

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

November 13, 2011



Scriptures: Psalm 90:1-12

Matthew 25:14-30

Liturgist: Myungeun Park

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: "Count Your Money... or Your Days?"

Scripture Reader: Ellen Wright

Ushers: Barbara Seal

Acolytes: Conor & Aidan McGovern

Fellowship: Kann/Miller

Remembering our Veterans

As the church year comes to an end on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, the lectionary scriptures focus on facing the judgment of God. This sound rather grim, doesn't it, but only if we think of judgment solely in terms of punishment. To judge also means to weigh our actions or the actions of others and to ponder whether they reflect what we want them to and then to change them if they don't.

Fellowship of the Concerned

Our prayers are with the family of **Russ Carle**, who died this past Saturday. He was long time member of the Centenary United Methodist Church and the UPA and for many years one of the faithful ushers, Services will be on Wednesday at the Newton Cemetery Chapel at 11 a.m. with a visiting hour there prior to the service.

Let us continue to keep **Everett Nickerson** in our prayers as he prepares to return home from his long hospitalization sometime in the next week.

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I send this email informing you that on Friday, November 4, 2011, I was officially able to adopt **Justin**. On a chilly but sunny autumn day and with family and a few close friends by our sides, we went to court and signed all necessary documents allowing us to receive approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to officially, legally, totally and completely be mother and son. It was a very special day and I am so happy to share this with you.

Words can not express my gratitude to you for your love, support, encouragement and acceptance. Justin and I are truly blessed to have you all in our lives and hearts. Thank you is not enough but know that we appreciate you in every sense of the word.

Love, **Lynda McQuillan** (Justin's Mom!)

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

It's not too late to sign up for the lunch on November 13, 2011 at Mandarin Cuisine, 238 Highland Ave., Needham, MA. Please email me at

janetconway@verizon.net.

If you would like to join us.

Janet Conway, 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.

Monday Musings

There was much to celebrate yesterday as we gathered for worship. First was the outpouring of food for the Mission One collection that will go to the Grow Clinic and the Eliot Church Food Pantry in Roxbury. During the offering some of the children wheeled just a portion of it up to the front of the sanctuary. There are pictures in the Together of the amount that we brought in. Kris Finn will count it before taking it to its respective destinations and enter the totals on the national website. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate. I was glad to see the UCC offering us a chance to give in such concrete ways that will benefit so many hungry people in our nation and in East Africa. On the UCC website is a running total of the amount of food, letters and money that has been collected. I expect a big jump in the next few days. It is also easy to send a letter from the website to congress regarding international aid for food. It is sponsored by Bread for the World, one of the best advocacy groups around hunger and food policy.

The second celebration was hearing the grand totals of the Pumpkin Patch sales and to learn that we surpassed last year's total by almost \$2000. THANK YOU. Thank you especially to Dana Dornbusch, David and Mary Lou Walsh for their coordination. Now who is going to volunteer to take their place next year?

As I look out my window this morning I see a golden maple tree and the reddish gold oak tree behind it gleaming in the sunlight with the blue sky behind it. It is such a beautiful sight. I have loved this office. It has been the nicest office I've ever had and the view as I sit at the computer is beautiful in all seasons. I think whoever follows me here will find it a comfortable and blessed space to work in.

We had another well attended First Friday for Families on Friday night. There were three round tables full of people enjoying conversation and dinner together. I've been reflecting since then at how much more equal marriages are than they were 40 years ago. The Dads and Moms in this congregation seem to share the tasks of home and parenting in a much more fluid way than we did even a couple of decades ago. It is a reminder that things do change. I have loved these gatherings with the families because it gives me insights not only into their lives but into how the generations behind me manage the familiar tasks of home and family. They are such a great group.

One of the great things about being a minister is the intergenerational aspect of it. On Saturday I was with the other end of the spectrum. I met with the Carle family at Newton-Wellesley hospital to pray with them as Russ was dying and then over to another hospital to spend time with Everett and Beverly. It is this pastoral work that has always fed me in ministry even when it has been sad or difficult. I will miss this. What I look forward to as I look ahead to retirement is the flexibility to be more present for the younger generations in our own family.

