

The Spire

The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

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Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

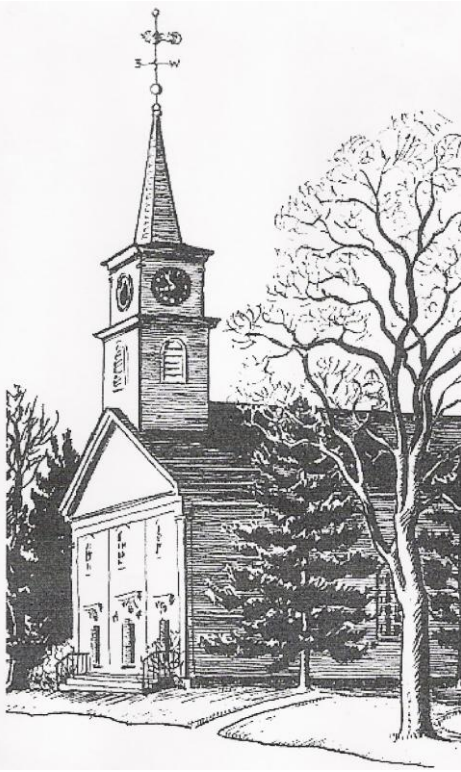
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January 6, 2016

Volume XIV, Issue 9

www.firstparishnorwell.org



Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

January 10: **Growth: It Takes All Kinds**

Congregational growth isn't just about numbers, it's about spiritual, institutional and community outreach as well. When First Parish called me, you all said you wanted to grow- now we get to figure out how. ☺

January 17: **The School to Prison Pipeline**

Particularly since the war on drugs began in the 1980s, many in our country have found themselves filtered into a particularly negative life path. It's important to acknowledge this, figure out how to change it and then act. This is an **Outreach Sunday** and our offering will benefit Partakers.

January 24: **"Listening as an Act of Love"**

As Standing on the Side of Love celebrates its 7th of year of celebrating "30 Days of Love" from mid-January to mid-February, we'll celebrate and practice the powerful act of listening.

January 31: Joyce Pickel, worship leader **"To Minister to Each Other's Needs and to Those of Humanity"**

On March 1, 1961 the newly elected President Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the Peace Corps and challenged Americans to help people in foreign countries build better lives for themselves. Several members of this congregation responded to the call to volunteer and some of these will share their experiences with us this morning.

February 7: **Stewardship Sunday**

It's the beginning of our financial stewardship campaign and our day of dreaming and planning for the next year and beyond. How exciting! I look forward to seeing you all there.

OFFICE HOURS (September to mid-June):

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

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Parish Committee 2015-2016:

Co-Chairs: Jim Pickel and Deanna Riley

Members:

Noel Constantino, Sue Keady, Mary Nickerson,
Elizabeth Robey and Les Taylor

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Monday, February 1, 2016**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

LISE'S LETTER

Happy New Moment!

As I write this snow is gently flurrying around outside (is that an oxymoron?), and I'm thinking about our first Christmas Eve service together. Those who attended those services generously contributed over **\$1900** to the minister's emergency fund and the Norwell Food Pantry. A check for \$1000 is on the way to the Food Pantry, and I am so thankful that I have landed in such a wonderful spiritual community.

Our first five months together have been busy and fun as we've been getting to know one another. They've also been fairly gentle as the beginning of a settled ministry starts much slower than an interim ministry, as many of us know. Fortunately, we are all happily in this together for the long term so we have more time to plot and act. As such, there are some things that you all said you wanted to work on with your called minister and so I'll be working with you to focus on those more in the near future--in particular growth and financial stewardship.

We'll begin our annual pledge drive next month with our stewardship service on **February 7** (the same day the youth have their Chocolate Auction!). I hope you'll start to think about how much this beloved community means to you and how you can contribute financially to the lights, heat, hard-working staff, programs and ways that we can reach out more into our community and world. To help with this, some of you may have noticed Julian's announcements that I'd be teaching a class in the New Year. It's a 5-week class from the UUA titled *The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit and Life* on Wednesdays at 7 pm, on **January 13, 20 and February 10, 17, 24**. The series is actually much longer, but I'm going to focus on how our family stories and congregational cultures inform the way we think of money. I've already found some interesting

things for me to think about, so I hope it will help you ponder your financial attitudes as well.

Regarding growth, as you'll hear in my sermon this Sunday, there are many types besides numerical. Already First Parish is rich in the way we reach out to one another within our community and we do a pretty good job reaching out informally to newcomers. I'll be working with the membership committee to formalize some of those ways we reach out to those folks and in March I'll offer a *Path to Membership* class on two Sundays after church—the specific dates are still TBD. I hope you'll let Julian and me know how you'd like to grow spiritually (the interior path) through classes and programs. The Board and I will be meeting with a UUA regional specialist this Saturday to talk about how we can work better institutionally (which I think we do pretty well, but as they say there's always room for growth!). In terms of reaching out, I've made a resolution to post on our Facebook account twice a week—I hope you'll gently remind me of this if needed. Another way to grow is to offer services throughout the summer, and the worship committee and I have been discussing this. While many folks travel or simply relax during this time, there are also those who find themselves in need of community, and FPNUU is a wonderful community to share!

