

The Spire

The Newsletter of First Parish of Norwell
October 28, 2015
ELECTRONIC EDITION

Volume XIV, Issue 5

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching unless otherwise indicated

November 1:

“Beside the Still Waters”

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes, Minister Emeritus.

NOTE: The 2nd annual South Shore Half Marathon will be held on November 1. Roughly 3,000 runners will be finishing in Norwell Center between 8:30 and 10:30 am. West Street will be closed between Scituate Federal Savings Bank and the Norris Reservation. Dover Street will be closed as well. The best access to the center of Norwell will be via Main Street. The race course covers much of Norwell. Residents will be allowed in and out of traffic when it is safe for the runners and at the discretion of the police officers. Please plan extra travel time that morning, and car pool if possible. Race staff, runners and spectators have been informed that they will *not* be able to park in the church’s parking lots. For more information on the race itself, visit www.southshorehalf.com.

November 8:

“The Promises We Make”

Making promises, or a covenant, is at the foundation of our religious tradition. As we prepare for our installation this afternoon, I thought it would be good to talk about promises and why they are so important to us.

November 15:

“Learning and Remembering”

November 20 is worldwide Transgender Day of Remembrance as we acknowledge those who have lost their lives for being brave enough to be who they really were. I’ll share a story (with permission) of a transgender friend and we’ll ponder how we can help these folks to live more freely. This is an Outreach Sunday and on **Tuesday, November 20** we’ll have a vigil in Norwell Center at 6-7 pm.

November 22:

Multigenerational Thanksgiving Service

All ages will worship together for the entirety of the service today and we’ll share a communion of bread and juice.

CARING CORNER



It was great to see Scott Garland at the Halloween party on Saturday following his return from Arizona where he had some corrective surgery of his chest. He is doing fine.

Bill Montuori continues with cardiac rehab appointments for which many of you are providing rides. In addition, he could use rides to Sunday church services and other events until he is given the okay to be driving. Contact Sue Robinson if you could assist.

Dorothy Montuori will be remembered at a memorial service here at FPNUU on **Sunday, November 15** at 2 pm. Rev. Lise will be officiating. The service will be followed by a collation in the Parish Hall. If you can help with the collation in any way (set up, providing food, cleaning up, etc.), please contact Sue Robinson directly (781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com). If you would like to view Dorothy's full obituary, please click here: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/wickedlocal-cohasset/obituary.aspx?n=dorothy-e-montuori&pid=175992869>.

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, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Noel Constantino, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The installation of our 29th settled minister, Reverend Lise Adams Sherry, will be held on **Sunday, November 8**, at 4:00 pm here at First Parish of Norwell. The church will be hosting the reception (in the Parish Hall) following the Installation Service.

Please contact Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840 if you can provide an item for the food table. Children are welcome and baby care will be provided.

ALLIANCE NOVEMBER BOOK REVIEW



This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 11** at 10 am in the Fogg Parlor and will feature Carolyn Housman as our Book Reviewer. A member of several book groups, outstanding gardener and daylily grower, and one who has thoughtful insights on life and books, Carolyn will be sure to provide an interesting morning. Guests are always welcome at Alliance meetings.



HOLIDAY FAIR

Saturday, November 21, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

We need your help with this major fundraiser.

We will need you to bake, make handcrafts, clean out your closets and bring your clean, good toys, books/CDs and household treasures to the church the week before. The **Jewelry Table** has put out a special call for good jewelry items. See Bev Gardner for ideas on gift baskets you could make.

Sue Robinson will again chair an **Artists Table** – featuring work by First Parish artists and friends. Work may be sold on consignment with all or a portion of the sale going to the church.

To volunteer, please call Peg Kitchenham at 781-447-5831 or chrispegk@verizon.net.

Be a part of this year's fair and make special memories! Be sure to bring a good appetite for lunch and don't miss the fun of this important all church activity, Saturday, November 21 from 9:00 to 2:30.



HOLIDAY FAIR BAKE TABLE

for your help!

