

# FIRST PARISH CHURCH

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



[www.somersworthfirstparish.org](http://www.somersworthfirstparish.org)  
[firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net](mailto:firstparishsomersworth@myfairpoint.net)



*June, 2014*

## FIRST PARISH YARD SALE

**JUNE 21, 2014**  
**8:30am - 1:00pm**

Reminder: Electrical devices or electronic items, must be in good working order. Please remember, no clothing, battery operated toys that don't work, mattresses, broken items, tires, car seats, large appliances or cribs. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OFF AT THE GARAGE DOOR OR LEAVE UNATTENDED IN THE CHURCH HALL!** Kindly make arrangements with us and we will meet you there, or we'll be happy to transport your items to church for you.

Your help is needed in several areas, preparing for and the day of the yard sale:

**Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> 6-7:30pm**

emptying the garage, bringing boxes into the hall

**Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-6pm**

unpacking boxes and displaying on tables

**Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> 8am-1pm**

assisting patrons with their purchases

**Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> 1pm till done (3pm?)**

clean up crew

Please consider how you might be able to help out and then watch for the Yard Sale sign-up sheet. This is a great fundraiser for the church and a wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

Marc & Patty Cote, Yard Sale Coordinators  
Cell: 603-767-8069

# Ministry of Prayer and Concern

**Nancy Ainsworth**, *Edgewood Center*,  
928 South St., Portsmouth, NH 03801  
**Lucille Berry**, *Studley Home*, 15 Eastern  
Ave., Rochester, NH 03867 335-1241  
**Marion Burnham**, *Dover Center for  
Health and Rehabilitation*,  
307 Plaza Driver, Dover, NH 03820  
**Bertha Carr**, *Rockingham County  
Nursing Home*  
117 North Road, Brentwood, NH 03833  
**Peggy Goodrow**, *Clipper Harbor at  
Portsmouth*,  
188 Jones Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801  
**Bob Philbrick**, *Berwick Estates*,  
75 Portland St., So. Berwick, ME 03908  
**Elinor Ridlon**, *Langdon Place of Dover*,  
60 Middle Road, Dover, NH 03820  
**Mona Faucher, Janet Giffin, Dorothy  
Storms, Bernice Stucker**,  
*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.*

**Prayer Concerns** may be added to the active  
Prayer List by: using a Prayer Card in worship;  
submitting in writing to the Church Office, or  
contacting those on the Prayer Group. Prayer  
Group members include: Sue Boucher [603-617-  
6949], Bertha Carr, Dottie Douglas [603-332-  
6113] and Fran Karlik [603-330-3724].  
Names/concerns shared with the group are held  
until the next quarterly meeting of the group  
unless asked to keep the name on.

# In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Fred Chellis [health]  
Pete Daley [health] *Bette Daley's husband*  
Georgina Fortier [health]  
Rev. Bill Hamel [health]  
Roger & Tosh Horton [health]  
Mike Letcher [health] *Ele & Lewis Janetos  
grandnephew*  
Al Loika [health]  
Andrew MacDonald [healing] *Fran Karlik's  
grandson*  
Eden-Faith Trussell [health]  
Lucy Voye [health]  
Rev. Tom Clark, *Tri-City Covenant Church*  
[healing];

*AND ongoing prayer focus during these days:*

- For our Carroll-Strafford Association Churches, and specifically in June, Lee Church Congregational, and their pastor, Rev. Gail Kindberg.
- For safety and serenity to surround the Armed Forces and those serving in support capacities.
- For first responders who bring skill and direction in the midst of chaos.
- That God will bless and guide our Conference Minister, Rev. Gary Schulte, and Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Richard Slater, and the UKAMA Partnership with the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe.
- 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.
- By the Spirit's leading, through church coaching, prayer, and discernment, that First Parish United Church of Christ will be present among in our communities, building relationships, inviting people to experience God's light and love.



