

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
September 14, 2016
Volume XV, Issue 2

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

September 18:

Imagining our Paths to the Future

8 am and 10 am

First, meet at Old Meetinghouse Lane at 8 am for a historic trek from our past to our present. (Please carpool—cheerleaders (non-walkers) could drive walkers.) 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. This is also an **Outreach Sunday**; our offering will go to Carolina Hill.

September 25: ***Our Larger UU World***

Rev. Lise, Alex Gordon and Elizabeth Robinson
Those of us who attended General Assembly in Columbus, Ohio will share our experiences and how we hope to bring the larger movement into our congregation.

October 2:

Rosh Hashana

It's the start of the Jewish New Year, a time that will lead into the high holy days of atonement and repentance. What does that mean to us as UUs?

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FPNUU is looking for ushers, greeters, Coffee Hour hosts and pulpit arrangements. Please consider signing up and giving us a head start for fall! Sign-up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall, or contact the Church Office at 781-659-7122 or office@firstparishnorwell.org.

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

lisherry@uuma.org

Director of Religious Education:

Julian Baptista, x12

dre@firstparishnorwell.org

Music Director: Gingy Grimes

Office Staff:

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

office@firstparishnorwell.org

Donna McDonald, Bookkeeper, x14

donna@firstparishnorwell.org

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, October 3, 2016**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.

LISE'S LETTER



One of the things I love about being a Unitarian Universalist is the diversity of thought involved. I remember when I was young I found it really hard to believe that God had chosen one group of people, or one particular path to follow that was THE right way to be or do.

Knowing what I did about all the cultures in the world it just didn't make sense. Couldn't there be many roads, many opinions and beliefs that would lead people to good ethical and spiritual choices? Otherwise, why bother with all the different and wonderful cultures we have in our world? Obviously, I didn't put much credence in Genesis 11:1-9, the Tower of Babel, except as a good pourquoi story, and theologically, it's easy to see why I became a Unitarian Universalist.

But there is more to our diversity than our theology. We earn our livelihoods in many different ways, we are younger and older, different genders, we come from different styles of families and ethnicities, some of us deal with addiction, mental illness, or unemployment, and we have different political philosophies and loyalties as well.

Ah... politics. Did you know that at one church I served, one family opted not to attend from September through December of the election year because they dreaded the possibility of unfriendly political conversations that could take place in a UU church. ("Imagine that?!" the minister said with a grin and somewhat sarcastically.) When they told me this, I felt sad; and these folks were political progressives who simply didn't want to be around the tension. A UU friend of mine who has devoted much time, money, and wisdom to his church is also a high powered lawyer and he has often expressed frustration

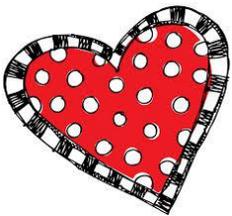


with UU political talk that vilifies all corporations.

In this season of sound bites and slogans, it's easy to forget that our philosophies and beliefs come from a lifetime of experience and have many nuances. Our worldviews have much more gray in them than our media would often lead us to believe. With that in mind, I hope we can spend this political season gently discussing and questioning one another as to why we believe a particular way or are going to vote for our favorite (or least distasteful) candidate. Perhaps we can become as respectful of our political views as we have learned to be of our different theologies. Our principles and purposes aren't just about theology, they can apply to all aspects of our life as we work to "accept one another," "promote the inherent worth and dignity of all," and conduct "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

One thing I know for sure is that UU congregations are full of people who want to help create a better world for all of us to live in. And, there are many different paths to discovering that place; that diversity makes us all the richer.

Love and blessings,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

Peg Carpenter had a left hip replacement on Monday, Aug 8 and has been recovering well at home. Now she is driving and getting back into all her usual activities!

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).



FROM THE OFFICE STAFF

The Church Office is a busy place- answering phones, greeting visitors, and coordinating the myriad activities of a busy parish. To help us to better help you:

- If you are attending a meeting in the office, please reset the furniture to its usual arrangement at the end and dispose of your empty cups and plates.
- Please respect Hope's and Donna's workspaces. They are happy to lend their scissors, scotch tape, pens etc. as long as the items get returned.
- If you are leaving something in the office, please leave a note with the item. Is someone picking it up? Should we file it? Mail it? Reorder it?
- Hope and Donna enjoy meeting members of the First Parish community. Please stop by, say hello and introduce yourself! If you have a quick question or something you need help with, we will do our best to help you. If you have a more in-depth question or project, we encourage you to call or email ahead for an appointment so that we can make sure we can give you our full attention.

The Church Office is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm, and 9 am to noon on Fridays. Hope is in all four days, and Donna is in on Tuesdays and Thursdays.





RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Welcome back to church,
First Parish!

