

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

November 6-Communion Sunday (seated)



Scriptures: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalm 78:1-7

Matthew 25:1-13

Liturgist: Linda Wood-Boyle

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: “Talking to the Future”

Scripture Reader: Brian Redmond

Ushers: Jan and Doug Spicer

Acolytes: Evan & Nicholas Hoch

Fellowship: Loudin/Epstein & Huth/Agnew

Special food collection to the Grow Clinic and Roxbury Food Pantry

How do you think about the future, either your own, or the future of our nation or world? Do you think of it with hope or fear? Do you foresee disaster or do you see the human race rising to the challenges that come before each generation? I suspect how we see the future determines our responses to the present and therefore it is important as we unite for our future as a congregation to ask how we see it.

Don't forget to turn back Saturday night!



Senior Ministries Presents

On November 16th 12 noon a soup and sandwich lunch followed by a trip to the new Waltham Watch Factory museum.

Bring a sandwich. Jean Alexander will make her famous pumpkin soup.

We will car pool to the museum.



Chinese Luncheon

Join us for lunch on November 13, 2011 around noon (after church) for a Chinese luncheon at Mandarin Cuisine, 238 Highland Ave., Needham, MA.

Bring the whole family.

We have had luncheons at Mandarin cuisine in the past. The food is excellent. There will be a sign up sheet at coffee hour this Sunday or you can email me at janetconway@verizon.net.

Janet Conway - For the Community Board



Book Group –Nov. 11 at 10 a.m.

For Nov. 11th the book group will be reading “One Thousand White Women” The Journals of Mary Dodd by Jim Fergus. For December, if anyone wants to read ahead we will read “Moloka’i by Alan Brennert. Visitors and new members are welcome. Join us in the Norton Room. (Usually the 2nd Friday).

Monday Musings

That was quite a storm we had Saturday night. The weather people got it right this time. As I was going to sleep Saturday night I could hear the tree limbs cracking around our house. We were lucky because none of them fell on the house or our cars. We never lost power either but I know a number who were in church Sunday did. Fortunately the church was spared any downed limbs and it was nice and toasty inside when I arrived. The pumpkins had a covering of snow and looked a bit out of season though. My heart goes out to the people in the western part of the state who have had one weather related disaster after another this year.

Despite the challenges of the weather we had a good spirit inside. The children sang beautifully assisted by the adult choir. They sang the anthem about the “saints” that I like so much. Melanie Rucinski played beautifully in Allen’s absence. (He is in Japan for two weeks.) Christine Gallivan did a great stewardship moment and we had an announcement brought to us by the number 11. Kris Finn for the Board of Outreach reminded us of our food-raising effort next Sunday for Mission: 1 and the children ably assisted her.

We sent our stewardship baskets off too yesterday blessed by the congregation. So please when it arrives on your doorstep, pass it on promptly so they can all be back for Stewardship Sunday on November 20th

It has been a challenging year to sell pumpkins with all the rain we have had, but I’ve heard rumors that we are slightly ahead of last year. I know on Saturday when I was at the church, the pumpkins were flying off the patch. Despite the cold and impending storm people were buying pumpkins. There are a few left this morning on the patch despite my admonition to Don Ross yesterday to sell them all. Thank you everyone who sat in the cold and rain to sell them and to Mary Lou and David Walsh and Dana Dornbusch for coordinating it for the third time. It is time for someone else to step up and volunteer to coordinate it next year!

Blessings, Jean

First Friday for Families November 4th 6:30-8:30

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 on Facebook or to Jean
Alexander by Wednesday, Nov 3rd.
jalexander@upanewtonma.org*

Last week we shared the survey results indicating the *top eight* roles, or areas, (from a list of fifteen) to which we feel our new pastor needs to give priority. The house parties have had an opportunity to discuss this list. In order to provide more depth and background to some of the questions in the profile document, the survey asked two key questions: 1) Why we come to the UPA, and 2) How do we describe the UPA to others. The results from the 108 responses in the survey for these two questions were formatted into “word clouds”. You have seen the results from the first question, “Why we come”, on the front cover of our Sunday bulletin. The second “word cloud” showing the survey results to the second question, “How we describe the UPA”, is shown in the cloud illustration on the previous page.

If you have any questions or comments please feel to contact Bob Dutton (rwdupton@gmail.com), chair of the Profile Committee

Pumpkin Patch #5 is CLOSED!

Thanks to everyone that participated in UPA’s 5th Annual Pumpkin Sale. This was our most successful event yet. We sold about \$17,000 in pumpkins and baked goods and had over 1,000 visitors to our patch. Praise for the pumpkin patch was plentiful! We heard over and over again from neighbors and visitors “we love the pumpkin patch”; “we come every year”; “it’s so pretty”; “can you take our picture?”

