

# United Parish of Auburndale

## TOGETHER

### December 18, 2011- 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

**Scripture Reader:** Carol Dutton

**Ushers:** Nancy McGrath

**Assistant Usher:** John and Rachelle Ross

**Acolytes:** Evan Hoch & Reid Jackson

**Fellowship:** Dornbusch/Piescik, J&R Ross, Redmond

There was a period 20 years ago when angels were very popular. There were some best selling books and several movies and TV shows featuring angels. Angels don't appear frequently in the Bible but when they do it is always significant and they are very prominent in the Christmas story. The word angel means in Hebrew a "messenger from God." With that definition it is very possible that angels come without the stereotypical halos and wings. Have you met any messengers from God recently?

## *Worship in Christmas*

### *December 25-Christmas Eve*

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

### *December 25-Christmas Day*

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-7  
Titus 3:4-7  
Preaching: Jean Alexander  
Sermon: Baby on Board

### *January 1, 2012-First Sunday in Christmas Communion Sunday- (Kneeling)*

Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13  
Matthew 25:31-37

Preaching: Jean Alexander  
Sermon: A Time to do What?

### *January 8, 2012*

First Sunday after Epiphany  
Scriptures: Philippians 2:1-13  
Preaching: Jean Alexander  
Sermon: In My Absence

**Holiday Break for Church School:** There will be no church school on December 18th, because of the pageant. (There will be childcare in the nursery.)

On both December 25th and January 1st, there will not be any church school or Nursery coverage. The sermon and services on those days will be family friendly, so all can stay in the sanctuary.

## Special Offering For Christmas

**T**he special offering for Christmas will benefit two non-profit organizations that serve the homeless. **HomeStart**, where UPA member Linda Wood Boyle is president, assists homeless people in obtaining permanent housing. **Community Day Center of Waltham** is a daytime shelter for homeless and other low-income adults. Please drop your contributions in the regular Sunday collection baskets before year-end.



## *Monday Musings*

An angel “touched her harp” yesterday bringing “peace on earth good will to all” to our annual Advent music Sunday worship. It wasn’t gold as the familiar carol reports. It was a beautiful wood harp with inlaid decorations. Mary Jane Rupert was our harpist and accompanied the choir as we sang some of the Christmas music of Gustav Holst. She also supplied the music for the Prelude, Postlude and Offertory. It was so lovely. Some of the music the choir sang was very familiar but other pieces were new to most of us. Thank you Allen for once again provided us with such a lovely service of music for the Advent season. Jane Leikin sang several beautiful solos and others were sung by choir members Ralph Johnston, Pamela Chen and Ed Roush. We have such a talented group in our choir.

The Congregational Meeting after church was probably one of the shortest ones I ever remember. It was over by the time I went back to my office to take off my robe and make my way to the parish hall! There were lots of kudos for the profile committee and the SPRC who started the transition process and kept it going.

Last week was my last Common Meeting night and my last Parish Council meeting. This week will be my last Bible Study group. The “lasts” are coming very quickly now and with both anticipation and sadness. The Bible Study group has been especially important to me through the years I have been here. We have grown close as we shared our insights into the texts I would be preaching on later that week. There were many Tuesday mornings that I would grumble about getting to the church in time for our 7:30 a.m. meeting, but I was always glad I came. We laughed a lot and at the end we prayed for people we were concerned for both in the UPA and in our wider circles of family, friends and co-workers. I will miss them a lot.

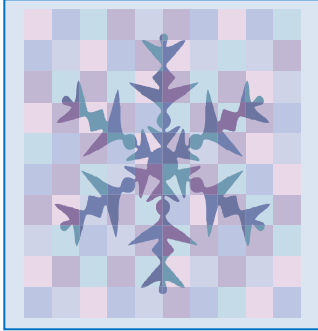
Thank you to those who have divested my shelves of many of the books I’ve been toting around for a long time. The rest will go to the book sale at Andover-Newton, to the Theological Book Network that sends them to seminaries in the developing world, and some may end up at “More Than Words” the great used bookstore in Waltham. Someone even found an old photo of me in one of the books at about age 4 or 5 sitting with my cousin Kathy. I did not look happy to have my picture taken!

This is such a rich time in the life of the UPA. On Sunday in addition to the glorious music, Kristen McGovern was collecting the gifts for the mitten tree. The Fireside room was full of gifts and she was so organized in getting them ready to deliver this week. In the Centenary room the Christian Ed Committee was outfitting the “little animals” for next week’s Christmas pageant. And everywhere there was a good spirit.

May it be so for you this week.

Blessings,  
Jean

## Snow Policy



At the November parish council meeting, the snow policy was discussed again and reaffirmed. Because of the limited parking: "UPA services will be cancelled if Massachusetts declares a state of emergency or City of Newton declares a snow emergency. We will also cancel weekday activities at the church if there is a snow emergency. Closings will be announced on the church voicemail and website. "

## A Swedish Holiday Celebration

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



**Saturday Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.**  
**United Parish of Auburndale**

To purchase tickets email [info@stamandet.org](mailto:info@stamandet.org) or you may buy them at the door.

**Attention VBS Alums:** This past summer Miguel Confesor, who was a fixture as a VBS helper for the previous 4 summers, was not able to be with us and there were a number of disappointed children when he was not available to help. He is coming to visit his Grandma Jean after Christmas. She is willing to host an early pizza dinner in the youth room on Monday, December 26th from 5-7.

If your child would like to come play with Miguel, please let me know by Dec 22nd.  
[jalexander@upanewtonma.org](mailto:jalexander@upanewtonma.org)

## Next Steps in the United Methodist Appointment Process

On Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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](mailto:3lizabeth@themcvitties.com)) or Bill Hoch ([bill.hoch@hotmail.com](mailto: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:*

In all the tradition surrounding Christmas, I sometimes think one of the most important people that don't get the attention they deserve is Mary. I sometimes wonder what it must have been like for her. Young and living in a society that did not accept pregnancy outside wedlock, she must have faced a certain amount of criticism and angst. There's not a lot in the Bible about her nine months of pregnancy, but we know she mostly lived in hiding until it was time for Jesus to be born.

Interestingly enough, the *Qur'an* has a whole Surah (book), dedicated to Mary. Called Maryam, this Surah illustrates Mary's story much the same as the Bible. One of the biggest differences is that Mary has Jesus alone, under a palm tree—there is also no mention of Joseph in the *Qur'an*.

Maybe it is because I was raised Catholic, I have a lot of reverence for Mary. I believe that she was one of Jesus' best teachers. I believe that Jesus didn't receive all his knowledge and compassion from just being who he was. His Mom taught him a lot and for that, I think it is important to recognize her and her role in not only Christmas, but in the whole of Jesus' life, as well as in Jesus' message and ultimately how we live as Christians.

In this, I just want to share that this Christmas, I am concentrating a little more on the importance of Mary's role in this holy story. After all, without Mary, we wouldn't have the story of Jesus. Her sacrifice, her love, and her dedication as a mother and believer in God's call is, to me, a true example of faith that I not only recognize, but appreciate.

### *Youth Schedule*

#### December

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

#### January

**January 8** – High School Youth Meeting

**January 15** – Middle School Youth Meeting

**January 16, Monday** - Martin Luther King Breakfast, Boston  
(Tentative – more info to come – note that we must leave UPA  
At 7AM to get into town in time for breakfast.

**January 22** - Ice Skating on Frog Pond – All youth



## Rising to the Occasion

### Fall Stewardship Campaign Wrap-up & Auction

As of Monday afternoon, December 12th we were just \$8,968 short of our pledge goal of \$303,947--the target needed to match last year's pledges received. There are still a few pledgers that we have not heard from, but the number is small. Please inform us of your pledges ASAP!

Every year there are always a few factors that affect the final pledged amount recorded in the annual report that is published in late January. All things considered, the Board of Stewardship is pleased with the pledge campaign this fall and the fact that **many of you rose to the occasion** as we ready ourselves for a new settled pastor in July 2012. Thank you for your generous support of our great community of faith!

While this year's campaign was successful, **pledges are just one of several income contributors** to the 2012 budget. Next year is typically an **Auction** year which is a big and important fundraiser for UPA. The proceeds from the auction are spread across two years to help balance the budgets of 2012 & 2013. However, **currently we do not have a committee to run the auction**. This biennial event is **fun** for all with many looking forward to the interesting (and entertaining) items up for auction.

*If you would like to help with--not necessarily run--the auction, please contact the Board of Stewardship – Doug Cornelius, Lynne Austin-Tolley, or Lyman Jackson, or Bill Hoch. If we are going to have an auction, planning must begin now.*



**Knitting Group** meets on Monday, **December 26<sup>th</sup>** at the Austrian's home. 20 Ware Road, Auburndale - the usual (last Monday) evening of the month. Everybody is welcome. ~ Natalie

## **UPA Christmas Pageant**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> (during the service)**

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

Contact [dross02466@comcast.net](mailto:dross02466@comcast.net)

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

(Costumes will be organized).

