

January 31, 2007

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts

781-659-7122

January 31, 2007

Vol. V Issue 11

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

February 4

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Membership Sunday: "Honor Thy Mother And Thy Father"

Join us for our very special celebration of membership at First Parish, as we consider the difference between biological and spiritual parents, welcome new members, honor Jubilee members, and remember our 17th century founders.

Ushers: The Membership Committee

Pulpit Arrangement: Peter and Roberta Fairbanks

Chalice Lighter: open **Coffee Hour:** The Callahans

February 11

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

"Come To Church Anyway"

It is our Second Sunday service, and our offering this month goes to support the worthy cause of prison ministry through the Partakers Program. The sermon will be something about love, or something about culture based on my recent travels in Guatemala, or maybe something entirely different.

Ushers: Mary Lou and Bob Sutter

Pulpit Arrangement: open

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: Deanna Riley and Betsey & Bob Detwiler

February 18

The Rev. Kathleen A. Green

"Walk the Line"

I actually have something in common with evangelical Christian Rev. Rick Warren (of *The Purpose Driven Life* fame). And it's deeper than our mutual fondness for Sen. Barack Obama! We are in agreement that everyone's life is driven by *something*. I look forward to exploring with you the idea that we can choose what drives us and influence the purpose of our lives, both individually and institutionally.

Usher: open **Pulpit Arrangement:** open

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: open

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781-659-7288

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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, February 11th**. 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*

You will occasionally hear ministers grumble about the little item commonly known as the “sermon blurb” -- those little descriptions of our sermons that go into church newsletters and onto web sites, and occasionally into the local paper or on the church “marquee.” We don’t always know what we’re going to preach about, but we know that folks occasionally make their decision about whether or not to come to church based on the sermon title. Therefore, I try to make mine a bit saucy and provocative, often spending hours of time on the endeavor (this is how you get such gems as “I Swear To God, I Don’t Have Time To Take An Entire Day Off!” – my sermon title for the recent offering on the third and fourth Commandments).

Ministers, amongst themselves, complain that a sermon title is too often limiting. It can corral creativity and spontaneity, and we think it caters too much to the consumeristic mentality that says life should be full of constant entertainment. As one of my elder and occasionally cranky colleagues says, “You choose a movie by the title. You come to church every Sunday because you come to church every Sunday, no matter what the sermon title is.”

You know why I’m saying this, don’t you? Because it’s 2:00 in the morning, I’ve been home from Guatemala for a mere twelve hours, and because I have several options for the worship service on Feb. 11th but no clear plan. So, my dear church, no sermon title that day. Let’s call it “Come To Church Anyway.”

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

Meetings...

- Activities Committee, Sun., Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m. in the Church Office
- Alliance Book Review, Wed., Feb. 14, 10 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor
- Budget Setting Meeting, Sun., Feb. 11, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor
- Caregivers' Group, Tues., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor
- Denominational Affairs, Sun., Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor
- Finance Committee, Tues., Feb. 13, 7:15 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor
- Music Committee, Sun., Feb. 4, 11:45 in the Skylight Room
- Parish Committee, Tues., Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor
- Women's Group, Mon., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

ALLIANCE NEWS

The Alliance welcomes Winnie Lou Rounds as its book reviewer on Valentines Day, Wednesday February 14th in the Fogg Parlor. Winnie Lou is an engaging book reviewer and we look forward to this morning every year. Coffee and refreshments will be served at 10 a.m. with the meeting to begin at 10:30. Please join us!

Feb. 11th !

ANNUAL CHOCOLATE AUCTION

Join FPN's 2006-2007 Youth Group (The Experience) at the **annual Chocolate Auction** on Sunday, February 11, 2007, when you can indulge your sweet tooth AND help the less-fortunate! **Drop off** your chocolaty donation (any chocolate candy or baked-good) before service, then bid and buy during Coffee Hour. All proceeds benefit community outreach programs. **Questions?** Call Jen Anderson at 617-763-2799

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN!

this SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

6:30 P.M. Social Hour

7:30 P.M. Dinner

In the Parish Hall to benefit

The 1866 Organ Fund

Music by ALEX x 2

A Social Hour & Dinner

Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Foods

No Reservation Required... Tickets at the Door

Enjoy an Evening with All of Your Friends!

Loss, Grief and Bereavement: A Learning Opportunity

Come learn about and explore issues of loss, grief, mourning and bereavement, in a three session program led by our student minister, Walter LeFlore. Did you know there are eight different types of loss, each able to initiate a grieving process? Or that grieving can be a life-long process? We'll discuss these and other issues, including how loss can lead to gains in our lives. We'll meet on alternate Sundays, 2/4, 2/18 and 3/4, from 2-3:30, in the Fogg Parlor.

Save the Date – Stewardship Dinner

The 2007-2008 Stewardship Dinner will take place on Saturday, March 3.

Help us kick off our annual fundraising campaign and enjoy the culinary stylings of Chef Jim Miller.

Watch your mail for more details.

Service Committee

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

Prison Ministry

February 11th –

Second Sunday collection for Partakers

For several years First Parish has been involved in a prison ministry, College Behind Bars, coordinated by Partakers. Many members of our church visit regularly with the three prisoners we currently sponsor. Our church, through your generosity, pays for the three pre-qualifying correspondence courses that prove the student's ability and dedication to the program. Then, as the student works on the four-year liberal arts degree through Boston University, we visit, correspond, and encourage. BU supplies the professors and pays for the college classes and textbooks in full. More information can be found on our Service Committee table in the Parish Hall and at the Partakers website: www.partakers.org

Partakers, an advocacy and volunteer training service, is committed to the rehabilitation and education of incarcerated men and women whose chances of succeeding, once they leave prison, increase exponentially if they have a college degree. Recidivism (returning to prison) for the general prison population is about 66%. For individuals with a four-year degree, the recidivism rate is only 1% to 11%. These educated prisoners often serve as teachers and tutors, examples, and role models when they return to society. Massachusetts has one of eight remaining college prison programs nation wide – down from a high of 350 at one time. Of all crime prevention methods, education is the most cost effective.

On Sunday, January 28, we welcomed and were inspired by Richard Smith, who shared his personal experience of nearly ten years of incarceration. Richard, who currently works for Partakers, along with Mea Allen, Partaker's

Volunteer coordinator, and Lanny Kutakoff, Executive Director, met after church with our Partaker teams and with others who may wish to volunteer as either a team member or as a tutor. If you were unable to attend, but would like to be a part of this prison ministry, please contact Sue Robinson. On February 11th we will dedicate our Second Sunday collection to Partakers to support the work of this non-profit organization.

JOIN OUR YOUTH CHOIR

Gingy Grimes, our Music Director, will continue to work with the Youth Choir to prepare music for Palm Sunday and the upcoming musical, Noah's Ark. Children from second grade and older are welcome to join Gingy and her assistants starting on Sunday, January 21st in the Skylight Room at 11:30. The Youth Choir will continue to meet each week right after Sunday School.

MUSICIANS WANTED

The Music Committee invites anyone in the congregation who is interested in participating in Music Sunday to share their musical talents with us on Sunday, May 13. We encourage vocalists and instrumentalists to join us in celebration of music for this special service. Please contact either Gingy Grimes or Marie Miller, if you wish to participate.

Coming Up

A Special Coffee Hour

Don't miss Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 25th. The Partner Church Committee will be providing an authentic Hungarian lunch---well, as authentic as we can provide. Seating will be available. You won't have to balance your bowl of goulash and your coffee cup at the same time.

Along with the lunch, you can enjoy a short video of the trip taken by the seven parishioners who visited our Partner Church in Kadacs this past September. Lunch and entertainment!

Another banner Sunday at First Parish!

Green Saving Tips

**from
your Environmental Committee**

Save trees, water & aggravation by subscribing to 41pounds.org to reduce your **junk mail**.

Save 934 kilowatt hours in energy by investing in an **Energy Star refrigerator**.

Save 795 pounds of CO2 emissions per month by buying **Green Power**. Contact your utility provider to find out more.

Save \$2200 on your energy bill (and 12,400 pounds of CO2 emissions) over the lifetime of 18 bulbs by outfitting your house with **compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)**.

And lastly, save time to take a wintry walk in the woods and remember why it's important to do all of these things

**Organ Project
Fund Raising Event!!!**

On Saturday, March 17, 2007, our beloved Interim Music Director, **Rogério Santos**, will be performing an exciting piano concert at the James Library. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the **Organ Restoration Fund**.

Tickets are \$25 apiece and will include a **wine and cheese reception**. Bob Detwiler will be selling them at Coffee Hour, or you can buy them from the Church Office during the week. Tickets will go fast, so please buy your tickets ASAP! **Checks should be made out to "First Parish Church" with "Organ Fund" in the bottom left hand corner.**

The members of

Friendship Club
invite you to be their guest
at the annual

ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

Tuesday, February 6, 2007 - 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Norwell Council on Aging
293 Pine Street, Norwell

MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAES!

"OPEN HOUSE"

You are their guests –
this is a FREE event

Friendship Club members *love* to have
company

Please join them for this tasty occasion

*Lively music provided by
"Somethin' Else"*

Please call Wilma Goodhue at Friendship Home Inc
781-740-9507

We don't want to run out of ice cream!

Friendship Club members are developmentally disabled adults from Norwell and surrounding communities who find friendship and fun at their Friendship Club meetings every other Tuesday at the Council on Aging. There are also Friendship Clubs in Duxbury and Braintree. Friendship Club was developed by Friendship Home, Inc., who is working toward building a respite home in Norwell.

James Library
& Center for the Arts

Puppet Show

Saturday, February 3 at 10:30 a.m.

Come to a free family puppet show (for children ages 3 and older) by the Gerwick Puppets. Sponsored by a grant from the Church Hillers of Norwell. Call 659-7100 to reserve a spot.

Daddy King

The story of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as seen through the eyes of his father. A solo Performance by storyteller/actor Sumner McClain.

Sunday, February 11 at 3 p.m.

A Black History Month Literary Tea sponsored by the Estelle Mosher Memorial Fund.

\$10. For adults and children age 10 and older.

Religious Education at First Parish

From the DRE,

The other day I picked up a new history of vegetarianism called The Bloodless Revolution by Tristram Stuart and have been completely engrossed in it since. It begins in the 17th Century with various religious, political and cultural critics who embraced vegetarianism for numerous reasons including, in what is a main theme of the book, a fascination with Hindu Brahmins from India who they associated with the Greek Philosopher Pythagoras, and saw as highly moral in their refusal to eat "flesh". Often eccentric and single minded in their views, these pioneering Western vegetarians were routinely reviled, marginalized and ridiculed. As often happens, however, their sincerity and the real moral concerns that they raised had an impact on the thinking of the larger society.

At the same time, each morning I spend some time with the Bible and, recently, Emerson's Journals. This morning, Emerson talks about the virtues of "enthusiasts" or those who hold and practice what is seen by the larger society as extreme or exaggerated views, or are one-issue advocates. Though very aware of the dangers of "enthusiasm" (he was, after all, a good sober New Englander) he praises their positive influence by saying that often what they advocate become the accepted norms of society. Each grain of truth promoted by enthusiasts, according to Emerson, enlarges and enriches the mind of the population and promotes our virtue.

It strikes me that the great value of Unitarian Universalist religious education is its effort to take from a tremendous variety of sources, truths that give us a worldview that promotes virtue in its highest sense. In any given week, our children and all our parishioners are examining a staggering range of ideas and seeking to enlarge our "angle of vision" and deepen our spiritual, intellectual and social views. No small task, but the very thing of life.

Many blessings, stuart

We welcome all new members of all ages. It gives us great joy that you are here! If you have any questions about our programs, please don't hesitate to call or email me at:
Stuart Twite: H-781 837 8791, Church-781 659-7122, or DREStuart@aol.com

Adult Learning News

Our Winter Potluck/Lecture series, The New England Religion, is back for a third year!

This year's topic will be Universalism. It is to our misfortune that we do not study and think enough about the Universalist position and contribution. We are very excited to offer three lectures including sessions by Jackie Magazu (our resident Universalist Expert) and others. Make a salad, prepare your minds and stomachs and plan to come! Our first session will be on Wednesday, January 31st (Look for upcoming dates!) Sign up sheets will be at the RE table or you can call the office. Don't miss it!

Our First Parish Bible Study, A Panorama of Life, continues on Sunday, February 4th with the study of the book of Hebrews. This letter, though not written by Paul, was attributed to him for generations. Give it a read and join us on Sunday morning at 9:00am in the Fogg Parlor.

The First Parish Book Group will read Snow by Orhan Pamuk, on Wednesday February 21s at 7:00pm in the Fogg Parlor. Don't miss this book!