

THE 1717 MEETINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER EDITION

OCTOBER 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

PETER R. SMITH

As you will see from this newsletter much is happening in our Foundation to fulfill the mission of maintaining, protecting and improving our Meetinghouse. It is a familiar landmark and certainly a part of the identity of the West Barnstable community. We strive to maintain both the outward appearance and emphasize to the wider community, the inner spirit of all those who for nearly three hundred years have met in this very place.

Our membership committee continues to maintain an updated roster of our members and others who have an abiding interest in this Foundation. We *always welcome new members* and strive to maintain an effective communication with all our members, other interested people and organizations.

Our Program and Public Relations Committees keep us aware of the special events taking place in the Meetinghouse and have created a new *colorful brochure* to replace the somewhat outdated folder used for many years. It gives a brief history and explanation of the Meetinghouse and helps inform and

encourage our visitors to become members.

Our Building and Grounds Committee see that repairs and necessary alterations to the building are done with sensitivity to the historic nature of the building. We are again grateful to Brad Haven, for his many hours of volunteer service.

We will soon place an appropriate and esthetic permanent plaque in the tower room to recognize the most significant gifts to the Foundation over the years from bequests, charitable gift annuities and hours of devotion to the Foundation. Please speak with Cornell Bretz, Bill Brower or any Trustee for information on such a major gift. These gifts, along with your annual membership support, are what will ensure the continued beauty and use of the Meetinghouse for regular worship and as a landmark for the beautiful village of West Barnstable.

A major and exciting study is underway to better protect our Meetinghouse from the threat of fire by installing an effective but unobtrusive fire sprinkler



1717 Meetinghouse

system. The cost of such a complex system will be significant and we are attempting to procure Community Preservation Act funds to offset much of the cost. We feel that there

are few other more significant historic buildings in our community that would merit such support. We remain optimistic and hope to have more encouraging information in the months to come.

I again remind you that all of the accepted minutes for all Foundation Trustees meetings are available for your reading in the Guild Room library. We urge you to read those minutes to keep current with the activities of the Foundation.

Again, THANK YOU to *all our contributors*, who in so many ways assist the Trustees in the work of the Foundation. We look forward to having *all Church members* along with many community members join us in preserving our Meetinghouse as a living symbol of the faith and fortitude of our early Americans.



Brentwood Brass & Organ Concert with Donna Murphy

Sunday, October 25th
3:00pm to 4:00pm

Classical and Modern Selections

West Parish Meetinghouse, 2049 Meetinghouse Way (Route 6, Exit 5)

Suggested Donation: \$10

Presented by the West Parish Music Committee

REMEMBER:

• *The 1717 Meetinghouse* is open for your visit each summer, everyday from 9am to 4pm, Memorial Day thru Columbus Day.

• *Memorial Foundation* information can be found on the internet:

westparishmemorialfoundation.org

AN INTERVIEW—HELEN TABER

- *Deb Fitton*

In the early 1980's, Richard M Nixon's loss was our gain. As former neighbors, Helen Taber remembers the former president relaxing his secret service protection at Halloween so that he could answer the door and hand out treats to the community's youngsters.

However, in 1981 William and Helen Taber moved away from their neighbors in Saddle River, New Jersey to the north side of Cape Cod and thus began an adventure in the reconnection of family roots, and the formation of close friendships through West Parish...both Congregational Church and Meetinghouse.

After shopping around for a new home church, their new neighbors, John and Margaret Everton encouraged them to give West Parish a try. "What impressed me most was the friendliness of the people at West Parish. They made you feel like part of the church family from the beginning and they are a very special group of people".

And indeed, Helen has been mentor, historian, organizer and church family member extraordinaire. After joining West Parish, Helen discovered a member of a branch of her family tree, the Rev. John Lothrop, who was the 2nd minister of the 1st Independent Church responsible for the formation of the congregation that started West Parish of Barnstable as the Congregational Church. "This was a surprising and interesting discovery" and one that launched Helen into the world of Lathrop genealogy and family connections.

Helen keeps this history alive through her leadership in the Lathrop Family Association and through her book "A New Home in Mattakeese, a Guide to Reverend John Lothrop's Barnstable". This booklet is highly recommended reading for all who love Barnstable and West Barnstable history.

Instilling her knowledge and love of West Parish's past has inspired many in our community to honor and protect the West Parish Meetinghouse, our community treasure. But as Helen so aptly puts it, "it is the people who make West Parish the special place that it is".

