

# The Spire

*The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts*



781-659-7122

May 14, 2008

Vol. VI Issue 18

## Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

### May 18:

### Music Sunday

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

Gingy Grimes, Music Director will also be joined by the choir: Marcia Babcock, Larry Baker, Bob Bartlett, Virginia Bartlett, Laurie Brown, Peg Carpenter, Noel Constantino, Betsey Detwiler, Bob Detwiler, Roberta Fairbanks, Bernie Gardner, Deane Howard, Carol Marsh, Mary Mercier, Marie Miller, Diane Nadeau, Louise Newcombe, Doug Perry, Lorna Phillips, Joyce Pickel, Marguerite Pierce, Page Railsback, Dexter Robinson, Sue Robinson, Elizabeth Robinson, Sue Sulc, Courtenay Webster and Charlotte Young

### May 25:

**Stuart Twite**

**Director of Religious Education**

### “Stuck in a Moment”

Memorial Day is a time of remembrance but is memory always a good thing? Do you believe in the "good old days" or that better days are yet to come? Stuart Twite will talk about the use and abuse of "memory" this Memorial Weekend

### June 1:

**Peter Freedman Bowden** will be speaking on Lay Leadership and Lay Empowerment. Peter is an independent consultant working with Unitarian Universalist congregations specializing in small group ministry, UU evangelism and now, UU television and media production.

He and his wife Amy live in Newport, RI where she serves as the minister of Channing Church.

Ushers, pulpit arrangements and Coffee Hour hosts are needed!

Volunteer today by calling the church office 781-659-7122,  
or by signing up at Coffee Hour! (see complete listing on page three)

**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](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org)

**HOME PAGE:**

[www.firstparishnorwell.org](http://www.firstparishnorwell.org)

**Minister:**

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

*Pastoral Concerns* should be directed to Judy Bond 781-826-9039

*In an emergency* contact Parish Chair John Meddaugh: 781-659-2901

**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:** Gingly Grimes

**Parish Committee:**

John Meddaugh, Chair  
(Home) 781-659-2901

**Committee Members:**

Melody Barlow, David Dube,  
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, May 25<sup>th</sup>**. Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to: [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or dropped off in hard copy or disk at the church office.

**"In the Spirit"** *Stuart Twite, Director of Religious Education*

**"Consumer Confidence"**

Now I must begin by saying that what I know of economics would fit in a thimble and still give you some space to swim around in. For instance, I am baffled by the statistical indicator, "consumer confidence". I don't know about you, but my confidence as a consumer is a complicated and not very static thing. It is impacted by many personal and family factors and can change by the hour. And that is only when I must consider "consumer" thoughts, which isn't all that often. I can be a bit of a "stick your head in the sand" kind of guy.

We are bombarded these days by dire economic signs and portents including the precipitous fall of the hallowed "consumer confidence" (of course, if you hear how bad things are from the media 24 hours a day 7 days a week, its not going to do much for your confidence-a classic self-fulfilling prophecy). Ask President Carter how his "malaise speech" went over.

The Consumer Confidence Index, it turns out, is calculated by a complex measurement of family saving versus spending determined by perceived present and future economic growth or decline. Though I usually dislike business or economic metaphors for the religious life, I did start wondering about what "consumer confidence" would look like in relation to spiritual and church life.

The Philosopher Charles Taylor talks of a religious life as one of "fullness". For ship-builder turned Minister William Phillips Tilden, it meant living a higher and nobler life. To me, then, spiritual consumer confidence would look like a group of people trying to live fuller, higher and nobler lives both individually and as a community. A church with high consumer confidence would, therefore, provide opportunities for personal growth and reflection, stimulate minds and consciences, and constantly seek to look out for each other.

One of the really wonderful things about being a church worker at First Parish Church is that I get to see all the ways in which this truly high calling is carried out on a daily level. I see the staggering amount of work that so many people do to make First Parish what it is. I see the financial planning, the organizational thinking, the effort to make just policy, the collations, the last second help with coffee hour, the keeping of the linen, the teaching of our children and the taking care of each other.

The early American Unitarians often summed up their movement with the phrase "Love to God and Love to each other". Sounds about right to me. So give and receive with "confidence" and I will see you in church.

Blessings, stuart

## Caring Corner

**Barbara and Bob Hickey** celebrated 50 years of marriage the end of April. Congratulations!

**Mary Eliot** is at home in Cambridge following surgery and rehabilitation on her hip.

**Erdine Winegar** has returned to her home at Doolittle Home, Foxboro, after hospitalization following a fall. She is in good spirits and is healing from a compression fracture of the lower spine. She thanks you for the cards and messages of concern.

Your Pastoral Caregivers are Libet Callahan, Melody Barlow, Jim Bond, Jennifer Anderson, Mary Lou Sutter and Judy Bond. We are here to arrange meals, rides, hospital visits and other pastoral support when needed.

### SPRING MARKET UPDATE:

Well, this is it! The week of the Spring Market!

\*\*Still time to divide your perennials and donate some to the church Plant Table!

\*\*Still time to find some of that stuff you want to get rid of and donate it to the church tables! Bring it in Thurs. and Fri. mornings 9-12 and Thurs. and Fri. evenings 7-9.

\*\*Still time to think about having your own table-inside \$25 (table provided) and outside, if it is nice weather, \$22 (outside-bring your own table!)

