

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts



781-659-7122

March 5, 2008

Vol. VI Issue 13

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

March 9: **UNION SUNDAY at Second Parish in Hingham - 10:30 a.m.**
 (no service today in Norwell)
 “Taking the Fifth: Our Religious Practice of Democracy”

Our congregation will celebrate Union Sunday with the congregations of other UU parishes in our area. **This service will take place at Second Parish in Hingham**, at 685 Main Street in Hingham at **10:30 a.m.** Please plan to come! **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!**

RE programs for children: World Unity Song Circle with Dawna Hammers.

Our offering is dedicated this year to our Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, to which you may make your checks payable ahead of time! This is a Sunday to be treasured, so come, and bring your children!

March 16:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Palm Sunday

“The Will To Reach It Makes Us Free”

Our Palm Sunday service focuses on the Unitarian Universalist Sixth Principle, “The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.” Is that just a lofty ideal, or a sane goal? All are welcome to join in our Communion Service to honor the memory and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth immediately following the service.

March 23:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“Easter Can Be Small, And Resurrection Comes Slowly”

The Easter event in the Christian year is a big, dramatic, knock-you-off-your-seat miracle: life out of death, an empty tomb, and timid, terrified followers of Jesus becoming out-and-proud messengers of a crucified and risen man’s liberating gospel. Easter in our own lives, however, does not always come with a “wow” but with a whisper. And those whispers can be just as miraculous and transformative.

Ushers, pulpit arrangement donations, Coffee Hour Hosts and Chalice Lighters are needed for

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
drestuart@aol.com

Director of Youth Programming

Jennifer Anderson
617-763-2799
saccharine.half@gmail.com

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:

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The **deadline** for the next issue
of THE SPIRE is **Sunday, March**
16th 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

Thanksgiving Day was so warm this year, I took about 40 daffodil bulbs given to me by my doctoral advisor, Professor Elizabeth Nordbeck and while the turkey was cooking, my nephews and I went outside to plant them in the warm soil. Nicholas and Lucas are not nature boys, but they do like to get their hands dirty. We dug little holes and dropped bulbs in as best we could (Nicholas, almost-4, remarked suspiciously of one gnarly specimen, "This one's going to bite me"), and covered them with earth. For the boys, that was fun enough. But yesterday I saw little green shoots coming up where my nephews insisted was "just dirt" and would always be dirt. Soon enough, there will be happy yellow flowers to prove them wrong. It took forever and it took no time at all.

I'm not very good at delayed gratification. I think most Americans aren't; or certainly not Americans of my generation. We were not born into a self-sacrificing era and we don't have great talent for waiting. We are a generation of toe-tappers – we prefer to drive up rather than to stand in line, we consider ten to twenty seconds far too long a lag time for our e-mail to upload, and too many of us would rather waste fuel than coordinate rides with co-workers or friends because "it takes too long." We talk fast, we drive fast, we switch the channel the second we see something that doesn't appeal to us, and we urge our children to keep up with our pace of life, feeding them and ourselves fast food prepared in microwaves or fryolators, believing that it is time, rather than life itself, that is truly "of the essence."

In his famous letter to the early Christian community in Corinth, Paul wrote the description of love that we know from weddings and funerals. It begins, "Love is *patient*." Now there's a new one. As we eagerly await the longer days and more forgiving temperatures of spring, let us cultivate the virtue of patience, and see what beautiful things may grow as a result.

In faith, hope and love,
Vicki

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Bonnie and Michael Morrissey** on the birth of Andrew James born Feb. 28, 2008 – a new little brother for Layne.

Ed Mosher is celebrating his 75th birthday on March 10, and then trekking across the country by automobile to spend a few months in Arizona. Have fun, Ed, and we'll look forward to seeing you in June.

