

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

December 11, 2011- Third Sunday in Advent – Music Sunday



Lighting the Third 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

Scripture Reader: Toni Miller

Ushers: Beth and Howard Whittum

Assistant Usher: Bruce Hanson

Acolytes: Jacob Viveros & Chase Gallivan

Fellowship: Stuart/Austin-Tolley

This Sunday is our annual Music Sunday and the choir will be performing Music by Gustav Holst 1874-1934 an English composer many of us know from his popular orchestral work *The Planets*. Holst wrote quite a variety of music and much Christmas music. One of the ones you will recognize is "*In the Bleak Midwinter*". We will be accompanied by harpist Mary Jane Rupert

Fellowship of the Concerned

Paul and Nancy Satwicz announced the engagement of their daughter **Laura** to Mike DiStefano. Laura now lives in Brookline and works in the Cardiac ICU at Children's Hosp.

Eunhae Kim's address: 3452 North Druid Hills Rd., Apt. S, Decatur GA 30033

Worship in Advent

December 11 - 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.

The Altar Committee

Monday Musings

It was a full morning this Sunday. We had liturgical dance by Karen Hernandez as part of the service. The Interim Minister, Ed Deyton was introduced and celebrated communion with me. There was a discussion of the profile after church that I'm told went very well. (I was down with the children who were making crafts or watching a movie.) Then we had our Advent Luncheon which was a huge success. We filled almost all the tables this year and we added some from last year. It was a good Sunday for Ed to be introduced and he said he met a lot of people. Everything went smoothly with relatively few glitches which is testimony to great planning on the part of everyone involved. Thank you especially Community Board and the Board of Christian Education.

There will also be child care provided next week for the congregational vote on the profile so I hope there will be a good attendance.

This Advent seems to be whooshing by. I can't believe that next Sunday is the Third Sunday in Advent already. The choir has been rehearsing Christmas Music by Gustav Holst which we will do with harp accompaniment. It should be lovely. I don't know how Allen does it this season with all the concerts that Stambandet gives and the extra music for our choir Sunday.

Last week at the O & A meeting, someone asked me what I would miss in retirement about ministry. I think it is too early to know that but as I reflected on the question this past week, the clear answer is that I will miss you. As a pastor you come to know people, sometimes very deeply, as they share the significant moments of their lives, and it sad to let go of those connections.

Many people have asked about our future plans. In the spring, after we have purged our house of extraneous stuff, we will put it on the market. When it sells we will begin the process of looking for an apartment or condo in the Washington D.C. area. After weighing all the possible choices it seemed like moving back to where we have friends and family still, was the best choice. However, because the summers in D.C are so horrendous and because I need dirt to dig in, we have also bought a small house in a vacation community in West Virginia, just west of Martinsburg. It is an easy drive from D.C. and will give us the best of both urban and rural life. What is good about this move is that it is the first one I've made in 40 years where I won't feel the pressure of having to pack up and move in a relatively short space of time.

In the meantime there are services to prepare for and all the Advent activities, more cleaning out of my office and final visits to make with people. The work goes on. And I'm glad.

Blessings,

Jean

Profile Plan

Take the Pulse

Probe for Insight

Draft & Refine

Finalize & Deliver



Sept. 11

Dec. 11

On Sunday, December 4, the Profile Committee hosted a church-wide forum in the sanctuary. The Profile was well-received, as was the congregation's feedback. As a result of the discussion, the following points will be incorporated into the final version:

- Reference *The Together* as a successful communications vehicle
- Highlight that the UPA is process-oriented in its decision-making
- Request a pastor with a personal experience in, or commitment to, Outreach/social justice
- Add the dates the Vision/Mission statement was adopted/revised
- Highlight that we'd like to build the Youth Ministry as an extension of our successful Children's Ministry

As soon as the edits are made, we will post the final version on the website at: <http://www.upanewtonma.org/PastorSearchInfo>. **Then, immediately following the service on Sunday, December 11, there will be a church-wide vote on the final Profile.**

Please see the Staff Parish Relations Committee Update to understand the next steps in the United Methodist appointment process.