6/1: Jenny Fortier  
6/4: Jonathan and Lizzie Chellis (Anniv)  
6/5: Martha Collins, Amanda Hurley  
6/6: Gayle O'Connor  
6/7: Dave Robin Hamel (Anniv)  
6/ 8: Don & Pat Whitten (Anniv)  
6/9: John Pay  
6/10: Bill & Pat Hamel (Anniv)  
6/ 11: Richard & Diane Shepherd (Anniv)  
6/12: Dave & Esther Eastman (Anniv)  
6/13: Ray & Julie Mathews (Anniv)  
6/14: Gregg & Rachel Fournier (Anniv)  
6/15: Gladys Butt  
6/16: Bill Libby  
6/17: Karen MacRae, Heather Fournier  
6/19: Sharon Sirois, Jeffrey and Carolyn Libby (Anniv)  
6/20: Nancy McDonough, Kotey McDonough  
6/22: Julie Mathews, Eli & Patricia Kovalik, Mike & Susan Nye, Ken & Kathy Latchaw (Anniversaries)  
6/24: Keith & Sherie Dinger (Anniv)  
6/25: Scott & Holly Rouleau (Anniv)  
6/26: Jaylee Conley, Fred & Priscilla Chellis (Anniv)  
6/28: Fred Chellis  
6/29: Jim & Elaine Goodberry (Anniv)  
6/30: Kelly Rose Kitterman, Al & Audrey Loika (Anniv)

### **Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of:**

**Officer Stephen Arkell**, Brentwood Police Officer who died in the line of duty  
**Patricia Eastman**, who died on May 7<sup>th</sup>, daughter-in-law of Dave & Toddy Eastman; sister-in-law of Susan Eastman  
**Palma Harmon**, who died on May 16<sup>th</sup>, wife of Everett Harmon, mom of Patty & Marc Cote.

May God's deep peace surround these families.

## **JUNE LECTIONARIES**

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*June 1, 2014*

Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

### **Day of Pentecost**

*Jun 8, 2014*

Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21

John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

### **Trinity Sunday/First Sunday after Pentecost**

*June 15, 2014*

Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

### **Second Sunday after Pentecost**

*June 22, 2014*

Genesis 21:8-21 & Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Jeremiah 20:7-13 & Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

### **Third Sunday after Pentecost**

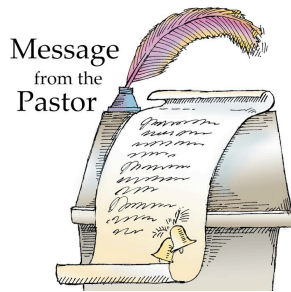
*June 29, 2014*

Genesis 22:1-15 & Psalm 13

Jeremiah 28:5-9 & Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42



I thought it important to share an update about our Church Cluster Coaching.

First Parish UCC has participated in few cluster coaching conference calls; Pastor Mark has had a few clergy focused conference calls. There has been “homework” for both laity and clergy prior to these cluster calls. We are accountable to our “coach”, Rev. Paul Nickerson. We have unlimited access to him as well.

FYI: Our cluster consists of: Longmeadow Congregational Church, Auburn, NH; Lee Church Congregational, Lee, NH and First Parish UCC, Somersworth, NH. The other churches are in Hampstead, Charlestown, Kensington, Center Harbor, West Concord, and Littleton.

We are reminded us that *our goal is to bear fruit by making connections in our community and appropriately inviting people to experience relationships of hope, faith and love.* I continue to seek intentional ways to spend 20% of my time outside of the church, in settings that are visible, and in places where I can potentially interact with people. The Deacons, individually have been asked to initiate member-guest activities to engage unchurched friends in relationship building.

**While the Deacons initiate these strategies, the vision shared, voted and affirmed by our Congregation gathered at the Annual Meeting, is that the wider church, YOU, our congregation’s members and friends will, with guidance, implement these same strategies. And Undergirding all of this work is prayer—your prayer, the ministry of our Prayer Group, our unified prayer in worship.**

*We believe we are being asked by God’s loving Spirit to experience new growth if we will work together. Being disciples of Jesus Christ, “leads us into paths we would not choose for ourselves”.*

We believe God has guided, and is guiding us to take this Spirit-filled leap of faith to build up our church as we share the power of the Good News. While ideas to draw in new people are needed, the willingness to move the idea into action is more helpful. Please feel free to speak with your Deacons, and be prepared for when the Deacons speak with you ~ seeking you to be actively involved in a member-guest activity.

May the power of the Holy Spirit bless us into abundant faith and life!

Alleluia! ~Pastor Mark

# Trustees

## Stewardship & Finance

The Finance & Stewardship committee has continued to monitor the "Post Deficit appeal" financial situation so they can determine if any further action will be required in order to meet the projected Budget for 2014. After a pretty busy April and breezing into May the committee would like to briefly update the congregation as to the current financial status. At this time a brief update has been scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. A handout will be provided in the bulletin and a quick update will be given during the announcement portion of worship. It is felt that a full meeting following worship is not necessary. However, as always the Stewardship & Finance committee will be available to answer any question or concerns.

Many Thanks,

The Finance & Stewardship Committee

Ken Latchaw, Mike Allen & Cynthia Jutras

### 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,  
Brenda Davidson-Calendar, Luise Watman-  
Birthdays/Anniversaries/Email Addresses

## Building & Grounds

May has been the month of cleanup at First Parish, and the Trustees want to thank everyone that has been helping us out by donating items and volunteering both time and labor.

Sheryl Parmenter cleaned the last of the fall leaves out of the flower beds and brought in some fresh mulch in preparation for another summer of colorful blossoms and blooms in the church flowerbeds. The flower beds are already looking great with the spring bulbs in full bloom!

Dave Hamel has restored outdoor areas that received minor damage from the winter storms and the many visits we had from the snow plow trucks.

A lawnmower donated by the Watman's sits in the garage with the blade sharpened and the engine tuned up waiting for the grass to grow.

Look for that volunteer list in the Narthex for summer lawn mowing!!

Painting projects, outdoor landscaping and driveway repairs are next on the list of summer projects for the Trustees

Let us know how you can help with church chores and reduce the strain on the church maintenance budget,

We are always looking for extra hands to help out!!

Building & Grounds Trustees

Joseph Fortier, Jeff Libby and Dean Martin

# Men's Fellowship

Wow! Hopefully we've strummed our way into the hearts of the ladies and all were fed to the max. Our ladies' breakfast with the world renowned 'Silver Strummers' as our entertainment was a wonderful time with about 80 in attendance. Makes one contemplate next year, doesn't it?!

What might be next? We have always been an amazing group of talent and passions. Our monthly meetings continue to embrace our faith as Christian men, and our need to reach out to all in fellowship. Please come and join in this and bring a friend! Be looking for your opportunity to vote for which show we see at Hackmatack this year, which follows our BBQ extravaganza. Were we go again! Our next men's breakfast will be June 14th at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall – see you there!!

Dave Stolpe  
For 'da boys'

# Spaghetti Supper

A big thank you to everyone who helped last month! As always, you are amazing! We had a wonderful assortment of mouthwatering desserts. It's always hard to choose which dessert to try!

We will have one more supper before a summer break. It will be held on June 28th. We hope you will join us for a scrumptious meal of spaghetti with meat sauce, cole slaw or 3 bean salad, a choice of white, garlic herb or garlic bread, a wonderful assortment of desserts and coffee, tea or punch. All this for only \$7.00 per person (Children ages 3-12 - \$3.50, under 3 are free). We hope you will join us and bring friends!

Spaghetti Supper Committee

Tom Allen, Patty Cote, Debbie Hall

# Adult Study

**Adult Study** continues on Wednesdays 6:30-8PM, June 4-25 at Leaven, in downtown Somersworth and Thursdays June 5-26, 9-10:30AM in the Chapel. The theme will be the "I am" passages from the Gospel of John: "I am the bread of life, I am the Good Shepherd, etc." Packet of class materials is available in the Narthex. Questions—speak with Pastor Mark.

*Thank you* for the lovely flowers and card that were presented to me on Children's Sunday. It is my honor to work with the children. I truly enjoy every second I spend with them.

Thank you! Sue Vollkommer

**Our 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.

If you want to add or change your birthday, anniversary, or email address information, please email any updates to [lcwatman@comcast.net](mailto:lcwatman@comcast.net) or just speak with Luise Watman.

If you would like to add an article to the newsletter, please email [kenanddebhall@comcast.net](mailto:kenanddebhall@comcast.net) or give Debbie Hall a copy in person.

Items to be put into the newsletter's calendar should be given to Brenda Davidson or emailed to her at [birds davidson@comcast.net](mailto:birds davidson@comcast.net).

The deadline for newsletter and calendar items is always at noon on the 3rd Friday of each month.



# Christian Education

We are still looking for a few Sunday School teachers for the summer months. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you would like to take a Sunday. It is a wonderful way to get to know the fabulous children in our church, and for them to get to know you!

A big thank you to Dave Stolpe for organizing and presenting, "My Faith is Like a Tree" on Children's Sunday. What an amazing experience!

## Pentecost

Fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, on a day called Pentecost, the community of believers, followers, disciples of Jesus was gifted with the Holy Spirit, the presence of the living God. Because Pentecost was a holiday celebrating the harvest (a bit like our Thanksgiving), the apostles and a large crowd had gathered to celebrate in Jerusalem. Many people had assembled near Peter and the other followers of Christ when "[F]rom heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind..." (Acts 2:ff, NRSV). Then tongues of fire descended on everyone in the crowd. After the wind and fire descended, all sorts of languages, known and unknown, came out of the crowd. Each person spoke "about God's deeds of power" (verse 11). No wonder Luke wrote, "All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'" (verse 12). The whole affair was mind-boggling and life-changing. The Holy Spirit had come upon many people; they knew God was powerfully at work in their midst. On Pentecost many years ago, some 3,000 people came to believe in Christ. That's why today Christians remember this powerful event as the birthday of the Church. Pentecost falls on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. To celebrate Pentecost, you are invited to worship, wearing something red, orange, yellow—symbolic of the Holy Spirit, and tongues of fire. *Come, Holy Spirit, come!*



## Diaconate

The Fire Drill, originally proposed for May, has been moved to June, due to the special occasions coinciding with Sunday services in the month of May.

Members of the Diaconate participated in the May 14th Coaching Conference Call.

Several activities are planned to involve both church family members and friends who may not be part of a church family. Horseshoes with the Hamels and beading with Nancy are amongst these activities.

As previously noted, the concert hosted by Patty Cote and Family was well attended and very much enjoyed. The Diaconate is grateful to each of you for your efforts.

On June 16th, 2014, at 6:30 PM, the Diaconate will host a Baccalaureate Service for Class of 2014 seniors in the cafetorium of the Somersworth High School.

Members are encouraged to consider participating as scripture readers, fellowship hosts or greeters over the summer months, as there are several vacant spaces on the schedule. Support from the congregation is much appreciated!

# 2014 Graduates



## **First Parish Church sponsors a**

**Baccalaureate Service** honoring the 2014 graduating Senior Class of Somersworth High School. The service will be held on Monday, June 16 at 6:30PM in the Somersworth High School Cafetorium, 9 Memorial Drive. An invitation will be sent directly to graduating seniors via their parents. Friends will be invited via a news release, to the communities of Somersworth and Rollinsford. *Baccalaureate*, is a part of graduation festivities! This service is of Senior Class blessing and celebration. While an optional gathering, it is a way for family and friends to see the senior in their graduation gown, share in a time of reflection with an intentional religious and spiritual focus. Local religious leaders will facilitate the program, which includes a message, involvement of class officers and class advisors, as well as special music. After the service, Class Officers will plant a tree on school grounds. As the sponsor, First Parish Church Deacons will greet and hand out programs; guide graduating seniors to a waiting area [where they will put on their gowns]; set up the refreshment tables [keep the refreshment tables tidy]; and help to clean up following the service and fellowship. Questions, speak with Pastor Mark.

**Gregory Mathews**; proud parents Ray and Julie Mathews, graduated from Keene State College on 5/10/2014 with a BS in Business Management. He will be pursuing job opportunities in his field of study while currently working for The Meat House.

**Alex Vollkommer** is graduating from Somersworth High School with College prep courses. He is employed at McDonalds in Newington. He is planning to take a year or so off of school and then plans to get a degree in Computer Repair, with a dream of owning his own computer repair center. Alex's proud parents are Shawn & Angie Richer and grandparents are Pete & Sue Vollkommer

**Adam Gowans** from U321 (Berlin, VT) attending Norwich University (Norwich, VT) in the fall. Adam is Pete & Sue Vollkommer's nephew.

