

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

December 4, 2011-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"

Scripture Reader: Kris Finn

Ushers: Tom Mackowski and Doris Woolery

Assistant Ushers: John and Rachelle Ross

Acolytes: Amanda Redmond & Laura Van der Plas

Fellowship: Advent Lunch

The scripture from Isaiah for this second Sunday in Advent is, in my mind at least, one of the most beautiful scriptures for the Advent season. Whenever I read it I hear Handel's "Messiah" in the background and a strong tenor voice singing "Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people." So the questions for you to ponder this week are, "where do you need comfort" and "what gives you comfort"?

Notice to Parents: during the meeting with the Profile Committee that follows the service, church school children will be escorted downstairs to the dining room for crafts and a holiday movie. After the meeting is concluded, please meet your child(ren) downstairs and then proceed to the Advent luncheon in the Parish Hall.



Thanksgiving
Altar
*photo by
Mary Lou Walsh*

ADVENT LUNCHEON & CRAFTS

December 4th - 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.+++++

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

Bruce and I had a fine Thanksgiving in Brooklyn with family and I hope all of you enjoyed not just a feast of food, but a feast of time with family and friends. Now it is time to crawl up into the attic and pull down all the Christmas decorations. I think I will do that tonight while it is still warm.

Sunday was a great first Sunday in Advent. The sanctuary was beautiful as usual thanks to Ron Caira, and Patricia Bottomley and Mary Lou Walsh and other members of the Altar Committee. We dedicated the beautiful new advent wreath that Gar O'Connell made this summer for the church. I had the great pleasure of baptizing Dylan Spicer who did pretty well despite his expressed desire of not wanting me to put water on his head. We walked down the aisle together hand in hand not once but twice! It was a joy also to see the extended family gathered around to support Doug and Jan. Since this may be one of the last baptisms I do, it was special to me too.

Today is the 40th anniversary of my ordination. I shared some of that yesterday with the congregation, and have a display in the Fireside Room of my ministry years. This is also the year of Bruce's ordination 50 years ago in October. Between us we have 90 years of ordained ministry to give thanks for. It has been a grand adventure and I have been so blessed by the congregations I worked in and the people I've been privileged to know. The next two Sundays are important for the UPA. This Sunday you will have a chance to learn more about the church profile right after church. It is up on the website for you to read now. On the 11th will be the congregational vote to approve it. They did such a good job with it, I think. It certainly reflects the UPA I have come to know and love and I think will give the Bishop and his cabinet a good picture of who you are and the kind of minister you are looking for. Good work profile committee!

So now there are only 5 weeks left for me to finish cleaning out my office and get rid of 40 years of books. For the next Sundays I'm leaving my office open and please come and take a book or two or ten! All the books on the shelves to the right of my desk are fair game. The few I'm moving home are on the left side.

This Sunday Ed Deyton, the interim who will be with you from January to July 1st, will be with us and participating in our worship service. It will give everyone a sense of continuity moving forward.

Blessings,

Jean

Profile Plan

Take the Pulse

Probe for Insight

Draft & Refine

Finalize & Deliver



Sept. 11

Dec. 11

The Profile Committee has reached the final phase of our process – Finalize & Deliver. On Sunday, November 27, after incorporating feedback from Staff Parish, Parish Council and Pastor Jean, we published a draft of the completed profile for congregational review. The online version, entitled “Draft UPA Profile,” is posted at: <http://www.upanewtonma.org/PastorSearchInfo>. There are also a limited number of paper copies available in the Fellowship Hall.

Here is a brief summary of the Finalize & Deliver phase:

- **Sun, Dec 4** – Church-wide forum in the sanctuary to solicit feedback.
- **Week of December 5** – Profile Committee makes/posts final edits.
- **Sun, Dec 11** – Church-wide vote on the final Profile.
- **Sun, Dec 18** – Members of Staff Parish/Profile Committee meet with District Superintendent McLee to review and deliver the UPA Profile.

