

**FIRST PARISH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (Congregational)**

P.O. Box 228, 176 West High Street, Somersworth, NH 03878-0228

Church Office: (603) 692-2057

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell

*An Open & Affirming Church*

[www.somersworthfirstparish.org](http://www.somersworthfirstparish.org)

[pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org](mailto:pastor@somersworthfirstparish.org)

**January 2019**



**Thank you, Robin Martin and Kim Conley for our Christmas Flower Display!**

## **FROM THE MINISTER:**

First of all, I want to thank each of you for the warm welcome to First Parish. I count as one of my Christmas gifts the opportunity to serve in ministry with and among you!

We've just celebrated the birth of Jesus. How beautifully the story is told at First Parish! The Christmas story is timeless and familiar, and yet ever new to us. Each time the story comes around there are new awarenesses, even though we know the story by heart. That's because God's word is living and active, and our hearts are open. We can hear God encouraging each one of us to grow, to reach up and out.

In the same way as a church community, we know God calls a church community to continue to grow and mature. Listen to what Paul says. "[E]ach of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...." (Eph. 4.7, 11)

Church is familiar, our community is comfortable like our favorite pair of slippers. And it is wonderful to be so close and caring. That friendship and love will nourish us as we seek to grow together in building up the body of Christ. During our interim time together, we'll listen to one another and describe together the sacred story of First Parish. We'll ask questions like: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? What is God calling us to do? And we'll spend time on each of five focus points during transitions times in a church: Heritage, Leadership, Mission, Connection, and Future.

I'm enthusiastic to learn with you what God is calling First Parish to be and to do in the years to come. We know we are called to grow. And I can see that God has gifted this community richly!

May God bless us on our interim journey together!

Grace and peace, beloved of God!  
Pastor Norma

## **FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE:**

Thank you for your White Gifts. We provided gifts for about 30 children! Thank you for making Christmas Day just a little merrier for these children!

Thank you, also, to the bakers and cookie walkers. We raised \$200 for the Summer Camp program. This money helps provide assistance to any child from our church who wishes to go to a UCC summer camp. – Sue Vollkommer

## **MISSION COMMITTEE:**

Thank you for your gifts to Riverside Residents. I'm sure you made the Christmases of these people much happier. – Sue Vollkommer

## **SPAGHETTI SUPPER:**

After a welcome break during the holidays, we are looking forward to our next Spaghetti Supper on January 26th.

Please join us for a meal of all-you-can-eat, mouth-watering spaghetti with a hearty meat sauce, coleslaw or 3-bean salad, your choice of three different types of bread: garlic herb, garlic-buttered or white bread, and drinks. Top it off with a delectable dessert.

As always, we have several easy but very important jobs that need to be filled to make this supper a success. If you can help, please add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be passed around during worship service or talk with one of the committee members.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our November supper. We greatly appreciate everything you did! We were able to donate \$622 toward the church's general expenses.

In 2018 we contributed \$4,425 to the church. In 2017 we contributed \$4,955.

Tom Allen ~ Debbie Hall ~ Kathy Latchaw

## **MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN**

**Edith Bowen, Jinny Burgess** *The Residence at Silver Square, 100 Sterling Way, Dover, NH 03820*

**Gail Day** *Langdon Place of Dover, 60 Middle Rd., Dover, NH 03820*

**Pat Hamel** *The Manor at Canyon Lakes, #210, 2802 West 35<sup>th</sup> Ave., Kennewick, WA 99337-2583*

**Audrey Loika** *1 Huntington Common Dr., Apt. 208, Kennebunk, ME 04043*

**Bob Philbrick** *Berwick Estates, 75 Portland St., So. Berwick, ME 03908*

**Janet Giffin** *Wentworth Home, 795 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820*

*--- and all who are residents in long-term care and assisted living facilities in our area.*

*Please do send your cards and greetings.*

## **IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS**

Wendy Alves (healing)

Nancy Anderson (health)

Craig Breden (health)

Eric Burgess (health) *Jinny Burgess' son*

Patty Cote (healing)

Carol Cummings (healing)

Gail Day (health)

Mark Dudley (healing) *son of Carroll & Barbara Dudley*

Kathe Johnson (health) *Geoff Day's sister*

Gloria Martel (health) *Linda Farrell's mother*

Chris Perry (health) *Nancie Cameron's roommate's son*

The family and friends of Jamie Rabideau whose funeral was held at First Parish on 12/15/19.

Dave Voye (healing) *Bill Voye's brother*

Those who walk with mental health concerns, those who walk the pathway of treatment and recover from addiction.

