

# The Spire



The Newsletter of  
**First Parish of Norwell**

24 River Street

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phone 781-659-7122

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February 4, 2015

Volume XIII, Issue 12

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

## **Sunday Services – 10:00 am**

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching  
unless otherwise indicated

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

Valentine's Day is filled with chocolate so the RE committee will have a chocolate auction after the service. The sermon will talk about your loves. The Youth Group will hold their annual chocolate auction. Drop off your donation of any chocolate candy or baked item before service, then bid and buy during Coffee Hour.

### **February 15: Lincoln: a Closet Unitarian?**

Rev. Len's sermon talks about how this president's ideas followed Unitarian thought. Join us on Friday, February 13 at 6:30 pm in the Skylight Room for a screening of the Academy Award winning film "Lincoln" (PG-13).

### **February 22:**

#### **The Ministry of Mary Magdalene**

As women are breaking more barriers in professional spiritual leadership, let's take a look at one very influential woman in Jesus' time! Guest Minister is the Rev. Catherine Cullen from First Parish Duxbury. Catherine is in her eleventh year at Duxbury and has served our UU denomination on the district and national levels. She came to ministry 15 years ago after a career as a trial lawyer because she believes that Unitarian Universalism is the best way she knows to serve the world!

### **March 1: Hutzpah, Humility and Hubris**

Rev. Len thought this was an interesting relationship to sermonize.

*continued on page 2*

**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

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**HOME PAGE:** [www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)

**Minister:**

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Julian Baptista, x12

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

**Music Director:** Ginky Grimes

**Office Staff:**

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

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

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14

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**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 **Friday, February 13** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or dropped off in the church office.

**March 8: Union Sunday**  
**at First Parish Scituate at 10:30 am**

The congregations of First Parish of Norwell, First Parish Scituate, First Parish Cohasset, Old Ship Church and Second Parish Church in Hingham celebrate our historic ties with the annual union service. This year's focus is Earth Justice for the South Shore, and the collection will benefit the Trustees of reservations. There will be a special activity for the children. First Parish Scituate is located at 330 First Parish Road, Scituate. *Please note that there will be NO services in Norwell that day.*

**ROSE AND COLUMN**

On Friday and Saturday, February 27 & 28, FPN will host the **Jesus Seminar on the Road**. We are the only seminar being offered in the Boston area this spring. 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 we do not ordinarily find coming through our doors and makes a statement about our inclusiveness theologically. These sessions will offer a look at the times and life from a scientific and academic perspective. Pre-register by February 13 and the cost is only \$60 for the weekend (Friday night, Saturday morning and afternoon.) To register, contact Westar Institute directly at 503-375-5323 or visit [www.westarinstitute.org/events](http://www.westarinstitute.org/events). The two scholars who are presenting are Catholic Biblical experts; their understanding comes from a Bible based not on faith, but facts. If you would like to attend and find the money problematic, I have a limited number of working scholarships available (youth

included). Both our presenters have academic positions.

Another important event is the Helen Fogg lecture church on **Sunday, April 12** at 3 pm. The lecture will be by Bill Schultz. He leads the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) in advancing human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. Previously, he served for 12 years as executive director of Amnesty International USA, until spring of 2006. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, Schulz is a former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Schulz has appeared frequently on radio and television news and analysis shows and is the author or contributing editor of several books, including *In Our Own Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits Us All*; *Tainted Legacy: 9/11 and the Ruin of Human Rights*; *The Phenomenon of Torture*; and *The Future of Human Rights: US Policy for a New Era*. The *New York Review of Books* said in June 2002, "William Schulz has done more than anyone in the American human rights movement to make human rights issues known in the United States."

He graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, received a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago and a doctor of ministry degree from Meadville Lombard Theological School at the University of Chicago, and holds eight honorary degrees.

On Saturday and Sunday we had some successful events. Saturday's dance sponsored by the RE Committee had about 40 members rocking the Parish Hall. That evening Julian took our senior high group to an overnight in RI. Mornings service treated us to the rousing hymn "Jerusalem" - we need to sing that again before I leave. Coming into the Parish Hall

after the service, the children greeted us with a drumming circle. Many of us stayed for tastes of soup and conversation. In the evening was our second Annual Super Bowl party, again attendance was good, and the Patriots pulled it out in the last few seconds. As we celebrated the Super Bowl, the senior youth group was in chocolate heaven preparing for the chocolate auction next week. While both the soup and the Super Bowl raised some money, during these dark winter months, it is important for your well-being to gather in community.

