

First Parish
CHURCH
BRUNSWICK, MAINE



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Pilgrims' Progress

The First Parish Church is open to everyone and welcomes your participation in our services and activities. We are a congregation diverse in economic status, race, ethnic origin, mental and physical challenges, religious tradition, sexual orientation and many other ways. We affirm that the love of Christ for each person knows no bounds.

Roots and Horizons: The Conversation Continues

Mary's Musings

What a wonderful All Church Conversation we had in November! It was an energizing and clarifying time together. Out of this conversation seven Action Planning Groups were formed who have been meeting since then. These groups are focused on: Spiritual Life, Youth & Families, Outreach, Welcoming/Open and Affirming, Environment, Communications, and Facilities. Their purpose is to bring potential action plans back to the whole group for consideration. The next All Church Conversation will be on Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 am-12 noon, in Fellowship Hall. Larry Peers, Alban Institute Senior Consultant, will be with us again to facilitate our conversation.

At this Conversation the action planning groups will report their suggestions and insights. I expect there may be some conflicting suggestions. The whole group will offer its input and identify areas that need further discernment. After this gathering, the Steering Committee for this planning process will meet further with Larry to develop a cohesive report of strategic actions and goals to present to the Church Council, who will bring a report to the congregation at the June semi-annual meeting.

Thanks for all the ways you have been participating in our planning conversations this year. Hope to see you on Feb. 11.

Mary

Follow Up Conversation Facilitated by Larry Peers, Senior Consultant, Alban Institute

Everyone is invited!

- If you were at the first conversation, come again.
- If you weren't with us in November, come and add your voice.
- If you agree with everything you've heard, don't assume there is nothing new.
- If you know you disagree with some of what you've heard, be sure you speak up now.
- If you are brand new to the congregation, this is a great way to get to know this congregation.

**Saturday, February 11
9 am –12 noon
Fellowship Hall
Pilgrim House
(office building)**

**8:30 am gathering time
We will start promptly at 9:00 am.**

(Snow date: Feb. 12, after worship)

Childcare available.

Please call the church office at 729-7331 or send email to: jconnors@firstparish.net to register for child care.

Worship Notes

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

February 5, 2012

Communion

Mary Baard preaching:
"Healing Touch"

Mark 1: 29-39; Senior Choir
Local Benevolence Special Offering

February 12

Evolution Weekend

Mary Baard preaching:
"Religion and Science" Mark 4:26-32
Junior and Cherub Choirs; Senior Choir

February 19

Geoff Parker preaching

"Focus" Mark 9:2-9

Senior Choir

Parish Ringers

Windows On...the Environment:

Paul Kando: Co-founder of Mid-Coast
Green Collaborative

February 22

Ash Wednesday

12:00 - 12:30 in the Chapel

February 26

Mary Baard preaching

"Now, That's Tempting"

Mark 1:9-15

Chapel Ringers; Senior Choir

Windows On...Judy Kahrl speaks on
Environmental Stewardship



A Message of Thanks

I most sincerely wish to thank everyone of the congregation for their well wishes in addition to the commissioned pieces and the great banner as I celebrate 25 years in your midst. It is always a pleasure to be part of the First Parish congregation as we grow together in faith. I am blessed to be among you.

I wish to thank the other members of the music staff, Karen Leland and Carol Elowe; the members of the music committees and church councils over the past 25 years; the incredible staff members over the past quarter century; the hundreds of choir members, young and old; section leaders, librarians, robbers and costumers, stage assemblers, instrumentalists and most of all, the members of the congregation who have walked together in our journey of faith.

Mr. Ray



Special Offering: Seminary Sunday, February 26, 2012

On Seminary Sunday, we support Bangor Theological Seminary. What is BTS doing with that support?

- exploring distance learning models that will make our programs more accessible
- strengthening our education and training for people called to pastoral and spiritual and community leadership
- strengthening our Master of Arts program to enhance its relevance to people's lives and vocations
- developing opportunities for immersion experiences in other cultural settings
- serving as that special, progressive place in northern New England which is a vibrant resource for graduate theological inquiry, the lived experience of faith, and the promotion of understanding
- reaching out to let others know of the first-class learning opportunities available at our seminary

Please give to support our lean operations, our first-class academic programs and our hard-working faculty and staff. We need you now more than ever.

Choir to present
Franz Joseph Haydn's Creation
Sunday, March 4, 2012
3:00 pm



On Sunday, March 4 at 3:00 pm the Senior Choir of First Parish will present Franz Joseph Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* in concert. The choir will be joined by a 38-piece orchestra. Among the soloists will be soprano Jayne West and tenor Jason McStoots who sang in last year's presentation of the *St. Matthew Passion*.

