

December 2007

# First Parish News



## Upcoming Events:

- December 1<sup>st</sup>  
Christmas Fair
- December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Sunday Service 10am  
Light One Candle  
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
- December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10am  
Guest speaker –  
Elaine Bomford
- December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10am  
It Takes A Long Walk  
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Solstice Service 7pm
- December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve  
Service 7pm
- December 30<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10 am  
Rev. Stanley Dahlman

First Parish Website:  
[northfieldunitarian.org](http://northfieldunitarian.org)

## Individual Highlights:

Minister's Corner 2  
Announcements  
Cont'd. 2

First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter

## Announcements

### Preview of upcoming services:

January 6 Rev. Marguerite Sheehan  
13 Marie Ferre  
20 Rev. Marguerite Sheehan  
27 Rev. Tony Lorenzen

### COFFEE HOUR REMINDER

We are always looking for volunteers to bring refreshments for our coffee hour following each Sunday service. Please remember to use the sign-up sheet in the downstairs hallway.

### Important Notice

As the holiday season approaches we will be having two church services, Solstice and Christmas Eve, where we have traditionally used real candles.

As you all know, while this is a nice part of the service it can be very dangerous with disastrous results if the candles are not handled properly and disposed of properly.

### Please remember that the Fire Department rules are as follows:

- 1.No candles in the pews!
- 2.Candles are only allowed up front by the dais or along the windows on each side of the church!
- 3.If any children hold any candles it is up to the parents, or the adult they came with, to ensure that the candle is not waved around or treated like a toy!
- 4.Once the use of the candles is over they must be extinguished and put in a metal box with a cover.
- 5.One person in church, probably the leader of the service, must be responsible to ensure that these rules are followed to

the letter.

The safety implication of misusing candles is very scary, so please use them appropriately.

Thanks, Walter Anson, Sexton

### MUSIC NOTES

The Community Thanksgiving Service in Warwick was lovely - church filled and about 25 people singing in the choir. From First Parish, Chris Flynn and Elliott Hunnewell joined me (Lynne) in the joy of singing with a group of people giving thanks through music.

I invite any of you to join into this joy - any age - to contribute at least one song for either the Winter Solstice service on Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm, AND/OR the Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (time to be announced). Traditionally, we have had at least 3 people, and sometimes a soloist to provide special music for these important occasions.

PLEASE CONTACT ME PERSONALLY to inquire or join in the fun. SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN WHO LIKE TO SING ARE INVITED TOO!

I also encourage anyone who could commit to a regular rehearsal to provide a vocal ensemble piece once a month beginning in January, to speak to me soon. This is a wonderful way to 'give' to First Parish services. All we need is 3 - 5 people to make this possible.

I WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 9:00 AM THIS SUNDAY, DEC 2<sup>nd</sup>, TO GO OVER SPECIAL MUSIC WITH THOSE INTERESTED. PLEASE COME!

# Minister's Corner

The turkey was cooked and served and eaten by the hungry community and now you must all be tired. The ribbons were wrapped into bows and the tables, staggering with Christmas wreaths and crafts and treats were finally completed, and now you must be all tired. The plans for the Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve celebrations are just starting to come together but you must all be tired. Welcome, to the holiday season of our church!

Truly, again I am amazed and proud of this church. As a congregation you come together to make do with what you have and in doing so, create miracles. I know that the work that goes on in First Parish is endless but in this season in particular, the work of the church is tremendous. And so you must be tired even as you are energized by each and every activity.

December is a challenging time for many people. Our dreams often do not match up to our realities and we find ourselves disappointed. We look around us and try to make "the holidays" somehow holy, somehow special, somehow reflective of our true selves. And this is not easy work.

And yet, we are driven, perhaps because the decreasing hours of light remind us of our own mortality and our own limitations. We are driven to celebrate, to make merry, to light the light in our windows and to gather together to sing and to tell stories. This is a good impulse, a blessing on us all.

Take time this month to take care of yourselves so that you can really enjoy these celebrations. If you are tired, take a rest. Light a candle for peace in your hearts as well as peace in this hurting world. When you drop your change or your dollars into your Guests at Your Table box, do so, believing that if you were in such a need as the faces on that box, that someone else would be reaching out to you.

You are a loving community. Take good care of each other in this busy time. 'Tis a gift to be simple, and a gift to take a rest in the dark of winter. May there be peace in your homes and in your hearts this season.

In Faith and Peace and Joy,  
Rev. Marguerite

## Holiday Fair

The Fair is this Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 to 2. It is NOT TOO LATE to contribute items to the thrift sale, Christmas ornaments and handmade items, or the baked goods table. A luncheon will also be served. If you are interested in helping the day of the sale or have a question, please call Noelle Anson. This is our biggest fund-raising event of the year, so please plan to help out.

## Solstice Service

A candlelight Solstice Service will be held on Solstice, Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm with caroling and desserts afterwards. All are welcome.

## Christmas Eve Service

Please plan to attend the service on Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in taking part in the service please be in touch with Ruth Potee.

## January and February 2008

In order to save money by not heating the sanctuary, Sunday services will be held downstairs in the Webster Room for the months of January and February.

Although our sanctuary is beautiful, the Webster Room is a warm and cozy setting to have our Sunday services.