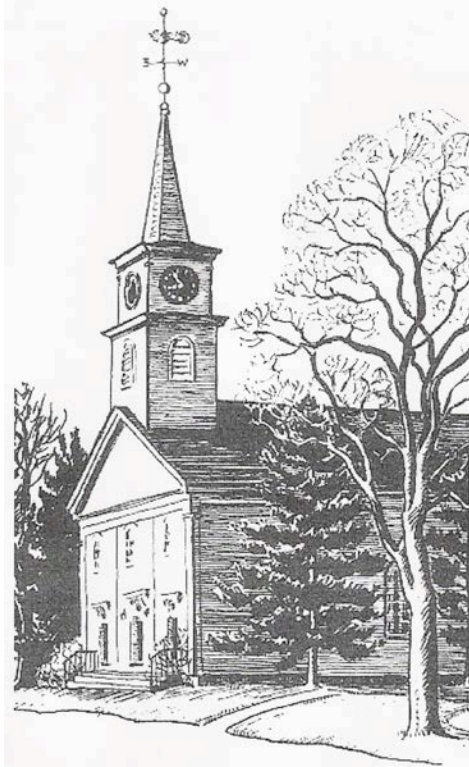


The Spire



The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

phone 781-659-7122

fax 781-659-7939

August 20, 2014

Volume XIII, Issue 1

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching
unless otherwise indicated

September 7: **Homecoming Sunday**

We will celebrate coming together again. Join us at 9:00 am in the Parish Hall prior to the service, when the Youth Group will be making and serving a pancake breakfast.

September 14: **The Dream**

I will explore the dream as a religious phenomenon.

September 21: **GA Sunday**

This June's General Assembly was held in our own backyard in Providence, RI. Your delegates have brought back a little bit of GA for you to experience right here at First Parish of Norwell.

September 28:

Racism's Face 50 Years after Selma: Ferguson, MO

This is my reflection on what has happened in recently in Ferguson, MO.

October 5: **Community Animal Blessing**

We will bless our animal companions and celebrate St. Francis of Assisi.

Can you provide a pulpit arrangement for an upcoming service? Would you like to host Coffee Hour? How about being an usher? Would you like to assist with lighting the chalice? Please consider signing up! Sign-up sheets for the upcoming church year are posted in the Parish Hall, or you may contact Hope in the Church Office.

OFFICE HOURS (September to mid-June):

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

PHONE: 781-659-7122

FAX: 781-659-7939

HOME PAGE: www.firstparishnorwell.org

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche, x11

minister@firstparishnorwell.org

Director of Religious Education:

Julian Baptista, x12

dre@firstparishnorwell.org

Music Director: Ginky Grimes

Office Staff:

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

office@firstparishnorwell.org

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14

donna@firstparishnorwell.org

Parish Committee 2014-2015:

Co-Chairs: Jim Pickel and Deanna Riley

Members:

Noel Constantino, Sue Keady, Elizabeth Robey,
Les Taylor and Patti Walters

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Monday, Monday, September 8** (hard copy version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

ROSE AND COLUMN

Welcome back!

I was at my house in Bethlehem, PA doing maintenance for about a month after most of the destruction of the old parsonage kitchen, while John Litchfield and the concrete contractors dug up the ground and put in the new basement. It looks to me that the kitchen might have been the original house. We even found an old well under the floor. During that time I naturally lost the sewer line which made living more difficult so I left for a month. Thanks to Jack Christensen's expertise with emergency plumbing I came back to an operational bathroom. Take a look at our website and see the pictures that Scott Babcock took and Debi Meddaugh put on the website. When the kitchen is complete (probably in October) I intend to have a picnic at the Parsonage so you can all see the new structure.

While I was gone you enjoyed two interesting sermons; one on Helen Fogg and the other on our First Parish Cemetery. Sue Robinson and Joanne Howard made these topics very interesting.

The Worship Committee and I have planned the start of the Sunday worship schedule and will be trying some different services. A musical service has been planned based on the life of Malvina Reynolds. In October we will have a service organized by the Ministerial Search Committee entitled "Beyond Categorical Thinking". Corresponding to the birth of Francis of Assisi, we will have another Animal Blessing in October.

Ellen Herling has organized monthly movies that will correspond to the sermon topics. If

you have some suggestions on movies, please let Ellen know.

