

The Spire

The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

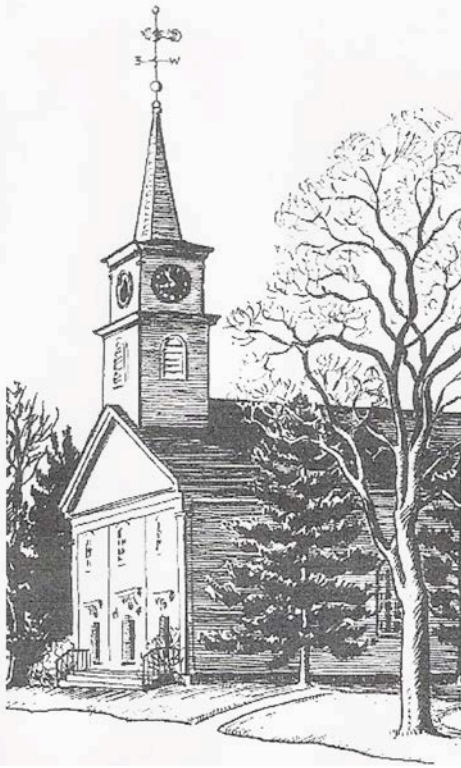
phone 781-659-7122

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April 29, 2015

Volume XIII, Issue 18

www.firstparishnorwell.org



Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Dr. Leonard DeRoche preaching
unless otherwise indicated

May 3: **Candidating Week**

The worship service will be led by our ministerial candidate, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry. Immediately following the service, there will be a Special Parish Meeting to vote on calling her as our next settled minister.

May 10: **I Remember Mama**

For our Mother's Day service, Rev. Len will talk about an old 50's TV show "I Remember Mama". Bring a picture of your mother or someone that has been a "mother" to you, either framed or not framed, and we will put them on the worship table to honor those women to whom we owe so much.

May 17: **Music Sunday**

We will be back to your traditional music Sunday.

May 24: **The Enchanted World**

I will be looking into our truths as common sense and its effect on our belief systems and fairy tales.

May 31: **Membership Sunday**

What is membership worth? We recognize our members.

June 7: **Einstein's God**

We will investigate the theology of one of the great minds of the 20th century.

June 14: **RE Sunday**

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

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: Ginky 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, May 11** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

June 21: Lessons Learned at Norwell

While it is Father's Day, Rev. Len will talk about his lessons learned. This service will include a dedication of Jim and Marie Miller's grandchildren. If any other families which to join them contact the minister.



ROSE AND COLUMN

Congratulations on reaching Candidating

Week! Your search committee has worked very hard for you to arrive at this decision.

To make our worship experience more meaningful for all of us, please enter the sanctuary quietly. Our musicians work long and hard to prepare the Prelude as a piece to calm your soul. Many of our members appreciate this calming and making our sanctuary into a sacred place for the worship hour. I find it disrespectful to our musicians (especially true for our Easter service for all the instrumentalists) to hear all the talking that occurs.

Shout out!!!! Want to thank someone in the congregation for something that occurred during the week? Let the person doing the announcements know and you can make the Shout-out.

For people new to our services, our time of Joys and Sorrows is an opportunity to share your personal milestones with the congregation. A joy shared is a made greater: a sorrow is lessened. This is not time for thank you's or announcements but personal issues between you and your community.

As I write this I am in communication with another congregation for next year. Ask me and I'll tell you how it is going.

Yours in faith and love,
Len



CARING CORNER

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Bob Detwiler, who passed away Saturday. A celebration of Bob's life will be held at First Parish on **Saturday, May 23**, at 11 am followed by a collation reception provided by the church. Please contact Sue Robinson (781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com) to indicate how you might assist. A full obituary may be viewed at <http://www.mcnamara-sparrell.com/>. While Betsey and the rest of the family would appreciate cards, they would prefer to not receive flowers at this time.

Bill Montuori is at Brigham and Women's Hospital recuperating from heart bypass surgery on April 29. Bill's wife, Dorothy, may need assistance with transportation – contact Sue Robinson if you can help. Cards would also be appreciated and can be sent to his home.

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, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Attention, committee chairs: it's that time of year again...

an Annual Report for each committee should be submitted **by 9:00 am on Friday, May 22**. All reports should be submitted electronically to Hope Weinman in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.org. Hope will gladly email you a copy of your committee's report from last year if it would be helpful. The reports will be distributed to parishioners on Sunday, May 31, one week prior to the Annual Parish Meeting on June 7.



ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 6 at 12 noon

Held in the Fogg Parlor and Parish Hall

If you signed up to bring something to the luncheon, please remember to do so. Check with Sue Sulc (781 826-3302) for all information on luncheon contributions! Dues for next year will be welcomed at the meeting.



