



First Parish
Federated Church

Triangle

Volume 2, Issue 3

November 2011

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

DISCERNMENT-The Voice of God?

Perhaps the only thing harder than learning to discern is trying to describe how to learn to discern. The gift of discernment is available to all, though not all will grasp it well. Like most everything in life, discernment is a process that involves listening, practicing, triumphing, failing and repeating.

With a still-speaking God, we all have ample opportunity to discern God's message. I remember years ago being asked by a member of our congregation, What does God's voice sound like? I think God speaks in a voice that sounds much like our own, yet it comes not from our mouths or our minds but through another way; it speaks from deep inside—it's a visceral voice that becomes audible when we've "got our ears on"...those "ears to hear" that scripture mentions over and over again.

My first experience with discernment that I can remember was when I was seven. I distinctly remember realizing that God had something special planned for me, and I can remember pro-

claiming that to another little girl on our way to the bus stop one morning. I still remember the feeling of fuzzy-buzzy excitement in my gut as I was sharing this news with my bus stop buddy.

When I was exploring seminary at Andover Newton I was in a small group, and the Rev Dr Mary Luti (my Church History professor and now Dean of the Wilson Chapel at ANTS) asked each of us why we were considering theological education. Most of us answered with similar descriptions—there was a pulling, a tugging, a nagging at our hearts; a sense that God was not going to give us any peace until we agreed to go be Abrahams—to leave our homes and our kindred and go to a special place that God would show us.

You see, discernment involves deep listening, being able to hear what's really being spoken—and who is speaking. Ask yourself, Is this what God wants or is this what *I* want? If it is what God wants, often it takes the form of a tugging and pulling at your soul that just keeps coming back, relentlessly, until you pay attention to it.

Discernment is also following through on what God is calling us to do. When we have obeyed that visceral voice, then there is that well-done-good-and-faithful-servant peaceful feeling—even if it is a really difficult thing you have been called to do.

When you have rightly discerned God's will, interpreted God's meaning, and acted in obedience to God, there is a peace that surpasses all understanding. It comes and rests on you, and you know you have been a faithful servant. There is no lightning bolt (well, in 1505 there was one for Martin Luther!) or booming voice coming from the heavens to give us "discernment," yet, when we have rightly heard and obeyed God's call to serve, there is that fuzzy-buzzy feeling of having pleased the Lord. May God speak to you and bless you as we go forth into the busiest of seasons.

Rev Donna

The Seven Wonders of the World (ACE)

Some students were asked to list what they thought were the Seven Wonders of the world. Although there was some disagreement, the following got the most votes:

1. *Egypt's Great Pyramids*
2. *The Taj Majal*
3. *The Grand Canyon*
4. *The Panama Canal*
5. *The Empire State Building*
6. *St. Peter's Basilica in Rome*
7. *China's Great Wall*

While gathering the votes, the teacher noticed that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet. She asked the girl if she was having trouble with her Seven Wonders list. The girl replied "Yes, a little. I couldn't make up my mind because there are so many." The teacher said, "Well tell us what you have and maybe we can help."

The girl hesitated, then read,
"I think the Seven Wonders of the World are:

1. *to see*
2. *to hear*
3. *to taste*
4. *to touch*

She hesitated a moment and then added,

5. *to feel*
6. *to laugh*
7. *and to love*

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop. But the message got through to everyone in that classroom loud and clear. The gifts God gave human beings – things we often overlook as being "simple and ordinary" – are truly wondrous.

Smile for You

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too
I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin
When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him
I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth
A single smile, just like mine, could travel round the earth
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected

"God, our Father, If it is your will, walk through my house and take away all my worries and illnesses and please watch over and heal my family in Jesus name, Amen."

