

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2011

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sermon: Abram Kielsmeier-Jones

The Law? What Is It Good For?

Scripture: Romans 7:7-13

Calendar for Sunday, January 23, 2011

9:00 am Adult Bible Study (library)

9:00 am Chapel Worship Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)

10:30 am Church School (Pre-K – Grade 7)

10:30 am Confirmation Class (Fireside Room)

11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)

12 n Jr. Choir Rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers will be given in memory of loved ones by the D'Agostino family.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Kathryn Millheim. **Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Leeila and Robert Given. **Ushers for January:** Linell Nester, Joseph D'Agostino, Donna Nicolai, Stephen Gates, Dominic and Bonnie Mercurio, Kathryn Millheim, and Linda D'Agostino (captain). **Greeters:** Ida Montgomery and Andrew.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
CHURCH HERALD**

Thursday, January 27, 2011
(will cover dates of
February 6 - 19, 2011)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2011

Worship Service – 10:30 a.m.

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

The Civil War of the Soul

Scripture: Romans 7:14-25

Calendar for Sunday, January 30, 2011

9:00 am Adult Bible Study (library)

10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)

10:30 am Church School (Pre-K – Grade 7)

10:30 am Confirmation Class (Fireside Room)

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

12 n Annual Meeting Luncheon

12:45 pm Annual Meeting

12 n Jr. Choir Rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers will be given in loving memory of loved ones of the Lohnes and Paskievich families by Andrea and Stephen Paskievich.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Joan Potter. **Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Barbara Flynn and friends. **Greeters:** Benjamin and Barbara Parish.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
Sunday, January 2	19	134	153
Sunday, January 9	24	148	172
Church School			
Sunday, January 2	37		
Sunday, January 9	33		

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas Edward Meier

January 4, 2011

*Although it's hard to bear the loss
Of one so very dear,
May the memories you cherish
Keep your loved one ever near.*

Thank You's...

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers that the Stephen Ministry and the poinsettia plant given by the church in memory of my late husband. My family and I are very appreciative of your kindness during this difficult time.

Sincerely, *Roxie Billings*

Sunday I attended church. It was beautiful, the church, the sermon, the music and the friends. The warmth of first Parish lingered all day. I returned to find a beautiful poinsettia at my door. Best wishes to all of you for the New Year. I am so grateful for First Parish Congregational Church.

Sincerely, *Ada Towle*

I want to thank First Parish Congregational Church and Barbara Flynn and Earl Sheaff, deliverers of two poinsettias from church. It is adding some color to my room.

Happy New Year to all, *Warren Reeves*

Words cannot express our appreciation for the honor that you have bestowed upon us; the commemorative plaque for the "Youth Room."

The youth of our family, our church and our town have always been our concern as they are the future of this country, and it has been our pleasure to support them through the years in any way that we can.

We humbly thank you for this honor.

Sincerely, *Irene and Ed Schmidgall*

P.S. Happy, healthy New Year to all!

What a pleasant surprise on my return from attending church on Sunday to find a part of the memorial flowers that were in the front of the pulpit. I had thought earlier that I had not seen any glads recently—and now I have one. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

God Bless You All, *Alma Leafquist*

I want to thank First Parish in recognition of my birthday today. I was surprised to hear the doorbell on Sunday afternoon and find a young lady holding a bouquet of lovely flowers. Many thanks for the recognition.

John Applin

On behalf of Helping Our Troops (H.O.T.) and the Brave Men and Women serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, we wish to thank you for your generous contribution.

Frank J. Geary, President



Please keep the food pantry in mind during these especially hard winter months.

MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

Pastor Weisenbach will be conducting a membership class on Saturday, February 19, 2011. The session includes: discussion, history, tour of our building, a video, and lunch is provided by our Diaconate. Candidates will come before the Diaconate after worship on Sunday, February 20, and will be welcomed officially on Sunday, February 27. Please contact the pastor or the church office if you are interested.

IS YOUR *CHURCH HERALD* ARRIVING LATE?

Many have informed the church office that their *Church Herald* arrives very late. If this is the case with you, there is an easy solution...if you can go online. The office sends the current *Herald* to our webmaster, Scott Bossi. He posts it immediately; check it out!

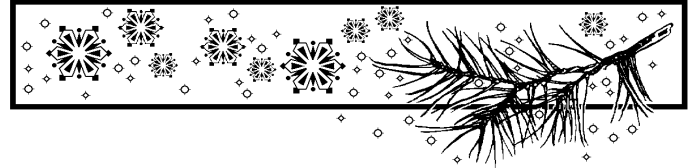
www.fpccwakefield.com.



OLD SWEATERS

The Fair Committee is looking for your old worn out wool sweaters. They need to be at least 90% wool for the projects we want to make. It doesn't matter if they have rips, moth holes, stains, etc. They will be taken apart, washed and dried to make "felt." There will be a box on the vestry stage marked "Sweaters" for you to leave them. I know it is probably too early in the season to be thinking about parting with your wool sweaters but keep us in mind when the robins return and the crocuses make an appearance.

Many thanks,
The Fair Committee



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.

PROJECT HOPE NEWS

Nine volunteers recently returned from working with Habitat for Humanity in the Waveland/Bay St. Louis, Mississippi area. While we were there, this affiliate of Habitat was awarded the 2010 Affiliate of the Year Award-again!! This honor is for demonstrating creativity, innovation and productivity in their communities. Habitat's work in this area started in 2006 in response to the extreme housing needs caused by Hurricane Katrina. Habitat has built more than 150 homes through volunteers.

This was such a rewarding experience for everyone who went in December and we are looking forward to going back in the late fall. We will also be holding a few fundraisers during the year to support our trip. If you are interested in donating towards our goal or would be interested in one of the best weeks of your life, contact Steve Gates at 781-245-1644.

God Bless, Linell Nester

REASON FOR CHEER

A psychologist has determined that the Monday in the last full week of January is the most depressing day of the year. This year, “Blue Monday” falls on January 24.

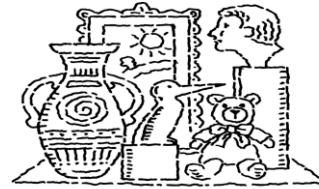
Cliff Arnall calculated this date based on a combination of bad weather, Christmas debts, broken New Year’s resolutions and the end of the holiday break. But no matter how bleak things seem—regardless of the time of year—Christians always have reason for hope. Thankfully, we can look beyond our earthly circumstances to the promise of new life with God forever.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.”

PLEDGE ENVELOPES – There are still some pledge envelopes on the table in the vestry eagerly waiting to be picked up. If you cannot get out and would prefer to have them mailed, please contact the church office

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS – There are still some Sundays available for you to sign up to be a coffee hour host or hostess. This is a great way to serve the church while enjoying the fellowship of your fellow parishioners.

LIBRARY BOOKSHELF – The Library Committee has filled the cart that is in the vestry with many devotional books, which is the theme for January. There are also some new books especially aimed at teens. Check it out! Just fill in the orange card and enjoy!



ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE

CHURCH TRIVIA: This upcoming Antiques Show is the 40th Anniversary

Last year the Antiques Committee was blessed and raised \$8,000. This was achieved with help and donations from you, the congregation. It is that time of the year again where the Antiques Committee would like the congregation’s assistance to help us prepare for the next show that will take place on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26. We need volunteers (please see David Whitehead), donations of your antiques (see Joan Potter), or if you would like to make a donation, please see Tom Martin or Philip Gindi.

We always welcome your creative ideas as to how we can improve the show and raise money, as long as we abide by biblical principles. In the last show, Lenny Hart had a great idea by having place mats with sponsors’ names. For the 2011 show, Richard Bardet suggested a change to the show hours, so we will start the show at 2:30 PM on Friday instead of 5:00 pm.

