

# 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

January 7, 2015

Volume XIII, Issue 10

[www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)

## Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching  
unless otherwise indicated

### January 11:      **“Changing Stories”**

It’s about how we all “do theology” - sometimes without realizing it - through the stories we use to make sense of our lives and the world. The **Rev. Pamela M. Barz** has served as minister of the First Parish in Scituate since 2013. A life-long Unitarian Universalist, she is a graduate of Wellesley College and Harvard Divinity School and has served as a settled and interim minister in UU and UCC churches in Massachusetts and Maine and as the Chaplain to the UU community at Wellesley College. She lives with her husband and their 11-year old sons in Scituate.

### January 18:      **MLK, Jr.**

For his birthday weekend I will talk about some of his lesser known history. Traditional songs of the Civil rights era will

contribute to the service. View the new movie “Selma”. This will also be **Service/Outreach Sunday**.

### January 25:

#### **“Robin Williams’ Dark Night of the Soul”**

Robin Williams suffered from depression, his dark night of the soul, despite his gregarious persona.

### February 1:      **“William Blake, Mystic”**

William Blake was not a Unitarian or Universalist, yet some of his visual and verbal image I find profoundly mystical. We will sing the hymn “Jerusalem” from the British tradition.

### February 8:      **Chocolate Communion**

RE committee will have a chocolate auction. Sermon topic TBD.

## ROSE AND COLUMN

The Parsonage building is coming along. Don Messinger and Jim Millins are completing the Parsonage porch, and we received an anonymous gift of \$1000 to complete the work. We have all the materials and are waiting warmer and dryer weather to complete the job. The porch addition put us over the budgeted amount so we are still looking for ways to payback the capital expenditure account. Our chili cook-off (run mostly by the men's group) after church January 11 should help some.

Since we have some new people attending worship services, I thought I would reiterate what constitutes our Joys and Sorrows. In many religious services there is a time called "prayers for the people" or a "pastoral prayer". This is sacred time where if you wish to share you can share what is most close to your heart: one of life's milestones or a deep worry. As with the prayers at another denomination's worship, it allows members to reach out to those in need and those who experiences one of those milestones. If you still don't know what you should be sharing, think of what is intimately personal to you and decide when you feel the community is safe enough to share. For you who are new to our faith, I hope you will soon feel you can share your Joys and Sorrows with us.

At the end of February we will host the **Jesus Seminar on the Road**. This is run by a national non-profit organization to examine the roots of what became Christianity from an academic perspective. This is what your Bible study class did a few years ago. Hosting this brings into our UU community people who ordinarily do not find themselves coming through our doors and makes a statement about our inclusiveness theologically. Pre-registration is encouraged

### **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](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)

### **Minister:**

*Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche, x11*

[minister@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:minister@firstparishnorwell.org)

### **Director of Religious Education:**

*Julian Baptista, x12*

[dre@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:dre@firstparishnorwell.org)

**Music Director:** *Gingy Grimes*

### **Office Staff:**

*Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10*

[office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org)

*Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14*

[donna@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto: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, January 19** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or dropped off in the church office.

and the cost is only \$60 for the weekend (Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon.) The two scholars who are presenting are experts in their field. For those of you who may have had an association with a Christian church in your youth, this is a much more thoughtful and scientific look at the whole phenomena we call the Christian Religion. If you would like to attend and find the money problematic, I have a limited number of working scholarships available (youth included). Both our presenter have academic positions.

Yours in faith and love,  
Len



## CARING CORNER

Bob Detwiler is home and continuing to improve following a hospitalization for pneumonia. Betsy Gordon is also recovering from pneumonia and is home after a brief stay at the hospital.

A big thank you to Adrianna McLane, who passed out Christmas pins at the Children's Christmas Service the Sunday before Christmas! So very thoughtful!

The Carpenter Family would like to thank everyone who has brought meals (or who plans to bring) to their son, Bill Carpenter and his family. They are very much appreciated!

