



**First Parish
Federated
Church**

Triangle

Volume 2, Issue 1

September 2011

Pastor's Report

“Give God **FIRST PLACE** in your life.” This is the invitation to all ages, at FPMC this fall. Over this wonderful summer season, a number of us have been excitedly creating and coordinating a collection of expressions and experiences to inspire us to give God first place in our lives.

Perhaps this theme seems like one of those non-spoken yet understood concepts that should register as a “no brainer” in a church. God is first in church, right? The bigger question is, Is God first in all the other places where our lives are played out? Is God in first place in our lives when we are at home, at school, at the office, at the gym, in the hospital, or even at the grocery store?

The time together throughout the fall will be a season of insightful exploration of where and how God fits into our day-to-day living, why God desires and deserves to be first in our lives, and how Jesus Christ has taught us to accept God's love, and when to recognize

that the Holy Spirit is active in our decisions and choices. Giving God First Place is meant to inspire us on all levels of interactions with God and family, neighbors and strangers, in the privacy of prayer and through the behaviors we exhibited in public. No matter how long any of us have been on the faith journey, all of us can grow a long way as Christians.

Rally Day on September 11 will celebrate the start of the “Give God First Place” season. There will be blue ribbons and first place trophies on full display and as giveaways that day. The Christian Education committee is planning engaging activities to get the Sunday School year off to a running start. A curriculum rooted in scripture—Bible stories from the Old Testament that reveal God's first-place role in fashioning the Hebrew people—teamed up with Bible songs and rhymes with actions and humor, along with quality DVD presentations to keep each

lesson fun for the day and fully in mind long after the hours have passed.

Adult Education is reaching for new territory this season as the Monday night discussion group (7 pm at the Ouellettes'--One Brattle Street) studies *The Bible Jesus Read* by Philip Yancey. Before there was the New Testament, there was the Old Testament, often referred to as the Hebrew Bible. Long before Jesus came to us, God was at work creating a world, a people, and an irrevocable covenant of love. God has always been in first place, even before the earth was formed and chaos was contained.

Learning about the Bible Jesus read will open our minds and hearts to understanding why God and God's history cannot be replaced by the events and promises of the New Testament. You

Pastor's Report Continued

don't want to miss this gathering!

Brand new to our life together is a nationally recognized, biblically based, Christ-centered and health focused program called "First Place 4 Health." Through hour-long weekly meetings men and women will study the word of God and apply the teachings of the Bible to daily life with the intention of improving our health, weight, and self-esteem in conjunction with knowing God's promises to us in scripture and gaining the ability to apply these promises and scriptures in our quest to live in healthier, purpose-filled and hopeful ways. Yes, this is a weight-loss initiative yet nothing like what you have experienced before.

First Place 4 Health is offered to you with minimal expenses and multiple opportunities. There is a members' starter kit to buy, but a group of us have worked hard to put together an affordable means of acquiring the kit and with some financial assistance if necessary. The only consistent, repeating expense is the Bible Study text for each 13-

week session. We've been able to find these books online for about half the regular cost of \$16.00. Other materials for the program can be found online for no charge. We'll give you all this information at the upcoming First Place 4 Health Orientation on September 11 at 4 pm in the FPFC vestry. There is no charge or obligation to attend the orientation, healthy refreshments will be served, and you will get to see all the membership materials that are available to you if you should desire to purchase them online for yourselves.

FP4H is exciting for FPFC in another way because it is a first-time collaboration with the Berwick United Methodist Church (BUMC). Pastor Susan Walker and Una B, from of our sister Methodist church, along with Joanne Morgan, Bonnie Schoff, and I have met together three times this August to make all the plans to launch this program. They will join us at the Orientation in South Berwick, so this fall could turn into not only a time for losing weight but also for gaining friends! The FP4H program is open to anyone in surrounding communities, whether

or not they belong to our churches or to any church, so spread the word around!

