

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

Morning Worship Services at 9:00 & 10:30

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

Everybody Has a Job

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-7; 11-16

Calendar for Sunday, September 27, 2009

- 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)
- 12:00 pm Junior Choir

The memorial flowers will be given in loving memory of Alfred R. and Marjorie Marshall from their daughter and son Susan and Fred Marshall.

Ushers for September: Jennifer and Linda Byam, Joseph D'Agostino, Barbara Flynn, James Fosnock, Earl W. Sheaff, and Kathryn Millheim (captain). **Greeter:** June Sheridan.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT "Church Herald"
Thursday, October 1, 2009
(will cover dates of
October 11-24, 2009)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

**Morning Worship Services
with Holy Communion—9:00 & 10:30**

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

Valued Families

Scripture: St. Mark 10:1-16

Calendar for Sunday, October 4, 2009

- 9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
- 10:30 am Confirmation Class
- 10:30 am Church School Classes
(Pre-K—Grade 7)
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
- 12:00 pm Junior Choir
- 2:00 pm Memorial Service for Olga Leard

The memorial flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Barbara and Elizabeth Lucy Simkins by Ted and Albert Simkins, Jr.; those in the center will be given in loving memory of Helen M. Pratt by her husband Richard; those on the right will be given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Francis J. Smith, and Dr. and Mrs. Elgin W. Jones by Richard Jones and family.

THE CHURCH HERALD
First Parish Congregational Church
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Non-Profit
Organization
PAID
WAKEFIELD, MA
01880
PERMIT 110

September 18, 2009

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
Time Value



Women's Bible Study 24—9:15 to 11
am

**NEW
THURSDAY
A.M.
WOMEN'S
STUDY**

**Starting
September**

Fireside Room

“Boundaries” - 9 session DVD with
participating guide for \$13 by Henry Cloud &
John Townsend

This course reveals the Bible-based secrets to setting and maintaining clear personal boundaries and experiencing a healthy and balanced life. See Pat Weisenbach for your own copy of the guide.

OUTREACH CORNER

On Sunday, October 18, we will be soliciting diapers for A Woman's Concern (AWC), a life-affirming pregnancy crisis center in Revere, dedicated to helping women and couples facing an unplanned pregnancy. Many of these families lack the financial resources for the simple necessities to provide for their babies, such as diapers, wipes, and basic toiletries. Supplies are very depleted due to the economic strain clients are enduring.

Items needed: diapers (stages 1-5), wipes, baby shampoo, wash, lotions, Desitin, powder, etc. For more information, talk to any Outreach member or Pam Hodgson, who is on the board of AWC.

MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

On Saturday, October 24, Pastor Weisenbach will be conducting a class for those who may be interested in joining our church. We begin with coffee at 9 am, are served lunch by members of our Diaconate, and break up about 2:30 pm. Please speak to the pastor or call the church office if you are planning to attend.

Prospective new members will meet with the Diaconate on Sunday, October 25, following the worship service. Members will be welcomed into membership on Sunday, November 1.

BEST WISHES ARE IN ORDER!

Jane Wilkins, our Office Administrator, is resigning after more than thirty years of faithful service. There will be a reception to honor her during the Fellowship Hour after church on October 4.

If you would like to contribute towards a "Love Gift," please make your check payable to Joseph D'Agostino and put "Jane" in the memo area.

Please plan to attend on October 4 as we wish Jane a happy, healthy future. If you have any questions, please see Steve Gates.

ARTISAN FAIR

Saturday, November 7, 10 am—3 pm
Americal Civic Center
467 Main St., Wakefield

Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice is making gift purchases this year a lot easier. Unique, one-of-a-kind gifts will be available at this fair. It will feature handmade jewelry, pottery, furniture, paper journals, glass-blown pieces, photographs, paintings, and so much more. A silent auction of items by participating artisans will also be held. Admission is free with

plenty of free parking for all. Vendors of all crafts are welcomed to participate.

To participate, or for more information, please contact Janet Perault (781-338-7902).

