

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 9 am.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Child of God,

Is the glass half empty or half full?

I love those stories that bring you into one of those real-life scenarios about attitude. Do you know the ones I mean? I shared one of my favorites as an introduction to my sermon on Sunday July 26. Go to the website and watch it. And another good story goes like this:

"One day a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway; it just wasn't worth it to try to retrieve the donkey.

So he invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

Continued on Page 2

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 9th

Outdoor Worship
Congregational Meeting (p. 15)

Friday, August 14th

Parents' Night Out (p. 15)

Sunday, August 16th

All Church Cookout (p. 9)

Thursday, August 20th

Red Cross Blood Drive (p. 15)

Saturday, August 22nd

Lock-In, Youth Group (p. 4)

Sunday, August 23rd

Canobie Lake Park, Youth Group
(p.4)

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



Continued from Page 1:

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!"

Winston S. Churchill said: "A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." And Steve Jobs said: "People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are usually the ones who do!" And another all time favorite: "Whether you think you can or think you can't – you're right!" (Henry Ford)

At the Congregational meeting in April, when the idea of enhancing the CE Director position into an Associate Pastor position, was raised, a long-time member of the congregation said that funding that position could not rely on Fundraising. Not one person has disagreed with that statement. A decade ago this congregation stepped out on faith and extended a Call for a full-time Associate Pastor position. As time passed finances did not improve and that position was cut and cut again, until it was finally cut out completely. It was a painful time. Programming suffered. People suffered.

Over the last few months several lay leaders have studied our current staffing, programming, and finances. These leaders understand history and do not wish to repeat it. These leaders believe we are in a strong financial position. After studying the data, they realized a full-time Associate was out of reach but a part-time Associate was well within our grasp. They urged the Council at meetings for three consecutive months to bring this conversation to the congregation. On August 9, 2015, this conversation will happen at a congregational meeting when we discuss our possibilities as a congregation.

A Feasibility Study was executed per Council's direction in May. The results – as they stand today – are as follows:

Two-thirds of the funds needed to fund a part-time Associate Pastor have been promised by one-third of the membership. These promises were not made lightly. The understanding is that these pledges would in fact continue into our next pledging year.

Here's where that infamous half-empty/half-full glass comes in:

To some people the feasibility study shows that we cannot afford to continue this vision of enhanced staffing – because we "only" reached a partial goal amount. AND to some people the very same data shows that we could afford to move forward and create a part-time position – because we are two-thirds of the way to our goal and there are more than a hundred people who have yet to respond. If each one of them pledged what they could afford, we would reach our goal.

So how is it that the same data is a "half-full glass" to some and a "half-empty glass" to others? This is one of the mysteries of life.

I'll be honest. I am a "half-full" person. And my prayer is not that everyone would agree with me. My prayer is that we listen to one another and try to understand one another's fears, as well as one another's dreams. My prayer is that we would stay at the table with one another – even though and in spite of our differences of opinion. And when we vote – whenever that happens and whatever the outcome may be – that it will be as a result of good process and open communication.

May the peace that passes all human understanding be yours,

Pastor Deborah



CE News from Pastor Heidi

Dear Beloved,

As you read this letter, I will likely be sitting in a rocking chair on the big porch of the main building at Star Island. This week marks one of the deep privileges of serving the NH conference. All ministers are offered a week to participate in outdoor ministries apart from their vacation time. I'm looking forward to the fellowship and faith learning that will return to First Parish with me.

Star Island also means the summer is beginning to draw into its final weeks. It feels like it's already flown by so quickly, doesn't it? The end of summer also means we are looking ahead to a new program year, and this year that includes **CONFIRMATION!** Pastor Deborah and I are so excited to work with a new class of confirmands this year. If you are a rising 9th or 10th grader, or the parent of one, it's your year! Please be in touch with Pastor Heidi if you'd like to participate in this year's class. Are you an 11th or 12th grader who has fallen through the gap years in our program? No problem! You are so very welcome to join us. Are you an 8th grader who feels ready to take this step? Be in touch. Some churches are like country clubs, and you have to have special qualifications to get in. We're like camp! We'll get bunk beds. Y'all come.

