

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



VOLUME LXXIII, No. 4
 February 19, 2010

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010

Worship Services—9 & 10:30 am

Sermon: Abram Kielsmeier-Jones

A Promise of Life

Scripture: St. Luke 23:39-43

New Members Welcomed

Calendar for Sunday, February 28, 2010

- 9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
- 10:30 am Church School Classes
- 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 Agnes M. Morrison from the trust fund given in her memory.

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: The Bernabeo Family.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Kathryn Millheim.

Fellowship Hour Hostess: Barbara Flynn.

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2010

**Morning Worship Services —9 & 10:30 am
with Holy Communion**

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

A Word of Kindness

Scripture: St. John 19:23-7

Calendar for Sunday, March 7, 2010

- 9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
- 10:30 am 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 Martha A. Martin by her family; the flowers on the right will be given in loving memory of Avis R. Wessels who died on March 3, 2005, by her husband Arthur Wessels, Sr. and family.

Ushers for March: William Watt, James Fosnock, Alwyn Van Cor, Philip Gindi, Joan Potter, Richard Pratt, and Herold Doherty (captain).

Greeters: Hilda and Madeleine Oliver.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Alwyn Van Cor.

Fellowship Hour Hostess: Donna Nicolai.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
February 7, 2010	21	159	180
January 31, 2010	26	160	186

Church School

February 7	
February 14	Family Sunday

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
CHURCH HERALD**

Thursday, March 4, 2010
(will cover dates of March 14 - 27, 2010)

IN MEMORIAM

THOMASINE "MAY" CONNELLY
February 8, 2010

Joined First Parish Congregational Church
April 8, 1971

*May the love of God give you comfort—
May the love of God give you peace.*

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R.A.W. MATERIAL

The Meaning of Lent

“What are you giving up for Lent?”

One of the few times I was grateful to be a “strict Baptist,” as a boy, was the season of Lent. All year long, we weren’t allowed to dance, drink, smoke, play cards, go to the movies or play on Sundays. But at least, unlike our Catholic, Lutheran and Episcopal friends, we didn’t have to observe Lent and therefore didn’t have to “give up” candy or chewing gum for 40 days plus Sundays. Looking back, I think I would have been willing to give up the candy and the gum in exchange for dancing and movies – but the choice was never offered.

What are you giving up for Lent?

Somehow I’m not sure that God is pleased by our self-deprivation when our real intent is to lose weight by cutting out the candy and other high calorie items.

How about this: Isaiah 58:6-9a -

This is the kind of fast day I’m after:

*to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.*

What I’m interested in seeing you do is:

*sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.*

Do this and the lights will turn on,

and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.

You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’ The Message, Eugene H. Peterson

Lent is a time for vigilance, for rooting out those things within us that would destroy us and for rooting out those things in society that would harm individuals and destroy the fabric of civilization.

Giving up candy, calories and chewing gum is not the sacrifice or the fast acceptable to God. What Lent is about is preparing for our ministry, facing our mortality and strengthening the bond with our Lord. Jesus, by his Spirit, is the one who is the source of our call, the one who gives us the power to be his person in our world, the one who overcomes death for us, and the one who gives us everlasting life that begins right here, right now.

What God wants us to give up is our natural human obsession with self, and to take on the godly obsession of the best for others. That is precisely what Jesus did his, his obsession for our good led him to the sacrifice that bought us our very lives. Lent is not about giving up goodies. It’s about repenting, turning away from old ways. It’s about strengthening our relationship with the Lord. It’s about heading in the direction that may lead to sacrifice, but which certainly leads to life. Do you know what will happen next? Read Isaiah 58:9b-14*

*Help From: Rev. Stephen Wayles

R. A. W.

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.

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NEWS



ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE

March 26 (5-9 pm) and 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, Joan Potter - 781-665-4158, or Philip Gindi 617-901-1238. If left at the church, please label for Antiques Show.

Other Ways You Can Help:

Please use the form below to help by being a sponsor, patron or benefactor.