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

*\*For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches*

*\*That God will bless and guide our new Interim Minister, Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell*

*\*That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gordan Rankin, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater*

*\*Faith formation ministries for all ages – for building strong faith foundations, at all ages and stages in life*

*\*Working together in community – to build community- and to implement strategies for prevention, while providing resources for treatment and recovery from substance misuse and its stigma*

***\*Jesus said: Love God, Love Neighbor, Love Self***

*\*Those serving in the Armed Services and in support capacities around the world*

*\*Peace in our world; harmony in our relationships, hope in our active response for transformational change*

*\*The UKAMA Partnership between the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe and the NH Conference UCC*

*\*Continued invitational ministry and mission here at First Parish Church of Christ: invite, include, involve in the good news way of Christ!*

### **SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FAMILY OF:**

**Jamie Rabideau** (12/7) Our prayers go to his family

**Dan Goudreau** (12/28), Sue and Butch Boucher's nephew.

**Dottie Varness** (12/29), John Cummings' sister

*Please remember this family in your prayers, as we ask the Lord to surround them with love and light.*

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BIRTH OF:**

**Bryce Douglas Moore**, born Dec. 12th to Katie and Josh Moore. Bryce is the first great grandson of Dottie Douglas.

**Mitchell Lucas Rogers**, born December 29<sup>th</sup> to Lisa Shepherd and Justin Rogers. Diane and Richard Shepherd are his proud grandparents.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Thank you to Cecilia Rich for attempting to coordinate the monthly newsletter. Unfortunately, she found that she is too busy at this time to continue working on it.

For that reason, the Newsletter Committee is in need of someone to become the newsletter editor. This would entail collecting articles from various people monthly, editing and collating the information into a newsletter format. For more information, contact Debbie Hall at 207-698-1158 or [kenanddebhall@comcast.net](mailto:kenanddebhall@comcast.net).

### **JANUARY CELEBRATIONS:**

Jan. 3: *John & Carol Cummings*

Jan. 8: Tyler Benner, Janet Giffin, Bill Voye

Jan. 9: Audrey Loika

Jan. 10: Debbie Hall, William Hurley

Jan. 12: Richard Shepherd

Jan. 14: Paul Cazeault  
Jan. 17: Bob Philbrick, Gerri Cannon  
Jan. 18: Dave Hamel  
Jan. 19: Jeffrey Libby, Josiah Allen  
Jan. 21: Richard Hurley  
Jan. 23: Sherry Cazeault, Norma Brettell  
Jan. 26: Patricia Kovalik  
Jan. 29: Mike Watman, Krystian Lucey, Kathy Latchaw  
Jan. 30: Esther Eastman

## **DIACONATE**

The Deacons met in December with our interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell. She is already involved and looking for ways to help guide our church. She had an idea to have a "Longest Night Service" or "Blue Christmas" Service which seemed to be a very appropriate way for so many to get through the holiday season.

Three of our Deacons will be stepping down as deacons in January. We are grateful to them for their guidance and service. A sincere thank you to Priscilla Chellis, Bill Voye and Geoff Day.

We are blessed to have Robin and Dave Hamel, Geoff and Nancy Day, and Diane Chessman willing to be deacons this next term.

The Deacons also want to thank all of those who were worship leaders while we were waiting for Rev. Norma to arrive. Those that were willing to do this are part of what makes our church family so very special.

Geoff Day was our representative to the Carroll-Strafford Conference meeting and the NHCUCC Annual Meeting. There was much information from these meetings and Geoff would be more than happy to share what was discussed.

Thank you to the families who helped each week during Advent with the lighting of the Advent candles.

A new year has begun. May it be one with peace.

Blessing to you and yours in 2019

The Deacons

Priscilla Chellis, Laurel Curtis, Geoff Day, Debbie Hall, Kathy Latchaw, Bill Voye

## **TRUSTEES**

The Trustees have been working behind the scenes to ensure that the church runs smoothly during this time of transition - here's a list of activities we've been working on.

- Parsonage Update - Ken briefed the status of the parsonage and will follow up with John LaBreck on expectations, final costs and estimated completion date and report back to the Board of Trustees - the Board expects that the parsonage will be complete by 1 Jan 2019.

- Leola Pepler Trust Fund Update - Based on requirements from lawyer Sue Thibeau (susan@thibeaulaw.com) the Board moved and approved Gregg Fournier, Ken Latchaw or Mike Watman to represent the church on all matters pertaining to the Leola Pepler Trust Fund - currently there's a draft petition to the York County Probate Court to terminate the trust held at Citizens Bank, Manchester NH.

