

August 2006

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts

781-659-7122

August 2006

Vol. V Issue 1

Sunday Services 10:00 AM

In the Spirit

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

My friend Rachel is leaving tomorrow morning after having been with me since early July. It's been fun having a housemate for these weeks, sharing meals, talking religion (she's a Filipina Catholic ethicist), "pod-jacking" each other (sharing music on our i-Pods), listening to NPR, swapping books and shoe shopping at Payless. Most Sundays we've driven into Boston and gone to church – she to the Paulist Center and me to King's Chapel or some other congregation. I've learned so much about hospitality and religious community as a guest of other congregations. I've been to a UCC church in Brockton, a Methodist church in Shelter Island, NY, a Methodist service at a retreat in Andover, MA (as a performer with my group, Sweet the Sound), and to an beautiful and gracious Anglican church in Ottawa, Ontario. On one memorable and informative occasion, I walked out of the church service after fifteen minutes because the tone was so cold, the pace of the liturgy so frenzied, and the general feel so entirely disconnected and unloving. On another occasion in another place, I intended to attend an African-American Baptist congregation but became too nervous to walk through the door when my presence caused heads to turn with curiosity. It was a truly illuminating and rare moment of being a minority. Homer Jack once famously referred to 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings as "The Segregation Hour" in America. The only truly racially diverse congregation I have seen in my travels is the Paulist Center (Catholic) in Boston.

In all these visits, I have learned much about hospitality, about the endearing and sometimes irritating similarities between church communities, and have learned anew how much courage it takes to walk through the door of an unfamiliar house of worship, whatever your color, creed, nationality or level of confidence elsewhere.

As we prepare to gather together to start our program year, I hope you will remember how much courage and commitment it takes to walk through the doors of a church, and how much courage and commitment it takes to stay there. As you invite friends and co-workers and neighbors to join us at First Parish, renew your own commitment to our covenanted community.

As Lena Horne is singing right now through my headphones, "I'm glad there is you." Can't wait to see you and your little ones again after Labor Day.

In faith, hope and love,

Vicki

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

of Norwell, Massachusetts

24 River Street, P.O. Box 152

Norwell, MA 02061

Office Hours: 9-Noon, M&F
9-1, T,W, Th

PHONE: 781-659-7122

FAX: 781-659-7939

E-MAIL:

office@firstparishnorwell.org

HOME PAGE:

www.firstparishnorwell.org

Minister: *Rev. Victoria Weinstein*
In an emergency, call the Parsonage:
781-659-7288

Director of Religious Education:

Stuart Twite, 781-837-8791

Parish Committee:

Chris Silva, Chair

(Home) 781-871-6819

Committee Members:

David Dube, John Meddaugh,

Jim Pickel, Cathy Phillips,

Sally Turner and Derek Sulc

Treasurer: *Marta Reese*

Collector: *Jeannette Mitchell*

Minister Emeritus:

Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE is Sunday, September 17, 2006.

Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to:

office@firstparishnorwell.org,

or dropped off in hard copy

or disk at the church office.

Sunday Services

September 10:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“Where There’s Love Overflowing”

In the musical “The Wiz,” Dorothy sings that Home is a place where’s there’s love overflowing. At this time on our planet, there are more exiles and refugees than there have ever been at any other time combined in human history. What is home? Is it a place? A feeling? A spiritual condition? How do you know when you’ve come home? Our soloist this morning will be Tracy Silva, winner of the POPSearch2004 and star of the Company Theatre’s 2003 production of “Ragtime.”

Ushers: open

Pulpit Arrangement: open

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: Marlon and Les Taylor

September 17 – Second Sunday

Ushers: open

Pulpit Arrangement: open

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: open

We have many openings for Sunday Morning Volunteers to help usher, provide flowers, light the chalice or help with Coffee Hour. The need is especially great for these first few services this fall. Please check out the sign up sheets at Coffee Hour to enlist, call the church office and speak to Karen or Chris: 781.659.7122, or send an email to office@firstparishnorwell.org

Caring Corner

We are pleased to hear that **Karen Herington** is recovering well at home following surgery.

