

December 2009

First Parish News



Upcoming Events:

- December 5
Christmas Fair,
9am-2pm
- December 6,
Sunday service and
RE 10am, Rev.
Marguerite Sheehan
- December 13,
Chalice Sunday
service and RE
10am
- December 20
Sunday service and
RE 10am, Rev.
Marguerite Sheehan
- December 24
Christmas Eve
Service

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First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter

Announcements

First Parish announcements:

Community Thanksgiving Meal

Just a reminder that the community Thanksgiving meal is on Thursday November 26th . .

There is still a need for volunteers during the day and we will be setting up the Webster Room on Wednesday at 3pm for the Thanksgiving Day meal being served on Thursday. We would appreciate anyone who is able to help.

If you can volunteer to help please call me.

Thank you.

Walter Anson, Thanksgiving committee

Music Notes From Lynne

We invite friends, family and newcomers to enjoy special Holiday services with us.

On Sunday, December 20th at our regular 10:00 a.m. service, Winter Solstice will be celebrated with special music and readings.

On Thursday evening, December 24th, all are welcome to join us for Christmas Eve. A short musical prelude of organ, vocal, violin and piano selections will be followed by a service of readings and carols. Special music will be provided by our children and adults, accompanied by the violin.

Please join us in this traditional Christmas Eve Service for all ages.

Hope to hear from you.
Lynne

RE News

The month of December for RE is shaping up, like everyone else's, to be busy. We are starting to focus on both the Solstic and the Christmas Eve. Services. The children will be singing and perhaps reciting in both. They have made some bird seed cones for the Christmas Fair thanks to Betty and Stepanie is planning to have cleaning bottles again decorated by the children. The Golden Rule is a lovely way to address the me-ness of the holidays so we will be talking about the spirit of giving to others prior to the big day. RE has had an influx of new children recently so anyone who would like to join Deb and Karina in the RE room to help is welcome. Thanks to Noelle and Walter who dropped off a bag of craft stuff for us recently and for all others who have left stuff on the table for us to use and enjoy.

~Deb

Parish Committee News

"Welcoming Letter"

As part of our ongoing outreach at First Parish we composed a letter to mail out to potential visitors along with our new brochure and a list of church activities for the year. This letter is now available and I will gladly take names & addresses of people to send it to. I would be happy to show you a copy of the letter and if you do not have any names right now, please keep it in mind as welcoming people to First Parish should be in our minds all year.

If you have any questions, please be in touch.

Betty Gibson, Chair Parish Committee

Christmas Fair

Christmas Fair 2009, Dec 5 from 9AM to 2PM

The Fair is just a few days off and now is the time to pull up our collective socks in preparation for THE day. All the pre-Fair events are listed in the November newsletter, but, since the last two weeks before the Fair are packed with events we need everyone to show up for, I'll repeat them here. You probably won't need the first two items, but it helps to see the whole picture sometimes.

Please don't forget that behind the scenes, bows are being created (by yours truly), inventories are being made (by Betty and Marie for the Thrift Room), jewelry is being cleaned and prepped (by Lynne Warrin), etc., etc.

Also, the Luncheon is in the planning stages, Jessie, Tammy Gibson, Karina and others are making craft items to sell, Stephanie and Paul are figuring out when to make pizzelle and toffee for the bake table, ditto Ruth for gingerbread - and on and on.

We have tickets to sell for 3 raffles - the regular raffle plus 2 others for Helen Adams' book of photos of Northfield (\$2 each) and Tina Anson Mine's quilt (also \$2 each). You can sign up in advance for wreaths (\$20) and take orders from others as well.

EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT TO THIS EFFORT!

Make no mistake, this is an all-hands-on-deck event where every individual can make a difference, so please devote as much time as possible in the next couple of weeks to the Fair - you won't regret it, I promise. And do come and work that Saturday - you'll meet a lot of people and it will be fun.

Some dates to remember are:

Thursday, Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day – don't forget our Community Thanksgiving Meal.

Sunday, Nov 29 Cone-wiring and Wreath-making day!! We need everyone to be there to help in creating our signature wreaths for the Christmas Fair. Bring a lunch for after the service and plan to stay for a good part of the afternoon. It's fun!

Friday, Dec 4 Christmas Fair Decorating 6:00-8:00PM. Deck the halls in preparation for the Fair the next day. Come make the pillars in the Webster Room look like candy canes, cover a table or two, lay out sale items, or help set up the "Thrift Shop" with Betty and Marie. This is another all-hands-on-deck occasion – be there or be square!

Saturday, Dec 5 FAIR DAY 9:00 – 2:00

I'll hope to see all of you at all the events listed above. Please let me know what you'd most like to do on Fair Day and how long you can be there. Thanks in advance for everything you do.

Thanks to everyone in advance! Noelle

Minister's Corner

"Tis a gift to be simple..." This Shaker song is one of my favorite songs all year long but it fairly shouts at me in the holiday season. It is a gift to be simple. A gift to myself and my loved ones. A gift to my heart and my soul. A gift that I need to give and receive. But I wonder if it is really possible to give this gift in the midst of the hubbub of the winter holidays. A friend of mine was talking recently about how impossible something was, seemingly, absolutely impossible. And then she said "Well I guess that is why miracles often take a long time!" It seems like it is taking me and most of the people I know, a long time to learn that simplicity is a gift worth giving.

Simply giving the gift of time is worth giving and receiving. Sitting rather than standing, when someone needs your attention and spending time listening is a simple gift that can save someone's sanity and sometimes save lives.

Simply giving a smile or a hug to a child, an elder, a friend, is a gift worth giving. I really believe that we have no idea how important it can be to receive a simple gift of en-couragement (courage for the heart!)

Simply giving a cup of tea or coffee and again, sitting, to drink that warm drink is a gift we give ourselves and share with another. Not a "to go" drink but a warm drink in a cold season, is a simple gift that nourishes body and soul.

Simply giving a memory is a gift that restores hope when times are hard. Remember the good times, remember when we were joyful, remember when we were lifted up out of our pit and lived to tell about it. These memories, given to someone who has temporarily forgotten, can be a gift that pulls a person out of sorrow and into hope. Simply remembering.

This holiday season I aim to keep it simple. Simple gifts for friends and family. Simply delicious, yet simple meals. Telling simple stories that move the heart and the spirit. Stories of babies being born,

stars aligning up, candles staying lit, songs of hope and joy being sung, people huddling together and making warmth.

Please join me in standing on the side of simplicity. Tis a gift that I need to give and to receive.

Reverend Marguerite