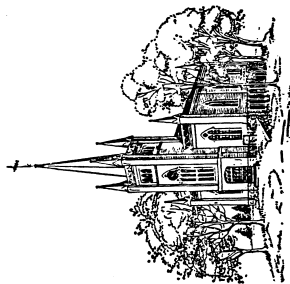


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The North Parish of North Andover
Unitarian Universalist
190 Academy Road
North Andover, MA 01845-4022



The Messenger

The Newsletter of
**THE NORTH PARISH OF NORTH ANDOVER
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**

A Welcoming Congregation
190 Academy Road
North Andover, MA 01845-4022
www.northparish.org
Founded 1645

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Next Copy Deadline: Monday, November 19, at 10am.
December Calendar Deadline: Mon., November 15, 2004

Vol. XXXVII November 8, 2004 No. 25

WORSHIP AT THE NORTH PARISH Worship and Religious Ed at 8:30 and 10:30am

Nov. 14th: The Rev. Lee Bluemel preaching
Nov. 21st: Thanksgiving Sunday. GAYT Boxes.
The Rev. Bluemel, preaching; Music by the Vocal
Choir; Bread Communion and Food Collection
Nov. 28th: The Rev. Robin Zucker, preaching
Dec. 5th: The Rev. Bluemel, preaching

STEEPLETALK DEADLINE: Mon., Nov. 15
Send Steeple Talk articles by Mon., Nov. 15, to Suzanne
Adams at sadams@exceptionalmanagement.com

People's Pantry: Wanted - Someone to help
with pickups at the Lowell Food Bank. Please
call Cari Marchese 978-521-4054.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

To avoid scheduling conflicts, you must check with
the church office before booking meetings/events!

Standard Meetings:

AA: Every Monday, 7:30-9:30 pm, parish hall
Pantry Set-up: Alternate Mondays, 7:30-8:30 pm, OCH
(11/22, 12/6, 12/20)
People's Pantry: Alternate Tuesdays, 9:30-11am, OCH
(11/23, 12/7, 12/21)
Al-Anon: Every Thursday, 10am-noon, parlor & hall
Yoga: Tuesdays 1 & 7:30pm, Wed. 9:30am & 1pm,
Thursdays 9am & 7:30pm, OCH

This Month to Date

Mental Illness Workshop: Wednesday, Nov. 10 & 17,
7pm *See note on reverse*
Movie/Book Discussion: Thursday, Nov. 11, 7:30 pm,
parlor
Small Group Ministries: Friday, Nov. 12, 7 pm, parlor
Crossroads Coffeehouse: Saturday, Nov. 13, 8 pm,
parish hall. The Persuasions. www.crossroads-
coffeehouse.org
Concert / Recital: Sunday, Nov. 14, 4pm., featuring Jim
Dalton
Junior Youth Group Sunday, Nov. 14. 6:30pm.
Bowling!
Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 12 noon, parlor
Trustees: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 pm, parlor
Small Group Ministries: Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 pm, Jeri
CCNS Corporation Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 18, 7-
10pm Parish Hall
Soup Night: Thursday, Nov. 18, 6:30pm. **See note on
reverse**
Sangha Buddhist Meditation and Potluck: Saturday
Nov. 20, 4-7pm OCH
20/30 Something Brunch: Sunday, Nov. 21, 12 noon,
Old Center Hall
Andovers Artists Guild: Sunday, Nov. 21, 2 pm, parish
hall
Bread/Roses Meal Preparation: Saturday, Nov. 27, 2-4
pm.
COA Mentors: Tuesday, Nov. 30, 7 pm, parlor

North Parish RE 5th grade to sponsor a
Bake Sale to raise money for a special donation
for our Ethiopian friend, Merkeb.
When: 9:30 and 11:30 AM
Sunday, November 14
Where: Church Hall, post services
**We invite your family to bake and bring a
baked good and to visit the sale table to find a
treat to bring home!!!
Drop off November 14 before services.
Thank you for your support!

GREAT POND SANGHA BUDDHIST GROUP
Intergenerational Meditation/Potluck
Sat., November 20, 4-7 pm Upstairs, Old Center Hall
Includes children's session.
Call Regina Jesser, 978-975-8153, to R.S.V.P.

The next **Junior Youth Group** will be Sunday
November 14. We will be bowling at
Academy Lanes in Bradford on Rte 125.
Parents need to drop off at 6:30 and pick up at
8:00 as transportation will not be provided.
The cost will be \$5.00 each and will cover
bowling and shoes. Any questions please see
Carol Weldin, Dan Luterman or Rich Sarro.

Sponsor a Family for Christmas

Most of the Christmas programs that help
agencies at Christmas are full already. So, I
am running a large program to get over 100
Lowell families sponsored for Christmas
presents. About a dozen Lawrence families
have also come to my attention. Families
come in all sizes, many of these are 2 people.
If you can help with gifts for one family in
Lowell or Lawrence (or Haverhill), please
contact Donna Hunnewell 978-375-3572 or
hunnewellonna@hotmail.com.

North Andover High School Drama Guild will present
Shakespeare's enchanted play "A Midsummer Night's
Dream" on Thursday, Nov. 11 and Saturday Nov 13 at
7:30, and Sunday, Nov. 14 at 2 pm at the NAHS
Auditorium. The North Parish's Tom Garron, Kirsten
Wentzel, Jessie Harding, Kayli Tillman and Sam Zelitch
are involved in the production.

The production is part of North Andover's 11 year
residency program with renowned Lenox, MA based
Shakespeare and Company, which provides professional
direction and costume and set support. Following the
North Andover production, NAHS will join other
Massachusetts and New York High schools in the Fall
Festival Nov 20 and 21, in which all high schools involved
perform their plays for each other over the course of the
weekend.

This promises to be another very special play, so
don't miss it! Advanced tickets can be ordered from Lynn
Wentzel at lynn.s.wentzel@pfizer.com or calling 978-689-
8926. Advanced reserved tickets are \$15; advanced
general admission \$10. Tickets are also available at the
door at \$12 for Adults and \$8 Students/Seniors.

Congratulations to North Parish members Dick
Wilson and Nancy (Makowski) Wilson upon their
wedding on Oct. 30, 2004! The Rev. Bluemel
officiated.

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

As the preparations for the Red Bow Fair gather steam, so does the realization that the Christmas season is not far around the corner. Although the message of Advent has to do with the paradox of expectant waiting for unexpected incarnations of the holy, there is a way that the secular message of materialism infiltrates the season. This is stressful and depressing to many of us, particularly to those who may be out of work and without their usual financial resources.

Now is the time to think about how we might navigate and simplify the season. For those who do exchange gifts for Chanukkah or Christmas, one method of simplifying has to do with our choices in gift giving. Of course, attending the Red Bow Fair is a great way for young and old alike to find gifts while also helping the church. Another tactic is one that I know some of you have adopted: making donations to various non-profits in honor of those family members who have "enough stuff" already.

This year, my husband and I decided to buy animals through Heifer Project International for our retired parents and friends who don't seem to need much "stuff." Our younger and more present-focused nieces and nephew, while in line for some tangible presents, will also learn that some flocks of chicks have been given in their names. I don't know if this will register with them right away given all the excitement of "real" presents, but it seems a tradition worth beginning at a young age.

Some of you may recall this story: last year, Gail Forsyth-Vail received the following email from Mark Caggiano, who with Rich Sarro was an adult leader of the 6th to 8th grade Religious Education group. He wrote, "I wanted to let you know that our 6 to 8 grade RE group raised \$150.00 for the Heifer Project. Some of the kids preferred that we not get any animals that would end up being eaten. This narrows the list considerably. So, we had just enough money to order a llama, which will be used for providing wool and transportation somewhere in the Andes. My son Nick explained to me that 'llamas taste terrible'—I have no idea why he knows this."

It is inspiring to see how thoughtful our young people can be. We are glad that their llama is safely at work, even as we speak. If you are interested in making a donation, the website is www.heifer.org, and of course there are many other options out there.

Another reminder: If you are in financial need this season, I do have a discretionary fund that can help make Christmas happen. Please let me know.

See you in church!

Lee

Concert: Sunday, November 14th at 4 pm in the sanctuary.

Jim Dalton --mandolin and guitar, with Maggi Smith-Dalton, soprano, performing new compositions inspired by world music, including works by Lou Harrison, Leo Brouwer, James Kachulis (of North Andover), and Jim Dalton.