As a congregation you are entering your pledge drive period. I can see the building enthusiasm you have for a new settled minister, but let me tell you about what your DRE Julian did last weekend. He ran a Youth Conference (CON) in RI Friday and Saturday, taking the youth down Friday night. He slept (or didn't sleep) at the CON. He ran the CON and came back to Norwell to DJ the 80's dance. Sunday morning he prepared for the Drumming Circle and told the Story for all Ages at our worship service. Sunday evening he led the youth meeting and set up the Media Center for the Super Bowl party. I hope the congregation appreciates what an asset you have in Julian. I hope he takes off Monday (probably to shovel snow).

Yours in faith and love,  
Len

**THE MEN'S GATHERING  
SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9 HAS BEEN  
CANCELLED.**



## CARING CORNER

We wish Shelley Vaugine quick healing for a knee replacement she had done Monday, January 19. She will be having her follow-up rehab at Queen Anne's Nursing Home, 50 Recreation Park Drive, Hingham, MA 02043 and would welcome cards and visitors.

Roberta Fairbanks had planned surgery Monday, January 19 and returned home the next day. We wish her a speedy and uneventful recovery.

As we did not come up with enough money in last year's pledge drive, Len has instituted a fun way to add money to the operating budget of the church at selected Coffee Hours! The Chili Cook-off several weeks ago made about \$200 via a good will donation of \$5. This past Sunday's "Soup-er Sunday" raised \$151 for the operating budget of the church. Thank you to "souper chefs" Sue Robinson, Jack Wallace, Len DeRoche, Dave Turner and Bernie Gardner!

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 (Sue Robinson, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).



## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

*"To minister to each other's needs..."*

The Pastoral Care Team continues to provide some meals for Bill Carpenter (who grew up at First Parish) and his family as he recovers from a spinal injury incurred last summer. Bill is effusive in his thanks to church people for the meals and says it has been great – he even enjoys the leftovers for lunch the next day! Since he is busy with therapies during the day while his wife is at work and his daughter is at school, having some meals each week is a very big help. Please consider helping with this team effort. Contact Sue Robinson at 781-294-8840 or [artsue45@hotmail.com](mailto:artsue45@hotmail.com) if you could deliver a meal to Bill's front porch cooler in Scituate on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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).



## ALLIANCE BOOK REVIEW

Save the date... **Wednesday, February 18** is the next Alliance Book Review. The meeting is being held in the Fogg Parlor at 10 am and our reviewer is Vivian Perry, who will be sharing her book review with a mystery guest. Refreshments will be served at 10 am by Phyllis Buell, Sue Sulc and Chris Travi. All friends of the Parish are invited.

## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 18, 2015

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

Today we spent 6 hours conducting and reviewing Skype interviews. We are concurrently planning times for continued reference checking. The Search Committee not only holds weekly meetings, but is also getting together to do reference checks during the week. This is a very labor intensive phase for us, and rest assured, you are getting your money's worth from our team. Next meeting: 1/25

Submitted by: Ingrid Carlson - secretary

January 25 and 26, 2015

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

SEARCH COMMITTEE: TOUGHEST JOB YOU'LL EVER LOVE!

This past week we have endured sickness and blizzard to continue our search. It was unanimously decided that conducting Skype interviews were much more insightful than the conference call. Therefore, we met last night during the storm to complete the process.

We are excited to report that we have spoken to some wonderful candidates. Our top choices have accepted our invitation to pre-candidating weekends. We will now coordinate the logistics to get them here and

will continue with more in-depth reference checks. Our next meeting scheduled is 2/1.

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson - secretary



## JAMES LIBRARY & CENTER FOR THE ARTS

### In the Gallery

The South Shore Woodturners.

Opening reception **Friday, February 6**, 6-8 pm. Amazing turned sculptures and vessels carved from native and exotic woods. On view through February. Come meet the turners—they are great guys.

### In the Concert Hall

**Sunday, February 8** at 3 pm

Pianist Gregg Pauley returns to perform three Beethoven sonatas. Part of the James' Stewards of the Steinway concert series. Treat yourself to an afternoon of fine music and meet Gregg at the reception. Thank you to Carol Neely and the Stewards of the Steinway group for their sponsorship of this concert. Tickets available at [www.jameslibrary.org](http://www.jameslibrary.org), by calling 781-659-7100 and at the door.

