

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

September 10, 2014

Volume XIII, Issue 2

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching
unless otherwise indicated

September 14: **The Dream**

Rev. Len 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

Rev. Len reflects on the recent events in Ferguson, MO.

October 5: **Community Animal Blessing**

We will bless our animal companions and celebrate St. Francis of Assisi. You and your furry friends are welcome to this celebration of the ways that our lives are enriched by living with and caring for animal companions. Pets should be on a leash or in a carrier.

October 12:

Being Conservative in a Liberal World

Many UU's have voiced that they feel out of touch with members of our congregations because of political affiliations. Rev. Len will address this issue.

October 19: **Beyond Categorical Thinking**

This is a program and a training session hosted by your Search Committee involving the ministerial search.

ROSE AND COLUMN

We've had a very successful homecoming service and children's RE now starts. This month starts with the All-Church Potluck on Saturday, September 13. 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. At the end of the month (preceding my sermon on racism) will be a screening of a movie that has overtures with a look at racism in the 21st Century. The 2004 movie is Crash about a crime drama in the LA area. It was nominated for six Oscars, won three and has an all-star cast.

Worship services this year will also include us using our new teal hymnal "Singing the Journey" each week for one of our hymns. The choir is very familiar with the hymnal and will help us learn the new music. We are also going to try to have one meal after church throughout the year to facilitate getting to know each other better.

Julian has prepared a brochure that addresses where our Children's and Adult RE Program will be going this year.

For those that have been following Parsonage renovation, Scott Babcock and Debi Meddaugh have put up a good photographic record on our website. I expect to welcome you all in to see the final product as the year progresses. I am spending more time with the parsonage work than I expected but I enjoy seeing the project moving along so quickly.

In faith and love,
Len



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: *Gingy 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 22** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.



CARING CORNER

Peter and Roberta Fairbanks joyfully announce the births of their first and second grandchildren, born this summer 30 days apart. Lydia Jeanne Fairbanks was born to Adam and Jessica Fairbanks on July 21. Brooke Elizabeth Fairbanks was born to Ross and Sarah Fairbanks on August 20. Both families reside in Marshfield.

Marie and Jim Miller proudly announce the birth of their second grandchild. Catharine Hayden Miller joins baby cousin Mason James, as the newest member of the family. Catharine Hayden Miller, named after Jim's mother, was serendipitously even born on her great-grandmother's birthday, July 19. Proud parents Jeff and Kendall, are doing extremely well and are rejoicing in this blessed event. Hayden, as she will be called, has now surpassed her birth weight and length of 7 pounds, 11 ounces and 20½ inches long.

Bill Carpenter, son of John and Peg Carpenter, was seriously injured in a work-related accident at the end of June. He was airlifted to the Brigham and Women's Hospital for surgery, and then transferred to the Spaulding Rehab Center in Charlestown for the summer. He has been transferred again, and is now at the Life Care Center of the South Shore, 309 Driftway, Scituate. He is doing well and managing the transfers into the wheelchair from the bed and back, and is taking a few steps on the parallel bars. He will be there for a few weeks before making the transition back to his home in Scituate. He would welcome cards and visits; best time is late afternoon and early evening. Thanks to everyone who has sent cards and made calls – they have been a huge help and comfort!

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.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

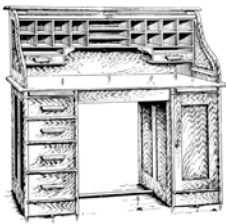
Can you provide a pulpit arrangement for an upcoming service? Would you like to host Coffee Hour? How about being an usher? Would you like to assist Rev. Len with lighting the chalice? Please consider signing up! Sign-up sheets for the upcoming church year are posted in the Parish Hall, or you may contact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

KENT HOUSE RENTAL (AND TOUR!)

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.

Based on congregant interest it has been suggested that the Parish Committee arrange for a tour of the Kent House while it is unoccupied. If you've not visited the Kent

House and would like to see the inside, now's your chance! After the worship service on **Sunday, September 21**, Jack Christensen will conduct a tour.



FROM THE OFFICE STAFF

The Church Office is a well-used space- welcoming visitors, hosting meetings, and coordinating the activities of a busy parish. It would be greatly appreciated if you could reset the furniture to its original arrangement after meetings and dispose of your snacks and empty coffee cups. Thank you for your cooperation!