Fund Raising During Church Programming

The Parish Committee reminds the parish of church policy, which specifies **that fund raising for non-church functions, and projects is not permitted during church programming, which includes Worship Services and Coffee Hour.** Church programming time is solely for worship and fellowship.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Parish Committee

Scarves, Blankets and Dolls

If you have been knitting or crocheting any scarves, lap-blankets, or comfort dolls (for donation to the homeless, Hospice, or AIDS orphans respectively), please bring them to the Service Committee table soon. Delivery of these items will take place over the next few weeks. Questions? Speak to Sue Robinson.

Alliance News

World traveler Deb Lenahan will be entertaining Alliance members and friends with a PowerPoint presentation, "Winter in Yellowstone," on Wednesday morning March 19th in the Parish Hall at 10 a.m. The animals return from the high country to feed and stay warm near the geysers and hot springs. Deb cross-country skied through a variety of terrain that was a photographer's delight. Come and enjoy with Deb this magical time in Yellowstone. Refreshments will be served at 10 a.m., followed by a short meeting and the program. You don't have to be a member of the Alliance or the Church to attend our programs - everyone (men too!) is welcome.

Path to Membership Workshops

The next Path to Membership Workshops are scheduled for April 13 and April 27 from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM following Sunday Service. On April 13th Vicki will lead a discussion on Unitarian Universalist History and Principles that is a great primer for anyone who wishes to learn more about the tenets of our beliefs as Unitarian/Universalists. On April 27, Frank Callahan and the Membership Committee will lead a discussion on the operational structure of First Parish Norwell and how this church community manages its business affairs and spiritual focus as a self-governed entity within the Unitarian Universalist Association. Lunch will be provided and childcare will be available for both workshops. These workshops are highly recommended to anyone who is considering membership to First Parish Church and to all others who want to know more about this liberal religion whose very foundation embraces the unending search for truth and meaning in life. For more information on these workshops, please call Frank Callahan at 781-659-2485.

SERVICE COMMITTEE
Sunday, March 30th service
Drumbeat for Darfur

The Service Committee is sponsoring a very special Justice Sunday on March 30th when we ask our congregation to look closely at the crisis in Darfur. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Drumbeat for Darfur campaign, now in its third year, is a strong and persistent voice urging the Bush administration and Congress to make this humanitarian crisis one of their highest priorities. UUSC's advocacy is aimed at protecting civilians – especially women – from ongoing violence, promoting a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict, and holding perpetrators of genocide accountable for crimes against humanity.

Our Sunday worship service will be led by Matt Meyer, an experienced lay liturgist who, as a UUSC volunteer, has led worship for dozens of UU congregations including worship at General Assembly in 2006. Matt is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. He is active with the UU Young Adult movement and is always seeking new and better ways to combine music, spirituality and social justice work.

Matt's Drumbeat for Darfur worship is a chance for people to participate in hands on rhythm-making while learning about our commitments to Darfur. We will experience the spirituality of community music-making as well as look at how rhythm and music intersect with Unitarian Universalist values. Bring your own drum if you wish!

In the afternoon, the Fogg Committee will sponsor a Fogg Lecture featuring Mohamed Elgadi a Darfur refugee. More information on the speaker will follow in the next Spire.

James Library
 &
 Center for the Arts

Friday, March 14 at 7: 30 p.m.

Sue Robinson will present the second program in the new Lyceum Series on Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. Sue will present an illustrated program about the Chautauqua Art Desk- a curious 19th century home study "teaching desk" for children. Sue will have desks on display at the lecture. Free.

Sunday, March 30 at 3 p.m.

Jazz at the James. BSO violinists and friends turn their violins into fiddles as they present a lively concert of Latin swing, jazz, Celtic tunes and more. Tickets available in advance and at the door space permitting. Call the James 659-7100. www.jameslibrary.org for full schedule of events

The First Parish Environmental Committee is pleased to co-sponsor the following event:

"Green and Affordable Energy Options for Massachusetts: Focus on Wind" Find out more about wind energy from Mass Energy director Larry Chretien. March 31, 2008 at 7pm at the Hingham Public Library.

Looking for other local environmental events?

South Shore Natural Science Center: www.ssnsc.org Mass Climate Action Network: www.massclimateaction.org

Want to find out more about environmental actions at First Parish? At the "Environmental" end of the Service Committee table you can add yourself to our email list, view events postings and find out more about the UU Ministry for Earth. On select Sundays, be sure to take a look at the global warming poster and books on display during coffee hour.

**Sign up for Easter Flowers on Palm
Sunday,
March 16th!**

A cherished First Parish tradition is the decking of the Meetinghouse in beautifully blooming pots of spring bulbs and Easter lilies for the Easter Morning Service. Stan and Jane Wilderoter will be taking signups for flowers at Coffee Hour the Sunday before Easter. Dedications will be printed in the Order of Service.

Have you seen my coat?
Someone took the wrong coat on Sunday 2/24 and I hope that they realize it soon! It is a charcoal gray, long, wool coat. It has a black velvet lined hood, velvet cuffs and should have a pair of bright purple wool gloves and black earmuffs in the pockets. There was a similar coat there when I left but it was not mine. Please call the church, 781-659-7122, or me 781-925-1248. *Linda Goodwin*

Adult Learning:

Join us for the following program:

JAMES LIBRARY LYCEUM

2008 Season

Friday, March 14th: Sue Robinson
Presents:

The Chautauqua Art Desk

The Program begins at 7:30
and refreshments will be served.

**From the
Denominational Affairs
Committee**

Imagine being in a large auditorium with thousands of Unitarian Universalists singing Spirit of Life. Imagine the opportunity to choose from dozens of workshops, lectures, and worship services with UUs from around the nation and then to bring that information, energy, and spirit back here to Norwell. Consider becoming a delegate to the 2009 General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah, and take the opportunity to serve this congregation and to experience all this and more. If you are interested in finding out more, please attend a brief informational meeting at 11:30 on March 30 in the Fogg Parlor. If you can not attend this meeting, please call or email Joyce Pickel at 508-746-4647; jandpickel@comcast.net.

**The First Parish
Book Group**

Discusses:

East of Eden

by John Steinbeck

This American Epic is sure to
inspire a spirited
discussion!

Wednesday, March 12th

at 7 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

Our First Parish Bible Study: We will continue Bible Study on First and third Sunday mornings with the study of the book of James. Written by the brother of Jesus, this short but powerful letter makes for controversial and beneficial study. Join us in the Fogg Parlor at 9 a.m.

Religious Education at First Parish

From the DRE:

Don't you love it when you pick up a book that you have modest hopes for and it turns out to be deeply important to you almost from the first moment? Such a book for me right now is Why Cant We Be Good, by the philosopher Jacob Needleman. Ranging from the Torah, through Plato, Buddha and much else, Needleman launches little intellectual rockets that have found a target in me.

Among many other things, he argues for the deep moral, ethical and spiritual importance of thinking and, especially thinking in community. I will, no doubt, be writing and talking more of this book. For now, however, here is what is going on in our community of thinkers. Many blessings to all, stuart

This week in Sunday School

The Church School children made some significant decisions last week concerning Peaceville's governmental structure and will continue that process on the 16th. Note that the 9th is Union Sunday in Hingham. They have hired a professional storyteller and it should be a wonderful program so we hope to see you there!

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

THE SPIRE

**Come one, come all to the
First Parish Norwell
EASTER BREAKFAST!**

**to be served *before*
the Easter Family Service
from 9:00-9:45
in the Parish Hall
(note: there is no Coffee Hour
on Easter morning)**

***Festive decorations, friendly faces
and fresh breakfast fare!***

*Save the Date!
for the*

2008 Canvass Dinner!

Come and enjoy an evening of
food and fellowship
as we begin our 2008 Canvass.

**When: Saturday, April 5th
at 6:30 p.m.**

Where: In the Parish Hall

Wine, cheese and appetizers
followed by a scrumptious dinner.

Make your reservation
at Coffee Hour
or by calling the church office
781.659.7122
*Volunteers to help
are most welcome!*