

**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



2018



Saying goodbye to someone is never easy, especially when it's someone who has had an huge impact on your life. This can be said for our Pastor, the Reverend Mark Rideout.

On Sunday, July 29th we will express our love for Pastor Mark who is retiring from the ministry after serving our church for over thirty years. We appreciate the years of devotion and selflessness Pastor Mark has given us. He encouraged us to maintain our faith in a loving and compassionate God.

It has been a blessing to our congregation to have a minister who knows us so well and cares for us so deeply.

We invite all of our church family and friends to join us in church Sunday, July 29th to hear his farewell sermon and then join us immediately after to celebrate his retirement with a luncheon in the fellowship hall.

Please RSVP either.

Rich Whitten at richwhit10@comcast.net or call him at 603-781-3827

Kathy Latchaw at klatchaw@comcast.net or 603-427-8958

Patty Cote at marc.patty@comcast.net or 603- 767-8069

You can also put your name on the sign up sheet that will be passed around and in the Narthex.



Dear Ones:

As these last weeks' unfold for me and you, they bring to my awareness the poignancy of doing routine things for the last time. This is my last newsletter; I've met with the Deacons, Trustees, our Church Council for the last time. There are updates that need to be done and documents to collect and share. On July 1, it will be 33 years to the day that I started in pastoral ministry at First Parish UCC, Somersworth, NH. In this church I was ordained to the Christian ministry and installed as Pastor and Teacher in the same service. We've shared much on this journey of life and faith. But, the day to day "stuff" still needs doing—worship planned, visits made, prayer offered.

Plans are being made for my final Sunday, which is July 29th. Morning Worship on that day will include an intentional liturgy ending an Authorized Ministry. We will join together in releasing one another from the vows and commitments that were made 33 years ago. You will be asked **"Do you, the members and friends of First Parish United Church of Christ, release Mark Rideout from the duties of pastor?"** One of the questions addressed to me will be, **"Do you, Mark Rideout, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?"** These vows of release remind us that our bond within the Church of Jesus Christ will never change, but the nature of our bond will indeed undergo significant change; the vows mean that I will no longer be performing pastoral services for you, nor leading any worship services, nor discussing any church matters with you. The vows mean that you will not expect me to perform such service nor make such requests of me.

I have every confidence that under the guidance of the Holy Spirit the processes that your Church Leaders have initiated through our covenantal relationships with the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the Carroll-Strafford Association will bear fruit. What will encourage hope, feed renewal, sustain all that is good and reflective of God's grace—is YOU! This is not a time for *"wait and see"*, but **your** active presence in worship, outreach, community involvement, with a resounding, "I'm committed to support the church through prayer, participation and continued giving." Apostle Paul wrote to the Church at Philippi, *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* **YOU and this church can too!** Your leaders will discern with you directions to be chosen. Be patient! God is guiding.

I'm a "clipper and saver", and this has surfaced with a message for us both in the days ahead.

The Simple Path

The fruit of silence is prayer.

The fruit of prayer is faith.

The fruit of faith is love.

The fruit of love is service.

The fruit of service is peace.

~Mother Teresa of Calcutta~

I give thanks for your love, support and caring for me and my family through these years,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

~Pastor Mark



Pastor Mark will be on vacation August 4-31.

Emergency Pastoral coverage is being provided as follows:

8/4-31 Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor First Church, Congregational, Rochester is available for emergencies. Deacon contact is Laurel Curtis 603-969-1815. 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.



Prayer Group Update The ministry of prayer is such a vital part of the shared life of First Parish Church! As the group met with Pastor Mark, some decisions were made as the group moves forward in their ministry of prayer. They share these aspects here for your awareness. 1) The group will maintain the list which they use, but rely on regular updates from people who request prayer support. Please keep a prayer group member informed—they will be in contact with one another to share the update. 2) As the group grieves the loss of long-time member, Bertha Carr, they are also praying to discern additional members for the Prayer Group. Are you feeling called to such a ministry—if so, speak with one of the members noted below. 3) They will invite the Interim Minister to a Prayer Group meeting, and after the Interim time, the next Called Pastor will be invited to a Prayer Group meeting.

