

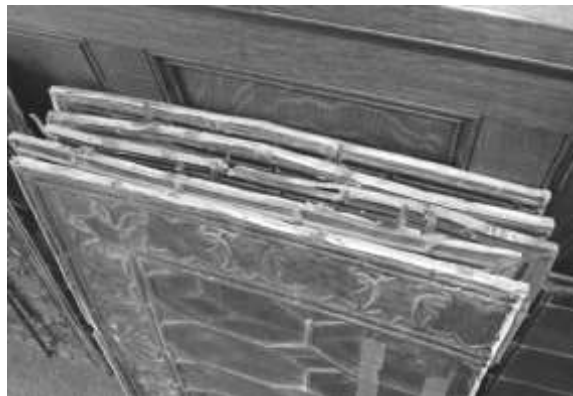
The Campaign for the Restoration of First Parish Meetinghouse

First Parish Meetinghouse (also known as “*The National Memorial Pilgrim Church*”) is located at the top of historic Town Square in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Our current meetinghouse is the 5th building on this site and was constructed during the period of 1893-1897 after a fire completely destroyed the previous building on the evening of November 22, 1892.



We are the oldest continuous ministry in North America, and our church records date back to Scrooby, England, in 1606.

Removal of Sanctuary Windows Continues



The windows were removed from the south side of the Sanctuary by three men from the Serpentino Glass Studios on January 7th. They spent four hours carefully taking them down and packing them safely for transportation to Needham. Two stained glass door windows in Kendall Hall were also removed. They will all be restored and returned soon. Upon their return the North side windows will be removed for restoration.



We were welcomed by Domenico and Dennis, who showed us parts of one disassembled stained glass panel, and explained to us the process of restoration. Each panel is made up of at least two layers of glass, and in some places there are three layers. First a rubbing is made of the whole panel. Then, after the top layer of glass is removed, a rubbing is made of the second and third layers. These rubbings provide a map of the placement of each piece of glass, similar to the pieces of a puzzle. We were able to see the amazing difference between the glass as it arrived and what it looked like after it had been cleaned. Work is proceeding slowly since the windows cannot be returned to the church until the façade is restored. How long that will be depends on how quickly we can raise the remaining \$700K to complete the exterior restoration. One thing that is certain is that our Robinson windows are in safe and competent hands!

Meetinghouse Tours

By Bonney Dyer



Mark your calendars for May 22, the opening day for tours of First Parish Meetinghouse. Our tour days are every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. until the end of October. For a donation of 5 dollars (children under 16 are free), you will receive a customized tour of First Parish and all of its riches.

Come and see some of our best kept secrets such as: a stone plaque, sent from the Delftshaven church, as a gift to acknowledge the building of "The National Memorial Pilgrim Church." This threshold piece is



from the church's entryway, and the Pilgrims would have stepped over or on it on their way out of Holland en route to Plymouth.

Special tour days, bus tours, and larger groups can be accommodated, but we ask that you contact the office at 508-747-1606.

A tour of First Parish Meetinghouse will surely turn out to be one of the highlights of your visit to Plymouth, MA.

www.restorefirstparishplymouth.org
Facebook – [firstparishplymouthrestoration](https://www.facebook.com/firstparishplymouthrestoration)

(508)747-1606

First Parish Plymouth Restoration
19 Town Square
Plymouth, MA 02360

info@restorefirstparishplymouth.org

Please contact us if you have any questions or want to help in our restoration efforts.

Browne Enchants Audience at First Parish



Patrick E. Browne, Executive Director of Pilgrim Hall Museum and The Pilgrim Society, opened his recent lecture "Transcendentalism in Plymouth" by reminding the audience that in March of 1834

Ralph Waldo Emerson also had stood in First Parish's sanctuary and addressed an eager audience. Attending Emerson's lecture was Plymouthian Lydia Jackson, a young woman known for her intellectual depth of thought. Following their marriage in 1835, Emerson insisted that they move to Concord, describing Plymouth as being merely "streets."