I hope the stewardship baskets have come to your door in the past week and that you have passed them on. There is only one more week before we dedicate them on November 20th.

Blessings,
Jean

Profile Plan

Take the Pulse

Probe for Insight

Draft & Refine

Finalize & Deliver



Sept. 11

Dec. 11

A big thank you to everyone who participated in the “house party” process to review and discuss the survey results. During the last two weeks, we facilitated 9 small-group meetings and had more than 60 people in attendance!

If you were unable to attend, a summary of the survey findings is available on the website at: <http://www.upanewtonma.org/PastorSearchInfo>. Click on the link that says “Profile Survey Summary.”

The small-group discussions were very helpful for our task – creating a thoughtful profile – yet they also raised questions about our congregation that will not be addressed by this committee. The Profile Committee is charged to faithfully represent the congregation to a future pastor, so there are no surprises when he/she accepts the position. ***Our observation, from the survey responses and the house party meetings, is that there is a need for further conversations in the parish.*** Some of our congregation’s issues are financial priorities (including Outreach funding), determining the appropriate level of staffing, and how best to achieve membership growth. These issues have taken years to develop and are not unique to our church. ***The United Parish of Auburndale will need to take these issues up – over time and perhaps through a strategic planning process.*** We think it is premature to propose answers to these questions until a new pastor is in place to help guide and facilitate a church-wide discernment process.

Over the next two weeks, the Profile Committee will be engaged in the Draft & Refine phase of the Profile Plan. Here are the key upcoming dates:

- Sun, Nov 20 – Post a draft Profile on the website for review.
- Sun, Dec 4 – Host an after-church forum on the revised draft. Details TBC.
- Sun, Dec 11 – Hold a congregational vote on the final Profile.

In the interim, if you would like to view the Profile template provided by the New England Conference, it is available at: <http://www.upanewtonma.org/PastorSearchInfo>.



Mission: 1 a Success!

Big thanks to all who contributed so generously to the UCC's national effort to feed the hungry last weekend. We collected an impressive 303 food items for the Eliot Church Food Pantry in Roxbury and are still counting food and other items donated for Families Feeding Families at Boston Medical Center's Grow Clinic. The tally is bound to be our best yet!

Also, seven UPA members served at the Women's Lunch Place in Boston for a total of 21 volunteer hours on Saturday. They helped prepare, serve and clean up a mid-day meal for about 125 low-income and homeless women who depend on the daytime shelter for a nutritious meal. Many thanks to Mary Lou Walsh, Carol Walsh, Karen Hernandez, Amber Apfel, Pamela Chen, and Leonora McVittie for their hard work.

Lastly, \$205 was contributed on Sunday to the special offering for East Africa Famine Relief (\$50) and Neighbors in Need (\$155). Online donations can be made up until 11.11.11 at ucc.org

Kris Finn for Outreach & Julie Redmond for Christian Education

WILL YOU BE THERE? ...WE NEED YOU !!!

Every set of hands will be important on

Sunday November 20th

as we put our church yard in order –

(aka rake up the leaves)

Come to church on that Sunday morning dressed to participate

in the annual yard clean – up Please bring a rake (put your name on it)



From the Youth Minister:

Let me be frank—making God part of your life and your child’s life is a priority—just as much as soccer, clubs, dance, work, and hockey. This priority is not just about trying to go to church every Sunday and going to Sunday school, but it is about full participation in life with God as a focus in almost everything you do. Impossible? Maybe. Worth trying? Indeed.

