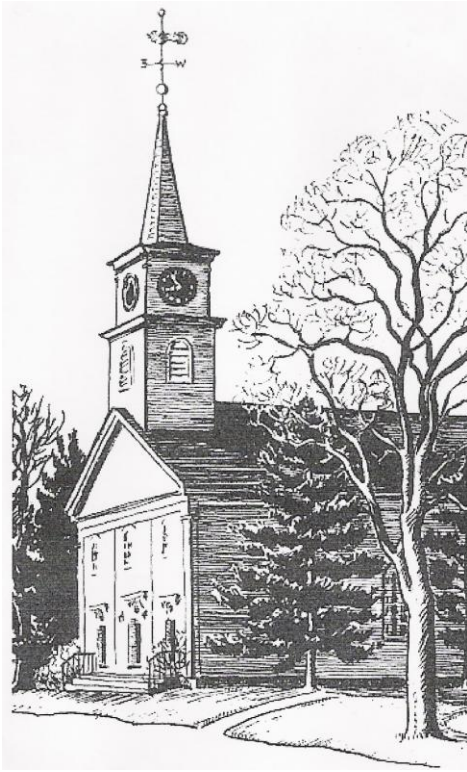


The Spire



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
November 11, 2015
Volume XIV, Issue 6
www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

November 15:

Building a New Way in Remembrance

We'll talk about what it means to be a transgender person in our world today and how the November 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance is bringing attention to inequities. This is an **Outreach Sunday** and we'll be contributing to Trans Youth Family Allies. Please see Lise's Letter on page 2 for more information about the candlelight vigil in honor of the Transgender Day of Remembrance on **Friday, November 20**.

November 22:

Multigenerational Thanksgiving Service

Led by Rev. Lise and Julian Baptista, DRE
We'll share juice and bread and count our blessings. This will also be the beginning of Guest at Your Table, a UU Service Committee fund raiser for their projects around the world.

November 29: **sermon topic TBA**

Jim Pickel, pulpit guest

December 6: **Hannukah**

Hannukah begins tonight. How does this holiday inform who we are as UUs?

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: Ginky 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, December 7**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in the church office.

LISE'S LETTER

Thank you so much for a beautiful installation service on Sunday! The Meetinghouse and the Parish Hall looked wonderful and festive, the food was delicious, and my robe and stole are gorgeous. It was a great celebration and I am honored to be part of this congregation. Many of you offered your congratulations to me on Sunday, which was lovely, but I also want to say congratulations to you all. First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist, has once again taken a leap of faith to enter into shared ministry with another minister with the hope of changing our lives and the world for the better. That takes gumption, commitment and optimism-- and there are many ways we can do this together. I would also like to recognize a few people whose names were inadvertently left out of the program: Aine Nickerson and Brennan Carroll-Millins lit candles, and John McCann played the trumpet beautifully. Thanks to your generosity, \$850 will be donated to the UUA's Living Tradition Fund.

You've probably all noticed by now that I don't like to sit up by the pulpit on my own on Sunday mornings. I chatted with the Worship Committee about this and they agreed to join me up there as worship associates. This is a highly visible way that we are sharing ministry. Having a worship associate adds another voice to our service, it shows our demographic diversity, it lets visitors know that the minister and the congregation are in this adventure together, and it also gives congregation members an opportunity to see what it's like to be in the pulpit, if just for a short time.

For the first few months I was here, I wanted to keep our worship associate pool limited to the worship committee, folks who were more

intimately knowledgeable about what happens on Sunday mornings. But now, we'd like to open up this position to others in our congregation, and one doesn't need to be on the worship committee to participate. What do you have to do? Check your email during the week before the service for information about the order of service, the chalice lighting and readings I'll provide for you. Practice your readings out loud so you're comfortable saying them with intonation and so that you can look up from your script regularly. Then, arrive at church by 9:30 am on Sunday. Those are the basics. If you're interested, please contact Joyce Pickel or myself. We can also arrange a time for you to practice with the microphone if that is new for you as well. From this step, perhaps some of you might decide you'd like to offer a sermon for a lay service sometime. I'll be offering a "How to write a sermon" workshop later in the church year.

Another way to share our ministry is by standing as witnesses together for those who are less welcome in our world. On **Friday, November 20**, I'm organizing a candlelight vigil for the Transgender Day of Remembrance on the Norwell Common from 6-7 pm. Unfortunately, many transgender folks are murdered each year simply for being their authentic selves. I'll talk more about this during our service on November 15. Dress warmly and wear comfortable shoes for the vigil, and then we can put our good shoes on to go hear the concert honoring Chris and Bob Detwiler that starts at 7:30 pm that evening at the James.

Once again, thank you for entering this ministry with me and Congratulations!

Love, Lise



CARING CORNER

Dorothy Montuori will be remembered at a memorial service on **Sunday, November 15** at 2pm, with a collation to follow in the Parish Hall.

We received a message from a former church schooler on the church's Facebook page. Jessica Szulerowski posted: "I'm not sure if any of the people who went to the church when I was there are still there. My mom, dad and I were members from about 1991-92 to 1996... I was the little girl who always had my stuffed wolf White Fang with me. I also have many fond memories of the monthly visits to a member's farm for Sunday school. We were from Australia and are back here now. It's wonderful to see that the church is still going strong". Ralph, Julia and Jessica with White Fang.

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, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Noel Constantino, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).



SHOUT OUTS

Thank you to Carol Neely who brought some of her house plants to a recent Coffee Hour. She offered them to all and suggested a donation to the Youth Group. What a wonderful thing to do!

Thank you to those of you who contribute food to our Coffee Hour after church each week.

Thanks to all who have helped move the gift baskets around the building this week in anticipation of various events in the Parish Hall and Fogg Parlor. It does take a village!



HOLIDAY FAIR 2015

Come one, come all to the Holiday Fair! Join us **Saturday, November 21** from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Can you smell the sweet breads, pies, cookies, baked beans, chili and chicken pot pie? Bring a good appetite for lunch and bring your kids to have fun downstairs in the Toy Shop. Come shop for a gift basket, wonderful knitted or hand-made items, holiday decorations or a good book to enjoy.

Support us by buying raffle tickets for some great items: a Boston baked bean basket, donated by Carol Altshuler; a toddler's sweater and a fleece Patriots blanket created by Joanne Howard.

If you have heavy items you cannot handle, call Dave Horton on his cell 781-424-4002. He will pick them up on **Friday, November 20**. (No TV's, large exercise equipment etc.) You should take a picture of any large furniture or other items, which we can post for you.

Bring your donated treasures the week of the fair and put your books in the parlor, toys in the hall and treasures upstairs where Grandma's Attic will be. The Church Office is open Tuesdays through Fridays 9 am to 1 pm and 9 am to 12 noon on Fridays. There will be someone here to help you Tuesday morning, **Thursday, November 19** 7-9 pm and all day **Friday, November 20** until 5:00 pm. Your baked goods and art work can be dropped off then. See you at the Fair! Come make some special memories!



Should severe weather necessitate cancellation of any church activities, we will make every effort to leave an outgoing message on the church's voicemail and send an all-church email with the cancellation. Depending on the amount of advance notice, check our website as well: www.firstparishnorwell.org. We will notify WATD radio in Marshfield (95.9 FM), WCVB – TV (Channel 5), WHDH 7News and radio/AM 680. We will also make every effort to post updates on our Facebook page. Just go to our website, scroll down under “Upcoming Events” and click on the link to Facebook. Then “like” our page. However, power outages or lack of internet access may affect our ability to communicate with you all. **Please be cautious and use your best judgment!**



ALLIANCE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The annual holiday gathering of Alliance members will be back in the Parish Hall this year 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. Carol singing will add to the festive atmosphere. 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 BAKE TABLE

The Alliance is sending out one last plea for First Parish bakers to contribute something to the Holiday Fair's Bake Sale Table. All baked goods, jams, pickles and relishes are welcome and will sell well. Remember to label contents if they contain nuts. Customers are always looking for pies, especially apple, at this time of year. So if you are a pie baker, consider making one for the Fair. And THANK YOU!!

think this would better help project the warmth & welcoming community that we are.

At least one greeter at each of the two doors are needed each week, just 15-20 minutes prior to the beginning of the service. Anyone is invited to assist, including choir members and RE teachers.

A NEW sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall. Your help would be appreciated in making everyone who enters our doors feel welcomed. Thank you!



THEMED GIFT BASKETS

We have more gift baskets than we have ever had before. Thank you to all the creative, caring people who donated a basket! The Holiday Fair will be on Saturday, November 21, so baskets must be brought in to the church as of Coffee Hour the Sunday *before* the Fair- this coming **Sunday, November 15**. Thank you!



CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent Lifetouch photo sessions at church. We had an excellent turn out! We will now turn to the next phase in putting our directory together.

The Basket Ladies,
Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, Co-chairs
Linda Goodwin, Joanne Howard, Roberta Fairbanks, Amy, and Minnie Stephenson, Debb Welsh and Adrianna McLane and Penny Corbett

At each session, we attempted to verify everyone's contact information. For the next few Sundays, we will have a clipboard out on the welcome table (outside of the Parish Hall) with the alphabetized list available to review. Please stop by and review the list if you haven't already been taken care of.

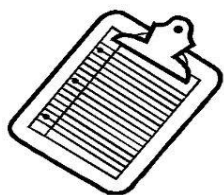
Finally, there are other available options during November for church members, supporters and friends to have their photo included in the new directory, if so desired. Please contact Les Taylor if interested at 781-837-2929 or lestaylor@me.com



GREETERS NEEDED!

First Parish would like to re-institute "greeters" prior to our worship service on Sunday mornings. We





CHURCH SURVEY

In an effort to better understand the skills and talents of our members and friends, there is a recent survey that the Parish Committee is asking adults to complete. Most folks received a copy at their recent church directory photo session. If you haven't yet completed this four page survey, please do so and return to church.

For those who need a copy, there is a stack on the Welcome Table outside the Parish Hall. Adjacent to the stack of new surveys is a black & pink box for all completed surveys to be returned. Thank you for your time and attention to this request as we appreciate your participation.



FROM THE DRE



Hello First Parish! This past week has been wonderful, with game nights, adult programming, and the installation of Rev. Lise!

First up is our continuing Adult RE course, "Faith Like a River: Themes from Unitarian Universalist History". This program was designed to give participants a grounding in Unitarian Universalist history, while also looking at how that history can inform our everyday lives. I invite you to join us **Wednesday, November 11** at 7pm to learn about and discuss the development of reason as a religious source. Each class stands on its own, but you are encouraged to attend each fascinating session on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fogg Parlor.

A bit further down the road is our next service trip to share a meal at the local homeless shelter we visited last month. Our next trip is scheduled for **Sunday, January 10**, and we will be heading over after the worship service. We will circulate food and signups closer to the date.

Finally, we're also looking for adults and youth with an interest they wish to share as part of our "Mini-Sessions" classes starting in February. This time between our regular Sunday School semesters divides the RE children up by interest rather than age, allowing you to share your favorite hobby with a group of many ages, and lots of enthusiasm! In the past we've had classes on everything from music and arts, to science, local history, and service projects. If you have one or more ideas you'd like to bring to us, please sign up with me in person during Coffee Hour or via email at julianbaptistamusic@gmail.com.

See you all at church!
Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education



POINSETTIAS

It is poinsettia time again! You can order poinsettias on Sundays beginning **November 29** and continuing through **December 13** during Coffee Hour. The plants will be used to that will be used to decorate our Meetinghouse on Christmas Eve.

"Always have a vivid imagination, for you never know when you might need it"
~J.K. Rowling



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

Join us on **Wednesday, December 2** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor for a discussion of “Mrs. Queen Takes the Train” by William Kuhn. This novel wittily imagines the kerfuffle that transpires when a bored Queen Elizabeth strolls out of the palace in search of a little fun, leaving behind a desperate team of courtiers who must find the missing Windsor before a national scandal erupts. New bookworms are always welcome!



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

The charity for Outreach Sunday this month (this coming Sunday, November 15) is Trans Youth Family Allies. November 20 is the International Transgender Day of Remembrance, “a time to remember those who have died due to persecution for being their true selves”.

FANTASTIC NEWS concerning the GoFundMe request for money to help our former Partakers’ prisoner, Carolyn Gunter, with her Masters’ degree, from the nun who started this fund: “Hello everyone, I am so delighted to report that we passed our goal of \$5000. Carolyn will complete her education and please God she will become gainfully employed as a Special Education teacher next fall. Thank you to each and every one of you who bothered to read her story and contribute to this most worthy cause. Many thanks and may God bless you. Shirley A. Campbell, SSJ”

Noel Constantino and Bev Gardner, Co-chairs
Members: Marcia & Scott Babcock, Gabe

Carroll, Debbie Chase, Penny Corbett, Pat Crumley, Alex Gordon, Mary Mercier, Bill Montuori, Lorna Phillips, Elizabeth Robey (liaison with the Parish Committee), Jack Wallace, members.



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Celebrating the Season with Storyteller Davis Bates

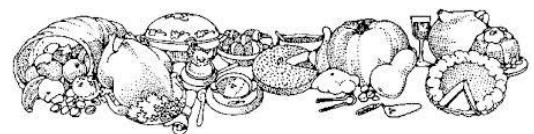
Saturday, November 14 at 10:30 am

Parents’ Choice Award winning storyteller Davis Bates joins us for Celebrating the Season: Songs & Stories for the Harvest & Halloween. The show will include farming stories and songs from the past and present, sea songs & chanteys, Native American stories, family tales, and not-too-scary ghost stories. There will also be plenty of sing-a-longs, a short lesson in how to play music with spoons from a kitchen drawer, and an appearance by a dancing wooden dog named Bingo. **FREE**

Best Books of 2015 for Children

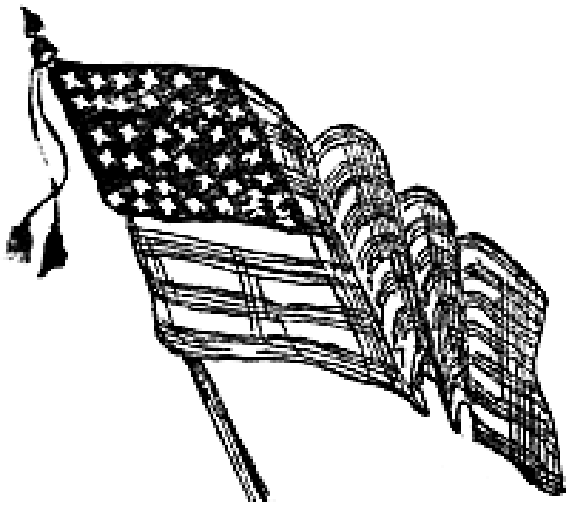
Thursday, December 3 at 7:00 pm

Not sure what the best book for your child is? Inly School librarian and book reviewer Shelley Sommer presents her top picks for holiday gifts at this program for parents. Shelley knows kids and what they love to read. Buttonwood Books will be there with the suggested titles. **FREE**



COMMUNITY EVENTS

“LINES OF FIRE” - a one act staged reading of extraordinary war letters sponsored by the First Parish Church of Bridgewater Peace Vigil Committee. It will take place at First Parish Church, 50 School Street, Bridgewater at 7 pm on **Thursday, November 12**. One of the readers will be our former minister, Rev. Vicki Weinstein! Free will donations will be gratefully accepted for the VFW Post 2125 in Bridgewater in support of their veterans assistance programs. For more information, please call Betty at 774-226-0942.



A MUSICAL EVENING TO CELEBRATE BOB AND CHRIS DETWILER

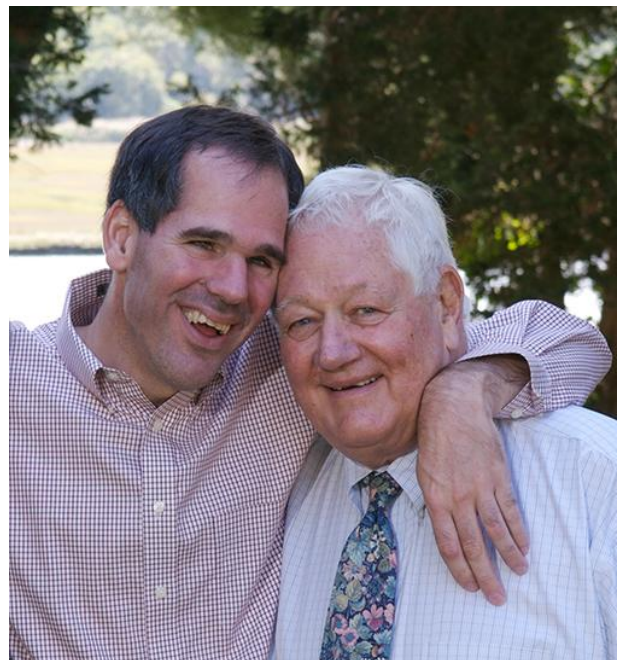
Friday, November 20

James Library Performance Hall
Sponsored by Friendship Home




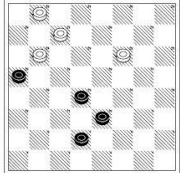
Music 7:30-8:30pm: Jazz selections of classic show tunes, Americana, spirituals, and Gershwin by Alex Gordon, pianist, and Alex Bourque, saxophonist. No intermission.

Reception: Immediately following the performance please join family and friends as we fondly remember Bob and Chris and their influence on all of us. Light refreshments will be served by Friendship Home members.

Admission: \$25 cash only at the door. Seating is limited so please reserve your chair by calling or emailing Chrissy Maquire at 781-659-8202 or cmaquire@friendshiphome.net. If you are unable to attend or wish to make an additional contribution, please make your check payable to Road to Responsibility or the James Library and mail to Friendship Home, P.O. Box 916, Norwell, MA 02061. Net proceeds will benefit the James Library and Road to Responsibility.



CALENDAR
November-December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 Outreach Sunday Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Helen Fogg Svc. Comm., FP 11:30 am Memorial Service for Dorothy Montuori, MH 2 pm w/ collation to follow, PH	16 AA, PH 8:30 pm	17 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am Parish Comm., FP 7 pm Invested Funds Comm., Ofc. 7:30 pm Holiday Fair Set-up in PH & FP	18 Holiday Fair Set-up in PH & FP	19 Holiday Fair Set-up in PH & FP Choir Rehearsal, Sky. 7:30 pm	20 Holiday Fair Set-up in PH & FP	21 Holiday Fair 9 am to 2:30 pm 
22 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am Finance Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am	23 AA, PH 8:30 pm	24 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	25 Church Staff Meeting, FP 10 am "Faith Like a River" Adult RE Class, FP 7 pm Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	26 Church Office Closed 	27 Church Office Closed Youth Group Alumni Gathering, PH, FP & Kit. 5-8 pm	28
29 First Sunday of Advent Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour 11 am 	30 AA, PH 8:30 pm	1 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am Pastoral Care Team, Ofc. 11:45 am Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm Worship Comm., Parsonage 7 pm	2 Book Group, FP 7 pm Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	3 Choir Rehearsal, Sky. 7:30 pm Preschool "Moms' Night Out", PH (daytime set up, evening event)	4 Piano Lessons, Sky. & MH 1-5:45 pm Game Night & Potluck, MH 6-9 pm 	5 Scrapbookers, PH 4-11 pm