1605 LOTHROP BIBLE REDEDICATED

- *Margaret Housman*

A Rededication Ceremony for the 1605 Lothrop Bible was held at the Sturgis Library on Saturday, October 10th at 3:00 p.m. The event coincided with the 370th anniversary of the settlement of Barnstable and the Lothrop Family Foundation's biannual reunion. Attended by more the 100 people, the program featured Rev. Reed Baer of West Parish of Barnstable; Rev. Richard Stower, First Parish, Scituate; Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper, Unitarian Church of Barnstable; and Helen L. Taber, founder and first president of the Lothrop Family Foundation

The Lothrop Bible is permanently on display in the library's Lothrop Room in the 1644 building where Rev. John Lothrop lived for a time, held worship services, and prepared his sermons. It is now housed in a museum-quality microclimate case made possible by a \$3,000 grant. A reception hosted by the Barnstable Historical Society at the Daniel Davis House followed the ceremony.

More than forty Lothrop family members attended a guided tour of the 1717 Meetinghouse on Friday, October 9th given by Margaret Housman, West Parish Historian and WPMF Trustee. Following the tour guests enjoyed a barbeque dinner in Jenkins Hall hosted by West Parish members.

WEST PARISH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION 2009 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2009 gifts (received after May 17, 2009) in honor/memory have been given by:

In Memory of Frederick J. Strauss by Martha Strauss

In Memory of Marion T. Hickman by Peter Hickman

The Board of Trustees welcomes into Life Membership in 2009:

Marianne and Greg Williams

The Board of Trustees welcomes Individual Members:

Marilyn Bartram

Ernest Kenney

Martha Strauss

The Board of Trustees welcomes Family Members:

Donald and Barbara Foster

Roger and Dianna Henson

Stan and Kathleen Warren

The Board of Trustees gratefully acknowledges the additional 2009 contributions given by the following Life Members:

James S. Lott

The Board of Trustees gratefully acknowledges the additional 2009 contributions given by the following annual members:

Janet Lyon

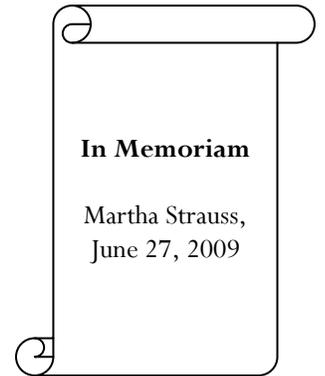
Holbrook R. and Sarah M. Davis

The Board of Trustees gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts given in 2009 by:

Harold Lester

Ramona Cahoon Hammons

Eileen and Michael Smith



Annual and Life memberships, renewals and donations are gratefully accepted at any time throughout the year as you are able. Your gifts can also be made in honor and memory of a loved one.

MEMBERSHIP FORM — Enclose check payable to: West Parish Memorial Foundation, Inc.

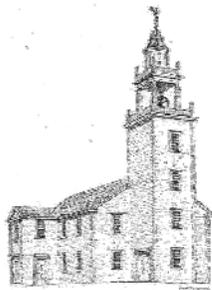
The Foundation is an historic preservation group, separate and apart from West Parish of Barnstable, and maintains the historic 1717 Meetinghouse. You do not need to be a member of the West Parish Church to be involved (although many are). The only requirement is an appreciation of the valuable history of this building and want to see it preserved for future generations.

- Individual Annual Membership \$ 25.00 Life Member (Includes Spouse) \$ 750.00
- Family Annual Membership \$ 50.00 Additional Contribution (Life Member) \$
- Matching Funds (Company) _____ \$

Name _____ Phone (_____) _____

Address _____ City/State/ZIP _____

All Gifts are tax deductible. Life Membership may be budgeted over three years.



WEST PARISHSM MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION, INC.

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West Barnstable, MA 02668

Phone: 508-362-8624
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PRESERVING THE WEST PARISH MEETINGHOUSE AS
A MEMORIAL TO EARLY AMERICA AND AMERICANS

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Notice of ANNUAL MEETING

WEST PARISH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

Sunday, November 15, 2009 (Founders' Day)

11:30AM in Jenkins Hall

Light Lunch Provided

— **Agenda** —

Preservation Updates

Election of Trustees

Guest Speaker: Historian, Margaret Lamberts Bendroth,
Executive Director of the American Congregational Association

Our newly designed 2009 Christmas cards featuring the 1717 Meetinghouse will be available for purchase.



Elizabeth Crocker Jenkins
(ca. 1922)

Again this year the West Parish Memorial Foundation is offering Christmas cards for sale.

This year we have two different cards available, each with a different photograph of the Meetinghouse on the front and information about the historical significance of the Meetinghouse on the back side of the card.

Each selection has its own unique verse. For those of you who were particularly partial to last year's card we have a limited quantity of those available also. The price is \$12.00 for a package of ten cards. Cards will be available for sale on Sundays at Coffee Hour or by contacting the West Parish Memorial Foundation Membership Committee.

All proceeds benefit the West Parish Memorial Foundation.