

October 31, 2007

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts

781-659-7122

October 31, 2007

Vol. VI Issue 5

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

November 4:

Rev. Janet Bowering, Guest Minister

“The Times They Are A-changing”

In Reverend Bowering’s words: “A Sermon outlining individual contributions to group activity isn’t necessarily biographical. I’d like to share anecdotes, both serious and funny, about folks who have enriched congregations I have known.”

November 11:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“Justice, Equity and Compassion in Human Relations”

In the context of Veterans Day, we will look at our second Unitarian Universalist Principle, “we covenant to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.” How is justice different from charity, the old biblical virtue? And what’s the subtle difference between “equity” and “equality?” We’re going to dig deep today, and Dave Hockman, a veteran of the Vietnam War, will give the Faith Journey. Our offering will go to the Boston Homeless Veterans Shelter.

November 18:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Thanksgiving Intergenerational Service

Ushers, pulpit arrangement donations, Coffee Hour Hosts and Chalice Lighters are needed for upcoming services. The Volunteer Schedule is published on page three of this issue. Let us know if you can fill any of the openings! Call 781-659-7122 or sign up at Coffee Hour!

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:

John Meddaugh, Chair

(Home) 781-659-2901

Committee Members:

Melody Barlow, David Dube,

John Meddaugh, Cathy Phillips,

Jim Pickel, Derek Sulc

and Sally Turner

Treasurer: *Marta Reese*

Collector: *Jeannette Mitchell*

Minister Emeritus:

Richard M. Fewkes

The **deadline** for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Sunday, November 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

Folks, I don't know exactly when or how it happened, but I am a bona fide member of Red Sox Nation. I now go around the grocery store preoccupied by the thought that Dice-K may not do so well pitching in the high altitudes of Colorado. I fretted when we put Curt Schilling on the mound in game 2 of the World Series because, well, he can be a little bit inconsistent. I cried when he walked off the mound and the announcer said it might be the last time we see him in a Sox uniform. I got into arguments this summer about J.D. Drew's worth (I know he has *inherent worth and dignity*, but what was his worth to the *team*? Not very high, I grumbled, and others said to give him a chance) and was happy to see him vindicated in the post-season. At this writing, I've got butterflies in my stomach about tonight's game, hoping to shut-out the Rockies in four.

I loved baseball as a kid in elementary school, and even played the game for a few years myself, third base and pitcher. I was cured of being a Yankees fan by my fourth grade teacher, Miss Macdonald, a staunch New England lady who wore her hair in a bun and demanded perfect penmanship, who firmly informed me that "people of good breeding were not New York Yankees fans." Once I got over my crush on Bucky Dent, I could see her point. But true Sox fever did not catch me until I moved back here in 2002.

Baseball reminds me in some ways of church life. The players are up there as a team, but they're all also bringing their personal history to each at-bat and moment in the field. You can make an error but stay in the game and even have a good one. Sometimes the innings drag on and on, and you just stay with it, throwing and catching and batting and pitching, doing what needs to be done to keep it all rolling along. Not exciting, but necessary. And sometimes the game is like a dance or a beautifully-designed machine: an intricate revelation of symmetry, harmony, and transcendent beauty. It can be inspired and inspiring.

Lately, in the post-season, my minister's heart has thrilled to one particular aspect of the team: the emergence of the rookies as stars in their own right. What joy to see the new kids step up from relative insecurity and inconsistency to deliver grand slams and to take some of the pressure off our veteran players. If Big Papi has a sore knee, he can relax knowing that J.D. Drew or Dustin Pedroia can do some heavy hitting. If Schilling's arm is ready for retirement, bring on Josh Beckett! He can do the job. I love that. That's how life should work.

If you're a rookie at First Parish, here are three things you can do become an MVP: find out who the veteran team members are and study their moves. Ask them to coach you; they'll be only too willing to do so. And finally, step up to the plate when asked. There's no thrill like that first big hit for the team.

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Robinson** who recently completed her Master's degree in Children's Literature from Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia.

The **Marsh** Family recently celebrated **Carol and John's** 55th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Our congregation expresses its congratulations to the First Parish Unitarian Church in Duxbury, which celebrated its 375th anniversary on October 14. Did you know that our congregation "poached" its first minister, Rev. William Wetherell, from the "Duckesbury" congregation in the late 1640's? He was a valued member and church school teacher, and the founders of First Parish in Norwell, considered renegades by their pastor, Charles Chauncy, were severely chastised for calling and ordaining Mr. Witherell. You can read all about our history and our former ministers at our web site www.firstparishnorwell.org.

