

# ***The Messenger***

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

**Volume XLI November 28, 2006 No. 20**

## **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**

It is the Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and the scaffolding is *down!*

What a thrill to drive up to the church and see it standing there on full view for the first time since last April. Do you remember that the

scaffolding went up the week before Easter, and on Easter morning we said "Halleluiaah, the scaffolding has risen!"? Without it, for a moment, the church looked almost naked... but I'm already over that and reveling in the beautiful façade of our historic Meeting House. This is truly a project we have done together and should celebrate in full measure! Special thanks to the Building Task Force for all of their work!

Coming up in this next week we have other group efforts to celebrate—the resurrection of the North Parish float for the annual Santa parade in North Andover, thanks to Fred Glore and all the Float volunteers listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The Red Bow Fairy and her helpers will be riding on the float advertising the other Big Group Effort—the Annual Red Bow Fair. Kudos go out in advance to Fair Co-Chairs Jenn Coffin and Jerusha Ryan, as well to all the committee chairs, helpers and shoppers that make the Fair such a huge success every year. It truly is the people who make a church—and the Fair is a great reminder of that.

See you in church, as we head into a season of beautiful music and having "a guest at our tables"--

Lee

### **Speaking Frankly**

This past Monday, on my day off, I had a bunch of chores I wanted to do around the house. There were leaves to rake, a garage to clean out, screens to put away, painting to finish—more than I could accomplish in one day. Thinking about where I might start, I realized that what I really longed to do was to sit in the sun for a while and do nothing.

It was a cool but bright day, so I walked outside and found a place to sit on a flat stone with my back against the south side of our garage. I just sat there, cross-legged on the ground, with my eyes closed most of the time, the sun on my face, the hard wood of the garage pressing against my back. You could say that I was resting or procrastinating or wasting time; but I would disagree—I would call this time prayer and meditation, and would say it was time well spent.

I'm not sure how long I sat there. Long enough to notice the change in temperature when a cloud covered the sun. Long enough that aching knees caused me to unfold my legs for a while. Long enough that I found myself feeling anxious when I

thought of all the things I wanted to accomplish! Still, I sat a bit longer. The sun, the cool air and this empty quiet time were a blessing, and I needed it.

We are in a time of year in which nature seems to be slowing down, and telling us to do the same. Colder days and longer nights call us to adopt a different pace, to stay closer to home, to catch up on sleep. And we are entering a time of year when there is pressure to do just the opposite—to do more and buy more.

I'm not suggesting we forgo all these good things. But we need balance. After my time spent sitting in the sun, I got a lot of chores done. It was a productive and satisfying day. The Sufi mystic Rumi wrote:

Today, like every other day, we wake up empty and frightened. Don't open the door to the study and begin reading. Take down a musical instrument.

Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.

I encourage you to make the time, in this season, to do what you love. I'd like to hear about the ways you kneel and kiss the ground. And I look forward to seeing you in church!

~Frank

## RE News

Our Senior Youth participated in a workshop on Sunday about helping the environment and reducing dependence on fossil fuels. They came up with a very long list of simple things they could do. There was nothing startling on that list, but the exercise was a good reminder that simple choices we make each day can have an impact on the world around us. This same group of high school-aged teens has made another choice: they have chosen to spend their February school vacation on the Gulf Coast helping with reconstruction after Hurricane Katrina. Twenty-seven youth and eight adults have committed to learning in advance about the issues they will face on their trip and also to work on fundraising events to make it all possible (with significant help from other youth and adult friends!)

As we move fully into the holiday season, I invite you to consider making some simple choices that have a big impact on you or on the world around you:

Choose to attend services and religious education programming regularly with your family. "Filling your cup" at worship is extra important when there are many demands on time.

- Choose to make the UU Service Committee's *Guest at Your Table* program an important part of your spiritual practice. Light a chalice each night, name those things for which you are grateful, and put money in the box to support those who need help all over the world.
- Choose to sing- often!!! Your children (ages 7-12) are invited to join the children's choir (come Thursday Jan 7 at 5 PM) OR Join the group of carolers of all ages who will visit church elders and sing during the services on December 10 OR Bring your family to the potluck sing-along on December 17. *Or all three!*

Notes and announcements:

1. The Junior Youth Group will meet at for a party with a Yankee swap on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00. Bring a \$10 gift AND a new unwrapped toy to give to children in need.
2. The two-part *Our Whole Lives (OWL)* comprehensive sexuality education parent orientation (for parents of eight graders) will take place on December 3 and 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at Old Center Hall.
3. Children of all ages will meet with Carolyn and me between services on December 3 (during the special parish meeting) to "brush up" on our carol singing in advance of our December 10 caroling expedition.
4. Help needed: volunteer pianists and or guitar players to accompany children's worship at Old Center Hall in the New Year. Contact [music@northparish.org](mailto:music@northparish.org)

See you on Saturday at the Fair!

