

*The West Parish Memorial Foundation, Inc.*  
**P.O. Box 781, West Barnstable, MA 02668**

**NEWSLETTER - FALL 2006**

Dear Members and Friends:

Summer has come and gone, children are back in school, there is a nip in the air, and it is time for another newsletter to bring all of you up to date on the work of the Foundation.

Before the summer recess, the Trustees completed revising the By-Laws. For the most part, the changes were of minor nature, mostly in correcting the date of the annual meeting (no longer "the second Saturday in March of each year"), and in clarifying and expanding the role of the Nominating Committee.

During the summer, routine maintenance continued on the meetinghouse. The flooring around the new organ was completed and the last pews set back into place. In the spring the alarm system was damaged by lightening. Fortunately, there was no damage to the meetinghouse itself. The system has now been rebuilt, at considerable cost, which happily, was covered by insurance. Early this fall the bushes around the south west corner of the meetinghouse were cut back, and in a few weeks, the volunteer black locust tree that overhangs the west side of the roof (behind the pulpit) will be taken down.

If you go up the center stairway and through the doorway, you will notice that two more small brass plaques have been added to the inside of the gates on the first two pens on the right hand side, the first honoring Phil Merrit's 48 years of service as custodian of the meetinghouse, the second John Jenkins' 20 years as president of the Foundation. This summer the meetinghouse was open to the public from Memorial to Columbus Day. Although we have no count as to the number of visitors, monies left in the little wooden collection box suggests a considerable number. One group was so pleased that they left a brand new \$20 bill in the box. We hope they return again next year. Some of you may have noticed that the handsome mulberry tree to the east of the tower has been removed, even though it seemed to be enjoying good health. Sadly, its good

health was its downfall, for it had grown so large that it was no longer possible to bring the West Barnstable ladder truck within reach of the tower. Although we are sorry to see this pretty tree go, in view of the lightening strike, it was perhaps a wise move.

The major maintenance activity this Fall is replacing the water boards around the base of the meetinghouse, which are in poor condition, particularly at the base of the tower. Mr. Brad Haven has most generously offered to do the work for no fee if the Foundation provides the material, which will cost slightly over \$2,000 (we need about 208' of this 2" thick boarding!). While the old boards are removed, Fowler and Son will be brought in to check the sills for termites.

Next year we may need to paint (actually white stain) the meetinghouse, which preliminary bids indicate will cost about \$35,000. Maintaining a three hundred year old meetinghouse is not for the faint of heart.

At the recent October meeting of the board it was voted to nominate Peter Smith and Greg Williams to an additional term on the board, and to nominate William Plikaitis and Dan Adams to the board. The annual meeting will be held after the church service in the Parish Hall on November 19th at about 11:30 AM.

Lastly, members of the Foundation helped in planting the new bushes that line the north end of the new parking lot, and a few weeks ago, in planting 1,800 daffodils around the teardrop and up the driveway. Spring should bring a riot of color to our lovely old meetinghouse.

Don't forget the annual meeting is on November 19, 2006.