

The Spire

The Newsletter of First Parish of Norwell
September 24, 2014
ELECTRONIC EDITION

Volume XIII, Issue 3

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Len DeRoche preaching unless otherwise indicated

September 28:

Our Promissory Note

Rev. Len reflects on racism's face 50 years after Selma, AL and the recent events in Ferguson, MO.

October 5:

Community Animal Blessing

We will bless our animal companions and celebrate St. Francis of Assisi. You and your furry friends are welcome to this celebration of the ways that our lives are enriched by living with and caring for animal companions. Pets should be on a leash or in a carrier. If you have a shy pet who would rather stay at home, or if your pet has passed away, you may bring a photo to be blessed.

October 12:

Being Conservative in a Liberal World

Many UU's have voiced that they feel out of touch with members of our congregations because of political affiliations. Rev. Len will address this issue.

October 19:

Beyond Categorical Thinking

This is a program and a training session hosted by your Search Committee involving the ministerial search.

ROSE AND COLUMN

We're looking forward to some interesting worship services in October. The Search committee is sponsoring a Sunday service with workshop following on helping us look more objectively for your next settled minister. This is the service on Beyond Categorical Thinking.

I'd like to invite you to think of what your membership in First Parish means in terms of service. There are many small tasks that you could assist that would make our parish a more welcoming environment. Each week we invite you to contribute with a floral or other presentation for the table in the front, or host coffee hour with some simple gift that we all appreciate. If you are able, volunteer to greet and usher the many new visitors we have been welcoming. Many hands make all work light.

On Thursday, October 2 I start my dream class for anyone who would like to learn about dream interpretation. The class will be open to members of nearby congregations. My service at the beginning of the month discussed some of effects it can have on your life. I have two books that you peruse to see if you wished to order either for your own use. It is six Thursdays long and after a brief introduction the first week, we will be examining any dreams which you wish to share.

For those that have been following Parsonage renovation there is a good picture record on our Website. They are now beginning to complete the interior. Jack and his crew have the startings of the entrance ramp so you all will be able to visit soon. I look forward to welcome you all in to see the final product as the year progresses.

Yours in Faith and Love,
Rev. Len



CARING CORNER

Help us to keep in touch, celebrate the happy moments in life and support you during the difficult times. Please send your news to Hope in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.org.



FROM THE OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Approximately a year ago, a printer appeared in the office. (It's a Hewlett Packard Office Jet 6210 printer/scanner/copier/fax, complete with owner's manual and software CD for Windows 98, ME, 2000 or XP.) There was no note with it, so I don't know if it was intended as a donation to the church. We don't need it in the office. If the original owner would like to reclaim it, please contact me here in the church office (office@firstparishnorwell.org or 781-659-7122 x10). Otherwise, it will be disposed of appropriately. Which

brings me to my next topic...

The Church Office is a busy place. Items miraculously appear here all the time. It would a BIG help if people would leave a note with any items left in the office. Is the item being picked up by someone? Donated to the church? Should I file it? Mail it? Reorder it? Many thanks for your help and cooperation!

~Hope Weinman

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE!

The Ministerial Search Committee would like you to consider these important dates for your input to the search for our new minister. Your feedback is vital to our search process and we ask that you participate in the following ways.

The **Survey** remains open for your responses until **Wednesday, October 1**. We have received 51 responses to date (as of September 22). Thank you to all who have completed the survey! If you have not already done so, please try to do so as soon as possible. The survey can be completed either online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fpn_sur, or using paper versions which will be available after the service on September 28. The paper surveys are also available from the Church Office. If you have completed a paper version there will be a box available after the September 28 service to return them, or they can be mailed to the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Bernie Gardner (w1az@arrl.net or 781-883-8140).

The **“Beyond Categorical Thinking”** Service and Workshop will be held on **Sunday, October 19**. We will have trainers come and meet with our search committee, lead the Sunday service, and facilitate an additional 3-hour conversation with our entire congregation, where we will have a chance to examine how we can avoid letting biases become a part of our search process. This is another way for us to improve the odds that regardless of our differences, we will find the minister who is the best match for us and will serve us well. **Lunch will be provided for this special program.** Attendance is highly encouraged for everyone in the congregation. We hope that you will participate in this opportunity provided by the UUA, which proves very useful and valuable to the congregations in the search process.