Items wanted for our church tables-books, jewelry, household items, glassware,

collectibles, tools, toys, garden and indoor plants, working small appliances, etc. If you have a large item to sell, take a picture and we can sell it that way!

Thank you so much! **We will make more money for the operating budget of the church if we all participate-donate, work and BUY!**  
And it's FUN!

See you THIS Sat., May 17, rain or shine, 9-2!  
Then stop by the James Library to see their Books in Bloom!

### Men's Night at the Spit!

Come join First Parish men for an evening of comraderie on June 14<sup>th</sup>! Watch your email for details or contact Clayton Handleman.

### Can you host Coffee Hour?

Openings on:

May 18 (with Carrie Brandon), May 25, or June 8 (with Amanda Metzger)

**Can you usher** on June 1, June 8, or June 15?

**Can you light the chalice** on May 18, 25, June 8 or June 15<sup>th</sup>?

**Call the office** 781-659-7122 or **sign up** at Coffee Hour! Thanks...

## \$900 to be given to MassEquality

More than \$700 was given at the Second Sunday collection for MassEquality with the Service Committee rounding it up to \$900. MassEquality is a Massachusetts grassroots organization working to achieve full equality for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transexual (LGBT) community. The organization is launching their 2008 Equality Agenda – a program that's proactive and ambitious. Their goals are to:

- Keep marriage equality safe at home – the legislative support shown last year is under attack from anti-gay forces. MassEquality considers protecting marriage equality its top priority.
- Bring marriage equality to every other New England state within 5 years – they are currently helping with an imminent court decision on marriage equality in Connecticut.
- Achieve full legal equality in Massachusetts so that the LGBT community can grow up without shame, live without discrimination and grow old without fear.

This final goal is currently being addressed through supporting the passage of several bills at the state level that would establish anti-bullying policies and restore funds for youth programs, add gender identity and expression to existing non-discrimination laws, and grant married same-sex couples in MA the same access to Medicaid benefits as heterosexual couples.

As a Welcoming Congregation, recognized by the UUA, First Parish supports these goals. More than ten years ago and after a year of study and reflection, this congregation voted to include in our official bylaws a non-discrimination or welcoming clause that proclaims our commitment to inclusiveness. We soon were recognized with a plaque, which hangs just outside the meetinghouse door, as an official

Welcoming Congregation. The rainbow flag flying from the front of the meetinghouse also signifies our congregation's diversity.

If you would like to add your contribution, please send it to the church office made out to First Parish Church and marked for MassEquality.

James Library

&

Center for the Arts

### Books in Bloom

Friday May 16, 6-9 pm

Saturday May 17, 10-2 pm

Celebrate spring and see what creative members of First Parish and others in the community do as they bring a favorite book to life through flowers. The talents of Joanne Howard, Roberta Fairbanks, Sally Dean Mello, Charlie Morgan, Ruth Bailey and others will be on view.

Tickets at the door Friday \$25/Saturday \$5. Music, great food and raffle items including a rug from Company C, Red Sox tickets and a fashion makeover with Julie Foley. Join us!

### Marley and Me storytime

Wed. May 21 at 10:30 am

Led by Mary Ellen Wetzel

Stories and songs about pets and animals for children ages 2-5. Call the library to sign up your child. 659-7100 [www.jameslibrary.org](http://www.jameslibrary.org)

### Memorial Day Booksale

Monday, May 26

9-noon

Stop by the James to browse the booksale in the Art Gallery and enjoy refreshments on the lawn before the Memorial Day parade and ceremonies.

## Religious Education at First Parish

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From the DRE,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank the Religious Education Community for the work that they have taken on (and will take on) during this sabbatical month. Several people have really stepped in and made it possible for me to be worship each week this May. Many thanks for what has been done and what will yet be done!

News:

Only a few Sundays left! We have only a few Sundays left and would really love to see as many children as can be with us. Teachers are working hard preparing and presenting lessons and projects so come and take advantage!

Memorial Day! We will have a "modified" Church School on Memorial Day Sunday. I am preaching that day, the upper grades will work on Peaceville, and a video will be available for all other ages! If you are in town, we would love to see you!

All Church Picnic! The Religious Education Committee plans to sponsor an Old Fashioned, All-Church Picnic again this year following our final service of the regular program year. Mark your calendars!

Many Blessings, stuart

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## This week in Sunday School!

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Massachusetts Dreaming! Our pre-k-2<sup>nd</sup> grade class looked at good dreams and bad this past Sunday, and made wonderful dream catchers with Elizabeth Robey with help from Thad Robey. Join us this Sunday for another great lesson and a good time together!

### Peaceville

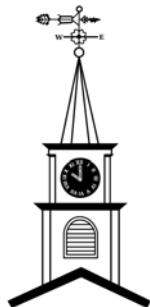
Julie McOsker continues her work with our 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade class on Peaceville. She has made a very exciting start and I hope all will help out with this project which we will present to the entire church at the end of the year! Thanks to Clayton Handelman for his help this past Sunday with Peaceville!

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IT TAKES A PARISH! Please email me at [DREStuart@aol.com](mailto:DREStuart@aol.com) if you can help with Sunday School this year or next! It is noble work indeed.

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

# THE SPIRE



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**FOR THE**

**FIRST PARISH NORWELL  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**IN THE MEETINGHOUSE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008  
7 P.M.**

**SEE YOU AT THE  
SPRING MARKET!  
SATURDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
9-2 P.M.  
IN THE PARISH HALL**