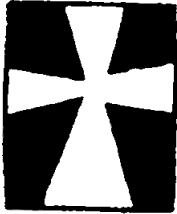


# United Parish of Auburndale

T·O·G·E·T·H·E·R



## May 23, 2010 – Pentecost Sunday and Sacrament of Baptism

Preaching: Jean Alexander

Sermon: “When You Don’t Speak the Language”

Scriptures: Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-21

Reader: Bruce Hanson

Ushers: Barbara Seal and Tessa Kadar

Assistant Ushers: Mahala Davenport

Acolytes: Kathleen McVittie, Laura Andersen

Church School Roamer: Don Ross

Coffee Hour Hosts: The McVittie Family

Language is at the heart of our two scriptures on this Pentecost Sunday. Many of us have had the experience of being in a country where we don't know the language and are trying to communicate. There is a feeling of vulnerability and sometimes frustration as we try to understand or to ask for help. Language is a critical component of communication and yet it is not the only component. The language of faith is rich in symbols and gestures that communicate things that words sometimes struggle to express. We will have the opportunity to reflect on that Sunday as we not only celebrate the birthday of the Christian church, but celebrate three baptisms.

### **These Individuals will be Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism Today:**

Kevin Joseph Barbario  
Caroline Peckham Cornelius  
Caleb Paxton Cornelius

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE CONCERNED

### A Message from the Scott Family:

Dear UPA Friends –

We are writing to let you know about our mom, Lucia Scott. About a month ago she was diagnosed with stage one breast cancer - it was, in her words, not exactly the way she thought retirement would play out ! She has now had surgery and, happily, we share with you that she is doing just fine. During the coming weeks we will hear about the follow up treatment which will take place over the summer months. As you can no doubt imagine she is busy working in her garden, enjoying the good weather and walks with Annie and her sense of humor remains right in tact. While not wishing this to be a secret, Mom has remained true to herself in accepting the challenge and walking the road privately. Her love for each of you can best be honored by your prayers and good, positive thoughts. Please feel free to contact us at [scotto33@hotmail.com](mailto:scotto33@hotmail.com).

With love and appreciation for you,  
Tracy and Katy Scott

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### Graduation Announcements –

UPA families who have children graduating this year: please contact the church office so we can congratulate these graduates as a congregation in the upcoming weeks. Send an email or make a phone call to the church office this week so we can recognize the accomplishments of this year's graduating class. Call the office (617)964-8516 or email us at [office@upanewtonma.org](mailto:office@upanewtonma.org) soon!

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

#### – Galactic Blast!

JULY 12-16

9 AM-3 PM

All UPA children going into Kindergarten through Fifth grade are invited to participate.

This year we can expand the number of children, so feel free to invite a neighbor or a friend.

A Sign up sheet will be available starting May 1st in the Parish Hall or you may call the church office.

### Adult and Youth Forum - June 13<sup>th</sup>

Leah Raczynski will reflect on her recent trip to India at a special adult and youth forum on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The trip was supported by the UPA community and all are welcome to hear Leah share her thoughts and memories surrounding her travels.

## Monday Musing

We are back safe and sound. There were no problems with volcanic ash and flight plans, and everything went very smoothly on our tour. It was an incredible experience. We not only saw a lot of Turkey, but many UNESCO world heritage sites. This Sunday when the traditional Pentecost scripture is read with the list of unpronounceable names of people from many parts of the Mediterranean world in the first century, I will be able to visualize Cappadocia and Phrygia because we were there. After I've had a chance to sort through and pare down our pictures, we will be happy to share the experience with anyone who wants.

It was great to be able to ease back in this Sunday and only minimally participate in the worship because it was Children's Sunday. It was a lively service with lots of tender moments. From the wonderful music of Melanie Rucinski on oboe to Jesse Levines piano postlude, to the singing of the children's choir and the pre-school class, to Michael's Beam's engaging sermon, and the participation of each class in the worship service, including the youth group, it was a reminder of the vibrancy and youth of this parish. Thank you Kurt and the Board of Christian Education so ably led by Katie Sango-Jackson for your work in making it such a special day.

The Board of Christian Education always honors the teachers on Children's Sunday and this year there was a special award for David Walsh who has been such a faithful and beloved teacher. David has been teaching for 25 years! Congratulations David and thank you for your faith-filled service.

And a big thank you to Kurt and Amanda, Natalie Austrian and Linda Wood-Boyle for making sure that everything happened as it should while I was gone. I was able to go away and not worry because I knew that things would be well taken care of and they were.

