



## The Church Herald

FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
Rev. Dr. Gregory Hopwood, Pastor  
One Church Street, PO Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301 (781)245-1539/1644  
www.FPCCWakefield.org

**2017**  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2017**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

Worship Service –10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Hopwood  
Sermon:

*How to Double Your Portfolio in 2017*

Calendar for Sunday, January 1, 2017

10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
(Infant and toddler care provided)  
11:45 am Fellowship

### ***Memorial Flowers***

The flowers will be given in loving memory of loved ones by the D'Agostino Family

**Greeter:** Steve and Donna Taylor

**Ushers:** Rhonda and Frank Brown, Joe D'Agostino, Steve Gates, Dexter Wheeler, Linda D'Agostino (captain)

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** needed



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017**

Worship Service – 9:00 & 10:30 am

Rev. Dr. Gregory J. Hopwood  
Sermon:

*FPCC Vision Series*  
*Part II: Edify*

Calendar for Sunday, January 8, 2017

9:00 Chapel Worship  
10:00 am Prayer in the Chapel  
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship  
(Infant and toddler care provided)  
10:50 (approx.) Sunday School  
11:45 am Fellowship

### ***Memorial Flowers***

The flowers will be given in loving memory of Carolyn MacEachern by the Jones Family

**Greeters:** Julie and Lenny Hart

**Ushers:** Rhonda and Frank Brown, Joe D'Agostino, Steve Gates, Dexter Wheeler, Linda D'Agostino (captain)

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** needed





## Welcome Home

*John W. Applin*

*January 4, 1940 - December 19, 2016*

*Member of FPCC since March 23, 1978*

*Memorial service will be held on*

*January 28, 2017 at 1 o'clock*



## Please Keep in Prayer

### Prayers for healing:

Peter Barden (healing from surgery)

Andy Black, MaryAnn Doherty (at Melrose Hospital),

Russell Fanjoy, Barbara Flynn (at Winchester Hospital),

Mark Ganong, Jan Martin (Pilgrim Rehab in Peabody),

Domenic Mercurio, Jimmy Molanson,

Warren Reeves (at Bear Hill),

Jean Sabatula (home), Dick and Barbara Sullivan,

Stephen Taylor and Angelique Toroni

### Please continue to keep us in your prayers:

The Applin Family as they grieve the loss of John,

Robert Blaser (Bob's dad), Stephen Donovan, Ed Foley,

the Laboy family, John Oliphant,

Richard Pratt, Peter Rearick and his parents,

Albert Simkins, Janice and Irene Whitehead,

Our missionaries around the globe



*If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.*



*Prayer is the most powerful tool!*

If you would like our First Parish Prayer Team praying for your needs, please fill out a prayer request. You will find the prayer cards in the back of the Sanctuary on the Williams Table. Our Prayer Box is also there to drop in your prayer request. They will be gathered up by the Prayer Team each week, and they will pray for your needs.

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

	Chapel	Sanctuary	Total
December 18	23	137	160
December 24, 5 pm		172	172
December 24, 11 pm		110	110
December 25		77	

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 18	45
December 25	Family Sunday

### **UPDATE FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

We would like to thank all of you who have offered to help our church in filling so many of the 19 committees that we have available each year.

That being said, we are still reaching out to others who maybe haven't had a chance to speak to one of us or haven't decided yet where they could help.

One of the most crucial positions is that of the TREASURER of our church. That would, of course, need to be someone who has some financial background. Hopefully there is someone who would be able to take on this position.

We also have openings on other various committees. I will be in the vestry following worship for as many Sundays as it takes to help fill these positions. Please come and at least talk to me to see what might work for you and your schedule in supporting our church. If we don't have a position that will work for you, then at least you tried.

God Bless

Linda D'Agostino, Chair of Nominating Committee

## Good news! Stewardship and a New Year

When our congregation approved the Church's 2016 Annual Operating Budget, expected income was less than planned expenses. We trusted that God would provide for our needs, and First Parish members voted to allow "deficit" spending from trust funds, if needed to cover expenses.

**The good news:** We expect the 2016 Annual Report will show a small surplus for the year! Expenses were less than we planned (we did not have a settled (or full-time) pastor until August, nor did we have a youth minister for the full year). Throughout the year, God was faithful; He knew our needs, and provided. Thank you, Lord God!

### If you haven't already, please consider a making a pledge for 2017.

Your pledge in any amount will help our Trustees and Church Council plan for 2017. We hope to recommend a 2017 Budget that includes health benefits for our new Pastor, as well as a part-time Youth Minister position. If the 2017 Budget can be funded with pledges and other expected income, our Committees can use trust fund resources for important ministries, E-team programs, and building improvements.

Please continue to pray for our Church and our Pastor, and all who seek, worship, and serve God here at First Parish.

---

## Online Giving Reminder

You can now give to First Parish online – whenever it's most convenient. We added this option because many people (and banks!) prefer electronic giving and payment methods.

