

The Spire

The Newsletter of First Parish of Norwell
January 21, 2015
ELECTRONIC EDITION

Volume XIII, Issue 11

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Len DeRoche preaching unless otherwise indicated

January 25: **“Robin Williams’ Dark Night of the Soul”**

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

February 1: **“William Blake, Mystic”**

William Blake was not a Unitarian or Universalist, yet some of his visual and verbal image I find profoundly mystical. We will sing the hymn “Jerusalem” from the British tradition.

February 8: **Chocolate Auction**

RE committee will have a chocolate auction. Sermon topic TBD.

February 15: **Lincoln**

February 22: Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Catherine Cullen of First Parish Duxbury

March 1: **Hutzpah, Humility and Hubris**

March 8: **Union Sunday at First Parish Scituate at 10:30 am**

The congregations of First Parish of Norwell, First Parish in Scituate, First Parish in Cohasset, Old Ship Church and Second Parish Church in Hingham celebrate our historic ties with a union service. There will be a special activity for the children. First Parish Scituate is located at 330 First Parish Road, Scituate. *Please note that there will be NO services in Norwell that day.*



CARING CORNER

We wish Shelley Vaugine quick healing for a knee replacement she is having done Monday, January 19. She will be having her follow-up rehab at Queen Anne’s Nursing Home, 50 Recreation Park Drive, Hingham, MA 02043 and would welcome cards and visitors.

Roberta Fairbanks is having planned surgery Monday, January 19 and will be home on Tuesday. We wish her a speedy and uneventful recovery.

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).



PASTORAL CARE TEAM - *"To minister to each other's needs..."*

The Pastoral Care Team continues to provide some meals for Bill Carpenter (who grew up at First Parish) and his family as he recovers from a spinal injury incurred last summer. Bill is effusive in his thanks to church people for the meals and says it has been great – he even enjoys the leftovers for lunch the next day! Since he is busy with therapies during the day while his wife is at work and his daughter is at school, having some meals each week is a very big help. Please consider helping with this team effort. Contact Sue Robinson at 781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com if you could deliver a meal to Bill's front porch cooler in Scituate on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



THE VOTES ARE IN!

First Parish of Norwell has a new logo that captures the spirit of our congregation and will represent us in the community. Through a poll, Parish members chose the logo from among three prototypes designed executed by Bob Sutter with his customary attention to detail and creativity. The Parish Committee would like to acknowledge with great appreciation both Bob's efforts and the support he received from Debi and John Meddaugh.



ALLIANCE UPDATE

Save the date, **Wednesday, February 18**, for the next Alliance meeting and Book Review. The meeting is being held in the Fogg Parlor at 10 am and our reviewer is Vivian Perry, who will be sharing her book review with a mystery guest. Refreshments will be served at 10 am by Phyllis Buell, Sue Sulc and Chris Travi. All friends of the Parish are invited.

MEN'S GATHERINGS

The next Men's Dinner is **Monday, February 9** at 7 pm at Bob Sutter's (264 Brook Street, Hanson). BYOB and 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.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

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

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.

This is a long book – 600+ pages. Those who have already started it report that it is divided into manageable sections, and that it is easy to jump around. Please come even if you have only read a portion of it. We will also be selecting our books for the next few months of discussions, so bring your ideas! New members are **always** welcome.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

At the end of a church event or committee meeting, please remember to:

- ✓ Wash out your coffee cups and dispose of your snacks
- ✓ If you met in the Church Office, please re-set the furniture to its original arrangement
- ✓ Unplug the coffee maker
- ✓ Turn off the water heater for the dishwasher
- ✓ Turn down the heat to 55 degrees
- ✓ Turn off the lights
- ✓ Lock the doors

If another group is using the facility at the same time, please check in with them and decide who is taking care of these tasks. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!



JAMES LIBRARY & CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Jazz at the James

Saturday, January 24 at 7:30 pm

Yoron Israel and High Standards. Join us for an evening of traditional and contemporary jazz. Tickets are available at 781-659-7100, www.jameslibrary.org and at the door (space permitting). No need to drive to Boston for high-quality jazz. This group is the real deal!

The Wooden Synagogue Project

Monday, February 2 at 7:30 pm

Meet Laura and Rick Brown of Norwell's Handhouse Studio, who coordinated a 1-year, international collaborative project to recreate one of Poland's historic wooden synagogues. This free illustrated program will be popular, so call the James at 781-659-7100 to reserve your seat.



FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish!



I've been having a great time leading our Social Justice Adult RE course "Resistance and Transformation" over the past month. We have a great group of people, and the discussions are always fascinating. Our next couple of classes will be **Wednesday, January 21** and **February 4** at 7:00 pm in the Fog Parlor. Feel free to drop into any of our classes.

For the art lovers of the church we also have another adult program coming up in March. On **Wednesday, March 25** at 7:30 pm, Bob Sutter will be leading a class on Art Appreciation. This will not be your usual class however, instead of sitting in a line watching a slideshow of masterpieces, Bob will be talking about all different ideas of art, and even the preconceptions we have about our sight. Forget everything you know about what art is for this class!

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!

We have a lot coming up in programs for children and youth as well. First, our mini-session program will be continuing for two more weeks, ending after the first week of February. Then our second semester in Sunday School will begin on **February 8**.

For the youth of our congregation, on **January 30** our Youth Group will be going down to Providence, RI for a conference, or CON. These gatherings allow the youth of our congregation to connect with youth from all around Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and are wonderful learning and social experiences.

