

# The Spire

The Newsletter of  
**First Parish of Norwell**

24 River Street

P.O. Box 152

Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

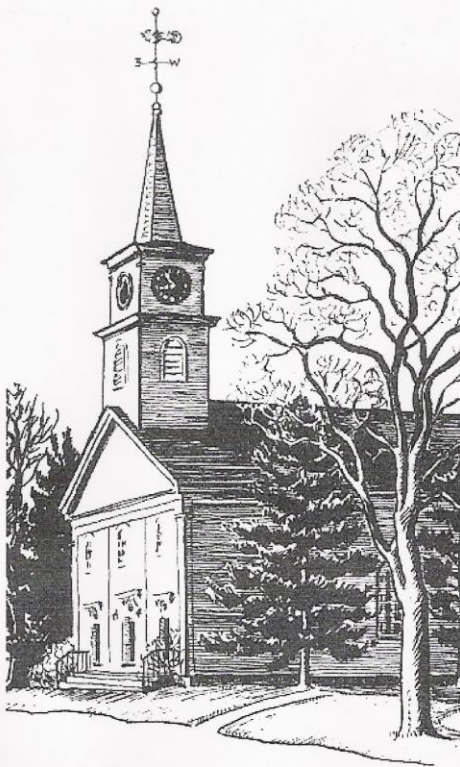
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December 9, 2015

Volume XIV, Issue 8

[www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)



## **Sunday Services – 10:00 am**

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching  
unless otherwise indicated

### December 13:      **Blue Holidays**

Sometimes, due to life circumstances, it's very difficult to be of good holiday cheer. We'll consider and acknowledge this fact and also raise some money for foster children on this, our Outreach Sunday. Don't forget to bring your Christmas presents for your foster child on this day as well.

### December 20:      **RE Christmas Presentation**

Rev. Lise and Julian will be leading this multigenerational service. It will follow the same format as previous years, allowing adults and children to participate. We will be focusing this year on "Celebrations of Light": Christmas, the Winter Solstice and Kwanzaa.

Thursday, December 24: Join us for one of our traditional Christmas Eve candle-lit services with special music, readings, carols and the warmth of community. The service will conclude with the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Services will be held at 5:00 and 7:30 pm.

### December 27:      **Soapbox Sunday**

Scott Babcock will be orchestrating as members of the congregation will get on their Soap Box for five minutes. Our church youth will keep the Soap Boxers within their time constraints.

January 3: Rev. Lise will lead this service, with the topic TBD.

**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](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)

**Minister:**

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11

[lsherry@uuma.org](mailto:lsherry@uuma.org)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Julian Baptista, x12

[dre@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:dre@firstparishnorwell.org)

**Music Director:** Ginky Grimes

**Office Staff:**

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

[office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org)

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14

[donna@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto: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, January 4, 2016**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or dropped off in the church office.

## LISE'S LETTER

We're definitely in the thick of the holiday season now, a time for connecting more closely with family and friends, celebrations and good cheer. Religiously, it's a time when many different belief systems focus on the good and inspiring, ways to create meaningful community with the added intention of opening the doors wide to inclusivity. One of the things I like to do is look at Christmas lights- they always cheer me up and help put me in a calm, peaceful and quietly energetic place. So, on Monday, Nelson and I went into Boston for the afternoon and evening to look at Christmas lights and see what we could see.

Our afternoon started a little inconveniently as the T parking garage at Braintree was full. Then, we happened to get on the T at the same time as a woman who was talking loudly and unhappily to someone she knew on the phone. For the entire train ride she vacillated from mere irritation to almost frothy anger. Unfortunately, her style of problem solving did not engender sympathy from others; several other people were looking at her in disapproval as she shared her problems with the rest of the train. As more people got on the train, either her problems lessened or we simply couldn't hear them anymore.

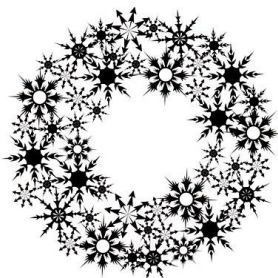
Although I sincerely hope this woman finds some peace, once in Boston, memories of her began to fade into the background. We enjoyed window shopping, I received some peace beads from a Buddhist monk near the old State House, we watched young children learning to ice skate at the Boston Common, a psychic told me she could see good things happening for me if I'd let her do my astrology chart (I politely declined), and I became an amateur family photographer for several

groups enjoying the holiday lights with us. It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon and evening, and I got to see lots of beautiful Christmas lights. Then came the ride home.

Across from us sat a woman with her phone. She was dressed warmly, had a few bags with her, and spent almost the entire train ride on her phone. But she wasn't talking, she was reading- I assumed this because no headphones were involved. And she was smiling. I have no idea what she was looking at or reading, (I almost went over to ask her), but whatever it was she was thoroughly enjoying it. Nor was she entirely oblivious to her surroundings, she greeted others, moved her bags when necessary and kept track of the train's progress. For our entire train ride almost every time I looked in her direction she had a huge grin on her face. Sometimes she would break into a little chuckle. Nelson and I kept nudging each other to look at her, and when we did we would smile. Sometimes *we* would even giggle a little. I'm chuckling with a big smile on my face even as I write this.

One of my favorite spiritual teachers, Thich Nhat Hanh, says "Be Peace." Watching the woman on the ride home from Boston was a perfect example of someone Being Peace, and I'm so thankful I got to witness it. May we all have a peaceful and joyful holiday season.

Love, Lise



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



The staff of First Parish of Norwell send their best wishes to you all for a peaceful, joyful holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

With our warmest regards,

Hope  
Tom  
Donna  
Rev. Lise  
Gingy  
Drew



## CARING CORNER

Caring thoughts for a speedy recovery for Noel Constantino who had unplanned eye surgery on Monday, November 30, for a detached retina. She will be recovering at home at 95 Stonebridge Drive, Hanson, MA 02341.

We are pleased to report that Betsey Drollett is recovering well at home from injuries received in a recent fall.

Bill Montuori will "graduate" from his cardiac rehab class this week concluding multiple three-days-a-week scheduling. Thanks to so many who assisted Bill with transportation for many weeks both for these appointments and for rides to church.

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](mailto: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).

### CHRISTMAS EVE USHERS NEEDED

Only a couple more volunteers are needed for ushering at Christmas Eve. If you are able, and have a preference for either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> service, please let Les Taylor know at your earliest convenience (781-837-2929 or [lestaylor@me.com](mailto:lestaylor@me.com).)

All women of First Parish of Norwell are invited to a Christmas party at Marina Selby's house, 125 Circuit Street, Norwell, on **Saturday, December 12** at 6:00. Bring something for the pot luck supper, a gift for a woman at a shelter and (if you wish) a Yankee Swap gift of ~\$10. RSVP to Bev Gardner at [bevgardner@comcast.net](mailto:bevgardner@comcast.net).



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](http://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!**



### A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

**Friday, December 11**  
at 7:30 pm

In the Meetinghouse

This collaborative choral performance, between the James Library Chorus and the First Parish Church Choir, will celebrate the holidays in the tradition of King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols includes readings and poetry interspersed between a variety of old and new carols. All are welcome to attend. The concert is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted at the door.



### ALLIANCE IN JANUARY

Please put Wednesday, January 20, on your calendar for a creative morning with Sally Dean Mello. Sally, the Education Coordinator for the Art Complex Museum in Duxbury and a well-known visual artist, will lead members on a creative adventure. The morning begins at 10 am with refreshments and as always guests are welcome at Alliance programs.


## FROM THE PARISH CLERK

With assistance from Debi Meddaugh, I have created two new pamphlets located in the pamphlet rack. The first is a history of First Parish of Norwell from 1642-2015. The second is a history of the Meetinghouse organ.

~Dexter Robinson



## FROM THE DRE

 December is often a very busy time for us all, but here at First Parish we'll have everything you need to feel nourished and happy during the holiday season, and learn at the same time.

In our RE programming for adults we are coming to the end of our "Faith Like a River" Unitarian Universalist History course. Our last session will be on December 9, and will focus on the Transcendentalists, and some of our more modern history. We hope you can join us at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor.

Then in the New Year, Rev. Lise will be leading a course called: THE WISDOM PATH: MONEY, SPIRIT, AND LIFE. This course focuses on life balance, and how our financial decisions impact all aspects of our lives.

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.

For the children of our congregation, we will continue with our regular Sunday School through the end of January, when our first semester ends. Then in the interim period of February 7 through March 6 will be our mini sessions program. Mini-sessions 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](mailto:julianbaptistamusic@gmail.com).

See you all at church!

~Julian Baptista

Director of Religious Education



## COME DANCE WITH US!

We will have an All-Church Dance on **Saturday, January 23**. (It will be in the evening – specific time TBA.) So hold the date and plan to come- all ages are welcome! Julian will supply music and atmosphere. We will provide snacks.



## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

This coming **Sunday, December 13** is our Outreach Sunday for December. The collection will provide gifts for foster children in the custody of the MA Department of Children and Families. Please be sure to bring the gifts you are providing on Sunday so Betsy Gordon,

Scott Babcock and Debbie Chase can organize them and send them on their way. What a wonderful undertaking for our church – thank you all!

