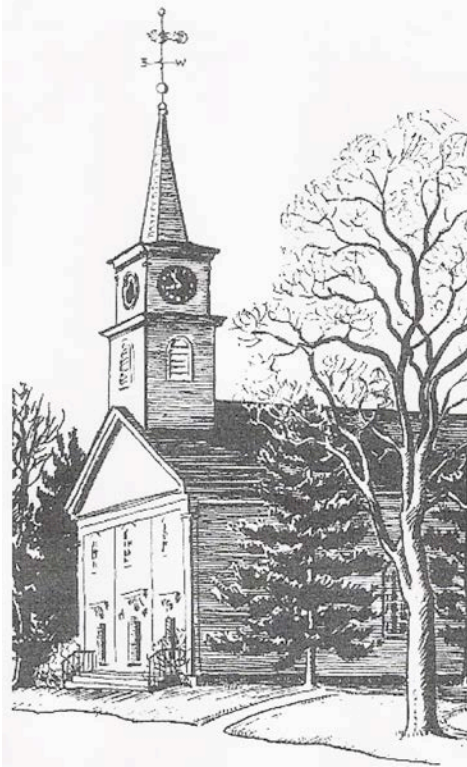


# The Spire



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

March 4, 2015

Volume XIII, Issue 14

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

## Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching  
unless otherwise indicated

### 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.*



**Daylight Savings Time** begins –  
remember to set your clocks ahead  
one hour Saturday night!

### March 15:            **Celtic Spirituality**

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we will look into what makes Celtic spirituality different and special. At Coffee Hour, Sue Robinson is organizing the celebration of the Irish Baked Potato. We will have a baked potato bar; sign up with Sue to bring your favorite topping.

### March 22:            **Senior Youth Sunday**

March 29:    **Hutzpah, Humility and Hubris**  
We all live somewhere on the spectrum between Humility and Hubris. For Palm Sunday, Rev. Len will attempt to answer why hutzpah can be beneficial.

### April 5:            **Community Easter Sunday Service**

**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, March 16** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or dropped off in the church office.

## ROSE AND COLUMN

On Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28, First Parish of Norwell hosted the **Jesus Seminar on the Road**. We only had about 40 people come on the two days of session; those that came seemed to enjoy it. Friday night the lead scholar had some air transportation problems so the Friday session was not as good as Saturday and was a bit dry. Despite having a significant Catholic population in the area it was not well attended even with two scholars who were Catholic Biblical experts. Notwithstanding the 9 feet of snow which adversely affected pre-registration we had an enthusiastic crowd. Through the organizational skills of Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, our guests were well received. Tommie Magazu surprised everyone with four types of lasagna which got raves from all our guests. He received lots of support from Peg and Chris Kitchenham, Joanne Howard and Denise Rachel. Snacks throughout the seminar were generously contributed by many anonymous members of First Parish. Jim Pickel managed the registration table, and Alex Gordon and Bob Cullum organized and sold books related to our subject. My personal thanks to everyone.

Since it is still snow season and will closely follow with an enthusiastic mud season, if you need any support call the Parsonage or the Church Office we will try to connect you with someone. Many of the members have voiced thanks to long-time member John Litchfield for all the snow assistance he has supplied around the town, especially in our parking lot.

Remember to put the Helen Fogg Lecture by Bill Shultz on your calendar for after church on **Sunday, April 12** at 3pm.

Yours in faith and love,  
Len



## CARING CORNER

Office Administrator Hope Weinman's father-in-law, John Weinman, passed away on January 25 at the age of 86. He was remembered at a memorial service in New York this past weekend.

Our condolences to Mary Mercier, whose brother-in-law died suddenly. She will be traveling to Michigan this week for the funeral. On March 12, Mary will have day surgery and will be recovering at home. The Pastoral Care Team is coordinating transportation and meals for Mary and her family. If you would like to help, please contact Sue Robinson (781-294-8840 or [artsue45@hotmail.com](mailto:artsue45@hotmail.com)) or the Church Office.

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).

## ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE

*"Money, which represents the prose of life, and which is hardly spoken of in parlors without an apology, is, in its effects and laws, as beautiful as roses."*

*~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that as this issue of the Spire goes to press, pledges have been received from 76 individuals and families. Total dollars pledged are \$111,890.00. 42 pledges increased over last year's amount, and 5 pledges came from first-

time pledgers. We still have not heard from some of you regarding your pledge. The sooner you respond, the quicker we can proceed with financing the daily operations of our church. **PLEASE** fill out a pledge form and return it as soon as possible. You may also phone in your pledge Tuesday - Friday, before noon, to Hope Weinman in the Church Office at 781-659-7122 x10. Hope is also happy to send you a blank pledge form via email or U.S. Mail. **Your contribution matters!** The Finance Committee plans to wrap up the Pledge Drive by the end of March.

Pledges have been received from the following individuals and families:

- George and Meredith Atkinson
- Scott and Marcia Babcock
- Larry and Karen Baker
- Bob and Ginnie Bartlett
- Bob and Shirley Bunnell
- Phyllis Buell
- Frank and Libet Callahan
- Bill and Staci Carey
- John and Peg Carpenter
- Laurie Brown and Dan Carroll
- Jack and Jean Christensen
- Bob and Mary Lou Sutter
- Noel Constantino
- Paul Coolidge
- Patricia Crumley
- Bob and Betsey Detwiler
- Susan Donahue
- David and Betsey Drollett
- Peter and Roberta Fairbanks
- Madeline Farrar
- Nancy Fuller
- Bernie and Bev Gardner
- Scott and Shastin Garland
- George and Linda Goodwin
- Alex Gordon
- Ralph and Betsy Gordon

Clayton and Ellie Handleman  
Cathy Harder-Bernier  
Jordan and Emily Grant  
Bob and Barbara Hickey  
Walt and Judy Hall  
Carl and Ellen Herling  
David and Joyce Hockman  
Kevin and Lindsey Houston  
Deane and Joanne Howard  
Tony and Sue Keady  
Chris and Peg Kitchenham  
Helen Keeler  
Joan Kenworthy  
Phil and Diane Koury  
John Litchfield  
Joan Kuhn  
Tim and Kathy Malley  
John and Debi Meddaugh  
Mary Mercier  
Jonathan and Amanda Metzger  
Prue Miller  
Jim and Marie Miller  
Jim Millins and Gabe Carroll  
Ed Mosher and Carol Altshuler  
Bob and Carol Neely  
Mary Nickerson and Patti Walters  
Jill O'Loughlin  
Eric and Laura Page  
Deborah Peterson  
Jim and Joyce Pickel  
Marta Reese  
Deanna Riley  
Thad and Elizabeth Robey  
Dexter and Sue Robinson  
Elizabeth Robinson  
Paul and Denise Shaw  
Sue Sulc  
Les and Marlon Taylor  
Jack Wallace  
Mark and Judy Whitcher  
Sandra Williams  
George and Donna Wilson  
David Yampanis and Wendy Prentiss

Tom and Abbie Yardley

With Appreciation,  
The Finance Committee  
Laurie Brown and Wendy Prentiss, Co-chairs  
George Atkinson, Linda Goodwin and Prue  
Miller



## JAMES LIBRARY & CENTER FOR THE ARTS

What does a snowy February mean? A busy March! Get out of your igloo and join us at one of these upcoming programs:

**Friday, March 6 from 6-8 pm:** Art Gallery Opening for Susan Ahearn of Hingham. 6 pm. Free.

**Sunday, March 8 at 3 pm:** Beethoven piano sonatas performed by Gregg Pauley. Janna Bruene, Alison Barr and Peg Carpenter will be your hosts. Sponsored by Stewards of the Steinway and Carol Neely.

**Sunday, March 15 at 3 pm:** The Titanic. A fascinating new take on this historical event with Ted Zalewski. Sponsored by the Estelle Mosher Memorial Fund. Join us - Ed Mosher would love to see you there.

**Sunday, March 22 at 3 pm:** Chamber Music Concert: Music from Eastern Europe. Piano and cello. Lois Shapiro!

Tickets for all programs are available at [www.jameslibrary.org](http://www.jameslibrary.org) and at the door.

After fifteen years as Director of the James Library & Center for the Arts in Norwell, Caroline Chapin has announced her intention to step down on June 30, 2015. The James' Board of Trustees has formed a committee to conduct a search for a new Director.



## 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.

Pastoral Care Team - *“To minister to each other’s needs...”*

This team works with the minister to provide support to members of the congregation as needs arise. We provide meals or transportation, visit or chat with members and friends, and provide help at memorial services for members. This support often requires resources beyond the team and involves the entire church. If you are interested in being a resource for any of the Team efforts, please let one of the Pastoral Care Team know or contact the church office.

