

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.

***First Parish Meetinghouse* is the birthplace of religious freedom in North America and is “A Landmark Worthy of Preservation.”**

Having faced Plymouth Harbor and the elements for more than a century,

First Parish’s beloved Robinson windows were removed from the front of the Meetinghouse on Nov. 27, 2013, marking a major step forward in the restoration of the National Memorial Pilgrim Church. The windows’ much needed restoration will be undertaken by Serpentino Glass of Needham and is made possible by a grant from Plymouth’s CPC.



To see more photographs of the removal of these stained glass windows, please visit our website at:

www.restorefirstparishplymouth.org

2013 Lecture Series Concluded in September

with
Sandra Goodall

“How did we get so divided?” was the opening question posed by Sandra Goodall in her September 26, evening lecture entitled “From Puritans to the Present, an Exploration of Christianity in America.”

Goodall feels that the answer to this question can be traced to the “Scrooby Puritans”: “Don’t like your home church?” asked Goodall. “(In America) you can actually leave your home church” and either join another existing church or begin your own.



America, according to Goodall, has “a long tradition of spiritual dissent,” but she feels that the Separatists really only “wanted religious freedom for themselves . . .”

Goodall explored the origins of the Scrooby Puritans through archival research in the U.K. while working on her PhD. She presently is working on a book entitled *52 Sundays*, in which she explores religious freedom and diversity in America by visiting a different church every Sunday. Goodall launched her Sunday visits at Plymouth’s First Parish because it is “the most historic church.” Thus far she has visited thirty-eight churches and found almost all of them to be welcoming and diverse. She will return when she finishes her book.

This was the fourth in a series of free lectures offered by First Parish’s Restoration Committee.

Everyone Loves a Challenge:

Help Us Turn \$5,000 into \$15,000!!!

Don't wait! For every donation that you provide to the Committee to Restore the First Parish Meetinghouse, First Parish member Charles Tarbox will match on a 1:2 basis. If you donate \$50, Charles will donate \$25. If you donate \$100, he'll donate \$50, and if you give \$1,000, he will donate \$500. He'll give up to \$5,000, but only if we can raise \$10,000 by December 31, 2013.

No gift is too small or large. All proceeds will go toward restoring and preserving the historic First Parish Meetinghouse facade.

Donate today!

Lecture Series Resumes in 2014



Roberto Rosa is a nationally recognized stained glass restoration specialist. He has been Vice President of Serpentino Stained Glass of Needham since 1988, and his firm recently was awarded the

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.

(Date to be determined)

Patrick T.J. Browne - Executive Director of the Pilgrim Society and Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth, MA. He has worked as Special Programs Coordinator at the American Academy of Arts and



Sciences in Cambridge, and fifteen years as Executive Director of the Duxbury Rural and Historical Society.

(Date to be determined)

David E. Berman - An expert on the Arts and Crafts Movement. He began Trustworth Studios in 1982 and began reproducing the works of CFA Voysey and other leading British architect designers, as well



work , 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, Richardson, and Driver of Boston, MA.

(Date to be determined)

Robert C. Vose III - Is owner, with his brother, of Vose Galleries, Newbury Street in Boston, Massachusetts the oldest family owned gallery in America. Vose shares the history of his family’s gallery through illustrated



lectures that draw on his father’s book, *Tales of an Art Dealer: History of the Vose Galleries, Boston*.

(Date to be determined)

Meetinghouse Tours Wrap Up for Season



Our weekly scheduled guided tours (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday) are over for the winter. We are still open to scheduling private tours by contacting the office at (508) 747-1606 or

emailing us at info@restorefirstparishplymouth.org.

The 2013 tour season brought 1,167 people who took guided tours, and 200 people who took self - guided tours.

I want to take this time to thank all of the tour volunteers. Without them we would not have been successful. Through heat, humidity, cold wind and rain, my wonderful guides came and spent 1055.50 hours in service to this cause, raising awareness of our presence, raising awareness of our need to restore and protect this building.

We have, as always, found out new information about the building from books, visitors, and each other. It is always a pleasure to see the church through visiting eyes.

The 2014 tour season begins on Memorial Day weekend. I hope all of my guides have a safe, warm winter, so that they will be ready to come back and do it all over again!

Bonney Dyer (Meetinghouse Tour Coordinator)

You Can Contact Us in a Variety of Ways

Email - info@restorefirstparishplymouth.org
Website – www.restorefirstparishplymouth.org
Facebook – [firstparishplymouthrestoration](https://www.facebook.com/firstparishplymouthrestoration)

(508)747-1606

You can always reach us at:
First Parish Plymouth Restoration
19 Town Square
Plymouth, MA 02360

If you have any questions concerning the progress of our restoration projects or how you may be of help, please contact us.

Only With Your Help

First Parish Meetinghouse is still in dire need of support for further restoration. The mortar between the granite slabs is soaked with rainwater, extensive repointing is required. Never able to completely dry, moss was noted when the joints were probed.

The recently removed Robinson stained glass window cannot be reinstalled until the granite walls are water tight.



In order to preserve this beautiful and irreplaceable landmark for future generations, our focus is on creating another national campaign to raise money and awareness for restoration. No donation is too small or large.



We at First Parish have a unique gift. Gladly, we bear the responsibility for its care. We hope that you will be moved to join in our effort, and celebrate with us when we are successful in our mission of restoring this amazing building.

Thank You

Our appreciation to everyone who is supporting the efforts to restore this historic landmark! Your encouragement keeps the members of our Meetinghouse Restoration Committee going. We do not do it alone, **you** are our strength and our inspiration.



The Campaign for the Restoration of First Parish Meetinghouse
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

Honorary Committee

Benjamin B. Brewster, Chair

The Rev. W. Scott Axford, M.Div., Pastor,
First Universalist Church, Providence, RI

James W. Baker, Historian

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

Dr. Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, Director,
Leiden American Pilgrim Museum

Dennis Carlone, Owner, Carlone & Associates

Donna Curtin, Ph.D., Director,
Plymouth Antiquarian Society

Ellie Donovan, Executive Director,
Plimoth Plantation

Peter Forman, President & CEO,
South Shore Chamber of Commerce

Richard Standish Gilmore, Esq., Governor,
Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants

The Rev. Ed Hardy, Minister
First Parish Church, Plymouth, MA

Christopher Hussey, AIA Emeritus

The Rev. Dan King, Minister,
First Parish Church, Kingston, MA

Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle, Governor General,
General Society of Mayflower Descendants

The Rev. Gary L. Marks, Pastor Emeritus,
Church of the Pilgrimage, Plymouth, MA

Sen. Therese Murray, President of the
Massachusetts Senate

Joyce Stewart, The Plymouth Guild,
Inc./Plymouth
Center for the Arts

Timothy Turner, Manager, Wampanoag
Indigenous Program at Plimoth Plantation &
Director, Native Plymouth Tours