



**First Church Squantum
Congregational**
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Website:
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Congregational Meeting on the Capital Campaign

The Trustees are also formally calling for a Special Congregational Meeting for February 11, after worship, to vote on the proposed consulting contract. (see information on pg. 4)

Lenten Devotionals: Take Heart! I Have Overcome the World.

Want to get closer to God this Lent? Why not add a few minutes to focus on God each day? This year the Deacons have purchased Lenten Devotionals from the National Association. These Lenten devotionals feature a brief scripture, message and prayer to help your day have more of God in it. You can find these devotionals on tables in the entryway, or feel free to ask the office to send one to you. These are free for anyone to take or to give away.

The Light

Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before all, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." February 2018

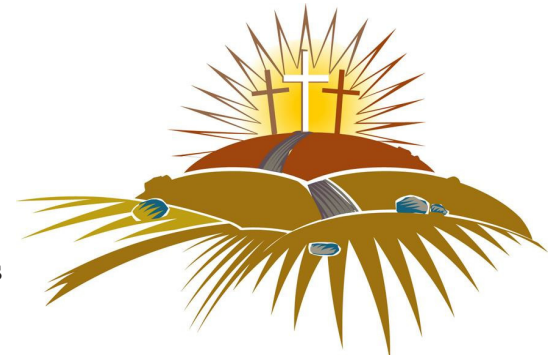
Which Door, God? The Open One!

by Rev. Doug Gray

"These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."
— Revelation 3:7-8

When I was in high school, trying to figure out what God wanted for my life, I felt a little overwhelmed by how many doors were standing open—doors that could take me to all sorts of wonderful places. I went through some doors to leadership training to help me become—well, the kind of person I thought God wanted me to be. I chose some doors that took me away from relationships that just didn't seem to lead to good places. But always it was choosing which open door to take.

How do we know what doors are open and which are closed in our lives? How do we know which door—which path—God would like us to use? And how do we know what God wants at all? When we look at the people of faith in the Bible, they are always trying to answer these questions about what God wants too. That gives me great hope!



This Lent, we can all look for "open doors" of opportunity for a deeper, richer life with God. I will be basing our Lenten sermon series on John Ortberg's very fun and challenging book, *All the Places You'll Go—How Will You Know?* Elsewhere in this issue of *The Light*, you will find more ideas about what and how to give up something for Lent, or ideas for adding something to draw you deeper into God. Whether you are "giving up" something for Lent, or "taking up" a new habit to bring you closer to God, I trust you will find God is walking with you through it all. Ahead of us is a rich, opportunity-filled, resurrection-powered life with Jesus Christ. The door is open and waiting for us!

I Didn't Know That About Our Website!

We have a really meaty website! It's full of information. But did you know you can also find things like

- Church's Full Calendar. Constantly updated. Hot Tip: If you have Google calendar, you can subscribe to the church's calendar
- Registration for Sunday School or Vacation Bible School.
- Study Sheets from most Bible studies.
- Past sermons Hear a great sermon? Wish you could share it? Now you can find them online!
- Archive of *The Light* newsletters.
- Most recent bulletins. If you are going to miss a Sunday, you can see what we are up to.
- Links to all the organizations to which the First Church belongs.

The Book Club

All women are invited to participate in the Book Club's hour-long meetings held at 7



pm on the first Tuesday of each month in

the church parlor. For more information please contact Sally Wainwright at 617-328-7078.

February Worship Schedule

Feb. 4	Communion Sunday Grace and Justice: Why Should We Do Justice?	Genesis 1:24–2:3 James 2:14–19
Feb. 11	Grace and Justice: How Should We Do Justice?	Job 29:7–17 Ephesians 2:11–22
Feb. 18	First Sunday in Lent Which Door, God?	Revelation 3:7–10, 19–4:1
Feb. 25	Second Sunday in Lent Awakening to the Open Door	Genesis 12 Mark 12
Mar. 4	Third Sunday in Lent Communion Sunday Jesus and the Open Door	Mark 2

We Want You in the Photo Directory!