We would like to specifically thank the day captains who worked to make sure the patch was open and staffed every day: Don Ross, Rod Rohda, Kris Finn, Rich Frantz, Walter Piescik, Karla Armenoff, and Carol Walsh. And thanks to our bake sale coordinators who made sure our shelves were stocked and items were nicely displayed: Carole Smith, Carol Roush, and Carol Dutton. Thank you to Toni Miller for tallying the sales every night and handling all the cash. And thanks to everyone who spent their Saturday(s) unloading pumpkins. Thanks to everyone that baked items for the sale. And thanks to the 70+ people who staffed sales shifts – especially the ones that sold pumpkins on cold, rainy, or SNOWY days! And one final thank you to the goblins that helped breakdown the tent and put everything away on Halloween, Jean Alexander, Rod Rohda and Jim Miller.

We are grateful for all your help.

Dana Dornbusch
David and Mary Lou Walsh



From the Youth Minister:

Sometimes there just are no answers, and that is OK...

I get some really interesting questions in my line of work. They mostly stem around God, extremism, human actions, faith, and truth claims. It is difficult to sometimes answer these questions, because I have my opinions, but, I also have the knowledge I have gained from my education, as well as my conversations with people from all over the world. I value those conversations and often clearly hear words from these lovely people in my head, reminding me we are all on the same path as human beings. From the Bedouin man in Jerusalem who asked me to sit and have tea with him, to the men at an all male Wahhabist madrasa in Varanasi, India, to a 120 year old woman in the slums of Mumbai, India – these conversations helped me grow in my theology, my faith, and my understanding of what it means to be human.

So, how, you ask, does that translate when a child or young person asks me about God. How do I tell them about my faith, about my stance on God, without forcing my belief on them? This is where it gets difficult. I think we all grapple with the question of what God is. Is God a man, a woman, a being? What does God look like? How do we know if there really is a God? How do we believe in that which we cannot see? Why does God let bad things happen?

These are difficult, if not impossible questions to answer. The good news is that when your child asks you these questions, it is OK to not have the answer. I think it is important to understand that our faith journey does not end or begin at any certain time of our conscious life. We are always on that journey, and in that journey we will always have doubts; we will always wonder; and we will always, without hesitation, question. One of my favorite people on the planet whom I have studied with three times, Elie Wiesel, once said me to after I peppered him with questions that had no answers, “Karen, it is the questions that are important – sometimes there are no answers.” This was the wisest thing anyone had ever said to me. It helped me step back and be OK with my questions and more, be OK that I had no answers.

Guiding your child through these questions with no sure answer is never easy. I remember all too well the age 4-5 years, when, if I didn't have an answer to Katy's questions, I got, “Why?” To that, I would explain some more and I would get, “Why?” I finally learned to answer through my faith and understanding of the world, and not through my bible knowledge or what a Catholic nun told me in CCD at age 10. So, when it came to questions such as, “Why did God allow 9/11 to happen,” my answer was, “Human beings allowed 9/11 to happen. Human beings committed those acts against other human beings.” I don't ever speak for God, but, sometimes, I do feel that God uses us as instruments for Her message.

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In closing, next time you get that difficult question and you aren't quite sure of an appropriate answer, I encourage you to say, "I just don't know..." and leave it there, to maybe, sometime, be revisited. Because as your faith grows and changes, and your child's faith grows and changes, then too, will the questions change...and that is never a bad thing.

November Youth Group Schedule

November 5 - High School Youth serve at the Women's Lunch Place, Back Bay, 11AM – 3PM

November 13 - Combined Middle School/High School Youth meeting, 11:30AM-1:00PM

November 20- High school/Middle School Youth Group participate in Fall Clean-up at UPA! After church! 11:30-2:00

Taking Care of Our Church Community

Stewardship Time: Uniting for Our Future

Good morning, for those of you who don't know me my name is Christine Gallivan; I am here today with my husband Sean and my three children Chase age 9, Morgan age 7 and Sawyer age 5. I had a feeling after having my entire family cover the Newton Tab during the unloading of the pumpkins for the pumpkin patch that I was sure to be chased down by Lyman Jackson for the Stewardship moment...I was doomed.

I began my journey to the United Parish of Auburndale about 9 years ago when I was taking a stroll with my new baby through Auburndale, knowing I would have to consider preschools soon. I had also been thinking that I would like my children to have some spirituality, and some form of extended family. It was at this time I strolled down Grove Street and was immediately drawn to this beautiful white Church; don't judge a book by its cover? I definitely did, I was in such awe of the escalating steeple. We hadn't thought much about attending service here but I felt the crunch to get my son baptized, I said, "I think I want him baptized in that pretty white church". Prior to Ellis leaving, he came to our house to meet our family and talk about our past and present spiritual experiences. I kept thinking, this is amazing; they visit you in your home... how personal. Our experience was nothing but positive and so I decided to have all our children baptized at the UPA.

