

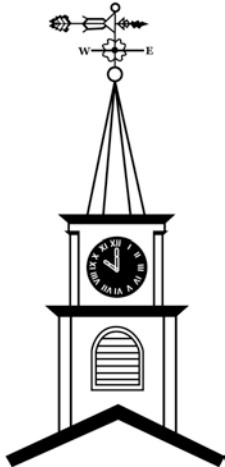
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# *THE SPIRE*

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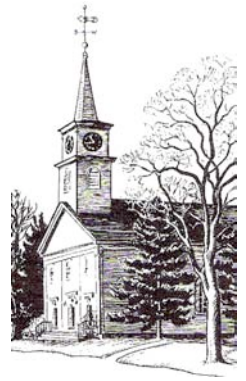


The sign-up sheets for next year's worship volunteers (ushers, coffee hour hosts/hostesses, pulpit arrangements and chalice lighters) have been posted in the Parish Hall. Please consider signing up!

Have you been receiving all-church emails as well as the emailed mini-Spire? If your email address has recently changed, please take a moment to email Hope in the church office at [office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:office@firstparishnorwell.org). Hope is also happy to mail a hard copy of the email newsletters to church members without access to a computer.

# 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

Summer Spire

Vol. X Issue 1

## Sunday Services – 10:00 am

### August 21

Please join Bernie and Bev Gardner for the last Fresh Air and Fellowship walk of the summer. Please to meet at the church at 10 am. In case of rain, we will gather for coffee in the Parish Hall instead.

### August 28

Summer Service

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

“Loot: A Spiritual Perspective on the London Riots.”

I was working in London when the riots broke out. I will reflect on the connection between the economic, political and spiritual realities that contributed to the violence and ask the sobering question, “Should the United States be prepared for this sort of unrest in our own cities soon?”

### September 4

(closed for the Labor Day weekend)

### September 11

“Look To This Day”

Rev. Dr. Victoria Weinstein

Our Homecoming Service honors the tenth anniversary of 9/11 and celebrates the blessings and opportunities of a new church year. Today is all we know and all we ultimately have. “Look well, therefore, to this day!”

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

My head is spinning with all the things I want to write in this column. I want to tell you about my month in London working with the British Unitarians, about our many hours of conversation and study, examining why and how we do what we do as churches, and how it is working (and not working). I preached in several congregations, led workshops, met with leaders, led a residential retreat on worship for ten British Unitarians at a convent out in the beautiful countryside of Kent. In spare time I walked all over the great city of London investigating the ways that churches are either visible and welcoming or invisible and apparently moribund (or just "well-kept secrets," which is not what any church is called to be). I want to write about my sense of what is closing churches and what is keeping them thriving as centers of ministry, service, love and community. I want to tell you about the riots, and about my conversations with a London police sergeant whom I befriended and spent a lot of time with.

I want to tell you about General Assembly in North Carolina in June, about the exciting workshop I participated in on social media (focusing on Facebook and Twitter), and how many dozens of people I got to meet in person both at GA and in England whom I have known for years as on-line friends and readers, and how exciting that was, and how the internet is becoming an actual congregation for a lot of people (especially younger folks), and what the UUA is doing to support and understand that phenomenon. (You can tell I'm excited when I write in run-on sentences like the one you just read.)

It is good to be home. It is good to be here to talk to you, to be in closer touch with those of you who have had recent losses and are struggling with various issues, to visit, to plan the coming year, and to worship with you. David Turner gave an amazing sermon yesterday morning that revealed an even prouder history of our congregation's contribution to religious freedom in America than we knew.

Life is so rich if we dive into it, and life is deep. What is happiness but knowing this and giving our lives to it? See you soon!

In faith, hope and love,  
Rev. Vicki

**FIRST PARISH CHURCH**  
of Norwell, Massachusetts  
24 River Street  
P.O. Box 152  
Norwell, MA 02061

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Closed on Mondays

Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

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**Music Director:** Gingy Grimes**Parish Committee 2011-2012:**

**Chair:** Marie Miller

**Members:**

Bernie Gardner, Deane Howard,

Don Messinger, Bob Neely,

Sue Robinson and Patti Walters

**Treasurer:** Marta Reese**Minister Emeritus:**

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of  
THE SPIRE is

**Monday, September 12, 2011**

(hard copy version)

Submissions may be emailed to:

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

dropped off in the church office.

## CARING CORNER



Our condolences to Charlie Morgan on the death of his beloved Phyllis, who died peacefully and with her family by her side at Norwell Knoll in early August.

Our condolences to Joanne Howard on the death of her father, Robert Babcock, at Doolittle Home in Foxboro. There is a synagogue library in Canton named for Mr. Babcock and his wife, Jane, who were honored for their quiet commitment to the spiritual and physical safety of Jews during World War II.

The church mourns the death of Ruth Ellan Chipman Bailey ("Binky"), who passed away in July and was memorialized at the church on August 13.



## ALLIANCE NEWS

For the opening meeting on **Wednesday, September 21**, the Alliance is pleased to welcome Sue and Dexter Robinson.

They will be presenting a multi-media program of their tour last year with a Michigan choral group. They will be sharing with us their travels to the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. All Church members and friends are more than welcome to enjoy this program with us. Refreshments will be served at 10 am, with the program to begin at 10:45.

