

The Messenger

XXXVIII March 28, 2005 No. 7
Worship and Religious Education
at 8:30am and 10:30am

MEMORIAL FLOWERS & STEEPLIGHTING

April 3

FLOWERS - NO DONOR

The Steeple is lighted in loving memory of Daniel Kichorowsky by the Disenhof Family.

April 10

The **Flowers** are dedicated to Romeo M. Boulanger a Great-Uncle in every sense, by Michele Sherry and Joe and Joseph Morrison. The **Steeple** is lighted in loving memory of John J.C. Coffin from his grandchildren Jennie and Bed Bradway, and his daughter Prilla Coffin.

April 17

The **Flowers** are dedicated in loving memory of Jill Hartel by her parents Steve Hartel and Lisa Alecci..

The **Steeple** is lighted in honor of the wedding anniversary of James H. and Gertrude E. Twist on April 11, 1936 by Ellen Hayes.

April 24

The **Flowers** are dedicated in loving memory of Rita and Alexander Salipante, and Marilyn and Robert Middleton by Loretta and Bob Middleton. The **Steeple** is lighted in loving memory of Frederick V. and Kathryn R. Riemer by Robert and Dee Riemer.

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

A calendar that anyone can check on-line is available on the North Parish website www.northparish.org or you can go directly to the calendar by typing in http://calendar.yahoo.com/north_parish

Ministerial Musings

Hello again!

It will be so good to see all of you-- soon! I'm looking forward to being back and sharing the pulpit and minister's office with Rev. Jim. When I learned in February that he would be happy to stay on at North Parish part-time through June, I decided that if I didn't take advantage of this rare opportunity I would be looking a gift horse in the mouth. It will be a three month learning experience for all of us; I think I can safely say that over the past 360 years no previous North Parish minister has ever taken a maternity leave

or returned to a new co-ministry for a few months. Fortunately, as I try to keep reminding myself in my life with a newborn, adapting to change is a sign of strength. (And then I pray for strength!)

Once again, I need to thank all of you for your warm welcome to our son Andrew-- your smiles at the Capital Campaign Kick-Off dinner, your wishes, prayers and cards, as well as the congregation's gift of a stroller. Those of you who frequent downtown North Andover can expect to see Andrew and me strolling about now that- thank goodness! - the weather is finally getting warmer. Our son's first few months of life have been a bit rough as we've all been at the mercy of his rather persnickety digestive system. But we are incredibly grateful every day to have a child who is healthy overall and who charms us with his smiles. And as a friend reminded me recently, Terry and I have the luxury of working "zone defense" rather than the "man to man" defense that comes with single parenting or twins or a second child. More power to those of you who are outnumbered.

I have been getting updates about all the doings at North Parish and the Capital Campaign-- and I have to say that pride may be a sin, but I'm so proud of the congregation and its leaders that I'm willing to risk sinning. The Kick-Off Event was beautiful thanks to Jen Coffin and her team, who created a wonderful evening which was the equivalent of a large and complex wedding reception (and we know how much work those are!) Thanks also to all of the canvassers and contributors who have done the hard work of getting our commitments down on paper over the past few weeks. I can't wait to hear the results.

Speaking of putting things in writing, I do just want to add one observation about our world today. As I write this, the news is obsessed with coverage of the Teri Schiavo case. If nothing else, this firestorm should be a reminder of just how important it is to share with loved ones-- *in writing*-- our end-of-life caretaking wishes, *especially* if there is religious or philosophical diversity within your family. If you haven't had that conversation and aren't sure where to start, our library has some copies of the "Five Wishes" document which can help initiate a discussion and guide you through it. The document can also be ordered on-line at www.agingwithdignity.org. Feel free to say that your minister made you do it.

See you in church!

~Lee

In the Interim

It is wonderful watching the snow gradually melting outside of my window. Early spring has a certain already but not yet quality to it which is worthy of attention. My wife's family has a long standing tradition of gathering together for vacation in the early spring someplace warm and friendly. So starting this weekend my wife, daughter and I are flying out to join her extended family which is gathering in Hawaii. I expect to spend much time over the coming week with family, renewing and deepening our collective sense of living in this world together. When I return the evening of April 3rd, Rev. Lee will already be back from her maternity leave, and we will begin a three month experience of co-ministry together serving this wonderful parish. We plan to alternate preaching, to split our responsibilities for supporting various committees and volunteer efforts, and to generally use our ability to be in more than one place at once to enhance your experience of ministry at North Parish. I hope that you enjoy the experience, at least as much as Lee and I intend to, and please let us know if there are ways in which we can more effectively meet the needs of you or your group within the congregation. Springtime is a time for new growth and new opportunities, so it seems a fitting time for us to explore with you what co-ministry can provide to this vibrant and growing community.