SEEKING WORK

Shelia Martinez is looking for work of Tues, Thursday, and Friday mornings. Please call her at 978-664-9456.

CELEBRATION VIII

The Women Leader's of New England, Celebration VIII— *Together Building Bridges*, is only six months away. Sixty hard-working volunteers have been planning inspirational **Worship**, Thought-Provoking **Workshops**, Exciting **Music**, Dynamic **Speakers**, Delicious **Speaker Meals**, Fun **Entertainment**, **Hospitality** Opportunities, lots of varied **Displays**, **Vendors**, and much, much more.

Women of all ages (14 and older) are encouraged to come—bring your daughters, granddaughters, and young women that you think would like to attend.

See registration forms & poster on the vestry bulletin board if you are interested. Also you can visit their website: uccwomenscelebration.org.

A FAR-REACHING TOUCH

As we move around this world and as we act with kindness, perhaps, or with indifference or with hostility toward the people we meet, we are setting the great spider web atremble. The life that I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that, in turn, another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt.

-Frederick Buechner

IN MEMORIAM

RICHARD L. LARAMIE
August 8, 2009

KAREN L. BARRETT
August 31, 2009

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

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanct.	Total
Sunday, August 30, 2009		115	
Wednesday, September 2	18		133
Sunday, September 6		128	128
Sunday, September 13	28	165	193

Church School
Sunday, September 13—60 children

THANK YOU'S

*I appreciate the flowers brought to me on Sunday, September 6, and the visit with Linda D'Agostino. I am grateful to be remembered with flowers and a prayer shawl given to me from the church since my husband's death.
Thank you, Gloria Allen*

What a nice surprise it was to see Steve Brennan at our door a few weeks ago. To the women in the Prayer Group, and especially Linda, the prayer shawl is lovely. I appreciate the time and effort put into making it. I'll wear it often. Thank you for the love and healing prayers. Last Sunday we had another surprise at our doorstep—beautiful flowers delivered by Linda D'Agostino. Linda, you must have just missed us! John and I were taking a walk to the mailbox and it did take a little while ☺. Thank you to all for your prayers. I know they were what got me through all of this. You are such a caring congregation.

With love, Joy Robbins

*I am a senior at Johnson & Wales University, majoring in marketing and advertising. I was awarded a scholarship from the First Parish Congregational Church Nyman Fund through the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of Wakefield. I greatly appreciate the church's assistance.
Sincerely, Jackie Caputo*

BOOKSHELF NEWS

Please visit the Library bookshelf in the vestry! Each month the Library Committee features books with a different theme. In September children's books are featured—just in time for the children to be getting ready to be back in school. Some of the books featured in September are: *Starlight Animal Rescue* series by Dandi Magkall, *The Cooper Kids* series by Frank Peretti, *The Kingdom* series by Chuck Black, and a selection of picture books. Three books that are newly available for circulation are: *The Sun Coast Chronicles* by Terri Blackstock, *The Prayer of Fire: Experiencing the Lord's Prayer* by Lorraine Kisly, the *The Power of a Positive Mom* by Karol Ladd. In October books discussing health and women will be featured. Come and check out our books! Just fill out the orange card. Happy reading!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Monday Evenings in the Fireside Room from
7:30—9:00**

Please join us for a 13-week study on the Book of Hebrews. We will be covering such topics as "Warning Signs" against drifting away, "Receiving God's Blessing," "Overcoming Weakness," "Staying in the Race," and "Running the Rules."

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us (Hebrews 12:1).

So won't you join the race with us and receive the blessings of fellowship, drawing closer to God, and assurance of your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Please contact Al Ward (781-775-7154) or Ken Hodgson (781-944-5477) if interested.

R.A.W. MATERIAL

Mother

As you probably know, my mother passed away on Sunday evening, September 13, 2009. My brother Bill, a Presbyterian minister in New York, wrote this in his newsletter...couldn't say it better.

