



**SUNDAY, April 26, 2015**

**Compassion Sunday**

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 am

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Ron Cousineau  
*Mentoring Kids for the King*

Calendar for Sunday, April 26, 2015

9:00 am Journey II Small Group  
10:30 am Infant and toddler care provided  
10:45 am Church School  
11:45 am Fellowship (vestry)  
12 n Junior Choir  
12:30 pm Special Church Meeting (sanctuary)

**Memorial Flowers**

The flowers on the left will be given in loving memory of Helen Spector by her daughter and son-in-law Bonnie and Eugene Mullen. The flowers on the right will be given in loving memory of Helen Pratt and Frances (Pratt) Wessel by Helen's husband and Frances' brother Richard.

**Greeters:** Heather Hulse and Elijah

**Ushers:** Barbara Flynn, Kevin King, Stephen Gates, Linda Sabatula, Linell Nester, Dominic Mercurio (captain)

**Minister's Line Volunteer:** Joan Potter

**SUNDAY, May 3, 2015**

Worship Services—9:00 & 10:30 am

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Ron Cousineau  
*When Pastors Say No to Ministry*

Calendar for Sunday, May 3, 2015

9:00 am Journey II Small Group  
10:30 am Infant and toddler care provided  
10:45 am Church School  
11:45 am Fellowship (vestry)  
12 n Junior Choir

**Memorial Flowers**

The flowers will be given in loving memory of Dana Purrington by his family.

**Greeters:** Ida Montgomery & Andrew Donnelly

**Ushers:** Andrew Donnelly, Marcia Phinney, Diane Deminski, Carol Logan, Bonnie Mullen, Steve Gates, Linell Nester, Donna Nicolai, Claire Atwater, Lou Prospero, Nathan Prospero, and Barbara Flynn (captain)

**Minister's Line Volunteer:** Alwyn Van Cor

# Please Keep in Prayer

Gina Gebhard	Roy Evans
Warren Reeves	Nancy Gould
Michael Watt	John Oliphant
Elsie Laboy	Bud Thomas
Dan and Nancy Rearick	Walter Smith (Ruth Ross' nephew)

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
April 12	15	90	105
April 19	18	113	131

## Church School Attendance

April 12	30
April 19	36

## Thank You

A grateful thank you to Steve Gates for having a delicious ham dinner delivered to me on March 29 and to Mark Hatheway for the lovely Easter Lilly he and his daughter delivered to me on Easter. In appreciation for all the kindness from the church family.

Sincerely,  
Alwyn Van Cor



## WOOD-TUPPER SCHOLARSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE

Application forms are available in the church office for the Wood-Tupper Scholarship. Please call or stop by the office and pick up a copy for you or a family member. The deadline for returning the application is **April 30, 2015**.

## THE TESTIMONIAL MINISTRY IS REACHING OUT!!!

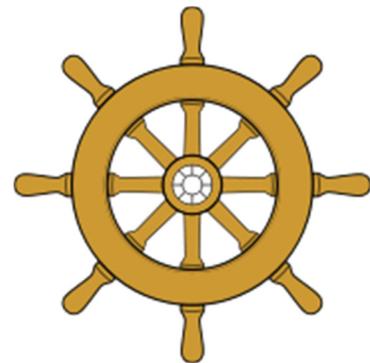
The Testimonial Ministry needs your help. We're looking for members who are willing to share a short (approximately 2-3 minute) testimonial during our Sunday worship services. Our First Parish Testimonial Team can help you develop your individual testimonial by offering a variety of structured formats as well as a supportive environment in which to share them. Check out our "Guide to Developing a Great Testimonial" available on our website at:

<http://fpccwakefield.com/event/testimonial-ministry-2015-04/> for more information. Please speak with a Testimonial Team Member, contact Gene Mullen at 781-640-2363 or email Bonnie Mullen at [justbonnie@gmail.com](mailto:justbonnie@gmail.com).

Help Us Spread His Good Word! Thank you.

## THE EVANGELISM TESTIMONIAL TEAM

Gene and Bonnie Mullen, Lenny and Julie Hart, Tom Carpenter, Barbara Costas, Dick Covell and Susan Peterson



COME ABOARD!

## JOURNEY II CONTINUES!!

If you haven't yet joined a small group but are interested in doing so, please contact the church office for the times and places. There are 10 to choose from!

## FROM OUTREACH

April 26 is Compassion Sunday. Compassion is a Christian organization that supports needy children through a sponsorship program. We will have packets of information on 20 children from many countries that need the care Compassion provides through church programs. The programs provide food, clothing, school tuition, health care and family support along with teaching the children about Jesus.

There are more than 35 families in our church who have a Compassion child. The cost per month is \$46. Your sponsor child will write letters to you so that you get to know the child. Writing to your child brings you closer together and is a learning experience for all.

