

## **Physical Assets of the Congregation Update for Parish Committee and Trustees of the Trust Funds for First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Arlington Massachusetts**

### **Introduction:**

This report provides a summary and update on specific physical assets of the congregation which are under the stewardship of the Trustees of First Parish Arlington along with recommendations from the Trustees on next steps.

This update was undertaken during late 2012 – early 2013:

- 1) for the sake of good order to have a single summary of all such items,
- 2) to explore whether there are specific objects of significant monetary value to consider selling
- 3) to provide a basis for appropriate next steps.

### **Overview of the assets:**

- 1) **Silver, silver plate and pewter communion ware** inventoried May 30, 1989 by Robert Olson and appraised September 14, 2012 by Alexander Yale Goriansky. All pieces except one are stored in the FP vault at Cambridge Savings Bank, Arlington MA.
- 2) **Coins and button from the lead cornerstone box of the 4<sup>th</sup> meetinghouse:** Cornerstone was laid July 1, 1856. Inventoried by Bob Olson May 30, 1989 and appraised in the fall of 2012 by Northeast Numismatics in Concord MA. Coins and button are stored in the FP safe.
- 3) **Brass buckles and strap ends for a Royal Artillery ammunition pouch** came from a member of the church, George Gray, who cut them off the pouch and deposited them in the time capsule in the cornerstone of the church laid July 1, 1856. Buckles and strap ends are stored in the FP vault at Cambridge Savings Bank, Arlington MA.
- 4) **Thompson & Small Pulpit Bible of 1798** Examined and appraised by Newburyport Rare Books November 26, 2007 and more recently by Alexander Yale Goriansky in September 2012 in consultation with Bailey Bishop of Cambridge, MA. The bible is currently kept in the Office Manager's office in two large boxes.
- 5) **More recent European/foreign coins** were appraised in the fall of 2012 by Northeast Numismatics in Concord MA. The coins are stored in the FP safe.

Further detail in the back of this report represents the best knowledge of the Trustees as of February 2013 based on a review of the records the Trustees have been able to find across multiple sources.

### Overall conclusion:

The value of these items is primarily historical, with the exception of the recent foreign coins. The foreign coins do not have monetary value.

### Recommended next steps:

- 1) **Silver, silver plate and pewter communion ware:** overall appraised value Sept 2012 \$16,870.
  - a. Keep the communion ware for its historical significance and connection with the community
  - b. Find the silver plated bowl that Goriensky could not locate on Sept 14, 2012. **A silver-plated bowl from the First Universalist Society was in the First Parish Church in 1989 “for general christening use.” Charles Grady records it as being 18 cm. in height and 19 cm. in diameter, and that it was marked “MF’D & PLATED BY REED & BARTON”, [Taunton, Mass.] It was not found September 14.**
  - c. Create a photographic exhibit that could be mounted and shared with the community. Larry Osgood is interested and willing to do the photography.
- 2) **Coins and button from the lead cornerstone box of the 4<sup>th</sup> meetinghouse:** overall appraised value January 2013 \$1,979 with two uncertainties. [One of the coins is clipped, an imperfection which probably would have happened when minted and which would increase its value. One item is a button from George Washington's inauguration, possibly from his coat. The numismatist will have to research its value. Unfortunately it is severely damaged and he doubts it will be valuable.]
  - a. The Trustees will have the coins professionally conserved at a cost of \$50-\$200, which the Trustees will pay for.
  - b. Determine value of the GW button.
  - c. Include in a photographic exhibit of FP memorabilia.
  - d. Consider a short term loan to the Concord Museum ([www.concordmuseum.org](http://www.concordmuseum.org)) for a 2014 exhibit they are putting together. Document the loan properly.
  - e. Consider a long term loan to the Concord Museum or the Arlington Historical Society, potentially along with the other Revolutionary War items (buckles and straps). Formally document such a loan. They are also interested in a silver tankard (#7 Spouted tankard, presumed coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Joseph Edwards, Jr. (1737 – 1783), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1769) which was captured by the British on April 19<sup>th</sup>, brought to Boston, then found and sent back to West Cambridge. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a spout was added to this tankard.

- 3) **Brass buckles and strap ends for a Royal Artillery ammunition pouch.** They came from a member of the church, George Gray who cut them off the pouch and deposited them in the time capsule in the cornerstone of the church. Joel Bohy examined the buckles and strap ends September 2012 and is working with the curator at the Concord Museum to determine value. Joel works for Skinner Auctioneers identifying and pricing their military objects and arms. [Joel Bohy 44 Bradford St., Concord, MA. 01742 C 978-580-6397]
- a. Consider a long term loan to the Arlington Historical Society or Concord Museum to reunite the buckles and strap ends with the original pouch they came from. Formally document such a loan.
  - b. Include in a photographic exhibit of FP memorabilia.
- 4) **Thompson & Small Pulpit Bible of 1798** Examined and appraised by Newburyport Rare Books November 26, 2007 with a value of \$13,500. Appraised by Alexander Yale Goriansky in consultation with Bailey Bishop of Cambridge, MA, September 2012. Fair market value October 2012 estimated at \$5,000 - \$6,000.
- a. Keep the Bible, finds ways to protect it and use it for special occasions. We need one person on point to make this happen.
  - b. Per Mr. Goriansky: Bibles generally are not very valuable as there are lots of them and they are rarely thrown away. That said this one was put into a fine morocco presentation binding which is something collectors look for. Also the inscription: "Presented by the Ladies of West Cambridge to this Church of Christ October 24<sup>th</sup>, Anno Domine 1817" shows a very early example of women working in concert at an institution and adds value.
- 5) **Recent foreign coins** appraised January 2013 by Northeast Numismatics in Concord.
- a. This coin collection has no monetary value nor does it have any historical value for the church that anyone can determine. The appraiser stated that when his firm goes to coin shows they bring buckets of similar coins with them and allow children to grab fistfuls of such coins and bring them home.
  - b. The Trustees will dispose of the foreign coins by either giving them to the RE program for use in class or giving them to the Concord store to give away at a coin show
  - c. The 2 Kennedy 1/2 dollars (2) are worth ~\$9.50 in silver. The Trustees will sell them and use this money towards the professional conservation of the cornerstone coins and GW button.

# Appendix I

Certification of appraisal: October 29, 2012

Appraisal of communion wares September 14, 2012

Detail on 1798 Thompson & Small Pulpit Bible

- October 2012 Appraisal by Alexander Yale Goriansky
- October 2007 Appraisal by Newburyport Rare Books
- October 2007 Historical context from Lori Kenschaft

Coins and buttons from cornerstone: Northeast Numismatics estimate of value

Inventory of vault contents – May 1989, obtained from Sandy King

## CERTIFICATION

I, Alexander Yale Goriansky, personally examined the communion ware described in the following report September 14, 2012. It was shown me at the First Parish Church, Arlington, by Stephen M. McMullin, Chair, Trustees of the Trust Funds, and it is understood to be the property of the First Parish.

This appraisal of the Fair Market Value appraisal of this silver is made to establish its value. Fair Market Value may be defined as the price at which property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller, neither being under any compulsion to buy or sell and both having reasonable knowledge of the relevant facts.

My conclusions of estimated value are arrived at by the market data comparison approach. They represent my judgment based upon my examination and research of the property and my analysis of comparable marketplace values including comparisons made with antique dealer and auction room prices. The total appraised value of this property is \$16,870.00.

I have no undisclosed present or contemplated future interest in the property described in this report. This appraisal has been prepared in conformity with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, and should be used only in its entirety and for the stated purpose. Any liability in connection with this appraisal is limited to the amount of the appraisal fee, which is based upon the hours of fieldwork and report preparation and not the value of the objects.

My qualifications for appraising this property include forty years of buying and selling similar silverwares and more than thirty years of making appraisals of the same. From 1985 to 1991 I was associated with Nancy A. Smith Appraisal Associates of Brookline, Massachusetts, and I am presently associated with B. Fletcher & Associates LLC of Boston, appraisers of fine arts. In 1993 I successfully completed the 120-hour course in personal property appraisal given by the American Society of Appraisers and on October 7th and 8, 2009, the 15 hour course and examination on the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USP AP) as put forward by the Appraisal Foundation and was re-certified for another five years.