TAI CHI CLASSES CONTINUING

Our popular Tai Chi and Qigong classes continue on Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. at the church Parish Hall. Drop in at any time. The next four week session is **May 12** through **June 2**. \$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. We hope to continue classes through the summer. Contact Sue Robinson for additional information at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840.

PLEDGE DRIVE RESULTS

The Finance Committee is pleased to report that the Fiscal Year 2016 Canvass has resulted in pledges of \$136,970.00, which is almost \$15,000 higher than the Fiscal Year 2015 Canvass. Here are the highlights of the FY 2016 Canvass:

- We canvassed 116 households.
- We did not receive responses from 13 households.
- We received 106 responses (of which 3 were from households not canvassed).
 - 55 household units increased their pledges
 - 12 new pledges were received (either from new families or from families that had not pledged for a while)
 - 29 households pledged the same amount as they did in the previous year
 - 7 households decreased their pledge (3 decreased to zero)
 - 3 households pledged zero (these household units were not canvassed in 2015)
- There were 100 pledges greater than zero, making the average pledge \$1,370. This is almost exactly the average pledge for Fiscal Year 2015.

All in all, the Finance Committee feels optimistic about the Fiscal Year 2016 Canvass, since more money was raised in comparison to Fiscal Year 2015.

The focus of the Finance Committee for the future will be to develop strategies that might provide an incentive for static pledges to raise their pledges and to remind all members and friends of the church of the importance of a financial commitment.

Thank you to all of you who pledged your financial support to First Parish of Norwell. We are looking forward to an exciting new year with a new settled minister.

In Faith and Prosperity,
Your Finance Committee



FOGG PARLOR ADDITIONS

Thanks to private donations, some interesting and historical documents have been given archival treatment and are now on display in the Fogg Parlor. They included letters from Samuel J. May concerning his accepting the ministry at First Parish in 1836, the Parish Meeting records when it was voted to build the present meeting house, and other historical items. They join the “Cold Water Army” banner displayed on the walls of the Parlor. In addition, we have much memorabilia of Helen Fogg and her family on display as well as current scrapbooks of church activities over the last 30 years. Take a moment to browse and enjoy the history of our congregation.



SAVE THE DATE!

Once again, the Silver Chalice of golfing superiority is back up for grabs.

The Annual First Parish Golf Tournament is **Saturday, May 16** at Squirrel Run Golf Course in Plymouth. Gather by 12:30. Tee off at 1:00. \$100.00 per golfer includes delicious dinner back in the Parish Hall. Your choice: steak or swordfish. Dinner only option: \$25.00. Corporate Sponsors Needed - \$50 Per Hole.

Sign up with Noel Constantino, Deane Howard, Peter Fairbanks, Don Messinger, Larry Baker, Chris Kitchenham, or John Meddaugh.

MENS' GROUP

The First Parish Men's Group will meet at Jim Pickel's house (31 Dogwood Drive, Plymouth) on **Monday, May 11**, at 7pm. BYOB and a dish to share. Email Jim for directions at jpickel@thayer.org



FROM THE DRE



We're right in the middle of our Candidating Week right now, and I know everyone here at FPN is enjoying welcoming and getting to know our Ministerial Candidate, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry. The next couple of weeks will be a little quieter, but we'll be getting back into our usual Sunday School, Youth, and Adult RE programming after May 3rd.

First up, this **Saturday, May 2** from 11am to noon a number of FPN families will be helping to clean up the Norris Reservation, a fantastic local wooded area donated to the town of Norwell by FPN's own Eleanor Norris. This is an all-ages volunteer opportunity, and we'd love to see you all there! Plan to bring a rake and bug spray.

Then, on **Wednesday, May 6** our Social Justice Adult program Resistance and Transformation will resume at 7:00 pm. This discussion and history based class allows us to examine where our drive toward social justice came from, as well as our potential future in creating good in our world. Each biweekly session examines a different topic, so feel free to drop in or bring a friend.

We also have two other great service opportunities coming up before the end of the church year. On **Sunday, May 17** there will be a second Norris Reservation volunteer day. This is limited to older youth and adults only, as power tools will be involved. Please contact Bill Grafton at the Trustees of the Reservations if you would like to help out: bgrafton@ttor.org.

Finally, on **Tuesday, May 26** a group from FPN will take our collected donations to Cradles to Crayons, as well as work at this wonderful non-profit's location from 6:30-8:30 pm. We still have a seat or two left, so please contact Amanda Metzger (amajon@me.com) if you wish to volunteer your time. We also still need more items to donate, so if you can't join us please take a look at this list and donate what you can to our collection at church: www.cradlestocrayons.org/sites/default/files/DonationGuidelines-4-30-2014_1.pdf

We're all looking forward to these and more opportunities to learn and grow here at First Parish of Norwell. I'll see you at church!

~Julian Baptista,
DRE



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.

