



*Happy Easter!!!!!!*

*First Parish Federated Church  
United Church of Christ ~ United Methodist Church  
The Reverend Donna Lee Muise — Pastor  
Mr David Deardorff — Minister of Music*



2009

Office.....384-4091  
Fax Line.....384-6283  
Donna Lee Muise.....676-1146  
Joan Doherty, Secretary.....207 332-0274

Email Addresses:  
Rev Donna ~ [revdonna@gwi.net](mailto:revdonna@gwi.net)  
Joan/General Business ~ [fpfc@gwi.net](mailto:fpfc@gwi.net)  
Church Website ~ [fpfcme.org](http://fpfcme.org)

### **From the Church Moderator**

I write this month's Moderator's letter after two very full days in the life of our church. The testimony of our returned New Orleans volunteers, news of yet another successful church supper, a report that cast off children's books collected by our youth became the first school library in Namibia, kind words from an old friend about the importance of our deacons' visitation and care, and a moving celebration of Walter Webster's life seem to me tangible evidence that God is still speaking at the corner of Main and Academy Streets. I feel grateful to be a part of a church that brings forth these works, and many more I haven't listed here, even as I feel humbled by the challenge of playing a small part to help sustain this community as it grows.

The Church Council has been working on three major initiatives this month. First, we are working to develop a policy to govern requests to use our church building made by individuals, groups and businesses. As moderator I have been surprised by the number of these requests that we have received. The Council and Reverend Donna are working to answer the tax, insurance, and administrative questions that these requests have brought up for us in a way that will be consistent with our church's vision of its mission and spiritual values. Our plan is to develop a proposal and discuss it with all interested members of the Church. The second major initiative has been the kick off of the every member canvass. Finally, the nominating committee has begun meeting to identify and recruit officers and committee members to present to the church annual meeting in June.

Although I'm certain God does not plan for us to rest on our laurels, I also believe that the exciting work being done by so many committed Christians in our midst is cause to be thankful for the gifts of the Spirit. As always, please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have questions, concerns or comments about the work of the Church Council or the life of our Church.

Charlie Putnam



### **A Palm Sunday Weekend Celebration**

Saturday, April 4, at 8 PM at First Parish Congregational Church, Dover, NH and Sunday, April 5, at 3 PM at Christ Episcopal Church, Exeter, NH. Come hear a Palm Sunday celebration featuring the "Easter" portions of Handel's timeless oratorio, *Messiah*, Parts II and III. Performing with a full chamber orchestra, this masterwork is being presented by the Community Chorus at South Berwick, a 55 voice regional chorus with members from throughout the Seacoast NH and ME under the direction of Dr Harry Moon. You won't want to miss this presentation with its many choruses and solo selections, including the triumphant 'Hallelujah Chorus' and stirring 'Amen'.

---

### From the Christian Education Committee

The CE Committee wants to humbly apologize for having missed the last two deadlines for the Triangle. Yikes...time flies when we are busy having fun and planning events for our wonderful church. If you have not had the chance to attend the Lenten Simple Suppers we would like to share that they have been terrific. The food has been fabulous, the company even better (100 people have attended so far.) and the discussion of the Shack for the adults and activities for the kids have been engaging, lively and powerful. For those of us on the committee who have joined the adult discussion or cared for the kids who have attended; it has been great.

We were excited by Rev. Donna's choice to ask us to read what some critics are calling a controversial novel The Shack. Each Lenten Supper talk was organized around the themes presented in the novel such as faith, the Trinity, suffering, and forgiveness. The CE committee created activities for the children of participants for each evening and had a wonderful first night of decorating crosses that they designed with tiles for each Sunday School Room. The CE committee will next address planning ideas for Vacation Bible School, Children's Sunday and curriculum ideas for next year at the April meeting which is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month. Also, don't be surprised by prep work for painting that will begin in the nursery.

In Faith,

Callie Clapp, CE Chair



**Ola Amigos!** Bring all your friends to our April 18 Turkey Dinner. Dine from 4:30 - 6 PM on turkey and all the fixins'. All proceeds will benefit the AMIGOS project - American Mission in Grace Offering Sustenance, a mission which sends food to school aged children in Honduras! Please join us for a great meal and great fellowship. (The Yankee Thrift Shop will be open from 4 PM - 6:30 PM for anyone who would like to take advantage of this opportunity to shop!). Adult tickets are \$8, \$5 for children through age 12, under 2 are free. Hope you can all join us and tell your friends! Muchas gracias por todas!

---

### FPFC Annual Women's Spiritual Retreat: "Is That You God?"

Join us on Friday, September 11th - Sunday, September 13th for a weekend of quiet reflection, Bible readings, spiritual exercises, and fellowship at the Living Waters Spiritual Center in Winslow, ME. This beautiful retreat center offers single rooms with individualized themes, peaceful grounds, and a labyrinth for walking meditation. Cost is \$175 per person, scholarships available. More details and invitations will be forthcoming. For questions and more information, contact Diane Money (384-4465) or Mary Melanson (205-201-2492).

---

## Thank You

Thank you so much to the Youth Group, their leaders, parents and friends who sent the many, much needed books to Africa. They arrived safely and are being enjoyed by the children who will benefit greatly by being exposed to the wonderful pictures and words. I will be sending some packages of preschool learning toys (blocks, Lincoln Logs, shape sorters, Legos, music makers, jump ropes, etc) and more books in April. If anyone has any "gently used" items that would benefit the children (ages 1 - 7), I would gladly collect and send them along. Thanks again! Janet Conroy

---

## AMIGOS Buckets Are Here!

One Hundred and twenty bright blue buckets with orange tops arrived at our Church and are ready to be filled with food to be shipped to Honduras for the AMIGOS Program. The buckets can be picked up after church on Sundays, from the Church office during the week, or by arranging a time with Lucy Putnam (603)-742-8581.

Please follow the packing instructions, and every item should fit in the bucket. Your AMIGOS coordinators will take over from there. The cost to fill a bucket with food and pay for shipping this year is about \$60.00.

*The AMIGOS buckets are due back in Church Easter Sunday, April 12. If this presents a problem for you, please speak with Lucy Putnam.*

## Youth Group News

Namibia Thanks: The Youth Group would like to thank Ross and Janet Conroy for sharing their slides and stories from Namibia with the Youth Group. On Sunday evening 3/22 twelve Youth Group members and leaders gathered for a make your own pizza party followed by the Namibia presentation. Ross created a wonderful slide show in which he used pictures, text, videos and music to help bring his experiences in Namibia to life for the other students. Janet showed slides of the preschool where she volunteered and described how excited the staff and students were to receive the 6 boxes of books the Youth Group had sent just after Thanksgiving. The preschool is now one of the few schools of any size in Namibia that has its own collection of books. Thanks to all who donated to the book drive for this project!

## Youth Group Schedule

4/5 - Confirmation Class - No Youth Group

4/12 Easter Sunday - No Youth Group

4/19 - School Vacation Week - No Youth Group

**4/24 to 4/26 -Pilgrim Lodge Jumpstart Weekend**

---

## Wentworth Homecare & Hospice

Wentworth Homecare and Hospice, an Amedisys Company, Dover, NH, is offering a FREE comprehensive, 9 - 10 week hospice volunteer training course. Classes will be held Tuesdays 6 - 8:30 PM beginning April 28<sup>th</sup> (no class May 19<sup>th</sup>). Volunteers are an integral part of the hospice team and offer support in a number of ways, including companionship for the patients and respite for the caregivers. There are many possibilities, depending on patient and family needs. You might read to the patient, play music, run errands, fix a meal or listen to whatever they want to share. Being a compassionate presence is such a gift, in and of itself. There are also opportunities to participate in community outreach, as well as providing administrative support. The volunteer training is free of charge and enables you to confidently be of service to the community. As a volunteer, you receive on-going hospice staff support as well as further workshop and training opportunities. For more information or to register, contact Elaine Bonnell, Volunteer Coordinator, at 603 750-3024 X105. *Within our own church, you may talk with Mary Stansfield for more information.*