4) The blue, Sunday Prayer Cards will be retained and passed along to the Prayer Group. The Deacons will be asked to place these, or any other prayer requests in their mailbox in the copy room. 5) The Deacons are aware of the contact information for the members of the Prayer Group and 6) Sending a Card from the church. Nancy Brown has agreed to do this, she just needs to be given a name and address. Emailing Nancy Brown at obrowski@aol.com would work best. Pastor Mark offers deep thanks for the continued prayer ministry, having experienced deep blessing through this partnership that makes such a difference in so many lives.

Prayer Group Members:

Sue Boucher, P. O. Box 7193, Gonic, NH 03839
Dec-May: 7556 Moriah Ave, Brookridge Community, Brooksville, FL 34613
Cell: 603-617-6949
Email: sznnboucher@yahoo.com

Dottie Douglas, 20 Columbus Ave., #213, Rochester, NH 03867
(603) 332-6113
Email: dottiedouglas@metrocast.net

Fran Karlik, 15 Church Hill Road, Durham, NH 03824
(603) 397-5674
Email: kinross2@comcast.net



Worship Leaders while Pastor is on vacation include:

- 8/5 Men's Fellowship, Dave Hamel is contact
- 8/12 Women's Fellowship, Kathy Latchaw is contact
- 8/19 Sharon Sirois
- 8/26 Geoff Day



Your Deacons have each taken a portion of our **Members & Friends List** [most often used for mailings, etc.], and the letter breakdown is as follows:

- A, B, C* Kathy Latchaw 603-978-0785
- D, E* Laurel Curtis 603-969-1815
- F, G* Bill Voye 603-742-5196
- H, I, J, K, L, M* Priscilla Chellis 603-698-5977
- N, O, P, Q, R, S* (through Sue Sargent) Geoff Day 207-698-7614
- S (Scribner)-Z* Debbie Hall 207-698-1158

This breakdown means that each Deacon has "you under their wing." All of the Deacons welcome your sharing of joys and concerns as we journey together.



MINISTRY OF PRAYER & CONCERN

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

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

Rev. Bill & Pat Hamel, *The Manor at Canyon
Lakes*, #210, 2802 West 35th 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.*



Sympathy is extended to the
families of:

- **Donald Beardslee** [6/3] *husband of Paula (Foley) Beardslee, son-in-law of Betty Foley and wider family.*
- **Dorothy Blaisdell** [5/24] *daughter; Linda (Bill) Hodgdon, son, David (Priscille) Blaisdell and wider family.*
- **Walter "Tiny" Johnson** [6/11] *sons, Scott Johnson, Kent (Jennifer Johnson, daughter; Lyn (Stephen) McKenney and wider family.*
- **Margaret Flanagan Poole** [5/25] *niece of Ed & Helene Courier*
- **Patty Spooner** [6/13] *husband, Doug, daughter-in-law of Maddy Ashley*

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



Nancy Anderson [hospice]

Craig Breden [health]

Eric Burgess [health] *Jinny Burgess's son*

Carol Cummings [healing]

Gail Day [health]

Mark Dudley [healing] *son of Carroll & Barbara Dudley*

Dan Gaudreault [healing] *Sue Boucher's nephew*

Debbie Hall [healing]

Kathe Johnson [health] *Geoff Day's sister*

Gloria Martel [health] *Linda Farrell's mother*

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, and specifically in July, the Maranatha Indonesian United Church of Christ and their pastor the Rev. Sandra Pontoh; and in August, the Madbury United Church of Christ, and their interim pastor the Rev. Jim Chaloner.*
- *That God will bless and guide our Transitional Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Charles Buck, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater*
- *Faith formation ministries for all ages - for building strong faith foundations, at all ages and stages of 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 United Church of Christ: invite, include, involve in the good news way of Christ!*



