

Why I Am I Member Here

By Jack Wallace

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First Parish of Norwell

“Oh! Croesus, [Crow see us] you asked me a question concerning the condition of man and I know that the power above us is full of jealousy, and fond of troubling our lot.”

It was around 560 BC when Croesus was a wealthy king and the speaker, Solon [So Lun] had just left Athens after setting reforms in place by decrees that would last 10 years.

Croesus had asked who the happiest man in Greece was, thinking Solon would answer it was him, the king. By naming others as the first and second happiest people he had met, Solon had refused to flatter Croesus so the King asked why Solon had not named him. To which Solon replied,

“Oh! Croesus, you asked me a question concerning the condition of man and I know that the power above us is full of jealousy, and fond of troubling our lot.”

So, what is the condition of man?

Who says that the power above is full of jealousy?

Is there a power above fond of troubling humans?

To explore these questions and many, many more I attend First Parish Norwell.

I also choose to provide financial support and volunteer my time.

I started attending here to be a good parent. My daughter, Amelia, expressed an interest in attending church and I had an interest in making religious education part of our family. That worked out well, if not perfectly. My wife, Meg and son, Alex, had no interest in attending so Amelia and I came together.

When Amelia went off to college, I continued to attend for different reasons. Such as

- Fellowship - I enjoy surrounding myself with loving, like-minded people
- Social justice - especially to support our Partakers, who do such good, hard work
- Worship service - Especially the music, where I feel like I've snuck into a concert for free (thank you Gingy, choir and other contributors)
- Legacy – I see First Parish with a past, well laid, a present, being laid and a future yet to be laid. I want to place my brick in this church's walkway through history.

Remember, when Solon didn't name Croesus as happiest man in Greece he said, “Oh! Croesus, you asked me a question concerning the condition of man and I know that the power above us is full of jealousy, and fond of troubling our lot.”

Solon went on to explain to Croesus that no single human being is complete in every respect—something is always missing, there are gaps. When someone lives their life filling those gaps, Solon said, retaining what they can, then dies peaceably, without regret, that person may then be called 'happy.'

First Parish Norwell helps me fill the gaps in my life

- Fellowship
- Social justice
- Worship
- Legacy

and will help me die peaceably, without regrets, happy.