Our Water Communion and blessing the hands of our amazing teachers was a great start to the year, but in the RE program, September 18 is the beginning of the year. We have an exciting church year coming up, with a whole lot going on for the whole family.

The Sunday School program at FPN UU will be focusing on a general theme of World Religions this year. Our K-1 class will be using the **Stories About God** curricula this year. This program helps children to develop a language with which they can talk about God, and shows the wealth of different ideas of what that God figure can look like.

Our grades 2-3 class will be using two different programs this year, switching in February. First the class will learn about many different religions in an approachable way with the program **Picture Book World Religions**. Then in February, the class will tighten their focus onto pagan beliefs with the program **Honoring our Mother Earth**.

Our grades 4-6 class will be using the **Holidays and Holy Days** curricula. This class uses the holidays of different religions to teach about belief systems, and allows the class to explore the culture and ideas behind a wide variety of world religions.

Our grades 7-8 class will be running the **Our Whole Lives** or OWL program. This is a sexuality and relationships program intended to give our young people the information and grounding they need to be in responsible adult relationships. Due to the manner of material discussed in this class, we require that all parents sign consent forms, and attend an orientation. If you have not already attended an orientation, there will be one more after the service on September 18.

Finally, our church **Youth Group** meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 5:00pm for two hours to discuss current events, do social justice work, and build a supportive community. Youth Group meetings can include everything from helping at a food pantry, to loud discussions about the right to protest, or sometimes just talking and eating pizza, but are always interesting and a lot of fun.

For the whole family, we have a couple of great events coming up. First, on **September 18** after the service, our congregation will be bringing a meal to share with the residents of the **Carolina Hill** homeless shelter in Marshfield. This is a great way to reach out to the community, and meet some great new people at the same time. Contact Mandy Metzger at amajon@me.com to sign up to bring food.

Then on **Friday, October 14**, we will be starting our **Potluck Game Nights** from 5:30 to 7:30. Come on down to First Parish, bring your favorite games and dishes to share, and have a blast!

Finally, we will be resuming our Adult Religious Education program **Spirit of Life** on **Wednesday, October 12** at 7:00 pm in the Fogg Parlor. This program is themed around the song of the same name, and uses the lyrics to explore our definition of spirituality, and its place in our everyday lives.

Now, you may ask, how do my kids take part in all of these great programs? Well, the answer is **Registration!** This year we are supporting both in person, and web based child registrations. So come see me in person, or go to our new online registration form here:
www.goo.gl/forms/BT1HXgMKY9hZLVL2.

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

Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Rev. Lise said in an email to the Fogg Service Committee at the end of the 2015-2016 financial year, "Wow! All of that money raised from our Outreach Sundays is fantastic--we should let everyone know how well they did."

September 2015 - Y2Y Shelter: plate donations \$815

October 2015 - Syrian refugees: basket donations \$100 and \$1,000 from the Fogg Service Committee's Pierce family money fund (the special fund bequeathed to the Fogg Service Committee from the Pierce family.)

October 2015 - Scituate Animal Shelter: plate money \$530

November 2015 - TransYouth Family Alliance: plate money \$423

December 2015 - DCF Christmas gifts: plate money \$1,125 plus LOTS of gifts for the foster children!

January 2016 - Partakers: plate money \$929, plus \$71 added by the Fogg Service Committee

February 2016 - School on Wheels: plate money-\$520 plus \$80 added by the Fogg Service Committee

March 2016 - the Renew Crew from Habitat for Humanity: \$735, plus \$265 added by the Fogg Service Committee

April 2016 - Norris Reservation: \$682, plus \$318 added by the Fogg Service Committee

May 2016 - Friendship Home: \$685, plus \$315 added by the Fogg Service Committee

June 2016 - our Partner Church in Kadacs, Romania: \$940, plus \$160 added by the Fogg Service Committee

At the end of the church financial year, there was \$640.60 remaining in the Helen Fogg

Service Committee's budget, which the committee donated to The Firehouse Pantry in Pembroke. The totals for Outreach Sundays for 2015-2016 are Plate Money (donations from parishioners!) \$7,484; Fogg Service Committee donations-\$1,849.60; and Fogg Service Committee Pierce family fund \$1,000. Look what we all can do!

The September Outreach Sunday will be on **Sunday, September 18** and will benefit Carolina Hill.

One of the 5 topics our church will concentrate on this 375th Anniversary year (re: the Survey Monkey all parishioners were invited to take in the Spring) is "Reintegrating People into Society" (Partakers, Mass Bail Fund, etc.) which will be coordinated by Marcia Babcock and Bev Gardner. Here is an early event you may like to attend:

On **Saturday, October 1** from 9:30 to 2pm, UU Mass Action and All Soul's Church in Braintree are hosting an early church year Justice Conference. The Fair Share Tax Amendment and Criminal Justice issues will be highlighted. Lunch, information, and the opportunity to collaborate with other UU's are on the menu. Please consider attending. All Souls Church is at 196 Elm St. Braintree, MA 02184. Please call Rev. Steve Wilson for more information at 617-852-2292.

