

November 15, 2006

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts

781-659-7122

November 15, 2006

Vol. V Issue 6

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

November 19

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“People Of The First Light”

Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

The first harvest ingathering meal shared by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags in 1621 marked a rare and beautiful moment before a time of land disputes, cultural conflict and eventual war between the settlers and the People (as the Native Americans referred to themselves). As we meet together in worship today, we reflect on meeting the Other from a place of respect, appreciation for difference, and cooperation.

Ushers: Joanne Howard and Len Cole

Pulpit Arrangement: The Pickel Family

Chalice Lighter: Joyce and Jim Pickel

Coffee Hour: Carol and Bob Neely & Shirley and Bob Bunnell

November 26

Youth Group

“Give Me The Spirit of A Child”

Our Youth Group, assisted by our new Director of Youth Programming Jennifer Anderson, will provide their yearly worship service, this year with the theme of remembering the goodness we possessed when we were young, and how to get back in touch with it. We hope to see everyone there to get in touch with our not-so-inner child.

Ushers: Sally and David Turner

Pulpit Arrangement: Sally and David Turner

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: Cathy and Dan Phillips & Sue and Dexter Robinson

December 3

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“Joy To The World In July”

Advent is a season of anticipation. In this age of instant gratification, what is it that we’re waiting for? Can’t we be happy unless we get it, or can we get started on being joyful even while we’re waiting?

Ushers: open

Pulpit Arrangement: David Horton in memory of Howard Horton

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: David Horton and Gail Varrasso

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

of Norwell, Massachusetts

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9-1, T,W, Th

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Minister: *Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

In an emergency, call the Parsonage:
781-659-7288

Director of Religious Education:

Stuart Twite, 781-837-8791

Director of Youth Programming

Jennifer Anderson 617-763-2799

Music Director: *Gingy Grimes*

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, November 26th, 2006**. Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to:

office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in hard copy or disk at the church office.

In the Spirit*Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

When I share the Thanksgiving meal with ten or so of my friends on the 23rd, our church will be chief among my blessings. Why? For so many of the qualities you take for granted in yourselves: for your humor, for your creativity and flexibility, for your supportive approach to change, for your honesty. For your irreverence, your keen minds and craving for deeper knowledge and understanding, for your constant attempts to do what you can for your families, your neighbors, your communities, your world. For your courage in the face of crisis, and your gracious spirits when you stand together to support one another in all that comes. For your lavish coffee hour spreads, your many talents, for your promptness to meetings and your tireless energy at them, and your good humored and consistent willingness to take up another task, to show up, to serve. For your refusal to rest on your laurels and your persistent question, "how could we be doing this better?" For your beautiful faces on Sunday mornings, for your voices, for your presence and the goodness that shines through everything you do.

My loving and thankful heart goes out to you, Church, on this Thanksgiving Day and every day.

Please let me know if this holiday – or the coming ones – find you alone when you'd rather have some companionship. Every year I am approached by several families who tell me that they'd like to invite anyone who's alone to their table, but they don't know who to ask. This is one occasion on which I am most happy to play matchmaker. If your table is open, let me know. If you'd like to join someone for Thanksgiving, also let me know. We'll get you all together.

If you'd like to make a volunteer opportunity out of the day, Father Bill's in Quincy or Mainspring House in Brockton would be good places to make initial inquiries. There are also shelters in Boston that I'm sure would be glad to have your help.

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

Caring Corner

The **Caring Committee** is considering organizing itself around the following ministries: Friendly Visitors & Callers, Volunteer Drivers, Grief and Bereavement Support, Life Transition Support (e.g., loss of employment, new baby, divorce, moves), and Meals Coordinator. As our congregation ages and the natural crises in life arise, the church must take up the shared ministry of pastoral care with more intentionality and organization. Please see Rev. Vicki if you would like to be involved in training for these various positions, which require nothing more than a willing heart, a generous ear, and a few hours a month.

Doing some holiday shopping in the city? Drop into Old South Church in Copley Square on Saturday, December 16th in the afternoon and treat yourself to Sweet the Sound's bluegrass stylings of Christmas music. See Vicki Weinstein for details.

The next deadline for the Spire is Sunday, November 26th. The following issue's deadline will be Sunday, December 10th for the **single issue of The Spire that will be published in December. Any information that needs to be shared with the parish before January 6th should be included in this early December issue.** An early January issue will be mailed on January 3rd.

FYI...

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day following.

Karen Pritchard is in the church office Monday-Thursday and Chris Solari keeps office hours from Tuesday-Friday. The office is open from 9-noon on Mondays and Fridays and from 9-1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Meetings...

