

The Messenger

XXXVIII April 11, 2005 No. 8
Worship and Religious Education
at 8:30am and 10:30am

Service Schedule

April 10: Lee Bluemel preaching, Amelia Reeve awards

April 17: Jim Sherblom preaching, Lee assisting/doing child dedication

April 24: Lee Bluemel preaching (Passover)

May 1: Jim Sherblom preaching

May 8: Lee Bluemel preaching; Bridging service; Mother's Day

May 15: Lee Bluemel preaching; New Member Recognition Sunday

May 22: Partakers leading service; Lee Bluemel available

May 29: Jim Sherblom preaching; Memorial Day Cemetery Social

June 5: Lee Bluemel preaching; intergen service

June 12: Jim Sherblom preaching; flower communion; Lee and Gail assisting; Jim Sherblom's farewell

June 19: Lee Bluemel preaching- animal blessing service (outside if possible) Father's Day

MEMORIAL FLOWERS & STEEPLIGHTING **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 everyone can check on-line is available from the North Parish website www.northparish.org or you can go directly to the calendar by typing in http://calendar.yahoo.com/north_parish

BROWN BAG LUNCH: A drop-in gathering for lunch and conversation at noon in the Parish Hall on the third Tuesday of every month during the church year. All are invited to participate.

This month, on April 19, the Caring Team will join the group and provide a special luncheon to welcome in the spring. So...forget the brown bag, but R.S.V.P. so we may plan accordingly. Also, please let us know if you need transportation.

Loretta Middleton - 978 688-6291
Loretta838@comcast.net

Lora Stewart - 978 683-8966
Lora@plpdd.com

Congratulations to Erik Kesting and Mark Caggiano, who have both been admitted to the Master of Divinity program at Harvard Divinity School!

Congrats also to Forrest Lennhoff on being named Student of the Year at his Tae Kwon Do school!

Jericho Road in Action!

We have matched our first 3 projects

This project is a unique way to help the people of Lawrence. We are helping the non-profit agencies to strengthen their organizations. We help them to do what they do best by doing what we all do best in our day jobs. Please consider volunteering some time and your professional services to help provide agencies with expensive services they could otherwise never afford. There is not an obligation to work right now!

Most volunteers from the Concord JR project say they get back much more than they give. Contact Dee Riemer at driemer39@hotmail.com 978-470-2042.

Come join the pool!

Ministerial Musings

Welcome to our newest members, Darnell Canada, Jessy Harding, Kristin Hunt, Ann Lu, Jeffrey Lu, Josephine Rossello, Owen Vail and Beth Vellante!!

Our next New Members Recognition Ceremony will take place during the service on May 15th. If you've been considering membership but haven't gotten around to signing up yet, now is the time to speak to me, to Rev. Jim or someone at the Membership Committee Table during Coffee Hours about doing so. Joining now will enable you to have a vote at the Annual Meeting on May 20 as well as any votes having to do with our building renovation and expansion project.

It has been wonderful to be back at church and to be immediately impressed by all sorts of youthful energy and creativity: the Coming of Age graduates and Senior Youth Group two weeks ago and the Amelia Reeve Youth Social Action Award recipients this week. Thanks to Cari Marchese, Fran Rohr, Cheryl Herland and Beth Coolidge for all of their work on the awards.

Speaking of youth, we received great news this week! Thanks to Gail Forsyth-Vail, North Parish has received a \$10,000 grant to assist us in hiring a half-time Assistant Minister to begin next fall, (provided we have a successful pledge drive and a positive vote at the Annual Meeting). The focus for the position will be faith and leadership development for adults, young adults and youth, as well as helping to lead worship for all ages.

A second development announced this week by the Board is that next year our Sunday services will shift half an hour forward to 9:00am and 11:00am. (See the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.) For some this will mean sleeping a bit later, for others getting up a bit earlier, and for some it will mean drinking their coffee *before* they attend service. While change is hard, especially when it happens in predictable, staid old institutions like one's church, I wouldn't underestimate the benefits of drinking caffeine before listening to sermons. You just might find it an improvement!

A *third* change-- this one temporary-- is that since I am back half-time from now until the end of June, my office hours have been reduced somewhat. I'll generally be in the office on Sundays, on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons /evenings. (I'll be doing some of my work and

sermon writing from home.) I'd love to catch up on how your lives are going, so please don't hesitate to give me a call and we can try to find a time that works. Rev. Jim is also continuing to be available for consultation and pastoral care. You can reach both of us through the office or via email (confidentialminster@northparish.org for urgent or pastoral care matters, minster@northparish.org for committee matters, and jim@seaflower.com for private messages to Rev. Jim.)

Did I mention that it's great to be back?

See you in church!

~Lee

Ministers' Office Hours

Sunday	All day	Rev. Lee
	All day	Rev. Jim
Monday	8:30 - 12:30	Rev. Lee
		(sermon writing)
Tuesday	2:30 - 5:30	some evenings Rev. Lee
	Afternoons by appointment,	eves Rev. Jim
Wednesday	8:30 - 12:30	Rev. Lee
	Afternoons by appointment,	some eves Rev. Jim
Thursday	2:30 - 5:30,	some evenings Rev. Lee
Friday	Staff meetings/special events/ Usually will be Ministers' day off	

Stop By The Campaign Table!