Staff Parish Relationship Committee Update

Next Steps in the United Methodist Appointment Process

On Monday, December 19th, the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Profile Committee will meet with District Superintendent Martin McLee to review the Profile. At that point, the UPA entrusts our needs to Rev. McLee, Bishop Weaver, and the Bishop's Cabinet as they prayerfully discern whom in the Conference is the most qualified "match" for our parish.

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The subsequent step for the UPA is to establish an Interview Committee. This committee will play a critical role in the appointment process – in effect acting as the congregation’s proxy in the initial evaluation of the pastor recommended for appointment. Here’s how the interview process will work:

1. After the Bishop chooses a candidate, Rev. McLee will request a meeting with the Interview Committee.
2. At the meeting, committee members will interview the Appointee and ensure that all the UPA’s “must-have” qualities and Pastoral roles are met.
3. The Committee will have the opportunity to review the Appointee’s “Profile”, which includes his/her experience and qualifications, read past sermons, and/or listen to the Appointee preach.
4. If the Interview Committee approves of the Appointee, it will present the decision – along with all available supporting information, such as copies of sermons – to the congregation for a discussion and vote.
5. In accordance with our by-laws, 2/3s of UPA members present at the vote must accept the Appointee. If the vote fails, we will ask the United Methodist Conference to provide a more suitable candidate.

Congregational input on the composition of the Interview Committee is requested. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for this role, email the name(s) to Elizabeth McVittie (3lizabeth@themcvitties.com) or Bill Hoch (bill.hoch@hotmail.com) no later than Saturday, December 31, 2011. The SPRC, Moderator Bill Hoch, and Vice Moderator Dana Dornbusch will make the final Interview Committee recommendation, subject to Parish Council approval. In terms of timing and responsibilities, the Interview Committee must be in place by mid-to-late January, in anticipation of a possible February interview.

From the Youth Minister:

The holidays always hold a lot of emotions for me. Many of us come to the holiday season with good and bad memories. We all have families that have great aspects and families with issues. We all love our families and look forward to the holidays, yet, many of us, such as myself, look forward to the holidays because they bring a sense of hope every year, even though as a kid, I didn't have that hope..

I come from an abusive background; a father that wasn't present in my life, and a mother who was mentally ill, abusive, and left when I was in seventh grade. The holidays are always marred in memory for me by memories of my parents fighting, by my Mother's depression, and by my always walking on eggshells as a kid so I wouldn't be hurt by anyone in that ugliness that the holidays always brought out in my family.

I just recently began to write about and share my past, because as a positive survivor of a not so great childhood, I bring to the table a sense of understanding—that parents don't have children with the intention of hurting them, they just do; it's not planned, it just happens. This does not make it OK, nor does it condone what my parents did, but, it does help me see all of it in a different light. It helps me not necessarily forget, but remember, and in that remembrance, forgive.

Forgiveness is not an easy concept for us as humans. We look to retaliate many times before we look to reconcile. What I have learned is reconciling within myself and how I feel about my past, is the key to reconciling with my family. My mom and I aren't close, but we are amicable. We are not like Katy and I in terms of a mother-daughter relationship, but, my mom and I are on a safe level in terms of a relationship. My father and I are as close as we can be given the past. I care about my parents—their well being, their health, and their lives. I care if they are happy and safe. And they do care about me, very much.

If the holidays taught me anything, and still teach me, is that God's gift of the birth of Jesus is a triumph over all that we hold in our hearts to be negative and hurtful to ourselves and our loved ones. My parents, in all their mishaps, must have done something right, because my sister and I turned out pretty good. Both Candy and I stopped the cycle of abuse that existed in my family for many years. We have amazing relationships with our children. We are both positive survivors.

What does this have to do with you, the children, and the youth at UPA during the holidays? The valuable lesson I can pass on is that when life happens, negative or positive, something good will always come out of it as long as you make the choice to let the good grow from the bad. Furthermore, the holidays bring a sense of hope that isn't felt at any other time of year. It is a time of birth and of renewal. It is a time to reach out to those who we may feel alienated from, or angry at, or hurt by. It is a time to heal. Every single holiday season, I heal a little bit more. It is refreshing and momentous for me to do this as I grow older, and a little more wiser, every year. This year I am happy to share my journey of growing with UPA and I am pleased to grow along in your renewing journey as well.

