

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
www.firstparishnorwell.org

December 7, 2016
Volume XV, Issue 5

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

December 11:

Bodhi Day - Outreach Sunday

December 8th is observed by many Buddhists as a celebration of the Buddha's Enlightenment. How do the Buddha's learnings fit into our lifestyle and holiday season? It's also an Outreach Sunday and the **last day to bring gifts** for our foster children. Donations from our offering will help foster children enjoy the holidays this year.

December 18: **Christmas in a Box**

Multigenerational Service

Julian Baptista, Director of Religious Education and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry

On this very interactive Sunday we'll tell the story of Jesus' birth. All actors of all ages, please come prepared to partake in this semi-improvisational production. We'll also feature our Multigenerational Holiday Choir and a trumpet duet.

December 24:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 and 7:30 pm

It's our traditional candlelight service of readings and music. This year, join us for our first Jingle Mingle reception between services. Please come stay after the first service or come early for the second service to enjoy Christmas treats and warm beverages. (See the "Jingle Mingle" article on page 6 for more information.) The offering will be divided between the Minister's Discretionary Fund and opiate addiction relief.

December 25: **Pancake Communion** at 10 am

Rev. Lise and Julian Baptista

Our doors will open as usual on Sunday morning, but this time head straight to the Parish Hall for pancakes and a few Christmas carols. All are welcome!

January 1, 2017: **Soapbox Sunday**

Facilitated by Scott Babcock

Several people will share their personal passions and causes. It's always a good opportunity to learn more about the people we know and the issues that are dear to them. Happy New Year!

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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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, January 2, 2017**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.



January 8: What Will You Leave Behind?
As the New Year begins, it's an opportunity to reflect on how you'd like to move forward. We may start some new traditions, and to do so we often need to leave something behind. We'll have a Burning Bowl Ritual (write what you'd like to leave, deposit it in the bowl, and we burn those things together) to help commemorate these decisions.

LISE'S LETTER



As I sit on my couch to write this, the frost is sparkling on my deck and in the grass beyond, and I have to shift a little on the couch to avoid having the sun hit me directly in the eyes. It's really beautiful outside and it seems like maybe, just maybe, our winter season has finally arrived. So what does this mean? Wrapping up in scarves and mittens, cooking stew on the stove, sitting and ruminating by firelight, eating way too many yummy things with family and friends, taking brisk walks on a freezing sunshine-y day.

These winter days can also offer us the opportunity to think and act internally. The colder weather and shorter days invite us to stay inside more often showing that we continue to be connected to the seasons. As such this time gives us the perfect chance to go deep within and contemplate our lives and the world. Are we happy with our choices and our place in our community? Are there things we'd like to do differently, or perhaps not at all? What are some of the experiences we've yearned for but haven't yet summoned the courage or the means to try?

As the seasons and our Unitarian Universalist values teach us, we are connected to our environment, which includes all the people and creatures in our midst. As such, I'd like

to share this Christmas Eve poem a little early this year; I particularly like the last two lines.

The Work of Christmas
by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

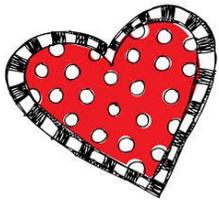
Happy Holidays! May we all have a joyous and meaningful season.

Love,
Rev. Lise

**A very Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to all of YOU
from all of us!**



Hope
Tom
Donna
Rev. Lise
Gingy
Drew



CARING CORNER

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to George Atkinson who is on the mend following knee surgery and to Bob Bunnell, who is recovering at home from a mini stroke. Our thoughts are also with Pearl Jayko as she awaits another hip replacement surgery on December 27.

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).



**FIRST PARISH
BOOK GROUP**

Join us on **Wednesday, January 4** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. We will be discussing "Thunderstruck" by Erik Larson. All are welcome!

