First Parish Church is open to everyone and welcomes participation in the full life, leadership, and ministry of the Church. We are a diverse congregation. We welcome persons of any race, gender, ethnic origin, mental or physical ability, religious tradition, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and economic circumstances. We affirm that the love of Christ for each person knows no bounds.

Mary’s Musings

Easter, April 16
Sunrise, 6:00 am, Water Street Bike Path
10:00 am, sanctuary.

This month we live through the turmoil and trauma of Holy Week and rejoice in the blessings of Easter. In this time, we are reminded that Jesus shared our common lot and embodied the presence of God among us.

When we try to silence the truth, O God, roll back the stone.

When our fears close in on us, O God, roll back the stone.

When our desires damage creation, O God, roll back the stone.

When we are tempted by hate, O God, roll back the stone.

When we fall into hopelessness, O God, roll back the stone.

Easter Blessings,
Mary

Grounded
Finding God in the World,
A Spiritual Revolution
by Diana Butler Bass

Where is God? ...The grounded God is a God in relationship with space and time as the love that connects and creates all things, known in and with the world...God is not above or beyond, but integral to the whole of creation, entwined with the sacred ecology of the universe. (pg. 10,25)

The spiritual revolution, finding God in the world, is an invitation to new birth, most especially for religion. ...It is time for the church to wake up. There is nothing worse than sleeping through a revolution. (Afterword)

Parish Read: Diana Butler Bass will be with us at First Parish Church on the weekend of May 6 - 7. In preparation for her visit we invite you to read her book, Grounded. The first week of May, Mary Baard is offering three opportunities to talk about the book.

Mon., 5/1, 7:00 pm, Chapel
Wed., 5/3, 10:00 am, Chapel
Thurs., 5/4, 5:30 pm, Vestry

As you will see on page 5, there are other opportunities this month to turn our attention to being “grounded” in the world in which we live.
April 2
Mary Baard preaching
Communion
Psalm 23; Matthew 6:25-34
Adult and Chamber Choirs
Spirit Matters: “Anxiety”
with Kathy Lyon and Shirsten Lundblad

April 9
Palm Sunday
Geoff Parker preaching
Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
Adult, Westminster, Junior and Cherub Choirs,
Parish Ringers

April 13: 6:00 PM
Maundy Thursday Communion with Bread
and Soup Dinner in Fellowship Hall

April 14: 7:30 PM
Good Friday Service of Tenebrae
Adult and Chamber Choirs

April 16
Easter Sunrise Service: 6 AM on the
Water Street Bike Path
10:00 AM Service
Mary Baard preaching John 20
Adult, Westminster, Junior and Cherub Choirs,
Chapel Ringers
Special Offering: Oasis Healthcare

April 23
Danielle Keller preaching
Adult Choir

April 30
Geoff Parker preaching
Common Good Sunday
Capital Campaign Kick-off
Adult, Westminster and Chamber Choirs

Thank you, Carol Elowe

Twenty-five years ago Carol Elowe joined the music ministry of First Parish Church as accompanist for the Cherub, Junior and Westminster Choirs. Carol has always had a great desire to support the musical education of children and youth. Her eloquent and consistent support at hundreds of rehearsals and scores of musicals and pageants has been a natural and real gift for all the members of First Parish over the past quarter century.

Carol, a long-time church member, was teaching piano at Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts when she first accompanied the choirs. She would drive back to Maine on Thursday afternoons and spend her late afternoon and evenings with our children and youth. She retired from teaching at Phillips Andover when she pursued a life-long dream: the founding of the Portland Conservatory of Music. She was their first Director and still serves as both a member of their piano faculty and of their Board of Directors.

Born in Portland, Maine, Carol holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the New England Conservatory and a Master of Music from Syracuse University where she was awarded membership in the honor society Pi Kappa Lambda. Her piano studies began in Portland under Ocy Downs and continued at the Manhattan School of Music with Dora Zazlavsky. Her teachers also include Jean Alderman, Frederick Marvin and Frank Glazer. She has appeared as guest soloist with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Syracuse Symphony and as part of numerous recital series throughout the Northeast.

Carol has decided to retire this spring as our faithful accompanist. I am extremely grateful for her beautiful playing and her quiet, yet faithful presence in the lives of hundreds of youngsters over the years.

Thank you, Carol, from the bottom of our hearts,
With much appreciation,
Ray Cornils

Cards of appreciation may be sent to Carol at 239 Mere Point Road, Brunswick, 04011

Confirmation Program Informational Session
SUNDAY, April 9th
after church- Fellowship Hall

Is your child in 6th, 7th or 8th grade? (or in High School and has yet to be confirmed) Are they ready to join the Pastors, a mentor and your family in the experience of Confirmation?

Also, looking for Mentors: If you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor, please reach out to Mandy Similien and she will get you more information!
msimilien@firstparish.net
From the Design/Build Team

The Design/Build Team met with Scott Simons Architects (SSA) this month to discuss designs and ways to reduce costs:

- **Pilgrim House:** An updated design for the ramp entrance on Cleaveland St. has reduced its size slightly. SSA is also reviewing the elevator addition with the aim of reducing costs. We have requested an estimate of landscaping costs as well. We will share these plan changes and estimates with the congregation when we receive them.

- **Sanctuary:** We are researching the feasibility of retaining the filigree on the reredos and will update the congregation as we learn more.

Mark Patrick, Chair. Other members of the design/build team are: Bill Ferdinand, Gerry Brookes, Maggie McPhersun, Steve Normand, and Bill Stoy
From Minister of Music Search Committee

The Search Committee process began in the summer of 2016. The Committee reviewed 29 applicants from around the country and the world – including Nigeria, Jamaica and Italy. The initial process included an extensive review of each candidate’s resume and cover letter, at which point the list was narrowed. The second round consisted of sending each remaining candidate a list of three follow-up questions that examined their views on the role of music in worship, as well as experiences working with staff and diverse congregations. Candidates who made it through this round were asked to provide samples of their organ playing and choir direction.

After a thorough review, the Committee had Skype interviews with selected individuals. A Committee member also interviewed the references provided and reported back to the group. The Committee then selected a “travel team” consisting of three members who went to each remaining candidate’s home church to meet with them personally and attend a Sunday service. As a result of this process, the Committee unanimously chose Jane Hagness as our new Minister of Music.

Jane is coming to us from a UCC church in Pennsylvania where she is the organist, directs three vocal choirs and a handbell choir. At this church she started a world percussion ensemble whose members range in age from 6 to 62. Jane holds a Master of Music in vocal performance, a Master of Church Music in organ performance and a Doctorate in vocal performance.

Jane feels that church music is what she is called to do. It is her heart’s passion. She is a vibrant, engaging, multi-talented person who is delightful, enthusiastic and obviously cares about what she is doing. Jane is married to Quentin Englehart, a soon-to-be-retired firefighter.

From our early days of meeting, the Committee discussed how best to encourage a smooth transition for the chosen new Minister of Music. If we turn to Webster Dictionary, we find it defines “transition” with one word in capital letters—CHANGE. Jane will begin her work with us on July 1, arriving with her own unique talents and enthusiasm. As a congregation, we will greet her with words of welcome from the pulpit and a reception - what all thoughtful churches would do. However, it is through us, as individuals, that the most important part of welcoming will happen. Each of us will have opportunities to greet and welcome her. We trust she will discover the goodness and the true spirit of being welcomed that is here at First Parish Church. We look forward to creating and enjoying music together.

Susan Weaver, Chair.
Sally Adair, Randy Anderson, Sophie Blair, Tim Glidden, Margaret Hutchins, Trevor Peterson, Todd Rider, Mary Baard
Sunday, April 2, 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
“Dirt, the Movie” will be shown, followed by a soup and bread supper. This film tells the story of humans trying to reconnect to dirt - the living skin of the earth. Traveling to locations around the globe, the film reveals how repairing our relationship with dirt can create new possibilities for all life on earth. Butler Bass says: “Faith has turned me increasingly toward the soil, not away from it. To this garden, to the earth. And God is here.” (Grounded, pp. 63-64)

Saturday, April 8
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk at the “Labyrinth in the Woods,” off Baribeau Drive near the Community Garden. Labyrinth Tenders will be present to provide information about the labyrinth and to answer questions. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7: Diana Butler Bass Weekend. The Maine UCC Conference is coordinating with First Parish to include:
- Saturday Workshops
  A Saturday evening session with Diana Butler Bass
- Sunday worship with Diana Butler Bass preaching

Look for more details in the weekly emails and in the May Pilgrims’ Progress.

Planned Giving
Special Event
Note on your calendar…

…that after church on Sunday, April 23, we’ll be recognizing Adams Society members with a special organ concert. It will be one of Ray Cornils’ last performances before he leaves us, and it will be leavened with memories and anecdotes of his thirty-plus years with us.

You won’t want to miss it!

Planned Giving
Thank You

Our thanks and appreciation go to Dana Little, a lifelong Brunswick resident and member of First Parish Church. He died nearly twenty years ago, but his estate was just settled this year, after the passing of his last sibling. Dana left $75,000 to our endowment fund, which will spin off interest to the church’s general use for decades or — perhaps -- even centuries.

The gifts we leave behind may not be immediately visible, but they can eventually do mighty works. Bless you, Dana.
From Our Council Chair

A late winter blizzard on March 14 caused us to postpone the church council meeting a week. We hope that the beginning of spring holds no more surprises like that. Here’s a summary of what we discussed at our meeting on March 21.

Todd Rider and Mary Baard updated us on the successful conclusion of the Minister of Music search. We are grateful to the search committee for their good work in this effort. You should have received a letter a few weeks ago from the search committee introducing Jane Hagness, who will start on July 1. We are pleased that she and Ray will have a few weeks of overlap in employment before Ray retires.

I updated the council on the progress of the “Connecting Our Community” Campaign and the talented, enthusiastic volunteers who have stepped up to do the work that needs to be done to reach our goals. You can read more in the column from Campaign Co-Chairs Mercie Normand and Hector Casas elsewhere in this newsletter. There are two things that I want to underscore in their news: 1) **Save the date of April 30** for the fun campaign kick-off; and 2) there are many roles that you can take as a volunteer, so contact Mercie or Hector to find out more.

Mike Franz and Mary briefed us on the plans for the next all-church conference scheduled for March 9 and 10, 2018. The Rev. Larry Peers, who facilitated the last all-church conference in November 2011, has submitted a proposal to facilitate this conference. The goal of the conference will be to update our strategic plan and the implementation steps. We adopted our five-year strategic plan in 2012, so it is time to assess our progress and plan the way forward into our fourth century as a faith community.

We also discussed the subject and date of the next ministry forum. The Deacons have asked that we consider how we can create a more welcoming environment for new and continuing members. With the ongoing “Connecting Our Community” Campaign to make our facilities more accessible and conducive to intergenerational and community interactions, we agreed that it is an important subject to tackle. The meeting, which includes the church council, committee and team chairs, and newly elected committee and team members, will be on the morning of Saturday, June 10. More details to come.

In this time of transition and renewal, we, as your church council, are bolstered by your input and support. Thank you!

Margo Knight
Church Council Chair

---

**Indoor Labyrinth Open for Meditative Walking**

**Good Friday, April 14 12 Noon to 7 PM**

Come and join us for meditative walking on Good Friday. On the journey to the center, we are able to slow our busy minds and attend to God’s stirring in our lives. The journey back offers insight and self-discovery for new life. Our 30’ canvas labyrinth will be available for walking in Fellowship Hall in Pilgrim House.

---

**Inquiring Minds Book Group**

Share insights on your knowledge of Revolutionary War history and the style of His Excellency George Washington as The Inquiring Minds Book Group reflects upon David McCullough’s historic work, *1776*. All are invited to the parlor of Pilgrim House the evening after Easter, Mon. April 17, 7:00 p.m.
The Great Snow of 1717
Some of us continue to complain about winters in Maine, but here is a tale from a truly difficult time during the winter of 1717.

Snow began falling on Feb. 27, with a typical New England nor’easter. Then on March 1, 2, 4 and 7 more storms came through, with snow so deep that people could only leave their houses from the second floor. Many single-story homes were buried completely, without a chimney showing. Many livestock lost their lives. As many as 90-95% of deer died. Many orchards were damaged, since the snow covered the tops of many trees.

There had been a series of volcanic eruptions in 1716. Ash circulated the globe in the upper atmosphere from eruptions of Mount Kirishima in Japan, Kelud in Indonesia and Taal Volcano in the Philippines, which likely contributed to this exceptional New England snowfall.

There was no weather record-keeping during these days, so most of this information comes from private diaries.

Earth Care Tip
When we think about saving electricity from lighting, most of us focus on remembering to turn off the lights we aren’t using. After heating and cooling, and making hot water, lighting consumes the most energy in many homes, accounting for somewhere between 10 and 15 percent of the electricity used. It is a promising category for savings because you can reduce the amount of power you use, the amount of money you spend, and your carbon footprint.

from “Cooler/Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-carbon Living”

Spring Walk: May 7
Walk, Sponsor a walker, Volunteer on the day of the event, Provide snacks!

These are all things you can do to help raise money for the 24th Annual “Spring Walk to Build,” being held on May 7 this year. Registration is at 1:00; Start time at 2:00 at St. Charles Church on McKeen Street.

More information to follow in emails and bulletins.

Cancer Society’s Relay for Life
American Cancer Society Relay for Life needs YOU! We are very excited to announce that the date and venue for this year's Relay for Life have changed. It will be held in downtown Brunswick on the "Mall", Friday, June 2, from 6:00pm to 11:00pm. The First Parish Church Relay for Life team, A Caring Spirit, is looking for team members. We will have a table during coffee time on April 2 and 9 to answer questions and to sign you up! It's a fun and very rewarding experience. Of course we will take donations anytime up to the event!

Look for the Annual Cookie Walk in May to benefit Relay for Life. You may call or email:
Janet Roberts (207-729-8967)
janetroberts@slumni.williams.edu
Ruth Thibodeau (207-729-3190)
wrtthibodeau@comcast.net
February was another good month. Total income was about $4,000 more than expected and expenses were about $3,700 less than budgeted. Although this is good news, annual pledges are nearly $30,000 less than we have budgeted. Pledges are a significant piece of our annual plan, accounting for nearly 70% of our annual income. Early pledges help us plan for the year ahead and determine what adjustments might be needed. If you would like to make a pledge or increase your pledge, pledge cards are available at the church office.

Thank you to all who have already pledged and/or contributed to support the mission and programs of First Parish Church.

Respectfully submitted, Carol O’Donnell, Treasurer

---

**Special Easter Offering for Oasis**

Our Special Easter offering will be given to support the Oasis Free Clinics. Consider giving because you know what it’s like to be uninsured and go without care, or because you are grateful you never had to go without care.

The clinic serves our uninsured neighbors ages 18-64 who are at or below 175% of the federal poverty line. Oasis provides a full-time, full-service primary care practice, a prescription assistance clinic providing close to one million dollars in free medications each year, and a twice a month free dental clinic serving hundreds of people who lack access to dental care each year. Over 80 volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and licensed Mental Health counselors, aided by many administrative volunteers, work to provide care. Together they see over 4000 patient visits per year, all at no cost to the patient. Please give generously anytime in the month of April and note that your offering is for Oasis.

---

**Pilgrim Lodge UCC Maine Summer Camp**

Pilgrim Lodge has weeks for women, men, young adults, teens, children, families, grandparent/child with many different themes. Check out:  

www.pilgrimlodge.org  
207-724-3200  
Registration is now open  
Brochures available in the church office or on-line. Don’t hesitate! Sign up for the weeks you want soon! Scholarships are available both from Pilgrim Lodge and from First Parish Church. Please call or email Becky Wilkoff FMI: 729-7331 bwilkoff@firstparish.net
On February 11, 1867, the music committee report stated that the organ needed repairs, and $25 was voted for that purpose. They also reported that the singing had been very unsatisfactory. There was a “great need” for a “reliable bass voice.” There was one prospect, but he “of course cannot be secured without recompense,…especially when congregations all around us are taking up the really good voices, and paying for their services.” The church voted to employ Mr. Henry Toothaker, for $75 per year. He was the first paid singer at First Parish. Also in 1867, Dr Adams stated, “the music situation is somewhat acute,” and requested that the congregation use the *Sabbath Hymns And Tune Book*. It contained nearly 1200 hymns plus chants and anthems, and was about the size of today’s hymnals. This was the first change to our Sunday hymnal in 105 years.

By the 1880s the repairs on the organ had become so frequent and expensive that it was necessary to purchase a new one. An organ fund was established and in 1881 a committee was appointed “to decide upon the most suitable position for the same.” There was opposition to placing it in the gallery of the bell tower, as the tower roof sometimes leaked. The Hutchings Plaisted organ was, however, installed in the gallery of the bell tower in 1883. The console was situated on the back wall under a bronze plaque with the inscription “In memory of George E. Adams, D.D., pastor of this church 1829-1870.” The power for the organ was furnished by Bowdoin students, who were paid a small fee to “blow the organ.” Many of their names and initials can still be found carved in the bell tower. Dr. Adams resigned in 1870, and much of what we know about the life of the church comes from his journals. We don’t have information about hymns that may have been sung in worship following Dr. Adams’ resignation until the early 1900’s. We do know that another new hymnal, *Hymns Of The Faith*, was purchased in 1890 for use in worship.

Our archives contain bulletins from Sunday worship services that date from 1903. In these early bulletins, or “calendars”, the specific hymns were not listed. No topics for the sermons were listed either, and usually just stated “By The Pastor.” The order of worship only listed when a hymn was to be sung. There were some exceptions, however. The November 15, 1903, bulletin lists Hymn #417 in *Hymns Of The Faith*. The words are different, but it is sung to the familiar tune of “Come Ye Thankful People, Come.” Beginning in 1904, the bulletins are more informative, and we find hymns that we still sing today. “For The Beauty Of The Earth” was sung in worship on September 18, 1904. We sing this hymn today from the *Pilgrim* and the *New Century* hymnals. With the publication of the *New Century Hymnal*, the words “Lord” and “thee” in the refrain were changed to “God” and “you.” Verse 3 in the *Pilgrim Hymnal* has been eliminated, and a new verse added. Also in 1904, the congregation sang “Joy To The World” on Christmas Day. On December 10, 1905, the congregation sang “Holy, Holy, Holy” at the morning worship service. “The Day Of Resurrection” was listed in the January 14, 1906 bulletin, and on March 18, 1906 one of the hymns was “O Worship The King”. December 9th of that year they sang “Adeste Fideles.” All of these are found in our *New Century Hymnal*. 

---

**History of Hymns at First Parish 1867-1917**  
by Jo Bradley
In November of 1905 Bowdoin students were no longer required to attend First Parish. A water motor had been purchased to provide power for the organ bellows, so the students were also no longer paid to pump the organ. Water motors were commonly used for church organs at this time, and the November 11, 1906 bulletin has an interesting item in the announcements. It states “During the last week workmen have been engaged in tuning and repairing our church organ. The work is not fully completed yet, but when it is, we may expect relief from the musical uncertainties which a fickle water-motor has recently laid upon us.”

The December bulletins of 1907 and 1908 list the familiar hymns “Holy, Holy, Holy,” and “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear” being sung. We sing these today from both the Pilgrim Hymnal and the New Century hymnals. On Easter day, March 23, 1913, the congregation sang “The Day Of Resurrection,” found in both the Pilgrim and New Century hymnals, and “Crown Him With Many Crowns,” which is only found in the Pilgrim Hymnal.

World War I started in 1914, but there is little mention of it in our bulletins. An announcement on March 28, 1915, reminded the congregation of the needs in Poland and collected $22 for the relief fund. In 1916 there was a meeting of the ladies to prepare surgical supplies for the war. Since the hymns were not always titled we don’t know if any patriotic music was used in worship. There were many references to the Missionary Society, and on April 11, 1915 “Christ For The World We Sing,” found in the Pilgrim Hymnal, was sung. Also in April, the Music Committee thanked the Parish for funds for a refurbished Chickering grand piano. $260 had been collected, and contributions for the uncollected balance of $100 were earnestly requested. In the June 27th announcements we find the earliest mention of what are our Summer Singers. “The music during the summer will be furnished by a volunteer semi-chorus and by soloists, directed by organist and choir-master, Mr. Edward H. Wass.”

Another interesting announcement appeared on April 2, 1916. “In view of the near approach of Easter and dates for the rendering of the two cantatas already announced, the Wednesday evening rehearsals of the Choir have become exceptionally important. Will not those concerned endeavor to keep these evenings free at all costs? The Wednesday evening prayer services preceding the rehearsals will close promptly so that the Choir practice can actually begin at 8:10 p.m.”
Prayers for: Edna Stoddard, Helen Hildebrandt, Tom Tuttle

The Caregivers’ Support Group meets each Monday at 2:00 pm in Pilgrim House Parlor. FMI, please call Judy Bauman at 729-1219.

The Grief Support Group meets on Wednesdays at 2 PM in the Parlor. FMI, please call the church office at 729-7331.

A reminder: sermons, our Weekly Email, and the monthly newsletter (Pilgrims’ Progress) can be accessed via our website: http://www.firstparish.net.

Help Wanted
The Music Committee is requesting an individual who is “video savvy” and willing to learn how to set up the video feed for the summer organ concerts. The dates are yet uncertain but at least the 18th and 25th of July. It would require someone to arrive about 11:00 on a Tuesday and set up the screen and projector. The camera is to be located in the choir loft. At the end of the 45 minute concert, the screen and projector need to be removed, but the camera can remain in the choir loft. There will be a training session on Sunday, April 23rd, following the service when Ray Cornils will be setting up the video feed for the program he is doing. Please contact me if you are interested: hutchins.m@comcast.net

We are excited to have local textile artist Catherine Worthington working with our church school children and youth in March and April. Catherine will use their artwork to create a painted fabric wall collage to commemorate our 300th anniversary.

Easter Flowers in Memory or in Honor of a Loved One: Easter Sunday, April 16
If you would like to order an Easter Flower in memory or in honor of a loved one to be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please send your request to the church office by Monday, April 10 along with a check for $30. We will be ordering an array of daffodils, tulips and lilies.

In Memory or Honor Of:

Given by:

(plants may be taken home after the 10 AM Service)
Mary E. Baard, Senior Pastor (mbaard@firstparish.net)
Geoff Parker, Associate Pastor (gparker@firstparish.net)
Ray E. Cornils, Minister of Music (rcornils@firstparish.net)
Becky Wilkoff, Children’s Ministries Coordinator (bwilkoff@firstparish.net)
Amanda Similien, Youth Ministries Coordinator (asimilien@firstparish.net)
Leslie Foley, Minister of Visitation (lfoley@firstparish.net)
Jane Connors, Office Administrator (jconnors@firstparish.net)
Steve Williams, Business Administrator (swilliams@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 church building is accessible
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM