

The Spire

The Newsletter of First Parish of Norwell

November 19, 2014

ELECTRONIC EDITION

Volume XIII, Issue 7

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Len DeRoche preaching unless otherwise indicated

November 23: **Thanksgiving Family Service**

First Parish's celebration of Thanksgiving, which includes pumpkin bread Communion.

Wednesday, November 26 at 7pm:

The **Annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service**, sponsored by the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders' Association will be held in Old Ship Meeting House, 107 Main Street, Hingham. An interfaith choir will be led by Berni Nadeau. The offering will be given to the Wellspring Multi-Service Center in Hull.

November 30: **Robin Williams' Dark Night of the Soul**

Robin Williams suffered from depression, his "dark night of the soul", despite his outwardly gregarious persona.

December 7: **World AIDS Sunday**

We will recognize World AIDS Day. Join us for a showing of the film "The Normal Heart" on **Saturday, December 6** at 6:30 pm in the Skylight Room.

December 14: **Solstice Service**

The worship will celebrate our connection to the earth and our shortest day of the year.



CARING CORNER

David Hockman is doing well and resting at home following recent spinal surgery.

Healing thoughts for Mary Lou Sutter who is recovering from knee surgery, and hopes to be home for Thanksgiving. Mary Lou would appreciate receiving cards (Spaulding Rehab, 311 Service Road, Room 247-B, East Sandwich, MA 02537).

Our condolences go to Ellen Herling and her family. Ellen's brother died this week after a long struggle with cancer.

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).

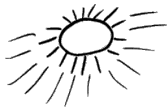


HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 22

9 am – 2:30 pm

Come one, come all and make special memories!



FROM THE DRE



Hello First Parish! Well, I'm just getting over the sleep deprivation from our Youth Conference (titled UnCONventional) on Sunday, but we all had a great time meeting and reuniting with the youth from all over New England! We had 55 youth at the CON, and ran workshops on topics ranging from social justice, to music, to knitting, and logic. The CON was capped off by a wonderful youth-led midnight worship service. I am always moved by the depth and wisdom of our youth, as well as their ability to mix humor, kindness, and self knowledge within a meaningful worship service.

I hope you will all make sure to attend the Youth Service on **Sunday, March 15**, where our youth will be sharing this worship style with the congregation at large.

This Wednesday at 7 pm will also begin our Adult Education course: "Resistance and Transformation: Unitarian Universalist Social Justice History". Grounded in the belief that even "failures" in our history can be instructive, this program presents the ongoing struggle of our tradition to live up to its ever-evolving ideals of social transformation. We still have a few spaces in the class, and we'd love to see you there!

For people of all ages, we hope you will join us at our 80's Dance Party on **Saturday, January 31** at 7:00 pm! We'll play all of your favorites, dress up in our 80's finest, and have a lot of fun under the disco ball! Then on **Saturday, March 28**, we will have our congregation's talent show. This is an opportunity to share your gifts with the community, and have a ton of fun at the same time! We encourage any kind of performance, including music, dance, poetry, juggling, and anything else you can think of.

Thank you everyone - I can't wait to see you all at church!

~Julian Baptista, Director of Religious Education

SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

1. The Compensation Package was discussed at length. Part of our negotiation will be to come to an agreement on the number of Sundays the minister takes off. The draft will be left flexible as to when these Sundays are to be taken off.
2. The final draft of the Congregational Record has been sent out in an all-church email on November 13. We have had a few comments re: details on our endowment and some historical data. These issues will be clarified and incorporated into the record. Overall, the response has been very positive. Hard copies are available in the office. A survey hard copy has also been printed, and will be available on a sign-out basis.
3. Our target completion goal for the packet is for the beginning of December. It will be available mid-Dec. for Laura's approval. We need to complete the bios of the committee members.
4. The Ministerial Search Web Page has been created by Debi Meddaugh. It's password-protected. Bernie is acting as our liaison to Debi.
5. Mary has contacted Kevin, hoping he will assist us with a video of the church, events, etc. We discussed gathering pictures from several archivists in the parish (Bev, Dexter) and also getting some pictures of the renovated parsonage. If Kevin can't assist, we will work on it within the group. We floated the idea that perhaps Ginky could provide some accompanying music for the photo montage.
6. We re-iterated that all must attend the neutral pulpit events. We discussed the possibility of arranging a mock interview before the real ones to "work out the kinks".
7. We agreed on December 21 as the date for our conference call with Laura - to start after church.
8. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 23.

