

On Sunday, June 13, 2010, Ann Barry, a member of the Prayer Circle at FPC, shared this message during a “Prayer Circle Moment.” [It has been edited, slightly, for publication here.]

PRAYER CIRCLE

One of the things that I get from being part of the church is the sense of BELONGING, that I am a part of a large church FAMILY. I believe that prayer helps give me this feeling. And here at First Parish we have a special group of pray-ers that pay particular attention to the needs and difficult situations that our fellow parishioners and their friends and families find themselves in. It’s called the Prayer Circle. It operates quietly but smoothly and is a special outreach we offer. We are all aware of the people that Mary asks us each week to remember in our prayers or who are listed on the prayer board in Pilgrim House. In addition there are others whose names – for various reasons – are not brought to everyone’s attention. These are the ones that the Prayer Circle pray-ers remember daily. From my personal experience this year, my life has been enriched and my faith strengthened by being both a pray-er and one who has been prayed for.

Recently we sang a hymn and one of the verses spoke to me about what this Prayer Circle is all about: it’s the second verse of “We Yearn O Christ For Wholeness” (found in the New Century Hymnal at # 179). Here are the words:

*We long to have companions who travel by our side,
Strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
As we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,
Community develops; our faith and caring grow.*

You are welcome to ask for prayers for YOURSELF, a family member or friend (maybe a part of our First Parish family, maybe not). All you have to do is contact Jane Connors in the Church Office jconnors@firstparish.net or the current Circle coordinator (at this time, Jane Dorn jmadorn@gmail.com or 522-0955) and give the name.....you may or may not choose to give the specific need but all requests are held in strict confidence. We hold these persons in prayer, praying in our own way, for a month. Prayers may also be continued past that time, as you wish. We use email to pass along the requests.

Any of you are also welcome to be a part of the Prayer Circle. Again, you can contact either Jane Dorn or Jane Connors and let her know of your desire.

There is no set way to pray; everyone has their own way of reaching out to God. I think of this kind of prayer – known as intercessory prayer – as a way to remember those in need, those whom I care about, and of letting God know of my special concern for others.

Remember a few weeks ago when Mary asked us in her sermon, “What makes you Come Alive?” Well, being part of the Prayer Circle allows me to come alive. It makes me feel I BELONG. I am grateful for this opportunity and I invite you to participate as a pray-er or as one who asks for prayers.

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