

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
September 16, 2015
Volume XIV, Issue 2
www.firstparishnorwell.org



Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

September 20: **Home is Where the Heart Is**
This will be our first Service/Outreach Sunday of the year, with our collection going to Y2Y Harvard Square, a group in Cambridge who is helping homeless youth, ages 18-24, in the community. Their new shelter will be in the UU church, opening November 1.

September 27:

Rev. Lise is out of the pulpit and the Worship Committee is in charge. ☺

October 5: **TBD**

(Lise's note: Sometimes I just don't know by print time and I also like to see what folks might need to hear about.)

October 11: **Blessing of the Animals**

We'll open this event to the community and also collect old towels and sheets for the animal shelter. This is a Service/Outreach Sunday. Pets should be on a leash or in a carrier.



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

lisherry@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 2015-2016:

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

LISE'S LETTER

Well, we're off!!! August was a great month. It was nice to start slowly and do a bit of wading before plunging into the Water Communion with you all last Sunday (pun intended—sorry). Now I sense there's a lot of excitement to see what will unfold, and I enthusiastically share that feeling! On the other hand, I also want us to remember to breathe; this is the beginning of a hopefully long journey. We might want to pace ourselves a bit—and again, I'm including myself in this reminder. I am a recovering over-extender with a tendency to relapse when I'm passionate about what's happening around me. So far, I'm seeing lots to be passionate about!

So now for a little review: We had three good Sundays together this summer. By your responses, I found out how much people care about racial equity issues after preaching about Black Lives Matter. We also had yummy food and did some good caring for our building and grounds over Labor Day weekend. Did you notice the sparkling windows in the Parish Hall and the clean white fence around Kent House? Those were projects we worked on September 6. Thanks to all who pitched in! I've also been to a few meetings to start planning for the year and get to know folks better: worship committee, the Parish Committee, working with staff, the RE committee, installation service planning, personnel committee, the men's breakfast (which is now open to all genders - Fridays at 8:30 am at Sam's in Scituate), and the Pastoral Care Team. Each event I go to I leave feeling so thankful to have landed in this wonderful community!

And what's ahead? Well, more Sunday services where we can get to know each other

and discuss what's important in our lives, meetings to keep abreast of what we need to do to keep this wonderful place vibrant and caring, some social things like multigenerational potlucks on the first Friday of the month beginning in October, and some community outreach/collaboration. Nelson and I have agreed to have the parsonage included in the Historic House Tour on October 2. The James Library is sponsoring it this year and it seemed like a perfect way to illustrate our connection since Rev. Fish of First Parish was responsible for having the parsonage donated and getting the James built. Then, since our house will be all clean and shiny, we're going to have an open house potluck after church on **October 4** from 12:30-ish/the end of church meetings until 4-ish. I'm going to continue to have office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am – 2 pm and Fridays 9 am -1 pm. Although I'll do my best to be there during that time, it's probably best to call ahead in case I already have an appointment. I do enjoy casual drop-ins though.

What else? I think Nelson and I can enthusiastically say after our first month here, that this is a good place to be. It's a pleasure to be with you on this journey; thank you for your open hearts and curious minds.

Love,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

Our caring and healing thoughts are with Dorothy and Bill Montuori. Dorothy has been dealing with multiple health issues over the summer and was admitted to South Shore Hospital for tests and treatment. Bill is continuing cardiac rehab sessions at South

Shore Hospital following his triple bypass surgery earlier in the summer. Cards and calls are much appreciated. Help with rides to appointments can be directed to the Pastoral Care Team.

Amanda Metzger had a planned surgery on September 2 and was informed the next morning that son Ben had just undergone an emergency appendectomy! Both were released home on the 3rd with support from family and friends. Sending much love from the congregation for speedy recoveries!

Stan and Jane Wilderoter moved to their new home in New Hampshire in mid-August shortly after Jane was released from rehab following her femur fracture in June. Their new contact information: 15 Storybook Lane, Amherst, NH, 03031, phone: 603-249-5755

The Parish sends condolences to the Baker family upon the death of Karen's sister, Marjorie "Cookie" Recke, on Sunday, September 6, following declining health with Alzheimer's.

A memorial service will be held in the Meetinghouse for our beloved Paul Coolidge on **Saturday, October 17** at 1 pm. Rev. Lise will officiate at the service. A collation in the Parish Hall will immediately follow the service. If you can help in any way (providing or serving food, set up/clean up), please contact Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840.

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, Noel Constantino, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).

Robinson for additional information at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840.

IMPORTANT PARISH INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 4
following the worship service

On August 28, the church received a letter from the Norwell Board of Selectmen regarding our property, identified as the "West Street Triangle". The Selectmen believe the "interest in that property may have reverted to the Town of Norwell" and that its location makes it a good candidate for their new library or Town Hall.

