

The Messenger

A publication of the North Parish, Unitarian Universalist
North Andover, Massachusetts

XXXVIII May 9, 2005 No. 10
Worship and Religious Education
Sundays at 8:30am and 10:30am

Service Schedule

May 15: New Member Recognition Sunday
May 22: Partakers leading service;
May 29: Memorial Day Cemetery Social
June 5: Intergeneration service
June 12: Flower communion;
Jim Sherblom's farewell
June 19: Animal Blessing service (outside
if possible); Father's Day
June 26: Evensong Services begin
July 3: No Service
Summer Services: Evensong at 5:30pm

MEMORIAL FLOWERS & STEEPLELIGHTING

5-1-2005 FLOWERS

For Granny with love, Cathy, Ralph, Eric
and Jeff Bakkensen

5-8-2005 FLOWERS

The flowers are given in loving memory of
Eudora Keeney Pemberton and Elizabeth
Brundred Glore, mothers and grandmothers;
Frank Pemberton, Jr., Leonora Keeney
Pemberton and Roberts Hixon Glore, Jr. by
their family Fred, Connie, Nathan and Peter
Glore

5-15-2005 FLOWERS

In loving memory of Ruth and Gordon
Timmons by the Timmons Family.

5-22-2005 FLOWERS

In loving memory of Hazel Hart by her
daughters

5-29-2005 FLOWERS

In memory of John, Katherine and Gayton
Osgood from Mary Ellen Osgood.

5-29-2005 STEEPLE LIGHTING

In loving memory of John J. Eshbach by his
wife Anne

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

World Music Ensembles

On March 5th, music director, Jim
Dalton gave a presentation entitled
"World Music Ensembles in the Parish"
at the 6th annual Ballou Channing
District Music Conference in North
Easton, MA. Jim would like to thank the
following North Parish musicians for
giving their time and talents to make the
workshop a success: Alison Sparks,
Reg Elwell, Kim Adami, Mark Lemire
and Bonnie Kanner.

Yard Sale Proceeds: \$ 3984.75
T-Shirt Sales \$ 380

Thanks on behalf of everyone.
Dan Brosnan

Ministerial Musings

It was a delight to have Andrew
dedicated at North Parish on May 1st, a
day when his grandparents, uncle and
godparent Paul were all able to be in
attendance. There is nothing like
hearing a whole congregation say "We
will!" when asked if they will help you to
support the spiritual growth of your
child. If you are a parent who has
questions about a dedication for your
child, please don't hesitate to contact
me or Rev. Jim. In Unitarian
Universalism, there is no age limit on
dedications, since there is no rush to
wash away original sin in our
ceremony. We are glad to welcome
young people and celebrate the original
blessing of life at any age.

In the last Messenger, I wrote about the importance of pledging—of writing down our intentions for financial support of the church in the upcoming year-- *before* the Annual Meeting, preferably before May 1st. The members of the Board have asked me to write to you again about this, as they find themselves faced with a very substantial Annual Fund shortage, many pledges not yet in, and thus very difficult decisions about the staffing and programs we can plan on for next year.

If we allow such a shortage to stand, I fear that the Board members—people who care so much about this church and have such conviction about what is needed for the health of this community—will once again have to go through the painful and time consuming exercise of debating cuts in salaries, programs and expenses which are critical to our mission. I don't want the congregation as a whole to have to hear such doom and gloom, especially in a year when we are doing great and wonderful things with our Capital Campaign, in which many have given at sacrificial levels and there is *so much* to celebrate. So I am bringing up this topic of pledging again, even as I worry that by doing so, those who happen to be under particular financial duress this year may begin to feel "preached at" if they are unable to give at their usual levels, and those who have raised their pledges significantly may begin to feel alone in their commitment. Neither of these is my intent, and I want to send out a big thank you to all who have already stepped up to the plate, at whatever level you were able!