Healing wishes also to **Carol Marsh** who has had a successful hip replacement surgery.

Dick Buell is in the Cape Cod Hospital. Let us keep him and Phyllis in our loving thoughts and prayers.

Our friend, the **Reverend Richard Stower** of First Parish Unitarian Church in Scituate, is home following triple bypass surgery. We wish him a thorough recovery of his good heart.

A good friend of our congregation, **Cindy Collins**, passed away in late June after a valiant struggle with long illness. We express our sincerest condolences to her husband, **Larry**. Cindy will be memorialized at First Parish on September 16th at 11:00 a.m.

Please send your loving thoughts and prayers to the **Reese family**, and to **Tanya Giullette and David Campbell**.

We congratulate **Julie Cofone and Amy Barber** on the birth of their son, **Benjamin**, and hope to meet him soon.

Pearl and Bob Apts, long and cherished members of First Parish, have moved to Cape Cod. Greetings may be sent to: 110 Dillingham Ave., #321, Falmouth, MA 02540.

Martha Whitcher has a new address:

101 Clyde Morris Blvd., Apt. 143, Ormond Beach, Florida 32174

Andrew N.C. Weymouth, son of Patricia Crumley, graduated from Wheelock College in May with a B.S. in Math Science. Congratulations, Andrew!

The Red Cross will hold a **Blood Drive at First Parish Norwell** on Wed., Sept. 13 from 1-6 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Shawn and Karen O’Brien have a new address: 85 Whitman Street, Apt. 2, Weymouth, MA 02189

ALLIANCE NEWS

The Alliance is welcoming Deb Lenahan as its speaker at the September meeting. Deb will do a PowerPoint presentation on her 2004 trip to Sri Lanka. The meeting will be on Wednesday morning September 20th at 10 a.m. We hope for a good turnout at this meeting.

Alliance dues of \$10 are due and may be brought to the September meeting or sent to Pauline Colbert at Apt. 315, 290 Kings Town Way, Duxbury, MA 02332.

GIFT BASKETS for the HARVEST FAIR!

It's been 4 years since Deanna Riley had the idea to do, with your help, gift baskets for the Harvest Fair. This has become the table many people look for, knowing that they will get a wonderful reasonably-priced theme basket to give as a gift. WE provide the basket, and YOU provide the creativity and the items for the basket. We've noticed through the years that people are looking for SMALLER BASKETS IN THE \$15-35 RANGE, so we encourage you to keep this in mind if you choose to do a basket. Also, people have asked for BASKETS FOR CHILDREN. Look out for summer sales- a great way to stock a basket!

James Library & Center for the Arts

The James is planning another great year of programs and we hope to see everyone at a concert, an art show, or at one of the family programs.

Some highlights to whet your interest: two jazz concerts, a Celtic celebration by BSO players, Tiny Tot Tunes, music classes for young children, and the 2nd North River Art Show Benefit in May.

A Gilbert & Sullivan concert in January will be held in the meetinghouse. For information about the upcoming season visit the James's page on the church website or send an email to JamesLibrary@verizon.net if you are not on the mailing list and would like to receive the ticket brochure.

The New Massachusetts Universalist Convention

Saturday, September 30, 2006
First Parish Church in Dorchester
10 Parish Street, Dorchester, MA

"The Great Unfinished Business"

The Rev. Roberta Finkelstein will give the keynote address at the New Massachusetts Universalist Convention's Annual Conference on Saturday, Sept. 30, at First Parish Church in Dorchester, 10 Parish St., Dorchester, MA. The day will run from 8:30 to 4:30 and include food (continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon snack) and lots of good conversation. Cost is \$25 per person. *Make checks payable to "New MA Universalist Convention."* For more information check out the website at nmuc.org or speak with Jackie Magazu, Chair of the Denominational Affairs Committee.

When the American Unitarian Association merged with the Universalist Church of America, there were so many logistical issues to attend to, theological issues were left behind. Some among us believe that the vexing theological questions of contemporary Unitarian Universalism (diversity, the language of reverence, various anxieties and reactivities) are the result of that unfinished business.

Workshops:

- the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong ("Remember Universalism into Life"),
- the Rev. Richard Trudeau ("The Tragedy, and the Glory, of Christianity"),
- a panel of "old-time Universalists" reflecting on how Universalism as they remember it differs from today's UUism,
- a optional car-pool to one or more Dorchester Universalist sites led by Phil Lindsay.

Some concern was raised at the Annual Meeting in June about personal information in the Spire, which appears on the church's website. The Parish Committee discussed the matter at its July meeting and decided that the benefits of having the Spire available to the general public outweigh the small risks assumed. Parishioners should understand that the Spire is available to all on our website when they submit information for publication.

SERVICE COMMITTEE

*"...to minister to each others needs
and to those of humanity..."*

Seven Parish Members will take part in pilgrimage to Kadacs, Romania

First Parish will be well represented this September when the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council tours Romania as part of the Thanksgiving Pilgrimage Tour. Betsey and Bob Detwiler, Sue and Dexter Robinson, Peg Carpenter, Mary Mercier and Sally Turner will be leaving September 18th and returning the 29th. Traveling with other UU's from around the country, they will visit many areas particularly in Transylvania, the highlight being a four-day visit to our partner church in Kadacs.

Some Background:

In August of 1944, the Soviet Union advanced into Romania. The King of Romania accepted the conditions of an armistice that included an agreement to cede Bessarabia and Bukovina to the Soviets. In return, Romania received Transylvania, a southeastern province of Hungary. With that move, more than 150 Hungarian Unitarian churches fell under Romanian rule. (Though many people see Unitarianism as a relatively "modern" religion, Unitarian churches have had a strong presence in Hungary since the 1500's.) As an ethnic minority under the Romanians, the Hungarians fared poorly, particularly under the regime of Ceausescu. In 1987 William Schultz, then President of the UUA, and Natalie Gulbrandsen, Moderator, traveled to

Transylvania to assess the situation. In 1988, Schultz put a letter in the UU World suggesting a Sister Church Program to provide aid to the Hungarian churches. Nine American churches immediately signed up, including First Parish, Norwell.

In March of 1992 Norwell's minister, Rev. Richard Fewkes made his first visit to Kadacs to meet the minister of our Partner Church, Rev. Biro Jozsef, and his wife, Anna. Other members of the Parish joined him on subsequent trips. During the years of our partnership, First Parish Norwell has provided money for improvements to the church and parsonage and to augment the minister's salary and has provided money for scholarships for young people, who must board in a city in order to attend high school. We've also sent art supplies for the tiny elementary school and brought gifts of clothing, toiletries and other useful items on our visits to the village.

Two years ago, Rev. Biro retired, and Kadacs went for some time without a settled minister. Through Betsey, our Partner Church coordinator, we have heard that a year ago, a new minister was appointed to the post but is now being replaced. We know that Vida Rozalia will be the new minister and, with her husband and two sons, is moving into Kadacs this summer. The attached letter from Rozalia gives some insight into the current conditions in Kadacs.

Information about Kadacs and the Partner Church program may be found at the Service Committee Table in the Parish Hall and by visiting the Partner Church Council website at www.uupcc.org.

What can we do?

First: The Service Committee has chosen our sister church in Kadacs for our first September outreach focus. At our opening service on September 10th (Second Sunday) we will contribute our open plate offering to Kadacs. Every dollar donated will travel with our group to Romania to aid the community of Kadacs.