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



IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY YEAR!

Your 375th committee has two great kick-off events planned for September.

First, on **Sunday, September 18**, Rev. Lise will lead a trek from the rock on Old Meeting

House Lane marking the site of our first meeting house. Meet at the rock at 8 am for a brief re-dedication and then choose to trek or drive to church for our regular 10 am service. Please look for more details in this issue of the Spire!

Second, the following **Saturday, September 24** we will have an all-church potluck supper beginning at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Rev. Lise and Scott Babcock are researching important dates in our church history and will help us begin a time line around the Parish Hall to mark our pathway. Bring your own important dates associated with the church, yourself, the community, the nation and add to the history! Again, look for more details in this issue of the Spire.

And save two dates in October - **Sunday, October 9** at 3 pm for a free organ concert performed by King's Chapel music director, Heinrich Christensen and coordinated by Dexter Robinson and the Music Committee; and a fabulous Old Fashioned Harvest Picnic on the church grounds (organized by Lindsey Houston and Elizabeth Robey) with assistance from the RE committee on **Saturday, October 15** from noon to 3 pm. Invite family and friends to both of these celebratory events!

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, Debbie Meddaugh, John Meddaugh, Elizabeth Robey, Elizabeth Robinson, Dexter Robinson, Bob Sutter, and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry



ORGAN RECITAL

For the first public event to celebrate First Parish's 375 years, there will be an organ recital on **Sunday, October 9** at 3 pm, performed by Heinrich Christensen. Admission is free.

Donations will be accepted for a special service project in recognition of First Parish's 375th founding. A reception will follow the hour-long recital.

A native of Denmark, Heinrich Christensen received Church Music and Soloist Diplomas from the Århus Conservatory of Music with further studies at the Conservatoire de Saint-Maur with Olivier Latty. He came to the US in 1998 and received an Artist Diploma in Organ Performance from the Boston Conservatory.

He was appointed Music Director at King's Chapel in 2000 after serving as the affiliate organist under Daniel Pinkham. At King's Chapel, he manages the Tuesday Noon Hour Recitals as well as the King's Chapel Concert Series, and directs the fully professional choir.

Heinrich was a prizewinner at the international organ competitions in Odense and Erfurt and has given solo recitals on four continents. An avid proponent of contemporary music, he has premiered works by Daniel Pinkham, Carson Cooman, Graham Gordon Ramsay, James Woodman and several others. He has worked extensively as an accompanist for many choral groups in the Boston area. His solo CD "Heinrich Christensen plays the C.B. Fisk Organ at King's Chapel" was hailed by Gramophone Magazine as a "smorgasbord" of "enormous stylistic flexibility".

For additional information, please contact Dexter Robinson at dexsue@comcast.net or 781-294-8840.

Hello
my name is

MEMBERSHIP HAPPENINGS

Unitarian Universalism 101 will be held on two Sundays, **September 25 and October 2**, 11:30-12:30. Make room in your schedules for this two part conversation! 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 attend. Rev. Lise will be facilitating both Sundays. Please sign up in advance with Rev. Lise or Gabrielle Carroll (gabecarroll@gmail.com or see directory) 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 in the Parish Hall bulletin board and Gabrielle will have a clipboard next Sunday at Coffee Hour

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



ALLIANCE NEWS

CEMETERY LORE
with Joanne Howard
Wednesday, September 21

Joanne Howard will present a lecture called “Cemetery Lore” to kick-off the year for The Alliance of first Parish of Norwell. If you missed Joanne’s walking tour of the First Parish Cemetery on August 21st, you will be able to enjoy the same stories of past parishioners that reflect what life was like during their lives and significant National events that impacted them... and all without leaving the Parish Hall. The meeting will begin with refreshments at 10 am. Alliance Meetings are open to all friends of First Parish of Norwell - come celebrate the start of our parish’s 375th anniversary year with us.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All FPN bookworms are invited to our discussions, help on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. Our discussions are low-key, relaxed and a lot of fun!

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!

November 2: Symphony for the City of the Dead by M.T. Anderson

Music is at the heart of the story, a young adult book that describes how Shostakovich began composing a symphony under relentless bombardment in Leningrad and later finished it in Moscow, its triumphant performance in Leningrad during the siege, and how it rallied worldwide sympathy for Russia’s plight.

December 7: Travels with Charley by John Steinbeck

With Charley, his French poodle, John Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers and encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco.

January 4, 2017: “Thunderstruck” by Erik Larson

By the author of *Dead Wake*, which we read last year, the book tells the interwoven stories of two men—Hawley Crippen, a very unlikely murderer, and Guglielmo Marconi, the obsessive creator of a seemingly supernatural means of communication—whose lives intersect during one of the greatest criminal chases of all time.

