

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

November 27, 2011-First Sunday in Advent

Lighting the First Advent Candle: The Bean Family



Dedication of Advent Wreath

Sacrament of Baptism for Dylan Spicer

Scriptures: Mark 13:24-37

1 Corinthians 1:17-31

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: "The Folly of God"

Scripture Reader: Rod Rohda

Ushers: Toni and Jim Miller

Acolytes: Jack Wylie & PJ Membrino

Fellowship: Potluck

Sermon: A new church year begins as we prepare for the ritual celebration of the birth of Jesus. The advent scriptures at the beginning of the season are always full of reminders that God's ways are not our ways and that the birth of the Christ will not be joyous for everyone, but will shake things up on the earth. Anyone who has had a new baby recently knows how true that is. They shake up our lives and change them forever. Are you ready to be changed this Advent?

Fellowship of the Concerned

We celebrate that **Everett Nickerson** has returned home and that **Beverly Loudin's** surgery went well and is also home recovering.

One joy is that Melissa Wylie's father, **Bill Garner**, emerged pain-free from back surgery and is able to visit Newton for Thanksgiving.

First Friday for Families

December 2nd 6:30-8:30 pm

*Join us for a quiet evening with other parents . Let's talk about the Christmas we would like to have and the one we fear we might have.
Child care provided*

Bring a salad or dessert to share

Donation requested \$10-20

*Rsvp on Facebook or
to Jean Alexander by
Tuesday, Nov. 29th*

jalexander@upanewtonma.org



Monday Musings

I can't quite believe that it is the week of Thanksgiving. It snuck up on me this year. We are looking forward to our now annual trip to Brooklyn to feast with family there. I know from conversations yesterday that some are staying here and hosting friends and family and others, like us, will be traveling. Yesterday Dana Dornbusch articulated yesterday what a number of people have told me that Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday. I think it is because the focus is really on being together without the pressure of gift buying and giving as well as all the other expectations that seem to come with the Christmas holiday. So I hope the bonds of family and friendship are woven more tightly this week around whatever tables you are sitting.

Yesterday was a feast of another kind. We had wonderful music by the choirs. Stambandet joined us as they do each year to swell the adult choir and the children's choir sang, as always, like cherubs. Jane Leikin sang a beautiful solo during the offertory and the hymns were all familiar. Allen LeVines played one of his own pieces for the postlude that was quite fine. We had excellent attendance and it was a particular joy for Joy Douglass that both of her children and their families were worshipping with us.

After church a lot of people were very busy raking. **Thank you** everyone who stayed and raked. There are now huge piles of leaves for Kevin Newman's crew to take away this week thanks to our combined efforts. One of the cutest things was seeing Casey Wong in his bright blue polar fleece jacket perched in the middle of the leaf piles like a little bird on his nest. I wish I had remembered to bring my camera because there were many photo ops yesterday.

When I came in after raking, there was another group in the Norton Room, the Profile Committee who had been hard at work fine tuning the profile while we were raking. I know they are feeling the pressure of time now as they make it ready to release to the congregation. Bob Dutton sent me a draft copy last week and then he, Elizabeth McVittie and Bill Hock and I met to get my feedback. I was very impressed by the work they had done and I think you will be pleased with the final product.

In the midst of the regular work of the parish these days, I've started cleaning out files and throwing piles of stuff away. In recent months I've been giving away my library to our former seminary interns and current staff. Starting this Sunday I will leave my office door open after church and I encourage the congregation to take anything they would like to read. I'm only going to keep a small fraction of my library. I have enough books at home and really, how often do we reread books? So please take.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and if you are traveling, stay safe.

Jean

Profile Plan

Take the Pulse

Probe for Insight

Draft & Refine

Finalize & Deliver



Sept. 11

Dec. 11

The Profile Committee is working diligently to distill all the inputs from our process into a cohesive document to present to our United Methodist District Superintendent, Martin McLee, and for discussion and discernment by the “cabinet” (the Bishop of the New England Conference and all the district superintendents).

One new piece of information we just received was a recommendation to prioritize our pastoral needs. As a reminder, the profile form asks a church to rank 8 roles as priorities for the next pastor. To better guide the process, we have been advised to break these 8 roles into “deal-breakers” and “priorities.”

After much review, our plan is to elevate the following as “deal-breakers.”

1. Preaching
2. Vision – Leading Congregation
3. Church Administration
4. Spiritual Growth for Members

The remaining 4 “priorities,” which will also be important to the matching process, follow:

5. Youth Ministry
6. Evangelism/Membership Growth
7. Visitation – Congregation and Community
8. Leading & Designing Worship

In the published draft of the profile, available Sunday, November 27, there will be more detail and rationale about how we interpret these roles and why we are elevating them. We look forward to posting that document after Thanksgiving, and receiving the congregation’s feedback at a forum on December 4.

From the Youth Minister:

It's all about respect, right? Yes, it is. So, how do we teach our kids to respect you as their parent, to respect their teachers, and other adult leaders in their lives? I know when Katy hit fourth or fifth grade, it was as though an alien had taken over her body and I wanted to ask her, "Who are you and what have you done with my sweet, loving child?!" In high school, I sometimes wondered if her head would start to turn all the way around like Linda Blair in the Exorcist...really, she was that unruly sometimes. Even though she is now 21 and we have always been very close, we still have moments where we clash. We are so much alike, yet that likeness is like oil and water.

Over the years I have had many "respect" talks with Katy. She was very angry at my former husband and I because of our divorce. I don't blame her. Andy and I were really good parents, we just weren't good at being husband and wife. As we moved through our lives at that time, Katy was incredibly disrespectful, to me mostly. When we were both in India our last trip in 2010, we were at each other's throats sometimes, mostly because of what we were witnessing in the slums of Mumbai and we had no outlet to discuss it, except with each other. Coming across dying women, malnourished children, and extremely chaotic living conditions will do that to you. But, Katy was also sometimes disrespectful when she simply didn't get her way, or when we told her to do something she didn't want to do.

What I have realized in all this however, is that kids, young adults, and even us as adults, react to things differently. In that reaction, especially as kid's emotions evolve, develop, and create havoc in their bodies, this manifests in many ways. I think disrespect stems from a lot of factors and the more we are in tune as to what those factors are, the more we can address the disrespect. Are they tired? Do they have too much going on in their lives? Do they have too much homework? Are they picking up your stress? Do they feel isolated at school for some reason? It took me a long time to understand that most of the time Katy's disrespect stemmed from what was occurring in her life and her reaction to that. Until I noted that, I struggled with finding ways to help her and address her disrespect.

I will be honest and say that there is also disrespect when parents simply do not teach their child to respect them as parents. If your child doesn't respect you, they certainly will not respect any other adult figure in their lives. This is a given. I will not tell people how to parent their child, but, what I can say is that we all know what is right, and we all know how to teach our children to be respectful, loving, compassionate human beings.

After today's children's sermon, I think the issues with some of the Sunday school kids being disrespectful to their teachers will cease. Yet, it never does any harm to remind them to always listen, raise their hands when speaking, be patient, and respect others around them. These are simple life lessons that will not only show up in Sunday school, but in their lives in general. This is always a good thing and will be something they will carry with into their adult lives and pass on to their children.

Youth Schedule

December

Dec. 4 - Youth group helps with Advent Party – 11AM – 1:30PM - Youth will meet downstairs right after service to work with/help kids with games/crafts, etc.

Dec. 4 - Holiday Party and caroling, December 4, 4:00PM - 6:30PM

Dec. 11 - Combined Youth meeting, 11:30-1:00

Dec. 18 - Combined youth meeting, prep for Christmas Eve Service – learn dance, etc. 11:30-2:00

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service -5:00PM

**There is no youth meeting because of Thanksgiving
Wishing you many blessings and a Happy Thanksgiving!**



Call to Special Meeting of the United Parish of Auburndale Sunday, December 11, 2011, 11:00 AM

As the Clerk of the United Parish of Auburndale and in accordance with the by laws of the church, you are notified of a Special Meeting of the United Parish of Auburndale to take place immediately following the worship service on Sunday December 11, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of the church.

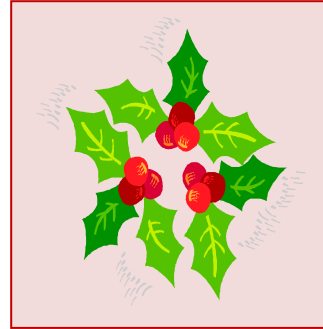
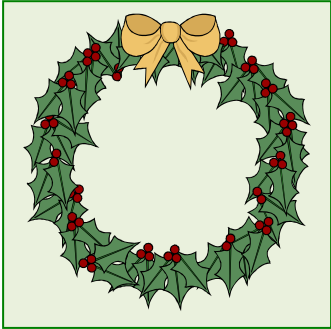
The purpose of the meeting is to approve the proposed Profile for Mission and Ministry for delivery to the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church. This Profile will be used to help identify our new Methodist Minister. All members of the United Parish of Auburndale are encouraged to attend and participate..

