

First Parish United Church of Christ (Congregational)

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

Rev. Mark Rideout, Pastor

Church Office: (603) 692-2057

An Open & Affirming Church

www.somersworthfirstparish.org

firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net



2017



Mission Committee



Faith Formation

The sign up sheet for the Backpack Project is in the Narthex. The Mission Committee collects backpacks and specific items for them. The items are listed on the sign up sheet, they include notebooks, pencils, markers, ruler, eraser, etc. The backpacks do not need to be new, but they must be in like-new condition. You can also choose to "adopt a backpack". This means you bring in a backpack with the requested items in it. There are tear-off lists of the items needed, which include: backpack, 1 gluestick, 1 box washable markers, 1 pencil case or pouch, 1 pair blunt scissors, 2 pencils, 1 single subject notebook, 1 ruler, 1 box 12 colored pencils, 2 pocket folders, 1 pink eraser.

The backpacks are taken by the committee to elementary schools in Somersworth and Rollinsford NH, and Lebanon and Berwick ME. The schools then donate them to children who are not able to begin school with a new backpack. Thank you, in advance, for your help with this project.

The Faith Formation Committee will be presenting Storytime at the Pines on four Monday evenings again this year. We've lined up a Bible theme, story books to support the theme, a craft to do, a song to sing, and brief prayer to share with children. We are looking for at least 2 adults to take the lead for each of the Monday times. The leaders will welcome, introduce the theme, read the story, guide the craft, offer other story reading(s), and close with a song (one verse will be added each week), and the Lord's Prayer. We will have committee members to support with a pop-up tarp, table, a few chairs, craft supplies, special bookmarks (with the Lord's Prayer on the back), some "giveaways", and presence to assist you. Last year we had 6 or 8 children at each Storytime. The stories and crafts are already preselected. The four Mondays we will be at the Pines are July 31, August 7, August 14, and August 21. This is something anyone can lead! Create a team with someone; invite a friend or neighbor who has no church home to help; if you have three that want to work together-great! Speak with Sue Vollkommer 692-5541 or ps72@comcast.net for details.

There will be no summer Sunday School this year, but there will be a lesson left each week in classroom 3 for anyone's use. We do request that an adult is present with the child(ren). If you need to get into the classroom, a deacon would be happy to unlock the door for you.



Dear Ones:

Summertime and the livin' is easy...some random line from a song of years past...and while the pace is a bit less forced, living in these days is seldom easy, or perhaps better said, living in these days makes some added energy and courage.

How often a line from scripture will wiggle itself into my thoughts, and right now, **“Be still, and know that I am God!”** [Psalm 46:10] is nudging something to my awareness.

What I realize is a deeper reality that energy and courage for the living of these days, not only asks, but requires stillness of body, mind, soul...in and for that deeper presence of our Living God to abide with us. This is surely something we know, but do we practice being still, being in God’s presence? With practice comes that inner strength of assurance we desire. In Christ, through the Holy Spirit, God promises to walk with us on this journey of life and faith.

Summer is a season, while more active in some ways, becomes a perfect time to practice the presence of God. In the days ahead, “be still, and know God”...who truly desires to know you and love you.

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ!

~ Pastor Mark



- July 1 *Pete & Sue Vollkommer*
- July 2 *Bertha Carr*
- July 7 *Bill Cox*
- July 12 *Carol Cummings*
- July 15 *Lydia Grace Pay*
- July 17 *Clay & Linda Oelkuct*
- July 20 *Elaine Goodberry*
- July 22 *Mary Horton, Dave & Chris Stolpe*
- July 23 *Cynthia Jutras*
- July 24 *Nancy Day, Allison St.Jean, Luise Watman*
- July 27 *Jordan Brown, Bill & Vonnie Libby*
- July 29 *Peter Vollkommer*



- Aug. 1 *Terry Burk*
- Aug. 2 *Tom Allen, Patty Cote, Saylor Vollkommer*
- Aug. 8 *John & Barbara Pay*
- Aug. 9 *Dee Drake*
- Aug. 11 *Vonnie Libby*
- Aug. 12 *Dean Martin*
- Aug. 13 *Mike & Sharon Sirois*
- Aug. 14 *Kim Conley, Chris Stolpe*
- Aug. 17 *Ele Janetos, Fran Nichols*
- Aug. 23 *Cassidy Richer, Richard & Cynthia Jutras*
- Aug. 24 *Jim Goodberry, Sean Marshall*
- Aug. 25 *Linda Pyburn Palmer*
- Aug. 28 *Linda Breden, Julie Anderson*
- Aug. 29 *Joanne Anderson*



During the Summer Months the church still has financial commitments, and so appreciates your being as current as possible with your pledged commitments and offerings. If you plan to take vacation time, and will not be at weekly worship here, please consider sending in by mail your weekly offering. It does make a difference.



