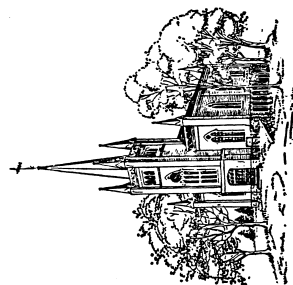


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The North Parish of North Andover
Unitarian Universalist
190 Academy Road
North Andover, MA 01845-4022



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
The Reverend Jim Sherblom, Interim Minister

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Next Copy Deadline: January 13, 2005
February Calendar Deadline: Monday, January 10, 2005

Vol. XXXVIII January 2, 2005 No. 1

WORSHIP AT THE NORTH PARISH

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

Jan. 9 ~ Rev. Jim Sherblom
Jan. 16 ~ Rev. Jim Sherblom
Jan. 23 ~ Rev. David Blanchard
Jan. 30 ~ Ralph Bakkensen

MEMORIAL FLOWERS & STEEPLIGHTING Flowers donated in loving memory of:

01-02~ Elizabeth Hopping by her family – Betty Hopping
01-09~ In celebration of the life of John Naaykens, my
best friend in high school who died of AIDS in 1989 by
Leslie Young-Lemire
01-16~ Chloe Jarrell Cooper from the Cooper family
01-23~ James T. Myers from Brenda Myers and Laura
Landy
01-30~ Open

Steeple Lighting:

01-02~ In the spirit of the New Year 2005
01-09~ In loving memory of Gregory, our light, by Anne,
Barry, Katie, Jessica, Brianna and Margaret Low.
01-16~ Open
01-23~In memory of Walter L. Grimm Jr. from Pat
Grimm and Tina Klein
01-30~ Open

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

**Note: Every first Messenger mailing of the
month will list of all the Flower and Steeple
Lighting Memorials.**

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,
1/3, 1/17, 1/31; 2/14, 2/28; 3/14, 3/28; 4/11, 4/25
People's Pantry: Alternate Tuesdays, 9:30-11am,
OCH 1/4, 1/18; 2/1, 2/15; 3/1, 3/15, 3/29; 4/12, 4/29
AI-Anon: Every Thursday, 10 am-noon, parlor & hall
Yoga: Call for days and times. OCH, Upper floor.

CALENDAR MONTH TO DATE

Staff Meeting: Friday, January 7, 9:15am Parlor (no
phone coverage – please be patient with calls)
OWL Sleep-Over Cancelled: Friday, January 7
Crossroads Coffeehouse: Saturday, Jan. 8, 8 pm,
parish hall. www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org.
OWL: Sunday January 9, 2-6:30 Old Center Hall
Junior Youth Group: Sunday January 9, 6:30pm. OCH
Interweave/Welcoming: Mon., Jan.10, 7 pm, RE wing.
Program Committee: Mon., Jan.10, 7 pm, RE wing
Social Action Committee: Tuesday Jan. 11, 7pm RE
Parish Council: Tues. Jan. 11, 7:30 pm, parish hall
Messenger Deadline Thurs., Jan. 13 at 10am
Movie/Book Discussion: Thurs., Jan. 13, 7:30 pm,
GBLT Parent Support Meeting: with Child care,
Friday, Jan. 14, 6-8pm Parish Hall and RE room.
Small Group Ministries: Fri., Jan. 14, 7 pm, parlor
20/30 Something Brunch: Sun., Jan. 16, Noon, OCH
Andover Art Guild: Sunday, Jan. 16, 2pm
Senior Youth Group: Sunday, Jan. 16, **Cancelled**
Messenger Mailing – Volunteers Needed Jan 18
Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 12 noon, parlor
Trustees Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7pm parish hall
SGM – Jeri Bayer: Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7pm, parlor
New UU Class: Wed., Jan. 19, 7pm Parish Hall
Soup Night: Thurs., Jan. 20, Call Pam Pappalardo, 978-
247-8942 Turkey Noodle
CCNS Open House: Friday, January 21, 1-3pm
Program Committee Catered Dinner, Fri., Jan. 21,
Set-up at 4pm, Parish Hall
Junior Youth Group Sleep-Over: Friday, January 21;
6pm to Jan 22 Noon. OCH
Bread and Roses Meal: Sat. Jan. 22, 2pm Trustees
OWL: Sunday, Jan. 23, 2-6:30pm OCH Supper included
SGM Facilitators: Tuesday, January 25, 7pm
MVPP: Tuesday, January 25, 7:30pm
New UU Class: Wed., Jan. 26, 7pm Parish Hall
MESSENGER DEADLINE FRIDAY JANUARY 28 AT 10AM
Ferry Beach Boosters Meeting: Sat. Jan 29, 10-2
Parlor

Sangha Buddhist Meditation and Potluck: Sat.
Jan. 29, 4-7pm OCH
Seasonal Suppers in Homes: January 29
OWL: Sunday, Jan. 30, 4-7:45pm OCH 1st floor

Caring Ministry

Our thoughts go out to Pete Race, who is recovering
from a fall; Keith Wentzel – also recovering from a
fall and a broken wrist. To Charlie Chappell, who
returned home on Thursday, December, 30; to
Priscilla Adami and of course to Lee Bluemel. We
also keep in our hearts those of you whose concerns
are private. Our thoughts and caring are with you
also.

Please Return "Guest at Your Table" Boxes on January 9

Please count the money in your box and replace it with a
check made out to UU Service Committee OR convert
change to bills and fill in your name and address on
the flap of the box so that UUSC can credit your
contribution. There will also be envelopes in the
bulletin next Sunday for those who may not have
received the boxes and still wish to contribute to the
justice-making work of the UU Service Committee.
We would like to see at least 25% of the
congregation donate to UUSC at a membership level
this year (\$60). Can we meet this challenge and
surpass last year's \$2000 in donations to UUSC?

Crossroads Coffeehouse

On January 8th, Crossroads Coffeehouse will
feature blues phenomenon, "Monster" Mike Welch.
His newly released CD, *Adding Insight to Injury*, has
been described as "a truly original blues CD which
will once again poise Welch to take over the blues
world by storm."

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.

Start the new year with some laughs!

Come see *The Supporting Cast* at The Stage
(Essex Art Center) 60 Island St. Lawrence. Two
performances only-Jan 21 & 22 @7:30 pm
featuring North Parish youth **Kayla Villalobos**.
Tickets are \$8. For info call 978-794-0001.

LAST (for a while) MINISTERIAL MUSINGS

It is hard to absorb the depth and breadth of the human toll from the tsunami tragedy, a toll which seems to keep mounting. All we can do is respond as best we are able-- to give what help we can and to support those able to do the real and ongoing work of rescue and rebuilding.

Thanks to all who participated in the special collection on Sunday and to all who will turn in their Guest at Your Table box or UU Service Committee membership check next week. This natural and human disaster prompts deeper reflection as we turn into the new year; it reminds me of those simple things like health and family for which I might be daily grateful.

Speaking of gratitude, I want to again extend my thanks to you for the Blessings Box, which I have since discovered was organized via the church email list. Terry and I were going to open a few of your blessings on each of the 12 days of Christmas, but on about the third day of Christmas I got carried away and we read and opened them all. So thank you, again, for your notes and words of wisdom and blessings, for the special stones and stars and other treasures, for the books and socks and CDs, for the warm things and the Kwan Yins and the purple octopus. We will be saving your notes and reflections to share one day with a certain person who will discover what a welcoming and thoughtful congregation the North Parish truly is. My best to you all in the New Year--

In faith,

~ Lee

~ IN THE INTERIM ~

Christmas Eve was great fun, even allowing me to be Caesar Augustus at the 3:30pm service, and we had such a wonderful turnout for all three of the services. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make it the magical evening it turned out to be. This is clearly a congregation that knows how to celebrate! North Parish is such a vibrant community with opportunities for any and all to get as involved as we wish to be. And being Unitarian Universalists means that engaging our

hearts and hands is as important to our wellbeing as is engaging our heads. So in my short time with you over the coming three months, let's all try to find ways to fully engage our minds, our hearts and our hands in becoming the transformation that we together seek in this world. This is perhaps how we were meant to be and is how we can be our best selves together in community. I love that the North Parish calendar is so rich and full, and encourage each and every one of us to try something new in the New Year, so that we can all explore new and interesting ways of being together in community. Happy New Year!