## Easter Sunday Flowers

Here is a convenient way to make memorial donations. If you would like to give Easter Flowers in memory/celebration of a loved one, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church Office by Monday, April 6. Please make checks payable to the "First Parish Federated Church," minimum suggested donation is \$7/plant. (There is a need for between 40 to 50 plants to be distributed to homebound and those who have recently lost loved ones).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Wording to be used in the bulletin:

---

---

---

## Holy Week Schedule of Services

---



**Sun, 4/5 Palm/Communion Sunday Intergenerational Service, 10 AM**



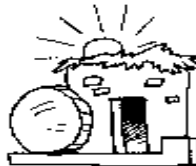
**Thur, 4/9 Maundy Thursday Upper Room Service, 7 PM in the Great Room**



**Fri, 4/10 Good Friday Service, 7 PM in the Sanctuary**



**sun, 4/12 Easter Sunrise Service, 5:45 AM at Spring Hill, Pond Road, South Berwick.  
A Continental Breakfast at the First Baptist Church, Main Street, follows.**



**Easter Sunday Worship, 10 AM in the Sanctuary**

---

### **Save the Dates!!!!!!**

**The FPFC Annual Yard Sale** will be on **Saturday, August 1**. Many hands will be needed the week before to prepare as well as to work on August 1. Don't forget "Dot's Diner" for delicious food. Ouellette barn will be open April 1 for collections, so start your spring cleaning now! Call Julia or Mike at 384-0084 for drop offs. No electronics, please. **The first FPFC Couples Camping Retreat** will be **Friday evening, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 at Spring Hill**. Any kind of camping gear - tents, pop ups, truck campers, RV's or commuting from your own bedroom are expected. Join us for lots of fun, fabulous food, short program. More details later. Contact the Goodwins (384-5653), the Morgans (748-1175) or the Ouellettes (384-0084) for questions. Please join us!

### **Daisy's Children**

*In honor of Deysi Suyapa Madrid Chavez*, a young mother who gave her life to save her children, the organization Daisy's Children will be taking orders for bouquets of daises from April 1 - 18. Bouquets will consist of 8 - 10 stems and cost \$10. Delivery will be made on May 3. All proceeds will benefit the 30 children of Honduras included in Daisy's Children. To order or for more information contact Sharon Beckwith at 207-651-5558.

*Spring into action and make a lasting difference in Honduras.* Dig into your soul and provide for a child in Honduras. For just \$1.70/day, you can provide nourishment and clean drinking water to one of twenty-five children desperately awaiting your support through Daisy's Children, For more information or to contribute, go to [www.daisyschildren.com](http://www.daisyschildren.com) or speak with Sharon Beckwith.

---

## Church Calendar ~ April 2009

- Wed, April 1**      **Foot Care Clinic, 1 - 2:30 PM** in the Vestry  
**Choir Practice, 7 - 8 PM** in the Great Room  
**Lenten "Simple Supper Series," 5:30 PM** in the Vestry (**last gathering**)
- Thur, April 2**      **Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM**  
**Christian Education meeting, 6:30 PM** in the Church Library
- Fri, April 3**      **Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM**
- Sun, April 5**      **Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM** in the Shorey Room  
**Communion/Palm Sunday Intergenerational Worship, 10 AM; No Sunday School classes**  
**Confirmation Class, 4 PM** in the Vestry; **No Youth Group**
- Wed, April 8**      **Choir Practice, 7 - 8 PM** in the Great Room
- Thur, April 9**      **Board of Deacons meeting before and after Maundy Thursday service**  
**Maundy Thursday Service, 7 PM** in the Great Room
- Fri, April 10**      **Church Office closed**  
**Good Friday Service, 7 PM** in the Sanctuary
- Sun, April 12**      **Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, 5:45 AM** at Spring Hill  
**Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM** in the Shorey Room  
**Worship/Easter Sunday, 10 AM; No Sunday School classes; No Youth Group**  
**AMIGOS Buckets due back at Church**
- Mon, April 13**      **A new, six-week Adult Bible Study Group begins discussing the "40 Days of Love", 7 PM** at the Ouellette's home
- Tue, April 14**      **S.A.M. Committee meeting, 6 PM** in the Shorey Room  
**Church Council, 7 PM**
- Wed, April 15**      **Choir Practice, 7 - 8 PM** in the Great Room  
**Rev Donna on vacation through April 23**
- Thur, April 16**      **Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM**
- Fri, April 17**      **Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM**
- Sat, April 18**      **Church Supper (Turkey), 4:30 - 6 PM** in the Church Vestry. **Proceeds to benefit Daisy's Children.** (For your shopping convenience, please note that whenever we have a Church Supper, the Yankee Thrift Shop will be open 4 - 6:30 PM)
- Mon, April 20**      **Adult Bible Study Group begins discussing the "40 Days of Love", 7 PM** at the Ouellette's home
- Tue, April 21**      **Board of Trustees meeting, 6:30 PM** in Room 101
- Wed, April 22**      **Choir Practice, 7 - 8 PM** in the Great Room