DREAM INTERPRETATION WORKSHOP

Starting on **Thursday, October 2** at 7 pm, Rev. Len will offer a dream class for anyone who would like to learn about dream interpretation. The class is also open to members of nearby congregations at no cost. He has two books that you peruse to see if you wished to order either for your own use. It runs for **six** consecutive Thursdays, until November 6. After a brief introduction the first week, the group will be examining any dreams which you wish to share. No need to preregister, just show up.



THEMED GIFT BASKETS

Wanted: medium to extra-large sized baskets to use for gift baskets to be sold at the Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 22. Please check your stash; you can bring them to Coffee Hour any Sunday morning.

What is a themed gift basket? A gift basket is a collection of new items

based on a theme, placed in a basket and wrapped in clear cellophane with pretty ribbon and with a list of items within.

How to create a gift basket for the Holiday Fair

- Choose a theme (Examples include baby bedtime, movie night, young boy/girl, tea, teen beauty, etc.)
- Choose a basket, yours or ours. You can pick up a basket at any Coffee Hour.
- Shop wisely for new, non-perishable items (watch for sales!) We have found that baskets sell best when they are priced at \$15-45.
- Write down a list of items in the basket and their approximate value to help us in labeling and pricing the basket.
- Bring the basket, its contents, the list of items and their approximate cost to the church any Coffee Hour.
- At Coffee Hour we will help you arrange, wrap, and decorate your basket with a beautiful bow pre-made by Roberta Fairbanks. All supplies provided by us!
- We will type up a list of the contents of your basket for a tag.

Let's make the Gift Basket table another big hit (and profit-maker) of the Holiday Fair!

~Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Chairs

The Basket Ladies -Joanne Howard, Linda Goodwin, Amy and Rae Stephenson, Roberta Fairbanks, Debb Welch and Adrianna McLane



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

The bookworms of the First Parish of Norwell Book Group are off to a great start. New members are always welcome – come to one discussion or come to them all! Our meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. The next discussion is scheduled for **October 1**. We will be talking about “Consigned to Death” by Jane Cleland.



ALLIANCE NEWS

We will be offering a wonderful program to kick start the new Alliance year on **Wednesday, October 15**. Alan Banks of the Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site in Brookline will discuss this famous landscape architect with a slide lecture in the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be served at 10 am followed by a short business meeting and then Alan's program. Sue Robinson, Phyllis Cohen and Helen Keeler will be the hostesses for the day and Sue Robinson will be giving the Thought for the Day. It promises to be an enjoyable fall meeting and we hope to see you all there. All members and friends of the Church are welcome at Alliance meetings.

MOVIE NIGHT



We are again presenting a series of interesting and thought-provoking movies to enjoy and discuss afterwards on the first Saturday of each month. We will be meeting a little earlier this fall, at 6:30 in the Parish Hall. As usual, feel free to bring friends and snacks and beverages of your choice.

Kicking off the year on **Saturday, September 27** will be "**Crash**" (rated R). The movie looks at racism in the 21st century. It is a crime drama set in the LA area. It was nominated for six Oscars, won three and has an all-star cast. Please note that the movie originally scheduled for October 4 ("Inequality for All") has been cancelled. Other movies this year will include "Amistad", "The Normal Heart", "Food, Inc." and "Lincoln", to name a few.

MEN'S GATHERINGS

The first Men's Gathering of the church year will be **Monday, October 6** from 7-9 pm. Marlon and Les Taylor are hosting (22 Canoe Tree Street, Marshfield, 781-837-2929). BYOB and a dish to share. As well, weekly breakfasts are held every Friday at 8:30 am at Sam's Restaurant (146 Front Street) in Scituate Harbor.



MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group returns this fall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Skylight Room. Sessions are scheduled for **October 14, November 11 and December 9**. Meditation is an ancient spiritual practice of mindfulness that leads to greater stress resilience, improved memory and increased empathy. Everyone is welcome whether you have experienced this practice before or are brand new to it. Please join us! Any questions, please contact Ellen Herling at theherlings@comcast.net.



