



The Sloop's Log December 2016

All services begin at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. Children and youth begin in the sanctuary with the adults to share in the opening of worship, and then leave with their teachers for Religious Education. Nursery care is available upstairs for children 18 months - 4 years old, but children are welcome to remain with parents.

Worship Celebrations

Sunday December 4 *Turn Out the Light*

What do we miss by keeping the lights on literally and metaphorically? Pamela Barz preaching.

Sunday December 11 *Be the Light*

As we continue our Advent focus on flames and warmth, Pamela Barz will preach on ways of carrying light and we will celebrate the light of Noelle Corriveau Baxter and Graham Corriveau Baxter, Ashley Baxter and Amy Corriveau's twin babies, as we dedicate them this morning. You are invited to bring a candlestick to church this morning and, if you can, leave it in the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

Sunday December 18 *The Christmas Hearth*

Our annual pageant, written again by Kate Glennon, offers a reflection on finding, keeping, and sharing warmth in cold times.

Sunday December 25 *Christmas Present*

On Christmas morning, Elizabeth Dubuisson will lead us in a Christmas carol-sing; Pamela Barz will offer a reflection on the gifts of Christmas. You are welcome to come in pajamas!

Sunday January 1 *In this New Year*

On New Year's morning, we will celebrate our annual Fire Communion ritual, burning our regrets for the year past and naming our hopes for the year just begun. This is a multi-generational service.

Blue Christmas: A Service of Light and Hope for the Longest Night of the Year Wednesday December 21 at 7 p.m. at Harbor United Methodist Church

This can be a hard time of year. The lengthening darkness makes some sad, others feel a dissonance between the peace they hope for and the consumerism of the season or the acts of violence which fill the news. This quiet candle-lit service will offer time for reflection, for acknowledging the place of sadness, grief, and fear in our lives, and for looking for signs of light in our darkneses. This year Harbor United Methodist Church, 55 First Parish Rd, will host this service which is planned and sponsored by the Scituate Clergy Association and is designed for people of all religious traditions.

Christmas Eve

Children's Carols and Candlelight service – 4 p.m. led by Pamela Barz and guitarist Peter Mundt, with piano and cello music by Adeline Mundt.

Candle-lit Christmas Eve service – 7 p.m. led by Pamela Barz and Elizabeth Dubuisson, with music from the choir and cellist Caroline Hine.

Ministries of Hospitality There are many opportunities for ministry each Sunday as we greet, create space for conversation, and add color to our worship. Please sign up to serve on the signup sheet in the Sloop Room, or online at the following: Help drive someone to church: contact the church office at 781-545-3324 or firstparishscituate@verizon.net

Sign up to be a Greeter: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094baea92e5-greeters1/> Sign up To bring flowers for the communion table: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094baea92e5-sunday/> Sign up to host coffee hour: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b094baea92e5-coffee>

From the Minister

When, back in October, the Religious Services Committee chose the theme of flames and warmth for our Advent worship, they didn't know how many of us would be feeling the world as dark and cold this season. One of my friends posted on Facebook the day after the election that she was playing Christmas carols - on November 9 - to cheer herself up. I understand the desire to find joy and comfort now, but I invite you this month not to rush to celebrate Christmas but to sit in the darkness of Advent for a while and notice the flickers of light. While the Christmas news that within each of us rests the potential and the power to be bringers of peace and bearers of justice is important and needed this year as every year, I think we take up this gift and this calling with more dedication and more energy when we let ourselves feel both the depths of pain and need in our lives and in our world and that we do not have to rely on our own strengths alone in bringing hope and healing. So in this Advent season in church, we light a flame and then another and another and another, and we draw near to one another around the hearth, sharing our vision and renewing our promises to one another and the larger world. As the Unitarian minister Edward L. Ericson described it,

We stand with eyes toward the east,
Awaiting the rising of the star,
And pray that love shall become flesh
And dwell among us;
And that compassion shall be born in human hearts. ...
Then Christmas is with us always,
And every birth is the birth of God among us,
And every child is the Christ Child,
And every song is the song of angels.
May you find peace this Advent and renewal this Christmas.

See you in Church, Pamela

Minister's Schedule: Pamela Barz is available for appointments on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and on Friday and Saturday afternoons. Tuesday is her day off. You can reach her at pamela.merrill.barz@gmail.com or 781-412-4233.