The Introduction to Sacred Texts classes were very well attended and I thoroughly enjoyed doing them. I continue to seek out opportunities to be involved with youth and young people in our congregation, and with Lee's return that looks like it will be much easier to coordinate with my other ministerial duties. I continue to offer pastoral counseling and pastoral care where requested, and encourage you to contact me if you have a desire to meet to discuss anything effecting your spiritual life or community involvement. I am a people person and have greatly enjoyed my involvement with so many of you over the last few months. Please greet Lee's return with the joy and celebration that is certainly in order, but also please be mindful that she is initially returning halftime, and has continuing needs for appropriately mothering her young son Andrew. I continue to be here halftime and hope that my presence can allow Lee to re-engage with the congregation and the life of the church in a way that models for all of us what it means to be a whole person who honors each of the love commitments in their life. If we are to have any hope of being the community and the people

that we aspire to be, we must be a community that allows each of its leaders (professional or lay) the room to grow and honor each of our life commitments in an appropriate fashion. This is a truly loving community so I know that this is something that we are each prepared to do for each other. That is part of why I love you all so well.

In faith,

Reverend Jim Sherblom
Leave Minister
781-466-9552 jim@seaflower.com

RE News

All are welcome to come and be inspired by the Coming of Age Ceremony April 2 at 6 PM!

The children will begin on Sunday April 3 with their spring program, exploring the interdependent web of life. Come prepared each Sunday to be outside! For details, watch the RE parent e-newsletter.

Gail Forsyth-Vail
Director of Religious Education
978-685-7855 DRE@northparish.org

Childcare Needed

The Interweave GLBT parents group is looking for volunteers to help with childcare. We are hoping to build a pool of people who are willing to be called occasionally to provide childcare downstairs in the RE wing while the parents meet in the Parlor. Two to three adults are needed for each meeting. Meetings are the first Friday of each month at the church from 6:30 to 8:30pm. If you are willing to help out, please contact Brenda Myers
brendajyers@comcast.net or 603-893-4392

Please Make a Note of This!

In order to appropriately classify your pledge payments to the church, please mark either **Annual Pledge** or **Capital Pledge** on the memo line of your check.

Thank you.

Building Committee and Capital Campaign Updates and Open Forums Scheduled for Sunday, April 24

All members and friends of the North Parish are invited to join the Board of Trustees, Parish Council, Building Committee and Capital Campaign Committee on Sunday, April 24 for important updates and Q & A on the progress of the Capital Campaign; the latest, proposed restoration and building plans; and professional cost estimates from our construction cost estimator. A **brunch** meeting will be held at 9:30 am after the first service and a **lunch** meeting will be held at 11:30 am after the second service, with childcare available at both meetings.

We will be signing people up during and after the services over the next three weeks so we can get an accurate count to buy food for the brunch and lunch. Please sign up for one of these critical informational meetings - we want and need you to be fully informed and provide feedback as we finalize the schematic design.

Your Trustees, Parish Council and staff all believe that this restoration and proposed building project will further our mission and greatly enhance the quality of our church life – and that of many generations to follow. This is a very complicated and challenging project and we need to get it right – with your help and support we will!

The Board of Trustees, Parish Council, Building Committee, Capital Campaign Committee and Staff thank you for your support.

The Movie / Book Discussion Group

The next meeting will be on April 14th and we will discuss *Pushing Hands* (movie). It is hard to get from video stores, but is available in the Chinese collection on the third floor of the Andover Memorial Hall Library. That may mean other libraries have it, or can get it from Andover.

On May 12th we will discuss F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*.

We decided to go into June with a shorter novel and will meet on June 9th. The book will be *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. It is available in paperback.

Hope to see you all in April – maybe spring will have arrived by then!

Donna Cooper
donna.j.cooper@comcast.net

North Andover Thrift Shop 172 Sutton St. (corner of Main St)

We will celebrate our 50th anniversary on April 1! On that date in 1955, The Women's Alliance of the North Parish decided to organize a thrift shop program to raise funds in order to pay off the mortgage of the new RE wing. It was so successful that it was paid off in just seven years! Realizing the fundraising potential of the program, they kept it going. Located in the BrickStore Building, upstairs from the General Store its goal, just as it is today, is to raise funds to support local charities.

A fire in Feb., 2000, at its second location at 33 Johnson Street left us homeless until a new location was found. In May of 2002 we reopened at the former Scholfield Mill, 172 Sutton St. Now a non profit, with volunteer staff from the community at large and not only the North Parish, the shop is slowly regaining its customers.

An anniversary sale will be held April 5-9. An anniversary Yard Sale will be held in May - watch for that date.

Donations of good quality clothing and saleable household goods are welcome. Large donations by arrangement (our space is very tiny!!)

Come by during our sale week - or anytime! Browsers invited!!

North Parish people on volunteer staff:
Joan Blanchard, Anne Ericson, Cari Marchese, Mel Marchese, Loretta Middleton, Ruth Race, Phila Slade, Dick Slade, Kathy Stevens, Muriel Sullivan, Doris Van Heukelom, Leslie Young – Lemire.

~ Cari Marchese, manager