

The North Parish of North Andover
190 Academy Road, North Andover, MA 01845
978-687-7948 www.northparish.org

the center for
spiritual RENEWAL
at The North Parish



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WINTER/SPRING 2006 PROGRAMS

welcome

to the Center for Spiritual Renewal at The North Parish!

Within these pages, you will find multiple opportunities...

- ✦ to broaden your knowledge of religion and theology,
- ✦ to try out or deepen a spiritual practice,
- ✦ to engage with critical issues at the intersection of religion and society, and
- ✦ to gather support and information from people with similar life experiences.

We at the Center believe in lifelong learning and its potential for personal and societal transformation. Our mission is to be a catalyst for spiritual growth, renewal and progressive change within our congregation and the wider community.

We live in a culture that often pulls us away from what really matters. The Center for Spiritual Renewal seeks to be a place that will help you to reconnect...
 with your Self,
 with others,
 with your spiritual path,
 with religious wisdom from the ages,
 with the interdependent web of life,
 and with that greater Mystery to which we belong, that we call by many names—God, Spirit of Love, Creativity, Universal Energy, Mindfulness, Ruah, Shekinah, Life.

We hope you will join us!

The Steering Committee:
Susan VanDrie, Chair
Jeri Bayer
Pamela Bearor-Amiralian
Cathy French
Diane Heerema
Dick Wilson

Rev. Frank Clarkson
Rev. Lee Bluemel



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For updates or more information, please see the webpage of The North Parish, sponsoring congregation of the Center for Spiritual Renewal, at www.northparish.org. All are welcome to our programs, regardless of religious affiliation or lack thereof.

Theology and philosophy

NEW UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CLASS

Winter: Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM, January 18, 25 and February 1

Spring: Thursdays from 7 to 9 PM, March 30, April 6 and 13

*Led by members of the Membership Committee
with Rev. Lee Bluemel and Rev. Frank Clarkson*

The New UU class is held three times per year. It is intended as a general orientation to UUism and to the North Parish. All those considering membership are strongly encouraged to attend. The class consists of three evening sessions. The first gives participants an opportunity to learn about one another. The second session is devoted to the history of UUism, and the final session is devoted to the workings of the North Parish, with church leaders explaining the role of committees in church life.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST THEOLOGY AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT

January 22, and 29, February 5, 12:30 to 2:30, lunch provided

Led by Gail Forsyth-Vail

What DO UUs believe anyway? What is it that we are teaching our children? Our children are hungry to know what adults - their parents, teachers, and leaders - think about spiritual matters. Living in a world that is increasingly preoccupied by questions of religious belief, they long to know what we believe, and they long for the vocabulary to explain this to their friends. This three-part workshop will help you to explore some of your own religious understandings, as well as taking you more deeply into Unitarian Universalist theology and tradition. Using material from some of the sessions in our Coming of Age curriculum we'll wrestle with questions of faith. Engaging these questions will deepen your own faith journey, and help you to nurture the children in your care.

*To register for these classes, please contact Pam Guerrieo at
978-687-7948, ext. 5 or adminassist@northparish.org*

MINISTERS' BOOK GROUP

Noon to 1:30, 4th Tuesday of the month, through May

Led by Rev. Lee Bluemel and Rev. Frank Clarkson

Bring a brown bag lunch and discuss these books with us!

January: *If Grace Is True*, by Philip Gulley and James Mulholland

Written by two Quakers, this book describes their evolution from a dualistic Christianity to traditional universalist theology. This book offers helpful insights into how "the other side" thinks, as well as an argument for universalism that speaks to that mindset.

February: *God's Politics*, by Jim Wallis

A progressive Christian evangelical looks at modern American politics and offers his perspective on Christianity's true political imperatives--which is reflected by neither the current "left" or "right".

March: *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion

Didion chronicles her journey with grief during a devastating year after the loss of her husband and daughter.

April: *Becoming Human: Core Teachings of Jesus*, by Brian C. Taylor

What Jesus taught—don't worry; love everybody; help the poor; become simple; face into conflict; change the world; forgive yourself for being human; and so on—provides the basis for this series of reflections on how to incorporate Jesus's transformative wisdom into contemporary life.

May: To be announced

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY

Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, and 15

Led by Bill Toomey and Jeff Lu

This is a workshop that helps participants to figure out their values and beliefs about God, human nature, ethics, and the meaning and purpose of life; to explore what other UUs believe about the great religious questions, and to articulate one's beliefs in a credo statement. Limited to eight participants.