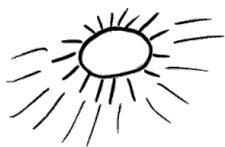
GOT TOWELS?

As part of the **October 5** Blessing of the Animals service, we are conducting a special outreach project. With the closing of the Pembroke Animal Rescue League facility, the Brockton Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts has the sole responsibility to provide services for a very large population of animals in need. There is a desperate need for old towels, sheets, and lightweight blankets to provide soft bedding for animals in the shelter. Please look through your linen closet for donations. An old bath towel can be a perfect bed for an abandoned kitten!

There are large collection bags available in the Parish Hall for your donations. We hope to be able to deliver several bags of bedding to the Animal Protection Center after the Animal Blessing. The

shelter's "Wish List" of other needed items can be seen at <http://www.apcsm.org/pdf/AdoptionCenterWishList.pdf>. You may also pick up a copy of the wish list on the Welcome Table in the church foyer. Thank you!

~Joanne Howard



FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish!



We're really hitting our stride in the Religious Education program right now, and we have some great classes and events coming up. Rev. Len's workshop on dreams will be starting **Thursday, October**

2. This should be a fascinating course covering the meaning behind our dreams, and their impact on our lives. Sign-ups for this class will be available this Sunday, or you can also email me to sign up.

Next, during our animal blessing service on October 5, we will be collecting a variety of supplies for our South Shore animal shelters. We encourage you to bring your old towels, sheets, and other pet supplies to donate. We also hope you will all bring your pets to our service, as long as they are friendly. This service will be multi-generational, and the children will be staying in the service the whole time. Child care will be provided for young children as usual.

Another great way to get involved with our local community is to take part in the Norris Reservation Volunteer Day on **October 18** from 9-3. It should be a good way to reach out to the surrounding community, and do some good for the environment at the same time. This kind of work fits well with our seventh UU principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Our Youth Group and Sunday School classes will be happening as usual next Sunday, and I look forward to seeing you all at church!

~Julian Baptista, Director of Religious Education



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Our first **Service/Outreach Sunday** (formerly "Second Sunday") was a success! Parishioners donated \$540 to benefit the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse of the South Shore Community Action Council, which provides food to food pantries in 25 communities. If you wish, you can still send to the Church Office a check made out to the church and marked "Outreach", and it will be added to the \$540. In years past,

the Fogg Service Committee has contributed funds from its own budget as well. However, we will not be able to continue that, as the Service Committee is among those who had their funds eliminated in this year's budget. Mark your calendar: the next Service/Outreach Sunday will be **October 5**, at the Blessing of the Animals.

We have received a thank you note from Carolyn Gunter, our former Partakers' prisoner who now is in Jamaica, unable to get a job because she is a "deportee." (She was deported on what we feel is a technicality.) The Fogg Service Committee last June voted to set aside what we had left over at the end of the church year (\$6,103), to pay, semester by semester, for Carolyn's master's degree in Special Education classes. She has been assured that Special Ed teachers are badly needed in Jamaica, and if she completes her Masters she will be hired. She wants to be able to work. This money will give her a good start on her classes. Carolyn has said "Thank you" to her sponsors (now good friends) Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock and Bev Gardner, and to you, the parishioners of First Parish Norwell, many times in e-mails. Here is a thank you note from last June:

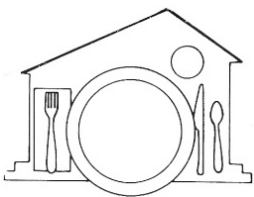
"Hello Everyone

I don't know what to say. I am so grateful. I started this school thing not knowing how I was going to pay for it but I knew it was what I needed to do. The \$6,000 is a blessing it can start me on my way to a brighter future here in Jamaica and maybe back in the USA. Once again First Parish of Norwell I am forever grateful to you for always been there to support me. Who knew that day when Frank Mercier came to visit me at Framingham, God had sent me some Angels. First the Bachelor's and now I am on my way to achieving my Master's. I am forever in debt to you and I won't let you down. thank you! thank you! I also thank the Babcocks, Gardners and Merciers for being my advocates and support. Love you all! Thank you for believing in me and giving me hope for a better future.