At 13 pages, the profile is a lengthy document. To have a productive forum on December 4, we propose the following:

1. **Focus your attention on the more nuanced, forward-looking sections.**
 - a. “The Church’s Mission & Ministry,” pages 4-7
 - b. “Pastoral Needs,” pages 11-13
2. **Focus your comments on “deal-breakers.”** A “deal-breaker” is something that misrepresents the church so egregiously it would cause you to vote against the Profile on December 11.
3. **Deliver grammatical and/or stylistic edits “offline.”** We know there are accomplished writers and editors in our midst. If you have corrections or stylistic edits, please hand-deliver them to Bob Dutton or Melissa Wylie. Or email them to rwdutton@gmail.com.

From the Youth Minister:

This picture is incredibly inflammatory, I know. But, it makes you think, doesn't it?



I think by now most of you know that I am a hard hitter. I do not mince my words. I get right to the point. And, I am very social justice oriented. Across the world, I have come across dying women in the slums of Mumbai, severely malnourished children in the slums of New Delhi, children who need simple things here in the USA such as a coat and food, and the homeless in California I saw as a kid—which has lent to my affinity for the homeless as an adult. Whenever Christmas rolls around, I am continually dismayed by commercialism and the loss of the reason for this season. Simply put, it is not *our* birthday we are celebrating..

In the coming weeks of Advent I will challenge your children, and you, in my children's sermons as well as in the Together, by clarifying the reason for this season. It is my hope that you will help your child and your family focus on what is important. Next week I will sermonate about need vs. want. What we want is almost always not what we need. I think it is important to understand this as adults and to teach our kids this difference at an early age.

Katy came to India with me in 2006. This was my second trip, and her first. We lived in an apartment in Varanasi, where it was over 120 degree heat index, with about four hours of power provided daily for refrigerators, fans, etc. Our apartment was very simple and had the very basics. I was there for two months and Katy for one month. Reentry into the US is always difficult for me. I am always overwhelmed by all the products on the shelves—really, does anyone need all that cereal? What really struck me was Katy's reaction. About a week after our return, I came home one day to find her not just cleaning her room, but basically gutting it. She had a bunch of boxes for Good Will, as well as several garbage bags. When I asked what she was doing she simply said, "I don't need all this stuff." Not only did India affect her by what she witnessed, but when she returned from living without all her "stuff" for a month, she realized what little she really needed to live her life and be happy.

We can't all take our kids to India or a developing country to have this kind of epiphany, I know. But, we can help them by understanding need vs. want. Our kids do not need Nintendo, or shoes that cost \$150, or a doll that costs \$200 with accessories, or designer label clothing that is most likely made in a sweat shop. Need vs. want—it is a tough thing to sell in a materialistic, commercialized world. I challenge you to teach this to your children this year. Instead, give them the most important lessons of what is important to live here, at this time—that living with compassion and love, with family, friends and each other. What does that look like for you?

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



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

Uniting for Our Future

The baskets are in! Thank you for **rising to the occasion!** We know that for many of you this was not an easy decision. On behalf of your fellow church members, we wish to thank all of you for **pledging generously**. We are on our way to providing a solid start for our new settled pastor when he or she arrives in July 2012. Here's the financial summary:

Pledges required to maintain prior year budget	\$303,800
Pledges received as of 11/27:	<u>\$262,000</u>
Pledge amount outstanding	\$41,800
# of pledges outstanding	About 18
Pledges received as a % of prior year	86%

As with most businesses, we plan our budget for the coming year in advance based on these pledges. Help us to complete that process by returning your card as soon as possible.

For those of you who have not yet pledged, please return your pledge cards to the church office as soon as possible. If your pledge is not received by next Sunday, December 4th, you should expect a friendly phone call from the Board of Stewardship asking you to indicate your pledge.