016 Christmas Eve Flowers

Let's make our sanctuary festive for Christmas Eve! Members and friends are invited to purchase a plant to decorate the church on Christmas Eve. The plant can go home with you after the 7 p.m. service that evening or after the service on December 25 or January 1. Names of donors and any dedications will be included in an insert in the Christmas Eve order of service. Please fill out the form and return it to the church office with your check by December 12. Copies of the form will also be available at church. **Checks should be made out to the "First Parish Scituate" with "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line.**

HOLIDAY FLOWER DONATIONS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Name: _____ Phone _____

Email: _____

If you would like, please include the following information: Flowers given by:

_____ In memory of:
_____ OR In

thanksgiving for/ honor of: _____

Poinsettia plant (triple flower) \$30 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____

Poinsettia plant (double flower) \$20 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____ Poinsettia

plant (single flower) \$10 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____ Cyclamen plant

(6") \$10 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____ Cypress plant

(6") \$20 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____ Lemon Cypress plant

(4") \$10 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____ Alberta Spruce plant (for

outdoors) \$10 X number of plants _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount: \$ _____

Religious Education

Soup Sunday was a huge success! Youth group, kids, parents and other church members donated their time for set-up and clean-up, as well as their soup, sandwich makings, and money. Thank you all for your help, and everyone for generously filling the donation bowl. We collected over \$300 for Heifer International! The RE kids got to practice democracy by voting on which cause to support. We will have another vote later in the year (after other fundraisers!) to determine toward what kind(s) of animals the money should go.

Upcoming RE Program Events

This year's pageant will be "The Christmas Hearth," performed during the service on December 20. The kids will be introduced to the script on Sunday December 4th, and will rehearse during the service on December 11. Details to follow on any help needed.

Since Christmas and New Years' fall on Sundays this year, the services will be multi-generational (all ages welcome and encouraged to attend!) We will get back to normal RE classes starting January 8th.

K-5

Please consider learning by teaching during our Winter Session, January 8 - March 19 (eight sessions). We still need one teacher for K-2, and two for 3-5.

6-8 (Jr. Youth)

The Junior Youth have been invited to a Jr. Youth CON on Saturday, December 3rd at the Channing Church in Rockland. This is a special opportunity where like-minded 6th through 8th graders can hang out with old

friends, meet new friends, and participate in workshops (improv, baking, arts and crafts, outdoor games, and music—bring your instruments!)

Senior Youth Group (9th-12th) Schedule

12/4 4PM-7PM - Special YG meeting Norwell: CON planning meeting w/ Hingham. Note the early start!

12/18 5PM-7PM - YG meeting Channing Church, Rockland: Yankee swap

Mark your calendar: Two night CON will be in Norwell 1/27 - 1/29.

Church Matters

The Snowflake Fair - Saturday, December 3rd, from 9 am to 2 pm

While it's not over yet, I'm going to say the Snowflake Fair was again a success, and it is all because of this great community. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in the making, the baking, the selling, the setting up and the cleaning up. Now go put your feet up, have a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate, and enjoy the holidays! - Sheri Nidositko, Snowflake Fair Chair

Notes from the Parish Committee

These last few months the Parish Committee has been on a mission to find a mission, and a vision as well! Who are we? Where are we going? We've learned that churches should reflect on these big questions every few years to make sure that they're living out their shared principles within their walls and in their larger communities.

Creating a Mission and Vision Statement

On December 7th, the Parish Committee will meet with the Committee on Ministry to discuss how to include the congregation in creating a mission and a vision statement for our church. You can help us by beginning to think about our church in relation to these definitions:

Mission: A concise statement of what the congregation wants to be known for, or known as, within the wider world; what the congregation wants to mean to the community.

Vision: A carefully defined picture of where the congregation wants to be in five or more years. It is the dream of what the congregation can become.

"Committee Sundays" Begin January 8th

After getting feedback from various committees, we've decided to try something new! On the second Sunday of each month, all committees that are able—except for the Parish Committee and the Committee on Ministry—should prepare to hold their monthly meetings at the church directly after coffee hour. Childcare will be available. This model has worked well in other churches. We hope it will bring some continuity and ease to planning committee meetings and allow for liaisons to be readily available. If your committee is unable to meet on these Sundays, that's okay, too. You can continue to plan your meetings at times that work best for your members.

That's all for now. If you have any questions about anything that's happening at church. We'd love to hear from you!