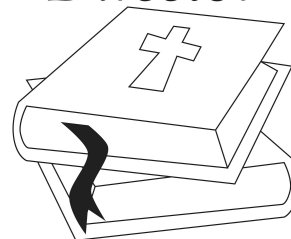
We are still working on what the details of the program will look like, but it will begin in October of 2015 and run through October of 2016. It is a year long spiritual journey for those looking to become full members of the church, and to take this adult step of affirming their faith. We're looking forward to what God is dreaming and scheming for this group of confirmands. Know that confirmation will be a safe space. We don't expect you to come in having lots of certainty. All questions and wonderings welcome as you explore this journey.

I hope to hear from many of you as the Spirit moves you. While this is a serious commitment, it is also a fun and wondrous one! We never know where God will lead us. Join us?

Blessings,

Pastor Heidi

Christian
Education
Director



Christian Education Updates

Blessing of the Backpacks!

Sunday, September 13th is Rally Day, and this year we'll be doing a blessing of the backpacks. Students of all ages, bring your backpacks to church for a special blessing to start the school year off right. This includes college students, graduate students, and adult students too!



August Youth Group Activities

- Lock-In at the home of Matt and Kerri Simpson on Saturday, August 22nd
- Canobie Lake Park with the Exeter Congregational Youth Group on Sunday, August 23rd beginning at 12 PM.

Note: Youth Group Movie night following Parents Night Out (p.15) on August 14th has been postponed to September. Stay tuned for an update!

SPARK (Pre-K to 5th Graders) Update

We are using a lighter curriculum including play, and stories for the summer months! Nursery care is available each Sunday. Church school is offered for grades K-5 through the end of the summer with the exception of August 9th and Labor Day. Church school for all ages (including our full Spark rotation) returns September 20th after Rally Day!

Confirmation Begins in September!

It's Confirmation time again here at First Parish! Pastor Deborah and Pastor Heidi will be co-teaching a confirmation class this coming year, beginning in September. Are you a rising 9th or 10th grader interested in taking the next step in your faith journey? Then, we want to talk to you! Are you an 11th or 12th grader who didn't get the chance to be confirmed? Then, we want to know who you are! Please email Pastor Heidi with interest or questions: pastorheidiheath@gmail.com

Stewardship Board

We are halfway through the summer! Do enjoy what is remaining before Mr. BRRR comes to greet us. We will be wanting the “warmth” again even though we are growling at it now.

An update on current financial giving: we are in the **black**! In fact, our pledging is \$6,628 over our goal for this time of year! This is great since some big bills needed to be paid. Keep those pledges coming! And remember that Stewardship is about more than money: do you have gifts that you could use for the good of the church? Let us know!

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Feasibility Study! This was a helpful tool in ascertaining important information regarding financial giving. In fact, we will hold a congregational meeting on August 9, 2015 at 10:30 right after our church service. There will be the formal “call to meeting” read each Sunday up until August 9th. 70 people responded to this Study and over 200 people received a letter and pledge card. If you have received your pledge card, and not sent it back, **it’s not too late**. We are so close but we need your help!

As you may have read, the purpose of this congregational meeting is to discuss the expansion of the role of our current CE Director to an Associate Pastor (Minister of Faith Formation) position. After a discussion on this subject, if the vote is affirmative, there will be a discussion of the search process, and a vote to waive that process, followed by a vote to extend the call to Pastor Heidi. This will be an informative meeting for the future of our church, and we are inviting each of you to join in on the discussion. Your thoughts, and votes, are very important. Hope to see you there!

We also want to tell you about our fall **Stewardship Campaign and Pledge Drive for 2016**. This year the UCC focus scripture is: “For surely I know the plans I have for you . . . to give you a future with hope.”(Jeremiah 29:11) and the mantra is: “Trust in the Promise.” The Stewardship Campaign starts on Rally Day, September 13 and culminates in the Pledge Drive from October 25 through Consecration Sunday, which is November 8.

