

The Spire

The Newsletter of First Parish of Norwell

December 17, 2014

ELECTRONIC EDITION

Volume XIII, Issue 9

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Len DeRoche preaching unless otherwise indicated

December 28: to be determined

January 4: Burning Bowl

January 11: Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Pam Barz from First Parish Scituate.

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 25: Robin Williams' Dark Night of the Soul

February 1: William Blake, mystic

February 8: Chocolate Communion

ROSE AND COLUMN

The Parsonage renovation is coming along. I am getting very anxious to get the place organized again. Don Messinger and Jim Millins are completing the Parsonage porch, but unfortunately we don't have the budgeted money to complete it. We need another \$1000. We will complete it and try to raise the money various ways. Our first fundraiser will be a chili cook-off, mostly by the men's group, after church on **January 11**. We need a host for the January Men's meeting on the 12th. If you can host, please let me know.

Since we have some new people attending our worship services I thought I would reiterate what constitutes our Joys and Sorrows. In many religious services there is a time called "prayers for the people" or a "pastoral prayer". This is sacred time where if you wish to share you can share what is most close to your heart: one of life's milestones, or a deep worry. As with the prayers at another denomination's worship, it allows members to reach out to those in need and those who are experiencing one of those milestones. If you still don't know what you should be sharing, think of what is intimately personal to you and decide when you feel the community is safe enough to share. For you who are new to our faith, I hope you will soon feel you can share your joys and sorrows with us.

Yours in faith and love,

Len



CARING CORNER

Healing thoughts go to Joanne Howard, who is recuperating at home from a serious bout with pneumonia.

Your Pastoral Care Team is asking for your help in locating an inexpensive apartment rental for a member of our congregation. Please call the Church Office if you have any suggestions.

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 Weinman in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.com, or contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team (Sue Robinson, Joanne Howard, Joyce Hockman and Betsey Detwiler).



MIDWINTER OPEN HOUSE

Rev. Len will have a family open house on **Saturday, January 17** (MLK Jr. weekend) from 5pm on at the Parsonage - 644 Main Street, Norwell. Bring a dish to share and see the newly-renovated kitchen!



HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Church Office will close at 11:45 am on **Wednesday, December 17** for the staff holiday lunch. Hope and Donna's schedules will change a bit during the week between Christmas and New Year's. Hope will be in on **Monday, December 22** and **Tuesday, December 23**, from 9 am to 1 pm. She will be in *either* **Monday, December 29** or **Tuesday December 30**. Donna will be for a brief period Christmas Eve, and one morning the next week. If you anticipate needing her for something urgent that week, email her ahead of time at donna@firstparishnorwell.org. Regular office hours will resume on **Friday, January 2, 2015**.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, January 15 at 7 pm: "The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion" by Fannie Flagg

Mrs. Sookie Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing and perhaps traveling with her husband, Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Lenore

may be a lot of fun for other people, but is, for the most part, an overbearing presence for her daughter. Then one day, quite by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future. Fabulous, fun-filled, spanning decades and generations, and centered on a little-known aspect of America's twentieth-century story, *The All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion* is another irresistible novel by the remarkable Fannie Flagg.

Wednesday, February 11 at 7 pm: "Boom!: Talking About the Sixties: What Happened, How It Shaped Today, Lessons for Tomorrow" by Tom Brokaw

NOTE: Our February book is 600+ pages, so we're reminding everyone to start reading early! In *Boom!*, Tom Brokaw, one of America's premier journalists and the acclaimed author of The Greatest Generation, gives us an epic portrait of another defining era in America: the tumultuous Sixties. The voices and stories of both famous people and ordinary citizens come together in this "virtual reunion" as Brokaw takes us on a memorable journey through a remarkable time, exploring how individuals and the national mood were affected by a controversial era and showing how the aftershocks of the Sixties continue to resound in our lives today.

We meet in the Fogg Parlor – new members are always welcome!

