

The Spire



The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

phone 781-659-7122

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December 3, 2014

Volume XIII, Issue 8

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching
unless otherwise indicated

December 7: **World AIDS Sunday**

We will recognize World AIDS day December 1 with the showing of the film The Normal Heart on **Saturday, December 6** at 6:30 pm in the Skylight Room. Norwell High School's theater company, the *Fourth Wall Players*, is performing The Laramie Project December 4-6 at 7 pm. The play exposes the prejudice and hatred which led to the brutal murder in 1998 of gay student Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, and by inference takes a firm stance for tolerance, acceptance and diversity. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the door one hour before the performance.

December 14: **Solstice Service**

The worship will celebrate our connection to the earth and our shortest day of the year, as well as Chanukah, which starts December 16.

December 21:

RE Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24:

Community candlelight Christmas Eve services at 5 and 7:30 pm Once again, our traditional service of words and music.

December 28: **The Magic of the Season**

Come share your holiday memories and sing seasonal music! Joanne Howard will be our worship leader. There will be no RE today.

January 4: **Burning Bowl**

We will celebrate the New Year with resolutions.

January 14: Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Pam Barz from First Parish Scituate.

ROSE AND COLUMN

Your celebration of Mary Eliot's life was a wonderful contribution from the whole community. With the very busy timing of the Holiday Fair, the whole congregation came together to produce a memorial that truly honors her long, loving, and productive life. Many people have commented how special her memorial was. The memorial for a "life well-lived" like Mary's writes itself.

At the same time, we realized that while "many hands make light work", there can also be "too many cooks in the kitchen". Whether it's a one-time event like a memorial service, a regular church event or a special project, I urge you to offer assistance to (and take direction from) the event chair or staff member with the responsibility for the task.

In Faith and Love,
Len

Due to the construction schedule at the Parsonage, Rev. Len's holiday open house (originally scheduled for December 20) has had to be pushed back to sometime in January. Stay tuned for more details!

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, December 15** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.





CARING CORNER

Our condolences go to Jay McOsker and his family. Jay's mother passed away on November 20.

Mary Lou Sutter continues to recover from recent surgery. She is happy to be home, and would appreciate cards from her FRN family.

Your Pastoral Care Team is asking for your help in locating an inexpensive apartment rental for a member of our congregation. Please call the Church Office if you have any suggestions.

Help us to keep in touch, celebrate the happy moments in life and support you during the difficult times. Please send your news to Hope Weinman in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.com, or contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team (Sue Robinson, Joanne Howard, Joyce Hockman and Betsey Detwiler).



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

The next discussion is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 10** at 7 pm on the Fogg Parlor. The book being discussed is "Breakfast with Buddha" by Roland Merullo. All are welcome! Please note: book group discussions have shifted to the *second* Wednesday of the month, to accommodate members who are attending Julian's social justice workshop.



A HUGE **thank you** goes to all those who helped with Mary Eliot's memorial service on November 20. It was a daring choice on my part to schedule a memorial service and reception two

days before our biggest fundraiser of the year. So many people responded to my plea for help: moving tables after the reception, scheduling a caterer, ushering at the service, arranging flowers... I truly appreciate everyone's hard work, support and enthusiasm. Peg Kitchenham and the Activities Committee deserve special recognition; the committee members graciously helped with both the reception and the Holiday Fair.

With deep gratitude,
Hope Weinman
Office Administrator



WELCOME, TOM!

By now, you have hopefully had a chance to meet Tom Fazio, our new sexton. Tom joined us over the summer. He has a college degree in business, and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He was the owner and president of a copy machine company for over 40 years, until his retirement. He got tired of sitting around at home, and started to look for a part-time job. He's Don Messinger's next-door neighbor as well. Tom has quickly established himself as the new "coffee king" at FPN!



Should severe weather necessitate cancellation of any church activities, we will make every effort to leave an outgoing message on the church's voicemail and send an all-church email with the cancellation. If you have not been receiving all-church emails, please take a moment to email Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org. Depending on the amount of advance notice, check our website as well: www.firstparishnorwell.org. We will notify WATD radio in Marshfield (95.9 FM), WCVB – TV (Channel 5), WHDH 7News and radio/AM 680. We will also make every effort to post updates on our Facebook page. Just go to our website, scroll down under “Upcoming Events” and click on the link to Facebook. Then “like” our page. However, power outages or lack of internet access may affect our ability to communicate with you all. **Please be cautious and use your best judgment!**



MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group meets next on **Tuesday, December 9** at 7 pm in the Skylight Room. 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.



COOKIE WALK

Join us again this year for our Cookie Walk. It will take place on **Saturday, December 13**, from 10 am to sellout. Come take a few quiet minutes out of your hectic holiday chores to sip a cup of coffee and nibble on a warm cookie right out of the oven as you contemplate your choices and fill boxes to give as gifts or enjoy yourself. We'll also need lots of bakers. Sign up with Noel Constantino (339-244-4778 or i.noelsie@gmail.com).



