

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 21, 2014

## This Week

Sun., Dec. 21	<b>Sunday Services at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.</b> 7:30 Solstice Celebration
Tue., Dec. 23	1:45 Christmas Caroling
Wed., Dec. 24	Office Closed 4:00 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 9:00 Christmas Eve Service
Thu., Dec. 25	First Parish Meeting House Closed
Fri., Dec. 26	9:00-12:00 Office Open
Sun., Dec. 28	<b>Sunday Service at 10:00</b>



## Parish Notes

### Christmas Eve Worship Services

**Wednesday, December 24: 4:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.**

Led by Rev. Howard Dana and the Worship Planning Team

4:00 p.m. – The Tableau and Children’s Choirs

7:00 p.m. – Youth Gospel Ensemble and Contemporary Ensemble

9:00 p.m. – First Parish Choir

### Winter Solstice Celebration—Tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Come one, come all to celebrate the Winter Solstice with stories, songs, blazing Yule log, seasonal refreshments, and more! The Women’s Goddess Covenant Circle invites the entire First Parish community with families and friends to join this festive gathering on the longest night, tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and Parlor. Welcome, Yule!

### Holiday Memorial Wreath

The Holiday Memorial Wreath is located at the front of the Sanctuary. It is a way to acknowledge the memory of a loved one who has died. Tie a ribbon to the wreath for each of those you wish to remember. The wreath will remain in the Sanctuary throughout the holidays.

### Women’s Retreats 2015: Creativity

All women of First Parish are warmly invited and welcome to attend this year’s retreats, where we’ll focus on Creativity as we share our time together. We will banish all cares as we relax, have fun, rejuvenate, and reflect on what creativity means to us, and how we can find and foster it in our lives. Choose either of the two weekend retreats (Friday evening through Sunday lunch) at Senexet House in Connecticut, January 23-25 or January 30-February 1; or the at-home retreat at First Parish, Friday evening, February 6, and Saturday morning through afternoon, February 7. Registration forms are at coffee hours or in the church office. Questions? Contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

### Pastoral Care

“Being There for Each Other through the Changes in Life.” The December Pastoral Care Lay Minister from December 14 to 31 is

Dana Snyder-Grant. Dana can be reached at [danasg@newview.org](mailto:danasg@newview.org) or 978-760-1129.

### First Parish Café—Every Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Come have coffee, tea and muffins with new and old friends. Welcome those who are standing around by themselves to come sit at the table. Introduce yourself to someone you have not yet met. This is a time to make connections and build a sense of belonging. We do this together, one by one.

### Worship—Sunday, December 28, 10:00 a.m.

“On the Shoulders of Giants”

Brian Chenowith, Ministerial Intern and Pamela Schwappe, soprano

### Sunday Bouillon—Volunteers Needed

It is that time of year again. A few of us are thinking that we might begin making bouillon the first Sunday in January, as we have in the past. Remember how delicious the bouillon was on a cold winter Sunday? And the smell drifting upstairs? We need volunteers. Can you help one Sunday a month, either by buying, preparing, and serving during social hour, or cleaning up after? Please email Kel at [kel@rkeleher.com](mailto:kel@rkeleher.com) or call him at 978-944-2734 if you are interested.

### Nominations for the First Parish Standing Committee

The Nominating Committee, charged with identifying nominees to serve on the First Parish Standing Committee, is accepting nominations now through the end of the year. Nomination forms are available at the Welcome Table during coffee hour. Contact Alane Wallis, 978-505-7363 or [alanewallis@gmail.com](mailto:alanewallis@gmail.com), with any questions. Thank you.

### Women’s AM/PM Book Group

For January, the Women’s Book Group will be reading *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor. The evening discussion will be Monday, January 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; and the morning discussion on Tuesday, January 27, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Both sessions meet in the Brooks Room at First Parish. All women of First Parish are warmly invited to read the current book and join one or both of these discussions. If you would like to be added to the Women’s Book Group email list, please contact Darien Smith at [darien@smithquest.com](mailto:darien@smithquest.com) or 978-369-1471.