There are currently four members of the Team: Sue Robinson, Joanne Howard, Joyce Hockman, and Betsey Detwiler. We meet as needed with the minister to coordinate services and keep in contact as needs arise.

The Pastoral Care Team’s Mission Statement:

*The Pastoral Care Team works with and supports the minister’s pastoral ministry in reaching out to all members and friends of First Parish of Norwell. We support those who are adjusting to change, loss,*

*illness or death. We share in moments of celebration and happiness. We reach out to those who are unable to get out and who would like a visit. We share in situations that require a special touch of human kindness and an open ear. Pastoral Care Team members are a caring, listening presence, but do not counsel, perform therapy or offer advice.*

*In all our contacts we remember the importance of confidentiality. The Pastoral Care Team members will be in contact with the Minister regarding important information and, unless requested otherwise, will share information with each other in order to benefit from mutual insight and support. Beyond this, all information imparted to the Pastoral Care Team members will be treated with the same confidentiality that applies to the Minister or as mandated by law.*

Please contact us if we might be of help or comfort. We count on the congregation to keep us in touch with pastoral needs of our community.

## ST. PATRICK’S POTATO BAKE



On **Sunday, March 15** plan to have lunch after church at our St. Patrick’s Potato Bake Buffet. Baked potatoes will be provided. We need **YOU** to bring a favorite topping to share. Are you a sour crème type? A cheddar cheese connoisseur? Into bacon bits? Love those chives? Let Sue Robinson ([artsue45@hotmail.com](mailto:artsue45@hotmail.com)) know what you’d like to contribute and come join this St. Patty’s celebration of the lovely potato!





## TAI CHI AND QIGONG

4 week class for beginners  
\$20 total

March 17, 24 and 31 and April 2  
Tuesday mornings, 9:15 to 10:15 am  
For more information, call or stop by the Church Office.

“Still Alice” by Lisa Genova

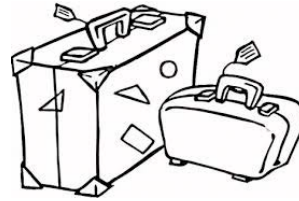
Wednesday, May 13

“All the Light We Cannot See” by Anthony Doerr

Wednesday, June 10

“To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee

New members are always welcome – come to one discussion or come to them all!



## CHORAL TOUR OF NORTHERN EUROPE, an audio and video presentation by Sue and Dexter

Robinson will be held in the Parish Hall at 10:00 am on **Wednesday, March 18**. Sponsored by the Alliance this program is open to all members and friends of the Church. Refreshments will be served at 10 am followed by a brief business meeting then Sue and Dexter’s program. Betsey Detwiler will be giving the Thought for the Day. Hope to see you there!! For more information, please call Helen Keeler at 781-837-8248.



## FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

The bookworms of the First Parish Book Group have mapped out their selections for the rest of the church year. Our discussions start at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor.

Wednesday, March 11

“Something of Value” by Robert Ruark

This is a novel based on events that took place in Kenya Colony during the violent Mau Mau insurrection of the 1950s, an uprising that was confined almost exclusively to members of the Kikuyu tribe. It is a powerful, gripping, and sometimes shocking novel that presents an enlightening glimpse into the lives of all sections of the population in Colonial Kenya fifty years ago.

Our February discussion on “Boom! Talking About the Sixties: What Happened, How It Shaped Today, Lessons for Tomorrow” by Tom Brokaw was cancelled, so we decided to add the discussion to our March meeting.

Wednesday, April 8

## EASTER BREAKFAST

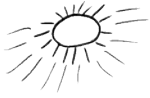


The annual Easter Breakfast has a new format! We don’t do a coffee hour on

Easter (which falls this year on **April 5**), but we have a breakfast together. This year, to simplify life for the stalwart choir members who have made casseroles for years, we will serve just coffeecake and cereal from 8:45 to 9:50 am.

Instead of charging an admission fee, we will put out a donation basket. Donations will

cover the cost of paper goods, juices, coffee and cereal. We will ask parishioners to bring coffeecakes. We need bakers, servers and people to clean up. To volunteer to help in any way, please see Peg Kitchenham at Coffee Hour or contact her by phone or email (781-447-5831 or [chrispegk@verizon.net](mailto:chrispegk@verizon.net))



## FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish!



Well, we seem to have survived the worst of the snow (knock on wood), and so we have a few exciting things coming up to look forward to!