The building committee has been responding to feedback received on the schematic plans presented at February's Special Parish Meeting, which have been on display at coffee hour since then. The architect has proposed ways to enlarge the parish hall, and we are getting an independent cost estimate for the options. Many details, including changes to room layout, kitchen design, and exterior details, will be developed during the next phase of design.

We plan to hold forums (scheduled for April 24th – see next page) to provide everyone with a chance to ask questions about the plan and to present any revisions. In the meantime, please stop by the capital campaign table at coffee hour with your feedback or questions. Thank you.

--Harry Voorhees

RE News

This is the season for milestones and rites of passage for our junior and senior youth.

Many congratulations to our 2005 Coming of Age group, whose ceremony and celebration on April 2 was a high point of this church year. These are the youth who, in front of family, friends, and parishioners, declared themselves ready to take responsibility for their own spiritual journey and for their moral and ethical decision-making: Each of the COAs is now eligible for full membership in the North Parish.

Lia Arnzen (mentor: Connie Glore)
Katherine Bider (mentor: Vicky Kukas)
Justine Bowe (mentor: Joannie Warnshuis)
Evan Carter (mentor: Bob Colby)
Jack Christoforo (mentor: John Van Drie)
Leila Day Smith (mentor: Tina Klein)
Jessy Harding (mentor: Nancy Redding)
Wendy Mellin (mentor: Lisa Alecci)
Takao Miller (mentor: Alex Adrian)
Jake Palatine (mentor: Bob Middleton)
Michael Parker (mentor: Pat Scanlon)
Kayly Tillman (mentor: Gerry Anson)
Drew Williams (mentor: Bob Riemer)

Thanks to the parents and mentors for supporting the youth and the program!

At the Senior Youth –led Service, the youth group reflected on new beginnings, and on what they have discovered since COA. Their message to the new COA grads? *You aren't done yet* with questioning, with spiritual exploration, with wondering, with facing life's great questions! Thanks to all the speakers, musicians, organizers, participants in that service.

On May 8, the congregation will hold a **Bridging ceremony** for those who are newly entering young adulthood, either by graduation from high school or by assuming adult responsibilities. Parents of Bridgers and Bridgers themselves have met to consider the significance of this time of joy and memory, of hope and of challenges.

Also on May 8, we will mark the third of our "Milestone" recognitions in the children's Re program as **fifth graders** received a copy of our UU Principles, Purposes, and Sources, and prepare to move into junior youth activities and groups.

Please join me in honoring, celebrating, and supporting our youth and their families as they mark significant times in their life journeys!

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

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.

Annual Meeting Date Set

The date of the Annual Meeting is Friday May 20th. Social hour will begin at 6:00pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00. Please put this on your calendars and save the date!

See Dotti Anderson or Lora Stewart to sign up for the Spring Seasonal Supper April 30!

Teachers Needed!

The Asian Center of Merrimack Valley has asked North Parish's **Jericho Road** to publicize their need for volunteer teachers for their English as a Second Language classes. Prior ESL experience is not required. If you are interested please contact Sister Elana Killilea at the Asian Center directly. Her number is 978-683-7316.

New Church Hours

Beginning this September, Sunday worship services will be held at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M., each followed by a coffee hour. The Board of Trustees approved the change on April 3rd, with the support of the Parish Council, Religious Education Committee, Music Committee, and staff. The board would like to thank all of you who responded to our request for feedback and shared your thoughts on this matter. We recognize that not everyone in the congregation supports the half-hour change, but feel that it will be necessary - at least for the next two years - to help balance service attendance, as we make do with less space during demolition and renovations. We ask for your patience and flexibility during this period. We are grateful for our growing membership and hope to keep our church a comfortable, welcoming community as we continue to grow together as a church.

April 20. 7PM. Meet Dr. Jim Manganiello. Jim is a psychologist with more than thirty years of dedicated work and practice in the world's leading spiritual, healing and well being traditions. He is an author, meditation instructor, and host of an online radio show, Uncommon Knowledge Radio, www.wukr.com. He is also a former university professor and former director of both the New England Mindbody Institute and the Center for East-West Psychology and Contemplative Studies. Jim's work features a base of "Uncommon Knowledge" and the powerful tools to put that knowledge to work so we can better live our lives as an adventure of love, wisdom, courage, and well being. Contact Dick Wilson at masshog@aol.com or 978-681-5083 for more information.



Wanted!

You and Your Unloved Stuff!
TOYS -Clean and in Good Working Order
CLOTHES -Clean and in Good Working Order
Small Working Appliances and Stereo
Equipment
Furniture - Kitchen Ware
Bedding/Linens
Exercise Equipment
Home Decor
Sporting Equipment
(No Downhill Ski Stuff!)
Camping Equipment
Books

YOU GET THE PICTURE - WE WANT
CLEAN STUFF!

