

Next Newsletter Deadline: Wed., Dec. 13, 2006

Next E-News Bulletin Deadline: Wed., Dec. 27, 2006

In This Issue:

-  *Holly Fair, Saturday, Dec. 2, 10am-2pm*
-  *Undecorate the Christmas Tree*
-  *“Best Sermons and Teachings” available*
-  *Festival of Revelry, Sunday, Dec. 3, 10am*
-  *Village Worship, “Simple Gifts, Simplified” Sat. Dec. 9, 4:30pm*
-  *Women’s Alliance Holiday Get-together Tues, Dec. 19 pm*
-  *Holiday Worship Events at First Parish*
-  *In-Home Dinners—Make Your Plans Now*
-  *Committee on Ministry Focus Groups*
-  *Green Tips—more ideas on how to save the planet
—one choice at a time*
-  *Musicians of the Old Post Rd concert, Sat., Dec. 16, 8pm*



Holly Fair—this Saturday!
December 2--10:00am--2:00pm

We look forward to seeing you Saturday for our annual fun and festive Fair. Bring your friends and come to:

- ✓ buy your greens—wreaths, roping, and a wide variety of centerpieces and arrangements
- ✓ shop (so much nicer than at a mall!) for wonderful homemade crafts, “good-as-new gifts”, wonderful seasonal homemade goodies and food gifts, baked goods
- ✓ enjoy a yummy soup&bread lunch
- ✓ for kids--decorate a cupcake, try out the Cookie Walk, and make a greens arrangement of your own

“Undecorate” the Christmas Tree



Plan to join in this annual First Parish Community Service project.

This year, the Metro-west Department of Social Services (DSS) office in Framingham has given First Parish the names of 60 children who need a little help from us to make the holiday season more joyful. The “tree” is setup in the Parish Hall with the names of children in need. In addition to their name, there is information such as their favorite colors, sports, hobbies, sizes, needs, and hopes. You take this information and buy them one or more appropriate gifts. All gifts must be new and may be brought to the Parish Hall on Sundays, the last Sunday being **December 17th**. A full set of instructions is available in the Parish Hall. Call Sherri C with any questions.

Clergy Offer “Best Of”

This year the Sudbury Clergy Association – made up of religious professionals from a dozen communities of faith located in Sudbury – have compiled a book of *Best Sermons and Teachings*. If you would like a copy, it is available in the office during weekday office hours (9 am – 1 pm), and during coffee hour on Sunday mornings until supplies run out. It went like hotcakes at the Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Worship Service. The Association asks for a donation of \$3 to cover printing and production costs.

Festival of Revelry, Sunday, Dec. 3, 10am

Don't miss our annual Revels Service this Sunday. The Hop Brook Morris Dancers will be featured in the service, led by Tom K, who trains the young Morris Dancers and helps create this ritual worship service every year along with the staff and many volunteers.

This worship service includes much singing and seasonal revelry, as well as a traditional Mummer's Play. It is modeled after the well-known Christmas Revels offered annually in Cambridge but it is not strictly entertainment; it explores ancient religious themes of indigenous peoples. People of all ages are welcome to join the revelry. Guests from the larger community are most welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors to come along. The more the merrier!

The service draws its archetypal themes of death and rebirth from a variety of traditions marking the winter solstice. This year it will draw on the traditions of the Sáámi people, or "The People of the Sun," nomadic reindeer herding societies near the Artic Circle who migrated from place to place in what we know call Norway, Sweden, Finland and parts of Russia.



Village Worship: Gifts for Villagers

Saturday, December 9, 4:30pm

Do you long to simplify your holiday season? Does your spirit need nourishment during this hectic time of year? Would you like your celebration to be more earth-friendly? **Then bring** yourself, family and friends to The Commons on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 4:30 for Village Worship--"Simple Gifts, Simplified." Our informal, experiential, multi-age worship will celebrate the uncomplicated joys of the season--sharing, giving, community and song. The worship will include opportunities to create or choose simple gifts to give (and maybe receive!)

Village Worship brings all ages together into a worship experience that has multiple layers of meaning, so all get their spirits fed. Young children are entirely welcome and are free to crawl, sit, walk or play among us. We also *Love* having teens with us!

While all you need to bring is yourself, if you have gift wrap, bags, bows, ribbon or decorations in good condition to share, they will be most welcome! You can also bring items in "gift-able" condition--things you no longer or will never use. These may make the perfect gift for someone else! Re-use, recycle.

Would you like to help with Village Worship? We are looking for:

- * Folks who like crafts...Do you have an easy, wonderful craft you could teach?
 - * Musicians of any age...Would you like to share your instrumental or vocal talent?
- Please contact Tracy Duncan at reducation@fpsudbury.org or by calling the office.



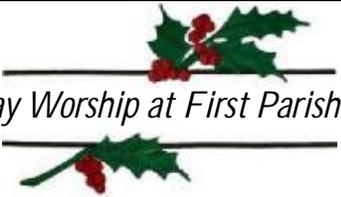
Deck the Halls! Immediately following Village Worship, friends and families are invited to stay and help decorate the meetinghouse for the winter holidays. Fa la la la la...



The Women's Alliance Holiday Get Together

Tues. Dec 19th 6:30-8:30

All women of First Parish—members, friends, and guests—are welcome at the home of Carolyn L. Appetizer and desserts only. No RSVP necessary. Childcare can be provided if advance notice is received by Alliance President Donna S. This holiday gathering will be a relaxing, casual time to be together. No business meeting this time - just laughter, sharing and being in community.



Holiday Worship at First Parish of Sudbury

December 24, 10am *Christmas Eve morning*

"When Love Unlocks the Door", Ms. Tracy Duncan and Rev. Katie Lee Crane

Join us at 10 in the morning on Christmas Eve for a celebration of how attention to the beauty in each person and creature transforms us and all those around us.

This morning service will include all we've come to love about our family Christmas Eve service--even at a different time this year—carols, readings, candlelight, and a service meant for people of all ages in our First Parish Family including visitors from near and far.

This service will be ASL (American Sign Language) interpreted.

December 24, 7 pm *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

In the evening, we will offer the Christmas Eve candlelight service that has become our tradition. The Choir sings, we sing, we hear ancient and contemporary stories, we sit in silence and in the dark and we light up the night with our candles and closing ritual.

December 25, 10 am *Christmas Morning Gathering*

Join us for an informal morning of Christmas favorites: carols, readings, poems and our own "my favorite" Christmas story. (See [Christmas Day](#) below.)

December 31, 10 am *Worshipping with Our Neighbors*

We worship at First Parish in Framingham for our annual shared worship with the UU congregations in Framingham and Wayland. For directions, call the First Parish in Framingham office (508/872-3111) or see www.firstparishframingham.org

The Rev. Maddie Sifantus, Affiliate Minister, First Parish in Wayland will preach at this service. Her sermon is "Calm on the Listening Ear." There will be childcare for infants and toddlers, and activities for older children.

Christmas Helpers?

Christmas Eve: Again this year, Katie Lee extends a general invitation to anyone who plans to attend our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24 at 7 pm and would like an active role as candle-lighter, reader, or behind-the-scenes-er to be in touch with her. Extended families, families, singles, young, old, new, not so new – all are encouraged to volunteer. In years past we have often had more volunteers than tasks so take action today. Wouldn't it be fun for everyone from grandma to the newest babe to light the first candle of Christmas?

Christmas Day: We offer an intimate and informal Christmas morning worship on December 25 at 10 am with carols everyone knows, stories we like to share about our own favorite holiday or the gift of a much-loved poem, reading, story or whatever. Everyone and anyone is welcome to join us and, if you wish, bring a little something to share (food for the soul or food for the body – all is welcome). We'll put on a pot of coffee.

In-Home Dinners—Make Your Plans

Soon you will get a call from a friendly FPS caller to ask whether you would like to participate in this year's In-Home Dinners—either as a host or attendee. You will be asked which of the following dates are best for you—Saturday, Jan. 20, Sunday, Jan. 21, or Friday, Jan. 26. Please respond promptly if your caller leaves you a message.



You will also be asked if you wish to be listed in our upcoming FPS directory, and your caller will confirm your contact information.

And, thanks to this year's In-Home Dinner Coordinator, Susan McK. For more information about In-Home Dinners, see the description in the FPS November newsletter (www.fpsudbury.org), or call Fran in the office at 978/443-2043.

An Invitation to All

Dear Friends of First Parish of Sudbury,

We would like to invite you to participate in an important effort in the life of First Parish. Over the next few weeks a focus group will be held to discuss matters of importance in the life of our church. The focus group is a moderated discussion of the kinds of things that have surfaced in retreats, congregational meetings, and that the current leaders have tried to capture in this year's congregational goals. These are small groups – no more than ten people – but, taken together, the participants represent a broad spectrum of our First Parish congregation. Your insight, ideas, and experience are invaluable and we hope that you will participate.

The focus group is sponsored by the Committee on Ministry and will be led by members of the committee, aided by members of the congregation who are experienced facilitators. One focus group is offered at three different times so that the groups remain small and accommodate the schedules of most people. Each participant will come to just one of the 2-hour meetings shown below. The discussion will be lively, diverse, and fun. We hope that no matter what your level of church involvement is now or has been in the past, you will be part of this effort. We ask only this of every participant: bring yourself and your experiences; give us two hours. You will not be tapped to volunteer for anything. You will not be asked for money.

The dates and times when the focus group is offered are as follows:

- Ø Thursday morning, December 7, from 10 – noon.
- Ø Thursday evening, December 14, from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
- Ø Sunday, December 17 immediately after the church service, from 11:30 a.m.–1:30pm

Please contact Fran Sharp by phone or email (978/443-2043; office@fpsudbury.org) and let her know all the dates you are available. Please also let her know if you need childcare and/or transportation. We will do our best to accommodate your needs. ***We will send you a confirmation of the date and time of your focus group, so please let Fran know the best way to reach you by phone or email.***

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dotty R.
We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

*The Committee on Ministry: Tom Y, Julie S, Beth R (Trustee Liaison), Pat B, Dianne H, Dave A;
and
Focus Group Leaders: Dotty R, Lynn LeB, Annmarie A.*

**Endings & Beginnings Service
Sunday, January 7, 2007**

It has become an important ritual on the first Sunday in January to honor those who have died and those who have been born during the past year. If you are new to First Parish, here's how it works--we read these names during our worship service and, when the name of someone we love is read, we stand to honor that person. What often happens is that, when the names have all been read, nearly everyone is standing. It is always a very moving experience.

Please note the date on your calendar, and watch for more information coming in December's newsletter.



Each month in the newsletter and ENews Bulletin, the Green Sanctuary team will suggest a tip on what you can do to be a greener—that is, more ecologically-minded--Earth citizen. We welcome your input.

Drive your car smarter, saving dollars adds up

Our last *Green Tips* was on not letting cars idle. Here are more car driving tips to save energy and money.

- Ø **Drive less aggressively.** Rapid acceleration and braking can lower highway gas mileage by 30% and town gas mileage by as much as 20%. Coast to that stop sign.
- Ø **Slow down on the highway.** Driving only 5 mph over the speed limit on the highway results in an average fuel economy loss of 6%.
- Ø **Keep the engine tuned.** Regular maintenance can save up to 160 gallons of gas per year.
- Ø **Check the tires.** Proper tire pressure increases tire life and improves gas mileage. Low tire pressure wastes over two million gallons of gasoline in the USA every day.
- Ø **Drive less.** Leaving the car parked is the best way to save dollars in purchasing more gas and cut pollution. Plan your shopping trips for minimum driving. Car pool.
- Ø **Don't idle.** Again, unless you own a hybrid gas-electric car like the Toyota Prius, which automatically turns off its engine when the vehicle is stopped, letting the engine idle for more than about 10 seconds uses more gasoline than shutting it off and restarting and does not harm the engine.

Sometimes it is the simple things that we can do that need to be stressed. (Above in part courtesy of Environmental Defense.)



**Musicians
of the
Old Post Road**



A Joyful Christmas from Germany

Saturday, December 16, 8:00 p.m. at First Parish of Sudbury

From the 17th and early 18th centuries, intimate cantatas, arias, and instrumental works for the season by Telemann, Heinichen, Hoffmann, Bernhard & others, with mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal

18th Season of performing classical chamber music on period instruments in historic buildings in Boston and the suburbs. "Scintillating performances of sentiment and sparkle" – *BBC Music Magazine*

Buy tickets online, (www.oldpostroad.org) or at the door before the concert.
 \$24 general admission, \$17 seniors & students with ID...KIDS COME FREE!
 (Children ages 7-17 admitted free when accompanied by an adult.)



Home phone numbers are not included in the E-News Bulletin.
 Please check your First Parish directory, or call the office at 978/443-2043 for help.