Pies, cookies, breads, jams, jellies, pickles, beans, candies and apple crisps. We need all of these to sell at the Bake Table and we need all of you at First Parish to warm up your ovens and get to work. If you need a recipe, please call Helen Keeler at 781-837-8248. Thank you



THEMED GIFT BASKETS FOR THE HOLIDAY FAIR

We have some creative and wonderful baskets promised. Thank you all so much! There are only three more Sundays on which we can help you wrap your basket with our supplies during Coffee Hour. Baskets **MUST** be in on the Sunday **before** the Holiday Fair, **Sunday, November 15**. Roberta Fairbanks-thank you so much for making all those lovely bows for the baskets!

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs

Basket Ladies- Roberta Fairbanks, Joanne Howard, Linda Goodwin, Amy and Minnie Stephenson, Debb Welsh, Adrianna McLane and Penny Corbett

MEN'S GATHERING

The next Men's Gathering will take place on **Monday, November 2** at Scott Babcock's home (86 Old Meetinghouse Lane, Norwell – 781-659-2956 or scart41@aol.com). Scott will provide the entrée; BYOB and a dish to share.

FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP



Join us on **Wednesday, November 4** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. Rev. Lise will lead this special discussion of “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption” by Bryan Stevenson. This is the UUA’s “Common Read” book for the year. What is the one commonality of people on death row? If the victim is white, the perpetrator is 11 times more likely to be condemned to die than if the victim is black. When Stevenson was a 23-year-old Harvard law student, he started an internship in Georgia where his first assignment was to deliver a message to a man living on death row. This assignment became his calling: representing the innocent, the inadequately defended, the children, the domestic abuse survivors, the mentally ill—the imprisoned. This fast-paced book reads like a John Grisham novel. Two copies of the book are available to borrow on a first come/first served basis; contact the Church Office if interested.

PENNY DRIVE CONTINUES ON!



The RE kids and Helen Fogg Service Committee are continuing to collect pennies! The jar is on the welcome table. This year the money collected will go towards goods and cash donations to Carolina Hill, a shelter in Marshfield for homeless families. A record of the amount collected to date is next to the collection jar for anyone curious. Thank

you for your ongoing generosity!

~Gabe Carroll

FIRST PARISH OF NORWELL PARISH COMMITTEE GOALS 2015-2016

Based on past work, current priorities, and future direction, the Parish Committee set the following goals for FY16 at our annual retreat. We are distributing them to the congregation so that all can participate in our shared journey.

1) Enrich and deepen the meaning of membership in our church

- a) Explore ways to remind members what it means to be a member of FPN (UU)
- b) Integrate newcomers into the life of the church
 1. Have greeters at the door on Sunday Morning
 2. Visitor introductions during service
 3. Feature members & new members – Spire Spotlight
- c) Encourage new participation on Membership Committee
- d) Have a Conversation on GROWTH, e.g., sermon; polarities of growth talk/newsletter
- e) Determine options for expanding from 10 months to a 12 month church

2) Increase Giving (of talent, time, treasure) in the congregation

- a) Shift the culture from once-a year-cavass to year-round stewardship
- b) Fundraising 2.5

1. Several small events or 1 or 2 big ones
 2. Discuss with Activities Committee
- c) Strategies for Annual Pledge Drive
1. small-group meetings/coffees
 2. Circle Dinners
 3. Commitment Sunday
 4. Use new media center
 5. Introduce alternative payment methods (credit card, EFI, PayPal)
- d) Social Justice Sunday
- e) RE Service Projects

3) Encourage new leadership and commitment to do the work of the church

Committees:

- a) Create Leadership Development Opportunities: How to be an Usher; How to Teach an RE course; How to Preach a Sermon
- b) Invested Funds Committee – add member from PC & FC Deanna, Jim, Marta
- c) Define Right Relations process & develop FPN Behavioral Covenant Jim & Lise
- d) Survey FPN members professions/interests– use form at photo session Les , Lise, Sue, Julian
- e) Expand the resources of the Parish Committee through use of ad hoc committees:
- Collect church policies and put on website and in church office Deanna & Elizabeth
 - Determine outside Audit procedure Lise, Marta, Jay, Prue
 - Transition to Electronic Spire Lise, Hope, R. Sutter
 - Establish church land ownership Deanna, Jim, Dex
 - Analyze current church data base/software & assess needs Marta, Hope, Dex, Debi

Programs:

- a) Continue Adult Education - local papers, website, Facebook
- b) Explore opportunities for collaboration with the James Library

Activities:

- a) Monthly Friday Pot Luck (multigenerational, sponsored by RE)
- b) Postpone Sunday Adult Forum

4) Create a strong presence for FPN in the local community and Denomination.

- a) Run open activities designed to introduce new people to our church (Animal Blessing; Summer Fest; Harvest Fair; James Library events,+)
- b) Focus our outreach locally
- c) Change name to include UU identity - FPN UU
- d) Work more closely with area UU churches (OWL; Adult RE)



IMPORTANT LAST MINUTE INFORMATION REGARDING THE UPCOMING ALL-CHURCH PHOTO SESSIONS

This Thursday is the beginning of the FPNUU photo shoot for our new church directory. Photos will be taken in the Parish Hall with a check-in table near the name tag & welcoming table area. Key points to keep in mind:

- Session dates again are: October 29, 30, and 31 and November 10. If you haven't yet scheduled your appointment, please do so right away if you want your photo included in the new directory!
- Please don't forget to bring to your scheduled photo shoot a food contribution benefitting the Norwell Food Pantry. At least 2 - 3 canned/boxed goods per family are requested. Please bring the food in either one of the Lifetouch donation bags that have been distributed OR in any bag of your choice. We will provide you with a \$5 coupon from a Lifetouch photo order for your contribution.
- Reminder messages regarding your appointment day & time will be forthcoming via phone and/or email.
- Please show up to your appointment on time...in fact a little early is preferred! Scheduling everyone in relatively brief time slots means that things may easily get thrown off track when people run late.
- Plan to provide at least 45 - 60 minutes for your session, which includes getting paperwork organized, poses set, photos taken, pictures selected and orders placed (if so desired).
- Should there be any delay, emergency or need to reschedule, please contact Les Taylor as soon as possible at cell phone: **781-733-5232**.
- We will verify all your contact information when you arrive in order to make our new church directory as accurate and complete as possible.
- There will be a survey handed to each adult when they check-in regarding "skills & interests" to help the church better understand your talents and interests.

Questions? Please contact Les Taylor for further information at lestaylor@me.com or call at home: 781-837-2929. We look forward to seeing you for your upcoming appointment. Thank you for participating!



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

If you didn't see this request in the last Spire, please read it now. (We received permission from the Parish Committee to run it twice in the Spires.)

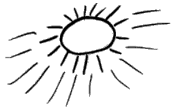
Our church has been working with the Partakers organization since 2000, mentoring MCI prisoners and supporting them while they work toward their BA from Boston University while in prison. One of our first prisoners was Carolyn Gunter, who was mentored by Marcia Babcock, Mary Mercier and Beverly Gardner. Carolyn earned her BA from BU in May 2007, was released in March of 2009, and worked successfully for several years before being deported back to Jamaica on what we feel is a technicality. Now she is in her 2nd year of her Master's degree program in Special Education in Jamaica. Carolyn is working on her Masters in Special Ed because there is a big need for Special Ed teachers in Jamaica, and, as a deportee, other jobs are nearly impossible to get.

This is a GoFundMe request from one of the nuns who worked with Carolyn Gunter before and after she was released from MCI Framingham. Sister Shirley Campbell has initiated this GoFundMe request for Carolyn to help her with fees necessary to complete her Master's degree. She has consulted with Marcia, Mary and Bev and, with our permission, has added our names to the request.

