

In the Spirit

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

I recently saw an ad campaign for Mitchum deodorant that said, “A Mitchum man doesn’t go to the doctor unless something is broken.”

Oh, for heaven’s sake! What an irresponsible message, even if meant in over the top macho jest!

As we approach that holiday that single people love to hate and that confounds even the partnered (“Do I buy chocolates? Even though my loved one is watching his/her weight?” “Are we obligated to have a romantic dinner? What if I’m too tired after work, and who’s going to watch the kids?” “We haven’t been getting along very well lately, should I pretend everything’s hunky dory for Valentine’s Day?”), I encourage you to expand your definition of love and to think beyond outside the box – the box of chocolates, that is.

Maybe it would be a loving thing for yourself and your loved ones if you *did* visit the doctor, even if nothing is broken. Just for preventive care, for a check up on that nagging cough or that high blood pressure you’ve been ignoring. Maybe your dog, who has been cooped up so much lately, needs a special date with you at the Norris Reservation. Maybe you need to fall in love with your work (volunteer or paid) again, and might spend some of Valentine’s Day reflecting on how to get the passion back. Maybe what your marriage most needs isn’t a bouquet of roses, but a trip to a marriage counselor. Go now, before things get from strained mode to crisis mode. Call me for a referral; I’d be very glad to help you find someone.

There are many ways to be a lover. Whether or not you have a special someone, don’t hold back from being a Valentine. There’s a whole wide world out there that’s flirting madly with you, practically doing the hula hula trying to get your attention. Embrace it, and enjoy.

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

Meetings...

Activities Committee, Sun., March 4, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Alliance Board, Wed., March 7, 10 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Alliance Meeting, Wed., March 21, 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Caregivers' Group, Tues., Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Finance Committee, Tues., March 13, 7:15 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Music Committee, Sun., March 4, 11:45 in the Skylight Room

Parish Committee, Tues., Feb. 27, 7:00 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

South Scituate/Fogg Committees, Tues., Feb. 27, 7:15 p.m. in the Skylight Room

Women's Group, Mon., March 5, 7:30 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

RSVP

for the 2007 Stewardship Dinner!

The 2007 Stewardship Dinner will be held on **Saturday, March 3rd** at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Join us for a delicious dinner, and learn about the goals for this year's stewardship campaign. Our theme this year focuses on fellowship, family and fun. Childcare will be provided and don't miss "Canvass Karaoke"!

RSVP by calling the church office at 781 659 7122.

An audio CD of the January 28 service, Partakers Sunday, is available to borrow from Dexter Robinson, 781 294 8840, dexsue@comcast.net

Fogg Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

The Fogg Scholarship Committee will be accepting applications from graduating seniors who will be attending accredited post secondary educational institutions (including trade schools) that lead to a diploma, certification or license.

The Helen Fogg Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of First Parish Norwell and who have clearly demonstrated the ideals of Helen Fogg by serving their church and community. All interested parties may pick up scholarship application at the church office beginning February 1. Completed applications must be returned to the church office by May 1, 2007. All recipients will be recognized at the Children's service in June.

Last year recipients of the Helen Fogg Scholarship included:

Molly Reese

Sarah Pritchard

Arline Litchfield

If you have any questions regarding the Fogg Scholarships, please contact Frank Callahan or Bernie Gardner.

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.

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, 2/18 and 3/4, from 2 3:30, in the Fogg Parlor.

Coming Up A Special Coffee Hour

SAVE THE DATE

Don't forget to plan for lunch at church on February 25th. The Partner Church Committee will be providing a delicious lunch with a Hungarian flavor. You'll be able to sit with fellow parishioners who have made the trip to visit our Partner Church in Kadacs, Transylvania and enjoy a short video presentation of that trip, produced by our own award winning photographer, Dexter Robinson.

Coffee hour hosts are needed for February, March, April, May and June. Please sign up using the coffee hour sign up sheet located in the parish hall. Please call Joanne McCann @781 829 6833 or Libet Callahan @781 659 2485 if you have any questions or need additional information regarding coffee hour.

Religious Education News

No Church School on Sunday, Feb. 18th- Enjoy your school vacation!

The First Parish Book Group will meet on Wed., March 14th at 7 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor. We will be discussing "Snow" by Orhan Pamuk. Don't miss this book!

Our Winter Potluck/Lecture series, The New England Religion, continues on Tuesday, March 6th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will continue our exploration of Universalism. Make a salad, casserole or dessert, prepare your minds and stomachs and plan to come! Don't miss it!

Our First Parish Bible Study, A Panorama of Life, continues on Sunday, February 18th with study of the book of Hebrews. Give it a read and join us on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor.

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THE SPIRE

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James Library
& Center for the Arts

Third Thursday Poetry Night February 15 at 7 p.m.

Join this drop in poetry group. Read your own poetry, a favorite poem or just come and listen. Led by Stuart Twite.

Celtic Crossover Concert Sunday March 11 at 3 p.m.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with traditional music from the British Isles with a classical twist. Performed by members of the BSO family. Tickets \$20/\$18 senior/\$10 student. NOTE: The church office has a pair of complimentary tickets available for each James Library concert.

www.jameslibrary.org

LABYRINTH WORKSHOP JOURNEY TO THE CENTER, JOURNEY TO THE SACRED

A Labyrinth Workshop will take place in the Parish House of Old Ship Church, First Parish Unitarian Universalist, 107 Main Street in Hingham, Massachusetts on Saturday March 3, 2007, from 4 pm to 5:30 pm. Arrival and welcome from 3:30 pm.

Labyrinth walking has been practiced in a great variety of cultures and religions for many thousands of years. This form of meditative walk is known to, among other things, clear the mind and to bring up personal insights. After the presentation, your candle lit walking meditation will take place on the labyrinth floor, followed by silent writing about your experience and voluntary sharing.

Liliane Verdier has been presenting this well received workshop to the public and to special interest groups since 2000. 20 % of the \$15 admission fee will go to support Old Ship Church. No pre registration.

For more information contact Liliane at Lilianevhing@aol.com or 781 749 9581