



First Parish Church
Congregational
United Church of Christ

THE MESSENGER

VISION

Following the Way of Jesus, we aspire to authentically invite, courageously include, and generously serve all with compassion and grace.

MISSION

Following the Way of Jesus, we celebrate **inspirational worship**; create **life-changing experiences** for children, youth, families, and individuals; and practice meaningful **congregational care**.

While respecting our diversity, we courageously advocate for **justice and mercy**, and intentionally respond to the needs of our **community and the world**.

FEBRUARY 2019

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SHARING GOOD NEWS – February 2019

Dear friends,

Last week a friend drove me to dinner. He'd recently gotten a new car and it has lots of bells and whistles! My car is a few years old and I still find it to be very comfortable, but it doesn't have many things that are now considered standard features. My friend's car had things I didn't even know existed.

Did you know that some cars have headlights that will automatically switch from high beams to low beams when they sense oncoming traffic? Or a warning that chimes if the driver moves to another lane without using a blinker? How about something called "cross traffic braking" with a sensor that audibly and visually warn the driver to brake--and it will even brake itself if the driver doesn't react in time. *Before this, I didn't know what I was missing!* My car isn't all that fancy, but I have to admit, I really appreciate the back up camera. What a game changer that is! *Before I experienced it for myself, I didn't know what I was missing. Now, I couldn't live without it.*

Is faith like this? I couldn't live without it. Could it be that those who don't go to church just don't know what they're missing? There was a time when church and community were the same. You'd see the same people at church and at the grocery store, school, and the doctor's office. Times have changed. Where you and I might think of Sundays as for church; others might think they're for errands, housework, sports, skiing, or brunch.

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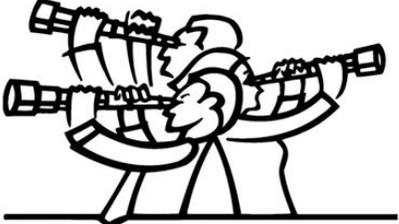
The world moves so quickly and it sometimes it seems that there's not enough time to rest and recharge. What if people knew that there was a very special place for renewal....a place that also offers inspiration, enrichment, and amazing music?

In a very short time, I've seen special things happen here at First Parish. I feel the Spirit in worship and I'm humbled by the great work we do in the community. Yet, there are those who don't know us and who don't know Him. According to a Pew Research Study, only 22% of Mainers attend church once a week and 47% attend 'seldom or never'. *(They don't know what they're missing!)*

Do you follow the way of Jesus by authentically inviting, courageously including, and generously serving all with compassion and grace? Can you help others see what they've been missing? Will you bring someone to First Parish this month?

Blessings,

Rev. Estelle



SEARCH COMMITTEE

UPDATE

The Senior Pastor Search Committee has met several times since being Commissioned. We've met with Jan Jonas (moderator) and Don Bernier (who previously chaired a search committee); UCC Conference Minister Rev. Deborah Blood; and we even met virtually. Using web conferencing/call in software, we were able to connect even though some committee members were out of state!

Jon Schrimper is chairing the committee, Nelson Walter is the committee chaplain, and Per Jonas is the scribe. The search process has changed slightly from what you may have experienced in years past.

We'll be working to answer the following three questions: Who Are We? Who is Our Neighbor? (And, in light of the first two questions...) Who and What is God Calling Us to Become? The answers will lay the foundation for determining the experience and qualifications of the next settled Senior Pastor.

We expect to survey the church in some way(s) to be determined and you'll be hearing more soon!

Message from the Moderator

Per and I subscribe to a weekly magazine that condenses the national and international news of the week. It also has sections such as opinion columns, movie and book reviews, travel advice, and food and art critiques. One piece is presented each week with an odd title: *Boring but Important*. I discipline myself to read it. So I'm asking you to stay with me here as I review some of the vehicles for communication here at First Parish. It may be boring, but as George Bernard Shaw once said, "The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion it has taken place."

The Church Council is the governing body of our church; we have no "higher-ups" other than God. Members of the Church Council include a Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and the chairs of Boards. There are also 3 *at large* members who represent you. They are elected to be a conduit between you and the Church Council. Please feel free to have a conversation with our at large members. They are: Don Bernier, Sandy Nelson, and Jackie Villinski. Also, all Church Council members would be eager to hear what you have to share.

The Monthly Newsletter is sent by email. If you would like a printed copy, please call the office to make that request between 9am and 2pm at 363-3758. Also, copies are available at the Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall and at the entrance to the church office.

The Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall has been a wonderful tool in an effort to disseminate information – thank you Sandy Givens and Pepi Upton! At the Opportunity Table you can sign up for various volunteer opportunities and church activities. Newsletters, Directories and other timely information is available here. All are encouraged to use this effective information clearinghouse.

The Annual Meeting (February 24 after church) is important not only to continue decades of tradition, but to also examine the year past and learn about the plans for the future. Budget approval and recommendations of the Nominating Committee will be voted on.

A Leadership Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 2 from 9am to 12noon. If you have a role in church leadership or are on a Board or Committee, please attend. What better way to communicate with each other as we plan and share.

The Website (www.firstparishyork.net) has been a work in progress for the last couple of years. On the website you can view the monthly calendar, read the weekly Bulletins, catch up on sermons, and learn about upcoming events. More information about the website will follow.

The Oasis is a communication sent from our pastors as a way of keeping in touch with our faith. Announcements often accompany their message as another way to communicate information.

Did you make it through this? There are many more ways to facilitate communication – God would want us to keep working on it.

Jan Jonas, Moderator

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES AVAILABLE ONLINE

First Parish Church has a password protected member section on our website, www.firstparishyork.net, where Church Council meeting minutes and corresponding attachments are posted. To get the user name and password, call the church office at 363-3758 between 9am and 2pm, Monday through Friday. Because this site stores only approved minutes, there is a one month delay in posting approved minutes. Thank you for not sharing password information within an email or beyond members.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Communion/Scout Sunday

“Lay Up Your Treasures in Heaven” - Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 7, 2019

Thursday Evening Worship

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

Sunday, February 10, 2019

9:15am Hymn Sing

Handbells

“Ose Shalom” – Sweet Spirit

“Lead On, Eternal Sovereign” - Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 14, 2019

Thursday Evening Worship

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

Sunday, February 17, 2019

“Ubi Caritas” (Where there is Love, there is God.) – Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Thursday Evening Worship

5:30pm – 6:50pm Dinner Included

Saturday, February 23, 2019

Women on the Move – Tea

2pm-4pm

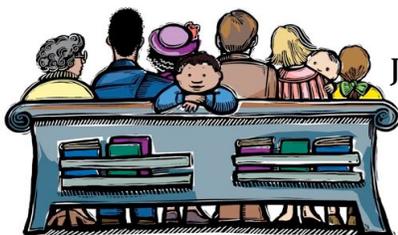
Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 24, 2019

“Come to the Water” - Sanctuary Choir

FPC Annual Meeting

following worship



ATTENDANCE

January 2019 Worship

1/6/19: 198

1/13/19: 217

1/20/19: 15 (snow storm)

1/27/19: 169



from the Music Director

A View from the Bench

The month of February has a great, big Hallmark holiday right smack-dab in the middle: Valentine's Day! According to Wikipedia, Saint Valentine of Rome, was a widely recognized 3rd century Roman saint whose day is commemorated on February 14, and is associated with a tradition of courtly love. All that is reliably known of the saint is his name, and that he was martyred and buried at a cemetery on the Via Flaminia close to the Ponte Milvio (to the north of Rome) on February 14. It is uncertain whether Saint Valentine was one individual or a pseudonym for several. In today's society, we have popularized the "holiday," and continue the saint's legacy by transforming it into one celebrating romantic love and sincere compassion for all of humankind.