October 29, 2012

Goriansky

DFALER APPRAISER CONSULTANT

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IS SIGNED BY AYG – THIS REPRESENTS A SCAN WHICH DID NOT TRANSFER THE SIGNATURE

GORIANSKY / SILVER

ALEXANDER YALE GORIANSKY

TEL: 617/227-8127

October 29, 2012

P.O. Box 8752  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
C/o Stephen McMullin, Chair Trustees  
630 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02174

Dear Stephen McMullin,

Enclosed is my appraisal of the First Parish, Arlington, communion wares. This has been a very interesting project. Your communion wares have a very strong recorded history with the church and its community. There is a discrepancy in the two pewter plates, item 6. Richard King did not begin working until 1745 and yet one of these plates bears a presentation inscription dated 1739. Perhaps the 1739 plate was damaged or lost and the presentation inscription was then placed on a later plate.

My photo of the silver plaque that celebrates the laying of cornerstone of the 4th meeting house On January 1, 1856 was too poor to read and I have not included it in the appraisal. There not much I can say about the plaque but that it measures 18.2 em. x 13 em., is marked "sterling", weighs 4.6 oz. Troy. By weight alone it would be worth about \$135 today and I would double or triple this value for its historic interest.

About the 1798 Thompson and Small bible, I have consulted with Bailey Bishop of Cambridge and an enclosing a comment on that on a separate sheet.

Finally I enclose an invoice for my time. If you have any questions, or if I be of any further help, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

DEALER APPRAISER CONSULTANT

ALEXANDER YALE GORIANSKY

COPY

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington  
C/o Stephen McMullin, Chair Trustees  
630 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02174

Note: All objects are in fine condition unless otherwise stated.  
All weights are measured in ounces Troy weight.  
All measurements are given in centimeters.

**APPRAISAL REPORT**

September 14, 2012

**Pewter Communion Ware belonging to First Parish, Unitarian.**

1. Christening basin, pewter, probably London, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

Octagonal shape with circular basin and gadrooned rim. Cottrell (p. 104) calls this a “lenticular-beaded edge” in illustrating a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century example. Engraved on bottom “The Gift / of William Brattle Esqr. / to the N Westerly Precinct / In Cambridge”. William Brattle, Jr. lived from 1706 – 1776. Marked with an illegible maker’s mark and the X crowned mark, for quality. Diameter varies between 29.5 cm. and 30.5 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$1000

2. Flagon, pewter, probably London, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

“Spire” form with molded base, molded band on body, scroll handle, hinged, double-domed, lid and baluster (bent) finial. No spout. Engraved on front “Gift of Rebeckah Whitmore, 1739”. Unmarked. Dull color. Height 33 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$1200

3. Flagon, pewter, probably London, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

“Spire” form closely matching the previous flagon. Molded base, spout with drop beneath, scroll handle, hinged and double-domed lid with baluster finial (broken off but present). Unmarked. Brighter color. Height (without finial) 31 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$800

4. Set of six tankards, pewter, English, second half 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Pear shaped with molded foot, scroll handle, hinged double-domed lid with thumb piece pierced with heart motif. Three bear the initial “C” on the handles and three “IB”. Two “Cs” with dented bodies. Two “IBs” with dented lids. Dull color. Height (including thumb piece) 20 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$420

5. Pair of plates, pewter, Richard King, Jr. (working from 1745, died 1798), London, second half 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Circular with plain rim. Marked with four marks: a crowned Tudor rose with “GRACIOUS STREET”, an ostrich displayed with horseshoe with “RICHARD KING”, “SUPERFINE HARD METTLE”, and “Rd-KING IN:LONDON”. Diameter 34 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$600

6. Pair of plates, pewter, Richard King, (working from 1745, died 1798), London, second half 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Circular with plain rim. One inscribed on the rim “The Gift of Rebecckah Wittemore to / ye 2d Church of Christ in Cambridge / 1739”. Marked with five marks: a crowned Tudor rose and “GRACIOUS STREET”, an ostrich displayed with horseshoe and “RICHARD KING”, “SUPERFINE HARD METTLE”, Rd-KING IN:LONDON, and a “crowned X mark”. These dishes are also stamped on the brim “Dr. B. Cutter / Woburn 1862”. Diameter 34 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$600

### **Silver Communion Ware belonging to First Parish, Unitarian.**

7. Spouted tankard, presumed coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Joseph Edwards, Jr. (1737 – 1783), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1769.

Tapered cylindrical form with mid-band, scroll handle, and hinged double- domed lid with wrythen finial. Applied with a later spout to the front. Inscribed on the front “The Gift of Jonathan Buterfield to the Second Church [of Chr]ist in Cambridge 1769 (partially obliterated by the later spout probably added in 1856). Marked on bottom “I.Edwards”. Recorded in Kane, p. 426. Height 22 cm. Weight 28.9 oz.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$4000



8. Spouted tankard, coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Newell Harding & Co. (working 1851-1889), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1856

Made to match the Edwards tankard above. Tapered cylindrical form with mid-band, scroll handle, spout, and hinged double-domed lid with wrythen finial. Inscribed on the front "Presented to the First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the Ladies connected with the Social Circle, 1856". Height 22 cm. Weight 26.9 oz.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$1400

9. Pair of chalices or goblets, coin silver, Newell Harding & Co. (working 1851-1889), Boston, Mass., ca. 1856.

Made to match the Crosby & Brown goblets below. Molded spreading foot and knopped stem supports ovoid cup with beaded rim. Inscribed "Presented to the First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the Ladies connected with the Social Circle, 1856". Marked N. Harding & Co. and "coin". Height 18.7 cm. Total weight 16.5 oz.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$1000

10. Pair of chalices or goblets, presumed coin silver, Crosby & Brown (working together 1849-1853), Boston, Mass. ca. 1853.

Molded spreading foot and knopped stem supports ovoid cup with finely beaded rim. Inscribed "Presented to the / First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / By a Member / Mrs. S.O. Mead / Jan. 1853". Marked Crosby & Brown up inside stem. Height 18.7 cm. Total weight 15.9 oz.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$1000

11. Christening basin, coin silver, Vincent Laforme & Bro. for Samuel T. Crosby, Boston, Mass. ca. 1852.

Spreading molded foot supports circular bowl. Probably made for domestic use and put to sacramental use by First Church. Inscribed "First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the / Subscribers Novr 1852". Marked on bottom S.T. Crosby, V.L. & B., Boston, and "pure coin". Height 13.5 cm. Diameter 23 cm. Weight 16.9 oz.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$1000

12. Pair of Two Handled Cups, silver-plated, English or American, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Molded spreading foot supports bell-shaped body with two scroll handles terminating in a heart motif. Height 16 cm. One cup tarnished, one cup with body split.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$200

13. Pair of Two Handled Cups, silver-plated, English or American, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Molded spreading foot supports bell-shaped body with two scroll handles. Heights 12.2 and 12.7 cm. One cup tarnished. One with wooden base insert.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$150

14. A pair of plates, silver-plated, English or American, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Circular shape with molded brim. Plated on copper. Diameter 29.5 cm. Perhaps the gift of Mrs. S.O. Mead in 1853.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$200

15. A plate, sterling silver, Richard Dimes Company of South Boston for Bigelow, Kennard & Co., Boston, Mass. ca. 1939.

Circular shape with molded brim made to match the two plated plates above. Inscribed on back "Presented to / The First Congregational Church / Arlington / by / George A. Smith / 1939". Diameter 29.8 cm. Weight 18.0 oz.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$700

### **Communion Ware from the First Universalist Society of Arlington.**

16. A pair of flagons, silver-plated copper, English or American, 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Molded base, spout, scroll handle, hinged and double-domed lid with looped wirework thumb piece. No finial. Unmarked. Height 29 cm.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$2000

17. Set of six chalices or goblets, silver-plated copper, English or American, 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Molded foot and knopped stem support bell-shaped cup. Height 18.5 cm. One chalice discolored.

