

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



VOLUME LXXIII, No. 21
 November 13, 2009

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009

Morning Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30

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

We Give Thanks

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Calendar for Sunday, November 22

- 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 Class
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 n Junior Choir Rehearsal
- 2:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Dinner

The memorial flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Barbara Brown by Stephen, Brendon, and Sarah Hildreth; the flowers on the right will be given in loving memory of Laura J. Sabatula from her mom and dad and her sister Linda.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Kathryn Millheim. Ushers for November: William Watt, Alwyn Van Cor, Philip Gindi, James Fosnock, Joan Potter, Richard Pratt, and Herold Doherty (captain). Greeters: The Kennedy family. Fellowship Hour Hosts: Linda and Jean Sabatula and June Sheridan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Communitywide Thanksgiving Dinner**
 Sunday, November 22, 2 pm
- Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**
 First Baptist Church
 Tuesday, November 24, 7:30 pm
- Community Christmas Tree Lighting**
 Friday, December 4
 Pie Social – 6-8 pm
- Living Nativity on Town Common**
 Saturday, December 12, 5 pm
- Christmas Open House at the Parsonage**
 Sunday, December 13, 3-8 pm
- Community Messiah Sing**
 Friday, December 18, 7:30 pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2009

Family Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30

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

Surprise

Scripture: St. Luke 1:5-20

Calendar for Sunday, November 29

- 9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
 (infant and toddler care provided)
- No Church School or
 Confirmation Classes
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour
- 12:00 n Junior Choir Rehearsal

The memorial flowers will be given in loving memory of Agnes M. Morrison from the trust fund given in her memory. **The memorial flowers** in Covell Chapel will be given in loving memory of Edward M. Ruiz from his family.

Minister's Line Volunteer: Joan Potter. Greeters: Robert Given and Leeila Given. Fellowship Hour Hosts: Kathryn Millheim and family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanct.	Total
Sunday, November 1	30	158	188
Sunday, November 8	26	153	179

Church School

Sunday, November 1	68 students
Sunday, November 8	76 students

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UpComing Events

Our church family will be hosting a Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday, November 22. This dinner is for those in need, the elderly, and the lonely that live in Wakefield and surrounding communities. The dinner will be held at 2:00 pm in the dining room.

We rely on monetary donations, as well as donations of gift certificates (BJ's, Costco, Market Basket) and centerpieces (flowers, pumpkins, etc.) to make this dinner possible. We also seek volunteers to work with us in the kitchen or to provide transportation to our guests. Many hands make light work!!! If you would like to make a donation, volunteer your time or know of someone in the community who would benefit from this dinner, please contact Jill Sullivan at (978) 535-5936.

Luke 14:12-14, *"When you put on a luncheon or a dinner, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the godly, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."*

YOU'RE INVITED!

Pie Social

Friday, December 4, 6 - 8 pm
In the church vestry

Great Fellowship!
Hot Coffee!

Pie, Bell Ringing, Christmas Music, and
Shopping for one-of-a-kind gifts!

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News

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is an organization of Samaritan's Purse that sends shoeboxes filled with gifts to underprivileged children of the world. In 2008, Samaritan's Purse distributed approximately 2.7 million shoeboxes. These shoeboxes not only come with gifts that will lift the spirits of these children, but with the promise of God's love for them. First Parish has proudly been a part of this mission for the past few years and once again it is time to fill those shoeboxes.

Shoeboxes will be available in the vestry starting November 1. They must be returned by November 22 in order to begin their journey.

Respectfully submitted in His Name,
Kristen Mitchell

ANTIQUES SHOW NEWS

The Antiques Show Committee 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 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

Dates for the Antiques Show are March 26 and 27, 2010.

SALVATION ARMY HOLIDAY SHOP

First Parish will be collecting new toys and clothing on behalf of the Salvation Army to be distributed to needy Wakefield children.

Items can be left in the vestry on the stage on November 22 and 29, and also December 6. Items for teenagers are especially appreciated as this group is often overlooked. Items should be left unwrapped, although wrapping paper can also be donated. If you have any questions, please call Linda D'Agostino (781-245-0243). Thanks for helping out.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

I sincerely hope that you will participate in our CHAT Survey anytime during this our 365th anniversary month of November. After we have shared our responses, LTI will help us discover some future direction.