Please come to this important meeting to hear the position of the Parish Committee and Clerk and to discuss the church's response to the town.



TAI CHI CLASSES CONTINUING

Our popular Tai Chi and Qigong classes will continue on Tuesdays from 9:15 to 10:15 am at the church Parish Hall. Drop in at any time. The next four week session begins **September 15** and runs to October 6. \$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



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

We are off to a great start! We will be meeting next on **Wednesday, October 7** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. Join us for a discussion of *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War* by Nathaniel Philbrick. This book gives us a fresh and extraordinarily vivid account of our most sacred national myth: the voyage of the *Mayflower* and the settlement of Plymouth Colony. All are welcome – come to one discussion or come to them all!



ALLIANCE OF FIRST PARISH

The Alliance is pleased to welcome back Don Messinger as its speaker at the October meeting. Don will show his video production of a trip he and Joan took in 2014 through western Turkey – a visually beautiful tour of the "Cradle of Civilization." The meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 21** in the Parish Hall and all friends and members of the Church are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be served at 10 am with a brief meeting at 10:30, followed by Don's program.

Due to an off-site staff meeting and retreat, the Church Office will be closed on **Wednesday, September 30**.



SPIRE NEWS

The paper edition of the Spire is being phased out.

Got your attention? Good!

Rev. Lise and Office Administrator Hope Weinman have been discussing possible changes to the Spire. They are excited to try a new format. We are going to experiment with taking the Spire *completely paperless*. Each hard copy issue of the Spire takes approximately eight hours to create (formatting, editing, printing and addressing). Switching to a paperless format will save paper, money and time.

What are we going to do instead? Hope will continue to create a newsletter, but it will be *emailed* out to everyone. (Currently, only four church households do not have computer access; they will of course receive a copy via US Mail. A few additional copies will continue to be placed on the Welcome Table for interested visitors).

The newsletter publication schedule will change, starting in November. (Publication dates are listed below.) The newsletter itself will look the same- Rev. Lise's letter, information on upcoming events and worship services, news from committee chairs, etc. In between, the weekly calendar emails that Hope sends will be expanded *slightly* to include late-breaking news, *brief* announcements and pastoral care updates. To increase our readership, we really want these weekly updates to be concise, "update only" newsletters

What do we need from you?

- Current email addresses. If you already receive all-church emails, you do not need to do anything. If you need to be added to the distribution list, please let Hope know. She can be reached at office@firstparishnorwell.org. All-church emails are sent out as a blind copy, so individual email addresses are not visible to others.
- An open mind. This may seem like a big change, but is actually in line with what many other local churches (UU and otherwise) are doing.
- Feedback and ideas. Rev. Lise (lsherry@uuma.org) and Hope would love to know what you think! Our goal is to move to using an email marketing company, such as Constant Contact or Mail Chimp. We will keep you posted; everyone's feedback is important.

Spire deadlines:

Newsletter deadlines:

Monday, September 28 (email version, current format)

Monday, October 12 (hard copy newsletter sent via US Mail)

Monday, October 26 (email version, current format)

Monday, November 9 (first paperless newsletter)

Monday, December 7 (paperless newsletter)

Monday, January 4 (paperless newsletter)

Hope will format the newsletter on Tuesdays, and it will be emailed out on Wednesdays.

The deadline for including something in the weekly email that starts **Thursday, November 19** will be Wednesdays at 12 noon. Please note that during the weeks that a monthly newsletter is published, the weekly email will revert to the current (calendar only) format.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

The installation of our 29th settled 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.

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

The members of First Parish of Norwell are hereby notified of a Special Parish Meeting to be held Sunday, October 18, 2015, at 11:30 a.m., in the Meetinghouse, to hear and act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I: To act upon the acceptance of new members.

ARTICLE II: To hear and act upon the financial reports of committees for the year ending June 30, 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015).

September 14, 2015
N. Dexter Robinson
Norwell, Massachusetts
Parish Clerk



IT'S TIME TO SAY "CHEESE!"

Now that we have Rev. Lise here at First Parish of Norwell, it's finally time to update our church photo directory! After six

long years, we will once again have Lifetouch come to FPN to take photos of our church members.

Save the Dates: **October 29, 30 and 31** plus one make-up date on **November 10** are the options for your photo session.

Each family will receive one complimentary 8 x 10 print and you will have the opportunity to purchase additional prints in various sizes. Remember, portraits make excellent holiday gifts! You will also receive a free copy of the new church photo directory once completed after the holidays.

You will be contacted for scheduling over the next month. Volunteers to help staff the coordinating table on the photo session dates will be needed, so please consider helping if you are able. Should you have any questions, please contact Les Taylor at (781) 837-2929 or lestaylor@me.com.