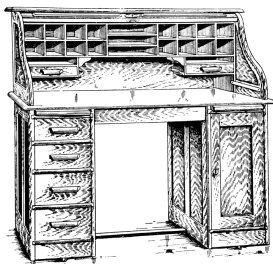
SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 12/7/14

Attending: Marie Miller, Bernie Gardner, Scott Babcock, Ellie Handleman, Mary Nickerson, Sally Turner and Ingrid Carlson

1. Church video update: We continue to collect pictures from several sources. We are open to suggestions for accompanying music. Several church members are assisting us with this compilation.
2. The CR, Survey and Compensation Package have all gone live on the UUA Website. It's been a challenging endeavor, and we are grateful to everyone's efforts to get this out.
3. Mary has created a timeline for the ministerial search effort. She has provided "goal dates" for each step. Thank you, Mary, for helping to breakdown this complicated task.
4. We are on target to complete the packet and have it ready for Laura's approval by mid-December.
5. Ingrid will be writing a template "thank you" to every ministerial inquiry. It will include links to our SC chairs as well as a link to our packet.
6. We discussed developing an evaluation tool for our potential candidates. Bernie has "ranked" desired skills and enthusiasms based on the survey responses of the congregation.
7. Conference call interviews will start in January. Several SC members will be involved in reference checks.
8. We will begin to plan the details involved in orchestrating the neutral pulpit dates, as well as the candidating week. It is our understanding that First Parish will cover all costs in bringing candidates to Norwell.

9. Our mock interviews will happen in Feb. Dates TBD.
10. Next Meeting: Sunday, December 14.

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson, secretary



FROM THE TREASURER AND COLLECTOR

Holiday Donations

As we head into the busy holiday season, we ask you to remember First Parish of Norwell. This is a good time to review all your charitable giving with December 31, 2014 (tax year-end) approaching. To take advantage of the year-end tax deduction, all payments must be dated by December 31, 2014 **and** received by January 5, 2015. As many of you know, budget requests totaling up to approximately \$40,000 could not be funded for fiscal year 2015 due to much lower than expected pledges. Two notable requests that could not be funded were: 1) the Service Committee's entire budget of \$15,000 was eliminated, and 2) the request to give 3% raises to our staff.

Pledge Reminder

The end of December is also the end of First Parish of Norwell's second fiscal quarter, so we ask you to make sure you have completed at least the first half of your pledge for the church's fiscal year (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015). At this point, you should have received a pledge reminder letter from our Collector, Hope Weinman. Please be sure to contact Hope at 781-659-7122 x10 or office@firstparishnorwell.org if you have any questions.

Wishing you and your family good holidays!

Marta Reese, Treasurer
Hope Weinman, Collector



MITTEN TREE

Please remember the Mitten Tree in the Meetinghouse! You can add hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. to it during the month of December. These will be donated to the Norwell Food Pantry. Thank you!



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Such generous parishioners! Traditionally, our December Service/Outreach Sunday (formerly Second Sunday) collection has provided gifts for the MA DCF (Department of Child and Families) for foster children, coordinated by Betsy

Gordon and Scott Babcock. Because the Fogg Service Committee has no budget this year, Betsy scaled back our program, so FPN parishioners provided gifts for 30 children. The total plate money collected was a whopping \$934! Normally, our Fogg Service Committee would double or add to that amount. This year, the \$200 donated by a generous family to our "budget" was added to that amount to make \$1,134. Thanks to Betsy, Scott and Noel Constantino who accepted and checked each gift, to Julian, Debb Welsh and Adrianna McLane who shopped that afternoon for additional gifts and needed items and Betsy who worked with the children's social workers to provide items badly needed by the foster families. Quite an undertaking!

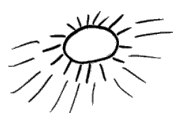


GUEST AT YOUR TABLE COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY!

Each year at this time, our congregation participates in Guest at Your Table (GAYT) - a decades-long UU tradition. At our Thanksgiving service, Julian introduced this year's program with a reminder that it is better to make a financial donation to GAYT than try to mail a peanut butter and fluff sandwich!

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human rights work continues. Please consider making a donation of \$125 to be eligible for the matching grant: any donation of \$125 or more will be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to a generous grant by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y.

