

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts



781-659-7122

May 28, 2008

Vol. VI Issue 19

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

June 1:

Peter Freedman Bowden

“Unitarian Universalism Unleashed!”

Our Association has been taking many new steps to share our faith with the larger world, including national advertising campaigns. According to Peter Bowden, we need to do something more than broadcast our faith to grow. We need to make it more engaging and meaningful for all of our members, friends and newcomers. In this service Peter will share how we can unleash the power of our faith - starting in our congregation - and radically change the way we "do church". Peter encourages people who are averse to change to sit toward the front of the sanctuary.

Peter Bowden is a bivocational children's television producer and Unitarian Universalist change agent. Peter works on the Emmy Award winning show Peep and the Big Wide World, the new Curious George show and Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman. On the Unitarian Universalist side Peter works with our congregations to unleash the power of our shared ministry, help all of us use our gifts in meaningful ways, and to share our faith and values with the world. This includes work with small group ministry, UU evangelism, congregational growth strategies, and UU media. Peter lives in Newport, RI with his wife, the Rev. Amy Freedman.

June 8:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

New Member Sunday Flower Communion

Rev. Weinstein will be back in the pulpit and will welcome our newest members to First Parish. Please bring a flower for the Flower Communion!

June 15:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

Join us on this Father's Day and plan to stay for the Old Fashioned All-church picnic following the service! All are warmly invited.

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of Norwell, Massachusetts
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Rev. Victoria Weinstein

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Jennifer Anderson

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Music Director: Ginky 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, June**

8th. 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”

“The Divine Science of Politics”

The approach of summer always means for me deciding on a reading project. For some years now, I have tried to do an intentional and comprehensive study of one particular writer, person, era or event. Sometimes I stick with it until the bitter end and sometimes I decide that surrender is the better part of valor and move on to something else.

I was thinking the other day that this tendency to want to read someone’s entire corpus is a symptom of my long-time desire for unity and certainty. Whatever my most recent passion, I thought that if I read it all, ultimate knowledge and an acceptable world view would be mine. I looked for this in history, politics, education and, of course, religion.

So I was very happy to read, yesterday, that this approach was taken by many of the founding generation of Americans as they learned a grammar of freedom that became the justification for Revolution and for the construction of our republic. Gordon Wood, in his The Creation of the American Republic, writes of how the American colonists fused their reading of Greek and Roman writers, English common law theorists, philosophers such as Locke, the Bible, and Calvinist Covenant theology together, blending enlightenment, reason and revelation. “Thus”, writes Wood, “Josiah Quincy (as an example) like other Americans, could without any sense of incongruity cite Rousseau, Plutarch, Blackstone, and a seventeenth-century Puritan all on the same page.” John Adams would call the result of this reading, “The Divine science of politics.”

What a great thing, and a true thing! One of the great blessings of getting a little older is that I get a truer sense almost every day of how deeply complex, contradictory and even paradoxical we, each of us, as human beings are. For the founders, this was a given and one of their greatest challenges would be how to unite such a large population spread over a huge geographical space with such disparate notions and beliefs. The challenge continues but it bears remembering, amidst the negative realities of popular culture, a political culture that sometime seems shallow and carping and much else, that the United States remains the longest lasting Republic in the world. We are, in a profound way, a miracle-and Memorial Day, during which we honor those who have given many measures of devotion so that the miracle may endure, is a powerful time to remember it.

Oh, and I decided that my summer reading project would be to plow through the Waverly Novels of Sir Walter Scott. Best know today, I suppose, for Ivanhoe, Scott was by far the best loved novelist of the first part of the 19th century. He was prolific so it could be a long summer!

Many blessings to all and see you in Church.
Stuart Twite

Caring Corner

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 '08

This year's experiment of having a truly **co-operative all-church** flea market/yard sale worked! Donations were down, but we still made approximately \$3,000 as compared with approximately \$3,026 last year! Parishioners didn't seem to mind putting out their own donations on the tables with lots of help from the 2 or 3 workers who were stationed there for each drop-off time. These times were on three days (3 mornings and 2 evenings.) and thus alleviated the 4-day rush of work from just a few people, unpacking, sorting, cleaning boxes of other people's donations. Thank you for your donations and for cheerfully sorting your in-good-shape stuff!

A big thank you to Peg and John Carpenter who donated multiple tablecloths from their former "Taste of France" business. Those were the hit of the Market!

We also, as an experiment, converted the Silent Auction into a "Tongue in Chic Boutique" (Marina Selby's clever name!) where high end items were given a price and sold. The Chic Boutique brought in approximately \$1,443 (Much of that was due to the Carpenter's tablecloths) in comparison to last year's Silent Auction's approximate \$849. This was a much less labor-intensive way of doing it!

So many people donated time and work-
Publicity-Bev Gardner with help from Elizabeth Robey and Linda Goodwin
Rented tables-Kate Sanborn
Fielding calls concerning rented tables-Chris Solari and Karen Pritchard in the office!
Telephoner who signed up the workers - Sue Robinson
Snack bar-Mary Mercier
Raffle-Mary Lou Sutter (With donated Red Sox tickets from the Vercollone family!)
"Banker"-Peg Kitchenham
Plants-Margy Miola
Set up the hall on Tues.-Bev, Sue Robinson, Linda Goodwin, Peg and Chris Kitchenham, Joanne Howard and Marina Selby
Books-Sally Turner
Tongue in Chic Boutique-Marina Selby and Joanne Howard (Marina and Joanne were in and out all week long!)
Workers to help parishioners sort their items onto the labeled tables-Jane and Stan Wilderoter, Noel Constantino, Bev Gardner, Mary Lou Sutter, Karen Baker, Joanne Howard, Phyllis Buell, Chris Kitchenham, and Thad Robey (Most people signed up to help at only one session-spreading the work around!!!)
Helpers the day of the Spring Market-Elizabeth Robey, Betsey Detwiler, Kathy Bartone, Joyce Hockman, Laurie Brown, Marie Miller **plus those who worked all day**- Joanne Howard, Stan and Jane Wilderoter, Marina Selby, Margy Miola, Phyllis Buell, Peg and Chris Kitchenham, Sally Turner, Linda Goodwin, Mary and Janna Mercier, Kate Sanborn, Mary Lou Sutter, and Bev Gardner
Clean-up crew-Don Messinger, Deanne Howard, Les Taylor, Larry Baker plus many from the "all-day" crew!
 Thanks to many who distributed posters to grocery stores and telephone poles and to Bev Gardner who organized the whole thing. (Sincere apologies if someone has not been mentioned!)

Religious Education at First Parish

From the DRE,

Memorial Day! Many thanks to Colin and Laura Campbell who conducted our lower grade class this past Sunday and to Amy Stephenson and Bev Gardner who worked with our upper grades. We very much appreciate your contribution!

All Church Picnic! The Religious Education Committee plans to sponsor an Old Fashioned, All-Church Picnic again this year following our June 15th service. Mark your calendars! All are warmly invited!

This week in Sunday School!

Pre K-2nd Grade Class: During the next two weeks, we will sum up our study of the principles! We hope to see everyone in Church School. And then on the 15th, come to the picnic!

Peaceville

Julie McOsker continues her work with our 3-6th grade class on Peaceville. Her students are excited about what they have done so come and join us for the last three weeks! We must finish the town during the June 1st and June 8th classes so that it can be presented to the church on the 15th!!!

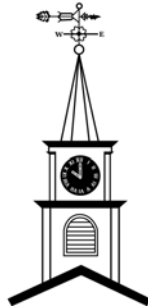
IT TAKES A PARISH! Please email me at DREStuart@aol.com if you can help with Sunday School this year or next! It is noble work indeed!

In the Spirit

“The Divine Science of Politics”

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

THE SPIRE



Join us in the Meetinghouse for Worship Services
on the following Summer Sundays:

July 13 – 10 a.m.
July 27 – 10 a.m.
August 10 – 10 a.m.
August 24 - 10 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FOR THE

FIRST PARISH NORWELL

ANNUAL MEETING

IN THE MEETINGHOUSE

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008
7 P.M.

Men's Night at the Spit!

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

Do you have old cell phones or accessories you no longer need or want? Bring them to church – Ellie Handleman will be collecting them for “Cell Phones for Soldiers”, a non-profit founded by two Norwell kids. The phones are recycled and the funds used to buy phone cards that soldiers can use to keep in touch with their families!