July & August have many dates open for *Greeters, Scripture Readers and Punch Fellowship.*

Will you consider helping in worship or providing after-worship hospitality? Sign-up is in the Narthex.

Scripture Reader Guidelines have been developed to offer guidance for those willing to read scripture in Sunday Worship, and hopefully to encourage your consideration if you’ve never done it! Copies are included in the back of this newsletter, and are available in the Narthex. Questions may be shared with Pastor Mark.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

Lucille Berry, *Studley Home*, 15 Eastern Ave.,
Rochester, NH 03867 335-1241

Bertha Carr, *Rockingham County
Nursing Home*

117 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833

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

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

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

--and all who are residents in long-term care and



Christian Sympathy is

Paul Libby, [June 9] son of Bill & Vonnie Libby.
A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 24,
11AM, here at First Parish Church.

*May the deep peace of God surround these families
with light and hope.*



In Celebration

Don & Pat Whitten, celebrated their 65th Wedding
Anniversary on June 8th.

Eli & Patricia Kovalik, celebrated their 60th
Wedding Anniversary on June 22nd.

*We pray the deep blessing of the Lord to be with
them!*



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

Nancy Anderson [health]
Craig Breden [health]
Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess's son*
Gerri Cannon [healing]
Betty Foley [healing]
Dan Gaudreault [healing] *Sue Boucher's nephew*
Bea Gardner [healing]
Lewis Janetos [healing]
Elaine Mavrikis [healing]
Daniel Rodriguez [healing] *neighbor of Nancy Cameron*

AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:

- For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches, and specifically in July the Maranatha Indonesian United Church of Christ, and their pastor, Rev. Sandra Pontoh; and in August the Madbury United Church of Christ, who are currently seeking an interim pastor.
- That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gary Schulte, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater
- For those who are living with cancer; those who are living with mental health concerns, and those who support them as they walk pathways of healing.
- Faith formation ministries for all ages - for building strong faith foundations
- Working together in community to address addiction to drugs, and anything that takes away from wholeness in life.
- The season of Pentecost, invites us each to grow in our commitment to listen to God, respond to God, share the love of God. Jesus taught this pathway, and calls us to live into this way of life. Will you?
- 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 United Church of Christ: invite, include, involve in the good news way of Christ!
- in the good news way of Christ.

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

You are the face of First Parish Church!



JULY LECTIONARIES

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 2, 2017

Genesis 22:1-14 & Psalm 13
Jeremiah 28:5-9 & Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 9, 2017

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 & Psalm 45:10-17
or Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Zechariah 9:9-12 & Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-29, 25-30

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 16, 2017

Genesis 25:19-34 & Psalm 119:105-112
Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 23, 2017

Genesis 28:10-19a & Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 *or Isaiah 44:6-8*
& Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36,43

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 30, 2017

Genesis 29:15-28 & Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
or Psalm 128
1 Kings 3:5-12 & Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



AUGUST LECTIONARIES

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 6, 2017

Genesis 32:22-31 & Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Isaiah 55:1-5 & Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 13, 2017

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 & Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
1 Kings 19:9-18 & Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 20, 2017

Genesis 45:1-15 & Psalm 133
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 & Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 27, 2017

Exodus 1:8-2:10 & Psalm 124
Isaiah 51:1-6 & Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship - 10:00 AM

Sunday School - 10:00 AM

Fellowship Time Follows Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.

Ministers: The People of the Church

Pastor: Rev. Mark A. Rideout

Christian Education 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,

Priscilla Chellis-Calendar,

Luise Watman-Birthdays/Anniversaries

Our Monthly Newsletter

can be accessed entirely online! Check it out:
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.





Morning Worship in July and August begins at 9:30AM.

Please note the following:

- We will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion on July 2nd and August 6th. Children are welcome in worship!
- We are approaching *Summer Sunday School* a bit differently this year: there will always be a lesson plan available in the corner Sunday School Room. The lesson is ready to go, and can be utilized by a parent who may want to step out with their child, and invite any other children to join them. On Communion Sundays, teacher/parent/children may certainly come back to/or stay in the Sanctuary for the remainder of the service and to share in the sacrament.
- Do know that our Nursery is always **open**, and “wired for sound”, and may be a better setting for them, and those who love them!