This month we begin with Communion on February 3, and will have a hymn-sing (focusing on the theme of "Love") on February 10. The Sanctuary Choir's anthem on February 17 employs the text: "Where charity and love are, God is there." Perhaps if God is at the center — the heart— of our lives, then love will be there also. So, let us love one another as God has loved us. Let us support and uplift each other with all our hearts, minds, souls and strength.

Sing with me the last verse of one of the most lovely Christmas hymns "In the Bleak Midwinter"

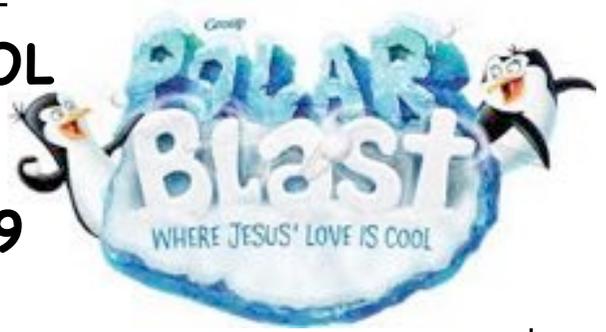
*What can I give Him — poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
But what I can I give Him. Give Him my heart.*
— Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

We often give flowers and heart-shaped candy to our beloved on Valentine's Day. But the poet suggests that we give our hearts over to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit now and always. Come to church during this month of LOVE...to worship, pray, sing, and hear the Word of God. Let it speak to your heart and resonate forevermore.

Stay warm and loving...because LOVE always wins!
WSP



CHURCH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS February 2019



Through February we will be hearing Bible Stories, watching DVDs, Singing great songs, Making crafts, and Playing Minute to Win It games.

All centered around how God cares for everyone and everything that he created.

And that Jesus' love is for everyone.

Come and Bring a Friend! Sunday mornings at 9:30am

MISSION PROJECT

Thanks to the children and families of our church we were able to fill a suitcase full of art supplies for children in Guatemala. These were taken by our Common Hope Mission team on their trip there in late January. Thanks to the team for the opportunity to care for others both here in our town and throughout the world.

MISSION PROJECT FOR FEBRUARY - VALENTINES!

NURSERY CARE is provided every Sunday for infants and children under 4 years of age during our worship service on Sundays. The nursery is located downstairs in the Sanctuary. Come and meet our amazing nursery staff – Sabrina, Bailey and Linda.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays - 10am

at Lauren Cummings' home for mothers of young children
Contact Lauren at lcummingsrdh@gmail.com or 363-4303

Wednesdays - 9am

Women's Bible Study – Parlor in Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays - 5pm

Adult Bible Study - Parlor in Fellowship Hall

THANK YOU all for your prayers and support of our children and families and all those wishing to learn more about Following the Way of Jesus.

Janet Cassity, Coordinator of Christian Education

A Message from Pastor Dan

Greetings, everyone! I wanted to address a question that some folks have been asking around about since the summertime, and one that has been coming up more often now that we are blessed with the presence of our new Interim Senior Pastor, Estelle Margarones (whom, by the way, I am having a blast working with and getting to know!).

A number of people have asked me and others in church leadership whether I am being considered in the search for our next settled Senior Pastor. Some kind souls have even gone so far as to ask why we are bothering to go through such a long and involved search process while I'm sitting right here. While I'm always happy to answer questions like that in person when they come up, I thought I would try to provide an answer here to help folks who are wondering. Also so that our beloved church volunteers and staff don't have to feel uncomfortable about trying to navigate an answer themselves!