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY II

Wednesdays from 7 to 9 PM, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3 and 10

Led by Bill Toomey and Jeff Lu

BYOT II continues the process of theological meaning-making by examining truth and authority, the holy, good and evil, justice and the beloved community, suffering, death, immortality, and a doctrine of the liberal church. Limited to eight participants.

MORNINGSONG

Thursdays from 9 to 11 AM, February 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2 and 9

Led by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Morningsong is a daytime version of the program that's called Evensong when we offer it, well, in the evening. This is a small-group gathering in a worshipful setting that encourages deep listening. In this circle we share our thoughts and feelings about big questions—our spiritual experiences, God, humanity, community, death, our place in the world. Doing this, we touch deep places within ourselves, and strengthen our connections to others in this religious community. Limited to ten participants.

WHO WAS JESUS, ANYWAY?

Thursdays from 7 to 8:30 PM, March 9, 16 and 23, or

Thursdays from Noon to 1:30, March 16, 23 and 30

Led by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Two thousand years after his death, Jesus continues to have a profound influence on the world. But, depending on whom you talk to, there are widely divergent views of this Hebrew prophet. This course will look at Jesus through the eyes of historians, liberation theology, popular culture, TV preachers, and Mel Gibson, among others. We'll consider Jesus's question, "Who do you say that I am?" (Mark 8:29) and ask what Jesus might offer to Unitarian Universalists today.

To register for these classes, please contact Pam Guerrieo at 978-687-7948, ext. 5 or adminassist@northparish.org

spiritual practice

SPIRITUAL COMPANIONING

2nd and 4th Mondays from 10 AM to Noon,

8 sessions beginning January 9

Led by Susan Van Drie

Spiritual Companioning focuses on the personal spiritual journey of each participant. Following an opening reading and/or meditation and silent reflection, each person in the group has the opportunity to share her/his current spiritual questions, dilemmas, pain and/or joys, and to share responses to others in the group as they reflect out loud. Along the way, we discover that the process of bringing our personal truths and experiences into conscious relationship within ourselves and with one another in an atmosphere of trust can prove transformative.

Joining requires an 8-session (16-week) commitment. The group meets in Andover; contact Susan for more information: 978-470-0107 or susanvandrie@mindspring.com.

DISCOVERING YOUR CREATIVE SPIRIT THROUGH THE MANDALA

Thursdays from 7 to 9:30 PM, January 19, 26, February 2, 9, and 16

Led by Pamela Bearor-Amiralian, Lynn McLaughlin and Lani Peterson-Arzen

This five-week hands-on workshop integrates visual art, expository writing, creative movement and storytelling to create a personal mandala, a circular picture or symbol with spiritual and ritual significance. Many cultures have created mandalas using meaningful symbols and images to express the interwoven parts of a whole idea. This format will encourage you to experiment with personal expression, stretch yourself, and affirm your unique style of creating. The three women leading this workshop bring together over fifty years of creative experience to share.

Fee: \$25 per person.

EXPLORING SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15 and 22, from 7:30 to 9:00PM

Led by Susan Van Drie

Many of us have a powerful but largely unexplored relationship with commonly used spiritual language. Words like "God" and "prayer" evoke strong reactions in us, positive or negative, conscious or unconscious, as a result of our history and where we are in life. This workshop is designed to help you discover and deepen what particular words mean to you personally through an experiential process followed by discussion. You will leave with a tool that you can use to explore the meaning of any word or idea for yourself. Bring materials for writing: paper or journal with pen, or a laptop computer. Come to one evening or all four. We will work with the following words on these dates:

March 1: "prayer"

March 8: "God"

March 15: "mercy"

March 22: "healing"

FINDING YOUR VOICE THROUGH PRAYER

Friday evening, March 17, 7 to 9 PM

Saturday, March 18, 9 AM to 3PM

Led by Cathy French

Participants will explore their own stories through art and prayer in this two-day workshop. This interactive program will use the creative process that resides in all of us. As a group and as individuals, we will explore prayer through the use of voice, music, movement/dance, writing, visual art and other expressions of the creative process. If you are interested in walking a labyrinth, creating a mandala, and learning about the ancient art of Lectio Divina and other expressions and forms of prayer, this is the workshop for you.