WELCOMING A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Each year at this time, friends and families in our congregation participate in Guest at Your Table — a 40-year UU tradition. By bringing home a beautiful *Stories of Hope* booklet and Guest at Your Table envelope, families and individuals learn about how the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts our shared values into action. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots human rights leaders, UUSC promotes workers' rights, upholds the human right to water, and protects communities at risk.

Sharing our blessings through Guest at Your Table ensures that UUSC's human rights work continues. Please consider making contributions throughout the program, to collect enough to be eligible for the matching grant: any donation of \$125 or more is eligible to be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to a generous grant by the UU Congregation at

Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y. This means you could double the impact of your gift!

Please be sure to pick up your *Guest at Your Table* envelope at the church. If you prefer, you can make your contribution online at uusc.org/givetoguest. Our Guest at Your Table program runs from Thanksgiving to December 21 when we will collect envelopes at the church service. Contact Sue Robinson at 781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com for further information.



FROM THE PARISH COMMITTEE

One of the interim goals/priorities for the church is to create a 3-4 word mission statement - a statement that would more easily communicate what we stand for.

In October, the Parish Committee asked for your ideas and suggestions for a shorthand statement of First Parish's Mission: who are we at our core... 3-4 words or a phrase that captures our essence. Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us; we received 25+ suggestions!

At our October 21 meeting the Parish Committee reviewed all of your ideas and identified the top suggestions. They've now been integrated into a logo and we'd like your vote on which one of the following you think would best represent us.

#1:



#2:



#3:



You can "Voice Your Choice" by responding electronically when you receive the all-church email on **December 5**, or in person after the worship services **December 7** or **December 14**.

Thanks in advance for your participation!
The Parish Committee



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.

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee, working closely with the minister, creates, coordinates and/or supports Sunday services and other religious celebrations, encouraging lay participation in our services as readers and worship leaders. The Worship Committee would welcome your input and/or your presence on the committee.

Committee Members:

Joyce Pickel, Chair (508-746-4647)

Marcia Babcock, Joanne Howard, Marie Miller, Shelley Vaugine, Les Taylor (Head Usher), Noel Constantino or Bev Gardner (Helen Fogg Service Committee representative), Gingy Grimes (Music Director), Julian Baptista (Director of Religious Education) and Rev. Dr. Len DeRoche (Interim Minister).



FROM THE DRE



Hello First Parish!

Most of you are probably quite aware of the work I do for the congregation, especially in our youth and children's religious education programs. What you may not know about is the continuing training and assessment

involved in bringing the newest and highest quality religious education to the congregation. For the entire 5 years I have worked as a religious educator, I have been taking "Renaissance Modules" multi-day training sessions detailing various skills involved in being a Director of Religious Education.

The skills I have developed through the Renaissance program are Administration as Leadership, Ministry with Youth, Multicultural Religious Education, Philosophy of Religious Education, History of Unitarian Universalism, and Worship for All Ages. This year has been a particularly significant period in my professional development, as I am slated to complete the program to become a credentialed DRE in March of 2015. This is a significant step in my career as a religious professional, and I both appreciate the support of First Parish of Norwell, and look forward to bringing all of this new knowledge to bear in our RE program.

A second way which I represent FPN to the greater denomination is serving on the board of the Unitarian Sunday School Society. The USSS is a historic organization which predates the current professional organization LREDA, and supports the creation of program and the development of the field of religious education. As a board member I approve grants to UU religious educators from throughout the US, and always keep my eyes open for a new curriculum or ideas to bring back to First Parish of Norwell.

To get back to our congregation, we've just had our first session of the adult RE course "Resistance and Transformation", but you can still come to our next sessions on **December 3 and 17** at 7:00pm. We've had some great discussions, and hope you can make it!

We're all looking forward to another great month of religious education at FPN this December!

*~Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education*

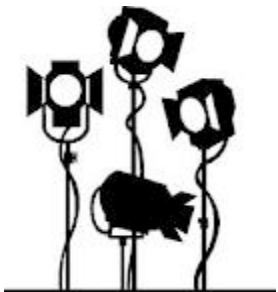


CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS NEEDED

Please consider signing up to usher one of First Parish's Christmas Eve services. As the Spire goes to print, three people are still needed for the 5 pm service, and one more person is needed for the 7:30 service. There is a special sign-up list posted in the Parish Hall. Please feel free to sign up at church or contact Les Taylor at 781-837-2929. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS BANNERS

Now that we have entered the Advent season, the family holiday banners are once again decorating the Meetinghouse. If your household is not yet represented, please contact Julian Baptista or the Church Office for a felt square. The finished squares will then be attached to the banners.



MOVIE NIGHT

Join us on **Saturday, December 6** at 6:30 pm in the Skylight Room for a screening of **"The Normal Heart"**. "The Normal Heart" is an Emmy-winning poignant 2014

film depicting the HIV/AIDS crisis in the gay community in NYC between 1981-1984. Bring your own drinks and snacks!