There are some in this church who believe that I would make a fine Senior Pastor for First Parish, and I am humbled and grateful for that support and goodwill. It may even be true! However, at this time I do not feel called to the position of Senior Pastor here at our church; in fact, these past two years (as of February 16!) have only strengthened my sense that God is calling me to the work of Associate Pastor here at First Parish. That may be a tricky thing to wrap the head around if you're thinking of Associate-to-Senior as a promotion or "upward mobility," but in the church setting that's not really the case. Becoming ordained as a pastor was the highest honor (for lack of a better term) that I could ever receive in this vocation. Any position I take after that is simply a role that God needs filled. It is a pastor's responsibility to seek the role that God is calling them to in this world in that given moment, and to fulfill it to the best of their ability with God's help.

At First Parish, the roles of Senior Pastor and Associate Pastor come with specific (and not-so-specific) duties that are outlined both by the call agreements we sign after the church votes to install us, and by the collaboration and visioning performed by us jointly in our roles as preachers and teachers of this church. There are many components of our joint ministry that overlap and involve us

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both equally (pastoral care, for instance), just as there are elements and ministries given special focus by one or the other of us (the youth group, for instance). As such, were I to become Senior Pastor of First Parish, there would by necessity be some elements of my ministry here that I would have to give up in order to take on other responsibilities demanded of the Senior Pastor alone. While I would feel capable of undertaking those responsibilities, I am not ready to give up the work that I am currently doing.

I was called by this congregation in February 2017 for a number of reasons, to do not only the general work of Christian ministry that I love and am inspired by every day, but also to do specific work for which this church has expressed passion and need.

I was called by God to this church in February 2017 because God had work for me to do here. I do not believe my role in that work is complete yet, and I do not believe my time with the duties of Associate Pastor at First Parish Church is complete yet.

As such, I say here formally that at this time I have no intention of seeking the call of settled Senior Pastor at First Parish, and during this process of Pastoral Search and Call I will not be submitting my profile for consideration. Furthermore, I will decline any promptings made to or by the newly commissioned Search Committee that I be considered for that position. I have spoken at a meeting of the Search Committee to that effect, and I join all of you in prayerful support of the great work they are undertaking as we speak.

I eagerly await the day that God will reveal to us the person God is already calling to serve among us as Senior Pastor, just as I am sure they—whoever they are—eagerly await God revealing it to them, too!

Until that day, we all have work to do. God's work. Let's stride forth together, and make the most of Reverend Estelle for as long as God wills her to be with us.

Onward, friends!

Dan



February 2019

Youth Group has been off to a great start this January with games, crafts, and cooking! All are welcome, and friends from outside church are encouraged to join in the fun, fellowship, and formation. For more details and to sign up for events, contact dan@firstparishyork.net

Sunday, 2/10

6:00 – 8:30) High Schoolers

Dread: A Mystery on the High Seas (Classrooms above the Fellowship Hall)

Banished from the isle of pirates, a ship without a harbor to call home, your crew discovers a mysterious piece of treasure that sets you on a dangerous journey no land-lubber could ever face alone. Prepare your mind's eye for a high-stakes adventure straight from the imagination of Pastor Dan, where you decide how to progress and what risks are worth taking, and the only people you can count on are right beside you.

Friday, 2/15

5:30 – 6:30) 5th/6th Grades

Hide & Seek Adventures (Meet at the Fellowship Hall)

Ever wanted to play hide and seek at church? What about freeze-tag by flashlight? Now's your chance!

6:45 – 8:45) 7th/8th Grades

Dread: A Mystery on the High Seas (Classrooms above the Fellowship Hall)

Banished from the isle of pirates, a ship without a harbor to call home, your crew discovers a mysterious piece of treasure that sets you on a dangerous journey no land-lubber could ever face alone. Prepare your mind's eye for a high-stakes adventure straight from the imagination of Pastor Dan, where you decide how to progress and what risks are worth taking, and the only people you can count on are right beside you.

Friday, 3/1

5:30 – 6:45) 5th/6th Grades

Games and Group Challenges (First Parish Fellowship Hall)

Fun and wild games, mixed with exciting activities that develop teamwork and communication, where we discover trust in ourselves and explore trust in others.