FAIR MARKET VALUE.....\$600

TOTAL APPRAISED VALUE.....\$16,870

**Note: a silver-plated bowl from the First Universalist Society was in the First Parish Church in 1989 “for general christening use.” Charles Grady records it as being 18 cm. in height and 19 cm. in diameter, and that it was marked “MF”D & PLATED BY REED & BARTON”, [Taunton, Mass.] It was not found September 14.**

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### **Pulpit Bible of 1798**

I consulted with Bailey Bishop of Cambridge, Mass, a recognized authority on American printing and bibliography, and showed him Matthew Needle's October 2007 appraisal of the Thompson & Small bible at the First Parish, Arlington, and also my photographs of the bible. Generally, bibles are not very valuable as there lots of them; no one throws them away.

Bishop is impressed that this bible (40 parts) was put into such a fine morocco presentation binding which is something that collectors look for. Also the inscription: "Presented by the Ladies of West Cambridge to this Church of Christ October 24th, Anno Domine 1817" shows a very early example of women working in concert at an institution and adds value.

Though \$13,500 is a value for which one might wish to insure the book, it is not a price that likely achievable at sale today. Of course anything is possible. "Appraised Value" is a little vague. Needle, who Bishop knows, was working at the peak of an economic cycle from which we have not yet recovered. He would have known of another example, if not as fine, that sold at auction in 2012 for \$4800. "Hot Press" printing was new but perhaps not as important as some people like to think. Isaiah Thomas, who did print the largest American folio bible at Worcester, Mass. in 1791, has not been criticized for how he put ink to paper. (Baskerville is truly important for design.)

In view of this, we believe the Fair market Value today is \$5000-\$6000.

Alexander Yale Goriansky

October 29, 2012

**Newburyport Rare Books**  
32 Oakland St., Newburyport MA 01950  
978-462-7398

November 26, 2007

On Monday, October 22, 2007, I examined a two volume Bible, printed in 1798 by John Thompson and Abraham Small of Philadelphia. This Bible, the property of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Mass. is both well documented and much sought after. (1)

The Church's copy has certain distinct features. There is a presentation inscription to the church, dated 1817. This set lacks the two pages of subscribers' names that was sometimes bound in at the end of the second volume. This edition, known as the Hot Press Bible, was the first Bible printed in America using a new technique of heating the type. A folio Bible, it was meant to be read from the pulpit, and this edition was the largest Bible to have been printed in the United States up until that time. Copies are rare and desirable, and particularly so in this fine example of American binding.

This Bible was originally issued in forty parts, to be bound up when the set was complete. This copy is bound in full red morocco with elaborate gilt tooling. Willman Spawn, the noted expert on American bindings, examined photographs of both volumes and was of the opinion that John Roulstone of Boston, may well have been the binder. However, according to Hannah French (2), Roulstone worked under Henry Bilson. Legge in Boston, and acquired many of his binding tools after Legge's death in 1804. Thus, their work is somewhat similar. Further complicating the attribution is French's reference (ibid., pp. 52-3) to Henry. Legge's having bound a copy of this same edition of the Bible, though in one volume. At any rate, whether bound by Legge or bound by Roulstone, this is a fine example of an early American binding.

At any rate, these are handsome American bindings in very good order. The lower front cover of volume one is a bit darkened and the frontispiece is mounted. There are occasional very light stains, and a bit of browning, and several minor marginal tears. This is a unique copy of a highly desirable Bible.

Overall, a most attractive set.

Appraised value: \$13,500.

Matthew Needle, proprietor

## About the 1798 Bible

Lori Kenschaft  
October 6, 2007-DRAFT

Please do not distribute outside the First Parish community without my permission.

When I headed off to the Andover-Harvard Library I didn't expect to find any information about the 1798 Bible. The Bible was given to the church in 1817, and I had originally hoped to go to the church's records for that year and see what was said about it. But then I learned that the archives don't contain any records of church meetings between 1805 and 1838. I went anyway, but it seemed like a long shot.

I had assumed that the records were simply lost to time, or perhaps in some other location, but now I wonder whether the church had meetings during those years. In 1828 a special committee recommended that "the Church have an annual church meeting ... for the purpose of choosing a Church Committee to look after the affairs of the Church ... and a Clerk whose duty it shall be to record all the proceedings of the Church." The members commented that they had not been able to find "any record of the Church to direct us except a few minutes which were kept by the Rev. Mr. Cooke and our present pastor the Rev. Thaddeus Fiske." So perhaps there never were any general church records from those years.

They were, indeed, difficult years. The Baptists had started to leave First Parish and form their own church during the 1790s. Some years later they sued First Parish because the church (as a faithful constituent of the Standing Order) regularly taxed every member of the town for the support of the church. The Baptists, in contrast, believed in voluntary support of a voluntarily gathered church. This battle of money and theology was played out, in various ways, throughout New England. In West Cambridge, as the town was then known, it turned into a legal dispute that lasted for years and resulted in the courts finding against First Parish. The church was required to return to its Baptist neighbors the tax proceeds that the courts deemed it had wrongfully collected.

The next group of dissenters were the Universalists. As Charles Grady pointed out in his history of First Parish (but who remembers everything they read?) a group calling itself the Universal Society of West Cambridge came into existence by 1822. They were still part of First Parish, but often a dissatisfied part. The then-minister, Rev. Thaddeus Fiske, was a Calvinist of the old school, and by most accounts a boring preacher as well.

Unitarian ideas were also beginning to percolate through New England, especially among its more educated families. Indeed, in 1828 First Parish would call the young Frederic Henry Hedge, who was something of an academic prodigy and definitely a Unitarian.

Women were getting uppity too. Throughout New England women were beginning to think of themselves as having a sphere of their own, a realm of home and children and motherhood where they-more than their husbands-had expertise and authority. Calvinist theology was softening for many reasons, but one reason was many women's deeply-felt belief that children, especially infants, were innocent and could not be damned to Hell by a just God. Many newborns and babies and toddlers died in those years, and their mothers were increasingly insistent that these young lives continued in Heaven. Many women clung to the hope, even the expectation, that they would eventually re-join their children and other loved ones in Heaven. Orthodox pastors, such as Rev. Fiske, continued to preach about original sin, but that doctrine gave little solace to a grieving mother.

In the eighteenth century, men were primarily responsible for educating children. All school- teachers were men, certainly. But within each family, as well, education was considered a father's responsibility, not a mother's, and fathers were expected to give personal attention to their children's education.

This association of education with masculinity and fatherhood shifted during the nineteenth century. Public education expanded in the first half of the century, partly because of the agitation of Unitarians and Evangelicals. Towns discovered that they could save money by hiring female teachers, who they typically paid between a fifth and a third of what they paid male teachers. Men's work, meanwhile, became more professionalized and occupied more of men's time. An ideal eighteenth- century man was engaged in many activities, including earning a living and civic leadership and raising his children. An ideal nineteenth-century man poured more of his time and attention into his career and left most of child-rearing to his wife. Women, therefore, became primarily responsible for the moral, religious, and elementary academic education of children.

This played out in West Cambridge in a power struggle between Rev. Fiske and two women in his congregation, Liza Bradshaw and Liza Tufts. Fiske was the town's schoolmaster, which supplemented his small salary from First Parish, and he had given the parish's children what he considered adequate religious as well as secular instruction. Bradshaw and Tufts did not agree that the children were receiving sufficient religious education, and they wanted to start a Sunday School class. Fiske did not like their plans, or presumably their implied criticism, so he denied them the use of the main room of the meeting house, which was his right as pastor. So on Sunday mornings Bradshaw and Tufts gathered the children in the meeting house's vestibule, a space over which, by tradition, Fiske had no jurisdiction.

By 1828 the congregation was in trouble. Fiske had been the preacher for forty years, and many people were dissatisfied with his performance. The membership was shrinking and many people thought Fiske should retire. The congregation was, however, divided on this issue. A letter was circulated asking Fiske to stay, but Fiske was apparently surprised that several people he considered firm friends and supporters did not choose to sign this letter.