**Pastoral Care Team** .....*"to minister to each others needs"*

The Pastoral Care Team is, among other things, currently assisting Billy Carpenter's family by providing three meals a week. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sue

Robinson at 781-294-8840 and become a resource for the team, joining the fifteen folks already providing meals.

Our goal is to support the minister's pastoral ministry to all at church, particularly those adjusting to change, loss, illness or death; to share moments of celebration and happiness; to reach out to those who are unable to get out and would like a visit. Many of you already are quietly providing these pastoral moments to others. Please let a member of the Pastoral Care Team know of anyone who could benefit from direct contact by a member of the Pastoral Care Team: Sue Robinson, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman.

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](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.com), or contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team (team members listed above).



## MIDWINTER OPEN HOUSE

Rev. Len will have a Family Open House on **Saturday, January 17** (MLK, Jr. Weekend) from 5pm on at the parsonage (644 Main Street, Norwell). Bring something to share and see the newly renovated kitchen!





## FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

“Boom!: Talking About the Sixties: What Happened, How It Shaped Today, Lessons for Tomorrow”

Tom Brokaw, one of America’s premier journalists and the acclaimed author of The Greatest Generation, gives us an epic portrait of another defining era in America: the tumultuous Sixties. The voices and stories of both famous people and ordinary citizens come together in this “virtual reunion” as Brokaw takes us on a memorable journey through a remarkable time. Join us on **Wednesday, February 11** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor.

## MEN’S GATHERING

The next Men’s Dinner is **Monday, February 9** at pm at Bob Sutter’s (264 Brook Street, Hanson). BYOB and a dish to share.



## MEDITATION GROUP

The Meditation Group meets next on **Tuesday, January 13** 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](mailto:theherlings@comcast.net).



## JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### In the Gallery:

Dreamscapes by Hull artist Kathleen Draper-Garner. Free opening reception **Sunday, January 11** from 3-5 pm. On view through January 31.

### Book Discussion: “Chopin’s Funeral” by Benita Eisler

Join Janna Bruene on **Friday, January 23** at 7:30 pm in our concert hall for a FREE discussion of *Chopin’s Funeral*, a concise biography of Frédéric Chopin, a composer of distinctive and original music for the piano. The book also paints a vivid picture of 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris. Led by Stewards of the Steinway coordinator Janna Bruene.

### Jazz Concert:

Yoron Israel and High Standards on **Saturday, January 24** at 7:30 pm. Hot jazz for a cold winter’s night. Traditional and contemporary jazz. Advance ticket purchase suggested at [www.jameslibrary.org](http://www.jameslibrary.org).



## KNITTERS GROUP - AND ALL OTHER NEEDLEWORK OF CHOICE!

Each Tuesday morning beginning at around 9:30 am, a group gathers in the Fogg Parlor for handiwork, coffee, and conversation. Some come for the whole morning and bring a light lunch. Others drop in after Tai Chi class or errands. Some come for just the coffee and conversation. Whatever your interests, please drop in and join us - no agendas and no requirements. Just a great group who care!





## 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.

### Music Committee

The Music Committee collaborates with the Music Director and the Minister to coordinate First Parish Norwell's music program. It is a standing committee comprised of a chairperson and interested church and choir members.

The work of the Music Committee includes: supporting the Music Director in planning music for Sunday services and for special events such as Music Sunday; acting as liaison between the Music Director and the congregation; and in conjunction with the Music Director looking for ways to enhance the music program and encourage the congregation to participate by sharing their musical talents. The Music Committee is also responsible for arranging for the tuning and maintenance of our organ, pianos and harpsichord, and assisting in arrangements for concerts with special guests. The committee also sets and presents the Music Committee budget to the Finance Committee.

### Committee Members:

Peg Carpenter, Chair (781-826-8553)

Gingy Grimes, Music Director

Laurie Brown, Ingrid Carlson, Marie Miller,  
Lorna Phillips and Mary Lou Sutter



## SUPER BOWL PARTY

Join us for a fundraiser for your Youth Group! 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. 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 **Sunday, February 1**, come and watch together on our 80" flat-screen media center. Bring snacks and goodies to share and your own beverages. Find out who the big winners are. The event is estimated to start at 6 pm, but stay tuned for specifics.

