

May 9, 2007

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts

781-659-7122

May 9, 2007

Vol. V Issue 18

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

May 13

MUSIC SUNDAY

*Music Director Gingy Grimes, The Music Committee, the Choir,
Various Church Members, and Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

What a treat we have in store this Sunday! We will celebrate our ministry of music, share the musical talent of many church members and friends, and take up our Second Sunday offering.

Ushers: Kathy and Bruce Bartone

Pulpit Arrangement: Mary Eliot **Chalice Lighter:** open

Coffee Hour: Kerry Ouellett, Carrie Brandon and Amy Stephenson

May 20

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“Lying and Stuff”

Concluding our series on the Ten Commandments, we reflect on the commandments not to bear false witness against our neighbors, and not to covet their possessions. Considered singly, we can see how bearing false witness and coveting can cause a lot of damage. But put together, they are truly bad news, and there’s plenty of historical precedent to prove so. Come find out why, and consider with me why God might have saved the relatively mild sin of “coveting” for the tenth and final commandment.

Ushers: Les and Marlon Taylor

Pulpit Arrangement: The Youth Group **Chalice Lighter:** open

Coffee Hour: Sally and David Turner & Page and Rick Railsback

May 27

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Ushers: open

Pulpit Arrangement: Betsey Detwiler

Chalice Lighter: Mary Lou Sutter

Coffee Hour: Patricia Crumley and Mary Mercier

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

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, May 20th**. Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to:

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

Our thanks to Jack Wallace, Joanne McCann and Melody Barlow, who stepped up and hosted a Coffee Hour after the service on May 6th!

In the Spirit

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Every now and then I give one of those pulpit-pounding sermons where I stake a position and stick to it, without giving other perspectives a lot of airplay. That's unusual for a Unitarian Universalist, since we like to think we're pretty committed to a careful consideration of various viewpoints (and for that commitment we often get accused of moral relativism!).

When I take a strong stand on a subject such as adultery, as I did the morning of April 29, I tend to do so because I feel that the wider culture has a particularly floppy, lazy approach to the subject. In those cases, my aim is to give a sober and thorough ethical teaching that the congregation can take away and incorporate into their own lives.

So now and then I think it worthwhile to remind you that you are not required to agree with me! Incorporating the message of a sermon into your own lives doesn't mean to reach agreement with your pastor, it means thinking about the subject, wrestling with it, maybe doing some reading, praying over it, talking to your friends about it, and coming to your own conclusions. I am never offended if you tell me that you disagree with me. Sometimes I disagree with *myself!*

What's a preacher to do? Only this: to give her church the best and most honest assessment of serious subjects that she is able to give, after hours of reading, reflection and writing. And to hope that her church will receive whatever is said as a gift of love and care from their minister, and to use the gift in the service of their own wholeness, goodness and spiritual and ethical growth.

"We need not think alike to love alike." Remember that as many sermons as you hear, you are not hearing a monologue, but a dialogue. The other part of the dialogue is yours.

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

Save the Date!
Annual Meeting
in the Meetinghouse
Sunday, June 3rd at 7 p.m.!

Our minister will be making a serious appeal on June 3rd for church members to join the **Caring Committee**, which will be undergoing a new structure starting in the fall.

“Friendly Callers” – ideally, three people -- will be those who are willing to make check-in phone calls and send cards to parish friends and members. One of these individuals would have a special commitment to helping new members integrate into the congregation. Additionally, we are looking for one or two sensitive and compassionate people to commit to a “Life Transitions” ministry, focusing on outreach to widows and widowers, new parents, and others experiencing big changes in life. These individuals will all meet with Rev. Vicki about once a month to support one another, and to “walk the parish” with the minister. The only requirements are the ability to listen, to communicate care, to keep a reasonably organized list of your contacts, and to attend the meetings.

Most immediately, there is a need for a Summer Pastoral Care Coordinator who will take the rare calls that come in, and contact Rev. Vicki or the on-call clergy in the event of an emergency.

