

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts



781-659-7122

June 11, 2008

Vol. VI Issue 20

"In the Spirit"

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

It seems that I will be bidding you adieu for the summer just as I am saying hello again after a mini-sabbatical of five weeks! It was a very full and enriching time: I took a wonderful intensive course on the art of communal discernment at Andover-Newton, attended the Festival of Homiletics in Minneapolis (attending eight worship services and seven lectures or workshops in five days!), and then shared a wonderful reunion of my high school madrigal ensemble to honor the retirement of my former music teacher, Arthur Sjögren. It was the last event that packed an emotional wallop I hadn't anticipated. While I had expected to learn a lot from the Andover-Newton course and the conference on preaching, I hadn't expected to be so inspired and enlightened by my weekend with old friends and my beloved "Sjögie." What did I learn? I learned, I think, that I was pretty well the person I am today at seventeen, and that the friends I cared so much about back then are still the people I would chose to be good friends today. I was proud to be in their company, and proud of the beautiful music we made together after only eight intense hours of rehearsal (I also learned that I can sight-read pretty well under duress!). My trips back to former homes in Minneapolis and New Canaan highlighted for me how lucky I am in my friendships and how much I have benefited from the shepherding of excellent mentors.

What will this summer bring for you? For me it will bring a disciplined writer's life, something I have long wanted to try but have never followed through with. I am submitting several pieces to Skinner House for their new anthology of meditations, and I want to start on my doctoral dissertation. On the advice of an editor friend, I am also trying my hand at my first book proposal based on my blog, Beauty Tips for Ministers.

As for reading and study, I have a pile of books with no real rhyme or reason to them (I leave that kind of organization to Stuart Twite!). I am looking forward to reading N.T. Wright's *Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, Resurrection and the Mission of the Church*, David Sedaris' *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, several books on discernment that I only had time to skim for class, and hopefully *The Brothers Karamazov* by Dostoyevsky. Don't hold me to that last one, though. I made it through several hundred pages of Cervantes' *Don Quixote* and Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain*, so I have a habit of not finishing great epics.

Life itself is the great epic – may you live it to the fullest and may the summer bring you and yours great delights.

In faith, hope and love, Vicki

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Rev. Victoria Weinstein

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drestuart@aol.com

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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 August 3rd**. Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to:

office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in hard copy or disk at the church office.

Sunday Services

10 a.m. in the Meetinghouse

June 14:

Rev. Victoria Weinstein

“Lessons from Peaceville: On the Uses of Idealism”

Our Sunday School classes developed an imaginary town called Peaceville this year. My first reaction looking at it was one of appreciation for their and their teacher’s sincere effort, and to chuckle a bit to myself and compare their vision to the real world. But cynicism is the first enemy of hope and creativity, so this sermon will celebrate idealism and its power to shape the real world.

Caring Corner

Mary Eliot is on the mend after a recent surgery. We hope to see her soon.

The sympathies of the parish are with **Jeannette Mitchell, Paul Bourque and their family**. Jeannette’s father passed away in Florida on June 1st after a long illness.

Marcia Babcock, a member of the FPN Choir, has been volunteering (reading books to tape for the blind) for the Talking Information Center (TIC), in Marshfield for several years.

Her reading of "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" won the national "2007 Program of the Year Award" for narrative Reading from the IAAIS (International Association of Audio Information Services).

Congratulations and thanks to Marcia and to TIC !

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.

*From the Gaudette Family
 to all the ladies of First Parish*

*We all want to say thank you to each and every one of you. For all the hard work and wonderful results that you people had. I know if Eleanor could have been there she would have been more than pleased. As we all know, Eleanor did many suppers and many other meals during her lifetime at the church. Again, thank you all, for all that you did for Eleanor.
 With our sincere appreciation,
 Richard Gaudette and Family*



The Helen Fogg Scholarship Recipients

The Fogg Committee is pleased to announce this year's outstanding recipients of the Helen Fogg

Scholarship:

Kelly Fanning
Nicholas (Cole) Hager
Amelia Mattern
Michelle Nadeau
Elise Verkade

The Helen Fogg Scholarship is awarded to graduating seniors whose parents or legal guardians are members of First Parish Norwell. Applicants must plan on attending accredited post secondary educational institutions (including trade schools) that lead to a diploma, certification or license. Scholarship awards are based on how well a student has demonstrated the ideals of Helen Fogg by serving their church and community. We applaud this year's recipients and wish them well in their academic endeavors.