In my experience over the past six years, the leaders of this congregation have taken their fiscal responsibility very seriously and the congregation as a whole has always found a way, some

how, to rise to its financial challenges. However, sometimes we only get there after we go through extra worry, extra effort, unhappy budget cuts and much gnashing of teeth. I find myself thinking, "Wouldn't it be nice if we could avoid all that, spend our energy in other ways, and move forward with confidence?"

It is natural to put off difficult decisions, especially those that involve financial commitment; I know I am guilty of procrastination myself! But at the request of the Board, I once again remind you that "waiting until later" to let us know how you plan to support the church financially has real and serious impacts on the entire congregation. Let's end the regular church year in a spirit of joy, possibility, triumph and abundance rather than in a funk of worry, scarcity, regret and competition between our various programs. If you haven't had a chance yet in all the hustle and bustle of life, please take some time today to reflect on the importance of lived liberal religion in the world today and send an email with your commitment to Wally Anderson at wally.anderson@comcast.net We can make it happen, together.

See you in church—

Lee

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.

Annual Reports Due NOW!

I will need your report in this office by May 11. You may send it via e-mail to Office@northparish.org or as a "Hard-copy" but it needs to be here by May 11! Thanks!
~Cynthia Sulesky

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 eves 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

In the Interim

Now that we are in the fifth of my six months here, I am beginning to think about what more I can accomplish for you before moving on to my first settled ministry. I know that the conversation around dealing with our friends and relatives who are fundamentalists seems to keep coming up again and again in various settings. So I would like to offer the following workshop as an opportunity for those of us with fundamentalist relatives to dialogue together about how we deal with them:

Loving Fundamentalists

Wednesday, May 25th 7pm to 9pm
Many of us have fundamentalists among our extended families, and visits with them can sometimes be strained due to faith misunderstandings or attempts to convert us to their "true" faith. I would like to offer a discussion about coping strategies and how we can continue to love and interact with the fundamentalists in our families.

I also know that some of you, particularly some of you with scientific or mathematical training, have noticed threads of process thought and the new physics wandering through some of my sermons. I am deeply interested in Process Theology and so would be delighted to share it with those of you who care before I leave in June. For

that purpose I would also offer the following workshop:

Process Theology

Wednesday, June 8th 7pm to 9pm

My spiritual search and many of my sermons are deeply influenced by Process Theology, which attempts to integrate classical theological thought with modern physics, bringing new insights to old visions in this emerging postmodern world. I offer a general introduction to Process Thought and its theological implications for our times.

As always, I continue to enjoy getting to better know you and our growing together. Wherever my future ministry leads me, I will always remember fondly the time I have spent with you here at North Parish.

In faith,

Reverend Jim Sherblom

RE News

As we wrap up and evaluate this year's programming (details below), the RE Committee and I are busy planning for next year, when the thematic focus will be "world religions." We need the information from RE registration forms in order to proceed effectively with the planning process. **Please return RE registration forms for 2005-2006 immediately.** There will be a person from the RE Committee present at coffee hour on Sunday mornings to answer your questions and receive forms. Waivers are available to those for whom the fee is a hardship; please speak with me or e-mail dre@northparish.org.

A registration form and fee is due for all babies, toddlers, children and youth who are in nursery care, Sunday morning programs, OWL sexuality education, coming of age, and youth groups, with one brand-new exception: On May 3,

the Board of Trustees voted to require only the form and not the fee from any post-Coming of Age high school youth who have joined the church and made their own financial pledge to the North Parish for the 2005-06 year.

Sunday, May 8 was Bridging Sunday, when we welcomed those who are moving from youth to young adulthood. Our congratulations and love go with all of our high school seniors and those turning eighteen, but especially to the youth who bridged this past Sunday: Elise Forcino, Tom Garron, Julia Palatine, Kayla Parker and Richard Smith.

The fifth grade milestone celebration also took place on Sunday. Fifth graders received framed copies of the Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources and were welcomed to their new role as "junior youth" in the congregation. Thank you to Lena Sparks and Jessica Sarro, who represented the junior youth in the words of welcome. Congratulations to one and all!