To register for these classes, please contact Pam Guerrieo at 978-687-7948, ext. 5 or adminassist@northparish.org

GREAT POND SANGHA

We come together to practice Dzogchen, the "Natural Great Perfection," considered to be the highest wisdom teachings of Tibetan Buddhism. Through this simple and profound awareness practice, we are introduced to our own true nature. As we learn to "see things as they are" and let be, we are able to experience our lives with immense joy and peace. This practice is presented in a relaxed and accessible format, appropriate for both beginners and experienced meditators.

Guided Dzogchen Meditation and Discussion

First and third Wednesdays of each month, 7:30 to 9 PM

Beginners/Teens welcome. Drop in.

For information call Laura Howell (978) 685-8323

Peer-led Meditation and Study Group

Second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 7:30 to 9 PM

Call Susan Malloy (978) 474-0823

Intergenerational Meditation and Potluck Dinner

Includes children's session, usually the last Saturday of each month, 4 to 7 PM

RSVP to John Weaver (978) 975-8153

YOGA FOR YOU

Led by Connie Glore, 978-352-2862, connie@yogaforyou.biz, www.yogaforyou.biz

Yoga for You is designed to introduce the 8 limbs of Hatha Yoga to the beginner and support more experienced students in their practice of yoga. The basic poses are taught with an emphasis on alignment and harmony between posture and breath. More experienced students are given the option to go more deeply into poses. Each class includes centering, focusing the mind, breathing with attention, a teaching on the yamas and niyamas to bring awareness to life choices, asana practice, and resting in savasana.

Level 1/11, Tuesdays from 6 to 7:15 PM

Level 1 for All Students, Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11 AM

Gentle/Restorative, Wednesdays from Noon to 1PM

Children 4-7, Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM

Level 1 for All Students, Thursdays from 6 to 7:15 PM

All Great Pond Sangha and Yoga gatherings meet upstairs in Old Center Hall.

religion and society

BOOK DISCUSSION:

WAR IS A FORCE THAT GIVES US MEANING, BY CHRIS HEDGES

Wednesdays, April 19 and 26, 7 to 9 PM

Led by Cara Marshall and Rev. Frank Clarkson

Journalist Chris Hedges brings fifteen years of combat reporting experience to show how war seduces not just those on the front lines but entire societies, corrupting politics, destroying culture, and perverting basic human desires. Gen. Wesley Clark calls it a “somber and timely warning to those—in any society—who would evoke the emotions for war for the pursuit of political gain.”

BOOK DISCUSSION:

THE LONG EMERGENCY, BY JAMES HOWARD KUNSTLER Wednesday, February 15, 7 to 9 PM

Led by Gail Page

The Long Emergency addresses the impact of fossil fuel depletion, climate change, recurrence of epidemic disease, water scarcity, and habitat destruction on the local, national and global economy and on life itself. Warning: this is scary stuff! But it is vitally important reading. The support of others is critical in coming to terms with these ideas and the realities as they unfold. That's what this group is for. So read the book and come to our little group to be comforted, discuss and move forward. Limited to ten participants.

To receive a 10% discount on the book at the Andover Bookstore, contact Gail at 978-470-2883 or gailpage@aol.com.

To register for these classes, please contact Pam Guerrieo at 978-687-7948, ext. 5 or adminassist@northparish.org

MOVING TOWARD SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Wednesday, February 1, Thursday, March 2, Tuesday, March 21, 7 to 9 PM

Led by Tina Klein and Kathy Slade

For many of us it is difficult to translate the concept of sustainability into everyday actions and consequences. Come learn about one framework for sustainable systems that will help put the decisions you make as a consumer in context of a bigger picture. We'll address issues of toxic waste, resource conservation, and equitable use of global resources.

FILM AND DISCUSSION: LONG NIGHT'S JOURNEY INTO DAY Wednesday, May 3, 7 to 9 PM

Led by Rev. Frank Clarkson

Come watch this compelling documentary about South Africa's Truth & Reconciliation Commission and then discuss it afterwards. The stories in the film underscore the universal themes of conflict, forgiveness, and renewal, and raise questions about our own culture and what it might mean to seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

FILM AND DISCUSSION:

WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF LOW PRICE Date and time to be announced

Led by the Social Action Committee

This film takes you behind the glitz and into the real lives of workers and their families, business owners and their communities, in an extraordinary journey that will challenge the way you think, feel and shop.

PARTAKERS PRISON MINISTRY

Contact: Edwina Goodhue, 978-887-8348, edwinagoodhue@hotmail.com

Partakers, Inc. is an organization that helps prisoners receive a college education while incarcerated, and offers other restorative programs that link prisoners and free citizens. Members of the North Parish subcommittee of Partakers have made the commitment to sponsor a prisoner at Norfolk State Prison. This involves providing him with moral, educational, and emotional support. The North Parish Partakers Team would like to sponsor another inmate in its college behind-bars program. Visitors work in pairs to visit once a month. If you are interested in joining this group of visitors, please contact Edwina Goodhue at 978-887-8348 or edwinagoodhue@hotmail.com More information about Partakers can be found at www.partakersinc.com.

Life passages

CARING FOR AGING PARENTS: A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

Wednesday January 11th at 7:00 pm, and Tuesday March 7th at noon

Facilitated by Rev. Lee Bluemel

Becoming responsible for our aging parents can be both challenging and complicated. Many people in our community are facing these issues. But you don't have to go it alone—join us for help and support.

FAMILY CONNECTION GATHERINGS

Sunday afternoons from 4:15 to 6 PM

You are invited to attend a Sunday afternoon gathering of families with children/youth in the same age range as your own. Our agenda is to play and eat a meal together, share laughter and stories, and have a chance to hear about your wishes for this congregation and for your family. The gatherings are for the whole family, although each will be specially tailored for a particular age group. We'll offer child-friendly food for dinner, as well as games and activities for all to enjoy. Our hope is that these informal gatherings will help us to get to know each other better, and will be a chance to talk about how the North Parish can better serve children, youth, parents, and families. What drew you here and what keeps you? What are the "sparkling moments" that affirm your choice to be connected to the North Parish? Please join us!

January 8: Third and Fourth Graders (8-10 year olds) and Families

January 29: Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Graders (10- 13 year olds) and Families

February 12: First and Second Graders (6-8 year olds) and Families

March 5: Pre-K and Kindergartners (4-6 year olds) and Families

March 26: Nursery-aged children (through three years old) and Families

April 9: Eighth Graders and High Schoolers (13- 19 year olds) and Families

TRANSCENDING LOSS: HOW TO MAKE GRIEF MEANINGFUL **Wednesday, April 12 from 7 to 9 PM**

Led by Ashley Davis Prend, A.C.S.W.

This presentation by psychotherapist and author Ashley Prend is based on her book *Transcending Loss: Understanding the Lifelong Impact of Grief and How to Make it Meaningful*. In the introduction she writes, "We all get broken by life sooner or later because loss is the price we pay for living and loving. But experience shows that we can become stronger at the broken places and find the opportunity in crisis." Ashley's hope is that this book, and her presentation, will help you move through and beyond grief, and will guide you on your journey of healing and transcendence.

CONNECTION LUNCHESES

The first Tuesday of the month at Noon, in the Parlor

With Rev. Lee Bluemel, Gail Forsyth-Vail, and Rev. Frank Clarkson

Join the ministers, the Director of Religious Education, and others for a casual brown bag lunch and a chance to talk about issues affecting our lives. All are welcome, including those currently facing a struggle and those who have come out the other side.

January 3: Families affected by Mental Illness

February 7: Living with Unemployment

March 7: Caring for Aging Parents

April 4: Finding Our Way: Being Jewish and UU

May 9: UU Homeschoolers

June 6: Open topic/TBD

To register for these classes, please contact Pam Guerrieo at 978-687-7948, ext. 5 or adminassist@northparish.org

Affinity groups

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Meets every Monday night, 7:30 to 9:30 in the Parish Hall

AL-ANON

Meets every Thursday, from 10 AM to Noon in the Parish Hall

BOOK & MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

Second Thursday of the month, from 7:30 to 9 PM

Led by Donna Cooper, 978-470-2717

This is an open group that meets to discuss books and movies with social, ethical and political themes. Contact Donna to join the group's e-mail list, or see the Messenger for the current book or movie selection.

G/B/L/T PARENING SUPPORT GROUP

First Friday of the month, 6:30 PM in the Parlor

With Ginny Montella, virginia-m@comcast.net, 978-687-9811, and Janet Lacourse Jjlacourse@adelphia.net, 603-382-5211

This is an ongoing group to provide support for gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender parents.

MEN'S GROUP

Would you like to meet some other North Parish men in a casual, friendly environment? The Men's Group gets together once a month for dinner, drinks and conversation. The meeting time and place change each month, so to join us, send an email to men@northparish.org with "Subscribe" in the subject line, and we'll keep you posted on where we're meeting next!