Food Pantry Notes

A reminder that the Food Pantry is open all summer serving about 20 families each week. Many live in motels that have minimal storage space in their kitchens so very large items could pose a problem. Donated items can be left in special boxes at Stop and Shop or Hannaford stores or the Town Hall (in the box next to the auditorium door). The need right now is for 2 lb. boxes of sugar; coffee – ground or instant; Tuna and Chicken Helpers; Marshmallow fluff; peanut butter and jelly and vegetable oil. Non-edible: always needed, dish detergent and laundry detergent; paper towels, toilet paper and Kleenex. personal items – toothpaste, razors, shampoo and deodorants. For a monetary donation, the mailing address is Kathy Tedeschi, P.O. Box 644, Norwell.

Many thanks for all your help.

News from the Service Committee

Second Sunday (June 8) raised \$500 for the Hanson Emergency Food Pantry. In previous years we have shared our final collection with the Norwell and the Hanover Food Pantries. The Hanson Emergency Food Pantry began operating from a small closet at St Joseph The Worker Church in 1990, moved briefly to the Hanson VNA before locating at the First Baptist Church of Hanson in 1995. The pantry supplies groceries including meats, fresh vegetables and dairy products as well as household items (laundry detergent, dishwashing liquid, toilet paper, etc) and grooming aids (shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, etc) to Hanson families in need. In addition, the pantry houses the community USDA food resource, serving residents of surrounding towns with government issued foods. The Hanson Food Pantry provides food for about 400 people per month and USDA food to about 35 households per month. It is not unusual for Hanson food pantry clients to leave with 6 – 12 bags of groceries depending on the size of the family. In 2005, the pantry qualified to become a member of the Greater Boston Food Bank. If you were unable to attend the June 8th service but would like to contribute, please send your donation to the church office by June 16th.

Service Committee Retreat (June 22) will be held at the Fogg Parlor beginning at 9 a.m. We will review the year and discuss plans for the coming year. If you would like to attend as a new member of the committee, please contact Sue Robinson (781-294-8840).

Environmental Group Meeting (July 13) will meet at 11:30 – following the first summer lay-led service – to discuss plans to begin the Green Sanctuary program at First Parish. Please contact Elizabeth Robinson (781-754-0706) if you would like to participate in any way in this upcoming focus for the church.

James Library & Center for the Arts

ART GALLERY

Priscilla Sands Jevne of Norwell is celebrating her 85th birthday with a retrospective exhibit of her watercolors. Stop by this month to see her wonderful work, which includes many Norwell scenes.

FOR CHILDREN

Come to the library in your pajamas! *Twilight Tales*, the bedtime storytime series for children ages 2- 5, resumes in July. Sign up by calling the library at 659-7100. Wednesdays in July starting July 9. Teddy bears are welcomed, too...

THANK YOU.

The James Library staff thanks First Parish for their goodwill and support this year. Stop by the library this summer and pick up some new summer beach books.

First Parish Women's Group TRANSITIONS

The Women's Group of First Parish is creating schedule and program changes as we look toward the summer and the new church year. We will now generally plan to hold our evening meetings on the first Friday of each month rather than the first Monday. Meetings will be held either at a member's home or in First Parish's Fogg Parlor, to be determined each month as time goes along. Programming possibilities are under discussion and any input from interested women will be appreciated. There will also be special meetings planned depending on what members want to offer, such as our next very special gathering...Potluck Movie Night--First Parish Women's Group, Friday, June 20th, 6:30 pm, Joyce Hockman's home in Scituate.

This is the last issue of the Spire before the late-summer, mid-August issue. The deadline for the summer issue is Sunday, August 3rd.