**CHALICE Committee on
Gun Violence Prevention**
WHEN: Tuesday, December 20 at 7 pm
WHERE: Church Office or Fogg Parlor

CHALICE Committee on LGBTQI Issues
WHEN: Thursday, December 15 at 7 pm
WHERE: Church Office or Fogg Parlor

FROM THE TREASURER



DINNER

I wanted to let everyone know that Hope Weinman, Office Manager and Collector, will be sending out FY17 pledge balance letters next week. As a reminder, your FY17 pledge covers the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. Accordingly, you have until June 30, 2017 to pay your pledge; however, monthly or quarterly payments are helpful to the church's cash flow.

The pledge reminder letter that you will get next week will be helpful to those of you who would like to make donations in calendar year 2016. Hope will send another reminder letter to you in early May, but if you need to get an updated balance prior to that, please feel free to contact Hope directly by email - office@firstparishnorwell.com or by phone at 781-659-7122.

For those of you who like to make regular monthly payments, did you know that you can set up automatic payments through the online banking feature that most banks provide? All that is involved is setting up First Parish of Norwell as a company and indicating the amount and frequency of payment. For the mailing address, please use P.O. Box 152, Norwell, MA 02061.

There has been some discussion of offering payment through a church Pay Pal account, but because there are monthly and transaction fees associated with this method, I wanted to discern the level of interest on the part of our parishioners. If you would be very interested in making pledges via Pay Pal, can you let me know by sending me an email at martareese@comcast.net.

I wish you all a very happy holiday!
Marta Reese,
Treasurer



MEN'S POTLUCK



Monday, January 9, 2017 - Plan on a 6:00 pm start time, but look for a separate invitation a little closer to the event. The host will be Bernie Gardner (177 Washington Street, Pembroke).

Here is how it works:

- The host will provide a main dish, eating utensils and a place to share good food and good company.
- The guests will bring an appetizer, dessert or side dish to share, a drink for themselves and will bus their dishes after dinner.
- Please let Bernie (w1az@comcast.net or 781-829-0932) know if you are coming and what you plan to share. The host needs to get a head count so they can shop and make room, so please let him know at least a few days ahead.

Here is how you can make it even better:

- Please help get the word out on this potluck, especially to folks who might not know there is another way to enjoy our community.
- Please offer to share a ride with someone, especially if that helps them be able to make it.
- We are still looking for hosts for each month from February through June. Please let Jack Wallace (jeanjacques99@verizon.net) know if you want to host. If you want to help but don't have room at your house, or have room but don't want to prepare alone, I will work to pair you up.

Thank you to Jim Miller for a fun and delicious Italian feast at church where everyone could watch the Patriots game. Note that there is NO POTLUCK in December.

FROM THE PARISH COMMITTEE CHAIR

It has been a busy and productive fall for the Parish Committee. We led a successful "Church Council" meeting last month, hosting our committee chairs and point people in an evening of mutual exchange. We learned about what our committees are doing this year, what goals we share and also discussed various policies and procedures. In addition, the Parish Committee shared its Mission and Covenant, which I still plan to share in a future column. For now, there is plenty to talk about!

In early November, Rev. Lise and I attended a "Generosity & Stewardship Workshop" in Manchester, NH with 20 UU congregations represented from all over New England. Stewardship is about the management and care of the church, or as we have put it more simply around here, devoting our "time, talent & treasure" to FPNUU. We picked up many useful ideas, some of which we are already trying out. One recommendation we heard was to practice "year-round stewardship". Toward that end we thought we would try a monthly "Stewardship Sunday", which was started at our November 27 service featuring Sue Robinson, Chair of the Pastoral Care Team. The idea is to have a committee chair share how and why they serve their committee and how the committee benefits the church. This is more the "time & talent" part of the equation, if you will. You may expect to hear more of these stories that lead into the offering, with Marie Miller from the Music Committee next up on December 18.

A nice idea that Rev. Lise shared is to create more awareness to the church's mission as represented by our logo, which is represented by the words "worship, community and service". To amplify, and give more intention to the words, Lise suggested that our slogan be as follows- **FPNUU: transforming lives through worship, building community and service.** She shared this idea at the Church Council meeting and with the Parish

Committee at our last meeting. Although this won't by any means replace our relatively new logo (created by our recently & dearly departed church member, Bob Sutter), this expansion of just what these three words mean will be displayed on various church communication. Please look for this "slogan" and please let us know what you think.