7:00 – 8:30) 7th/8th Grades

Games and Group Challenges (First Parish Fellowship Hall)

Fun and wild games, mixed with exciting activities that develop teamwork and communication, where we discover trust in ourselves and explore trust in others.

Sunday, 3/3

6:00 – 8:00) High Schoolers

Games and Group Challenges (First Parish Fellowship Hall)

Fun and wild games, mixed with exciting activities that develop teamwork and communication, where we discover trust in ourselves and explore trust in others.

Information Regarding Confirmation Class

This year, First Parish demographics are experiencing a dip in the 8th Grade age range, the traditional age for Confirmation Class in a church like ours. At this time, I have not identified nor been made aware of enough young adults of the proper age in our congregation to make a Confirmation Class viable this year. While it would be arguably possible to hold a class with two or even one youth, a significant portion of the meaningful work that takes place in Confirmation Class does so among a healthy group of peers as they engage, discover, and work out this stage of their faith journeys together.

I acknowledge that this may be disappointing to any who read this who may have an 8th grader in their family, but fear not! Next year I will be certain to ensure that we do not miss anyone who would have been eligible this year when, God willing, Confirmation Class reopens. Furthermore, as new families continue to visit and explore our church this year, some may come with youth who are older and have yet to be Confirmed. We'll be sure to serve them too!

We have a great group of kids coming up through Sunday School and Youth Group in our congregation, and I am looking forward to engaging with them in Confirmation Class when their times come. Until then, the youth ministries at this church continue wholeheartedly among all ages!

-Pastor Dan



**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A MEMBER
OF FIRST PARISH CHURCH?**

Guests and Visitors Considering Membership

**You are invited to a
Hospitality Brunch
Sunday, March 3, 2019
10:45 - Noon**

Rev. Estelle Margarones and Rev. Dan Hollis and First Parish Church invite you to a Brunch and Information Session for those who have been visiting First Parish and would like to know more about our church.

The Brunch and Information Session will be held on Sunday, March 3rd after the worship service, downstairs in the Sanctuary Lounge. We will enjoy getting to know each other better and discussing the United Church of Christ teachings, history, and traditions. We will learn about our First Parish Church reviewing our vision and mission statements in light of our new Church Council structure, missions, church activities and committees. The nursery will be available for childcare if needed.

**New members will be joining on March 17, 2019
during the Worship Service.**

If you have any questions or to let us know you plan to attend
please contact

Sue Wierzba, Hospitality Team Coordinator

susanwierzba@gmail.com

207-361-4541

office@firstparishyork.net

207-363-3758



Sunday, February 3

immediately following worship
run don't walk to Fellowship Hall for the

ANNUAL (and ever popular) MACHO FOOD SALE



MACHO FOOD SALE

Whether you are a MACHO Patriots' fan or a Rams' fan (is it possible???), you are certain to find a fabulous selection of pre-game, game, and post-game treats. Enthusiastically prepared by the First Parish Team (males and the females who coach them), they may include chili, pulled pork, barbecued ribs, baked beans, buffalo chicken dip, snack mixes of all varieties, cookies and brownies and cakes and pies, and much more. Calories don't count on Super Bowl Sunday! You know there will be plenty of time to chow down before that 4th quarter game changer!

Bring your checkbook.

Bid often; bid high.

You can even bid against your spouse!

All proceeds will support the Senior High Youth Mission Trip



IT'S TEA TIME!

A Foray into the World of Tea

What a better way to spend a winter afternoon than by sipping tea and sampling sandwiches and sweets! Well, mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 23 for an educational and fun way to learn about tea, from none other than local historian and member of our church, Scott Stevens. Scott will tell us all about tea, where it comes from, and how it spread to different places, including its production and sale in England and the U.S. We'll have our tea at the church in Fellowship Hall from 2pm-4 pm and be sure to have a great and delicious time.