Guest at Your Table envelopes are available at the church. We will be collecting the envelopes Sunday, December 21st. If you prefer you may mail your envelope or make your contribution online at uusc.org/givetoguest. Contact Sue Robinson at 781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com for further information.



FROM THE DRE

Happy Holidays, First Parish!



This past week marked the end of our first semester of Sunday school, and I want to first thank all of the people who volunteered their time and passion to teaching these past few months. We couldn't have done it without them. So without further ado, here are the folks you haven't seen a whole lot during the service, because they've been dedicating their time to teaching the next generation of UUs: Scott Garland, Abby Yardley, Emily Grant, Patti Walters, Meghan Prentiss, Elizabeth Robey, Jordan Grant, Thad Robey, and Erin Puleio who runs the Youth Group with me. We would also like to thank Tom Yardley, Shastin Garland, Sue Keady, Ellie Handelman and Clayton Handelman for filling in whenever we needed them!

In addition to this, we have our Nativity in a Trunk service, which is fully inter-generational this coming **Sunday, December 21**. This is a fun service which really gets you into the Christmas spirit. The service tells the story of the Nativity, while involving people in the congregation to create a

living nativity. There will be a lot of music and meaningful reflection, and we know you'll enjoy it (especially if you don't take yourself too seriously)!



Finally, coming up on **Saturday, January 31** at 7:00 pm, the RE program will be hosting an 80's Dance Party. Come down to FPN and dance the night away to all of the best 80's hits. We'll have lights, lasers, music, snacks, and even a disco ball! We know you'll want to hear all your favorites, so we'll have a clipboard available during Coffee hour each Sunday, or you can just add your request to our Google document here:

docs.google.com/document/d/1ODbgwHWJu-7wgDvCtGhTip20aJ4cCO7P8jFv1fdvs78/

We will not be serving alcohol, but if you'd like to bring your own beer or wine you are welcome to. The event is free, so bring all the friends you like. See you there!

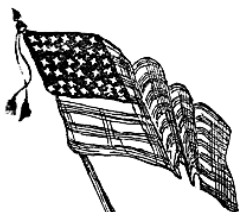
Thank you everyone for making this year a great one at First Parish of Norwell - everyone in the RE program is looking forward to the new year and second semester!

Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education



CD AVAILABLE

At last Sunday's service many enjoyed and were impressed with clarinetist Peter Bianca. Peter does have a professionally produced CD which includes the Jeanjean Arabesques that he played for the prelude and postlude. This outstanding CD entitled "Generations" has clarinet music from the Romantic period through the 21st century with piano accompaniment. MP3's of some of the CD tracks are available online via Emeritus recordings. If you are interested in the CD, please contact Dexter Robinson, dexpdoc@gmail.com. The CD is \$15 with no shipping charge.



HOLIDAY CARDS FOR RECOVERING SOLDIERS

Deanna Riley thoughtfully passed along this idea. For those of you that mail out Christmas cards, why not send an extra card to serviceman or servicewoman currently in the hospital? Simply address it to:

A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001

If everyone sent a card of thanks to our recovering service people it might just add a little light into their life and let them know that there are people who are appreciative for what they have done.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Children of the Same God

Please join us on Thursday, January 15 at 10:30 am when Susan J. Ritchie will speak on her book *Children of the Same God: The Historical Relationship Between Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam* in the Performing Arts Center in the Derby Clubhouse at Linden Ponds. Susan Ritchie is the parish minister at North

Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center, Ohio. She holds a doctorate in cultural/religious studies from Ohio State University. She has published many articles and chapters on Unitarian Universalist history and polity, American religious history, comparative religion, cultural theories of religion, and the literature, theology, and history of Ottoman Islam. She is also secretary and member of the board of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The Tinker's Son Pub around the corner at 707 Main Street is sponsoring weekly "Pints and Theology" sessions on Wednesdays at 6 pm. Rev. Len co-leads the group along with other local clergy members.

The deadline for the next hard-copy edition of *The Spire* is Monday, January 5, 2015.

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