

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
August 24, 2016
Volume XV, Issue 1

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry preaching
unless otherwise indicated

August 28 at 9 am:

“Is it the Journey, or the Destination?”

We’ll explore the religious meaning of labyrinths. Why have humans felt the need to walk paths as part of their rituals? What can these “journeys” teach us about our lives?

September 4: Participatory “Service” at 9 am with Rev. Lise and a Crowd of Millions

Please bring a breakfast food to share. We’ll break some bread together and then use a little elbow grease to beautify our beautiful church home. It’s our second annual Labor Morning—we’ll definitely be done by noon, but if you can’t stay that long, just come for as long as you can.

September 11 at 10 am:

Water Communion Ingathering and Welcome

Bring some water to this multigenerational service as we share and merge our liquid mementos from our summer. Perhaps you spent time at the beach, working in your garden, or throwing pebbles in a brook. Just know that all watery journeys, whether far or near, lead back here, to the First Parish of Norwell.

September 18:

“Imagining Our Paths to the Future”

First, meet at Old Meetinghouse Lane at 8 am for a historic trek from our past to our present. Then at 10 am we’ll consider our history and our future as we look at how we have contributed to and will continue to add to the creation of Beloved Community as we care for our world.

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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Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11
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Parish Committee 2016-2017:
Chair: Les Taylor
Members: Scott Garland, David Hockman,
Mary Nickerson, Jim Pickel, Elizabeth Robey
and Dexter Robinson

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE
is **Monday, September 12, 2016.**
Submissions may be emailed to Hope at
office@firstparishnorwell.org.



LISE'S LETTER

Happy August, everyone!

I hope you've all been enjoying our beautiful summer and have found some time to renew and refresh yourselves. If not, we still have some wonderful days left—I know I'm planning to enjoy them! And we also have some exciting church events coming up . . .

Besides getting to learn more about all of you and our wonderful community, the two things that I am most excited about for this coming year are the celebration of First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist's 375th year, and our social action CHALICE Projects. CHALICE stands for Changing Hearts and Lives by Inspiring Community Efforts and we have many wonderful volunteers ready to work on the projects we were discussing and voting on as a congregation just a few months ago. You'll hear more about this in the next few weeks and all year, actually, but please mark your calendars for 8 am on **Sunday, September 18** because . . .

The first big event of our 375th anniversary year will be a historic trek on Sunday, September 18, *before* our church service. It's historic because we are marking the passage of years and geography as we plan to walk the 2.1 miles from the boulder marking FPNUU's first meeting house on the corner of Old Meeting House Lane and Route 123/Main Street to our current church home. We'll meet at 8 am, share a reflection and some band music, and then we'll head out by 8:15 am. The Norwell Police have agreed to escort us and we'll be walking safely against the traffic—which there shouldn't be too much of at that time on a Sunday morning. But before we arrive, we'll make a quick stop at the old cemetery by Roubound Road which also is part of FPNUU's history. Again, the whole route is just 2.1 miles, and we should make it in plenty of time to have a celebratory snack once we arrive at church before our worship



service starts. Don't forget to wear your new FPNUU t-shirts and/or something bright and visible. If you can't or don't feel like walking, please come send us off.

Just imagine, 375 years ago, a few folks got together and decided to start a church. We are their progeny, and we are keeping the spirit of progressive, liberal religion alive and well. Let's celebrate this and their perseverance with a little walk, in spirit or body. I'll see you then, if not before! Love and blessings, Rev. Lise

Love, Lise

IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY!



Next February 2, 2017, First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist, will be **375 years old!** We are planning many fun and fulfilling events to help us celebrate. And we will be focusing on a yearlong service project titled **CHALICE**, short for *Changing Hearts And Lives by Inspiring Community Efforts* and spearheaded by our Helen Fogg Service Committee.

Be looking for the large banner featuring our special birthday logo that will hang on the outside north wall of the Meetinghouse for the year. And those who placed an order during the summer for a logo T-shirt will have them available for pick-up at our opening Water Communion service on September 11. Others will have a later opportunity to order T-shirts.

On **Sunday, September 18**, we will have a pre-service, 8:00 am event, starting at the commemorative boulder at Old Meetinghouse Lane (site of our first place of worship). For those who are up for a modest walk, we will "trek" from the boulder to the church for the morning service.

On **Saturday, September 24**, we are planning an all-church potluck supper where we will create a time line around the Parish Hall to mark the significant events in our 375 year history.

