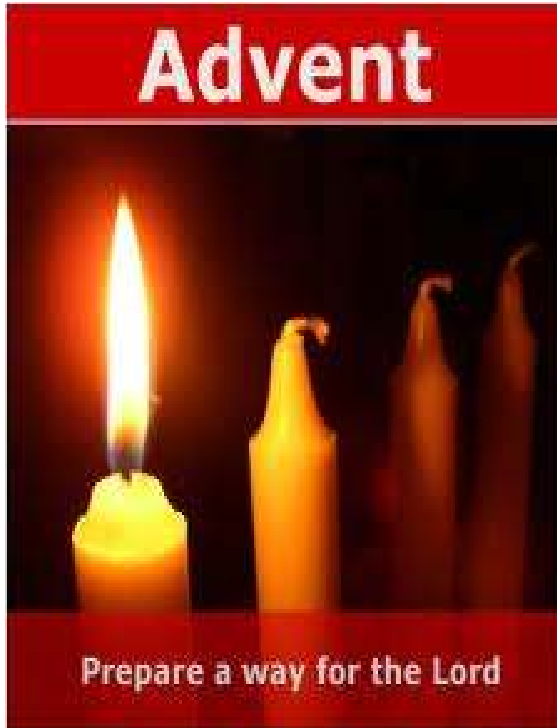


# United Parish of Auburndale

## TOGETHER

**Nov. 28, 2010**

**First Sunday in Advent**



**The Hanging of the Greens**

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

**Preaching:** Myungeun Park

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle:** Kristin, Kevin,  
Conor and Aiden McGovern

**Sermon:** Journey to Advent

**Reader:** Alex Beam

**Head Ushers:** Jan and Doug Spicer

**Assistant Ushers:** Toni and Jim Miller

**Acolytes:** Jack Wylie & Conor McGovern

**Fellowship Time:** Potluck

**Roamer:** Doug Spicer

Our First Sunday in Advent begins with familiar traditions, the hanging of the greens and the lighting of the first Advent candle. Another new year has begins in the Christian tradition, not with riotous celebration but with quiet, expectancy. This will also be our field education student Myungeun Park's first time to preach for us. Preaching for the first time in any congregation is always difficult unless you are well practiced. I'm sure she will appreciate your prayers and your encouragement.

Jean

# Worship in Advent

## **December 5-Communion Sunday**

Second Sunday in Advent  
Lighting of the Second Advent Candle  
Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-10  
Matthew 3:1-12  
Preaching: Jean Alexander

## **December 12-Third Sunday in Advent**

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle  
Music Sunday-Spanish Carols with guitar accompaniment

## **December 18<sup>th</sup>-Saturday -5 pm Special Blue Christmas Service**

Based on the lighting of the four advent candles,  
our "Blue Christmas" is for those who are grieving  
or seek healing. We light candles of grief, fear, pain and struggle  
and have a time of silent prayer and reflection for ourselves and others.

## **December 19-Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle  
Scriptures: Isaiah 63:7-9  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Preaching: Jean Alexander  
The Christmas Pageant-in loving memory of Sandra Ross

## **December 24-Christmas Eve Services**

5 pm-Family Worship  
Led by the youth group

7:30 Candlelight Communion  
A Service of Lessons and Carols

## *Monday Musing*

I want to make a “shout out” this morning to a number of people and the first one is Beverly Loudin. You are probably familiar with the saying “If you want something done, ask a busy person.” She is definitely on the list of busy people and yet she said yes to heading up the stewardship campaign this year, one of those extremely necessary but not exactly fun tasks of congregational life. She has done a superb job and I know it isn’t done yet. There are all those follow up calls to people who pledged last year but somehow haven’t done it yet. So when you see her next, please thank her as well as Mark and Cathy Paris who provided support.

The second “shout out” is to Joy and Allen whose combined music yesterday was wonderful. The children’s choir and the adult choir bolstered by Allen’s other choir, Stambandet, gave us some great music to put us in the thanksgiving mood.

The third “shout out” is to all those folks who raked the oak leaves into piles to be picked up by Kevin Newman’s lawn service this week. You did a great job and I hope burned off a few calories in preparation for the annual Thanksgiving feast.

The fourth “shout out” is to the Maine Mission Trip group who led a forum yesterday showing pictures of what we accomplished in five days and inspiring others to come with us next year. (August 13-20) We are going to work very hard at finding some way for parents with children to join us next year. So stay tuned.

Yesterday was a lively Sunday and we were so pleased to welcome into membership Simon and Heather (McMullen) Van der Plas and their two daughters. See elsewhere in the Together for more information about them.

It’s hard to believe that next Sunday is the beginning of Advent. Every year it seems like all of a sudden it is Thanksgiving and then it is Advent. Where did the year go? It will be a short week in the office. Bruce and I head down to Brooklyn for Thanksgiving on Wednesday and back on Saturday. I know many of you will also be traveling or welcoming home children and family. Whatever the case, I wish you a peaceful and grateful day.