Please consider this important ministry, all of you, for which there is an increasing need. We are already a caring community, but in order to live more fully into our promise to, in the words of our covenant, “minister to each other’s needs,” we must organize our efforts. Your minister, who is called on more and more often to do crisis counseling, home, nursing home and hospital visits, asks your help.

Meetings

Alliance Board, Wed., May 16, 10 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Caregivers’ Group, Tues., May 22, 7:30 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Denominational Affairs, Mon., May 14, 7:30 p.m. in the Church Office

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

Parish Committee, Tues., May 15, 7 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Service Committee, Sunday, May 13, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

SPRING MARKET

The all-church fundraising Spring Market is here! Come this Sat., May 12th, to work at a church table or to shop, have lunch, possibly win 2 Red Sox tickets in the raffle and to have fun!

9-2:30, rain or shine.

Of course, we are hoping for SHINE!

The End of Year Disco Bowling Night is on Saturday, June 9th at the timeless Bowlaway in beautiful Scituate Harbor.

All First Parish families and friends are invited to join us for a “bring your own” picnic dinner on the harbor at 5 p.m. and the bowl with us from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. We have rented the entire place so be prepared to dance and bowl! There will be a small fee per family which will be decided after we confirm how many will be attending. At the end of the evening we will all stroll to “Dribbles”, one of the *best* local ice cream stands on the South Shore! If you are interested in attending, please contact Les Taylor at lestaylor62@hotmail.com or Marianne Schofield at jazzchicken@comcast.net

HEIFER GIFT ARK

We have successfully concluded our Heifer Gift Ark project!!! Thank you to the kids and youth who hosted the Animal Fair at Coffee Hour April 29 and to John Marsh who brought in his one-month old lamb as a surprise guest!

We will celebrate our achievement on Sunday, June 17, with a musical program, "Noah's Ark," performed by the Choir and all the church school children plus an all-church picnic.

A representative from Heifer International will be there to award us with a plaque!

AN ALERT FOR ALL FIRST PARISH GARDENERS!

In this wonderful warm weather, many of us are rushing to our gardens. Please remember the plant sale at our all-church fund-raiser, the Spring Market, and save for us plants you are thinning! What a wonderful way to recycle!

SPRING MARKET
(flea market/yard sale/crafts/
toys/jewelry/books/plants/Silent Auction)
Saturday May 12
9-2:30 rain or shine (We expect sun!)

CALLING ALL RED SOX FANS!

How would you like 2 tickets to a Red Sox game? The Vercollones have once again generously donated 2 of their season tickets to the Spring Market. Buy Red Sox raffle tickets- 1 for \$1 or 6 for \$5!

Tickets will be sold at the Market
on Sat. May 12

The Fogg Committee is pleased to announce this year's outstanding recipients of the Helen Fogg Scholarship:

Alex Bourque and J.P. McCann

The Helen Fogg Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of First Parish Norwell. Applicants must plan on attending accredited post secondary educational institutions (including trade schools) that lead to a diploma, certification or license. Scholarship awards are based on how well a student has demonstrated the ideals of Helen Fogg by serving their church and community. We applaud this year's recipients and wish them well in their academic endeavors.

An urgent message from the Service Committee

There is one last chance to stop the ban on marriage equality in the Massachusetts Legislature and action must be taken within the next few weeks. There are four ways you can help.

1. Contact your State legislators (visit www.MassEquality.org to find out how your legislators voted) and contact them at the Statehouse switchboard at 617-722-2000.
2. Write a letter to the editor. You can be a powerful voice in your community. MassEquality has letter formats to consider on their website.
3. Volunteer some time to MassEquality. Contact Amy Mello at 617-878-2307 or email her at AmyMello@MassEquality.org.
4. Get your friends and family involved. Protect marriage equality in Massachusetts.

Since November of 2003, support for this cause has grown from 50 legislators to 141. However, 8 more votes are needed to win. Your support could make the difference.

Speak to Les Taylor, Bernie Gardner or Sue Robinson if you have further questions.

Religious Education at First Parish

From the DRE:

An oft-spoken reality of modern life is its extreme busyness. Technology, far from making life easier, has often served to speed it up to nearly intolerable levels. Our children are often overscheduled in the laudable hope of providing them exposure to a wide variety of experiences. I have written before of the many sporting events that are held on Sunday morning making regular attendance at church and church-school difficult. In this climate, Church, indeed, becomes just another commitment that has to be scheduled in.

There is another way to view church and church life, however, and that is to see it as a respite from the routine bustle of life. Church is where we can take a breath, think the greatest thoughts, be uplifted, challenged, receive and express what is most vital. Church school exposes our children to the deep and rich world of the spirit with no pressure to compete with anyone else.

We are always looking for ways to make First Parish this kind of place for all of our parishioners. One new program that has started very positively is our Sunday Evening Sitting Group. Each Sunday we meet to hear some brief background or instruction in one or another form of meditation, and then spend some time in meditation practice. It may seem like one more thing to get to, but you may leave with a calmer mind and that is a nice way to start a new week. Give it a try!

And if anyone has any ideas about how we can make Church Life more responsive to your needs, please don't hesitate to talk with me about it.

Peace be with you, Stuart Twite

Church School Families!

For most of our remaining Sundays, the children will begin the day together in the Parish Hall practicing for our final Sunday's musical extravaganza and Heifer Ark Celebration. We would love to see all our church-school children as many weeks as possible. Many thanks.

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 First Parish Bible Study, A Panorama of Life, continues on Sunday, May 20th with a study of the Lord's Prayer (found in Matthew Chap. 6). Jesus' answer to how we should pray, the Lord's Prayer has been memorized by most, heard by all, yet is rarely studied. Give it a read and join us on Sunday morning at 9:00am in the Fogg Parlor.

Sunday Evening Sitting Group

Join us each Sunday evening (except Mother's Day) in the Skylight Room at 7:00pm for a time of meditation. Each session will include a period of discussion, and, occasionally, instruction in one or another form of this central practice, followed by group seated meditation.

Perfect for beginners or seasoned meditators.

Wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing and bring a mat or a bench if you desire (chairs are just fine as well). If you have any questions, or would like to lead a session, please contact:

Stuart Twite

781 837 8791 (Home)

781 659 7122 (Church)

DREStuart@aol.com

Third Thursday Poetry Night At The **James Library and Center for the Arts**

**Read your own poetry, your favorites,
or just come and listen
(see Stuart Twite for more Information)**

**7:00 pm on each third Thursday
(May 17 and June 21)**

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check here and drop in the mail. No postage is required.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
STANDARD MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORWELL, MA
PERMIT NO. 2

FIRST PARISH UNITARIAN
24 River Street – P.O. Box 152
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061

THE SPIRE

TIME-RELATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**SEE YOU AT THE SPRING MARKET
THIS SATURDAY, MAY 12 FROM 9 – 2:30!!!**

WARRANT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The members of First Parish of Norwell are hereby notified of the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held in the Parish Hall, Sunday, June 3, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. to hear and act upon the following articles:

ARTICLE I: To act upon the acceptance of new members.

ARTICLE II: To approve the report and recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE III: To accept the report of the Parish Committee and the reports of all other committees and organizations as printed.

ARTICLE IV: To approve the report of the Parish Treasurer.

ARTICLE V: To act upon the budget for the fiscal year 2007/2008 (beginning July 1, 2007) as presented by the Parish Committee.

ARTICLE VI: To determine whether the Parish will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Parish Committee, to borrow money if needed.

ARTICLE VII: To approve the actions of the Parish Committee for the past year.

ARTICLE VIII: To hear and act upon any instructions to the Parish Committee or any other Parish matters.



May 1, 2007
Norwell, Massachusetts

N. Dexter Robinson
Parish Clerk