

# The Spire

The Newsletter of  
**First Parish of Norwell**

24 River Street

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February 3, 2016

Volume XIV, Issue 10

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

February 21: "When Words Don't Matter"

Rev. Abbey Tennis, pulpit guest

Caring words can comfort us in sadness; prophetic words can transform injustice. But in the hardest times, words are not always enough. How do we reach beneath language to the depths of each other's spirits?

Rev. Abbey Tennis serves as the Minister for Worship and Pastoral Care at the First Unitarian Church of Oakland, in Oakland, California. A life-long UU, Abbey was a lay leader for fifteen years prior to entering the ministry, serving as a youth on the UUA board of trustees, working in the UUA's Youth Office, and as a member of the continental UU Ministerial Fellowship Committee. In addition to First Unitarian Church of Oakland, Abbey has served as Interim Director of Advancement at Starr King School for the Ministry and Intern minister at All Souls Church in Washington, D.C. Her previous career included climate change policy work and professional facilitation.

## **Sunday Services – 10:00 am**

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching  
unless otherwise indicated

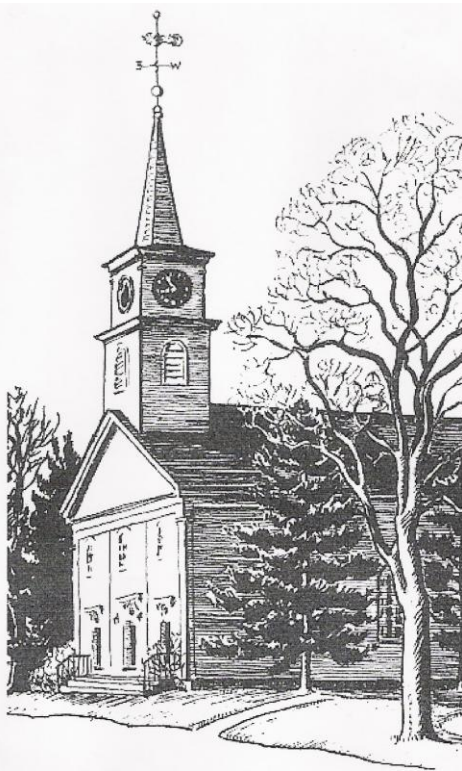
### February 7: "Welcoming and Growing"

It's the beginning of our annual pledge drive. We'll talk about why FPNUU is important to us and why we want to share this special place with others.

### February 14: "Love, Love, Love"

Julian Baptista, DRE and Rev. Lise

This all-ages service will celebrate love in its many forms and the last Sunday of "30 Days of Standing on the Side of Love". It's also an Outreach Sunday where we'll support School on Wheels.



**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

[lisherry@uuma.org](mailto:lisherry@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, March 7, 2016**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or dropped off in the church office.

**February 28: "The Musical Theatre Theology of Oscar Hammerstein"**

Musical Theatre is often given a bum rap as being superficial and superfluous. It turns out that many musical theatre artists really have quite a lot to say, and Oscar Hammerstein is one who laid the foundation for many others. We'll learn more about him and enjoy some of his music.

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**LISE'S LETTER**

If you haven't heard, this coming Sunday will be the beginning of our annual pledge drive, *Welcoming and Growing*. Hopefully, you've received a letter in the mail asking you to think about your own financial circumstances and what First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist means to you. The place where these two elements meet should help you decide how much you'd like to pledge to First Parish of Norwell for the coming 2016-2017 fiscal year (our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30). Sometimes the import of First Parish is much more than our financial circumstances allow us to show, and that's okay. That's why we ask folks to think about their own *personal* situation. We trust that everyone will be as generous as they can *within their own means*. As you think about why FPNUU is important to you, I hope you'll share your ideas with others. Here are some of my thoughts:

- We provide a safe and encouraging home for people to be themselves—especially our youth! This last weekend we had over 55 high schoolers from all over the Ballou-Channing District attend a con at our church. Observing and talking with them, it's easy to see

that they have some different ideas about how to live in our world. These ideas, whether it's who to love, what gender they express, how our government should help others or how they want to eventually make a living in the world, need a supportive place to be acknowledged, explored, and grown. We provide that.

- In December, our church hosted the annual Compassionate Friends Service, where families and friends can mourn the children they've lost. Some people have been attending this service for over 10 years, and our congregation provides a low cost welcoming place for folks to gather in support of one another.
- Through our worship services, religious education classes and social action work, FPNUU provides information and ideas for acting in ways we can improve our world. We have Outreach Sundays every month where we donate our offering to a designated group and we form partnerships with others in the community to help grow our world into a better place.
- We have a place we can come to at least once a week (Sundays) where we can see some friendly faces, share a warm cup of encouragement, and simply be if that's what we need. With the Worship Committee I'm working to make our Sundays happen during the summer as well (Worship Lite) so we can expand our welcoming community not only for ourselves, but for others in need of encouragement, inspiration and growth as well.

First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist is a wonderful place. I look forward to my first pledge drive with you all and witnessing yet another way this generous community cares for itself and one another.

Love,  
Rev. Lise



## CARING CORNER

The Pastoral Care Team is pleased to welcome its newest member, Marcia Babcock.

February 2 is the 374<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of First Parish of Norwell, which in 1642 was actually Second Parish of Scituate. The site of our first meetinghouse is marked by a boulder at the corner of Main Street (Route 123) and Old Meetinghouse Lane in what is now Norwell.

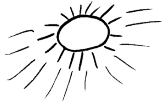
Best wishes to Bob Sutter on the celebration of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday this past week!

We extend our healing best wishes to three parishioners who are recovering from surgery: Carol Neely who is home and doing well, John Marsh who is currently at Braintree Rehab following heart surgery, and Scott Stephenson who required surgery following an accident to his leg.

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

## SCHEDULE CHANGE

Donna McDonald, our bookkeeper, will be changing her hours for the next few months. She will now be in the office on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from 9 am to 1 pm.



### FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish!



This month in RE, we'll be starting our mini-sessions! This is the time in Sunday School where we have members of our congregation share their skills and interests with the children of our congregation. In addition to giving our amazing teachers a break between semesters, it helps to bring the generations of our church together doing things they're interested in. This year we have an especially broad slate of workshops including knitting, painting, photography, guitar, cooking, chainmaille armor, making God's eyes, and talking about why voting matters (our 5<sup>th</sup> principle). These classes will go through the month of February and the beginning of March, so don't miss a single week!

We have even more exciting events for all ages this month as well. First, on **Friday, February 5** is our Game Night Potluck! This month we hope everyone will wear their PJ's so we can be extra comfy with our First Parish family. Bring your favorite game, and your favorite dish to share!

On **Sunday, February 7** after the worship service, our Youth Group will be holding their annual Chocolate auction. This is a great time to get something delicious for someone special

the week before Valentine's Day, and support the youth group at the same time! Anyone who would like to contribute chocolate, cookies, or whatever your specialty is, is greatly appreciated!

We have also scheduled two more times to Share a Meal at the Carolina Hill shelter (**Sunday, March 13 and Sunday, May 15**). If you haven't attended before, this is a great way to help people. Carolina Hill is long term family oriented homeless shelter. In the Share a Meal visits, we go over to the shelter after the worship service, and bring a lunch with us, along with crafts and games to do with the residents. It's a great way to do some good, and introduce your family to doing service.

Finally, the Youth Group hosted a fantastic Conference at our church this past Sunday, with over 55 youth from all around Massachusetts and Rhode Island gathered for three days and two nights. The youth ran workshops, worshipped, danced, and talked about important issues in their lives and the world at large. The whole event was planned by our youth group, and our own Nate Handelman stepped up to take on the leadership and responsibility for keeping everything running smoothly. There will be two more of these conferences before the end of the church year, so get your youth involved in this great opportunity! Our youth group meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 5pm.