One of Haydn's greatest works for chorus and orchestra, *The Creation*, narrates the Biblical story of creation and is based upon the creation account in the book of Genesis, the book of Psalms, and John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The listener will be treated to a dramatic depiction with beautiful choral and orchestral writing for which Haydn is well known. The premiere of *The Creation* at Vienna's Schwarzenberg Palace was by invitation only, but attracted a crowd of listeners in the streets. It was performed nearly 40 times in Vienna during the remaining years of Haydn's life.

In essence, *The Creation* begins before the beginning, before the beginning of Genesis itself. The overture, 'Representation of Chaos,' conveys darkness and the void. These are represented by music in C minor. It is not until the entrance of the angel Raphael that the story begins to be told. 'In the beginning God made heaven and the earth; And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.' The first 'choral response' of the oratorio is designed to convey an exact moment. 'And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said: Let there be light, and there was light.' When the chorus sings 'light' for the second time, Haydn switches to C major and has the arrival coincide with the entrance of the full orchestra (fortissimo). At this moment creation begins.

This is not the only moment of great musical inspiration. The oratorio is filled with wonderful depictions of foaming seas, a "weather report" (lightning, thunder, hail, rain and snow), various birds (eagle, lark, turtle dove and nightingale) and creatures of both sea and land (whales, fish, lion, tiger, cattle, sheep, insects and the lowly worm) and concludes with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$15 or two for \$25 in advance through the church office or at coffee hours during the month of February.

CONCERT SPONSORS SOUGHT

Support for this wonderful program is welcome. Donations may be made at the following levels

\$25	Friend	\$100	Contributor
\$50	Donor	\$150	Patron
\$75	Sponsor	\$250	Benefactor

Donors and Sponsors will each receive one complimentary ticket and Contributors, Patrons and Benefactors will each receive two.



Windows On...the Environment



Winter is here and it's time for our "Windows On" education series. Please join us for these interesting programs. They will provide opportunities to hear highly informed and committed environmental problem solvers, and to discuss the concerns most important to each of us about the future of our planet earth.

Programs will begin on Sunday, **February 19**, with a talk by Paul Kando, a leading environmentalist and co-founder of the Mid-Coast Green Collaborative. The National Environmental Hall of Fame has honored Paul for his research and his presentations on the findings of climate science. His will give an overview of global energy issues and climate change and lead our discussion.

On Sunday, **February 26**, Judy Kahrl, will discuss the interrelationship of population and environmental stewardship. Judy is an emeritus member of the board of Pathfinder International which works to improve the reproductive health of adolescents, women and men throughout the developing world. She also is committed to local and international conservation. She has just returned from Tanzania where Pathfinder and the Nature Conservancy are collaborating on a project in the Mahale Mountain ecosystem.

On Sunday, **March 4**, at 3:00, Haydn's "Creation" will be sung by the First Parish Choir.

On Sunday, **March 11**, The Reverend Jim Deming, Environmental Justice Minister for the United Church of Christ, based in Cleveland, Ohio, will be our speaker. His talk will be "Caring for God's Creation: the Role of Faith Communities". Reverend Deming is a presenter with The Climate Project and has worked with the National Wildlife Federation and Interfaith Power and Light.

On Sunday, **March 18**, the movie "Renewal" will be shown at 4:30. "Renewal" presents a variety of faith communities, not exclusively Christian, responding to environmental issues and solving problems. Following the movie, we will have a soup and bread supper and discussion.

On **March 25**, a panel of environmentalists from our congregation will present issues facing Maine. Panelists will be Pete Didisheim, Senior Director of Advocacy for the Natural Resources Council of Maine, Tim Glidden, President of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Jennifer Burns Gray, Staff Attorney and Advocate for the Maine Audubon Society. As they discuss these issues and solutions, they will offer suggestions as to how we all can help. Moderator for this panel will be Becky Halbrook. The Earth Care team will provide a list of recommended books on the environment and put together a small library, including a few children's books. These may be signed out for home reading. We hope you will take advantage of this library in the parlor of Pilgrim House.

The Parish Read chosen for this series is "World On The Edge" by Lester Brown. Copies are now for sale in the vestry after church or you may contact Penny Schroeder at 729-4413. You may join the Inquiring Minds group for discussion of this book on Monday evening, **February 27**. If needed, we will have other discussion groups.

