

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

Nov. 21, 2010 Thanksgiving Sunday

Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost



Scriptures: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

John 6:25-35

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: Culinary Theology

Reader: Beverly Loudin

Head Ushers: Beverly Loudin and Scott Epstein

Assistant Usher: Nancy Clark

Acolytes: Chase Gallivan and Nicholas Hoch

Fellowship Time: McGrath & Walsh, Carol/Tom

Roamer: Mahala Davenport

Food figures heavily in the holiday we will celebrate very shortly. Most of us have family traditions about what our Thanksgiving feast should include. In most celebrations around the world, food is one of the central ways we express celebration. Our scriptures for this Thanksgiving Sunday also include food, but in surprising ways.

Fellowship of the Concerned:

Congratulations and many good wishes to **Martha Holmes** who will turn 106 on Friday, November 19th.

Nov. 21 Forum: Maine Sea Coast Mission

The Board of Outreach will host a forum after Sunday's coffee hour on its Maine Sea Coast Mission trip last August. Organizer **Carol Walsh** and other volunteers will have lots of slides and enthusiastic commentary about their weeklong experience shingling a home for a single mother and her child in northern Maine while staying at a coastal campground. Because this experiment was so successful (and the lobsters and blueberries were so tasty!), the group recommends that we repeat the opportunity next August – and perhaps fine-tune it for families. So if it's something you might consider – or if you just want a momentary escape to the summery coast of Maine – *then please join us this Sunday.*

Families Feeding Families Great Success.

Thanks to everyone who donated clothing, diapers, baby food, vitamins, etc. to the Grow Clinic. We delivered over 35 bags of clothing and food and many boxes of diapers (a fully packed Subaru Outback!). The Grow Clinic estimated the value of these items at between \$3,000 - \$4,000. This was a great showing of support for the Grow Clinic that serves the neediest patients who are diagnosed with Failure to Thrive.

Thanks,
Bill



Monday Musing - Woodstock, VT

What a privilege this experience has been attending *Writing for the Pastoral Life*. I've been with 11 other clergy colleagues, mostly from around New England but one from Wisconsin and another all the way from east Texas. Our leaders have been Martin Copenhaver, Senior Minister of the Wellesley Village Church and Lillian Daniels, Senior Pastor of the UCC church in Glen Ellyn IL, Don Ottendorf from the Collegeville Institute, in Collegeville MN, which provided part of the funding for this experience, and Marge Barrett, a writing coach also from Minnesota.

I was apprehensive about what it would be like to submit my writing to the scrutiny of others but it has proved to be a very supportive and helpful experience. It has made me begin to rethink my identity. I've always thought of writing as something that supported my vocation as a pastor. I'm beginning to think that perhaps I have another calling as well.

Apart from the 4 hours a day we spend in sessions working together, there has been time to take walks and time to read and write. The first couple of days the writing just came pouring out of me like a floodgate had been opened in the dam. Part of what I will have to do when I return is fit this need to write into the schedule of my life, otherwise I know it won't happen. In the meantime, I'm just so grateful for this time and for those who have made it possible both at the UPA and elsewhere for it to happen. I'll be back Wednesday in time for Parish Council.

I hope the stewardship baskets have been successfully making their rounds through our church community. It makes the job of the stewardship committee and our church treasurer so much easier once they know what our pledges are for next year will be because the budget has to be created around that important figure. So the sooner we receive your pledge for next year, the sooner they can begin that important work.

Thanks and peace,

Jean

Announcement

On December 8th, Circle of Caring at Hospice of the Good Shepherd will once again partner with the Newton Free Library to host *“In Your Dreams You’re Never 80: Using Life Stories with Older Adults in Hospice Work”* presented by Katie McInnis-Dittrich, ACSW, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chair, Older Adults & Families Concentration, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work.

The evening’s presentation will explore how hospice workers and family members can use the “life stories” of older adults to help improve mood, identify unresolved issues, and deepen relationships during end-of-life care. Specific suggestions for accessing these life stories and ways in which to make them meaningful will be offered.

“In your dreams You’re Never 80” will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 8th at the Newton Free Library, 330 Homer St. in Newton Centre. Registration begins at 6:45 p.m. and the program will take place from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The event is free to the public and space can be reserved by contacting the Hospice office or sending an email to Jennifer at jsax@hospicegoodshepherd.org. Continuing Education Credits for nurses, social workers & marriage & family therapists are available for a \$10.00 processing fee. Payment can be made ahead of time or at registration.

For more information about programs and services offered by Circle of Caring at Hospice of the Good Shepherd, please call the Hospice office at 617-969-6130 or visit our website at www.hospicegoodshepherd.org.

Giving Thanks

Our special *Thanksgiving offering* this year will benefit The Greater Boston Food Bank, which distributes more than 31 million pounds of food and grocery products annually to over 600 hunger-relief agencies. These include food pantries, meals programs, and emergency shelters serving as many as 545,000 people across eastern Massachusetts. Thanksgiving offering envelopes will be collected Nov. 21st and 28th.

Please give generously.





The community in which you choose to live, indeed, can be an oasis of comfort in the midst of a maddeningly impersonal world.

-Brad Henry

Stewardship Moment 11-14-10 (Linda Wood-Boyle)

Imagine...

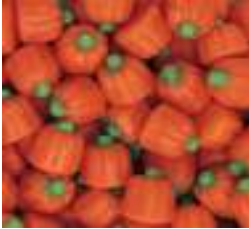
- that you and your spouse are making minimum wage, you have two children and one of them has contracted the measles and must stay at home for a week. You have no childcare options. And you don't get sick pay. You lose a week's pay and have to choose between food for your family and paying your rent.
- a budget that is so tight that you overdraw your checking account and are charged a \$35 overdraft fee but you were counting on that \$35 to buy diapers and formula for the week.
- you are a young school teacher, laid off due to budget cuts. You found a job waitressing but cannot keep up with your student loan payments because you can't make enough money.
- that because your car broke down and needed to be repaired so that you can get to work, you got behind on your rent. You are about to be evicted and move to a shelter or motel at the cost of \$45,000 a year to the state when a few hundred dollars could have preserved your tenancy and not uprooted the whole family.
- that your apartment was ruined due to a fire and subsequent water damage. You have to start over again but don't have the funds to pay for first and last month's rent plus the security deposit to get started.
- that a neighbor had bedbugs and you had to leave your apartment for 3 days while the property management company fumigated the whole building. The only place you had to stay was a hotel, straining an already dicey budget.

These are just a few of the things that we at HomeStart face with our homelessness prevention program. So many times, we see instances when just a few hundred dollars can make a difference in preserving a tenancy for a family and avoiding shelter.

The funds from UPA help to pay for those things...something as simple as a box of diapers or formula, or a rent arrearage because of an unexpected necessary expense. Support from faith communities enable our advocates to respond to these situations and help keep a family housed, avoiding uprooting the family, sending the children to different schools near whatever shelter they are living in.

I am in kind of a cool position. I get to see firsthand, the impact of my church's outreach and, in the case of HomeStart, I continue to be profoundly grateful and humbled by it. UPA does make a difference in people's lives.

(Linda is the President and Executive Director of HomeStart, Inc.)



It's Tuesday, November 16th Do You Know Where Your Stewardship Basket Is?

This Sunday, November 21st, is Consecration Sunday. Whether your pledge arrives in a basket, in the collection plate or via Snail Mail, please join us this Sunday when we will collect and bless our donations to the 2011 Stewardship Campaign. But don't worry if you can't seem to locate that pledge card with your name on it, we will accept write-in pledges on the cards that will be available to you in the pews on Sunday morning. And, unlike Alaska, we won't be checking the spelling on your pledge card! We even accept pledges that contain extra zeroes!

Whether your pledge is large or small, it is important that you support the United Parish with your financial gift. Our endowment income is down \$13,500 in 2011 so we hope that those who are able will increase their pledges accordingly. Some will be able to give more, some less. All pledges are welcome and appreciated. The UPA supports many important programs like HomeStart, Inc. in our local, state, national and international communities. We can continue that support only with your generous donation.

Thank you for your continued financial support!
Beverly Loudin, Mark and Cathy Paris

Youth Update:

Youth and Fams, How are you all? This Sunday, November 21st, the youth group will be cooking and sharing a Thanksgiving meal to celebrate our thankfulness for the many good things in our lives. We will be meeting at the usual time (11:30 am) and in the usual place (UPA Youth Room). We will finish at 1:00 pm. As I mentioned last week, I will be sending an email reminder out to jog your memories as to what food you committed to provide. We will have around 30 minutes to spend in preparation during youth group time, so if your food will take longer than 30 minutes to prepare, make it at home and bring it with you to youth group. I will be making two chickens for us to share as the main course. If you have any questions, please call or email me. My phone number is **857.919.6840**. My email address is mikenilon@gmail.com. I look forward to seeing you soon and tasting whatever delicacy you bring or make!

Peace, *Mike*

Dear Friends, Our children have spoken! They have chosen the following two organizations to support with the money accrued through their church giving.

1. Make a Wish Foundation

Enables a terminally ill child to make a trip or have a special event that she or he would otherwise not be able to afford. For instance, Make a Wish Foundation has provided money for seriously-ill kids to go to Disneyworld.

