

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

January 29, 2012- Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Scriptures: Amos 5:7, 11, 15, 21, 24

Luke 16:19-31

Preaching: Linda Wood-Boyle

Sermon: “Justice Versus Charity”

Scripture Reader: Alex Beam

Ushers: Dana Dornbusch and Walter Piescik

Asst. Usher: Don Ross

Acolytes: Natasha Sharma & Amanda Redmond

Fellowship: Davenport & Newman

“There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, ‘When will you be satisfied?’ ...we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a might stream.”

From Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have A Dream” speech.

Fellowship of the Concerned:

Everett and Beverly Nickerson are moving to North Carolina on Jan. 27th.
Here is their new address:
205 Emerald Pond Lane, Apt. 312
Durham, NC 27705

**Call to Annual Meeting
February 5, 2012**

The annual meeting of the United Parish of Auburndale will take place in the Parish Hall at 64 Hancock Street, Auburndale, Massachusetts, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 5, 2012 as part of the worship service.

All members of the UPA are urged to attend this important meeting when officers and boards, the 2012 budget, and other important matters will be discussed and voted on. The meeting will take up any other new business that may properly come before it. Church School classes will be held as usual.

Time to Plan...Time to Build

Maine Seacoast Mission week- August 11-18, 2012

This is a week to work with your UPA friends doing house repairs for the Maine Seacoast Mission. Our team of 10 in August 2010 had wonderful experience, shingling a cabin for a very appreciative young family. We stay at a campground on the coast in Harrington, Maine (an hour north of Bar Harbor). A visit to the Machias Blueberry Festival rounds out the end of our work week.

Time to start thinking about joining us in this very worthwhile endeavor. Although more information is forthcoming, please email anytime for more details.

Carol Walsh, Outreach Board.
clesiewalsh@hotmail.com

“MONDAY IS THE KEY DAY OF THE WEEK” -a Gaelic proverb

Last Saturday there was a memorial service in our sanctuary for a long time Auburndale neighbor, Anne Freitas. A woman in her late 60s, she died after a long illness, surrounded by friends and family.

As a pastor, I find it a little awkward to lead a memorial service for someone I have never met, but there was another minister, a long time friend from Vermont, and the family was very involved. The guest organist was from Bridgeport, CT, a family member, and school mate of the organist at Westport UMC, pastored by a dear friend of mine (and the Dutton's). Connections, connections, connections.

The sanctuary was full, and I mean full. Even the choir loft. People standing in back. And remember that the weather was not optimum. Friends and family read poems and letters, shared reflections. They also sang camp songs. It turns out that many had long involvement with a camp in Billings. Others were a part of Anne's day care service from many years back.

Surely it is a part of God's creating and saving work among us to bring us into community. It helps us to appreciate the blessedness of our church community if we can see that God is calling people together all around us. That is how we are made, and it is how we "work out our salvation." Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Ed



Save the Date

UPA Auction Saturday, May 5th

An evening of fun, entertainment, bidding and fundraising!

More to come shortly.

From the Youth Minister:

Greetings!

I am excited that in the next five months, the plan for the youth is to engage in several social justice activities including an all youth trip to the Hope Central Church on Sunday, February 5th for a homeless education program. This program entails a hands on mission project, dinner with formerly homeless individuals and the opportunity to listen to their stories, and culminates in a worship service.

I think engaging with the homeless population is important for various reasons. Homelessness in America is incredibly high. Recent statistics from 2009 (which I am sure must have increased since the recent fall of the market), from the National Alliance to End Homelessness report found at <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/3668> states:

The nation's homeless population increased by approximately 20,000 people from 2008 to 2009 (3 percent increase). There were also increased numbers of people experiencing homelessness in each of the subpopulations examined in this report: families, individuals, chronic, unsheltered.

A majority – 31 of 50 states and the District of Columbia - had increases in their homeless counts. The largest increase was in Louisiana, where the homeless population doubled.

Among subpopulations, the largest percentage increase was in the number of family households, which increased by over 3,200 households (4 percent increase). Also, the number of persons in families increased by more than 6,000 people (3 percent increase). In Mississippi, the number of people in homeless families increased by 260 percent.

After population reductions from 2005 to 2008, the number of chronically homeless people in the country remained stagnant from 2008 to 2009, despite an 11 percent increase in the number of permanent supportive housing units.

While most people experiencing homelessness are sheltered, nearly 4 in 10 were living on the street, in a car, or in another place not intended for human habitation. In Wisconsin, twice as many people experienced homelessness without shelter in 2009 as did in 2008.

It is widely agreed upon that there is a vast undercount of the number of young people experiencing homelessness. Underscoring this is the fact that 35 percent of all communities reported that there were no homeless youth in their communities in 2009.

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These statistics are staggering and I am looking forward to this excellent program run in partnership with Seminarians in the City to help us better understand this significant problem here in the US.

If anyone is interested in tagging along that does not have youth active in the group, you are more than welcome. Please just let me know!

In the Peace of Christ, Karen

Youth Schedule

[Sunday, January 29](#) - All youth trip: Frog Pond Ice Skating!
Leave UPA at 11:15AM and return at 3:30PM

[Sunday, February 5](#) - All youth event: Hope Central Community Engagement Program with the Homeless - Leave UPA at 2:25PM, and return to UPA by 7:30PM

Reminder:

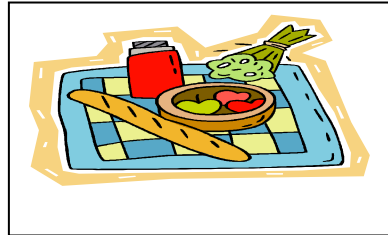
Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, January 25th at Noon

Bring a sandwich.

Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Our speaker will be **Marian Knapp**.



Reminder

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?

(For Adults)

Saturday evening, January 28, 2012

6:30 p.m.

Hold the Date

First Friday for Families

February 3rd 6:30-8:30 pm

*Join us for a quiet evening of dinner
and conversation*

Child care provided.

Bring a salad or dessert to share –

Donation requested \$10-20

RSVP to Ed Deyton by

Wednesday morning, February 1st..

edeyton@upanewtonma.org



UPA Forum on Helping the Environment -- Let's Start in Our Homes.

February 12th after Sunday Services.

The Board of Outreach invites you to a special forum on the Eco-Team project sponsored by Green Decade Newton.

When asked by a UPA youth group member if our church could support an environmental organization, the Board of Outreach was pleased to partner with Green Decade to support efforts locally to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Please attend this forum to hear about a new opportunity to reduce Newton's carbon footprint by saving energy and conserving resources.

We hope you will join or lead an Eco-Team from the UPA community! Eco-Teams are groups of 5-8 people who come together to make home improvements and lifestyle choices to reduce their carbon footprint. Teams meet three times. By tweaking the way we drive, use water, maintain our homes, use energy, buy things and throw things away, we can significantly reduce our negative impact on the environment. Participating in a team is fun and informative.

We can make a real difference. Come join us for a short presentation Sunday February 12 in Parish Hall after Sunday Services.

Celebration of Outreach

Our Annual Celebration of Outreach this Sunday will underscore UPA's longtime commitment to community outreach through its Parish Giving program and through volunteering.

Fully 35% of UPA's income from pledges, plate offerings and fundraising is donated to non-profit organizations that minister to human needs locally, nationally, and internationally. In 2011, UPA donated \$67,878 to 37 agencies and organizations dedicated to peace, freedom, justice, and human dignity. HomeStart President and Executive Director Linda Wood Boyle will remind us in her sermon on Sunday why it's important that UPA's Parish Giving program continues to target at least 15 organizations that serve poor and homeless people in some way.

During coffee hour, the focus will be on the spirit of volunteerism that is also an important hallmark of UPA giving. To celebrate the countless hours that members give outside the church's doors, The Board of Outreach will encourage conversation about all the ways we've found to reach out. Anyone who is able to provide a helping hand to an organization or activity that benefits the larger community in some way will have the chance to fill out and don a second name tag that says, "Ask me about..." Come prepared to chat up your favorite cause!

The goal is to: 1) recognize the time and talent members are devoting to a variety of good causes; 2) help us to get to know each other better, perhaps in a different dimension; 3) swap ideas about worthwhile organizations that offer volunteer opportunities; 4) provide anecdotal evidence for Outreach about where members' hearts are when they give of their time and talents. We'd like for our Parish Giving decisions to reflect, even broadly, areas of community need where our members tend to volunteer.

We look forward to hearing all about it!

The Board of Outreach



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Sunday, Jan. 29, 2012
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Celebration of Outreach
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
11:30 a.m. - Youth meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2012
7:30 a.m. - Bible Study

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012
7:00 p.m. - Open & Affirming
7:30 p.m. - SPRC

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012
3:30 p.m. - Children's choir
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

Friday, Feb. 3, 2012
6:30 p.m. - First Friday for Families

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Annual Meeting
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
2:30 a.m. - Youth Meeting

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.