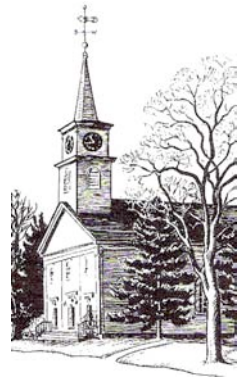


The Spire

The Newsletter of the First Parish Church of Norwell, Massachusetts
ON THE WEB AT WWW.FIRSTPARISHNORWELL.ORG



781-659-7122

June 8, 2011

Vol. IX Issue 18

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

June 12:

“It Gets Better”

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER RECOGNITION

When several gay teenagers committed suicide recently, sex columnist Dan Savage (who is savagely funny and gives great and honest advice) made a video wherein he spoke frankly of the hardships that he endured as a young gay male, and promised “it gets better.” His act started a grassroots movement, with hundreds of celebrities and ordinary people making their own video letters of hope and solidarity to contribute to the campaign. Our service today is dedicated to hope, and to the wisdom and love we would like to put out there as our own love letters to the world.

Our Second Sunday offering will go to the Trevor Project, a suicide prevention hotline for g/l/b/t teens.

June 19:

“The Sending Forth”

We will have a brief worship service of blessing and sending forth and then go right into our Annual Picnic sponsored by the Religious Education Committee.

The sign-up sheets for next year’s worship volunteers (ushers, coffee hour hosts/hostesses, pulpit arrangements and chalice lighters) have been posted in the Parish Hall. Please consider signing up and give us a head start for the Fall!

"In the Spirit"*The Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein*

Mary Mercier, Giny Grimes and I will head off to our denominational conference (General Assembly, or "GA") in a couple of weeks to learn, to share fellowship with UUs around the country, to worship and to vote on a wide variety of issues. We will also begin the celebration of fifty years of Unitarian Universalism, which was formally made a religious organization in 1961 with the merger of the Unitarians and the Universalists. David Turner was there in 1961 and part of that process, and I look forward to having him tell the story during one of our worship services this summer or fall.

As proud as I am to be a "UU," (and I have been one all my life, participating in congregational life in Connecticut, Illinois, Rochester, NY, Pennsylvania, Maryland, three congregations in Massachusetts and as a visiting worshiper or preacher/consultant to dozens of others around the country), when I wonder who will be the next Unitarian Universalists on the South Shore, I know that they will not come to our churches seeking Unitarian Universalism, but an experience of community that points them toward deeper living and helps them address their questions about ultimate meaning. Therefore, while I am dedicated to our Unitarian Universalist identity and Association (we are not, technically speaking, a denomination but an association of independent congregations), I understand that "brand names" are of no interest to today's religious seekers. Those of us who are following sociological trends and the rapid decline of mainline churches know that the contemporary worshiper knows or cares very little about the finer doctrinal differences between faith traditions. They are not invested in history but in the present and the future, and -- in a major shift from the immediate past generation's focus-- they do not expect or desire their church to provide them with a social life. What they want is transformational worship, religious education for their children, and to be brought into a sense of mission and purpose within community.

I encourage you all to read David Bumbaugh's excellent article in the current UU World magazine, entitled, "The Unfulfilled Dream." Here is a particularly provocative excerpt:

(continued on next page)

In faith, hope and love,
Rev. Vicki

FIRST PARISH CHURCH
of Norwell, Massachusetts
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Chair: Derek Sulc

Members:

Bernie Gardner, Deane Howard,

Don Messinger, Marie Miller,

Bob Neely, and Sue Robinson

Treasurer: Marta Reese**Minister Emeritus:**

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of
THE SPIRE is

Sunday, June 19, 2011

(email version)

Submissions may be emailed to:
office@firstparishnorwell.org, or
dropped off in the church office.

CARING CORNER

"In the Spirit", continued from page 2

"Over and over, we hear each other and officials of the Association proclaim the conviction that we have a moral obligation to grow, to spread our word because we possess a vital message, one that is of central importance to the world and to the crises in which the world is entangled. When, however, we are challenged to say what that message is, what our faith consists of, what defines us as a religious people, often we are driven to an embarrassed silence, or we smile smugly and confess that no one can speak for all Unitarian Universalists, or we stutter and stammer and mutter some half-digested clichés about the worth of every person or the importance of embracing each person's freedom to follow his or her own spiritual path. Those are not wrong affirmations, but they provide an incredibly weak foundation for a religious movement and a wholly inadequate program for saving the world. They offer unexamined truisms rather than a solid faith. ... If we are to be the religious movement some of us dreamed fifty years ago, if we are to respond to the needs of the world from a liberal religious basis, it is critical that we be able to address and answer three central questions: What do we believe? Whom do we serve? To whom or what are we responsible?"