I have completed one of the FP4H Bible studies on my own this summer, and now I am working on my second. Along the way, I realized that the insights and messages of each week's Bible study would work well as sermons. I have preached twice in August from the lessons, and I am leading up to an uplifting and challenging worship experience to fulfill the imperative "Give God First Place" on Rally Sunday, September 11. I do hope you will be there.

A fantastic season of "First Places" is ahead of us. Every fall is a new beginning for people, when routines return and energy is high. Let's all take hope in the plans God has for us as we grow in our faith and Give God First Place in our lives.

Sunday School Information

Seeking Faith Frontier Leaders

The Christian Education Committee is seeking volunteers to co-teach the Faith Frontiers program to children on Sundays following the Children's Message. Reverend Donna has prepared an engaging and music-themed approach to the younger grades and the older youth will continue with the popular *Faith Frontiers* curriculum. Please consider this rewarding opportunity to serve the FPFC remarkable younger generation. Contact Jan Klebaur or Nancy Carmer to volunteer or with questions.

2011 Rally Day!

Registration for this year's Faith Frontiers classes is scheduled for Sunday, September 11th. Parents will be able to register their pre-school through senior high school students starting at 9:30 AM until 10:00 AM and again after worship. Following the children's message on Rally Day, teachers and members of the Christian Education Committee have scheduled fun activities to kick off the year and familiarize children with their teachers and classmates. Members of the congregation are invited to join the children and young adults after worship for refreshments. A schedule of classes will be available at registration.

Jim Carter was our preacher on July 31st and ended his sermon with this prayer that we would like to share with you all.

Dear Father, we thank you for the blessings with which you shower us each day. We thank you for the miracles and wonders with which you surround us. We thank you for your steadfast love, which we receive only by your grace.

Lord, we ask that you fill us with the desire to do your will, that you enable us to listen to what you would have us do, especially to others. Help us to not just hear your words about loving one another, but to listen and heed them, as well.

We ask that you guide us and strengthen us as we endeavor to forgive those who have wronged us, who have slighted us or offended us. We ask you to free us of anger and hostility.

We ask that you give us the will to help those in need, to support those who are unable to stand alone, and to comfort those who are ill and suffering.

We ask that you give us the heart to care for others and help them in their struggles as well as to join them in celebrating their joys.

And, finally, we ask that you keep us ever mindful that it is in loving our fellow man that we truly love you. Help us...to mind our holy manners.

We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

DEACONS

The Deacons shall:

1. Assist the Pastor(s) in the spiritual and pastoral care of the Church.
2. Provide for all devotional and religious services of the Church in the absence of the Pastor(s).
3. Act as pulpit supply committee for periods of temporary absence of the Pastor(s).
4. Approve all candidates for Church membership by majority vote.
5. Assist in the preparation of all aspects of worship service.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees shall:

1. Maintain and have custody of the Church buildings and grounds (except as otherwise provided), but with no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer real estate without specific authority given by vote of the Church.
2. Have custody of all deeds, documents and other valuables of the Church (except as otherwise set forth) and shall assure they are kept in a safe and secure place.
3. Act as contracting agents for the Church and provide necessary custodians, and legal advisors.
4. Have a Trustee and the Church Moderator sign all notes, contracts and deeds in the name of the Church or as directed by the Council.
5. Select a recipient annually for the Bartlett Scholarship

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee, in consultation with the Pastor(s) and/or Minister of Christian Education, shall:

1. initiate recruitment of students and teachers, provide teacher support and monitor pupil and teacher involvement.
2. recommend Church School curriculum and teacher training.
3. promote and provide leadership so that effective Christian Education

programs may be operated for all Church groups, such as, but not limited to, Adult Bible Study, Youth Group activities, Adult Workshops, Church School, etc.

SOCIAL ACTION & MISSION

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSIONS

The Social Action and Missions shall:

1. Explore and initiate Social Action and Missions programs.
2. Participate in existing social welfare programs.
3. Organize fund raising efforts for our Church's Wider Mission such as One Great Hour of Sharing and Neighbor's in

Need and other appropriate appeals.

