

FIRST PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL United Church of Christ

Volume 6—Issue 1

Serving Christ & Community since 1744

January 2011

Pastor's Message—"FROM A DISTANCE"

Some of the newsletter articles that I write almost flow from my fingertips. Others take more thought. This is one of the latter. It is a hard one to write – and for you to read – because it is time for us to say good-bye to each other. We knew it was coming, but that doesn't make it any easier. Shakespeare certainly got it right when he said, "Parting is such sweet sorrow."

Sweet, you say? Well, yes. We have had a good ministry together. From my perspective, the church is in a better place than it was when I arrived – not due to anything I have done alone, but due to the work we have done together.

I had hoped your new settled pastor would come the Sunday after I left, but you are not quite there yet...close, but not quite.

The Search Committee has worked faithfully and prayerfully. They and I both think that you will soon have a settled pastor, and that's very exciting!

And that brings me to the tough part. Once I leave, I will have to love you from a distance. Much as I might want, I cannot return to do funerals or weddings or baptisms, so please do not ask. I can no longer serve as pastor to you when you are in a time of crisis – or even in a time of joy. These are times your new minister will pastor to you.

So many people have difficulty understanding the boundaries clergy need to honor during transition. It's hard to see how these boundaries are in the best interest of the church, but they are. Once I am gone, you need to turn your allegiance to someone else. As

long as you "hold on" to me, you are not fully welcoming your new pastor.

Your welcome, your support, and your willingness to try new things have enriched our mutual ministry. I trust that you will give the same support and welcome to the person who follows me.

Thank you for all you have been and all you are. I sincerely look forward to watching you – from a distance – as you move forward into the next phase of being First Parish Church in Freeport..

Listen for the Still Speaking God. Follow the path Jesus has laid before you. Let the Holy Spirit empower you. If you do this, you will be fine. God is with you – all the time!

Reverend Anne

COUNCIL MINUTES—January 2, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Will Gavin. Our President, Janice Fogg, and Vice President, John Skillin, were absent. Attending were: Brenda Skillin, Barbara Thompson, Dot Maybury, Sue Mack, Colby

Perkins, Richard Couture, Reverend Anne Roundy, Will Gavin, and Ann Westervelt. Reverend Roundy led us in prayer.

The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as printed. We

did not meet in December.

The Treasurer was absent but sent a printed report with figures for the year, ending with November. It was voted to accept the report.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

<i>January Council Minutes continued...</i>	2
<i>Vice President's Remarks</i>	2
<i>Stewardship</i>	3
<i>Music</i>	3
<i>In Memoriam Barbara Roundy</i>	3
<i>Reminders</i>	3
<i>Incoming President's Report</i>	4

Your help is needed:

We're looking for someone to help with the weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter. If you know your way around a computer and are familiar with Microsoft Publisher (or can learn the program), please give Ruth Porter a call,

207-865-4892,

or email,

porterofme@yahoo.com.

Thanks!



(COUNCIL MINUTES continued from page 1)

The Financial Secretary was absent.

Couples and Singles had a very enjoyable party and sent \$125.00 to Freeport Community Services.

Deacons discussed programs for 2011. The quarters put in the collection plate are very helpful. They voted to send a portion to the General Fund.

The Golf Committee will meet in March.

The Parish Market will have an event in late May or early June.

The Trustees met on the 16th of December. They are presenting a budget

written in the "worst case scenario", with a \$17,000.00 deficit. We will pay for moving the new minister, as it is in the budget. A suggestion was made to take postage out of the budget and require committees to pay, to help defray costs.

The Flower Committee and Hospitality Committee have sign up sheets on the bulletin board.

Stewardship has not received all pledges.

Revised Constitution and By-Laws will be presented at the Annual Meeting. A suggestion has been made to change the titles of President and Vice Presi-

dent to Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Reverend Roundy announced that today's Council Meeting will be the last she attends. Her last service with this church is scheduled for January 23rd.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

E. Ann Westervelt
Clerk



There's plenty of room in the parlor each month for you! All members and friends are welcome to attend the monthly Council meetings.

Vice President's Remarks

Hello there! Janice Fogg is in California visiting her daughter Sheila, hence her duties default to the Vice President.

Another year of the Church and our personal lives have rapidly come to an end. The celebration of the Birth of Jesus began on the 25th and all should remember that there are twelve days to the celebration. It is not a one day event.

At 40 Main Street Freeport, there have been a lot of activi-

"The celebration of the Birth of Jesus began on the 25th and all should remember that there are twelve days to the celebration. It is not a one day event."

ties during the month of December:

The Holly Jolly Christmas Fair has come and gone and once again, proved to be a success. The Saturday luncheon was very well attended.

The Freeport Greater Community Chorus held an excellent concert at the Church as a prelude to Christmas. This event is one that all should try to attend in 2011. It was two hours of excellent music and gives one the opportunity to appreciate the acoustics of the First Parish Congregational Church.

The Search Committee has set appointments to attend neutral pulpits to hear each of the two perspective candidates deliver a sermon. Once these have been evaluated, a decision will be reached to arrange for the selected candidate to deliver a sermon to our congregation for their final decision.

The Trustees have been busy with the various tasks of keeping the building functioning. The care and repair of the restrooms has occupied a lot of their time. Dale Inman, treasurer, has prepared a budget for 2011. This will be presented at the January 9 Annual Meeting.

The Christian Education Committee, led by Patty Kennedy has overseen the live nativity scene in front of the church again this year. The live nativity was enacted on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday preceding Christmas Day. Again, the general public in the quiet town of Freeport got a chance to see the "Face of Jesus" on Main Street and were pleasantly reminded of the real

purpose for celebrating Christmas.

The 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service was well attended and surely reinforced the true meaning of Christmas.

The By-laws have been reviewed and updated. Copies of the changes are available by contacting Rev. Anne Roundy.

Written in peace and harmony,
John W. Skillin



Antique Nativity figurines dating back to early 1900s.

News from Stewardship

Now that the commercialism of Christmas has slowed down, we can look at the true meaning of Christmas again. Through us others will hear the good news.

Elaine tells us we have not heard from all members and friends on the exact amount each will be pledging for 2011. This information is very important to the life of the church. Just like we need to know how much income we receive at home to work out a budget, the Church needs to know how much will be coming in each

week as well.

We need to have a place to worship and we need dedicated people to help our church community fulfill its mission. Please drop a note in the collection plate or drop a card in the mail "attention stewardship."

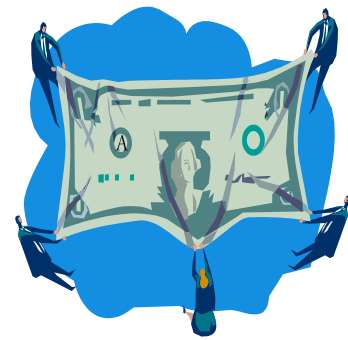
Elaine Wilmot or Barb Skelton will record your pledge information so budget plans can be made. Weekly, monthly, or yearly...it's up to you. How much will you be able to give financially to hear the message and share that

message with others.

God is still speaking. And He speaks through us and in many other ways.

If you haven't found your box of envelopes for Sunday pledge, ask us. The easiest way to budget to support our church home and ministry seems to be weekly for most of us. Don't forget that your pledges and donations to First Parish are tax deductible.

It takes all of us to "stretch" those dollars to pay our operating costs that support the church...which supports the membership...who supports the community... Won't you send in your pledge to Barb Skelton today?



Music Committee

Those advent songs sung by the choir as well as those sung by the congregational brought tears to my eyes.

Bev Tompson found a choir robe that fit her just fine Christmas Eve. She kept saying, "I don't know what made me...," but we know, don't we?

All we are asked to do is to "Make a joyful noise." Those who sing in the choir will tell you that we enjoy every minute of it. We want more of you

to share in the awesomeness of singing for Him.

We will be having service downstairs for the next couple of months and hopefully it might make it easier for many more of you to join the choir. We won't be wearing choir robes; we'll just be acting as leaders in song.

