

First Parish Congregational Church
One Church, Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
<http://www.fpccwakefield.com>
Email: fpccx1644@aol.com



VOLUME LXXIII, No. 1
January 8, 2010

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010

Family Worship Services—9 & 10:30 am

Sermon: Abram Kielsmeier-Jones

On Earth as it is in Heaven
(remembering Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Scripture: St. Matthew 6:9-15

Calendar for Sunday, January 17, 2010

9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
No Church School Classes
No Confirmation Class
11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)

The memorial flowers will be given in loving memory of Frank B. Adams by his son Frank Adams and family.

Ushers for January: Bonnie Mullen, Joseph Toto, Joseph D'Agostino, Kathryn Millheim, Betty Cullen, Scott Mitchell, Stephen Gates, and Linda D'Agostino (captain).

Greeters: the Kennedy Family.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Kathryn Millheim.

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Pamela and Gadar Abkarian.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010

Morning Worship Services—9 & 10:30 am

Sermon: The Rev. Richard A. Weisenbach,
D. Min.

Pardon Me While I Offend You!

Scripture: St. Luke 4:14-30

Calendar for Sunday, January 24, 2010

9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
10:30 am Church School Classes
(Pre-K – Grade 7)
10:30 am Confirmation Classes
11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
12 n Junior Choir Rehearsal

The memorial flowers will be given in memory of loved ones by Joseph, Linda, Joshua, and Jillian D'Agostino.

Greeter: Dexter Wheeler.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Kathryn Millheim.

Coffee Hour Hosts: Faith and Donald Hodgkins.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
	154	154
	82	82

Church School

December 27, 2009	Family Sunday
January 3, 2010	No Church School-Snowstorm



RAW MATERIAL

When Christmas is over it is REALLY over. Christmas ends like a huge steel door slamming shut. Nothing looks more out of place than the lights on Wakefield Common. You know what I'm talking about. We have been planning, partying, purchasing for weeks and then...January. Ugh! The days are getting longer, but spring seems a long way off. The ice has a hammerlock on the lake and we have had two snowstorms on Saturday-Sunday already. How shall we face and move forward through these first weeks of the year? Well...let me suggest that we all remember the wonderful truth we just celebrated.

The gospel story is so familiar, but have we incorporated their message into our lives? John's version of the Christmas story is in his gospel, Chapter 1, verse 14.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. (KJV)

The Word (Jesus) became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. (Msg)

When we truly take the message of the Bible seriously, believing that God, by the indwelling presence of His Spirit is actually within our lives, things are bound to improve. For instance, let's review some facts:*

You're still short-tempered, but a couple of times last week you said you were sorry.

Your marriage has had its peaks and valleys, but you are still together.

You sin every day, but you don't find it pleasant anymore; you wish you could change.

One thought in ten is a thought of gratitude, that's way up from zero.

You recently wrecked a relationship, big time, but you went back and tried to make it right.

You used to spend 15 minutes obsessing to every one minute praying, but now the proportions are reversing.

As time goes by the things of this earth seem less attractive, the things of heaven more inviting.

Sorrow abounds, but comfort abounds more.

These changes come from our daily acknowledgement of God's daily presence. Jesus Christ has come, God with us. True, we are living in the in-between time, where the old you and the new you overlap and sometimes things get messy, but let's lay hold of the Christmas promise. God has come and by His grace and power we are becoming new!

*Andrée Seu, World Magazine, December 23, 2006, pg. 39

R.A.W

First Parish Congregational Church
One Church, Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
<http://www.fpccwakefield.com>
Email: fpccx1644@aol.com



VOLUME LXXIII, No. 1
January 8, 2010

PIECES OF MY HEART FOR 2009

As we look back over our shoulder on the year that is behind us, we can't help but see the obvious ways that God has held us in the very palms of His hands. Month by month we can see in our pledge and plate offerings just how He has sustained us. It has been an amazing journey of growing in our trust and faith in Christ Jesus. In our own homes this is reflected as well. So many times I have turned the corner this past year to see the Lord's fingerprints in my house, in our church home, my family, our church family, my friends, my workplace, my daughter's wedding. You can see His hand, too. There are no coincidences or luck, it's blessings from the hand of God. I write this with such a grateful heart. As the old year has closed, there are a couple of points that are highlighted in my mind. One is the very fact that God is in the details of every fiber of our lives. How He is weaved into every bit of it. He knows every single detail. When He reveals himself and you see it, you can't deny Him. He's amazing.

