

The Spire

The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell
24 River Street
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Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
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www.firstparishnorwell.org

January 4, 2017
Volume XV, Issue 6

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

January 8: **What Will You Leave Behind?** **Outreach Sunday**

(benefitting South Shore Peer Recovery)

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.

January 15: **Ode to Martin Luther King, Jr.**

As we take time to recognize the contributions of Martin Luther King, Jr., we'll also think about how we can continue to move forward on our mission to create Beloved Community.

January 22: **Sharpening Our Saw**

Life is full of adventure and change; sometimes so much is happening it can be difficult to take a step back to think about the directions we're going. As part of that pondering it's also important to include some self-maintenance. Institutions need the same kind of loving attention and there are a few questions our leadership is pondering. We'll talk about some of them today and then have our first cottage meeting to discuss them more fully after the service at 11:30 am. Please see the article on page 4 for additional discussion opportunities.

January 29: **This I Believe**

Three congregation members will share their spiritual journeys.

February 5:

Happy 375th Birthday First Parish!

This service will be multigenerational as we'll celebrate our birthday together. We'll see performances of some of our history including a return visit from Rev. Samuel May (aka Rev. Dick Fewkes, minister emeritus), one of our ministers from the 19th century. Following our service we'll have tea, coffee and a birthday cake in the Parish Hall.

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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HOME PAGE: www.firstparishnorwell.org

Minister:

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, x11

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Director of Religious Education:

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Office Staff:

Hope Weinman, Office Administrator, x10

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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, February 1, 2017**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.

LISE'S LETTER



On New Year's Day I was fortunate enough to be up in New Hampshire hiking through the snow. It was a beautiful sunny day, not too cold, and although the hike was more vertical than I

was in shape for, I enjoyed myself immensely. Part of the reason for this is because of all the people I saw out on the trail. Some were decked out for the new year wearing tutus over their hiking clothes or funny hats. Everyone was cheerful and wishing the other hikers, who were also complete strangers, "Happy New Year!" It was a wonderful day for experiencing both nature and humanity.

I am writing about this little snippet of optimistic life because it is our culture's time for new beginnings. Later this month, we will have another new beginning as we inaugurate our 45th president, and I know many people are feeling far from positive about this transition. I want to acknowledge this. It's hard when people are concerned about the future and worried that things won't play out as they had hoped. It's also hard when we're happy about the outcome, yet seem to be in the minority. But we all have a common bond—our hope for a good life with our family and friends. On my hiking trip, I met all kinds of people who exemplified this bond. Additionally, I know most of them would have helped me if I needed it, all without knowing me or my background—just as I would have helped them. Because of this experience, and frankly many like them, I am feeling cautiously hopeful about the state of our country over the next four years.

Here's another reason: the January issue of *National Geographic*. If you haven't seen it yet, take a good look. The entire issue is about gender—and transgender people figure prominently in its pages. The magazine talks

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

positively about gender fluidity and how people are becoming more comfortable with a variety of gender expressions. This in *National Geographic*! And there are all kinds of people and institutions in our country who are continuing to do good work to progress a social agenda that recognizes all humans as having worth, dignity and the right to a safe life. They are doing this because they know it takes a village. They are also working within our governmental system of checks and balances, and one of the biggest checks we have is "We, the People."

So, it is a new year. Let's acknowledge and grieve our misfortunes, but also celebrate our successes big and small. Those successes and joyful moments are what bring sweetness to life. As Emma Goldman is credited as saying, "If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution." Let's fight the good fight for ourselves, our loved ones, and our values, but let's also dance! Happy New Year!

Love,
Rev. Lise



CARING CORNER

Congratulations and many happy returns to Gabe Carroll and Jim Millins who will be tying the knot soon after 23 years together!

Our condolences go to Carol Sullivan's family. Carol was a long time member of First Parish and resident of Pembroke. She died December 21, 2016 after an extended illness. Funeral services will be held graveside at the Pine Grove Cemetery on Elm Street in North Pembroke on **Friday, January 6** at 11:00 am.