Antiques and Collectibles Show	
I/We enclose: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> check <input type="checkbox"/> cash
Sponsorship Level:	
Sponsor (up to \$15) _____	
Patron (\$15 and over) _____	
Benefactor (\$40 and over) _____	
Name(s) for the Show Program: _____	
Address: _____	
Make checks payable to First Parish Congregational Church (write "Antiques Show" in the memo field). Mail to the church office or drop off at the Antique table in the vestry on Sundays.	

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News...

COMMUNITY SPRING DINNER

Our church family will be hosting our Community Spring Dinner on Sunday, March 28. 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 p.m. in the Dining Room.

We rely on monetary donations, as well as donations of gift certificates (BJ's, Costco, Market Basket) 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 someone in the community who would benefit from this dinner, please contact Jill Sullivan at (978) 771-2311.

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.
- Luke 14:12-14

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Community Meetings

On Sunday, February 21, we had our first meeting and on February 28, the Youth Ministry will be hosting the second and final "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, 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

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

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Misc...

Coming Events...

- March 14, Sunday -
Pasta Dinner for Passion Play
- March 20, Saturday -
Clothing Closet and
Community Breakfast
- March 26-27, Friday & Saturday -
Antiques Show
- March 27-28, Saturday & Sunday -
Youth Retreat
Hebron, New Hampshire
- March 28 - Palm Sunday
Community Dinner
- April 1-2 - Thursday & Friday -
Passion Play
- April 2 - Good Friday Walk for
Sharing, Inc.
- April 4 - Easter Sunday -
Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m.
- 10:30 am Combined worship with
Korean Love Church

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH

- 2 - Timothy Callaghan
3 - Victoria Haley, Olivia McGrath
4 - Angelin Barton, Cynthia Bossi
6 - Brian Albushies, Carol Cerullo, Amanda
Martin, Brian Foster
7 - Elaine Thibodeau, Wendy Gabriel
9 - Mark Hatheway
10 - Cheryl Recko, Isabelle Copland
11 - Meghan McElroy, Jaime Hanlon
13 - Christopher Faylor, Douglas Howard
16 - Christopher Nielsen
17 - Donald Hodgkins, Jo Lynn Foster
18 - Louise Netten, Robert Grant
19 - Warren Reeves
20 - Sandra Serrentino, Kristina Major, Robert
Sullivan, Jr., Sheri Prosperi, Susan Peterson
21 - Erin Gates
23 - Marcia Phinney
24 - Bruce Netten, Patricia Weisenbach, Gladys
Wood, Scott Bossi
26 - Steven Racamato
27 - John Ludlow
28 - Beverly Oliphant, Rodrigo Illanes, Dana
Bernabeo
29 - Michael Watt
30 - Douglas Fifield, Tyler Fifield, Karen Griswold,
Pamela Hodgson, Geraldine Russell
31 - Barbara Hammond, Pamela MacFarland,
Candice Picard

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Thank You Notes...

Dear Friends,

I will start off by saying thank you to Marcia Phinney for bringing me flowers from church. We had a wonderful visit. Thank you all who phoned, brought me flowers, gifts and visited me and sent cards and brought me food at the time of my back surgery.

Thanks to everyone who offered to drive me anywhere I had to go and to do grocery shopping for me.

I am also thankful to Dr. Denbow, who performed the surgery, which was a miracle.

Now I know how the people in the Bible felt when Jesus healed them. I know he healed me through my doctor. Love you all,

Elsie Tenney

Dear Parishioners,

I want to thank you kindly for the colorful bouquet you sent me this weekend. I want to thank Marcia Phinney for bringing them and sharing a few moments to chat.

And, at this time, to say thank you to Reverend Weisenbach for his visit last week. We had a good time together.

Sincerely, Edward F. Perreault

Thank you for coordinating the Friday, January 22, 2010 blood drive. We were very pleased with the drive overall, and the willingness of the donors to share this life-saving gift.

You may be interested to know that 77 donors presented, and 76 units were collected—there were 6 first time donors.

Again, thank you for your contribution and ongoing support of this important community program.

Sincerely, Kerry Ellen Enright

American Red Cross Account Executive