

# United Parish of Auburndale

## TOGETHER

**December 24, 2011- 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

**Scripture Reader:** Bruce Hanson

**Acolytes:** Andy Beam & Conor McGovern

**No Coffee Hour on Christmas & New Years**

### **Holiday Break for Church School:**

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.

**No Together next week – deadline is January 3, 2012 at 10 a.m.**

**Fellowship of the Concerned:**

Our prayers are with **Barbara Edmunds** who is now receiving hospice care.

**Jean Petersen** is recovering in Lasell House

**Harold & Louise Toney's** new address: 8 Village West Road, Framingham, MA 01702

**Worship in Christmas**

**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



A belated thank you to Carole Smith, Bruce Hanson and David Walsh for all their help arranging the poinsettias on the altar and thank you to Pat Bottomley for her inspiration.

Thank you to all who donated their plants to help bring beauty to our church during the Christmas season.

Mary Lou Walsh

**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*

Well it was another wonderful, wacky Christmas pageant. This year we only had one renegade little animal. Patrick Coyne was a wandering lamb and like Jesus going after the lost sheep, the animal tender, one of the Kann boys, kept going after him to return him to the flock. Alas, to no avail. Kathleen McVittie, the youngest of the three girls took her turn this year as Mary and did a super job keeping baby Jesus, aka my grand nephew Kieran, entertained. He was quite enchanted with the whole thing.

All in all it was a great day. The children's choir sang like angels and their anthem with the adult choir was spectacular. The church was full of friends and family and there was just a great sense of warmth and community. Thank you Don Ross and the Board of Christian Ed, and especially Katie Jackson for making the whole thing run so smoothly once again.

The same warmth and community was evidenced last Wednesday when the Senior group hosted our Christmas tea. Some of the elders were able to attend, like Betty Meyer, and it was lovely seeing everyone enjoy the time together. Arlene Sylvester and Elaine Cavanaugh had matching flashing necklaces that provided a little sparkle to the afternoon. Thank you to the Carol's (Roush and Smith) and some of their elves for making this event happen. There were lots of great cookies too and I had to sample every kind.

Sunday afternoon we took the eldest grand nephew, James, to the Holiday Pops which was a treat for all three of us. It is a great show and designed to keep even the wiggliest little guy interested. There are some things that are just better seen through the eyes of a child. I think that is why the Christmas pageant carries such appeal each year. This old and overly familiar Christmas story takes on new meaning as we see another generation make it part of their lives. I loved seeing Natasha Sharma belting out the Christmas carols as the Star Angel.

We will have a quiet Christmas this year. (Just as well with three services in less than 24 hours.) Grandson Miguel will come for 5 days after Christmas, but the plan is for the clan to gather for my last Sunday which pleases me a lot. I know some of you will be traveling and I wish you God speed. If I don't see you before Christmas, may it be a time of family and friends and prayers for a year of peace and good will for ALL people.

Blessings,  
Jean

## *First Friday for Families*

*January 6th 6:30-8:30 pm*

*Join us for a quiet evening of dinner and conversation*

***Child care provided***

*Jan Spicer will provide the main dish.*

*Bring a salad or dessert to share –*

*Donation requested \$10-20*

*Rsvp on Facebook or to Jean Alexander by*

*Wednesday morning, January 4th.*

*[jalexander@upanewtonma.org](mailto:jalexander@upanewtonma.org)*



## **Pot Luck Luncheon in Honor of Pastor Jean Alexander**

**Sunday, January 8, 2011**

**Immediately following the worship service**

**Bring a dish to share . . . a main dish . . . a side dish . . . a salad . . .  
or dessert**

**Think COMFORT FOOD**

**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)

*From the Youth Minister:*

*The First Noel* sounds with *Silver Bells* while a babe lay *Away in a Manger* as this wonderful *Silent Night* approaches. As you might have guessed, those are my favorite Christmas carols.

This Christmas, I wish you and your family love, peace, compassion, laughter, joy and understanding. I wish you and your family the time you need to rest, to reflect, and to receive. I wish you and your family goodness, mercy, and grace. And last, but definitely not least, I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a blessed 2012.

With much peace and love,  
Karen

## *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



**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

## Profile Plan

Take the Pulse

Probe for Insight

Draft & Refine

Finalize & Deliver



Sept. 11

Dec. 11

### Staff Parish Relationship Committee Update

On Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Profile Committee had a productive meeting with District Superintendent Martin McLee. We discussed the church-wide process to develop the Profile and spent about an hour discussing the Profile content. Some quotes from the meeting follow:

- “I am a reconciling Superintendent. We wouldn’t dream of sending you a pastor who wasn’t a reconciling pastor.”
- “I know firsthand how important music is to your congregation. When I last preached here, I sang and the choir joined in...unrehearsed. I can speak to that from personal experience.”
- “This is the most complete Profile I’ve ever seen. Would you do a road show? I’ve got some congregations who could learn from you.”
- “I hear you loud and clear. Preaching is important here.”

At the close of the meeting, Rev. McLee said, “Is it fair to say you’re looking for a shepherd to lead and guide – not carry or push?” The group confirmed that this summary was on target.

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.

**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.**

## 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, Rachele 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

*Save the Date: Saturday evening, January 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.*

## *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?*

*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*

### **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? - An evening for adults - What is it all about?**

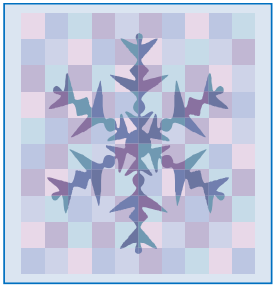
Here is an explanation of how the evening is set up. Any questions, please contact Toni Miller: [tjkjkm14@yahoo.com](mailto:tjkjkm14@yahoo.com) or 617-527-7044.

#### **HOSTS: If you are a host, you**

- provide an hors d'oeuvre or two and beverages (wine\* and/or soft drinks, coffee/tea)
- will *not* be told *who* will be coming to your house. You will only know *the number of guests that will be attending.*

#### **GUESTS: If you are a guest, you**

- will be contacted on the Wednesday or Thursday of the week of the dinner and will be given **only** *the address and phone number of the home to which you have been assigned* (If you have not been contacted by Thursday evening, PLEASE call Toni Miller 617-527-7044)
- *will not* be told who else will be going to the same house.
- will be asked to bring **one part of the meal** for a specific number of people, for example:
  - salad, rolls or bread, maybe a bottle of wine
  - main dish (casserole or other main dish) **Note:** for large groups, two people will be asked to bring a main dish
  - dessert
- \* Guests, in general, are welcome to bring a bottle of wine if they so choose.



### **UPA 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."

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a  
New Year filled with all good things!*



*The UPA Staff  
Jean, Allen, Karen, Jane, Johanna and Ron*

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

**Monday, Dec. 26, 2011**  
Office Closed

**Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012**  
10:00 a.m. - Worship

**Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2012**  
7:30 p.m. - Outreach

**Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012**  
7:00 - Open & Affirming

**Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012**  
3:30 p.m. - Children's choir  
7:30 p.m. - Adult Choir

**Friday, Jan. 6, 2012**  
6:30 p.m. - First Friday for Families

**Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012**  
10:00 a.m. - Worship/Jean's last Sunday

[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.