Alliance dues of \$10 are due and are payable at the September meeting or to Shirley Bunnell at P. O. Box 188, Norwell MA 02061.

Dear Members of First Parish Church,

The Kent House, a one-bedroom home adjacent to the Meetinghouse parking lot, will be available to rent as of October 1, 2011. Your Parish Committee will be looking for a tenant and wants to make this opportunity available to

the church membership first. If more than one member of the Parish shows interest, the Parish Committee will draw a name from qualified candidates.

The rental agreement will be for one year and the rent will be \$1200 per month plus utilities. If interested, please contact Bob Neely at 781-659-2935. Rental applications will be accepted through August 24.

Sincerely,  
Marie Miller  
Parish Committee Chair



## ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

The Activities Committee will meet on Homecoming **Sunday, September 11**, at 11:30 in the church office. Newcomers are welcome. We are seeking ideas for this year's Activities. We are thinking that we may not hold the fall Golf Tournament. If a lot of people are disappointed, please let us know.

We are thinking of holding an afternoon musical event on the North River on **Saturday, October 1**. More details will be available later.

We will plan to hold a Circle Dinner on **October 22** to welcome new families. The

Holiday Fair will be **November 19**, the week before Thanksgiving. Many hands will be needed to help with that.

Call Peg Kitchenham at 781-447-5831 with ideas or come to the meeting and share them.



## COFFEE HOUR

Prue Miller and Joyce Pickel will be the coffee hour coordinators this year. In preparation for the beginning of the regular church schedule they will be calling our community for coffee hour hosts. If you have a favorite Sunday that you like to do or favorite co-hosts you would like to do it with please email or call them at:

Prue - [pruerog@verizon.net](mailto:pruerog@verizon.net) 781-826-2914  
Joyce - [jandpickel@comcast.net](mailto:jandpickel@comcast.net) 508-746-4647



## HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Great news: Scott Babcock has volunteered to be Vice Chair for this coming year, and then to be Chair the following year. Thank you, Scott!

Lots of thank you notes have been received for monies the Fogg Service Committee donated in the name of the church and YOU at the end of the 2010-11 church year. The letter I will feature in this Spire is from the Weston Rehabilitation Center for Women in Holyoke, MA, a not-for-profit rehabilitation employment program with which our successful former prisoner from Partakers, Carolyn Gunter, worked before and after release.

"Dear Friends,  
How grateful we are to receive your contribution of \$500 to the Weston Program. We are touched by the shared values that underlie both this and your gift of last year.

It was a pleasure for us to meet two of your members, as we were well aware of the wonderful work that Marcia (Babcock), Beverly (Gardner) and Mary (Mercier) had done as mentors to one of the women in our program.\* They made a profound difference in her life. She has now moved on from Weston to a more permanent and better paying job. Always wonderful to see!

Society is blessed by your care of people. Weston is blessed by your care for us. We keep you in our prayer. Please keep all of us at Weston in yours.

With all good wishes,  
Sister Eleanor Spring, SSJ"

\*She is speaking of "Partakers," the wonderful prisoner mentoring program to which our church belongs. A number of parishioners have taken part in the program over the years.

By the way, the buttons which the Fogg Service Committee members wear each Second Sunday were commissioned by us and made by the women at the Weston Center for Women!!!

Bev Gardner, Chair  
Scott Babcock, Vice Chair  
Marcia Babcock, Noel Constantino, Pat Bordewieck, Paul Bourque, Carrie Brandon, Pat Crumley, Barbara Meacham, Mary Mercier, Dorothy and Bill Montuori, Sue Robinson (Parish Committee liaison), Amy Stephenson, Jack Wallace and Jane and Stan Wilderoter



## ATTENTION, COMMITTEE CHAIRS

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to email a list of your members for the 2011-2012 church year to [Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org](mailto:Hope@firstparishnorwell.org). Please also include your meeting schedule as well – the church calendar will start to fill up fast!



FROM THE DRE

For information on the church's religious education program for both adults and children, please visit the "RE Everyday" blog at

<http://reeveryday.blogspot.com>. Stuart reports that he has posted updates on the upcoming church year, so be sure to check it out!

### CIRCLE FOR COMPASSION

This once-a-month evening worship service is inspired by Karen Armstrong's book, Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life and the Charter for Compassion movement. Each gathering will be focused on cultivating compassion for ourselves and others. The minister will give a short message and we will share healing prayer.

These services will take place in the Meetinghouse on the second Wednesday of each month (**starting September 14**) from 6:45-7:30 pm.

### MEETINGS AND EVENTS

#### Wednesday, September 7

Church Office opens, 9:00 am

Alliance Board Meeting at Helen Keeler's, 10:00

#### Sunday, September 11

Homecoming Sunday, 10:00 am

Coffee Hour, 11:00 am

Activities Committee, 11:30 am in the office

#### Monday, September 12

Spire deadline (hard copy version)

#### Sunday, September 19

Homecoming Sunday, 10:00 am

Coffee Hour, 11:00 am

#### Tuesday, September 20

Parish Committee, 7:00 pm in the Fogg Parlor

#### Wednesday, September 21

Alliance, 10:00 am in the Parish Hall