

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2011

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
With Holy Communion

Sermon:

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

How to Beat the Bullies

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

Calendar for Sunday, March 6, 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)
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
- 12 n Jr. Choir Rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Avis R. Wessels who died on Marcy 3, 2005, by her husband Arthur Wessels, Sr. and family. The flowers on the right will be given in loving memory of Martha A. Martin by her family.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Alwyn Van Cor. **Ushers for March:** James Fosnock, William Watt, Philip Gindi, Richard Pratt, Alwyn Van Cor, Leeila Given and Herold Doherty (captain). **Greeters:** Tim and Catherine Callaghan and family. **Fellowship Hour Hosts:** the Covell family.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT
"CHURCH HERALD"**

Thursday, March 10, 2011
will cover dates of March 20-April 2, 2011

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Guest: Lisa McDonough

Voice of the Martyrs

Calendar for Sunday, March 13, 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 loving memory of Scott Michael Connolly by his parents and his brother Tanner.

Minister's Reception Line Volunteer: Joyce Langone. **Greeters:** Alma Leafquist and Joyce Langone. **Fellowship Hour Host:** Ginger McGonagle.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
Sunday, February 13	23	146	169
Sunday, February 20	23	138	161

Church School	Students	Teachers
Sunday, February 13	Family Sunday	
Sunday, February 20	35	10

IN MEMORIAM

JONATHAN GARY BLASER

February 11, 2011
Joined First Parish May 18, 1997

*May the heartfelt sympathy
of those who truly care
Make the sorrow in your heart
less difficult to bear.*



On the Sunday before my birthday I was given a lovely bouquet of flowers after church. Mostly carnations—they are still holding up well and so cheerful in this cold wintry weather. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely and God Bless You All,
Alma Leafquist

Thank you so very much for your prayers of support, the flowers sent to me when I was in rehab, and the meals sent to my home when I returned.

The support that you have shown to me and my husband Steve has been a true testimony of your Christian faith, and love. Thank you, and may God bless all of you,

Ginny Brennan

Special thank you to this wonderful, caring church and whoever delivered the very lovely flowers right on my birthday—Sunday, January 16, 2011!

Thanks again for the thoughtfulness!
Happy New Year to all!

God Bless, *Joanne* [Frey]

What a nice surprise to have Phil and Jean Chisholm stop by and renew old friendships and bring us a beautiful bouquet from the morning service.

It was a special treat to help us celebrate our 68th anniversary, and will be enjoyed for days to come. Thank you for thinking of us.

Sincerely, *Ed and Irene Schmidgall*

DUAL-AFFILIATION

First Parish is “dually affiliated.” That means we belong to two congregational denominations: The United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC). The results of our CHAT Survey last year indicated that an open discussion about our relationships would be helpful to many of you. Two Thursdays have been scheduled with a denominational guest at each. Please save these dates:

March 17 – Discerning our Denominational Affiliation, 7:30 pm –
Guest: Rev. Terry Shanahan
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference
cccusa.com

March 24 – Discerning our Denominational Affiliation, 7:30 pm –
Guest: Rev. Wendy Vanderhart
United Church of Christ – ucc.org

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

2011 Spring Schedule

The following classes are being offered this spring. They will begin on March 2, at 7:00 pm

JOHN'S LETTERS – with Nicki McLennan

Length of study is 8 weeks

The two most difficult things to get straight in life are LOVE and GOD. If you want to deal with God the right way you must learn to love the right way. If you want to love the right way you must learn to deal with God the right way. God and love cannot be separated.

GALATIANS – with Bruce Londino

Length of study is 12 weeks

God is not an impersonal force to be used to make people behave in certain prescribed ways, but rather a personal Savior who has set us free to live a free life. This letter helps us understand our freedom, a gift of God easily perverted and often squandered.

FAITH – with Pastor Weisenbach

Length of study to be determined

The Christian faith is experiencing tremendous pressure to change. While much must be reviewed and renewed, much must never change. Charles Colson and Harold Fickett have written a book entitled *The Faith*. What Christians believe...why they believe it...and why it matters. When you visit the signup table indicate your preference—6 week video class or 15 week (no video).



YARD & BAKE SALE TO BE HELD

The Trustees' Annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 30. Please keep this in mind when you are doing your spring cleaning. We will be looking for all kinds of household items.

There will also be a Bake Sale, with all kinds of delectable goodies. Additional information will be coming as we get closer to April.

Marcia Phinney



SERVICE DAY PLANNED

The Trustees are planning ahead to have the First Annual Service Day here at First Parish on April 9. We will be cleaning inside and hopefully outside (if the snow is gone!). We will work from 9 am to 3 pm. If you can donate a couple of hours or more we can have the church looking great for Easter. Lunch will be provided (pizza!).