On **February 8** after the service will be our annual Chocolate Auction! This is a fun (and delicious!) fundraiser for the Youth Group, where the youth and any members of the congregation who would like to, cook a whole lot of chocolate and other goodies to be sold during coffee hour. This year the

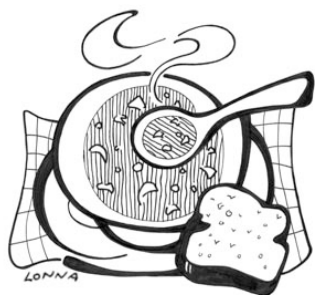
Youth Group will be making fudge, and I encourage everyone who's interested to make their specialty for this event!

Finally, on **Sunday, February 14** from 6-10 pm the Youth Group will be hosting a Valentine's Dance for teens. Admission is \$5, and we're looking forward to a great crowd! If you know of any interested teens, please pass it along!

Thank you all - see you at church!

Julian Baptista

Director of Religious Education



SOUP-ER BOWL

The recent Chili Sunday fundraiser coordinated by the Men's Group was a big success! We've decided to try it again, this time with soup. On **Sunday, February 1** (in honor of the Super Bowl!) during Coffee Hour we will have a selection of soups to choose from. If you would like to bring a batch of soup, please coordinate with Bev Gardner at bevgardner@comcast.net or 781-826-0932. The suggested free-will donation is \$5 per person; the proceeds will benefit the operating budget of the church.



SUPER BOWL PARTY

Join us for a fundraiser for your Youth Group! Whether or not you come watch the game with us, you can support the Youth Group by buying a chance on the 50/50 game grid. There are 100 chances to win on the grid. A grid block costs \$10. We could raise \$500 for the Youth Group if all blocks are sold. There will be four grid winners, one for the end of each quarter, and one for the final game score. See Jim Pickel during coffee hour to buy a block on the grid. All chances will be sold ahead. On **Sunday, February 1**, come and watch together on our 80" flat-screen media center. Bring snacks and goodies to share and your own beverages. Find out who the big winners are. The event is estimated to start at 6 pm, but stay tuned for specifics.



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Service/Outreach Sunday last Sunday featured the heating oil program of the South Shore Community Action Council which is based in Plymouth but which services many local towns. Thank you to Noel Constantino who wrote the short talk, to Joyce Pickel who read it, and to the parishioners who donated \$567.00. If

you would like to add to that amount, please send a check to the office made out to First Parish of Norwell, and put "heating oil" or "Outreach" in the memo line! Thank you!

Our next Service/Outreach Sunday will be in two weeks, on **February 2**. Jim Pickel will speak about a topic near and dear to many of our hearts- the **Partakers College Behind Bars program**, for which teams of four people visit a prisoner at MCI-Framingham or MCI-Norfolk, encouraging them in all aspects of life but particularly in their getting a degree from Boston University. BU sends professors to the prisons, and those who qualify work toward their BA. We started back in 2000 with 3 women at MCI-Framingham. Two dropped out of the program, but Carolyn Gunter completed her BU bachelor's degree, finished her time, got a good job, and now, in Jamaica, she is starting her second semester of a Master's in Special Education. Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock and Bev Gardner are so proud of our mentoree and dear friend, Carolyn! Now Bev has joined the team supporting Larry LaMiere, (at MCI-Norfolk, who has almost finished his degree and his time at the prison) along with Phyllis Buell, Peg Carpenter and Jim Pickel. (Before his death, Harry Heineman was on the team.) Right now we have only Larry as our active Partaker's prisoner. We would like to be able to support more prisoners! In future Spires, I will comment on two additional successful former prisoners whom we have sponsored via Partakers, John and Wayne.

Other First Parish Norwell people who have been involved with visiting prisoners through Partakers throughout the years are Rachel Tedesco (student minister who got us involved with Partakers), Paul Coolidge, Frank Mercier, Peg Kitchenham, Carrie Brandon, Stan and Jane Wilderoter, Deanna Riley, Dexter Robinson and Dorothy Montuori.

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, Jack Wallace and Jane and Stan Wilderoter, members

SEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2015

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

1. This was a 4 hour session for the group. We conducted a mock interview and received much useful feedback regarding our questions and format.
2. We have had a robust response to our search inquiry. We discussed our candidates and began to establish a timeline for further interviewing.
3. Calls were made to confirm several interviews. Several of our members will gather during the week to try to reach and schedule other candidates for future interviews. They will also check references.

4. It was our consensus that the next few meetings would also be marathon sessions due to the thoroughness of our interviews and the number of folks we hope to talk to.

Submitted by: Ingrid Carlson – secretary



SAVE THE DATE - MOVIE NIGHT

Lincoln (PG-13)

Saturday, February 14 at 6:30 pm

Skylight Room

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sunday, January 25: Search Committee, Fogg Parlor, 11:15 am
Finance Committee, Office, 11:30 am
- Monday, January 26: Search Committee, Church Office & Minister's Office, 7-9 pm
Preschool Board Meeting, Fogg Parlor 6:30-8:30 pm
- Tuesday, January 27: Tai Chi, Parish Hall, 9:15 am
Knitters, Fogg Parlor, 9:30 am
- Thursday, January 29: Invested Funds Committee, Fogg Parlor 9 am-5 pm
- Saturday, January 31: Preschool, Parish Hall & Kitchen, 9 am-noon
80's Dance, Parish Hall, 7-9 pm

The deadline for the next hard-copy edition of *The Spire* is Monday, February 2, 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.