

First Parish Church Congregational United Church of Christ

SERVING CHRIST &
COMMUNITY SINCE
1744

VOLUME 6—ISSUE 5

MAY 2011

**NO MATTER
WHO YOU
ARE OR
WHERE YOU
ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY...
YOU ARE
ALWAYS
WELCOMED
HERE!**

Inside this issue:

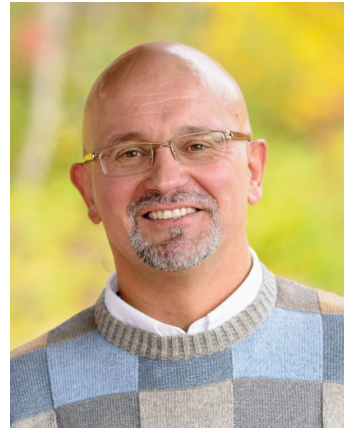
Parish Market	2
Pastor's Message	2
Missions	3
Celebration of Change	3
Golf Scramble	3
Council Minutes	4
Freeport Community Chorus	5
Stewardship	5
Board of Trustees	5
Couples & Singles	6
Music	6
Salad Supper	6
The Paynes	6
Financial Secretary	7
President's	7
Notes	8

Pastor's Message—"Mustard Seeds"

Dear Members and Friends of First Parish,

My first few weeks in Freeport have flown by! What sticks in my mind are a few things: many kindnesses shown to me and to Susan, many words of welcome, and much patience as I learn your names! I thank God for the invitation to be your pastor and to explore God's amazing love for all of us!

I have also heard a bit of curiosity about what's to come at First Parish. You may have heard that there will be a luncheon and opportunity for discussion of the future at First Parish on Sunday, May 22 after the worship service. The event has the interesting name "A Celebration of Change." I confess that I am somewhat mystified by the name. I love to celebrate—and if there is good food to celebrate with, all the better! I love changes that move people from sad-



Reverend Peter Heinrichs

ness and fear to sparkle and joy.

But you know what? In the name "A Celebration of Change" I hear some Take-A-Deep-Breath-And-Let's-See-What-Peter-Is-Up-To going on. Would I be far off the mark to say perhaps there is some fear and a desire for assurance that I won't be taking First Parish anywhere you're not ready to go?

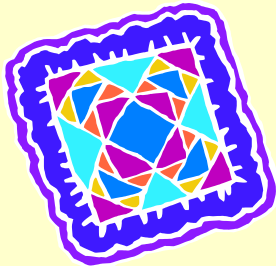
Yes, there are a few things I would love to see happen. In the short term, I would love to see an updated membership list with addresses, phone numbers and

email information all in one place. This will help me get to know you and how to contact you. I would love to see a spring cleaning of the parish hall and kitchen – a work day that puts winter clutter and grit behind us. (This is beyond Ted Moon's job – what Ted does is amazing and beautiful!) Spring cleaning just feels refreshing at this time of year.

In the longer term, I would love to have someone sit down with me and explain how the committees work and how they divide up leadership responsibilities, and to reflect with me how we might make committee work both helpful and more joyful.

I also want take up Sunday School and how to make children, youth and families feel welcome and involved even in the context of their busy lives.

(Continued on page 2)



Parish Market

The Market is getting closer to reality! We will open on June 25th with an event titled, "Quilters Event".

This event will bring in vendors from around the area selling their quilts and Maine-made products.

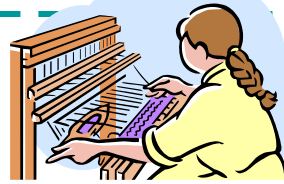
Our remaining schedule is as follows:

- July 16
Crafter's on Parade
- July 30
Maine Market Day
- August 6
Art in Freeport
- August 20
Quilting in Freeport
- August 27
Crafter's Event

- September 24
Maine Made Market
- October 8
Art Fair

The parking lot will be alive with vendors selling their hand made products. These events will be an opportunity for groups within our church to fun raise for their committees by taking the reins of the food support for that given event. As of today, Couples and Singles will host the first event and Missions will be managing the July 16th event.

Any group interested in signing up for any remaining open date, will need to speak with a Parish Mar-



ket committee member to be listed for that event.

There will be a clean up day in the Parking Lot in May. We will be letting the congregation know when, but we will need help pruning, cleaning up, and preparing the lot for opening.

We are now on the Church website. If you know of any artist or Craftsman that may be interested in this opportunity, tell them about our plans, and welcome them to join us in this new "change" - A true celebration!

Parish Market Committee

(Pastor's Message from page 1)

But these are mechanical things. Far and above any mechanical goal is the relationship we build as pastor and members at First Parish. I sense that we have a God-given opportunity right now to build some trust and hope in our future together. Trust and hope come as we discover common ground and stretch into new territory. Who are we going to be five or ten

years down the road? *I don't know!* This I do know, that prayer, openness and genuine curiosity about what God wants to happen lead to *great community*.

So I look forward to celebrating *great community* on Sunday, May 22. How about you? Come with questions and wonderings and dreams and hopes! And so will I.

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Peter

A note...from Pastor Peter

Some new possibilities are coming forward for Sunday School and I'll be meeting with the Christian Education Committee very soon. So, I would like to invite anyone who would like to be part of some exciting new programming with the potential for spiritual growth for all ages to please let me know. I'd love to share with you my ideas and hear yours.

Please email me at: pastor-peterh@gmail.com or leave a message on my phone at 207-615-2212. Thanks!

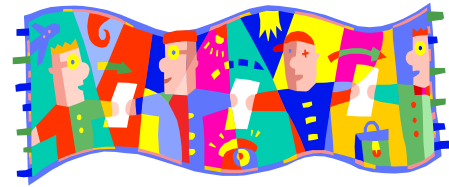
MISSIONS

The One Great Hour of Sharing collection on Sunday, April 10 was \$50. This collection benefits disaster victims and refugees world wide by helping build strong communities with safe water, education, medical care, secure sources of food, and by supporting the self-development of struggling peoples. Thank you to all who contributed to this worthy cause.

The Mission Committee will

be running the food concession for the Parish Market on Saturday, July 16. We are looking forward to this venue to help us raise funds for our various projects both within and outside of our church community.

Those “lazy hazy days of summer” might be a good time for our knitters to keep the knitting needles from getting rusty. See Lois Dennison for scarf, vest, and helmet patterns



Don't Stop Sharing—it's a great way of caring!

to knit for next fall's Christmas at Sea Project.

As always, many thanks to the congregation for your support.

Celebration of Change

On May 22 the Search Committee invites all members and friends to attend a gathering after church for a light lunch and dessert. This gathering is to help us draw closer as a congregation, and also to get to know our new Pastor Peter Heinrichs.

If you have not been to church recently, for whatever reason, we especially invite you to attend. Come to socialize with each other, enjoy some good food, and maybe even come up with some ideas about how we should be presenting our-

selves to the larger community. With the Summer season almost upon us, we have a rare opportunity to show the face of Jesus to visitors and residents here in Freeport. Let us be open to where the Spirit will lead us. COME JOIN US!

“Spirit: noun; The principle of conscious life; the vital principal in humans, animating the body or mediating between body and soul”

Annual Alvin & Florence Dennison Golf Scramble

It's getting closer to the first meeting! The event will be held again this year in September and our committee will begin its work in May. We invite any new members that may be interested in helping with this incredible

fundraiser. It's a great way to remember two much loved and much missed members of our Church family.

The golf ball is once again at the rear of the Church on Sundays and just waiting to accept any and all dona-

tions!

Join us for the fun. See Lois Dennison, Archie Dennison, Richard Couture, or Brenda Skillin, or me for more info!

Colby Perkins
Chair



Council Minutes—May 1, 2011

President John Skillin called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Reverend Peter Heinrichs opened with prayer. Attending were: Barbara Thompson, Thelma Dunning, Barbara Skelton, Sue Mack, Pat Pooters, Colby Perkins, Terri Snape, Ruth Porter, Dale Inman, Reverend Peter, and Ann Westervelt.

The minutes of the March and April meetings were approved as printed in the newsletter.

The Treasurer reported that oil and snow plowing have not been paid. It was voted that no checks will be written until the payroll is covered. A CD has been cashed for \$1,300.00.

The Financial Secretary presented a printed report. Ten Lenten folders have been received. It was voted to make it possible to use a night deposit box and Barb Skelton will cover the cost if there is one.

The North window is finished on the outside and the inside will be completed this week. The fire exit light in the Narthex has been properly repaired.

John Skillin will have a written report on the “amazing” visit to the Carpenters’ Boat Shop.

Reverend Peter and delegate, Pat Pooters, attended the annual Maine Conference Meeting at Woodfords Church, UCC on April 10, 2011. The use of elec-

tronics for churches was discussed.

A thank you to Paula O’Brien was given for her excellent work on adding Reverend Peter’s name to our sign in front of the church. The worship time will be added under the name sign as soon as the proper eye screws are found.

Plants are needed for sale May 7, 2011. The Bean Supper will be held on May 14, 2011. The yard sale will be May 28th. The UCC Conference will be held for three days, beginning June 23, at the College in Farmington.

Trustees met Tuesday evening. They have not met with a Natural Gas representative. Use of the parking lot and outside painting of the church were discussed. There was also a discussion of the number of Sunday bulletins to be printed. The number will be increased by 10.

Search Committee will meet June 22 at Woodfords Church, transferring credentials for Reverend Peter. His installation date will be announced.

The Parish Market Committee met Thursday evening. There are eight dates planned; these will be on the church’s website. Groups and committees in the church may serve food in the parking lot, as a

fundraiser (weather permitting).

Mizpah met April 16th at Janice Fogg’s house, and will meet May 21st at the church. \$750.00 has been paid on the Narthex window and \$330.00 has been paid for the new toilet. They voted to donate \$150.00 towards a love seat in Reverend Peter’s office. Their May basket sale was canceled this year.

The Golf Committee has not met but will do so at the end of May.

The Deacons Easter Breakfast was successful. They will meet May 15th.

Couples & Singles met Thursday. Pat Pooters and Louise Grant did a program on Freeport History.

Thelma Dunning was present at the meeting and will meet with the Treasurer and Financial Secretary in her role as auditor.

Reverend Peter will meet with the Historical Society on May 17th concerning the Parish Burying Ground. Patty Kennedy is resigning from teaching Sunday school, but will continue with the Achievers. New planning and curriculum for the Sunday school was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. with a closing prayer.

E. Ann Westervelt
Church Clerk

The Greater Freeport Community Chorus

The greater Freeport Community Chorus invites you to their Spring concert “The Long Road Home”, on Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m., Freeport Performing Arts Center—and Sunday, May 15, 2:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, Yarmouth. The concert will be a varied program of Scottish airs, jazz, gospel, as well as a Mozart, Hayden, Dello Joio, and Morton Lauridsen.

The mixed voice chorus, in its 17th year, is directed by Virgil Bozeman, IV, choral director at Richmond Middle/High School, and Chairman of Maine Music Educator’s Association District III. The chorus is accompanied by Dorothy Cuprak of Richmond. The 65 members are from 22 communities from South Portland to Woolwich.

Ticket prices are: \$10 adults;

\$5 students and seniors; children 12 and under free. Tickets are available in advance at the Freeport Community Center Clothes Tree and Music & Moore, Topsham, or at the door. For more information, visit the chorus web site at www.gfccweb.org or call 751-6301.

Stewardship

If you haven’t sent in your UCC dues for the year, please make an effort to do so as quickly as possible. Drop it in the plate (make sure to note UCC dues on the check or envelope) or mail it to Barb Skelton in care of the Church. Please put your membership number on the check or envelope. The church is billed for every member so if you can pay, thank you. If you can’t pay, for whatever reason, please let Reverend Peter know so he can handle it through the Deacons.

Second letters were mailed this past month to remind everyone to pledge. If you have pledged already and received another letter, please forgive us. For all of you who have taken care of this, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Board of Trustees

The trustees of First Parish met on Tuesday, April 26. In reviewing the financial reports, we realize that First Parish now needs to step up the pace and flow of financial contributions. After a tough (and expensive!) plowing season, and now that Peter has come on board as our half-time pastor, we have significantly increased the need to keep up with our budget. Through March, however, our income is not keeping pace with our budgeted expenses. We ask that all members of First Parish please stay current with your pledge contributions! And be as generous as we know you are in other ways. For example, First Parish owes the Maine Conference and our local association \$1072 in annual dues (about \$15 per member). We have had wonderful support from the Conference during our

interim ministries and want to continue our connection with other UCC churches in our area. So far, First Parish members have contributed about \$225 toward our per member dues, leaving us with more than \$800 to raise. Could you please consider a \$15 contribution for every adult member in your family? (If you have already done so, thank you so much!). That way, we can move forward with other important bills in our budget as we grow in a time of new ministry and hope!

Sue Mack, Chairperson, and the First Parish Trustees

Couples & Singles

From the history of Freeport's First Parish Congregational Church to the Celebration of Change, we have enjoyed our Spring meetings.

We had speakers from Freeport Historical Society in March and Pat Pooters and Louise Grant in April, share with us knowledge of our church and our role in Freeport today.

As we move into May, we are ready for the challenge of change and a celebration of where we have been.

Don't forget the next Couples & Singles pot luck, Thursday, May 26 at 6 p.m. We'll have news on our upcoming summer events and a special guest speaker.

June will be our Mystery Dinner—more infor-

mation to follow.

There's a Bean Supper on Saturday, May 14 and another on June 14. These suppers are fundraisers for our church and we hope to be able to finish the remodel of the kitchen soon. Please volunteer to lend a hand preparing or serving. We really need your help.

July 4th will be here before we know it. Our annual event on the front lawn of the church needs your help as well. Please see John Skillin if you can help coordinate this fun time this year.

And last, but never least, we'll be holding the Annual Clam/Lobster/Steak Bake at the end of August. Details will follow closer to the date.

MUSIC

The congregation says we are in harmony and they liked our music during Lent. That was "music" to our ears!

What songs/hymns would you like to hear this spring and summer? Drop a note in the pledge plate or see Reverend Peter, Pat Pooters, Fred Robie, or Brenda Skillin.

Bell Ringers from Pine Tree Academy in Freeport will be having a concert at our Church, Sunday, June 5. Hope you all can attend!

Salad Supper & Study

Not just for ladies anymore! All are invited to attend on Thursday night, May 19, at 6 p.m. in the Mary Conley Room.

Bring a salad to share (or other dish) and be prepared to also share a book you've recently read or just take time to share something spiritual with the group.

It's always enlightening and a wonderful way to get to know each other better. Make a note: 3rd Thursday of each month.

Briefly from Pat Pooters...

Tony and Dilys Payne, their daughter, Mel, and son-in-law, Duncan, send their thanks to the people of First Parish Church for the prayers for Rosie, Mel and Duncan's daughter; Tony and Dilys' granddaughter.

Rosie has some issues pertaining to how her head is held, especially in the neck area, and the doctors are evaluating that. They think the way she holds her head may be what is causing the issue with her eyes.

The doctors are also concerned about the size of her head, but Tony did not go into details on this.

Tony and Dilys will be coming to Maine in August. They'll be staying in my home and I am going to try

to arrange a gathering sometime during the week they'll be here, so that all who remember them, will be able to visit without having them running about to see everyone.

Pat

Financial Secretary's Report

January thru April 2011

Children's Day	0.00
Christmas	0.00
Communion	154.00
Deacon's Fund	0.00
Easter	211.50
Fair	18.00
Gifts and Memorials	2,375.00
Initial Envelope	22.00
Mizpah	330.34
Neighbors in Need	0.00
OGHS	50.00
Per Capita	361.00
Plate	2,474.33
Pledges	9,059.00
Quarter Collection	111.50
Thanksgiving	0.00
Funerals	650.00
Bottles	26.00
Church Supper	2,331.50
DA Saturday AM Rent	129.16
FA Thursday AM Rent	160.00
Church Use	268.00
Upper Room	2.00
Missions	25.00
TOTAL	18,758.33

Annual Pledge Amount	29,858
Amount Received	9,059
Percentage Donated	30%
Amount Projected	9,761.27
Percentage Projected	33%

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April has been a very busy month. With the change in weather, the work began on returning a window to the Narthex. I worked with Alan Hindley to create an opening. It was such a wonderful feeling to realize that we had changed from destruction to construction.

The project came to a sudden stop once we realized that the replacement molding for the window had to be manufactured. We took the pattern gauge to Fat Andy's in North Yarmouth and they worked out a wonderful deal—we have the molding if we would like to replace the second window at some point. The job should be complete on May 3rd.