Reminder—Worship time shifts back to 10AM on Sunday, September 3, when we will gather for worship and Holy Communion.



Pastor Mark will be on vacation July 10-30.

Emergency Pastoral coverage is being provided as follows:

7/10-30 Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor First Church, Congregational, Rochester is available for emergencies. Deacon

contacts are Laurel Curtis 603-969-1815 or Kathy Latchaw (603-978-0785) In the event of an **emergency need**, please call the Deacon contact, who will be in touch with the minister on call. *Non-emergency* church family needs are channeled through the Deacons, who can assist with a visit, phone call, or in some other way.

Worship Leaders while Pastor Mark is on vacation include:

- 7/16 Sharon Sirois
- 7/23 Gerri Cannon
- 7/30 Women’s Fellowship, with Kathy Latchaw coordinating

A Gentle Reminder:

- * Sunday Bulletin announcements/information needs to be in writing to the Church Office by MONDAY, or, you may e-mail it directly to Debbie Hall at kenanddebhall@comcast.net
- * Monthly Newsletter items MUST be submitted by the 3rd Friday [OR as noted in the monthly newsletter calendar]. Earlier is better! Email directly to Debbie Hall at kenanddebhall@comcast.net Written items may be left in the pocket on the copy room door as well (just let Deb know!).
- * Monthly calendar dates and times are submitted directly to Priscilla Chellis at prchellis@comcast.net
- * Updates on birthdays, anniversaries may be sent to Luise Watman at lcwatman@comcast.net

Note: If you serve on a committee, please communicate directly with your Committee Chair if you are unable to attend a scheduled meeting or event.

Community Action Partnership of Strafford County

Community Action Partnership of Strafford County (CAPSC), is providing free meals this summer at sites in Dover, Rochester and Somersworth. There is a definitive listing posted on the narthex and church hall bulletin board, but shared here are the Somersworth sites. The meals are Breakfast and Lunch, with CAPS participating in the federal Summer Food Service Program to provide these free meals for all children ages 0-18 (babies and toddlers included). In Somersworth:

Charles Ott Academy, 36 Canal St.
Meals served: Monday-Thursday July 5-31
Breakfast 7:45 to 8:30AM Lunch 11-11:30AM

Cherryfield Village, 37 Cherryfield Drive
Meals served: Monday through Friday June26-August 18
Breakfast 8:15-8:45AM, Lunch 11:15-11:45AM

Somersworth Youth Connection, Middle School, 7 Memorial Drive
Meals served: Monday-Thursday July 10-August 11
Breakfast 8:15-8:45AM, Lunch 11:30-12PM

Somersworth Recreation, Noble Pines
Meals served Monday-Friday June 26-August 18, closed July 4
Breakfast 8:30-9AM Monday-Friday, Lunch 12-12:30PM, Monday, Wednesday, Friday only.

During our last meeting we reviewed our Community Conversations over the past several months.

- Teatotaler felt the event worked well for them and they were great hosts.
- Conversations were great and we had a diverse group of participants - catholic, atheist, Quaker, GLTB, ...
- The time of day was a bit difficult for the committee. The duration was possibly not quite long enough; maybe we need 1/2 hr to 45 mins more.
- Every week might have been too often. Every other week might work better. We also discussed that we could see how the conversation goes and decide on the fly when to continue.
- Some folk struggled with the “and Faith” portion of the agenda topics. They were uncomfortable attending as they felt they didn’t have faith - it put them off a bit. Do we need to include it in the agenda topic? Isn’t enough to understand that First Parish Church is sponsoring the event and faith will undoubtedly find its way into the conversation?
- Communication of the event from week to week was a challenge
- We should include High School students as they face many challenges. It would provide an opportunity to engage others in the conversation.

We discussed possible future events and options for speakers. **There are** multiple sources for speakers we can leverage. We plan to map out 3-4 important topics.

- The UCC Speaker’s Bureau (Our own Gerri Cannon is one of the speakers)
- UNH Speaker’s Bureau
- NH Under the Bridge
- NAMI-Maine
- Seacoast African American Cultural Center and the Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail

If you have ideas we would love to hear them. We would also appreciate your involvement, a little or a lot, with our committee.

Thank you, Geoff and Nancy Day, Open and Affirming Committee

TRUSTEES

It's that time of year where we find ourselves with more expenses than income - please help the church by continuing your gifts over the slow summer months. In May we took in \$2,000 less than our expenses and the trend normally continues throughout the summer - we appreciate your continued support over the slow summer months. Thank you - to all who support the many fund raisers the church has from the spaghetti suppers to the yard sale - it really does make a difference!

The board is looking into an activity request by Elaine Mondor of the NH Community Loan Fund, to use our facility for Board meetings starting on 6/27/17 through the end of September. They would like to use our hall for a residents' meeting on 7/29/17.

We are still discussing and in the process of hiring an Event Coordinator position. We will keep you posted as this position evolves. We discussed the possibility of using our church as a staging point for emergency services in the event of an Active Shooter in one of our schools. More work needs to be done to identify church contacts, make the Food Pantry people aware of this effort, etc.

The Board discussed the results of the inquiry into the Pepler Trust Fund Management. It looks like we are being charged more in Management fees than we are making from the fund. The Finance and Stewardship committee will be considering what options to take next. We are looking at hiring a roofing contractor over the next couple of months to fix the roof around the elevator shaft. We are exploring technology upgrade options for the Church and plan to invite a consultant to our board meeting in the near future - if you have any ideas please speak to one of the Trustees.

Information was provided about Lifetime tables and chairs to replace the existing ones around the church. We currently are taking inventory of how many chairs and tables that will be needed. Building and Grounds are in the process of scheduling a Boiler inspection as well as contacting D.F. Richard about Pre-paying for heating fuel.

Bruce made some minor repairs around the church (door stop, wall repairs, crown molding on pews etc.) If anyone sees or hears about things that need to be repaired please let Gerri or Bruce know. A Big Thank-You to Jeff Libby (he and Carolyn are moving to Maine) for his many years on the Building and Grounds committee - he was the go-to guy on so many workings within the Church and he will be missed - which leaves an open spot on our committee for anyone interested. 😊

The Trustees continue to manage all the different aspects of our shared journey together here at First Parish . If you ever have any questions please feel free to contact us. Submitted by Gregg Fournier - for The Board of Trustees

DIACONATE

Pastor Mark will be on vacation on July 10th – 30th. Worship services will be led by members of the Diaconate and Women's Fellowship.

During our recent meeting the Diaconate reviewed several items on our agenda.

We conducted a review of our Covenant Membership list. We discussed members who are now attending another church, who no longer attend, etc. We pay a fee to the NH Conference for each member, so we have worked to keep the list fairly accurate.

We reviewed our Visitation List. The purpose of our list is to periodically reach out to our members and see how they are doing.

As many of you know Brenda Davidson is moving north. Unfortunately, we will be losing her on the Diaconate. It certainly has been our pleasure to have her as a member of the Diaconate.

As part of our Church Vitality initiative we will be having a Church Silent Auction. We will be looking for volunteers to help plan and facilitate the event over the course of the summer. Kathy Latchaw is coordinating this activity.

Church access and security: We haven't had any negative feedback on our program. We will provide periodic updates during Announcements.

Children's Sunday went very well and the Taco Lunch was excellent!

Baccalaureate was held on Wednesday, May 31st with 18 Seniors attending with a good number of family as well. Positive feedback was received from the School Administration.

The Faith and Formation is having a Bible Story and Craft at The Noble Pines on four consecutive Monday evenings from 5-7pm starting on July 31st thru August 21st

We are considering an outdoor worship potentially with United Methodist Church, Berwick. This will most likely be in August at a location to be determined.

Thank you, Geoff Day



The Community Food Pantry invites your donations of canned or dried meats, stews, peanut butter, tuna, beans...and protein items. Please share via the bin in the Narthex and many thanks.



"Come One, Come All.... those who love singing, those who THINK they love singing, those who just WANT to sing!!!

The Senior Choir is having a "Choir Retreat" on Saturday, August 12th. We will start at 8:30 a.m. sharing breakfast with the Men of the church! There will be fruit, danish and who knows what else!!!! (You don't HAVE to come to breakfast!!!) We will gather to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" at 9 a.m. and end at noon. If you are "new" to choir singing, we work hard and we have fun! See you there!!!!"