Submitted: Ingrid Carlson, secretary

WHO DOES WHAT AT FPN?

Ministry is a shared endeavor that engages all members in the work of our congregation. Committees are the backbone of the organizational structure of the church and are the primary method for how our ministry is accomplished. Committees are also a vehicle for members to contribute their talents, enjoy fellowship, and deepen community, while benefiting First Parish and the community we serve.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee, working closely with the minister, creates, coordinates and/or supports Sunday services and other religious celebrations, encouraging lay participation in our services as readers and worship leaders. The Worship Committee would welcome your input and/or your presence on the committee.

Committee Members:

Joyce Pickel, Chair (508-746-4647)

Marcia Babcock, Joanne Howard, Marie Miller, Shelley Vaugine, Les Taylor (Head Usher), Noel Constantino or Bev Gardner, Helen Fogg Service Committee representative, Gingly Grimes (Music Director), Julian Baptista (Director of Religious Education) and Rev. Dr. Len DeRoche (Interim Minister).

TAKE A PEEK AT OUR CONGREGATIONAL RECORD!

The Search Committee invites our congregation to view this extensive document, known as the Congregational Record, which describes to ministerial candidates the culture of our church. It contains information which the Search Committee has compiled and extrapolated from our Cottage Meetings, Survey, Beyond Categorical Thinking, and historical background of our church community. An all-church email was sent out this week with an attachment of this document, so you can read about who we are at First Parish of Norwell, and how we worship, and what we seek in a minister. A hard copy of the Congregational Record will be available in the church office to sign out and return. A hard copy of the Survey is also available to sign out as well. The Search Committee appreciates the enormous efforts of Sally Turner and Mary Nickerson, with the assistance of Bernie Gardner and Marie Miller, for creating this very inviting document that will make First Parish of Norwell appealing to ministers in search. Take a peek!

MEN'S GATHERINGS

The December men's gathering will be on **Monday, December 8** at 7 pm at Bernie Gardner's home (177 Washington Street, N. Pembroke - 781-829 0932). BYOB plus a dish to share. As well, men's breakfasts take place each Friday morning at 8:30 am at Sam's Restaurant (146 Front Street) in Scituate Harbor.



COOKIE WALK

Join us again this year for our Cookie Walk. It will take place on **Saturday, December 13**, from 10 am to sellout. Come take a few quiet minutes out of your hectic holiday chores to sip a cup of coffee and nibble on a warm cookie right out of the oven as you contemplate your choices and fill boxes to give as gifts or enjoy yourself. We'll also need lots of bakers. Sign up with Noel Constantino (339-244-4778 or i.noelsie@gmail.com).



HOLLYWOOD COMES TO NORWELL!

By now, many of you have heard that Disney is now filming a movie on the South Shore and Cape Cod. "The Finest Hours" tells the story of the daring Coast Guard rescue of the crew of an oil tanker that broke up and sunk off the coast of Scituate in 1952. The movie will star Chris Pine and Eric Bana. The cast and crew have been headquartered at the former Fore River Shipyard in Quincy, where an enormous water tank has been built to film the action sequences. On the nights of Monday, **December 1 and Tuesday, 2**, they will be filming a scene at the Cushing Center here in Norwell Center depicting a dance. The production company has rented our Parish Hall, and will be using it as a cafeteria and staging area for the cast and crew. If you have additional questions, please contact Hope in the Church Office.

The Church Office will be closed
Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28
for the Thanksgiving holiday.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

The next discussion is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 3** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. The book being discussed is "Breakfast with Buddha" by Roland Merullo. All are welcome!



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. Tonight's guest is Rev. Sarah Clancy, a chaplain at NVNA Hospice. Rev. Len co-leads the group along with other local clergy members.

Norwell High School's theater company, the *Fourth Wall Players*, is currently in rehearsal for *The Laramie Project*. The play exposes the prejudice and hatred which led to the brutal murder in 1998 of gay student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, and by inference takes a firm stance for tolerance, acceptance and diversity. The show will be presented at 7 pm on **December 4, 5 and 6**. Tickets are \$12 and available at the box office an hour before performance time.

The deadline for the next hard-copy edition of The Spire is Monday, December 1.

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