

# The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts  
ON THE WEB AT [WWW.FIRSTPARISHNORWELL.ORG](http://WWW.FIRSTPARISHNORWELL.ORG)

781-659-7122

February 17, 2010

Vol. VIII Issue 13

## Sunday Services – 10 a.m.

### February 21:

*Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

#### **“And Pride Can Also Cometh After a Fall”**

In the first of a series on contemporary takes on the Seven Deadly Sins, we look at pride, the first of the bunch. We’ve heard that pride cometh before a fall, but life experience tells us that pride, legitimate pride, can also come after failure.

### February 28:

*Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

#### **“A Distortion of Desire: On Envy”**

In her second in the Seven Deadly Sins series, our minister looks at perhaps the most truly emotionally non-productive of the 7, Envy.

### March 7:

*Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

#### **“Benevolent Rage: Putting Anger To Work”**

There is red-hot anger that burns non-productively, and the white-hot anger that theologian Rebecca Parker calls “benevolent rage.” Is Anger really a deadly sin? Not if it’s used in the service of transformation.

### March 14:

*Rev. Victoria Weinstein and Paul Bourque*

#### **“To See the World In A Grain Of Sand”**

Inspired by a recent movie biography of autistic scientist and activist Temple Grandin, we’ll consider Grandin’s own assertion that she is “different, not lesser.” Paul Bourque will share reflections on Friendship Home, for which we take up today’s Second Sunday Offering.

Do you have questions about Unitarianism?

Do you have questions  
about First Parish?

Would you like a chance to have these questions  
answered in a relaxed setting?

Come to "New to UU" at 11:30  
on February 28th in the Fogg Parlor.

## MEETINGS:

**Alliance Meeting**, Wed., Mar. 17, 10 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

**Bible Study**, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. 9 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

**Choir Rehearsal**, every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Skylight Room

**Finance Committee**, Tues., Mar. 2, 7:15 in the Church Office

**Meditation Group**, every Thursday, 6:15 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

**Music Committee**, Sun., April 11, 11:30 a.m. in the Church Office

**Parish Committee**, Tues., Mar. 16, 7 p.m. in the Fogg Parlor

**The Helen Fogg Service Committee**, Sun., Mar. 14, 11:30 a.m. in the Fogg Parlor

## Many Thanks to All Who Donated

Thirty- eight pillows and 15 bags full of men's clothing including everything from brand new socks and t-shirts and sport shirts to dress shirts and gently used business suits and winter coats. Your generosity has been incredible. I can not begin to tell you how much your kindness means to the men of Mainspring House. Something as simple as a pillow or a clean shirt, things we all take for granted, mean so much. Thank you for your immediate and overwhelming response to my plea for donations. Please know that you have made a huge difference.

With gratitude, Debi Meddaugh

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, was also **Standing on the Side of Love** day, when the UUA asked churches to show their support for all minority or oppressed people. Because we were already taking a collection during the church service for the Partakers program, the Fogg Service Committee made a donation of \$500 to Standing on the Side of Love from our church. If you go on the UUA web site (uua.org) you can find the picture we took in front of the pulpit last Sunday.

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH**  
of Norwell, Massachusetts

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**Director of Religious Education:**

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[dreslt@live.com](mailto:dreslt@live.com)

**Director of Youth Programming**

Jennifer Shattuck

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**Music Director:** Ginky Grimes

**Parish Committee:**

**Co-Chairs:**

Cathy Phillips and Sally Turner

**Members:**

Melody Barlow, Deane Howard,

Marie Miller, Bob Neely

and Derek Sulc

**Treasurer:** Marta Reese

**Minister Emeritus:**

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The **deadline** for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>**. **This will be an emailed "mini" edition**

Submissions may be emailed as an attachment to:

[office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org), or

dropped off in hard copy or disk at the church office.

## **“In the Spirit”**

*Rev. Victoria Weinstein*

“Gather the spirit, harvest the power, our separate lives will kindle one flame...”