Gail Forsyth-Vail, Director of Religious Education  
[dre@northparish.org](mailto:dre@northparish.org); 978-685-7855

### *Attention Non-Traditional Families!!!*

There are affinity-group family gatherings planned for non-traditional North Parish families with children/youth living at home. Please let me know if you would like to be included in one or both of the following family gatherings:

Inter/multifaith, inter/multicultural, inter/multiethnic, inter/multiracial, and adoptive families- January 7

Two mom, two dad, single parent, and blended families- March 25

If you are unable to make the date for your affinity group, but would like to be included in future communications to one or both groups, please let me know as well

~ Gail Forsyth-Vail, DRE

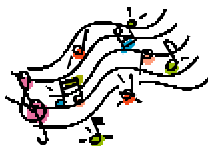
commentators to make references to Nelson's victory over Napoleon at the Battle of Aboukir, also in 1798. This relationship is, of course, an anachronism, since Haydn only learnt of the victory after he had completed the Mass.

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

...**North Parish youth Wendy Mellin, Michael Parker and Amanda Weldin** for their superior acting and singing in the Andover High School musical "Into the Woods"!

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

## **Music Notes**



On Dec. 10, our adult choir will sing the excerpt from the Lord Nelson Mass in D minor by Haydn (premiered on 23 September, 1798). North Parish string players, Alison, Fran, and Bonnie will perform with us. The choir has been working hard to make this music over the busy time of the year. I hope many of our congregation can come and enjoy the musical offering on that Sunday. Here's the quotation about the piece.

The "Lord Nelson Mass" is considered to be one of Haydn's greatest works from one of his most productive periods, 1796-1802. Originally composed to honor Admiral Horatio Nelson, victor of the naval battle at Aboukir the Mass in D Minor is a work of grand design that would later provide influence for Beethoven.

Later, the Mass was also performed before Horatio Nelson when the great Admiral visited Eisenstadt, hence the popular nickname. The heroic and jubilant nature of the music caused later

## **News around the Parish...**



December 14 7:30 in the Parlor – An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore. The movie is due out on DVD on November 21.

Watch it at your convenience and come to the meeting ready to talk!

January 11, 7:30 in the Parlor – Pudd'nhead Wilson by Mark Twain

From Amazon: At the beginning of Pudd'nhead Wilson a young slave woman, fearing for her infant's son's life, exchanges her light-skinned child with her master's. From this rather simple premise Mark Twain fashioned one of his most entertaining, funny, yet biting novels. On its surface, Pudd'nhead Wilson possesses all the elements of an engrossing nineteenth-century mystery: reversed identities, a horrible crime, an eccentric detective, a suspenseful courtroom drama, and a surprising, unusual solution. Yet it is not a mystery novel. Seething with the undercurrents of antebellum southern culture, the book is a savage indictment in which the real

criminal is society, and racial prejudice and slavery are the crimes. Written in 1894, Pudd'nhead Wilson glistens with characteristic Twain humor, with suspense, and with pointed irony: a gem among the author's later works.

All are welcome, no experience needed. No reservations required! Cookies and coffee provided. Contact Donna Cooper if you have questions (978-470-2717)



## Peoples Pantry

Hunger and food insecurity are a fact of life in the lives of many. The People's Pantry program strives to alleviate that and provide a variety of canned, packaged and fresh foods to the many who need us. While we do subscribe to the services of the Merrimack Valley Food Bank for the bulk of our foods, we could not manage without the generosity of many in our community.

We want to let you know how greatly the recent food and monetary collection at North Parish was appreciated! The foods were added to our Thanksgiving offerings and we were further enabled us to purchase gift certificates to Market Basket for our guests for both holidays. Our deep thanks to each of you who has donated something throughout the year!

