

The Spire

The Newsletter of
First Parish of Norwell
24 River Street
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www.firstparishnorwell.org

November 9, 2016
Volume XV, Issue 4

Sunday Services - 10:00 am

Rev. Lise Adams Sherry
preaching unless otherwise indicated

November 13: **“Restoring our Souls”**

A couple of weeks ago, FPNUU hosted a workshop on Restorative Justice. I’ll share some of the concepts I heard as a way to improve our justice system. This is also **Outreach Sunday** and our offering will go towards Partakers so please bring some extra cash or your checkbook if you’re able.

November 20:
Thanksgiving Multigenerational Service
Led by Julian Baptista, DRE and Rev. Lise

Join in our annual bread communion and help us consider how we might begin to revision Thanksgiving as we prepare for our 400th anniversary in 2020.

November 27:
“First Parish of Norwell Roots”
with David Turner

David will share some his incredible knowledge of our First Parish history. It’s also the first Sunday of Advent.



OFFICE HOURS (September to mid-June):

Closed on Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9 am-1 pm

Friday: 9 am-12 pm

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Parish Committee 2016-2017:

Chair: Les Taylor

Members: Scott Garland, David Hockman, Mary Nickerson, Jim Pickel, Elizabeth Robey and Dexter Robinson

Treasurer: Marta Reese

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Richard M. Fewkes

The deadline for the next issue of THE SPIRE is **Monday, December 5, 2016**. Submissions may be emailed to Hope at office@firstparishnorwell.org.

LISE'S LETTER

On Sunday (November 6) I preached about voting our values and I shared my faith and belief that no matter what happens November 8, I truly believe that our country and its citizens (us!) will find ways to move forward in a positive fashion. I said a bunch of other stuff, too, and many of you told me after the service that you greatly appreciated the message of hope and love that I shared. I'm glad you told me that, and if you didn't hear me say it on Sunday morning, I want to share with you again that *I really needed to write that message, too*. It has been a rough, tough election season for us all. To that end, I want to share, slightly modified, the list of things I suggested that all of us can try, as time and spirit allow, to help create our Beloved Community.

1. Vote or find another way to contribute to our political process. Write to your legislators, join a local committee, or work for a cause that's important to you.
2. Invite someone with a different political view out for coffee. Ask them for their views and listen. Ask polite and curious questions and listen. Listen for the emotions and the values that are causing them to feel the way they are. Listen for common ground. What are their values? Maybe you might share some of them.
3. After the election results are in, or you've reached a goal or finished a project in whatever effort you're working, *take a break*. Do something fun. Read some fiction, go see a movie, have friends over for a potluck dinner.
4. Then think about how you can continue to work positively in this Great American Experiment. More importantly, think about how you can work in this experiment with those who differ in their methods from you.
5. Then reach out in love, understanding, and non-attachment to move forward.



6. Start again with #1.

Finally, here’s a poem by Rev. Leslie Takahashi Morris called *Marginal Wisdom*. I wanted to include it on Sunday, but ran out of time.

They teach us to read in black and white.
Truth is this—the rest false.
You are whole—or broken.
Who you love is acceptable—or not.
Life tells its truth in many hues.
But we are taught to think in either/or.
To believe the teachings of Jesus—OR Buddha.
To believe in human potential—OR a power beyond a single will.
I am broken OR I am powerful.

Life embraces multiple truths, speaks of *both*, and of *and*.
We are taught to see in absolutes.
Good versus evil.
Male versus female,
Old versus young,
Gay versus straight.

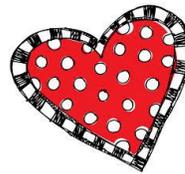
Let us see the fractions, the spectrum, the margins.
Let us open our hearts to the complexity of our worlds.
Let us make our lives sanctuaries, to nurture our many identities.

The day is coming when all will know
That the rainbow world is more gorgeous than monochrome,
That a river of identities can ebb and flow over the static, stubborn rocks in its course,
That the margins hold the center.