I will be starting my six-week dream seminar in October but will introduce the concept of the dream in the service on September 14. The Worship Committee is also considering having simple monthly potluck after some services.

The Tinker's Son Pub around the corner on Main Street is sponsoring a weekly "Pints and Theology" session on Wednesdays. I will co-host with another religious professional from the area each week.

In faith and love,
Len



CARING CORNER

Sally Turner's aunt, Marion T. Burdett passed away last week at the age of 94. She lived in Norwell in the early 2000's and attended services here during that time.

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.

PARISH COMMITTEE NEWS

Mid-August anticipates a return from summer schedules to the more active pace and organized scheduling of fall. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for details of the **All Church Gala Welcome Potluck Party** on Saturday night, September 13.

Your Parish Committee has met over the summer to care for ongoing church operations and plan for the upcoming church year. We welcomed Les Taylor, Jim Pickel and Deanna Riley to the committee and at our July meeting took care of board business, including electing committee officers, confirming Liaison positions, reviewing suggestions to the PC made at our Annual Meeting and scheduling the board retreat for September 6. Full minutes of Parish Committee meetings are posted at the church.

We want to extend many thanks to all of the people who have found the time and energy to support church work and activity throughout the summer. LOTS has been happening with the support of many people.

- Buildings & Grounds has been busy with maintenance activities and the Parsonage Project Team has been making the renovation plans a reality.
- The Invested Funds Committee managed the July distributions from the Fogg and South Scituate funds and developed and distributed a Request to Bid to potential investment management companies.
- Early August lay-led worship services were exceptionally well done thanks to Sue Robinson and Joanne Howard (and their helpers). The services were well received and greatly appreciated by all who attended.
- Rev. Len's pastoral work continued and Donna and Hope spent one morning a week making sure administrative needs were met.
- Julian is completing our Safe Congregation policy for legal review, developing a Lifespan RE programming brochure, and designing a Path to Membership class.

- Our Search Committee is continuing to prepare First Parish Norwell's Congregational Record. They are also planning a fall worship service with the UUA Transitions office and working on a congregational survey to be distributed in September.

Other activities continue including the knitters group, Tai Chi classes, the First Parish Book Group, and of course, Ya Gotta Regatta. We celebrate the generosity and good will of our community.

Looking forward to a great year!

Deanna Riley and Jim Pickel, Parish Committee co-Chairs

UPDATE ON THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH PROCESS

The Search Committee members have been working on various aspects of the search process over the summer. A survey has been created which will soon be sent out via Survey Monkey. Information about our church and membership is being compiled into a Congregational Record which will give prospective candidates a profile of our congregation. Much of the discussion at our Cottage Meetings will be used in the Congregational Record as well. Your honesty and candid feedback, which we received at the Cottage Meetings, are instrumental to this process. We hope to schedule at least one more Cottage Meeting in the Fall. The compensation package is being considered, with advice from our Parish Committee and Church Treasurer. A "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop and service have been scheduled for Sunday, October 19. This program is designed to promote inclusive thinking in the ministerial search process. We still have a long way to go,

but we are off to a good start. We will keep you posted!

Warm Regards from Your Ministerial Search Committee,
Bernie Gardner, Marie Miller, Scott Babcock, Ingrid Carlson, Ellie Handleman, Mary Nickerson and Sally Turner



MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group returns this fall on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Skylight Room. The first meeting will be on **September 9** and will follow on **October 14, November 11 and December 9**.

Meditation is an ancient spiritual practice of mindfulness that leads to greater stress resilience, improved memory and increased empathy. Everyone is welcome whether you have experienced this practice before or are brand new to it. Please join us! Any questions, please contact Ellen Herling at theherlings@comcast.net.



PHOTOGRAPHS

If you have any pictures which you would like to go into our church album for the last church year, please leave them in the church office for Bev Gardner. This year, please share your pictures of church events by putting them on the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall. If you wish to get them back, make a note on the back. Otherwise, they will be put into the church album for next year. Thanks!

COME ONE! COME ALL!



The opening worship service of the fall season is Sunday, September 7. The Parish Committee cordially invites everyone to an

All-Church Gala

Welcome Potluck Party

Saturday, September 13 at 5:30 pm
in the Parish Hall

Please contact Hope in the Church Office at 781-659-7122 x10 or office@firstparishnorwell.org to RSVP. She will need to know the number of people attending (adults and children) and what you will be bringing. Please volunteer to bring a main dish, side dish or dessert for 4-6 people. As well, please bring your own beverages.

students are welcome at any time and prior registration is not necessary – so invite your friends and neighbors.