A happy holiday season to all from The People's Pantry staff:

Kathy Bennett, Debbie Bernheim, Betsy Black, Louise Breen, Beth Carlson, Caroline Cole, Charlie Della Croce, Christine Edmonds, Lucy Gatchell, Kate Gilligan, Jim Greer, Cheryl Herland, Regina Jesser, Pam Koscielniak, Dave Lewis, Mel Marchese, Loretta Middleton, Robert Middleton, Ed Martin, Lianne Patenaude, Judy Pinkney, Terrie Reid, Fran Rohr, Jerusha Ryan, Dave Therkelsen, Dorothy/Bob Towler, Anne Wilson, Christina Witts.

Cari Marchese, Coordinator

## Thanks to...

...All those who contributed to our special collection on November 19<sup>th</sup> to benefit the Peoples Pantry \$889.00 was collected!!!!

-- The North Andover High School group "Give Back", including North Parish member Kayla Villalobos, who made and distributed 170 apple pies for the People's Pantry on Tues Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> for Thanksgiving meals.

---To all of the members of the Parish Council, Board, Personnel committees and to small group leaders who attended the sabbatical preparation workshop with the Rev. Alice Mann on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>.

## NORTH PARISH FLOAT RIDES AGAIN!

Our North Parish float was featured on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> in the annual North Andover Santa Parade! Many, many thanks to float restoration organizer and keepers **Fred and Connie Glore**, and to all who came out to help resurrect the float: **Dan Gobeil, Darnell Canada, Dan Luterman, Josh Luterman, Dan Brosnan Sr, Mark Lemire, Jerry Hall, Joan Kulash, Don Bancroft, Ron Zelle, Gary Martin, Keith Connors, Debb Putnam, Joannie Warnshuis, Linda Tremblay, Dick Slade and Fred and Connie Glore**. The "church raising" was held on a beautiful Saturday morning, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, and a good time was had by all!

**Look for the float again on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>**, at the Red Bow Fair and the Opening Reception of the special North Parish Exhibit at the North Andover Historical Society, which is across the street from the church!

## Need a Key for Old Center Hall?

Pam Guerro will have keys for Old Center Hall available after both services on Dec 10 and 17. If your group needs access to Old Center Hall for meetings or events during the construction relocation, see Pam during coffee hour to sign out a new key.

## **Welcome...**

### **We Are Pleased to Introduce the Following New Members:**

Mary Bresnahan - Mary has just completed participation in the New UU class held in October. As a member of the North Parish, she is interested in helping out with the Sunday Religious Education program, greeting visitors on Sunday mornings, and volunteering at Crossroads Coffeehouse.

Peter Calkins - A life-long UU and North Parish attendee in the early 1990's, Peter recently relocated back from Harvard, MA to a North Andover home just up Johnson Street, married former Andover resident Susan Casey, and is looking forward to continuing his UU heritage and building new friend-ships here at the North Parish. When not at home enjoying the distant chime of our newly-refurbished bell marking the hours, Peter spends his time developing mixed-use, science-based research parks for Forest City Enterprises.

Debra Hogan - Debra is a member of the Partakers Prison Ministry Team and is a coffee hour host today. She is also interested in helping out at Crossroads Coffeehouse, and volunteering as a setup/cleanup crew member at North Parish events.

Kathleen Milstein - Kathy lives in Merrimac, MA with her husband and two children. She is a member of the North Parish Artists Group. She is also helping to usher today.

Kevin Reid - Kevin joined the Personnel Committee and was centrally involved in interviewing our most recent Administrative hires. Kevin and his wife Teri live in Andover. They have two adult daughters, one living in California and the other living in Hong Kong.

Therese Reid - In addition to being a long-time choral singer and retired children's Music Teacher, Teri has joined the North Parish Vocal Choir. She also volunteers for the People's Pantry.

Philip Snodgrass - is a 79-year-old retired professor of medicine from Harvard Medical School. A UU member since 1998, he has returned to the Boston area after 32 years in Indianapolis and lives in Brooksby Village, close to three of four daughters.

Marjorie Snodgrass – is a retired teacher of blind and handicapped children and mother of four daughters. Along with her husband she chose UU as a church home back in Indianapolis and now on the North Shore.

Maylen Deanne-Terry Nealey, who was born on Monday Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>! Congratulations to mom Heather McNeil, dad Justin and sister Ellise Nealey!

## **Our Condolences to...**

Our condolences and thoughts are with Michele Sherry and her husband Eugene and son Joseph, following the death of Michele's grandfather on Tuesday, November 14th.