Our vision this year is to begin working toward a budget that is supported primarily by pledges, eliminating our dependence upon fundraisers. Currently we have a budget of 284k with pledges of 175k. We need to be self-supporting through our own personal faithful contributions. And then we can do fundraisers for fun, for community building, and for mission. We are suggesting a pledge goal of \$225K in 2016. We believe that we can successfully reach this goal by talking more openly about the value of people’s faithful financial giving and by challenging those who **can** do more, to do more.

Our vision for programming with enhanced staff includes assurance of continuity within the Children’s Education program, expanded Adult Education programming, expanded visitation to our older members, expanded visitation to shut-ins, prison visitation, expanded communication among our governing Boards and Committees. With expanded staffing perhaps we could look at our organizational chart and modernize the way we structure ourselves – something First Parish has been talking about for over a decade. Currently Pastor Deborah does not have the flexibility to join the children in their education hour. With an Associate Pastor/Minister of Faith Formation who preaches periodically, Pastor Deborah could spend more time with our young people, and there would still be clergy presence leading Adult worship.

Cont. on Page 6...

Our goal this year with our presentations and printed materials is to **inform and to educate**. We want to include some **healthy stretching** and competition among those who can be stretched and encouraged to do more. Part of the fun of an auction is when we “outbid” one another. Maybe we can challenge one another to give more. **However, in the midst of this healthy stretching, we want to reassure people on extremely limited incomes that their gifts are appreciated, whatever they may be.** Our plan is to use more charts and graphs; 'pie charts' and fun metaphors (e.g. symphony- making a joyful noise). We are working on a narrative budget. We have many faith stories to share and we want to share them.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you . . . to give you a future with hope."
(Jeremiah 29:11)

Let Us Trust in the Promise,
The Stewardship Board

Stewardship REPORT

Nominating Committee

#1. Strive for 100% occupancy of all elected positions of the Church. Select nominees with Focus consistent with the Mission Statement of the Church.

#2. Strive for 100% Occupancy of all elected positions of the Church. We're at 84% to date! 96 out of 110 Positions Filled!

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
Diaconate Board	1	1st Wed. @ 7p	Reni Harnden, Brian Williams
Stewardship Board	2	1st Thurs. @ 7p	Fran Berube/Margie Ives
Nominating Committee	1	2nd Sun. @ 7:30a	Carl Hepworth
Library Committee	3	TBD	TBD
Membership Committee	5	TBD	TBD

**** This time of year presents an Awesome opportunity for members and friends of First Parish Church to get their “feet wet” with these fourteen vacancies we have available on various Boards and Committee’s. You can try them out until next Annual Meeting the end of January 2016 and see what you think!! We are looking for a few good people, and we have a place for You!! We need you and we would hope that you would consider being involved in one of these important positions in the life of our Church.****


Yours Always in Nominating Committee Faith,

Bill Armstrong 432-5446, Paul Dionne 244-8360, Carl and Gail Hepworth 434-2053, and Joe Merrill 247-3051.

Board of Christian Outreach and Mission

Liberty House - The Board of Christian Outreach and Missions has recently voted to support Liberty House in Manchester, NH which has been providing a safe, supportive, substance-free housing community for more than a decade for American veterans transitioning out of homelessness. Since opening their doors in 2004, a dedicated team of staff and volunteers has helped more than 200 homeless veterans rejoin their communities and regain fulfilling, independent lives.