Love,

Carolyn"

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs of the Helen Fogg Service Committee
Scott Babcock, Debbie Chase, Pat Crumley, Mary Mercier, Dorothy and Bill Montuori, Amy Stephenson, Jack Wallace and Jane and Stan Wilderoter, members



Diane Koury has volunteered to organize volunteer hosts and hostesses to invite Rev. Len for a home-cooked meal, as a way to thank him for living without a kitchen during the ongoing renovations at the Parsonage. He is generally available Friday and Sunday evenings. If you are able to host a dinner, please contact Diane at 781-659-4659, Hope in the Church Office (office@firstparishnorwell.org or 781-659-7122 x10) or sign up at Coffee Hour.

SAVE THE DATE...
Special Parish Meeting
Sunday, October 26 at 11:30 am



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Follow us on social media to stay in touch with the latest news from the James:

Instagram - @jameslibrarynorwell

Facebook - www.facebook.com/thejameslibrary

Twitter - @TheJamesLibrary

A full calendar of events and ticket information is available at www.jameslibrary.org.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Tinker's Son Pub around the corner at 707 Main Street is sponsoring weekly "Pints and Theology" sessions on Wednesdays at 6 pm. On **September 24**, Rev. Len will be leading the group along with Rev. Pam Barz of First Parish Church in Scituate.

First Parish Church of Duxbury is hosting an evening with Thomas Moore, PhD. He is the author of 20 books on the soul and spirit, as well as his newest book, "A Religion of One's Own". This event will be **Wednesday, October 1** from 7:30 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door; bring a friend along at no additional charge. First Parish Duxbury is located at 842 Tremont Street (Route 3A). For more information, please call 781-934-6532 or email uuduxbury@verizon.net.

The Norwell Council on Aging will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross on **Wednesday, October 1**, from 1 to 6 pm, at 293 Pine Street. Drop-ins are welcome, however the Red Cross encourages that appointments be made by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS (800-733-2767) or visiting www.redcrossblood.org.



On **Sunday, October 12** at 7 pm, a special concert "Our Town – A Celebration of Marshfield" will be held at the newly-built Marshfield High School (167 Forest Street, Marshfield) to dedicate the auditorium. The concert will feature the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Stephen Karidoyanes, along with the Marshfield High Orchestra. MHS seniors (and FPN youth group members!) Molly Twite, Rae Stephenson and Sarah Bitteker will be playing. Tickets are \$25 or \$40 and are available through the Marshfield Friends of Music at www.marshfieldfom.org or 781-248-5544.

On **Saturday, October 18** there will be a community clean-up day at the Norris Reservation from 9 am – 3 pm.

On **Tuesday, October 21** our own Sue Robinson will be speaking to the annual meeting of the Norwell Historical Society. She will be reprising her popular summer worship service on the life of Helen Fogg. The event will take place at Norwell Middle School (328 Main Street). The reception starts at 7:00, the annual meeting at 7:30, and Sue's presentation at 7:45. If you are interested in attending this free event, please RSVP by October 11 by visiting www.norwellhistoricalsociety.org (click on the "Upcoming Events" tab), or leave a message at 781-659-1888.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Saturday, September 27: Movie Night, Parish Hall, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, September 28: Search Committee, Fogg Parlor, 11:15 am
Music Committee, Office, 11:15 am
Youth Group, Fogg Parlor, 5 pm
- Tuesday, September 30: Worship Committee, Office, 7:30 am
- Wednesday, October 1: Book group, Fogg Parlor, 7 pm
- Thursday, October 2: Dream Workshop with Rev. Len, Parish Hall, 7:00 pm
- Saturday, October 4: Al-Anon Gathering, Parish Hall/Skylight Rm./Parlor, 9am-1 pm
- Sunday, October 5: **Service/Outreach Sunday**
Search Committee, Fogg Parlor, 11:15 am
Church Council, Fogg Parlor/Parish Hall, 11:30 am
Activities Committee, Office, 11:30 am
- Monday, October 6: SPIRE deadline – hard copy

The deadline for the next hard-copy edition of The Spire is Monday, October 6.

The full First Parish calendar can be accessed online at the website by selecting "News" on the toolbar, then scrolling to the calendar option.