

The Spire

The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

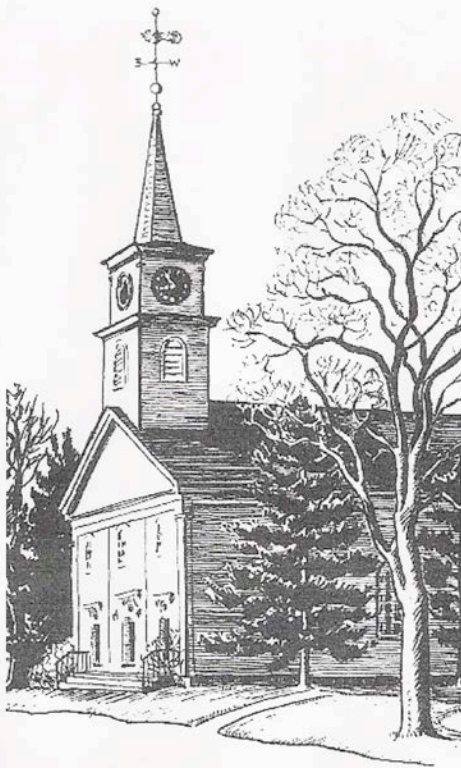
phone 781-659-7122

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October 14, 2015

Volume XIV, Issue 4

www.firstparishnorwell.org



Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

October 18: **Humour**

It might be a bit early to tackle this topic since we don't know each other all that well, yet, but what the heck. Shall we see what tickles our funny bones? Is tickling all that humour does?

October 25: **Samhein**

We'll explore the meaning behind this Pagan holiday and what we can learn from it as Unitarian Universalists.



November 1: **Rev. Richard Fewkes**, Minister Emeritus will be in the pulpit. Please see the article on page 4 and 5 on the South Shore Half Marathon. Like last year, this will result in additional traffic that will have an impact on travel in Norwell that morning.

November 8: **Covenant, the Promises of a Community**

As we prepare for my installation as your minister, I want to talk about what the promises we'll make to each other will mean to me. I'll throw in a little bit of history about covenants and Unitarian Universalism as well.

OFFICE HOURS (September to mid-June):

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

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HOME PAGE: www.firstparishnorwell.org

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Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11

lsherry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

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dre@firstparishnorwell.org

Music Director: Ginky Grimes

Office Staff:

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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, October 26** (email version). Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

LISE'S LETTER

How did you celebrate Indigenous People's Day?

Many of us took this last long weekend, more commonly known as Columbus Day weekend, as an opportunity to be out in nature one last time before the cold weather and rain settles in, to enjoy time with family and friends, or indulge in other leisure activities. This year was an interesting cultural observation for me because back in Monmouth, Oregon, where I grew up, Columbus Day was more commonly associated with the Columbus Day storm in the early 1960s that destroyed half of Campbell Hall, a big brick building on the local college campus. More recently, when I lived in British Columbia, we were sitting down to a wonderful Thanksgiving meal with our Canadian friends as they observe this holiday the second Monday in October. When we moved back to Oregon in 2004, we discovered many were calling this second Monday in October, Indigenous People's Day.

The concept of an Indigenous People's Day was first introduced to our western consciousness in 1977 when folks gathered to discuss discrimination against Indigenous Peoples in the Americas in Geneva, Switzerland; this conference was sponsored by the United Nations. In 1990, as people were preparing to celebrate the 500 year anniversary of Columbus discovering America, attendees of the First Continental Conference on 500 years of Indian Resistance, in Ecuador decided that they would celebrate this date with "continental unity" and "liberation." This idea traveled to Berkeley, CA and in 1992, that city had their first Indigenous People's Day. This movement has been gaining momentum ever since. This past Monday, the governor of

Alaska officially proclaimed the second Monday in October as Indigenous People's Day.

Most of us know that "in 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue" and when I was in school he was credited with beginning the influx of European colonization in the Americas. There was some discussion of conquering, but not much about oppressive methods- it was all kind of glossed over. Now we know a lot more. Yes, Columbus was a man of his times and many of his methods of warfare, assimilation, and slavery of the native populations were accepted by his contemporaries. After all, Europeans considered it their destiny to gain material wealth and spread their faith as a way to glorify their culture and god, but it came at a great price. It seems to me we should acknowledge that price. By no means am I advocating that we wipe Columbus' name from history books, but why don't we try to reconcile our culture to the harm done by officially changing this holiday to Indigenous People's Day? I'll be interested to hear your thoughts on this.

I'd also be curious to hear your thoughts on our church life in general. I can tell you that I am thoroughly enjoying myself and feel very blessed to be here in Norwell with you all. Remember, I'm usually in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am until 2 pm, and from 9 am until 1 pm on Fridays. I'm also available by appointment.

Love and blessings,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

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).



FROM THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM

There have been several church families who have needed our support over the last few months due to illness and death. Your Pastoral Care Team, in close contact with Rev. Lise, has assisted. Our thanks goes out to all of you who have said yes to providing rides, supplying meals, and supporting our collations we offer to church members at memorial services. Each set of hands is needed and so appreciated. Please let one of the team (Sue Robinson, Joanne Howard, Joyce Hockman, Betsey Detwiler or Noel Constantino) know if you can assist in any way. As our covenant says, "In the bonds of fellowship and love, we unite to minister to each other's needs..." Thank you for being a part of this covenanted community.



TAI CHI AND QIGONG

4 week class for beginners
\$20 total
(payable at first class)

Tuesday mornings, 9:15 to 10:15
October 13, 20, 27, and November 3



SPIRE UPDATES

Rev. Lise and Office Administrator Hope Weinman have been hard at work on the plan to take the Spire paperless. (Currently, only four church households do not have computer access; they will of course receive a copy via US Mail.). The newsletter publication schedule will change, starting in November. It will become a *monthly* newsletter. 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 monthly newsletters, the weekly calendar emails that Hope sends on Thursdays 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.

We would like to think of a fun, creative name for these weekly updates. Rev. Lise and Hope have been calling it the "in between newsletter", but they know there's a better name out there somewhere! Email any ideas to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org or Rev. Lise at lsherry@uuma.org.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Join us for a special discussion on **Wednesday, November 4** at 7 pm. Rev. Lise will be leading a discussion of the UUA's 2015 Common Read

for 2015, "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. When Stevenson was a 23-year-old Harvard law student, he started an internship in Georgia where his first assignment was to deliver a message to a man living on death row. This assignment became his calling: representing the innocent, the inadequately defended, the children, the domestic abuse survivors, the mentally ill and the imprisoned. This fast-paced book reads like a John Grisham novel.

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 here at First Parish of Norwell. The church will be hosting the reception (in the Parish Hall) following the Installation Service. Please contact Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840 if you can provide an item for the food table. Children are welcome and baby care will be provided.



SOUTH SHORE HALF MARATHON

The 2nd annual South Shore Half Marathon will be held on **Sunday, November 1**. Roughly 3,000 runners will be finishing in Norwell Center between 8:30 and 10:30 am. West Street will be closed between Scituate Federal Savings Bank and the Norris Reservation. Dover Street will be closed as well. The best access to the center of Norwell will be via Main Street. The race course covers much of Norwell. Residents will be allowed in and out of traffic when it is safe for the runners and at the discretion of the police officers. Please plan extra travel time that morning, and

car pool if possible. Shuttle busses for race staff, runners and spectators will leave from the Hanover Mall. They have been informed that they will *not* be able to park at the church. For more information on the race itself, visit www.southshorehalf.com.



ALLIANCE FALL ACTIVITIES

On **Wednesday, October 21** at 10 am Don Messinger will be our guest speaker. His program on a 2014 trip to Turkey will be a video production: *Western Turkey – a visually beautiful tour of the “Cradle of Civilization.”*

Carolyn Housman will be the book reviewer for the November meeting on **Wednesday, November 11** at 10 a.m. We are excited to have Carolyn, a woman of many talents, be our speaker that day.

The Alliance Members’ Holiday Luncheon is on **Wednesday, December 9** at 11:30 am. This will be a very special day with delicious casseroles and salads and background music provided by Alex Gordon. If you are not currently a member and want to attend the luncheon, it’s not too late to pay dues of \$15 to Shirley Bunnell, Membership Chairman.



HOLIDAY FAIR
Saturday, November 21,
9:00 am – 2:30 pm

**We need your help with
this major fundraiser.**

We will need you to bake, make handcrafts, clean out your closets and bring your clean, good toys, books/CDs and household treasures to the church the week before. The **Jewelry Table** has put out a special call for good jewelry items. See Bev Gardner for ideas on gift baskets you could make.

Sue Robinson will again chair an **Artists Table** – featuring work by First Parish artists and friends. Work may be sold on consignment with all or a portion of the sale going to the church.

New helpers are needed. To volunteer, please call Peg Kitchenham at 781-447-5831 or chrispegk@verizon.net.

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 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, Saturday, November 21 from 9:00 to 2:30.



BAKERS FOR THE HOLIDAY FAIR

Help is needed from church members and friends to provide baked goods such as breads, cookies, pies, cakes, bars and canned fruits, jellies, jams and pickles. Bake now and freeze for the Fair. We are also looking for bakers of beans. We sell all that is donated so if you contribute, more money for the Church! If you need recipes, please call Helen Keeler at

781-837-8248. All we ask is that you PLEASE BAKE and label your donation if it contains nuts. Thanks and Happy Baking!



THEMED GIFT BASKETS

Please volunteer to buy supplies for a themed gift basket to be sold at the

Holiday Fair.

1. Choose a theme- teen beauty, chocolate, nuts, tea, baby, dog, pasta, entertaining, a craft for a child, etc.
2. Sign up at Coffee Hour so we know of your wonderful intentions.
3. Get your own basket or pick one up at church.
4. Shop! New, non-perishable items only, please.
5. Work toward baskets which we can sell in the \$10-\$15-\$45 range.
6. **Keep a list of items for us and their cost to you.** (This will help us set a fair price for the basket.)
7. Bring the items, **the list** and the basket to Coffee Hour any Sunday morning whenever you complete the buying. We will help you wrap it with our supplies.

Baskets must be in by the Sunday before the Holiday Fair, November 15.

We have plenty of small and medium-sized baskets for you to choose from but are looking for large and very large baskets. If you have any at home which you can spare, please donate. Bring them to church any Sunday.

Thank you so much!

Bev Gardner, Noel Constantino, Roberta Fairbanks, Linda Goodwin, Joanne Howard,

Debb Welch, Adrianna McLane, Amy and Rae Stephenson



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Outreach Sundays: Once a month, the Helen Fogg Service Committee and Rev. Lise highlight a topic and a related charity.

September 20- Youth 2 Youth (Y2Y) Cambridge (shelter for homeless youth) – the collection raised \$815.

October 11- Animal Protection Center of Southeastern Massachusetts- the collection raised \$528.15 plus lots of sheets, towels, etc. for them to use. Thank you to Rev. Lise for the beautiful Blessing of the Animals service and Joanne Howard for once again collecting linens for the center and giving the short talk about the charity!

Any free cash (loose cash not placed in an envelope or labeled) on an Outreach Sunday will go to the charity. If you want your check to go towards the charity, please make it out to “First Parish of Norwell” and write “outreach” in the memo line. Please mark any check which is to go towards your pledge as “pledge” in the memo line **and** put the check in white pledge envelope which you will find in each pew. If you teach downstairs or aren’t able to be there on Outreach Sunday, and you wish to donate to the charity, please send a check to the office marked as above. Thank you. Any questions? Ask any committee member!

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs Marcia & Scott Babcock, Gabe Carroll, Debbie Chase, Pat Crumley, Mary Mercier, Elizabeth Robey, Jack Wallace, members.

PARTAKERS - GOFUNDME REQUEST

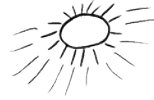
Our church has been working with the Partakers organization since 2000, mentoring MCI prisoners and supporting them while they work toward their BA from Boston University while in prison. One of our first prisoners was Carolyn Gunter, who was mentored by Marcia Babcock, Mary Mercier and Beverly Gardner. Carolyn earned her BA from BU in May 2007, was released in March of 2009, and worked successfully for several years before being deported back to Jamaica on what we feel is a technicality. Now she is in her 2nd year of her Master's degree program in Special Education in Jamaica. Carolyn is working on her Masters in Special Ed because there is a big need for Special Ed teachers in Jamaica, and, as a deportee, other jobs are nearly impossible to get.