Thank you and Blessings!
The Antiques Committee and friends: Joan Potter, David and Irene Whitehead, Ken Parsons, Len Hart, Dexter Wheeler, Peter Rearick, Tom Martin, Ray Toothaker, and Philip Gindi

FIRST PARISH WOMEN

**February 11-13, at the Linden Tree Inn,
Rockport...**

WOMEN’S WINTER RETREAT

RAW MATERIAL

Did any of you tune in last Wednesday to the broadcast of the memorial service for the six who were killed in Tucson? I thought our president did a good job of calling the nation to live up to the eager expectations of Christina-Taylor Green, the nine year old who was one of the six fatalities. Here was a child with high and innocent hopes for her school, community, state and nation. She was probably taken to that supermarket by her parents who wanted to expose their daughter to a demonstration of democracy at work. The challenge of our president to move forward so that all the youth of our nation might have their hopes and expectations fulfilled is certainly a worthy calling.

But we all know that the future path of our nation is going to be extremely difficult. We are all aware of the issues: gun control, better care of the mentally challenged, political ineffectiveness, party spirit, disrespect for the opinions of others. We could go on and on, couldn't we?

As a Christian believer and local pastor, there is one thing that does bring me hope. Our political leaders—almost all of them—starting with our president call us to pray. Sadly, our president didn't lead the nation in a public prayer at that memorial service, an opportunity missed, as far as I'm concerned. But the suggestion and recognition of a national call to prayer is encouraging to me.

My hope for our nation is based on the merciful character of our God. I'm thinking of a particular occasion recorded in the Old Testament book of II Chronicles, chapter 7. Solomon has completed the building of the temple and God's promise to him is recorded in verse 14, "...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Here is something we can do. And please notice this is a call for God's people to "humble themselves," "pray," "seek God's face" and "turn from their wicked ways." God is eager to respond to the humble pleading of those who believe God and call upon God in prayer. Not everyone will, but God's people can and must.

Here is a brief prayer I wrote and used last week at our local Rotary Club.

Almighty God, You made our world and your power holds it together, so it is to you that we naturally turn when the world begins to crumble. We are all saddened, angered, confused and threatened by the recent tragedy in Tucson, Arizona. We cannot explain such events...all we can do is bring our troubled world to you for correction. Bring healing and restoration to the fourteen wounded, including Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, and your hope and peace to the six families who grieve, wisdom to our leaders and common sense to our troubled society. We are wandering in a wilderness. Have mercy on us, your wayward children and give us wisdom to change our ways and follow your truth. Your teaching, your warning, your power within is our only hope. Amen.

R.A.W.

THE CHURCH HERALD
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January 14, 2011

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value

**ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
AND
LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, January 30, 2011
Luncheon at 12 noon Meeting at 12:45 pm**

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, January 30, after worship service. The luncheon will precede the meeting. Linda D'Agostino will be taking pre-paid reservations the two Sundays prior (January 16 and 23). The cost will be \$11 per person or \$30 for a family.

The meal will consist of chicken piccata, rice and salad, with apple crisp for dessert. Please let Linda know if you will be needing childcare so they can plan to have enough help.

A PIECE OF MY HEART End of the Year 2010

The years tell us much that the days never know.

By Tammy Repp

You don't get to see this view, until you truly get to the end of the year. As another year has passed, I find myself waiting with excited anticipation of how God has continuously provided for our needs. I do understand we need to be responsible, to plan, and yet, we need to remain open for the power of God to work in the details of our finances. What we needed versus what we truly didn't. At the end of the year, our budget reflects just that. God truly does work out the details and provides for us. Thank you, everyone, for your consistent commit to give of yourself and of your finances to the life of First Parish. My hope is that you saw Him in your own finances as well. May we be good stewards of all that He has put in our care, so when He looks upon us, He may be pleased with the choices we have made.

We missed the stewardship goal by just under \$3,000. Understanding our stewardship goal is higher than what the budget reflects for pledges, because I believe, God is always calling me to stretch just a bit more than I think I can. I trust He whispers that to each one of you as well. Stretching brings you beyond what you think you can presently reach, but stretching and reaching is an exercise, a practice if you will, in direction. The unreachable, becomes attainable and beyond. God is always growing us, teaching us to trust Him. He doesn't leave us the way we are. In a way, we are under construction, by the carpenter, Jesus. He is building us up and making us new each day.

Lord, we are grateful to reflect on our past year, 2010. We thank you for all the ways you cared and provided for us, healed and protected us. We look forward to how you will teach us to follow you more closely, love you more dearly, and trust you more completely, as we walk step by step, day by day in 2011. May our decisions in what we do, with what you give to each one of us individually, help us to be a more generous First Parish family. Help us, Lord, to reflect your love to one another and to the world around us. Amen.

My brothers and sisters, as you look back over this past year, you have witnessed the Lord's hand clearly, in your home, in the life of First Parish, in the eyes of the children, in the smile of a stranger and just when you needed it most, He sent a friend that gave a helping hand, a hug or a listening ear. Praise be to the Lord for His endless, abounding love and how He is willing to use us to reflect Him. May we respond to Him in obedience. Let us take hold of one another's hand, as we leap with joy into this brand new year, open for every opportunity to be closer to our amazing God.

Thank you, Lord, for the pieces of my heart you give to me, to share with my brothers and sisters. You are the best teacher. I love you.

Ruth Ross
A student for Stewardship

2010 STEWARDSHIP GOALS

PLEDGE AND PLATE COMBINED

DECEMBER'S YTD GOAL	\$310,000.00
OUR YTD GIFTS OFFERED	<u>\$307,088.52</u>
Missed goal by	- 2,911.48

NOVEMBER'S YTD GOAL	\$284,170.00
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$279,997.10

OCTOBER'S YTD GOAL	\$258,333.33
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$254,599.68

SEPTEMBER'S YTD GOAL	\$232,500.00
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$224,150.90

AUGUST YTD GOAL	\$206,670.00
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$197,827.48

JULY'S YTD GOAL	\$180,833.31
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$171,638.71

JUNE'S YTD GOAL	\$155,000.00
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$150,189.74

MAY'S YTD GOAL	\$129,170.00
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$126,218.32

APRIL'S YTD GOAL	\$103,332.32
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$ 99,036.65

MARCH'S YTD GOAL	\$ 77,500.00
OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$ 76,775.51

OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$ 52,351.84
FEBRUARY'S YTD GOAL	\$ 51,670.00

OUR GIFTS OFFERED	\$ 29,955.42
JANUARY'S GOAL	\$ 25,833.33

Dear Lord, as we climb from month to month into the 2011 year, please help us to be more fruitful.

February Birthdays/Anniversaries

- 1 – Jonathan Van Magness
- 2 – Pamela Major
- 4 – Alma Leafquist
- 6 – Vanessa Gebhard
- 8 – Judith Gordon
- 10 – Alexander Kennedy
- 11 – Charlene Flint
- 11 – Andrew Sleger
- 13 – Bradford Caputo
- 14 – Derek Foster
- 16 – Linda Govostes O’Neil
- 16 – Jessica Jackson
- 17 – Molly McGrath
- 18 – Jacqueline Caputo
- 18 – Albert Simkins, Jr.
- 21 – Edward and Irene Schmidgall
(anniversary)
- 21 – Brendon Hildreth
- 24 – James Fosnock
- 24 – Florence Timmins
- 25 – Jeanne Nielsen
- 25 – Kenneth Parsons
- 27 – Lucia Stevenson
- 27 – Brandon Grinnell
- 27 – Linda Driscoll