

The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts



March 11, 2009

Mark your calendars for The Stewardship Dinner on Saturday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m.

First Parish Norwell is a thriving church that plays an important part in our lives. We are the ones that bring life to its message, its mission and its ministry.

This is a crucial year for our church. In April we will receive our share of the entire Fogg endowment, which will be approximately two million dollars. Massachusetts laws affecting endowments require us to protect the "historical asset value" of the principal we receive. Only money generated above and beyond that principal may be used to support our church.

Because of the fall in the stock market, this limitation will force us to rely exclusively on our pledges and other investments to fund next year's budget. Since the Fogg endowment funded 35% of our \$380,717 budget in FY 09, we will have a heavy burden to bear.

Now is the time for us to stand together to maintain our spirit and our commitment to First Parish Norwell. We hope to have 100% participation in our Canvass and to have everyone be generous in their giving. The future of our church depends on it!

Our goal this year is to at least maintain our pledges. Last year we met our goal of \$170,000 for the first time in many years, and we must do so again. We hope that each family will continue to fulfill their current pledge into the next fiscal year and, if possible, to increase it by \$100. For those who do not contribute at all, this is the year that we need you most of all. Please be part of our support community!

As members and friends of First Parish Norwell, we have a responsibility to financially support our beloved church. It is through our giving that we show our commitment to one another.

We also invite you to attend our Stewardship Dinner on Saturday, April 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Stewardship Sunday will be on April 5, 2009.

Sincerely,

Your Finance Committee

Bob Neely, Chair

Jack Wallace, Secretary

Nancy Fuller, Jim Miller, Bob Sutter, Ted Weathersbee

Marta Reese, Parish Treasurer

Caring and Sharing

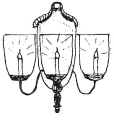
It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend **Dick Patterson**. A Memorial Service at First Parish Norwell is planned for Saturday, March 14th at 10 a.m. in the Meetinghouse. Contact Sue Robinson if you can contribute food to the collation in the Parish Hall following the service.

The Spirit of Hanover Community Service Award Committee has announced that First Parish parishioner **Cathy Harder-Bernier** has been selected as the recipient of the 8th Annual Spirit of Hanover Community Service Award. Congratulations, Cathy!

We keep **Vivian Perry** in our thoughts and prayers as she recovers from serious injuries suffered in a recent car accident.

The sympathies of the parish are with **Joyce and Jim Pickel**. Joyce's mother passed away on March 5th at the age of 92, surrounded by her family. A memorial service will be planned in April at the United First Parish Church in Quincy.

Our thoughts and prayers are with **Jen Anderson** and her family as she undergoes tests and prepares for



On Sunday, March 15th, we welcome **Stuart Twite** to the pulpit. What do the Rolling Stones and most everyone living in our economy have in common? We all know that you “Can’t Always Get What You Want.” Stuart will speak on the virtues of delayed gratification. We are very happy to have special music provided by **Alex Bourque**.

The Rev. Dan King of First Parish in Kingston will be in the pulpit on **March 22nd**.

On March 29th, there is NO SERVICE in Norwell. Our congregation will celebrate Union Sunday with the congregations of other UU parishes in our area. **This service will take place at First Parish in Scituate, located at 330 First Parish Road, and will begin at 10:30 a.m.**

To Alliance members and Friends: The meeting on March 18th will be a book review by Stuart Twite held in the Fogg Parlor. The previously announced program by Vivian Perry will be on April 15th.

The Deadline for the next hard-copy edition of The Spire is Sunday, March 29th

Easter Flowers!

We will begin taking orders for Easter Flowers on Sunday, March 15 during Coffee Hour. Dedications will be noted in the Order of Service on Easter Sunday. Offerings include tulips and daffodils. You may take your beautiful potted plant with you after the Easter service.

New to UU

Are you new to First Parish? Are you curious about Unitarian Universalism? About what we believe? Do you have questions that you'd like to ask? Then come to "New to UU", a way for you to ask the questions and get some answers. The next session will be held on Sunday, April 5 at 11:20 in the Fogg Parlor. For more information, ask someone from the Membership Committee: Frank Callahan, Betsey Detwiler, George Goodwin, Russ Haskell, or Chris Kitchenham.

Boston Children's Chorus Update - Sunday, Mar. 22 - 2:00 p.m. in the Meeting House

Music is alive and thriving on the South Shore. On Fri. night Feb. 27 Crossroads, a musical quintette, played to a packed house at the James. On Sun. afternoon, Mar. 1 the Plymouth Philharmonic Orchestra' Children's Concert played to a sold out house. On Mar. 22 we are honored to sponsor the nationally acclaimed Boston Children's Chorus. Tickets are going well, but as yet we are not sold out. One church member recently bought ten tickets for " family musical bonding ".

Helping to insure a financially successful concert are those who have sponsored the event at \$100. At the moment, we have seven sponsors, who will be given two concert tickets and will be recognized in the program

Let's join the Phil and Crossroads by filling the meeting house pews and hanging out the SRO sign. For those interested in buying tickets or becoming sponsors, please see me or Marie Miller. *Bob Detwiler*

Easter Breakfast Help Needed 8:30 am, Sunday, April 12

Plan to bring your whole family to the delicious, festive, Easter Breakfast, before church on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$3.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child. There will not be a coffee hour that day. We need 12 people to bring coffeecakes and 7 to bake egg, bread and ham or vegetable casseroles. Items are needed at the church by 8:30 am when the choir eats. Help is also needed with serving and clean-up. See Peg Kitchenham during coffee hour to sign up to help or call 781-447-5831, chrispegk@verizon.net.

Men's Trivia Night – April 2. After a very successful first trivia night, the First Parish Men's Group announces an encore. Spring trivia night will be held Thursday April 2nd at 7:30pm at Madfish Grill, Humarock Marshfield 8 Dartmouth St. Humarock Watch e-mail for details or contact Clayton Handleman or Scott Stephenson.