There will be a table in the vestry on April 26. Please come by and look at the children. One may touch your heart! It is a commitment well worth the effort. And it shows God's love to one of His precious children.

## YARD SALE NEWS

We will be grateful for any baked goods that you can donate for selling at the April yard sale. If you can bake for this fundraising event, please call **Barbara Flynn at 781-246-0957** and let her know. If you have any questions about packaging/labeling, please call her.



## Come Spring into Membership

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Diaconate and Pastor Ron are conducting a Membership Class from 10:00 am until 1:00pm. We will discuss what Jesus means to us, our Church history and what it means to be a member of First Parish. If you have thought about joining First Parish and are interested in learning more about our church, please attend. This spring we would love to see the membership of First Parish grow and blossom. If you have any questions please contact Jennifer Byam at [jen2179@msn.com](mailto:jen2179@msn.com) or 781-245-0830.

## THANK YOU SO MUCH

I want to thank all of you who so generously contributed to the collation for Irene Schmidgall last Saturday. From the kitchen crew that helped stuff sandwiches, the servers, clean-up crew, dishwashers, and everyone who contributed all the delicious food that graced the tables. Irene was always one who would offer to help when something was needed, and I am so happy we were able to honor her with such a wonderful day. If she were here, she would give you each a BIG hug!!

God bless and much love, Linell

## A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS COMING!

The church office will be printing a new Church Directory in the near future. If you were not included in the current edition (published October 2013) and would like to be included in the next one, please forward your name, address, telephone numbers and email address to the office for inclusion. If you were listed in the last directory and have had any changes to your address or telephone number, or would like to add an email address, please forward that to the church office as well. Please mark the envelope Church Directory. Thank you for your kind assistance, it is greatly appreciated.

**DON'T FORGET** that we are holding a Special Church Meeting, Sunday, April 26 after church in the sanctuary! Warrant is posted on all our doors, and is also attached to this mailing.

## Heralding and Announcement

In this new day and electronic age things sure are changing. *Not for everyone though*. Not everyone today owns a computer. That sure is OK. There was also a time *everyone* received the Herald by mail, bulk mail actually. Now we are using Forever Stamps. The cost of materials, paper, ink and stamps for a Herald subscription for a year is \$25.00. That does not include the labor of producing this publication. We do receive a gift from those who offer their services to collate copies that are mailed. Thank you to our collating ministry team: Betty Cullen, Mary Mac Laughlin, Alwyn Van Cor, Ann Venus, Sally Watt, and Steve Gates for your gift of faithful service.

The appeal is going out to those who wish to receive a hard copy mailed to them to please send in your donation for a yearly subscription. If you would like you could donate a year's subscription for someone who may find this a hardship. We certainly would like everyone to receive our church newsletter who would like one. The cost to send it electronically is free. But you do need a computer to view it.

Is there anyone now getting a hard copy Church Herald sent to their home that would like to go green and have it just emailed to them? Some of you today do get it both ways, emailed and the postman delivers one as well.

Please consider making a \$25.00 donation for either yourself or someone else to receive a Church Herald.

Or decide to just go green....

Please place your donation for the Herald subscription in the offering plate, in the memo, add The Church Herald 2015.

Please contact the church office by phone 781-245-1539 or email: [fpccx1644@aol.com](mailto:fpccx1644@aol.com) to let us know you will just receive an electronic subscription.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

The Church Council



## Transitions

### With Pastor Ron

#### *Fixing Yesterday's Mistakes to Solve Tomorrow's Problems*

Every now and then, I read a great article and I think, “Wow, the church should read this!” George Bullard is a “Transitions Coach” to many churches. Read here what he’s written, and think, “What can we at First Parish do to apply some of his wise suggestions?”

*No doubt the tragic death of 150 people involving Germanwings Flight 9525 on March 24 is of such extreme seriousness that no trite applications of what happened should be put forth. At the same time, the actions and lessons of such a tragedy make our minds wander and have implications for other areas of life.*

*Congregations are a high priority area of my life and ministry, and I am always thinking of ways that various events and actions apply to congregations/ This Germanwings tragedy is no exception. It brings to mind other similar tragic events.*

*The Sept. 11, 2001, death of almost 3,000 people in New York City, rural Pennsylvania and Northern Virginia as airplanes were used as weapons resulted in several actions that were major shifts in the airline travel industry. One was new reinforced doors and locking systems between the cockpit and the passenger compartment of airplanes worldwide. It also initiated a whole new generation of airport security.*

*Both of these actions were appropriate but were focused on fixing what went wrong in the past. Fortunately the TSA process modulates its regulations continually as it discovers new threats or determines regulations put in place were not necessary or effective.*