“Her name was Ruth, named for the biblical book and character most famous for saying, ‘Wither thou goest I will go,’ so often heard at weddings even though it was spoken by the widowed Ruth to her mother-in-law. The youngest of seven children born to Louis and Catharine Strometz, some 92 years ago, she was the wife of Albert for one month shy of 66 years, and the mother of four sons: Rich, Bill, Paul, and Dave. More importantly, she was, and is, to me and to many who have come to know her, ‘God’s love made visible.’ She was a mother to everyone.

“Mother had no daughters but Mary Lou, a teacher in the local Christian school, moved into the house after us boys left because, ‘Your mom is the most loving person I know.’

“As a woman, raised in a traditional world, she nevertheless asserted her independence—not always to my father’s liking—by serving as the first woman on the board of the local orphanage for over 25 years. When she finally stepped down, the board created an award and presented the first Ruth Weisenbach Volunteer of the Year award to Ruth Weisenbach. In our local church she led the adult and youth choirs, taught Sunday School, and served as a deaconess. In summers she led the music program at a nearby Christian summer day camp that bussed kids, the poorest of the poor, from inner-city Philadelphia area with her singing and humorous monologues and was an active member of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union.

“Required to quit school at 15 and work to help support her newly widowed mother, she picked up a clarinet and found her place in the Wanamaker Band while working in the department store. After their house fell to foreclosure, they shared houses with others; but, as each of her older sisters married and moved out of the home, diminishing the family’s already measly income, she and her mom were forced to seek ever more modest accommodations requiring five moves in five years. Yet life was, by in large, joyful; and throughout it all, one of the constants of their lives remained the Peace Presbyterian Church in South Philly where she met and eventually married my dad.

“For as long as they owned it, our home was host to all the Strometz reunions; and, to this day, many of my cousins continued to visit mom, their Aunt Ruth, now in her new ‘Assisted Living’ digs.

“Each of us learns different things from his or her parents, but there are ways in which all nurturing parents are alike. Through the unconditional gift of their love and the security offered by sheltering arms and the comfort of home, we learn to trust others and life itself. More by example than instruction, our parents also teach us how to live faithfully, to balance freedom and responsibility and individual wants and community needs; all are first modeled in the family.

“My mother taught me that all of us are related; we are kin to one another in a single human family. She taught me that if you wanted to know real security, the first thing you do is give a tenth of what you earn—off the top, not out of what is left over—and trust that God will take care of you. It has never failed her. She taught me that real life is about *love* not *stuff* and that love is self-generating—the more you give it away, the more you have to give away.”

I saw her the Friday and Saturday before she died; it was hard to let go of her soft hand knowing I wouldn’t touch it again; but God’s promise of reunion is a firm foundation, isn’t it?

Rest in peace, mom.

R.A.W.

COMMUNITY “VICTORY” DINNER HONORING JOY ROBBINS

**Sunday—October 25—2 pm
in our First Parish dining room**

Tickets for this Fundraising Dinner are \$25 each. *All proceeds from tickets sales will go directly to Joy & John Robbins to help them with their ongoing expenses.*

Many of you will remember Joy and John Robbins who are members (inactive) of First Parish and maybe their daughter, Carleigh, too who participated in First Parish’s youth group and joined the church through the confirmation class. In all the years I (I being Barbara Flynn) volunteered with the youth group, John at Christmas time would provide his truck for transporting the youth group kids and chaperones from nursing home to nursing home so they could sing Christmas carols to residents and staff members and spread some holiday cheer.

Our own First Parish member Steve Brennan, John Robbins, and a third friend, Dave Terry, went through school together. Steve and Dave (who just happens to be a professional chef) wanted to help their friends who have endured so much. They wanted to show Joy and John that people cared and celebrated Joy’s victory over such overwhelming odds.

Teachers, staff members and parents at the Dolbeare School where Joy worked as a paraprofessional and before/after school instructor before she got sick in May of 2009, wanted to help too.

So these folks got together and plans for this fundraising dinner to celebrate Joy’s success over obstacle after obstacle after obstacle were put together.