A week from this Wednesday at 7:30 pm the UPA will host Natalie Austrian's Ecclesiastical Council where she will present her ordination paper and be questioned about her faith by delegates from congregations in the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ. At the end of that meeting the council delegates will vote on whether or not she should be ordained. It is the final step of endorsement on this long journey. You do not have to be a delegate to attend and I know she would love to see your friendly faces on that night. Blessings -- Jean

**Youth Group: Children's Sunday** - You all did a wonderful job yesterday. The readings, the Children's sermon, 'Ush'ing', Michael's message. It was all "tov" as my Jewish brothers and sisters say. You did a fine job of worshipping our God yesterday. Congratulations.

**Youth Group** - Meeting Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:00.

**June 13<sup>th</sup> - "Mission for Peace"** - Youth AND Adult Forum. Leah Raczynski is a High School student who will be giving a presentation in which she shares with us her thoughts and memories of her recent trip to India. The UPA helped her go on this trip.

## From the Book Group

We will meet on **Friday, June 11**  
from **10:00 a.m. – noon** in the  
conference room at the church.

For June we will be reading *The Nine* by  
Jeffrey Toobin.

Come join us for our last meeting until  
September – Happy Summer Reading!



In times of trouble, tangible signs of others' thoughts and prayers can mean so much. Giving a simple knit prayer shawl, easily yet caringly stitched using a simple rectangular pattern, can wrap another in the warmth and support of a whole community.

If you've ever wanted to learn (or relearn) to knit, come enjoy some time with a great group of ladies over a calming cup of tea (at Nancy Marzilli's house this month) and a bit of gently guided instruction (by Toni Miller), so we might make several prayer shawls as gifts together.

## Knitting Night

Mon May 24<sup>th</sup> - 7 p.m.

27 Owatonna Street – Auburndale  
(617-964-3657)

Bring 3 skeins Home Spun Yarn  
& 1 pair size 13 knitting needles

(JoAnne Fabrics, WalMart, etc have supplies)

## 2010 Boston Pride Parade Save the Date:



Saturday, June 12.

Hope to see you there. Guaranteed,  
you'll have a great time!

For the next few weeks the Open &  
Affirming Committee  
will have a table during the coffee hour  
where you can

**SIGN-UP** to join us and ask questions  
about the parade.

### **For instance:**

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. How long is the parade route? Does everyone walk the whole route?
2. How long does it take to participate?
3. I have a child who is *x* years old. Should I have concerns about what she/he will see or hear?
4. Where does the UPA group assemble before the parade?
5. Do I wear anything special?
6. How do people along the parade route identify us as the UPA group?

***We can answer these  
questions – stop by and see us  
and,  
of course, come to the parade  
and march with us !!!***

## REMINDER: Coffee Hour May and June

### May -

23 – Bruce and Elizabeth McVittie; Melinda Broderick

30 – **POT LUCK** – Reppert Set-up/cleanup

### June –

6 – O'Connell Family; Paris Family

## Mike Beam's Sermon from May 23, 2010

Good morning. Few topics have been more difficult to discuss than my religious views. I have trouble illustrating my beliefs, my experiences, and my struggles. And even when I manage to, I never feel like I've fully expressed what I believe. So please bear with me. I've seen other seniors stand where I am now and express their relationship with the church and what this congregation has taught them. It's certainly important and I will get around to that, but first I want to approach another topic that I've never heard addressed up here. I want to talk about how religion fits into the life of a twenty-first century teenager, and how I've dealt with the accompanying struggle for understanding and faith. Of course, this isn't unique to me, and probably is relatable across all ages, but maybe none of you have given much thought to how you felt about religion when you were my age. Well, here's my take.

Let's start back in church school. Like all of the kids behind me once did, I would leave the sanctuary halfway through the service and join my friends in one of our classrooms. It was a smart decision to send the kids out; because by the time I left I had filled the whole Ritual of Friendship pad with pseudonyms and doodles. I would never have been able to sit through the second half of church without ripping out the book of Ruth to make a paper airplane. And so, in an effort to avoid sacrilege, I filed out with the host of children. It's a shame I wasn't old enough to listen to the sermons, because I missed out on what would become my favorite part of church. Instead, I whiled away a half hour or so coloring Moses in blue crayon or tracing my way through a maze past the twelve apostles until I got to Jesus. This was where I first learned the Bible stories and the accompanying lessons. In hindsight, I realize just how valuable these brief classes were. Sure, we learned about the Bible, but we also learned basic moral values. Respect your parents, treat others as you would like to be treated, don't lie, don't steal. It's one thing to hear these lessons from your parents, but a whole other to learn that the everlasting creator of life decreed it. There's a little more oomph in the delivery.

