



WEST PARISH<sup>SM</sup> MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

2049 Meetinghouse Way  
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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

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
West Barnstable, MA  
02668  
Permit #6

The West Parish Memorial Foundation — Celebrating 60 Years

A Meetinghouse Restored—A Meetinghouse Preserved

The following passages excerpted from the Foundation's website and the book The Woman Who Saved A Meetinghouse

"When she retired from a productive career as a teacher and returned to her home in West Barnstable in the summer of 1921, she found our meeting house a wreck, the congregation was served by a shared pastor and only seven attended the Christmas service. In the decade from 1921 to May 25, 1929, after her return to West Barnstable, the congregation voted to restore the meetinghouse." "She continued her struggle to raise funds during the Great Depression and the years of World War II. Often contributions were only a quarter, but any amount was gratefully received." "...which brought about the completion of the restoration on August 24, 1958. Elizabeth Jenkins had died on March 24, 1956."

The trustees of the Foundation resolved that: "It has been given to us to work with one of God's rare spirits. It has been a joy to be counted among her fellow workers and her friends."

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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |          |  |           |
|---|----------|--|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership | \$ 25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Member (Includes Spouse) | \$ 750.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Annual Membership     | \$ 50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution       | \$        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matching Funds (Company)     | _____    |  | \$        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Gift in Honor/Memory of    | _____    |  | \$        |

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



Elizabeth Crocker Jenkins  
(ca. 1922)

WEST PARISH<sup>SM</sup> MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.

THE 1717 MEETINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER EDITION

OCTOBER 2010

FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- PETER SMITH

Dear Friends,

As summer turns into autumn and the leaves begin to show bright colors, it's a wonderful time to reflect upon the sixtieth anniversary of the West Parish Memorial Foundation, Inc. Yes, the Foundation may be 60 years old but it's not slowing down from its age! As you will see in the reports that are included in this issue, we are continuing to actively engage in the care of our Meetinghouse and the development of this Foundation.

The Trustees continue to meet regularly and there is always much to discuss. For all the dedicated efforts that the Trustees contribute, it sometimes seems that we are always playing "catch up". Re-

pairs need to be made, funds need to be raised and managed, new solutions to old problems need to be proposed, new members need to be found, new programs need to be envisioned and on and on. Surprisingly, over the last 60 years, we as a Foundation have never had what could be called a comprehensive long range plan of what we wish could be accomplished.

Hard working people over the years have tackled both major and minor projects on an as needed basis and have done a truly remarkable job. (See for example, the reports that follow.) But we now really need an overall comprehensive long range plan of what we hope to see happen with the Meetinghouse in the years and decades ahead. Such a



1717 Meetinghouse

plan will enable us to identify and prioritize our needs, avoid duplication of efforts and help us plan for future funding. To that end, I intend to ask for a committee of Trustees to address a long range plan and also ask for participation and input from our membership.

As we give thanks for the many members and trustees who have given so much of their time talents and treasures to the Foundation in its first 60 years, may we resolve to move forward in our planning, in our endeavors and in our giving to see that the purposes of the Foundation are fulfilled for the next 60 years and beyond!

Join the Foundation Trustees, Church Members and the West Barnstable Community at Large for the  
VILLAGE TREE LIGHTING — AN ANNUAL EVENT  
CO-SPONSORED WITH THE WEST BARNSTABLE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Sunday, December 5th, 2010 at 5:30pm  
West Barnstable Village Green, Route 149  
(at the base of the Meetinghouse)



Community leaders and Foundation Trustees provide a welcome to participants at a recent Village Tree Lighting event.

Notice of the 60th ANNUAL MEETING

WEST PARISH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, INC.  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010 (FOUNDERS' DAY)

11:30AM IN JENKINS HALL  
LIGHT LUNCH PROVIDED

— AGENDA —

PRESERVATION UPDATES  
ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

GUEST SPEAKER: PHOTOGRAPHER PAUL WAINWRIGHT  
His book A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England was published this year. Book signing available.

Previously issued 2008 and 2009 Christmas cards featuring the 1717 Meetinghouse will be available for purchase. Limited supply remains.

## TENDER LOVING CARE—

- Donna Grohe

Maintaining our Meetinghouse is a responsibility that the Memorial Foundation is privileged to accept. Its care is constant, ongoing and expensive.

Most recently an electrician, Dave Coleman, was asked to perform a complete electrical survey, resulting in updating many areas that were not up to current safety standards. Several situations could have caused serious repercussions if not addressed.

You may have noticed the handsome new threshold at the main entrance to the Meetinghouse. Brad Haven took on that serious challenge removing the old split and dangerous wood replacing it with a beautiful piece of white oak.

Projects on the horizon include refinishing the interior floors and work on the aging windows. Let's not forget that as we all age so does the roof!

It is a labor of love for us on the Building and Grounds committee. Thank you for your continued support making it all possible.