Love, Rev. Lise

CHALICE Social Justice Committee
on Gun Violence
Thurs., November 17 and Tues., November 29 at 7 pm in the Church Office

CARING CORNER



Help us to keep in touch, celebrate the happy moments in life and support you during the difficult times. Please send your news to Hope Weinman in the Church Office at office@firstparishnorwell.com, or contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team (Sue Robinson, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Marcia Babcock, Noel Constantino, Betsey Detwiler, Joanne Howard and Joyce Hockman).

IMPORTANT SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION



Should severe weather this winter necessitate cancellation of any church activities, we will make every effort to leave an outgoing message on the church’s voicemail and send an all-church email with the information. Depending on the amount of advance notice, check our website as well: www.firstparishnorwell.org. We will notify WATD radio in Marshfield (95.9 FM), WCVB - TV (Channel 5), WHDH 7News and radio/AM 680. We will also make every effort to post updates on our Facebook page. However, power outages or lack of internet access may affect our ability to communicate with you all. **Please be cautious and use your best judgment!**

HOLIDAY FAIR UPDATE



We are raffling some *wonderful* items at the Holiday Fair on **Saturday, November 19**. Tickets are on sale at the raffle table in the Parish Hall. There is a scarf by Linda Goodwin, a toddler sweater and a Patriots blanket by Joanne Howard and a Trader Joe’s basket by Marta Reese.

Next week is the last Sunday to bring your gift baskets for help in wrapping.

If you need items picked up, call or e-mail Dave Horton for pick up **Monday, November 13**. He can be reached at 781-829-0123 or 781-424-4002.

Drop off items at the church the week of November 15. The building will be open that week Tuesday through Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon, Thursday evening from 7-9 pm and all day Friday from 9am - 5 pm.

Come one, come all! Be part of the fun of the fair and make special memories! We will have wonderful food and great books as well as lots of gift items, including our art table and church memorabilia.



THEMED GIFT BASKETS FOR THE HOLIDAY FAIR

A record number of baskets have been promised this year-39! Thank you - what generous parishioners! Many baskets have already been wrapped. This coming Sunday (November 13) is the last day to get your basket to the church before the fair on the 19th.

We have a wonderful variety this year. Here's a sample to whet your appetite: Head-To-Toe Christmas; The Joy of Coffee; S'Mores; Make Balloon Animals; First Sewing Basket; Fancy Shrimp Cocktails; Olive Bar; Finding Dory fish basket; Japanese Candy; For the Love of Cats!; Wine, Anyone?; Child's Christmas Delight; Legos; and Kid Entertainment Without a Screen. Many of them will be available for pre-sale at Coffee Hour this Sunday!

The Basket Ladies,
Bev Gardner, Noel Constantino, Linda Goodwin, Debb Welsh, Adrianna McLane and Joanne Howard



BAKE SALE

Cookies, pies, jams and jellies, pickles, casseroles, baked beans, breads and muffins all add up to more cash in the coffers of First Parish of Norwell at the Holiday Fair on **Saturday, November 19**. So plan to put on your aprons and **BAKE!** The Alliance is very grateful for all donations!



During the Holiday Fair, the South Shore Music Teachers' Association will again be holding their play-a-thon. Take a break from the fair, and relax in the Meetinghouse while you listen to festive holiday music played by music students from all over the South Shore. Free will donations will be gratefully accepted, and will be donated to three organizations benefitting the homeless: Father Bill's Place, the Pine Street Inn and Rosie's Place.



FROM THE DRE

Hello First Parish!

We've had a lot of great Religious Education going on so far this year, and we're looking forward to a whole lot more as we continue encouraging everyone to invite their friends and family to join our First Parish community.

First we have some upcoming events for the whole family. On **Friday, November 11** at 5:30 pm is our *Game Night/Potluck*. You bring your favorite dish and board, card, or tabletop game, and have a blast playing with your First Parish of Norwell family. New people are always welcome, so feel free to invite whoever you like!

Then on Saturday the 19th, make sure to come out to the **Holiday Fair** run by our Events Committee. The RE program will be selling popcorn and generally helping out, and you can read more about this awesome event in their article on pages 3-4.

For adults, make sure to check out our Adult Religious Education program *Spirit of Life* on **Wednesday, November 23** at 7:00pm, and continuing every 2nd and 4th Wednesday. This program is themed around the song of the same name, and uses the lyrics to explore our definition of spirituality, and its place in our everyday lives. All are welcome and you are encouraged to bring friends or family.