Blessings,

Jean

*Please Welcome:*  
**Heather McMullen and Simon Van der Plas**  
**Laura and Abigail**

**Simon** and **Heather** found the UPA through the Pumpkin Patch. The day they came to buy pumpkins they expressed interest to Jim Miller about the church. He promptly gave them a tour and a warm invitation and sure enough they showed up on a Sunday.

Heather is from Ottawa, Canada and is director of the Harvard Kennedy School Library. Simon is from a fishing village in the Netherlands and works as a medicinal chemist at Novartis. They met in Boston and have lived both in Ottawa and Boston since their marriage. While they live in West Newton they gravitate towards Auburndale because Laura attends Burr Elementary School.

Simon is an avid soccer fan still in mourning for the Netherlands third world cup final loss. Heather is interested in New England history and loves going to Old Sturbridge Village.

Heather would also like people to know that she has developed a hearing disability and can only hear out of one ear. It makes it especially difficult in group settings. So if she seems to be ignoring you, she isn't. She just didn't hear you.

***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. 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Please give generously.





I am a huge believer in giving back and helping out in the community and the world. Think globally, act locally I suppose. I believe that the measure of a person's life is the affect they have on others.

*-Steve Nash*

## **Stewardship Campaign Update: The Baskets are Back!**

There was an impressive crowd of people and baskets at the front of the church this past Sunday! We had a **90%** return rate on the Basket Brigade and lots of people on the Mail Brigade returned pledge cards as well. Thank you to all of our Basket Captains who worked diligently over the past two weeks to keep those baskets moving:

- Allison and Raveen Sharma
- Carie Michael
- Marci and Dave Stuart
- Sonia Parker
- Julie and Brian Redmond
- Elizabeth and Bruce McVittie
- Lynne Austin-Tolley and Michael Tolley
- Luying Pan and Hudong Chen
- Dorris Woolery and Tom Mackowski
- Janet Conway
- Don Ross
- Rod and Lori Rohda
- Marge Reynolds
- Susan and Gar O'Connell
- Rachelle and John Ross
- Toni and Jim Miller
- Karen and Kevin Newman
- Kristin and Kevin McGovern

We received a total of **86 Pledges** totaling **\$246,044!** Whether your pledge is large or small, it is important to the United Parish; we need the financial support of every member of this wonderful community. The UPA acts both locally and globally but we cannot continue our work without your pledge. Please mail in your pledge card or drop it in the offering plate this Sunday. Although there are **no late fees** at the UPA, we will all enjoy the holiday season more if we know that our financial house is in order for 2011. We can't do it without the commitment of every member of our church family.

Your Stewardship Committee,

Cathy and Mark Paris, Beverly Loudin

*First Friday for Families*  
*December 3rd 6:30-8:30 pm*

*Join us for a quiet evening with other parents sharing a holiday tradition that your family has.*

*Child care provided*

*Bring a salad or dessert to share*  
*Donation requested \$10-20*

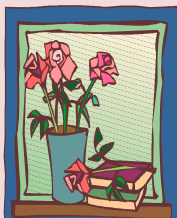
*Rsvp on Facebook or to Jean Alexander*  
*[jalAlexander@upanewtonma.org](mailto:jalAlexander@upanewtonma.org)*



**POINSETTIAS** needed for the Advent/Christmas Altar arrangement!  
Please loan a poinsettia or amaryllis plant for the altar on Dec. 12 & 19-26



**The Knitting Group** ~ will meet on Monday evening,  
Nov. 29th at Natalie Austrian's ~7:30 p.m. All are welcome!  
20 Ware Rd. , Auburndale 617-332-7026



## **Come Join the Book Club!**

**For Dec. 10th:** "Strength in What Remains" Tracey Kidder – a journey of remembrance and forgiveness.

We meet at 10 am in the Norton Room – usually on the second Friday of the month.

## 2011 UPA Coffee Hour

The 2011 Coffee Hour Schedule is in the works. As you know, Coffee Hour is an important part of our Sunday experience at UPA. It gives people a chance to meet new people and to “visit” with those they only see on Sundays. Your service does not go unnoticed and is appreciated by all those who attend.

As has been the custom, most people will find their names in the same slots they were in the 2010 schedule. However, there are some empty slots, and Toni Miller, who is preparing the schedule for the Community Board, has the following requests

\* If you have not been on the CH Schedule to co-host a coffee hour and would care to add your name to our list, the Community Board *and* the congregation would be very pleased to have you sign up. **Detailed directions, the names/phone numbers/e-mail addresses of all the other hosts are sent to each host** to ease any stress that one might have, especially if a host has to switch her/his Sunday. Plus there is usually someone around to answer questions on Sundays.

\* **April 17** (at one end of Newton Public Schools April vacation) needs **2 hosts**.

\* There are **8 Pot Luck Sundays** in 2011. They require **ONLY** that someone set up the coffee/tea/cream/milk/Children’s Table and clean up afterwards. The Community Board supplies the juice and snacks for the Children’s Table. Food is supplied by members of the congregation. Money spent on Milk for tea and Half & Half for coffee is reimbursed (slips are given to Johanna Porter).