YARD SALE AT CHURCH
Saturday April 30
8:00 AM To 1 PM

NEEDED Also Are People to Help,
Price, Sort,
Tend the Tables And Organize Coffee
Et Al For Sale!

**DROP OFF TIMES: Please... Only
These Times!**
Thursday 28 April 12:00 NOON TO 7:00
PM
Friday 29 April 9:00 AM To 6:00 PM

Direct any questions to
Mary Lou Monteiro at 978-685-5160
or Mary Ann Perry 978-475-5924

New U. U. Class
Three Thursday Evenings
April 28, May 5 & 12

Contact Pam Guerrieo
after church in the
Parish Office or email
Pam@northparish.org
or leave a message at
978-687-7948

Find out what UU are
missing!

This class will be taught by John
Van Drie, Brenda Myers and the
Reverend Lee Bluemel

UU Plant Sale on May 7!

Spring is here! Start your gardening this Mother's Day weekend with glorious perennial plants for sun and shade at the **Haverhill UU Fourth Annual Plant Sale** on Saturday, May 7, from 9 - noon. Our plant-crazy members donate hundreds of stunning plants - Echinacea, purple bee balm, sedum, Shasta daisies, peonies, Forget-me-nots, Virginia bluebells, shrubs, and so much more! Do you want plants that are great in that shaded nook? Then pick up some primroses, bleeding hearts, bluebells, columbines, violets, or coral bells, many of which start coming up in March! Save the date for this terrific fundraiser and come early - the shade plants go fast!

UU Church, 15 Kenosza Ave., Haverhill, MA, corner of Routes 125 and 110, just up the hill from City Hall.

JOINT ACTION SUPPORTS "HUMAN INFRASTRUCTURE"

North Parish, along with 200 congregations, community, labor and tenant organizations throughout New England are uniting to urge our New England Congressional Delegation to preserve and expand affordable housing, education and employment programs in our Federal budget.

Come to the Social Action table to see how we, as members of the Merrimack Valley Project, are part of this New England Joint Action (NEJA) that will hold an assembly **May 21st** in Manchester, NH.

- Sign a letter to Senator Kerry
- Sign a letter to Congressman Meehan
- Sign a petition for our congressional delegation
- Find out about joining us on May 21st
- Numbers and letters influence politicians!
- Get detailed information sheets on our Housing and Education/Employment objectives.
- Find out what public officials have committed to.

See us at the Social Action table in the Parish Hall at coffee hour!

20/30 Somethings Lunch on Sunday **April 17** will be at China Blossom Restaurant. Contact Bridget Rawding 978-686-1968 or Kathy Slade 603-378-0560 for more info.

Earth Day Cleanup

The North Andover Solid Waste Advisory Committee (a.k.a. the Recycling Committee) is sponsoring its third annual Earth Day Cleanup in North Andover on **Saturday, April 23** from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

They are seeking volunteers to hit the streets, parks, and ball fields to clear away the litter that accumulated over the winter. Interested volunteers should send an e-mail to

recycle@townofnorthandover.com with the street(s) you'd like to cover. If you don't have an area or street in mind, contact recycle@townofnorthandover.com or call 978-685-0950 (DPW), and the Recycling Committee will help you find a place. The committee is also seeking volunteers with pickup trucks who will pick up bags of trash and deliver them back to DPW.

Conserve Money and Water With Rain Barrels

The Town of North Andover has teamed up with The New England Rain Barrel Company to offer residents rain barrels as a way to conserve water and help the environment. A rain barrel collects water from the roof when it rains and stores it for use during dry conditions and during water bans. For a limited time, the rain barrels can be purchased by North Andover residents for \$52 each, (regular retail price is \$85.) The company will be taking orders through May 13. The rainbarrels will be delivered to the DPW on Saturday May 21, 2005 (384 Osgood St, N Andover) from 9 am to noon. To place your order, call The New England Rain Barrel Company at 978-977-3135 or order online at www.nerainbarrel.com

Spring Seasonal Suppers will be held in member's homes on Saturday evening, April 30th. Dotti Anderson and Lora Stewart will be carrying clipboards after services the next couple weeks. See one of them to sign up!

Whole Parish Clean-Up – Saturday, **May 14** from 3-6pm. Be there! Last time only a couple of people came to help. Thanks!

The 18th Annual Amelia Reeve Social Action Youth Awards Given at North Parish of North Andover, UU Sunday April 10, 2005

Congratulations to:

Elida Cristaldi

Senior, North Andover High School
(Member of North Parish!)

Samantha Berger

Senior, Andover High School

Elizaida Cruz

Senior, Presentation of Mary Academy,
Methuen

Timothy Gordon

Senior, Methuen High School

Erin Lockwood

Senior, North Andover High School

Coutney Miller

Senior, Central Catholic High School,
Lawrence

Marcella Poulin

Junior, Georgetown High School

Kim Spanier

Senior, Brooks Academy, North Andover

Thanks to Fran Rohr, Cheryl Herland, Cari Marchese, Beth Coolidge, Gail Forsyth-Vail and the RE Committee for all their help with the awards.