Ann Svensen and Billy Timmins, Parish Committee Co-Chairs

Help Welcome a First Parish Newcomer

Attending a new church can be a bit daunting and may even cause anxiety. We like to think of our Congregation as welcoming and inclusive, yet I am sure we fall short at times of fully realizing that vision. If you are new, it can also be challenging to get to know current members, understand the way we operate and join in on activities beyond our Sunday service.

We would like to launch a new program where we pair up members of the church with newer participants. The idea would be to have the "Host" help the newer individuals and families feel welcome, make sure they get to know a variety of existing members, help them understand how our church is governed and operates, and make sure they feel included in a full range of activities offered. It might be as simple as introducing that person/family around at coffee hour, making sure they are talking to someone, talking to them about upcoming church activities, inviting them to get involved in an upcoming church activity. The idea is to make sure they are getting to know our wonderful community and begin to feel at home in our community.

We will strive to pair up Hosts and new participants who may be in similar stages of life and would naturally connect through shared experiences.

If you are interested in participating and would like to be a Host, please let Sarah Murdock, Chair of the Membership Committee know through an email (smurd377@verizon.net). We will be seeking Hosts for participants who have been coming to the church for a few years or less.

Bottles & Cans Collection in January One of our major fundraisers each year is sorting bottles and cans at the Scituate Transfer Station. This year we have the month of January. We need volunteers to sort and bag at the station, others to transport to the Cohasset redemption center, and one person each week to coordinate them. Please see the Sign Up Genius for details and dates and please sign up for a slot. You must be 12 or older to work at the Transfer Station. Questions? Ask Howard Mathews or Erica Boyle.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040549aaaf2fa13-bottles1>

Around the Parish

Thank UUs: to **Jenn Mackey, Ann Svensen and her mother** for decorating the sanctuary with butterflies and gravestones for our All Souls service ... to **Caroline Hine** for offering her cello music to our post-election vigil ... to **Mark Matthews** for accompanying Matt Meyer on guitar during our worship on November 20... to the RE children, their teachers, parents, and all who cooked, served, set up and cleaned up on the 20th for their annual Soup Lunch. They raised over \$300 for Heifer, International – well on their way to funding a cow (\$500) or two!... to **Cathie McGowan** for leading the Spirit Sunday program on the UU practice of prayer beads, teaching participants to make their own, and then leading a prayer bead meditation in the service on November 27... to Spencer Howe for writing all our Advent candle blessings.

Welcome Stephanie Stewart

Stephanie Stewart has joined our staff as our new Parish Administrator after the resignation of Mary Anne Odell. Stephanie brings strong organization and computer from her work as a Senior Documentation Specialist and from her years of volunteering in Scituate schools and Girl Scouts. She enjoys photography

and gardening and lives in Scituate with her husband Michael and their daughters Bonne, a 9th grader at SHS, and Catherine, a 7th grader at Gates. Her office hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-2 p.m. Stop by and say "hello."

Congratulations to Burak Laciner who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. The congregation will be invited to celebrate with Burak at a Court of Honor in the new year..... Welcome to William Clark who signed the First Parish membership book on November 30. He will be officially welcomed into the church during a service in the new year. If you are interested in becoming a member of First Parish, please speak with Membership Committee Chair Sarah Murdock or Pamela Barz.

Notes from Beth Dubuisson

Choir session 3 is the month of December. Please join us in singing wonderful holiday music! Rehearsals are Sunday mornings at 9:00.

The **Anthems** for the month are:

December 4th: *English Advent Carol*- with guest flautist Beverly Reilly

December 11th: *Something Told the Wild Geese*

December 18th: *The Sound of Winter*

December 24th (**Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. service**) : *Good Cheer* and *There's a Star in the East*. Rehearsal that night will be at 6:00 p.m.

Caroline Hine, cellist, will be our guest musician for the 7 pm service.

Peter Mundt, guitarist, will lead the music for the 4:00 service. His daughter will join him on piano and cello too!

Back Bay Ringers Concert We are very fortunate to host the only performance on the south shore by this **amazing** group of handbell ringers. They have been asked to perform with the **Boston Pops** this year. The concert is Saturday December 10th, 7:30 p.m. **here in our Sanctuary!!!** Tickets are \$20 or \$15 for seniors/students. You can purchase them at the door or at www.backbayringers.org See the press release and poster for more information.

See you in Church!

Happy Birthday!

