



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



2009

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May Moderator's Letter

There are some jobs I dread. Asking people to do work is one of them. What does a church Nominating Committee do? It asks people to work for free. As your Moderator, however, I had seen many of my predecessors work on nominating committees, so with the June Annual Meeting approaching I volunteered last month to serve on this year's Nominating Committee. My reluctance to face this task proved to be a prayer for enlightenment waiting for an answer. The first indication that this job was to be a revelation for me was that an excellent group of men and women, including Cheryl Estabrooke, Sharon Beckwith, Marj Hastings, Maynard Hanson and Marc Precourt also volunteered for the job. The committee brought a positive outlook to its work from the very start and quickly identified persons to ask to fill places on the church's boards and committees. The real lesson for me, however, awaited in the generous response of our friends and fellow members. Although some people had to turn us down, many members of our church family responded to the call with enthusiasm. "Oh, yes! The chair of that committee is great! I like working with her!" "Thanks for asking, do you have a job for my spouse too?" "This is a great honor! Wait 'til I tell my family." I now have a new reason to dread being on the Nominating Committee: this year's work was so fun, educational and easy that I'm convinced that I can never repeat the experience! I'm very grateful to the members of this committee and to the many members of our church family who have been able to answer the call to serve as an officer or committee member in the 2009-2010 year.

The Church Council has also been busy this month. It approved a plan offered by Marc Precourt to identify the members of our church family who want to receive a paper copy of the Triangle. We heard a very encouraging report from the Stewardship Committee and considered how best to manage the cash flow issues that have complicated our Church Treasurer's life for the last few months. We considered our church building use policy again and agreed that the moderator would convene a task force to draft a policy to propose to the Council and the Church for adoption. We received reports from our committees that indicate that they are working hard and well to serve our church family.

The Council also considered some more difficult reports as well. We discussed ways to improve the "look" of our church in the coming months. We also determined that the collection of returnable containers, which has supported our youth programs so well for many years, should be suspended until we could identify a way to manage the collection of returnables in a way that will not detract from the beauty of our church building and grounds or unreasonably burden any individual. This issue also turned out to be a prayer in disguise, as a generous member of our church has already approached me informally to offer a plan to renew the collection of returnable containers to support our youth programs.

Sometimes the work of living out our lives in faith is difficult. Other times though, we find support and strength both in usual and surprising places. I feel blessed once again to share the work of the First Parish Federated Church with so many caring and dedicated people.

Charlie Putnam



Deacons' Notes

It has been a somber, yet joyous end of winter and beginning of spring 2009. The quiet time of Lent was marked by several deaths affecting many members of our church family, notably the passing of long time members Walter Webster and Paul Colburn. While saddened, we rejoice and celebrate their lives especially here at First Parish Federated Church. Many of us participated in the Lenten Wednesday evening programs leading up to Holy Week. All four services were well attended: Maundy Thursday, 36; Good Friday, 47; Easter Sunrise, more than fifty; and Easter Worship, 153. We deacons were blessed to serve you at this holy and joy-filled time of the year.

Thanks and blessings, Dave Stansfield

The Visitation and Care Team

Two presentations were made on March 15th. I gave the first, telling how the VCT came to be and reading the Team's Vision Statement. I also showed a chart explaining how the VCT, the Pastor, the Board of Deacons and support from the Congregation relate to each other as they work together to care for people in need—members of our Church Family and the Community. This information will soon be posted onto the FPFC Website and it will be on a display in the Vestry.

The second presentation was given by AnneMarie Catanzano, a Family Caregiver Advocate for the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. AnneMarie, Reverend Donna and I have been working to partner in a Volunteer Caregiver Worship program. Training sessions for volunteers will be held on April 29th and May 6th. The title is Understanding Dementia and Visiting with Elders. The result will be Wednesday-morning worship services, fellowship, a caregiver support group and a light lunch scheduled for May 13th, May 27th, June 10th and June 24th. If anyone is interested in participating as a volunteer or a caregiver, please call or email Joan at the Church (384-4091 or fpfc@gwi.net). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Reverend Donna (384-4091) or me (384-5280).

