



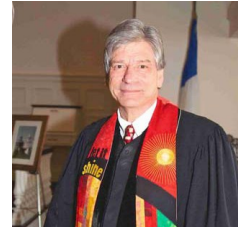
# First Parish Church Bell

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church Congregational

**First Parish Church Congregational  
located in downtown  
Manchester-by-the-Sea on the Village Green**

**February 2012**

**Pastor** Rev. John Hughes



Martin Luther, the great Protestant Reformer, was the first person to promote “*congregational singing*”. If “***one sings diligently and with skill and application***”, wrote Luther reflecting on the spiritual qualities of singing, “***then music makes you good and puts you at peace with yourself, with others, and with God... by providing you a vision of beauty, driving away evil, and making you happy.***”

Luther believed that as you sing (*as the old saying goes*) “*you pray twice*”. He knew that because people easily remember songs, they can easily remember the biblical messages the songs convey. Luther made sure people remembered by using familiar ballads - - ***drinking songs from taverns and lullabies hummed to children!*** Luther took tunes from common life and used them as vehicles to move people to a relationship with God. The established church was shocked! They protested he was cheapening the faith.

The sobering fact was Martin Luther needed a creative way to teach his vast membership that was illiterate. Without knowledge of the faith, Luther believed, his movement would quickly die; he was one generation away from the end of Christianity.

Statistics show that in Massachusetts (*on any Sunday*) only 17% of people attend any organized form of worship – Church, Synagogue, Cathedral, Home-Church, etc. For all extents and purposes, 83% of our population is illiterate when it comes to understanding the Christian faith, or, any faith! Are we again one generation away from oblivion?

When we think of a well-rounded education, do we understand how important it is to give our children (*and ourselves*) a deep and meaningful understanding of faith and spirituality? Are we raising spiritual children to fully embrace and contemplate life?

*Continued next page*

As we turn our calendars to February, we approach Lent - - a special time of spiritual reflection and preparation where we set the tyranny of life aside and recover our faith. Come, worship, sing songs, i.e. 'pray twice', and remember the faith of Jesus Christ.

*Rev. John J. Hughes*

## **Christian Education Director**

**Priscilla Duda**

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone – may your sweethearts be extra sweet on February 14<sup>th</sup>!

Now that we are in February we are busy visiting the Parable lessons of the Deep Well, Leaven the Great Pearl and the Sower. Parable lessons question our everyday lives and allow us to see things in a way that we may have missed before. They are lessons that will result in your children having questions and comments about their morning in Sunday school. I will make sure that I send home the parent pages each week so that you have an understanding of what was shared.

We have a wonderful new table and chairs in the K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade class so finally all of the children will have the much needed room at the table to complete their crafts and visit with their friends.

There will be no Sunday school on February 26 due to the February vacation.

We have scheduled the Birthday bash for March 4<sup>th</sup> – if you have not attended this in the past please come as it is a wonderful fun filled celebration of everyone's birthday – I will be sending out more details as we get closer.

The Heifer talent show/fair is coming – we are scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> and look forward to seeing all of the talent within our Sunday school!!!! More details will follow about this very special fundraiser for the International Heifer project – a program which helps third world countries through providing livestock to improve their standard of living. Watch for more as we get closer!!

I am writing this on a day in January that feels more like May so perhaps you will not need a reminder that if SS is closed due to weather you can check the church website. In addition I will send out and E-mail to you as soon as I am notified and last there is the old fashion way – you are always welcome to call me at 978-526-4583.

Happy Valentine's Day, Priscilla

# Faith Formation

## Dr. Judy Haley

“One size fits all” doesn’t work for shoes or eyeglasses or pants—or even prayers. Maybe you’ve felt a tug towards being more intentional about prayer, but your tried and true prayer is a little tired. Or maybe praying is new territory, and you’d like a map or GPS for finding your way. Lent, a time of preparation for Easter, is a good time to begin.

During five Thursday evenings during Lent we will explore *50 Ways to Pray: Practices from Many Traditions and Times*. We’ll describe several exercises around a different theme each session. Participants will go home with ideas about how to pray. No reading or expertise in prayer required. Questions? See Judy Haley [pastoralassist.fpchurch@verizon.net](mailto:pastoralassist.fpchurch@verizon.net)

### **Lenten Series**

(Mostly) Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Feb 22 **Ash Wednesday Service** with Jared Hamilton (no Thursday meeting this week)

Mar 1 *Fifty Ways to Pray*: Praying with Scripture

Mar 8 *Fifty Ways to Pray*: Life Reflections

Mar 15 *Fifty Ways to Pray*: Body Prayer

Mar 22 *Fifty Ways to Pray*: Prayers of the Imagination

Mar 29 *Fifty Ways to Pray*: Praying for Others

Apr 5 **Maundy Thursday Service**

**Growing Together**, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Feb 2 Christianity and the Media, presentation at Gordon College by Brad Wright, professor of sociology at UConn