Fiske therefore submitted his letter of resignation on April 20, 1828. "Be assured," he told his readers, "it is not arisen from any disaffection to the people of my charge, but rather from their falling off, from me, which I have noticed with deep sorrow and regret." He mentioned his hope that retirement would enable him to "enjoy more peace+ tranquility than I have for twelve years past." (Twelve years!) "Considering all circumstances," he concluded, "it has become expedient for my health and comfort as well as for your union, peace and welfare for me to resign my office- you will lay this communication before the parish as soon as may be, for their acceptance + for them to give such testimonial as shall render the separation honorable to themselves + to me their faithful + affectionate Pastor and friend Thaddeus Fiske."

The parish did indeed provide the requested positive testimonial. Fiske's only son, Horatio, died a little more than a year later, leaving him even more heart-broken. He remained in West Cambridge, however, and made life somewhat difficult for his successors, who never persuaded him that Unitarianism was anything better than heresy. He lived for twenty-seven years after retiring ostensibly for the sake of his health.

On the same day that Fiske submitted his letter of resignation- April 20, 1828 -the Parish Committee, which then consisted of three men, submitted a remarkable report (apparently hand- written, though the original has probably been lost) to the membership of First Parish. The writers, the report explains, were "appointed a committee to examine the affairs and situation of the Church." "[I]f any after hearing the report should think we have exceeded our duty, we would ask of them and hope they will throw a veil of charity over our imperfections and impute the error to a defect of the head and not of the heart."

The report began with a short survey of the history of the church and ended with a series of suggestions, including the aforementioned practice of holding an annual meeting. In between it listed the assets of the church:

"The Committee then proceeded to look after the funds and found them as follows- Two black- tin flagons of about 1 gallon each. Three do [?] tankards of about 1 quart each. One silver tankard of about a quart given by Mr. Jonathan Butterfield 1769. Two do [?] of about a pint each which contain the wine on communion days. There are 4 pewter chargers or platters for the bread one of which was given by Rebeckah Whittemore 1739. One christening basin given by William Brattle Esq. Four diaper napkins two do [?] tablecloths. Two large Bibles one in a single volume which was given by Andrew Boardman. And the other in two volumes which was procured by subscription at the dedication of the Meeting house or near that time. One stuffed hair bottomed chair procured by subscription. A small quantity of old pewter also an old cushion which belonged to the old Meeting house. These seem to be all that the Committee can find of furniture belonging to the Church at present."

So the church in 1828 owned two Bibles, one of which was in two volumes. The committee went out of its way to list all objects owned by the church. Surely this is the Bible we now have?

Well, maybe, but maybe not.



Each volume of the Bible contains the following inscription: Presented by the Ladies of West Cambridge to this Church of Christ October 24 Anno Domini 1817

The second meeting house-the one standing in 1828 -was built in 1804. So according to the inscriptions, the Bible was presented to the church thirteen years after the meeting house was built. From the point of view of just eleven years later, that is a significant difference.

In addition, the phrase "procured by subscription" usually implied something similar to a modern pledge process. The minister and leaders of the congregation decided that some purchase was desirable, various people signed up to contribute money, and if enough money was raised then the purchase was made. This process was organized by the institution that wanted the subscription.

"Presented by" is more likely to imply a gift organized by the givers on their own initiative. In this case, it suggests that the Ladies of West Cambridge came together as a group of women (or ladies, as they preferred to think of themselves), decided to buy a Bible as a gift to the Church, and organized the process themselves.

This was a somewhat remarkable thing for a group of women to do in the 1810s. In the colonial period women did not organize themselves as women-that would have been seen as unacceptably presumptuous. Some women's groups coalesced socially during the Revolutionary War to support the war effort through womanly tasks, such as making homespun or bandages, but these groups were informal and disappeared at the end of the war. By the 1830s women were beginning to organize mothers' clubs and ladies' auxiliaries to various men's organization. But in the 1810s the idea that women might have the initiative and organizational ability to create and conduct and lead their own organizations was not yet on the cultural horizon.

And here were the Ladies of West Cambridge, giving their church a Bible.

In 1817. Which turns out to be the same year that Liza Bradshaw and Liza Tufts challenged Rev. Thaddeus Fiske's authority by starting a Sunday School in the vestibule of the meeting house.

So my guess- which I certainly can't prove, but it's my guess-is that two-volume Bible mentioned in the 1828 report from the newly formed Parish Committee is the same two-volume Bible that the Ladies of West Cambridge gave to the church in 1817. But my guess is that Rev. Fiske was not thrilled with this gift. He associated it with rebellious women, women who did not know their place, women who wanted to teach children themselves, women who challenged his authority and maybe his capability. He didn't dispose of the Bible-it was too precious for that. But he did downplay it. Indeed, the Bible looks barely used-even when it was brand new it was not much read. And he and the

other (male) leaders of the congregation gradually came to tell (and believe?) a story that the Bible had been around as long as the current meeting house, "or near that time."

Note that Fiske suggested that his ministry had been lacking in "peace+ tranquility" for the last twelve years before his retirement. 1817 was eleven years before his retirement.

According to Charles Grady, this Bible was used as a pulpit bible in the short-lived third meeting house, which was built in 1840 to accommodate the expanded congregation attracted by the eloquent Rev. David Damon and burned to the ground on New Years' Day of 1856 after a late-night service to see in the New Year. "Some intrepid men," Grady explained in his description of the fire, "had dared to enter the building to save what could be saved: a chair, a sofa, and the two great pulpit Bibles- volumes one and two of a notable edition printed in Philadelphia in 1817 and presented to the Parish by the Women's Society" (p. 95)

Grady was correct that this Bible was a notable edition printed in Philadelphia, but his other facts were off in three ways. The front plate of the Bible indicates that it was printed in 1798, not 1817. It was presented to the Church, not the Parish, at a time when those words meant very different things. And no Women's Society existed in 1817. In this town, according to Grady, the Universalist women first organized themselves into a formal association in 1847 and the Unitarian women first organized themselves in 1849. The Ladies who gave the Bible in 1817 were an informal coalition- they identified themselves as female, certainly, and they worked together on this one project and perhaps other projects, but they were not audacious enough to declare themselves a women's group.

So what is this Bible? It is a large folio edition, two volumes, bound in beautifully tooled red leather. On the inside of the covers is marbled paper that is now black, gray, and pink but may once have been black, gray, and red. It was published in Philadelphia in 1798 by John Thompson and Abraham Small.

The Thompson Bible was one of the first English-language Bibles printed in North America. I believe (but I would want to find a more authoritative source for this belief before I'm sure of it) that no English-language Bibles were printed in the British colonies because the Crown held the copyright to the King James Version and wanted to preserve the profits from printing the KJV for printers in England. The first English-language Bible printed in the United States was, I believe, the Robert Aiken edition, which was authorized by Congress in 1782 and printed in 1783. The Aiken Bible was part of the young country's declaration of intellectual, religious, and financial independence from England.

The Thompson Bible is considered especially notable because it was the first Bible printed in the United States using John Baskerville's then-new "hot press" process, which produced type that was more clear and legible and paper that was more smooth than had been possible using previous printing processes. Comments I have seen on the web include "The Thompson Hot-Press Bible remains an extremely rare collectors' item" and "With its uncluttered typography, this considered one of the handsomest Bibles of the period."

In 1988 the Philadelphia Consortium of Special Collections Libraries published a book titled *Legacies of Genius* celebrating what the Consortium considered the most notable books, manuscripts, and works of art in Philadelphia area libraries. *Legacies of Genius* includes a description and photo of Bryn Mawr's copy of the Thompson Bible, which is bound in red leather like ours but has a different pattern on its binding.

The binding of the Bryn Mawr copy- and quite possibly of ours- was done in the shop of Robert Aiken, about which *Legacies of Genius* has this to say:

"The bindings that came from the shop of Robert Aiken were the finest produced in America in the eighteenth century.... Binding executed there was highly praised by an historian of American printers: "There was no better finished binding ever done than some of the books executed in his shop." As Aiken aged, his daughter Jane took over the family shop. The bindings on the two folio volumes of the 1798 Bible are in brilliant red morocco- "turkey" it was then called- with some of Aiken's most exotic tools, among them a wyvern at the angle of the corners, a peacock, and a running stag. According to William and Carol Spawn, experts on work done in the Aiken shop, these bindings reflect the design and execution of Jane.