So goes the beginning of one of my favorite hymns, which the Finance Committee has chosen for this year’s All-Church Canvass theme. I know that if you all had any idea how many intense and heart-felt, long meetings the “Fin Comm” has had about our canvass, you would reward their hard work with your close attention to the materials you will be getting in the mail in March. We are emphasizing the words “All-Church” in our canvass this year because we do not want the act of pledging to seem exclusive, mysterious or difficult to participate in. It’s simple: if you want to support First Parish Unitarian Church in Norwell, the best way to do it is through an annual pledge – your promise of a certain amount of money to be paid during our church fiscal year (July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011).

If you are new to the congregation and still have questions, let me provide some additional information:

Our congregation is supported entirely by our members. Our budget is well over a quarter of a million dollars. Every year, we build our budget in the winter (starting with a February gathering of all committee chairs) for the following fiscal year, and vote on that budget at our special congregational meeting in June.

We do a Canvass every early spring to gather in the pledges of financial support from all the members and friends of the congregation. How much should you pledge? The UUA recommends 1-3% of your income, but some UU’s choose to tithe (give 10%). Everyone decides for themselves what constitutes a meaningful gift. Our average pledge is around \$1300 for each pledging unit (which might be an individual or a family).

When the pledges are all in, we look at the requests from all the committees and leadership teams,

compare them to the pledges, consider any investment income we may have coming to us, and crunch the numbers (I say “we,” but it is really our indefatigable Treasurer, Marta Reese, who does all that work). That’s how we get our budget.

Those are the technical facts, but there are covenantal considerations, too: Are we always moving forward with an “abundance,” rather than a “scarcity” mentality? We want to! We know we have the resources to fund a great program-oriented church. Are we funding today’s operating budget too much from the endowments of past, now-deceased members? We don’t want to, believing that a vibrant church supports itself from among the living, involved membership. Are we being good stewards of our buildings and grounds and saving enough money for the inevitable repairs and improvements we’ll need to make? We are, and we always have our eye on those realities. Are we being open and comfortable in the way we talk about financial giving, understanding that money is a form of energy, and that congregational life is all about the giving and receiving of energy on all levels? We hope so!

Finally, have we invited you and your family to save the date for all All-Church Celebration Dinner on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>? Consider this an invitation! Jim Miller will be cooking up a feast, we’ll have activities for the kids downstairs (and they’ll join us for dessert), we’ll play Trivia after dinner, and we’ll celebrate all that we are, and can be, together. You are all invited, member or friend, newcomer or old-timer. You’ll be receiving a more formal invitation soon, but we know how busy you are and encourage you to set aside that evening now.

Need to know more? Want to discuss your pledge or a bequest to the church? Please let us know. We practice good stewardship not just for today, but for the church that we hope will be here for generations to come.

In faith, hope and love,

Vicki

## Caring Corner

The sympathies of the parish are with Julie McOsker and her family following the recent and unexpected passing of her father.

## Alliance News

Vivian Perry and Jodi Vermette have been cooking up something special for our March Alliance meeting which will be on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, in the Fogg Parlor. Come to see what Vivian and Jodi have planned for us. Refreshments at 10 a.m. to be followed by a short business meeting and then the "March Surprise!" All are welcome.

A reminder: The Alliance Board will meet in the Fogg Parlor on Wednesday morning March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m.

## Church Talent Show

**Mark your calendars for  
Sat. Evening February 27<sup>th</sup>!**

Some of our performers are:

- ❖ Bob Detwiler - singing "Some Enchanted Evening",
- ❖ George Goodwin - performing "Hello from Maine"
- ❖ Marie Miller, Noel Constantino & Rev. Vicki - in a special number.
- ❖ Youth Choir with Marie Miller as Miss Hannigan, singing two selections from Annie

There will be an admission fee to support the church budget. Children \$2, Adults \$8 with a \$20 per family maximum. **Don't miss any of the fun!**

## The James Library and Center for the Arts

Sunday, February 21 at 3 p.m.

