



**First Parish Church**  
Congregational, Manchester-by-the-Sea • MA

**October 2023**

# *The Church Bell Newsletter*



The annual *Thank You* party for the Congregation was held at Tuck's Point on September 17th. Stewardship thanks everyone who participates and supports First Parish with their time and donations! Over 40 people attended. The weather was gorgeous, the pizza delicious, the fellowship was priceless! Thank you to everyone.  
Thank you to Vitality for co-hosting.

## Notes from the Moderator and Church Council

We welcome Rev. Katherine Schofield as our new minister.  
She was called on Sept. 17 and will begin her ministry here in January.







## Welcome, Mark Jackson!

Mark is our new custodian for the Chapel. George Nickless retired in September, 2023 after more than 25 years making sure that everything was clean and that everything worked.

Among his many jobs in the past, Mark previously was custodian at a church in Athol, MA, so he comes to us with plenty of knowledge about the needs and varied schedules of church buildings. And he also works as a monitor and substitute teacher at the Manchester-Essex Middle School. Mark lives in Manchester.

When you see him in the halls of the chapel, be sure to say hello!



## Stewardship



The 2024 Annual Fund Drive will launch with testimonials in October and end with Pledge Sunday on November 23rd.

Our theme for the fund drive is “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

Reflection question: “What are your dreams for the future we are building together at First Parish?”

**Updating our information** - We will be sending forms in the mail for you to update your contact information. Please update and mail back to First Parish Church P.O. Box 187 Manchester, MA 01944. This is our chance to get current addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. which will be so helpful to our committee. Thank you.





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## Book Group

Book Group is a time for church members as well as non-church friends to come together and engage with one another, build relationships, and share in a discussion of books that are of interest to people of various backgrounds. We have fun visiting, conversing about the book and sharing stories and would love to have you join us!

Book Group meets on the last Monday of the month and hosting is shared among members.

Listed below are the Book Group reads for the year -

**Monday, October 30**, 6:30 PM, at Sheila Logue's home, 25 Norwood Ave. We will discuss Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See.

**November 27**, at Nancy Peterson's home. The book is The Walls Between Us, Vol. 1 by Haru Tsukishima.

**December 11**, a potluck dinner, and book swap at Joanne Hadaegh's home.

**January 29**, at Mary Ellen's home, 23 Harold St. The book is Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano.

**February 26**, at Meredith 'Tufts' home. The book is Beyond That, the Sea by Laura Spence-Ash.

**March 25**, at Carol Spence's home. The book is Genesis in the Bible.

## Seaside Parish Knitters

**The Seaside Parish Knitters meet each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday (Ocy. 5 & 19) of the month at the Chapel, from 1-3 pm.** We welcome all to stop by anytime during that time.

Over the years we have enjoyed our time knitting and crocheting items for baptismal events at the church, shawls and blankets for friends at home, scarves, neck gators, and helmet liners for our veterans in combat, and mittens and hats for Cape Ann children.

We are always looking for knitting needles and yarn that you might be considering "casting" aside, especially wool. Contact Penny Lapham at 978-526-7128.



## **Hands on Missions at First Parish**

**The Outreach and Service collections continue!**

**Drop items at the Church before Worship or at the Chapel**

### **The Open Door and The Grace Center items needed:**

Baking Mixes - Cake, Brownie, Cookie, Muffin, Pancake, Peanut Butter, Canned Tuna, Chicken, and Turkey, Healthy Snack Items, 100% Juice/Juice Boxes, Breakfast Cereal, Hearty Soups Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Vegetables and Fruits, Macaroni and Cheese, Rice, Noodles, Pasta, Pet Food.

Gift Cards from local grocery markets (Shaw's, Stop & Shop, Market Basket, etc.) so they can purchase butter, cream, and other perishables.

# Operation Troop Support

## Items for Care Packages

### FOOD

- Cup of soup, ramen noodles, mac & cheese cups, individual cereal
- Individual containers of apple sauce, oranges, peaches, etc.
- Tuna packages, individual cans of tuna, chicken, deviled ham
- Power bars, beef jerky, granola bars, raisins
- Cookies, crackers, peanut butter crackers, pretzels, nuts
- Popcorn, cheez-its, candy, fruit snacks, pop tarts

### TOILETRIES

- Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash
- Sunscreen, insect repellent, skin cream, baby powder, foot powder
- Cotton swabs, individual tissues, sanitizer wipes, band aids
- Disposable razors, deodorant, shaving cream (not aerosol)
- Chapstick, Vaseline

### MISCELLANEOUS

- Men and women socks, fleece blankets
- Playing cards, travel games, frisbees
- Word puzzle books, crossword puzzle books, brain teasers
- Current magazines, paperback books, stationary, pens, DVDs

### MONETARY DONATIONS

- Please go to our website for more information



## Misc.

**Contribute to the work of First Parish Church** by going to <http://www.PayPal.Me/FPCChurchManchester> and clicking the “send” button.