First is our Youth-Led Service on **March 22**. I have had the privilege of being one of the youth advisors at our church over the past two years, and have often been struck by the worship style which the youth bring to their Youth Conferences. Expect this worship to be different from our typical service, with a whole lot of music, movement, and introspection. I'm never sure exactly what to expect, but I have never been disappointed by the creativity and thought that our youth bring to worship. I hope they see a great turnout for this service, and I can't wait to see it myself.

Then, on **Saturday, March 28** is our Talent Show! People of all ages who would like to sing, dance, play an instrument, tell jokes, or drum, let Amanda Metzger ([amajon@me.com](mailto:amajon@me.com)) or Julian Baptista ([dre@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:dre@firstparishnorwell.org)) know through email, or by signing up with Amanda at Coffee Hour on any Sunday beforehand. Gingy will also be available to accompany you on piano. If you or your child feels uncomfortable performing alone, we will also have opportunities for a few group

performances (most likely musical or simple stage performances). If you would like to take part in one of these groups, please contact Julian.

Finally, over the past several months I have been working on completing my credential as a Religious Educator. This is a fairly long process which I have been enrolled in since before coming to Norwell, and one which will be ended in April (assuming I pass the final interview) Part of this work is the creation of a stated pedagogy for Religious Education, and so I am including this below. I hope that you find this interesting, and helpful when you look at our RE program:

Since my first experience of teaching Sunday School as a 16 year old in my home congregation I have embraced the title of teacher. I have since embraced a variety of philosophies, but a few specific writers and educational scholars have come together in my pedagogy. I have created a number of rules or general statements, which I attempt to address in each lesson I create.

1. Multiple intelligences necessitates multiple approaches

From Howard Gardner I appreciate the differences in learning styles of all students. Because each person learns differently, I always attempt to teach lessons with a variety of methods, intended to speak to as many types of learners as possible. As a result, I integrate the Montessori model in many aspects of programming, particularly its emphasis on hands on and experiential learning.

2. Children (and adults) are learning machines

I believe it is self-evident that learning is the one thing humans are best at. Without learning we would still be going from cave to cave, likely without even stone tools. I embrace this philosophy by trusting in the passion for learning of children, and working to make sure that the education they receive at church is one that they will continue to seek out by making learning and fun the only goals. This idea is wonderfully articulated by Jeanne Lepper of the Stamford University Bing Laboratory School in her treatise on the importance of play:

“Play is the child’s work, perhaps the child’s most important way of learning. This learning process occurs even when it may not be obvious when children actively explore their environment and act on their inborn curiosity.” -Jeanne W. Lepper ([Link](#))

I come to this philosophy through my background as an Unschooler, a form of completely learner-led homeschooling which I took part in throughout my lower education. It is this background which allowed me to see the great strides children are able to make when given the freedom to explore, and this freedom is part of what I attempt to imbue Sunday morning programming with. I believe John Holt said it best in his book *How Children Learn*:

“Man is by nature a learning animal. Birds fly, fish swim; man thinks and learns.”

-John Holt

### 3. The teachers need to have fun too

Due to the structure of the Sunday School model used by most UU congregations, I am constantly aware of the needs and desires of the volunteer teachers who do a great deal of work in addition to their jobs during the week. This necessitates the teachers enjoying Sunday School as much as the children they teach. Different teachers will enjoy teaching in different styles of learning, and so I attempt to

match them with co-teachers with opposing interests. This means that teachers can use their strengths during class time. For example, one teacher could greatly enjoy facilitating group discussions, while their co-teacher greatly enjoys leading art projects. According to the first rule, the lesson should already be integrating multiple teaching techniques, and so this concept is a positive externality as long as the program is executed well.

### 4. The method is the message

When it comes down to it there’s never enough time to say everything. Because of this, I consider it a great success when instead of going through four different activities, the entire class engages in a thrilling discussion which lasts the whole session. My ideal is that the loving community of the church will foster a gem of Unitarian Universalist identity within the student, while they explore the world of belief in a safe space which is open to them unconditionally. This is incomparably more important to me than whether or not a student can accurately recall the date of the Unitarian and Universalist merger. It is this beloved community and freedom to explore belief which brings the majority of adults to worship in our sanctuary, why should it be any different in Religious Education?