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

The bookworms of the First Parish of Norwell Book group are off to a great start! New members are always welcome – come to one discussion or come to them all! Our meetings take place on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. The next discussion is scheduled for **October 1**.

Our October book is “Consigned to Death” by Jane Cleland. Josie Prescott’s friends thought she was nuts when she left her New York auction house job and her boyfriend to live on the New Hampshire coast. Things are looking better, though, now that she’s got her own auction business up and running and has made something of a success of her new life. That is, until she gets mixed up in murder, and the

supremely eligible but emotionally distant local police chief seems to think she’s the prime suspect.

We have selected our books for each month through February 2015. A complete list may be found on the Welcome Table.

SAVE THE DATE...
Special Parish Meeting
Sunday, October 26 at 11:30 am



GOT TOWELS?

As part of the **October 5** Blessing of the Animals service, we are conducting a special outreach project. With the closing of the Pembroke Animal Rescue League facility, the Brockton Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts has the sole responsibility to provide services for a very large population of animals in need. There is a desperate need for old towels, sheets, and lightweight blankets to provide soft bedding for animals in the shelter. Please look through your linen closet for donations. An old bath towel can be a perfect bed for an abandoned kitten!

There are large collection bags available in the Parish Hall for your donations. We hope to be able to deliver several bags of bedding to the Animal Protection Center as part of the October 5 Animal Blessing. The Shelter’s “Wish List” will be posted for your consideration of other specific items needed. Thank you!

~Joanne Howard

MINISTERIAL SEARCH SURVEY

Your Search Committee has created an extensive and comprehensive survey which will provide us with important information about our church ministry at First Parish of Norwell, as we seek a settled minister. Also, the survey will give the prospective ministers an insight to our visions as a church community. This survey is long - for a very good reason. The Search Committee needs to know, in as much detail as possible, what you, the members and friends of First Parish of Norwell, are looking for in our next minister. We also need to know how you see our church, and what you would like from it and the minister. So please set aside about half an hour, relax, get comfortable, and give us your opinions so that we can make the best possible match. Thank you for making an important contribution to our search! Your input is extremely vital to the outcome of our quest.

The survey can be accessed via Survey Monkey using the link:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/fpn_sur

This site is set up to be completely anonymous and the responses cannot be matched with respective respondents. Printed copies will be available for those who are not able to use the internet. However, we encourage as many parishioners as possible to access the survey online so that we can minimize the number of printed copies needed.

With Sincere Appreciation for Your Efforts,
The Ministerial Search Committee

Bernie Gardner and Marie Miller, Co-Chair
Scott Babcock, Ingrid Carlson, Ellie Handleman, Mary Nickerson and Sally Turner

JOIN THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR CONVERSATIONS ON OUR FUTURE MINISTRY

The congregation is warmly invited and encouraged to attend the final "Cottage Meeting" which will be held on **Sunday, September 21** in the Fogg Parlor at 11:15 am. Church members at First Parish of Norwell are encouraged to offer their ideas about our future ministry, and provide input to the Search Committee about the needs of our congregation. Your Search Committee welcomes open communication and transparency as a part of this process. The Search Committee will be accessible to listen to all concerns and will make note of the suggestions to be considered in the Search. Every voice will count and be valued! So if you missed the opportunity to express your thoughts and be heard at the previously held meetings, or have more questions after responding to the survey, please join us at this final Cottage Meeting!

SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Ministerial Search Committee would like you to consider these important dates for your input to the search for our new minister. Your feedback is vital to our search process and we ask that you participate in the following ways. So please remember the following dates:

The on-line **Survey** link is now open for your responses from **September 7 – October 1**. The final **Cottage Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, September 21**, if you missed the previously scheduled meetings. The "**Beyond Categorical**

Thinking” Service and Workshop will be held on **Sunday, October 19**. We will have trainers come and meet with our search committee, lead the Sunday service, and facilitate an additional 3-hour conversation with our entire congregation, where we will have a chance to examine how we can avoid letting biases become a part of our search process. This is another way for us to improve the odds that regardless of our differences, we will find the minister who is the best match for us and will serve us well. **Lunch will be provided for this special program.** Attendance is highly encouraged for everyone in the congregation. We hope that you will participate in this opportunity provided by the UUA, which proves very useful and valuable to the congregations in the search process.

SHARED MINISTRY – 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.