**Thu, April 23**                    **Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM**

**Fri, April 24**                    ***Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM***

**Sun, April 26**                    **Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room**  
**Worship, 10 AM; Sunday School classes**  
***Methodist District Superintendent and Ministry Team Presentation during***  
***Coffee Hour***  
**York Association Annual Meeting, 3 PM at South Church, Kennebunkport**

**Mon, April 27**                    **Adult Bible Study Group begins discussing the "40 Days of Love", 7 PM at the**  
**Ouellette's home**

**Wed, April 29**                    **Choir Practice, 7 - 8 PM in the Great Room**

**Thur, April 30**                    **Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM**  
**South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM**

## Outside Groups Calendar ~ April 2009

- Wed, April 1** "Music Time," (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays) and "Story Time," (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays), 10 - 10:30 AM in the Vestry. This is a free, open to the public class for children birth - 7 years of age & their families. Please join us!  
**Autism Support Group**, 7-8 PM, Room 201  
*The Wednesday PM Al-Anon Meeting is no longer meeting here*
- Fri, April 3** **W.I.C. Program**, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
**AA**, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101
- Sun, April 5** **South Berwick Youth Soccer Meeting**, 6 - 7 PM in Room 201
- Mon, April 6** **So Berwick Rec Dept "Preschool Adventures Program,"** 9:30 - 10:30 AM and 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM in the Vestry (last gathering)  
**Community Chorus has ended practice until the fall**
- Tue, April 7** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Wed, April 8** "Story Time," 10 - 10:30 AM in the Vestry
- Fri, April 10** **W.I.C. Program**, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
**AA**, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101
- Mon, April 13** **Girl Scout Troop #387**, 6:30 - 7:30 PM in Room 203
- Tue, April 14** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Wed, April 15** "Music Time," 10 - 10:30 AM in the Vestry
- Fri, April 17** **W.I.C. Program**, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
**AA**, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101
- Tue, April 21** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room
- Wed, April 22** "Story Time," 10:30 AM in the Vestry
- Thur, April 23** **St George's Episcopal Church Berwick Group**, 5:30 - 7:30 PM in the Vestry
- Fri, April 24** **W.I.C. Program**, 8 AM-4 PM, Room 101  
**AA**, 7 - 8 PM, Room 101
- Mon, April 27** **Girl Scout Troop #387**, 6:30 - 7:30 PM in Room 203
- Tue, April 28** "Gospel Music Project," 7-9 PM, Great Room

## **"40 More Days"**

Join the Adult Bible Study group for a six week study on love. This answers the question "Why Easter?" The 40 Days of Love campaign developed by Pastor Rick Warren is based on the greatest commandment stated by Jesus - "Love god with all your heart and love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt 22:37-39). God made us to love us and He wants us to learn to love, too. Nothing you do is more important than love as I Cor 13, the love chapter, tells us. Let's discover together a love that is patient, kind, forgiving, unselfish, and always speaks the truth, all during this six week journey into the very heart of the matter.

The evenings will include a 30 minute DVD message from Pastor Rick followed by discussion. For optional, in-depth study, the book, "The Relationship Principles of Jesus" provides short daily readings for the six week duration.

The Adult Bible Study will resume on Monday, April 13 for six weeks at the Ouellette's home, 1 Brattle St, South Berwick. See or call Julia for questions, 384-0084.

---