Attendees can bring their favorite tea cup and saucer (if they have one, no problem if they don't), some sweet morsels or tea sandwiches to share, and an appetite for sampling tea. Scott will introduce five teas to us...a green tea, a Darjeeling, an Assam, a Yunnan, and a Keemun. If you don't know what these are, we will learn about them. (A selection of herbal non-caffeine teas will be available if you wish.)

Please let us know soon if you can attend. This is a Women on the Move event and is open to all ages, men and women, adults and children – so get the word out.

We'd love to see you on February 23 in Fellowship Hall.

Please contact Nanette Roberts

spicedtea@twc.com

361-4154

Kathy McQueeney

kathymcqueeney@hotmail.com

We can't wait to sip tea with you.



There are at least two opportunities to learn more and/or participate in the Daisy's Children project. This project is supported by the Association of UCC Churches of York County of which First Parish is a member. It is led locally by Sharon Beckwith who spoke to our congregation six months ago and is supported by our Mission Team.

Sharon will be taking a group to Honduras August 6th-13th at a cost of about \$1300. There will be an informational meeting Saturday, February 9th at 2pm at her home. If you were unable to go with our team to Guatemala, perhaps this would be a better fit for you...perhaps an opportunity to take your teenager on this journey.

A general meeting will take place for those interested in helping locally or being on the Board on Saturday, February 16th at 2pm at Sharon's home.

Contact Sharon Beckwith
daisyschildren@gmail.com
 207-651-5558
 37 Depot Road
 Lebanon, ME

Philip Drew can also answer your questions 207-351-8141

TABLE OF PLENTY

Tuesday, February 26

Table of Plenty is a free community meal served every Tuesday at 5pm in Moody Hall in Fellowship Hall of our church. We have been doing it for over 25 years. There are 8 different teams throughout our town who take turns serving the meal. It is a true community effort. Our team here at FPC will be serving the meal on Tuesday, February 26th. We have 6 people on our team and would welcome new members! Here is how it works:

4pm-5pm - prepare the meal, serve the drinks
 5pm-6pm - serve the meal
 6pm-6:30pm - clean up

Come and help for part or all of the time.

We especially need people to run the dishwasher. No experience necessary - only a willingness to learn!

**If you would like to be a part of the Table of Plenty team
 please contact
 Janet Cassidy
 363-4237
cassidywednesday@aol.com
 or call
 the Parish Office
 363-3758.**



ECUMENICAL TURKEY DINNER

Free to All

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2018

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

12 NOON

RAISE YOUR HAND IF YOU HAVE CABIN FEVER!

Well, 32 years ago the Ecumenical Council of St. Christopher's Church decided to do something about it. So, along with other churches in town and businesses, Boy Scouts, York High School, York Police Department, the result is the Free Ecumenical Turkey Dinner. It's always on the first Saturday of March, which is March 2nd this year.

Each church is asked to provide food and volunteers to work. Our youth group helps with the set-up.

FOOD - we need 6 turkeys - cooked and sliced (in foil pans, no juice)
10 pies

Food should be delivered to St. Christopher's by 9am on Saturday, March 2.
If you need help getting the food to St. Christopher's please call Janet Cassidy.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

for the following shifts on March 2nd at St. Christopher's

9am - 11am	set up
10:30am	deliver meals
11:30am – 1pm	serve the meals in the hall

To volunteer contact

Janet Cassidy

363-4237

cassidywednesday@aol.com

To donate food contact

Anne Monks

774-239-7008

atmonks1@aol.com

To order a meal to be delivered contact

First Parish Church

207-363-3758

***You can also sign up at the Opportunity Table in Fellowship Hall
after service on Sundays.***

This is a huge undertaking for our community. We usually serve about 140 meals in the hall at St. Christopher's and we deliver about 135 meals.

We are thankful for this opportunity to work together as a community. Let's do our part First Parish! Thank you!