The Bible was the first substantial publication in America to use Baskerville's hot-pressed technique in its printing. It was issued in forty numbers at half a dollar apiece, and as book production is worthy of the rich bindings that encase it."

So the Ladies of West Cambridge may have, presumably unknowingly, given their church a Bible bound by a woman.

So let me propose a time-line for the Bible. Some of this is speculative, but I suspect the general gist is correct.

**1798** The Bible was printed in Philadelphia by John Thompson and Abraham Small. This edition was originally published in forty pieces that were sold for half a dollar each. At some point our copy was bound into two folio volumes covered with tooled red leather. It may have been bound in the Philadelphia shop of Robert Aiken and Jane Aiken.

**1817** The Bible was purchased by a group of women affiliated with the First Parish and Church of Christ in West Cambridge. It was one of the biggest, most beautiful, and most expensive Bibles available. They called themselves the Ladies of West Cambridge and gave the Bible to "this Church of Christ." Rev. Thaddeus Fiske probably used, however, a single-volume Bible that was given to the church by Andrew Boardman. This was the same year that Fiske had an open conflict with two ladies of the church, Liza Bradshaw and Liza Tufts, over whether a Sunday School class should be established and whether his religious instruction of the church's children was adequate. Bradshaw and Tufts got their Sunday School class.

**1828** The Bible was mentioned in an inventory of the church's assets prepared by a three-person Parish Committee appointed to review the situation of the struggling congregation and pastor. They described it, incorrectly, as "procured by subscription at the dedication of the Meeting house or near that time."

**1840** The refreshed and expanding congregation built a new, third, meeting house and started to use the most impressive of their Bibles as the pulpit Bible.

**1856** The third meeting house burned to the ground. The Bible was saved from the building before it was touched by the flames. The Bible given by Andrew Boardman may well have been lost at this time.

**1857** A new, fourth meeting house was dedicated. In a spirit of renewal, the congregation purchased a new pulpit Bible.

**1975** The Bible was in storage somewhere in the Bailey Wing when the fourth meeting house burned to the ground. The pulpit Bible purchased in 1857 was rescued, but it was badly damaged by the fire.

**2000** Rev. Charles Grady mentioned the Bible in his *Arlington's First Parish*, p. 95. He described it, incorrectly, as "printed in Philadelphia in 1817 and presented to the Parish by the Women's Society." He added in a footnote that at the time of his writing it was in the display cabinet in the narthex of the fifth meeting house and could be seen by readers there.

**2007** The Bible was noticed in the fan room during a tour of the church organized by Rebecca Benefiel Bijur and Jonathan Markowitz Bijur as part of a summer service.

# Northeast Numismatics Inc.

Rare Coins-Personal Service  
10 Concord Crossing Suite 220  
Concord, MA 01742

Phone 978-369-9155 Fax 978-369-9619  
info@northeastcoin.com

## PURCHASE ORDER

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shipping papers and packages.

2230

TO

Steven McMiller

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| DATE<br>1-4-13 | REQUISITION NO. |
| SHIP TO        |                 |
|                |                 |
|                |                 |

| REQUISITIONED BY | WHEN SHIP     | SHIP VIA                | F.O.B. POINT | TERMS      |    |                |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------|----|----------------|
| >                |               |                         |              |            |    |                |
| QTY. ORDERED     | QTY. RECEIVED | STOCK NO. / DESCRIPTION |              | UNIT PRICE |    | REMARKS        |
|                  | 2             | 1787 MA 1/2 cent        |              | 9          | 50 | <del>250</del> |
|                  |               | 1964 50c                |              |            |    | 19             |
|                  |               | 1787 MA cent            |              |            |    | 150            |
|                  |               | 1787 F0610              |              |            |    | 175            |
|                  |               | 1856 1/2 dme (clip?)    |              |            |    | 75+            |
|                  |               | 1856 25c                |              |            |    | 100            |
|                  |               | 1856 691                |              |            |    | 550            |
|                  |               | 1788 1/2c               |              |            |    | 250            |
|                  |               | @ Presidential button   |              |            |    | ?              |
|                  |               | 1851 1/2 cent           |              |            |    | 85             |
|                  |               | 1856 10c                |              |            |    | 100            |
| >                |               | 1856 \$5                |              |            |    | 475            |
|                  |               |                         |              |            |    | 1,979          |

*req. - file admin ofc*

*Copy 5/3/00*

PAGE ONE

INVENTORY OF CONTENTS, FIRST PARISH "SILVER TRUNK", BANK FIVE OF ARLINGTON VAULT  
ROUGH APPRAISAL OF COINS, BY ROBERT OLSON, TUESDAY, MAY 30, 1989

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| No. | <u>Metal</u> | <u>Denomination &amp; description</u>   | <u>Date</u> | <u>Approx grade</u>             | <u>Catalog price</u> |
|-----|--------------|---|-------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.  | copper       | Button, blank on obverse<br><b>"GW" monogram in center,</b><br>words "Long Live the President" around the monogram in circle.<br>Around outside, 13 oval links of chain with initials of the<br>thirteen original states within each oval link. | <b>none</b> |                                 |                      |
| 2.  | copper       | Mass. Indian cent   | 1787        |                                 |                      |
| 3.  | copper       | Mass. Indian cent   | 1787        |                                 |                      |
| 4.  | copper       | Mass. Indian cent   | 1788        |                                 |                      |
| 5.  | copper       | Franklin cent   | 1787        |                                 |                      |
| 6.  | copper       | U.S. half cent  | 1851        | Fine - 12                       | \$43.00              |
| 7.  | silver       | U.S. half dime  | 1856        | Extra fine - 40                 | \$40.00              |
| 8.  | silver       | U.S. dime   | 1856        | Mint state - 60                 | \$400.00             |
| 9.  | silver       | <b>U.S.</b> quarter-dollar  | 1856        | Mint state - 60                 | \$300.00             |
| 10. | gold         | U.S. dollar<br>(date has slanted 5)   | 1856        | Mint state - 60                 | \$525.00             |
| 11. | gold         | U.S. Half-Eagle (\$10)  | 1856        | Almost <b>uncir-</b><br>culated | \$700 - \$1000       |

---

The above items were removed from the lead cornerstone box found in the foundation  
cornerstone of the fourth meetinghouse. The cornerstone was laid July 1, 1856.

they

Items 1 through 5 were not appraised due to lack  
this type.

In the opinion of Mr. Olson, the coins represent a  
are, and should not be sold.

*Dec 2006  
are  
Coins ~~lost~~ <sup>found</sup>  
~~lost~~ back to vault  
by Carlton & Cecile.  
I remember the two of  
them took something*

INVENTORY OF CONTENTS, FIRST PARISH "SILVER TRUNK", BANK FIVE OF ARLINGTON VAULT  
 May 30, 1989 COMMUNION WARE FROM FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

---

| No. | Material     | Description & markings  | Measurements                     |
|-----|--------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | silverplate  | Two (2) identical tall<br>flagons or tankards with hinged<br>lids.<br>No inscriptions or marks.                           | Height: 29 em                    |
|     | silver plate | Six (6) goblets or<br>identical chalices, No marks<br>on stems. or<br>inscriptions.                                       | Height: 18.5 em                  |
| 3.  | silver plate | Christening bowl, on stem or<br>foot. No inscriptions or<br>marks, except maker's mark<br><b>, inside</b><br>hollow base: | Height: 18 em<br>Diameter: 19 em |

MF'D & PLATED SY

REED & BARTON.

**7**

The First Universalist Society of Arlington was organized in 1840 and merged with the First Parish, Unitarian, in 1965.

Item No. 3, the christening bowl, was retained in the church on May 30, 1989, for general christening use. The rest of the items were returned to the bank vault on that date.