Much peace, Karen

Youth Schedule

December

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

This will be part planning meeting for Christmas Eve service and part youth group meeting. For planing purposes, if you plan to be at the meeting, but are not planning on attending the Christmas Eve service therefore may not want to take part in the planning of the service, 11:30-12:30 will be our meeting time, and then from 12:30-1:30 will be planning, dance rehearsal, etc.

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

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

UPA Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18th (during the service)

All children, grade 6 and under, are invited to participate in the Pageant.

Contact dross02466@comcast.net

Rehearsal on Saturday, December 17th, 9:00-10:00 AM, Sharp. (1 hour only)

(Costumes will be organized).

Little Animals:

Children ages 1st grade and under, and their parents, that are interested in being an animal in the pageant should meet in the **Fireside Room next Sunday, December 12th**. We will try to match a costume to your size and preference.

Please contact Katie or Becky with questions, ksangojackson@verizon.net or rfconnor@gmail.com



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.

**There are still wreaths available –
even if you didn't pre-order.**



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 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

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.

2012 Coffee Hour Schedule

The 2012 Coffee Hour Schedule is just about complete. Co-hosts should be receiving within the next week along with a list of e-mail addresses. ***It would be helpful*** if you would write down “your” Sunday on your calendar (date book . . . I-phone . . . Blackberry . . . whatever). That way, when you get a reminder letter, it won’t come as a complete surprise.

Coffee Hour provides a time for people to catch up with each other. It is an important part of our Sunday worship experience. The Community Board and the congregation thank you for co-hosting a Sunday or two. You are appreciated more than you know.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF “POT LUCK” SUNDAYS as well as a few BLANKS. Taking an additional Sunday would be such a big help. For Pot Luck Sundays, hosts are not required to provide food. Their job is to do the set up and clean up. The Community Board supplies juice and cookies for the children. The only things that would have to be purchased would be the half&half for the coffee and milk for the tea.

Three of the open slots for regular coffee hours occur on December 23, the probable day of the Christmas Pageant. Dana Dornbusch, Rachelle Ross, and Julie Redmond have been co-hosting pageant Sunday for quite a few years and deserve a break. Do you think you might consider teaming up with a couple of other people to co-host on that Sunday?

When you receive the new schedule, please let Toni Miller know if there are any misspellings, incorrect phone numbers, or incorrect e-mail addresses: tjkjkm14@yahoo.com . . . AND to let her know what extra slots you might consider taking.

With thanks,

Toni Miller
For the Community Board

A Swedish Holiday Celebration

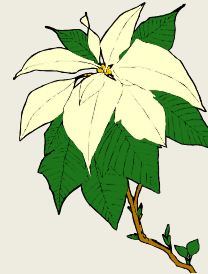
Enjoy an evening of music celebrating Christmas and winter solstice in Sweden



Saturday Dec. 17th at 7 p.m.
United Parish of Auburndale

To purchase tickets email info@stambandet.org
or you may buy them at the door.

POINSETTIAS FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS ALTAR ARRANGEMENT DEC. 11 & 24-25



I (we) wish to loan a poinsettia or amaryllis plant for the altar on:

December 11 and 24-25

Name _____

Message for Together (if desired):

Please bring your plant(s) to the church between **December 8th and 10th**
(put your name on the pot if you'd like to have the plant returned.)

Please put this form in the offering plate on Sunday morning or drop it off at
the church office when you are in the building.

Acknowledgements will appear in the Together so that we may recognize
everyone sharing in this offering.

Thank you in advance, The Altar/Flower Committee

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Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011
10:00 a.m. - Worship/
11:00 a.m. - Congregational Meeting
11:30 a.m. - Youth Meeting
5:00 p.m. - Healing Service

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011
7:30 a.m. - Bible Study
7:30 p.m. - Board of Ed

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011
2:00 p.m. - Senior Tea

Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011
3:30 p.m. - Children's Choir
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2011
9:00 a.m. - Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011
9:00 a.m. - Children's Choir
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Christmas Pageant
11:30 a.m. - Youth Meeting

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.