

The Spire

The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

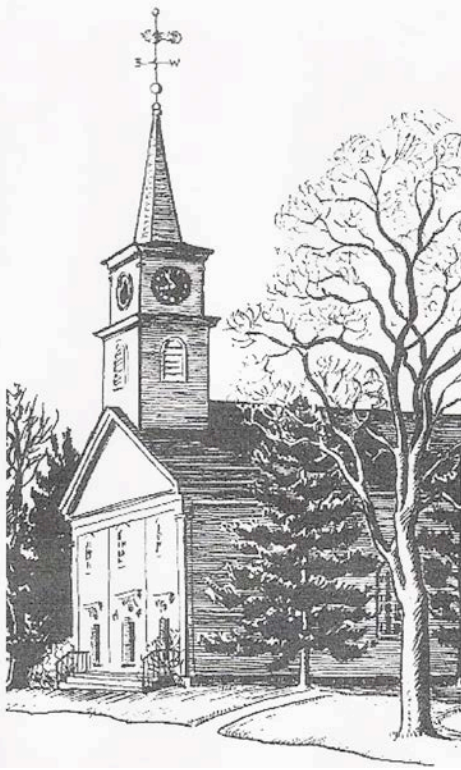
phone 781-659-7122

fax 781-659-7939

August 12, 2015

Volume XIV, Issue 1

www.firstparishnorwell.org



Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

August 23: **Black Lives Matter**

A year and two weeks ago Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri. This started many in our nation on a steep learning curve about racism that has surprised and shocked many in our country. We'll reflect on this unjust reality and consider how we can work to form Beloved Community.

August 30: **Summer to Fall**

How was your summer? Have you done all your school shopping or other seasonal tasks? How do our natural and self-imposed structures affect our lives and what's next on the horizon?

September 6:

Continental Potluck Brunch with a Little Tidying or A Spoonful of Sugar Helps the Medicine Go Down

We'll sing a song, share some fellowship over food, do a short project or two around First Parish, and be on our way by noon.

September 13:

Multigenerational Water Communion and Ingathering

All ages are welcome as we gather together again for the official church year as a wonderful religious community. If you can, bring a small amount of water to share from your spiritual and/or other meaningful journeys over the summer - perhaps it's from your garden hose, a cherished camping spot or the drinking fountain in your favorite museum. (If you forget we'll have containers and proxy water available, too.) As we mingle our water, so we mingle our lives.

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. Lise Adams Sherry, x11

lsherry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Julian Baptista, x12

dre@firstparishnorwell.org

Music Director: Gingy Grimes

Office Staff:

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

office@firstparishnorwell.org

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14

donna@firstparishnorwell.org

Parish Committee 2014-2015:

Co-Chairs: Jim Pickel and Deanna Riley

Members:

Noel Constantino, Sue Keady, Mary Nickerson,
Elizabeth Robey and Les Taylor

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Monday, September 14** (hard copy version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

LISE'S LETTER

Dear Ones!

Nelson and I are so happy to be here. Thank you so much for your warm welcome and for the eggs, bar stools, vegetables, more eggs, peaches, phone, ready-made dinner, tour, planted flowers and herb garden, more vegetables, the sparkling clean house, the moving-in help, and more that I've probably forgotten but know I have appreciated and will continue to do so. It is so nice to be in the midst of such of loving and warm community! (And we do like eggs and lots of vegetables. ☺) This first week has been mostly about unpacking, finding stores, and places to walk Nahna (our dog). Both our boys (Derek and Kennen) are joining us this second week for about 10 days in their respective schedules so you may get to meet them, and I'll start showing up regularly at church.

So for some logistics . . . (This might seem a bit impersonal to put all this information out there right at the beginning, but I believe that communication is very important and I want us all to be as transparent as possible with each other.) For now my office hours will be **Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm, and Fridays 9 am-1 pm**. These hours will probably change a bit once I get the lay of the land; I'd like to have one late afternoon time at a coffee shop somewhere - suggestions? Of course, I'll be available by appointment as well. Thursdays will be my writing day at home and Mondays will be my day off/Sabbath. The best way to get hold of me is by email (lsherry@uuma.org) or phone. I've got my cell (503-999-2061) and the Parsonage number (781-659-7288). On my day off (Monday) I don't check my emails—this means I'll be in electronic black out mode from Sunday

evening until Tuesday morning, so if something is urgent, *please do call*. As for stopping by the parsonage, if you're inclined to do so on occasion, please do (but not on Mondays, please). Nelson and I are pretty casual and grew up where friends and family members did stop by unannounced. This also meant that sometimes they were kindly turned away due to a previous appointment or because something else was going on, but nothing ventured, nothing gained, right? Just be prepared for our friendly, poorly trained dog to lick you and demand lots of attention. We also plan to have a few open house potlucks throughout the year so that will be another chance for us all to get to know one another and for everyone to see the wonderful addition.