Jim Duff Dec. 5

Sarah Lovell Dec. 8

Chuck Jones Dec. 10

Jack Duff Dec. 13

Dave Berkeley Dec. 16

Moiria Feeney Dec. 16

Pam Molinari Dec. 20

Elizabeth Molinari Dec. 25

Diana Howe Dec. 29

Miles Jones Dec. 29

Oliver Jones Dec. 29

Aren Capodanno Dec. 30

Janice Evans Dec. 31

Opportunities for Spiritual Deepening

Monday Night Meditation Practice listening to silence on the **2nd and 4th Monday** nights for "Monday Night Meditation" at the church from **7 -8:30 p.m.** December session is on **Mondays 12/12**. All are welcome. Email Brian or Patty Sutton with any questions at brsutton@hotmail.com or pattysutton@gmail.com.

Understanding the Issues of our Times Would you be interested in doing some reading and conversation around the issues highlighted in our national elections – issues of economics, color, and class? Perhaps reading an article to offer background and provoke thought and then gathering monthly or weekly to reflect on the issues and how we might address them. Please email Pamela Barz if you are interested and include the days and times of day which would work best for you.

Tea with the Minister Thursday December 15th, 21 Ann Vinal Road

Stop by any time between 4 and 5:30 p.m. for tea and conversation about events near and far.

Opportunities for Ministry

Caroling, Caroling through the Town

On Sunday December 18, Elizabeth Dubuisson will lead us in caroling at the homes of a few church and community members. We will meet at the church at 1:30 p.m. to run through the carols, car-pool to sing, and then end up at Chuck Jones and Pamela Barz' home for cookies, cocoa, cider, and more caroling around the piano. We will be finished by the Patriots' start-time (4:25 p.m.) – or you can watch the game with Chuck. Please bring your bells and festive hats. All ages and singing abilities welcome. And if you know of someone who might welcome a caroling visit, please let Beth or Pam know.

Men's Ministry The Men's Ministry will devote their usual first Saturday efforts to working at the Snowflake Fair in December. They will meet again in the new year on **Saturday January 7**. Please e-mail Chuck

Jones (charles_a_jones@yahoo.com) if you have suggestions for projects, or if you'd like to be on his e-mail reminder list.

Unity Club - Pot Luck Dinner - December 14, 6:30

Bring an appetizer, main course, salad, dessert, or beverage. Bring an item to donate to the food pantry.

Guaranteed friendship and fun!

Deck the Tree with Socks for the Homeless

The winter months are the most difficult time of year for the homeless. We are collecting socks this month to help warm some of the most vulnerable among us. Please bring new socks (still in their packages) for men, women, or children to church between December 4 and January 8 and place them in the baskets on the Christmas tree. The socks will be distributed through Haley House, Rosie's Place, and Cradles to Crayons in January.

In January We Look Forward to:

January 7 Men's Ministry

January 8 Committee Sunday

January 15 Guest preacher Mary Margaret Earl, UU Urban Ministry

January 22 Spirit Sunday

January 28 Blue Boat Coffeehouse

December 2016 Calendar (subject to change)

Fri., 2nd- 3:30 pm Set-up Snowflake Fair

Sat., 3rd- 9:00-2:00 Snowflake Fair

Sun. 4th- 9:00 am Choir rehearsal

10:30 am Worship and RE

4-7:00 pm Youth Group meeting at Norwell

Wed. 7th- 10:30 am Fididdlers

7:00 pm PC Meeting

Sat. 10th- 7:30 pm Back Bay Ringers

Sun. 11th- 9:00 am Choir rehearsal

10:30 am Worship and RE

Mon. 12th- 7:00 pm Meditation

Wed. 14th- 10:30 am Fididdlers

6:30 pm Unity Club Dinner

Thurs. 15th- 4-5:30 pm Tea with Minister

Fri. 16th- 7-10pm Scituate Ceilidhe

Sun. 18th- 9:00 am Choir rehearsal

10:30 am Worship and Pageant

5-7 pm YG meeting Channing Church, Rockland

Mon. 19th- 7:00 pm "What Is the Bible?" Class

Sat. 24th- 4:00 pm Children's Carols and Candlelight Service

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

Sun. 25th- 10:30 am Worship

First Parish of Scituate | 330 First Parish Road, Scituate, MA 02066

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by firstparishscituate@verizon.net in collaboration with

[Try it free today](#)