MEDITATION GROUP

Our meditation group at First Parish has enjoyed a successful and calming program these past two years. We have a solid core group of practitioners here at First Parish as well as people from our community who attend regularly. Ellen Herling has really enjoyed facilitating it but despite many efforts to adjust her schedule this year, I'm not able to continue. Would someone in our congregation be interested in facilitating it? She would be happy to talk to you about the types of meditations and programs used that were appreciated by all. Please contact her at ellen7herling@gmail.com with any questions or ideas.



HOLIDAY FAIR 2015

Saturday, November 21

9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Mark your calendar right away. We need your help with this major fundraiser. We will need you to bake, make handcrafts, clean out your closets and bring your clean/in good condition toys, books/CDs and household treasures to the church the week before. See Bev Gardner for ideas on gift baskets you could make.

Sue Robinson will chair the **Artists' Table**, featuring work by First Parish artists and friends. Work will be sold on consignment with all or a portion of the sale going to the church. To volunteer to help, call any of the following coordinators:

Set up & Handcrafts - Marcia Babcock, 781-659-2956 & Betsey Drollett, 781-934-6672

Silent Auction - Marina Selby, 781-659-2019, Joanne Howard, 781-826-6561 and Joyce Hockman, 781-545-6517

Snack Bar - Jim Miller, 781-837-6620

Books – Sally Turner, 781-659-4646

Grandma's Attic – Phyllis Buell, 781-659-2203 and Noel Constantino, 339-244-4778

Jewelry – Jean Christensen, 781-837-0665

Gift Baskets – Bev Gardner, 781-829-0932 and Noel Constantino, 339-244-4778

Baked Goods – Helen Keeler, 781-837-8248 and the Alliance.

Toy Table – Debi Meddaugh, 781-659-2901 and Patti Waters, 781-659-2633

Electronics/Sports – Chris Kitchenham, 781-447-5831 and Larry Baker, 781-826-3284

Face Painting/Popcorn - Julian Baptista, 978-595-7782

Artists Table – Sue Robinson, 781-294-8840

Publicity & Raffle – Peg Kitchenham, 781-447-5831

Clean-Up - Don Messinger, 781-659-7574 and Les Taylor, 781-837-2929

Don't leave items in the sheds unless protected. They get very dirty there. NOTE: We will not accept large sports equipment, TV's or very old skis. Bring pictures of any large furniture instead of the actual item. Be a part of this year's fair and make special memories! Be sure to bring a good appetite for lunch and don't miss the fun of this important all church activity.



CALLING ALL CRAFTY PEEPS...

The craft table at the Holiday Fair needs **your** help. Betsey Drollett and Marcia Babcock hope, with some advance notice, we can interest some clever folks with fresh ideas to create and donate! Anything is welcome – what is your craft of choice, holiday or not? Please contact Betsey (dbwindyhill@gmail.com or 781-934-6672) or Marcia (marciabab@aol.com or 781-659-2956). They will be so happy to hear from you!



THEMED GIFT BASKETS

We are starting to collect baskets for us all to use for creating the themed gift baskets which will be sold at the Holiday Fair on November 21 (the weekend before Thanksgiving). This is a huge money-maker for the budget of the church! Please look through your collection of baskets. We have small and medium ones left over from last year, so what we REALLY need are large and

extra-large baskets. Bring them to church at any Coffee Hour. Thank you to Noel Constantino who gathers baskets all year long and Deanna Riley who has donated many large baskets from a friend.



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

What the Helen Fogg Service Committee did *last* church year for “Outreach Sundays”:

September: South Shore Community Action Council’s Greater Plymouth Food Warehouse \$589

October: Animal Protection Center of SE Mass Lots of towels, blankets, etc. + \$586

November: Wounded Warrior Project \$768

December: Department of Children and Families: (gifts for 31 children by parishioners plus \$1,058 (including an anonymous donation of \$200 to the committee which we applied to this charity)

January: South Shore Community Action Council (home heating oil assistance) \$642

February: Partakers’ College Behind Bars \$574 (plate) + \$426 from the Fogg Committee’s Pierce money fund = \$1,000

March: - Partner Church in Kadacs, Romania (collection plate + proceeds of “Potato Bake”) \$1,300

April: Trustees of Reservations for renovations at Weir River Farm \$600

May: Norwell VNA for the Pat Roche Hospice Home in Hingham \$490

June: The new South Shore PFLAG chapter at First Parish Duxbury \$665

Other activities 2014-2015:

- Sponsored our last remaining Partakers prisoner, Larry LaMeire. His 4 mentors

had the pleasure of attending his Boston University graduation at MCI Norfolk in June! We will continue to mentor him now that he has graduated. Release date scheduled for May 2017!