Feb 9 Christians and Evolution

Feb 16 Evolution and Ethics, presentation at Gordon College by Stephen Pope, professor of theological ethics at Boston College

**Soup & Conversation**, Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

Feb 19 A Glimpse of Our Missions with the Missions Committee

Mar 18 Border Crossing: Israel and Palestine with Jared Hamilton

Apr 15 Interpreting Dreams with Jason Smith

**Friday Bible Study**, Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

Understanding the scriptures that lead us through Lent to Easter and that can transform our lives today

**Women's Fellowship** Celebrates St. Patrick's Day

Monday, March 19 @ 7:00 p.m. Save the date, wear your green, and bring a friend!

# Youth Director

Jared Hamilton

Greetings from the Youth Director!

This February looks to be busy for the youth at First Parish Church. We plan to go snow tubing in Amesbury, and have a night at LaserQuest in Danvers. Below is a list of February events:

*(NOTE: Details to all events are found in the monthly email sent to Youth Group parents. If you know someone who should be receiving these emails and is not, please contact me at [youthdirector.fpchurch@verizon.net](mailto:youthdirector.fpchurch@verizon.net)).*

- Saturday, February 4 – High School Youth Tubing, Amesbury Sports Park 10am – 3pm
- Sunday, February 5 – Solace Youth Group in Youth Room – 10:00am – 11:00am
- Sunday, February 12 – Solace Youth Group in Youth Room – 10:00am – 11:00am
- Sunday, February 12 – Confirmation Class in Youth Room – 11:30am – 1:00pm
- Saturday, February 18 – LaserQuest for youth group in Danvers – Time TBA
- Sunday, February 19 – Youth Group in Church – 10:00am – 11:00am
- Saturday, February 25 – Youth Group Service Project, “Deck the Halls” 3 to 7:00pm
- Sunday, February 26 – Solace Youth Group in Youth Room – 10:00am – 11:00am
- Sunday, February 26 – Confirmation Class in Youth Room – 11:30am – 1:00pm

Blessings, Jared Hamilton, Youth Director

## Diaconate

February Greetings 2012!! John reminded us that FPC is in the center of our community... with our outreach to all and as FPC touches the lives in our community and beyond through weddings, flowers, graveside celebrations of life, visits and cards! We take time to welcome visitors and new members to join in our caring, open and joyous congregation. This time following Epiphany and preceding Lent is known as Ordinary Time ... the liturgical color is green... symbolizing new life and growth, a time of new beginnings, a time to focus on fellowship and community. We invite you to join us in our Spring Clean-Up of the sanctuary on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 9-12. Please let the diaconate know if you would like to participate by being a greeter or a reader in the coming months. For the month of February, 2012, our deacons will be: Head deacon Wendy Smith and assistant deacon Linda Palmstrom.

With joy and caring,  
FPC Diaconate

FIRST PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL  
United Church of Christ  
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts  
WARRANT FOR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
February 12, 2012

TO: Active Members of the First Parish Church Congregational, United Church of Christ,  
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

You are hereby notified to meet in the Church on Sunday, February 12, 2012 immediately  
following the Worship Service, for the following purposes:

To wit:

ARTICLE I To accept the report of the Annual Business Meeting held on February 13, 2011

ARTICLE II: To see what action the Church will take in regard to the budget proposal for  
2012 as submitted by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE III: To hear and act upon the reports of the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, the  
Board of Trustees, the Investment Committee, the Christian Education Committee, the  
Diaconate Board, the Missions Committee, the Music Committee, the Stewardship  
Committee, the Membership & Growth Committee, and the Teaching Parish Committee.

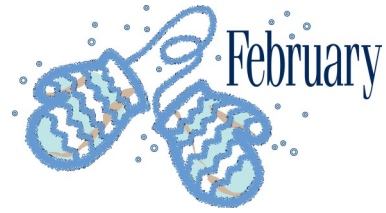
ARTICLE IV To authorize the Board of Trustees and Treasurer to transfer up \$15,000 from  
the Endowment Fund to the General Operating Fund if it becomes necessary during 2012 and  
until the 2013 Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE V To authorize the Board of Trustees and Treasurer to borrow up to \$8,000 from  
the Endowment Fund to the General Operating Fund on a temporary basis solely for cash  
flow issues and not as a permanent withdrawal and only if it becomes necessary during 2012  
and until the 2013 Annual Business Meeting.

ARTICLE VI To hear and act upon any other business of a financial nature that may  
come before the meeting.

