

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

January 8, 2012- First Sunday after Epiphany



Scriptures: Philippians 2:1-13

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: "In My Absence"

Scripture Reader: Toni Miller

Usher: Lynn Austin Tolley and Michael Tolley

Asst. Usher: Ruth Tolley

Acolytes: Aidan McGovern & Jack Wylie

Fellowship: Jean's Retirement Lunch

There will be a lot of music this Sunday because music is part of what feeds my soul. I have been so blest by the music in this church and by Allen and Joy's ministry of music with us. Also at the end of the service will be a ritualized dissolving of the covenant that we made when I was installed as your pastor in 2005. Wendy Vander Hart, the Associate Conference Minister for the UCC will be present to lead that. I've chosen as my text a favorite passage that embodies my fondest hopes for you as a congregation.

Jean

Church School resumes for younger children; the 5th through 8th graders will remain in the sanctuary for the full service on Jan 8.

**Please give a warm welcome to Ed Deyton,
our Interim Minister, who will begin his ministry
with you on January 9th.**

Ed is a Methodist Minister with over 36 years' experience in the pulpit. He recently retired this past June from a six year appointment at the Ballard Vale United Church in Andover – a UCC/UMC Federated, Open & Affirming/ Reconciling Church.

He comes with strong recommendations from both his prior Area Minister (UCC side) and prior DS (UMC side), as well as lay leaders and colleagues from his prior congregation! It will be especially helpful to him if you wear name tags not only on Sunday morning but for meetings on his first month. He will give you contact information next week when he is in the office. Until then you may contact him through Johanna in the office.



January Book Group –Jan. 13 at 10 a.m.

For Jan. 13 the Book Club members will each bring and read a favorite poem. December's meeting was very well attended- lots of goodies, a lively discussion of the Christmas Carol and how the story has enlarged our lives. Join us in the Norton Room. (Usually the 2nd Friday)

Annual Report Deadline – Jan. 15th or before

Monday Musings

I hope everyone had a good holiday week. Usually by the time school starts again all parents are more than ready for the holiday to be over. Part of the problem is that with the Christmas hype beginning earlier every year, by the time Christmas comes we are more than ready to be done with it. I grieve this. The 12 days of Christmas are lost to the long preamble just at the time we should be enjoying them. It is another casualty of the consumer society.

Even so we had a good week. We had a lovely Christmas Day with Annah Undenge. Monday, grandson Miguel came and we took him for a couple of days of skiing in NH. Before he left we had some good talks about colleges, SAT's versus ACT's etc. Yikes. How can it be he that he is a Junior in High School. It seems like he was just born.

This will be my last Monday Musing.. It sounds so final, which of course it is. Like all good-by's I'm both ready and not ready. Most everything is packed in my office. The files on computer and in the desk are weeded out. I hope I've left sufficient information for Ed Deyton and whoever follows him which they will find useful, but when I think of January 9th I get a weird feeling. Will I be able to do this retirement thing?

So this is now the time and the place where I need to remind you of professional ethics. As of January 9th, I will no longer be your pastor. The UCC the minister's code of ethics says the following:

I will not perform pastoral services within a parish or for a member of a parish without the consent of the pastor of that parish.

I will deal honorably with the record of my predecessor and successor.

I will not, upon my termination and departure from a ministry position, interfere with nor intrude upon the ministry of my successor.

In plain English it means I should not come back to do weddings, baptisms or funerals except in extraordinary circumstances at the invitation of the minister. I am encouraged to "unfriend" my Facebook friends so that you are not reminded of my presence every time you go on Facebook. I won't be writing my blog "Jean's Musings." I can no longer play a pastoral role in your lives.

It does not mean however that I won't speak to you if I see you on the street. It does not mean that I will cease to care for you as individuals or to be concerned for the congregation, but that it will have to be from afar. This is a painful aspect of ministry but necessary for the health of the congregation so that you will turn to the new ministers who will care for you in the future. You can't bond with them if you are hanging on to me. There will be grief on both sides for awhile, but with good grieving it will pass and leave both of us ready for new commitments and relationships.

I am so thankful for the time I've had with you. Being back in a local church was the right way to end my ministry. Bruce and I have had times with you we will cherish always. I thank you for your many kindnesses over these past 7 years. My fondest hope for you as a congregation is that you will continue to grow in spiritual depth and commitment.

Blessings always, Jean

First Friday for Families

January 6th 6:30-8:30 pm

Join us for a quiet evening of dinner and conversation

Child care provided

Jan Spicer will provide the main dish.

Bring a salad or dessert to share –

Donation requested \$10-20

Rsvp on Facebook or to Jean Alexander by

Wednesday morning, January 4th.

jalexander@upanewtonma.org



Pot Luck Luncheon

in Honor of

Pastor Jean Alexander

Sunday, January 8, 2011

Immediately following the worship service

**Bring a dish to share . . . a main dish . . . a side dish . . . a salad . . .
or dessert**

Think COMFORT FOOD



Altar Flowers - There are openings for anyone wishing to give flowers for the altar this winter and early spring - a meaningful way to remember loved one's celebrate a birthday or a special occasion. Please check the flower sign-up board located in the Parish Hall corridor.

Please continue to pick up poinsettias during the week or Jan. 8th

A belated thank you to all who helped make our Christmas altar so beautiful with your generous offerings of poinsettias.

Anonymous

Jean Alexander -- in memory of my son, Nate Rother

Roger Carpenter -- in memory of his wife, Dorothy Carpenter

Elaine Cavanaugh

Hudong, Luying, Loren & Pamela Chen

Rebecca Dolloff -- in loving memory of Duke and Eleanor Dolloff

Beverly Loudin & Scott Epstein -- in celebration of the gifts of the season and the blessings our church and family

The McGoverns -- in celebration of the season and in the memory of Sarah Philipps, who was a victim of the 1988 crash of Pam Am flight of 103

Sondlo Leonard Mhlaba -- in celebration of our grandson Jabu's first Christmas

Toni & Jim Miller -- in memory of loved ones

Nancy & Paul Satwicz -- In celebration of our daughter Laura's engagement, with thanks for the blessing of our family during the Christmas season

Hannah & Paddy Scott

Jan & Doug Spicer -- in memory of our parents and grandparents

The Zakrzewski's & Mary Freeman -- in loving memory of William Freeman

Please continue to pick up one or two during the week or on January the 8th.

The Altar Flower Committee

Save the Date: Saturday evening, January 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

Sign Up at Coffee Hour January 8, 15 or 22 OR
Contact Toni Miller tjkjkm14@yahoo.com or 617-527-7044 OR
Don Ross dross02466@comcast.net or 617-965-0609

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? - An evening for adults - What is it all about?

Here is an explanation of how the evening is set up. Any questions, please contact Toni Miller: tjkjkm14@yahoo.com or 617-527-7044.

HOSTS: If you are a host, you

- provide an hors d'oeuvre or two and beverages (wine* and/or soft drinks, coffee/tea)
- will not be told *who* will be coming to your house. You will only know *the number of guests that will be attending.*

GUESTS: If you are a guest, you

- will be contacted on the Wednesday or Thursday of the week of the dinner and will be given **only the address and phone number of the home to which you have been assigned** (If you have not been contacted by Thursday evening, PLEASE call Toni Miller 617-527-7044)
- *will not* be told who else will be going to the same house.
- will be asked to bring **one part of the meal** for a specific number of people, for example:
 - salad, rolls or bread, maybe a bottle of wine
 - main dish (casserole or other main dish) **Note:** for large groups, two people will be asked to bring a main dish
 - dessert
- * Guests, in general, are welcome to bring a bottle of wine if they so choose.

Mitten Tree THANK YOU!



This week, I received a note from Deb Heimel, Director of Operations at REACH, that she wanted me to pass along to everyone: "REACH Beyond Domestic Violence thanks all the members of the United Parish of Auburndale who supported our holiday gift program this year. Thanks to the participation of faith communities like the UPA, we provided gifts to 232 families. It is through the generosity of individuals and organizations like yours that we are able to share the spirit of the season and spread joy to domestic violence survivors and their families."

Additionally, I would like to add a personal "thank you". Each year I am amazed at the generosity of the UPA, and am so thrilled to see the fantastic levels of participation. I know that everyone at REACH really and truly deeply appreciates our donations and our commitment to the organization for so many years.

Thank you all for helping to make this a special Christmas for those families we supported.

Kristin McGovern

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

The Board of Outreach is organizing service projects over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend to celebrate Dr. King's vision of a more just and peaceful world through community service. Two volunteer opportunities are scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 14. Look for sign up sheets at coffee hour this Sunday.

On Saturday from 11-3:00, volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and cleanup a mid-day meal at Women's Lunch Place in Back Bay, which serves homeless and low-income women. David and Mary Lou Walsh will lead the team and provide transportation from UPA's parking lot at 10:30.

Closer to home, Kevin Newman is organizing a spruce-up project at UPA on Saturday from 9-2:00. Details to follow.

Youth Schedule

January 8 – High School Youth Meeting

January 15 – Middle School Youth Meeting

January 16, Monday - Martin Luther King Breakfast, Boston

(Note that we must leave UPA at 7AM to get into town in time for breakfast.

January 22 - Ice Skating on Frog Pond – All youth

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(617) 964-8516

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012
9:00 a.m. - Children's Choir
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Jean's last Sunday
12:00 p.m. - Pot Luck Luncheon for Jean
Monday, Jan. 9, 2012
7:30 - Common Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012
7:00 - Parish Council
7:30 p.m. - Board of Ed
Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012
3:30 p.m. - Children's choir
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir
Friday, Jan. 13, 2012
10:00 a.m. - Book Group
Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012
9:00 a.m. - Children's Choir
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Ed Deyton's first Sunday

www.upanewtonma.org

The **ELIOT CHURCH Food Cupboard** in Roxbury - Non-perishable items are collected each week in a shopping cart located in the narthex.

The United Parish of Auburndale is an Open and Affirming/Reconciling Ministries Congregation:
"Recognizing that the church historically has not always welcomed all persons, we affirm the God-given worth and dignity of every individual as our sister or brother, and we welcome all persons, including those who are gay, lesbian bisexual or transgendered to the full life and ministry of the United Parish of Auburndale. We celebrate all relationships founded on the principles of God's love, compassion and faithfulness and embrace the responsibility to work against all forms of discrimination.