Programs are open to all and will be held in Fellowship Hall on the second floor of Pilgrim House, 9 Cleaveland Street in Brunswick. All except the movie and the concert will be offered after church at 11:30, with childcare provided. Please call the church office at 729-7331 to make your reservation for supper on the movie night. For other programs, we thank the Hospitality Committee for providing refreshments.

If you have questions, please contact a member of the Planning Committee: Betsy Eaton, Becky Halbrook, Judy Kahrl, Elaine Kurtz, Pastor Geoff Parker, Penny Schroeder, and Mary Lee Ward.

Church School News

Mardi Gras Party
Tuesday, February 21
5:30 - 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall



Pancake Supper, Mask Making (so we can act out our wild side before Lent begins!), **Parade**, led by our **Three Wise Ones: Grace Casey, Lily Hatrick, and Randy Beede**. At the end of the parade, the lights

go out and we tiptoe out into the darkness of the quiet Lenten night. Please RSVP to jconnors@firstparish.net.

(\$2.00 per person donation, if possible.)



Tuesday, January 31st

Join us in Fellowship Hall from 12 Noon to 8 pm for walking meditation. Walking the labyrinth calms our analytical minds and nourishes our spiritual natures. FMI: jconnors@firstparish.net or 729-7331.

Terminally Ill Support Group

At the request of some parishioners we have started a Terminal Illness Support Group. This group will meet every other week on Wednesday mornings, 11 am -12 noon. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Mary Baard (729-7331).

Mary

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS



In the year 2006, Rev. Alice Davies and Rev. Virginia Derr started a support group for people who had recently lost a loved one through death. There were about 20 people in that group, some having been bereaved more recently than others. The attendance was between 8 and 12, at the fortnightly meetings in the chapel of Pilgrim House. After three years, the original members were in a new place in their grieving process, which was different from newcomers who were more recently bereaved. Therefore, a new group was organized in 2009, which met twice a month, in the Pilgrim House parlor, on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 to 3:00. Some of the former group members, from both groups, continue meeting socially for lunch at restaurants.

The time spent together in these groups is devoted to sharing with each other the experience of their loss, and their adjustment to life without that loved one. Each person's story contains material that is helpful to the others. They receive support from each other, in the form of attentive listening. Listening is the finest way of loving. Everything shared is totally confidential. At the moment there is no group actively meeting, for each individual has gotten beyond the need for a group. Whenever there is a need, a new group can be formed.

Virginia Derr 725-4147 jkvbd@comcast.net

The Gift of Silence with Gwen Moore

An ongoing time for silent prayer and meditation

Fridays from 9 am–10 am

Our hectic lives leave little room to be in silence for prayer or meditation. Regular times of silence offer a promise of finding the deep centered peace that lives in all of us. The hour will be split into two 30-minute segments so you do not need to stay for the whole hour. Also, you can come once or come every week—no registration or commitment is required. There is awakening in the still places of life.

EarthCare Library

Check out the new EarthCare Library located in the parlor at Pilgrim House. You will find informative books about climate change and its effect on the environment; how our faith is related to caring for God's earth; how the world's poor are especially affected by climate change; economics and the environment; practical ways to reduce our carbon footprint; and more. Look over the selections and check out a book about this important and timely concern.

If you have books you would like to donate to the EarthCare Library, please contact Elaine Kurtz at 729-1186 or mekurtz@gwi.net.

EarthCare Team Tip Getting Ready for Spring

Look for outdoor flowers and shrubs with low water requirements and you could save up to 550 gallons of water per year. If just one in every one hundred thousand households chose drought-tolerant species of flowers for the next replanting, nearly 600 million gallons of water could be conserved -- enough to provide New York City its residential water supply for an entire day.



Planned Giving Corner

The church service is over. What do you remember? Music from the choir, words from the sermon, the peace of the sanctuary? We get to enjoy and be inspired by the people and programs of this church today because of past decades of careful planning by thoughtful, generous parishioners. What will YOU leave here for the coming generations to enjoy? A Planned Gift can help you meet your own tax and investment needs and also help secure the future of First Parish Church. Please consider a gift or bequest so that the programs and outreach will continue to minister to this community.



If you have questions about the church, please ask one of these Committee Chairs

Church Council	Mark Patrick
Prudential	Dan Lay
Deacons	Susan Weaver
Christian Education	Pam Morneau
Christian Outreach	Valerie Ricker
Long Range Planning	Gerry Brookes
Music	Frank Douglass
Stewardship	Todd Rider
Personnel	Erv Snyder

Birthday Club!