Our springtime series of sessions celebrating the cycle of life will conclude with special outside (we hope!) worship services on May 15 and May 22. If your child is in a creative mood and would like to share poetry, music, and artwork about worms, rot, rebirth, springtime, the bog or the pond, please let me know so that I can weave it in to the services. See you Sunday!

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

Quilters Workshop at North Parish, for all levels.
Wednesday evening May 18, 7:00pm.
Beginners welcome! Very easy block

pattern for the Red Bow Fair silent auction quilt (now in progress) will be taught. Bring your quilting pins, needles (betweens,) thimble, scissors and 100% cotton fabric scraps to share. (Ask friends who sew and quilt for their leftovers.) You can choose to learn this block by hand or machine. If you do bring a sewing machine make sure it is cleaned, in good working order with a fresh needle. Bring the booklet that came with it if you are new at sewing. Also bring a heavy extension cord and a multi strip if you have one. Class fee is \$5.00 payable the evening of class. If you contribute any finished block(s) for the fair quilt, your class is free. Please sign up by calling the church office, or for more information, call Ann Takvorian at (978)372-4378 or email gntlyoga@comcast.net

May is Marriage Equality month!

Interweave-np is organizing a North Parish contingent to join hundreds of other UUs to march in support of Civil Marriage and Civil Rights. **Join us on Saturday June 11th** for a worship service at Arlington Street Church followed by the largest demonstration of Unitarian Universalist support for civil marriage and support of gay rights for the GLBT community ever gathered. We expect to be by far the largest contingent at the Boston Gay Pride Parade, by gathering all area UUs together to march as one.

And this is really cool...Interweave-np is making special Tshirts for North Parish participants in Gay Pride (or for any North Parish member or friend who would like one.) If you want one, you'll need to order it the end of this week. See an Interweave person at coffee hour, or contact Diane Wilkinson at disutter@msn.com, or 978-521-6511.

FERRY BEACH SIGN UP

Sign-ups for the North Parish/Haverhill UU Church weekend at Ferry Beach, September 23 to 25, will be available along with pictures from last year on Sundays after services beginning April 24th. If you would like a form emailed to you, send a request to Suzanne Adams at sadams@exceptionalmanagement.com or pick one up after church. There are three ways to attend. If you want to sleep in one of the three lodging buildings, the cost is for the weekend which includes all meals is \$70 per adult, \$30 per child ages 3 to 12, free for children under 3 free. There is a \$225 ceiling per family. For those who prefer camping, the cost is \$40 per site and \$20 per person for meals with children under 3 free. Those who do not wish to stay overnight may come for the day on Saturday from breakfast into the evening. The cost is \$20 per person for meals; children under 3 free. PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE ARE CORRECTED RATES FROM FORMER NOTICES.

Reduced rates are available for singles or families in need. Contact Suzanne Adams at 978-682-8585. Requests are kept confidential.

Newcomers to North Parish are particularly encouraged to consider attending - it's a great time!!

Interested in attending General Assembly this year?

General Assembly is June 23rd to June 27th in Fort Worth, Texas. Rev Jim Sherblom and Gail Forsyth-Vail plan to attend. Seven delegates are needed. Please let Nancy Lennhoff know as soon as possible if you would like to go! Call 978-683-1820 or email

Lennhoff@comcast.net or talk to Gail Forsyth-Vail on Sunday.

Rain Barrels at Reduced Rate:

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 Cleanup Day: On May 21st, the North Andover Solid Waste Advisory Committee is sponsoring a Spring Cleanup Day. It will be held at the DPW (384 Osgood St, N Andover) from 9 am to noon, and includes the following free services to North Andover residents:

- Free Shredding of confidential documents. Open to North Andover residents only. Sponsored by Shred Pro, Inc. and N. Andover Solid Waste Advisory Committee.
- Recycle unwanted athletic shoes (no metal parts please) Free Nike Reuse a Shoe Program sponsored by Nike and N. Andover Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Open to North Andover residents only. DPW Garage, 384 Osgood Street, N. Andover
- Recycle your computer equipment AfriHope International, Inc. will be on hand to take donations of working PC computers or laptops that are a

Pentium II or newer. No Macs please. All PC compatible peripherals are also accepted, such as keyboards, mice, printers. Open to North Andover residents only. DPW Garage, 384 Osgood Street, N. Andover. Questions, send an email to recycle@townofnorthandover.com
· Rain barrels pickup (previously ordered with The New England Rain Barrel Company

Crossroads Coffeehouse will feature Ellis Paul on May 14th with emerging talent, Antje Duvekot opening.

