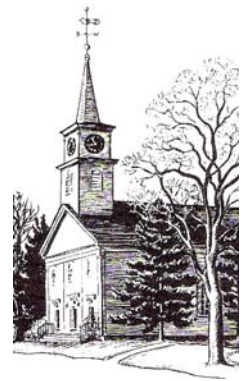


The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts



781-659-7122

February 4, 2009

Vol. VII Issue 11

Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

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.

February 15:

Lanny Kutakoff, Pulpit Guest

We are pleased to welcome Lanny Kutakoff, the Executive Director of Partakers, Inc. to the pulpit. Our Second Sunday collection will be given to Partakers, our College Behind Bars program that involves many members and friends of First Parish as active supporters of prisoners who are working toward a college degree.

Lanny Kutakoff is Executive Director of Partakers, Inc - a non-profit organization focused on Prison Ministry and Criminal Justice Advocacy. A lifelong activist and advocate for the marginalized and disenfranchised, Lanny was a founder of the AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, served on the Board of Directors of the New England Wildlife Center for many years, has taught on the faculties of Boston University and The University of Massachusetts/Boston, and has held academic dean and vice president appointments at Boston-area colleges. Lanny has taught within the walls of several Massachusetts Correctional Institutions.

February 22:

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes, Minister Emeritus

It is with great pleasure that the members of the Partner Church Committee announce that Rozalia Vida, the minister of our partner church in Kadacs, Transylvania, will be coming to the States to attend the International Convocation of UU Women in Houston, Texas, and will be here to meet the members of the Parish on Sunday, February 22. Rozalia will be participating in the service with our wonderful Minister Emeritus, Dick Fewkes and will be honored at a reception following the service. It was Dick who initiated our Partner Church connection many years ago, so it is particularly fitting that he will be leading that Sunday's service with the first visit of our partner church minister. Rozalia is a delightful young woman with a lovely presence. She is very nervous about traveling so far from home but also very excited about seeing First Parish and meeting all of its members, adults and children. Be sure to be with us on this memorable day.

March 1:

David Turner, Pulpit Guest

The Power of “Our”

Last Saturday, First Parish celebrated our now annual Birthday Party for all ages. It was a wonderful event thanks to the inspired work of the Sanborn and Robey families (supported by the Activities Committee) Joyce and Jim Pickel began this tradition only a short time ago but the event is already one of our most popular. It was wonderful to see old friends and new, young and old celebrating our common life together.

And, of course, on Sunday we had Church with a thoughtful sermon by our pulpit guest, Misty-Dawn Shelly (who many of you remember from her time with us last year.) It was a joy to see Misty-Dawn and, as it is every week, to be together for worship.

I am, right now, reading a book of sermons called “Thy Kingdom Come” by Henry Wilder Foote (1838-1889) Unitarian minister at King’s Chapel, on the Lord’s Prayer. The second sermon speaks of what is to me the most important word in the prayer, the first: “Our.” That this prayer, taught by Jesus, begins with the word “Our” speaks volumes of the communal nature of the path we seek to walk and the work we seek to do. It affirms that while we harbor ill will toward any of our fellows, we cannot, in good conscience, live our highest lives.

Foote quotes F.D. Maurice on word one, "much of the practical difficulty of the prayer lies in the first word of it. How can we look round on the people whom we habitually feel to be separated from us by almost impassable barriers, . . . and then teach ourselves to think that in the very highest exercise of our lives they are associated with us; that when we pray we are praying for them and with them; that we cannot speak for ourselves without speaking for them; that if we do not carry their sins to the throne of God's grace, we do not carry our own; that all the good we hope to obtain there belongs to them just as much as to us. ... Yet all this is included in the word 'our.' Till we have learned so much we are but spelling at it, we have not learned to pronounce it."

Church is, of course, where we most consciously seek to live out the full meaning of the word “Our,” where we seek to bridge the “impassible barriers that sometimes seem to separate us from others. No matter your view of God or the theological stance of the above reading, the power of “Our” remains.