***What happens once a year...
Though the number keeps changing?
Sometimes it's fun....sometimes it's not so fun?
Your Birthday!!***



The First Parish Church Birthday Club 2012 hopes you will remember us again this year. To become a member of this celebrated club, you are invited to send to the church, on or near your birthday, \$1.00 (or any amount you wish) for each year of your birth. You may also want to sponsor a friend or relative to be a member of the club. Checks should go to "First Parish Church," with "Birthday Club" noted on the memo line. Special envelopes for the club are available in the pews. Check the envelope holder at the end of your pew.

PARISH NOTES

- ◆ Remember in your prayers: Elaine Mower, Susan Fitzgerald, Maggie McPherson
- ◆ Congratulations to Jenn and Doug Gray. They are delighted to announce that they are in the process of adopting Charlotte Marie, who was born in Dallas, Texas on October. 19, 2011.
- ◆ Many, many thanks to everyone who sent cards to me and my family on the death of my Dad, Norman Marriner. They were truly a comfort to us, and a reminder of how wonderful it is to have a church family!
Jane Connors
- ◆ Many thanks for the beautiful quilt and all the birthday wishes! I feel cozy and very supported.
Susan Fitzgerald
- ◆ The Caregivers' Support Group meets each Monday at 2:00 pm in Pilgrim House Parlor. FMI, please call Judy Bauman at 729-1219.
- ◆ Caring Bridge Site: Just a reminder that if you want to follow Susan Fitzgerald's progress through her treatment for breast cancer, you can sign on to the Caring Bridge site: www.caringbridge.org/visit/susanfitzgerald1; enter your name and email address.
- ◆ We have a mystery concerning the "Giving Tree" gifts. Someone bought some size 6X blouses for a woman and they are much too large. The Sears return ticket did not work for her. Could the person who bought these please contact the church office and ask for Jane. Many thanks!! (729-7331)

Thank you to Coffee Servers

We wish to thank the many Sunday morning coffee servers who have been willing to serve coffee/punch over the past few years. You have always been so gracious and willing to serve whenever we called. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! We are very grateful that Bonnie Dickey and Nancy Hoffman have willingly agreed to take our place as coordinators. They are wonderful to work with! We will still serve coffee from time to time. "Meet you in the kitchen."

Irma Howard and Carol Jack

Christmas in the Sanctuary

Thanks to those folks who helped decorate our sanctuary during Advent! Christmas Tree folks: Carol and Don Doele, Liz and Harry Boyce, Barbara Clark, Peter Hine, Margaret and John Hutchins, Sam Jones, Alan Mast; Creche: Fred Dickey; Wreaths and Garlands: Juley Salisbury, Nancy Damiani, Callie Witham, Gerry Orem, and Abbie Mott. Arranging poinsettias: Nancy Damiani and Callie Witham.

A Wonderful Job Done by All!!

Public Baked Bean Supper

***Saturday, January 28
5 - 6 PM Fellowship Hall***



***Three kinds of beans, ham
and hot dogs, salads,
homemade brown bread,
and pies***

Adults: \$7.00

Children \$3.00

***Children under six are free!
Come and see your friends and
support the budget!***

Fellowship Breakfasts Continue

First Parish friendly volunteers are cooking for you again next month. Our next breakfast will be Sunday morning, February 19 from 8 - 9:30. Mouth-watering sausages and blueberry pancakes - all ingredients from local farms!

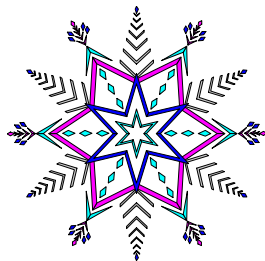


Please RSVP to Kathy Lyon at klyon@zwi.net.

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH
9 CLEAVELAND STREET
BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



FIRST PARISH CHURCH STAFF

Mary E. Baard, Senior Pastor (mbaard@firstparish.net)
Geoffrey Parker, Associate Pastor (gparker@firstparish.net)
Ray E. Cornils, Minister of Music (rcornils@firstparish.net)
Susan Fitzgerald, Director of Children's Education (sfitzgerald@firstparish.net)
Jane M. Connors, Office Administrator (jconnors@firstparish.net)
Homer B. Kenison, Business Administrator (hkenison@firstparish.net)
Peggy Mast, Collector (fpcaccounting@firstparish.net)
Karen Leland, Chapel Ringers Director
Carol Elowe, Accompanist

Office is located at 9 Cleaveland Street, Brunswick Maine 04011
Church Office Phone Number: 207 729-7331
Church Office Fax Number: 207 729-4512
Website: www.firstparish.net

Our buildings are accessible to the physically challenged.
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM