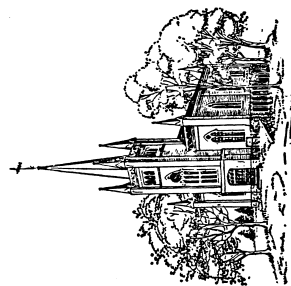


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The North Parish of North Andover
Unitarian Universalist
190 Academy Road
North Andover, MA 01845-4022



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

The Reverend Lee A. Bluemel, Minister

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Next Copy Deadline: December 3, 2004 at 10am.
January Calendar Deadline: Monday, December 13, 2004

Vol. XXXVII November 22, 2004 No. 26

WORSHIP AT THE NORTH PARISH

Worship and Religious Ed at 8:30 and 10:30am

Nov. 28th ~Rev. Robin Zucker, "Staying Afloat in the Holiday Bog"

Dec. 5th ~Rev. Lee, "Idolatry and the Disabled God"

Dec. 12th ~Rev. Lee, "Being Good for Goodness Sake"

Dec 19th—Winter Music Sunday

Dec 24th Christmas Eve services at 3:30, 5:00 and 7:00pm

Dec. 26th ~Rev. Jan Bowering and Lani Arnzen

MEMORIAL FLOWERS/STEEPLELIGHTING

If you are interested in memorial flowers and/or steeplelighting at \$25 each, call Claire McCarron, 978-689-2858.

THE FLOWERS were given in loving memory of John, Louise, Joe, and Henry Van Heukelom by the Van Heukelom family on November 7.

...Given in loving memory of Francis Bonanno, with deep appreciation to her family by Keith Connors on November 14.

...Given in loving memory of Heken and Edwin Hope and Anne and George Edmonds by Pat and George Edmonds on November 21.

...Given in loving memory of John Serafini by his daughter Mary Lou, Tony and Veronica Monteiro on November 28.

THE STEEPLE was lighted in loving memory of Francis Bonanno, with deep appreciation to her family by Keith Connors on November 14.

...In loving memory of S. Kempton Race, Mary W. Race and Raymon Eldrige and Mildred W. Eldrige by Peter and Ruth Race on November 21.

...In loving memory of Elizabeth M. Lee whose birthday would have been December 6th, by Jennifer Melson and family on November 28.

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

Stone Soup – Merrimack Valley People for Peace:

Nov. 23, 6:30pm, Parish Hall

Small Group Ministry / Facilitators:

November 23, 7pm, Parlor

Small Group Ministry / Mary Lou:

November 26, 7pm, Parlor

Bread/Roses Meal Preparation:

Saturday, November 27, 2-4 pm Cakes XI

Red Bow Fair Basket Making:

Sunday, November 28, 11:45am - 4pm

Junior Youth Group:

Sunday, November 28, 6:30pm OCH

Building Committee:

Monday, Nov. 29 6-8pm RE wing

COA Mentors:

Tuesday, November 30, 7 pm, Parlor

GREAT POND SANGHA BUDDHIST GROUP

Wednesday, December 1 Meditation and Study

Call Laura or Brad Howell at 978-685-8323

Intergenerational Meditation/Potluck

Sat., December 18, 4-7 pm Upstairs, Old Center Hall

Includes children's session.

Call Regina Jesser, 978-975-8153, to R.S.V.P.

Weekly meditation begins in January! Watch this space!

Religious Education

Many thanks to those youth who helped out with the bread communion on Sunday and to the adults and youth who helped children with designing mats for Guest at Your Table boxes. The "Children's Litany of Thanks" as well as the wonderful paintings on the pew doors on Sunday arose from the discussion of Charles Darwin's life and work. Children and junior youth have learned that Darwin was a naturalist from a very young age, a collector and a keen observer of all the mysteries of life. They learned about Darwin's sense of awe and wonder at the varieties and intricacies of life and also heard the sense of awe and wonder in the Genesis story of creation. The paintings and litany are another way of saying "Wow!"

Beginning on November 28, there will be special Advent programming for children in pre-school through grade 8. Children will begin in the sanctuary with families, then move to Old Center Hall for worship, stories, and a variety of "workshops" that offer the children choices of ways to respond, including arts, music, woodworking, crafts, food, and games. Details will be coming by e-mail to all those who registered with an e-mail address (by US mail at your request). Volunteers for the program are generally NOT those who worked with children during the fall, but rather newcomers to the congregation and others who want to find more out about our religious education program. Interested? Please be in touch with me.

And....the fifth grade would like to express its appreciation to all those who baked and all those who bought items and made donations to the fund for our sponsored child in Ethiopia. \$240 was raised in the bake sale! Look for more information soon.

Gail Forsyth-Vail

dre@northparish.org

Cakes!

Diane Hanscomb and Dee Riemer are leading the next Cakes group, scheduled to begin with a Friday and Saturday commitment Feb 4 & 5 and continuing on Wednesday evenings beginning February 9. Please contact Dee at 978-470-2042 (riemers@comcast.net) or Diane (Rodihan@juno.com) at 978-470-4716 for more information or to sign up. "Cakes for the Queen of Heaven" (affectionately known as Cakes) is an 8-week seminar in Feminist Theology. It explores the ancient roots of civilization where the divine was seen as female; it investigates the influence of mainstream religions on women's position in society today, and examines the women's spirituality movement. The seminar is open to any woman with an interest and willingness to attend each meeting. Strong bonds and friendships are often formed around the mutual respect, confidentiality, personal and spiritual growth that occurs throughout a Cakes Seminar. Many Cakes groups continue to meet together for years after their seminar concludes.