Activities Committee, Sun., Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Alliance Meeting, Holiday Concert and Tea, Wed., Dec. 6, 10 a.m.

Caregivers' Group, Tues., Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m. in the Church Office

Finance Committee, Tues., Dec. 12, 7:15 p.m. in the Church Office

Parish Committee, Tues., Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Service Committee, Sun., Dec. 10, 11:30 in the Fogg Parlor

Women's Group, Mon., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Ed Milano has resumed his ever popular Hatha/Kundalini yoga class in the skylight room on Saturday mornings from 9:30 – 11 a.m.

This class is a gentle mix of hatha yoga postures, breathing techniques and relaxing meditations aimed at improving your physical and spiritual health. Cost is \$12 per session, payable on a weekly basis.

Alliance News

BROAD COVE CHORALE/ ALLIANCE CHRISTMAS TEA

On Wednesday, December 6th, the Alliance will welcome the Christmas season with its annual concert and luncheon. The Broad Cove Choral under the direction of Margo Euler will present a concert of Christmas music at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone in the Church is invited to come and enjoy this annual festive event which is sure to infect you with the Christmas spirit!

The Alliance will have its business meeting promptly at 10 a.m. Christmas cookies for shut-ins must be delivered to the Parish Hall no later than 10 a.m. We invite everyone to contribute homemade cookies but please limit your contribution to just one dozen cookies. Following the concert the Alliance will hold a light luncheon. Please call Barb Meacham, 781 659-2940, to volunteer sandwiches or finger desserts for the luncheon. Also, if you know someone who is homebound and would appreciate a box of cookies be sure to let Barb know.

AUCTION OF ANTIQUE CHAIRS

The six antique chairs, which include 2 Windsor chairs, 2 Chippendale chairs and a small rocker and small Hancock chair that came from the Fogg Parlor will be sold at a Country Americana Auction by Willis Henry on Saturday November 25th in Marlborough, MA. The auction will be at the Royal Plaza Hotel at 6:30 p.m. The preview will be on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information and directions consult their website at www.willishenry.com. You can view the chairs and other items offered for auction at the website.

Proceeds from the sale of these chairs will go toward purchasing good quality reproduction chairs which will be more suitable for the current heavy use of the Fogg Parlor.

*The Fogg Parlor Committee
Virginia Bartlett, Helen Keeler and Joanne Howard*

Super Heifer Committee

What do you buy the person who has everything?

How about a water buffalo, llama or starter flock of ducks or geese? At Coffee Hours from now until Christmas and at our Heifer Animal Fair in the Spring, we will be "selling" animals or shares of animals as gifts.

***How about a hive of honey bees (\$30) for Aunt Rose?

***Or a share of a sheep (\$10) for your child's teacher?

***Or organize your child's classmates to pool together to buy a goat, pig or sheep for their teacher for \$120? (Animals go for \$20- \$500 {for a heifer}. Shares of animals go for \$10-\$50)

These animals provide food and income for hungry families all over the world.

You'll get an attractive gift card for those you have chosen to honor. The card includes the story of Heifer International's work through food- and income-providing animals.

If you can't be at the Coffee Hours and would like to purchase an animal, call Bev Gardner and leave a message (781-829-0932).

If you haven't already, *please return your Heifer Bank* with a check made out to First Parish Church Norwell with "Heifer Bank" in the Memo line!

Calling all First Parish calligraphers!

The Super Heifer Committee is looking for people who enjoy calligraphy to make out the Heifer Gift Cards at Coffee Hours. Please let the office or any member of the Super Heifer Committee know of your interest in helping out! Thanks!

The Super Heifer Committee-Bev Gardner (chair), Stuart Twite, Marcia Babcock, John Meddaugh, Jen Anderson (Youth Group leader!), Melody Barlow, Barbara Meacham, Carrie Brandon, Elizabeth Lewis, Lisa Messersmith, Elizabeth Robinson and Audra Shattuck

Field Trip!

Next "meeting" of the **Environmental Committee** will be Sunday, December 3rd at the New England Wildlife Center in Weymouth. Gather after coffee hour (about 11:45) in the foyer for directions/carpool. We'll take a tour of their new LEED-certified facility and see what the Center does. Clayton Handleman will be on hand to talk about his company's unique role at the NEWC. All interested parties of all ages are encouraged to attend!

This is a no-obligation event designed to inspire and enlighten! All it takes is a little of your time and a \$5 suggested donation to the NEWC. Contact Elizabeth Robinson (781) 294-8840 with any questions.

Music at First Parish CD is still available!

There are still a few First Parish Music CDs available. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy music performed at First Parish over the past thirty years. The CD, which makes a great stocking stuffer, includes choir, hand bells, organ, harpsichord, and instrumental music from J.S. Bach to Scott Joplin. Also included are Christmas selections by Alex Bourque and Kelly Fanning, spirituals, and other choir and organ favorites. Some long time Parish members have described the CD as "fabulous, not to be missed" and "inspirational". You can check out the contents of the CD and listen to excerpts by using the following link: www.firstparishnorwell.org/fpnmusiccd.html

The CD may be purchased during coffee hour or from the church office. The cost is \$10. Long distance members and friends who wish to purchase a copy should contact Dexter Robinson (781-294-8840, email: dexsue@comcast.net)

SERVICE COMMITTEE

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

Guest at Your Table

It is written, "Do not neglect hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." In the coming weeks, we will extend hospitality to those strangers by having Guest at Your Table boxes at our dinner tables. By placing our coins and bills in the box we will be supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and its program partners to strengthen workers' rights; protect the right to safe, affordable water; defend civil liberties and democratic processes; and preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

For more than 30 years communities nationwide have participated in Guest at Your Table – to give thanks for their own bounty, to celebrate UU values, and to partner with UUSC to change the world. On Sunday, November 19th, boxes will be distributed and should be returned on Sunday, December 17th. Remember, UUSC membership begins at \$40 (\$20 for seniors and \$10 for students and youth) and a donation of \$75 will be doubled through a UUSC matching grant. So, when your box is filled, convert your cash into a check made out to UUSC and continue this most important work to defend justice and basic human rights around the globe.

South Shore Women's Collaborative to receive \$1000 from First Parish Norwell

Thanks to the generosity of Second Sunday contributions of over \$900, the Service Committee will contribute \$1000 to the work of the South Shore Women's Collaborative in their efforts to support women who are dealing with abusive relationships. If you would unable to attend the service, but would like to contribute to this worthy cause, your check should be sent to the church office.

Singing Party Reminder

Gingy Grimes, our Music Director, will continue to host her "Singing Party" through Sunday, December 10. The music fun will continue, while the children learn to use the hand chimes and sing seasonal music. So in the upcoming weeks, please encourage your children to attend the "Singing Party" *each Sunday* at 11:30 in the Skylight Room. The children will perform their musical selections on Sunday, December 17.

James Library & Center for the Arts

Chamber Music Concert

Sunday, November 19 at 3 p.m.

The Hingham Symphony Chamber Players with pianist Eliko Akahori perform Shubert's "Trout" Quintet and other chamber works. Tickets at the door. \$20/\$18 senior/\$10 student.

Bookworms Book Group

Monday, November 27 at 11 a.m.

Book discussion about *1491* by Charles Mann.

Holiday Trunk Show

Saturday, December 2

10 - 4 p.m. Free admission.

Three floors of the James will be filled with high quality items by fifteen diferent South Shore artists and artisans. Do some holiday shopping and support local craftspeople. Unusual items including Maddie and Me bags, decoupage trays, organic honey, holiday trees, jewelry and more. Visit www.jameslibrary.org for more information or call the library at 781-659-7100.

Religious Education at First Parish

RE News

Call for teachers! Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote that God's greatest gift is a true teacher. PLEASE CONSIDER TEACHING IN OUR CHURCH SCHOOL! This is a crucial ministry and a rewarding one as well. We have especial need for help in the pre K-Kindergarten class and the 1st and 2nd grades. Contact stuart twite if you have any questions.

A Panorama of Life

The First Parish Bible Study discusses
the book of: **Galatians.**

Was Paul a repressed, misogynistic tyrant? Or a compassionate, religious genius?

Join us on **Sunday Morning, Nov. 19th at 9:00am** in the Fogg Parlor.

Religion and Science

Presented by:
Jim Pickel & Bernie Gardner
(and guests)

The last in a series of four interactive discussions on the centuries-old clash between Religion and Science, this program will focus on the very relevant issue of DNA and Stem Cell Research. Don't miss it!

Topic:
DNA and Stem Cell Research – Humans Playing God?

Tuesday evening, November 28th at 7:30 pm

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THE SPIRE

**TIME-RELATED MATERIAL
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Don't Miss

First Parish Norwell's Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

“People of the First Light”
with Rev. Victoria Weinstein

in the Meetinghouse

this Sunday, November 19th
10 a.m.

Coffee Hour at 11 a.m.