~ Rev Jim Sherblom

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

First - Thank you to the actors who took part in Sunday, January 2nd's dramatic re-telling of the story of the Council of Nicea:

Eshu (later – Narrator): Takao Miller

1st Farmer (later – Arian): Kaya Miller

2nd Farmer (Later - anti-Arian): Naomi Miller

Arius: Tom Garron

Athanasius: Rob Garron

King (later – Emperor Constantine): Dave Cook

Thank you to all the participants in the Christmas Eve services:

Stage Managers, Costumes, Lights: Jessy Harding, Kayly Tillman, Donna Hill, Emme Arnzen

Lightbearers: Jessica Sarro, Jackie Cushing, Lena Sparks, Robert Middleton, Doug Weldin, Grace McDaniel, Sam Weaver, Alie Herland, Alison Coolidge, Annie Arnzen, Laura Van Drie, Brian Rohr, Michaela Voorhees, Simon Voorhees, Sarah Whitney, Adam Amiralian

Readers: Leila Smith, Takao Miller, Drew Williams, Lia Arnzen, Katherine Bider, Mike Parker, Cassie Bowe, Justine Bowe

Animals: Pat Grimm

The children's Sunday morning program resumes its regular schedule on January 9, when younger children return to the *Treasure Hunting* curriculum and older ones continue with a series called "Great Debates about God." I invite families to talk together about times when they have had debates about the existence or

nature of God, or about what is the morally right way to proceed in a given situation. In children's worship, we'll be re-visiting some of the moments of great decision in our Unitarian and Universalist history: The Edict of Tolerance (Transylvania, 1568), the abolition debate (United States, 1850's and 60's), the Scopes trial (United States, 1923), and the contemporary debate about same-sex marriage are some of these moments. In small groups, children will be invited to share some of their concerns and questions, as well as the "great debates about God" they have had with family and friends.

~ Gail Forsyth-Vail dre@northparish.org

PEOPLE'S PANTRY

As we start this new year, big thanks go to many special people who help make the pantry program happen. To our entire wonderful staff: Debbie Bernheim, Betsy Black, Louise Breen, Christine Edmonds, Lucy Gatchell, Pat Loiselle, Mel Marchese, Judy Pinkney, Kathie Rohde, Marion Rollins, Christine Witts, with very special thanks to Fran Rohr and the Monday night helpers, Jeri Ryan, Dan Brosnan III, Jim Greer and Kate Gilligan. To Dave Lewis for coordinating all the Food Bank pickups, Dave Therkesen for assisting him and to Tina Klein for jumping on board when the call went out for a pick up person at the food bank; to Cara Marshall and Mary Kilpatrick for making the trek to Foxboro for the Food Caravan in November.

To Leslie and Betty of "The Community Giving Tree", Boxford, for providing warm coats to all our guests and their families; to West Elementary School, Andover, Liz Roos, Assistant Principal, for collecting personal care items throughout the year and being present to distribute them; to Mr Tom Calzetta who brings donuts from Heav'nly Donuts in Methuen each and every pantry day.

Thanks to each of YOU who remembered to bring in a grocery donation, organized a food drive through the year or who made a financial contribution - It takes a village to run a food pantry!!!!

The pantry staff has voted to keep the program at 2x a month thru April when we will revisit the issue. Meanwhile, we continue to serve a very full menu of groceries, meat, fresh produce and breads to all who come for help - and we do so with friendship and enthusiasm. We now have a laptop for our guest intake info and will soon implement that system and discard the "dreaded" notebook of past years.

A happy '05 to each of you, with wishes that you prosper and are able to put food on your family's table.
~Cari Marchese, Coordinator, THE PEOPLE'S PANTRY
...PS ~ We are now into year 13!!

THE NORTH ANDOVER THRIFT SHOP

The shop has been on winter break and will reopen Tuesday January 4 @ 10 a.m. Come on down and browse through our treasures! Hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10-4 and Saturday, 9-noon. We gladly accept small amounts of good quality household items, jewelry, books, and clothing during shop hours. Larger donations by pre arrangement. Call 978 689 9520. This year's donations to the community are going to: North Andover Scholarship Foundation, Windrush Farm, Women's Resource Center, Dolls for Dolls. It's been a long road back since the fire of 2000, but we are getting there!! ~CM

New UU Class

January 19, 26, Feb. 2 from 7- 9 pm

This is a class open to all curious visitors, friends and new members of the congregation who would enjoy a chance to meet others who are new to the church and learn more about Unitarian Universalism and this congregation. The facilitators are John Van Drie and the Rev. Jim Sherblom. Call or email Pam Guerrieo in the church office, 978-687-7948 or adminassist@northparish.org to sign up!

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. If interested, please contact Brenda Myers at brendajmyers@comcast.net.

Congratulations!

Music Director, Jim Dalton is the recipient of the 2005 Macro Research Award from the University of Wisconsin. His project will involve the analysis of musical palindromes and will culminate in a presentation at a music theory conference in Madison WI next spring and an article in the journal *Musical Insights*.