

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

May 1, 2011,

Second Sunday of Easter - Communion Sunday



Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

Matthew 22: 1-14

Preaching: Michael Nilon

Sermon: "Making Time for the Important Things"

Reader: Tom Mackowski

Head Usher: John Houston & Kathy Read

Assistant Usher: Barbara Seal & Tessa Kadar

Acolytes: Willis Herlihy & P.J. Membrino

Fellowship Time: McVittie & Heller/Wong

My question to you is: do our values, and especially our decisions with how we use our time, reflect a thirst for intimate contact with the divine? Are we spending time looking for the Way, for God's spirit moving in us, for God's peace, or otherwise for the Good News that we are made in the image of the Almighty? Are we making that investment daily, even if that means five minutes of prayer or reflection in the shower or before we go to bed? Are we listening as well as talking when we pray or reflect? How we answer those questions is key to how we live our lives as faithful servants and spiritually creative people.

Mike

Fellowship of the Concerned:

Congratulations to **Eleanor Fraise** who will celebrate her 100th birthday this Friday. Happy Birthday Eleanor from the UPA.

We are happy to report that **Margaret Jones** has been released from rehab and will be returning to her home in Framingham this week.

Susan D'Amore is making good progress as she recovers from her surgery. She has graduated to one crutch.

Please hold in your prayers **Martha Holmes** who has recently entered the care of hospice.

Thank You! To everyone who helped make the memorial service for Will "Chip" Wyman a loving and healing time for the family: the music provided by Joy Douglass and Linda Wood-Boyle, the flowers arranged by Patricia Bottomley, and the beautiful collation organized by Toni Miller and lovingly contributed to and tended by so many. I am so grateful to have such a congregation who rises to every need. Gratefully, Jean



May Book Group –May 13 at 10 a.m.

For May 13th the book group will be reading “A Voyage Long and Strange” By Tony Horwitz, adventures in early America. All are welcome. Join us in the Norton Room. (Usually the 2nd Friday)

First Friday for Families

May 6th, 6:30-8:30 pm

Join us for a quiet evening of dinner and convivial conversation. Child care provided

Bring a salad or dessert to share

Donation requested \$10-20

Rsvp on Facebook or to Jean Alexander by

Tuesday May 3rd. jalexander@upanewtonma.org



Monday Musings

What a glorious Easter day it was! I was fully expecting a rainy gloomy day like Saturday and the weather report Saturday night was not encouraging. Yet by the time I was driving to church in the morning the sun was on its way out and we had a beautiful Easter morning. It was so warm that by the time I drove home after church the Bradford Pear trees on Auburn Street had burst into bloom.

The church was full. The music was glorious. The air was rich with the smell of lilies and the altar looked so beautiful with all those white lily trumpets. Everything was just the way Easter is supposed to be. Many thanks to Joy Douglass and Allen LeVines for the music of the choirs and all the hours they put in to making it so special. The adult choir in particular rehearsed TWO nights of Holy Week so that we could give our all to the Easter Cantata. Melanie and Jessica Rucinski not only played for that but the service music for two pianos. What amazing young musicians they are. We are very lucky to have so many talented people in our midst.

After church the children had a fun time hunting for Easter eggs and the Board of Christian Education also did their usual splendid job of organizing everything so that it came off flawlessly.

Holy week is emotionally one of the toughest weeks for clergy, because we are going through the whole story of the death of Jesus. On Good Friday, Bruce and I heard the BSO and Tanglewood Chorus do the St. John Passion by Bach. As I followed along with the text at first I thought how distant it seemed. But as I was drawn into the music and story, I was reminded of the many still who are imprisoned unjustly, tortured, and who “disappear” never to be heard from again. The story is ancient and modern. As we road in on the T to Symphony Hall I had been reading about a new wave of repression in China against those who speak against the government. Many activists have been jailed. The events of Holy Week remind us of the cost of speaking the truth.

In the midst of everything last week, I learned that an article I had submitted for publication to the Alban Institute had actually been published. Several of the people in the writing group I was in last fall, got their copy of the magazine before me and spread the word. I wasn't expecting it so soon and was so pleased.

So it was a week of many services, much work, and a mixture of many emotions. A typical Holy Week.

Blessings, Jean

An Invitation from Newton Senior Center We are in conversation with the Newton Senior Center about perhaps providing some satellite classes at the UPA beginning in the fall. Lynn Feinman, a member of their staff, would like to meet with any interested members of the church **on Tuesday, May 3rd at 10:30** to talk about possible options. Please let Jean Alexander know if you can attend this meeting. **617-964-8516**

In addition the Senior Center, with the assistance of Lasell College is doing a paper survey about their services. If you could pick one up at the church and return it, we will see that completed forms get returned to them.

Hey Youth and Parents,

Four high school youth, Kris Finn, and I will be going to City Reach this Friday evening, April 29. We are still attempting to gather the items needed by the street people that City Reach serves. Please bring whatever items on the list you would like to give to us to my office by this Thursday, April 28. We will be meeting as a group on Friday at 6 pm in the UPA parking lot. We will gather before driving to St. Paul's at 6:30 pm. Since the confirmation groups have gotten so much out of going earlier this year and in years past, we also expect to be changed by our experience while helping to give to people in need. We will return on Saturday afternoon by 4 pm at the latest.

This Sunday, the youth group will be participating in the Walk for Hunger, which supports Project Bread, whose mission is to alleviate, prevent, and ultimately end hunger. We will meet in the early morning, 6:30 am, the day of the walk, Sunday, May 1st. Although I preach during that Sunday morning service, I will be walking with our group until Newton Center, which is 7.5 miles from the starting line. Others who cannot do the full walk will also have the opportunity to stop here. You are encouraged to raise money if you have time, but more than anything we hope you can join us for the show of support for such a worthy cause. Please contact Mary Lou Walsh or me if you have any questions.

Peace, *Mike*

UPA Families Feeding Families collection May 15 & 22, 2011

Each fall and spring, the UPA collects and delivers important items to the Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center, which supports local children referred with Failure To Thrive. Our spring 2011 FFF collection will focus on the Grow Clinic's **most-needed items for children**, rather than the general food pantry-type items. A list of these items may be viewed at <http://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic/donate/inkinddonations.htm>

-- please see Priority Supplements, Supplies, and Clothing lists. (Items on the Food list welcome but not our focus this Spring.) Please bring your donations to church anytime between 5/15 & 5/22. See Julie Redmond with questions at 617.964.4164 or bmrijmr@yahoo.com. Many thanks!

The UPA Boards of Christian Education and Outreach



The UPA Yard Sale is Coming Soon!

June 4th 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sign-up sheets for the Yard Sale will be at Coffee Hour on Sunday. We need to know who wants a table, who wants to bake and who wants to be around to help?

Please watch the Together for updates. Start thinking about your stuff!

Worship in May

May 8 - Third Sunday of Easter

Children's choir singing

Scriptures: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Luke 24:13-35

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: "A Promise: To You and To Your Children"

May 15 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Confirmation Sunday

May 22 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Children's Sunday - Children's Musical:

"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown" after worship

May 29 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 17: 22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

Preaching: Jean Alexander

"Tremble Clefs" May 1st - Concert

Since September a singing group specifically for those with Parkinson's disease has been singing in our parish hall every Monday. It is sponsored by Jewish Social Services. It has been a treat to hear them each week. On **Sunday May 1st**, they will do a "concert" after church in the parish hall as part of our fellowship time. Much of it will be a sing-a-long of familiar songs. Please join us for this special time.



Office Hours to Change. Johanna Porter has added another part-time job to her life and with the approval of Staff-Parish Relations Committee will adjust her UPA hours.

The new church office hours will be 8:30-2:30 Mon-Fri until the end of June.

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Sunday, May 1, 2011
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Communion
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time/Tremble Clefs Concert
Monday, May 2, 2011
7:30 p.m. - Common Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2011
7:30 a.m. - Bible Study
7:30 p.m. - Board of Christian Ed
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
7:00 p.m. - Open & Affirming
Thursday, May 5, 2011
3:30 p.m. - Children's Choir
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir
Friday, May 6, 2011
6:00 p.m. - Confirmation Retreat
6:30 p.m. - Families Dinner
Sunday, May 8, 2011
10:00 a.m. - Worship
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time



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.