I think one of the main reasons we have church school is for that reason. Children need to know what's right and what's wrong. This isn't exclusively a Christian thought, though. Satanic cults aside, every religion preaches some form of the Golden Rule. Despite the wide array of beliefs and cultures throughout the world, religion unites us with a single message: be nice to each other.

I also enjoyed the open-ended forum of church school. No questions were off limits, and being children, we had an infinite number to ask. However, I rarely heard a definitive "yes" or "no" from a teacher. They much preferred turning the question back on me. If I asked, "Is there really a God?" they would respond, "Do you think there is a God?" They were careful to avoid concrete answers on a subject that is up to personal interpretation. The freedom to define my own beliefs early on encouraged me to think for myself rather than regurgitate the opinions of others.

But then I began to grow up, and teenaged skepticism set in. I was too wrapped up in school and friends and the moment to think about my life, the afterlife, the big picture. As Holden Caulfield warns, don't wear an idea that's too big for your head, or all you'll get is a headache. Like many young boys, I was a disciple of Holden, and he was a self-professed atheist. I never gave religion any thought. Once I was old enough to attend Youth Group, I came to love it. I loved hanging out with Will Green (or more recently, Kurt), chatting about school, sports, whatever. But we rarely discussed religion. I was more than happy to circumvent a topic that made me uncomfortable. However I think I threw away a prime opportunity to develop my beliefs. The youth ministers would have been a great resource for me, but at the time I never thought to use them.

By the time I was confirmed, I was, ironically, the most uncertain of my beliefs. The Bible seemed farfetched, full of good morals but no historical truth. My education had taught me that men can't rise from the dead, nor can they walk on water, and as the John Lennon said, above us was only sky. The only firm belief I had at the time was the existence of some higher power.

There had to be a God. Something must have created all this. So I went through the process of confirmation feeling conflicted and confused. As I mentioned the last time I spoke in front of the church, I was lucky to be matched with Simon Parker as a mentor. His approach to religion appealed to me, and he never treated me like I was wrong, or worse, a heathen. We would read a chapter of the Bible together, and then he would ask me what it meant. In a sardonic tone, I would recite the answer I thought he wanted: "people should get along," or "consider both sides of an argument," or "share with your neighbor." Refusing to accept such a trite answer, Simon challenged me to think deeper. "That's possible," he would say, "but why is this important? Why include this passage at all? What makes it unique?" And so we talked during our sessions less about whether something happened, but more about the significance of the text. He showed me that the Bible could be read several ways, and that I didn't need to take it literally to believe in its message. I went through more a redefinition of faith than a confirmation.

High school marked my decline of involvement with the church. Play rehearsals fell on Sundays, book groups, essays, late Saturday nights drew me from the Sunday morning routine of my childhood. However religion was more present in my life than ever. In debate class, we argued whether it was appropriate to have the word 'God' written around our school even though the school had no religious affiliations. In English, we discussed whether there might be a compromise between realists and believers. While working on the school newspaper, we published a religion themed issue, which illustrated the spectrum of faiths within the school, questioned whether it was too religious, and displayed student's interpretations of their faiths. According to our poll, very few people within a religion agreed upon its stance on hot button issues such as abortion, the death penalty, and homosexuality. This didn't necessarily mean they weren't familiar with their religions, but rather that they adopted their own version of a religion that dovetailed with their beliefs. Such a realization was a leap forward in my thought process. Of course people wouldn't agree on what their religion decrees, because everyone has an extremely personal type of religion tailored to fit their beliefs. In a way, no two people are practicing the same religion, which means there's an infinitely diverse range of theologies in the world.

As a result of my meandering path of spiritual development, I've arrived at my current stance. I believe, as I always have, that there has to have been a reason for creation. Some incomprehensible force intended for us to exist. If it's what you call God, so be it. As for the Bible, I think it's a wonderful source of inspiration and a superb guide to living an honest life. But after translating parts of the Gospels and books of the Old Testament in Greek, I don't think much of it is true. The different accounts of Jesus' life add details here, omit others there. Several Gospels were written too far after the life of Jesus to be accurate, and they drew on the mysterious Q-source for historical evidence. As any student writing a research paper will tell you, a bibliography full of primary sources and substantial evidence is a key to a good grade. But again, I'm not condemning the Bible in any way. There's a reason it's been a best-seller for two thousand years. Part of its appeal is that it means something different to each person. There are limitless ways in which to read the Bible, and none are wrong. That's my approach to my religion at the moment. Ask me next week, and I'll probably have a totally different answer. That's because there is no final position. You can spend a lifetime searching for the ultimate theology, but you won't find it. The struggle for understanding cannot be resolved. Nor should it. It's a brave move, to challenge your beliefs, and it's something you have to do in order to know yourself.

