

The Messenger

The Newsletter of
**THE NORTH PARISH OF NORTH ANDOVER,
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST**
A Welcoming Congregation

Volume XL November 6, 2006 No. 19

Services at 9am and 11am

November 2006

Flowers and Steeple Lighting

11.5.06 **Flowers** ~ in loving memory of John, Louise, Joe and Henry Van Heukelom by the Van Heukelom family." by Doris VanHeukelom

11.5.06 **Steeple Lighting** ~ open

11.12.06 **Flowers**~ "In honor of Gerald and Theresa Connors, loving and supportive parents of Keith Connors." by Keith Connors

11.12.06 **Steeple Lighting**~ In loving memory of Thomas and Frances Bonanno by Keith Connors." by Keith Connors

11.19.06 **Flowers**~ In loving memory of Helen and Edwin Hope and Anne and George Edmonds by Pat and George Edmonds." ~ by Pat Edmonds

11.19.06 **Steeple Lighting**~ In loving memory of S. Kempton Race, Mary W. Race, and Raymon Eldridge and Mildred W. Eldridge by Peter and Ruth Race."

11.26.06 **Flowers** ~ open

11.26.06 **Steeple Lighting**~ "In loving memory of a cherished friend and sister-in-law, Christine Minnix from the Mello-Rosneck family."

Ministerial Musings

Along with this week's Messenger, you should also be receiving a brochure about my upcoming Sabbatical. It is hard for me to believe that it will begin in a mere two months, but time somehow has a way of slipping away quickly, doesn't it? I want

to remind you that if you'd like to make an appointment just to chat, to share a concern, to find a way to get connected at North Parish, now would be a great time to do so. Just email me at minister@northparish.org or call and leave a message, and we can set up a time. Mondays are my day off, but otherwise I am in the office during the week and some evenings.

I have been calling this year one of "renovation and renewal". It has been a thrill to ring our Paul Revere bell with the rope in our entryway, to see the weathervane up on top of the steeple, and the scaffolding beginning to come down. I like to imagine that about half a year from now, we will be feeling the same thrill about our interior renovation project, as we return to a Meeting House that looks brand-spankin'-new, both inside and out.

In the meantime, there will be some opportunities for "renewal" this winter—workshops that, with YOUR input-- have the potential to generate ideas and conversation about our direction as a community over the next chapter of our life together. In February, there will be a workshop about the future direction of the Music Ministry at North Parish. At another date(to be determined), there will be a workshop this to articulate and deepen the nature of the congregation's relationship with our Director of Religious Education, Gail Forsyth-Vail, and to learn about the exciting curriculum-development and anti-racism work that she is being called upon to do at the national level.

The first workshop opportunity will be on November 16th, with the Rev. Alice Mann, an Alban Institute church consultant who has worked with us before at North Parish. Rev. Mann will be leading the church leadership through a conversation about my sabbatical, about Rev. Frank's role, and about the Big Questions that the church is facing for the future. You don't need to have an official role in the church to attend. If you are simply curious about this sabbatical business, about Frank's role, or have ideas, concerns or hopes about where we are heading as a church, you are invited to join the group. The workshop will be from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, with some food and refreshments supplied.

The following Sunday we will celebrate our Thanksgiving service together, with music from the Choir, our traditional bread communion, and a special collection from the People's Pantry.

See you in church!
Lee

Speaking Frankly

For years my wife Tracey has been encouraging me to get more exercise, so in August I finally said “uncle,” and joined a gym. Several mornings a week now we go work out together before I head to the North Parish. And it’s been great—I feel better and have more energy than I used to. Though there are some mornings I don’t want to go to the gym, whenever I do, I’m glad I did.

Just as our bodies need physical exercise, our spirits benefit from regular exercise too. This is what spiritual practice really is--exercise for the soul. I’m sure many of you make the time to exercise your bodies, but how many make time for spiritual exercise? I’m convinced that having a spiritual practice helps one to lead a happier, more connected, more generous life.