Healing thoughts to Pearl Jayko who had hip replacement surgery on December 27. She is doing rehab at Harbor House in Hingham before returning home.

Joni Nahigian will be having hip surgery January 9. We wish her a speedy recovery and a resolution to her discomfort.

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).



MANDALA WORKSHOP

Members and friends of First Parish are invited to attend a mandala workshop in the parish hall on **Wednesday, January 18** led by Sue Robinson and Karen Baker. Although mandalas' abstract circular designs appear to be very complicated, they are quite easy to create. They generally have a center point, from which emanates an array of symbols, shapes and forms. After the bustle of the holiday season, it will be good to have a relaxing and enjoyable morning making mandalas and visiting with friends. The meeting begins at 10:00 am with light refreshments, followed by our workshop.



MEDITATION GROUP

Tuesday,
January 10 and 24
at 7 pm in the Skylight Room
All are welcome!



COTTAGE MEETINGS ARE COMING!

What is a “cottage meeting?” It’s simply an open invitation for all to gather in a small group session. The Parish Committee, along with a few other key church committees, would like to solicit your feedback regarding crucial topics and issues relating to FPN. We are planning to hold four of these meetings over the next couple of months, asking the same questions at each one, so there is no need to attend more than one of these sessions. Anticipated time for each meeting would run up to one hour.

The first gathering will be held on **Sunday, January 22** following Coffee Hour at 11:30 am in the Fogg Parlor. Childcare will be provided! Should that date not work for you, the following cottage meetings will be held on: **Wednesday, February 15** (7pm), **Sunday, February 26** (11:30 am) and **Friday, March 10** (6:15 pm), all in the Fogg Parlor.

Please take a look at your new 2017 calendars and see if you may “plug in” a date now. Obtaining a wide spectrum of feedback from the FPN community from the questions we are asking would most certainly be welcomed and appreciated. See (or get in contact with) Les Taylor, Chair of the Parish Committee, for further details. Thank you!

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 (781-829-0932 or w1az@arrl.net) know if you are coming and what you plan to share, so they can shop and make room, so please let him know at least a few days ahead. Hosts are needed for February through June - contact Jack Wallace (jeanjacques99@verizon.net) if you can help.



SHARE-A-MEAL AT CAROLINA HILL

Sunday, January 29

Plan to leave right after worship!

Contact/see Mandy Metzger

(amajon@me.com) for more info or to sign up.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR FOSTER CHILDREN



On behalf of the social workers and the foster children for whom First Parish provided holiday gifts this year, I am sending grateful thanks for the effort and money so many of you provided to make our annual Christmas project a success.

After leaving both the holiday bags and gift cards for food, the person in charge of

Potluck Dinner



Gardner (177 Washington Street, Pembroke).

MEN’S POTLUCK

The next men’s potluck dinner will be **Monday, January 9** at 6:00 pm. This month’s host is Bernie

organizing gifts for the Family Resource unit at the Office of Children and Families contacted me to say how thrilled the social workers were with First Parish's contributions. She said they were amazed at people's generosity and delighted that the children were receiving exactly what they needed and wanted. They asked me to please pass on to you their gratitude.

I know how much thought and effort people put into the items for the child they picked and I wanted you to know it was noticed and really appreciated.

I am especially grateful for the assistance provided by Debbie Chase, Noel Constantino, Shastin Garland, Hope Weinman, Julian Baptista, and Mary and Kai Nickerson who all helped with the project behind the scenes. Their help was invaluable.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy New Year,
Betsy Gordon



IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY YEAR!

Your 375th committee sponsored a fun-filled Jingle Mingle on Christmas Eve between our two services. Much gratitude to Lindsey Houston and her "elves" that pulled off this wonderful event featuring a hot cocoa bar, homemade cookies, and family photo booth! Will this become our newest tradition?