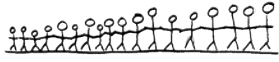
## THE VOTES ARE IN...

The Parish Committee would like to thank the 70+ of you who took the time to vote in early December on a new FPN mission statement! This statement will capture our essence and communicate what we stand for. The winning choice is:





## FROM THE DRE



Happy New Year! We have a whole bunch coming up in the RE program, so I'll jump right into it.

First up, Sunday School will look a little different January 11 - February 1. During this time we will be running our Mini-Sessions program. This program is a series of different workshops on all different topics run by members of the congregation. We'll have 2-4 of them each Sunday, and the children will be able to pick whichever one they would like to attend. Some of the workshops we'll have available include: Beginning Guitar, Mandalas, Making Chainmaille, Drumming and Dancing, Cooking, and more!

On **Saturday, January 31** at 7:00 pm, the RE program will be hosting an 80's Dance Party. Come down to FPN and dance the night away to all of the best 80's hits. We'll have lights, lasers, music, snacks, and even a disco ball! We know you'll want to hear all your favorites, so we'll have a clipboard available during Coffee hour each Sunday, or you can just add your request to our Google document here:

[docs.google.com/document/d/1ODbgwHWJu-7wgDvCtGhTip20aJ4cCO7P8jFv1fdvs78/](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ODbgwHWJu-7wgDvCtGhTip20aJ4cCO7P8jFv1fdvs78/)

We will not be serving alcohol, but if you'd like to bring your own beer or wine you are welcome to. The event is free, so bring all the friends you like!

Finally, on **Sunday, February 8** after the service will be our annual Chocolate Auction! This is a fun (and delicious!) fundraiser for the Youth Group, where the youth and any members of the congregation who would like

to, cook a whole lot of chocolate and other goodies to be sold during coffee hour. This year the Youth Group will be making fudge, and I encourage everyon' who's interested to make their specialty for this event! Please contact **Julian Baptista** ([DRE@FirstParishNorwell.org](mailto:DRE@FirstParishNorwell.org)) if you would like to cook.

Thank you all, see you at church!  
Julian Baptista  
Director of Religious Education



## TAI CHI CLASSES

Start the New Year off with attending our popular Tai Chi and Qigong class Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 am. at the church Parish Hall. The next four week session begins **Tuesday, January 6** – though you may drop in at any time. A fee of \$20 (\$5 per session) is payable to instructor Mike Showstack at the first class. No special equipment, clothing, or shoes are needed. New students are welcome at any time and prior registration is not necessary – so invite friends and neighbors. Contact Sue Robinson for additional information at [artsue45@hotmail.com](mailto:artsue45@hotmail.com) or 781-294-8840.



## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Here's to a wonderful 2015 to us, the wider world and humanity! Whatever we can do, individually or together, to add caring, compassion and love to the world will certainly help make a difference.

A thank you note from Carolyn Gunter, our former Partakers' BU student at MCI Framingham who now lives in Jamaica. (The Helen Fogg Service Committee is using the leftover money from our last year's budget to help with Carolyn's tuition for Master's level classes in Special Education).

*"To the Parishioners of First Parish of Norwell, I would like to say Happy New Year's to all. You are all in my prayers. I am about to start my second semester, which is keeping me focused in this crazy confusion of my life, so with that said, I want to thank you once again for believing in me. Pursuing my Master's will help me in so many different ways. I owe my education to your congregation. Thank you for sending Frank Mercier to the prison in 2001 to help a bitter young woman who now has turned into a well rounded mature lady. Thank you! Thank you! You will not regret this investment." ~Carolyn Gunter*

At the two Christmas Eve services, the plate collection traditionally benefits the Minister's Emergency Fund. This year, Len graciously gave half of what was collected to the Norwell Food Pantry, so \$1,000 goes to the Norwell Food Pantry. Such generous parishioners!

Thank you to all who donated winter hats, gloves, mittens and scarves to our Mitten Tree! Thank you to the Metzger family who delivered them to the Norwell Food Pantry!

