

VOLUME LXXIX, No. 19
October 3, 2014



The Church Herald

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

One Church Street, P.O. Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301 (781)245-1539/1644
www.FPCCWakefield.com
The Rev. Dr. Ron Cousineau, Pastor of Transition
Donald G. Hodgkins, M.M. Organist/Director of Music Ministries

October 12, 2014

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 am
Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Ron Cousineau

Calendar for Sunday, October 12, 2014

9:00 am Bible Study (library)
9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
11:45 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
12 n Jr. Choir Rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Rattray, Lt. Col. William A. Rattray, Jr., and Winifred Mackintosh by Jean Fraser.

Greeter: Alwyn Van Cor. **Ushers:** Thomas King, Kevin King, Bonnie Mullen, Jennifer Byam and Linda Byam (captain). **Minister's Line Volunteer:** Joyce Langone. **Fellowship Hour Hostesses:** the Thursday Morning Bible Study ladies.

October 19, 2014

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 am

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Ron Cousineau

Calendar for Sunday, October 19, 2014

9:00 am Bible Study (library)
9:00 am Chapel Worship Service
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship Service
(infant and toddler care provided)
10:45 am Church School
11:45 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)
12 noon Jr. Choir Rehearsal

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Dr. Robert Leff by Linda C. Hamlin. The flowers on the right will be given in memory of William Bardet, father of Richard Bardet, grandfather of Sarah Bardet and great-grandfather of Julia and William Robertson.

Greeters: Julie and Leonard Hart. **Ushers:** Thomas King, Kevin King, Bonnie Mullen, Rodrigo Illanes, Thomas Carpenter and Linda Byam (captain). **Minister's Line Volunteer:** Kathryn Millheim.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD

Thursday, October 16, 2014
(will cover the dates from
October 26 – November 8, 2014)

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	CHAPEL	SANCTUARY	TOTAL
Sunday, September 21	10	111	121
Sunday, September 28	21	104	125

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday, September 21	49
September 28	44



DANA THOMAS SERRENTINO

September 23, 2014
Joined First Parish April 16, 1981

*May the love of friends give you comfort—
May the love of God give you peace.*



Thanks to you (Ruth and Linda) and the church my mom’s celebration of life went smoothly and without a hitch. Please know how appreciative we are of your patience and endless effort. The ladies did a lovely and delicious meal. Mom (Elinor Sproul) would have been very pleased.

Sincerely,
Judi (Sproul) Pratt

Thank you to all that reached out to Alma during her time in hospice and helped brighten her day with fellowship, visits, calls, flowers and more. A special thanks to all that participated in the preparation for Alma’s memorial service and in the collation that followed. Alma truly loved the church family and cherished being recognized by the church as a “Deaconess for Life,” for her work over the decades. The “Deaconess for Life” resolution was proudly displayed on the wall in her room.

Sincerely,
Eric and Kathy Leafquist

I want to thank all of you who so generously contributed to the collation for Alma Leafquist last Saturday. From the kitchen crew that helped stuff sandwiches, the servers, the cleanup crew, dishwashers and everyone who contributed all the delicious food that graced the tables, it was a wonderful final gift to someone who gave much of herself to others. Alma was always one who would offer to help when someone was needed and I am so happy we were able to honor her with such a wonderful day.

God bless and much love,
Linell (Nester)

Many thanks to Pastor Ron, the Transition Team, and all the rest of you who donated to the Angel Fund for ALS on the day of our church barbecue. Our family is grateful for your support, and you helped our “George’s Angels” team raise over \$1000 for research into a cure for ALS.

Don Hodgkins

Dear First Parish Members,

After serious consideration, I have resigned as a Member-at-Large. It was a privilege representing you on Church Council.

Sincerely,
Barbara Parish



With Pastor Ron

Transition means change, and change is difficult, especially if you're not the change agent.

Transitions

Phyllis and I were at the Transition Team Q & A Sunday afternoon. I have to tell you that it was painful for us to sit through some of the questions being posed to the Transition Team, not only because of how it made us feel, but what I sensed some of you were feeling. Change is hard. Were I not confident that I am following the Great Shepherd as I lead His church through His changes, I would feel compelled to apologize to you for my role in the apparent discomfort some of you are feeling.

I read this article some time ago and tucked it away for a time such as this. I hope it ministers hope to all of you. It's from an author I don't know personally. His name is Daryl Eldridge and the article is entitled, "Biblical Examples of Jesus and the 7 Changes."

Seven Dynamics of Change: Why is Change Hard?

Examples from the Leadership of Jesus

These are some starters for a biblical rationale for how Jesus understood and confronted these dynamics of change.

1. You will feel awkward—ill at ease and self-conscious.

¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. ¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16)

Jesus knew they were going to face resistance and not feel confident. He tells them what to expect.

2. You will feel alone even if everyone else is going through the same change.

"Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. . . . Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. (Matthew 26:57a; 69-27)

⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. ⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" (Matthew 26)

Peter and the disciples scattered and all felt alone. Jesus had earlier prepared them for this, as recorded in John 14, and later we find them all together, supporting one another in the upper room.

3. You will think first about what you have to give up?

Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." (Mark 10:21)

Jesus didn't ask his disciples to do anything he was not willing to do. He told his disciples, "20 Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20)

4. You can only handle so much change.

¹²"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear." (John 16:12)

5. You will be concerned that you don't have enough resources.

The disciples were concerned they didn't have enough food to feed the crowd.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food." ¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. (Matthew 14)

When Jesus sends the disciples out, he tells them to only take enough provisions for the day. (Luke 10:4ff NIV)

6. You are different levels of readiness for change.

¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" ¹¹ He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. (Matthew 14:10)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. (Matthew 15)

Thomas was a little slower: ²⁴ Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." (John 20:25)

7. If the pressure to change is taken off, you will revert back to the old behavior.

The disciples went back to their old way of life—fishing. "1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing." (John 21)

Blessings on you, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Transition Team News Catching the Vision

As we gathered on Saturday, September 27, for the Vision Catchers Workshop, I found myself feeling so grateful for all those who came and gave of themselves to participate. Not only when we held the EnVisioning weekend but this weekend as well, you can't deny the unity that is revealed. You visually get to see where we come together. It's pretty cool. Our project was to brainstorm and prioritize the ideas our church family produced during the EnVisioning session. On each list we needed to divide them into timeframe categories with stickers. Love the stickers. What we could accomplish sooner got a green sticker. A yellow sticker was placed where more planning was needed to get it off the ground. Finally a red sticker was placed on the projects that would be a longer range objective to implement. When you stepped back and saw the many areas where several things had just the green stickers, was extremely hopeful and exciting. Our like-mindedness was so clearly revealed.

As the exercise came to an end, several on each group stepped up to form the steering teams to guide the church to get these ideas up and running. Thank you to all who stepped up to these positions. Be watchful, there will be more times coming where you are needed to participate. Please do not let these opportunities pass you by. You are needed to be part of this process.

On Sunday, September 29, we gathered after church for a long overdue Question & Answer session. Please forgive our tardiness, as this was our first one. This was a time of enlightenment. Andy Black led us all in prayer and then in the corporate reading of our Covenant for Working and Worshipping Together. This is a wonderful tool for communication our church was given some 20+ years ago. These productive steps toward healthy communication work everywhere, at home, at church and on the job. Please find your copy on the table in the rear of the vestry.

Andy reminded us that we are in a growth process and growing is painful. *We are growing.* Many present preempted their comments with thanking the Transition Team for their dedication and service. It truly made us feel appreciated. To highlight, Earl made a valuable point during the discussions that followed. He pointed out the banner at the front of our sanctuary from Psalm 47:10 that states *be still and know I am God...* It is important to wait upon the Lord. *This is His timing.* We must be patient through the process. This is a process we agreed to go through as a church family. Comments arose about the church's new website and how it will play an important role in presenting who we are and what we're about to a watching world. A prospective pastor will go to this site to check us out. Another brought out a great point that by being involved in the process it didn't feel like it was going slowly or taking a long time because you become part of the process. Time does pass differently when you're involved. Please be involved.

This process calls for times when we *need everyone on board.* It's not fair to your church family to stand on the shore calling, when is the ship going to dock—you need to be on the ship. Many voiced concerns about approving the Core, Mission and Vision statements before the annual meeting. Council will decide on that timing. Others asked why couldn't the Search Committee run simultaneously with the Transition Team. Well for one, many members of the Search Committee are on the Transition Team. The Transition Team has subdivided into areas of Connection, Heritage, and Mission as we move through this process. Most recently the four Steering Groups have just formed on Exalt, Edify,

Evangelism, and Equip as a result of the Vision Catcher Workshop. Time is not standing still and your church is actively involved in moving our church through the transition process.

As I understand it is not so much the time frame as it is the process we need to go through that's truly important. There does seem to be a sense I feel from some family members that we need to be actively searching now. It makes me honestly ask why? I feel the push to move forward may be speaking directly because of who is leading us now. I would like to remove the personality issues and examine what is the focus on exactly? We surely want to avoid establishing a revolving door that has pastor after pastor come through only to pick them apart. I don't believe we want to set that precedent. What kind of a church family are we? What do we look like? What do *we see*? Do we just see the man and not the ministry? Every person, every pastor unfortunately is a human being full of faults and full of gifts. We get so out of balance when we focus on just the faults, don't we.

God has us on a path I firmly believe that is guiding us in a direction to refine His church, the body of Christ. This Sunday during the worship service the image of the arrow was such a vivid illustration to me. It was made up of a congregation that was being led towards the Son. Pastor Ron noted that, as a church, we need to get in shape. As Pastor Ron explained it was his job to get us in shape for the next pastor. I could see this so clearly. This time is a time for the church – God's people. Right now we have a pastor to get us from point A to point B. God has put Pastor Ron here *for a season*. I am thankful God is working with us through him. God also watches how we treat one another. May we strive to keep the smile on God's face.

This is a time for our church to sift through what it values, what we are connected to and why and should we be? What have we been doing for the past 370 years? Just because we have been doing the same thing, the same way, should we still? Does it line up with our Core, Mission and Vision? During our Q&A session on Sunday, also brought up was "thorny issues," not what they are, but that they exist, the uncharted waters that need to be explored. I believe our church will be better for it when we do. We have avoided some things and not even stopped to view other areas that need our congregation's attention as well as possible education to help us make any decisions that may come before us. This prickly patch may seem scratchy, yet you can't have a rose without thorns. As we sift through a process of "getting us into shape" we can't continue to deny the need for it.

Our pastor has already been selected by God along with the moment and hour of his arrival. The quicker we get in shape, the sooner we get to the profile of a settled pastor. If *you were our next settled pastor*, would you want a church divided or united? I think the answer is clear. May we shape up into one body. His.

We are in the hands of the potter,
Ruth Ross Reporting from the Transition Team
Speaking the Truth in Love

Rosie's Place Catering

As many of you have heard we will no longer be participating in the catering program for Rosie's Place in Boston.

As of September 1, 2014 the management at Rosie's Place decided they would no longer allow groups to prepare or buy food for preparation outside of their kitchens. The issue being that Rosie's feels they can't maintain the safety in preparation or monitor the nutritional content of the food when it is prepared outside their facility.

They will still allow groups to cater meals at their facility but the meals will be very expensive not to mention we would have to get together a group of ten volunteers to go into Boston each month to prepare, serve and clean up after the meals. As a committee Outreach has decided that the cost of sponsorship is just too expensive and we will no longer be involved in the Rosie's meal program.

We understand that some of our fellow parishioners are disappointed in losing this long standing (over 30 year) relationship with Rosie's. Over the years there were a lot of people who volunteered to clean and bake chicken, peel and cut large bags of carrots, and shop for the food. We do appreciate the help of all these behind the scene helpers as well as the many volunteers who brought the meal into Boston and prepared, served and helped clean up the dining area after serving.

Since catering a meal to Rosie's is no longer an option we are looking into hosting a catered meal here at First Parish each month where we would serve a meal. We are currently making plans to carry this new program forward and will inform you as soon as decisions are made.

Thank you as always for supporting the work and many missions and ministries through the Outreach Committee at First Parish.

Please feel free to contact one of the committee members if you should have questions or comments concerning our Outreach ministry. The current members are: Becky Fosnock, Judy Gordon, Dom Mercurio, Rhonda Brown, Robin Pollock and Julie and Lenny Hart

It is not too late to switch to receiving the Church Herald by email. Just send an email with your address or call the office and we will be glad to make the change.

November 2 and November 30 are open Sundays if you are thinking of giving flowers for our Sunday service.

These flowers not only adorn the sanctuary on Sunday, but are delivered to those who are in the hospital, celebrating birthdays or could just use a little cheering up. Contact the church office for more information.

There are many openings for Fellowship Hour hosts. The signup board is in the vestry. This is an easy and friendly way to serve the church. Instruction sheets are also on the board.

THE CHURCH HERALD

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October 3, 2014

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

November 14-15, 2014

We are in desperate need of White Elephant and Gift Basket items. Please check your attic, basement and closets for toys, household items, books, holiday decorations, collectable, electronics (no TV's or computer monitors). Have furniture or large items? We'll make arrangements to move them -- ask us. Need an idea for the Gift Baskets? Ask a committee member and we'll be happy to help. New items only please.

Please leave Basket and Jewelry items with the office or with a committee member. White Elephant items may be placed behind the partitions at the back of the dining room.

Thank you for your continued support!
The Fair Committee