JULY LECTIONARIES

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 1, 2018

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 & Psalm 130
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15, 2:23-24 *or*
Lamentations 3:22-33 & Psalm 30
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 8, 2018

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 & Psalm 48
Ezekiel 2:1-5 & Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 15, 2018

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 & Psalm 24
Amos 7:7-15 & Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

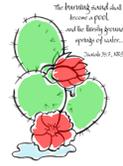
July 22, 2018

1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49 & Psalm 9:9-20
or 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 18:10-16 & Psalm 133
Job 38:1-11 & Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

July 29, 2018

2 Samuel 11:1-15 & Psalm 14
2 Kings 4:42-44 & Psalm 145:10-18
Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21



AUGUST LECTIONARIES

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 5, 2018

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a & Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 & Psalm 78:23-29
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 12, 2018

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 & Psalm 130
1 Kings 19:4-8 & Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 19, 2018

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 & Psalm 111
Proverbs 9:1-6 & Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Green

August 26, 2018

1 Kings 8:(1-6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 & Psalm 84
Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 & Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69



MISSIONS

The sign up sheet for the School Backpack Project is in the Narthex. The idea is to sign up to bring in the requested items to fill the backpacks. The items should be returned to church on or before Sunday, August 19th. The committee will put the backpacks together and deliver them to elementary schools in Somersworth, Rollinsford, Berwick, and Lebanon. Backpacks brought in can be new, or in like-new condition. You can also sign up to "adopt a backpack". That means you would supply the backpack complete with all the items in it. There is a handy "shopping list" available that you can take with you. These backpacks are given to children, by the schools, who do not have a backpack to start school with.



- July 1 *Pete & Sue Vollkommer*
- July 7 Bill Cox
- July 12 Carol Cummings
- July 17 *Clay & Linda Oelkuct*
- July 20 Elaine Goodberry
- July 22 Mary Horton, *Dave & Chris Stolpe*
- July 23 Cynthia Jutras
- July 24 Luise Watman, Nancy Day, Allison St.Jean
- July 27 Jordan Brown
- 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. 12 Dean Martin
- Aug. 13 *Mike & Sharon Sirois*
- Aug. 14 Chris Stolpe, Kim Conley
- Aug. 17 Ele Janetos, Fran Nichols
- Aug. 23 Cassidy Richer, *Richard & Cynthia Jutras*
- Aug. 24 Jim Goodberry, Sean Marshall
- Aug. 25 Linda Palmer
- Aug. 28 Linda Breden, Julie Anderson
- Aug. 29 Joanne Anderson



United in Marriage at

York, ME on June 22 were

Kaitlyn McKenna and Lucas

Mathews. Lucas' parents, Ray & Julie Mathews, and brothers Brett and Greg were all in attendance with both families and friends, adding joy to their wedding!

May God's richest blessing surround this newly married couple.

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!

New Arrival



Logan Joseph Sworks, born 5/19/18, son of Brian & Stephanie (Sirois) Sworks, grandson of Michael and Sharon Sirois. Such a joy to welcome a child into the world!

May the blessing of hope and health surround this family.



LIBRARY NEWS:

After 10 years of being the church librarian, the summer display will be my last .

Hopefully, everyone has enjoyed the displays.

The library is sorted by category and the card catalog is contained in the boxes on the top shelf. I hope that someone will step up and take over this job. You can feel free to organize the library any way you would like and I will be happy to show you the materials we have for cataloging and borrowing books. Please see me if you would like to take over this pleasant job. I have had so much fun with it. If you would like to contact me about taking over this duty, my email is lcwatman@comcast.net or call me at 692-7908.

Luise Watman

CELEBRATE



Celebrate with Nancy McDonough who turned 80 on June 20th



I hope you all will have an enjoyable summer.

The Women's Fellowship had a lovely evening for our dinner at Newick's. There were about 25 women who joined us.

We will continue to meet this summer on Tuesday mornings and we are looking for new ideas for the Holly Daze Fair.

If you have any thoughts about what other crafts we might include, please let Kathy Latchaw know. We are also looking to some people who would be willing to create some sewn crafts for the fair. Do you know anyone who might like to do that?