Tai Chi/Qigong is an ancient Taoist system of exercise to preserve health, mind and body and to cultivate physical and spiritual harmony within oneself. It is a meditation in motion, balance and harmony. Practiced daily, it is an excellent stress management technique. Mike Showstack, instructor, has over 25 years experience in Shaolin Hung Gar Tiger Crane Kung Fu and Yang Tai Chi Chuan and can be contacted at www.wuliacademy.com and 508-254-2587. He teaches extensively throughout the South Shore area. Please contact Sue Robinson for additional information at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840.



**ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE
SEEKS IDEAS**

The Activities Committee will meet on Sunday, September 7, at 11:30 am in the Fogg Parlor. Newcomers are welcome! We are seeking ideas and input for this year's activities. We especially want to know what younger families would enjoy.

The All-Church Gala Welcome Potluck Party is on the calendar for **Saturday, September 13** at 5:30 pm. See a separate article in this newsletter. We will also be holding some potluck lunches after church occasionally. A special one will be on **Sunday, November 2**.

The Holiday Fair will be **Saturday, November 22**, the week before Thanksgiving. Many hands will be needed to help with that. It is the church's major fundraiser. We will again



TAI CHI CLASSES

As part of adult programming to the congregation and greater community, our popular Tai Chi and Qigong class will continue during the coming church year. Classes are held on Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 am. The current session has just started; remaining sessions are **August 26, September 2 and September 9** in the Parish Hall. Four week sessions are \$20 (\$5 per session) payable at the first class. No special equipment, clothing, or shoes are needed. New

do the Cookie Walk on **Saturday, December 13**, from 10 am until sellout.

Later in the year, we hope to hold a January Bobbie Burns night, a Super Bowl party, the Chocolate Auction, a Talent Show, a Goods and Services Auction, as well as golf and bowling outings in May and the annual regatta in August. Ongoing activities include a book group, a meditation group, monthly movie nights, men's breakfasts each Friday morning in Scituate and monthly men's dinners.

Please call Peg Kitchenham at 781-447-5831 with ideas or come to the meeting to share them.

MOVIE NIGHT



We are again presenting a series of interesting and thought-provoking movies to enjoy and discuss afterwards on the first Saturday of each month. We will

be meeting a little earlier this fall, at 6:30 in the Parish Hall. As usual, feel free to bring friends and snacks and beverages of your choice.

Kicking off the year on **Saturday, October 4** will be the documentary "Inequality for All" which discusses the serious crisis the US faces due to a widening economic gap. It is narrated by Robert Reich, former US Labor Secretary and current UC Berkeley professor. Other movies this year will include "Amistad", "The Normal Heart", "Food, Inc." and "Lincoln" to name a few.



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

A big thank you to Scott Babcock, who has been the chair of the Helen Fogg Service Committee for the last two years. Stepping in as co-chairs this year are Noel Constantino and Beverly Gardner.

"In the spirit of the words of our covenant – 'to minister to each other's needs and to those of humanity' – the Helen Fogg Service Committee empowers the ministry of social justice and outreach at First Parish by serving as a conduit for outreach to the wider community locally, nationally and internationally." (*Copied from the church's web site.*)

Usually, the Committee has a line item in the church's budget with which to work. Due to disappointing canvass results, our committee and several other church committees are doing without funding from the church this church year.

With the money the church usually gives us, we augment the plate money which you parishioners give at the Second Sunday service (now known as "Service Sunday") where our committee highlights a particular cause or charity. Money is also donated to worthy causes as needed during the church year, and at the end of the fiscal year, whatever is left over in our budget is allocated to other charities. Last June, \$6,103 remained. The committee as a whole voted to put the money into a special bank account to be spent helping our former Partaker's prisoner, now a free woman, Carolyn Gunter, with her education. Carolyn is a special case in that due to the fact that she was deported to her home country of Jamaica on a technicality, she simply cannot get a job there since she is a deportee. She has

tried mightily the last two years, sending out myriad resumes and volunteering at several jobs. Her First Parish mentors and good friends, Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock and Beverly Gardner, know in our hearts that Carolyn is a good person who will do well in whatever she does, but in Jamaica, she just can't get a job. Carolyn researched the job situation in Jamaica and learned that Special Education teachers are sorely needed, and that as a deportee with a Master's degree in Special Ed., she would be able to work and contribute to society. The Service Committee voted to use the leftover budgeted money for the church year 2013-2014 to help Carolyn work towards that Master's degree. The money will be sent, semester to semester, until it runs out and should pay about half of her total tuition for the degree. Carolyn is truly touched, excited and appreciative.