February 1: The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy by Rachel Joyce

This is the sequel to “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”, which we read two years ago. Queenie makes a journey of her own, a journey that is even bigger than Harold’s.

March 1: We’re discussing TWO books this month! Each tells the story of a Pakistani woman or teenager as they emigrate to different countries at different times in history: I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize!) and Threading My Prayer Rug by Sabeena Rehman. Rev. Lise will be leading this special discussion, and youth members of our church are specially invited.

April 5: TBA!

May 3: Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson
Rev. Lise will be leading this discussion as well; youth members are invited! After severely injuring Peter Driscoll in an empty parking lot, mischief-maker Cole Matthews is in major trouble. But instead of jail time, Cole is given an alternative: a one-year banishment to a remote Alaskan island. This program is based on Native American traditions that provide healing for the criminal mind. To avoid serious jail time, Cole resolves to go. Author Ben Mikaelson delivers a poignant depiction of the vicious cycle of violence and one boy’s journey to healing.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR
FPNUU STUDY GROUP ON GROWTH**

When: **Soon!** - look for an all-church email once the date is set
Where: Parish Hall
How: Watch the videos at this link: [Growth Videos](#)
Read this brief booklet: [Congregational Growth UU](#)
Come prepared to discuss

If you have trouble accessing this material or are just curious, come anyway and join the conversation
see below

What:

According research available from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), our church has all we need to grow: **vigorous and enthusiastic volunteers; a strong worship practice; a good budget; a nice building, and friendly, welcoming people.** Yet our growth in number of members or volunteers does not reach the level of what the UUA call a “Breakthrough Congregation”.

So what is the gap? I don’t know the answer to that question but I want to find out and I’m volunteering to uncover the answer with your help. What we will do together is study and look for common answers to the questions the UUA Growth Team developed for ministers at Breakthrough Congregations:

- What draws people to the congregation you serve?
- What is your role as a minister in growing the congregation you serve?
- How does your congregation help people move inward and outward on their spiritual journey?
- What needs to be in place, organizationally, institutionally and practically, for a congregation to grow?
- Within your congregation, what are obstacles or hindrances to growth, and what has helped?
- What in the larger UU system helps and hinders congregational growth?

The UUA has developed resources for us to use in this process. There is a video for each question found at this link: <http://www.uua.org/growth/experience>. In an effort to create a consensus, we will watch the videos before we meet and then discuss the questions. In our first meeting we will explore our mission and discuss the first video, "Why Do They Come: Part 1".

Another key source document from my research is the PDF found at this link: [Congregational Growth UU](#).

I look forward to your support in this process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you wish to discuss any part of this. I hope to learn from many, including you! Contact Jack Wallace with any questions at 781-834-4696 or jeanjacques99@verizon.net.



SPIRE AND iSPI DEADLINES

Now that we're back to the regular church office schedule, here are the upcoming deadlines for the Spire, our monthly newsletter (*the Monday of the first full week of the month*):

- October 3
- November 7
- December 5
- January 2, 2017
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1
- June 5

The iSpi (our mini-newsletter, sent via Constant Contact) is sent out on the *Thursday of a non-Spire week*. The deadline is 9 am sharp that morning. Please note that the iSpi during the week of Thanksgiving will be sent on Wednesday, November 23 instead. The office is closed between Christmas and New Year's, so there will not be an iSpi that week. Submissions for either the Spire or the iSpi

should be sent to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org. Short articles may be sent in the body of your email; longer ones may be sent as an attachment. Contact Hope to be added to the mailing list!

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.

CALENDAR
September/October 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			14 Piano Tuner, MH, PH & Sky. 1 pm	15 Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	16 <i>Hope out of the office</i> Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm	17 Scrapbookers, PH 10 am-11 pm
18 Outreach Sunday Trek 8 am Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Music Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am Carolina Hill Trip, 11:45 am	19 AA, PH 8:30 pm	20 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	21 Alliance, PH 10 am "Cemetery Lore" Dancers, PH 6- 9pm	22 Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm 	23 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	24 Parish Committee Retreat @ Pickels', 9 am-3 pm Birthday Potluck, PH 5 pm 
25 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am UU 101, FP 11:30 am	26 AA, PH 8:30 pm	27 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Meditation Group, Sky. 7 pm Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	28 Dancers, PH 6- 9pm	29 Anti-Opioid Coalition, PH 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	30 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	1 Road Race Water Stop, parking lot 8:30-11 am James Lib. Concert w/ Mama Steph, PH 10 am
2 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Activities Comm., FP 11:30 am Finance Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am	3 AA, PH 8:30 pm	4 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	5 Alliance Board, FP 10 am Book group, FP 7 pm Dancers, PH 6- 9pm	6 Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	7 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	8