

December 10, 2015



SUNDAY, December 20, 2015

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

Worship Service - 10:30 am

Sermon: Rev. Nick Toroni
Preaching on the Gospel of Luke
Chapter and Verse

Calendar for Sunday, December 20, 2015

10:00 am Prayer in the Chapel
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
(Infant and toddler care provided)
11:45 am Fellowship
Noon (approx.) Junior Choir

Memorial Flowers

Poinsettias will again adorn our sanctuary given in memory of loved ones

Greeters: Claire Atwater & her granddaughter Kyrsten

Ushers Diane Sabatula Deminski, Nancy Kunz, Susan & David Frey, Gene Mullen, and Bonnie Mullen (usher captain)

Coffee Hour Hosts: Jean and Diane and Linda Sabatula

THURSDAY, December 24, 2015

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Children's Pageant
Junior Choir sings
11:00 pm Carols, Candlelight, and Communion
Service of Lessons & Carols

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. Nick Toroni, Interim Pastor
Donald G. Hodgkins, M.M. Organist/Director of Music Ministries



SUNDAY, December 27, 2015

Worship Service - 10:30 am

Sermon: Rev. Nick Toroni
Preaching on the Gospel of Luke
Chapter and Verse

Calendar for Sunday, December 27, 2015

10:00 am Prayer in the Chapel
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
(Infant and toddler care provided)
11:45 am Fellowship

Memorial Flowers

The memorial flowers will be given in loving memory of Harriett and Robert Given by the Given & Sleger Families.

Greeter: Alwyn Van Cor

Ushers: Diane Sabatula Deminski, Linda Byam, Steve Gates, Barbara Flynn, Nancy Kunz, and Bonnie Mullen (captain)

Coffee Hour Hosts: (needed, please contact Linda Sabatula or sign up on poster in the vestry if you can help)

PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER

Prayers for healing:

Stephen Donovan (Jim's brother), Ed Foley, Gina Gebhard, Nancy Gould, Elsie Laboy, Joyce Langone, John Oliphant, Walter Smith, Dan and Nancy Rearick and Peter as he cares for them, Warren Reeves, Geraldine Russell (in hospice care), Jean Sabatula, Albert Simkins, Teri (Qualters) Stanley, Steve Taylor, Richard Pratt, Michael Watt and Arthur Wessels

Please also pray for:

Roy Evans, Bud Thomas and the Search Committee...

...our missionaries around the globe: Gordon & Ellyn Sturgeon, The Rideouts, The Mindlings, and The Soderbergs

CHAPEL PRAYER

Prayer for our church needs will begin in the Chapel at 10 am every Sunday. Please join us.
Thank you, Lisa Carpenter

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
December 6	23	125	148
December 13	26	114	140

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

December 6	43
December 13	48

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The committee wanted to give you an update on the various positions and committees that are still available. They are as follows: *Assistant Treasurer,*Assistant Treasurer of Trust Funds,*Auditor,*Diaconate, *Advisory Committee of Trust Funds, Antique Committee, *Board of Trustees, *Christian Education, *Council member at large, Fair Committee, Flower Committee, *Music Committee,*Outreach

Committee,*Personnel Committee, Usher Committee, and Wood Tupper Scholarship Committee.

(*needs to be a church member)

We strive to elect qualified individuals to fill the vacancies and seek to involve new members, young adults and veteran church members. Please think about what you can do to SUPPORT your church. Please talk to us in church or contact any of the committee members by email:

Bonnie Mercurio bmer207@yahoo.com

Joanne Peavey jpeavey@gpinet.comLinda

D'Agostino joedagl@verizon.net

45th Annual Heirlooms and Artisans Show and Sale – April 1 & 2, 2016

Making our plans and needing your ideas and support. Please join our great time raising great funds! Donna Nicolai – dcnicolai527@gmail.com

Thank You's

I would like to thank the following people for their help in setting up the crèche this year in the rain: Ken Wood, Ben Parish, Gregory Parish, Tom King, Joe D'Agostino, Ish Laboy, Frank Brown, Gene Mullen, and Linell Nester. Hopefully the crèche being there will remind all passers-by of the real meaning of Christmas!
Gratefully, Steve Gates

Dear First Parish family,

We can't thank you enough for so many prayers, kind words, and caring expressions of sympathy through the weeks of Dad's illness and passing. They meant so much, and brought peace and comfort through a difficult time. Thank you, too, for the bright and cheerful flowers from the sanctuary bouquet. We are still enjoying them today, reminded of God's love and the blessing of our Church family.

Gratefully,

Lynn & John Arena

To: The Secret Church Fair Santa,

Thank you so much for the gift card to ZuZu's (how did you know this is a favorite of mine??) and to Starbucks!! I would love to take you to lunch or at least have a coffee! You are so thoughtful and generous, but it is always my pleasure to help with the Church Fair.

Hope Santa is good to you too!!
Merry Christmas with love,
Linell

On behalf of the Fair Committee, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated items, baked goodies, or volunteered their time to help make the 2015 Annual Holiday Fair a success. **Proceeds this year equaled \$9,333.21!**

We are truly grateful for all your support and recognize we couldn't have done it without all of you. You're the best!

With gratitude,
Bonnie Mullen & Donna Conlon
Co-Chairs, Fair Committee

A BIBLE STUDY IN REVELATION *Every Wednesday Evening @ 6:30 pm*

On Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm, join us for a Biblical adventure through the Book of Revelation. As we travel together, we are going to discover that Revelation is actually an easy book to understand. We are also going to discover that there is nothing to fear, and in fact, we will receive a special blessing for studying it. Does that sound exciting? If so, please join us on this journey together in the Covell Chapel Wednesday night. See you there.