On a cold winter's night this December, as I walked towards the Stop and Shop in Saugus, there in front of me was a man at the Salvation Army stand. He didn't just have one bell; he had two, plus a boom box playing Christmas music. He was dancing and ringing those two bells in time to the music. He made you want to dance as you walked towards him. I can remember I had the biggest smile on my face as I approached him. I told him that he was awesome. What a gift it was to meet him. His name was Anthony. He had on military camouflage. I asked him if he was really in the service and he replied for 13 years. I thanked him. As I continued my night, I couldn't help remembering Anthony and how alive he was and in the moment. He made that moment count for everything. I thought about stewardship, *it's what you do with what God gives you*, and Anthony was a living testament to Stewardship at that moment. He was putting his heart and soul into it. I think that's what God is asking of us. Live in the moment, not in the past or the future. Love me with all your heart, your soul and your mind. Make the most out of what I have given you. Bells, too, have become very significant in my life. They have become a symbol of truly just believing; believing in Him. Let us make the most of what He has given to us and to be pleasing in His sight. Only with His help can we hope to do just that. Praise the Lord.

We have now coasted into a new beginning for 2010, and our hope still lies in the faithfulness of our God—believing wholeheartedly He lights the way. He walks with each one of us. He desires us to trust Him. We can show Him by what we do with what He gives us. This Sunday in Sunday school, James asked, "But how can He be in every heart at the same time?" Keep in mind that James is only four. When one truly thinks of it, you can't help but ask how? I don't know the how; I just know He can be. The Spirit of God is beyond our human understanding. We don't have to understand it, just accept it. What a gift we could give to our Lord each day in the days ahead to accept Him, trust Him, and Love Him with all that we are and all that He will help us to become. May He see a difference in us when 2010 nears to an end.

Ringling in this New Year with the bells of my heart,
Ruth Ross for Stewardship

First Parish Congregational Church
 One Church, Street
 Wakefield, MA 01880
<http://www.fpccwakefield.com>
 Email: fpccx1644@aol.com



VOLUME LXXIII, No. 1
 January 8, 2010

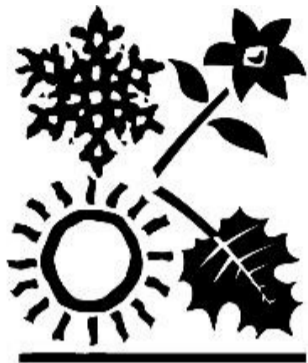
STEWARDSHIP 2009

Listed below is the goal for each month, the figure under it is what we actually received.

A Record of God's Faithfulness

The more our hearts respond to God, the more our cups overflow...

<u>PLEDGES</u>		<u>PLATE OFFERING</u>				
<i>December</i>	\$250,000.00 \$246,666.00	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Goal</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$45,000.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Actually Received</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$46,019.46</td> </tr> </table>	Goal	\$45,000.00	Actually Received	\$46,019.46
Goal	\$45,000.00					
Actually Received	\$46,019.46					
<i>November</i>	\$229,166.63 \$231,917.25	\$41,250.00 \$43,681.36				
<i>October</i>	\$208,333.33 \$208,344.50	\$37,500.00 \$37,981.36				
<i>September</i>	\$187,499.97 \$188,153.00	\$33,750.00 \$33,370.36				
<i>August</i>	\$166,666.64 \$167,828.00	\$30,000.00 \$29,550.36				
<i>July</i>	\$145,833.31 \$147,946.25	\$26,250.00 \$26,036.30				
<i>June</i>	\$124,999.98 \$129,910.50	\$22,500.00 \$23,145.35				
<i>May</i>	\$104,166.66 \$111,909.75	\$18,750.00 \$20,025.60				
<i>April</i>	\$ 83,333.32 \$ 90,740.00	\$15,000.00 \$15,811.60				
<i>March</i>	\$ 62,499.99 \$ 72,887.25	\$11,250.00 \$11,030.17				
<i>February</i>	\$ 41,666.66 \$ 45,203.50	\$ 7,500.00 \$ 6,699.20				
<i>January</i>	\$ 20,833.33 \$ 24,440.75	\$ 3,750.00 \$ 2,924.00				



ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31, will once again be preceded with a luncheon beginning at noon. The menu this year will be chicken picatta, rice, salad, rolls and butter, with apple crisp for dessert. The cost is \$11 per person or \$30 for a family. Please prepay after our worship services on Sundays, January 17 and 24 by seeing Linda D'Agostino on the vestry.