**Emily Whitten** is graduating from UNH with a major in Sociology. Emily is the daughter of David & Scottie Whitten and the granddaughter of Pat & Don Whitten. She is persuing a job in her field in the Boston area.

**Aleena Whitten**, daughter of Douglas Whitten and granddaughter of Don & Pat Whitten is graduating from Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton, NH.

**Jane Rae Douglas**, Dottie Douglas' granddaughter, is graduating from Spaulding High School and will be attending school at Keene State College in the Fall.



# MISSIONS

On Sunday, June 8, First Parish will receive the offering, Strengthen the Church. Every day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. As God calls our congregations to be "church" in new ways, your gift to Strengthen the Church, will develop new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Through this offering we can hear that "God is still speaking". Stillspeaking, the shorter form of "God is still speaking" is a campaign by the UCC to remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of churches, and individuals to make religion relevant again, and to extend a welcoming hand to all. As you prayerfully consider a donation to Strengthen the Church on June 8th, realize that our hope for the future is by investing in the dreams and visions that are rooted in the traditions of our wonderfully diverse congregations. Please use the special envelope that will be included in the June 8th Sunday bulletin.

Thank you to all who donated to the box going to Zimbabwe. The packing of the shipping container will begin on May 24 and the container will soon be on its way to Zimbabwe.

We are beginning our backpack collection on Sunday, June 1 and it will continue throughout the summer, ending on Sunday, August 18. We are collecting backpacks and items to go in them for local school children who would otherwise not have one. We are looking for backpacks in new or gently used condition, pens, pencils, pink erasers, glue sticks, notebooks, folders, colored pencils, rulers, pencil cases, and washable markers. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex along with a bin to put your donated items in. The "adopt a backpack" has become very popular. By adopting a backpack, you supply the backpack complete with all the requested items. This is a great family project. We are in need of backpacks. Please keep an eye out for new or gently used backpacks.

## United Church of Christ General Synod files lawsuit.

Posted in the Narthex, with copies on the literature table, is a Pastoral Letter from Rev. Gary Schulte, NH Conference Minister. The letter outlines that the UCC General Synod has filed a lawsuit in North Carolina, arguing that the state's marriage laws violate the First Amendment right of freedom of religion. In North Carolina, it is a criminal offense to perform a marriage ceremony without a license from the state. At issue is, that, without a state issued marriage license, no couple may have a religious marriage solemnized. As same-sex couples may not obtain a marriage license in North Carolina, any church ceremony to bless that couple becomes a criminal action. New Hampshire has an equitable approach to marriage. Couples can obtain a license, and can have their marriage blessed in the church.

The North Carolina lawsuit places the clergy who seek to support a couple having their relationship blessed by the church, but without a license in legal jeopardy! I have been asked, and have officiated at blessing ceremonies for couples who chose NOT to marry, legally, meaning, they did not obtain a license. This happens for various reasons, but usually this means one or both would lose various benefits if they marry. Sometimes the parties involved are widowed, or one or both have a disability. The reasons are compelling. I still meet, I still do pre-marital counseling, we talk about their relationship, and why have any religious ceremony at all, whether in the church or not. And, if I had done this in North Carolina...I could be prosecuted.

Presently, the marriage guidelines of First Parish Church do not allow me to perform a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple in the church. While I have not been asked to do so, I have been very clear that I do not have any hesitation in doing such a ceremony. If asked, I would do the same premarital work. It becomes my choice to officiate, or not, for a ceremony outside the church, and I would always keep the Deacons informed. For me, this issue would be nudged if a covenant member of our church, who is gay or lesbian wanted to enter into a covenanted relationship and have a blessing in the church. Their covenant membership, their baptismal grace, is no different than anyone else's. The Pastoral Letter mentioned here gave me the opportunity to share a bit about where we are around these very pastoral aspects of ministry. I wanted to share openly, and invite you, agree or disagree, to speak with me if you would like further conversation. ~Pastor Mark