

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories

The Project

This fall, we are launching a community storytelling project, inviting the First Church community to tell the stories of ordinary folks who were part of our church throughout our 175 year history. We will be creating and using these stories throughout our anniversary celebrations this year. Short pieces could be included in our worship service and longer pieces may be filed in our newly organized archives. We also plan to print a booklet of stories.

The Process

1. Consider whose story you would like to tell. It could be someone you knew personally who has died. It could be a church member from the more distant past you want to learn more about. We have begun to generate a list of people we might write about.
2. Once you've decided who to write about, we'll add that information to the spreadsheet we're keeping.
3. Reflect on and research the person's life, using some or all of the questions below as a guide.
4. For stories that are used in the worship service or published in the booklet we would like them to be no more than 500 words. If you want to write for the archive, you're welcome to be more thorough!

Questions to reflect on and research as you prepare to write your story:

- What was happening in the church while this person was involved?
- What was happening in the wider community, the city, country or world?
- How did they contribute to the church?
- In what way does their life set an example to emulate?
- What aspects of their legacy would you like to see continued?
- Are there things you see differently than they would have?
- Did they do harm that needs to be acknowledged and repaired?
- How do you see yourself or our present community reflected in this person's story?
- Why did you choose to tell their story?
- What did you learn?