Our next Service/Outreach Sunday will be on **Sunday, January 18**. The plate collection will benefit the home heating oil assistance plan run by the South Shore Community Action Council.

~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

## SEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

*(Editor's Note: Since the Spire production schedule was curtailed during the holidays, the minutes of the last 4 meetings are below.)*

January 4, 2015

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

1. This meeting was another extended gathering in which confidential matters were discussed. We spent 2 hrs reviewing candidates and made decisions as to who we'd like to exchange packets with.
2. Next week we will hold a mock interview with a volunteer. We made decisions as to the type of questions that would be asked. Each member will participate in this interview.
3. We will meet next on 1/11.

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson - secretary

December 28, 2014

Attending: Marie Miller, Bernie Gardner, Ellie Handleman, Sally Turner, Mary Nickerson, Scott Babcock, Ingrid Carlson and Laura Graham (UUA representative.)

We had a 2-hour conference call today with our UUA representative, Laura Graham. Essentially, this marks the beginning of many "executive session" meetings, in which

confidential material is discussed. We have begun to chart a detailed game-plan for our candidate search. January through April will be busy months in our inquiry.

We plan to meet again next week on 1/4 to review our progress.

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson - secretary

December 21, 2014

Attending: Marie Miller, Bernie Gardner, Ellie Handleman, Scott Babcock, Sally Turner, Mary Nickerson, Ingrid Carlson

1. The primary goal of this meeting was to have a conference call with our UU representative, Laura Graham. We had hoped to further clarify the process of meeting and interviewing candidates with her. However, due to technical difficulties with Laura's phone we were unable to reach her, therefore, we forged through some of these topics on our own. Hopefully, we will be able to arrange a conference call in the near future.

2. Several members of the SC met with Kevin Houston to review the church video. It is in the final stages of completion and looks great. Thank you Kevin for all your hard work!

3. Our CR, Survey and compensation packet have all been completed!

4. Ingrid has written a rough draft of the "thank you" message for ministers who respond to the First Parish search. The group decided that she should include the password to our CR link which Bernie will forward in January. Therefore, all inquirers will have access to the CR.

5. Our mock interviews will be held on Feb. 15 from 12:00 - 1:00. We will confirm the date with Rev. Len.

6. We had a productive and lengthy discussion about interview techniques. Specifically, we bantered about open-ended questions that would assist candidates in fully revealing themselves. Each SCM will be responsible for portions of the interviews.

7. Sally was given permission to reserve lodging for the finalized candidates this spring.

8. Bernie will reach out to Laura Graham to schedule another conference call. This is a busy time of year for all of us, and we understand that it may be difficult to coordinate this call in the middle of the holiday week.

9. Next SCM - TBD (see above.)

Respectfully submitted by Ingrid Carlson - secretary

Sunday, December 14, 2014

Attending: Scott Babcock, Bernie Gardner, Ellie Handleman, Marie Miller, Mary Nickerson, Sally Turner, Les Taylor

Video of Church: Kevin Houston has agreed to create the video/slideshow for our packet. We will make our final selections of photos by Tuesday, Dec. 16, and forward them to Kevin. On Sunday, Dec. 14, Dexter Robinson recorded the Offertory music which we will use as background music for the slideshow. "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desire" was played by Gingy Grimes on the organ and Peter Bianca on the clarinet. We will make sure to list them both in the credits of the video.



Update on CR, Survey, and Compensation Package: These parts of our packet have gone live on the UUA Search Website, where ministers are now viewing them and expressing an interest in our church. We have about three interested ministers at this point.

Timeline of Search: Mary Nickerson has made a copy of the timeline of our search with the sequence of events and dates for Pre-candidating weekends, as well as details of the search process. We will begin to finalize the details after the packet is completed.