Deadline: February 12, 2018

The Photo Directory is just about ready to go to press, but we are missing some of you! If you did not have a photo taken at the church by the Life-Touch photographers, would you consider submitting a photo? If you have a family photo you want submitted, or a photo of someone who just couldn't make it to the shoot, please email it to the church, along with address and phone number. We will make sure they get into the Directory! Anyone with a photo in the directory automatically gets one of the photo directories. We will need to go with what we have on February 12, so don't wait!

Confirmation Class

Sundays 2:30–4p • Make-up 1:30–2:15p

We are moving into God-Season! All this month we will be exploring who God is and how God likes to work. It'll knock your socks off!

February 4	Finding God in Punch and Brownies
February 11	We've Got the Spirit...How 'Bout You?
February 18	No Class! Feb Break
February 25	The First Annual Photo Scavenger Hunt
March 4	So You Say You Want a Revolution

Women's and Men's Breakfast

Come one, come all! A great chance to share faith and fellowship over some good food. Women's breakfast meets Fri mornings at 9:30a and Men's breakfast meets Sat mornings at 8a.



Fiber Arts

The Fiber Arts Group meets on Tuesday's each month. In addition to working on things for family and friends, this group also donates some of its work to helping needy children have warm heads and hands.



Interfaith Social Services

Please continue to support this program by donating at least one item per week. There is a donation box located in the narthex for your convenience.



(Please avoid any glass containers.)

The Open Door and God

Monday Night Bible Study • 7p

Our lives are full of doors of opportunity—but which ones does God want us to walk through? Does God direct our path? If we stop to listen, how do we recognize God's voice? Come explore the meaty topic of *spiritual discernment*, the art and discipline of learning to listen for and recognize God's guidance. We will be using John Ortberg's book, *All the Places You'll Go—How Will You Know?*

2/5	Grace and Justice: Why Should We Do Justice?	Genesis 1:24–2:3 James 2:14–19
2/12	Grace and Justice: How Should We Do Justice?	Job 29:7–17 Ephesians 2:11–22
2/19	No Bible Study!	President's Day
2/26	Which Door, God?	Revelation 3:7–10, 19–4:1
3/5	Recognizing the Open Door	Genesis 12 Mark 12

Lent Is Coming February 14!

by. Rev Doug Gray

Lent is an ancient Christian season for growing deeper into relationship with God.

At first, Lent was the time of preparation for people who wanted to be baptized, and it concluded with an all-night prayer vigil and fast before their baptism on Easter Sunday.

Lent continues to be a time of preparation for a new life or renewed life in Christ. Many Christians “give up something” for Lent, something they feel is getting in the way of a better life with God. For some it's a kind of food (some Catholics won't eat any meat on Fridays, remembering Jesus' sacrifice), but it can also be a practice that's interfering with a spiritually healthy life. One year my family gave up driving through fast-food places. We could still eat there; we just had to sit at a table together. A friend of mine unplugs from his social media for the month.

I am a fan of not just giving up something, but “picking up something” that helps our life with God grow stronger and get deeper. Some people like to add a daily devotion to their lives—the church has some on the tables in the narthex and entryway—others add some extra prayer time, sing in the choir, read the Bible or attend Bible Study. One year I took my coffee break (when I usually played solitaire) and I read one of the Gospels and wrote one thing I thought God was saying to me. Another friend of mine added time walking.

Worship at Marina Bay and the Atria

Did you know Pastor Doug leads worship every few weeks at Marina Bay and The Atria? Worship begins at 2:30 p.m. and is over by 3:30 p.m. Usually we sing some great old gospel songs, pray and do a short Bible Study. You are welcome to join us! Our dates this month are February 19 (Marina Bay) and February 22 (Atria).

Thanks for the Help

Thanks to all those who volunteered with yummy goodies and coffee for our coffee hour this winter. Your continued support makes this wonderful part of our fellowship possible. Please sign up in the Parlor if you would like to help.