Christmas Fair 2011

Friday, December 2nd 5pm - 8pm soup, drinks & shopping

Saturday, Dec. 3rd 9am - 2pm

Donations & Helpers Needed

Please drop off all items Friday Dec. 2nd between 9:00 am & 9:00 pm

or Saturday Dec. 3rd between 7:00 am & 8:30 am

Bake/food table - baked goods, cakes, muffins, jams, jellies etc

Cookie Walk - Need Homemade Cookies of all kinds. If you could bake a few dozen for the fair that would be great.

Please contact Pam Precourt at 676-7962 or pprecourt53@hotmail.com

Craft table - handmade items for holiday gift giving & decorating.

see Joanne Morgan or Julia Ouellette for additional information.

White Elephant table - gently used items in excellent condition such as jewelry, vases, china, knick knacks etc.

see Dottie Bennett or Lorraine Thomas for more details about donating any of these items ahead of time.

Wreath Decorations - ribbon, ornaments, etc. **Help is needed for pre - decorating & sales!**

See Lois Miller, Peary Goodwin

Gift & Raffle Baskets - donated basket items should perhaps be found items of a similar theme that you may have at home at little or no extra cost. Donated baskets that are finished should have a description and an approximate cost/price noted to insure proper retail pricing. Also any CASH DONATIONS are greatly appreciated to add candies & candles etc.

see JoAnn Beaudette 384-7100 for more information.

The Thrift shop will be open both Friday evening and all day Saturday

The serve table has lots of new items so come by and see what Lucy has this year

We will be offering coffee, tea and a luncheon

Please come by with a friend and enjoy the fun

If you have any questions or would like to help this year with the fair please see one of the organizers

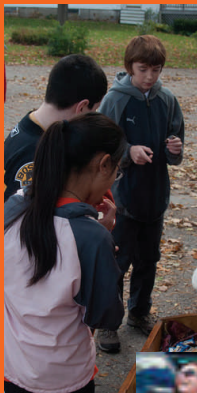
Lorraine Thomas, Dottie Bennette, Julia Ouellette,

Peary Goodwin, JoAnn Beaudette , Judi Connelly, Pam Precourt



Our Christmas Cantata (An Evening in December) will be held on Sunday, Dec. 18th at 7:30 pm. You don't want to miss this wonderful evening of music and fellowship

October Fun



Trunk
or
Treat



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Sunday School News

No Sunday School Nov. 27 (family Sunday)

Pageant Practice

Pageant rehearsal will start on Nov. 13th, after Sunday School (11:00—11:30) and will continue on the 20, and Dec. 4th. Dress rehearsal Dec. 9th.

Rehearsal Fri. Dec. 9th at 3:30 pm in Sanctuary

Pageant Dec 11

Starting in September we began studying the old testament. We began with creation, went on to Adam and Eve and Noah's ark and the promise of the rainbow. We are now beginning the story of Abraham which will continue for about 2 weeks.

Then into the Christmas Pageant.

In January we will be starting with the new testament.

We continue to need Sunday School Teachers. Have you ever considered volunteering for just one Sunday a month. You could be a co-teacher (sounds like fun to me) Please speak to Jan Klebaur if you could offer support to our younger youth.

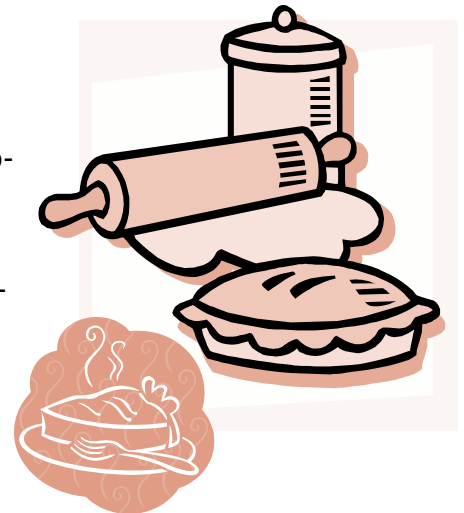
Youth Group Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Once again this year the Youth Group will be selling homemade pies after Church on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November, 20th. Proceeds from the sale will help defray costs associated with the Youth Group mission trip next spring.

