

# United Parish of Auburndale

T · O · G · E · T · H · E · R



October 3, 2010

World Wide Communion Sunday

Scriptures: Lamentations 3:19-26

Luke 24:25-35

Sermon: "Coming Together as One Body"

Preaching: Mike Nilon

Children will remain in worship

Reader: Mary Lou Walsh

Head Usher: Kris Finn

Assistant Usher: Simon Clay

Fellowship Time: Houston/Korman and Beard

***What are we are doing** when we take communion as a congregation? Christians subscribe to varying conceptual stances with regard to this act, which has been one of the most important, if not the most important, aspects of Christian worship since the coalescence of the early church. Some hold that communion is a sign of remembrance which leads us to recall the self-sacrifice of Jesus and shape our lives according to that image. Some claim that taking communion reenacts the time of the last supper which necessarily prepares us to meet the challenge of living a Christian life as we leave the church. Some assert that communion performs a mystical transformation that makes us one living body that becomes aware of the joys and pains of every member. What do you think communion does to us as a congregation and as individuals?*

**Want a Rerun?** If you enjoyed the worship service and want to hear parts of it again, you may sign up on the sheet in the parish hall after worship and a CD copy will be made for you. You may pick up the CD the following week in the parish hall. It will have your name on it. The text of sermons is also posted on our website [www.upanewtonma.org](http://www.upanewtonma.org).



### **Book Club – Oct. 15, 10 am**

The Book Club will be reading “The Big Stone Gap” by Adriana Trigiani. In October we will meet as usual at 10:00 a.m. in the Norton Room – usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday in the month. For October the date is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday. Please join us for a lively get-together!

**The Garden Club** has been cancelled for Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Planning to meet the first Tuesday of Nov. at 9:30 a.m.  
~ Patricia Bottomley

### *Think Altar Flowers*



*As*

many “oldies” at our church know, Gleasons Florist was our florist of choice for many years. Roger Carpenter, a member of our church and an employee at Gleasons, personally did the arrangements for our church.

Gleasons closed, Roger retired, and we don’t use a florist as much today. I have made arrangements with “Busy Bee” on Watertown St. in Nonantum to do our arrangements when donors would like to use a florist. I hope you will call “Heidi” at Busy Bee for other occasions as well.

There is a \$5.00 delivery charge. Just let my team know when they call, to give you your choice of using a florist or an alternate plan.

Thanks,  
Patricia Bottomley

(Chair – Altar Flower Committee)

## *Monday Musings -*

It was a full day at the UPA. There were lots of people in church in the morning and the usual swirl of activity. We dedicated about 10 acolytes which I think is more than we have had other years.

The forum was well attended and in the moments that I was able to be there, good questions were being asked about the Grove Street houses. There is a report on the discussion in this Together that I urge you to read. There will be another Forum on October 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss the options more fully and a congregational vote on November 7<sup>th</sup>. There are several possibilities for how to proceed, and each of them has something to recommend it. I hope there will be lots of discussion between now and then.

I don't know if you have noticed but we have another rocker in the back of the church. With several babies around this fall and another one coming that I know of, we needed a second rocker. Thank you to Melinda Broderick who donated it to the church.

The afternoon ordination service was just right, filled with friends and good spirit. Our Natalie is now The Reverend Natalie Austrian and has the paper to prove it. The church gave her a white stole for the many funeral and memorial services that she will do in her capacity as chaplain at the Wayside Hospice. She has worked so hard and so faithfully at this long process of education and training and today reaped the rewards of her diligence. It was a special honor to do the ordination prayer, and I thank her for the honor bestowed. Next Sunday is World Wide Communion and the children Grades 2 and higher will remain in worship. Mike Nilon will be preaching, and as it turns out his parents, who have not yet seen their granddaughter, will be here for the weekend. So, between our opening confirmation retreat, and the Sunday service, he will have quite the weekend. I'm looking forward to our confirmation class beginning this weekend. It is always an interesting experience, and I'm grateful for the 9 mentors who will accompany our confirmands through it.