Church, as we prepare to part ways for the summer, I ask you to reflect deeply on those questions with me. I will be doing the same as I prepare to present two workshops at General Assembly and for my month as a preacher and consultant with the British Unitarians. I leave on July 6 and return on August 8.

In faith, hope and love,
Rev. Vicki



Congratulations to Rev. Vicki – an excerpt of the sermon titled "Thank You for Looking at Me" that she preached on November 7, 2010 has been published in the Summer issue of UU World magazine (www.uuworld.org)!

We also send our congratulations to Amanda Metzger, who was selected as the 2011 "Community Clinician of the Year" for the Norfolk South District Medical Society!

Carolyn Gunter, our Partakers success story, lives in Springfield and has visited our church several times. One of the tornados went right down the middle of her street, uprooting trees, but didn't do anything to the houses. Mary Mercier, Marcia Babcock and Bev Gardner, her Partaker mentors and now good friends, are very relieved!



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

This is a "rainbow Spire". I'm trying to use up the opened packages of colored paper before the office closes for the Summer, as they don't keep

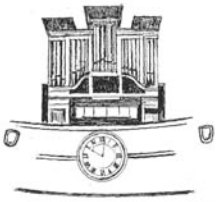
well. If your Spire changes color part way through, you'll know why!

~Hope Weinman



SUMMER NOTES

The Church Office will close for the summer on **Wednesday, June 22**. We will be in the office after that only on a "periodic and unscheduled" basis. Voicemails and emails will *not* be picked up regularly. We will re-open on the Wednesday after Labor Day, **September 7**. The deadline for the last Spire (email version) before we close for the summer is **Sunday, June 19**. The deadline for the summer issue of the Spire is **Monday, August 15**.



A CD recording of the Meetinghouse Organ Dedication concert is now available for \$10. Proceeds will be applied to a loan used to purchase additional stops.

Contact Dexter Robinson, dexsue@comcast.net, 781-294-8840 to order one.



FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

Several of you choose to make your pledges to the church in the form of a gift of the proceeds from the sale of stock. Often, the brokerage house will utilize a third-party clearinghouse to process the sale. When this happens, the donor's name is usually not included when we receive the check. It would be a big help if you could notify me at the time of the sale at donna@firstparishnorwell; that way, I can make sure that your gift is applied to your pledge in a timely manner. Thank you!

~Donna McDonald



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday, June 12

Fogg Service Committee Retreat, FP, 11:30 am-2:30 pm

Tuesday, June 14

Invested Funds Committee, FP, 7:30 pm

Sunday, June 19

Last worship service of the year, with All-Church Picnic to follow
Spire deadline (email version)

Monday, June 20

Parish Committee, FP, 7 pm

Wednesday, June 22

Church Office closes for the summer

Monday, August 15

Summer Spire deadline (hard copy)



ANNUAL FIRST PARISH NORWELL REGATTA

Saturday, July 30

noon

(the tides require a schedule change)

Save the date! Bring your canoes and kayaks for a wonderful family day on the North River. Then, keep the fellowship going for a pizza party in the late afternoon. You can join us for either or both parts of the day. Here are the specifics:

RIVER TRIP:

1. Meet at the Marshfield canoe launch site at the Union Street Bridge (Bridge Street in Norwell becomes Union Street when you cross the river). **We leave promptly at 12:00**, so plan to arrive by 11:45 (or earlier!) to have time to get your canoes and kayaks off your car and in the water.
2. Bring your **lunch and a beverage**. We'll picnic at the Couch property beach (where

we stop for a swim and wait for the tide to turn before heading back to our cars).

3. Don't forget **life preservers, sun block and paddles**. A camera and binoculars are nice to have, too, if they're waterproof.
4. If you can't canoe or kayak but want to take part in the river trip, we'll have several spaces available on either a pontoon boat or a motorboat. These seats fill up early, so call Marcia or Scott Babcock (781-659-2956) to reserve one right away.

PIZZA PARTY:

1. It's become a tradition to end the evening together - children as well as adults.
2. The party begins at **5:00 pm** at the home of Scott and Marcia Babcock, 86 Old Meetinghouse Lane, Norwell (off Route 123/Main Street)
3. Bring **\$5.00/person for pizza** and either an **appetizer or dessert** to share. We'll have soda and lemonade here. Bring any other beverages you'd like.