The Call is posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Agnew, Clerk

Come Hang with Us!

Saturday, November 26th--come at 9 AM to hang stars in the sanctuary; stay until 10 AM to help hang wreaths, too!' Contact Katie Jackson with star questions, Patricia Bottomley with wreath questions.



Think poinsettias! December is fast approaching.



The Altar Group group will decorate the altar Sat. December 10th.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the bulletin on Nov. 27th and Dec. 4th.

The Altar Committee

Worship in Advent

December 4- Second Sunday in Advent – Communion Sunday (Intinction)

Lighting the Second Advent Candle-The Woolery/Mackowski Family
Scriptures-Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Preaching: Jean Alexander
Sermon: Comfort Food

December 11 –Third Sunday in Advent

Music Sunday

Lighting the Second Advent Candle-The McMullen/Van der Plas Family
Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
John 1:6-8, 19-28
Christmas music of Gustav Holst

5 pm Blue Christmas Service

This service is for those who want to bring their fears and pain to a quiet place and offer them to God. In a season that doesn't leave much room for those struggling with difficult issues this service in the early darkness is built around the lighting of advent candles of grief, fear, struggle, pain and give them to the healing embrace of God.

December 18-Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Christmas Pageant

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle-The Pan/Chen Family
Scriptures: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Luke 1:26-38
Preaching: Jean Alexander
Sermon: An Annoying Angel

December 25-Christmas Eve

5 pm Family Service
7:30 Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons and Carols

Book Group –Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.

For our Meeting on Friday, Dec. 9th The Book Group will read "Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens and "The Thanksgiving Visitor" by Truman Capote. We meet in the Norton Room from 10AM to noon. Visitors are always welcome. Meeting are on the 2nd Friday of each month.



We chose not to read "Molakai" by Allen Brennert For December. We had a good sized group to discuss. "One Thousand White Woman," while enjoyed Sophia Fitzhugh "Farmer's Bread" with coffee and tea.



The Prayer Shawl Group

will be meeting at Natalie Austrian's house:
20 Ware Road, Auburndale, MA
7:30 p.m. on **Monday, 11 28**. All are welcome!

MITTEN TREE



One of the holiday traditions of giving at the UPA is our commitment to REACH Beyond Domestic Violence (www.reachma.org), a fantastic organization that provides safe housing, counseling and other programs to women and children who are victims of domestic violence. Each year we purchase gifts for women and their children who otherwise might not be able to receive gifts at Christmas.

This year we are providing gifts for 12 women and children that are in need due to various situations arising from abusive relationships and domestic violence. We started with more than 60 gift requests in total. But because we were able to get the Mitten Tree up a week ahead of schedule and so many of you graciously participated on Sunday, we now have fewer than 20 left! If you would like to participate and weren't able to get a mitten this past Sunday, please see me this coming Sunday during coffee hour. I will be at the piano with the remaining mittens

And a HUGE THANKS for helping to provide these families with a little joy Christmas this year!

Kristin McGovern - Questions? Email me at mcgoverns@rcn.com

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!



Happy Advent!

Mission:1's goal was four-pronged: to collect more than 1 million food and household items for local food banks; to raise \$111,111 for hunger-related ministries and \$111,111 in online donations for East Africa famine relief; and to advocate for hunger-related causes worldwide by sending more than 11,111 letters to Congress.

By campaign's end, the letters goal had been tripled and the food goal had reached 125 million items. On Sunday evening, Nov. 13, monetary donations received for hunger-related ministries had topped \$91,000 and monies for East Africa relief stood at more than \$94,000. However, tallies of committed funds to the two causes not yet received by the UCC's national offices in Cleveland added up to more than \$130,000. An updated total will be announced in a few weeks..



"It is very clear that we are going to exceed all our goals," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, executive minister of the UCC's Local Church Ministries. "Perhaps in the end, we will collect more than \$300,000, \$400,000 — even half a million dollars."

(From UCC website)

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Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Worship/Baptism Dylan Spicer
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
11:30 a.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011

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

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011

7:00 p.m. - Open & Affirming

Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011

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

Friday, Dec. 2, 2011

6:30 - First Friday for Families

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Worship/Communion
11:00 a.m. - Profile Discussion
12:00 p.m. - Advent Potluck
4:00 p.m. - Youth Caroling & Christmas Party

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.