--Charles Grady, Minister





## INVENTORY OF CONTENTS, FIRST PARISH "SILVER TRUNK", BANK FIVE OF ARLINGTON VAULT

May 30, 1989

## LIST OF SILVER COMMUNION WARE et al. FROM 1st PARISH.

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Material</u>    | <u>Description, inscriptions, marks</u>   | <u>Measurements</u>                |
|------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ✓ 1.       | sterling silver    | Tankard with hinged lid, gift of Jonathan Butterfield, 1769. Stolen by British troops April 19, 1775 & later redeemed.<br>A spout was added later, probably in 1856, to conform to changing practices in serving communion and to match with the new (1856) matching tankard acquired at that time.<br><br>Various maker's marks on bottom. | Height: 21.7 cm                    |
| ✓ 2.       | sterling silver    | Tankard with hinged lid, roughly matching item #1, gift of "Ladies Connected with the Social Circle, 1856."<br><br>Maker's mark on bottom.  | Height: 22 cm                      |
| 82 3.      | sterling silver    | Two stemmed chalices or goblets, same donor and date as #2 above. Larger beading around rims, approx 2 mm diameter. Approx copies of #4, below.   | Height: 18.7 cm                    |
| 4.         | sterling silver    | Two stemmed chalices or goblets, gift of Mrs. S. O. Mead (of Belmont), 1853. Approx. match of #3, above. Smaller beading around rims, approx 1 mm diameter.   | Height: 18.7 cm                    |
| 5.         | sterling silver    | Christening basin on stemmed base, gift of "Subscribers", 1852. Marked on bottom:<br><br>S. T. CROSBY<br><br>PURE COIN <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">V.L.&amp;B.</span><br><br>BOSTON  | Height: 13.5 cm<br>Diameter: 23 cm |
| 6.         | silver<br>(plate?) | Two caudle cups (or loving cups?) with twin handles; low footed bases. Perhaps used after 1769, when the silver tankard was acquired. Apparently, pewter was used between 1739-1769.  | Height: 16 cm                      |
| 7.         | silver<br>(plate?) | Two small caudle cups (or loving cups?) with twin handles; low footed bases.<br>No inscriptions or maker's marks on any of the four caudle cups, items 6 & 7.   | Height: 12.2 &<br>12.7 cm          |
| 8.         | silver plate       | Two Sheffield silver-plated plates, perhaps given by Mrs. Mead, 1853.<br>No inscriptions or marks.  | Diameter: 29.5 cm                  |
| 9.         | sterling silver    | Plate (1) given by George Abbot Smith, 1939<br>Gift inscription on bottom, and mark "Sterling."   | Diameter: 29.8 cm                  |

#1

Should never be  
sold

#4.

Belmont orig. part  
of Arlington (Cambridge  
NW Precinct)

#9

George Abbot Smith  
son of Samuel Abbot  
Smith, Minister  
in 1856 when 4<sup>th</sup>  
meeting house built.  
Elizabeth Abbot Smith,  
dau of Samuel, gave  
\$50,000 toward 5<sup>th</sup> bldg  
1975.



Pewter dated 1739  
would be first  
Communion ware when  
1<sup>st</sup> Church built.

- INVENTORY OF CONTENTS, FIRST PARISH "SILVER TRUNK", BANK FIVE OF ARLINGTON VAULT  
May 30, 1989 - LISTING OF PEWTER COMMUNION WARE BELONGING TO FIRST PARISH, UNITARIAN.

Christening basin, flat bottom, no stem or base. Octagonal Diameter: various  
rim, round basin. Maker's marks and inscription "Gift of measurements from  
Wm. Brattle Esq to ye Northwesterly Precinct in Cambridge, flat edge to flat  
1739." (on bottom) edge: 29.5, 30.0,  
30.5, and \_\_\_\_\_ em.

- V 2. Tall tankard with hinged lid, no spout. Finial bent. Height: 33 em  
Inscription on side: "Gift of Rebeckah Whitmore, 1739."
3. Tall tankard with hinged lid, spout, bright color. Finial Height (without  
broken off but preserved. No inscription or marks. finial): 31 em.
4. Six (6) smaller tankards with hinged lids, pear-shaped sides. Height (to top  
All identical, except: three are marked with the capital of thumbpiece)  
letter C near the top of the handles; the other three are 20 em.  
marked with the capital letters I B near the top of the handles. Dull color.

5. Two (2) large-platters, heavyweight, round; dull color. Diameter: 34 em  
Inscription on of them, upper edge:

Both have 4 maker's marks on lower edges as follows:

|                         |   |                          |  |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| three grouped together, | GRACIOUS<br>STREET<br>(figures of<br>crown & rose<br>above) | SUPERFINE<br>HARD METTLE | RICHARD<br>KING<br>(spread-winged bird<br>in center) |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|

and one alone, opposite the three: R.D. KING  
IN LONDON

6. Two (2) large platters, similar to #5, above, but brighter in Diameter: 34 em  
color on upper surface--some sort of plating. On -  
inscrip-

tion on upper edge as follows: The Gift of Rebecckah Whittmore to  
ye 2d Church of Christ. in Cambridge  
1739

On both, maker's marks similar to those on 115, above, on lower edges. Also,  
a small crown surmounting thletter X.

Also, on both, marks of a "Dr. B. Cutter, Woburn, 1862" with the name arranged  
in a semicircle. These also on lower edge. Apparently these two plates, at  
least, were in the custody of Dr. Cutter, 1861 & 1862.

Note: the tall tankards, or flagons, items 2 and 3, have straight, tapering sides.

# First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Whittaker-Johns  
Assistant Minister: Rev. Carlton E. Smith

Parish Manager: Butch Redding  
Director of Religious Education: Tina Schultz  
Music Director: Laura Prichard  
Organist/Children's Choir Director: Wendy Covell  
Office Assistant: Kim Tracy

TO: The officers of Cambridge Savings Bank in Arlington at 626 Massachusetts Avenue

RE: Access to the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church communion Silver Trunk located in the basement vault of Cambridge Savings Bank.

DATE: February 17, 2005

By vote of the Parish Committee (Governing Board) held on February 14, 2005, access to the First Parish silver storage trunk is limited to the following individuals:

NAME OF AUTHORIZED PERSON

TITLE

Rev. Dr. Barbara Whittaker-Johns

Senior Minister

Rev. Dr. Barbara Whittaker-Johns

(Rev.) Carlton Elliot Smith  
Rev. Carlton Elliot Smith

Assistant Minister

Cecile Stagnell  
Cecile Stagnell

Parish Clerk

e\*ir

Parish Archivist

The following statement shall govern the number of persons required to be present in order for the bank to allow access to said storage:

"Two of the above authorized persons shall be present in order for the bank to allow access to the said storage"

Upon presentation of this letter and adequate identification the bank shall allow access to the trunk

Cecile Stagnell

---

630 Massachusetts Avenue·Arlington, Massachusetts 02476-5003

email: [info@firstparish.info](mailto:info@firstparish.info)

Church offices: 781-648-3799

website: [www.firstparish.info](http://www.firstparish.info)

---



To: Butch Redding  
<parmanfparl@covad.net>,  
...snip... Johns <revdrbwj@comcast.net>  
From: Assistant Minister  
<assistminfparl@covad.net> Subject:

Hi, Sandy, Cecile, Barbara, Jerry and Butch --

The intention of this email is to track the movement of the 10 coins and one button removed from the trunk in the vault at Cambridge Savings Bank by Sandy King and me this morning, March 7, 2005

I have passed the following to Butch, who will in turn pass them on to Jerry Hallee for the purpose of having them appraised:

1. Copper GW "Long Live the President" button
2. Copper Mass Indian 1787
3. Copper Mass Indian 1787 "whole copper"
4. Copper Mass Indian 1788
5. Copper Franklin 1787
6. Copper half cent 1851
7. Silver half dime 1856
8. Silver dime 1856
9. Silverquarter1856
10. Gold dollar
11. Gold half Eagle (\$5) 1856

Thank you all for your participation in our shared understanding of what has been handed down to us through the ages!  
Yours Carlton

## **Appendix II: Pictures**

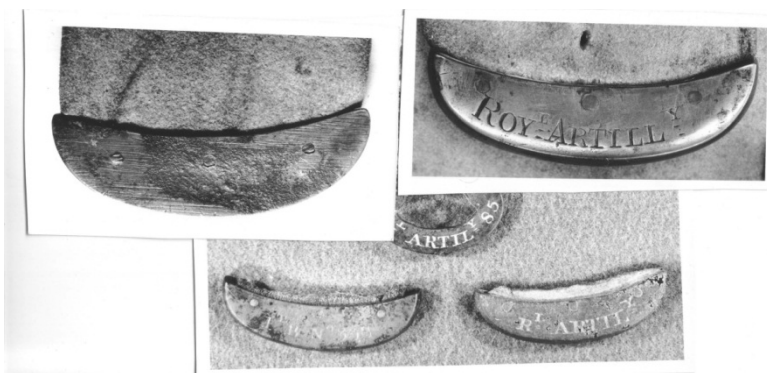
### **Physical Assets of the Congregation Update for Parish Committee and Trustees of the Trust Funds for First Parish Unitarian Universalist, Arlington Massachusetts**

#### **Introduction:**

This appendix brings together pictures of the physical assets of the congregation which were taken in October 2012 as part of an overall appraisal and gathering process undertaken by the Trustees.