Pies can be preordered and choices include Apple, Apple Crumb, Blueberry, Blueberry Crumb and pumpkin. The apple and blueberry pies can be bought prebaked or frozen -ready to bake.

Pumpkin pies will only be available baked.

The cost of the pies is \$10.00 each. To order pies, complete the order forms available in Church or email Lucy Putnam at cnlputnam@yahoo.com.



Christmas Fair Children's Room

Bring your children, grandchildren and neighborhood children to the FPFC Christmas Fair where they can have a great time in the Children's Room that is being organized by the FPFC Youth Group. Youth group members will be on hand from 8 am to Noon to help children make gifts for family members, create yummy snacks to eat or take home, and to play some fun games. Adults are welcome to stay with their children or drop them off while they shop at the Christmas Fair. Proceeds will go toward the Youth Group Mission trip being planned for next spring.

The FPFC Youth Group is an activity based group for grades 7-12 that meets though the school year. The goal of the group is to provide young people from the church and the community an opportunity to do community service, have fun together and strengthen bonds with others from our Church family outside of the Church service and Sunday School. Teens do not have to attend Church to participate and youth group aged friends are always welcome.

The Youth Group had a great first meeting of the year. The group had some terrific ideas and put together a fun fall schedule. Additionally, the group decided that they would like to return to Boston in June for the 2012 mission trip, June 19-21. We will work with the Boston Mission Society to plan service projects in the Boston area. The Mission Society will also help us find a low cost place to stay for two overnights such as a Church. We are hoping that defining the trip and the dates early on will help with fundraising efforts throughout the year, and will enable more youth to take part.

The youth created a schedule for the school year that will include an average of 3 meetings a month: a planning meeting at the church from 6-7:30 that will include dinner and group games, a service project and a fun activity. The group also planned two fund raising activities in the coming months – a Thanksgiving pie sale and a children’s craft and game room during the Christmas Fair.

In order to make the fundraisers successful, we will need youth group members to commit time to help out. Also, we will need some adult volunteers to assist with the children’s activities at the Craft Fair. If you would like more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Lucy and Charlie Putnam, Youth Group Leaders

FPFC Youth Group Fall Schedule

10/30/10	11:15 to 11:45 am – Due to Trick or Treat night we will be holding a ½ hour meeting after church to further discuss upcoming events and plans
11/6/11	10 am to 1 pm - Lining Up Against Hunger Event, Saco - On November 6 th at 11:30 the Youth Group of the First Paris Church, Saco will be Lining Up volunteers beginning at First Parish, Saco all the way to the Saco Food Pantry, a distance of 1.4 miles. They will need over 2000 people to make this work. The youth group will be accepting non-perishable food and cash donations for the event. The Saco youth group is hoping to get into the Guinness Book of World Records and, more importantly, they are working toward filling all the food pantries in York County. There will be no charge for the event, but the youth are encouraged to bring non perishables to donate. Youth group aged friends are welcome
11/13/11	6 to 7:30, Dinner meeting at the Church to plan upcoming fundraisers
11/19/11	9 to noon, Saturday morning Pie Baking for Thanksgiving fundraiser. Meet at the FPFC Kitchen
11/20/11	11 am to Noon, sell pies after church
11/27/11	6 to 7:30, Dinner meeting at the Church to plan for the Children’s Room at the Christmas Fair
12/3/11	8am to noon, staffing needed for the Children’s Room at the Christmas Fair to be run by the youth group.
12/10/11	4 to 6 pm - Church Supper volunteers needed
12/11/11	6 to 7:30 pm Youth Group Christmas Party at the FPFC

SERRV Sale

SERRV Sale

SERRV is a non-profit, fair trade organization that works with artisans around the world to help them earn a fair wage by promoting and selling their crafts. Lucy Putnam will be ordering a few things from SERRV to sell at the Christmas Fair. There are many more beautiful things that SERRV has to offer. If you would like to view their extensive selection on line at www.serrv.org, Lucy will be happy to add anything you would personally like to buy to our Christmas Fair order. While you can order from SERRV on your own at any time, items ordered through our sale will receive free shipping. The order will be placed during the first week of November and items will arrive by the end of November. For more information, please feel free to contact Lucy at 603-742-8581 or by email.