Contact Steve Gates (781-246-2323) or any of the trustees for more info. You may also call the church office (781-245-1539).



Please visit the bookshelf in the vestry! Each month the Library Committee features books with a different theme. In March, books on renewal will be featured to usher us into the new season of spring. Three books that will be featured are Seasons of the Lord by Herbert Lockyer, Bread for the Journey by Henri Nouwen, and Standing Firm by Donna Partow. We have several new DVDs. Some of them are The Spiritv of Prophecy, Could Christ Come in Our Lifetime? and Living By the Spirit in the Last Days. Come and check out our books and DVDs. Just fill out the orange card.

Back in 1957, every congregational church in the nation was presented with a choice. The United Church of Christ (UCC) had just been organized in Cleveland, Ohio and was hoping to enlist with the majority of her sister churches. We have been a member congregation in good standing for almost 54 years.

As most of you know, our form of church government preserves our autonomy. That means we retain the right to determine our beliefs, behaviors and activities. We own our building and hire and fire the minister. There are no bishops, cardinals or district superintendents in the UCC. When we affiliated with the new denomination, it was our choice to do so.

Our relationship has had its ups and downs. Back in 1984 the congregation voted to redirect our mission giving away from the denomination's projects. We disagreed with the political direction of the larger church and felt it would be better to distribute our mission dollars toward other causes. Ever since then our differences have remained and, for some, grown broader.

In 2005, we felt we needed to look at our relationship with the UCC more closely. We invited denominational executives to come and share. After seven months of discussion and prayer we decided that we would keep our relationship with the UCC, but broaden our perspective by joining the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (4C's). This we did in July of 2006. We now belong to two congregational groups and divide our dues (almost \$3,000.00) to each.

In 2008, some of our members were very disappointed by the decisions of the UCC and asked the Church Council to again take a closer look. In 2010, our CHAT Survey indicated that 48% of those responding believed that an informational meeting on the subject would be helpful.

We have announced that two meetings have been scheduled for this month. Both are Thursday evenings, March 17 and 24, at 7:30 pm. We will gather to listen and learn. I encourage you to check out the respective websites—UCC.org and CCCCusa.com—so you can ask informed questions.

Our desire is to hear from these two groups and perhaps make a decision sometime in the future.

Our Covenant of Working and Worshiping Together states in part: "We will speak to each other with respect," and "We will listen to understand, but don't necessarily have to agree." I believe these two meetings can be a great help if we come with open minds and hearts.

R.A.W.

40th Annual Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sale

CHURCH TRIVIA:

The upcoming Antiques Show will be 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, Donna Nicolai, and Philip Gindi

Antiques and Collectibles Show Sponsor

This year we are adding a new category to celebrate the show's 40th Anniversary. We thank you for your consideration in helping to make this year's show successful!

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

(Please indicate if you do not want your name listed in the brochure.)

Sponsorship Level:

Sponsor: (up to \$39) _____

40th Anniversary Patron: (\$40) _____

Benefactor: (\$41 and over) _____

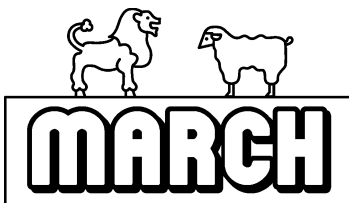
Make checks payable to First Parish Congregational Church (write Antiques Show in the memo field). Mail to the church office or drop off at the Antiques Show display in the vestry after church.

THE CHURCH HERALD
First Parish Congregational Church
P.O. Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301
Phone: 781-245-1539/1644
FAX: 781-557-1000
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February 25, 2011

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value



Wednesday, March 2 – Wonderful Wednesdays
Offering three classes, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 9 – Ash Wednesday
Simple Soup Supper, 6:30 pm,
Christ in the Passover
Presentation by Jews for Jesus

Saturday, March 12 – Set Clocks ahead 1 hour

Sunday, March 13 – Mission Speaker,
Lisa McDonough from Voice of the Martyrs

Thursday, March 17 – Discerning our
Denominational Affiliation, 7:30 pm
Guest: Rev. Terry Shanahan
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference
cccusa.com

Sunday, March 20 – Pasta Luncheon for the
Passion Play

Thursday, March 24 – Discerning our
Denominational Affiliation, 7:30 pm
Guest: Rev. Wendy Vanderhart
United Church of Christ – ucc.org

40th Annual Antiques and Collectibles Show and Sale
Friday, March 25, 2:30 – 9:00 pm Saturday, March 26, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm