



SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2015
with Holy Communion

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 am
Sermon: Christopher Dodds

Calendar for Sunday, January 4, 2015

9:00 am Adult 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
11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)

Memorial Flowers

The flowers will be given in loving memory of Fred Ross, by his family. He was loved as a husband, father, brother, uncle, colleague and friend. We continue to walk on knowing he is just up ahead. One day we trust we will catch up to him. How glorious that day will be. Until then, while he is out of our sight, he remains in our hearts, always.

Greeters: Ida Montgomery and Andrew Donnelly

Ushers: Betty Cullen, Joseph D'Agostino, Stephen Gates, Peter Rearick, Dexter Wheeler and Linda D'Agostino (captain).

Minister's Line Volunteer: Alwyn Van Cor.

Members of the Diaconate Serving Communion:

Ruth Ross, Jennifer Byam, Barbara Flynn, Peter Rearick, Ish Laboy, and Thomas Gordon.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 am

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Ron Cousineau

*The Sensation of Being Somebody:
The Sensation of Feeling Like I Have Worth*

Calendar for Sunday, January 12, 2014

9:00 am Adult 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
11:30 am Fellowship Hour (vestry)

Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of loved ones by the D'Agostino family.

The flowers on the right will be given in loving memory of Carolyn MacEachern by the Jones family.

Greeters: The Illanes Family

Ushers: Betty Cullen, Joseph D'Agostino, Stephen Gates, Peter Rearick, Dexter Wheeler and Linda D'Agostino (captain).

Minister's Line Volunteer: Joyce Langone.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD

Thursday, January 8, 2015
(will cover the dates from
January 18-January 31, 2015)



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
Sunday, December 21	N/A	178	178
December 24 5:00 pm		195	195
December 24 11:00 pm		73	73
Sunday, December 28	N/A	88	88

Church School Attendance

Sunday, December 21 Family Sunday
Sunday, December 28 Family Sunday

Alice M. LaFleur
August 21, 2014

William Francis Connelly
December 10, 2014

Frederick Ross
December 12, 2014

Kathleen Esther Martin
December 16, 2014

Thomas Manley
December 18, 2014

Please keep the families of these loved ones, so greatly missed, in your prayers.

Thomas Manley is the father of Jill Sullivan and grandfather of Bobby Sullivan.

Jill's current address is 12160 Montana Ave. #2, Los Angeles CA 90049. The complete obituary can be found at www.beckerfamilyfuneral.com

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)



Dear Church friends,
Pat and I wish to thank "the good Samaritan" who brought us the lovely poinsettia after the Christmas service. It will cheer us during this difficult time.

Fondly,
Sandy, Pat, and Lynne Serrentino

I want to thank you for the poinsettia plant that was delivered to me on Sunday. It's beautiful and much appreciated.

Many thanks for thinking of me.
Sincerely,
Jo Lazzaro

Book Shelf News

In January we are featuring devotionals to start off the New Year closer to God.

See our shelf in the Vestry for these selections:

- Day Light by Samuel Bagster
- Perhaps Today: Living Each Day in the Light of Christ's Return by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins
- Bread for the Journey by Henri Nouwen

Please come check out our books! Just fill out the orange card! Happy Reading!



First Parish Meals Ministry

We now have a meals ministry at First Parish! If you know of someone who could use meals to help them through sickness, grief, birth of a child, or any other stressful situation where cooking is not the top priority, please call the church office or Jen Black at 781-608-6727.

We are also seeking donations and volunteers to help purchase ingredients and prepare meals one Saturday every other month.

Please call the office if you are interested.

Many thanks to Kim Albushies, Courtney Hatheway, Rachel Hatheway and Mason Parece, who prepared 30 meals on December 27, (and to Jen Black, for making this new ministry possible!)



MEETING & LUNCHEON

Please keep the following dates in mind for our Annual Meeting and the Annual Report:

Sunday, January 11, 2015

Deadline for submission of reports
for the Annual Report

Wednesday, January 14, 7:00 pm

Church Council Meeting

Sunday, January 25

Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Save the Date

The next Transition Team Info Session will take place on January 11, 2015, after the 10:30 worship service.



SNOWSTORM POLICY

If there is a snowstorm on a Saturday and 3" or more accumulates, our 9 am service will be canceled. The 10:30 am service will usually be conducted. **If the 10:30 service must be canceled in the event of a severe storm, the cancellation will be announced on the WBZ Storm Center (TV Channel 4 in Boston).**

You may also check the WBZ website:

boston.cbslocal.com

We will change the outgoing message on the office telephone to inform callers of the cancellation.



New FPCC Website is LIVE!

Please check out our new website at

www.fpccwakefield.com

We hope you like the fresh new look. We hope to have our whole church family have a sense of ownership over all the contents since our website REFLECTS who we are to the community.

It would be great if you could extend a heart warming "thank you" to Bruce Londino.

It was his energetic drive that launched this new website effort. THANK YOU BRUCE!

If you have any announcements or notice any inaccurate information, please contact Jo Lynn Foster via email at jolynn_foster@yahoo.com.

Your FPCC Web Team (in the making),

Chandra Laboy

Ish Laboy

Susan Frey

Jo Lynn Foster

THE TESTIMONIAL MINISTRY IS REACHING OUT!!!

We're on the lookout for FPCC members who are excited about sharing a short, approx. 2-3 minute, testimonial during our Sunday worship services.

Your testimonial may express:

- How did you come to know Jesus?
- Why have you chosen FPCC to grow and develop your faith?
- What activities and/or functions do you participate in at FPCC that allow you to grow and express that faith?
- Where have you seen God's hands at work this week?

Our FPCC Testimonial Team can help you develop your individual testimonial by offering a variety of structured formats, as well as a supportive environment.

If you would like to learn more about our monthly testimonial Sunday program, please check off your specific interest below or contact any of our Testimonial Team Members.

___ I would be interested in sharing my testimony

___ I'd like to learn more about giving a testimonial.

___ I like the idea of hearing 1 or 2 testimonials a month

Name: _____

Best way to contact you:

Please return to the mail slot in the vestry marked "Office" or give to a Testimonial Team member.

Thank you!

The Evangelism Testimonial Team

Gene & Bonnie Mullen, Tom Carpenter,

Barbara Costas, Dick Covell, Susan Peterson

To Receive The Church Herald by email:

Simply email your request to the Church at FPCCx1644@aol.com, or click the link on our new website!

CHURCH OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED

First Parish is seeking a part-time office assistant. This is an important position, helping to keep various tasks organized on "on time", as well as representing First Parish to callers and visitors.

The position requirements are:

- 10 to 20 hours per week; varies based on work level and time of year
- Dedication, professionalism, and a courteous manner, as you represent First Parish to others
- Attention to detail and ability to take direction
- Ability to work independently and in consultation with others; including the Pastor, staff, and church committee members
- Ability to create and follow work instructions
- Willingness to learn and apply MS Office applications.

If you are interested, contact the Church Office, or a Trustees Co-Chair (John Arena / Mark Hatheway)

Count me faithful...

Updating our 2015 Pledge Drive

**Received as Dec. 24:
70 pledge promises
totalling \$130,840**

Our Pledge Goal:\$270,000

Can we count on you?

From the Church Historian

The very first *Church Herald*, Vol. 1, No. 1, was published January 4, 1935 - which makes our *Church Herald* 80 years old and still communicating information to members and friends of our congregation.

Back then, the *Church Herald* was published weekly from the first week of September to the first week in July. A subscription was 50 cents a year.

In 2013, many members and friends began to receive the *Church Herald* electronically.

Included in this Herald edition are excerpts from the first two issues of the Herald.

I hope that you enjoy this small part of our history.

Marcia J. Phinney

**The Church Herald of the
First Congregational Church**

January 11, 1935

1935

January 4, 1935

The Church Herald first entered our homes in 1935. The purpose of the Church Herald was two-fold –“to deepen the spiritual life of every person, younger or older, in our church and congregation, and to arouse and maintain a lively interest in the work of the church through announcements, brief feature articles about the various church organizations, and special contributions.

New Members

By Profession of Faith

Willard N. Bain, 36 Park St.
Miss Louise Ida Hadlock, 6 Karl Rd.
Albert C. Loubris, 4 Orchard St.

By Letter

Miss Dorothy A. Tapper, 232 Main St.
From the
Second Congregational Church, Lynn

In loving and grateful memory of Mrs. Mary E. West, who united with the Church, May 1, 1921, and entered into the Larger Life December 29, 1934.

1934 Church Attendance

The average attendance at Sunday morning worship during the year 1934, not including the union services during the summer, was 313. That of 1933 was 341.

Of the 43 Sundays from which the records were made, only five were stormy.