Food and Medicine Needed After Quake

October 24, 2011—Food and medicine are most in demand after a 7.2-magnitude earthquake shook eastern Turkey on Sunday, leaving more than a thousand injured and at least 240 dead.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is in conversation with partner International Blue Crescent (IBC) and is seeking to help meet some of these and other needs, such as blankets, plastic sheets, and hygiene kits for survivors.

“As we received news of the devastating earthquake in Turkey, the UMCOR staff went to work connecting with partners in the region,” said UMCOR head, the Rev. Cynthia Fierro Harvey. “Our prayers are with the people of Turkey at this difficult time.”

According to IBC, the area affected by the earthquake is populated principally by Kurdish communities and is among the poorest areas of Turkey.

The epicenter was in the town of Ercis, about 19 miles from the city of Van, capital of the province of the same name. News reports indicated that Ercis was hardest hit and that there are dozens of small villages in this earthquake-prone region that were devastated in the disaster.

According to those reports, at least 55 buildings in Ercis were completely flattened in the quake.

“Entire villages have [had] huge losses of human life,” as well as agriculture and livestock losses, an IBC report indicated.

Rescue efforts continued today amid the logistical challenges posed by heavily damaged roads and the expected onset of heavy rain and even snow in coming days. Sunday night, temperatures hovered around freezing. More than 200 aftershocks kept survivors huddled outdoors.

While the emergency response continues, there also will be a need for recovery and reconstruction in the devastated area, as homes, health centers, and schools have experienced severe damages. Survivors traumatized in the event will require psychosocial support.

Your support for **International Disaster Response, UMCOR Advance #982450**, is urgently needed to meet both immediate and long-term needs. Please give generously. [GIVE NOW >>](#)

New Adult Bible Study Series

How can I as a Christian, accomplish the greatest good with the blessings I've been given?

Helping people of faith answer this question is the purpose of three Monday night Adult Bible Study classes to be held at the Ouellette's house at 1 Brattle St., South Berwick on November 14, 21 and 28.

We work hard to acquire and keep the things most beloved to us. Naturally the thought of losing them is disconcerting. We want to have. We want to hold. Yet, we know "neither the day nor the hour" when we will be called home. What we do know is when that moment arrives, all our stuff – everything we have labored for and acquired – will be passed on to someone else.

Paul's words are simple enough

"For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it"

1 Timothy 6:7

This study is not about wills or technical issues surrounding estate planning nor will anyone be asked to contribute. It is about exploring God's very own estate plan – The Bible - through the book "To Have and To Hold, Estate Planning for the Soul" written by David Overstake, Planned Giving Director for The Salvation Army in Minnesota and led by Harland Goodwin, Planned Giving Director for The Salvation Army in Northern New England. The study will be useful to adults of all ages, single or married, with children or without. Please let Harland (384-5653) or Julia (384-0084) know if you plan to attend.

Scholarship available

Trustees are accepting applications for the Bartlett Scholarship until 12/31/11.

Please contact Paul Klebaur

**First Parish Federated
Church**

Triangle

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Phone: 207.384.4091

Fax: 207.384.6283

Email: fpfc@gwi.net

www.fpcfme.org

To see our Church calendar in full detail please follow the link
<http://www.fpcfme.org/calendar.htm>

Thank You

I want to give a big thank you for all the cards, visits and food. Phone calls were also welcomed & appreciated during my time of healing. I am doing great now and hope to be back with you all soon. Thank you so much for keeping me in your prayers.

Joanne Morgan

Returnable bottles \$\$\$



Don't forget!