If you are attending the Leadership Retreat that same day, you can do both!



Fit for Life

Fun, Fabulous and a Great Workout!

***Friendly Exercise for All in our
Community***

Fitness Classes – Zumba, Yoga and Aerobics
Fellowship Hall – First Parish Church, York, Maine
Monday through Friday One-Hour Classes

All of our instructors are certified and experienced. Cost is \$5 for a drop in class, or sign up for unlimited classes for \$30 per month (over 65) or \$35 per month (ages under 65). Monthly rates can be prorated.

CURRENT CLASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY at 8am Zumba
TUESDAY at 8:30am Yoga
WEDNESDAY at 8:30 am Zumba
THURSDAY and FRIDAY at 8:30 a.m. Aerobics

JUST DROP IN

For information contact
First Parish Church 207-363-3758



The Bylaws of First Parish Church provide that “Committees shall be under the direction of the designated Board or the Church Council, as determined by these Bylaws, and include...the Stewardship Committee.”

Section 8.13 of the Bylaws provides that “The Stewardship Committee shall consist of up to five (5) appointed members and be responsible for educating all those who worship and believe in the ministries and missions of First Parish Church to practice stewardship as an expression of gratitude to God.”

Further, Section 8.13 provides six specific responsibilities of the Stewardship Committee including, “developing and implementing an annual stewardship campaign” and “educating and encouraging Member planned giving (wills and trusts) and providing donor guidance.”

“Developing and implementing an annual stewardship campaign” is not a daunting responsibility. With some variations, we have a set process each year. We are no longer in the dark ages of church stewardship where church members went door-to-door soliciting gifts. No, today we merely contact our members by letter and follow up by reminder phone calls and emails.

For the past Church year the committee has functioned with a maximum of three members. The sad truth is that it has been difficult to find additional members who are willing to volunteer to do this important work for First Parish. This not only burdens the existing members, but also discourages existing members from volunteering to continue after their term is up.

Going forward, three of the five seats on this committee will be vacant. So, this represents an opportunity for the members of First Parish Church. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee, or Sandy Nelson, chair of Stewardship, and volunteer to serve your church on this committee.

The annual stewardship campaign seeks to raise sufficient funds to allay the cost of maintaining the buildings and personnel necessary to operate the Church and its missions. Last year, 121 pledges totaled \$267,832. This year, we have received 122 pledges for a total of \$276,501. This is a good result despite the fact that we have not yet heard from 19 individuals who pledged last year. Additional pledges will allow us to help even more of the 30 or more causes in our mission network. Ah, another opportunity for those who have not yet pledged.

Planned giving boils down to including the Church in your will. This enables First Parish Church to continue to help others in the future as it does at present. In this manner, we who have been so blessed in our lives are able to share our blessings with others after we are gone. The members of the Stewardship Committee are available to offer guidance, if needed.

Stewardship Committee: Sandy Nelson, John Pendleton, Jalmar Dijkstra

BEHIND^{the} SCENES

Looking for a few good Volunteers for our Parish Office

For the past 4 years we have had the joy of staffing the Parish Office with the very capable Office Manager, Betty Roker. In order for her to do her work efficiently and without unnecessary interruptions, we have also had a cadre of 9 office volunteers who are scheduled Monday through Friday either 9am-11:30am or 11:30am-2pm. We have lost a few good souls recently, because they have moved away.

We are looking for two or three new office volunteers to help staff the outer office. Some of the responsibilities include:

Greeting Guests

Answering the Phones

Using the Copy Machine

Helping with the Bulletins for Sunday. We proof, fold and collate bulletins.

We are just generally all-around helpful ambassadors for First Parish Church. You will be trained and be working in the office while either, Betty or one of the Pastors are there.

Can you help?

Please contact

Sue Wierzba, Office Volunteer Coordinator

susanwierzba@gmail.com

207-361-4541

office@firstparishyork.net

207-363-3758



ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the First Parish Church will be held after worship on Sunday, February 24, 2019. Proposed leaders of the church will be considered for election.

The Nursery will be providing care for all children during the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 24 following our worship service. The nursery is in the lounge downstairs of the sanctuary.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Leadership Retreat for all Board and Committee members, ministries, officers of the church and staff will be held Saturday, March 2, from 9am-12noon.

**ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT
FIRST PARISH CHURCH
Congregational
United Church of Christ
February 24, 2019**

Susan Mancinelli, Clerk of First Parish Church in York, Maine

You are hereby required in the name of the State of Maine, to notify and summon the members of First Parish Congregational Church in York, qualified to vote in church affairs, to assemble in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at 10:45 a.m.

The meeting will open with a prayer.

First: To consider for approval the minutes of February 25, 2018 and the minutes of June 17, 2018.

Second: To conduct the annual review of Reports of First Parish Church for the year 2018.

Third: To consider the report of the Nominating Committee and vote on the proposed slate of officers and board and committee members.

Fourth: To see if First Parish will vote to accept the proposed First Parish Church, York, Maine, Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year 2019.

Fifth: To conduct such business as may rightfully come before the meeting.

The meeting will conclude with a prayer.

In accordance with the Bylaws of First Parish Church, York, Maine, I have notified and summoned the Members, qualified To vote in First Parish Church affairs to assemble in the Sanctuary on Sunday, February 24, 2019, at 10:45 in the Morning by posting an attested copy of this Warrant in a Visible location of the Church House on February 3, 2019, At least seven days before said meeting.

Attest: Susan Mancinelli, Clerk



February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30am Aerobics	2 8:30am Christian Education Board Meeting
3 9:30am Worship/Communion 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	4 8am Zumba	5 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 7pm Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting	6 8:30am Zumba 9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Adult Bible Study	7 8:30am Aerobics 2pm YCSA Volunteer 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	8 8:30am Aerobics	9
10 9:15am Hymn Sing 9:30am Worship 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6pm Youth Group-High School	11 8am Zumba	12 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 3:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting 6:30pm Assessors Meeting	13 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Adult Bible Study 6:30pm Women on the Move 7pm Search Committee Meeting	14 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	15 8:30am Aerobics 5pm Youth Group-5-6 grade 6:45pm Youth Group 7-8 grade	16
17 9:30am Worship 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	18 8am Zumba Presidents' Day Parish Office Closed	19 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 7pm Deacons Meeting	20 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Adult Bible Study	21 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	22 8:30am Aerobics	23 2pm-4pm Women on the Move - Tea
24 9:30am Worship 10:45am FPC Annual Meeting 11am Men's Ensemble Rehearsal 5pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	25 8am Zumba	26 8:30am Yoga 5pm Table of Plenty 7pm Church Council Meeting	27 8:30am Aerobics 9am Women's Bible Study 5pm Adult Bible Study 7pm Search Committee Meeting	28 8:30am Aerobics 5:30pm Thursday Evening Worship 6pm Handbells Rehearsal 7pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal		

Ministers

All the Members of the Congregation

Rev. Estelle Margarones, *Senior Pastor*

estelle@firstparishyork.net

Rev. Dan Hollis, *Associate Pastor*

dan@firstparishyork.net

Staff

Wendell S. Purrington, *Director of Music Ministries*

Terrie Ilaria, *Music Associate*

Janet Cassidy, *Church School Coordinator*

Betty Roker, *Office Manager*

Stacey Crowell, *Buildings and Grounds Supervisor*

Todd Frederick, *Cemetery Superintendent*

First Parish Church Lay Leaders

Jan Jonas, *Moderator*

Thom Kearns, *Vice Moderator*

Ray Hamlin, *Treasurer*

Susan Mancinelli, *Clerk*

207-363-3758

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**First Parish Church
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