Here are some of the items needed:

Personal Care Items: shampoo deodorant conditioner hand sanitizer Neosporin toothbrushes toothpaste tissues toilet paper disposable razors foot powder	Other food items: dry cereal oatmeal bread Ramen noodles mac & cheese (box) juice spaghetti/pasta shelf milk pancake mix coffee (instant/ground) turkey (frozen) peanut butter/jelly	Clothing (new and used): jeans (30-42" waist) sneakers/boots (sizes 7-13) hooded sweatshirts thermal underwear gloves warm hats warm jackets back packs sleeping bags
Canned goods: soup tuna ravioli chicken Spaghetios vegetables beef stew Spam	Household items: paper towels dish detergent sponges can openers (hand) trash bags	<p>These are the items needed by many shelters. Can you help? Please reach out in your community.</p> <p><i>Thank you from the BeachBums!</i></p> 

If you have any questions about physical donations, please contact Lindsay by e-mail at lindsay@libertyhousenh.org, by phone at (603) 669-0761 or visit the Liberty House website at www.LibertyHouseNH.org.

Cont. on Page 7...

Cont. from Page 6...

Food Baskets – There are changes coming to the Food Basket program. One of the changes is that there will be a food basket at the bottom of the stairs leading to the sanctuary. Also, the food basket(s) will be brought into Service on the first Sunday of each month (Communion Sunday) for a blessing prior to being delivered. Be on the lookout for the new baskets over the summer. More details will be forthcoming.

Donations – BOCOM provides regular monthly support to the following:

Sunshine Soup Kitchen - **\$100**

Vintage Grace - **\$125**

First Baptist Food Pantry - **\$100**

Community Caregivers - **\$100**

The Upper Room- **\$100**

Family Promise - **\$100**

Pastors Discretionary Fund - **\$100**

Pastoral Counseling - **\$100**

Kairos - **\$100**

Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) – **35% of Missions Income**

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



Fundraising Committee

We have already successfully raised \$3600 and are continuing to work towards raising the additional \$9400 needed to reach our initial \$13,000 goal. We await the results of the Speedway clean-up. Another planned event is selling Advertising for placemats for church events (best breakfast, spaghetti suppers, Harvest Supper). We have also added two additional fundraising projects--one mostly for fun, and one which will not require any more money than you currently budget each month!

The fun filled event will be an All Church Cookout at the Cobban's Beach on Island Pond on Sunday, August 16th from midday to evening. Bring the whole family, bathing suit and towel, floaty toys, kayaks, lawn chairs, sunscreen, and a picnic dish to pass. Alec will be our grill master extraordinaire and will have his karaoke machine set up to set the mood with some music. Let's all gather together for some end of summer fun, frolic and fellowship. Tickets are \$5/person with additional donations accepted and include all grilled items.

We can use your help to brainstorm businesses that we can approach to buy advertising on placemats we will be starting to use at all our food related events in the church. If you own a business, or frequent a local business for services or products--your hairdresser or auto mechanic, for example--please contact one of us with the information and we can follow up with them on the details.

We are also exploring a brand new (to us) fund raising project that we expect to roll out starting in September. This is the one that won't require you to dig any deeper into your pockets for any more money than you already budget each and every month. We all buy groceries, right? Well, our local grocery chains offer community fundraising programs in which we can buy gift cards in any denomination that will pay our church 5% back. Doesn't sound like much? Well, here's an example: If we had 150 participants purchasing \$200 of groceries monthly using gift cards purchased through the church, the church would make \$18,000 in a year!!!

Yes, friends, that's no more money out of your pocket than you already spend and the church has a steady income stream! What could be easier?

So starting this Fall, we will be piloting this program by selling \$100 Hannafords gift cards on Sundays in Currier after church. If there's enough interest and participation, we can then look into expanding to offering Market Basket cards too. Once you have your gift card, you can repeatedly reload them and the church will continue to receive our 5% of your grocery purchase!

- Submitted on behalf of Fundraising Committee, by Liz Greenberg



Thanks to Marilyn Ham's persistence, the Historic Preservation Committee has recently acquired original portraits of Rev. Edward Lutywich Parker and his wife, Mehetabel, from the estate of a descendant of theirs, Ellen (Parker) Eagle. In celebration of this acquisition, we have chosen Rev. Parker as our Who's Who this month.

Historical Preservation Committee

Rev. Edward L. Parker

Rev. Edward L. Parker, who was pastor of FPC for 40 years, was born in Litchfield on July 28, 1785, the youngest son of ten children. Right from a young age, Parker worked hard to excel in most everything he did. At the age of 17, he was persuaded to prepare himself for the study of medicine. He enrolled at the Academy of Londonderry for courses in college preparatory and boarded with the family of Rev. Jonathan Brown, pastor of Londonderry's East Parish (now FPC). It was during this time that a sermon Rev. Brown delivered on the "Judgment" first drew Parker's interest to the subject of religion. He furthered his college preparatory courses under Rev. Dr. Wood in Boscawen. Two years and three months after first entering the Academy of Londonderry, Parker enrolled as a junior at Dartmouth College for the study of medicine. Dartmouth also provided a course in theology to whoever was interested. Parker was interested and took on these studies as well as his courses in medicine. He graduated with a degree in medicine in 1807, but chose to stay on for several more months to complete his studies in theology. He was licensed to preach the gospel on October 29, 1807.



Even after preaching for several months in CT, Rev. Parker still felt the need for more study and experience and moved in with Rev. Dr. Worcester in Salem, MA. When traveling from there to visit his friends in Litchfield, he was asked to preach two sermons at East Parish in Londonderry (now Derry). Those sermons led to him being asked to preach there more often. So he would travel to Londonderry on Saturdays, and return to Salem, MA on Mondays. As soon as he finished his studies with Rev. Worcester, he was called to become the pastor of the First Parish of Londonderry (this was the same church location where he had originally preached, but it had a different name because of a reorganization that occurred in 1809 when the Third Parish – a Congregational church, rejoined with the East Parish – a Presbyterian church). Parker was ordained on September 12, 1810.

This was a difficult time in the church to which Rev. Parker had just been called. The First Parish of Londonderry was a tenuous reunion of the Congregational society that had broken off seven years earlier with the Presbyterians that had remained in East Parish. This merged congregation could have easily erupted over any offense. However, Rev. Parker's sermons were based on the Word of God from the Bible and were void of themes or opinions. Therefore, they were always judicious and instructive and never offensive. His style of preaching, although not eloquent, was so respected that the church welcomed over 500 new members during his pastoral office.

In 1811, Rev. Edward Parker married Mehetabel Kimball of Hanover, NH. They had two sons and two daughters; unfortunately, one daughter died when she was 3 years old. Parker's days were full of tasks he did in service to his church and community. It can be said that no minister in New England performed more hours of pastoral duties or preached more sermons in his time than did Rev. Parker.

Cont. on Page 11...

Cont. from Page 11...

His devotion to his profession was such that he usually preached three sermons on the Sabbath (the third being at one of the schoolhouses or in a private home) and preached, on average, three lectures a week in different parts of the town. At times he would make appointments to be in a certain part of town and visit every home within that district. In this way he was able to speak to all of the more than 2000 living in his parish. Day after day he could also be seen visiting the sick and the old, the dying and the grieving.



Rev. Parker was especially dedicated to the youth of his parish. It was said that he knew the name of every child in his large parish. In his weekly visits throughout the town, he would give pocket testaments, with his name and that of the child, to every child who could recite the catechism perfectly. He was among the very first in the State of NH to introduce the system of "Sabbath School" and regularly preached to parents around the parish the importance of this schooling. He also made it his duty to visit each of the 8-10 schools in town, four times a year.

For the first 36 years of his ministry, he only missed seven Sabbaths due to illness. During his 37th year, he began to experience pain in his chest and was diagnosed with angina pectoris. He did not allow his discomfort to interfere with any of his usual duties, but experienced severe pain if he exerted himself physically. On July 14, 1850, while traveling home from his third Sunday sermon at a distant schoolhouse, his horse stumbled coming up the hill on Rockingham Road. He had to run back quite a ways to the nearest house to ask for help. When he and the farmer returned to his horse, he suffered a heart attack and dropped dead on the spot. He was just two weeks shy of his 65th birthday. A granite memorial was erected at the site of his death and can still be seen just below the entrance of All Around Storage on Rockingham Road.