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Our December Service/Outreach Sunday is **Sunday, December 7**. All gifts for DCF-involved children must be delivered to church. Betsy Gordon, Scott Babcock and Noel Constantino will accept the gifts and assure that they will get to the right kids at the right time. Questions? Contact Scott Babcock (781-659-2956).

The Fogg Service Committee has taken over the December "Mitten Tree" project. A tabletop Christmas tree will be in the Meetinghouse during the month of December. Please have your children bring in children's hats, scarves and mittens to hang on the tree. These items will be donated to the Norwell Food Pantry this year. We have been assured by the Pantry that there is a great need, and the hats and mittens will be placed on a table at the Pantry. Julian's Social Justice Workshop started out with a bang two weeks ago with 10 interested people in attendance. This class will be on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Please join us! Thank you, Julian!

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs of the Helen Fogg Service Committee
Scott Babcock, Debbie Chase, Pat Crumley, Mary Mercier, Dorothy and Bill Montuori, Jack Wallace and Jane and Stan Wilderoter, members



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

We will continue the tradition this year of decorating the Meetinghouse our two Christmas Eve services. Plants may be purchased in memory or in honor of someone if you wish; all names are listed in the Order of Worship on Christmas Eve. Plants are available in red, pink or white; we will do our best to fulfill your color preference, but are unable to guarantee it. You may bring your plant home with you after church on the 24th. If interested, please sign up at Coffee Hour the next few Sundays.

MEN'S GATHERINGS

The next Men's Gathering will be **Monday, December 8** at 7pm at Bernie Gardner's home (177 Washington Street, No. Pembroke, 781-829-0932). Bring a dish to share and BYOB. As well, men's breakfasts are held every Friday morning at 8:30 am at Sam's Restaurant (146 Front Street) in Scituate Harbor.

SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 23, 2014

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

1. We discussed creating a video of First Parish to be included in our Packet. Kevin agreed to help create the video... pictures of church activities were taken today. We discussed using some archived pictures for the slideshow. We also talked about possible

music options. The Search Committee is very grateful to Kevin for his assistance.

2. The Compensation Package Draft has been completed. It was agreed that highly specific details re: Sundays off may need to be negotiated with the minister in advance.

3. The Congregational Record has been sent out in an all church email with attachment on Nov. 13th. Hard copies of the CR, as well as the survey, are available in the office.

4. The target completion date for the packet is the beginning of December. The "Safe Congregation" draft will be included in the Packet. We are in the process of developing a "Right Relations" policy which will not be included in the packet. Laura will need to approve it by mid-December. We still need bios of the committee members.

5. The Ministerial Web Page has been, somewhat modeled on the Spokane UU website. We discussed including our new logo. We also discussed the specific links and topics to include on the page.

6. Treasurer Update: Ellie has a fairly current tally of our expenses. Most costs will be incurred during the search.

7. The Neutral Pulpit dates and pre-candidating interviews were discussed. The resource Guide @:

<http://www.uua.org/documents/mpl/transition/responsible-staffing.pdf> provides helpful prompts for questions and event guidelines.

8. Our conference call with Laura is Dec. 21 with all search committee members present. The mock interview will take place in Feb. Rev. Len will assist us with this interview.

9. The CR, Survey and Compensation Package will be sent to Laura on 11/24/14. We are on schedule to meet this goal.

10. Next meeting date TBS.

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson, secretary

THE "JESUS SEMINAR" COMES TO NORWELL

FPN will be hosting a seminar: "Jesus from Cradle to Grave" on **February 27 and 28, 2015**. The Christian creeds proclaim Jesus as the Son of God who was born of a virgin and physically rose from the dead. How did the conviction that Jesus was the Son of God influence beliefs about his birth and resurrection? Was the story of Jesus' virgin birth meant to be taken literally? Should the resurrection story be understood as a report of an historical event? The presenters will offer their insights and engage participants in a discussion about meaning of these stories, then and now. This seminar will be presented by Arthur J. Dewey (Th.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH and Robert J. Miller, Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School, is Professor of Religious Studies at Juniata College in Pennsylvania. For more information or to register for this event, please visit <http://www.westarinstitute.org/events/norwell-2015/>. Register by February 13 for the best rate.

*"Christmas, my child, is love in action.
Every time we love, every time we give, it's
Christmas"*

~Dale Evans



HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Church Office will close at 11:45 am on **Wednesday, December 17** for the staff holiday lunch. Hope and Donna's schedules will change a bit during the week between Christmas and New Year's. Hope will be in on **Monday, December 22** and **Tuesday, December 23**, from 9 am to 1 pm. She will be in *either* **Monday, December 29** or **Tuesday December 30**. Donna will be for brief period Christmas Eve, and one morning the next week. If you anticipate needing her for something urgent that week, email her ahead of time at donna@firstparishnorwell.org. Regular office hours will resume on **Friday, January 2, 2015**.



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THE SPIRE

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
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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 are posted in the Parish Hall, or you may contact Hope in the Church Office.