~Beverly Gardner and Noel Constantino, co-chairs

Members: Jane and Stan Wilderoter, Pat Crumley, Dorothy and Bill Montuori, Mary Mercier, Jack Wallace, Amy Stephenson, Deb Chase and Scott Babcock



THEMED GIFT BASKETS

With all the end of the summer sales going on, it's a good time to think about donating a themed gift basket to be sold at the November Holiday Fair! We are asking that you keep your purchases, if at all possible, to under \$40, so we can keep the prices of the baskets reasonable. A sign-up sheet will be at Coffee Hour from September until the Fair. If you have any medium, large or gigantic baskets for people to fill, we can use them! Just

bring them to Coffee Hour. Remember, YOU provide the items, and WE put them in a basket and wrap, decorate, label and sell it! Thank you!

~Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino

WHO DOES WHAT AT FPN?

Starting this month, *Who Does What at FPN?* will list the membership of committees within our church. Committees are the groups that do the work of the church. We need volunteers for every aspect of our operations. Donating your time and talent to a committee is also a great way to get to know the church and to get to know other church members and friends. Whatever your skills or interests, we welcome your involvement.

The **Membership Committee** develops strategies and programs to grow and sustain membership. Its mission is to promote the welcoming of guests, encourage newcomers to become members, and enhance the commitment and satisfaction of members of FPN in the life of the congregation. Committee members are: Betsey Detwiler, Chair (781-659-7057); Shastin Garland and Chris Kitchenham. The Membership Committee would welcome your input and/or your presence on the committee.



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends,

I wanted to give you a brief update on financial matters, prior to presentation of the detailed report that I present at the October Special Parish Meeting.

Fiscal Year 14

Fiscal Year 14 closed on 6/30/2014. I am happy to report that we ended the fiscal year with a surplus of approximately \$15,000. This surplus resulted from:

- Lower than expected expenses, primarily utility savings resulting from the solar panel installation and conversion to gas heat (approximately \$8,300)
- Greater than expected pledges (approximately \$3,300)
- Greater than expected endowment income (approximately \$1,600)
- Greater than expected facility use income (approximately \$1,800)

Use of this surplus will be discussed by the Parish and Finance Committees. Even though we ended the year with a surplus, **there are still a few pledges outstanding**. If you have not completed your 2014 pledge, we ask that you please do so.

Fiscal Year 15

Fiscal Year 15 began on 7/1/2014 and ends on 6/30/2015.

As I reported at the June Special Parish Meeting, the FY15 budget was extremely challenging due to the decline in pledges. As a result, several requests could not be accommodated. Most significantly, the Service Committee budget had to be completely eliminated and there were no salary increases.

If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to consider making a pledge commitment. If you are new to our congregation, and would like to learn more

about pledging and stewardship, please contact the Office Administrator, Hope Weinman (781-659-7122 x10 or office@firstparishnorwell.org), who will direct you to the appropriate person.

The FY15 Canvass reached out to 98 pledging units. The number of pledges received was 92, or 93.9%. I have summarized the pledge results below.

Pledge Range	Pledge Amounts		# of Pledges	
	Dollars	% of Total Dollars	# of Pledges	% of Total # of Pledges
\$7,500	\$7,500	6.12%	1	1.09%
\$5,000-\$7,499	\$5,000	4.08%	1	1.09%
\$4,000-\$4,999	\$17,200	14.03%	4	4.35%
\$3,000-\$3,999	\$18,200	14.84%	6	6.52%
\$2,000-\$2,999	\$18,300	14.92%	8	8.7%
\$1,000-\$1,999	\$40,730	33.21%	31	33.70%
\$500-\$999	\$10,360	8.45%	17	18.48%
\$200-\$499	\$4,560	3.72%	16	17.39%
<\$200	\$785	.64%	8	8.70%
Totals	\$122,635	100.0%	92	100%

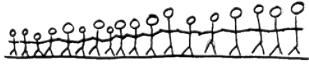
Thank you as always for your financial support. I hope you had a terrific summer and look forward to seeing you on Homecoming Sunday, September 7, 2014!