### In the Library

Books! Stop by for *Black River* by S.M. Hulse, *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins and *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Roz Chast.

*Love isn't a state of perfect caring. It is an active noun like struggle. To love someone is to strive to accept that person exactly the way he or she is, right here and now.*

~Mr. Rogers



## FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish!



I hope you're all shoveled out and ready for our second semester in RE! This coming Sunday we're shifting back into our regular religious education classes, and you'll be meeting our second semester teachers.

Gabe Carroll and Mary Nickerson will be teaching our Pre k-Kindergarten class, Erin Puleio and Lindsey Houston will be teaching grades 1-3, Mandy Metzger and Tom Yardley will be teaching grades 4-6, and Donna Amado, Marc Tierney, Thad Robey, and Patti Walters, will continue to teach our 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Our Whole Lives class.

In addition to our regular Sunday School classes, we have some great events coming up. First, on **February 8** is the Youth Group's Chocolate Auction. At this event the Youth Group and many members of the congregation bake their chocolate specialties to sell after worship (the youth made some great fudge that we know you'll want some of).

Second, at the end of the month is our Jesus Seminar. This in depth class for adults and youth is an excellent opportunity to explore the historic figure of Jesus of Nazareth. Whether your interest lies in the life of Jesus, the virgin birth, or the resurrection, Arthur J. Dewey (Th.D., Harvard University) and Robert J. Miller (Ph.D., Claremont Graduate School) are the scholars who can answer your questions, and leave you with a better understanding of our Christian roots. Admission is \$60 for both Friday and Saturday, and a limited number of scholarships are available.

Next, on **March 28** is our Talent Show! Please see the article elsewhere in the Spire for more information.

Finally, for the teens of First Parish, February 14 from 7-10 is our Valentine's Day Dance! We'll be playing all kinds of modern and a bit of older dance music, so please invite anyone who would be interested. We could also use a couple more chaperones, so please email Julian if you're available.

Thank you First Parish; I'll see you all at church!

~Julian Baptista, DRE



## TAI CHI CLASSES

Our popular Tai Chi and Qigong class continues on Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 am at the church Parish Hall. The next session begins **Tuesday, February 10**, 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.





## 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.

### *The Helen Fogg Service Committee*

The Helen Fogg Service Committee empowers the ministry of social justice and outreach at First Parish by serving as a conduit to and from the parish on issues that reflect the values of the church.

The committee is composed of interested volunteers in the congregation. It elects its own chair and oversees Service/Outreach Sunday collections to benefit worthy charities and causes. The committee meets after church on one Sunday each month. A representative of the committee meets with the Worship Committee monthly, with the Parish Committee once per year, and attends Church Council and budget setting meetings.

Noel Constantino, Co-Chair (339-244-4778)

Bev Gardner, Co-Chair (781-829-0932)

Elizabeth Robey, PC Liaison

Bill & Dorothy Montuori, Mary Mercier, Scott Babcock, Pat Crumley, Stan & Jane Wilderoter and Jack Wallace



## BECOMING A MEMBER

Becoming a member of First Parish Norwell entails more than just signing the membership book. It indicates a desire to live by our covenant—a sacred promise of inclusion and respect for all people, a commitment to support the church community both physically and financially, and a willingness to become part of a shared spiritual journey.

No test or proclamation of belief is required to be a member of First Parish Norwell. Ours is a non-creedal religion. There is no set of doctrines to which you must adhere, or creed you must recite, to be a part of our community. We follow the Unitarian Universalist Principles and agree to worship, learn, grow, work, and play together. We do not all have the same beliefs—we may disagree about the nature of Jesus or Buddha, or whether or not God exists, or what happens when we die. What we agree on is to walk together despite our differences and to grow because of them.

To become a member of First Parish, we invite you to consider the meaning and value that the congregation has in your life, and we make a few suggestions before signing our membership book:

- Participate in worship – We typically meet at 10:00 am from mid-September through mid-June. Check the web site home page for details on Sunday Services.
- Connect at a deeper level in our “Path to Membership Class” – information includes History, Beliefs, Connections, and how our church works.
- Make a Stewardship Pledge – Your pledge, no matter the amount, shows that you are investing your resources in the success of our church and its programs.