- Fogg Leture: hosted the Rev. Dr. William Schulz of the UUSC, who spoke on “Do Human Rights Have a Future?”. Donations at door (\$122) went to the UUSC.
- Hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive
- Instituted the “Pennies for a Purpose” project with the RE Committee. Collected \$300 (30,000 pennies!). \$50 went to the food pantries in the home towns of the children in our church school (Marshfield, Scituate, Hingham, Weymouth, Norwell and Hanover).
- Hosted a Restorative Justice evening program co-sponsored by UU Mass Action Network (EMIT- End Mass Incarceration Together).

During 2014-2015, our budget was \$0 due to a disappointing canvass. Usually, with a budget of \$10,000-\$15,000, we are able to add more to the plate money for each charity on Outreach Sunday and are able to donate to many more charities.

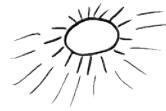
2015-2016:

Oh, what can we do this year! Our budget from the church is \$2,000 for which we are thankful. Our new minister, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, is a Social Justice minister. Helen Fogg Service Committee members are ready for an active and productive year. As our Interim Minister, Len DeRoche, said, we have been mostly a “check book committee.” Let’s do more than that. Join us for an exciting new

year! We hope to work more closely with the RE Committee.

A big thank you to Jane and Stan Wilderoter, long-time members of the committee who have moved to be closer to their family, and to Dorothy and Bill Montuori, who are leaving the committee due to health reasons. We will miss you all! So, you see, we have a need for more members! Our meetings are the third Sunday of most months at 11:30 am. Please stop by to see if you would be interested in joining us!

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs
Members: Marcia and Scott Babcock, Gabe Carroll, Debbie Chase, Pat Crumley, Mary Mercier, Elizabeth Robey (liaison with the Parish Committee) and Jack Wallace



FROM THE DRE



Hello from the RE program at First Parish! I hope you've all had a wonderful summer, and are looking forward to the new church year. We have a ton of exciting events, classes, and programs this year, and I know you'll all want to be there.

For children and youth, our Sunday School program begins on Sunday, September 20. Each of our classes will be learning about different aspects of religious thought.

The PreK-Kindergarten class will be talking about the very roots of Unitarian Universalism in their Chalice Children program. The class focuses on kindness, creativity, and the transformative power of love.

Our 1st-3rd grade class will be learning about many different figures in the Bible throughout the first half of the church year, then switching over to learning about important historical UU figures in February.

Our 4th-6th grade class will be learning more about their own beliefs and what it means to be a UU in the world. They will also look at how they can help others, and make the world a better place.

The 7th and 8th grade class is using one of my favorite curricula: *Neighboring Faiths*. In this program the class progresses in three week sections. The first week, the class learns about a religion (Judaism, Catholicism, Buddhism, etc.) often with a speaker who is knowledgeable about it. The second week, the class attends a worship service of that religion and asks the worship leader questions, then on the final

FROM THE OFFICE



Have you stopped by the Church Office lately? It is a busy place to be! Office Administrator Hope Weinman and Bookkeeper

Donna McDonald enjoy meeting members of the First Parish community. Please stop by, say hello and introduce yourself. If you have a quick question or something you need help with, we will do our best to help you. If you have a more in-depth question or project, we encourage you to call or email ahead for an appointment so that we can make sure we can give you our full attention.



week the class deconstructs their visit and talks about how that religion's belief structure fits with their personal theology. This program is an excellent preparation for our Coming of Age program, which will take place at the end of our church year.

For the adults in our congregation we have a few different choices of classes which will take place largely on weeknights. We will be running three different classes with multiple sessions this year, along with a variety of community events and one-off classes. Starting in October, I will be leading a course called "Faith Like a River: Themes from Unitarian Universalist History". Each session will talk about a different time period, or concept in the history of Unitarian Universalism. Especially if you did not grow up a UU, this will be an excellent way to deepen your understanding. While you are encouraged to attend each session, each class is free standing and guests are always welcome.

Then starting in January, Rev. Lise will be leading a program called "The Wi\$dom Path: Money, Spirit, and Life". This course will discuss how money can be a more effective force for living lives of meaning and value, and for creating positive change. We will also be running a third multiple-session course in the spring TBD.

Finally, for all ages we will have a monthly potluck and game night on the first Friday of the month, starting **October 2**. Bring the whole family, food to share, and your favorite board, card, or table top game. The events will start at 6:00 pm and run until 9:00.

We'll see you on Sunday!
Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education

FIRST PARISH FUN!

Please enjoy these photos from the summer RE party at the Metzgers' home, with thank to Amanda for sharing them!



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

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