



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011**

**Worship Services – 9:00 am & 10:30 am**

Sermon:

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

*How Does the Word Become Flesh?*

Scripture: John 1:1-18

Calendar for Sunday, December 18, 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 Confirmation Class
- 10:45 am Sunday School
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)

***Memorial Flowers***

The poinsettias adorning the sanctuary will be given in memory of loved ones by members and friends of First Parish Congregational Church.

**The memorial flowers** will be given in loving memory of Marjorie Newman by her family.

**December Ushers:** Eric Atwater, Frank Brown, Olivier Dioloso, James Fosnock, Leith Jones, John LaVerde, Thomas Martin, Glenn Reid and Philip Gindi (captain).

**Minister's Line Volunteer:** Joyce Langone

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD**

Thursday, December 22, 2011  
(will cover dates of January 1-14, 2012)



**CHRISTMAS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011**

**One Worship Service – 10:30 am  
With the Korean Love Church**

Sermon:

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

*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*

Calendar for Sunday, December 25, 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)
- 11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)

***Memorial Flowers***

**The memorial flowers** will be given in loving memory of Harriett Given by her husband and family.

**December Ushers:** Eric Atwater, Frank Brown, Olivier Dioloso, James Fosnock, Leith Jones, John LaVerde, Tom Martin, Glenn Reid and Philip Gindi (Captain).

**The Minister's Line Volunteer:** Kathryn Millheim.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Sanctuary	Chapel	Total
Sunday, December 4	133	30	163
Church School			57
Sunday, December 11	147	29	176
No Church School			

## MEMBERSHIP CLASS

For those who are planning ahead, our next Membership Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 2012. New Members will be welcomed on March 25, 2012.

## CHURCH HERALD

For those wishing to help the 2011 church budget by contributing toward postage for their Church Herald, please write a check to First Parish (put "Church Herald" in the memo line – 1<sup>st</sup> class: \$25.00; Bulk: \$15.00). Thank you very much!

## FOOD PANTRY

Days are getting shorter; nights are getting longer and getting colder. The Food Pantry could sure use some hearty soups, jar pasta sauce, peanut butter & jelly, Beef a'Roni and Chef Boyardee items.

Thank you & God Bless All,  
Your Food Pantry

## WAKEFIELD INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY

The Wakefield Interfaith Food Pantry (WIFP), which is now located on the ground level of the Americal Civic Center, is serving about 800 people (over 300 families) each month. The need for food continues to increase.

The mission of the WIFP is to provide emergency food supplies to Wakefield residents who need a helping hand regardless of religious affiliation. Clients may visit the pantry twice a month and receive a 4-5 day supply of perishable and non-perishable food. The pantry is open Tuesdays 9 am – 1 pm and Thursdays 9 am – 1 pm and 6 - 8 pm. The representatives of each church in Wakefield have started a new program this year. There is a "Food of the Month" collection at First Parish each month. The food for December is CAN TUNA and CHICKEN.

There will be a labeled plastic container on a table or on the stage for donations. Thank you to those who donated in November. Please continue to support your neighbors in need.

Judy Gordon, First Parish Congregational Representative



## OPEN HOUSE AT THE WEISENBACHS

All are invited to Pastor Rich and Pat's annual open house on Sunday, December 18, from 3 – 8 p.m. The parsonage will be decorated for the season and good fellowship is sure to be had by all.

The address: 27 Curve Street, Wakefield

## MERRY CHRISTMAS WITH THANKS

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who helped make my recent illness more bearable. I have returned to work part time and it is so nice to see everyone again!

May the blessings that have been given me be returned to all!

*Merry Christmas to all,*

Linda Hunzelman

## ANNUAL REPORTS

Please keep in the back of your mind that annual reports will be due shortly after the New Year.

Watch the Order of Worship and Herald for further information as to the date of the Annual Meeting and Dinner.



Coffee Hour December 18th.

This is the family Christmas service and we will all worship together at 10:30am.

Instead of only a few people providing refreshments for after-service fellowship, we thought it might be a nice idea if everyone brought a little something to share, in honor of the Season. Many of you will be baking this time of year, so just make a little extra and bring it along with you. All you need to do is leave it on the table before church and we will take care of the rest. It's another opportunity to bring our individual families and our church family together...and what better time.

Many thanks.

Linell, Linda & Jean

### JOIN THE CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS!

There's still time to join our Sanctuary Choir for our Christmas services on December 18, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day! Just show up in the Choir Room at 7:30 p.m. for our rehearsals on December 14 and 21 and you'll be welcomed with open arms!

Don Hodgkins, Director of Music Ministries/Organist

### **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**

The Capital Campaign Committee has formed and met 4 times in October and November. The group's purpose was to identify a plan to provide for the replacement of key systems in our meeting house: a

modern multi-zone heating system; a renovation of the roof slate attachments, and a renovation of the rear lot, including drainage wells and paving.

Our systems are all well aged; the roof slate attachments are 100 years old; the dry well and lot approximately 60 years, and the heating system a tossed salad of ages.

The committee is now obtaining formal engineering plans and work estimates to size the funding required. Following this, the committee will prepare a formal presentation for use at the Annual Meeting reviewing the scope, the cost, the notional schedule for the work, and the proposal for a campaign to raise the necessary funds

## **COMING SOON!**

*Our Annual*

*Community Messiah Sing  
(With orchestra & soloists)*

*Here in our sanctuary!*

*Friday, December 16, at 7:30pm  
Reception following.*

### **CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 SERVICE**

Once again we are inviting the youth of our church to provide the prelude to the early (family) Christmas Eve service. If your child would like to play a Christmas carol on any instrument (by themselves or accompanied by me on piano), please talk to Don Hodgkins by Sunday, December 18.

## **JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

The Junior Youth Group will meet for their monthly gathering on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8. This month we will have a Christmas Celebration which will include a small gift swap among the children. If your child would like to participate in the gift swap, please have them bring a \$5 gift which would be appropriate for either a boy or a girl.

All children in grades 2-5 are welcomed to attend!

## **GIRL SCOUT COOKIES**

Girl Scout Troop 71461 will be in the Vestry next Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> to sell cookies! Cookies are \$4 a box. Please stop by to pick up your favorite cookies.

## **ORDERS OF WORSHIP**

If you are unable to get to church on Sundays and would like to receive an Order of Worship delivered to your home, please call the church office and leave your name. We would be happy to send you one each week.

## **CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS**

The church's e-mail address ([fpccx1644@aol.com](mailto:fpccx1644@aol.com)) was recently compromised. Please disregard and delete any plea for money that you may have received using the church e-mail address.

Currently the church does not use e-mail to ask parishioners for donations. We also do not send e-mails that request you give money to any individual.

Thank you,  
Ben Parish for the Trustees

Dear Friends and Family,

In January, I will be joining a group of 10 students from Roanoke College travelling to Antigua, Guatemala to participate in an international community service program. With guidance and support from *Constru Casa*, a non-profit organization based in Guatemala City, we will be building a simple house for a family living on the outskirts of Antigua.

The total cost of the trip is \$1,400 per student. Our group is currently fundraising to help offset our costs. My own personal goal is to raise at least \$300 to go towards the cost of construction and would appreciate any financial support anyone could offer at this time. All donations will go directly to the costs of purchasing materials for building the house. I'll be heading back to school in Virginia in early January, so if you are able to make a small donation of any amount, it would be greatly appreciated! Checks can be payable to First Parish Congregational Church with Lauren Kennedy, *Constru Casa* in the memo line.

For more information about the *Constru Casa* organization, I encourage you to take a look at their website at [www.construcasa.org](http://www.construcasa.org). Our trip leader and Community Service Director at Roanoke College, Jesse Griffin, is also available to answer any questions that you might have concerning our trip to Guatemala. The best way to contact him would be by email [atgriffin@roanoke.edu](mailto:atgriffin@roanoke.edu) or by phone at (540)-580-5490. I would like to thank you in advance for your support in improving our international community.

Thank you so much!

Lauren Kennedy

## THE CHURCH HERALD

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**December 9, 2011**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value

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### UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

December 18 @ 9:00 & 10:30 am

#### **Christmas Sunday**

Worship – Poinsettias will again  
adorn our sanctuary

*Christmas Open House at the  
Weisenbachs* 3 – 8 pm

December 24 @ 5pm **Children's Pageant**  
11 pm **Carols, Candlelight, and Communion**

December 25 @ 10:30am Family  
Sunday **One Service of Worship**  
with Korean Love Church

January 1 @ 10:30am Family  
Sunday **One Service of Worship**

Advent is the time of waiting and watching, we have all heard this many times. But what exactly are we waiting for? Christmas Eve? Christmas morning? I don't think so, friends. I think we are waiting for something far more important.

God took flesh and came to our world 2,000 years ago; that is history. That event is remembered each year. That is wonderful, but still history.

*Toward the end of the Second World War, there was a soldier who was captured on the eastern front and who survived the ordeal that followed. He, like many others, was kept for years in a Russian prison camp. No news of the outside world was permitted into the camp. The inmates were fed just enough to survive and subjected to backbreaking labor.*

*Many despaired. But this soldier refused to allow those near him to do that. He exhorted and encouraged those around him, often leading them in prayer and singing and games. But after years there, he too finally lost hope. Gradually, he turned his face to the wall, wanting only to die.*

*Then, however, a message from the outside world got through to him, smuggled in by a new prisoner. It was folded up into a tiny bit of dirty paper. The words on it were barely legible. The message read: "The war is over. The children and I are alive. We are waiting for you to come home."*

*He went on living in the camp. Nothing had changed. The food was just as terrible and the work just as crushing. And yet, everything had changed.*

That soldier, locked in a prison of despair was set free because he had heard a word of hope from home. That's what he was really waiting for.

That's what we all wait for, isn't it? That's not history, that's personal experience.

This Advent the God for whom we all wait has a personal message for each of us. Maybe it will come to you in worship or at some other wonderful moment. Let's be alert in our waiting and watching. Our God will come, and as Isaiah said, "No ear has heard, no eye has seen a God besides you, who does such good things to those who wait for Him."