



January 2008

# First Parish News

## Upcoming Events:

- December 30th  
Sunday Service 10 am  
“Some Thoughts  
between Christmas  
& New Year’s Day”  
Rev. Stanley Dahlman
- January 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10am  
“Take This Moment”  
Rev. Marguerite  
Sheehan
- January 13th  
Sunday Service 10am  
TBA  
Marie Ferre, Guest  
Speaker
- January 20<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10am  
“An Extremist For  
Love”  
Rev. Marguerite  
Sheehan
- January 27<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Service 10am  
TBA  
Rev. Tony Lorenzen,  
Guest Minister

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

## Individual Highlights:

Minister’s Corner 2  
List of Committee  
members 2

First Parish of Northfield Unitarian Monthly Newsletter

## Announcements

### Preview of upcoming services:

February	3	Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
	10	Johanna Conant
	17	Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
	24	Rev. Stanley Dahlman
March	2	Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
	9	Congregational meeting
	16	Rev. Marguerite Sheehan
	23	Easter – Rev. Marguerite
	30	Johanna Conant

**WELCOME** to the newest members of  
First Parish:

Carey Baskowski  
Steve Baskowski  
Karina Berenson  
Paul Bocko  
Stephanie Ciccarello  
Elliott Hunnewell  
Ruth Potee  
Jessie Wiggin

## MUSIC NOTES

The month of December rang out with the sweet voices of members of the First Parish congregation who responded to the call for singers to offer special music for the Winter Solstice and Christmas Eve Services. Thank you for this gift which benefited members, friends, family, and strangers.

It's not too late to add YOUR voice to this small ensemble. Practice is at 9:00 am EVERY Sunday except when a congregational meeting is scheduled instead of a service. If you're curious, just come join us sometime.

Questions? Call Lynne Walker.

## REMINDERS

### COFFEE HOUR

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.

### 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.

## FOOD COLLECTION

Remember to bring canned or dry goods (each Sunday) for the hungry in our own Franklin County. The youth will collect these foods as part of our Sunday Offerings and will be taking these contributions to a local food pantry.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FREE:** Men’s cross country skis, poles, and size 10 boots.

# Minister's Corner

As the dust of the holiday season settles around us and we find ourselves waking up in a New Year, let me wish you a year of peace and strength and joy. For all of us at First Parish, may we promise in this coming year to be there for each other. If this is the only promise that we can fulfill – to really be there – that is enough. For being there means being faithful, full of faith, in ourselves, each other and that which holds us all. And yes, that is enough. It will lead us to where we need to go.

In December our Committee on the Ministry met for our monthly meeting to think together about ministry – the ministry of First Parish and also the ministry that I, your contract minister, engage in while working as a community minister at Allegiance Hospice. We talked about the similarities and the differences between the two types of ministry. The committee suggested that I pass on some of this conversation with you, my parish, so that you would have a better idea of what my hospice ministry entails.

As a hospice chaplain I primarily visit elders who are in the last months of their lives. Most of them live in nursing homes in the Greater Springfield area. I am an “interfaith chaplain” for the hospice. This means that it is my responsibility to learn about the faith and faith practices of the hospice residents and to help them pull forth that which has given them strength in the past. This often helps them find meaning in their life and death and comfort and consolation as they face their last days. I also provide bereavement support for families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.. Finally I am a spiritual support for the nursing home staff and the hospice team. Caring for the dying is emotional and deeply spiritual work for everyone.

Being a hospice chaplain helps me be there as a parish minister. Working with the dying reminds me that all of us go through many transitions and milestones in our lives. We are all looking for meaning and purpose as we grapple with the sorrows and the joys of our lives. As well, our understanding of our place in the universe and our responsibilities for working for peace and justice change over time. I see that the spiritual practices that we cultivate while we are healthy and active (meditation, prayer, nature, art, play, family life...) are then available for us when we are in tough times later in life.

And yes, being the minister of First Parish also helps me be there as a chaplain. Your loving faces are with me as I enter the sick rooms. The First Parish

children remind me that there is a continuum to life and that joy is contagious. The “community ministry” that this church offers to the town of Northfield also reminds me that none of us live totally in isolation. When I visit the dying I am bringing my Unitarian faith that there is one mysterious and complex web of life that touches all of us. I also bring my Universalist faith that “salvation” and healing love is universally and endlessly available.

All of us are ministers and all our ministries, our being there, matters in the world. May this New Year bring more clarity and commitment to your life, your ministry, wherever it may be.

In faith, Rev. Marguerite

\* \* \* \* \*

Below is a list of the current committee members. As always, you are welcome to attend the meetings and/or contact committee members with any suggestions or concerns you might have.

## Parish Committee

Betty Gibson, Chair  
Mary Anne Ladd, Secretary  
Noelle Anson, Treasurer  
Stephanie Ciccarello  
Ruth Potee  
Jean Shepard

## Board of Trustees

Paul Bocko, Chair  
Tammy Pelletier, Secretary  
Helen Adams, Treasurer  
Steve Baskowski  
Erik Middleton

## RE Committee

Deb Potee  
Stephanie Ciccarello  
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan

## Ministerial Committee

Helen Adams  
Walt Anson  
Mary Anne Ladd  
Rev. Marguerite Sheehan