If you can help out in any way, or have any questions, please contact **Toni Miller** at [tjkkm14@yahoo.com](mailto:tjkkm14@yahoo.com) OR 617.527.7044. Many, many thanks.

## Youth Update:

### ***Hey Youth,***

What’s new? This past Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the youth group cooked and ate a Thanksgiving meal together to celebrate our thankfulness for the many good things in our lives. The food was delicious: wild rice with mushrooms, mashed potatoes, gravy, roasted chickens, pumpkin and chocolate pie, and cider. We ate till we were stuffed, which is how you know you did Thanksgiving meal right. We began and ended with prayers of thankfulness, opening with the responsive reading of a psalm of praise and finishing with the naming of people, places, talents, and big events that have helped make us who we are and for which we are grateful. For the final moment of prayer we performed a Rumi poem. ***(Continued on next page)***

This upcoming Sunday, Jean and I will be heading down to Central Square Congregation Church of Bridgewater for Kurt's ordination ceremony. We will leave at 1 pm and return to the UPA by 4:00 pm at the latest. Please email Jean ([jalexander@upanewtonma.org](mailto:jalexander@upanewtonma.org)) or me ([mikenilon@gmail.com](mailto:mikenilon@gmail.com)) if you are interested in going with us.

On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, we will be doing two things for youth group. First of all, we will be helping with the UPA Advent Craft Fair, which will end around 12 noon. After that finishes, we will explore Tibetan Buddhist meditation practices, through the guided meditation series led by Reginald Ray. Ray was a student of the East Tibetan Buddhist master Chogyam Trungpa. Trungpa taught meditation practices to, among many others of his generation, Allen Ginsberg. Trungpa is widely regarded as a pioneer in meditation practices because he made many secrets of Buddhist contemplation available to Western audiences. Come ready to explore how the energy of the spirit connects in and to your body. *Mike*



***Youth Update :  
Holiday Wreath Sale***

***Season's Greetings Wreath Fans!***



Your balsam fir wreaths have arrived! Currently they are awaiting pickup in the United Parish of Auburndale shed. Please come get your wreath after services this Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Besides your wreath's beautiful shape and color, you will now enjoy the smell of pine in your home. My office has never smelled better!

We have already taken orders for 55 wreaths. That means we only have 25 more wreaths to sell before we reach our target of 80 wreaths. If you haven't already ordered your wreath, order it without delay! The money goes to support two excellent causes, Down East Maine Missions and Heifer International. Among other things, these two organizations provide a livelihood for people in need both close to home and abroad.

I learned that we did not receive any 16-inch wreaths. So, if you've ordered the smaller version, please remember to pay us the difference, which is only \$3.00 per wreath. Also, if you have not yet made a payment, please remember to bring a check or cash when you pick your wreath up this Sunday.

May you have the happiest of Thanksgivings! *Mike*

## ADVENT LUNCHEON & CRAFTS

December 5<sup>th</sup> - following Worship!

The Community Board will serve lunch in the Parish Hall. You are invited (and encouraged ) to bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share for dessert after lunch. We ask that you please help with the clean up when you are finished. Several folks from the Board of Education will lead craft tables for everyone to enjoy.

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We'll decorate our Christmas tree in the Parish Hall during the coffee hour on December 5

### *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 28<sup>th</sup>. Please sign-up after church in the parish hall, or by emailing Carie Michael; [carie.michael@gmail.com](mailto:carie.michael@gmail.com).

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

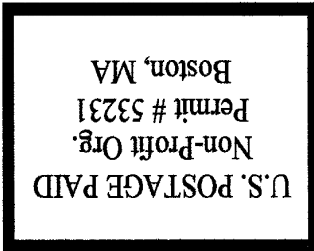
### **Alerting All Boards...UPA Has a New Recycle Bin!**

***Any items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling***

*(Located behind the building)*

#### **Recycling Guidelines:**

<b>RECYCLING</b>	<b>WHAT TO RECYCLE</b>	<b>DO NOT INCLUDE</b>
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



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

**This Coming Week at UPA:**

**Sunday, Nov. 28, 2010**

10:00 a.m. - Worship/First Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time

**Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2010**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study

**Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010**

7:00 p.m. - Open & Affirming

**Thursday, Dec. 2, 2010**

3:30 - Children's Choir

7:30 - Adult Choir

**Friday, Dec. 3, 2010**

6:30 p.m. - First Friday for Families

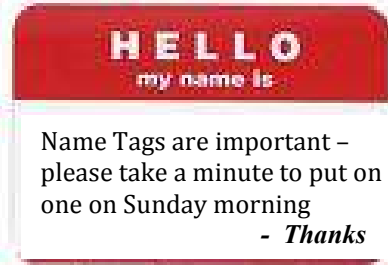
**Sunday, Dec. 5, 2010**

10:00 a.m. - Worship/Communion/  
Second Sunday in Advent

11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time

12:00 p.m. - Advent Luncheon

4:00 p.m. - Stambandet Christmas Concert



**[www.upanewtonma.org](http://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.