There are all kinds of spiritual practice. Prayer and meditation, writing in a journal, walking, making art—any of these, done mindfully, can help deepen one’s spiritual life. I try to get up early to have some time for silence and prayer, but lately I’ve not been very good at that! This week I started a new practice, reading from the book of Psalms, one Psalm a day, beginning with #1. This will last me for 150 days, and I trust that doing this will shape my days in a good way.

If you have a spiritual practice already, I’d love to hear about it. If you struggle with establishing one, I’d love to hear about that too. I’m hoping to offer a workshop on spiritual practices through the Center for Spiritual Renewal this winter—stay tuned for details.

Coming to North Parish for Sunday worship is a weekly spiritual practice. So I hope see you in church!

~Frank

RE News

Sunday Morning Programming

Children in grades one through six continue their focus on wisdom from the Jewish tradition. The Torah narrative that we began in the early fall moves into the Moses story in November, as the children hear the stories of the burning bush, the exodus from Egypt and the Hebrews’ journey in the wilderness toward the Promised Land.

Pre-K and kindergarten children will spend time exploring all the wonders of autumn

Seventh and eighth graders continue their exploration of “family” as they prepare to photograph and interview a variety of North Parish families for a photo documentary project.

Youth News

Twenty-seven Senior Youth and seven adults are headed to the Gulf Coast in April to help with ongoing clean-up and restoration there. The group is planning a number of fundraisers to help pay airfare and living expenses for the week. Also scheduled: a workshop on Global Warming on November 19 from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, led by youth and young adults from “Promise the Children” (including our won Leila Smith).

Congratulations to Junior Youth Group on a successful Halloween party. Good times were had by one and all! The hike scheduled for November 12th has been postponed, so the group will meet at the regular time. Watch for details in the Sunday bulletin and junior youth e-mailings.

Family News

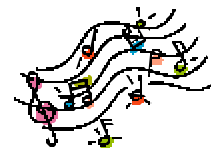
Family Gathering for nursery-aged children and their families will be held on Sunday, November 12, from 4:15-6:00 PM and will include a simple supper. Please let me know by Friday November 10 if you will be coming. Thanks!

See you Sunday!

Gail Forsyth-Vail

dre@northparish.org; 978-685-7855

Music Notes



What talented and dedicated musicians we have at North Parish!! I've been enjoy working with diverse music and musicians in our church so far. Drum set, harmonica, trumpet, Jazz pianist, steel drum, violin, recorder, chamber singers, African drums, hand bell groups and so on. In addition, our fantastic adult choir and adorable children's choir have been brightening my Thursdays. Since our daily life is always unbelievably busy, I admire everyone's time and efforts to give their musical talents to our beloved congregation. I can even see these musicians as helpers as we need some

people to make coffee for our Sunday services.

Diversity!!! That was one of the big reasons why I wanted to work at North Parish Church. I think it's important to value all sorts of music regardless the regional or historical background. And what instrument you're playing is just a vehicle and a voice to deliver your emotions, thoughts, and imaginations. What a blessing to have so many different musicians in our church!!

I believe the musical talents will shine when you are willing and able to share it with others. If you have an amazing coffee maker at home that no one else has in our church, wouldn't you want to bring that machine to our congregation, so others can taste what you made with your skilled hands? How about at least once in a while? Or even if your coffee maker is nothing unusual, what if your church needs one? Wouldn't you feel like bringing it? Whether you're singing or playing quality is professional or not, we will all love and be pleased to see your endeavors given to our church. They will be even more treasured because you offer them not only for self fulfillment, but in support of our services and needs.

Blessed be,

Grace Choi

This month's "The Church Has Left the Building" awards go to...