Packet Update: We are just about on target for the completion of the online packet, for our self-imposed deadline of Dec.15. We are almost there. Right now we are just missing the video, which we hope to complete at the end of this week. We will send the packet to Laura Graham for approval by end of week, two weeks earlier than suggested by the UUA. It has been a team effort and we should all be proud of ourselves for working so diligently! To access the packet for viewing, please click onto the following link:

[http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/ministerial\\_search.html](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/ministerial_search.html)

Thank-you to ministers who respond: Ingrid will send a "Thank-you for your interest" letter to ministers as they respond, which will begin to appear on Jan. 2. Ingrid will send a copy of this letter to the committee members so that we can see it before it is sent out. We decided that we would send all interested ministers a link to our packet.

Ranking System: Bernie will develop a ranking system matrix for the Ministerial Record. It will be used at our meeting on Sunday, Jan. 4 to rank the qualities of prospective ministers which our congregation feels are important,

according to information from the survey. Bernie will place that info on a Spread Sheet, along with the ministerial qualities and skills that we observe during our pre-candidating weekends, at our neutral pulpit visits.

Plan for Conference Call Interviews: After we review the Ministerial Records and online packets which we receive, we will plan to do a telephone conference call interview, or perhaps we can conduct the interview via Skype. We will also refer to the Resource Guide and become familiar with the section entitled "*Questions, Questions*" as well as the Responsible Staffing Guide".

Date for Conference Call with Laura-Dec.21: We made a list of questions that we will need to ask Laura. We will set up the conference call in the Church Office via a conference call button which is located on the phone in the office.

Mock Interviews in Feb.: Len has agreed to assist us the mock interviews on Sunday, Feb. 15 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 PM. We are very grateful for his assistance.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held Sunday, Dec. 21, when we will conduct a Conference Call with Laura Graham, our Ministerial Search Representative, who will guide us as we enter the next phases of our search.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marie Miller  
Co-chair of the Called Minister Search Committee





## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Book Discussion:

Susan J. Ritchie will speak on **Thursday, January 15** at 10:30 am on her book *Children of the*

*Same God: The Historical Relationship Between Unitarianism, Judaism, and Islam* in the Performing Arts Center in the Derby Clubhouse at Linden Ponds (203 Linden Ponds Way, Hingham, 781-347-1146). Susan Ritchie is the parish minister at North Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Lewis Center, Ohio.

### Martin Luther King Events:

**Monday, January 19, 2015**

Pancake Breakfast with Performance by Kristen Graves

8:00 - 10:00 AM Glastonbury Abbey, 16 Hull Street, Rte. 228, Hingham. (*Breakfast begins at 8:00, Performance at 9:00*) Ms. Graves, sought after for her catchy songs, funny stories and inspiring lyrics, performs approximately 175 shows a year throughout the country.

**Monday, January 19, 2015**

Pasta Dinner and Film Screening: *Paper Clips* 5:30-8:00 pm at Beth Sholom Temple, 600 Nantasket Avenue, Hull. (*Dinner at 5:30, Film & Discussion at 6:30*) *Paper Clips* chronicles the efforts of educators in Whitwell, TN, a predominantly Christian rural community, to find a meaningful way to teach middle school students about the chilling reality of the Nazi Holocaust. Ultimately, the students gathered far more than the six million paper clips they set out to collect as a representation of the Jews put to death by the Third Reich during World War II. The paper clips were placed in a permanent display inside a donated German rail car that once had carried Jews to concentration camps. The train car now serves

as a Holocaust museum on the grounds of the middle school. This film is deemed appropriate for those age 10 and over.

"Jesus from Cradle to Grave":

**Friday, February 27** and **Saturday, February 28**  
FPN Parish Hall

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. For more information or to register, please visit [www.westarinstitute.org/events](http://www.westarinstitute.org/events).

*"Life is like dancing. If we have a big floor, many people will dance. Some will get angry when the rhythm changes, but life is changing all the time."*

*~Miguel Angel Ruiz*



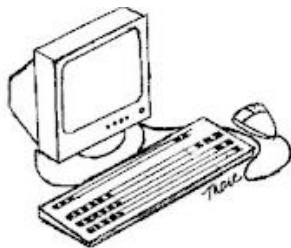
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# ***THE SPIRE***

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL  
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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](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org).