

May 23, 2007

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts

781-659-7122

May 23, 2007

Vol. V Issue 19

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

May 27

Walter LeFlore, Student Minister

The service will be led by Walter LeFlore, the last one he will do while our student minister. The sermon, "A Time For Remembering" will honor Memorial Day, people and relationships we've lost in our lives.

Ushers: Jen Anderson and Audra Shattuck

Pulpit Arrangement: Betsey Detwiler **Chalice Lighter:** Mary Lou Sutter

Coffee Hour: Patricia Crumley, Mary Mercier
and Bernie and Bev Gardner

June 3

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

"Put The Church In Your Heart"

FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY

This is my final sermon of my fifth year with you, and close to the tenth anniversary of my ordination. I am going to attempt to do something I have never done before, and that is to preach without a text in front of me. I want to speak about the ways that the congregation is becoming a community of ministry, how exciting that is, and what we need to consider as we move together into the future. Please bring a flower to share in our Flower Communion.

Ushers: open

Pulpit Arrangement: Judy Bond

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: open

June 10

Patti Walters (RE Chair), Stuart Twite (DRE)

"AH-HA Moments":

Education as a Lifelong Spiritual Practice

Teaching and learning are among the most profound spiritual experiences that life affords us. Join us today in celebrating lifelong learning. The Religious Education Committee Chair Patti Walters will share her beliefs concerning Unitarian Universalist education and Stuart Twite will share his vision of lifelong religious education. The amazing work of our church school teachers will also be honored. Our Second Sunday offering will go to MassEquality. Come and celebrate teaching and learning and the life of the spirit!

Ushers: open

Pulpit Arrangement: open

Chalice Lighter: open

Coffee Hour: open

FIRST PARISH CHURCH

of Norwell, Massachusetts

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Norwell, MA 02061

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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, June 3rd**. 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

Every now and then I get a survey from some research group that wants to know more about church life and demographics. I got one today and ended up doing some number-crunching so that I could accurately answer their questions. Here's what I found:

Our new, active members (those who have joined within the past five years and stayed) are overwhelmingly the under-50 crowd.

About 26% of our active members are over 65 (according to my very un-scientific guesswork!).

Out of 138 active "units" (either individuals or couples) that I counted in our current directory ("active" being defined as "comes to church on a fairly regular basis, participates in programs, and pledges"), 32% are of the age to have school-age children at home.

We currently have nine members over the age of 90!!

What does this mean? Well, for those of you who say with worried, furrowed brow that "we're aging," that's technically true: we're all aging! On the other hand, we're a very healthy range of ages and a sizeable group of fairly young adults have joined our church family as singles and couples.

Isn't this interesting? What it means to me is that we have a very wide range of birth-to-death joys and sorrows and life experiences to share as a congregation. How are we doing ministering to each other? The Committee on Ministry and I hope you'll take some time to fill out the Ministry Evaluation form included in this newsletter. I especially hope that you will. With 230+ souls and their children and families actively involved in our church, it can be hard to know where to focus my efforts and energy as your pastor. Should we be doing more for newer members to help them integrate? Would people like to get together mid-week for a meal and program, maybe with an informal, meditative worship service? Are members interested in small group ministries? Are our Adult Religious Education offerings relevant to our members and friends? Are we so family-oriented that singles inadvertently get left out of our fellowship? Are our volunteers feeling inspired by their work, and appreciated? Is the church deepening people's spiritual lives and helping them connect more deeply to a sense of the eternal and the essential? Are we honoring our covenant in all the ways we can? How are our children?

These are just some of the questions that keep your minister up nights. Your feedback and input on them are extremely valued.

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

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

Caring Corner

Congratulations to **Jeannette Mitchell** on graduating with her college degree!

Our minister will be at the Festival Of Homiletics in Nashville from May 21-25th.

If you have a joy or a concern or prayer request that you feel unable to share by microphone on Sunday morning, please write it in the leather-bound book on the pulpit table and Rev. Vicki (or the worship leader) will include it in that day's sharing.

Thanks to **Bev Gardner** and to her small crew who worked hard Wed., Thurs. and Fri. plus all-day Saturday, and to many others who helped out as they could, the Spring Market has made \$2,886 so far this year! Hopefully more monies will slowly come in (for the Silent Auction and money owed us by parishioners.) A whole-hearted thank you to all who gave of your time and your "stuff"!

Meetings

Activities Committee, Sunday, June 3, 11:30 a.m. in the Church Office

Caregivers' Group, Tues., June 26, 7:30 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

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

Fogg Ad hoc Committee, Sunday, May 27, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Parish Committee, Thurs., June 7

Service Committee, Sunday, June 10, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

The Heifer Gift Ark Project
We have mailed a check to Heifer International for \$6,661.43!
Thank you to everyone!

Save the date!!!
An all-church celebration!
HEIFER GIFT ARK SUNDAY!
Sunday, June 17
 *** "Noah's Ark" performed by the Choir and all the church school kids during the service.
 *** A Heifer International representative will attend and award a plaque to us!
 *** We will have a party/picnic after church in the Memorial Garden!
All are invited!!! Come!!!

"COSMIC" Disco Bowling Night

Saturday, June 9th
Satuit Bowlaway
 1 Cole Pkwy, Scituate Harbor

All First Parish families and friends are invited to join us for pizza and bowling from 6pm - 8pm. We have rented the entire place for First Parish, so be prepared to eat, bowl and dance! There should be a reasonable cost per family for the pizza & bowling (which will depend upon how many people join us). We would ask that you bring your own beverages, along with either snacks or a simple dessert (cookies, brownies, etc.) to share. If you are interested in attending, please contact Les Taylor at lestaylor62@hotmail.com or Marianne Schofield at jazzchicken@comcast.net. This is a popular event & space is limited...so please let us know!

From Reverend Vicki

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.

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](mailto:AmyMello@MassEquality.org) 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.

\$1,000 donated to the Joseph Benoit Fund

Thanks to your continuing generosity, \$900 was raised on Second Sunday, May 13, for Joseph Benoit to help build a fund for his education and future plans. With an additional contribution from the Service Committee, \$1,000 has been sent to Citizen’s Bank for his benefit. If you wish to add to this worthy cause, please send your donation to the church office or directly to Citizen’s Bank, Joseph Benoit Fund.

Norwell Food Pantry

Barbara Meacham has provided a new wish list of food pantry needs. The list includes the following: instant coffee, vegetable oil, mayonnaise, marshmallow fluff, chicken broth, gravies, canned green beans, carrots and white potatoes, instant potatoes, sweet cereals (for kids), juice, school snacks such as pudding packs, juice boxes and fruit cups, crackers, personal items such as toothpaste, shampoo, shaving cream and deodorant, dish washing liquid, laundry detergent, canned dog food, paper towels and toilet paper.

James Library & Center for the Arts

Memorial Day Book Sale

Monday, May 28

9 a.m. - noon.

Enjoy a front row seat and view the Memorial Day parade and ceremony from the James Library's lawn. Book sale in the Art Gallery.

Refreshments. Rain or Shine!

Proceeds benefit the library.

For your consideration and prayerful participation:

Unitarian Universalists from the South Shore area are coordinating a short "overpass" demonstration on Memorial Day from 12 – 2 p.m. to remind people that the best way to honor fallen warriors is to de-escalate the Iraq war. The goal is to have a continuous prayerful and respectful presence on Route 3 overpasses from the Cape to Boston. If you would like to participate contact Ellen Snoeyenbos, district coordinator of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee at ellens8@yahoo.com.

Come Join Us!

The last Activities Committee meeting of the year will be on Sunday, June 3 at 11:30 in the office.

Do you have an idea for an Activity? Let us know. We will be setting the calendar and deciding on Activities for next year. We need new hands and faces and ideas! Please come join us! **Peg Kitchenham**, 781-447-5831.

Dear First Parish Church Parishioners,

It is with humble gratitude that I write to thank you on behalf of the North and South Rivers Watershed Association for your most generous donation of over \$1000 from your Easter Sunday services. I cannot express how wonderful this surprise was to us! I know Paul Coolidge waxed eloquently (and probably too modestly about his own involvement in this organization) on the great work of the NSWRA and how many in our community have been involved in it for so many years. It is this community of people that has made the organization what it is today. It is their love of the rivers and the natural beauty of our area that inspires us all to continue to protect its beauty and restore its health wherever possible. After all, it is not boundaries that protect our rivers but rather people.

The funds you have donated will go towards our projects to educate others on how important nature is and how they can help to protect it. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the NSWRA and all of its 1,500 members I thank you!

Sincerely,
Samantha Woods
Executive Director, NSWRA

Religious Education at First Parish

Church School Families!

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year!

May 27th–Memorial Day weekend: No church school but come to church if you are in town!

June 3rd–The Children will practice for the end of the year musical with the Music Committee during the church service.

June 10th–A church service exalting education! Bring your children to a service dedicated to Religious Education and to honoring our teachers and learners. Immediately following the church service, the children will practice with the choir for the musical. PLEASE ATTEND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE!

June 17th–The final service of our regular program year. **The children** and the choir will perform Noah's Ark, and we will celebrate our successful Ark Project. It will be a great service! Following, the RE Committee and the Music Committee will host an all-Church Picnic–don't miss it!

Adult Learning News

Our First Parish Bible Study, A Panorama of Life, continues on Sunday, June 3rd 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 (except May 27th) 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

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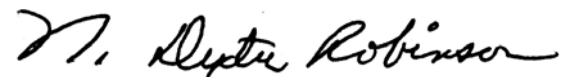
THE SPIRE

**TIME-RELATED MATERIAL
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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