Online giving is secure and confidential, with benefits for givers and the Church.

To give online, go to [fpccwakefield.org](http://fpccwakefield.org). Click on **GIVING** (at the top of the screen), and follow instructions on the Giving screen. You can give by direct-debit (EFT) from a bank account, or with a credit or debit card. If you want to place your gift in Sunday's offering plate, you can use part of your printed giving receipt.

If online giving is convenient for you, give it a try! You are always welcome to contact the Church Office if you have questions or need assistance. Merry Giving!

## A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Thank you for the gorgeous poinsettia delivered to us by Erica and her two sons Anderson and Dante. It was a very lovely surprise! We shall enjoy it for weeks to come.

Ann & Fred Venus

\* \* \* \* \*

On behalf of the Flower Committee I want to thank all of you who were kind enough to step forward and offer to help deliver the beautiful poinsettias this week to so many in our church family. I'm sure that the ones who haven't been able to attend church enjoyed having a visit from you too.

A little bit of our time goes a long way when visiting someone. How fortunate we are to have such a caring church and I want you to know how grateful I am for your kind assistance.

God Bless,

Linda D'Agostino, chair

\* \* \* \* \*

David and I would like to thank the church for the lovely birthday flowers David received last week, and for the gorgeous poinsettia that Heather Hulse dropped by this afternoon.

We are adjusting to retirement and feeling better these days. God bless and Merry Christmas to all!

Susan Frey

\* \* \* \* \*

To my dear friends at First Parish,

I was pleasantly surprised to receive the beautiful poinsettia plant. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Blessings to you all,

Sally Ann Watt

To the Members of First Parish,

At Christmas, and always, we are grateful for our church family. Thank you for your faithful financial support of our mission work in Uganda. We are privileged to serve there, and we couldn't do it without you.

We are also grateful for the opportunity we had to speak to you at the end of November. Please pray for the Lord to guide us and provide for us to return to Uganda in His perfect timing.

Wishing you a joyous and peaceful Christmas season, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. As Randy Travis sang, "He had the birthday. We got the gift."

Merry Christmas,

Ellyn and Gordon

# Annual Meeting Luncheon

January 29, 2017

Immediately following the  
Worship Service

**Reminder to Committee Chairs:** The deadline for Annual Report submissions is January 15. Please be sure to submit your report on time. Thank you.



The Food Pantry is in need of the following items: canned baked beans, Kraft Mac and Cheese, hearty chunky soups and any and all Chef Boyardee products.



## **SNOWSTORM POLICY**

If there is a snowstorm and our 9 am service needs to be canceled, the outgoing message on the church office answering machine will inform callers of any service cancellations.

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](http://boston.cbslocal.com).

## **Begin the New Year by becoming a New Member**

On Saturday January 14, 2017, the Diaconate, along with Pastor Greg, is conducting a Membership Class. 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, please consider attending. Start your new year off right as you learn more about Jesus and the possibilities within First Parish. If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the class, please contact Jennifer Byam at [jen2179@msn.com](mailto:jen2179@msn.com) or 781-245-0830.



## **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

## ***EXCITING NEWS:***

You can now view the listing of the books available in our library online! Please go to the FPCC website at <http://fpccwakefield.com/resources/library/> and view the books that are available. You can search by title, author, and category: Christian Living, Christian Fiction, Audio Video, Youth and Other. We do not have the resources to view if a book has already been checked out of the library; however you can view our wonderful book selection!

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

## *Give with a Grateful Heart Stewardship 2017*

If you have already made your pledge, thank you. If you still need to make this important decision, please decide in your heart what you would like to commit from a portion of the gifts the Lord has already given to you. Simply return a pledge card for the year 2017 to Eleanor Elliott our Collector.

<b>THE FIRST PARISH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH</b> Wakefield, Massachusetts		No.....
In grateful recognition that all my time, treasure, and ability come from God, I gladly join with others in the support of Christ's church.		
Total Gift \$.....	Cash Paid with pledge \$.....	
The full amount or balance of pledge will be paid as follows starting January 1, 2017.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 52 Weekly payments of	\$.....each	
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 monthly payments of	\$.....each	Envelopes will be supplied
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 quarterly payments of	\$.....each	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 semi-annual payments of	\$.....each	Statements will be mailed
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 annual payment of	\$.....each	to you.
For local ministries, including worship, education, pastoral service, church care and upkeep and the world outreach of the church.		
Mr. / Mrs. / Miss.....		
Date.....Street Address.....		



*How wonderful if everyone returns a pledge card.*

### **CHURCH HERALD**

First Parish Congregational Church  
PO Box M, Wakefield, MA 01880-0301  
Phone: 781-245-1539/1644  
E-mail: [FPCCX1644@aol.com](mailto:FPCCX1644@aol.com)  
Fpccwakefield.org

**December 27, 2016**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT CHURCH HERALD  
Thursday, January 5, 2017**

**(will cover the dates from  
January 15-28, 2017)**