Parish Committee

The Parish Committee is the governing body of the church. It is composed of 7 members, elected on a rotating basis for four-year terms, and the Treasurer as a non-voting, advisory member. It is our custom for the Director of Religious Education and Minister to participate, reporting on relevant matters. The Parish Committee attends to overall policy

decisions and financial matters. Drawing on congregational polity, it convenes the congregation to make major policy decisions.

Jim Pickel, Co-Chair (508-746-4647)

Deanna Riley, Co-Chair (781-837-4964)

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

Marta Reese, Treasurer



TAI CHI CLASSES

As part of adult programming to the congregation and greater community, First Parish of Norwell will continue to offer Tai Chi/Qigong. There will be a special Drop-In class on **Tuesday, September 16** from 9:15 to 10:15 am at the church's Parish Hall for anyone who would like to try out the class. There will be no classes on Tuesday September 23, 30 or October 7. The next four-week session will begin **Tuesday, October 14** and run through November 4. No special equipment, clothing, or shoes are needed. The four week session will be \$20 (\$5 for the drop-in session) payable at the first class to Mike Showstack. New students are welcome at any time and prior registration is not necessary – so invite 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 wuliacademy.com and 508-254-2587. He teaches extensively throughout the South Shore area.



JAMES LIBRARY & CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Check out our website www.jameslibrary.org for details on our exciting year ahead. We have a calendar of new events including an Instagram photography show in November, classical, jazz and chamber music throughout the year...free family programs and, well, so much more that you will just have to visit www.jameslibrary.org to see what's happening!

Library and Gallery hours: Tuesday – Friday 1-5 and Saturday 10-1. Give the James a call at 781-659-7100 if you want to chat with the James' friendly staff: Caroline Chapin, director, Tracey Kelly, assistant director or Lisa Flynn, art gallery director.



ALLIANCE NEWS

We will be offering a wonderful program to kick start the new Alliance year on **Wednesday, October 15**. Alan Banks of the Frederick Law Olmstead National Historic Site in Brookline will discuss this famous landscape architect with a slide lecture in the Parish Hall. Refreshments will be served at 10 am followed by a short business meeting and then Alan's program. Sue Robinson, Phyllis Cohen and Helen Keeler will be the hostesses for the day and Sue Robinson will be giving the Thought for the Day. It promises to be an enjoyable fall meeting and we hope to see you all there. All members and friends of the Church are welcome at Alliance meetings. Board members be advised of a meeting **Wednesday, September 17** in the Fogg Parlor at 10 am.

HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE



With a challenging year ahead with a zero budget from the church due to a disappointing canvass, the Helen Fogg Service Committee is looking for people who are passionate about outreach! Please consider joining our committee, which meets just once a month, on the second Sunday of the month! Join us next **Sunday, September 14** in the Church Office at 11:30 am. If you have questions, please contact any member of our committee, listed, below.

Our Second Sunday program has changed to Outreach Sunday, and will be held on varying Sundays each month, depending on the worship schedule. The first Outreach Sunday of the year will be **September 21**. The Helen Fogg Service Committee will feature the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse of the South Shore Community Action Council which provides food for the food banks for many of the towns in the demographic area of our church. The money collected in the collection plate that morning will go to the Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse. In addition, please bring in non-perishable food items for the Norwell Food Pantry. By the way, the grocery cart for the Norwell Food Pantry is always in the hallway in front of the office. The Metzger family transports our donations to the Norwell Food Pantry once a month. Thank you Amanda, Jon, Nick, Charlie and Ben!

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs
Scott Babcock, Debbie Chase, Pat Crumley,
Mary Mercier, Dorothy and Bill Montuori,
Amy Stephenson, Jack Wallace and Jane and Stan Wilderoter, members



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!



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



FROM THE DRE



Sunday marked our first regular service for the year, and we'll be starting regular Sunday School this coming Sunday. Also, for parents

of Our Whole Lives students: please plan on attending an orientation meeting for parents and children directly after the service on **Sunday, September 14**. We will be going over the basics of the program and addressing any concerns you may have. Attendance is strongly encouraged for the success of the OWL program.

For this article I will be sharing our UU Seven Principles in language for children, along with how our programming exemplifies these values. I hope that this can help you and your children to understand the importance and wisdom behind these principles. I also encourage you to contrast this version of the 7 principles with the official version from the UUA, and consider how each principle can mean different things to children and adults.