There is so much we can do together, including continuing to simply enjoy one another's company. Once again, Happy New Moment!

Love, Lise



CARING CORNER

John Marsh is scheduled for heart surgery on Thursday, January 21. Visits, calls and letters would be appreciated.

We regret to report that Noel Constantino must undergo a repeat procedure for a detached

retina. The surgery will occur on Monday, January 11 at Mass. Eye and Ear. The Pastoral Care Team will notify the congregation of any specific needs. In the meantime, cards are appreciated.

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).

FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP



Join us on **Wednesday, February 3** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor as we discuss *The Finest Hours: the True Story of the U.S. Coast Guard's Most Daring Sea Rescue* by Michael Tougias and Casey Sherman. In February 1952, while a fierce storm raged, two oil tankers, the *Pendleton* and the *Fort Mercer*, split in two, leaving the dozens of men on board utterly at the Atlantic's mercy. *The Finest Hours* is the gripping, true story of the valiant attempt to rescue the souls huddling inside the broken halves of the two ships. The movie based on this book and is currently scheduled to be released on January 29.

ALLIANCE NEWS



Please put **Wednesday, January 20**, on your calendar for a creative morning with Sally Dean Mello. Sally, the Education Coordinator for the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury and a well-known visual artist, will lead members on a creative adventure. The morning begins at 10 am with refreshments and as always guests are welcome at Alliance programs.



COME DANCE WITH US!

We will have an All-Church Dance on **Saturday, January 23**, starting at 6:00 pm. Julian will supply music and atmosphere. We will provide pizza. If you can bring a dessert or snack to share, let Peg Kitchenham (chrispegk@verizon.net or 781-447-5831) know or just bring them with you. Wear a costume if you feel like it! There are some in the costume area upstairs you can borrow.

wonderful holiday bags with gifts they both needed and wanted and IN ADDITION raised over \$1100 which was used to buy winter jackets, grocery store gift cards among other things.” Thank you to Betsy Gordon, Scott Babcock and Deb Chase who organized the drive, to the above along with Shastin Garland who processed the gifts and to Julian Baptista, Adrianna McLane and Aine Nickerson from the Youth Group who shopped that Sunday afternoon for gifts not already provided by parishioners. We have VERY GENEROUS parishioners!

Partakers (College Behind Bars) Update: Larry LaMeire, who received his BA from BU last June, with all his current First Parish, mentors (Phyllis Buell, Peg Carpenter, Jim Pickel, Bev Gardner) there at the graduation ceremony at MCI Norfolk, has been released to the Old Colony Correctional Center, the men’s step-down prison in Bridgewater, for the remainder of his sentence. There he can take mandatory classes which will help when he is released in March 2017. We received this thank you letter from Larry LaMeire, explaining what Partakers has meant to him:

I was in my 40’s when I made the decision to pursue a higher education. I knew it would not be easy for me, having only a 6th grade educational background. But what really scared me was that I knew that this new direction would cause a greater divide between my family and me because no one in my extended family even graduated from high school, let alone college. The change I chose was both unrecognizable and not understandable to my family. As a prisoner, this scared me because I felt I would truly be alone during the worst and most vulnerable time in my life. Partakers allowed me, or I should say caused me, to accentuate the positive of overcoming the negative, washing away many of those fears, replacing them with the hope that I once believed was lost forever. This hope came in the form of a collection and collaboration of mentors whom I have come to know as

ATTENTION, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND EVENT PLANNERS

If you will be sending a news release out regarding an upcoming or past event at FPNUU, please be sure to use the press release template created by Bob Sutter, our Publicity Coordinator. Please contact Hope in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.org and she will gladly send it to you.



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Welcome to three new members of our committee: Alex Gordon, Penny Corbett and Lorna Phillips. We are always looking for new members!

December’s Outreach Sunday (which provided gifts for foster children) went very well. Thank you to Rev. Lise, who did a wonderful sermon as well as a Story for All Ages which really spoke to the children about how foster kids might feel at Christmas. Also, thanks to Gabe Carroll who was the Worship Associate and who spoke passionately about the foster children program. As Betsy Gordon said, “We gave 41 children

some of the greatest human beings I have ever met. In particular, Phyllis Buell, Peg Carpenter, Jim Pickel, Bev Gardner, the late, great Harry Heineman and Jim Bond. They have not only supported and encouraged my educational endeavor, but their kind character and many courtesies have made me want to be a better person.

In sum, Partakers has taught me, through the above-mentioned mentors, that second chances do not discriminate. Partakers represents my first tangible opportunity to succeed. This opportunity has transformed me from feeling jaded to feelings of love, trust and respect. To me, Partakers has saved my life while filling my heart with gratitude and charity. Partakers, through the above mentors, has proven to me that the only thing stronger than fear is hope. (Thanks, also, to Lanny Kutakoff, former director of Partakers, and Arthur Bembury, current director of Partakers.)