And now make certain you mark your calendars for the special worship service, on **Sunday, February 5** (snow date will be **February 12**), when we will celebrate the founding of our church community 375 years ago. Invitations are going to many beyond our church to attend the morning service and child-friendly "high tea" reception. This service for all ages will share the story of our

founding, the highlights of our history and the goals for our future.

We need many hands to make this a spectacular event. Carol Neely will be creating a special cake to share. Please sign up to provide food for the reception by contacting Sue Robinson (artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840). Help will be needed before, during and after the reception.



START THE NEW YEAR WITH TAI CHI!

As part of adult programming to the congregation and greater community, First Parish of Norwell continues 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. He teaches extensively throughout the South Shore area. (www.wuliacademy.com, 508-254-2587)

The next four week session begins **Tuesday, January 3** and continues through January 24. A \$25 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.



UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) was established early in the 2015 church year to support and advance the ministry of the Parish, including worship, religious education, pastoral care and outreach. The 'Shared' in COSM's name was added at Rev. Lise's suggestion as we formed the committee last year to emphasize that all members of the Parish community are involved in its ministry. Bernie Gardner is chair; Scott Garland, Betsy Gordon, Ellie Handleman, Kevin Houston and Marie Miller comprise the rest of the committee, with Rev. Lise serving as an ex-officio member. The purpose of this committee is to support and advance the ministry of the Parish, including worship, religious education, pastoral care and outreach. We spent much of last year developing a set of policies to assist in resolving conflicts between members of the First Parish Community. While we hope to never need these we felt it was important to have them in place.

COSM is currently drafting a Covenant of Right Relations, which will assist the First Parish Community, to quote from the preamble of the current draft, 'to put our values as a religious community into practice, and to develop these skills within our beloved community in order to be better able to utilize them in the larger world'. We will be presenting the draft and hope for suggestions and discussion at the series of Cottage Meetings being organized by the Parish Committee over the next few weeks. The establishment of COSM as well as the development of the conflict resolution policy and the Covenant of Right Relations are strongly encouraged by the UUA and we have been greatly assisted by resources provided by the Association.

We placed a suggestion box in the form of a 'No Strings Attached Guitar' outside the door to the Meeting House to allow members to

communicate concerns or ideas to improve the Parish ministry. We have received a few suggestions and hope that this becomes a useful tool.

In order to better understand the workings of the Parish and identify areas of concern (and success!), we are arranging for two COSM members to attend meetings of other committees. In addition, at each of our monthly meetings we are discussing one aspect of Rev. Lise's ministry.

We hope to work with everyone to further the Parish ministry and welcome input through the suggestion box, email or direct conversation. Our monthly meetings are held at member homes rather than at the church to assure confidentiality in our discussions of minister evaluations and potential conflicts. If anyone would like to meet with us just contact a committee member to arrange attending a meeting.

Bernie Gardner (Chair)
Scott Garland, Betsy Gordon, Ellie Handleman, Kevin Houston and Marie Miller



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

The November Outreach Sunday collection raised \$647 for Partakers, which was rounded up by the Service Committee to \$1,000. The December Outreach Sunday collection provided gifts for foster children. Betsy Gordon and the social workers were once again amazed by our gifts and checks this December! As well as a multitude of large gifts bags with gifts for 40 children, \$653 was collected on December's Outreach Sunday which the Fogg Service Committee raised to \$900. The January Outreach Sunday collection will benefit South Shore Peer Recovery.

Have you looked at the **CHALICE bulletin board** in the Parish Hall lately? These are the ideas and projects we are highlighting in this 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!

Jack Wallace and Bev Gardner (co-chairs), Marcia and 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.



FROM THE DRE

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2017 at First Parish! We’ve just about hit the end of our first semester of Sunday School, and we’re getting ready for **Mini-sessions!** The final schedule will be at church this Sunday, so make sure to sign up. This year we have an amazing slate of classes for kids to pick from. We’ll have mini-Sessions on UU music, puppets, history, cooking, optical illusions, and many more. See the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to sign up!

For the whole family, we will have our monthly *Game Night Potluck* on **Friday, January 13** 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!

For adults, we have a new RE course entitled “*What We Choose*” starting on **Tuesday, January 10** at noon 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. Registration for the CON is here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YRPA8Ro1sc1mBWVgWxwB796DeeNbyLB1GFLXWZfZtYs>

We can’t wait to see you at these and many other events and programs at First Parish as we approach our 375th anniversary!

Julian Baptista, DRE



JAMES LIBRARY AND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Sunday, January 22
at 3:00 pm

The Adventures of Benjamin Franklin
Actor J.T. Turner
In the FPN Parish Hall

Printer, scientist, inventor, author, ambassador, and patriot, Benjamin Franklin has been called “the First American”. His rich and colorful life is recounted in this wonderful one-man show by professional actor J.T. Turner. Meet and listen as one of the world’s greatest statesmen and authors tells a tale weaving history and humor.

Limited number of free tickets for seniors available, courtesy of the Cordelia Family Foundation. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$10 students.

Sponsored by the Estelle Mosher Memorial Fund and the Norwell Historical Society. This event is also sponsored in part by a grant from the Hanover Cultural Council and Scituate Cultural Council, local agencies that are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP

All are welcome at the February discussion on **Wednesday, February 1** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor. We will be discussing “The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessey” by Rachel Joyce.

Rev. Lise will be leading a special discussion at the March 1 book group. We will be discussing **two** books: “I Am Malala” by Malala Yousafzai and “Threading My Prayer Rug” by Sabeena Rehman. High school aged FPN bookworms are particularly welcome at this discussion!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Interfaith Human Trafficking Awareness Worship Service
Wednesday, January 1 at 7 pm

United Church of Christ
460 Main Street, Norwell
Call 781-659-2887 for more

information


Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute Concert
Starring folk singer/songwriter Kristen Graves
- sponsored by the Hingham-Hull Religious Leaders Association
Sunday, January 15 at 3 pm
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
916 Main Street, Hingham
Free admission - call 781-749-1276 for more information

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me lay an invincible summer.

~Albert Camus



**CALENDAR
JANUARY 2017**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			4 Alliance Board, FP 10 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm Book Group, FP 7 pm	5 Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	6 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm	7
8 Outreach Sunday Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Activities Comm., Ofc. 11:30 am Music Comm. FP 11:30 am HS Youth Group, PH 4 pm	9 Men's Dinner @ Bernie Gardner's, 6 pm AA, PH 8:30 pm	10 Knitters, FP 9:30 am Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Adult RE, FP 12 pm Meditation, Sky. 7 pm Dancers, PH 3-8 pm	11 Dancers, PH 7-9 pm	12 iSpi deadline, 9 am Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	13 Church Office closes at 11:30 am Piano lessons, MH 3-5 pm Game Night & Potluck, PH 5:30-7:30 pm	14
15 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Service Comm., 11:30 am FP Finance Comm., 11:30 am Ofc. 375 th Comm., 11:30 am Sky.	16 AA, PH 8:30 pm	17 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm Parish Comm., FP 7 pm	18 Alliance, PH 10 am "Mandala Workshop" Dancers, PH 6- 9pm	19 iSpi deadline, 9 am Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	20 Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	21 Dancers, PH 6-8 pm
22 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Cottage Mtg., FP 11:30 am James Lib. event, PH 3 pm HS Youth Group, FP 5 pm	23 AA, PH 8:30 pm	24 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Meditation, Sky. 7 pm CHALICE Grp. Gin Violence, 7 pm Ofc. Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	25 Dancers, PH 6- 9pm	26 iSpi deadline, 9 am Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	27 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm Youth CON - throughout bldg.	28 Youth CON - throughout bldg.