Thank you First Parish - I’ll see you all at church!

~Julian Baptista

Director of Religious Education







## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

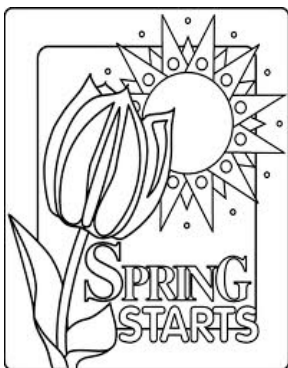
We are pleased to announce that we have a new member for the Helen Fogg Service Committee! Gabe Carroll goes to Julian's social justice class every other Wednesday at church, and I could tell that social justice issues are very important to her! "Would you like to join the committee?" "Yes!"

We always are looking for people who would like to join us! Our committee meetings are on the third Sunday of each month, in the office. We would LOVE to have you sit in on one of our meetings, to see if you would be interested in joining us! The next meeting is after the Service/Outreach Service on March 15.

Julian's next Social Justice Workshop is Wednesday, March 18 at 7 in the Fogg Parlor.

The next Second/Outreach Sunday will be on March 15 when Betsey Detwiler will talk about our Partner Church in Romania.

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, Gabe Carroll and Jane and Stan Wilderoter, members



## MEN'S GATHERINGS

Next **Men's Covered Dish Dinner** will be held in the Fogg Parlor on **Monday, March 9** at 7pm. BYOB and something to share. The April 13 gathering will be at Bob Sutter's in Hanson. As well, men's breakfasts take place each Friday morning at 8:30 am at Sam's Restaurant (146 Front Street) in Scituate Harbor.

## SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2015:

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

1. Due to blizzard #4, today's meeting was held by conference call. We will continue to check the developed references of our final candidates. Hopefully we will be able to meet during the week to conduct telephone interviews with these sources.
2. We have notified the candidates that they need to submit short bio's for their introduction at the neutral pulpit sermons.
3. Travel itineraries are all set for bringing our candidates to Norwell. Their car rentals will be confirmed this week by Bernie. The meal reservation contracts have been signed and catered lunches are all set.
4. We discussed contingencies for getting to the neutral pulpit (carpooling?) This may be necessary due to weather issues.
5. We discussed the details of our rating system. Several sources for evaluating

ministers are available for us. In the end, our “rating score” will involve an extrapolation of all our insights from time spent with each candidate.

6. We will be reviewing our interview questions this week. We will also task ourselves to think “proactively”. This means we will try to anticipate challenging questions that might be asked of us, and to give responses that are insightful.

7. We talked about leaving a welcome basket in the rooms of each of the candidates. We’d include water, some snacks, and perhaps some information about the church history and/or surrounding sites.

8. Next meeting 2/22/15

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson - secretary

February 22, 2015:

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

1. Details of the car rental for our candidates were confirmed.
2. We have confirmed the order of service for our neutral pulpit services.
3. Bernie has been in contact with the UU Transitions Office - he will keep us updated. We also reviewed the information obtained by our developed references.
4. Welcome baskets for our candidates will be left in their rooms.

5. We’ve confirmed the itinerary for our pre-candidating weekends.

6. Lastly, we discussed details for our candidate’s interviews. We have worked hard to anticipate their queries, also.

Submitted by Ingrid Carlson – secretary

**TO LIVE CONTENT WITH SMALL MEANS;  
TO SEEK ELEGANCE RATHER THAN LUXURY, AND REFINEMENT RATHER THAN FASHION;  
TO BE WORTHY, NOT RESPECTABLE, AND WEALTHY, NOT RICH;  
TO STUDY HARD, THINK QUIETLY, TALK GENTLY, ACT FRANKLY;  
TO LISTEN TO STARS AND BIRDS, TO BABES AND SAGES, WITH OPEN HEART;  
TO BEAR ALL CHEERFULLY, DO ALL BRAVELY, AWAIT OCCASIONS, HURRY NEVER;  
TO LET THE SPIRITUAL, UNBIDDEN AND UNCONSCIOUS, GROW UP THROUGH THE COMMON.  
THIS IS TO BE MY SYMPHONY.**

**WILLIAM HENRY CHANNING**

□  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

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