INTERWEAVE

Second Monday of the month, at 7 PM in the RE Wing

For information contact Brenda J. Myers, chair, brendajmyers@comcast.net, or visit the Interweave web site, <http://www.lauralandy.net/interweave/index.htm>

Interweave North Parish is a local affiliate of Interweave Continental, which is dedicated to the spiritual, political and social well-being of UU's who are confronting oppression as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons, and their heterosexual allies, and facilitating the celebration of the culture and lives of its members.

LITTLE ONES LUNCH

Second Tuesday of the month, at Noon in the Nursery

With Rev. Lee Bluemel, Gail Forsyth-Vail, and Rev. Frank Clarkson

This gathering is for moms and dads with little ones at home—join us for a brown bag lunch & play time!

THE ORIGINAL LUNCH BUNCH

Third Tuesday of the month, at Noon in the Parlor

Join the Minister Emeritus, the other ministers, and church folks for a brown bag lunch and lively conversation. People with grandchildren, opinions, and a sense of humor are especially welcome!

MERRIMACK VALLEY PEOPLE FOR PEACE

Fourth Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 PM in Parish Hall

For information contact Becci Buckman, 978-475-5679, raback@ix.netcom.com, or visit www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org

Merrimack Valley People for Peace is a diverse group of committed activists from throughout the Merrimack Valley. We're the folks who vigil with our PEACE flags and signs, urging an immediate end to the war on Iraq. We're a non-profit organization founded in 1984 to work for justice, peace, and the sustainability of all life on the planet. We coordinate our efforts locally and regionally with a large coalition of peace and justice groups (United for Justice with Peace). At our monthly meetings, we discuss issues we're emphasizing (currently, demilitarization of our schools and depleted uranium munitions) and plan workshops, lectures, concerts, and vigils.

MONTHLY HIKING GROUP

Second Sunday of the month, following the 11 AM service

For information contact Alison or Kevin Sparks: kasparks@comcast.net or 978-682-8736

Come join us one Sunday a month after the 11 o'clock service for a hike or other one-hour outdoor activity. This is a great activity for all ages and we often have a multigenerational group.

- January 8:** Chapman Lane (Boxford - hike, ski and/or snowshoe)
- February 12:** Goldsmith Reservation (Andover - hike, ski and/or snowshoe)
- March 12:** Weir Hill (North Andover - hike)
- April 9:** Baker's Meadow (Andover - picnic w/ frisbees & kites)
- May 14:** Nashua RR Trail (Groton - easy biking on beautiful trail)
- June 11:** Canoe/Kayak (Charles River Canoe & Kayak or Local TBD)

SHAWL MINISTRY**Second Saturday of the month, 9 to 11 AM**

For information contact Cathy French,
cmfrench@juno.com or (508) 265-6923

This is a group of knitters who meet with the intention to knit blessings, prayers, and thoughts into shawls that are then given to people in the church and community who are experiencing difficulty and loss.

SOUP NIGHT**Third Thursday of the month**

For information contact Pam Pappalardo, 978-247-8942

This is an open group that meets at the home of Pam Pappalardo and Jill Houser for a light dinner, conversation and fun. Soup is provided, and you are invited to bring bread.

VOCAL CHOIR**Tuesday evenings, 7 to 8:30 PM**

Led by Jim Dalton, North Parish Director of Music

The vocal choir is the heart of the North Parish music program and sings at one Sunday Service a month. It is an intergenerational group of parishioners who love to raise their voices in song. You need to read music or pick up by ear easily. Rehearsals occur regularly on Tuesday nights, but there are occasional additional rehearsals. The rehearsal and performance schedule is posted on the Music board in the parish hall. Contact Jim Dalton, *music@northparish.org* or 978-744-4843, for more information.

OUR INSTRUCTORS

PAMELA BEAROR-AMIRALIAN holds a B.F.A. in Art Education. She has been a teacher, designer, decorative artist and spiritual workshop facilitator for the past twenty years.

JIM DALTON joined the North Parish as Music Director in 1999. He has degrees from Rutgers and the University of Idaho. Active as a performer and composer, Jim brings an interest and experience at a wide range of historical and world music styles. His compositions have been performed around the US and Canada as well as in Europe. Jim teaches in the composition department of the Boston Conservatory and performs with his wife, Maggi.

ASHLEY DAVIS PREND, A.C.S.W., is a psychotherapist and the author of two books: *Transcending Loss* and *Claim Your Inner Grown-Up*. She lives with her husband and three children in Rye, NH.