“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

— Philippians 4:13

Capital Campaign Discussion and Congregational Meeting

For the last two years, we have talked about the need and the vision for a capital campaign. In 2017, the congregation authorized the Trustees to look into hiring a consultant to help us. The Trustees have found the church consulting firm, Generis.* After some positive conversations

*In 2017, Generis merged with RSI. If you see reviews or information about RSI, they can be applied to Generis. See here for information about the merger and what each organization brought to the table: <http://blog.generis.com/blog/generis-and-rsi-now-one-team-with-one-mission> with one of Generis’ “generosity strategists,” the Trustees believe our fellowship is ready to take a big step towards a capital campaign: hiring a consultant to coach us to success. Is this consultant the right one? Are the terms ones that help us be faithful to God’s vision?

Upcoming Events:

Informal Question & Answer Session	February 4 (following worship)
Special Congregational Meeting	February 11 (following worship)

Informal Question & Answer Session: This Sunday, February 4, the Trustees will share additional information about the proposed contract and consultant, giving people a space to raise questions and have a conversation. If you would like to do a little background reading, here’s where to find more information:

Generis website: <https://generis.com/>
Warren Schuh: <https://generis.com/warren-schuh>
Review: <http://stand-firm.blogspot.com/2012/06/are-you-generis-probably-not-but-your.html>

Special Congregational Meeting: The Trustees are also formally calling for a Special Congregational Meeting for February 11 to vote on the proposed consulting contract. As it turns out, that Sunday we will also have a chance to meet Warren Schuh, who will be coming to learn about our fellowship and community. While much of our coaching can be done by phone or video conferencing, Rev. Schuh wanted to come and experience our warm fellowship, to talk with more of us about how God is working with us, and to see our beautiful neighborhood for himself.

We look forward to our conversations and God’s leadership through it all.

The Board of Trustees

February 2018

- Christian Holidays
- firstchurchsquantum@gmail.com
- US Holidays

January 2018							February 2018							March 2018							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3							1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Coffee HR 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Brady 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 2:30 PM Brady 5:30 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Bible Study 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Fiber Arts 4:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Amber instrument lessons 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 9:30 AM Mommy & Me 3:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 	2 <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #E6E6FA; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 5px;">Groundhog Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Women's Breakfast 2:00 PM Amber Instrument lessons 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Piano Lessons 9:30 AM Brady
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:15 AM Coffee HR 12:00 PM Brady 4:30 PM Phoenix House 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 2:30 PM Brady 5:30 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Bible Study 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Fiber Arts 4:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Amber instrument lessons 7:00 PM Book Club 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 9:30 AM Mommy & Me 3:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Women's Breakfast 	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Piano Lessons 9:30 AM Brady
11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting on the 11:15 AM Coffee HR 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 12:00 PM Brady 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 2:30 PM Brady 5:30 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Bible Study 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Fiber Arts 4:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Amber instrument lessons 	14 <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #D2B48C; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 5px;">Ash Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #E6E6FA; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 5px;">Valentine's Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 9:30 AM Mommy & Me 3:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30 AM Women's Breakfast 2:00 PM Amber Instrument lessons 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Piano Lessons 9:30 AM Brady
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:15 AM Coffee HR 12:00 PM Brady 4:30 PM Phoenix House 	19 <p style="text-align: center; background-color: #E6E6FA; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; display: inline-block; padding: 2px 5px;">Presidents' Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 2:30 PM Brady 2:30 PM Marina Bay 5:30 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Bible Study 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Brady Camp 9:30 AM Fiber Arts 4:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 7:00 PM Amber instrument lessons 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Brady Camp 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Awakening Spirit Yoga 9:00 AM Brady Camp 9:30 AM Mommy & Me 2:30 PM the Atria 3:30 PM Brady 6:00 PM Awakening Spirit Yoga 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Brady 9:30 AM Women's Breakfast 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 9:00 AM Piano Lessons 9:30 AM Brady
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Published by

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