QUESTIONS? Call Scott or Marcia Babcock at 781-659-2956.



BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, June 18
7:30 am-12:30 pm
Phoenix Masonic Lodge
133 Broadway, Hanover
(at Hanover Four Corners)

1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
www.redcrossblood.org

~Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

YOU are invited to attend our end-of-the-year retreat after

Coffee Hour this **Sunday, June 12**, in the Fogg Parlor. Bring a sandwich, and drinks will be provided. See what the committee does. We have a \$15,000 budget from the church which we use, along with Second Sunday donations from parishioners, for worthy causes. Be one of the ones who decides on which worthy causes!

MA Tornado Relief Fund for UU Congregations: Thank you to those who gave so generously last Sunday for local tornado help. You can still send a check to help our fellow UU's in the Clara Barton UU District (Western MA). Just make the check out to First Parish Church Norwell and put Tornado Relief in the subject line. Thank you!

Recent thank you notes to the church and Fogg Service Committee: I have printed just the first paragraph of each letter. If you would like to see the entire letter, please go to the "Thank You" notebook on the Helen Fogg Service committee table.

From The Trustees of Reservations: "On behalf of the dedicated volunteers and staff of The Trustees of Reservations, it is my great pleasure to thank the parishioners and the Helen Fogg Service Committee of the First Parish Church of Norwell for the wonderful gift of \$2,000 received on May 20, 2011. I understand this gift is designated for projects at Norris Reservation. We are deeply grateful for your generous support of our work." Andrew W. Kendall, President

From the Friendship Home: "Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$1,065 to our cause. With your help, and that of our other friends and partners in the community,

Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.

we will fulfill our primary goal and be able to offer overnight respite and retreats in 2011." Wilma Goodhue, Joan Mullare (Co-Founders) and Lauren C. Payne (Executive Director). In handwriting- "Thank you so much for your faithful support. Please come and visit!"

From Bay State Community Services: "On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and clients of Bay State Community Services, I would like to thank you for your recent donation of \$1,000 to the Survival STARR program in Weymouth. This generous contribution is being used to purchase an industrial washer and dryer for the residents of our emergency shelter. Gifts like yours allow us to go above and beyond providing basic social and mental health services for our clients in need and for that, we are truly thankful." Kenneth Tarabelli, President and CEO

Beverly Gardner, Chair

Members: Marcia Babcock, Scott Babcock, Pat Bordewieck, Carrie Brandon, Pat Crumley, Tommie Magazu, Barbara Meacham, Mary Mercier, Dorothy and Bill Montuori, Sue Robinson (Parish Committee liaison), Amy Stephenson, Jack Wallace and Jane and Stan Wilderoter



Please check the Lost and Found, located on the coat rack just outside the office.

Any items left at the end of the church year will be disposed of appropriately.

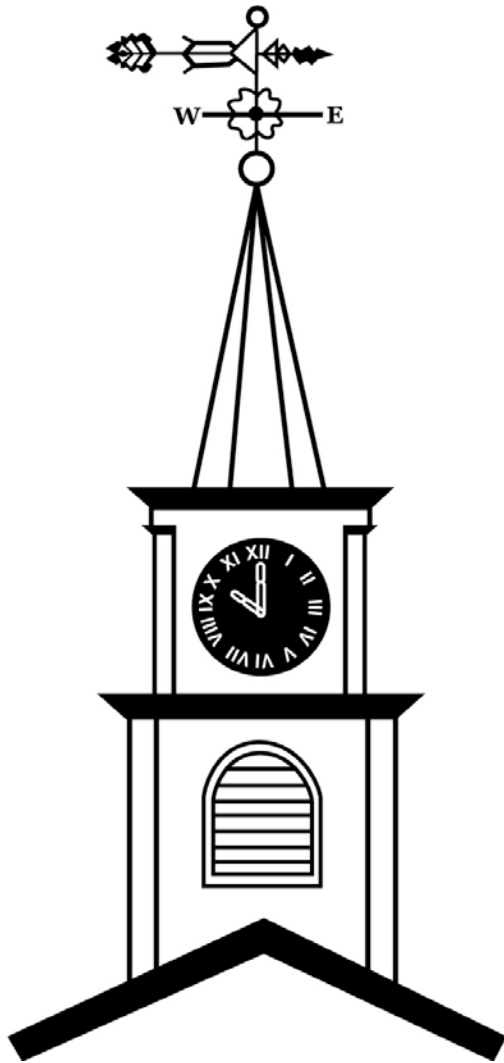


SUMMER WORSHIP AT FIRST PARISH NORWELL

There will be one minister-led and four lay-led worship services, as well as four "Fresh Air and Fellowship" walks in the Norris Reservation (listed on the schedule as FAAF). *These are all intergenerational services, with no separate children's program or baby care.* The 2011 summer Sunday schedule is still being firmed up as the Spire goes to print, but here is what we have so far:

June 19 - Last regular Sunday service of this church year
 June 26 - FAAF, leaders Marlon & Les Taylor
 July 3 - Lay-led worship service, **TBA**
 July 10- FAAF, leaders Ralph & Betsy Gordon
 July 17 - Lay-led worship service, **TBA**
 July 24 - FAAF, Bev & Bernie Gardner
 July 31 - Lay-led worship service, **TBA**
 August 7 - FAAF, leader Carol Neely
 August 14 - Lay-led worship service, David Turner
 August 21 - FAAF, **TBA**
 August 28 - Rev. Vicki's summer service
 September 4 - **Closed for the holiday weekend**
 September 11 - New church year begins with worship and religious education

If you are interested in leading the service on any of the TBA Sundays or a FAAF walk on August 21, please contact Joyce Pickel (508-746-4647 or jandpickel@comcast.net.) The schedule needs to be filled **by June 15**, so please contact Joyce as soon as possible. The schedule will be on the church website, emailed to parishioners, and posted on the church doors. If you are around this summer, come to church and keep connected to our church family!



I don't really care if my glass is half full or half empty- I'm just happy to have a glass.

~Joe Farrell

RE Everyday!

From the DRE:

I hope that all have been able to enjoy the wonderful sunshine that we have been having. It is a sure sign that another program year in Religious Education is coming to an end. Once again, it has been a true pleasure for me to serve this wonderful church. The next couple of weeks are busy ones.

On June 12th, we will recognize our **graduating seniors** and present them with Fogg Scholarships. Also on the 12th, we will recognize and honor all who have **taught in our Church school** this year. I hope all can come as not only does your work need to be recognized, it demonstrates to our entire community the importance we place on service. Following worship, on the 12th, we will have a very important **YOUTH GROUP ORGANIZING MEETING**. All parents of prospective youth group members and everyone interested is urged to attend.

Finally, on June 19th, The Lifespan Religious Education Committee will again host our annual **All Church Picnic**. We supply the food and drink, you supply yourselves. This is a wonderful way to celebrate another church year full of blessings. We would love to see you!

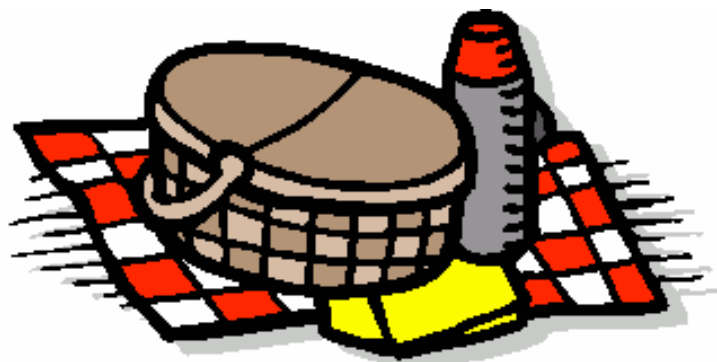
Last Sunday, we honored our Our Whole Lives (OWL) teachers **Amanda Metzger and Marlon Taylor** and all the students who completed the OWL curricula this year. Thanks again to Amanda and Marlon and congratulations to our 7th and 8th graders.

Adult Learning News:

Our **Bible Study group** met to plan for next year and came up with some very interesting ideas. We hope you will consider being a part! I will send out more details as they are firmed up. For now, our summer reading book is: "**Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally**" by Marcus Borg. It is a wonderful book and the title says it all.

We would love to hear from you concerning **possible books** to include in our monthly book group list. If you have read a good book lately that you think would make for interesting discussion, drop me a note!

Blessings to all,
Stuart Twite (DRE)
dreslt@live.com



Church Picnic

Join your
Lifespan Religious Education Committee
for our

Annual All-Church Picnic!

Sunday, June 19 following Worship.

We supply the food - you supply yourself!
Come celebrate another wonderful church year!

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, check here and drop in the mail. No postage is required.

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