Ellis Paul was raised in a small town in northern Maine where for generations his family earned their living from potato farming. The community was so remote that his exposure to music came almost entirely from the one top-40 station he could get on his radio and his school band, where he played trumpet well enough to earn a summer scholarship to the Berklee College of Music.

While at Boston College on a track scholarship, Paul discovered songwriting completely out of boredom. A track-career-ending knee injury left him bedridden for months, and he began making up songs on a guitar given to him by a friend. He began playing his music at various open mics and was soon selling out clubs on his own. Now he is a nationally known songwriter having graced stages from Carnegie Hall to the Newport Folk Festival. Paul has garnered 11 Boston Music Awards. He won the Kerrville (TX) "Best New Folk" award (as featured in Smithsonian Magazine). *Dirty Linen* magazine has called Ellis 'one of contemporary folk music's most influential voices'.

Originally from Heidelberg, Germany, Antje Duvekot has been capturing audiences

across the East coast with her charismatic stage performance, the poetry of her uncommonly intelligent songs and a voice that could melt the toughest of hearts. Antje has placed first and second prize in the prestigious John Lennon songwriting contest and was selected a finalist in the USA Songwriting Competition and also recently featured at the Falcon Ridge New Artist Showcase.

Crossroads Coffeehouse at North Parish Church, 190 Academy Road, North Andover. Doors open 7:15, concert starts 8:00, tickets are \$18. For information, call 978-687-3960 (978-687-7948 evening of the concert) or visit www.crossroads-coffeehouse.org.

Thank you note received:
The North Parish sent a total of \$2,029.21 to the UU Service Committee – Guest at Your Table program. Congratulations to the generous people of North Parish!
(signed) ~Charlie Clements, UUSC

District News:

The MBD District Executive Search Committee is thrilled to announce the hiring of the Rev. Dr. Terasa G. Cooley as District Executive of the Mass Bay District, effective July 1, 2005.

Terasa brings a wealth of experience as a parish minister, teacher, and leader. Since 2000, she has been serving as Senior Minister of the Unitarian Society of Hartford and previously served congregations in Bridgeport, Chicago, and Detroit. She earned her ministerial degrees at Harvard Divinity School and Hartford Seminary.

(signed)

Barbara Bates, Mass Bay District President
Harlan Limpert, UUA Director for District Services

Paul Rickter, Chair, MBD District Executive Search Committee

SCORE Needs Help

SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) needs a few more business counselors. SCORE is a free business service of the Merrimack Chamber of Commerce. If you know of an active or retired executive or business owner who might do volunteer business counseling for about eight hours a month, SCORE would like to meet that person.

The duty consists of participating in team counseling sessions. There are also opportunities for additional responsibilities if desired. The business counseling sessions are held at the Chamber on Tuesdays.

If you know of someone who might want information on volunteering, contact Bruce Glassman at (978) 474-0607 or the Chamber at (978) 686-0900.

Only \$156,320 to reach
OUR Capital Campaign
goal!

Let's make it to our goal...
Every pledge helps!

As of May 3rd, we have Capital
Campaign pledges of \$843,680
from about 62% of the members
and friends of North Parish.

Annual Fund pledges are
\$216,329

We still have a long way to
go to reach our 100%
participation goal

*We are trying to wrap up
both drives.*

Please make sure to return
both your pledge forms as
soon as possible.

We need this information in
order to determine our
annual program budget.

The annual meeting is
MAY 20.

Help balance the budget!
We need your capital pledge
so we can see what we can
do with the expansion.