### First Parish Photography Club Exhibit at Emerson Hospital

Eleven of the photographers from the First Parish Photography Club have participated in an exhibit hanging in the main hallway at Emerson Hospital. If you happen to go to Emerson, please take a moment to enjoy the wonderful photos that are hung there.

### Office Hours During the Holiday

The office will be open limited hours during the holidays.  
Tuesday, December 23, 9:00-3:00  
December 24 and 25, Closed  
Friday, December 26, 9:00-12:00  
Tuesday, December 30, 9:00-12:00  
Wednesday, December 31, 9:00-12:00  
Thursday, January 1, closed  
Friday, January 2, 9:00-12:00

## Social Action Community

### Give the Gift of Language for a Holiday Gift

Dave and Diane Clapp will be selling holiday gift cards during the December pre- and post-coffee hour to benefit the Framingham Adult ESL program where they volunteer. Over 700 students of all ages, 18 and older, from 40 different countries, with 25 languages represented, are enrolled, with 400 on the waiting list. A gift card can support students and the program with anything from textbooks and easel pads to U.S. Citizenship student costs for one semester. For questions about volunteering, or if you would like some cards in case you miss us at coffee hour, contact Diane or Dave Clapp at 781-257-5025.

## Children's and Youth News

**This Week, December 21—No Regular RE**

**Winter Solstice Service at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m**

8:50 a.m. – Regular Class, Babies-Preschool

10:50 a.m. – Regular Class, Babies-Preschool

9th-12th Grade, Youth Group – 7:00 p.m.

**Next Week, December 28, and the Week After, January 4**

**No Regular RE**

9:50 a.m. – Regular Class, Babies-Preschool

### Christmas Caroling—Tuesday, December 23, 1:45 p.m.

This is what the Christmas season is all about! Children and adults are invited to bring the gift of musical cheer to our parishioners and others who can't get out this season. We will meet at the church at 1:45 p.m., and carpool to area nursing homes to sing. Afterward, we'll head back to First Parish to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate together. All are welcome. Please feel free to bring cookies to share. For more information, please contact Lora Venesy at 978-254-5433 or [venesy@comcast.net](mailto:venesy@comcast.net).

### Christmas Eve Tableau

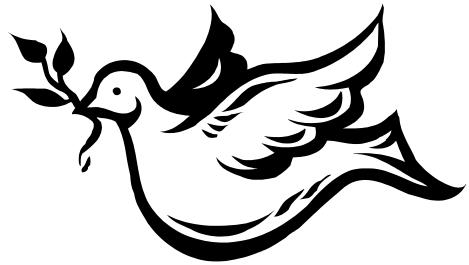
Needed for our Tableau: Shepherds, Angels, Mary and Joseph, Kings, Lambs and a Baby Jesus! Yes . . . it is time to prepare for the Tableau for the Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. on December 24. Anne Remington and Leanne Baxter will be organizing this gift to the parish. The commitment is easy. Show up at 3:30 p.m., get in costume and eat cookies. Please contact Leanne Baxter at [leanne\\_gauthier@yahoo.com](mailto:leanne_gauthier@yahoo.com).

### Neighboring Faiths Information Session

Sunday, January 11, 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. in the Wright Tavern, there will be a Neighboring Faiths information session for parents of seventh graders.

### Special Gift Items for Sale Today

The Women's Parish Association will be selling special gift items at both coffee hours today. Paperweights, mirrors, note cards and desk boxes, all with artistic images of our First Parish Meeting House on them, will be available.



**Next Meeting House News deadline: Tuesday, January 20.**

**Please keep article length to 100 words and submit to**

**Rachel Baker at [rbaker@firstparish.org](mailto:rbaker@firstparish.org).**

**Be aware that all items (including contact information) posted to the *Sunday News* or *Meeting House News*, or on First Parish–related email lists, may be published.**

**Rev. Howard Dana's email: [hdana@firstparish.org](mailto:hdana@firstparish.org)**

**Rev. Marion Visel's email: [mvisel@firstparish.org](mailto:mvisel@firstparish.org)**

**Brian Chenowith's email: [bchenowith@firstparish.org](mailto:bchenowith@firstparish.org)**

**Church Office—978-369-9602**

**Visit our website at [firstparish.org](http://firstparish.org)**