Finally, I had mentioned in my last column the plan to host "cottage meetings" this year. We have the first date set: following coffee hour on **Sunday, January 22** in the Fogg Parlor. Feedback is being sought on some key questions from the following groups: Committee on Shared Ministry, Finance Committee, Growth Team and the Parish Committee. For the latter, our "burning question" this year is this: should there be a by-law change to require church members to have an annual "financial contribution of record" (and yes, there would be exceptions for financial hardships with ministerial consultation)? Many other UU congregations have a financial requirement, of undefined amount, they ask of members. What do you think of our church implementing something like that? We would enjoy hearing from you on that topic, as well as your answers to the other questions that will be posed from the other teams. Should the January date not work for you, there is no need for concern as we will schedule more cottage meetings this winter and publicize the dates accordingly.

Thank you for your participation, stewardship and dedication to our beloved church. Happiest of holidays to all!

In fellowship and love,
Les Taylor



OUR MISSION



First Parish of Norwell
Unitarian Universalist
Celebrating 375 Years

SANTA SUNDAY - DECEMBER 18

First Parish of Norwell is a religious community where adults, youth and children can evolve spiritually, morally, and intellectually through worship, education, and service to the community and the world. Recognizing no distinction of class, sex, nationality, race, age or sexual orientation, we are a welcoming congregation that stresses the need for community amidst the impersonality of the secular world. We unite to:

- Create a safe place in which to nurture our spirituality and celebrate life's passages.
- Provide a place where all persons are accepted and respected and can find mutual care and support.
- Welcome and gather strength from diversity.
- Sustain and promote Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes and participate in the larger fellowship of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
- Be a forum for the discussion of contemporary issues and a catalyst for social action.
- Support outreach to the community, to both children and adults, and through educational and artistic programs of both the performing and fine arts.

This mission is grounded in a nearly four hundred year history as a congregation.

JINGLE MINGLE

This year as one of our 375th celebratory events, we are having a "Jingle Mingle" in between the Christmas Eve worship services. So please stay after or come early and enjoy a coffee and hot cocoa bar, cookies (please see the Santa Sunday article below), a free family photo booth, and mingle with friends old and new.



Cookies needed! We are going to revive the tradition of sharing cookies for the Coffee Hour on Santa Sunday, when he makes a visit in the Parish Hall following the annual RE Christmas pageant. Please bring a plate of home-made cookies to share. Cookie donations are also needed on Christmas Eve for the Jingle Mingle. Cookies for both events can be dropped off on the 18th and we will freeze any leftovers for the Jingle Mingle on the 24th. See Peg Kitchenham with any questions.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



It's December. There is much going on in the world, in our lives, and in our church. I am grateful for all we offer one another and our community. The wisdom and warmth of this congregation carries me, and of course countless others. I am more grateful than ever that my family and I found our spiritual home three years ago.

We have several regular newcomers among us. Welcome! To settled members, please remember to introduce yourself if you see someone you have not yet met or ask someone from membership to help make an introduction to a newcomer! We are happy to have each of you here! Our community just keeps gaining new depth with varied voices and talents.

We are still looking for a greeter (or two) for our 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service. Thank you to Debb Welsh and Adrianna McLane, for volunteering to greet during the 5 pm service! Greeters will have a pew reserved for the service and sweets to take home as a special thank you from Membership Committee. This is a very busy and exciting night and your help will be much needed and much appreciated. Please see Gabrielle Carroll if you can help.

New Sunday morning greeters are always welcome. The trend is, those who've newly tried it really like it!

Name tags.... We have our list and we are checking it twice! New blue name tags are being ordered. Tags will be ordered with magnets, UNLESS we hear from you. **This is important: Those with pacemakers or other medical needs or personal preference must let us know so we can order your name tag with a pin instead.** Please see, call, or email Gabrielle Carroll as soon as possible.

A HUGE thank you to all from those of us who sometimes struggle with names for wearing your name tag on Sundays (and letting us know if you've lost yours so we can get you a temporary tag or a replacement). You're looking great... and your name is important!