This is a GoFundMe request from one of the nuns who worked with Carolyn Gunter before and after she was released from MCI Framingham. Sister Shirley Campbell has initiated this GoFundMe request for Carolyn to help her with fees necessary to complete her Master's degree. She has consulted with Marcia, Mary and Bev and, with our permission, has added our names to the request.

Please read this GoFundMe request, especially the paragraph starting, "My name is Sr. Shirley Campbell, SSJ. For 20 years Sr. Eleanor Spring, SSJ and I directed a program for women who were trying to reclaim their lives," for information about Carolyn. Many \$10 and \$15 donations (or more) will add up. Donations can be made anonymously, if you wish. Thank you for considering this! To learn more or to

donate, please click here:
<http://e.gofund.me/xt3uw9ps>.

Beverly Gardner, Marcia Babcock, and Mary Mercier



NEWS FROM THE DRE



Hello First Parish!

The church year is really getting into the thick of things now, and we have some great events coming up! First, for adults: our class "Faith Like a River: Themes From Unitarian Universalist History". This is a great program to learn about the fascinating history of the Unitarian Universalist religion, especially if like many of our members, you did not grow up in a UU church. The group takes place the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fogg Parlor at 7 pm (next meeting is October 28).

Then for all ages, on **Saturday October 24**, starting at 5pm is our Halloween Dance Party! Everyone is encouraged to come in costume, there will be prizes, desserts, and it should be a blast! The very next afternoon (**October 25**) after church, a group from our church will be bringing a meal and craft to a local homeless shelter. We still need volunteers to provide food for 70 people, so please contact Mandy Metzger (amajon@me.com) if you will be able to attend or help out. Helpers of all ages are welcome.

NOTE: page 8 is on the back of the calendar

RE News continued:

Finally, on **Friday, November 6** at 6pm is our second monthly potluck and game night! We had a great crowd last month, with rave reviews, so come on down to the next one! Bring your favorite dinner and board game, and spend some quality time with your First Parish family. We can't wait to see you there!



CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

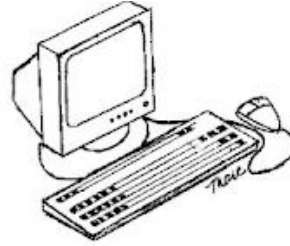
Thank you to all who have signed up. We are shooting for 100% participation on our updated church photo directory! For those of you who have not set an appointment, please sign up at one of the next two coffee hours OR contact Les Taylor directly for an appointment (phone: 781-837-2929 / email: lestaylor@me.com). The dates of the photo shoot at FPN are: **Thursday, October 29** from 1 - 8pm; **Friday, October 30** from 1 - 8pm; **Saturday, October 31** from 10am - 5pm; and **Tuesday, November 10** from 1 - 8pm. Things to note:

DON'T FORGET: please bring your canned goods for the Norwell Food Pantry on the day of your photo shoot to receive \$5 off any photo order you make. If you don't have a white plastic Lifetouch donation bag with the coupon, we will have extras on the day of your appointment to offer you. You will automatically receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait, along with one church directory per family once published.

HELPERS NEEDED: if you are able to give a couple of hours of your time to man the check-in table at any of the days/times listed above, please let Les know. All volunteers are

welcome... the sit-down job of checking people in is very easy!

Thank you very much.



Periodically, the Church Office sends all-church email "blasts" to remind the church community of upcoming events or late-breaking church news. The printed Spire will be going paperless starting next month. All-church emails are sent via blind copy, so individual addresses are not visible to others. 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.

JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS



Our neighbors at the James Library and Center for the Arts have a vibrant schedule of events-music concerts, art exhibits and literary events. To learn more, visit www.jameslibrary.org or call 781-659-7100.

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

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THE SPIRE

**TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
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CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ARTISTS!

We know there are some talented photographers and artists in the FPNUU community. Does anyone have some good photos or sketches of the church they'd be willing to share with the Church Office? Different times of day, different seasons... We might use this artwork on the cover of an Order of Service, or in a future newsletter. Please contact Hope in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.org if you're interested.