We would like to have our annual summer get together this July. If you know of a nice spot that we could go to let us know.

Gratefully, Kathy Latchaw



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. Children are welcome in worship! As per the decision of the Deacons, the next celebration of Holy Communion will be on September 2nd.
- Do you 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.

***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.*

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 kenanddebbhall@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 kenanddebbhall@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.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will offer their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at First Parish UCC on **7/6/2018**. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**

Thank you to Rich Whitten, Laurel Curtis and Geoff Day for being the face of First Parish Church at the SOMERSWORTH CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL



Be the Church
Protect the environment. Care for the poor.
Forgive often. Reject racism.
Fight for the powerless.
Share earthly and spiritual resources.
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.
God is still speaking

The **Purpose Statement**, the UCC reason for being, is drawn from a passage in Matthew's Gospel: *To love God with all our heart, mind soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.*

The **Mission Statement**: *United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.*

The Vision: *United in Christ's love, a just world for all.*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship - 9:30AM (in July & August)

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

Somersworth National Night Out, Tuesday, August 8 from 5:30-7:30PM, 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.

FAITH FORMATION

On the 2nd Saturday in July and August, July 14 and August 11, we will be at The Gathering Place, on High Street in Somersworth, for an hour of crafting and conversation. First Parish is sponsoring a one hour craft event. The Gathering Place has many crafts for you to choose from. We will be there from 4-5pm to craft with you and the conversation is always sparkling. This is an event for the whole family.

Once again we will be at the Noble Pines park in Somersworth, in the grass near the swings, with our Story and Craft Time. Look for our "pop up" tent. We will be there on Monday evenings July 30, August 6, August 13, and August 20, from 6-7:30pm. We have chosen the stories, Noah's Ark, Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors, Daniel in the Lion's Den, and Jonah and the Whale. 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 readings, and close with a song (one verse will be added each week), and the Lord's Prayer. We will have others 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. 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 Sunday School during July and August. Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 16th.

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.



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.

DIACONATE

Your Diaconate met for the last time until September and they discussed many things in depth. They finalized the August Worship Leader Schedule since Pastor Mark will be using up his final vacation time that month. Emergency coverage will be Rev. Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy, Pastor of First Church Rochester, and our Deacon contact is Laurel Curtis. Please see this outlined elsewhere in this issue where it lists phone numbers and protocol to follow.

Lay Leaders will be: Aug 5, Men's Fellowship; Aug 12, Women's Fellowship; Aug 19, Sharon Sirois; Aug 26, Geoff Day. The Deacons voted to forgo Communion on Aug 5th and to wait until Sept 2nd when hopefully an Interim Pastor will be onboard.

Our Annual Yard Sale on June 16th went well as did our presence at the Somersworth Children's Festival on the same day. Many people stopped to inquire about our church.

The Diaconate members had a long discussion about the Active Shooter topic after Pastor Mark and a few others from First Parish attended a workshop in April. This will be an ongoing discussion throughout the coming months as they discern how the church might handle this topic at First Parish.

Did you go watch one or more of the softball games played by our sponsored T-Ball team? The games have ended for this year so hopefully you caught at least one and cheered on the team!

Somersworth High School Baccalaureate went well on June 6th. In the several years that First Parish has sponsored, this was the largest group of participating graduates (32) and the largest audience of family and friends (about 100). Thank you to Pastor Mark who initiated this sponsorship years ago and the Deacons trust it will continue on in 2019.

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

TRUSTEES

Financial Update:

Treasurers report: Income for May, 2018 was \$6,329, expenses were \$10,899, for a net balance of negative \$(4,570). Income for 2018 year to date is negative \$(5,237) behind 2017, expenses for 2018 year to date is \$1,020 less than 2017. Mortgage, current balance is approximately \$43,000. General fund balance is \$7,230, funds available are \$1,964, memorial fund balance is \$12,599.34.