On Saturday, three members of the high school youth group, three other UPA adults, and myself, went to the Women’s Lunch Place in Back Bay and volunteered serving lunch to over two-hundred women and their children. After we finished serving, we had the opportunity to sit and chat with some of the women. I love talking to other people, so, I plopped myself down at a table and began talking with Winnie. Winnie was about fifty years old and originally from Kenya. She lived in New Jersey for years, where her two grown sons still live, but decided to move to Boston to find better housing. Instead, she ended up homeless. As we conversed, she point blankly asked, “Why are you volunteering here?” I told her it was my first time at the shelter, but honestly, I liked the human connection and that’s why I was there. She stared at me in disbelief and said, “You aren’t doing this for your resume?” I bluntly said, “No. I’m not. I love talking with people from all over, hearing their stories, and learning from them.” Honestly, I think she thought was full of bull. I thought about bringing God into it and how I try, and many times fail, to let God lead me through my days and nights, helping me make the best choices I can as I make my way through this world and interact with people. Because I believe that in the end, it really is about our connection and our interactions with people. It is not about who wins the soccer game, or which club to join, or what city I live in—for me, as a Christian, it is about my relationship with God and others, and how those relationships manifest and become what makes our world, and more, my life. I wrote a piece on this human connection for State of Formation that you can find here:

<http://www.stateofformation.org/2010/11/finding-god-in-the-slums-of-mumbai/>

I think it is important that we teach our kids at an early age that God is everywhere. The more we do this, the more they will find God to be a priority in their lives. By priority, I am talking about committing to more than just church as a source to be with God in yours and your child’s life when it is convenient. Since my arrival to UPA I have been told that the mindset here won’t change – UPA youth are busy, therefore they only attend what they can find time for. Although I appreciate this effort, I also translate this as UPA youth finding time for God, church, and events, only if they don’t already have something else planned. This is frustrating for the one planning activities, but also sad for the youth because they are missing church as a vital place to connect with God. What I would love to see is that parents, children, and youth make a commitment to make God and UPA a priority, just as much, if not more, as their sports and their clubs. This would make a huge difference, not only in the life of the youth at UPA, but in parent’s lives as well

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The youth that served at the homeless shelter with me yesterday did get some of their community service hours in, but more, they experienced witnessing women from all over the world—all different ages, religions, and races, coming together to eat a meal, get warm, and talk amongst themselves. Not too far away from the comfortable Newton affluence, these teens experienced God at work through grace and dignity at a homeless shelter for women. This, I am happy to say, is what I hope for all children and youth at UPA – to meet God inside and outside UPA, in any way they can.

November Youth Group Schedule

November 13 - Both middle school and high school youth will meet on Sunday in the youth room from 11:30-1:00 - pizza and drinks will be provided. Our topic will be, "If I could ask God one question..."

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

To give you some background: I grew up as an Episcopalian and my husband Bob as a Methodist. When we first married, we visited several churches of both denominations, but Bob really didn't like to kneel, so we've been Methodist ever since. In each place we've lived, our church has been a focus of our lives. Leaving our church families is always one of the hardest parts of moving.

Last year when we moved to this area, we knew we wanted to be part of a progressive church. So, I searched the web for reconciling congregations in Newton and found UPA. Our family feels very fortunate to have found this wonderful congregation and thank you very much for the warm welcome we've received here.

I've been listening to stewardship sermons and stewardship moments for over forty years now and wanted to share with you a few things that I remember because they resonated with me.

One of our friends who led the stewardship campaign at our church in Connecticut reminded us that Jesus warned "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." He asked us "How much did you spend on vacation this year?" Did we leave our hearts in San Francisco, Disneyworld or in Europe? We could extend that concept to address the many other areas of our lives where we use our disposable income.

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A couple years ago, our church in Wisconsin offered a course focused on freeing up our financial lives from forces within our culture that may or may not be consistent with our values and goals. We learned that more than two thousand scripture passages touch on the theme of money. About two-thirds of Jesus' parables make reference to our use of financial resources. Even two thousand years ago, it was apparent that people's hearts could easily be led from devotion to God into areas of worry and even obsession over possessions.

One of the good things about pledging to the church each fall is that we decide ahead of time how much of our resources we will give to our church, not wait until the end of each month to see how much is left over. Our church is too important to be funded with leftovers.

In addition to our support of the needs of our local congregation, one thing I love about putting my envelope in the offering plate is that we are supporting some wonderful programs that wouldn't be possible unless we were doing it together. I think it's terrific that UPA is donating 35% of its income to organizations that minister to human needs locally, nationally and internationally. As part of the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist church, we are supporting disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad, most recently through sending supplies to the people affected by the earthquake in Turkey. Our funds enable training health workers, supporting hospitals and retirement homes, educational institutions, fighting malaria and AIDS and speaking out on issues of peace and justice, poverty and human rights throughout the world.

Back on the home front, I was delighted to learn that UPA allocated \$8500 in donations to Open, Affirming and Reconciling Ministries last year.

It's really great to be part of this church and have the opportunity to share in ministry together with you! *Carol Dutton*

Youth Update: *Holiday Wreath Sale*

This Holiday Season, United Parish Youth will be selling Down East Mission Wreaths to raise money for Heifer International. The wreaths are 24 inches and will cost \$22 a wreath. Down East Maine Missions is a social justice ministry that supports many community-sustaining initiatives in Washington County Maine. We will begin taking orders in two weeks, on Sunday, November 13th. The delivery of the wreaths will take place in late November or early December. We will order 80 wreaths, so please make sure to order yours without delay once we begin taking orders. A sign up sheet will be available at coffee hour if you want to order a wreath!

UPA Veterans' and Active Duty List November 2011

Name	Years of Service	Branch	Rate/Rank	Specialty	Geographic Area of Service	UPA Status
Robert Austin	1948-50; 1950-52	U.S. Army	E-3	Personnel	VA, CA, Japan	Current Member
Richard Beard	1957-58	U.S. Army	SP	Clerk, Chaplain's Asst	NJ	Current Member
Russell Carle	1942-1944	U.S. Army Air Corps	Staff SGT	Aerial Tail Gunner	12th Air Force, 65 Combat Missions Over Italy, France	Current Member
Roger Carpenter	1940-1945	U.S. Army	SGT	Field Artillery	Eastern US, Europe Combat Units	Current Member
James Cavanaugh	1943-1945	U.S. Army	CPL.	Armored Vehicles- Halftrack Cdr	1st Army, 3rd Armored. Europe, Battle of the Bulge	Deceased - Husband of Elaine Cavanaugh
Mike Clark	2003-	Defense Dep.	GS14	Cartographer	Iraq- 4 deployments, Special Forces	Bruce McVittie's brother-in-law
Ronald C. Davis	1943-1945	U.S. Army	N.C.O.		Served in European Theater	Toni Miller's Brother - also 2 brothers-in-law served in WW 2
Chet Douglas	1965-67	U.S. Navy	LT	Dental Corps	Naval Station, Newport, Atlantic Fleet	Current Member
Robert Dutton	1965-1967	U.S. Navy	LTJG	Damage Control Officer	USS Gyatt (DD-712)	Current Member
Rev. Walter Holcomb	1943-1946	U.S. Navy Chaplain	LT	Preparing Personnel for Civilian Life	England. Los Angeles CA	Deceased, Former Member
Todd Hunt	1984-2005	U.S. Air Force	Retired	Transpt, computers	Iraq (2), Afghanistan	Carol Woodworth's Son-in-law
Richard Ingalls	1950-54	U.S. Army	LT	Signal Corps	U.S.	Deceased-Former Member
Edwin F. Jones	1941-46	Royal Air Force	Flight LT	Coastal Command	England	Deceased- Husband of Margaret Jones
Nancy Ingalls Marshall	1987-91	U.S. Navy	E-4 Tech		Hawaii, Guam, CA, Scotland	Pat Ingall's Daughter