For youth, we have a bit of a change going forward. Rev. Lise and I recently met with representatives of the Scituate, Cohasset, and Rockland (known as SciCohRock) Youth Group, and have decided to merge our groups to form SciCohRockWell in order to have a more active and vibrant youth group for our youth to participate in, as well as increase the interactions and communal work between UU congregations. We will be changing our meeting schedule somewhat, with the new schedule being posted here:

tinyurl.com/SciCohRockCalendar

The First Parish of Norwell youth will continue meeting on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5 pm in order to plan First Parish events and youth services. We are very excited about working together with our neighboring UU congregations.

Now you may ask, how do my kids take part in all of these great programs? Well the answer is Registration! This year we are supporting both in person, and web based child registrations. So if you haven't registered yet, come see me in person, or go to our new online registration form here:

www.goo.gl/forms/BT1HXxgMKY9hZLVL2

I have had both children and adults ask me lately what all of the things I do are, and so here's a snapshot of what your Director of

Religious Education does for the congregation with the help of your RE committee. I read and approve curriculum for our Sunday School classes, I plan and run a variety of RE events, ensure the proper background checks are done on volunteers, I train RE teachers, I wrote and regularly examine our Safe Congregation policies, I find additional activities and put together supplies for teachers, I manage our attendance/registration files, I work with the RE committee to recruit teachers, I organize the substitute teachers, tell most of the Time for All Ages stories, and advocate for the children of the congregation to a wide variety of committees.

That's only the part that's most visible however. In addition to these important congregational responsibilities, I also represent our congregation to the larger denomination, along with Rev. Lise. I currently serve on the board of directors of two religious education-based organizations. One organization is the Unitarian Sunday School Society, a 200-year old organization which works to create materials and programs for Religious Education. The organization has a rich history which you can read about here: unitariansundayschoolsociety.wordpress.com/uss-history/

I also serve on the board of the local chapter of the Liberal Religious Educators Association as Treasurer. This organization provides support to DREs throughout the Northeast ranging from startup trainings, to collegial meetings, to support provided in the form of "Good Officers", experienced DREs who can work with congregations and DREs to improve programs in crisis for one reason or another. This position has been especially important recently, as the UUA continues to abolish districts, and moves that institutional support to the responsibility of the UUA at large and LREDA organization.

In short, I do my best to make sure that our congregation's Religious Education program is healthy and fulfilling, while helping to ensure

that materials and support systems are available to all UU Religious Education programs. This also benefits our congregation as I have influence over the materials which are produced, and can ensure that our congregation is well represented in the general infrastructure of UU Religious Education.

I can't wait to see you all at church!

Julian Baptista
Director of Religious Education

FPNUU GROWTH TEAM

On Sunday night, October 16, our well-attended Study Group on Growth made some important discoveries and the people who were there recommended we have another meeting and work to include additional people on **Sunday, November 13** at 7 pm. You are invited, so please consider joining this second meeting, which is open to all. Going forward, the meetings will be called the FPNUU Growth Team because, while we need to work as a team to both generate ideas AND take action on those ideas, this isn't a committee and we don't have "members." You are welcome to come and share without any further commitment, join us because you're curious or just give us your moral support.

As a reminder, the Study Group on Growth first gathered to discuss both what the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) says about growth and our own ideas about growing our congregation. We all agreed with the UUA that to remain a force for good in our community some growth is necessary. The UUA says, "*Growth is inevitable in healthy congregations. To be a healthy congregation is to develop responses that are sound and reasonable. To be healthy is to be vigorous, to have strength, and to use these qualities in taking action. When a congregation sees clearly its place and possibilities and understands its mission and purpose, it will*

make decisions that serve itself and its community well. Such a congregation will continue growing because of its health. Such a congregation is ready to serve people who need Unitarian Universalism."