This update was undertaken during late 2012 – early 2013 1) for the sake of good order, 2) to explore whether there are specific objects of significant monetary value which First Parish might want to consider selling and 3) to provide a basis for appropriate next steps.

When descriptions are numbered, the numbers refer to the October 2012 appraisal from Mr. Goriansky.



**Brass buckles and strap ends from  
Royal Artillery ammunition pouch  
– photographed September 2012**



**Royal Artillery ammunition pouch  
from which the buckles and strap  
were cut to put in the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Meetinghouse cornerstone –  
photographed September 2012.  
Pouch is owned by the Arlington  
Historical Society**







2. Flagon, pewter, probably London, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

“Spire” form with molded base, molded band on body, scroll handle, hinged, double-domed, lid and baluster (bent) finial. No spout. Engraved on front “Gift of Rebeckah Whitmore, 1739”. Unmarked. Dull color. Height 33 cm.

3. Flagon, pewter, probably London, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

“Spire” form closely matching the previous flagon. Molded base, spout with drop beneath, scroll handle, hinged and double-domed lid with baluster finial (broken off but present). Unmarked. Brighter color. Height (without finial) 31 cm.



4. One of the Set of six tankards, pewter, English, second half 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Pear shaped with molded foot, scroll handle, hinged double-domed lid with thumb piece pierced with heart motif. Three bear the initial "C" on the handles and three "IB". Two "Cs" with dented bodies. Two "IBs" with dented lids. Dull color. Height (including thumb piece) 20 cm.



4. Set of six tankards, pewter, English, second half 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Pear shaped with molded foot, scroll handle, hinged double-domed lid with thumb piece pierced with heart motif. Three bear the initial “C” on the handles and three “IB”. Two “Cs” with dented bodies. Two “IBs” with dented lids. Dull color. Height (including thumb piece) 20 cm.



5. Pair of plates, pewter, Richard King, Jr. (working from 1745, died 1798), London, second half 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Circular with plain rim. Marked with four marks: a crowned Tudor rose with “GRACIOUS STREET”, an ostrich displayed with horseshoe with “RICHARD KING”, “SUPERFINE HARD METTLE”, and “Rd-KING IN:LONDON”. Diameter 34 cm.





7. Spouted tankard, presumed coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Joseph Edwards, Jr. (1737 – 1783), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1769.

Tapered cylindrical form with mid-band, scroll handle, and hinged double-domed lid with wrythen finial. Applied with a later spout to the front. Inscribed on the front “The Gift of Jonathan Buterfield to the Second Church [of Chr]ist in Cambridge 1769 (partially obliterated by the later spout probably added in 1856). Marked on bottom “I.Edwards”. Recorded in Kane, p. 426. Height 22 cm. Weight 28.9 oz

. 8. Spouted tankard, coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Newell Harding & Co. (working 1851-1889), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1856

Made to match the Edwards tankard above. Tapered cylindrical form with mid-band, scroll handle, spout, and hinged double-domed lid with wrythen finial. Inscribed on the front “Presented to the First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the Ladies connected with the Social Circle, 1856”. Height 22 cm. Weight 26.9 oz.



7. Spouted tankard, presumed coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Joseph Edwards, Jr. (1737 – 1783), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1769.

Tapered cylindrical form with mid-band, scroll handle, and hinged double-domed lid with wrythen finial. Applied with a later spout to the front. Inscribed on the front "The Gift of Jonathan Buterfield to the Second Church [of Chr]ist in Cambridge 1769 (partially obliterated by the later spout probably added in 1856). Marked on bottom "I. Edwards". Recorded in Kane, p. 426. Height 22 cm. Weight 28.9 oz

. 8. Spouted tankard, coin (900/1000ths) standard silver, Newell Harding & Co. (working 1851-1889), Boston, Massachusetts, ca. 1856

Made to match the Edwards tankard above. Tapered cylindrical form with mid-band, scroll handle, spout, and hinged double-domed lid with wrythen finial. Inscribed on the front "Presented to the First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the Ladies connected with the Social Circle, 1856". Height 22 cm. Weight 26.9 oz.



9. Pair of chalices or goblets, coin silver, Newell Harding & Co. (working 1851-1889), Boston, Mass., ca. 1856.

Made to match the Crosby & Brown goblets below. Molded spreading foot and knopped stem supports ovoid cup with beaded rim. Inscribed "Presented to the First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the Ladies connected with the Social Circle, 1856". Marked N. Harding & Co. and "coin". Height 18.7 cm. Total weight 16.5 oz.

10. Pair of chalices or goblets, presumed coin silver, Crosby & Brown (working together 1849-1853), Boston, Mass. ca. 1853.

Molded spreading foot and knopped stem supports ovoid cup with finely beaded rim. Inscribed "Presented to the / First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / By a Member / Mrs. S.O. Mead / Jan. 1853". Marked Crosby & Brown up inside stem. Height 18.7 cm. Total weight 15.9 oz.



11. Christening basin, coin silver, Vincent Laforme & Bro. for Samuel T. Crosby, Boston, Mass. ca. 1852.

Spreading molded foot supports circular bowl. Probably made for domestic use and put to sacramental use by First Church. Inscribed "First Congregational Church / West Cambridge / by the / Subscribers Novr 1852". Marked on bottom S.T. Crosby, V.L. & B., Boston, and "pure coin". Height 13.5 cm. Diameter 23 cm. Weight 16.9 oz.





1. Christening basin, pewter, probably London, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century.

Octagonal shape with circular basin and gadrooned rim. Cottrell (p. 104) calls this a “lenticular-beaded edge” in illustrating a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century example. Engraved on bottom “The Gift / of William Brattle Esqr. / to the N Westerly Precinct / In Cambridge”. William Brattle, Jr. lived from 1706 – 1776. Marked with an illegible maker’s mark and the X crowned mark, for quality. Diameter varies between 29.5 cm. and 30.5 cm.



12. Pair of Two Handled Cups, silver-plated, English or American, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Molded spreading foot supports bell-shaped body with two scroll handles terminating in a heart motif. Height 16 cm. One cup tarnished, one cup with body split.

13. Pair of Two Handled Cups, silver-plated, English or American, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Molded spreading foot supports bell-shaped body with two scroll handles. Heights 12.2 and 12.7 cm. One cup tarnished. One with wooden base insert.



14. A pair of plates, silver-plated, English or American, mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

Circular shape with molded brim. Plated on copper. Diameter 29.5 cm. Perhaps the gift of Mrs. S.O. Mead in 1853.

15. A plate, sterling silver, Richard Dimes Company of South Boston for Bigelow, Kennard & Co., Boston, Mass. ca. 1939.

Circular shape with molded brim made to match the two plated plates above. Inscribed on back "Presented to / The First Congregational Church / Arlington / by / George A. Smith / 1939". Diameter 29.8 cm. Weight 18.0 oz.



2. Flagon, pewter, probably London, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

“Spire” form with molded base, molded band on body, scroll handle, hinged, double-domed, lid and baluster (bent) finial. No spout. Engraved on front “Gift of Rebeckah Whitmore, 1739”. Unmarked. Dull color. Height 33 cm.

3. Flagon, pewter, probably London, mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.

“Spire” form closely matching the previous flagon. Molded base, spout with drop beneath, scroll handle, hinged and double-domed lid with baluster finial (broken off but present). Unmarked. Brighter color. Height (without finial) 31 cm.