I think we're all pretty excited about this new beginning (in a church history of 373 years, if I did my math correctly), but along with that anticipation, I also want to remind us all that there will be a period of readjustment. It will take a little while for us all as we get to know one another, how we do things, and to lay out specific plans for where we want to go as a community. Fortunately I also sense a more than abundant sense of good will at First Parish of Norwell and that is something for which I am truly thankful. Good cheer makes adventures so much more fun, don't you think? I'm looking forward to learning, growing and laughing with you all!

With blessings and love,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

Condolences are extended to the families of several long term members who passed away this summer:

Len Cole of Aptos, California, died July 9. Len was a very active member of the congregation during the ministry of Rev. Fewkes and served on the Search Committee for Rev. Weinstein. He also served on the James Library Board as well as many other civic organizations. A memorial service was held at the church on July 25.

Paul Coolidge, age 94, passed away July 10 at his home in Norwell. Paul was a steady presence in all aspects of our church family and will be dearly missed by all. At Paul's request there will be no public service.

Sheila Stockbridge, a 50-year member of First Parish and active in the church through the Alliance died July 21 at her home in Pembroke. A service is planned for **Saturday, August 15** at 11:00 am at the church with reception following at the Tinker's Son. Sheila also sent this message: "Dear People of First Parish, I would like to thank you for all the cards and flowers you sent."

We send caring thoughts to Patti Walters and family on the passing of her mother; and to Dave and Betsey Drollett on the death of Dave's sister-in-law in an auto accident in July.

Healing wishes to the following:

Jane Wilderoter who arrived home August 6 following an extended rehab at Weymouth Health Care Center recovering from a femur fracture. Jane and Stan are preparing for a

September move to New Hampshire to be near family. We wish them well.

Denise Rachel fractured her foot in early July and is dealing with a "boot".

Ben Metzger fractured his elbow in a basketball accident in July and is "cast" for the summer.

Mary Lou Sutter had back surgery on July 29 and, following rehab, will be recovering at home.

Deane Howard dealt with some complications following diagnosis and treatment of a kidney stone. He is now recovered and doing fine.

Shelley Vaugine will be away from her Abington home for an extended time while she cares for her parents in Missouri. We will miss her presence with Daleann Awalt and their tiny canine, Widget.

Your Pastoral Care Team (Sue Robinson, Betsey Detwiler, Joyce Hockman, Joanne Howard and Noel Constantino), with help from many, have kept in contact with and assisted with rides, food, and company for many in the Parish this summer. Rev. Lise will be working closely with us to support the needs of the church family.

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).

PARSONAGE UPDATE

Sincere thanks and appreciation go out to the following people for the phenomenal amount of work completed in an extremely short time period: Don and Joan Messinger, Joanne and Deane Howard, Tom and Patsy Fazio, Sue Robinson, Sally Turner, Carol and Bob Neely, Jack Christensen, George and Linda Goodwin, Dave Horton Painting Co. and Noel Constantino.

Some prep work was completed prior to the marathon cleaning by Don Messinger, Deane Howard and Tom Fazio; a big thank you to all three gentlemen.

So much was accomplished on the Parsonage (nine rooms, two bathrooms, attic and cellar!). The above-named people completed the following tasks in just four days: vacuuming, thorough scrubbing, clean-out, polishing, painting and grounds work. After we were finished, the Parsonage looked great - **kudos to all!**

Thanks also to Elizabeth Robey and Sue Keady for the flower delivery and to Sue Robinson and Joanne Howard for sprucing up the minister's office at the church.

We all welcome Rev. Lise and her family to First Parish of Norwell.





PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The installation of our 29th called minister, Reverend Lise Adams Sherry, will be held on **Sunday, November 8**, at 4:00 pm at First Parish of Norwell. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall. Children are welcome and baby care will be provided.

TAI CHI TUESDAYS



Our popular Tai Chi class with Mike Showstack will continue this year at our usual time on Tuesday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Parish Hall. The next four week session (\$20) will begin **September 8**. However, if you'd like to try Tai Chi for one or two classes, consider coming for two drop-in classes (\$5 each) on **August 18 and 25**. No prior experience, participation, or special equipment needed. Just come for a relaxing and meditative hour of low-impact exercises designed to aid balance, center your energy, and provide a sense of well being. Questions? Contact Sue Robinson at 781-294-8840 or artsue45@hotmail.com.



A-TISKET, A-TASKET... WHO'S GOT A BASKET?

With all the end of the summer sales going on, it's a good time to

think about donating a themed gift basket to be sold at the all-church Holiday Fair on **Saturday, November 21**. We are asking that you keep your purchases, if at all possible, to under \$40 (\$15-\$40), so we can keep the prices of the baskets reasonable.