Buildings & Grounds Committee (B&G)

The Buildings & Grounds Committee maintains and preserves the physical property of the church. They assess, plan and implement work on church owned buildings, specifically, the Meetinghouse, Parish Hall, Parsonage, Kent House, and the James Library. They employ a team approach in order to more broadly distribute the workload. Because of the frequent and sometimes costly repairs involved, the committee works closely with the Capital Improvement and Parish Committees, providing maintenance plans and recommending expenditures. It contracts for, oversees, and sometimes does the work.

B&G maintains all the church grounds, including the Memorial Garden. In addition, they maintain our very old Second Parish Cemetery on lower Main Street.

The committee tracks expenses and prepares and presents budget input to the Finance Committee and an annual report to the Parish at the Annual Meeting. It also serves as a liaison between the church sexton and the Parish.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee would welcome your participation.

Committee Members

Don Messinger, Chair (781-659-7574)

Noel Constantino, PC Liaison

Deane Howard, Daleann Awalt, George Wilson, Bob Sutter, Jordan Grant, Jim Millins and John Litchfield



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All are welcome on **Wednesday, May 13** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. We will be discussing "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr, the beautiful, stunningly ambitious novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Our June 10 selection is the classic "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.



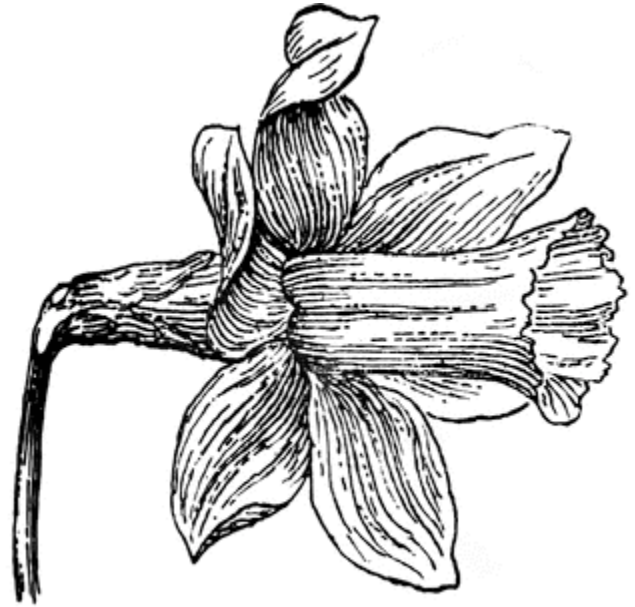
FIRST PARISH MEDITATION GROUP

Tuesday, May 12 at 7 pm
Skylight Room



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Norwell's own Jennifer Coolidge will be appearing in a play **July 9-August 2** at the Central Square Theater (450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge). "Saving Kitty" by Marisa Smith tells the story of Kate and Huntley Harvey, atheist Manhattanites anxiously awaiting the arrival of their daughter, up-and-coming TV news producer Kitty, and her new beau Paul, for dinner- and much, much more. Paul turns out to be their worst nightmare- an evangelical Christian educator- and everything is turned upside down as Kate tries to scuttle the budding romance. Jennifer will make her Boston debut as Kate, the ruthless, unfiltered and politically incorrect matriarch in this hilarious comedy. Visit www.centralsquaretheater.org for more information. Tickets go on sale May 12!



**TO FIND THE UNIVERSAL ELEMENTS
ENOUGH;
TO FIND THE AIR AND THE WATER
EXHILARATING;
TO BE REFRESHED BY A MORNING
WALK OR AN EVENING SAUNTER...
TO BE THRILLED WITH THE STARS AT
NIGHT;
TO BE ELATED OVER A BIRD'S NEST OR
A WILDFLOWER IN SPRING –
THESE ARE SOME OF THE REWARDS
OF THE SIMPLE LIFE.**

**FROM *LEAVES AND TENDRIL* BY JOHN
BURROUGHS**



First Parish

Goods and Services Auction

Saturday, May 30, 6:30 pm

Don't miss the fun and festivities

Share your talents. Donate boats, babysitting, baking and bijou.

Wine, coffee & dessert.....6:30 pm

Auction.....7:00 pm

Childcare (upstairs).....6:30-9:00ish

By Deb Walsh & Adriana McLane (Come in your PJ's and bring a cuddly friend)

A Silent Auction will be held for food and smaller items.

To donate, please fill out the form below.

Advance bids may be placed if you will not be present at the Auction. See Peg Kitchenham or e-mail chrispegk@verizon.net

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Service Auction Donation

Item: _____ Estimated Value \$ _____

_____ Minimum Bid ? _____

_____ Willing to Repeat? _____ # _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Thank you so very much!! Please come join the fun. The more the merrier!!

□ 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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THE SPIRE

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SAVE THE DATE...

Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, June 7 at 11:30 am
in the Meetinghouse