Other VCT members have started sending cards, making phone calls and visiting. When we hear of someone who could use a card or some other word of encouragement, addresses and/or phone numbers are sent to these people. Greeting cards of all kinds have been donated and can be found in a basket in the Vestry. If there is a person on the Prayer Journal to whom you would you like to send a card, please feel free to take one.

A special thank you goes to Kathleen Caron, a special friend of Wayne and Jennifer Boston. Kay has spent many years collecting angels. When she recently moved she couldn't keep all of her collection, so she offered some of them to us. It is hoped that these angels will bring comfort to people in need. Her thoughtfulness and kindness are very much appreciated.

Another special thank you goes out to our Sunday School for making some awesome cards for the basket. Thank you also to Pam White, a Stampin' Up Demonstrator from Rochester and the people in her workshop, who donated hand-made cards to our ministry. Cheryl Estabrooke, Team Leader



Mother's Day Plant Sale/Cookie Walk & Bake Sale

The Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale, sponsored by the First Parish Federated Church, will take place on Saturday, May 9th from 8 AM to 1 PM. The church is located at the corner of Academy Street and Main Street in South Berwick. We will be offering locally grown bedding plants, perennials, herbs, geraniums, hanging plants, and this year we are adding a Cookie Walk and Bake Sale - yum, yum!! In the event of rain, it will be held downstairs in the Vestry of the church. For more information, phone Sharon 676-7670 or Julie 384-3225.



Christian Education Report: A Plea for Teachers!

I hope everyone has heard about the wonderful Lenten Simple Suppers Series. So many people came and enjoyed fellowship (and great food), enlivened and heartfelt conversation and the book The Shack. The CE committee is gearing up for even more wonderful events as we march toward summer. Please mark your calendars **now** for Children's Sunday on June 7, 2009. The children and their teachers will begin to prepare for this special service this month which will include music, prayers, thoughts and joys from our very own children. The CE committee will also be meeting on the first Thursday of this month to begin ways to welcome our new committee members, planning for this summer's Vacation Bible Camp and next year's CE curriculum and, most importantly, identifying teachers for the Sunday School. We have so much fun in Sunday School and would love to share it with you. Won't you please consider teaching or helping us find teachers for the Sunday School next year? We have a great need for a teacher for our fastest growing age group-children ages 3-6. If you have any questions about teaching or would like to know more please do not hesitate to ask any of the members of the CE Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Callie Clapp, CE Chair



Please join us for a great meal and great fellowship (*and bring all your friends!!!*) to our **Saturday, May 16 Turkey Dinner!!** Dine from 4:30 - 6 PM on turkey and all the fixins'. The Yankee Thrift Shop will be open from 4 - 6 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 to see you all there!



Recycle Your Printer Cartridges!!!!

If it is at all possible for you to do so, you can turn in your used printer cartridges to Staples under the Church's account number and the Church will get credit to help purchase new cartridges. All you need to do is mention the Church's telephone number (207) 384-4091 and our account will be called up. Thanks for your help. Marc Precourt



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).



Fellowship Tea

The Women of the Eliot Congregational Church cordially invite the women of the Kittery and Eliot area to a Fellowship Tea ("Senior Moments") on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 1 PM at 1361 State Road (Rte. 103) . Please RSVP by May 31 by calling either 439-1105 (Church Office) or 439-2790 (Jane Spinney, President.)

Save the Date!!!!!! Don't Forget!!!!!!

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.



"Mug 'N Muffin "

The next gathering of the Mug 'n Muffin group will be a "field trip" to IKEA furniture store in Mass. If you have never been there, I am told that it is quite an experience with lots to see and do. All interested women are invited to join us. We are planning this excursion for Friday, May 29th. We will leave the church parking lot by 8:30 AM and will be back late in the afternoon. There is no cost to join the group, but plan on lunch out (inexpensive), and a contribution towards gas. We will carpool. If you are interested in this trip, speak to Jan Klebaur or Julia Ouelette. If you decide to come at the last minute, just show up!! If you are willing to drive, let us know. Please contact us with any questions. For future information, our June gathering will be later in the month at Lois Miller's house.