Becoming a member means you will receive the benefits of fellowship and communal support, ministerial participation in ceremonies of passage, and opportunities for leadership in the community. Becoming a member also means that you will have the opportunity to work on your own search for truth and meaning, to use your time and talents to support the community and its values, and to support the church financially, as you are able.

A financial commitment (pledge) is requested of all members each year. The congregation is supported entirely by its members and friends. There is no maximum or minimum amount that is required, but we ask that you pledge at a level that is noticeable in your life and reflects your support of the congregation.

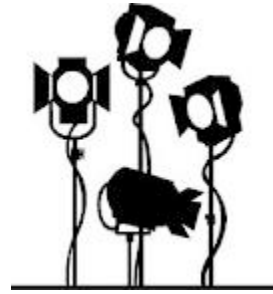
Membership in our church brings with it great rewards, as well as responsibilities. A community is only as strong as its members. That strength comes from participation, service, gifts of time and money, individual growth, and mutual caring and support.

If you have questions about becoming a member, or if you want more information about First Parish or "Path to Membership" classes, please contact Hope Weinman in the church office (781) 659-7122 X10, and she will direct you to the appropriate person.

We feel tremendous excitement for all that's happening at FPN and hope that you will too. We offer opportunities to deepen your spiritual life, to connect with others, to engage your passions and talents, and to help bring peace and justice to the wider world. We particularly welcome the special energy and vision that newcomers bring, and we are passionate about helping people to feel at home and to find their place among us. You

are invited to participate in our services and special events, explore our web site, and take advantage of our activities and events.

We invite those of you who have been coming for a while and enjoy both the fellowship of our church and our approach to religion to consider becoming members.



## CHURCH TALENT SHOW Saturday evening, March 28

Mark your calendars! Get out your music! Tune up your sax! Put on your dancing shoes!

We are looking for all kinds of talent to join us in making winter a lot of fun. Young people who would like to sing, dance, play an instrument or drum, let Amanda Metzger ([amajon@me.com](mailto:amajon@me.com)) or Julian Baptista ([dre@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:dre@firstparishnorwell.org)) know. We'll help you. Adults also should let us know what their act will be and about how long it runs.



## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Wonderful news for our church and UU's on the South Shore! Bill Schulz, the president of the Unitarian/Universalist Service Committee will speak at our church in April. This is quite a coup for us to have him for a Fogg Lecture

On this past Service/Outreach Sunday, Jim Pickel spoke about a topic near and dear to many of our hearts here at First Parish of



Norwell- the Partakers College Behind Bars program, for which teams of 4 people visit a prisoner at MCI-Framingham or MCI-Norfolk, encouraging them in all aspects of life but particularly in their getting a degree from Boston University. BU sends professors to the prisons, and those who qualify work toward their BA. We started back in 2000 with 3 women at MCI-Framingham. Two dropped out of the program, but Carolyn Gunter completed her BU bachelor's degree, finished her time, got a good job, and now, in Jamaica, she is starting her second semester of a Master's in Special Education. Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock and Bev Gardner are so proud of our mentoree and dear friend, Carolyn! Now Bev has joined the team (Phyllis Buell, Peg Carpenter and Jim Pickel) supporting Larry LaMiere at MCI Norfolk. He has almost finished his degree and his time at the prison. (Before his death, Harry Heineman was on the team.) Right now we have only Larry as our active Partaker's prisoner. We would like to be able to support more prisoners. In future Spires, I will comment on two additional successful former prisoners whom we have sponsored via Partakers, John and Wayne. Other First Parish Norwell people who have been involved with visiting prisoners through Partakers throughout the years are Rachel Tedesco (student minister who got us involved with Partakers), Paul Coolidge, Frank Mercier, Peg Kitchenham, Carrie Brandon, Stan and Jane Wilderoter, Deanna Riley, Dexter Robinson and Dorothy Montuori.

Collected in church for Partakers was \$574. There is still time to send in a check for the Partakers organization. Make the check out to First Parish of Norwell, and write Partakers in the memo line. Send it to the Church office. Thank you very much!

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

## FIRST PARISH MOVIE NIGHT



Lincoln

(PG-13)

**NEW DATE: Friday, February 13**

6:30 pm

Skylight Room

Bring your own drinks and snacks!

□  If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check here and drop in the mail. No postage is required.

**FIRST PARISH OF NORWELL**

24 River Street – P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

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