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.

Christmas Poinsettias:

Claire McCarron will be in the Parish Hall after both services on December 5 and December 12 for sign-up for Christmas poinsettias.

MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

Welcome to the Rev. Jim Sherblom who joined us on Sunday to meet the congregation! The Rev. Jim officially will begin his half-time position at North Parish on December 15th to allow a two week orientation and transition time before my maternity leave begins on January 1st. He will be preaching twice a month in January, February and March, as well as attending to various other ministerial duties during that time.

Jim writes, "My wife Loretta and I live in Concord, MA and our kids Sarah (22) and Robert (20) are grown. I am bi-vocational, splitting my time between UU ministry and venture capital. I was ordained at First Parish in Concord on May 16, 2004 and am currently in search with the Rev. Martha Niebanck to serve a congregation as co-ministers beginning in August 2005."

Jim comes to us with experience in the UU churches of Concord (where he has been a member since 1986), Watertown (where he was an intern) and Needham (where he serves as an Affiliate Minister.) He has also served on a number of UUA organizations including the UU Ministers' Association Task Force on Social Responsible Investing, the Mass Bay District Board, the UUA Investment Committee and the UUA President's Council. At First Parish Concord, the Rev. Jim has also been involved in the Capital Campaign, the Wright Tavern Spiritual Center (for Adult Spirituality) and the Jericho Road Project. When you get a chance, please introduce yourselves to him!

Many thanks to the members of the Ministerial Leave Task Force for their work in interviewing a number of candidates and recommending the Rev. Jim to the Trustees. They are Cindy Cook, Deb Hall and Rob Riemer (all from the Committee on Ministry), Loretta Middleton (Caring Team), John VanDrie (Membership) and Ginny Montella (Worship).

A second big welcome and thanks to our newest members who signed the Membership

Book on Sunday November 14th: Joseph Bonanno, Keith Connors, Cassandra Czarniecki, Janis Melanson, Alice Galloway, Mary Washburn, Bonnie Kanner, Laura Landy, Brenda Myers, Kimberly Lynn, Brian Parker, Karen Parker, Brian Tessier and Ronald Zelle. We are glad you've joined us!

I wish you all a happy and thankful Thanksgiving Day. See you in church (and at the Red Bow Fair!) ~ Lee

Crossroads Coffeehouse's December 11th concert will feature Bob Martin and Chuck Hall. These two gifted folk singer/songwriters connect with their audience through songs which reflect the colors and feelings of New England.

While growing up in Lowell, the Merrimack River was a constant presence in Martin's life and as a result, the river, the mills, the history were woven into many of his songs. Lowell Sun's Dave Perry chose Martin's "*The River Turns the Wheel*" as the best folk CD of 1997, describing the songs as "Martin painting his masterpiece" and that "...his songs are a direct homage to Lowell".

Chuck Hall of Rowley connects with his audience through his stories, pleasing voice and excellent playing of a variety of instruments including the guitar, banjo and cittern. The Boston Globe said Hall's "craftsmanship and ballad-like lyricism make his songs hard to forget."

Crossroads Coffeehouse at North Parish Church, 190 Academy Road, North Andover. Doors open 7:15, concert starts 8:00, tickets are \$14. For information, call 978-687-3960 (978-687-7948 evening of the concert) or visit www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org.

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

New GLBT Parents Support Group

A support group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender parents is forming. The first meeting will be Friday, January 14, 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. Child care will be available on site. Sponsored by the Interweave/Welcoming Congregation Committee. If interested, please contact Brenda Myers at brendajmyers@comcast.net.

North Parish's own John Middleton-Cox is starring as Professor Harold Hill in **THE MUSIC MAN**, November 26-27. John's voice has filled our church on numerous occasions. Now, he will sing the lead in Pentucket Players Community Theatre. Located at the Rogers Center at Merrimack College the next two weekends. Tickets are \$20 for Adults, \$15 for students and Seniors. For more information go to www.pentucketplayers.org. An information table will be up during coffee hour.

STAFF EMAIL CONTACTS AND OFFICE HOURS:

Administrator, Cynthia Sulesky
office@northparish.org M - F, 8:30 – 5:00

Administrative Assistant, Pam Guerriero
adminassist@northparish.org
M, W, F 9:30—2:30; Sunday 8-1

Director of Religious Ed, Gail Forsyth-Vail
DRE@northparish.org T-F, Sunday, evenings

Early Childhood Coordinator, Carolyn Zimmer
earlychildhoodcoord@northparish.org
Tues or Thurs a.m., Sunday

Minister, the Rev. Lee Bluemel
minister@northparish.org T-F, (Thursday sermon prep), Sunday, various evenings
confidentialminister@northparish.org

Music Director, Jim Dalton
Music@northparish.org Tues/Thurs.5:30-9pm,
Sunday.

Sexton, Richard Beaudoin 978-685-0923
various evenings, and on-call emergencies