I know that many of you will be thinking of my daughter and me this week as we make our pilgrimage to Florida. I thank you for your prayers and for all your kindness and compassion this past year.

Blessings,

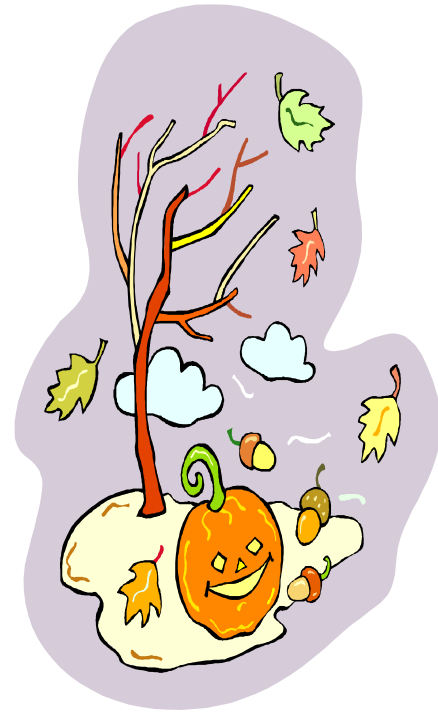
Jean

## SPECIAL OFFERING – October 3

*This Sunday, October 3, UPA will be conducting a special offering for **Neighbors in Need (UCC) and World Communion Sunday (UMC).***

**Neighbors in Need** is a special UCC mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. One-third of Neighbors in Need funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry, and two-thirds is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

UMC's **World Communion Sunday** collects money for undergraduate and graduate scholarships for international and racial- or ethnic-minority students in the US. Please remember to make a generous donation to these worthy causes this Sunday.



Happy Pumpkin Days!

**Q.** Why was the jack-o-lantern afraid to cross the road?

**A.** Because it had no guts!

## The Pumpkin Patch Opens Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>!!

**Please mark it on your calendar and look for the sign-up sheets at coffee hour.**

We'll need help with:

- **Unloading:** Oct. 9, 12:30 pm & Oct 16, 8:00 am
- **Oct. 10 – 31:**
  - Mon.- Fri.: 10 am – 6 pm
  - Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm
  - Sunday: 11 am – 6 pm
- **Needed:** Baking for the Bake Sale & Selling Pumpkins



## **Update on 87-89 Grove Street Houses**

Yesterday's forum was attended by approximately 18-20 members. We discussed the current status of the properties, reviewed their history, presented current options, summarized a proposed Landscape Master Plan and reviewed estimated costs for various options. The following is a brief summary of the topics discussed: This past year the Committee on 87-89 Grove Street worked closely with an architecture firm to design renovations to both houses. After their work was completed, the Committee forwarded specifications to two contractors in the spring for initial bidding. Both estimates came back above our budget target. As such the Committee convened on June 21, 2010 to discuss next steps including alternatives to renovating the houses. The unanimous consensus was that the Parsonage (89 Grove) should be demolished and the Carriage House (87 Grove) should be renovated.

A number of factors went into this recommendation with renovation cost being an important a trigger. However, the Committee also felt that selling the land should not be an option especially right now. The Committee based this position on the importance of maintaining the integrity of the existing church lot which encompasses one city block in a very attractive neighborhood. The Committee also recommended that the church retain the Carriage House as a potential future Parsonage including possibly an Associate Pastor or a Director of Youth Ministries. A final point for retaining the property surrounding 89 Grove is that currently this is an inopportune time to sell the property. By keeping the property and demolishing one or both houses, the church retains the option to use or sell the property at the most attractive time in the future. Sherwood Norton briefly summarized the long history of both properties including the current status of the properties within the Auburndale Historic District. This designation places some restrictions on what the church--or any other party--can do with the exterior of the buildings.