On **Sunday, October 9** at 3:00 pm, there will be a very special free organ concert featuring Heinrich Christensen, music director of King's Chapel, Boston, who will perform a recital celebrating 375 years of music.

On **Saturday, October 15** we plan to invite the entire community to our church grounds for a Community Harvest Picnic with fun activities for all ages.

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

COFFEEHOUSE PHOTOS

If you weren't able to attend the Coffeehouse held earlier this month, you can still see the photos, and even hear some of the performance. Just click on this link, kindly shared by Clayton Handleman: <http://enoch1680.wix.com/fpncoffehouse#/gallery/cee5>.

And that is just the beginning! What a year we have planned! The 375th Committee looks forward to your support and involvement.

Sue Robinson, chair
Scott Babcock, Roberta Fairbanks, Lindsey Houston, Joanne Howard, Debi Meddaugh, John Meddaugh, Elizabeth Robey, Elizabeth Robinson, Dexter Robinson, Bob Sutter, and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry.



TAI CHI CLASSES

As part of adult programming to the congregation and greater community, First Parish of Norwell will continue its popular Tai Chi/Qigong class. Tai Chi/Qigong is an ancient Taoist system of exercise to preserve health, mind and body and to cultivate physical and spiritual harmony within oneself. It is a meditation in motion, balance and harmony. Practiced daily, it is an excellent stress management technique. Mike Showstack, instructor, has over 25 years experience in Shaolin Hung Gar Tiger Crane Kung Fu and Yang Tai Chi Chuan and can be contacted at wuliacademy.com and 508-254-2587. He teaches extensively throughout the South Shore area.

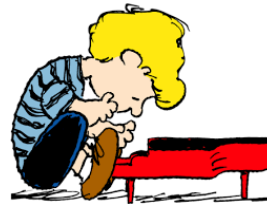
The next four week session will begin **Tuesday September 6** and continue September 13, 20, and 27. A \$20 fee for the four weeks is payable at the first class. No special equipment, clothing, or shoes are needed. New students are welcome at any time and prior attendance or registration is not necessary - so invite friends and neighbors. Questions? Contact Sue Robinson at 781-294-8840.



RECYCLING UPDATE

The Town of Norwell has switched to single stream recycling. As part of process,

we have been informed that they will no longer be picking up our recycling as we are considered a business. We have arranged with our current trash removal vendor to add a second dumpster for recycling ONLY. A list of accepted items has been posted on or near each recycling bin. Please review it the next time you are at the church. If you are helping clean up after an event, please be sure to use the correct dumpster!



OUR PARISH HALL PIANO NEEDS A HOME

Through the efforts of David Turner, a beautifully restored Henry Miller piano will be placed in the back of the church, below the choir loft. Therefore, the Chickering piano, which currently is located in that spot, will be moved into the Parish Hall. The Music Committee has decided that we must relinquish the old (but dearly loved) C.C. Harvey baby grand piano, currently residing in the Parish Hall. We are offering the piano to our church membership first, free of charge. However, whoever wishes to be the recipient of the Harvey piano must arrange and pay for the moving charges. Removal of the Parish Hall piano by the end of August would be most appreciated. No other strings attached! (Pun intended!). If interested, please contact Marie Miller ASAP at 781-837-6620 or mariemiller@verizon.net.



ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee will meet on **Sunday, September 11** (the first week of church) at 11:30 am. Newcomers are welcome. We especially want to know what younger families would enjoy. This year we will be helping to support some of the special 375th

activities, especially with coordinating food for the potluck on Sunday, September 24 and the Community Harvest Picnic on Saturday, October 15.

Save the date for our annual Holiday Fair on **Saturday, November 19**. Look for a special 375th booth with First Parish “collectibles” for purchase. Please join us for our meetings and for all these events!

Peg Kitchenham
Activities Chair

FROM THE PARISH COMMITTEE CHAIR

On behalf of the Parish Committee, First Parish of Norwell’s governing board, I would like to welcome you back to what we expect will be an exciting church year. For first time visitors, WELCOME! It is a terrific time in our church history for you to walk through our doors. With our church’s 375th anniversary being recognized this coming February, FPN is marking this historic occasion by celebrating all year long. There will be something for everyone! In addition to these special events, we have Rev. Lise Adams Sherry kicking off her second year in the pulpit leading our Sunday morning worship; RE Director Julian Baptista’s leadership of our dynamic youth education and programming; and our Music Director, Giny Grimes, heading all things music, including FPN’s treasured choir. Please share this excitement with family & friends, letting them know about our vibrant and thriving church community.

The Parish Committee, which is comprised this year of elected members Elizabeth Robey, Jim Pickel, Mary Nickerson, Dexter Robinson, Scott Garland, David Hockman and myself, is off to a nice start. In late-September, we will gather for our annual committee retreat to discuss goals, both past (what did we accomplish last year?) and future (what are the top priorities for our church this year?). This important meeting

will help shape and guide the committee’s work, leading all the way up to FPN’s annual meeting in June.

Parish Committee members also work with all our church committees, whether “elected” or “standing” (for more details, please check out the church website: www.firstparishnorwell.org). As liaisons, our team is there to assist, encourage and act as a conduit for communication to the Parish Committee. The liaisons will be reaching out to the committees as this church year kicks off. This fall, all committee chairs will be invited to our annual “Church Council” meeting. At this gathering, we discuss the good work that our committees do. In addition, we discuss our goals, both as individual committees and along with those that we share across our church community.

For members and friends looking to get more involved, a standing committee of your liking would certainly welcome your help! A great place to start looking is in the Parish Hall where photos and committee & member names are listed. Ask us about how you may participate, if you are so inclined.

The Parish Committee is here to support the needs of the church, its members and friends. We are all approachable and welcome your questions and comments. If you don’t know us, we each take turns reading the church announcements every Sunday morning during our worship service. Enjoy this exciting 375th anniversary year at First Parish of Norwell!

In fellowship and love,
Les Taylor

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign-up sheets have been posted in the Parish Hall for ushers, greeters, Coffee Hour hosts and pulpit arrangements. Please consider signing up and giving us a head start for fall!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Get excited for our new year of Religious Education!

Our new year of Sunday School will begin on September 18. Our overarching theme this year for all Sunday School classes is World Religions. This means we'll be exploring belief systems, celebrations, and cultures including Buddhism, Paganism, Shinto, Taoism, and many, many more.

For our 7th-8th graders, this year we will be running the "Our Whole Lives" sexuality and relationships curricula. For those who don't know about this program, it is one of the most important in UU Religious Education. The program walks the youth through everything from their changing bodies, to healthy relationship building, to sexuality and safety. We know that this program can be somewhat difficult for some families, and so I encourage you to talk with me or the OWL leaders (Patti Walters and Nelson Sherry) with any concerns or questions.

Finally, for adults our Adult RE program exploring and deepening UU spirituality "Spirit of Life" will resume on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of September.

I can't wait to see you all at church!

Julian Baptista, DRE



MEMBERSHIP HAPPENINGS

Unitarian Universalism 101 will be held on Sunday, September 25 and October 2. Make room in your schedules for this two part conversation! New to Unitarian Universalism? New to First Parish of Norwell? Life long UU? Born-again UU? Questioning? Yes, all are welcome. This conversation will encompass our religious roots, personal journeys and Unitarian Universalist history. Those new to Unitarian Universalism and/or First Parish Norwell and those considering membership are especially encouraged to join. Rev. Lise will be facilitating both Sundays. Please sign up in advance so we can have child care available as needed, as well as a head count for food.

Bring a Friend Day at First Parish will be **Sunday, October 23**. Of course every day is Bring a Friend Day, right? But on the 23rd there will be cake... and other new friends!

Please consider being a **Sunday Greeter** this year. Extroverts, introverts, and everything in-between are needed! Please speak to Gabrielle Carroll or anyone on the Membership Committee with any questions. Sign-up sheets are currently posted on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

Your 2016 Membership Committee, Gabrielle Carroll, Betsey Detwiler, Shastin Garland, Chris Kitchenham and Mary Nickerson



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

"Mondays at the James", a new series of informational, educational, and interactivational events led by local experts and leaders, starts this September. All events are

held at the James Library & Center for the Arts at 24 West Street in Norwell Center, are low or no cost, open to everyone, and speak to the James' mission of inspiring creativity, learning, and an appreciation of the arts through music, visual, and literary programs.

UNDERSTANDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Want to better understand the U.S. constitution this election season? Attorney, Kennedy School of Government graduate, and Norwell resident Carol Neely teaches a four-part course about the U.S. Constitution. A four-session course that will include: an overview of events in colonial America that led to the ratification of the U. S. Constitution; a careful reading of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; discussion of specific clauses in the document that affect our daily lives as citizens of the U.S.; review and discussion of recent Supreme Court cases.