See you at church!

~Julian Baptista,

Director of Religious Education





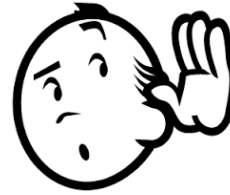
## ALLIANCE NEWS

The Alliance meeting in February will be a book review held in the Fogg Parlor on **Wednesday, February 17** at 10 am. We are very much looking forward to having Betsey Detwiler as our speaker that morning. Refreshments will be served at 10:00; the book review will be at 10:30. All members and friends of the church are invited to attend.



## LET'S TALK ABOUT SUMMER!

We are exploring the idea of re-instating our summer worship schedule. As we did in the past, some Sundays would have brief worship services, "Worship Lite", and others would be Fresh Air and Fellowship (FAAF). Worship Lite Sundays would have a shortened service, led by Rev. Lise or lay leaders, with volunteers supervising play time for young children on the playground or in the Parish Hall. FAAF Sundays, as in the past, would be comprised of meeting a designated leader at the church at the usual time and then walking the trails of the Norris Reservation; people of all ages and pets would be welcome. Both types of Sundays would provide an opportunity to connect with our church community throughout the summer and would be followed by a simple coffee hour. To do this we will need worship leaders, children supervisors, and leaders for the walks. A small committee is being formed to flesh out ideas. If you are interested in participating on any aspect, especially planning, please contact either Mary Mercier or Rev. Lise.



## CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

The Worship Committee recently purchased some additional Hearing Assistance Devices, which we hope will provide enough for all that may wish to use them. These devices have ear buds and are connected directly to the sound system. This means when the sound system is on, and everyone uses a microphone, you hear what is being said directly, rather than picking up the sound from the speakers in the meeting house. This should provide the opportunity to hear everything being said clearly. They are now located in baskets at each entrance to the Meetinghouse, just pick it up on your way in whether for a church service, a parish meeting, a wedding or funeral. Please return them to the basket when you are done with them and they will be ready for the next event. Thanks to Julian Baptista for ordering and maintaining these for us!



## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Last month's Outreach Sunday was very successful. We learned about "The School to Prison Pipeline" from Rev. Lise and collected \$848 for Partakers, which the Helen Fogg Service Committee voted to raise to \$1,000. It was so nice to have as our guest Lanny Kutakof, the former Partakers Director who has visited us on several of the last six Outreach Sundays that benefitted Partakers.

We have three volunteers for a new Partakers team: Joyce and Dave Hockman and Rev. Lise! Amy and Scott Stephenson volunteered, also, but have put this on hold while Scott finishes



his recuperation from his recent operation. Thank you, Amy and Scott! Therefore, we need just one more person in order to sign up for our next Partakers prisoner/BU student. Do you want to TRULY make a difference in someone's life?

What is involved is the church donating money towards the Partakers program. (There is no set amount; we give whatever we receive from the offering on the Partakers Outreach Sunday, and the Helen Fogg Service Committee then usually rounds the number up if they are able.) A prisoner, who is already working towards his/her high school equivalency or in the BU degree program, is assigned four mentors, who give support to that person through monthly letters and visits to the prison. Each month, two members of the team travel together for the visit to either MCI Framingham (for a woman) or MCI Norfolk (for a man). Thus, each mentor visits approximately every other month. Visits can be on certain afternoons or evenings of the week and on Saturday or Sunday. (Times vary prison to prison.). For more information, go to the Partakers' web site at [www.partakers.org/site/college-behind-bars](http://www.partakers.org/site/college-behind-bars).

There are quite a few parishioners who have been or currently are Partaker mentors who will mentor YOU through your experience, should you sign on: Dexter Robinson, Deanna Riley, Phyllis Buell, Peg Carpenter, Jim Pickel, Marcia Babcock, Mary Mercier, Bev Gardner, and Peg Kitchenham. Jim Bond, and Stan and Jane Wilderoter have moved to other states. Other dear friends who are no longer with us who were Partaker mentors were Paul Coolidge, Frank Mercier, Len Cole, Harry Heineman and Dorothy Montuori.

Let's continue the tradition! Research has shown that, from the Partakers Web site,

"Women and men in prison who have gone through the program show a 2% recidivism rate, compared with the national recidivism rate of 63%." That is HUGE!

Bev Gardner and Noel Constantino, 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.

## MYSTERY FRIENDS COMING TO FIRST PARISH MARCH 6!

Would you like a Mystery Friend? Join in this all-ages opportunity on Sundays from March 6 through April 3 to learn more about another elder or youth in our congregation, as well as some UU history, through a mystery letter exchange. Here's how it works:

- **Fill out a Mystery Friends Participation Sheet in the Parish Hall between Feb. 7 and February 28.**
- Look for an email or postcard between Feb. 28 and March 4 telling you your Mystery Friend code name so you know what name to sign on your letters. For instance you could be "Abigail Adams Elder" or "Abigail Adams Younger."
- Write your first letter or draw a picture for your counter-part. (If you're "Abigail Adams Elder" your Mystery Friend will be "Abigail Adams Younger" and viceversa.) You can ask them questions, tell them a story about yourself, what your favorite food is—anything can be drawn or written except your real name. **Bring this first letter in an envelope to church on March 6 and deposit it in the Mystery Friend mailbox by the office before the service.**

Don't forget to sign and address it with your code name. Make sure that it is clear whether your item is for an "Elder" or a "Younger."

- Letters/pictures will be available at a designated spot immediately after the service.
- Write and receive letters/drawings again on **March 13, 20, and 27**. If you can't make it to church for some reason, drop your letter off at the office before Sunday, or send it with another friend or family member who will be coming to church that day.
- **Sunday, April 3 will be Revelation Sunday** where Mystery Friends discover the true identity of their friend. We'll have a potluck after church where Mystery Friends get to sit together and meet each other in person. Feel free to bring a little gift if you'd like (\$10 spending cap).
- Now you have a new friend! Someone you can chat with or wave to at services or if you see them around town. Maybe you can have regular ice cream dates or eat dinner with each other's families. In about a year, you can sign up and get a brand new Mystery Friend to add to the warmth and community of our wonderful First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist congregation!

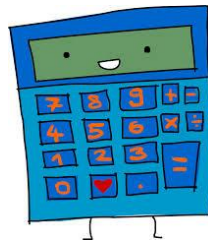
If you have any questions, please contact Julian, our Director of Religious Education, or Rev. Lise.



## SUPER BOWL PARTY

Join us on at **Sunday, February 4** 6:00 pm to support the Youth Group and enjoy the game!

Bring snacks and goodies to share and your own beverages.



## FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

If you choose to pay your pledge or make a donation to FPNUU by gifting the proceeds from the sale of stock, please contact Donna McDonald in the church office ahead of time. She will give you the necessary banking information and transfer instructions. She can be reached at [donna@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:donna@firstparishnorwell.org) or 781-659-7122.



## FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All FPNUU bookworms are invited to the next Book Group discussion. On **Wednesday, March 2** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor, they will be talking about *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. One of the most important and enduring books of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. All are welcome!