On April 21, Reverend Peter, Susan Lewis and her son, Tanner, Patty Kennedy, Mike Jordan, Chris Snow, Trevor York, and I, journeyed to Pemaquid Point to visit the Carpenter's Boat Shop, which is an apprenticeship school committed to building boats, nurturing lives, and serving others.

Founded in 1979, the Boat Shop is an educational community for all people. Whether apprentices are between school and life careers, jobs and new directions, alcoholism and sobriety, or simply transitioning into retirement, the Boat Shop provides a harbor before setting sail on a new life course.

While apprentices are considering goals and direction, they live in community and learn boatbuilding, woodworking, cooking, sailing and seamanship, and they perform community service. They also explore personal faith through reading, study, and discussion.

The hope is that apprentices will gain a deeper knowledge of themselves, a clearer vision for their goals, and a stronger commitment in their service to others.

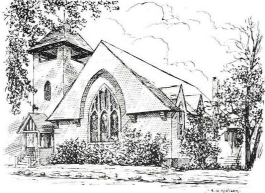
The daily life at the Carpenter's Boat Shop is based upon the 6th Century Rule of St. Benedict which encouraged a life of work, prayer, study, worship, recreation, hospitality, and service.

Although the Boat Shop is not Benedictine but ecumenical, there is great meaning for the community school in subscribing to this gentle and balanced life.

Each day they work eight hours in the Boat Shop building traditional wooden craft such as skiffs, dinghies, and sailboats, as well as wooden furniture. After work, apprentices are encouraged to participate in a seamanship program of sailing and rowing.

This program is run by Reverend Bob Ives, an ordained UCC minister.

For further information feel free to talk to one of us who visited the Carpenter's Boat shop.



Sunday Worship Service 10 a.m.
Communion 1st Sunday/month
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sept—May

First Parish Church Congregational United
Church of Christ
40 Main Street
Freeport, Maine 04032
Phone: 207-865-6022

Reverend Peter Heinrichs
Cell: 207-615-2212
E-mail: revpeterh@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Ruth Porter
Home Phone: 207-865-4892
E-mail: porterofme@yahoo.com
Next newsletter issue: June
DEADLINE to submit: June 6

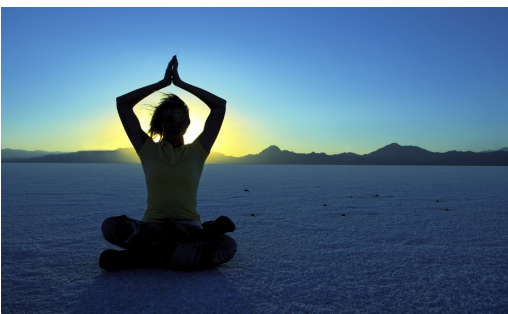
Visit Freeport First Parish Church Congregational, UCC on Facebook!

Inner Peace through Meditation

Date: Thursdays, ending June 9th
Time: 5-6 pm
Place: Upstairs Parlor

Join us during the Easter Season as we seek the peace that Jesus promised in the resurrection. That peace is found inside of us and is available to everyone. No prior experience with meditation is necessary! All are welcome.

Facilitator: Rev. Susan Lewis
Sponsored by: Christian Education



ME Conference UCC Fellowship Dues

Individual member dues are payable now for 2011. We are required to pay \$13.45 per covenant member. We're asking that you round that figure up to \$15, if possible, to help offset postage and other costs. If you're able to pay the dues for a fellow member who might not be able to, please see Reverend Peter or Barb Skelton. Make checks payable to First Parish and mark them "UCC dues" so Barb can keep track and the treasurer can send in one check. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars!

- Bible Study every third Saturday at 10 a.m. Bring your Bibles.
- Plant Sale at Church, Saturday, May 7—9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Bean Supper, Saturday, May 14, 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- Mizpah meets at Church on Saturday, May 21 at noon. Don't forget your sandwich.
- A Celebration of Change Picnic at Church on Sunday, May 22, directly after worship.
- Yard Sale Saturday, May 28 at the Church.
- Next Council meeting is Sunday, June 5 at 11:30 a.m.
- 2011 Maine Conference Annual Meeting in Farmington, June 23-26.