Linda will also be taking a count of children who will need childcare during the meeting, in order to have enough help.

MEMBERSHIP SEMINARS

Pastor Rich will be conducting membership classes on Saturday, February 20 and Saturday, May 8. Please speak to him if you are interested in attending.



office. If leaving items on the lower level of the church please clearly label for the Antiques Show.

Thank you,
The Antiques Show Committee
Ray Toothaker – 781-718-6840
Phil Gindi – 781-665-3122
Joan Potter – 781-665-4158
Mary Ellen Dee – 781-248-6948

This will be our 39th Annual Show and we would like to remind you to start putting aside any old paintings, prints, Hummels, oriental rugs, old furniture (75 years or older), bone china, porcelain, silver, jewelry, coins, old clocks, etc. Please donate only items in good condition. Pick ups of large items can be arranged, please notify the church

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

A new study on the "Holy Spirit" began on Monday, January 11, at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. The study will last approximately 10 weeks and we will examine passages of Scripture that teach us vital truths about who the Spirit of God is.

Some of the qualities of the Holy Spirit that we will look at will include, how the Holy Spirit:

- *Speaks* to us
- *Renews* us
- *Empowers* us
- *Guides* us
- *Liberates* us
- *Transforms* us
- *Influences* us

Our goal is to have a deeper relationship with one another (fellowship) and most importantly to have a deeper relationship with the diving person of God – The Holy Spirit.

So, please join us for an opportunity to draw closer to God and to have a more intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will meet on Monday evenings from 7:30 until 9:00 p.m. (Study Guidebooks are \$6.00)

If interested, please contact Ken Hodgson (781-944-5477) or Al Ward (781-775-7154).



Thank You Notes...

It was so thoughtful of you to remember me this Christmas season—and I'm so sorry that I missed the Parish's. The services at the church are always so meaningful this time of year—I missed them too. At the moment, the wind is whistling through my windows!

Sincerely, Clarice Andrews

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant that Doug Jackson delivered to me Christmas Eve morning. Your thoughtfulness and its beauty will brighten many days. Best wishes to all for a happy, healthy new year.

Sincerely, Dorothy Green

Christmas is such a special day and the lovely poinsettia added nicely to the celebration; thank you very much.

Sincerely, Muriel Greene

A note to thank the church family for the lovely poinsettia delivered to me on a very snowy Sunday by Jo Lynn Foster. We had a nice visit plus she even shoveled out my walk and car. Thank you for all the blessings, it was truly appreciated.

Love, Alwyn Van Cor

I would like to thank you for the beautiful Christmas poinsettia that you sent to me in memory of my wife, Helen, who passed away in August. I extend Happy New Year wishes to all.

Walter Morton

It is always a pleasure to visit with Dom Mecurio when he stops to bring the beautiful poinsettia. Thank you, First Parish, I appreciate the beauty of the plant and the fact you think of me. The kindness and generosity of First Parish make Christmas special.

Sincerely, Ada Towle

I want to thank FPCC and the Callans, Arthur and Carol, for the spring-like flowers from church. They really brighten up the room here at Bearhill. Many thanks for remembering me.

Warren Reeves

To Pastor Rich and the Flower Committee and the young lady who delivered the bright and lovely flowers to us from last Sunday's sanctuary service. It was a "shut-in" Sunday for us with the snowy day and the thoughtful gift of the flowers are really appreciated.

With loving thanks, Mary and Don Marchant

SNOWSTORM POLICY

If there is a snowstorm on a Saturday and 3" or more accumulates, the 9 am service will be canceled. The 10:30 am service will usually be conducted. **In the event of a severe snowstorm, it may be necessary to cancel it. Cancellation of the 10:30 service will be announced on WBZ Storm Center (TV Channel 4 in Boston; 1030 on the AM radio dial).**

The notices are listed 5 minutes and 35 minutes after the hour on the radio and after 5 am on Channel 4. You may also check their websites: WBZ1030.com or WBZ4.com. We will also change the outgoing message on the office telephone to inform callers of the cancellation.