I want thank-you ahead of time for keeping your financial gifts current through the summer months, we always tend to have lower income but the same monthly expenses

With Pastor Mark retiring August 31 (last day is July 31) the Trustees are having conversations about the Parsonage and also it's upkeep - we'll also be working closely with the Church Council and PPRC as we go through the process of this transition phase and will help out as necessary - if you have any concerns or comments please reach out to one of the Trustees

The Pepler Trust is still in the process of being transferred or terminated - we are awaiting guidance from Maine lawyer Sue Thibodeau - we will keep posted.

Building and Grounds planned maintenance items:

- Negotiating oil and propane prebuy with DF Richard
- Scheduling a boiler inspection
- Parsonage items needing to be repaired or replaced: the carpet, copper piping in the cellar, and the house trim needs to be painted.
- Church repairs that need to be completed: elevator shaft roof leak, paint the church sanctuary, and varnish the wood windows and trim, stripe the parking lot, and replace all incandescent lighting with LED lighting.

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 any of us - (Ken Latchaw - Robin Hamel - Gerri Cannon - Bruce Robbins)

Respectively submitted by Gregg Fournier



SPAGHETTI SUPPER

We have had very successful Spaghetti Suppers so far from September to May. We raised \$3,346.50 to help the church's general fund.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make it so successful! We feel blessed to have help from so many members and friends of our church family.

We hope you have a wonderful summer. We'll see you again for our next supper which will be held on September 22nd.

The Spaghetti Supper Committee
Tom Allen * Patty Cote * Debbie Hall

An article from Paul Nickerson, Nickerson Coaching: A weekly idea, program or perspective on reaching new people in your community.

As I encourage church folk to be out in the community meeting new people, I often get asked, "Well, what do I say when I meet someone?" I want to encourage you to just relax and be normal. Often we church people want to immediately bring up church/faith issues as soon as we meet someone new. Or I hear church members say, "How do I get this person into church." PLEASE—when you meet someone new, do not view them as a "project" to get to your church. Un-churched people will quickly sense if you only see them as a number to count in the pew or as a pledge card! Rather, treat folk like people. Take a genuine interest in another person, build a relationship; earn the person's trust. As people get to know you they will ask you questions and there will be plenty of opportunities to share the story of your faith and your church. People appreciated genuine interest and heartfelt concern; they quickly reject being manipulated or being part of someone's "agenda."

So go out and meet lots of people. Relax, have fun, get to know people. You will be energized and your faith will grow in these conversations. If you invest in folks you will discover many people are open to the Good News you have to share, especially if you don't jump on them in the first 10 minutes!

Wishing you many energizing and sacred conversations. Blessings, Paul Nickerson



Priscilla Chellis has decided to step down from preparing First Parish Church's monthly calendar. This month's calendar is her last one.

Thank you, Priscilla, for taking the responsibility of making the calendar for the past 2 1/2 years and for being the Newsletter Editor for several years before that. As always, you have done a wonderful job with them.

Would you like to prepare the monthly calendar for our newsletter? If you are interested, or would like to know more about it, please contact Debbie Hall (kenanddebbhall@comcast.net or 207-698-1158.

ANNUAL YARD SALE

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped with our Annual Church Yard Sale on June 16th. It is always a great event and so much fun to participate in. The weather was perfect for both inside and outside sales, plus our steamed hot dog booth was the usual big hit with customers as well as workers (we sold 80 dogs!). Everyone always enjoys the Fill-A-Box for \$5 that we offer near the end of the sale.

Many of you came to help out over the course of 3 days and it was all very much appreciated. Although they retired last year after 10 years of Yard Sale duty, Marc and Patty Cote helped with every aspect, making for a smooth run the day of the sale plus set-up ahead of the sale. I want to send extra special thanks to them for their advice and support throughout. We took in around \$1,770 before expenses. A job well done for all of us! Thank you!

~Priscilla Chellis

Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for sponsoring this year's Yard Sale and to Priscilla Chellis for helping to coordinate, leading the set-up, and so present before, during and after the Yard Sale! Well done!