The Church Herald was published weekly from the first week in September to the first week in July, by the First Congregational Church (First Parish) of the Wakefield, Mass.
Subscription, 50 cents per year.

“So far as comment has come to them, the members of the Church Herald committee believe that the new publication has met with favor.”

A File

“Begin at once to keep a file of the Herald. Papers like these have in later years a surprising historical value.”

Staff

Rev. Austin D. Rice, D.D., Pastor
7 Salem St.
Miss Mary G. Fairchild, Church Assistant
29 Lawrence St.
Rev. Earle G. Ballou, Missionary Pastor
Peiping, China

Directory of Officers

CHURCH

Deacons, Roy A. Hovey, John B. Sawyer, T. Frank Shea, Selden W. Tyler, Harold Calkins, Charles H. Fiorance, Rowland G. Whitet, E. Walter Packard.

Clerk, Roy A. Hovey.

Asst. Clerk, Mrs. Willard P. Farwell.

Treasurer, Raymond A. Boardman

Asst. Treasurer, George F. Gardner

Church Committee, Deacons, Treasurer, Clerk, Assistant, Clerk, Church School Superintendent, and Miss Elizabeth T. Bonney, Stanley F. Maxwell, Miss Helen M Kelso, Mrs. Roy A. Barstow, Mrs. Francis J. Smith.

Advisory Committee for Church Funds, Arthur G. Walton, Arthur H. Boardman.

Auditor, Cyrus M. Dolbeare.

(To be continued)



Transitions

With Pastor Ron

America Is Poised for Revival!

This morning as I was going through my email, preparing for a full day in my home office, I read an interesting article written by Dr. Jim Denison, President of the Denison Forum. I'd like to share that article with you, since we are in the Christmas season. After the article, I'll make some remarks.

I was in a restaurant the other day when the waiter brought my check with the cheery wish, "Happy holidays!" Retailers and media alike speak of this as the "holiday season." Santa Claus and his reindeer take turns in store windows alongside Christmas trees, toys, and tinsel. An observer from Mars could be forgiven for wondering why we call this season "Christ"mas.

Here's some good news: 79 percent of Americans believe "Christmas should be more about Jesus." Only 18 percent disagree. When asked if "Christmas activities should include a visit to a church service," 63 percent agree. Further, 70 percent of Americans say Christmas would be better with a Christian focus.

And 86 percent (including 80 percent of young adults) say children in public schools should be allowed to sing religious Christmas songs in school-sponsored musicals. Even among "Nones" (those who claim no religious faith), 73 percent agree that school children should be allowed to sing religious songs in Christmas concerts.

Last week I saw and reviewed Ridley Scott's Exodus: Gods and Kings. Hollywood's renewed interest in biblical themes is interesting. More religious movies have been made this year than in the previous 11 years combined. Since successful movie producers make movies we want to see, the success of these films says something important about our culture.

Justin, a second-century theologian and martyr, articulated a doctrine known as the "seminal Logos theory." He believed that there is a "seed" implanted by God in each person, so that we retain enough of our pre-Fall nature to long for personal relationship with our Maker. Justin therefore appealed to his non-Christian culture by showing the relevance of Jesus' truth and love to their questions and desires.

Pascal said we have a "God-shaped emptiness" in us. St. Augustine wrote that "our hearts are restless until they rest in him." Every time Hollywood makes a movie on a biblical subject, it agrees.

Every person you know was created by a God who loves them. When we embody his love, others are drawn to the Christ they see in us. Christianity Today's cover story, "Pope Francis: Why Everyone Loves the Pope," illustrates this fact. The pope's popularity is based not on his doctrinal pronouncements or ecclesiastical leadership, but on his obvious compassion. When he washes the feet of Muslims in a juvenile detention center, something in us rejoices to see such grace.

Whose feet will you wash today?

--Denison Forum on Truth and Culture, December 15, 2014

God has been showing me some tremendous things in His Word recently—things that tell me America is poised for revival. Jim Denison's article is just another indication that what I've been sensing from the Lord is correct. I believe God has been showing me that He wants First Parish to play a significant role in what He is about to do.

The Christmas season is a great time to begin getting closer to the Lord. Start by reading one chapter each day from one of the Gospels. Choose one and make tomorrow morning the beginning of a life discipline of a new relationship with God. You won't be sorry. This discipline will transform your life, your marriage, your home—and God will use you to transform our church and our world.

What a great way to say "Merry Christmas" to the Lord Jesus!

THE CHURCH HERALD

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December 26, 2014

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year