



Journeys of Faith

A SPIRITUAL LEARNING COMMUNITY AT FIRST PARISH
349 BOSTON POST ROAD, WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JOURNEYING TOGETHER CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2011-2012

"Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, you are welcome here at First Parish."

This greeting heard on Sunday welcomes us each week to this worship community. First Parish is a learning and teaching community that values diverse perspectives. We come together to deepen our faith practice and to bring progress to the community and to the world.

First Parish worship services and programs are designed to deepen individual faith practices and to provide spiritual renewal in the midst of busy lives. Browse this brochure for workshops, events and study programs. We hope you'll find something that supports your well-being and vibrant expression.



We welcome you to The First Parish Church in Weston!

2011 - 2012 ON-GOING EVENTS

REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP & CHURCH SCHOOL AT 10:30 AM

Worship services and Church School classes meet simultaneously on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Children begin in church with parents on Family Sundays, then are dismissed to classes. ALLGEN Sundays are planned for all ages to stay for the whole service.

Festival Sundays

Sunday before Thanksgiving, Sunday before Christmas, and Easter
Two Services at 9:30 am & 11:15 am

Special Services are held on the high holidays (such as special Christmas time services, Holy Week, and others) as announced in the *Parish Post* and *e-Post*.

DINNER CONNECTION

Want to hang out with other First Parish parishioners and eat good food? Then sign up for the 2011-12 Dinner Connection Groups. Groups will meet about once a month from October through April, with each group setting their own schedule. All groups will join together for a gala dinner on Saturday, May 12, 2012!

For further information or to sign up by the September 19 deadline, please contact the Church Office (781.893.7798/admin@firstparishweston.org).

A COVENANTING YEAR – Grade 8 students participate in a coming-of-age program that equips them to explore their own religious faith. Among others, areas of study include God, Bible, death, prayer, evil, and Jesus; students are encouraged to come to their own beliefs.

KNITTERS & STITCHERS – Meet in the parlor every Monday at noon for conversation and creative handwork, including the knitting of prayer shawls given to others in times of stress that they may be surrounded by the love of God and of First Parish.

PRAYER GROUP – Meets in the First Parish library every Tuesday morning at 8:30 am

YOUTHJAM – YouthJAM concerts featuring local high school rock bands will continue this year at First Parish.

Watch the *Parish Post* for dates/times! Bands wishing to participate should e-mail youthjam@firstparishweston.org

SENIOR MEN'S LUNCH GROUP – Bring a bag lunch and gather with Tom Wintle and others for lively discussion and fellowship at noon in the Library on the first Tuesday of each month (September – June).

SENIOR CHOIR – Rehearses on Thursdays at 8:00 pm; contact Director William Sano (wcsano@verizon.net/978.744.4787) if interested in joining the group.

JUNIOR (GR. 1-5) & YOUTH (GR. 6-12) CHOIRS – Contact Director Afton Cotton (youthchoir@firstparishweston.org) for information.

BRISTOL LODGE SUPPERS – Every fourth Wednesday, First Parish prepares dinner from 3:00 to 4:30 pm in the church kitchen and then serves it to clients of Bristol Lodge Shelters in Waltham.

ATTIC TREASURES ROOM – Offers household items, jewelry, and accessories at bargain prices. Donations welcome during office hours.
Open Tuesdays, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm from September 20 to mid-May

SEPTEMBER



WORSHIP THEME: PILGRIMS

There are outer and inner pilgrimages. Outer pilgrimages are when we go on a journey to a sacred place with the hope of inspiring our inner spiritual life. Inner pilgrimages are lifelong journeys of faith in which we search for meaning, direction and purpose with the hope of strengthening the way we relate to the world. Both can bring peace and grace and a sense of the presence of God. Both require effort on our part.

Special Sundays this month:

- 9/11 Homecoming Sunday; Church School begins for Preschool through Grade 8; Welcome Reception hosted by the Senior Church Committee follows worship
- 9/25 World-Wide Communion

EVENTS

WELCOMING RECEPTION

The Senior Church Committee invites you to a special reception to welcome Harvard Divinity student Celie Katovitch, our new Ministerial Intern, and old and new friends home from summer travels.
Sunday, September 11, 11:30 am in the Parish Hall.

WESTON CLERGY ASSOCIATION'S INTERFAITH "REMEMBERING 9-11" OBSERVANCE

Sunday, September 11, 12:15 pm on the Weston Town Green.

EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT FIRST PARISH

Classic still-life oil paintings by Leigh Kristen Dahlgren
Friday, September 16 – Friday, November 4, 2011

ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL PHOTO

All students, high school aides, teachers, staff, and clergy are encouraged to meet on the front lawn for this annual snapshot of our thriving Church School, taken by First Parishioner Bonnie Baker (bakerphoto.com).
Sunday, September 25, at 11:50 am (rain date is October 2).

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH OVERNIGHT – First Parish High School students are invited to participate in this year's new youth programs, beginning with a sleepover in September.

Date to be determined; for more information, contact youth@firstparishweston.org

OCTOBER

WORSHIP THEME: STEWARDS

A steward is one who takes responsibility for preserving something they do not own. What are you protecting?

Special Sunday this month:

10/23 Stewardship Sunday



EVENTS

WRITING YOUR SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY: DISCOVERING THE TRUTH IN YOUR LIFE

Everyone has a story no one else knows – their own biography. Tom Wintle will lead this multi-session course that uses memory exercises and reflections to help us identify defining events, and patterns in our lives. This is not especially about formal religious affiliations, but more about those relationships, places, and events that touched our spirits. We'll meet at a time convenient for participants.

Call 781.893.7798 or email journeys@firstparishweston.org to indicate your interest.

CROP WALK Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty invites us to help fight hunger around the world. Sponsored by Weston Clergy Assn. A Sponsor sheet for Tom Wintle and Anne Bancroft will be posted in the Church Breezeway.

Sunday, October 2, 1:00 pm at the Town Hall.

2011 BECK LECTURE TO CELEBRATE THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KING JAMES VERSION OF THE BIBLE

More than a few of us grew up with the beautiful language of the King James Version of the Bible. Adam Nicolson, British journalist and writer, will speak on "God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible." Mr. Nicolson was born in 1957, the son of author Nigel Nicolson and grandson of Harold Nicolson and Vita Sackville-West. Educated at Eton and Magdalene College, Cambridge, he has worked widely as a journalist (British Press Awards Feature Writer of the Year 1997, shortlist) and for many years wrote weekly columns in the *Daily* and *Sunday Telegraph*. He lives at Sissinghurst in Kent with his wife Sarah Raven and is the father of five children. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland. Adam's latest book, *Sissinghurst, An Unfinished History*, won the 2009 Royal Society of Literature Ondaatje Prize. All are welcome to attend this free lecture.

Sunday, October 23, 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary



NOVEMBER

WORSHIP THEME: GRATITUDE

Gratitude is a profound resource that can be drawn upon to find contentment and enduring joy. As a spiritual practice it awakens us to life's goodness and helps us in difficult times.

Special Sundays this month:

- 11/6 All Saints/All Souls Sunday – First Parish is a community of memory and hope, and this Sunday we remember in gratitude and celebration those who have departed our world in the past year.
- 11/20 Thanksgiving Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:15 am



EVENTS

EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT FIRST PARISH

Works by Judith Cooper in pastels, mixed media and 3D
Friday, November 4 – Friday, December 16, 2011

INTERGENERATIONAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST, sponsored by the Committee for Children and Youth Ministries
Sunday, November 6, 9:30 am in the Parish Hall.

ANNUAL COMMITTEE FAIR – Hosted by the Nominating Committee. Get a cup of coffee and chat with members of many of FPCW's committees to get a better idea of how the congregation functions and where you might like to participate.
Sunday, November 6, in the Parish Hall after worship

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY VISIT TO MT. AUBURN CEMETERY
Join Tom Wintle and others at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, America's first garden cemetery, and hear about the lives and read some of the writings of Yankee "saints," including Isabella Stewart Gardner, Julia Ward Howe, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Mary Baker Eddy, and Buckminster Fuller.
Sunday, November 6, carpooling at noon.

METROWEST OPERA PRESENTS MOZART'S "DON GIOVANNI"

Performances will be "semi-staged" in Italian with a chamber orchestra.
Friday, Saturday, November 11 and 12, 7:30 pm; Sunday, November 13, 3:00 pm in the FPCW Parish Hall. To purchase tickets, visit www.metrowestopera.org

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING INGATHERING

The best way to give thanks is to share. The Church School again enlists support in collecting non-perishable food for Weston's Council on Aging (COA) Food Pantry. The COA serves hot nutritious meals twice weekly to senior citizens at the Weston Community Center, delivers "Meals on Wheels" to the homebound, and provides needed items for many others.
Sunday, November 20, during both the 9:30 and 11:15 am worship services.

WESTON INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Monday, November 21, 7:00 pm at Campion Center, 319 Concord Road.

DECEMBER

WORSHIP THEME: INCARNATION

There is no greater affirmation in Christian faith than John's triumphant announcement, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ... full of grace and truth." How does the Word, and how do our words, become flesh – become real in this world? How does God speak to us in ways that give solace and strength and peace?



Special Sundays this month:

- 12/11 All Music Sunday - *The Christmas Story* by Hugo Distler to be sung in English and featuring First Parish soloists
- 12/18 Children's Christmas Pageant at 9:30 am;
Adult worship at 11:15 am

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

A QUIET CHRISTMAS

Service of remembrance and prayer with Tom Wintle, especially for those who have lost a loved one in the past year.
Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 pm in the Chapel.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CAROLING

Friday, December 9, 6:00 pm – Catered by Sel de la Terre. Reservations required; contact the Church Office (781.893.7798/admin@firstparishweston.org)

CHRISTMAS VESPERS WORSHIP SERVICE

Led by Tom Wintle and Anne Bancroft with music by the Youth Choir
Thursday, December 15, at 7:00 pm in Sears Chapel

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT BY ADULTS FOR ALL AGES

Presented by *Capella Clausura* and *Creationdance*, and suited to the entire family. This performance creates a magical foray into the wide variety of music written mostly by cloistered women to celebrate Mary and the birth of her son. Giant puppets will accompany dancers dressed in richly-hued costumes as the chorus sings the Christmas story from Gabriel to the visit of the Magi. The audience is invited to sing with the performers, joining together in the wonder and merriment.
Saturday, December 17, 3:00 pm, in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24, 4:00, 5:30, 7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

OTHER EVENTS

NEWCOMERS' COFFEE WITH THE MINISTER

Join Tom Wintle and some parishioners for an opportunity to learn more about First Parish and what it means to be a member.
Sunday December 4, in the Parlor after worship

EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT FIRST PARISH

Encaustic abstract works by Kellie Weeks
Friday, December 16, 2011 – Friday, February 3, 2012

JANUARY

WORSHIP THEME: JUSTICE

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24). In biblical witness, the well-being of an entire society depends on the treatment of its poorest and most vulnerable members. What is justice? How does it differ from charity? What demands does it make on us today, as people of faith and as global citizens?



Special Sunday this month:

1/8 AllGEN Epiphany Sunday

EVENTS

THE NEW HEART OF CHRISTIANITY

The vision of Christianity that most of us 40+ (and many under 40) formed as we grew up in the church has ceased to be compelling for many. How can we believe today? Join Tom Wintle for an eight-session workshop to explore an emerging vision of Christian faith. Our conversations will revitalize our notions of the Bible, God and Jesus. The group will meet at times convenient for participants.

Please call 781.893.7798 or email journeys@firstparishweston.org to register.

DRUM CIRCLE – We invite everyone to an encore of last year’s all-generation drum circle. Trained musicians, with drums and other instruments, will lead participants on a cooperative musical journey.

Sunday, January 22, in the Parish Hall after worship

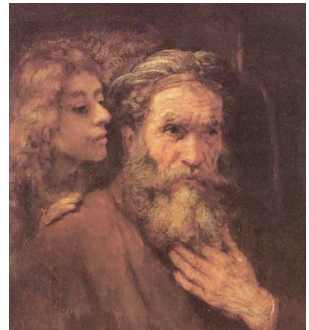
FEBRUARY

WORSHIP THEME: AUTHORITY

If some people have worried about authoritarian religions, the greater problem for most of us today is finding what is authoritative for us in religious matters. What sources speak with authority? Whose voice do we recognize as valid? How do we know?

Special Sunday this month:

2/5 Reception of New Members and Annual Congregational Meeting



EVENTS

EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT FIRST PARISH

Pastels of landscapes, still-lives, and portraits by Jeanne Rosier Smith

Friday, February 3 – Friday, March 16, 2012

FIRST PARISH AUTHORS RECEPTION – FP authors are invited to bring a copy of your book(s) to display during Coffee Hour.

Sunday, February 12, in the Parish Hall after worship

MARCH

WORSHIP THEME: LENT

A good and holy Lent makes for a more joyous Easter. Do you “give up” something for Lent, or do you “take up” some new discipline or spiritual practice?

Special Sunday this month:

- 3/11 All Music Sunday - Mozart's *Requiem*, featuring First Parish soloists and a small chamber orchestra



EVENTS

EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT FIRST PARISH –

Sarah Kahn's abstract works in mixed media
Friday, March 16 – Friday, April 27, 2012

PASTORAL CALLERS PRESENT “END OF LIFE DECISIONS: THE FIVE WISHES FORUM”

Written in everyday language, Five Wishes has become America's most popular living will and is changing the way America talks about plans for care at the end of life.

Sunday, March 4, in the Parlor after worship

APRIL

WORSHIP THEME: SALVATION

“Salve” means to save, or to heal. What is “wrong” with the world? What would make it better?

Special Sundays this month:

- 4/1 Palm/Passion Sunday
4/29 Holy Communion

Holy Week Events:

- 4/5 Maundy Thursday Communion
Service with Youth Choir at 7:00 pm
4/6 Good Friday Tenebrae service at 7:00 pm in Sears Chapel
4/8 Easter Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:15 am



EVENTS

EXHIBIT IN THE GALLERY AT FIRST PARISH –

Works of fabric on canvas by Julia Berkley
Friday, April 27, 2012 – Tuesday, May 8, 2012

GRADE 4 HEIFER FAIR

Sunday, April 29, 11:30 am-12:15 pm, in the Parish Hall

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, April 29, noon in the Parking Lot

MAY

WORSHIP THEME: SUCCESS

*If you wish success in life,
make perseverance your bosom friend,
experience your wise counselor,
caution your elder brother,
and hope your guardian genius.*

– Joseph Addison, 1713.

But how do you know when you are successful?

Special Sunday this month:

5/20 Eighth Grade Covenanting Year Recognition



EVENT

DINNER CONNECTIONS YEAR-END GALA

A gathering of all the groups for a grand potluck celebration

Saturday, May 12, 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall

JUNE

Special Sunday this month:

6/10 Church School Sunday – Worship will include a celebration of teachers, H. S. Aides, and students, Grade 3 recitation and presentation of gift Bibles, and special music presentations by the Junior and Youth Choirs

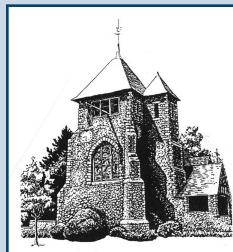


EVENT

ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

Come one, come all to this relaxed all-ages event. There will be entertainment for the children and plenty of hot dogs, burgers, and beverages provided by the Senior Church Committee. Add to the festivities by bringing your favorite picnic salad/side dish or finger dessert!
Sunday, June 10, on the playground after worship (rain location: Parish Hall.)

First gathered in 1698 by the Puritan settlers of Weston, First Parish was founded to serve all the residents of the town and was known as the “parish” or “town” church. This town church identity still guides us, for we seek to be a vibrant and welcoming community church, including people from a wide variety of denominational backgrounds and from no religious background. Today, affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, we worship from a Christian perspective and with a commitment to freedom, reason, and tolerance.



Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Wintle, *Senior Minister*
Anne Bancroft, *Ministerial Consultant*
www.firstparishweston.org

THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN WESTON

349 Boston Post Road
Weston, MA 02493

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boston, MA
PERMIT no. 58862

CHURCH SCHOOL

Begins September 11th
at 10:30 a.m.

Bring a Friend!

Toddlers through Eighth Grade
Review the curricula and register
online at www.firstparishweston.org