Please contact Katie or Becky with questions, [ksangojackson@verizon.net](mailto:ksangojackson@verizon.net) or  
[rconnor@gmail.com](mailto:rconnor@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.**



### ***A Christmas Tea***

*For the UPA on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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*

## UPA Needs You!

The many wonderful activities at UPA happen because volunteers just like you work together and make them happen. We need your help. The UPA has numerous boards and committees that need new recruits. Here is a brief description of each. More information can be obtained in the annual report.

We don't need a huge time commitment, but we do need your help. UPA is the collective result of our combined energies. Please give some of your energy to make it great. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Bill Hoch ([Bill.hoch@hotmail.com](mailto:Bill.hoch@hotmail.com)) or 617-965-4514(h) or Dana Dornbusch ([danadornbusch@gmail.com](mailto:danadornbusch@gmail.com)) to discuss opportunities.

**Membership.** Do you want to help welcome new visitors to UPA and market us to the community? You might be great for Membership.

**Worship.** Would you like to get involved in organizing the activities necessary for Sunday services and discuss ways to bring new energy to our worship? Worship Board could be the place for you.

**Christian Education.** Sunday forums and Sunday School activities happen because the people on Christian Education are dedicated to broadening out spiritual horizons. Come and join this Board.

**Outreach.** If you want to help organize volunteer opportunities and mission trips and shepherd UPA's charitable giving, Outreach welcomes your help.

**Community.** The Community Board is the heart of the UPA social life. If you love planning fun events, join the Community Board.

**Stewardship.** Do you have a knack for raising money and encouraging others to give. The Stewardship Board runs the fall giving campaign and needs your help. They also oversee our investments in our endowment funds.

**Property.** If you can help oversee our physical plant, this Board can use your help. (They are especially interested in having some women on this Board!)

**Open and Affirming.** Help UPA make real our commitment to being an Open and Affirming Reconciling Congregation. This group puts our good words into action.

**Staff Parish Relations.** This group works with Jean to oversee the staff of UPA. If you can help support the work of our dedicated staff, this committee would welcome your involvement.

**Altar Committee.** Last but not least, our sanctuary would not be as beautiful as it is every Sunday without the work of the Altar Committee. Come join us! *Thanks.*

**No Together between Christmas & New Years. After holidays deadline is Jan. 3, 10 am**

## 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](mailto:tjkjkm14@yahoo.com) . . . AND to let her know what extra slots you might consider taking.

With thanks, Toni Miller , For the Community Board

### *January Coffee Schedule*

<i>Date</i>			
<b>Jan 1</b>	<b>NO COFFEE HOUR</b>		
<b>Jan. 8</b>	<b>Jean's Retirement Lunch, etc.</b>		
<b>Jan. 15</b>	<b>POT LUCK-</b>		
<b>Jan. 22</b>	Lundberg/Beam	617	244-1315
<b>Jan. 22</b>	Day/Rochon	617	244-4830
<b>Jan. 29</b>	Davenport	617	527-1168
<b>Jan. 29</b>	Newman	617	969-4719

## Christmas is my favorite time of year!

Come one; come all to the next youth group meeting this **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am till 1:00 pm**. We will be planning the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service, at which service we will leading worship. In years past, we have also used our musical talents to play a musical prelude. Are we interested in doing this again? Come this Sunday to add your voice to this conversation. I am excited to see what we put together.

May the *Joy of Advent* dwell in your heart!

Peace, *Karen*



*Save the Date*

*Saturday evening, January 28, 2012*

*for*

*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*

*(For Adults)*

*Sign Up at Coffee Hour January 8, 15 or 22*

*OR*

*Contact Toni Miller [tjkjkm14@yahoo.com](mailto:tjkjkm14@yahoo.com) or 617-527-7044*

*OR*

*Don Ross [dross02466@comcast.net](mailto:dross02466@comcast.net) or 617-965-0609*

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

**Monday, Dec. 19**  
7:00 p.m. - SPRC

**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011**  
7:00 p.m. - Bristol Lodge

**Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011**  
3:30 p.m. - Children's Choir  
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

**Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011**  
5:00 p.m. - Family Worship  
7:30 p.m. - Candlelight Communion Service

**Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011**  
10:00 a.m. - Worship

[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.

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.