Rev. Vicki will be in Pennsylvania with family from Wednesday through Saturday. Please call her at the parsonage if you need her and she will return your call within 24 hours.

Worship Service Volunteers

November 4th

Ushers: Jack and Jean Christensen, Marlon Taylor

Pulpit Arrangement: **open**

Coffee Hour: Mary Nickerson & Patti Walters,
Cathy Harder-Bernier & Bruce Bernier

November 11th

Ushers: Les Taylor and Joanne Howard

Pulpit Arrangement: Margy Miola

Chalice Lighters: **open**

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

Are you a baker of pies?
Could you roll up one for the Fair?

Cupcakes are popular with children. Could you make a dozen for the Fair?

Quick breads are a nice addition to the Thanksgiving feast. Could you bake a loaf?

Cookies and bars are easy to make. Make a batch for yourself and a batch for the Fair.

All of the above can be baked and frozen.
Fudge and Christmas candies are a special treat.
Our only requirement is that it be **HOMEMADE**.

YOU BAKE IT AND WE WILL SELL IT AT THE FAIR!!

Alliance News

Heide Hasselman will be our speaker for the Alliance November meeting. Heidi has a wonderful PowerPoint presentation for us on The Freedom Trail in Boston, featuring such sites as the Paul Revere House, the old North Church and Copp's Hill.

The meeting will be on Wednesday, November 7 at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall with Prue Miller and Jean Wilderoter as hostesses.

Alliance dues may still be sent to Membership Chairman, Shirley Bunnell, at P. O. Box 188 in Norwell. Thanks to all those who are paid up!!

Organ Committee Update

Some of you who attended the memorial service for Rollin Bailey had the pleasure and privilege of hearing former First Parish music director Jim Brown play the organ. The following are excerpts of his letter referring to the organ:

“October 25, 2007

I was so pleased to be able to return to First Parish last weekend to play for Rollin Bailey’s memorial service... A few remarks about the organ at First Parish might be in order, especially as the church is making plans to have it rebuilt and enlarged. First of all, the organ has always been very limited by having only one manual. There is little tonal variety, and several pieces that I played were very difficult to pull off...

Currently there is little cohesion in the sound of the organ... Many of the balances are just wrong... I certainly hope First Parish can realize its dream for the organ project. Once accomplished, I believe everyone will notice a striking improvement in the organ’s sound, particularly with its ability to support choir and congregational singing, and a greatly increased potential for playing the organ literature.”

As many of you know this is the second year of a capital campaign to raise \$180,000 to repair and improve the Meetinghouse organ. To date we have received over \$125,000 in donations and pledges. Although we have not reached our goal in donations and pledges there are a number of reasons why it makes sense to sign a contract so that work can begin. First, we are well beyond the halfway point in the fund raising but only in the second year of a 3-year capital campaign. The project will take 18 months to complete with payments spread out

over that time period. We are confident that the financial goal will be reached by the end of the fund raising period (summer 2009). Second, the

organ builder has indicated that the current proposal price can only be held until the end of 2007 at which point it will increase by \$5,000. Finally, if we wait longer, the builder may begin another project, which could significantly delay our project and increase the cost. Organ builders often have a 1-2 year backlog of work. If we sign a contract this year, work can begin this January. We would have use of the organ during this church year but not the following year. At the October Parish Committee meeting, the Organ Committee gave an update and recommended that the Parish sign a contract before the end of the year. The Parish Committee voted to call a Special Parish meeting on November 18.

Dexter Robinson, Chair

James Library
& Center for the Arts
www.jameslibrary.org

November at The James

Third Thursday Poetry Night Series.

Thursday, Nov 15 at 7 p.m. Join Stuart Twite and fellow poetry lovers.

Silhouettes

Saturday, Nov 17. Sold Out.

John Stilgoe Lecture

Sunday, Nov 18

John Stilgoe will present the fall’s first literary program at the James on November 18 at 3 p.m. This free lecture will focus on the so-called information age. Maybe the internet is not all what it’s cracked up to be!

Harvest Fair Updates

MAJOR FUND-RAISER- November 17! Only 17 more days until the Harvest Fair, our all-church major fund-raiser! We hope EVERYONE will participate!!! Please plan on donating items for the bake table and the Harvest Table, items you've hand-crafted, gently-used house-hold goods, antiques, collectibles, toys, sports items, books, and jewelry and new items for a themed gift basket. Also, we hope to see ALL OF YOU THERE! **It takes an entire church to have a successful fund-raiser!**

Margy Miola is the chair of this year's Harvest Fair - 617-698-5326.

Gift Baskets at the Harvest Fair!!!

Need something as a Thanksgiving hostess gift? Thinking about Christmas presents? Individual parishioners are currently and creatively coming up with affordable themed gift baskets to sell at the Harvest Fair which will be on Sat. Nov. 17. Need a baby gift? Something for the movie enthusiast? For a little girl who loves fairies! A boy who is into sports! A coffee lover!

Parishioners buy the items which are then attractively wrapped in cellophane in a basket and given a beautiful bow plus a tag which lists the contents of the basket. Most baskets will be in the \$15-45 range, but there will be some more expensive ones. More basket themes-a "Buddha Basket" from Stuart Twite, "Italian Pastabilities," "Puzzle Me This," "Designs of France" from the Carpenters, "For Your Gym Bag, Hospital Stay or Weekend Visit," a Child's Birthday Basket, a Child's Art Basket, one for the Handy-man or Woman, a "Puppy Basket" and more!

Consider "doing" a gift basket- we will wrap it for you! Use your basket or ours (available at Coffee Hour). And then **come to the fair to see all the creative baskets-and to buy one or two!** For info-call Beverly Gardner 781-829-0932 or Deanna Riley 781-837-4964.

Please set aside your small pizza boxes for re-use as pie boxes for the Alliance's Food Table at the Harvest Fair, November 17th !!!

**Save the Date!
November 14th
The Fogg Lecture Series
welcomes writer Kate Braestrup to
First Parish Norwell**

On Wednesday, November 14, the Reverend **Kate Braestrup** will be speaking at First Parish for the **Fogg Lecture Series**. Kate Braestrup was a writer and the mother of four young children when her husband, a Maine state trooper, was killed in an accident while on duty. Two years after his death, she decided to pursue the career he had planned after his retirement. She entered Bangor Theological Seminary and became an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister. After her ordination, she became the first chaplain for the Maine Game Wardens. Her recent book, "Here If You Need Me", is a beautifully written, deeply moving account of her loss and her work with the game wardens, illuminated by her own deep humanity. Numerous articles by and about Kate Braestrup have appeared in such sources as the Oprah magazine, the Boston Globe magazine and the Patriot Ledger. She has a truly fascinating story. Come to hear it and to meet Kate at a reception following her talk

Are you a wanna-be Ringo? If so, do we have the opportunity for you! The choir occasionally needs a drummer to accompany some of their up-beat anthems. If this might be fun for you, please let Gingly know at frankgrimes@verizon.net or 617-696-8342.

Religious Education at First Parish

November in Religious Education!

Church School: We will be examining our UU Principles for the next few weeks in church school. Many great activities and lessons are planned so we hope to see all our children on Sunday mornings! Please remember that we are a cooperative church school that relies on your help! Please stop by the RE table after worship or email Stuart Twite (DREStuart@aol.com) for times and ways YOU can help.

A New Web Feature! Log on to the First Parish website at <http://www.firstparishnorwell.org/>, click on the Religious Education pages and go to RE EVERYDAY. There you will find information on how to reinforce and practice at home the lessons that we learn each Sunday in Church School.

Adult Learning: Join us for the following programs

First Parish Book Group: Join us on Tuesday evening, November 6th for our book discussion group. We will discuss Traveling Mercies by Anne Lamott. This excellent spiritual memoir is sure to spark a great talk.

Bible Study: We will continue Bible Study on the First and Third Sunday mornings of November with the study of the book of James. Written by the brother of Jesus, this short but powerful letter makes for powerful study.

Sunday Evening Sitting Group: Are you looking for some peace and serenity? Would you like to learn meditative practices that you can incorporate into your life? Join us on Sunday Evenings at 7 pm.

Third Thursday Poetry Night at the James Library. Join us at 7pm on each third Thursday to read your own poetry, your favorites, or just come and listen (note: this group meets at the James Library)

Saturday Morning Yoga with Ed Milano continues each Saturday Morning

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

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

THE SPIRE

See you at the Harvest Fair!!!
Saturday, November 17th - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

The members of First Parish of Norwell are hereby notified of a Special Parish Meeting to be held Sunday, November 18, 2007, at 11:30 a.m., in the Meeting House, to hear and act upon the following articles:

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

ARTICLE II: To determine if the Parish will permit the Parish Committee to sign a contract with Darron Wissinger of Wissinger Organs for \$180,000 for preservation, repairs and expansion of the Meeting House organ to be funded from the Meeting House Organ Fund.



October 26, 2007
Norwell, Massachusetts

N. Dexter Robinson
Parish Clerk