I'm grateful to UPA for so much. The congregation has loved me, babysat me, and taught me for almost eighteen years now. I'm especially grateful that this church embraces its pledge of being open and affirming. It has always been open to me, regardless of my faith, and has affirmed my view that understanding your faith is a lifelong pursuit. -- Thank you all very much.

# Thank You!!!

Kurt and the rest of the UPA staff would like to thank all of the individuals who helped to create a wonderful and memorable Children's Service this past Sunday morning. Each of you deserve a big thank you. Thanks again for all of those who helped out with the organization, planning, and preparations for this beautiful service.

## Think Altar Flowers:

We have openings for altar flowers on the calendar for plenty of dates in June {and as always through the summer} Consider Donating for All Occasions!  
Thanks, Patricia Bottomley  
(617)527-7470

## UPA Families Feeding Families, spring 2010

*Donations collected during worship and Sunday School on 5-16-10 and 5-23-10  
or drop off at UPA anytime before 5-23-10*

The UPA Board of Outreach and the Sunday School program of the UPA Board of Christian Education have committed to collecting desperately needed donations twice a year, spring and fall, for the Grow Clinic at Boston Medical Center.

The Grow Clinic for Children is a unique and successful program for the treatment of Failure To Thrive (FTT) in young children. Although outreach services are part of the reason why the Clinic is so successful, these services are outside the traditional medical model and not supported by insurance or any government programs. The clinic relies exclusively on private donations to run these essential outreach services. When you are shopping for groceries or clothing, or sorting through gently used children's clothing in your home, please keep the Grow Clinic in mind and bring your donations to the UPA during the dates listed above. Children may bring donations forward during the Children's Sermon on 5/16 and 5/23.

### Priority items needed at the Grow Clinic

*(as listed at <http://www.bmc.org/pediatrics-growclinic/donate/inkinddonations.htm>):*

**Supplements and vitamins:** Bright Beginnings Pediatric Soy supplement (\$35.00/case), Duocal (\$78.00/case), Enfamil Next Step Soy Formula, Poly Vi Sol with Iron liquid vitamins, Flintstones Complete chewable vitamins or equivalent.

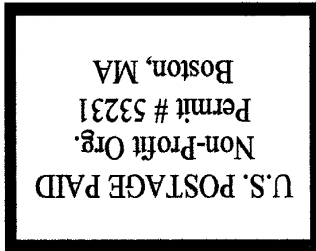
**Supplies:** Unisex diapers for ages 6 months to 3 years (sizes 3 and 4 in demand); new sippy cups; baby food (Stage 1 + 2); new plastic spoons for babies; new children's board books, picture books and I Can Read books.

**Food:** *The food pantry is always in need of donations, especially during the summer months when older siblings are at home and not being fed by school breakfast and lunch programs. The Grow Clinic Food Pantry needs high calorie, protein rich foods that appeal to a child's likes. In order of preference, here is a list of items most needed in the food pantry:*

Carnation Instant Breakfast (powder); graham crackers; rice; tuna fish in oil; thick canned stews; canned ravioli and spaghetti; canned corn; vegetable oil; canned meats (corn beef etc.); boxed mac and cheese; canned beans (not green beans); raisins and other dried fruit; mayonnaise and salad dressing; canned fruits and heavy syrup (not lite); cold cereals (Kix, Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Rice and Corn Chex, Total); hot cereals (oatmeal, grits, Cream of Wheat); canned chili; chocolate syrup or Nestle Quik; peanut butter; canned gravy; instant mashed potatoes; canned vegetables; evaporated milk (not nonfat powdered milk); spaghetti sauce; pasta; canned or instant pudding (no gelatin).

**Clothing:** Clothing and shoes/boots appropriate for the season at the time of donation is welcome. Grow Center children are 3-8 years old.

- Thank you! The UPA Boards of Outreach and Christian Education (Questions? Call Julie Redmond 617.964.4164)



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

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**This Coming Week at UPA**

**Tuesday, May 18, 2010**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. - Bristol Lodge Cooking  
7:00 p.m. - Mini Retreat

**Wednesday, May 19, 2010**

7:30 p.m. - Parish Council

**Thursday, May 20, 2010**

3:15 p.m. - Children's Choir  
7:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

**Sunday, May 23, 2010**

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service  
10:20 a.m. - Church School  
11:00 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship  
11:30 a.m. - Youth Group



**[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. 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.