The November Outreach Sunday charity was TransYouth Family Allies, and \$403 was collected for it! Rev. Lise and others had a successful vigil on the Norwell Town Green on International Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

A **big** thank you to Ellie Handleman who volunteered to “sell” Heifer animals as gifts at Coffee Hour through the Christmas season! Please see the article in the next column for more information on this wonderful program.

Noel Constantino and Bev Gardner, Co-chairs Members: Marcia and 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) and Jack Wallace.



## LIFETOUCH PHOTO UPDATE

For people who visited the church this fall for their photo session, and did *not* place an order with Lifetouch to purchase photos, a complimentary 8x10 should have been provided by now. Most have been distributed out of the Church Office. If you have NOT received your complimentary 8x10, please notify Les Taylor right away at [lestaylor@me.com](mailto:lestaylor@me.com) or 781-837-2929.



## THE PERFECT GIFT?

Stumped on a gift for the “person who has everything”? How about a pig or a chicken? Heifer, International is a wonderful organization that strives to end hunger and poverty worldwide through sustainable community development. Your donation will get you a card to give that special someone, that explains the “pig” or “chicken” you gave in their name will be placed with a family in need. That family, in turn, will give that animal’s first-born female offspring to another family in need in their community, will do the same. In this manner, the whole community is blessed, one family at a time! And it’s easy - Ellie Handleman will be collecting donations for Heifer, Intl. at Coffee Hour up until Christmas, and providing cards for you to give. And whether or not you buy a card, she’ll be happy to tell you about her experience at the Heifer farm in Rutland, Massachusetts if you ask her!



## POINSETTIAS

It is poinsettia time again! You can order poinsettias on Sundays through **December 13** with Marie Miller during Coffee Hour. Plants can be ordered in memory or in honor of someone, and will be listed in the Order of Worship on Christmas Eve. The plants will be used to decorate our Meetinghouse on Christmas Eve. Following the service, you may bring your poinsettia home with you.

## UU LIVING LEGACY PROJECT

The Living Legacy Project has announced **May 21-28, 2016**, as the dates for its spring pilgrimage. Registration opens Dec. 14, and spaces usually fill quickly. This pilgrimage is an opportunity to tour Alabama and Mississippi and learn about the Civil Rights era of the 1950s and 60s; what happened then is still relevant today! Rev. Lise attended in 2012 and highly recommends it-- it was life changing. Go to [uulivinglegacy.org](http://uulivinglegacy.org) and/or ask Rev. Lise for more information.



### SHOUT OUTS

46 themed Gift Baskets were donated by generous parishioners to be sold at our all-church Holiday Fair- a new record! Thank you to all who donated and to all who bought baskets. There are still about 9 baskets left- baskets for which the perfect person has not walked through our doors! Please look at the baskets at Coffee Hour. Wonderful gifts, extremely reasonable prices!

The Church Office will close at 1 pm on **Wednesday, December 23** and will reopen at 9 am on **Tuesday, January 5**.

### “Ring Out, Wild Bells”

by Alfred Lord Tennyson *[modified]*

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light;  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let [it] die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let [it] go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more,  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.



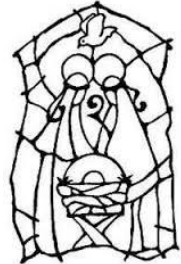

Ring out the want, the care the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,  
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the [Life] that is to be.

**CALENDAR**  
**December 2015-January 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 Outreach Sunday  Morning Service & Church School 10 am  Coffee Hour, PH 11 am  Service Comm., FP 11:30 am  Compassionate Friends Svc., MH 5 pm	14  AA, PH 8:30 pm	15  First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am  Parish Comm., FP 7 pm  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	16  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	17  Choir Rehearsal, Sky. 7:30 pm	18	19
20  Morning Service & Church School 10 am  Coffee Hour 11 am  Helen Fogg Svc. Comm., FP 11:30 am  Finance Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am	21  <i>Winter Solstice</i> AA, PH 8:30 pm  	22  Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am  First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	23  "Faith Like a River" Adult RE Class, FP 7 pm  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	24  Church Office Closed  <b>Worship Services 5 &amp; 7:30 pm</b>  	25  	26
27  Morning Service 10 am  Coffee Hour 11 am	28  Church Office Closed  AA, PH 8:30 pm	29  Church Office Closed  Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am  First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	30  Church Office Closed  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	31  Church Office Closed	1  	2
3  Morning Service & Church School 10 am  Coffee Hour 11 am  Activities Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am  Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am	4  SPIRE deadline	5  Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am  First Parish Knitters, FP 9:30 am  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm	6  Alliance Board, FP 10 am  Book Group, FP 7 pm  Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm	7  Choir, Sky. 7:30 pm	8  Game Night, PH 6-9 pm	9  PC/Minister Start-up Session, FP & PH 10 am-3 pm