4. Create and spend an annual missions budget.
5. Promote and facilitate awareness of social concerns.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Have you ever considered signing up for a committee? Does any of the above peak an interest in YOU? Would you consider signing up for one of the above committees for (1) one year? Please contact the following to discuss the possibility of your joining the committee. It could prove to be an interesting year for everyone and sometimes is indeed a great time. And you meet so many new friends.

Deacons— Jim Morgan/Julia Ouellette

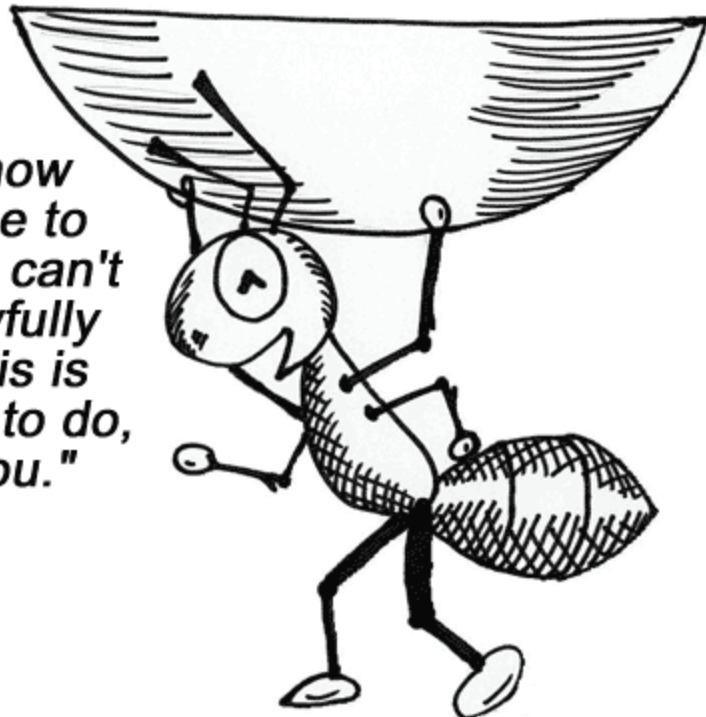
Trustees—Paul Klebaur

Christian Education—Jan Klebaur

SAM—Linda Patschke



"Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But, if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."



"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

Yesterday is but a dream
 And tomorrow is only a vision;
 But today well lived makes
 Every yesterday a dream of happiness
 And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
 Look well, therefore, to this day!

From The Hindi-Bindi Club by Monica Pradham

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Summer tips from the kitchen:

Maine Conference (ACE)

To soothe a sunburn: Mix whipped egg and a teaspoon of castor oil, Or add a handful of baking soda to a bathtub of warm water and soak in it

For pesky mosquito bites: apply vinegar or ammonia on a cotton ball to the itchy area

For bee stings: apply a paste of baking soda and water to the affected area

To reduce the discomfort from poison ivy: rub the inside of a banana peel on the rash. It should reduce the irritation within a few days.



CHRISTMAS FAIR (You are invited)

We are planning a craft day event!

Have you ever wanted to learn how to:

- Make Cheryl's famous scrubbies
- Kitchen towels with embroidery or crochet on top for hanging
- Apple pie in a jar
- Chai Tea
- Quilting
- Bow making date to be announced
- Or do you have a craft you would like to share

This fun event may be for you! We are planning to meet on the second Wednesday in September (9/14) at 10:00 am till around noon. Bring a lunch so we can have a time together after learning all these new wonderful things.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AND HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The dates for the Christmas Fair and Home for the Holidays are December 2 & 3. As usual the Craft Fair will be open during the Home for the Holidays celebration on Friday evening. Look for more information to come regarding these events.

HELP!!!!!!!!!!

We are still looking for an individual who would like to organize the craft table. If you are interested please let us know by contacting the church.



