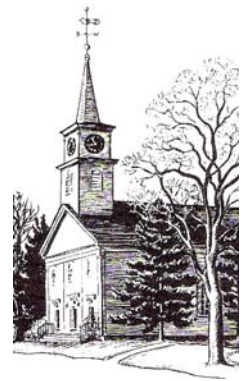


The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts



781-659-7122

January 21, 2009

Vol. VII Issue 10

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

January 25:

Russ Haskell, Pulpit Guest

"Seven Generations"

These days it's unlikely that many need convincing - or a reminder - that no man is an island. After months of being bombarded by media analysis of the financial mess, we pretty much get it: when we sneeze, they even catch colds in Iceland. It's a pretty complicated, non-linear world we live in and everything we do (and don't do) matters, with consequences that reach across time as well as space. Digging further we can find and ideas that dovetail quite nicely with the UU seventh principle - paying special attention to all things environmental.

Russ Haskell arrived at First Parish by a route not unfamiliar to many Unitarians. Raised more or less in protestant traditions by religiously tolerant parents, he transitioned to adulthood - first, energized by competing sources of spiritual nourishment - then, decades of being disenchanted with all organized religions. Later in life, he began to be interested in biblical history, which served as a springboard to again appreciate the value of spiritual renewal. His wife, Laura, live in Norwell, with kids and grandkids residing on opposing coasts. Before reaching his current status as a "semi-retired consultant", Russ spent 40 something years in the financial business, principally in areas like product development and market research.

February 1

Misty-Dawn Shelly, Pulpit Guest

"Light for the Journey"

This morning we will look at what lights our way on our spiritual journeys. So, put on your "spiritual headlamp" and let's take inventory of stories, objects and persons that enlighten our pathways. *Misty-Dawn Shelly was our field education student last year. Misty-Dawn lives in Warren, MA with her spouse and their two dogs. Misty-Dawn will receive her MDiv degree this May at Andover Newton Theological School and continue steps toward ordained ministry through the ministerial fellowship process.*

February 8:

Stuart Twite

"A Cloud of Witnesses"

We celebrate Founder's Sunday with a look at an exciting time in First Parish History. In the years between 1836 and 1885, First Parish was blessed with three fascinating ministers who showed us our best (and our not so best) selves. We will explore how our history has shaped and informed us.



Psalm of Life

A couple of years ago, I was honored to do a book review presentation for our Alliance on the life and poetry of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Though he is decidedly out of fashion, I love Longfellow. Just three weeks ago, a much beloved member of our church (and the Alliance) gave me an illustrated copy of Longfellow's Psalm of Life that had belonged to her mother. It is a true treasure and I cherish it. It seems fitting this week as we celebrate the power and the possibility of change and the ability of all to contribute to that change, that we recall Longfellow's Psalm of Life.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream!--
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,
Is our destined end or way;
But to act, that each tomorrow
Find us farther than today.

In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!
Let the dead Past bury its dead!
Act--act in the living Present!
Heart within, and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

Longfellow was a Unitarian (his brother a Unitarian minister and hymn writer) and this poem is so very Unitarian in its call to be "up and doing." It is the spirituality of daily life. May it be so for all of us. Blessings, Stuart

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

(Our minister is currently
on Sabbatical.)

Director of Religious Education:

Stuart Twite, 781-837-8791

drestuart@aol.com

Director of Youth Programming

Jennifer Shattuck

617-763-2799

saccharine.half@gmail.com

Music Director: Ginky Grimes

Parish Committee:

Jim Pickel, Chair

(Home) 508-746-4647

Committee Members:

Melody Barlow, Deane Howard,

Marie Miller, Cathy Phillips,

Derek Sulc and Sally Turner

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The **deadline** for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Sunday, February 1st**. Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to: office@firstparishnorwell.org, or dropped off in hard copy or disk at the church office.

Caring Corner

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend Karen Herington. A celebration of her life was held at First Parish on January 12th, followed by a collation in the Parish Hall. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ron Herington and their family and friends at this very difficult time.

Mary Eliot will be having surgery next week. We offer our best wishes for a speedy recovery!

Thoughts and prayers for Bev Gardner's father who continues to be in poor health.

Alliance News

Join Winnie Lou Rounds at the next Alliance Book Review Wed., Feb. 11th at 10 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor.

SAVE THE DATE

The Music and Organ Committees will be hosting the well-known "Boston Children's Chorus" to do a special concert to benefit the Organ Restoration Fund. Please mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, March 22 for this exciting performance, which will be held in our church. Don't miss this reasonably priced family event! More details will follow soon!

Re-Forming the Helen Fogg Service Committee "to minister to each others needs and to those of humanity"

On Sunday, January 25th, members of the recently merged Helen Fogg Service Committee will meet to carry out its promise to the parish of a new Mission Statement and Goals for this committee. If you have interest in the outreach focus of our congregation, if you would like to learn more about our work, if you would like to see changes in how we provide our ministry to "each other" and to "those of humanity" – then please consider coming to this important reorganization meeting. We will gather in the Fogg Parlor at 12 noon over a light lunch (BYO). Contact Sue Robinson for further information.

James Library
& Center for the Arts

Singing Ringing Tree Family Theater

Saturday, Jan 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Free. Participatory play for children ages 5-12.

Held in Parish Hall

In case of Snow Cancellation!

We will make every effort to leave an outgoing message on the church voicemail [(781) 659-7122] and send an all-church email with the cancellation. (Make sure you're on the All-Church email list!) Also, - Check the website: www.firstparishnorwell.org

- We will notify WATD radio/Marshfield (95.9 FM)

- We will notify WCVB – TV (Channel Five)

- We will notify 7News and WRKO Radio/AM 680

Religious Education at First Parish

Happy Birthday Martin Luther King!

Many thanks to all who made our church-school celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King a great success! We decorated cakes, watched a movie biography, even filled out quizzes on his life.

We live in wonderful times and it is good to celebrate!

Special thanks also go to Ellie Handleman who gave the children's talk in church on Sunday! She left the children and all of us with the great charge to open our hearts in the spirit of MLK.

Many thanks for a great message Ellie!

We return this Sunday to our regular Sunday school classes. See you on Sunday!

Your Lifespan Religious Education Committee is contemplating exciting new changes in how we structure teaching commitments in our church school in the effort to provide continuity for the children and spread the opportunity to teach among all our parents.

Look for the details of their excellent plan soon.

Adult Learning!

The First Parish Book Club

Discusses: My Antonia By Willa Cather

We will meet at 7:00pm in the Fogg Parlor on Wednesday, February the 4th.

Refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Take Another Look...

...at our exciting and newly reconstituted Bible Study group. We meet on the first and third Sundays of each month at 9:00am in the Fogg Parlor. Join us for stimulating discussion on the big questions of life!

Take a Breath(er) Thursdays

Do you wish you could find a way to bring more mindfulness, serenity, and meaning to your daily living? Would you like to gather with others who are looking to do the same thing?

Join Melody Barlow for basic meditation and discussion on:

Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Parish Hall!

If you have any questions, contact Stuart Twite (DRE), H-781 837 8791, Church- 781 659 7122 , DREStuart@aol.com

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

THE SPIRE



4th annual
ALL CHURCH
Pot Luck Dinner and Birthday Party!!

Saturday, January 31st
5:00-8:00 PM

Come and enjoy an evening of good food, good company, games, crafts, music,
and, of course, cake decorating and eating!

More details inside!