... **Ed Warnshuis** who is up to his usual rabble-rousing in Lawrence. Ed and **Sarah Cook's** "**Stand and Deliver MCAS Mentoring**" program has 80 mentors this fall at two new corporate campuses, New Balance and Raytheon, plus 15 independent mentors. Ed is also helping to fundraise for a **new women's imaging center** for **Greater Lawrence Community Health Center**, to help with early detection of breast cancer in low income women. The new center will allow for 4,800 visits; New Balance gave \$50,000 for naming rights, helping to make a fundraiser at the Tewksbury Country Club a \$110,000 success. Community Health is the workplace **Dr. Cara Marshall, Dr. Evan Teplow** and **Susan Teplow**.

... **Lani Petersen-Arnzen**, who has been working on "**The Public Voice Project**" for the City Mission Society. She has been helping women recently released from prison to understand and share their life stories as a means of healing and education for the public. Ten women shared their stories on Oct. 30th at their graduation ceremony.

...**Kayla Parker** North Parish young adult who is working at the Jordanian embassy as she pursues her college studies in Arabic, international relations and religion.

...**Ed Martin**, who went to El Salvador to help deliver supplies and support to Asaprosar, the Salvadorian Association for Rural Health who serves some 90,000 people.

...**Ida Patterson**, a North Parish young adult who is now a Social Worker at Lowell House, where she counsels people in drug and alcohol addiction and recovery.

(Tell on your friends who do good deeds! Submit your nominations for "The Church Has Left the Building" award to Office@northparish.org for printing in the Messenger. All nominations are accepted and printed!)

News around the Parish...

The North Andover Thrift Shop is pleased to announce a new Board president!

At its annual meeting in October, Ruth Race was unanimously elected president of its Board of Directors. Congratulations Ruth!! Stepping down is Anne Ericson who has served as president since 1998. We thank Anne for her visionary leadership for these many years. The thrift shop was started in 1955 by the North Parish as a means to fund the mortgage on its then new RE wing. It was so successful, that after the mortgage was paid off in only seven years, the project continued as a means to raise funds for the church and the community.

Now located at 172 Sutton St, (corner of Main St) in the former Schofield Mill, it is a non profit offering gently worn clothing and household items and giving profits to scholarships and community

programs. Many North Parish people continue to serve on its staff.

Cari Marchese, manager 978 689 9520 (thrift shop)

PEOPLE'S PANTRY

The pantry served 932 individuals in October! That's a lot of groceries!!

If you'd like to help, on our wish list is: salad dressings, evaporated milk, hot chocolate mix, salad oil. Donated items may be left in the corner near the kitchen (donation box there) or taken into OCH and left behind the white curtain.

We are now into our 15th year (we started Oct 2, 1992).

Thank you for your support of the pantry program.

Cari Marchese, coordinator

PRESERVATION PROJECT UPDATE -- Great news and a note of concern:

As of October 22, Heritage Sunday, 95% of the Preservation work was complete! We were able to ring the Paul Revere bell with the rope in the church entryway. (*Please note: We must not swing on the bell rope! Also, the bell must be rung directly underneath, where the rope hangs straight down. The bell rope should not be stretched tight when tied onto the ring on the wall that holds it when not in use, so the bell will remain centered in its cradle.*)

We are waiting only for the weathervane to be placed at the top of the steeple, then the scaffolding to come down, and some timber work at the base of the building. Sadly, **Rick Levesque**, our Steeplejack, was admitted to North Shore Medical Center following a fall that aggravated an abscess in his arm, leading to cellulites. Our thoughts and prayers are with him for a solid recovery.

RENOVATION and ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE --

On October 16th, the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board gave us a "go-ahead" for our renovation and accessibility plans [based on some modifications we have agreed to make. On the one area of exception, the RE wing, they granted us a 10 year extension to make the building complaint.](#) Thanks to everyone who helped us prepare for the

hearing: The **members of Group Heart** for writing and signing a letter of support, **Peter Race** for a letter of support on behalf of NP seniors, the **families who brought in wedding and child dedication photos** showing our use of the pulpit area, those who attended the hearing and spent hours preparing for it, and **those who brought accessibility concerns to our attention** as a key factor in our revised building plans.

Situation Wanted:

Room and use of kitchen in exchange for light housekeeping, errands, Doctor's visits, companionship, female only, no smoking, or pets. I'm mature, well educated, friendly and cheerful. See Lee or Frank for contact information

Thanks to...

...All those who contributed to our special collection on October 22nd to help send the Senior Youth Group to Louisiana or Mississippi for a week of post-Hurricane Katrina service in February. The special collection brought in **\$3905.00** to add to a **\$600 scholarship** from an anonymous generous member as well as a **\$745 scholarship** from the New England Chapter of the International Coach Federation via North Parish member **Grace Durfee**. If you missed the collection and would like to help get our youth to the project location, you can write a check with "Youth Service Trip" in the memo line and put it in the collection or give to Gail Forsyth-Vail.

...All who made Heritage Sunday such a celebratory day: the **Vocal Choir** under the direction of **Grace Choi**; Trumpeter **Fred Nothnagel**; photographer **Kevin Sparks**; communion silver procurers **Ginny Montella, Lanie Lincoln and Elinore Washburn**; birthday cake and balloon buyer **Leslie Young-Lemire**; Actors **Dottie Anderson, Keith Connors, Bill Daly, Fred Glore, Takao Miller, Bill Putnam and Kate Reid**; and **Anne Ericson** for writing the play with Rev. Lee and to author **Juliet Mofford**, whose book "And Firm Thine Ancient Vow" supplied the material for the morning.

...the **Personnel Committee** and **Kate Gilligan** for their contributions to our hiring effort for new Administrative staff. Special thanks to **Ron Hilbink** and **Kevin Reid** for conducting the initial interviews, to **Kate Gilligan** for joining Rev. Lee in final interviews and for her generous contribution of her

Trimetrix computer assessments. Thanks to Kate also for helping to facilitate two workshops for the Music Committee.

... to our wonderful Administrative volunteers **Loretta Middleton** and **Jerusha Ryan** and to Administrative Assistant **Pam Guerrieo** for keeping us running while we were in between Administrators!

Our thoughts are with...

Some of our elder members who find it difficult to join us on Sunday morning—Lois Fisher, Doris VanHeukelom and Eleanor Twickler!

Our Condolences to...

Don and Jennifer Melson and their family, upon the death of Don's mother from a stroke on Friday October 27th.

STAFF NEWS....

* We enthusiastically welcome our administrative staff members, who are joining Administrative Assistant Pam Guerrieo in the office: **Congregational Administrator Dawn Appel** and part-time **Bookkeeper Noreen Carter!** We are thrilled that they have both joined the staff team.

* Welcome back Gail Forsyth-Vail
In mid-October, I was one of the conference planners and a presenter for the annual conference of the Liberal Religious Educators Association. Entitled "Honoring the Many Gifts We Bring," The conference was about the "isms" in our society, how they affect us individually and communally, and what we can do to make changes, large and small. We told our own stories, including those learning moments which begin with a tongue-tied, clueless, hurt or unsettled feeling resulting from an encounter concerning race, class, ethnicity, affectional orientation, disability, or gender expression. Moving from large group to small and back again, we explored the systemic nature of oppression as well as personal reflections and responses. The goal was to give participants knowledge, inspiration, and tools to become or continue as effective "allies" in the work of equity and justice-making. It was my

honor and privilege to serve as the "white ally" co-facilitator in the racism workshop, working with Dr. Mark Hicks from All Souls UU Church in Washington, DC. The conference, which had been three and a half years in the planning, was a remarkable and transformative event for all, including the leadership.