There is a need for two volunteers in order to mentor a prisoner/student through Partakers. Technically, First Parish currently has no Partakers prisoner, since Larry has graduated, although his mentors still visit and write him and still consider themselves Partakers! Joyce and Dave Hockman have volunteered to become mentors to a Partaker prisoner. Thus, we already have half of the 4-member team needed to sponsor a prisoner/student! Mentors are expected to visit him/her at the prison (MCI Framingham for women or MCI Norfolk for men) every other month in 2-person teams, as well as write to the prisoner. This allows the prisoner to get a visit by two mentors, at the same time, each month. There are many parishioners who have mentored in the past and who will "mentor" you as you enter into this special relationship! Please consider volunteering! For more information about Partakers College Behind Bars program, please check out their website at www.partakers.org/site/college-behind-bars/.

The January Outreach Sunday will be on **Sunday, January 17** and will benefit Partakers.

Noel Constantino and Bev Gardner, Co-chairs of the Helen Fogg Service Committee
Members: Marcia & Scott Babcock, Gabe Carroll, Debbie Chase, Penny Corbett, Pat Crumley, Alex Gordon, Mary Mercier, Bill Montuori, Lorna Phillips, Elizabeth Robey (liaison with the Parish Committee) and Jack Wallace, members.

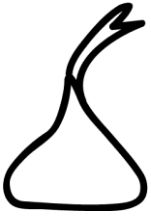


SUPER BOWL PARTY

Join us on at **Sunday, February 4** 6:00 pm to support the Youth Group and enjoy the game! 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. So 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 February 7, come and watch the Super Bowl together on our large screen media center in the Parish Hall. Bring snacks and goodies to share and your own beverages. Find out who the big winners are.

There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats.

~Albert Schweitzer



THE CHOCOLATE AUCTION IS COMING!

On **Sunday, February 7** after the worship service, the Youth Group will be hosting their annual chocolate auction. This is one of the Youth's primary fund raisers, and allows you to get some great gifts for someone special (or yourself) before Valentine's Day. The youth will be making some wonderful surprises for you to bid on, and we hope some of the expert bakers in our congregation will also contribute baked goods and chocolate to our auction. Please talk to Julian or a Youth Group member if you would like to help out. The whole event is a lot of fun, and we can't wait to indulge your sweet tooth!



FROM THE DRE



I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and are ready for a new year of Religious Education!

This month we have a number of exciting programs for youth and adults particularly. For youth, we will be hosting a two night Youth Conference here at First Parish on the weekend of **January 29-31** for all of the youth in our district. Last time we had over 100 youth attend this event, and it was a huge success. Nate Handleman is one of our veteran CON planners this year, and I'm looking forward to seeing another great success. If your 9th-12th grader hasn't started attending our Youth Group meetings, now is a great time. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 5:00pm.

For adults, Rev. Lise will be leading a new program based around spirituality and money called *The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life*. Please see please see Rev. Lise's column for dates

and more information. The class is open to all, and we hope to see you there. In addition, our own Bob Sutter will be leading a workshop on native art on **Wednesday, January 27** at 7:30 pm in the Fogg Parlor. He will be displaying and leading a discussion on a number of different pieces, many from his own collection.

For the children of our congregation we will continue with our regular Sunday School through the end of January, when our first semester ends. Then in the interim period of February 7 through March 6 will be our mini-sessions program. Mini-sessions 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 at julianbaptistamusic@gmail.com. We have most of our slots filled, but can always use another few workshops.

See you at church!

Julian Baptista

Director of Religious Education



CALENDAR
January/February 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Carolina Hill trip after worship svc. Activities Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am	11 AA, PH 8:30 pm Invested Funds Comm., Ofc. 7:30 pm	12 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Parish Comm., FP 7 pm Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	13 Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	14 Preschool Moms' Coffee, PH 9:15 am Choir Rehearsal, Sky.7:30 pm	15	16
17 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Helen Fogg Svc. Comm., FP 11:30 am	18 AA, PH 8:30 pm	19 Knitters, FP 9:30 am Church Council PH, Kit. & FP 6-9 pm	20 <i>The Church Office will close at noon today.</i> Staff Meeting, FP 11 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	21 Choir Rehearsal, Sky.7:30 pm	22	23 Dance, PH 6 pm 
24 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am	25 AA, PH 8:30 pm	26 Knitters, FP 9:30 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	27 Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm Art of Indigenous Peoples, FP 7:30 pm	28 Choir Rehearsal, Sky.7:30 pm	29 YOUTH CON - Entire bldg.	30 YOUTH CON - Entire bldg.
31 YOUTH CON ends Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am	1 SPIRE deadline AA, PH 8:30 pm	2 First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm Worship Comm., FP 7:30 pm	3 Alliance Board, FP 10 am Book Group, FP 7 pm Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	4 Choir Rehearsal, Sky.7:30 pm	5 Preschool event set-up, PH (daytime)	6 Preschool event, PH & Kit., 8-11:30 am 