## **Landscape Master Plan**

At the Committee's June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, it unanimously recommended that the church begin the process of constructing a Landscape Master Plan for the entire church property. It was noted that the overall property has become significantly overgrown over the last decade and that numerous plantings and changes to the landscape have been made on a piece-meal basis. The result of this fragmented work is a degrading of the overall church landscape, poorly sited or maintained trees and shrubs, poor drainage and a shortage of parking. The Committee also views a Landscape Master Plan as a great opportunity to substantially improve and upgrade the church property to modern standards and current uses. Given the significance and potential impact of changes with the Grove Street houses, the Committee voted to recommend that Parish Council--and ultimately the church membership--conduct and approve a Landscape Master Plan. The major objectives are summarized below:

- + Create a unified landscape that encompasses areas currently obscured by vegetation and structures and improve access to all parts of the site
- + Make the site welcoming and inclusive for the congregation and the community
- + Improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation, including parking, access, safety, and ease of drop-off while minimizing impacts to trees and views
- + Make the site more inviting and comfortable for strolling, socializing, and gatherings
- + Rejuvenate the tree canopy with new plantings that enhance the park-like quality of the site, complement the church's historic buildings, create four-season interest, provide cooling shade for the site and its buildings, and build resilience through diversity of species and age
- + Develop guidelines and locations to assure that living memorials – potentially including both trees and gardens – become beloved elements in the landscape

- + Identify poorly located plants for removal or transplant; identifying invasive plants for removal and, where appropriate, replacement with native alternatives
- + Reduce landscape maintenance needs and maximize the ease of snow removal and storage
- + Establish guidelines for signage and lighting improvements
- + Prepare a Master Plan Report and recommendations for presentation by the 2011 annual meeting

During the summer of 2010 Jim Miller led an interviewing process with three landscape architects. The Committee reviewed their credentials and experience and settled on one to create a proposal for the entire property of the United Parish of Auburndale. Their proposal was received in September, revised and resubmitted to the Committee for review. This proposal was summarized at Parish Council meeting on 9/22.

Parish Council had the following responses to the presentation:

1. PC requested cost info be provided to PC and members at forum, e.g., how much money will it take to demolish the houses?
2. PC recommends the first question to be answered is: "Do we want to keep or sell the land?"; everything else flows from there.
3. PC recommended a second forum on October 24<sup>th</sup> followed by a church-wide meeting & vote on keep/sell land on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Dates added to church calendar.
4. Note read to PC from Dave Stuart, Treasurer, recommending sale of land & houses
5. PC voted to authorize the Moderator to file a notice with the City of Newton to demolish 87 and/or 89 Grove Street houses so that we are prepared and ready to go forward with any outcome.

**Forum:** The following questions were posed at the forum on September 26<sup>th</sup>:

- Have we considered the need to use one of the buildings for parsonage use in the future?
- Would like to have a walk-through tour of 87 & 89 Grove St houses after next forum for members to really see the current conditions and situation.
- Parking (3 comments): We really need parking; when the Methodist church was sold there was no parking & we were really looking forward to more parking at UPA; still need additional parking.
- What are other churches doing re: open spaces on their properties? How have they handled similar situations? Have they tried to create an interesting open space? If so, what purposes have those spaces been used for? What would UPA's potential open space uses be?
- Demolition cost at \$12,000 seems low; can you get some real quotes from contractors before the next Forum? [Revised expected cost \$20-25,000; awaiting quotes now.]
- Understand that we are seeking a long term solution to these properties.
- What is the state of our church finances? Are we in a crisis or do we have adequate reserves?
- What did we do with the proceeds from the sale of our other church parsonages (e.g., Hancock St)?