- ADP Payroll status - Ken, Mike and Linda are working with Kristen Blake and have finalized the ADP payroll requirements - A big thanks to all for making this happen - Mike is working with employees to complete the required I9 Forms.

- Budget Review - Mike spearheaded the budget review process - going line by line on each item to accurately propose a budget for 2019 and it was presented at the church council meeting on 18 Dec 2018 - A church budget meeting is scheduled for 13 Jan 2019 following service.
- New Committee Member Nominations - Rich Whitten and Mike Watman will be officially nominated at the Annual Church meeting on 27 Jan 2019 - there are still 2 Building and Grounds positions open - if you're interested in joining please speak with a Board of Trustees member.
- Insurance Board Questionnaire - we are working with Skip Clark a Senior Consultant at ACS Group to complete an insurance questionnaire and inspection for our UCC Insurance on the church and parsonage.
- Consolidated Investment Fund withdrawal update - An updated account form has been updated and signed by the church moderator Rich Whitten and will be submitted to Atlantic Fund Services, LLC.
- Electricity Supplier costs - we have been reviewing current electricity costs with other suppliers to see if the church can save on future energy costs.

*Finance Update as of 30 Nov 2018:*

Income/Expense	Nov 2018	YTD 2018	Checkbook Balance
Income	\$10,810	\$178,168	\$40,197
Expenses	\$15,480	\$146,692	
Net	(\$4,670)	\$31,476	

Note - Income YTD for 2018 includes \$50,000 from Investment Funds and \$10,266 from Insurance payment.

The Trustees continue to manage all the different aspects of our shared journey together here at First Parish and if you ever have any questions please feel free to contact any of us.

Gregg Fournier, Ken Latchaw, Gerri Cannon and Bruce Robbins

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Happy New Year! May this be a good year for all.

The Women's Fellowship's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 20 after our church service. We hope all women will be able to attend.

We are planning the Silent Auction. It is scheduled for April 6 and hopefully there are going to be many new items for us to auction off. Would you consider helping?

We will cancel Women's Fellowship if the schools in Somersworth have a two-hour delay or they cancel school. If the weather is questionable, please watch channel 9 or listen to WMUR radio. If the roads are questionable, please don't go out. If you have questions, you can call Kathy Latchaw at 603-427-8958.

We are planning a gathering for lunch in January. The place, date and time will be announced in church.

Many blessings to you and yours,  
Kathy Latchaw

## **A GENTLE REMINDER:**

\*Sunday bulletin announcements/information needs to be sent directly to Debbie Hall at [kenanddehball@comcast.net](mailto:kenanddehball@comcast.net).

\*Monthly Newsletter items MUST be submitted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (OR as noted in the monthly newsletter calendar). Earlier is better! Email directly to Debbie Hall ([kenanddebhall@comcast.net](mailto:kenanddebhall@comcast.net)). Written items may be left in the pocket on the copy room door as well (just let Debbie know!).  
\*Monthly calendar dates and times are submitted directly to Debbie Hall at [kenanddebhall@comcast.net](mailto:kenanddebhall@comcast.net).

## **YOUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

Can be accessed entirely online! Check it out: [www.somersworthfirstparish.org](http://www.somersworthfirstparish.org). Paper copies are available in the Narthex. If you prefer to have the newsletter sent to you in the mail, please send \$20 with your name and address to: First Parish Church, P.O. Box 228, Somersworth, NH 03878, Attn: Newsletter Editor.

*Remember, every church activity is an opportunity for YOU to invite, include, and involve someone whom you know into our shared life here at First Parish Church!*

## **ALL ARE WELCOME SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Sunday Worship & Sunday School: 10 AM

Fellowship time follows worship

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month

Ministers: The People of the Church

Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Norma Brettell

Faith Formation Coordinator: Susan Vollkommer

Moderator: Richard Whitten

Co-Clerks: Patty Cote & Debbie Hall

Treasurer: Linda Farrell

Assistant Treasurer: Richard Shepherd

Organist/Choir Director: Bette Daley

Newsletter Team: Debbie Hall-Editor & Calendar, Luise Watman-Birthdays/Anniversaries

## **JANUARY LECTIONARIES**

*Epiphany of the Lord – White*

**January 5, 2019**

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*

**January 20, 2019**

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalms 36:5-10

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

John 2:1-11

*Baptism of the Lord/*

*First Sunday after the Epiphany*

**January 13, 2019**

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalms 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

*Third Sunday after the Epiphany*

**January 27, 2019**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Luke 4:14-21