The UUA says there are four kinds of growth:

1. Maturational Growth: growth in wisdom; spiritual growth
2. Organic Growth: growth in strength; institutional growth
3. Incarnational Growth: growth in action; community outreach
4. Numerical Growth: growth in numbers

To be a healthy congregation, we need to grow in all these ways. Healthy ministries, programs, and good worship help us all to grow spiritually deeper (maturational growth) while also providing resilience and strength so we can grow in the other three areas. We already have a lot of good practices in place, a wonderful community and resources to draw upon. We also want to share our good fortune and the welcoming message of Unitarian Universalism with others, but sometimes it's hard to put our good intentions into practice. To this end, we shared specific ideas about how we can be more welcoming to visitors, and follow through with new members to share our vision and enthusiasm about FPNUU. We also wondered if there might be some hidden barriers that prevent us from being more open to newcomers—perhaps we're afraid of losing the closeness of our current community or are a bit scared about what future changes might bring.

By the end of the meeting, we decided that congregational growth is important and we want to take a two track approach:

1. Capture, organize and pursue specific actions we can take to promote growth
2. Continue to study and look for deeper, perhaps hidden ways we might grow

Please join us on **Sunday, November 13** at 7 pm in the Fogg Parlor to continue this work. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with Jack Wallace.



HELEN FOGG SERVICE COMMITTEE

Yes! It's true. Your congregation is Changing Hearts And Lives by Inspiring Community Efforts. CHALICE is the Outreach/Social Service part of our 375th celebration, and you are part of that.

As the outreach arm of the church, the Helen Fogg Service Committee is also part of CHALICE, but not the whole thing! The CHALICE program is comprised of individual initiatives where volunteer and leaders both expressed an interest. If you are curious or want to join, please contact a leader. Here is a list:

- Helping Children and Families: Lindsey Houston
- Re-integrating People into Society: Bev Gardner
- Gun Violence: Mary Nickerson
- Food Pantries: Scott Babcock
- LBGTQI Issues: Mary Nickerson

The Helping Children and Families group recently participated in the Harvest Picnic by creating a table to support local foster kids. The table included information from the Department of Children and Families on how to become a foster/adoptive parent and a raffle to raise funds for emergency supplies for children entering care. We also worked with the Activities Committee and set up a donation basket at the picnic. On "Outreach Sunday", October 16, we also took donations. Between the two events, we raised a grand total of \$1196.69! We've started working on the Christmas gift drive where, on December 11, we will be collecting gifts for Foster Children. The collection that day will go towards purchasing gift cards for DCF's emergency supply fund. We're also exploring the possibility of storing new or gently used clothing for foster families in the church attic.

More Outreach Sundays are scheduled to

support CHALICE initiatives. On **November 13**, the collection will be for Partakers, as part of Reintegrating People into Society. The Gun Violence group has met as well and is focusing on education.

Please check out the CHALICE board on Sunday and see which of the areas interest you. If during the church year you would like to have a say in how we do outreach in our community, please join us! Meetings are at 11:30 after Coffee Hour, usually the second Sunday of each month. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, November 13**. Why not join us and check us out? Questions? Ask any committee member! Committee members are:

Bev Gardner and Jack Wallace (co-chairs), Marcia & Scott Babcock, Debbie Chase, Penny Corbett, Pat Crumley, Alex Gordon, Bill Montuori, Elizabeth Robey (liaison with the Parish Committee), Rev. Lise Adams Sherry

SHARE A MEAL AT CAROLINA HILL

Please join us and/or contribute to our next Share a Meal at Carolina Hill on **Sunday, November 20** from noon to 2 pm. We will leave church by 11:20 am in order to have lunch ready to serve by noon. We need people to donate sandwiches, fruit, salad, drinks, chips/sides, desserts and paper goods. See Mandy Metzger for more info.



MEN'S DINNER

Please mark your calendars. The next Men's Potluck will be on **Sunday, November 20** in the Parish Hall. Jim Miller will be supervising in the kitchen and the Patriots/49'ers game will be on the big screen. Kickoff is at 4:30 pm. Come anytime starting at 4:00. Jim needs a co-host. If you're looking for a way to host, this is an easy way to get involved.

RECYCLING REMINDER



FPNUU proudly recycles! We contract with our regular trash removal company to pick up our recyclables. Each recycling bin in the building has a list of acceptable items. (It is slightly different than what the Town of Norwell accepts.) Please be sure to dispose of items properly.