If Membership can help you make connections, find a social service project to meet your interest, find coffee hour playmates for your children, get you a name tag, introduce you to people or activities, answer your questions about First Parish, or give you space to first find your sea legs please let us know. We are around and happy to help!

Gabrielle Carroll (chair), Betsey Detwiler, Shastin Garland, Chris Kitchenham, and Mary Nickerson



CHRISTMAS PARTY INVITATION

Who: All women of FPN
Where: Denise Rachel's home, 179 Norwell Avenue, Norwell
When: **Friday, December 9** at 6 pm

Please RSVP to Denise Rachel (ppff@thepianoworkshop.com) and Bev Gardner (bevgardner@comcast.net)

1. Bring something to eat for the "You bring it; we'll eat it" potluck supper
2. We traditionally have each brought something for a woman in a homeless shelter. Bring a gift or shampoo, lotion, stamps, anything nice for a woman.
3. If you wish to participate, bring an item for a Yankee Swap (under \$12.)

Some background- the Women's Group was initiated by Carol Marsh and Elizabeth Tarbox as a support group way, way back. We began hosting the women of First Parish at a Christmas party sometime after that. (The actual support group stopped meeting regularly about 2012...) We are so pleased that many women who weren't in the original support group have joined us for the party over the years. Please come!



HEIFER PROJECT

Heifer Project animals will be sold as "gifts" at church on both the 11th and the 18th. What a wonderful gift for a child or a family of First Parish- to provide an animal for a needy family someplace in the world! See Ellie Handleman at Coffee Hour for information!



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Welcome to our two newest members, Cathie Dimassa and Jeannette Mitchell!

Have you looked at the **CHALICE** bulletin board in the Parish Hall lately? Some of you have and have been signing up for the CHALICE committee which speaks to you. These are the ideas and projects we are highlighting in our 375th Anniversary year. CHALICE stands for "Changing Hearts And Lives by Inspiring Community Efforts", and the CHALICE groups are Helping Children and Families, Reintegrating People into Society

(including working with recovering addicts, prisoners, released prisoners, education, legislative work, Partakers-educational mentoring in prison and Mass. Bail Fund), Preventing Gun Violence, Food Pantries, LGBTQI Issues, and Race Issues. If one of these speaks to you, please sign up!

Our Outreach Sunday for December 11 will provide gifts for foster children, a long-running and very successful program! If you signed up to sponsor a foster child this Christmas, bring in your unwrapped gifts in a gift-bag(s) with the child's name and age and attach the index card you received when you signed up! If you can't get the gifts to church this coming Sunday, contact Betsy Gordon NOW (781-659-7705) to make other arrangements.

One of our newest Committee and church members, Cathie Dimassa, is interested in becoming a mentor for Partakers! Anyone else? Both Lise and Nelson Sherry and Joyce and Dave Hockman have enjoyed going as a couple. Nelson says it is like going on a date with his wife! Please consider this.

The Helen Fogg Service Committee Jack Wallace and Bev Gardner (co-chairs), Marcia & Scott Babcock, Debbie Chase, Penny Corbett, Pat Crumley, Alex Gordon, Bill Montuori, Cathie Dimassa, Jeannette Mitchell, Elizabeth Robey (liaison with the Parish Committee), and Rev. Lise Adams Sherry.



GIFT BASKET UPDATE

The themed gift basket table was extremely profitable this year at the Holiday Fair. We had **53** baskets donated and so far have made **\$1138** for the operating budget of the church! There are several wonderful baskets still available; the perfect person for them has not walked through the door! They will be in the Parish Hall for one more Coffee Hour. Please take a look!

Who donated the fun Gluten Free basket? No name...