### *The Calyx Piano Trio*

Back by popular demand, this lively young trio will perform Beethoven, Brahms and Dvorak.

Tickets available at the door or call 659-7100.

\$20/\$18/\$10.

Think Spring!

### *Books in Bloom returns in May.*

This popular event, held every other year to help raise money for the library and to celebrate books, will be held Friday May 14 and Sat. May 15. Interested in creating a floral arrangement depicting a favorite book?

Give Caroline Chapin a call @659-7100. Use flowers from your own yard to create a festive and informal arrangement. No formal flower arranging experience needed! Visit [www.jameslibrary.org](http://www.jameslibrary.org) to see photos from the 2008 event.

### *"An American In Nicaragua"*

#### ENCORE PRESENTATION

Rev. Vicki will be re-showing her photographs and videos from her month in Nicaragua on Wednesday morning, February 24 (after the Alliance meeting, around 10:30 AM) in the Parish Hall.

### **Good News for First Parish Babies!**

For your convenience (and that of your parents) there is now a diaper changing station in the left hand bathroom on the first floor. Look for the KOALA sticker on the door.

## Helen Fogg Service Committee News

Last Sunday's church service focusing on the **Partaker's Prison Ministry** seemed to reach the hearts of so many of you in the congregation. The letter of thanks from one Partaker's BU graduate, Wayne Boston, who is still in prison and the words and presence of Carolyn Gunter, a graduate of the Partaker's program who was released a year ago, were concrete examples of how lives have been changed by our support. Carolyn has held a full time job ever since her release and is hoping to begin work on a Masters in Social Work in the Fall so that she can ultimately work with women in prison or at risk women and girls. Your generous gifts for the Second Sunday offering for Partakers totaled nearly \$1200!! With an addition from the Fogg Service Committee, we will send a total of \$1500 to Partakers!! Thank you!

There are other men and women waiting for sponsors to allow them to have the chance Carolyn and Wayne were given. Some of you asked exactly what would be involved in joining a Partakers team. **Here is how the program works.**

1. Before taking on a new prisoner, we need a **team of four people.**
2. The commitment we make to Partakers is to visit the prisoner once a month until the man or woman either completes the courses for a BU degree or is released from prison. With a team of four people, you can visit in pairs and only need to set aside six afternoons or evenings a year. **Six afternoons or evenings a year to change a person's life!!**
3. **As a team of four, you act as mentors.** You give support and encouragement and, by your very presence in the prison, show that you believe your student is a person of worth and possibility. (That may seem like a small thing, but if you listened to the

words of Carolyn and Wayne you realized how important that was to both of them.)

4. You can do very little to help your student with the college classes. No books or even paper can be taken into the visiting room, though sometimes the courses lead to interesting discussions during your visits. Occasionally you may be able to send a few pages of material from books or the internet to help with a research paper. (Computers are available for use in the prisons, but no internet access is allowed.)
5. Partakers encourages mentors to **write to their students occasionally.** Gifts are discouraged, though small birthday and holiday gifts are allowed. The Fogg Service Committee hopes to be able to reimburse your traveling expenses to and from the prison next year.

And **what do volunteer visitors receive in return?** You will certainly learn what our prisons (or at least the one you visit) are like, and get some idea of what life is like for the prisoners. You will be much better informed when questions of prison conditions or reform are being discussed. Visiting a prison is not an easy experience, especially the first few times you walk through the door, fill out the visiting slip, and see the door of the visiting room close behind you. But it is when we go beyond our comfort level that we learn and grow the most. And isn't that exactly what UUism is all about -- learning and growing all our lives!! If this is a period in your life when you can make a commitment of six afternoons or evenings a year for four or more years and if this interests you, please let us know. We would love to be able to fill out one present team and find a new team of four to support a new prisoner. You can talk with anyone on the Fogg Service Committee or any of the Partakers volunteers you saw in the front of the church last Sunday. Or you can call the church office (781-659-7122) and leave your name and a message for the Service Committee.