### **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST & OTHER HAPPENINGS**



Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in June right after the Portland General Assembly or in July, 2007. See the REAL Alaska! With UU home stays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka, UUs host parties and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans; see wildlife from bears, moose and caribou to whales, sea otters and sea lions. We visit Denali and 3 other National Parks. Led by Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, 12<sup>th</sup> year. [www.wuurld.org](http://www.wuurld.org). E-mail [alaska@wuurld.org](mailto:alaska@wuurld.org) or phone 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure. Reservation deadline: February 28.

## RED BOW FAIR NEWS!!!!

The Red Bow Fair is December 2, 2006



Be sure you are a part of the North Parish's happening of the year.

COME TO THE FAIR - BRING YOUR FRIENDS

SHOP for treasures, delectable baked goodies, gift baskets, festive greens and trees, homemade crafts, professional crafts, books, CD's, videos and more.

EAT donuts from Smolak's farm and enjoy the always popular luncheon created by Keith Wentzel and his many chefs.

WIN the fabulous quilt created by Mary Lou Monteiro, gift baskets and more at the Kids' Mall, 25 bottles of wine and remember to place your bid at the Silent Auction for gift certificates, sporting events, services, a mink shawl to mention a few of the many items included this year.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

## The North Andover Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop will reopen after Thanksgiving break on Tuesday, Nov 28. Christmas break is Dec 18 thru January 2.

We are located at 17 Sutton St., corner of Main St, in the little red Scholfield Mill .Regular hours are Tuesday - Friday, 10-4 and Saturday 10-1 (closed Sun & Mon)

Small donations of good quality household items, jewelry and books and gently worn seasonal clothing may be dropped off during regular shop hours. Large donations by arrangement, 978 689 9520.

We always welcome new faces as browsers or customers - let's see you at the shop!

Cari Marchese, mgr

## The Sanctuary Has Left The Building!



Sometime in very early January 2007, our sanctuary will leave our tall white, newly painted main church and move across the street to the second floor of Old Center Hall for several months.

Do we want to move? Well, no--we're pretty attached to the familiar surroundings of our dear old sanctuary. However, the plans for much-needed renovation inside the church make it necessary for us to hold worship services elsewhere and we are very fortunate that Old Center Hall is available and so nearby.

We also have a grave concern. The stairs to Old Center Hall present a real problem for North Parish members and friends who find it difficult or even impossible to climb stairs. We worry that those of you who cannot negotiate stairs will be missing the Sunday worship services and missing seeing and mingling with old and new friends--and we will be missing you.

How, we wonder, can we make it easier for you to come to us? How can we come to you if you really can't come to us? We thought of some things that might help.

If you can attempt the stairs but need assistance, there will be ushers who will eagerly offer a hand or an arm along with encouraging words and a smile.

We're looking into the possibility of renting a stair lift. That's a bit more complicated because of the details of installation and we can't promise, but we're serious about trying to work it out and will keep you updated.

If you just can't make the stairs, but want to see friends, please come to coffee hour and

mingling to your heart's content. Coffee and conversation will be held on the first floor.

Most of all, you may be missing all that the worship services offer--the sermons, the music, the announcements, candles of joy and concern and special ceremonies. Well, here's where we can come to you!

Services are customarily recorded every Sunday and a copy can be sent to you or, better still, hand delivered to you by someone in the congregation who will pay a personal visit. Sermons are available on the North Parish website; printed copies of sermons are also available. All you have to do is call the office and ask.

Here's another way that we just may be able to make services available: videotaping and web casting. Again, that's more complicated but we're looking into it and will keep you updated.

Most important of all, please don't think you've been forgotten if you can't come to us. We're sad about this temporary disruption of attendance for some folks and wish it didn't have to happen.

On the bright side, there's a huge benefit that we will all reap in the long run. After the renovations are completed, the improvements will make the main church more accessible and comfortable than ever before.

We look forward to that time and know that we can get through this time of inconvenience by reaching out and finding alternate ways of staying together.

So, the sanctuary may be leaving the main building temporarily, but the church is not leaving the congregation. We'll stay in touch!

Ginny Montella and Linda Woolford, Worship Co-Chairs  
Rev. Lee, Rev. Frank and Gail Forsyth-Vail  
The Sabbatical Leave Task Force