Another interesting Plymouth/Concord connection involved Benjamin Marston Watson and his wife, Mary Russell, who welcomed many of the great thinkers of the period to their house, Hillside, which still stands today near Summer St. Browne also revealed that Henry David Thoreau was romantically attracted to two Plymouth women-- Lydia Emerson's sister, the widow Lucy Jackson Brown, and Mary Russell, who lived with the Emersons in Concord while she was the children's governess.

Thank You

to Charles Tarbox and everyone who responded to his \$5,000.00 challenge in our November 2013 newsletter.

We exceeded our expectations and are very appreciative to all who rose to that challenge.



Northside of First Parish Meetinghouse sanctuary made with quarter-sawn white oak and one of the finest examples of hammer beam construction in the United States.

Roberto Rosa to Speak at First Parish

Meetinghouse June 15, 2014



Roberto Rosa, a nationally recognized, and award winning, stained glass restoration specialist, will be our guest lecturer on Sunday, June 15, 2014. He has been Vice President of Serpentino awarded the contract to restore First Parish's historically significant and unique stained glass windows.

Rosa studied art at the "Liceo Artistico Massini" in Rome, Italy, from 1983-1986.

The lecture will begin at 4:30 p.m. and there will be short reception to follow. Doors open at 4:15 p.m.

This is the second in a series of free lectures in 2014 offered by the First Parish Restoration Committee.

"This program is supported in part by a grant from the Plymouth Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

Upcoming Lecture

David E. Berman, an expert on the Arts and Crafts Movement, began Trustworth Studios in 1982 and began reproducing the works of CFA Voysey and other leading British architect designers, as well as lighting, needlework, accessories, and wallpapers. Berman recently met with First Parish's Restoration Committee and stressed the importance of the Meetinghouse as perhaps the only remaining unaltered example of an Arts and Crafts church designed by famed architects Hartwell and Richardson of Boston, MA.

Our window restoration is being funded by a \$307,000.00 grant by the town of Plymouth from Community Preservation Act Funds.

Donations to First Parish Restoration can be mailed directly to First Parish Meetinghouse Restoration, 19 Town Square, Plymouth, MA 02360 by using the enclosed donation card and envelope or you can donate online by going to our website at www.restorefirstparishplymouth.com.

All donations are tax deductible

Euphemism

Frequently, we, in our Western culture, have grown to express our thoughts gently with sophisticated language or words, often to the detriment of plain and direct expression.

So it is that we ask for support when what we really want to ask for is money. Support is non-offensive; money is bold, direct, and uncomfortable. Yet, this is the inevitable truth: The National Memorial Pilgrim Church cannot be restored until sufficient funds (yes, money) is available to proceed with vitally needed repairs.

Please think about this: How many opportunities come along where you can play a role in preserving a unique piece of American history? Please give as generously as you can...and, thank you for your support!

Architectural & Decorative Arts Significance of the Meetinghouse

Through the unity of architecture and decorative art, First Parish celebrates and preserves the Pilgrim values and events that continue to define America.

Today First Parish remains one of the few unaltered examples of Arts and Crafts architecture designed by famed architects Hartwell and Richardson of Boston.

Harkening back to the medieval period, the Meetinghouse's Norman architecture reflects the type of church the Pilgrims would have been familiar with



in England, and the entryway is modeled after St. Helena's in Austerfield, England, where William Bradford was baptized.

Examples of skilled individual craftsmanship are evident not only in the beautiful stained glass windows, but also in the church's hand-carved

elements. A close look at the sanctuary's pulpit, lectern, and baptismal pedestal reveals beautiful angels, wheat sheaves, oaks leaves, and pomegranates, symbols of Pilgrim values such as strength, natural bounty, and Faith. The scallop shell, the symbol of a pilgrimage, appears on both the pew ends and lectern, and the sanctuary's hammer beam roof truss is said to evoke the upturned hull of the Mayflower.



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19 Town Square
Plymouth, MA 02360

A Landmark Worthy of Preservation

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Campaign for the Restoration of First Parish Meetinghouse

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First Universalist Church, Providence, RI

James W. Baker, Historian

Peggy M. Baker, Director Emerita,
The Pilgrim Society & Pilgrim Hall Museum

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Leiden American Pilgrim Museum

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Joyce Stewart, The Plymouth Guild, Inc./Plymouth
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