GAIL FORSYTH-VAIL is a Credentialed Religious Educator, Master's Level, with 19 years' experience. She has served the North Parish for the past twelve years. She also serves on the UUA's Religious Education Credentialing Committee and as a member of the Family Matters Task Force. She is the author of *Adapting Small Group Ministry for Children's Religious Education*.

CATHY FRENCH is a seminary student at Andover Newton Theological School in the M.Div. Program. She is a life-long UU and member of the North Parish community. She has her B.A. in Religion and Philosophy and a M.S. Ed.

CONNIE GLORE is a ten year practitioner of Iyengar yoga. She first studied with Rhoda Zussman and now practices at Level III with her teacher, Liz Owen, at the Arlington Yoga Center. Connie is a certified yoga teacher with a Masters Degree in Expressive Therapy.

LAURA HOWELL has been practicing meditation for sixteen years. She is a psychotherapist, poet, and the mother of two young sons. Since 1993, she has been a student of Dzogchen Master Lama Surya Das who is a lineage holder in the Rime (non-sectarian) tradition of Tibetan Buddhism.

TINA KLEIN has been a member of the North Parish for 9 years. She's currently in her fifth year as Chair of the Town or North Andover's Recycling Committee, and she has received state recognition for a grassroots block captain program she still manages today. Her passion for the environment does not stop with volunteer work; she recently accepted a position with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in Boston. Tina knows a thing or two about trash!

JEFF LU is a fellow seeker of the truth, and a most recent graduate of Build Your Own Theology. Jeff's credo is to learn and grow continuously in life, a key requirement in raising four bright children. He works in the computer industry, and holds degrees in Biology and EE from MIT, MSEE from Duke, and MBA from Northeastern.

LYNN MCLAUGHLIN holds a B.A. in Art and a M.Ed. Trained as a visual artist and teacher, Lynn has been teaching, lecturing and creating for the past fifteen years.

GAIL PAGE has been active in many capacities at North Parish since she joined the church in 1987. She currently serves on the Music Committee and leads The Fipple FLUUtters recorder consort that plays occasionally at Sunday services. She works as a special education teacher's aide at North Andover High School.

LANI PETERSON-ARNZEN PSY.D., is trained as a psychologist. Lani has been lecturing, teaching and storytelling for the past ten years.

BILL TOOMEY has been a member of the North Parish since 1991. He has been leading Build Your Own Theology (BYOT) and Science and Religion classes since the year 2000, and sees leading BYOT and bringing astronomy into schools as his ministry.

SUSAN VAN DRIE is a licensed independent clinical social worker, a kabbalistic healer, and a leader of spiritual companionship groups at North Parish. She holds a master's degree in religious studies and has a healing practice in Andover. She's been a member of North Parish since 2003 and is current chairperson of the Steering Committee for the Center for Spiritual Renewal.

REV. LEE BLUEMEL began her ministry at the North Parish in 1999. She previously served the UU Fellowship in Midland, MI. Lee received her Master of Divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School, and was ordained to the UU ministry in 1995.

REV. FRANK CLARKSON became the assistant minister at the North Parish in 2005. In his previous career, he was a freelance commercial photographer. Frank received his Master of Divinity degree from Episcopal Divinity School in 2004, and was ordained to the UU ministry in 2005.

about our philosophy

Unitarian Universalism puts religious insights to the test of our hearts and minds, and we cherish the free search for truth. Our living tradition draws from many sources:

- ✦ Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- ✦ Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- ✦ Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- ✦ Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- ✦ Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- ✦ Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism of our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. We hope you will join us in at the Center for Spiritual Renewal! For more information, contact Rev. Frank Clarkson at 978-687-7446 or asstminister@northparish.org. To register for our courses, contact Pam Guerrieo at 978-687-7948 ext. 5 or adminassist@northparish.org. Or visit the North Parish web site: www.northparish.org.

You many also be interested in the adult education programs at other UU churches in the area:

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover
978-475-4454, www.uuandover.org

The Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill
978-372-5173, www.uuhaverhill.org/happenings/index.html

The First Religious Society of Newburyport
978-465-0602, www.frsuu.org

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading
781-944-0494, www.uureading.org

Our heartfelt thanks to Chris Schena who generously donated her time and talent in designing this brochure. Contact Chris at Flow Creative Group, Haverhill, MA, 978-469-9234, www.flowcreativegroup.com.