

The Messenger

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

XXXVIII May 23, 2005 No. 11
Worship and Religious Education
Sundays at 8:30am and 10:30am

Service Schedule

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

6-5 FLOWERS

In loving memory of Lona Chappell from her husband Charlie Chappell

6-5 STEEPLE

In loving memory of Dana Fisher from his wife Lois Fisher

6-12 FLOWERS

In loving memory of J. Alfred Southworth by his daughters Lora Stewart and Martha Acheson

6-12 STEEPLE

In loving memory of Manley and Helen Bakkensen from Ralph, Cathy, Eric and Jeff Bakkensen

6-19 FLOWERS

In honor of Betty from Jim Graham and the Bakkensens

6-19 STEEPLE

In memory of Joyce, Julie and Douglas Knowles from Ann Knowles and Harry Voorhees and family

MEMORIAL FLOWERS & STEEPLELIGHTING

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

Ministerial Musings

Congratulations to the Rev. Jim Sherblom, upon his call to First Parish in

Brookline, Unitarian Universalist, along with the Rev. Martha Niebank! Revs. Jim and Martha will begin their co-ministry in Brookline on August 1st. They received a 99% positive vote, and when the call was announced the Choir broke into the "Hallelujah Chorus"! Many congratulations to them both.

Other congratulations are in order this week. Congratulations to Doris Van Heukelom and Lois Fisher, who are two of the original church members to start the Thrift Shop *fifty years ago!* They were both in attendance at the 50th Anniversary Luncheon, along with manager Cari Marchesi, President Anne Erickson, minister emeritus the Rev. Dave Blanchard and many other church members who continue to volunteer in the shop. The Thrift Shop's original purpose was to pay for the current Religious Education wing of the church; they now give their proceeds to a variety of non-profit causes.

Other best wishes go out to Dave Cook and family. On Sunday May 15th at 8:15 am, a bunch of us gathered in front of the church before the early service to bless Dave and his bicycle. Dave is a North Parish member who is riding his bike from North Andover to the Oregon coast. When he has access to the internet, he is going to keep us all informed about his travels; if you are interested, you can read all about it at wellspoken.blogspot.com. (With pictures!)

That same day, we welcomed 18 new members (*thank you, new members!!*) and I preached a sermon called "Unitarian Jihad". For those of you who were interested in the readings that day, they are posted on the church website along with the sermon. For those interested in getting their own "Unitarian Jihad" name, you can make up your

own or go to
homepage.mac.com/whump/ujname.html. More importantly, to build our "jihad", bring a friend to church!

Coming up in June we will have several special intergenerational services to finish out the regular church year. On **June 5th**, we will celebrate our annual "All Are Called" Sunday- a morning to appreciate all of the ministry that gets done by all of you at North Parish. This is also a day to think about and sign up for the ministry and volunteer commitments we want to take on next fall. On **June 12th**, Rev. Jim will spend his final Sunday with us and preach his last sermon before leaving for General Assembly and his future co-ministry in Brookline. Please come to celebrate with him and to participate in our annual Flower Communion. All are encouraged to bring a flower (or several) to church to share that day. (The annual town Firefighter's Recognition service will also take place on the 12th, at about 7:45am.; as some of you know, I am "Protestant chaplain" to the Department.) On **June 19th**, we will spend Father's Day observing our annual tradition of the animal blessing. If the weather allows, we and all feathered, furry and scaled creatures-- even stuffed animals-- are invited to worship up in the church's Old Burying Ground just up the street on Academy Road. If the weather is poor, we will bring photos only (*sorry!*) to the sanctuary. Summer Evensong services will begin on June 26th.

(Editor's Note: No services on July 3rd)

Finally, many, many thanks to all who attended and participated in this year's Annual Meeting this past Friday. While we still face some ongoing financial challenges, everyone at the meeting seemed to be doing their best thinking and best work to come up with solutions

together. One of the results is that we will indeed be looking for a half-time Assistant Minister for adult, young adult and youth leadership and faith development, hopefully to start this fall. Congratulations to all of you who have made that possible... and thanks to any who will contribute before June 21st to fill in our remaining budget gaps.

See you in church—

Lee

Loving Fundamentalists

**Wednesday, May 25th 7pm to 9pm
With Rev. Jim Sherblom**

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.

Process Theology with Rev. Jim

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.

Please call Pam Guerrieo in the office to sign up for these workshops at 978-687-7948 Ext. 4 (please use the voice mailbox system) or email her at AdminAssist@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.

RE News

Small group Religious Education programming for this church year ended on Sunday. The fifth graders had a great field trip to Lazarus House. The younger children re-examined all their UU Treasures. The older children heard a story called "Jump Hoop Joy!" a celebration of the universe's story and of our own Mother Earth. We planted the seedlings we began on Green Sunday in March, and blessed them with our good wishes and good intentions- and plenty of bubbles!

Many thanks to all the adults who taught and led the children this year! The RE Committee honored and recognized teachers at a breakfast on Sunday- and heard many good suggestions for next year's program. From this point on into June, the children's program will be as follows:

For May 29- a possible trip to the Bog and Holt Hill at Ward Reservation in Andover. If there are families who will be at church on Memorial Day weekend and parents who are willing to drive, I'd like to do the bog trip -weather permitting. Please let me know if you are coming on Memorial Day weekend (May 29) and if you are willing to drive and chaperone a trip to the Bog and a trek to the highest point in Essex County- both at Ward Reservation. There will be only one service, so the field trip would begin at 10:30, with children/junior youth returning to church at 11:45.

On June 5- "All Are Called" - an intergenerational celebration of all the ways in which we are called to carry our faith into the world and to nourish our own faith community.

On June 12- Our annual Flower Communion and Rev. Jim's last service.

On June 19 Our annual Animal blessing service- and this time we will bless the worms and give small containers of worms to anyone in the congregation who would like to add them to a compost pile.

Please be sure to return your completed registration form right away if you have not yet done so. The RE Committee is especially anxious to hear from all families so that they can better plan for programming with the adjusted service times next year.

Finally, if your youth would like to participate in the Coming of Age program next year and did not attend the information session on Sunday, please be sure to e-mail dre@northparish.org or call to request an application form and more information. The Coming of Age program is intended for ninth graders, although tenth graders who have not yet gone through the COA program are also welcome to participate.

Gail Forsyth-Vail, DRE
978-685-7855 DRE@northparish.org

Special thanks to Lora Stewart, Sue Sinacore, Loretta Middleton and the Caring Team for the fantastic support they provided during Gail's recovery. The magnificent feasts they provided served us a full 4 days, and were very much appreciated. These were not simple casseroles, but full course dinners, from roast chicken, complete with many side dishes (cranberries and salad dressing included), to a scrumptious pineapple upside-down cake and delicious cookies! Thanks again, your support really meant a lot during this anxious time. ~Steve Vail

Quilter's Workshop

Wednesdays June 1, 15, 29 at 7pm
in the Parish Hall. Bring your machine
and scraps and join the fun! If you don't
have much material or have a lot of
material – that's great! We share!

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.

Email Laura Landy for information at
lauralandy@comcast.net

Spiritual Companionship

It's not too early to begin
considering joining a Spiritual
Companionship group next fall!
These small groups provide a
fabulous way to deepen your
spiritual life in a way that can only
be done in a setting of intimacy
and community. To find out more,
contact Susan Van Drie: 978-470-
0107 or
susanvandrie@mindspring.com

Diane Gobeil will be doing a Lyme
Disease Information talk and Support
Group at Haverhill Public Library on
June 14, July 12 and August 9 from 7-
9pm. Please call 978-373-3135 for
more information

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.

Bread and Roses

Many of you are aware of our community service work with Bread & Roses, a soup kitchen in Lawrence. For many years, we have been covering one meal per month, feeding 200 people. Many of you have volunteered for this activity, through groups within the church, or as individuals. The Bread & Roses organization is celebrating its 25th anniversary this fall, and they would like a list of names and addresses of people who have volunteered. People on the list will receive an invitation to the event, tentatively scheduled for Sept 25. (Note that this is Ferry Beach weekend.)

If you have volunteered for this activity, please send your name and address (by June 1) to Nancy Sarro at nsarro26@comcast.net. Please note that you will not be committing to anything by doing this.

Also, **speaking of Bread & Roses, we do not have coverage by a group for June.** If you can help for a couple of hours Saturday afternoon, June 25, please contact Nancy Sarro at the email address mentioned above.

THANK YOU!!

Many thanks to Bread and Roses monthly meal coordinators Nancy and Rich Sarro! Thanks also to all the groups who made a meal for the shelter this year:

Social Action Committee

Great Pond Sangha- UU Buddhists

Sr. Youth Group

The Board of Trustees

The Caring Team

Jr. Youth Group

Cakes 10

Small Group Ministry- Linda Villalobos' group

Jericho Road Project –

We are still looking for a volunteer to work with Family Services of Lawrence. Family Services, Inc needs help with the re-design and development of its website. They are looking for a volunteer with web design experience and the technical skills needed to implement the changes. Family Services would like their website to be more attractive and to leverage the website as a way to provide information and resources to their clients, donors, volunteers and friends via the Internet.

Family Service's mission is to strengthen individuals and families by building skills for successful home, work, and community life. They are especially committed to reaching underserved and at-risk populations who face the stresses of poverty, family violence, aging, and linguistic and cultural isolation. This mission is carried out in three areas of service: mental health counseling, employee assistance/workplace services, and community prevention programs.

Time commitment is 3 -5 meetings and 10 hours a month. The project needs to be completed by early summer. Call Tad Lincoln (978-738-4673) or Dee Riemer (978-470-2042) if you are interested in learning more about this project.

***Searching for Jr. and Sr.
Youth Group Advisors***

YAC is currently looking for Jr. AND Sr. Youth Group advisors for next year. We need someone who is interested in spending time with youth in leadership and social positions. It is a really rewarding position to have. The time requirement is two Sundays a month and a few other days a year for special events. Please contact Dan Brosnan at DanBrosnanIII@yahoo.com, or any YAC member.

THIRST:

**A screening and discussion
on June 12, 5-7:30pm**

Safe drinking water is fundamental to human life. Is water a human right or a commodity to be bought and sold in a global market place?

Water Rights has become a focus for the UUSC and was featured in their most recent publication.

Please join us on Sunday evening June 12th from 5 to 7:30pm for a viewing of the documentary film THIRST, followed by a dialog with members of the Massachusetts Global Action and Water Allies Network. Pick up a flyer with the details at the Social Action table after the service. Pizza will be served prior to the start of the film, so we are asking for RSVPs.

**Youth Circle
June 12
7pm**

Old Center Hall 2nd Floor

Youth Circle is a youth worship that has a lot of rituals and community.

It is usually more youth-friendly than a Sunday morning worship because it doesn't have the same type of hierarchy and "preaching." A lot of the worship uses Buddhism and earth-centered faith traditions/readings. Call Dan Brosnan at 978-794-2059 or email danbrosnaniii@yahoo.com for more information.

Concord Poetry Center—June 4

8 pm, Concert: "Songs from Walden Pond" at the Chapel at Concord Academy, 116 Main Street, Concord, MA. Modern-day bard Dillon Bustin, accompanied by flute, cello, french horn, piano and percussion. Come and be transported by this unusual blend of 19th century lyrical writings and music. \$10. 978-371-0820 or www.concordpoetry.org

Reminder:

Sunday Services at 8:30am and 10:30am end on June 19.

Evensong begins at 5:30pm on June 26. No service on July 3 and then Evensong at 5:30pm each Sunday evening until September 11, when Sunday morning services will begin at 9am and 11am.