~Marta Reese





RE NEWS AND NOTES



Welcome back First
Parish of Norwell!

We're in the middle of our summer services right now, and your Religious Education committee and I are gearing up for the beginning of Sunday school, along with some of the Adult Religious Education workshops which we talked about last year.

Our Religious Education brochure will be complete and available at our first Sunday service in September, and will detail all of the different offerings for both adults and children. Some of the adult programs we'll be running this year include Dream Interpretation with Rev. Len DeRoche, Art Appreciation, Pub Theology, Path to Membership classes, and I will be leading the UUA program "Resistance and Transformation: Unitarian Universalist Social Justice History".

Complete descriptions and sign-ups will be available in the Parish Hall starting on September 7.

Our programming for children and youth is also coming right up. Our first official event for the year will be on **Saturday, September 6**, where we will be gathering in the Parish Hall for a movie night for families. We will be showing "Avatar" (rated PG-13) on our big screen media center, and supplying popcorn. After the movie, our high school age youth will be having a sleepover at the church, before cooking a pancake breakfast on the morning of our first service. Get to the church around 9:00 am on the 7th for pancakes and community!

Finally, our Sunday school classes will begin on **September 14**. Each of our age groups will be focusing on a particular part of Unitarian Universalism, and will learn about many aspects of religion and the world throughout the year.

The Pre-K-Kindergarten class will be using the new curricula: Wonderful Welcome. The Wonderful Welcome curriculum engages and challenges leaders and children alike to explore how and why we are willing to welcome others into our lives. We welcome not only strangers, but family, our peers, our neighbors and even entities that are not people such as our animal friends and nature itself.

The 1st-3rd grade class will be running the program: In Our Hands. In Our Hands is a peace and social justice curriculum which looks at the world around us, and helps the students to expand their ideas about how they can positively impact the world around them. The program focuses on both the ends and means, the ideals and realities that feed into being a complete person and helping others.

The 4th-6th grade class will be using the program Timeless Themes. This program focuses on the stories of the Hebrew and Christian Bibles. These stories have been instrumental in our society for thousands of years, and understanding these stories can be an important part of understanding religion as a whole. We will be examining some of the better known, and some of the lesser known stories, and talking about how they can be meaningful in our lives, and in the development of our religious beliefs.

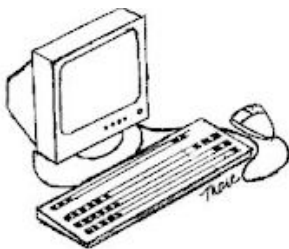
Our 7th and 8th grade class will be using the Our Whole Lives curriculum. Last year I wrote a couple of longer articles about the

importance of the OWL curriculum. This time I'll simply describe it as a sexuality and relationships program for youth. This is a very useful, deep, and meaningful program, and as a result we require that students commit to attending each class. If you have any questions, or know of other students who would be interested from outside of the congregation, please contact me.

Finally, our Youth Group will be continuing our biweekly meetings on Sunday nights. Our first Youth group meeting of the year will be on **September 14** at 5:00pm.

Thank you; I look forward to another great year with you all!

Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education



Periodically, the Church Office sends all-church email "blasts" to remind the church community of upcoming events or late-breaking church news. An emailed mini-Spire is also distributed between editions of the printed Spire. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, or if your email address has changed recently, please take a moment to email Hope in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.org.

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

KENT HOUSE RENTAL

The Kent House, a one bedroom home adjacent to the Meetinghouse parking lot, will be available to rent as of October 1. We will be looking for a tenant and want to make this opportunity available to the church membership first. If more than one member of the Parish shows interest, the Parish Committee will draw a name from qualified candidates. The rental agreement will be for one year and the rent will be \$1200 per month plus utilities. If you are interested, please contact Don Messinger, chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, at 781-659-7574.



PARISH DIRECTORY

A new First Parish phone directory is in the works. There will be a draft available for viewing on the Welcome Table in September. At that time, please check your current listing and make changes as needed. If you will not be attending church on those Sundays, please contact Hope in the Church Office to make sure your family's information is up-to-date. The directory will be available by late September – early October.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: the potential for greatness lives within each of us."

~Wilma Rudolph, Olympic athlete