For questions, e.g., "What did I pledge last year?", feel free to contact a member of the Board of Stewardship:

<i>Lynne Austin-Tolley</i>	lynneaustin24@comcast.net	(781) 956-0570
<i>Doug Cornelius</i>	doug@dougcornelius.com	(617) 795-2496
<i>Lyman Jackson</i>	LHJackson@Yahoo.com	(617) 653-3303

UPA Gals/Moms After Dark Sunday 12-4-11, 6:45 PM, in the Youth Room

Come as you are and enjoy a relaxing evening with no agenda. Bring a munchie or beverage to share if you'd like, and feel free to bring a friend. No need to RSVP, but please see Christine Gallivan with any questions (nurselenny@aol.com)



Worship in Advent

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 24-Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Family Service

7:30 pm Candlelight Communion Service of Lessons and Carols

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

Book Group –Dec. 9 at 10 a.m.



For our Meeting on Friday, Dec. 9th The Book Group will read "A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens and "The Thanksgiving Visitor" by Truman Capote. 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.

We meet in the Norton Room from 10AM to noon

Visitors are always welcome. Meeting are on the 2nd Friday of each month.



Holiday Wreath Sale If you have ordered a wreath they may be picked up now. Please leave your check for \$22.00 per wreath with the office and then pick up your wreath from the shed behind the church or you can pay and pick up a wreath at coffee hour.

Thank you for supporting the Down East Maine Missions by your purchase of a wreath. They work in one of the most impoverished counties in the nation.

MITTEN TREE REMINDER!



On **December 11th**, Please bring your gifts (**unwrapped** with the paper mitten taped to the gift) to the Fireside Room during Coffee Hour, where my "elves" and I will be collecting the gifts. Please note, I will not be at church on Sunday, December 4 so if you are unable to make it on the 11th, please contact me at (mcgoverns@rcn.com) to coordinate an alternative drop off date.

Thank you all for making this Christmas season a little brighter for these families that are in great need.

Kristin McGovern



A Christmas Tea

For the UPA on Wednesday, December 14th, 2-4 pm

Bring a plate of goodies to share

and join us for a lovely afternoon of food and friendship

Children are welcome.



Sponsored by the Senior Ministries

Notes of appreciation from our partners in the Mission: 1 food collection, 11.1-11.11

From the Eliot Congregational Church Food Pantry in Roxbury:

We the members want to thank you and send our love and appreciation to each one of you for the time and dedication you took preparing the boxes and packages of food items for those in need that come to our food pantry.

From our church to yours, may the blessings of the Lord be with all of you during this Thanksgiving Season.

From Boston Medical Center's The Grow Clinic for Children:

I wanted to personally thank Mr. John Connor for delivering and Ms. Julie Redmond for organizing the generous donation from your congregation. The donation arrived just as the weather was turning cold and heat or eat issues were already becoming acute. Your advocacy, hard work and organization will touch many young lives in the coming winter.

Introducing Our Interim Pastor:

This Sunday, December 4th, the Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to be able to introduce Rev. Ed Deyton to the congregation! Rev. Deyton has accepted the position of Interim Minister for the 6 months between Jean's retirement in January and our anticipated Appointed Minister's arrival in July 2012.

Ed is a Methodist Minister with over 36 years' experience in the pulpit. He recently retired this past June from a six year appointment at the Ballard Vale United Church in Andover – a UCC/UMC Federated, Open & Affirming/Reconciling Church. He comes with strong recommendations from both his prior Area Minister (UCC side) and prior DS (UMC side), as well as lay leaders and colleagues from his prior congregation! (and considerable excitement from Linda Wood-Boyle who worked with Ed in the 90's in Somerville!)

The Committee is happy to have this matter settled and to know that Jean has on hand someone steady she can pass the baton on to so she can leave the UPA with a light heart that all will continue to be well as we move forward. Please come and join us in welcoming Ed – we will next see him in January!

Elizabeth McVittie, SPRC Chair

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

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2011

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

Monday, Dec. 5, 2011

7:30 p.m. - Common Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011

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

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011

7:30 p.m. - Parish Council

Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011

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

Friday, Dec. 9, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Book Group

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011

10:00 a.m. - Worship/
11:00 a.m. - Congregational Meeting
5:00 p.m. - Healing Service

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.