With thanks for your continued support—

The Building & Grounds Committee,

Fred Clausen, Doug Hayward, Phil Merritt, Ernest Kenney, Donna Grohe

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & OUTREACH AT THE MEETINGHOUSE

- Margaret Housman, Program Chair

Exciting events are happening at the West Parish Meetinghouse!

On July 7, 2010 the Hyannis Sound (an a cappella group of 10 young men) performed at the Meetinghouse. The program, sponsored by the WPMF and the Music Committee of West Parish Church, was a multi-generational crowd-pleaser as the group sang popular music from the 1940s through the 1990s.

The second jointly sponsored program was held on Sunday afternoon, September 26th. EDF! Eat Dessert First (make your own sundaes) followed by "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (abridged version - approximately 30 minutes) was performed in the Meetinghouse with John Murelle as the featured soloist.

The Village Tree Lighting during the season of Advent is an annual event that the Foundation co-sponsors with the West Barnstable Village Association and the Town of Barnstable. Begun in 1992 as an effort by two Villagers to honor the memory of their child, this tradition has become a Village favorite. The festivities begin with Santa Claus arriving on a fire truck, then the lighting of and singing around the tree, readings and traditional carols sung at the Meetinghouse, then the event wraps-up with fellowship, food and beverages in Jenkins Hall. The outreach also includes a request for donations to the local food pantry which always gets a great response.

The West Parish Memorial Foundation, incorporated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1950, is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Its mission was to first restore the Meetinghouse and then over the past decades maintain the 1717 Meetinghouse as an historical memorial of colonial America.

As the oldest Congregational building in the United States, the Meetinghouse was featured in photographer Paul Wainwright's recently published book, [A Space for Faith: Colonial Meetinghouses of New England](#). We are delighted that he will be the speaker at the Foundation's Annual Meeting on November 14, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. A light lunch will be provided before his presentation. Please join us for this special occasion!!

## WEST PARISH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION 2010 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, the WPMF membership roster includes 70 Life memberships, 32 annual Individual memberships and 34 annual Family memberships for a total of 136 memberships for the current year.

Of these 200 people, 111 are also church members and 89 are community members. The Board of Trustees thanks each member for their gifts and support.

The Board of Trustees gratefully accepts membership and memorial gifts at any time throughout the year. Please consider a year end gift to the WPMF and gifts may always be given in honor or memory of a loved one. Watch your mailbox for membership renewal notices which will be mailed just after the first of the New Year.

### New 2010 WPMF Members

(Received after June 1, 2010)

We welcome the following new members and renewing members received after June 1<sup>st</sup> :

Barbara Barrett | Lynn and Curtis Quillin | Carol and David Allen | Holbrook R. and Sarah M. Davis | Mr. and Mrs. George B. Newton | Paul and Lisa Fackler

### 2010 gifts given in Honor/Memory:

Carol Henley in Honor of her Mother, Ann Johnson | Mrs. Reginald Perry in Memory of Reginald Perry | Mary and John Stepita in Memory of their friend David W. Moeller | Fred and Sharon Clausen in Memory of David Moeller | Mary and John Stepita in Memory of Frank Barry | Bonnie B. Hinckley in Memory of her Father, Deacon Forest Brown | Joyce L. Joakim in Memory of David Moeller | Steve and Mindy Abbott in Memory of Frank Barry | John and Mary Stepita in Memory of Harriett Ronander | Peter Hickman in Memory of Marion T. Hickman | Fred Clausen in Honor of Phil Merritt | Fred Clausen in Memory of John Obbard | Pearl H. Edwards in Memory of Ann Johnson | Carol Chace in Memory of Shirley Bryant

### 2010 additional gifts from Life Members —

Ernest and Barbara Walsh | Anne Moreau Thomas | Helen Lathrop Taber | Vivian Souza | Steve and Mindy Abbott | Earle P. Merritt, Jr. | Mrs. Reginald Perry | Andrew and Barbara DeGraw | Peter Hickman | Pearl H. Edwards

### 2010 additional gifts from Annual Members—

Rebecca Scott | Rosita and Wolfgang Fattler | Michael, Leah, Remy and Emily Rogers | Susan Moeller | Margaret J. Hart Foley | Gordon and Sally Allen | John and Mary Stepita | Fred and Sharon Clausen | Bonnie B. Hinckley | Joyce L. Joakim | Holbrook R. and Sarah M. Davis | John and Elaine Wolfe

### 2010 Restricted Gifts—

Lothrop Family Foundation for  
"maintenance of the historic building."

### — In Memoriam —

Sid Chapman, 2009

David Moeller, February 28, 2010

George D. Dickie, April 20, 2010

Harriett Ronander, April 24, 2010

Jay Larmon, April 23, 2010

Gene Dever, Sr., May 9, 2010

Faith Palmer, May 24, 2010

James Alcock

Anita Chadwick

Ann Johnson

Shirley G. Bryant, July 2, 2010

Robert Simpson

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 or  
memory of a loved one.