Robert McGovern	1950-52	U.S. Army	N.C.O.		Korea	Kevin McGovern's father-deceased
John McGrath	1965-69	U.S. Army	E-5 SGT	Counter-intelligence	Heidelberg Germany	Current Member
Robert McQuillen	1951-1953	U.S. Army	E-3	Logistics	Korea	Current Member
Kevin Mead	2008-	U.S. Air Force	Airman		Germany	Carol Woodworth's Grandson
James Miller	1956-1959	U.S. Navy	LT.	Radar Officer Early Warning Aircraft	VW 15, North Atlantic Newfoundland/Azores	Current Member
Gerry Nye	1967-1969	U.S. Navy	LT.	Seabeas	Viet Nam (2); U.S.	Former Member
Jane Rawlings	1941-1946	U.S. Navy	LTJG	U.S. Navy Nurse	San Diego CA - OB/GYN; served with Dr. Spock	Deceased-Former Member
Aiden Redmond	1953-1955	U.S. Coast Guard	NCO		Coast Guard Cutters in North Atlantic	Brian Redmond's Father
Robert Stevens	1966-1969	U.S. Army	E-4 Tech	High Security Processing	Pentagon; Fort Holabird MD	Current Member
Robert Stewart	1954-56	U.S. Army	SP-3	Cook, butcher	Germany (7th Army), VA	Current Member
David Stuart	1970-1972	U.S. Navy	LT	Engineering Officer	USS Tattail, Mayport FL	Current Member
Christopher Walsh	2008-2011	U.S. Marines	1st LT.	Platoon Leader	Served in Iraq, Afghanistan	Current Member
Thomas Walsh	1967-1969	U.S. Peace Corps	Volunteer		India	Current Member
James Wong	1950-1952	U.S. Army	CPL.	Civil Engineer	Fairbanks AK	Deceased/Former Member
Robert ("Fred") Wright	1942-1972	U.S. Air Force	LT COL.		Served in WW2, Korea and Viet Nam	Ellen Wright's Father
Frank Wright	1976-1982	U.S. Army	SP-4			Ellen Wright's Brother
Thomas Wright	1982-1990	U.S. Army	StaffSGT.			Ellen Wright's Brother
Sara Zakrzewski	1995-1999 1999-2007	U.S. Air Force Academy/U.S. Air Force	CAPT.	Finance Officer	Hanscom Air Force Base; Saudi Arabia	Current Member

Save the Date:

Sunday, November 13, 2011

The Jewish Community Relations Council
and Newton Highlands Congregational Church invite you to

A Conversation for Clergy on Interfaith Relations in Israel and the U.S. with Yossi Klein Halevi

Sunday, November 13, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Newton Highlands Congregational Church

54 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands

Please RSVP to Sandra Krumholz at skrumholz@jrcrboston.org or at (617) 457-

Fall Stewardship

By now you should have heard—or read in the Together newsletter—the powerful Stewardship Moments of Christine Gallivan and Carol Dutton. It is their personal stories on giving and the importance of our church that explain why the United Parish of Auburndale a very special place.

This fall we have spoken about why it is particularly important to “**rise to the occasion**” for our collective stewardship contribution. We need healthy pledges to:

- **Ensure we attract and retain high quality staff**
- **Support our many great and important programs**
- **Make up the shortfall due to a reduction in endowment income**

This year we are asking you to “dig down deep in your heart” when thinking about your pledge to the United Parish of Auburndale. We need everyone to pledge. For those who pledged last year, we need you to consider increasing your pledge by 5%. If you are new to pledging, please ask a member for guidance.

If you are a **Basket Captain**, please check in with your “**basketees**” to make sure the baskets are still moving along.

We need all baskets returned/brought to church this Sunday for **Consecration Sunday, November 13th**.

If you have any questions or suggestions about pledging, please contact a member of the Board of Stewardship listed below for a confidential conversation.

*--Lyman Jackson (617-653-3303) for the Board of Stewardship:
Lynne Austin-Tolley (781-956-0570), Doug Cornelius (617-795-2496).*

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

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2011
10:00 a.m. - Worship
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
11:30 a.m. - Youth Meeting
12:00 p.m. - Chinese Luncheon
12:00 p.m. - Choir Appreciation Luncheon
Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2011
7:30 a.m. - Bible Study
7:00 p.m. - Bristol Lodge
7:30 p.m. - Profile Committee
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 2011
12:00 p.m. - Senior Group
7:30 p.m. - Parish Council
Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011
3:30 p.m. - Children's Choir
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir
Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011
9:00 a.m. - Children Sing
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Thanksgiving & Consecration Sunday
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
12:00 p.m. - Fall Clean Up

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.