## GUEST AT YOUR TABLE



If you have not done so already, please return your "Guest at your Table" box by **Sunday, February**

7. Please see Julian with any questions.

## MEN'S DINNER

**Monday, February 8** at 6 pm  
at Bernie Gardner's (177 Washington Street,  
No. Pembroke)  
BYOB and a dish to share

## ADULT RE UPDATE

The Adult RE offerings in February have been redesigned. Rev. Lise will no longer be leading the Wi\$dom Path discussion. Instead, she will lead two discussion sessions inspired by the survey of Congregational Study/Action Issues included in the Order of Service on two recent Sundays. On **Wednesday, February 10** she will lead a discussion on "Climate Change and Environmental Justice", and on **Wednesday, February 24**, she will lead a discussion on "The Corruption of Our Democracy". If you are interested in attending either, email Rev. Lise at [lsherry@uuma.org](mailto:lsherry@uuma.org), in case she decides to email participants some reading material ahead of time to spark the conversation.

supplemented by weekly iSpi updates, sent via Constant Contact. Roughly half of the iSpi's sent are opened- the average is 18-20%. Please let Hope Weinman ([office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org)) or Rev. Lise ([lsherry@uuma.org](mailto:lsherry@uuma.org)) know if you have any ideas or feedback about the iSpi.

The deadline to include something in the iSpi is Wednesdays at noon. The Spire deadlines for the rest of the church year are **March 7, April 4, May 2 and June 6**. As a reminder, during the weeks that the Spire goes out, there will *not* be an iSpi. Instead, there will be a short email reminder sent on Thursday, consisting of just a calendar update for the upcoming week but no articles.



### HELP STOCK OUR FREEZER!

The Pastoral Care Team would appreciate your contributions of casseroles to freeze and have available for emergency use by parishioners. Please label your disposable container with the date, contents and preparation/heating instructions. Labels are available on the door of the refrigerator in the kitchen. Questions? See any member of the Pastoral Care Team, listed on page 3.

The Pastoral Care Team would appreciate your contributions of



### FPN ON FACEBOOK

Everyone can access First Parish's Facebook page via our website . . . even if you don't have a Facebook account. Go to our website at [www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org) and then click on the little "f" at the very top right corner of our page. Our staff is working to put more entries on our Facebook page so please let us know how we're doing.



### JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Our neighbors at the James Library have a vibrant schedule of activities... everything from art exhibits to musical performances to events for young children. You can view their full schedule of events at [www.jameslibrary.org](http://www.jameslibrary.org) or call them at 781-659-7100.





### COMMUNICATION UPDATE

In November, we revamped our Spire publication schedule. The Spire is now being published on a monthly basis,



**CALENDAR**  
**February 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>7 Morning Service &amp; Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PH 11 am</p> <p>Chocolate Auction, PH 11 am</p> <p>Activities Comm., Ofc. 11:45 am</p> <p>Finance Comm., FP 11:30 am</p> <p>Piano Lessons, MH 2-4:30 pm</p> <p>Super Bowl Party, PH 6 pm</p>	<p>8 AA, PH 8:30 pm</p> <p>Men's Dinner @ Bernie Gardner's, 6 pm</p>	<p>9 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p>  <p>Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm</p>	<p>10 Life Line Screening, PH 8-5:30 pm</p> <p>Adult RE Discussion, FP 7 pm</p> <p>Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm</p>	<p>11 Choir Rehearsal, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	12	13
<p>14 Outreach Sunday</p> <p>Morning Service 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour 11 am</p> 	<p>15 Presidents' Day</p> <p>AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>16 <i>Church Office Closed</i></p> <p>Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p>	<p>17 <i>Church Office Closed</i></p> <p>Alliance Book Review, FP 10 am</p> <p>Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm</p>	<p>18 <i>Church Office Closed</i></p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, Sky. 7:30 pm</p> <p>Red Sox pitchers and catchers report to spring training</p> 	19	20
<p>21 Morning Service &amp; Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour 11 am</p> <p>Helen Fogg Svc. Comm., FP 11:30 am</p>	<p>22 AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>23 Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Ballroom Dance Class, PH 6-8 pm</p>	<p>24 Adult RE Discussion, FP 7 pm</p> <p>Ballroom Dance Class, PH 7-9 pm</p>	<p>25 Staff Meeting, Ofc. 10 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, Sky. 7:30 pm</p>	26	27