Come Quilt with us (Sharon Beckwith & Joanne Morgan)

We will be starting a quilting evening to make quilts for the Daisy Project. If you don't know how to sew maybe you could match fabrics for a quilt or cut out pieces. There is lots to do and may prove to be a very fun evening. We will meet starting on Thursday, Sept. 8th, from 6:00—9:00 pm at the Morgans (56 Waterside Lane)

Craft Fair projects also available

This is an ongoing project so any help would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested please contact Joanne Morgan at 603-767-2876.

Thanks,

Joanne & Sharon

First Place 4 Health

Do you feel defeated by diets? Would you like to be physically fit? Do you want to improve your relationships with others? Would you like to feel better about yourself?

“First Place 4 Health invites you to discover the most complete Christ-centered weight-loss and healthy living program available, based on proven techniques and 25 years of experience. See how putting God first can lead to successful weight loss. Learn how God calls Christians to be physically fit. Understand the positive effects good nutrition and exercise have on your emotions and spirit.”

Berwick United Methodist Church and First Parish Federated Church of South Berwick are offering a 12-week First Place 4 Health program at both churches with two different time slots. Pick which one accommodates your schedule best and join us for an incredible journey!

Informational Presentation: Sunday, Sept. 4th, 11:00am at both churches

Orientation: Sunday, Sept 11th, 4:00pm at FPFC of South Berwick

Program Sessions:

Monday, Oct 3rd—Dec 19th : 12:45 to 2:00pm @ BUMC

Tuesdays, Oct 4th thru Dec 20th: 5:45 to 7:00pm @ FPFC

Please join us at orientation or call for further information:

Berwick United Methodist Church: 37 School Street, Berwick, 698-1065

First Parish Federated Church: 150 Main Street, South Berwick, 384-4091

FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH

A Christ-centered weight-loss and healthy-living program for men and women. This program has guided hundreds of thousands of people to a healthy lifestyle

INFORMATION PRESENTATIONS

Sunday, Sept. 4th at 11 a.m. (During Coffee Hour)

First Parish Federated & Berwick UMC in Berwick
150 Main Ave., So. Berwick, ME 37 School St., Berwick, ME

ORIENTATION

Sept. 11th at 4 p.m.

First Parish Federated Church in So. Berwick, ME

CLASS SCHEDULES

Daytime: Mondays 12:45-2 p.m. Berwick UMC

Evening: Tuesdays 5:45-7 p.m. First Parish Federated Church

12 WEEK PROGRAM
(Beginning October 3rd & 4th
Ending: December 19th & 20th)



Monday night Adult Bible Study

Monday night Adult Bible Study at Ouellettes home will be resuming in the fall, Monday Sept. 19th. We will be doing an eight week discussion of the book "The Bible Jesus Read" an exploration of the old Testament by well-known christen author, Philip Yancy.

He states "the Old Testament is Gods biography, the story of his passionate encounters with people and also a prequel to the story of Jesus. This book explores the sometimes shocking and cryptic writings in an effort to know God. Philip Yancy chal-

lenges the perception that the new Testament is all that matters and the old Testament isn't worth taking the time to read and understand. Why bother with writings that can be so baffling, boring even offensive to the modern mind.

Yancy found the Old Testament portrays a passionate relationship between God and people against a broad back drop of human experience. Like nothing else, the Old Testament depicts the cries, the complaints, the deep insistent questionings of the heart, the

stuff of life we all must contend with.

"The Bible Jesus Read" will give you abundant new insights into the heart of God the Father and as you read with a fresh eye the prayers, poems, songs and bedtime stories that Jesus so revered, you will gain a profound new understanding of Christ.

Meetings will be Monday at 7:00—8:30 pm for 8 weeks ending Nov. 7th at Ouellette's home 1 Brattle St., corner of Rte 236. Any questions call Julia at 384-0084. Please join us!

"Come Home" Homecoming Weekend at FPFC!

When the air is warm and the skies are mostly blue, we revel in the freedom and adventure that comes with summer in New England. Relishing these days, knowing they are numbered, we may not want to think ahead to the crisp and cool days of October, yet there is an important reason to do so today.