Please read this GoFundMe request, especially the paragraph starting, "My name is Sr. Shirley Campbell, SSJ. For 20 years Sr. Eleanor Spring, SSJ and I directed a program for women who were trying to reclaim their lives," for information about Carolyn. Many \$10 and \$15 donations (or more) will add up. Donations can be made anonymously, if you wish. Thank you for considering this! To learn more or to donate, please click here: <http://e.gofund.me/xt3uw9ps>.

Beverly Gardner, Marcia Babcock, and Mary Mercier

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS AND NOTES



Hello First Parish!



We're getting busy in the first part of the church year now, and we've had some wonderful events and service projects that I know you all are looking forward to building on! Just this past weekend we had a fantastic Halloween party, and a service trip to a local homeless shelter. I am blown away by all of the hard work and care that you have all put into making these events a reality. It's amazing what a community like ours can accomplish.

Coming up we have even more exciting and interesting opportunities. First, on **Wednesday, October 28** at 7 pm is the second session of our program for adults called *Faith Like a River: Themes from Unitarian Universalist History*. This program was designed to give participants a grounding in Unitarian Universalist history, while also looking at how that history can inform our everyday lives. I invite you to join us in discussing the life and works of Arius the Heretic, an early influence on Unitarianism, along with other notable heretics from UU history such as Michael Servetus. Each class stands on its own, but you are encouraged to attend each fascinating session on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

Then, get out your favorite board, card, tabletop, or any other kind of game and bring along your favorite meal for November's First Parish Game Night and Potluck! This was such a smashing success last month that we're doing it again at 6 pm on **Friday, November 6**. All ages are more than welcome, and friends are great too!

Finally, we're also looking for adults and youth with an interest they wish to share as part of our "Mini-Sessions" classes starting in February. This time between our regular Sunday School semesters divides the RE children up by interest rather than age, allowing you to share your favorite hobby with a group of many ages, and lots of enthusiasm! In the past we've had classes on everything from music and arts, to science, local history, and service projects. If you have one or more ideas you'd like to bring to us, please sign up with me in person during Coffee Hour or via email (julianbaptistamusic@gmail.com).

See you all at church!

Julian Baptista, Director of Religious Education



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Celebrating the Season with Storyteller Davis Bates

Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 am. **FREE.**



Parents' Choice Award winning storyteller [Davis Bates](#) joins us for *Celebrating the Season: Songs & Stories for the Harvest & Halloween*. The show will include farming stories and songs from the past and present, sea songs and chanteys, Native American stories, family tales, and not-too-scary ghost stories. There will also be plenty of sing-a-longs, a short lesson in how to play music with spoons from a kitchen drawer, and an appearance by a dancing wooden dog named Bingo. *Sponsored by Church Hillers of Norwell and the Susan M. Decker Fund for Children's Literacy*

The James Library and Center for the Arts have a vibrant schedule of events- music concerts, art exhibits and literary events. To learn more, visit www.jameslibrary.org or call 781-659-7100.



TAI CHI AND QIGONG

4 week class for beginners - \$20 total (payable at first class)

Tuesday mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 (November 10, 17 and 24 and December 1)



COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

With the arrival of Reverend Lise Adams Sherry as our settled minister, three members of the search committee (Ellie Handleman, Marie Miller and Bernie Gardner) have been joined by Scott Garland, Kevin Houston, and Betsy Gordon to form the Committee on Shared Ministry. The committee was originally called the Committee on Ministry. We decided to add the “Shared” to emphasize the role of parishioners in ministry.

The purpose of this committee is to support and advance the ministry of the Parish, including worship, religious education, pastoral care and outreach. During the coming months, the Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) will work to find ways to enhance all these functions. In addition, COSM will also serve to manage any conflicts, complaints or other issues which may arise within the congregation by encouraging direct communication. We will provide regular communication to the Parish as we further define our role. We also invite and encourage anyone with concerns, suggestions or praise regarding any aspect of Parish ministry to contact us. We plan to establish well defined methods for obtaining regular feedback from parishioners. Our goal is to facilitate productive communication between Parish members.