Second: A collection of small items that are much appreciated by our Transylvanian friends will be taken by the group to distribute as gifts. Bring any of the following NEW items to the

service on September 10th and it will travel with us to Kadacs:

- solar calculators
- small (pocket) flashlights with batteries
- inexpensive digital watches
- small “all-in-one” screwdriver sets
- small vice-grips
- small kitchen gadgets (vegetable peeler, whisk, spatula)
- toiletries (fancy soaps, lotions, make-up samples)
- inexpensive costume jewelry
- washable markers, colored pencils
- small, lightweight children’s toys

Third: While in Romania, the Detwilers will travel to Kolosovar to visit the high school students they have been sponsoring. Currently the Gardners and the Wilderoters are also sponsoring students at Kolozsvar Unitarian Kollegium, a well respected high school where rural students may board while studying. The school was founded in 1557 and has been continuously open except for the communist period from 1948-1993. Our church has sponsored, over the years, more than two-dozen students. Bev and Bernie Gardner traveled to Kolozsvar this spring to the graduation of the twin girls they have been sponsoring for four years

For just \$300 per year, you (alone or with a team) may sponsor a student. Bring your donation on September 10th and Betsey and Bob will make sure you are matched with a student during their trip. They will come back with your student’s name and, hopefully, a picture! This is a great way to make a direct connection to this outreach.

Fourth: Our Pilgrimage will be the fourth visit by members of this congregation to Kadacs since we partnered with them in 1988. We will take with us a “Memory Book” to celebrate the connections across the continents and within our mutual faith communities. Make sure you sign it and add your personal message to our sisters and brothers in Romania. If so inspired, send your message directly to Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com before the first Sunday service and it will get in the book!

Dear Norwell Community,

My name is Vida Rozalia. I am going to be the Unitarian minister in Kadacs. I am minister from 1998. I was invited by the congregation, and I think, that it is possible that I am going to be minister in Kadacs from 1 July. I don’t know a lot of things about the congregation, and about the problems, if you do please let me know.

I think that Attila was hardworking in that community, but there are still a lot of problems. The parish house is in bad condition. One of the rooms, the hall and the roof was recently renovated. The bathroom and the kitchen are in very bad condition. The foundation of the building was injured under the bathroom and the chimney. The back door in the kitchen, and 5 windows are in very very bad condition. The floor and the ceiling need to be renovated. The wall is not smooth. The big problem is that the heating in the wintertime will be difficult, because there are not stoves or central heating. The solution of the heating problem begins with the insulation (doors, window, floor, ceiling).

The biggest problem in the congregation is the state of mind. They can not act on the basics of the same principle. They are on bad terms with each other. (Maybe because of the inundation from last year, but I don’t know the reason I am just thinking about it.) I have a strong feeling about this situation, I am sure that they need a minister. This was the reason because I accepted the invitation. I was in Kadacs last week. I meet the president, and I visited the parish house. I am going to keep my word, but it will be not easy for me. I have a family, my husband Zsombor has to find a job there. We have two boys Ferko is 5 years old and Domokos 3. I am responsible for them. There is no kindergarten and school. They will have to go to the next village.

It would be wonderful if you could come to see with your eyes the situation. I think that first we need to renovate the parish house. The congregation has some money but it is not enough. They can do from that money the most important things (foundation, bathroom maybe one part of the kitchen).

Please speak about this in your community, and if you make a decision about this let me know please. If you would like you could help this community a lot.

When it is possible I will move to Kadacs and I am going to do my job: to take care of their soul. I know that community needs this.

I am waiting your answer.

Sincerely,
Vida Rozalia

Religious Education at First Parish

Welcome back to a great year of Religious Education!

From the Director of Religious Education,

As a teacher, I have found summer to be a natural time for resolutions of one kind or another. Usually, these resolutions center around a reading or writing project and every year they are accomplished, at least in part. Last year, for instance, I resolved to work my way through the collected works of Theodore Parker. Past years have included plowing through various religious and spiritual writers in various traditions. This year, however, I found it very hard to decide on a particular project and, as a result, have had a very haphazard reading summer.

I read a few new Buddhist works, followed by a time with the Church Fathers. Following that, I read a couple of books on the historian and novelist, Henry Adams and am just about to dive into his massive "History of the United States of America" during the administrations of Jefferson and Madison. And, as always, the early American Unitarians have been a daily part of my reading with a special concentration on Henry Ware Jr. and the fascinating Andrews Norton. As my reading has been haphazard so too have my efforts to unify what I read (it seems a part of my nature to unify everything that I read which sometimes makes for a pretty tenuous union). I guess the major idea that I am pondering is the amazing human desire to understand, quest for, control, or make sense of our lives. These efforts meet with various levels of "success" and many end in cynicism (Henry Adams) and even despair. At its root is mystery and mystery is the beginning of living a higher or religious life.

As Unitarian Universalists we deny that there is any one particular way of apprehending this mystery. And yet, and yet...The classical American Unitarians had, what seems to me a pretty enlightening and enlightened way of looking at it. Life, they felt, was in the daily living. Living a moral, upright, generous, even cultured life centered in reverence and prayer was, for them, a measure of a solution to the mystery and a way of living in it.

It is not, despite critics who felt they looked at life through the proverbial rose colored glasses, an easy way to live. It is not easy to advocate the dignity and worth of all people, to seek the highest kind of life despite our baser desires, or to believe in the total benevolence of God. It is, however, a way that is available to all and based on the few, small, tentative glimpses I have had of such a life, it is a rich and beautiful thing.

Many blessings, stuart twite

We are hard at work planning and discussing another great year of Religious Education for all. If you know anyone who is looking for a church and a church school, please be a Unitarian Universalist Evangelist and invite them to church and church school in September.

If you have never attended one of our adult learning programs, make a resolution at the start of the year to do so. Invite friends who may be interested in one or another topic. If you have ideas for a program or would like to teach one, please let me know.

stuart twite

h-781 837-8791, w-781 659-7122, email-DREstuart@aol.com

FIRST PARISH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
SQUIRREL RUN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
ROUTE 44 WEST PLYMOUTH
TEE TIME: 12:30 P.M.
GOLF AND DINNER: \$80.00

Make plans to join us for a fun afternoon of golf,
followed by a casual dinner together (to be
announced).

Squirrel Run is a great course for beginners, and a fun place for advanced players
to test their short game.

Sponsors are needed! If you don't want to play, but want to be involved, please
sign on as a Sponsor.

REGISTRATION

Name _____ Phone _____

Guests: _____

Number for golf & dinner _____ @\$80.00

Number for dinner only _____ @10.00

Sponsor a Hole _____ @\$50.00

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN CHURCH
Mail to: Deane Howard, 674 East Washington Street, Hanson, MA 02341

September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>10 HOMECOMING SUNDAY</p> <p>Morning Service Church School Youth Group Babycare 10 AM</p> <p>Coffee Hour 11 AM</p> <p>Service Committee in the Fogg Parlor 11:45</p>	<p>11 SSHAGLY Skylight Room 7-9 p.m.</p> <p>Survivors' Group Fogg Parlor 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>AA, Parish Hall 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Deadline for Financial Reports</p>	12	<p>13 Red Cross Blood Drive Parish Hall 1-6 p.m.</p>	<p>14 Choir Rehearsal Skylight Room 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>15 Ballroom Dancers Parish Hall</p>	<p>16 Golf Outing</p> <p>Registration materials included in this issue of <i>The Spire</i></p>
<p>17 Morning Service "Second Sunday" Church School Youth Group Babycare 10 AM Coffee Hour 11 AM</p>	<p>18 SSHAGLY Skylight Room 7-9 p.m.</p> <p>AA, Parish Hall 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>19 Parish Committee Fogg Parlor 7 p.m.</p>	20	<p>21 Choir Rehearsal Skylight Room 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22 Ballroom Dancers Parish Hall</p>	<p>23 Back to School Jazz Concert at the James Library "Alex²"</p>
<p>24 Morning Service Church School Youth Group Babycare 10 AM Coffee Hour 11 AM</p>	<p>25 SSHAGLY Skylight Room 7-9 p.m.</p> <p>Survivors' Group Fogg Parlor 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>AA, Parish Hall 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26 Caregivers' Group Fogg Parlor 7:30 p.m.</p>	27	<p>28 Choir Rehearsal Skylight Room 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>29 Ballroom Dancers Parish Hall</p>	<p>30 Children's Music Class #1 at the James Library 10:30 a.m.</p>