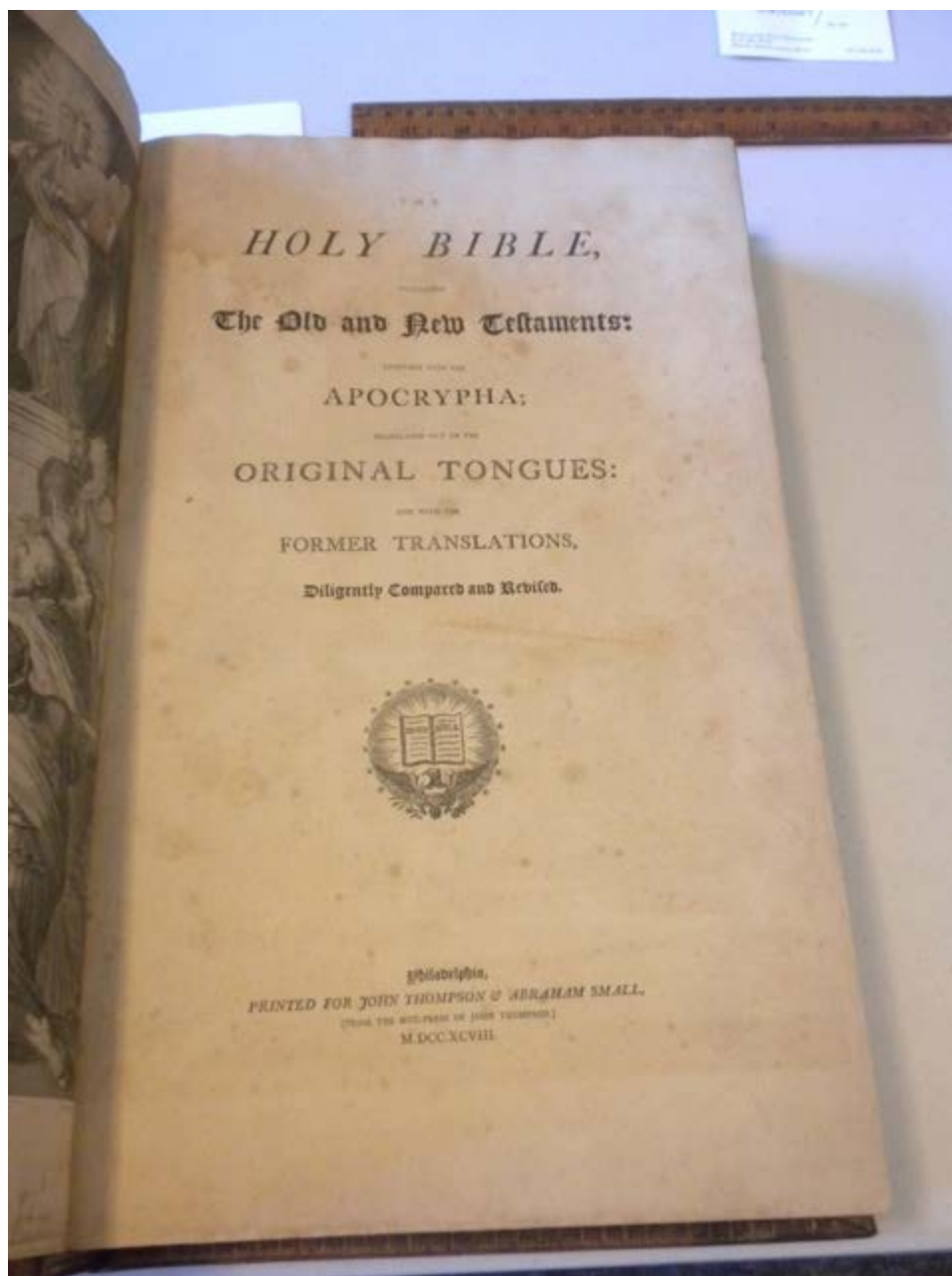


17. Set of six chalices or goblets, silver-plated copper, English or American, 19<sup>th</sup> century.

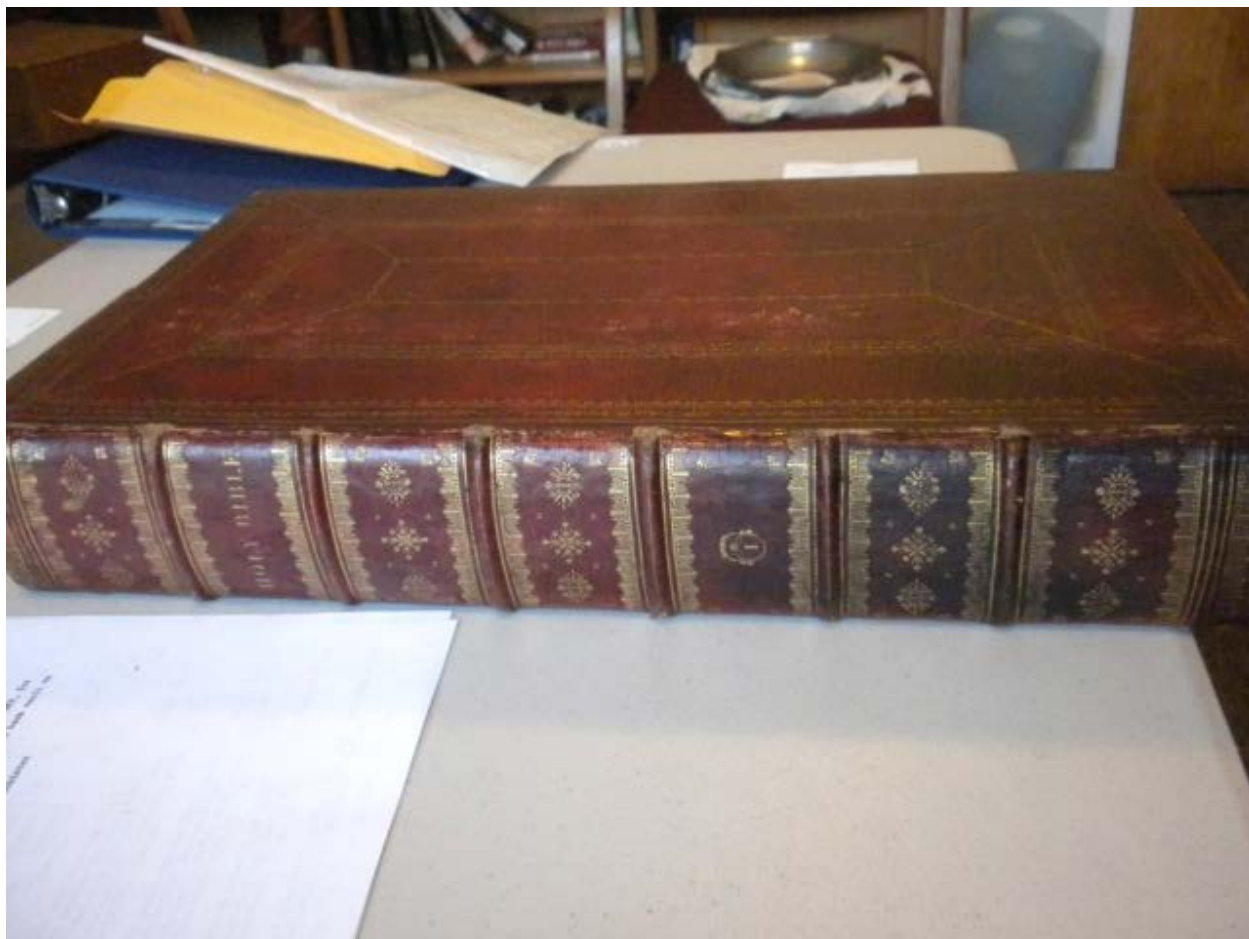
Molded foot and knopped stem support bell-shaped cup. Height 18.5 cm. One chalice discolored.



1798 Thompson & Small Pulpit Bible showing the frontispiece illustration



1798 Thompson & Small Pulpit Bible showing the title page



1798 Thompson & Small Pulpit Bible showing morocco binding





1.0 Christening Basin, pewter probably London, mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. Bottom inscription: "The Gift/ of William Brattle Esqr. / to the N Westerly Precint / In Cambridge"