Gail Forsyth-Vail, Director of Religious Education

* **Rev. Lee, Rev. Frank and Grace Choi** will be leading worship for the November meeting of the Mass Bay District ministers' association in Roxbury, MA.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST & OTHER HAPPENINGS



SAVE THE DATE: March 16-24, 2007

Religious Witness for the Earth invites you to join the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue, March 16-24, 2007, Northampton to Boston, With tributary walks originating throughout the Northeast calling for swift and bold action to end global warming.

*We are now faced with the fact, my friends,
that tomorrow is today,*

We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.

In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late..

Now let us begin.

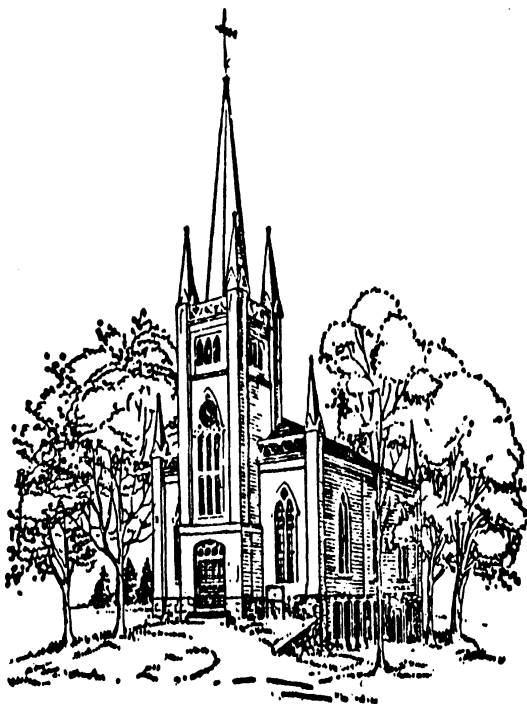
Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful struggle for a new world.

Martin Luther King Jr., April 14, 1967

For more information, to volunteer, or to help organize a tributary walk contact:
Matilsa Cantwell 413/534-6488 or
walk@religiouswitness.org
Religious Witness for the Earth, P.O. Box 642, Littleton, MA 01460-2642 or
www.religiouswitness.org.

Steeple Talk

The deadlines for the next issues of Steeple Talk are November 15 and January 1. Great time to write something about what the upcoming holidays mean for you and your family or wishes for the New Year. The Ferry Beach weekend seems a long time ago now, but we haven't had an issue since then, so articles about how great the weekend was are still welcome and can be coupled with some fun photos. Please email articles to Suzanne Adams at sadams@aappm.org or call her at 978-682-8585 if you have questions.



Commemorative Donations

In Memory of all who have died from AIDS
In memory of Martha Beardsley
Raymond & Bernadette Beaudoin
In Memory of Rev. Harold Campbell and Gracia
Campbell
In Memory of Lona I. Chappell
In Honor of Gerald and Theresa Connors
In honor of our daughter, Jocelyn G. Cooper
In honor of the wedding of Chris Donahue and Tad
Bickford
In Memory of Carolyn Eiler
In memory and honor of Dana and Lois Fisher
Helen Fleming
In Memory of Catherine Golden
In honor of the wedding of Pat Grimm and Tina Klein
In memory of Dorothy N. Hilbink
In Memory of David Allen Hines
Elizabeth Hopping
In Honor of Phoebe and Jared Johnson
In Memory of Robert and Antonia Kiang
In memory of Karl Kober
In memory of Louise Fleming Landy
Raymond Lu
In Memory of Helen Davis Luke
In Memory of Frances Nielsen
Gayton Osgood
In Memory of Joyce McCarthy Powers
In Memory of Zulema Reigosa
Joseph P. Sullivan
In Memory of Minda Tillman and Michael Harding
In Memory of William Van N. Washburn
In Memory of Alice Higginbottom Wenzel
In honor of The Rev. Dr. Rhys and Eleanor Williams

*Capital Campaign Contributions noted as of Oct 21,
2006*