October 15 and 16 is our "official" Homecoming weekend at First Parish Federated Church—your church, whether you come every week, a couple of times per year, or even if you have not been here for 5, 10 or more years. We have made some special plans to invite you to come home, to get reconnected, to make new friends, to see that which remains the same and that which has changed through the years.

"Coming Home" weekend will begin on Saturday afternoon from 1:00 to 2:30 pm with our 2nd Trunk or Treat party. We decorate our cars in Hallowe'en "attire" and open our trunks with goodies. Our children and children from the

community come dressed in their "finest" and trick or treat from trunk to trunk. Last year's event was a great success!

At 4 pm our regularly scheduled fantastically famous Turkey Supper with all the fixins' will be served in the vestry. At 7 pm, members of the Rock My Soul choir will offer a free concert to the church; it's always a great time when Rock My Soul is in the "house."

Sunday morning, October 16, we will worship together with song and sermon, with uplifting music from our own Choir and our Minister of Music, David Deardorff. There's sure to be a lot of participation in this worship service. After worship, we've got another surprise for all who attend worship that day. You will have to come home to your church to find out what's in store for all that day.

Many folks think that if they've been away from their church home too long that it would be too difficult to go back after such an absence. We are all prone to thinking thoughts such as, "I won't

know anybody anymore." "I feel too guilty because I haven't been there in so long." "I'm out of the habit, and I like having my Sunday mornings to myself." There are many diversions to overcome, that's for sure!

So, we've designed this Coming Home Homecoming just for you. Our church is a guilt-free zone; we will be thrilled to have you with us. We cannot guarantee your favorite pew will be available, but it's always good to get a new perspective in church, right?

Come Home to your home church the weekend of October 15 and 16. We are eager to greet you with open hearts, open minds, and open doors. Come hear, see and experience our daily invitation, "No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you're always welcome here."

In Christ's service,

Your "Coming Home" Team

George Moore, Cindy Adams, Marnie Maloney, Tom Leach and Rev Donna Muise

John Dominic Crossan is coming to Maine

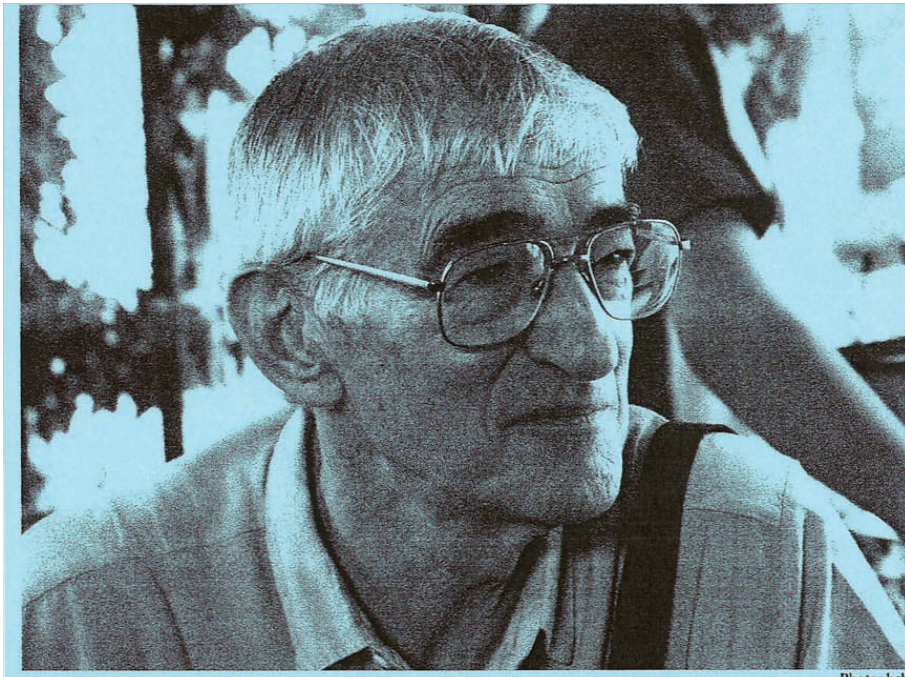


Photo: bsb

At the Maine Conference ~ United Church of Christ, Fall Learning Event

Save the Date:

Friday Evening and Saturday November 4 & 5, 2011

At the Falmouth Congregational Church; United Church of Christ

Falmouth, Maine

Details to follow

"John Dominic Crossan, professor emeritus at DePaul University, is widely regarded as the foremost historical Jesus scholar of our time and the author of several bestselling books, including *God and Empire*, *The Historical Jesus*, *Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography*, *The Birth of Christianity*, *Who Killed Jesus?* and *The Last Week* coauthored with Marcus Borg. He lives in Minneola, Florida."

From the jacket of *The Greatest Prayer* by John Dominic Crossan, ©2010 HarperOne

Town of South Berwick



180 MAIN STREET
SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE 03908-1535
TEL. 207-384-3300
FAX: 207-384-3303

Reverend Donna Muise
First Parish Federated Church 150
Main Street
South Berwick, ME 03908

Dear Reverend Donna Muise and the First Parish Federated Church,

South Berwick Recreation day campers have enjoyed the Youth to Trails program thus far and have walked the trails behind Berwick Academy and the Ring Trail leading to the top of Mt. Agamenticus. This week they will go to Vaughan Woods and next week on to Rachel Carson Wildlife Preserve in Wells, ME.

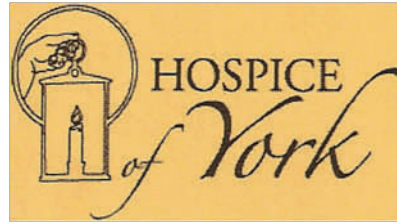
Thank you for considering our needs. We have had over 50 campers each week and with our junior counselors and staff that brings us up to 70 people that have enjoyed these programs.

It is always a special treat to go to the Boston Museum of Science and that experience comes the last week of camp.

Hopefully these enthusiastic campers will get their own families to go back and walk these beautiful outdoor locations that we are so fortunate to live by. Thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,

Sharon Brassard
Recreation Department Director



The 2011 Hospice of York Fall volunteer training is fast approaching. Open to all interested parties, completion of the course does not commit anyone to becoming a volunteer. Many who take this course do so for their own personal or professional needs.

However, we do need volunteers ... both men and women alike! It is our hope that you want to become a volunteer and join us in our very special, rewarding work.

Please call Dee Bickmore at the Hospice office (363-7000) to register. There will be a small fee of \$50.00. If that presents a problem, please call Dee and discuss it (it's easily taken care of!) Call as soon as you can ... we appreciate the time to get ready for you. We're looking forward to hearing from you, then meeting you in person.

WHEN: MONDAYS, STARTING SEPTEMBER 12 6:30 - 9:00 pm
12 WEEKS (ONE SATURDAY)

WHERE: J. S. Pelkey Funeral Home
Kittery, Maine

**First Parish Federated
Church**

Triangle

First Parish Federated
Church
150 Main Street
South Berwick, ME 03908

Phone: 207.384.4091
Fax: 207.384.6283
Email: fpfc@gwi.net

www.fpfcme.org

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

Thank You

Hi --

Thank you again for allowing me to help with this morning's service. It was an honor and a privilege, and Kathy and I enjoyed being with you very much. And thank you for your warm hospitality.

As requested by one of your parishioners, I am attaching a copy of my sermon for posting on your website. He was particularly interested in the reference to Gil Rendle's book.

I hope you will call on me again -- we'd love to come back to see you all.

Serving Christ with you,

Jim Carter

I want to thank-you so very much for your visits, cards, phone calls, concerns and especially your PRAYERS! They were truly appreciated and comforting.

Thank You!!

Larry Fahy

Returnable bottles \$\$\$



Don't forget!