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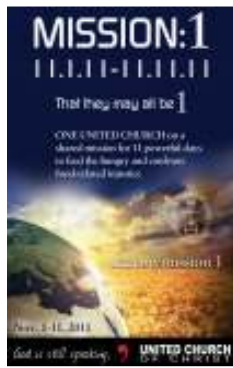
Being brought up in a catholic church it was tradition to go to church every Sunday, attend CYO, go to CCD, and go to midnight mass on Christmas Eve. However, Sean and I had made the decision to not follow our family path through the Catholic Church but to explore other avenues. I knew after having my children baptized here that I would like to try to attend a service, Sean at the time was not “feeling” drawn to the idea of going to church so I decided I was going to go alone. It was all I could do to get a toddler and an infant into church by myself; I walked in wondering, “where is the crying room?” There is no crying room, so naturally I sat in the back of the church.

Shortly into the service Chase began driving his matchbox cars up and down the pews with engine noises and all, I immediately thought, “I’ve got to get out of here”, the stress overcame me and the noise was embarrassing, I decided we stayed as long as we could but I needed to get out! As I began exiting the church an amazing woman, an angel out of nowhere approached me and said, “you don’t need to leave, we love the sound of children”. I thought I would start crying right there, “do they really like the sound of children in church?” This is not what I had experienced in my church. From this moment on I was hooked, this was the kind of church I wanted to belong to. And by the way, if that woman is here today, I’m not sure who you are but would love to share a coffee with you...I have you to thank. The UPA has since become an important part of my family life, I have managed to help persuade Sean to come to church and experience this amazing community all on his own. We love how progressive the church is, we feel connected and loved by the people around us. Not having family here we have grown to consider the church as part of our family.

It was comforting that even though we didn’t fully embrace all the religious aspects of the UCC and Methodist ideologies we have found the church to be accepting and encouraging. During our time at the UPA we have attended the fall camping retreat, I joined the Board of Education and teach bible school, we became official members of the church, Sean joined the Board of Cultivation, my children all attend Bible School, Morgan sings in choir, Chase became an Acolyte, our kids have been shepherds, doves and angels in the Christmas Pageant, we have had some good laughs at the Friday Families Dinner and Who’s Coming to Dinner and of course Gals After Dark.

As you can see at the UPA opportunity abounds, there is opportunity for growth, there is opportunity for commitment, there is opportunity for friendship, there is even opportunity to explore your beliefs.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you **all** for past and certainly future contributions; your efforts to enable this church have truly been felt. ~ *Christine Gallivan*



November is Here. And So Is Mission: 1!

Don't forget to pick up extra groceries
this week for donation this Sunday.

- **If you are a family with children in the Church School**, please send **11** food items with your child (or children) for Families Feeding Families (FFF). Donations can be placed in the hallway coat closet outside the sanctuary near the photo board. Here are **11** items most needed by Boston families struggling to feed their children: Bright Beginnings Pediatric Soy supplement, Duocal, Enfamil Next Step Soy Formula, infant formula, peanut butter, tuna fish, canned beans (not green beans), canned fruit, rice, evaporated milk, thick hearty soups or stews, and canned meats (additional items are listed at <http://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic/donate/inkinddonations.htm>).
- **All others** should bring **11** food items for the Eliot Church Food Pantry in Roxbury and deposit them in the Narthex as they enter church. Here are the **11** items most needed by the low-income senior population that depends on the pantry for groceries: canned green vegetables, wheat crackers, brown rice, instant potatoes, instant oatmeal, pasta, medium-sized bottles of fruit juice, canned tuna or sardines, canned or boxed soups, powdered drinks.

Monetary donations:

- If you would like to donate **\$11** (or anything!) online for East Africa famine relief, simply go to ucc.org, click on "Mission: 1" on the homepage, then click on "Donate to Mission: 1" in the left column under the section menu. Please send your donation between Nov. 1 and 11.
- If you prefer to write a check, please place your check in a Mission: 1 envelope and drop in it the offering plate.

Thanks so much for your support!

The Board of Outreach
The Board of Christian Education

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United Parish of Auburndale
64 Hancock Street
Auburndale, MA, 02466
(617) 964-8516

Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Worship/Communion (Seated)
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time

Monday, Nov. 7, 2011

7:30 p.m. - Common Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011

7:30 a.m. - Bible study
7:30 p.m. - Profile Committee

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011

3:30 p.m. - Children's Choir
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

Friday Nov. 11, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Book Club

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Worship
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
12:00 p.m. - Chinese Luncheon

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.