**Readers and Greeters** are always needed. To volunteer speak to the Deacons, or you can also sign up [online](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate). <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4caba822a1f49-diaconate>

First Parish is looking for **help with streaming**. Full training is provided! Not sure? Sign up to be an assistant to the volunteer who is streaming. We need your help to continue to provide online access to Worship services. Sign up [here](#) or contact Richard Smith at [richard.w.smith@gmail.com](mailto:richard.w.smith@gmail.com).

**Our Online Prayer Wall** Give it a try! Request prayers and pray for others through the Prayer Wall on our website. Feel more connected to the Joys and Concerns of our congregation, and hear what's on each other's hearts. You will be touched to receive notifications every time someone prays for you.  
<https://www.firstparishchurch.org/prayer-wall/>

**Manchester Seniors** - Drop in for Coffee and Conversation! Every Monday (except holidays) 10 AM-12:30 PM at the First Parish Community Hall. Hospitality provided by The Friends of The Manchester Council on Aging Come sit down and talk!

**Visiting Nurses Health Clinic** - Held the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month, 10 - Noon at First Parish Chapel Hall. Services offered include: health assessments, blood pressure screenings, B12 administration, pulse, heart and lung monitoring, blood sugar screenings for diabetics, medication and diet consults. Drop in. Free. Open to all.

**Use the links below to learn more about First Parish Church online:**

[Facebook](#) [www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/](http://www.facebook.com/FirstParishChurchManchesterMa/)

[Instagram](#) [www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/](http://www.instagram.com/fpcmanchesterbythesea/)

[Website](#) [www.firstparishchurch.org/](http://www.firstparishchurch.org/)

[YouTube Worship Services](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUvfURhmsH8lfE13FLaRtWcw-pOTC9T2h>

First Parish uses candid photos of Church activities in its publicity from time to time. Any photos of children used will not contain personally identifiable information. Members of the community not wanting their or their children's photos depicted should inform the Church Office.

## Stephen Ministry

We are pleased to announce that the Stephen Ministry at First Parish has initiated the training of this first cohort of Stephen Ministers over the summer. The training is planned to be completed in the fall, at which time they will be available to confidentially support any members of the congregation experiencing life challenges. This care will be carefully planned to become an extension of Rev. Katherine's pastoral care efforts upon her arrival. The Stephen Ministry will also work with all elements of the lay leadership to identify any among us who may be facing life challenges such as bereavement, divorce, or terminal illness and could use additional emotional and spiritual support from the Church.

A Stephen Minister's objective is not to "solve" the challenge but rather to ensure that none feel alone in their struggles. (Jesus, after all, did not come to "fix" all of our challenges, but rather to be with us in our struggles.) At the same time, the Stephen Ministry in a congregation develops a network of specialized services suitable to assist individuals with specific problems. For example, someone struggling with alcoholism might be introduced to a local AA group; or someone temporarily displaced from a home could be referred to an agency qualified to assist in finding temporary housing. The Stephen Minister would continue to meet with that individual as a friend and witness. One of the most important roles of the Stephen Ministry is to be a "one stop shop" which can refer members of the community to agencies which can provide needed practical support, as well as providing Christian companionship.

As we hope the congregation is aware, the Stephen Ministry—named for Stephen, who in Acts 6 was appointed to assist members of the community suffering acute hardships—is a 50-year-old interdenominational Christian tradition. The service trains lay members of the congregation in psychology and theology to be a Christian presence with any in the community suffering acute life challenges. To date, the movement includes about 13,000 congregations and has trained 75,000 Stephen Leaders who have in turn trained 600,000 Stephen Ministers. Fuller details on the movement can be found here: [Stephen Ministries](#)

There are many ways to participate depending upon your gifts and availability. Additional cohorts of Stephen Ministers will be trained from time to time. In addition, there is much work to do to develop our network of community resources and stay in touch with our service partners. If you think you might be interested call Linda Crosby at 978-314-1526 or Steve Carhart at 978-407-8454.



**Messiah Sing  
Save the date!  
Sunday, Dec. 10**

## **October Birthdays**

|       |                          |                                 |                           |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10/04 | <b>LUMSDEN, MARY</b>     | 18 WOODCREST ROAD MANCHESTER    | rasc84@hotmail.com        |
| 10/19 | <b>FLYNN, JAMESON</b>    | 7 LOADING PLACE ROAD MANCHESTER |                           |
| 10/26 | <b>CARRASSI, SHEILA</b>  | 19 VINE ST MANCHESTER           | scbythesea@comcast.net    |
| 10/26 | <b>FEUERBACH, MARYJO</b> | 5 HAROLD ST MANCHESTER          | maryjofeuerbach@gmail.com |



First Parish Church  
P.O. Box 187  
Manchester, MA 01944



Join us for online Bible Study via Zoom each Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM.  
This is a lively discussion led by Elsa Marshall.

You can join us with your computer, laptop, tablet, phone or you dial in with your landline. To give us a try - just look for the e-mail with the zoom link on Thursday mornings or contact the Church Office for the phone number to dial in!