Thank you to the creative donors of baskets (in no particular order): Meredith Atkinson, Jordan & Emily Grant, Noel Constantino, Deanna Riley, Shastin Garland, Gabe Carroll, Jack Wallace, Marcia Babcock, Peg Kitchenham, Joanne Howard, Linda Goodwin, Amanda and Adelaide Peterson, Erin Puleio, Debb Welsh and Adrianna McLane, Otto Slade, Carol Neely, Jill O'Loughlin, Cecil Hodges, Marta Reese, Joan Kenworthy, Debbie Chase and Bev Gardner. A special thank you to those who did multiple baskets: Joanne Howard, Debb Welsh and Adrianna McLane, Deanna Riley, Linda Goodwin, Carol Neely, Marcia Babcock, Amanda and Adelaide Peterson, Noel Constantino and Bev Gardner for their wonderful multiple baskets.

A special thank you to church schoolers Adelaide Peterson and Otto Slade, who each did a basket by themselves. Again, thank you to Roberta Fairbanks who made most of the beautiful bows.

The Basket Ladies,
Bev Gardner, Noel Constantino, Joanne Howard, Linda Goodwin, Deb Welsh

SYRIAN REFUGEE AID

The Helen Fogg Service Committee was informed of a way to help Syrian refugees, through www.nudaysyria.net. They are accepting gently used/new clothing, disposable diapers, liquid infant formula and cases of canned tuna locally at 95 Hemlock Drive, Norwell until December 14. (Please leave bagged items in the far left of the driveway near the house in front of the wood shed.) Donations may also be made online at their website. If you have additional questions, or would like to help volunteer, please contact Karen Kane at 617-823-7130.

VIGIL TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Peg Kitchenham is organizing a local vigil to end gun violence. We will gather on **Wednesday, December 14** at 6:00 pm on the Norwell Common/Triangle in front of the James Library, standing at the Route 123 end. Bring a safe light and a friend. We will meet in remembrance of victims and in determination to save lives moving forward. Help us shine a light on this tragic toll. There will also be a vigil in Boston at 6:15 pm at the First Church, 44 Marlborough Street. Attorney General Maura Healey will speak.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Hello from Religious Education!

We've had a great past month of RE, and we have even more going on as we enter the holiday season.

For the whole family, we will have our monthly *Game Night Potluck* on **Friday, December 9** from 5:30-7:30 pm. You bring your favorite dish and board, card, or tabletop game, and have a blast playing with your First Parish of Norwell family. New people are always welcome, so feel free to invite whoever you like!

If singing is more your speed, there's still time to be part of our *Multi-generational Choir!* Gather after church on the 11th, and at 9:15 am on the 18th to practice three songs to be performed during our pageant service on the 18th. Please contact me to sign up.

For adults, we have a new RE course entitled "*What We Choose*" starting on **Wednesday, January 11** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. Unitarian Universalism is grounded in the understanding that our actions speak louder

than our words or beliefs. Faithful living for us includes discerning the course of action that best reflects our beliefs and values and then acting or choosing accordingly. As inheritors of a faith tradition that honors a wide variety of sources of religious understanding and authority, our big questions are: How do we discern the moral course of action in a particular circumstance? To what source(s) of authority do we turn for help— personal experience, community wisdom, conscience, religious texts, the words and deeds of prophetic people, reason, science, God? If we are intentional in developing a personal ethical framework to live by, then the behavioral choices we make and the actions we do or do not take can reflect our most deeply held values.

The youth of our congregation are also quite busy at the moment. With our recent merger with the SciCohRock (Scituate, Cohasset, and Rockland) youth group, the group has begun the planning of their upcoming Youth Conference in earnest. At their last meeting the group decided to title the conference **PokeCON**, with the art and theme for the conference based around the ideas of friendship, working together, and fun of the Pokemon stories. We expect over 70 youth from UU congregations in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to attend the January 27th-29th CON. If your 9th-12th grader would like to be involved, you can contact me, or just show up to our next meeting:

tinyurl.com/SciCohRockCalendar

As our first semester of Sunday School draws to a close at the beginning of January, we are finalizing the *Mini-Sessions* slate, but there is still time to sign up! If you have a talent, skill, or interest which you would like to share with a multi-generational group, you can lead one or more Mini-Sessions on January 22, January 29, February 12, or February 19. In the past we've had everything from cooking and crafts, to political discussions and photography, so don't be shy!