Chef Dave Terry has come up with an awesome buffet menu of salad, rolls, chicken vegetable soup with rice & orzo pasta, chicken

breast with broccoli & penne, roasted sweet Italian sausage with peppers, onions & mushrooms; and, of course, they’ll be a Sweets Table and assorted beverages.

Call Steve Brennan to reserve your seats (781-246-4276)

Email: epdowd624@comcast.net

If you aren’t available Oct. 25 but would like to help Joy & John, donations for the event will be gratefully accepted and appreciated.

JOY’S AMAZING STORY

Joy Robbins, who is only in her 50’s, has been out of work since May 2009. In the beginning, it was a case of pneumonia that struck Joy. It progressed to a very serious respiratory distress syndrome and it was downhill from there.

Joy has spent lots of time in and out of intensive care and was on mechanical ventilation G-tube feeds for almost two months at Brigham’s & Women’s Hospital in Boston. At one point, she was not expected to recover and came seriously close to death several times. After being taken off mechanical ventilation, with little to no weaning time (which is very rare), Joy absolutely amazed her family, caregivers and doctors and was breathing on her own. She was then sent to Shaughnessy-Kaplin Rehabilitation Hospital for a short time.

Joy is now home on Lake Street. She uses a walker and is able to do most of her daily activities. A physical therapist works with her at home; and, although she gets fatigued easily, overall her prognosis is excellent. Joy is determined to experience a full recovery! She is determined to get her strength back, and she is hoping to go back to work with the children and Dolbeare co-workers and friends she loves so much.

**THERE ARE LOTS OF KNITTERS,
CROCHETERS & SEWERS
AT FIRST PARISH**

They are of all ages and come in many shapes and sizes. Some have been knitting, crocheting and sewing for lots of years. Many are just beginning. These folks like to meet together on a regular basis to work on their various projects and enjoy some social time.

The Friendship Quilters

...knit, crochet and sew items for the church fair and also knit squares for Salvation Army "Warm-Up America" afghans. The SA assembles these squares into afghans and distributes them to homeless, Veterans' hospitals, and those in need. They meet on the fourth Monday of each month in the Fellowship Room at 7 pm. Their next get-together this season will happen on Sept. 28.

To get more information about the great things this group, please call Jane Wilkins at 781-245-1539.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Group

...meets the second Monday night of the month at the church in the Fellowship Room. Their get-togethers start at 7 p.m.

Prayer shawls are given to people who are going through difficult times and to those who need to be shown that they are loved, supported and prayed for.

In addition to knitting and crocheting prayer shawls, the group will be knitting preemie baby caps and blankets that will be donated to the preemie unit at the Winchester Hospital. The contact person for this group is Jean Sabatula - 781-599-1827.

Each group has lots of patterns available for you to use, and an ample supply of extra yarn that they would be happy to share with you.

All are welcome to meet with either group or you could work on projects at home. Call to get more information about how you can participate.

DO YOU NEED A NEW T-SHIRT?

If you do...or even if you don't...but want to contribute to a good cause, Arthur Wessels, First Parish Member and veteran, is selling World War II Veterans Memorial Fund t-shirts for \$20 each. Arthur and his fellow vets are trying to raise approximately \$160,000-170,000 to build a new Veterans Memorial that will replace the current one that is located on the Upper Common. Arthur can order your specific size. Just ask him. If you don't know who Arthur is, ask Barbara Flynn or Pastor Rich and we'll point him out to you. Thanks

**YMCA SCHOOL –AGE
CARE PROGRAM**

The church rents the classroom area after school on weekdays to the local YMCA branch. Transportation to the church is provided from elementary schools and they may be picked up at the church.

Hours: from school dismissal to 6 pm on school days. On non-school days, the program will be held at the Burbank YMCA Reading site and is open from 7:30 am to 6 pm.

For further information, please call 781-944-9622. Fees: 4 & 5 days: \$102/week; 3 days: \$80/week; 2 days: \$59/week.