

United Parish of Auburndale

TOGETHER

Dec. 19, 2010

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle: Scott Epstein, Beverly Loudin, Sophia, Rachel and Nicholas

Scriptures: Isaiah 63:7-9

Matthew 1:18-25

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: It Takes Two

The Christmas Pageant-in loving memory of Sandra Ross

Reader: Donna McClure

Head Ushers: Tom Mackowski and Dorris Woolery

Assistant Usher: John and Rachelle Ross

Acolytes: Austin Herlihy & Elizabeth Rochon

Fellowship Time: Ross (R & J), Day/Rochon, and Redmond

The Christmas Pageant is one of the beloved traditions of the UPA and this year it will have a special poignancy as we remember the many years of dedicated service that Sandra Ross gave as the organizer and ring-mistress of the event. There will also be an addition to the pageant from the combined genius of the Community and Christian Ed Boards. Come and enjoy.

Fellowship of the Concerned:

Our prayers are with **Arlene Heiss** who is back at Maristhill in Waltham due to an injury from a recent fall.

Let us also pray for **Ron Caira** our sexton who is having surgery on Dec. 14th and will be recovering until after the New Year.

Also let us hold in prayer **Marcy Stuart** and whose mother **Sally** went into the hospital on Saturday the 11th.

Congratulations to former Associate Pastor, **Catherine Michael** on her recent retirement.

The Walker's new address:

Kurt & Jen Walker
4002 Shelbyville Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46237-1813

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

December 15 – Christmas Tea – 2-4 p.m.

December 18th-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

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The Christmas Pageant-in loving memory of Sandra Ross

4 pm- Caroling-

Everyone is invited to join the confirmation class to sing carols for those who live in our immediate neighborhood. We will sing for an hour and then gather for hot chocolate in the parish hall.

December 24-Christmas Eve Services

5 pm-Family Worship

Let by the youth group

7:30 Candlelight Communion

A Service of Lessons and Carols.

Monday Musing

Despite icy conditions which made driving hazardous for some, Music Sunday came off without too many problems. The Spanish Carols were lovely to sing and all that we sang, except for the final piece, are in one of our two hymnals. I have found that the English translations of the hymns are not all that elegant but that singing them in Spanish really brought out their beauty. Jane Leikin sang a beautiful solo, and she, Ellen Wright and I were the Three Wise Women singing a song about the coming of the magi. It reminded me of the old joke: "Do you know what would have happened if it had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men? They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought practical gifts."

Thank you to Allen and the choir for another lovely music Sunday.

This year Advent seems longer than usual and it is. Sometimes the Fourth Sunday in Advent is just a couple of days before Christmas but this year there is a whole week before Christmas Day. So breathe more easily because you have a few more days to accomplish the impossible.

This Saturday at 5 pm will be our annual "Blue Christmas" service. It is a chance for those who are feeling the sadness of loss, fear or pain in this season to gather and lift these emotions up to God. I have been using materials I found a few years ago that are a variation on the lighting of the advent candles and it is a lovely, healing service.

I'm so looking forward to baptizing Casey James FuWei Wong this Sunday. He is such a great little guy and has made Marion and Barry so happy. Barry sent me an e-mail with the vital information for his baptismal certificate and I thought you would enjoy reading what he wrote:

"Casey's full name is Casey James FuWei Wong

FuWei means lucky and excellent

Birthdate: Sept. 6, 2008

Casey's place of birth was Yancheng, China. He was raised entirely in the orphanage without the benefit of a foster family

Distance from here to there: 7200 miles

He survived three plane trips in one week for a total of 25 hours on a plane

He loves books, puzzles, penguins, music and eating meatballs.

He gets along well with clergy!

Sunday afternoon at 4 pm the Confirmation Class and anyone else who loves to sing Christmas Carols is invited to join us to go caroling in the neighborhood. We will sing for an hour or so and then gather for some hot chocolate and cookies. Come and make a joyful noise with us.

And don't forget in the midst of the extra things of the season, to just enjoy being with your loved ones. It is a special time.

Blessings, Jean



A Christmas Tea

Wednesday, December 15th

2-4 pm

*Bring a plate of goodies to share
and join us for a lovely
afternoon
Children are welcome.*



.Sponsored by the Senior Ministries

**UPA Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 19th
(during service)
Rehearsal Saturday,
December 18th 9:30-10:30**

In preparation for the Christmas pageant, children ages 1st grade and under and their parents are invited to the Fireside Room next **Sunday, December 12th**, after the service if they are interested in being an animal in the pageant. We will try to match a costume to your size and preference. All children, grade 6 and under, have the option to participate as angels or shepherds. Our rehearsal will be on **Saturday December 18th, 9:30-10:30 AM**. Please plan to attend this very important run-through! *Thank you, Katie*

Special Offering For Christmas

The 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.



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 or 617-965-4514(h) 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.*

UPA COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

January - February 2011

January

2 POT LUCK

9 Lundberg/Beam

kol2101@columbia.edu

9 Day/Rochon

klday1@verizon.net

16 POT LUCK (MLK, Jr. weekend)

23 Ross (R & J)

rachellebross@gmail.com

23 Whittum

hawhittum@verizon.net

30 Davenport

mahalad@aol.com

30 Newman

koneillnewman@gmail.com

February

6 ANNUAL MEETING Community Board will set up coffee/tea/refreshments

13 Parker

soparker@bu.edu

13 Marzilli/Mhlaba

nmarzilli@nedeaconess.com

20 Sweet/Herlihy

Martha@massfarmersmarkets.org

20 Sweet

dasweet3@gmail.com

27 POT LUCK

PLEASE REMEMBER: FOR NUT-FREE CHILDREN'S TABLE,
look *carefully* for statements such as:

- *Contains peanuts (tree nuts, or any kind of nut)*
- *may contain nuts or trace of nuts*
- *processed on shared equipment with nuts*

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RE-READ FOOD ALLERGY INFO!

In that Coffee Hour is such an important part of the UPA Sunday morning experience, PLEASE find someone to exchange dates with you if your date doesn't work. The UPA thanks you for your service and effort.



Youth Update:

Christmas is my favorite time of year!

Come one; come all to the next youth group meeting this **Sunday, December 19th 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, *Mike*



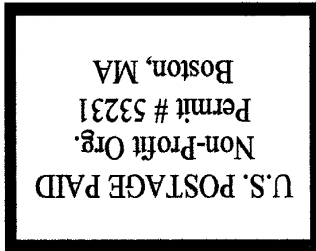
~Readers needed for Christmas Eve~

We need seven readers for the **December 24th Communion service at 7:30 P.M.** If you are planning to attend that service and are willing to read one of the lessons, please contact Steve McClure either by phone (**617-851-0313**) or by email (steve@mccluremail.com).

Thanks,

Steve





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

This Coming Week at UPA:

Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010

- 9:00 a.m. - Children's Choir
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship/Christmas pageant
Baptism of Casey Wong
- 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
- 11:30 a.m. - Youth Group
- 4:00 p.m. - Caroling

Friday, Dec. 24, 2010

- Office Closed
- 5:00 p.m. - Family Christmas Eve Service
- 7:30 p.m. - Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010

- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service
Baptism of Natalie Lynch
- 11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time-Potluck



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.