As I finish this, the snow is starting again and the winter gets long and just a bit tedious and yet I am constantly warmed by our “Our” and wish everyone...

Blessings, stuart

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HOME PAGE:
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Minister:
Rev. Victoria Weinstein
(Our minister is currently
on Sabbatical.)

Director of Religious Education:
Stuart Twite, 781-837-8791
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Director of Youth Programming
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617-763-2799
saccharine.half@gmail.com

Music Director: Gingy 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 22nd** 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

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Nickerson who fell last week and fractured her tibia. We will keep you informed of ways in which you can help their family out during this difficult time.

Mary Eliot did not have the surgery planned for late January and will be undergoing a different course of treatment. Our well wishes continue...

Congratulations to new grandparents Donna and George Wilson. Chaya Wilson Ackelsberg, daughter of Amy Wilson and Alex Urevik Ackelsberg of Philadelphia, came into this world weighing 7 lbs. and 8 oz.. Welcome!

Coat Mixup!

If you were at the February 1st service and had with you a Ladies LLBean dark brown sheepskin jacket, please call the church office! An identical coat was left behind, and the missing one has a green dot on the label.

See you at The Chocolate Auction! Sunday, February 15th at Coffee Hour

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

At the January meeting, the Parish Committee voted to begin publishing *The Spire* monthly instead of bi-weekly. A mini newsletter will also be disseminated by email and posted on the FPN website two weeks after the *Spire*'s publication. This way of saving a significant amount of money has been discussed for several years; in the current financial climate, its time has come. In a few special cases, members who do not have access to email, could receive the bi-weekly mini-*Spire* by snail-mail.

Jim Pickel, Chair, Parish Committee.

Candidates Forum

WHERE: First Parish Norwell
(coffee and dessert provided)

WHEN: Sunday, March 1, 2:00 pm

WHAT: A FORUM TO PRESENT THE
CANDIDACIES OF PETER MORALES AND
LAUREL HALLMAN FOR THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

- o Learn about the role of the UUA President
- o See and hear candidates on video and audio clips
- o Peruse and take back to congregations informational material about candidates
- o Hear speakers on behalf of both candidates
- o Discuss ways to determine how to cast your congregation's votes



Alliance News

It's February and that means it's time for Alliance members to once again look forward to Winnie Lou Rounds' book review which is her annual Valentine gift to us. The meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11th. We will gather in the Fogg Parlor at 10 a.m. for refreshments with Winnie Lou's talk to follow. Please join us for this pleasant respite from winter blahs. Remember that Alliance meetings are cancelled if Norwell schools are closed. For further info call Barb Meacham at 781 659-2940.

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! Tickets are \$10.00 and available from the church office or at Coffee Hour.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

Path to Membership

The first session of this winter's Path to membership class took place on January 18th. Stuart Twite led the group in an exploration of Unitarian Universalist history.

The second session of this class will be held on Sunday, March 1st at 11:30. This session will deal with the structure, committees and organization of First Parish Norwell, and will be led by the Membership Committee. If you missed this class, but are interested in learning more about membership at First Parish, another class will be held in the spring.

New to UU

"New to UU" sessions took a break for the Month of January, but will resume in February. These are once-a-month sessions to allow newcomers a chance to find out just what it means to be a UU at First Parish. No signup is required. The invitation to attend one of these sessions, held during the coffee hour, will be extended during the morning service, and anyone who wants to come is welcome.

For questions about these or any other membership issue, contact me or any other member of the Membership Committee: Frank Callahan, Betsey Detwiler, Russ Haskell, Chris Kitchenham.

George Goodwin, Membership Chair

The Helen Fogg Service Committee

New Mission and Goals in progress: Thanks to an interested and supportive group, the newly merged Helen Fogg Service Committee had a successful meeting Sunday, January 25th. Two important questions formed the focus of the discussion: (1) What kind of

merged committee do we wish to be? AND (2) What is the relationship between the church and this new committee?