SNOWSTORMS **Regarding Worship Services**

If there is a snowstorm on a Saturday, please call the church office. The outgoing message on the office telephone will be updated to inform callers of any cancellation. You may also check the website www.fpccwakefield.com. 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).**

A Reminder from Outreach

Dear Compassion families, individuals and groups,

Write a letter to your Compassion child!
Tell him you love him. Tell her Jesus loves her.

The blessings of Christmas to everyone.



The flag that is proudly flying on First Parish's flag pole is in honor of the service of Michael J. Maloney, Joe D'Agostino's grandfather. He served in WWI and received a purple heart when he was severely wounded in action. First Parish is grateful to receive this honorable gift from the D'Agostino Family.

Planting seeds
of reminders. Committee Reports
for the Annual Report will soon
be needed



MUSIC NOTES

There's still time to join the choir for Christmas! The time required is minimal: just come to the rehearsals on Wednesdays, Dec. 16 and 23 at 7:30 in the Choir Room; they won't last more than an hour. Please do consider your participation in order to usher in Christmas even more joyously in our worship.

Also, as has been our custom for several years we invite the children of the church to play for the prelude of the early Christmas Eve service; please talk to me by next Sunday 12/20 if you have a child interested.

Don Hodgkins, Director of Music Ministries

Dear First Parish Church Family,

As we enter into a new season, we also enter into a new season of giving. Not new in the sense that we have not done it before, but we go forward with a *renewed* sense of giving as we move into 2016. The Circle of Life surrounds us. It is undeniable. Love surrounds us as we approach this season of Christmas. *Love was born on Christmas* and Love is with us always each and every day. He promises to never leave us. (*Joshua 1:5*)

I am grateful to be given another opportunity to encourage you in Stewardship, your faith, and in your relationship with the living, breathing God who is central to our being. The closer you move to Him, the more your eyes widen to see the bounty He puts before us. We see the blessings He sends, they spill over from an abundant, exponential Giver.

As our church family continues a vibrant, growing, yet changing walk, the one thing that is certain, is that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow (*Hebrews 13:8*). Our Heavenly Father, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will lead us by His Holy Spirit into a brand new year. Together we will go, *together we will grow* to know Him and to reflect Him to one another.

Our council has set our pledge goal for 2016 at \$270,000. This is but a portion of our goal that we will strive towards, always looking to Him for the details in our lives, our church, our family, our workplace, our community and our world. May our resolution be a desire to be a church that reaches for the right hand of God and holds on tight to be guided by His ever encircling light. This year, *as I will do as well*, I encourage you to step up and trust your Lord to increase your giving as a sign of your trust in Him for you and yours. To God be the Glory.

Please prayerfully consider from what you have been given, to give back a portion that reflects your gratitude to your Savior. Not from what is left over, but off the top, at the beginning of the year, the month, the week, or the day. May we display to Him trusting, obedient faith-filled steps.

I am excited to see what He has prepared for us, aren't you?

Ruth Ross for Stewardship

In order to receive pledge envelopes, you need to fill out a pledge card and return it to Eleanor Elliott, even if you have had envelopes in the past. This begins a brand new year of pledging.



From our Church Council:

Dear First Parish family,

Our Church's transition has taken longer than many expected, and it brings inevitable change. We pray, and we know, that God will guide us, as He always has.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. -Isaiah 43:2

Outside of Church Council and the Annual Meeting, we don't discuss finances much, except to encourage good stewardship of all that God entrusts to our care. The Church relies on faithful giving; this year's "Pledge Goal" is \$270,000; that's about two-thirds of our total Budget.

You might be interested to know:

- The Church's total operating budget (expected costs, including Outreach, Salaries, Programs, and Building expenses) is almost \$400,000 each year.
- Our largest expense is Personnel (wages, tax, etc), budgeted at \$217,000 next year. (Assumes we have a settled pastor by July.)
- Annual snow removal costs average \$3,400. In 2015, it cost \$8,900!
- In 2014-5, heating fuel cost \$34,700; building/liability insurance cost \$23,000.
- Pledged financial support, so important for our Church's future, has declined (as often happens in transition) – from \$290,000 in 2012 to \$197,000 in 2015!
- Our annual Outreach budget is based on 10% of the previous year's "pledges received," so our Outreach support for others is reduced when pledges decline.

Please pray for First Parish and its ministries, as we approach a new year, full of great potential! And please take part in God's plan for His church, with your faithful service and financial support.

Pledge commitments are kept confidential, and are so important!

Thank you, Church family, and Praise be to our Lord, always

THE CHURCH HERALD

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December 15, 2015

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE FOR NEXT *CHURCH HERALD*

Thursday, December 24, 2015

(will cover the dates from
January 3 - 16, 2016)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 18 **Community *Messiah* Sing** – 7:30 pm – sanctuary, followed by reception
- December 19 **Clothing Closet/Community Breakfast** -- 9 am
- December 20 **Christmas Sunday – Family Sunday** - One Service of Worship at 10:30 a.m. – Poinsettias will again adorn our sanctuary
- December 24 **Children's Pageant** – 5 pm
Carols, Candlelight, and Communion – 11 pm
- December 27 **One Service of Worship** – 10:30 am

