

# NewsNotes

The Campaign for First Parish Plymouth - Our History, Our Heritage, Our Community

November 2012

Peggy M. Baker with Marston Watson  
First Parish Meetinghouse, November 4, 2012



Historian Peggy Baker's lecture, "*The Watsons of Burial Hill: the story of a family, a congregation, and a community divided by war,*" drew an audience of over seventy people to First Parish's sanctuary on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Baker, Director Emerita of the Pilgrim Society, Pilgrim Hall Museum, and Honorary Committee member of the Campaign for First Parish Meetinghouse, brought to life the conflicts that arose in Plymouth not only within the congregation of First Parish, but also within some individual families such as the Watsons due to differing political loyalties and the turbulent emotions evoked during the Revolutionary period. Baker closed her lecture by focusing on the need for community responsibility in order to preserve historical treasures such as First Parish Meetinghouse.

## Upcoming Lectures

**Thursday, February 7, 2013, 7pm**

First Parish Meetinghouse, 19 Town Square, Plymouth, MA

James Baker - "There Goes the Neighborhood"

The dramatic changes that urban renewal made to First Parish's neighboring Summer/High street area, with pictures and maps of vanishing buildings & landscapes.

**April/2013**

Tim Turner - "Plymouth, a Native American Perspective"

## A Picture Speaks a Thousand Words

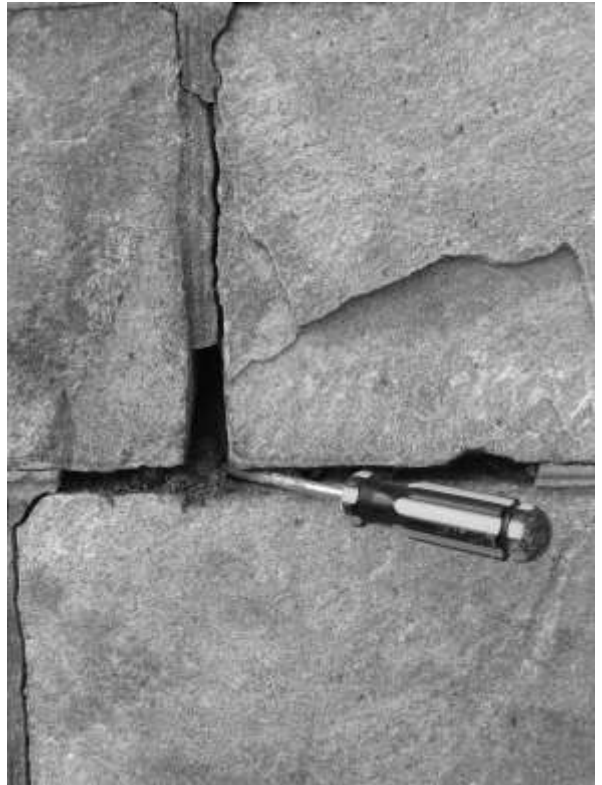
A screwdriver fits deeply into a gaping cavity where mortar once supported the granite blocks of the façade of the National Memorial Pilgrim Church, mortar that once prevented water from seeping into the interior of the building. This is just one clear, painful example of the deterioration of the Meetinghouse.

"For want of a nail the shoe is lost" goes the childhood rhyme about the unforeseen consequences of allowing avoidable situations to go on too long, so long in fact that irreversible, catastrophic damage occurs. Such is the case and connection between the mortar and the windows of First Parish Meetinghouse.

The mortar and façade must be repaired soon. The stained glass windows depend on a secure foundation in which to rest, and they cannot be restored without the building being shored up first.

The most dangerous situation involves the three Tiffany stained glass windows depicting John Robinson giving his farewell speech to the Pilgrims departing Holland.

*(continued on back)*



\_\_\_\_ Yes! Count me/us in to support The Campaign for First Parish Plymouth and help restore this historic community landmark.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed, CHECK made payable to First Parish - Plymouth/Meetinghouse Restoration

OR FIVE YEAR PLEDGE OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable in installments of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2012

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2013

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2014

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2015

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ on or before \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/2016

This gift is (check one):  anonymous;  in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

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For listing and recognition purposes, please record my/our name(s) as follows:

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# The Campaign for First Parish Meetinghouse

(continued from front)

## Honorary Committee

**Benjamin B. Brewster**, Chair

**The Rev. W. Scott Axford**, M.Div., Minister, 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

**Ann Berry**, Executive Director, The Pilgrim Society & Pilgrim Hall Museum

**Dennis Carlone**, Owner, Carlone & Associates

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

**Ellie Donovan**, Executive Director, Plimoth Plantation

**Peter Forman**

**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

**Mercy Barnes Moore**

**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, Plimoth Plantation; Director, Native Plymouth Tours

They exhibit the most serious structural problems – weakened supports that have led to cracked glass and lead deterioration. These windows depend on the strong structural integrity of the Meetinghouse; however, the wood, plaster, and metals that hold the glass are so weakened due to water seeping through the fractured exterior that the windows are in serious danger of collapse. I hate to think what another Nor'easter could do.

The need is urgent, the time is now, and the responsibility is ours to restore First Parish Meetinghouse. Please make a gift today.

*Rev. Ed Hardy*

*Minister, First Parish Meetinghouse, Plymouth, MA*



### **Meetinghouse Restoration Committee:**

Jan Palmer-Tarbox, Chair

Bonney Dyer

Rick McDonald

Donna Petrangelo

The Campaign for First Parish Meetinghouse – Our History, Our Heritage, Our Community

Visit our website for upcoming lectures and events.

[www.restorefirstparishplymouth.org](http://www.restorefirstparishplymouth.org)



First Parish Meetinghouse Restoration  
19 Town Square  
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