Rev. Edward Parker wrote the "History of Londonderry", which was published posthumously in 1851 by his son, Edward P. Parker.

- Submitted by Janice Braley,
Historic Preservation Committee

Marilyn Ham, Sean Pugh (close family friend of the donor), Janet Wetherbee, Ginny True and Pastor Deborah posing with portraits of Mehetabel (Kimball) and Edward Parker



Source: Taylor, Samuel H. (1851) *Brief Memoir of Edward L. Parker – Late Pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Derry, NH*. Boston: Perkins & Whipple. Pages 3-40.

Building Advisory Committee

Meetinghouse Rehabilitation Update: Tower Takedown, Foundation Planning, and More

You haven't seen any construction equipment or heard hammers and saws yet, but we've nonetheless been making good progress on several projects. Here's a brief update.

Tower Top Takedown

As we write this in July, we're reviewing the Tower Takedown contract and project details with Preservation Timber Framing (PTF, Arron Sturgis' company). The tentative schedule is:

- Build Scaffolding Around the Tower – Aug. 10-14
- Execute Rigging and Prep Work – Aug. 17-21
- Takedown Day – Aug. 26 (+/- a day)

For the Takedown Day, we expect a large crane to be positioned in the small Noyes/Meetinghouse parking lot. It will extend across the roof to lower the Belfry and Lantern together to a waiting wooden base on the north (street) side lawn. The bell and its cradle will be removed and stored, and the open top of the Tower Base will get sealed with a temporary roof flown up by the crane.

(We hope that the weight system that drives the Tower Clock can later be attached to this temporary roof to restore time-telling function, but haven't determined this for sure yet.)

The Tower Top should be on the ground for about two years, waiting for the Foundation Rehab project then the Tower Base and Tower Top repairs to be completed. We haven't yet selected its exact location on the lawn, and are working with the Derry Planning Board to make sure everyone is happy with this. We intend to suitably fence off the Top for security, and may also illuminate it at night.

The projected costs for the Takedown are:

Rigging & Staging	\$29,500
Tower Disconnect & Fly (Crane Day)	\$16,300
Temporary Base & Roof	\$6,590
Documentation of Conditions	\$4,700
Total:	\$57,090

We'll use current Meetinghouse Rehab funds to pay for this. The LCHIP grant application we submitted in June includes this as the first of four Tower Rehab phases: the total project cost is projected as \$301,211 and we requested \$125,000 towards this from LCHIP. (This is a very competitive grant process and we won't know the outcome until December; see the July newsletter or any BAC member for details.)

Cont. on Page 13...



Crane setting up at the Acworth Meetinghouse in 2006 (see <http://acworthmeetinghouse.org>).

Cont. from Page 12...

The Takedown Day marks a significant FPC milestone. We'll be sure to spread the word as soon as it is firmly scheduled, and will arrange for safe viewing for those who can attend.

Planning the Foundation and Connector Projects

We expect to sign a contract soon with Norman Larson of CPW Architects to begin detailed planning of the Foundation Rehab and Connector/Elevator projects. This construction work should commence next spring, with the sanctuary likely being usable through early/mid April (including Easter).

Norman wrote the 2011 Historic Assessment master planning document that drives our rehab efforts and he knows the buildings – and us – quite well. The projects will involve several trades and vendors yet to be determined, but we anticipate using PTF as our general contractor.

One related task is already underway, preparing to move or secure items that may be damaged or need to be accessible during the foundation work. Council is assembling a Moving Task Force with reps from all related groups for this important work; Larry Krantz is the BAC rep and is helping to lead the effort.

The moving preparation process is:

1. Work with our building experts to identify all the items that need to be addressed,
2. Determine which items need to be accessible (e.g. for summer services in Currier) and which can be stored for the duration, and
3. Make a plan for where things can best be stored and devise the most efficient moving and storage solution.

We'll share further details on the Foundation Rehab and Connector/Elevator projects as they develop.



PTF building a frost wall under a raised barn, similar to our foundation project (see their blog for details).



Ed Bell highlighting water damage for the Facilities Board, 6/24/15.

Repairing Meetinghouse Roof Leaks

Spring inspection by PTF foreperson Ed Bell revealed small but damaging water leaks in the Meetinghouse roof. Since we don't expect major roof rehab work to happen until 2017, the Facilities Board has taken on the job of getting the leaks repaired as soon – yet as cost-effectively – as possible. They are currently getting bids from slate roof experts, and so far it looks like the repairs will cost around \$2,000.

Ed also recommended that we install an inexpensive exhaust fan in the East end attic window to move air through the space, and Facilities is considering this.

Cont. on Page 14...

Cont. from Page 15...

Improve the Heating System

A goal related to Meetinghouse Rehab is to get the furnace (flames!) out of the historic building, and to simultaneously improve our facility-wide Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems.

The Facilities Board has been working on this for several months. They've engaged with the area's leading HVAC firms, and with the advice of these experts are developing an excellent plan. This calls for a single hot water furnace located in the Currier lower level, tied into the existing Currier and Noyes systems and running to heat exchangers and hot air handlers in the Meetinghouse.

The target is to have the new HVAC systems in place for the Fall 2016 heating season – after the Foundation work. Quotes from qualified vendors are being collected now; Facilities will share the details as plans progress.

We hope you share in our excitement as these critical projects move forward. If you have any questions on these updates – or any Meetinghouse Rehab issues – please contact any member of the BAC. We'll also post info on the Rehab/History bulletin board (outside of the Archive Room) and generally be available before or after Sunday services.

- Submitted by Paul Lindemann on behalf of the Building Advisory Committee
(Paul Ambler, Nancy Heywood, Larry Krantz, Paul Lindemann, and Bill Mann).

Finance Committee

Your Finance Committee is happy to announce First Parish Congregational Church will now be offering Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). EFT donations will be electronically transferred from your bank account to the Church's bank account on a scheduled basis at no charge to you. At this time, you would be able to select weekly or monthly transfers.

No need to worry about writing checks, stopping at the ATM prior to Sunday or setting up bill pay through your online banking. Please see Chris O'Brien before or after service if you have any questions or would like to pick up the form. You will need to complete the form and attach a voided check. Once you have completed the form please return it in a sealed envelope addressed to Pat Crowell. You can also place the sealed envelopes in the plate during service.



Around Our Church

Wanted: Handchime Players

The Handchime Choir is looking for a few new players. We are looking for anyone from grade 5 and up. Musical training is nice, but not required. We will teach. We are especially looking for someone tall to handle the larger bells. Rehearsals are after church on Sundays. The first rehearsal will be September 20th. If you are interested or would like more information, please speak with Ken Williams.

Parents' Night Out

Save the date! Friday, August 14th, drop your kids off at First Parish from 6-9 PM for a Parents' Night Out. We will provide a safe, fun evening of fun, including an age appropriate movie, for kids from K-5th grade. Youth members grades 6-12 are welcome to come as helpers. Adult helpers needed! Please see Pastor Heidi for more details or to volunteer!



Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to all those who took time out of their weekend to volunteer at the NH Motor Speedway Clean-Up! It was another great success with our amazing First Parish members and friends coming together to keep this popular NH location looking great.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 9th at 10:30 AM. If you have any questions, you may contact a Council member.

Inspiration!

"Happiness keeps you Sweet, Trials keep you Strong, Sorrows keep you Human, Failures Keep you Humble, Success keeps you Glowing, But..Friends..Keep You Going!!

Red Cross Blood Drive

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive in Currier Hall on Thursday, August 20th from 1-6 PM. Appointments are recommended. Please schedule online at www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767). All presenting donors will receive a coupon for \$2.50 OFF Turkey Hill All Natural Gelato. Please help us to help others and join us on the 20th!