*In immediate response the Germanwings tragedy European airlines — and perhaps others — adopted the two people in the cockpit rule that has been standard in U.S.-based carriers for more than a decade. It is a little late now. They needed that rule much earlier. Yet, it is folly to believe that correcting yesterday’s security issues will stop tomorrow’s tragedies.*

*Frequently congregations address yesterday’s mistakes when a pastor leaves. They change the formal expectations and position description for the next pastor to keep him or her from doing what the last pastor did not do well or even did wrong. Apparently they make the assumption that all pastors have the same life habits and ministry perspectives. The next pastor must take years to prove he or she is not that pastor — referring to the former pastor. The next pastor, and the next pastor, and the next pastor are going to have their own set of gifts, skills and strengths. They will also have their own set of weaknesses and personality quirks lay leaders would like to correct. After several pastors and with the corrections that happen once pastors leave, any new pastor has a whole set of management regulations that make it hard to minister with ease. They are paying the debts for the weaknesses and failings of former pastors.*

What's the answer?

*First, I seldom see congregations who want to fix what the last pastor was ungifted or unskilled in doing, or just plain did wrong, who also have a clue of where they are headed under God's leadership. The absence of a captivating vision leads to restlessness in congregations. Therefore, the starting point is to get their vision and spiritual strategic journey figured out. They will want to do this before they call their next pastor or they may have a mismatch from day one.*

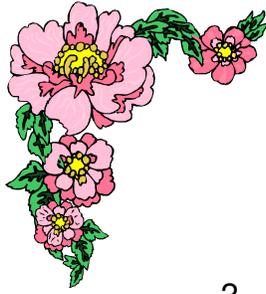
*Second, congregations need to understand their next pastor is a person of worth created in the image of God with his or her own set of gifts, skills and personality preferences. They need to design strategies and policies that will empower the faithful, effective and innovative service of the next pastor as well as the congregation as a whole. Policies should be empowering rather than controlling.*

*Third, congregations need to prevent policy changes made to fix a short-term problem from becoming a long-term part of the management culture. Almost every time the question is asked, "Does anyone remember why we established this policy?" the policy is no longer needed. All policies should have a sunset law causing them to go out of existence unless renewed every five years.*

*Fourth, ask innovative future-oriented questions in a proactive way and not a reactive way. Congregations establish a security policy or hire a security guard only after they or a neighboring church have a security problem. Congregations decide to do background checks for all workers with children only after they or a neighboring church have an incident with a child. What if congregations proactively conducted a comprehensive security review every 18 to 36 months and then updated their policies and procedures?*

*What are some other answers you have in mind? What will work for your congregation to focus more on tomorrow's challenges than yesterday's mistakes?*

George Bullard is President of The Columbia Partnership at [www.TheColumbiaPartnership.org](http://www.TheColumbiaPartnership.org),



## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2 Leonard & Julie Hart (A)
- 3 Lisa Roderick
- 4 Jeffrey Brennan, Sarah Hammond
- 5 Gregg & Marianne Whitney (A), Linell Nester
- 8 Thomas Martin, Jr., Shannon Callaghan
- 9 Brenda Applin, Eric Atwater
- 11 Lynn Arena, Frederick Howland (Sr.), Joanne Peavey
- 13 Jared Spies
- 16 Rebecca Jackson, Jill Martin, Mark & Nancy Sleger (A),  
Ginger McGonagle
- 17 Laura Hurren, Arthur Callan, Russell Fanjoy, Sheila Martinez
- 18 David Hammond
- 19 Dominic Mercurio
- 24 Erica Illanes
- 27 Donna Nicolai, Elmer & Paula Maxwell (A), Chandra Laboy
- 28 Robert Thibodeau, Joan Potter, Leonard Gebhard
- 29 Jennifer & Andrew Black (A)
- 30 Lily Powell
- 31 Bailey Perkins, Lloyd Stevenson



**On Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, the Board of Trustees will host a Yard and Bake Sale.  
Rain or Shine there will be a sale!**

As you do your spring cleaning, please be on the lookout for items you can donate. We hope to have a nice selection of kitchen items, linens, toys, plant accessories, tools, picture frames, glassware, books and much, much more—something for everyone. **Plus a Bake Sale!**

**Come and Shop—Bargains and Baked Goods, too!**

Volunteers are always appreciated. Set up will be on Friday, April 24.

Marcia Phinney, for the Board of Trustees

## **THE CHURCH HERALD**

First Parish Congregational Church  
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**April 17, 2015**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### **To Receive The Church Herald by email:**

Simply email your request to the Church at [FPCCx1644@aol.com](mailto:FPCCx1644@aol.com), or click the link on our new website!

### **DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD**

Thursday, April 30, 2015

(will cover the dates from  
May 10 – May 23, 2015)