Please Help

Two years ago Tina Qualls and her special needs son were selected by Habitat for Humanity to become homeowners of one of the Women Build homes in Haverhill. Since that time she has been working diligently to complete her 500 sweat equity hours. Now as completion of the house is here, Tina has lost her job as her company closed and has moved their operations to Canada. A basic requirement is the ability to pay the mortgage. We are asking you to help us. Tina has been looking for a job since the end of May.

This is an all-out cry for your support. If you know of anyone with influence in securing her a position, please contact Vickie McGaha at mccgolfr@comcast.net or 978 725-3524 or Jeri Ryan at jeri.ryan@comcast.net or 978 470-2067.

Haverhill would be the preferred city - however, any of the surrounding areas are an option. Tina needs full time employment with 7:00 - 3:00 hours as she must be home when the bus arrives with her son. The 11 PM - 7 AM may also be a possibility. She has experience in assembly, packing, cleaning and stitching. She would do well in an assisted living center or a nursing home. We greatly appreciate any support you may offer.

~ Jeri Ryan, GL Habitat for Humanity

People's Pantry

Our pantry Thanksgiving will be on Tuesday, November 23. Why not donate something and be part of someone's Thanksgiving Day? Suggested items: Stuffing mix, 1 lb. rice, cranberry sauce, soup. Items may be left in the parish hall near the former pantry door. Your help and support are greatly appreciated.

~ Cari and pantry crew

Special Informational meeting Sunday, November 21

Immediately following each service there will be an informational meeting about the Preservation and Building projects. Please join us in Old Center Hall for an update and to ask your questions! ~The Building Committee

Workshop: November 10 and 17 Mental Illness: Redesigning the Quilt of Family Experience

*A workshop sponsored by
North Parish Religious Education Committee and
North Parish Caring Team*

Do you have a friend, family member, a colleague, or someone else near to you who is coping with mental illness? Do you know someone who is a caregiver or advocate for someone with a mental illness? Perhaps you? Would you like to be supportive and wish you knew how?

**PLEASE JOIN US AT THE NORTH PARISH
For a two-part Thursday night workshop
NOVEMBER 10 and NOVEMBER 17
7 pm – 9 pm in the Parish Hall**

Part-time Minister to be Announced

After a number of interviews with area ministers, the Ministerial Leave Task Force has chosen a final candidate to come serve part-time at North Parish during the Rev. Bluemel's maternity leave, January through March. (This person will be doing some preaching, officiating at rites of passage, helping with pastoral and member care and church administration, etc.) The candidate is waiting Board approval; the person's name and credentials will then be shared with the congregation at the Informational Meetings on November 21st. We are excited about our

choice, and hope to introduce this person to the congregation at the service on December 19th!

~ The Ministerial Leave Task Force

Religious Education News

There are a number of opportunities for children, youth, and families to get involved in the religious education ministry at North Parish, some big and some little. Here they are:

1. **"Naturalists"** (children with collections of natural objects) wanted to help out with the Nov 14 children's worship service. I'll tell the story of Charles Darwin, a "naturalist" who ended up making a discovery that changed the way we think about living things.
2. **Bakers** (and buyers!) needed for the 5th grade Bake Sale, November 14, which will benefit Merkeb, our sponsored child in Ethiopia.
3. People with an interest in making our congregation, our programs, and our building more **welcoming to children and youth with special needs** are welcome and encouraged to join a task force which will examine how to do that and make some recommendations.
4. **Skill saw (and operator)** needed to help with the children's program during advent Sundays between Thanksgiving and Christmas
5. **Actors** needed for the January 2 intergenerational service, which will retell the story of the Trinitarian-Unitarian debates at the Council of Nicea in 325 C.E.
6. A **Curriculum Think Tank** is being formed to work with me to design the January "Great Debates about God" sessions for children and junior youth.
7. Everyone is encouraged to bring packaged stuffing, rice, cranberry sauce, salad dressing, pickles, olives, and/or soup to the food collection for people's pantry that will take place on Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov 21. Please contact me to volunteer for one or more of these opportunities! ~ GFV

Come and see North Parish's nursery aides - Becky Christoforo and Amanda Weldin along with Wendy Mellin perform in Andover High's performance of Beauty and the Beast. Show dates are November 18, 19, and 20, 2004, at 7:30pm, November 20 and 21, 2004, at 2:00pm. Ticket prices are \$18.00 for adults and \$9.00 for students and seniors. Collins Center Box Office weeknights from 6 to 8pm - (978) 623-8666. VISA and MasterCard accepted.