Every Member Canvass Campaign Feedback

On May 17, the congregation will gather in the Vestry following worship to hear the results and feedback from our first-ever Every Member Canvass Campaign. Please plan to join attend and witness some of the exciting, and also serious, opportunities that are presenting themselves to us in 2009-2010.



Thank Yous

Friends at the First Parish Federated Church,

Thank you so much for your card and ... coming to Winnie's Memorial Service at the Senior Center. Winnie so enjoyed her years at the church, but her failing health kept her away in these last years. On behalf of Winnie, I thank you.

God's blessing to all,
Bob Ray and family

I wish to thank the church for the beautiful Easter lily that was delivered to me. The fragrance was lovely and I enjoyed it.

Ina Perkins

Please thank everyone for the beautiful Easter lily they sent me. It has six white blossoms and two green buds. I have put it in my window and am enjoying it very much.

Charlotte Davis

Work Day

The Trustees will be having a Work Day (some inside work, some outside work) on **Saturday, May 16th from 9 AM - 12 Noon**. Please contact Mike Ouellette at 384-0084 with any questions or if you need more information or can help.

Pre-Order Form for 2009 Mother's Day Plant Sale

Now is the time to think about what plants you would love to order for your mother, for all those special ladies in your life, for yourself or for your patio/garden. The deadline for placing your order is Sunday, May 3rd. Please complete your order form, enclose your payment total (checks can be made out to FPFC) and pass onto Joan in the office by the 3rd. Questions may be forwarded to Sharon at 676-7670 or Julie at 384-3225.

<u>8" Hanging Plants (10.00 each)</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Bacopa	_____	_____
Begonia	_____	_____
Browallia	_____	_____
Fuchsia	_____	_____
Geranium	_____	_____
Impatiens	_____	_____
Lobella	_____	_____
Petunia	_____	_____
Verbena	_____	_____

<u>3" Potted Plants (\$2.00 each)</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Dracena	_____	_____
Variegated Vinca	_____	_____

<u>4 1/2" Potted Geraniums (\$2.50 each)</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Price</u>
Geranium Pink	_____	_____
Geranium Red	_____	_____
Geranium White	_____	_____

Name _____ Phone _____
 Total Price _____ Pd _____

Of course we will have many more offerings at the Plant/Bake Sale when you do come by to pick up your pre-ordered plants. These would include: six packs and flats of bedding plants of all kinds, floral premiums, herbs, perennials, and yummy treats. So, please check us out!!! Thank You!!!!

Calendar for the 1st week of May

- Fri, May 1** ***Church Office closed; Thrift Shop open, 10 AM - 5 PM***
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 10 - 11:30 AM
- Sun, May 3** ***Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room***
Worship/Communion Sunday, 10 AM; Sunday School classes
Supper w/Every Member Canvass Visitors, 5 - 7 PM in the Vestry
- Mon, May 4** ***"Childlight Yoga" class for 5 more weeks, (not including Memorial Day), 11 AM - 12 Noon in the Great Room***
Adult Bible Study Group discussing the "40 Days of Love", 7 PM at the Ouellette's home
PPRT, 6:30 PM in Rev Donna's office
- Wed, May 6** ***FPFC & SMAA Care Program Volunteer Training Session 2, 10:30 AM in the Great Room***
Choir Practice, 7 - 8 PM in the Great Room
- Thur, May 7** ***Thrift Shop open, 5:30 - 8 PM***
South Berwick Community Food Pantry open, 6 - 7:30 PM
Christian Ed Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM in the Church Library
- Sat, May 9** ***Annual Mothers' Day Plant/Bake Sale, 8 AM - 1 PM on the front lawn of the Church; in case of rain, the sale will be held downstairs in the Church Vestry***
- Sun, May 10** ***Before Worship, Prayer, 9:30 AM in the Shorey Room***
Mothers' Day/Worship, 10 AM; Sunday School classes

The remainder of May's Church Calendar & the Outside Usage Calendar will be sent out on Monday, May 4.