Rev. Lise has asked the members of the committee to read about the workings of this type of committee, which is growing in use in UU congregations. In our reading, the ministry of the church is defined as “everything the congregation does to fulfill its mission”. Article 2, Section 2 of the Parish by-laws defines that mission as: *First Parish of Norwell is a religious community where adults, youth and children can evolve spiritually, morally, and intellectually through worship, education, and service to the community and the world. Recognizing no distinction of class, sex, nationality, race, age or sexual orientation, we are a welcoming congregation that stresses the need for community amidst the impersonality of the secular world.*

We unite to:

- Create a safe place in which to nurture our spirituality and celebrate life's passages.
- Provide a place where all persons are accepted and respected and can find mutual care and support.
- Welcome and gather strength from diversity.
- Sustain and promote Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes and participate in the larger fellowship of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Be a forum for the discussion of contemporary issues and a catalyst for social action.
- Support outreach to the community, to both children and adults, and through educational and artistic programs of both the performing and fine arts.

This seems a worthy mission indeed and we on the COSM hope that we can help the Parish fulfill it, guided by the words of our Covenant.

Bernie Gardner (Chair)

Scott Garland, Betsy Gordon, Ellie Handleman, Kevin Houston and Marie Miller

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, ex-officio

HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAM



Once again First Parish of Norwell, working in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families, will be providing Christmas gifts for needy children in state custody. This program has proved in the past to be very meaningful for members of the First Parish Community. You will be able to sign up during Coffee Hour the next few Sundays. Please see Debbie Chase with any questions.



IMPORTANT CALENDAR REQUEST

Hanging on the wall of the Church Office is one of Hope's three most important tools for helping things run smoothly at FPNUU- the wall calendar. Low tech, yes... but also effective and easy to use. However, it's only useful if everyone remembers to make sure events and meetings are listed. Committee chairs and event planners should contact Hope as soon as they have a need for space. Please also let Hope know if you are planning an event off-site. She will also enter these events on the calendar as well.

To help make things visually clearer, Hope will start color-coding entries on the calendar. There will be one color for church events/meetings onsite, one for events/meetings offsite, and one color for outside rentals. You can also view the church calendar online though our website: <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/calendar.html>.

A MUSICAL EVENING TO CELEBRATE CHRIS AND BOB DETWILER



Friday, November 20 from 7:30-8:30 pm (no intermission)
James Library Performance Hall – sponsored by Friendship Home
Alex Gordon (piano) and Alex Borque (alto saxophone) will present jazz selections of classic show tunes, Americana, spirituals and Gershwin. Immediately following the concert, please join family and friends as we fondly remember Bob and Chris and their influence on all of us. Light refreshments will be served by Friendship Home members. Tickets are \$25 at the door – cash only. Seating is limited; please reserve your spot now by contacting Chrissy Maguire at Friendship Home (781-659-8202 or cmaguire@friendshiphome.net). If you are unable to attend or want to make an additional contribution, please make your check payable to the James Library or Road to Responsibility and mail to the Friendship Home, P.O. Box 916, Norwell, MA 02061. Net proceeds will benefit the James Library and Road to Responsibility.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- Sunday, November 1: Activities Committee, Office, 11:30 am
Capital Improvement Committee, Fogg Parlor, 11:30 am
- Tuesday, November 3: Tai Chi, Parish Hall, 9:30 am
Worship Committee, Parsonage, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, November 4: First Parish Book Group, Fogg Parlor, 7 pm
- Friday, November 6: Game Night and Potluck, Parish Hall, 6-9 pm
- Saturday, November 7: Scrapbookers, Parish Hall, 7 pm
- Sunday, November 8: **REV. LISE'S INSTALLATION, MEETINGHOUSE, 4 PM WITH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL**

The full First Parish calendar can be accessed online at the website by selecting "News" on the toolbar, then scrolling to the calendar option. The deadline for the next issue of the Spire is **Monday, November 9.**