**Weekly Usher** – Michael Bryan

**June 7<sup>th</sup>:** Ushers: Diaconate  
Greeter: Verna Elwell

**June 14<sup>th</sup>:** Ushers: Stanley and Holly Gorgol  
Tom and Andrea Cooper  
Greeter: Beth Hunter

**June 21<sup>st</sup>:** Ushers: Becky Fleury, Verna Elwell  
Rod and Sue Hunt  
Greeter: Bill Burke

**June 28<sup>th</sup>:** Ushers: Ross and Linda Webber  
Kevin and Diane Gordon  
Greeter: Betsy McCall

### **Nursing Home Friends**

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

# 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

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## Check us out on the web:

[www.fpc-ucc.org](http://www.fpc-ucc.org)

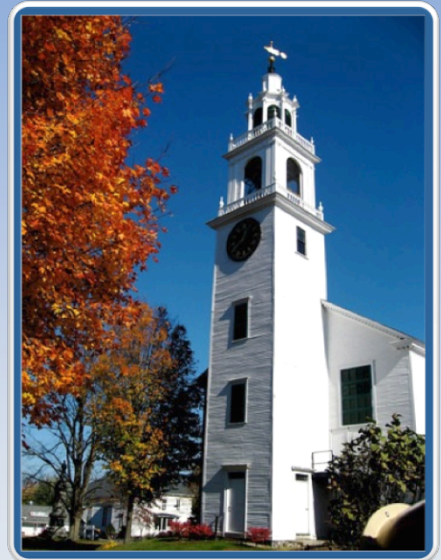
## Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:

[officemgr@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:officemgr@fpc-ucc.org)

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

[pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org](mailto:pastordeborah@fpc-ucc.org)

Call our office: 603-434-0628



First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
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