The Church Office will close for the summer on Friday, June 13th. Staff will be in the office only occasionally, so messages left on the office voicemail or on email will **not be picked up regularly.**

The next deadline for the Spire is August 3rd for the issue mailed in late-August. Submissions after that date will be included in the Spire issue mailed on September 18th.

Refer to our website for information on scheduling special summer services (weddings, etc.) www.firstparishnorwell.org

Please see Rev. Vicki's note following for additional summer pastoral coverage information.

MINISTRY OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS

During the months of July and August, please contact Melody Barlow at 781.834.3543 or melody527@verizon.net, or Judy Bond at 781-826-9039 or judybee63@comcast.net if you have pastoral news that seems important to share with Rev. Vicki. In the event of an emergency (death or life-threatening illness of a church member, unforeseen disaster) Melody and Judy will know where to reach the minister.

Rev. Vicki hopes that you will keep Melody and Judy informed of other pastoral news (transitions, minor illness or non-life threatening injury, crises in members' extended family, etc.) so that they can keep a list of such items and check-in with Vicki on an occasional basis. Please note that Vicki saves all her church-related e-mail to read and respond to when she is back from vacation in August.

Religious Education at First Parish

All Church Picnic! The Religious Education Committee is sponsoring an Old Fashioned, All-Church Picnic again this year following our June 15th service. All are warmly invited! No need to bring anything—just yourselves and your families.

Peaceville Unveiled! Peaceville was unveiled this past Sunday to rave reviews. Julie McOsker and our 3rd – 6th grade class did an amazing job. The town, based on our UU Principles, will be on display again this coming Sunday. Don't miss it!

The First Parish Book Club

Discusses:

The Color of Water by James McBride

We Will meet at 7:00pm in the Fogg Parlor on Wednesday, August 6th. Refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there.

And Coming in October:

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver in support of the Green Sanctuary Program

We will meet at 7:00pm in the Fogg Parlor on Wednesday, October 1st.

Thank you to all who have made this past year a memorable and valuable one. Many blessings for a wonderful Summer! We hope to see you at our summer services. But if not, we look forward to another great year next year!

Summer Worship at First Parish Church!

It seems impossible that we are speaking of summer worship already! What a fast and wonderful year it has been at First Parish. And yet, here it is! The dates for this year's summer worship services are:

July 13th
July 27th
August 10th
August 24th

Ways that you can get involved:

1. Lead a Service: Our summer worship services are lay led. If you think you have a sermon in you (and you do!) Sign up to conduct one of our services. You will be assisted as much or as little as you desire. A sample order of service and guidelines etc...will be available and Stuart Twite will be happy to speak with you about your service.
2. Provide Music: Do you play guitar or piano or another instrument? Would you like to play or sing or recruit players or singers for any of our services? This very valuable part of our service needs you!
3. Provide Light Coffee Hour: Our summer services are a wonderful chance for people to keep in touch with each other during the long summer months. Sign up to provide a light coffee hour and then find a person to help. Simple and refreshing are the watchwords!
4. Attend: If you are around town on any or all of these weekends, come to Church! Catch up with your community, hear some interesting services from new sources, and just take a moment to catch up with the spirit!

If you can help out in any of the above ways (or any I have not included) please contact stuart twite who will be the coordinator of Summer Worship this year.

stuart twite
Phone# W-781 659 7122
H-781 837 8791
Email: DREStuart@aol.com

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stuart twite: Phone# W-781 659 7122, H-781 837 8791 Email: DREStuart@aol.com

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

THE SPIRE



LAST ISSUE BEFORE THE MID-AUGUST SUMMER EDITION!



The ***76th Annual First Parish Regatta***

will be held on

Saturday, August 16, 2008

**11:30 a.m. EDT ... put in at canoe landing Marshfield side, Bridge Street
(Union Street Bridge)**

Rain Date: Sunday, 8/17/08 at noon

Bring lunch and soft drinks ... we will eat at the Couch Landing in Marshfield
We will return to the starting point ... after the tide turns.

Make sure you have personal flotation devices for all participants

Call Marcia Babcock if you have questions ... 781 659-2956 (Home) ... 781 659-4878 (cell)