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

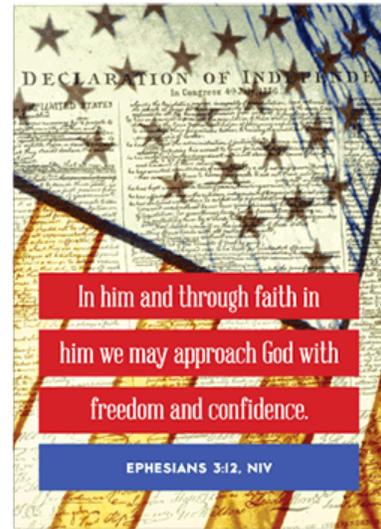
Greetings again! Our last meeting was June 10th and we had a busy meeting. Of course, we started out with a great breakfast and spirited conversation. Now that the NBA and NHL finals are over, we can concentrate on our Red Sox for the Summer. They have a good team again this year, we'll see how far they can go.

On the business end, we have scheduled a few events for the season. The first is the annual "Hackmaque Barbeque" on Saturday, July 15th. We will cook at the Church Hall at 5pm, then head over for the show. This year we have decided on the "Buddy Holly Story" Tickets are \$30.00 each that includes a barbecue that includes shared salads/side dish. We have already generated a sign up sheet. Thanks to Dave Stolpe for reserving the seats and it should be a good time.

Again, we will start the annual "Veterans Sock Drive" in September and the " Ham and Bean Supper" on Saturday, October 15th at 4pm.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, July 15th at 8:30am in the Church Hall. We will set up for the "barbeque" that morning and be ready to go. Our Group works hard at times, but we always manage to make it fun and enjoyable. We hope you have a safe and happy Summer, also feel free to join us for the best breakfast in town and bring a friend..

Submitted by Dave Hamel for "Da Boys"



Somersworth National Night Out, 5-7PM, August 1st, Jules Bisson Park, Ward 5. Free food, activities, raffles, in a family friendly substance free community! Open to everyone, with an emphasis on substance misuse prevention, community building and meeting your neighbors. Jointly sponsored by the Somersworth Prevention Coalition and the Somersworth Police Department.

Thank you! Reading the scriptures on Sunday morning is one part of our larger worship service, and it does make a difference if you come prepared!

Sometime during the week prior to the Sunday service, you will receive an email or a phone call from Pastor Mark. He will share with you what readings you will be asked to read. While the lectionary readings [Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle/New Testament, Gospel] are listed in the monthly newsletter, not all will be read in worship each week and the order of readings may vary.

The Bible on the lectern is the *New Revised Standard Version*, and is typically the preferred version to be read out loud on Sunday. The lectern Bible is large print, and more easily read, and matches the pew Bibles. Pastor Mark may choose another translation and often uses *The Message*, a paraphrase by Rev. Eugene Peterson. All of this being said, if you read from a version other than the NRSV, please identify which version you are reading from.

To prepare: It is up to you to read the requested passages ahead of time. Please **do not wait until Sunday morning** to read the passages for the first time. If you have questions, speak with Pastor Mark.

Common ways to introduce a reading. Here are some examples of what to say:

- The first lesson from scripture is from the Book of Psalms, number 23.
- The first lesson from the Old Testament is from Exodus, chapter 10, verses 1-9.
- The New Testament lesson this morning is from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 4, verses 5-12. Note: When introducing a reading from one of the letters (most often written by Apostle Paul), you may say, “The Epistle (which means letter) this morning is from Paul’s first letter to the church at Corinth.” Be aware that most, though not all the “letters” were written by Paul.
- The Gospel lesson this morning is from the gospel according to Mark, chapter 5: verses 4-13.

Another note: Once you’ve introduced the specific reading, a spoken introduction (based on your own knowledge) prior to your reading is often helpful to set the context for the passage to be read. This it totally up to you.

When you are done reading, often the reader will say something like:

- May God add blessing and understanding to this reading from scripture.
- May God bless our understanding, and guide us with the Spirit’s discerning presence.

Some expectations for Scripture Readers:

1. Arrive early enough on Sunday in order to mark the pulpit Bible using the ribbon markers, or in some other way, so that you move smoothly from one reading to the next. The same holds if you choose to use your personal Bible. The pulpit Bible has many pencil markings from previous readers! **Pencil Only—feel free to adjust for your needs when you read.**
2. In reading ahead of time, check pronunciation. As an example, a common mistake is to pronounce these two words the same way: prophecy (praw-fe-see); prophesy (praw-fe-sigh). Names can be tongue twisters! When all else fails, simply read what you see with conviction—no one is judging!
3. Using the microphone: adjust as needed for height, and speak clearly and slowly. Be aware that when you turn your head to read, you may be turning your head from the microphone.
4. Speak up! We all have a tendency to lower our voices at the end of a sentence—be attentive to maintaining the same level of tone and volume as you speak into the microphone.
5. Come prepared!