FIRST PARISH BOOK GROUP



Wednesday, December 7 at 7 pm
Fogg Parlor
"Travels with Charley" by John Steinbeck
All are welcome!



IT'S OUR BIRTHDAY YEAR!

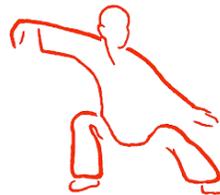
Your 375th committee sponsored two great events in October. Thanks to Dexter Robinson for coordinating the special Organ Concert and to Lindsey Houston and Elizabeth Robey for a fabulous Old Fashioned Harvest Picnic. Both events were well attended by both the church family and the wider community. Contributions to our year long CHALICE projects included \$320 donated at the organ concert and over \$430 raised at the Picnic.

Next, look forward to a special 375th presence at our Holiday Fair on November 19 where you can purchase Helen Fogg's biography Where in the World, Minister Emeritus Richard Fewkes' collection of readings and sermons,

collectable Pairpoint cup plates from the 350th celebration, and other church-related items including original art work by members of the congregation. Bring friends along to share this great, traditional church fair.

Also, visit the James Library any time and note the rotating display highlighting items from the history of the church. Currently featured is information about our historic parsonage.

Mark your calendars for the special worship service on **Sunday, February 5, 2017**, when we will celebrate the founding of our church community 375 years ago. Invitations are going to many beyond our church to attend the morning service and child-friendly "high tea" reception. This service for all ages will tell the story of our founding, the highlights of our history and the goals for our future.



TAI CHI CLASSES

Our popular Tai Chi and Qigong classes continue on Tuesday from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. at the church Parish Hall. The next four week session is **November 15, 22 and 29 and December 6** - still just \$20 (\$5 per session) payable at the first class. Beginners are welcome at any time - a great way to relax and enjoy low-impact exercise. Questions? Contact Sue Robinson at artsue45@hotmail.com or 781-294-8840.

Congregation Beth Jacob in Plymouth is reaching out to local UU congregations to let Jewish LGBTQ members know that they are welcome to worship with them as members or nonmembers. For more information, please contact Laney Kalaminsky at 781-733-7936.

**CALENDAR
NOVEMBER 2016**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			9 Alliance, PH 10 am Preschool, Sky. 10-10:30 am Church Council, PH 5:30 pm	10 Staff Meeting, Ofc. 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	11 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm Game Night & Potluck, PH 5:30 pm Youth Group overnight, PH 7:30 pm on	12 Overnight ends by 11 am
13 Outreach Sunday Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Service Comm., FP 11:30 am HS Youth Group, FP 5 pm Growth Study Group, FP 7 pm	14 AA, PH 8:30 pm	15 Holiday Fair Set-up, PH, FP & Sky. - all day Tai Chi, 9:15 am	16 Holiday Fair Set-up, PH, FP & Sky. - all day Worship Comm., Ofc. 7:30 pm	17 Holiday Fair Set-up, PH, FP & Sky. - all day CHALICE Team-Gun Violence, Ofc. 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	18 Holiday Fair Set-up, PH, FP & Sky. - all day Piano lessons, MH 3-5 pm	19 HOLIDAY FAIR 9 AM-2:30 PM 
20 Morning Service & Church School 10 am Coffee Hour, PH 11 am Share a Meal @ Carolina Hill - leave by 11:20 am Men's Dinner, PH & Kit. 4 pm	21 AA, PH 8:30 pm	22 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	23 iSpi deadline, 9 am Adult RE, FP 7 pm Dancers, PH 6-9pm	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	25 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Dancers, PH 6-8 pm	26
27 First Sunday of Advent Morning Service & Church School 10 am 	28 AA, PH 8:30 pm	29 Tai Chi, PH 9:15 am Knitters, FP 9:30 am Dancers, PH 6-8 pm CHALICE Team-Gun Violence, Ofc. 7 pm Parish Comm., FP 7 pm	30 Dancers, PH 6-9pm	1 Choir Rehearsal, Sky., 7:30 pm	2 Piano lessons, PH 3-5 pm FP 3-5 pm	3 Piano lessons, FP & Sky. (all day) Scrapbookers (private rental), PH 4-11 pm