The sessions will be September 12, September 19, September 26 and October 3 at 7 pm.

Cost: \$5 one-time fee, which includes the cost of a pocket-size copy of the U.S. Constitution. Guests can attend one or all classes. Sign-up is required for this course only. Please email jameslibrary@verizon.net to let us know you plan on attending. For more information on this course, and for a complete listing of "Mondays at the James" events, please go to www.jameslibrary.org.

Saturday, October 1 at 10:30 am
Mama Steph Music, Movement, and More!
At First Parish Church of Norwell, Parish Hall (next door to the James)
Bring your little ones and join Stephanie Chase for traditional music, puppets, sing-alongs, smiles, and lots of laughs. This show is best for children up to seven years of age. No charge, but donations at the door are appreciated. *Sponsored by the First Parish Preschool of Norwell and the Susan M. Decker Fund for Children's Literacy*

Saturday, October 8 at 7:30 pm
Yoron Israel Jazz Group with vocalist Dominique Eade, pianist Kevin Harris, and bassist Gregory Ryan

Yoron Israel returns to the James Center for the Arts for an exciting jazz performance with his stellar group, featuring vocalist Dominique Eade, pianist Kevin Harris, and bassist Gregory Ryan. Tickets : \$25 general, \$23 senior, \$10 student. Available at the James or online at www.jameslibrary.org.

Sponsored by Old Derby Animal Hospital



THEMED GIFT BASKETS

As the end-of-summer sales get underway, please remember to look for items for a themed gift basket which will be sold at our

Holiday Fair in November! Choose a theme (Christmas hostess, dinosaurs, movie night, etc.), shop for that theme, and in October and November the "Basket Ladies" will help you wrap your basket. This year, why not do a basket with a friend?

Bev Gardner and the "Basket Ladies"



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

We hope you all are having a great summer!

For our last Outreach Sunday, June 12, Sue Robinson spoke about our Sister Church in Kadacs, Romania. The plate money (**your donations!**) was \$940, to which the Fogg Service committee added \$160. For the May Outreach Sunday, the committee added \$315 to the plate money of \$685 for Friendship Home.

Thank you to Noel Constantino, Gabe Carroll, Mary Mercier and Lorna Phillips who are stepping down this year. For the new church

year, we are looking for a few passionate people!!!

Thank you also to Jack Wallace who will co-chair the committee with Bev this year and to Scott who will be our secretary!

Bev Gardner and Jack Wallace, Co-chairs
Members: Marcia and Scott Babcock, Debbie Chase, Penny Corbett, Pat Crumley, Alex Gordon, Bill Montuori, Elizabeth Robey (liaison with the Parish Committee), Lise Adams Sherry



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All FPNUU

bookworms are welcome to attend the next discussions. We always meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. Our meetings are low key and a lot of fun!

Wednesday, September 7: Our Souls at Night by Kent Haruf

“...a low-key, evocative short novel about the pursuit of happiness, second chances and, perhaps most importantly, about our deep emotional need of companionship and intimacy”. You can read this short novel in one or two sittings -- a good book to begin the church year.

Wednesday, October 5: The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

This book “celebrates the 1936 men’s Olympic 8-oar rowing team -- 9 working class boys from the University of Washington who stormed the rowing world, transformed the sport and galvanized the attention of millions of Americans. In an extraordinary race in Berlin they stunned the Aryan sons of the Nazi state as they rowed for gold in front of Adolf Hitler.” You don’t have to know or love rowing to be enthralled by this book!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, August 30: Preschool CPR class, PH 6-9 pm

Thursday, September 1: Preschool First Aid class, PH 6-9 pm

Tuesday, September 6: Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am

Wednesday, September 7: OFFICE REOPENS!

Thursday, September 8: iSpi deadline at 9 am SHARP

Preschool Open House, PH 7 pm (set up in daytime)

Sunday, September 11: Activities Comm., Office 11:30 am

Men’s Potluck, PH 6 pm

Monday, September 12: SPIRE deadline

Tuesday, September 13: Meditation Group, Sky. 7 pm

Wednesday, September 14: Piano tuning MH, PH & Sky. 9 am

For a full listing of events, please visit <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/calendar.html>.

“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”

~Pericles