August Calendar

FPC officeadmin, [Contacts](#), [First Parish Church UCC](#), [FPC Events](#), [Holidays in United States](#), [Nutfield](#), **Aug 2015 (Eastern Time)**
[Other Groups](#)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
						10am - Richard 7:30pm - AA ~
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7am - Best 9am - Worship ~	9am - CLM "Bright"	9am - CLM "Bright" 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ 7pm - OA ~ A/B	9am - CLM "Bright"	7pm - CE ~ CE Office 7pm - Stewardship	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri	2:30pm - Tri-Ess ~ 7:30pm - AA ~
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
7am - Best 9am - Worship ~ 10:30am - Congrega	CURRIER HALL CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE				7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri	7:30pm - AA ~
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
7am - Best 8am - HPC ~ Archive 8am - Youth 9am - Worship ~ 11:30am - Mission ~	9am - CLM "Bright"	9am - CLM "Bright" 6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ 7pm - Finance ~ 7pm - OA ~ A/B	9am - CLM "Bright" 7pm - Council ~	1pm - Blood Drive,	7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri	7:30pm - AA ~
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
7am - Best 9am - Worship ~		6:15pm - GS 6:30pm - AA ~ 7pm - OA ~ A/B	7pm - Facilities ~		5pm - Spaghetti 7pm - AA Serenity 9:30pm - AA Fri	7:30pm - AA ~
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
7am - Best 9am - Worship ~						

Scripture Readings

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

August 2nd – Proper 13

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Psalm 78:23-29

Eph 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

August 9th – Proper 14 (Outdoor Worship)

2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130

Psalm 34:1-8

Eph 4:25-5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

August 16th – Proper 15

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Psalm 34:9-14

Eph 5:15-20

John 6:51-58

August 23rd – Proper 16

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Psalm 34:15-22

Eph 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

August 23rd – Proper 17

Song of Sol 2:8-13

Psalm 45:1-2

Psalm 15

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Worship Leadership

Deacons & Lay Readers

Deacons of the Month

Diana Sweeney & Reni Harnden

August 2nd: Jennifer Robinson

August 9th: Reni Harnden

August 16th: Fred Merrill

August 23rd: Heidi Carrington Heath

August 30th: Pat Plouff

Ushers & Greeters

Weekly Usher – Michael Bryan

August 2nd: Ushers: Diaconate

Greeter: Verna Elwell

August 9th: Ushers: Ross & Linda Webber

Kevin & Diane Gordon

Greeter: Diane Breeden

August 16th: Ushers: Ken Gould, Joe Weaver

Dee Deranian, Shirley Dickason

Greeter: Ruth Honnors

August 23rd: Ushers: Stanley & Holly Gorgol

Tom & Andrea Cooper

Greeter: Lisa Hall

August 30th: Ushers: Becky Fleury,

Verna Elwell, Rod & Sue Hunt

Greeter: Mark Pingree & Nancy Magee

Nursing Home Friends

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-Friday: 9 am – 4:30 pm

You are most warmly invited:

9:00 am Sunday Worship & Church School

10:00 am Coffee Hour

Check us out on the web:

www.fpc-ucc.org

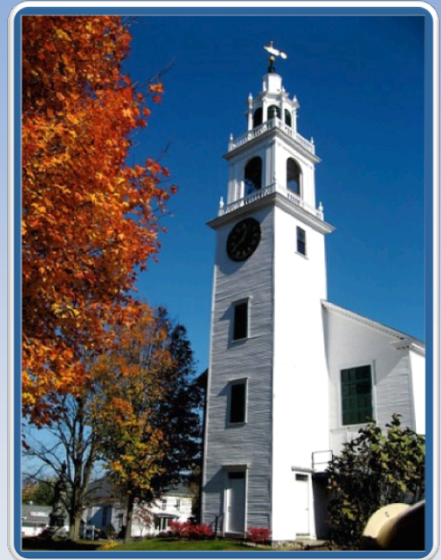
Email our office manager, Lindsey Roman:

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

