



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2008



*Don't be out of the loop...
read **The Connector** each week!*

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Emergency Closing Information

If worship services and other events at First Parish need to be cancelled due to severe weather or other emergency situations, here's how you can find out:

By phone—check the recorded message at the First Parish number, 978/443-2043. If events for Sunday have been cancelled, the message will state that.

First Parish website—go to www.fpsudbury.org. The front page will show information about the emergency closing.

WBZ Radio website—If for any reason you can't access our First Parish website, you can go to www.wbz.com, click on "School Closings from the WBZ Storm Center" button, click on "Religious" and scroll down to look for "First Parish of Sudbury."

By radio—listen to the WBZ Storm Center (news radio 1030-AM) for the cancellation of our Sunday worship service only. Other events cannot be listed. If the weather is bad enough that you think a meeting or event might be cancelled, please contact the meeting leader.

SECRET SANTA NEEDS JUST ONE MORE THING...

Please remember to return new, wrapped presents to the Parish Hall **by noon this Sunday, December 7**. Please make sure the tags which identify the recipient are securely affixed to the outside of the package. Those who chose the Sudbury School Students can return the gifts by December 14. If there are any questions, please call Sherri C.

NEWCOMER BREAKFAST: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 AT 8:30AM

Come and share breakfast, questions and answers with members of the Community and Hospitality Committee (CHC), and Fran Sharp, Community Life Coordinator, in the Parish Hall on *Sunday, December 14 from 8:30-9:45am*.

Child care can be provided, if you let us know by Wednesday, December 10.

Do you have questions about the First Parish of Sudbury? Have you wondered what some of the meetings or committees are about? Are you ready to ask about membership, or about finances, or more about Unitarian Universalism in general?

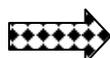
Please let us know if you are likely to come, by emailing or phoning CHC member Alorie P at by December 10. It will help us plan tables and food if we know you are coming, but please feel free to come at the last minute even if you have not responded, AND to bring any friend or neighbor who may be interested.



ELVES NEEDED FOR SIMPLE GIFT SWAP

Can you offer to help on Saturday afternoon, December 13, at the Simple Gift Swap? First we will need a few elves to set up our "store" so the shopping can begin after the Village Worship (this is easy and fun *plus* you get to be the first to see the items!) Then we'll need some elves (there is no age requirement) to help children wrap the gifts they've chosen. Is there an elf or two who would like to lead a simple craft project or two -- all in keeping with our recycle, reuse, simply green theme. A cookie-baking elf would be nice (it could be an elf who wants to bake cookies right then and there, or, the kind who made the cookies ahead) and maybe an elf assistant who comes that day to help make cocoa and serve cookies. Finally we'll need a few elves to clean up at the end of the afternoon.

Set up will begin in the Parish Hall at 1:30 pm. The Village Worship begins in The Commons at 3 pm. The Gift Swap, crafts, gift wrapping and holiday treats all follows immediately in the Parish Hall. We should be done with everything (including clean-up) by 6 pm at the latest.



For more information about the Simple Gift Village Worship and Gift Swap, see last week's Connector at <http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/Public/NewsLetters/Connector20081123post.pdf>



CHRISTMAS EVE IS COMING AND "STARS" ARE NEEDED!



This year's 5:00pm family Christmas Eve worship service will feature some UU Peace Angels. We are inviting all interested children, youth, and adults who would like to help bring to life the stories of one of these famous Unitarians or Universalists who helped spread love, peace, and compassion in the spirit of Christmas. Musical, speaking, and dancing parts are available. Contact Roberta today for more details and to sign up for a part.



CALL FOR READERS, CANDLELIGHTERS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Those familiar with our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve worship service at 7 pm know that there are four opportunities for an individual, a family or an extended family to light a Candle of Christmas (one is already spoken for) and several opportunities for those who wish to do a reading. Please email or phone Katie Lee if you and/or your family wishes to volunteer.

BIBLE CONVERSATION BEGINS IN JANUARY—SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

Katie Lee and her husband, Jonas B, will lead a conversation series about both the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Christian Bible/New Testament.

Earlier this fall, Katie Lee said: *I will bring a Unitarian Universalist perspective and, Jonas, who is a trained theologian and a practicing Christian, will bring quite a different outlook. He has recently engaged in his own study of the Bible. He is looking not only at the stories, but also at recent scholarship, and at different translations and interpretations. We hope not only to explore the Bible, but to do so in the context of an interfaith conversation.*

Eleven have signed up, but if you are interested in participating in please email Katie Lee soon.

The meetings will be held on the following Wednesday evenings at First Parish (the exact location to be announced).

January 14, February 18, March 11, April 8, May 13.

ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS: JANUARY 4, 2009

Each year on the first Sunday in January, we honor the Endings and Beginnings of the lives of people who touch our lives. During our Sunday service, the names of people who were born and who died in the previous year are read aloud, and we stand as the names are read. It is a very moving ritual. All are welcome to participate.

Names It is time once again to collect the names of loved ones who died and who were born in 2008. Please send the following information to Katie Lee (no more than this is needed):

1. full name (and how to pronounce it if needed)
2. whether the person was born or died

Photos This year we would like to include photos on our altar table, so please take the time to collect a photo of anyone whose name will be read. As you arrive on Sunday, January 4, you will be invited to place your photo on the table at the front of the sanctuary.

Holly Fair



***This Saturday, December 6
10-2***

Come, bring your family and friends, and make a day of it. This year we'll have ***affordable crafts and gifts available for 50-cents to \$20 for people of all ages.*** The Holly Fair always promises to be a joyous introduction to the holiday season and just the place to find the unique decoration or gift. Holiday shopping opportunities also include fresh table arrangements, wreaths and roping, homemade goodies and holiday treats, Cookie Walk, jewelry, a Gifts Again table, a lunch of homemade soups and breads, and children's activities. Come one, come all.

And, if you've been meaning to sign up to volunteer but haven't *quite* gotten around to it, it's not too late! Call Cilla R.

Next Sunday's Worship Service

Sunday, December 7, 10 am
"A FESTIVAL OF REVELRY"

This Sunday, December 7, First Parish of Sudbury presents its annual Revels Sunday service, featuring song, dance, a play and, as always, a few surprises. Presenters for "A Festival of Revelry" include Tom K with the Hop Brook Morris Dancers, the Candyrapper Dancers, the First Parish Choir, and many other revelers. The service begins at 10 a.m. and is open to all.

"Revels" refers to celebratory rituals. For many ancient peoples, their relationship to nature was so elemental that it was sacred. As they began to chronicle certain natural cycles, they also introduced certain rituals. They lit fires to lure back the sun. They dressed like animals hoping to secure their favor and bring good luck. They made up skits where the hero magically comes back to life, just as the sun magically returns with light. Some of these rituals are reenacted at First Parish each year on Revels Sunday.

Why in this tradition-filled white meeting house, in a congregation originally gathered by Puritans (who almost certainly did not dance) are we dancing and reveling and reenacting ancient rituals? We do it because it honors earth-centered traditions, which, as contemporary Unitarian Universalists, we cite as one of many sources of making meanings for ourselves. This service is holy because it revives ancient, sacred traditions. Listen carefully and you will see how these ancient stories have elements that we find in so many other religious stories people tell at this time of year: stories about darkness and light, death and rebirth, stories with messages that point to an interconnectedness that includes all beings, including the spirits of beings who died long ago.

"Revels Sunday is always a festive worship service for people of all ages, and like all Revels, anyone can get in the act if he or she chooses," says the Rev. Katie Lee Crane, First Parish minister. "We welcome people of all faiths to join us in this celebration."

The Bulletin Board

"Secret Santa" gifts
due back by
Sunday Dec. 7 at noon
For info:
contact Sherri C

Halalisa Singers
(including Celia H and
Terry L) to perform
at FPS Sunday, Dec.
14, 3pm
For more info:
including ticket prices,
contact Celia or Terry

Bible Conversation
5 Wednesday eves
For more info:
contact Katie Lee
and see p. 3

Simple Gifts Swap
Bring gifts from
Dec. 7—Dec 13.
Wanna help?
See page 2

Holly Fair and Revels:
this weekend!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, November 30

10:00a-11:15a Sunday Worship Service "Giving Thanks—a Time for Blessings and Gratitude"
7:00p-9:00p Youth Group--Slideshow--Kristin F-R's work in Honduras

Monday, December 1

7:00p-9:00p Habitat Construction Committee
7:30p-9:00p Board of Trustees

Tuesday, December 2

12:00p-1:00p Bring your own lunch group
1:00p-3:00p Holly Fair Crafters
7:30p-9:00p Committee on Ministry

Wednesday, December 3

7:00p-9:00p Quilters & Holly Fair Crafters

Thursday, December 4

1:00p-2:30p Meditation
7:30p-9:00p Choir

Friday, December 5

9:00-3:00 Holly Fair Set-up

Saturday, December 6

10:00a-2:00p Holly Fair

Sunday, December 7

10:00a Worship Service:
A Festival of Revelry

First Parish of Sudbury's Pastoral Associates

Anmarie A	Fred P
Audrey K	Paul R
Polly M	Dawn S
Bruce P	

*In the event of a pastoral need,
please call our minister or any of these Pastoral Associates.*