Please join us in making that joyful noise!

Brenda Skillin

"Make a joyful noise..."



Barbara Roundy IN MEMORIAM

Reverend Anne's mother, Barbara Roundy, of West Bath died January 10 at the Coves Edge Nursing Home in Damariscotta, Maine.

She is survived by her sister, Ruth Hennessey, a brother, John Brown, and her six children; Jean McDonald, Ruth Vietze, Anne Roundy, Charles Roundy, David Roundy, and George Roundy. She is also survived by eleven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, one great-great-granddaughter and multiple dearly loved nieces and nephews.

Donations in her memory may be made to Elder Care Network of Lincoln County, 6 Hodgdon St., Damariscotta, ME 04543.

REMINDERS!

January 23—**Reverend Anne's last Sunday** with us! Be sure to join us for Worship and to give thanks for the blessings we've received.

January 20—**Couples and Singles Potluck Supper, 6 p.m.** We're hoping ALL can come.

January 16—**Dedication of committees and leaders** for 2011 during our regular worship services.

Bible Study begins the third Saturday in February at 10 a.m.

Our study will be based on Upper Room readings. Be sure to bring your Bibles. See Pat Pooters or Brenda Skillin if you have questions.

Coffee Hour signup sheets for 2011 are on the board. Everyone likes coffee after church. Please be sure to put your name down if you can help one Sunday.

Creative in Spirit will begin meeting the fourth Saturday of the month at 9:30am in the

Mary Conley Room at Church. As this month has five Saturdays, we will meet on the 29th. Come, bring craft ideas and be in the *spirit of creating!* All are welcome. Have questions? See Laurie Poulin or Andrea Conner.

Bean Suppers are the second Saturday of each month!

Flower offerings for the Altar are needed whenever possible—sign up downstairs!



Mark your calendars!

	FIRST PARISH CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL United Church of Christ
	

40 Main Street
Freeport, Maine 04032
Phone: 207-865-6022

Serving Christ & Community since 1744

Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday each month
Sunday School 10 a.m. September—May

Interim Pastor: Reverend Anne Roundy
Telephone: 207-944-3043 (Cell)
E-mail: revaroundy@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Ruth Porter
Home Phone: 207-865-4892
E-mail: porterofofme@yahoo.com
Next newsletter issue: **FEBRUARY 2011**
DEADLINE to submit: FEBRUARY 7

**Soon to be
on the Web!**

Our Incoming President's Report—John Skillin

Happy New Year!
I had the opportunity, as vice president, to preside over the actual meeting that would lead to my election as President, First Parish Church Congregational.

Reverend Anne Roundy, our interim minister, assisted in conducting the meeting and oversaw the proposed changes to the By-laws.

I would like to acknowledge the Couples & Singles Club, which supplied all of the supplemental foods that turned a simple sandwich into a feast!

As your new president, I hope to call all those I have not seen lately, inviting them with all our neighbors and friends, to worship with us as a church family. Our active membership list shows 75 with Rachael Poulin as our most recent

member.

The Nominating Committee presented a healthy number of workers for this year. We still need someone to replace our retiring Clerk, Ann Westervelt. Ann has stood in that position for 50 years! I also need to thank Pat Pooters for filling in as Clerk at the annual meeting, since Ann was home sick.

Our year looks similar to last, but with growth, the history of where we have been, and a vision of where we need to go, we will continue serving God.

The Stewardship Drive is still ongoing and your commitment to a pledge is greatly needed. The committee is thinking of, and planning more, fund raisers to keep us on track.

The Search Committee is interviewing candidates and attending neutral pulpits to observe the candidates during worship.

The proposed changes to the By-laws were tabled. More information will be forthcoming to be sure that we follow the procedures as outlined in our church Constitution.

The next council meeting is the first Sunday in February (February 6.) Please remember that newsletter articles are due no later than Monday, February 7.

On March 19, 2011, the Couples & Singles club will host a Shamrock Cluttered Boiled Dinner with the traditional corned beef, ham, cabbage, etc., and an assortment of homemade pies.

