

A PIECE OF MY HEART

January 2010

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was blind, but now I see, the hour I first believed. I think what changed me the most when I first became a Christian, (a Christian that was *finally* seeking to follow Jesus), was this prayer; “Lord, I want to see things the way you do.” He gives us eyes, a light to the soul, a different view. Stewardship is what you do with what God gives you. When we see others the way that Jesus does, our reactions are so very different from the worlds (our old view). Our actions become more Christ-like and *His* love is what is received by others. It is God working through us when we cooperate with Him.

On a daily basis, Ken Wood lives out that example here at First Parish as he reaches the hearts and souls of those in need right here in Wakefield. He sees opportunities in our community to put hands and hearts together to work for the Lord. He wears a warm, pleasant smile and he always shares a friendly greeting. To those lost who come seeking, he offers a cup of cold water from the living well, a meal for an empty stomach or he has a project that needs cleaning or fixing, and the coffee is always on. He helps to make our church a home, our church home. As he saw a brother’s need for shelter from the bitter cold of winter, an appeal was made to our church family. God’s love responded through your hearts to reach another. Your loving, generous response was immediate. He will receive that shelter as promised. Praise God. God promises to take care of our needs. May he come to know the love of Christ through our church family. Please pray for him.

The needs that continue to arrive at our church home are ongoing. Dear God, may the Love Thy Neighbor Fund change lives and hearts for you Lord. Thank you for your loving kindness you show to each one of us. May we trust you for what we need. Help us to help others. Thank you Lord that we can come to you and you respond so abundantly. We love you, Lord. Amen.

What a beautiful way to start the year, on our knees, in gratitude for what our Lord has already done and is doing in the lives of us all. May we be a blessing, a light and a joy to others as we see this world through the eyes of Jesus.

I was blind but now I see,
Ruth Ross for Stewardship

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path...

-Psalm 119:105

With the help of God we will exceed these goals for 2010
Pledges \$260,000 Plate Offering \$50,000
and may the glory be to God.

RAW MATERIAL

Mutual Respect

By the time you read this, Super Bowl XLIV (44) will be over. Most everyone in Indiana or Louisiana will be very happy. Their team, the Colts or the Saints, will be crowned the best in the NFL. I don't have a favorite in the game, since our Patriots got eliminated awhile back. But I really don't want to write about football, I want to write about the commercials shown during the game, which, by the way, is the most watched TV event of the year—90 million, plus—about a third of the entire nation.

It does seem odd that Super Bowl commercials have become so important, but they do cost between 2.5 and 2.8 million dollars to air, to say nothing about how much they cost to produce.

There is one commercial I want to draw your attention to. You know which one, don't you? The one with Tim Tebow and his mother. She chose, against her doctor's advice, to carry Tim to term. I think that was a courageous choice, not knowing what lay ahead for her family, and a choice motivated by her belief in the precious value of human life. Tim, it turned out, was healthy and strong. So strong and healthy that in 2007 he was awarded the Heisman Trophy, a prize given to the best college football player of the year. In '07 he was a sophomore. He was nominated to win again in 2009.

Putting Tim, the Heisman winner, his mother, a woman who exercised her choice to carry and deliver a baby, together with Super Bowl seemed a natural combination to *Focus on the Family*, the well-known organization seeking to encourage Christian values within our society. I listen to 'Focus' (950 am, 7:30 a.m.) when Pat and I go to the gym three days a week.

I first heard about the upcoming commercial from the weekly e-mail I receive from our denominational headquarters. I was surprised, then embarrassed, to discover that our leaders in Cleveland, OH were against the ad and very angry at CBS for airing it.

I was surprised because the United Church of Christ advocates inclusiveness. "We exercise an extravagant welcome" to all. Their reaction to the opinions of *Focus on the Family* was harsh and judgmental; hardly welcoming. I don't expect that our leaders and sister churches would agree with *Focus on the Family's* position on abortion, but putting it down so strongly and even demanding that CBS refuse to air it is wrong. People can think for themselves on such matters. I'm sure there are differences of opinion here at First Parish on the question, but mutual respect is the goal—not rejection.

R.A.W.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010

Family Worship Services—9 & 10:30 am

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

Boy Scout Sunday:
An Eagle's Eye View

Calendar for Sunday, February 14, 2010

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

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Marian and John Sullivan by their daughter Jill Sullivan and grandson Bobby Sullivan, Jr.; the flowers on the center left will be given in loving memory of Avis R. Wessels for her birthday on Valentine's Day by her husband Arthur Wessels, Sr. and family; those on the center right will be given in loving memory of Esther and John Holtan by their daughter Irene and her husband Edward F. Schmidgall; and those on the right will be given in loving memory of Rachel Ann Dole by her family.

Ushers for February: Winston Thomas, Stephen Gates, Joseph D'Agostino, Linda Byam, Jennifer Byam, Marcia Phinney, Kathryn Millheim, Philip Gindi, and Linda D'Agostino (captain). **Greeters:** Richard and Ruth Jackson with Thomas and Matthew. **Minister's Reception Line Volunteer:** Joyce Langone. **Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Linda and Jean Sabatula and friends.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010

Morning Worship Services —9 & 10:30 am

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

A Prayer of Forgiveness

Scripture: St. Luke 23:32-38

Calendar for Sunday, February 21, 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 Class
11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
12 n Junior Choir Rehearsal
12:15 pm Youth Ministry (vestry)

Memorial Flowers

The flowers will be given in loving memory of Alberta "Bert" and Fred T. Chisholm and Fred T. Chisholm, Jr. by their son and brother Philip and his wife Jean Chisholm.

Greeter: Paul and Joyce D'Alelio. **Minister's Reception Line Volunteer:** Kathryn Millheim.

<p>DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD Thursday, February 18, 2010 (will cover dates of February 28 – March 13, 2010)</p>
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CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
January 24, 2010	33	153	186
January 31, 2010	29	182	211

Church School

January 24	81
January 31	72

THANK YOU...

A little late, but thank you to Linell Nester for bringing me a beautiful Christmas plant at Christmas. Wasn't fully well at that time and it perked me up at the time I received it. Thank you again.

Love, Barbara Sullivan

It means so much that your friendly visitor program has me on your list. It was a most pleasant time to hear how Alma Leafquist was doing (she had been my neighbor in Wakefield). We also discussed the different Bible studies we pursued. I'm taking one here at Brooksby. Steve[Gates] and Linda [Sabatula] dropped me off at the chapel here (I was off to class), and I wanted them to see the chapel. It seats about 200. Thanks so much for their visit.

Sincerely, Clarice Andrews

Thank you for the lovely poinsettia delivered to my house by Jan and Tom Martin. We had a pleasant chat. The poinsettia is still a healthy Christmas red and reminds me daily of my church and church family.

Bud Thomas

I would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support you have shown to the "Appeal for Shelter from the Cold." Because of your response, we will be able to help a person with nowhere to turn to get back on his feet. Funds that were donated have been put in the "Love Thy Neighbor Fund" and will

be used to help others who may find themselves in similar circumstances. Together we have made a difference in a person's life. God is truly watching over us.

Ken Wood

-ASH WEDNESDAY-

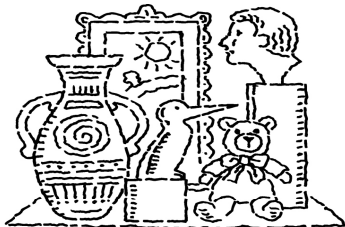
The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010. Our diaconate invites you and your family to a one-hour service in our dining room. We gather at tables at 6:30 p.m. for a simple soup supper followed by Communion about those same tables. Please consider joining with brothers and sisters for a time of serious reflection upon the great sacrifice of our Savior.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Community Meetings

Sunday, February 21, and February 28, the Youth Ministry will be hosting "Community Meetings" in the vestry after the 10:30 service and fellowship hour, going from 12:15 or so until 2:30 p.m. Anyone who has an interest and investment in the youth program is invited: youth, parents, volunteers, etc. We will use these meetings to prayerfully assess where we've been as a youth ministry in the last year (Feb. 21) and where we sense God is calling us to go in the future (Feb. 28). Talk to Abram Kielsmeier-Jones, Youth Minister, for more details and to RSVP. Lunch will be served!

39th Annual



ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE

Friday, March 26 (5-9 pm)

Saturday, March 27 (9 am-3 pm)

Update from Antiques Show Committee:

We now have at least 17 dealers signed up to participate, but we need YOUR help.

Please consider donating old paintings, prints, Hummels, old oriental rugs, old furniture (75 years old or older), bone china, porcelain, silver, old gold jewelry, coins, old clocks, etc. These will be used for the church's space and should be in good condition.

Donation receipts for tax credit can be given. Pick-up of large items can be arranged.

Please notify the church office when donating or call Ray Toothaker - 781-718-6840 or Philip Gindi 617-901-1238. If left at the church, please label for Antiques Show.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER PARTNERS

**A New Opportunity
To Share God's Love**

First Parish's prayer chain, which was first established and is coordinated by Linda Govostes-O'Neil, has been a huge success. There is an army of "prayer warriors" who communicate via email. They daily speak to God on behalf of others about

the things, good and bad, that are happening in lives and in the world. They pray for healing. They pray for God's peace. They pray for reconciliation and very often thank God for answered prayers and for all his blessings.

The Diaconate is excited about offering an additional prayer opportunity where one or two people will stay in the sanctuary each Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service (off in a quiet corner), and be available to pray with others for an individual or a situation. Steve Brennan has offered to be the schedule coordinator and, so far, some Diaconate board members and several Stephen Ministers have signed up to be a part of this program. The hope is that each person who participates would be able to commit to one Sunday per month.

If you would like to be a Sunday morning in-the-flesh prayer person, please contact Steve Brennan or talk to any member of the Diaconate to share your thoughts about this opportunity. A meeting of those who wish to participate will happen sometime prior to the scheduled start date of Sunday, March 7.

To sign up for the Sunday morning prayer partners program, please call Steve Brennan at 781-246-4276 or email him at: epdowd624@comcast.net. If you want to get more information about the prayer chain, please send an email to Linda Govostes-O'Neil fpccprayerchain@aol.com.

Diaconate members are praying that God will bless this new prayer opportunity and that many will come forward to be a part of it.

On behalf of your Diaconate,
Barbara Flynn – 781-246-0957

***For where two or three come together
in my name, there am I with them.***

-St. Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

SNOWSTORM POLICY

If there is a snowstorm on a Saturday, 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.

MEMBERSHIP SEMINARS

Pastor Rich will be conducting membership classes on Saturday, February 20, 2010, and Saturday, May 8, 2010. Please speak to him if you are interested in attending.