1. "We believe that each and every person is important."
The first principle is one of the most important, especially as it relates to religious education. In Sunday School we constantly encourage children to look at situations and struggles from the point of view of others, and encourage the children to help others as often as possible.
2. "We believe that all people should be treated fairly."
Developing a covenant that all participants agree to is a central first step for each Sunday School class at FPN. We do this so that both the leaders and children have significant buy-in when it comes to keeping the class a fun and peaceful place.
3. "We believe that our churches are places where all people are accepted and where we learn together."

At FPN we always try to talk about people with different kinds of families and religious beliefs in our programs. This makes it so that UU children can freely explore the belief systems of the world, and find the ones which most nurture them.

4. "We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life."

This value is vitally important in a creed-less religion like Unitarian Universalism. The UU faith puts a great deal of emphasis on personal freedom, and as a result we are able to have a wonderful collage of ideas and beliefs.

5. "We believe that everyone should have a vote about things that concern them."

This principle is exemplified by our covenant process in Sunday School, where it is a cooperative process of making rules. This contrasts with most children's experience with school, where the rules are enforced without any input from the children. This experience of having input into their own world can be vital for children who are quickly developing mentally, and emotionally.

6. "We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world."

The Sunday School program addresses this idea in nearly every class. Whether we are talking about strife in the Middle East, or if one class member received more Goldfish crackers at snack time, fairness is a concept we can all understand, and is one that is central to helping children become good citizens.

7. "We believe in caring for our planet Earth."

Looking at the larger planet can sometimes be difficult for children, as it is very removed from their immediate experience. This makes developing the concept of world citizenship incredibly important. Because of that, we work

in our RE classes to frequently talk about ecological and sociological issues going on in our world. This allows the children to connect strongly with their planet, and value their role in maintaining it for the future.

These are just a few ways we address the 7 Principles in our classes, and just a sampling of the ways you can do the same in your own home! We hope to see you all on Sunday morning, but the people with the most impact in children's lives are their parents. As a result, the most important theologian in each child's life will be their parents. I am constantly amazed at the compassion and thoughtfulness each of the FPN children shows each Sunday, and (unfortunately) our Sunday School teachers and I can't take all of the credit.

As always, if you have questions or ideas for religious education, I am always happy to give you answers, or more questions depending on the question. I'm looking forward to seeing you all next Sunday!

~Julian Baptista, DRE

CHURCH COUNCIL 2014

The Parish Committee invites all church committee chairs and church staff to a Church Council Meeting **Sunday, October 5** at 11:30 am, following coffee hour. We will convene in the Fogg Parlor at 11:30 am and we will finish no later than 1:30 pm. A light lunch will be served. The overall purpose of the meeting is to communicate among our standing committees - to share the news of our interim period at First Parish, to ask questions and set goals.

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.

NEW PFLAG GROUP FORMED

The newly-formed South Shore/Duxbury Chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People) is holding a kick-off event:

Saturday, September 22 7:30-8:30 pm
First Parish Church of Duxbury
842 Tremont Street (Route 3A, Duxbury)

This kick-off event will introduce a support group of families and friends of asexual, bisexual, gay, intersexual, lesbian, queer, questioning and transgender people. Educators, youth workers, clergy, health professionals, public safety personnel and BGLT allies are welcome to attend. Regularly scheduled support group meetings will be held the 4th Monday of each month, starting October 27 at 7:30 pm. For more information, please email DuxburyPFLAG@gmail.com.

MEN'S GATHERING

The first Men's Gathering of the church year will be **Monday, October 6** from 7-9 pm. Marlon and Les Taylor are hosting (22 Canoe Tree Street, Marshfield, 781-837-2929). BYOB and a dish to share.

Q: HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

A: IF I HAVE ENOUGH LAUGHTER, IF I GO TO BED CONTENTED WITH MYSELF AND MY LIFE. I DON'T THINK THE WORLD'S STANDARDS OF SUCCESS ARE THAT VALID.

~MADELINE L'ENGLE, AUTHOR



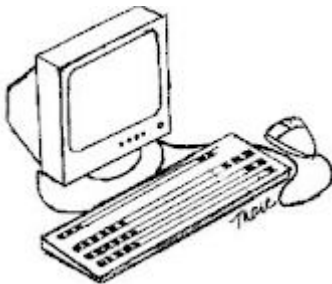
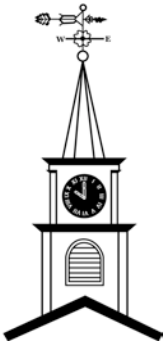
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THE SPIRE

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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.