The consensus is that the current direction of our Service Committee is on the track the congregation desires, serving as a conduit between the parish and the many worthy causes we might support. With some minor tweaking we will continue the legacy (both in spirit and money) of Helen Fogg in the active outreach of our congregation. Those attending want to see more hands-on, service oriented, projects sponsored within our congregation. The Helen Fogg Service Committee can support such projects but needs active leadership from those with projects in mind.

Prison Ministry is February focus: Our Second Sunday collection, to be held on February 15th, will be given to Partakers, our College Behind Bars program that involves many members and friends of First Parish as active supporters of prisoners who are working toward a college degree. By visiting a prisoner 6 to 8 times a year, our volunteers in this program provide moral and emotional support to a selected inmate. Long-term relationships are forged and lives are changed. One of our teams (we currently have 4) is in urgent need of new members. Please contact the church office or speak to Sue or Dexter Robinson if you would like more information about this exceptionally rewarding volunteer program.

Meeting this Sunday, February 8th: Interested in First Parish social justice and outreach? Plan to attend our next meeting to be held at 11:30 in the Fogg Parlor. We will be making financial decisions on behalf of the Parish for the current and coming fiscal years. Your input is welcomed. Contact Sue Robinson for further information.

PARTAKERS

(COLLEGE BEYOND BARS)

Carolyn Gunter has been sponsored by our church through Partakers for more than 8 years. On March 2, she "gets out" after 12 mandatory years in prison for a drug offense. We (the church) have paid for the correspondence courses she needed to prove that she could do college work, we (her team-Marcia Babcock, Mary Mercier and Bev Gardner) have encouraged her at every step of the way, visited her in prison, written letters to her, hosted her mother from Canada once for a long-overdue reconciliation with Carolyn and again for Carolyn's graduation from Boston College, and we (the church) have donated clothing and a small TV when Carol was transferred to a prison last year where she could wear regular clothes and have a TV. She is now very happy in a pre-release program and is looking forward to her upcoming release! After knowing Carolyn for so many years and seeing her change and mature, we are sure she will be an asset to society!

She recently sent a sincere thank you note to First Parish Church-

Dear First Parish,

I am writing this note to let everyone at the church know that I really appreciate everything you have done for me and are still doing. Thank you for believing in me. Thank you for the gifts you have sent to me . I am enjoying them.

This church has touched my life in a wonderful way. Continue doing what you're doing (editor's note-sponsor other prisoners and help them earn their college degrees!).

Sincerely,
Carolyn Gunter

Bev Gardner, Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock

PARTNER CHURCH NEWS

It is with great pleasure that the members of the Partner Church Committee announce that Rozalia Vida, the minister of our partner church in Kadacs, Transylvania, will be coming to the States to attend the International Convocation of UU Women in Houston, Texas, and will be here to meet the members of the Parish on Sunday February 22. Rozalia will be participating in the service with our wonderful Minister Emeritus, Dick Fewkes and will be honored at a reception following the service. It was Dick who initiated our Partner Church connection many years ago, so it is particularly fitting that he will be leading that Sunday's service with the first visit of our partner church minister. Rozalia is a delightful young woman with a lovely presence. She is very nervous about traveling so far from home but also very excited about seeing First Parish and meeting all of its members, adults and children. Be sure to be with us on this memorable day.

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

Murder Mystery
Dinner Theatre
Sat., March 7, 6:00 pm

You're Invited... to S.P.Keasy's Grill, near Al Capone's headquarters, Chicago, in the year 1928. You'll be served a four course Italian dinner (antipasto, chicken cacciatore, Italian sausage, vegetarian lasagna, penne pasta and dessert). Wine will be available with the appetizers and for purchase for your table (or bring your own). You'll be given the name of a character in the game and suggested costume. The night of the game, you will be given a set of clues that your character has to reveal. Each table will serve as a cast of eight and will take turns revealing clues. There can be two extra people at each table, so you don't need to take a part, but all should wear period costume if possible. No acting is required.