Please share your opinions with us, we really value your input!

Take survey before December 1, 2009

Go to: www.HealthyChurch.net
Click on: CHAT Survey "Login" button on the left side of the screen
Login: firstparishcongregational
Password: Covell1644

It will take 25-30 minutes to complete the survey.

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R.A.W. MATERIAL

Thanksgiving

Our nation has always sought to express her gratitude to God for blessings received...often undeserved. Here is a brief summary*:

Did you know there once was a day set aside to remember and celebrate the lives of our nation's founders? It was December 22, commemorating the day in late December when the Pilgrims finally were able to go ashore and begin building their meeting house.

In 1777, the first national day of thanksgiving was declared by the Continental Congress following the providential victory at Saratoga over the British. In 1789, the newly formed U.S. Congress passed a resolution requesting "a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Constitution of government for their safety and happiness." President George Washington signed that proclamation and declared Thursday, November 26, 1789, as the first national Thanksgiving Day.

A magazine editor named Sarah Josepha Hale helped organize a movement to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Every year from 1846 to 1863, Mrs. Hale printed an editorial in her magazine urging the government to establish this holiday. The date Mrs. Hale desired was July fourth! It was a logical choice, but as the Thanksgiving momentum increased, others proposed a November date. Finally, in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November as a day of national "Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens."

The date for Thanksgiving was again changed briefly in 1939 to the third Thursday in November, but a public uproar of opposition caused the U.S. Congress to establish the fourth Thursday as the holiday date. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill on November 26, 1941, that finally established the fourth Thursday of November as our national Thanksgiving Day.

Let us all add our personal thanks for the blessings God has so generously heaped on us.

R.A.W.

*Thanksgiving: A Time to Remember, Barbara Rainey, Crossway Books, p. 50

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
CHURCH HERALD
Wednesday, November 25
(cover dates of December 6 -19)**



Thank You Notes

Thanks to my church family for the prayers and cards. It's a comfort to know we can count on each other at a difficult time.
Julie and Len Hart

We were surprised and overwhelmed by the wonderful reception and collation for our service to help our less fortunate Wakefield neighbors at their time of need.

Thank you all for this honor, but we were only able to offer assistance because of your generosity to the Wakefield Salvation Army Service Unit through the years

For this we thank you!
Sincerely, Irene and Ed Schmidgall

Thank you for being so supportive and welcoming to our family. Our kids love going to church—our twins wake up every morning saying, 'We going church today?' They feel like you are all family, and so do we. We are humbled by the way you care for us and we are blessed to have a loving community that reinforces the values that we are trying to teach our children—particularly learning to love God and thinking of and serving others first. You are loved and appreciated.

Thank you. Andy and Jen Black

Thank you for donating bread, lettuce and vegetables to Horizon House. It will make for a delicious lunch. We appreciate your support.

With sincere gratitude,

Horizon Clubhouse Members and Staff
[hand signed by staff and 14 members]

Joy Robbins Victory Dinner Was An Awesome Success. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Steve Brennan and I would like to thank all of the generous people in our church family for their help and donations to the Joy Robbins Victory Dinner that was held here at First Parish on October 25.

Thank you too for the goodies that were donated to the fundraiser fudge and baked goods sale that happened on the Sunday before the dinner. We earned \$241. We were double blessed that day. You not only donated baked goods, but you bought all the sweet treats that were on sale as well.

When Joy and John Robbins were given the sizeable proceeds of the events, there were tears of joy and appreciation. They are so grateful to all of you for your overwhelming demonstration of God's love and caring.

Steve and I recognize that we are very blessed to be a part of this church family. We know that there is no other place like First Parish and no kinder, supportive church family anywhere! May you all be blessed tenfold for your kindness and generosity.

Submitted by Barbara Flynn on behalf of Steve Brennan, Dave Terry, Joy and John Robbins and their families, and all of the Dolbeare School staff members who were a part of the Robbins dinner team.