2. Free to Smile

Prepares care packages including coloring books, art supplies, and blankets to children in Guatemala who have undergone a cleft palate surgery.

In January, the Board of Christian Education will decide exactly how much money to devote to each organization in light of their needs and the total amount available in our account.

Again, I have enjoyed seeing our youth and children rise to the challenge and make decisions about how the money they have given will be used. They are remarkable and deserve our congratulations! May God bless these decisions we have made together.

Peace, *Mike*



Youth Update: *Holiday Wreath Sale*

This Holiday Season, United Parish Youth will be selling Down East Mission Wreaths to raise money for Heifer International. There are two sizes of wreath: the bigger wreaths are 24 inches and are \$22 a wreath; the smaller wreaths are 16 inches and \$19 a wreath. The wreath that we displayed this past Sunday is the larger size. Since we did not take down the size of wreath that you ordered this weekend, we will assume that you desire to purchase the larger wreath. Please let us know if your preference is otherwise.

Down East Maine Missions is a social justice ministry that supports many community-sustaining initiatives in Washington County Maine. Just a few of the many organizations that they support are Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Migrant Ministries, The We Care Baby Center, and Scouting. Because the wreaths are a fair-trade product, a large portion of the proceeds go directly to the artisan responsible for creating the beautiful harbinger of holiday cheer you will receive and put up on your wall or door.



We started taking orders this past Sunday, November 14th, and we have already ordered 36 wreaths, almost half of the total number of wreaths we planned to order! Just to remind you of when your delivery will arrive, Down East Maine Missions typically delivers the wreaths in late November or early December. Please make sure to order your wreath without delay!



***Godspell at Turtle Lane Playhouse in Auburndale Square
Sunday, December 12 at 2 p.m.***

Ask Jean to sing you a line of “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord.” It’s a favorite of hers and she sings it beautifully. If you haven’t heard this 1970 musical, mark your calendar. If you have, join us anyhow. That tune and more are a part of this modern song-and-dance recreation of the Gospel of St. Matthew.

The Community Board is organizing a group ticket purchase for this performance. Pricing will be \$22 - \$28 per ticket, depending on how big a group will attend. Tickets must be purchased by Nov 28th. Please sign-up after church in the parish hall, or by emailing Carie Michael; carie.michael@gmail.com.

<http://www.turtlelane.org/showdetail.php?show=Godspell>

Giving Groceries

Please contribute non-perishables to the Food Pantry at Eliot Church in Roxbury. Deposit items any time into the shopping cart in the narthex.



Alerting All Boards...UPA Has a New Recycle Bin!

Any items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling

(Located behind the building)

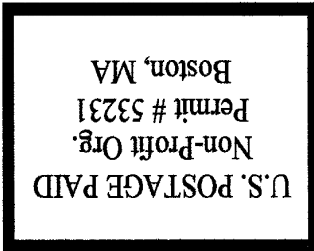
Recycling Guidelines:

RECYCLING	WHAT TO RECYCLE	DO NOT INCLUDE
Mixed Paper & Newspaper		Coated paper
Thin Cardboard		Coated boxes
Corrugated cardboard	Flattened & folded	Greasy cardboard
Tin/aluminum scrap metal	Alum & tin cans - incl. aerosol cans	Paint cans & scrap metal
Glass bottles and jars		Broken glass
Plastic bottles & containers	Numbers 1-7	Shopping bags, food wrap
Milk Cartons	Milk and juice cartons	TV Dinner

Snow Shoveling Help

The City of Newton is looking for people willing to shovel snow for local senior residents for a fee. Please visit Newton's Parks Department website www.ci.newton.ma.us/parks/ to find the application for snow shoveling or call **617 796-1500**.





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

This Coming Week at UPA:

Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010

- 9:00 a.m. - Children's Choir
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship/Thanksgiving and Stewardship Sunday
- 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
- 11:30 a.m. - Maine Mission Adult Forum
- 11:30 a.m. - Youth Group

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 2010

- 7:30 a.m. - Bible Study

Thursday, Nov. 25, 2010

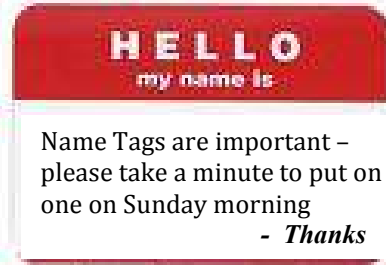
- Office Closed - Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 26, 2010

- Office Closed - Day after Thanksgiving

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010

- 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. Please contribute.

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.