Be prepared to overlook shady dealings, sordid affairs and deceitful conduct. Be on time! There will be information to study before we start.

Reservations are required, the sooner the better, so that parts can be assigned and mailed to you. Tickets \$20 per person. See, call or e-mail **Peg Kitchenham**, 781-447-5831, chrispegk@verizon.net.

FUTURE SPIRE DEADLINES:

As we move to a monthly issue of **The Spire**, we would like to ask everyone to take into account the need for longer-range planning for meetings and events so that information is still received in a timely manner!

Feb. 22

March 8

March 29

April 26

May 24 and June 7



Project Bread's
FoodSource
Hotline

1-800-645-8333 TTY: 1-800-377-1292

With the high cost of living in the Commonwealth and more than 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, chances are that a friend or neighbor of yours is having difficulty making ends meet this winter. Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline can help. The FoodSource Hotline is the only comprehensive information and referral service for the hungry in Massachusetts. Counselors can provide information and screen callers for food stamp eligibility, connect them to school meal programs, and direct them to emergency food resources right in their neighborhood. Counselors can assist callers in 160 languages and the calls are both personalized and confidential. Extend your goodwill and reach out to those in need. A call to Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline may be all it takes to provide comfort to someone who is struggling.

In response to the increased demand for help, Project Bread's Food Source Hotline has extended its hours to:

Monday – Friday: 8:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Saturday: 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

For all First Parish picture-takers!

Because Bev Gardner has been busy with her father and his declining health, pictures have not been taken on the "church camera" since Thanksgiving. We are hoping that other photographers will step up and share whatever they have taken in the last few months with us for our bulletin boards and our church photo album. If you wish to help, please leave labeled photos in the church office. Thank you.

Religious Education at First Parish

Many thanks to all who taught and contributed to another great week of church school! The work is so important in our world today and it is a honor to be a part of sharing the great message of Unitarian Universalism with our children.

If you are teaching next week, don't hesitate to let me know if I can help you to prepare. No question is too small or too large.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mary Nickerson who fell last week and fractured her tibia. We will keep you informed of ways in which you can help their family out during this difficult time..

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!

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

Poetry Night at the James Library and Center for the Arts

Read your own poetry, your favorites, or just come and listen

7:00 pm on the **Second Tuesday of Each Month**

Contact Stuart Twite (DREStuart@aol.com) for More Information

**Feb. 15
ANNUAL CHOCOLATE AUCTION
Feb. 15**

Indulge your sweet tooth AND help the less-fortunate at the Youth Group's annual Chocolate Auction on Sunday, February 15, 2008! Drop off your sweet donation (any chocolate candy or baked-good) before service, then bid and buy during Coffee Hour. All proceeds benefit community outreach programs. Questions?
Call Youth Director Jen Shattuck at 617-763-2799

The James Library and Center for the Arts

Cranky Yankees

Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m.

[Rescheduled from January due to snow.]

Celebrate President's Day weekend and learn more about presidential and political intrigues from actor Jim Cooke in this entertaining program about Adams, Calvin Coolidge, Edward Everett and Daniel Webster. *Sponsored by the Mosher fund.*

Art for a Winter's Day.

In the Gallery Feb. 6-27th

Oil paintings by Avis Pinkos, Andrea Scott, Jenanine Walker and Terese Cleaves.

Meet the artists at the reception on Friday, Feb 6th 7-9 p.m. Many local scenes depicted in this show.

Concert by Crossroads

Friday, February 27th at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring Joan Gattorna, Caroline Chapin, Dawn MacGarvey, Scott Ketcham and Rich Jensen. American standards, songs from the stage and originals.

Proceeds benefit the Stewards of the Steinway fund.
\$10 at the door.