George A. Nickless, Clerk

# Worship Schedule



## **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>** – Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Sermon: "***Faith for the Long Haul***"

Hymns: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing  
Precious Lord, Take my Hand  
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

## **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14  
Mark 1:40-45

Sermon: "***The Healing Touch***"

Hymns: Christ is Made the Sure Foundation  
We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness  
There is a Wideness in God's Mercy

## **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – **Transformation Sunday, Jared Hamilton**

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-2  
Mark 9:2-9

Sermon: "***Everything is Illuminated***"

Hymns: "We have come at Christ's Own Bidding"  
"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"  
"Be Now My Vision"

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ash Wednesday, *Service of Hipolytus***  
*[3 communions]*

## **Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon: "***Covered in Dust***"

Hymns: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty  
Great is Your Faithfulness  
Lord, Dismiss Us with thy Blessing

# Daily Lectionary

**Wed., Feb. 1**

Psalm 35:1-10 Jeremiah 29:1-14 Mark 5:1-20

**Thurs., Feb. 2**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
Proverbs 12:10-21  
Galatians 5:2-15

**Fri., Feb. 3**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
Job 36:1-23,  
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

**Sat., Feb. 4**

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c ,  
Isaiah 46:1-13  
Matthew 12:9-14

**Sun., Feb. 5**

*Fifth Sunday After Epiphany*

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39

**Mon., Feb. 6**

Psalm 102:12-28, 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37  
Acts 14:1-7

**Tues., Feb. 7**

Psalm 102:12-28  
2 Kings 8:1-6 , Acts 15:36-41

**Wed., Feb. 8**

Psalm 102:12-28  
Job 6:1-13, Mark 3:7-12

**Thurs., Feb. 9**

Psalm 30  
Leviticus 13:1-17  
Hebrews 12:7-13

**Fri., Feb. 10**

Psalm 30  
Leviticus 14:1-20  
Acts 19:11-20

**Sat., Feb. 11**

Psalm 30  
Leviticus 14:21-32  
Matthew 26:6-13

**Sun., Feb. 12**

*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*

2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27  
Mark 1:40-45

**Mon., Feb. 13**

Psalm 6  
2 Chronicles 26:1-21 Acts  
3:1-10

**Tues., Feb. 14**

Psalm 6, 2 Kings 7:3-10 1  
Corinthians 10:14—11:1

**Wed., Feb. 15**

Psalm 6  
Job 30:16-31 John 4:46-54

**Thurs., Feb. 16**

Psalm 41, 2 Chronicles 7:12-22, 3 John 2-8

**Fri., Feb. 17**

Psalm 41  
Isaiah 38:1-8  
Hebrews 12:7-13

**Sat., Feb. 18**

Psalm 41  
Isaiah 39:1-8, Luke 4:38-41

**Sun., Feb. 19**

*Last Sunday after the Epiphany/Transfiguration*

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

**Mon., Feb. 20**

Psalm 38, Isaiah 30:18-26  
Acts 14:8-18

**Tues., Feb. 21**

Psalm 38, Micah 4:1-7  
2 Corinthians 1:1-11

**Wed., Feb. 22**

*Ash Wednesday*  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or  
Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17  
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Thurs., Feb. 23**

Psalm 103:1-13, 22  
Ezekiel 16:1-14  
Romans 3:1-8

**Fri., Feb. 24** Psalm 103:1-13, 22, Ezekiel 16:44-52  
2 Peter 1:1-11

**Sat., Feb. 25** Psalm 103:1-13, 22, Ezekiel 16:53-63  
John 7:53—8:11

**Sun., Feb. 26**

*First Sunday in Lent*  
Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15

**Mon., Feb. 27**

Psalm 45:6-17, Hosea 3:1-5  
2 Corinthians 1:23—2:11

**Tues., Feb. 28**

Psalm 45:6-17, Hosea 14:1-9, 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

**Wed., Feb. 29**

Psalm 45:6-17, Isaiah 62:1-5  
John 3:22-36

## Care Team

### *Have you shared the experience?*

Our Care Team provides meals, rides, & visits to sustain families in our Church Community through times of illness and loss. If you would like to become involved with this wonderful support system please call; Sheila Kafer 978-525-3253, [smkafer@comcast.net](mailto:smkafer@comcast.net)  
Or Janet Groth at 978-526-8408, [janbythesea244@gmail.com](mailto:janbythesea244@gmail.com)

Coming soon to your sanctuary!  
Saturday, March 3



*The Stewardship Committee thanks our church community for the successful 2012 Annual Fund Drive. It is wonderful to see how our members give so generously with their gifts of money, time, and talents to make our church grow!*

*Sincerely, The Stewardship Committee*

Annual Business Meeting



Sunday February 12 following worship