# **The Two Handles: Lifespan Religious Education at First Parish!**

From the DRE:

By the time you read this, school vacation week will be about over. I hope everyone has had a wonderful and safe holiday. Church school begins again on Sunday (Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>) and we hope to see everyone! That Sunday in religious education begins with our First Parish Bible Study at 9:00am. We will be exploring the central question of the death of Jesus for our sins. If you have never attended, this is a great week to give it a try. Our church school teachers will have our usual wide variety of wonderful lessons prepared for our children.

This is a good time to remind our church school families that if you are concerned about coming to church school because schedules only allow one or two Sundays per month, no worries. It is much the way for many of us. We love to see you whenever we can!

Blessings, stuart twite (DRE)

## **Adult learning at First Parish!**

### **A Panorama of Life** (Our First Parish Bible Study)

If you need a Bible or have any questions, please contact stuart twite at: Home: 781 837 8791 Church: 781 659 7122 Email: [dreslt@live.com](mailto:dreslt@live.com)

### **The First Parish Meditation Group**

Do you need a way to manage the stress in your life? Are you looking for a spiritual practice to ground your everyday life? Join us for a quiet hour of meditation on Thursday evenings at 6:15 pm in the Fogg Parlor.  
No experience necessary!

### **The First Parish Book Group discusses**

“The Master” by Colm Tóibín. We will meet on Wednesday, March the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be provided.

# First Parish Norwell

# CALENDAR

Feb. 21 – Mar. 13

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>21</p> <p>Bible Study, Fogg Parlor 9 a.m.</p> <p>Morning Service 10 a.m. Church School Coffee Hour 11 a.m.</p> <p>Budget-setting Meeting Fogg Parlor 11:30 a.m.</p> <p>Carbon Class Skylight Rm. 11:30 - 1</p> <p>Youth Choir in MH 11:30 – noon</p> <p>Calyx Trio playing at the James Library 3 p.m.</p> <p>Youth Group Skylight Room 5-7 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>AA, Parish Hall 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>SSHAGLY Skylight Room 7-9 p.m.</p> <p>Sustainable South Shore Parish Hall</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Meditation Group Fogg Parlor 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Skylight Room 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Ballroom Dancers Parish Hall</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Musical Review Parish Hall</p>
<p>28</p> <p>SPIRE DEADLINE (EMAIL EDITION)</p> <p>Morning Service 10 a.m. Church School Coffee Hour 11 a.m. New to UU Fogg Parlor 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Mar. 1</p> <p>AA, Parish Hall 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>SSHAGLY Skylight Room 7-9 p.m.</p> <p>Finance Committee Office 7:15 p.m.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Alliance Board Fogg Parlor 10 a.m.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Meditation Group Fogg Parlor 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Skylight Room 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Ballroom Dancers Parish Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>James Library Concert Rogerio Santos 7:30 p.m.</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Bible Study, Fogg Parlor 9 a.m.</p> <p>Morning Service 10 a.m. Church School Coffee Hour 11 a.m. Youth Group Skylight Room 5-7 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>AA, Parish Hall 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>SSHAGLY Skylight Room 7-9 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Meditation Group Fogg Parlor 6:15 p.m.</p> <p>Choir Skylight Room 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Ballroom Dancers Parish Hall</p>	<p>13</p>

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

# *THE SPIRE*



**Special Piano Concert**  
**at the James Library**  
*featuring*  
**Rogério Santos**

The First Parish Church, Norwell and the James Library are proud to host a piano concert, featuring **Rogério Santos**, our beloved, former Interim Music Director of First Parish.

Rogério is currently residing in Brazil and is making a stop in Norwell on his tour of the USA. The piano concert will be held on Saturday, March 6 at the James Library at 7:30 PM. Tickets can be purchased for \$15 per person, from Bob Detwiler, right after church. This concert is sure to sell out, due to the limited seating capacity. So hurry and get your tickets to avoid disappointment! Check out Rogério's great website: [www.tutti.art.br](http://www.tutti.art.br).