A sign-up sheet will be at Coffee Hour from September until the Fair. If you have any large or gigantic size baskets for people to fill, we can use them. (Noel keeps an eye out all year long for used large baskets. Thank you, Noel!) Just bring them to Coffee Hour. Remember- YOU provide the items, and WE help you put them in one of our baskets and wrap, decorate, label and sell it. (Or we will do it if you really wish us to.) Thank you.

Several of our "basket ladies" volunteer because they truly enjoy the creativity of wrapping baskets. If you would like to be on the "Themed Gift Basket" team to help people wrap their baskets at future Coffee Hours, please let Bev or Noel know.

~Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino



PHOTOGRAPHS

If you have any pictures which you would like to go into our church album for last church year, please leave them in the Church Office for Bev Gardner. This year, please share your pictures of church events by putting them on the bulletin boards in the Parish Hall. If you wish to get them back, make a note on the back. Otherwise, they will be put into the church album for next year. Thanks!

~Bev Gardner



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

We are all embarking on a new, exciting time. New church year, new minister, new energy!

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry is very interested in social justice. Please join us on the Helen Fogg Service Committee. We need ideas and bodies to join our loyal team! Who knows what you could help us do this year. Please contact Bev or Noel if you are interested.

Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock and Bev Gardner want to surprise our former Partakers prisoner and dear friend, Carolyn Gunter, for her 50th birthday. She has just completed her second semester of a Masters' program in Special Education in Jamaica and has bemoaned the fact to us that her 50th birthday is coming up on August 20. We wish that some parishioners would send her a birthday card or greeting. Kindly do not include cash or a check with the card (too risky). Her address is:

Carolyn Gunter
33 Sheffield Road
Kingston 2
Jamaica
W.I.

First Class postage to Jamaica is \$1.20. Thank you to those who wish to do this!

*~Noel Constantino and Beverly Gardner,
Co-chairs of the Helen Fogg Service Committee
Members: Jane and Stan Wilderoter, Pat Crumley,
Dorothy and Bill Montuori, Mary Mercier, Jack
Wallace, Deb Chase, Gabe Carroll and Scott and
Marcia Babcock*



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The James Library and Center for the Arts has been selected by the Norwell Historical Commission to co-host its semi-annual Norwell Historic House Tour on **Friday, October 2, 2015** from 9 am-3 pm This fundraising event, first held in 2013, will feature a variety of historic Norwell homes which will be open to the public for touring. Proceeds from the fall house tour will directly benefit the James Library, which offers the community a wide range of cultural events. in its historic 1874 Victorian building. The event also includes an artisan boutique at the Cushing Center. The 2015 house tour planning committee includes Norwell residents Sarah Jane Baker, Nancy O'Donnell, Becky Carbone, Trish Shepherd, Wendy Bawabe and Jennifer Weier. The tour will focus on historic houses located on Main Street. New to this year's tour are special vouchers for Norwell seniors for complimentary admission. These senior vouchers have been sponsored by the Cordelia Family Foundation and are limited. For more information about the October Historic House Tour, or how to reserve a complimentary senior voucher, please call 781-659-7100.

In the Gallery:

September 4-30: "Turned Objects of Art and Purpose" - works by the South Shore Woodturners. Free opening reception on **Friday, September 4** from 6-8 pm.

For more information on any James events, please call them directly at 781-659-7100 or visit www.jameslibrary.org.

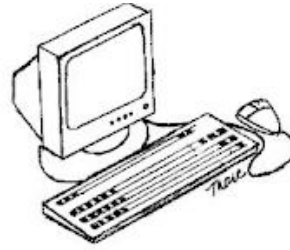


FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Wednesday, September 2
at 7 pm

in the Fogg Parlor

Join us as we discuss the classic novel "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck. All are welcome! For a list of the book selections though April 2016, please visit <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/adulted.htm>. Printed copies are also available on the Welcome Table, located outside the Parish Hall.



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.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you provide a pulpit arrangement for an upcoming service?

Would you like to host Coffee Hour? How about being an usher? Would you like to assist Rev. Lise with lighting the chalice? Please consider signing up! Sign-up sheets for the 2015-2016 church year are posted in the Parish Hall, or you may contact Hope in the Church Office.

The full First Parish of Norwell calendar can be accessed online at our website (www.firstparishofnorwell.org) by selecting "News" then scrolling to the calendar option.

Don't ever become a pessimist... a pessimist is correct oftener than an optimist, but an optimist has more fun and neither can stop the march of events.

~Robert Heinlein



NEW NAME TAGS

We will be ordering new name tags for all church members and friends. These will come with a magnetic back. If you would prefer a pin (or are unable to use a magnet for medical reasons), please contact Hope in the Church office at 781-659-7122 or office@firstparishnorwell.org.