**Next steps:**

1. Notify 3 Alderman
2. Update in Together newsletter on 9/28
3. File to demolish with City of Newton
4. Demo quotes
5. Next Forum: 10/24 at 11:30 AM, Centenary Room
6. Special Meeting & Vote: 11/7

Respectfully submitted, Lyman Jackson for the Committee on 87-89 Grove Street

## Youth Schedule Fall 2010

Dear Friends,

Our first meeting as a youth group when smashing well. It was a tremendous pleasure to meet such talented, kind, and intelligent group of young men and women. We have decided to alter our schedule a bit and would like to make this information available to the church. There are a few things for which we need your help. For the trips listed below, the first being Apple Picking, we will need to find another vehicle. Is there anyone feeling up to spending a delightful Sunday afternoon with us picking apples? Would anyone like to visit Arnold Arboretum with us on November 7<sup>th</sup>? The Arboretum is one of the most beautiful parts of Olmstead's Emerald Necklace and is in Jamaica Plain next to Franklin Park. How about visiting Cradles to Crayons with us, is anyone interested in that? We would love to have you along, so please call me or email as soon as you can!

I also wonder if any of you would be interested in helping to facilitate our activities and mentor the youth. We need two people who are willing to come one Sunday a month. Some of the Sundays will be less traditional ministry, but some will be more traditional in scope and method. Please contact me and let me know if you are interested. You can contact me either by email, [mikenilon@gmail.com](mailto:mikenilon@gmail.com), or phone, 857.919.6840. This is a unique opportunity to get to know the youth of this congregation better. Please come and join us!

Blessings,

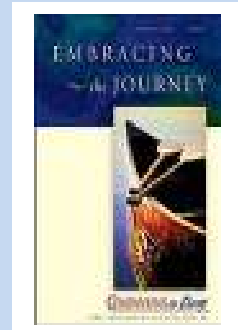
*Michael Nilon*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>
10/3/2010	UPA Youth Room	Talk about things we do with spiritual literature such as the Bible, Vedas, Sutras, etc.
10/17/2010	Apple Picking: Russell Farm	The bounties of God, being thankful for what the earth produces.
10/31/2010	UPA Youth Room	Talk about Halloween—how did this holiday survive in Christian cultures?
11/7/2010	Arnold Arboretum	Experiencing the natural world, the wonders of creation, and trees in scriptural traditions.
11/21/2010	UPA Youth Room	Discussion about Thanksgiving—why we are thankful for what we have.
12/5/2010	UPA Youth Room	Practice of meditation, prayer, interior spiritual exploration
12/19/2010	Cradles to Crayons	Cradles to Crayons—provides school supplies for children who come from low income or homeless families.

## COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

"A Small-Group Experience in Spiritual Formation"

Do you feel like you are not growing spiritually? Would you like a process that would give you time both alone and with others to help you see where God is moving in your life?



At least a decade ago some members of the church participated in a spiritual growth group under the heading "Companions in Christ." The initial class was a 28 week experience of readings, journaling, prayer and meetings. This was followed later by some specialized groups in this same format put out under the heading of "Companions in Christ." Recently the initial 28 weeks has been revised to a series of 5 different sessions. The first one will be offered this fall. After a break for the holidays two additional ones will be offered between January in May with a break in between each one. They will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 in the Fireside Room beginning with an introductory session of one hour on October 12th and followed by the regular two hour meetings from October 19th- Nov. 16th.

**If you would like to attend this opening group, please sign up in the Parish Hall no later than October 3rd or by e-mailing [jalexander@upanewtonma.org](mailto:jalexander@upanewtonma.org).** Each member needs a book which costs \$8.00.

### **Calling All UPA Methodists: Charge Conference-Centenary United Methodist Church on Sunday, October 29th, 12:30 p.m.**

In the United Methodist Church, one of the traditions is a yearly visit by the District Superintendent, where he or she receives reports from the congregation. It gives them an opportunity to assess the health of a congregation and gives the congregation an opportunity to connect with the wider church body. It also gives us a chance to share any concerns that we have. The polity of the United Methodist Church is described as a connectional system, and the Charge Conference is one of the ways we live out that connectional polity.

Our District Superintendent, Martin McLee, who will be preaching for us that day, will meet with the SPRC at 12 noon p.m. and then at 12:30 with the "church." All of those designated as Methodist trustees should be present, as well as as any others on the Methodist rolls of the UPA. The business of the charge conference will probably take less than one hour and should not interfere overly with any pumpkin picnics.

## Up-coming Adult Forum at 11:30 a.m.

### Sunday October 3, 2010 A Tour Of Turkey

For those who are interested, Jean Alexander will show a small portion of their pictures from the trip she and Bruce had of Turkey last spring. The tour was called Kybele which is the Turkish name for the mother goddess. Turkey is rich in ancient history from the earliest Neolithic sites that have been discovered to the Hittites, the Greeks, Romans and the early Christian church.

## Worship in October

### October 10

Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7  
Luke 11:11-19

Preaching: Jean Alexander

### October 24

Scriptures: Psalm 84  
Luke 18:9-14

Preaching: Jean Alexander

### October 17

Preaching: The Rev. Martin McLee-District  
Superintendent Hope District  
N.E. Conference United Methodist Church  
Charge Conference 12:30 p.m.

### **October 31 All Hallow's Eve**

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 28:3-20  
Ephesians 6:10-18

Preaching: Jean Alexander

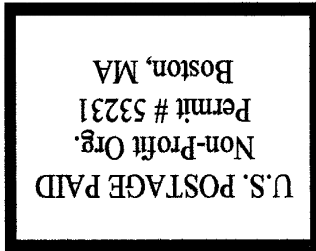
Everyone is invited to come in costume

## News from the Board of Christian Education

The Board of Education deliberated on Monday evening on what to do with the sizeable amount of money we have accumulated from Church School offerings. We think that the entire church should be as involved with this process as possible. To that effect, here is what we propose. For the next few weeks, we will be open to suggestions regarding any non-profit or social justice cause you believe would be a good beneficiary. Since our children raised the money, the organizations should appeal to children in some way. Please send any and all suggestions to [mikenilon@gmail.com](mailto:mikenilon@gmail.com). We will compile the list of suggestions to present to the Church School classes, who will then vote on which cause(s) to get behind. It is likely that we will select three causes: one local, one regional, and one national or international. The amounts we give will depend on what we have in the account and the needs of the cause. Most likely, it will be between \$200.00 and \$300.00 per cause. We will report to you regarding the amount of the donation after we have collected the votes.

When submitting your suggestions, please describe the charity in a way the children would understand so that your suggestion has a good chance of being selected. Keep in mind that this is an experiment. We are hopeful and excited to be presenting you and our children this opportunity to be more involved in the process of giving.

Blessings. *Michael Nilon*



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

---

**This Coming Week at UPA:**

**Sunday, Oct. 3, 2010**

10:00 a.m. - Worship/Worldwide Communion  
11:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time  
11:30 a.m. - Adult Forum

**Monday, Oct. 4, 2010**

7:30 p.m. - Common Meeting

**Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2010**

7:30 a.m. - Bible Study

**Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010**

7:00 p.m. - Open & Affirming

**Thursday, Oct. 7, 2010**

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

**Friday, Oct. 8, 2010**

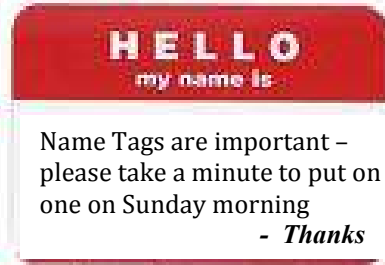
10:00 a.m. - Book Group

**Saturday, Oct. 9, 2010**

12:30 p.m. - Pumpkin Delivery

**Sunday, Oct. 10, 2010**

10:00 a.m. - Worship/Pumpkin Patch



**[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.