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 if you haven't registered yet, come see me in person, or go to our new online registration form here:

www.goo.gl/forms/BT1HXgMKY9hZLVL2

Finally, the *Christmas schedule for Religious Education* is as follows. On December 11th we will have normal RE. On December 18th we will present our annual Christmas Pageant, with everyone in the service the whole time. On Christmas Eve will be our candlelight services at 5 and 7:30 pm and on Christmas Morning we will gather for a Pancake Breakfast at 10 am. There will be no baby care provided on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

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

Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education

LEGACY GIVING COMMITTEE

Educate - Recognize - Ask

[*Second in a series*] Did you know the Legacy Giving Committee is an official ad hoc committee at our church? Did you know we are actively working to Educate, Recognize and Ask members and friends of First Parish of Norwell, Unitarian Universalist church (FPNUU)? This article, the second of three articles for the Spire, will tell you about the work the committee does and how you can help. Please talk with Jack Wallace if you have questions about Legacy Giving at FPNUU.

Legacy giving is a way people support our church with gifts larger than they could make from their income. These gifts are often substantial and come from the estate or trust after the will takes effect. The purpose of the Legacy Giving Committee (LGC) is to *lead the*

congregation in good stewardship toward its legacy donors. We:

Educate all congregants on the facts and benefits of legacy giving for them and the parish

Recognize, acknowledge and thank givers in an organized and thoughtful manner that matches the generosity of the donors

Ask potential donors to consider making First Parish of Norwell part of their legacy

Today's article will focus on education. Education is both for the potential giver and the congregation receiving any gifts. Both need to know the:

- Importance of legacy giving to the health and life of our church
- Uplifting benefits of legacy giving to both the giver and receiver
- Mechanics of giving and receiving

Just based on this list, you can see education is a big job and the responsibility of the entire congregation. This article will introduce you to these three topics. To go beyond an introduction, please contact Jack Wallace.

The importance of legacy giving to the health and life of our church

There are many signs of legacy giving at our church- the chandelier in the meeting hall, our steeple and the Fogg Parlor, to name a few. There are also gifts we don't see, such as the bulk of our endowment. Without legacy giving, our church would be very different today. In fact, we might say our continuance over 375 years is, in large measure, based on the generous gifts made from property and money left to the church. Today, people continue to include FPN in their wills and some substantial gifts were received in the past few years. We use these for outreach in our community, for capital improvements and to make our worship services more impactful.

The uplifting benefits of legacy giving to both the giver and receiver

Everyone wants their life to make a difference, most people want to be remembered. For the giver, legacy gifts to FPNUU achieve both. With legacy giving, this can be uplifting even before you give. Just knowing that FPNUU is in your will or other future plans can feel great! In addition, heirs and loved ones are proud of the giver's thoughtfulness and their memories are enhanced with yet another expression of generosity and commitment. For the congregation, gifts and the anticipation of gifts have a positive impact on the energy and work of the people of the parish. Legacy gifts make it possible to benefit from the uplifting anticipation as both a giver and a receiver.

The mechanics of giving and receiving

Gifts are received by the Parish Committee on behalf of the congregation. The Parish Committee will pass them on, as intended by the giver, either to the general fund for immediate use or to our endowment to be used over time with the chance to grow. Both are vital and productive ways to give and receive. In either case, the gift will either immediately or over time support the church's outreach, worship, religious education or capital improvement.

A wide range of giving arrangements fit under the planned giving umbrella. There is a list below with links and a brief description. This amount of information, especially when it includes tax laws and wills, can be overwhelming so if you are considering a legacy gift it is important to take your time to understand what is best for you, your loved ones and the church. Help is available and it's not too early to start the conversation. No matter which options you choose, the potential benefits are these:

- Receive an estate tax charitable deduction
- Reduce the burden of taxes on your family
- Leave a lasting legacy to charity

BEQUEST

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an attorney, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends or your church.

IRA ROLLOVER

An IRA Rollover is a way to reduce taxes on retirement income while supporting your church. Individuals age 70½ or older can make gifts directly from their IRA to a charity like our church. One advantage is that part of the the withdrawal is not taxable.

BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION GIFTS

A beneficiary designation gift is a simple and affordable way to make a gift to support a charity. You can designate First Parish of Norwell as a beneficiary or even second beneficiary of a retirement, investment or bank account or your life insurance policy.

ANNUITY

A charitable gift annuity provides you income, while providing a lasting legacy for First Parish of Norwell. You transfer cash or property to a fund such as the Unitarian Universalist Association fund. In exchange, you are paid fixed payments for life. The payment can be quite high depending on your age, and a portion of each payment may even be tax-free. You will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the gift portion of the annuity. You can designate your church as the receipt.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUST

A charitable remainder unitrust is a good choice if you have highly appreciated assets such as stock. You transfer cash or assets to fund a charitable remainder unitrust. In the case of a trust funded with appreciated assets, the trust will then sell the assets tax-free. The trust is invested to pay income to you or any other trust beneficiaries you select based on a life, lives, a term of up to 20 years or a life plus a term of up to 20 years.

CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUST

You may be concerned about the high cost of capital gains tax with the sale of an appreciated asset. Perhaps you recently sold property and are looking for a way to save on taxes and plan for retirement. A charitable remainder annuity trust pays a fixed amount each year based on the value of the property at the time the trust is funded.

[CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST \(FOR FAMILY\)](#)

If you are looking for a way to pass on some of your assets to your family while reducing or eliminating gift or estate taxes, a charitable lead trust is an excellent option. You make a contribution of your property to fund a trust that pays the church income for a number of years. You receive a gift or estate tax deduction at the time of your gift. After a period of time, your family receives the trust assets plus any additional growth in value.

Thank you for reading this article. If you are interested in this topic, please contact Jack Wallace at jeanjacques99@verizon.net.

MEDITATION GROUP

Tuesday, December 13 at 7 pm
Skylight Room

The regular meeting schedule
(2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
will resume in January 2017.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<p>7 Alliance Luncheon, PH 12 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 6-8 pm</p>	<p>8 Staff Meeting, Ofc. 10:30 am</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm</p>	<p>9 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm</p> <p>Game Night & Potluck, PH 5:30 pm</p>	<p>10 James Lib. Christmas Recital, PH 2 pm</p>
<p>11 Outreach Sunday Morning Service & Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PH 11 am</p> <p>Choir practice, MH 11:30 am</p> <p>Service Comm., FP 11:30 am</p> <p>Finance Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am</p> <p>Youth Group, FP 5 pm</p> <p>Compassionate Friends Svc., MH 6 pm</p>	<p>12 AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>13 Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Meditation, Sky. 7 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 3-8 pm</p>	<p>14 Spirit of Life, FP 7 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 7-9 pm</p> <p>Vigil on Gun Violence, Norwell Common, 6 pm</p>	<p>15 iSpi deadline, 9 am</p> <p>CHALICE Team - LBGTQUI, Ofc. or FP, 7 pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Piano lessons, MH 3-5 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 6-9 pm</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Choir Practice, MH 9:15 am</p> <p>Morning Service & Church School 10 am</p> <p>Coffee Hour, PH 11 am</p> <p>Share a Meal @ Carolina Hill - leave by 11:20 am</p> <p>Men's Dinner, PH & Kit. 4 pm</p>	<p>19 AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p> <p>Dancers, PH 6-8 pm</p> <p>CHALICE Team - Gun Violence, Ofc. or FP, 7 pm</p>	<p>21 First Day of Winter</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Adult RE, FP 7 pm</p> <p>Dancers, PH 6-9pm</p>	<p>22 iSpi deadline, 9 am</p>	<p>23 Dancers, PH 6-8 pm</p>	<p>24 Worship Services 5 & 7:30 pm</p> <p>Jingle Mingle in PH between services</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
<p>25 Pancake Breakfast, PH 10 am</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>26 AA, PH 8:30 pm</p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Knitters, FP 9:30 am</p>	<p>28 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Dancers, PH 6-9pm</p>	<p>29 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm</p>	<p>30 Church Office Closed</p> <p>Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm</p>	<p>31</p>