

NOVEMBER  
2014

# Herald of Good TIDINGS

*“Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”*  
~ Isaiah 40:9

## FROM THE PASTOR

There is much to say about the pilgrims and Plymouth colony. A little book I quite enjoyed was “The Wordy Shipmates” by Sarah Vowel. It is a short book that talks about the pilgrims using the words they themselves wrote. As the title implies, the pilgrims wrote a lot. They wrote a document before stepping off the boat, the Mayflower Compact.

The Mayflower Compact was written to help unite the colonists. Some of whom were pilgrims, some were sailors. The pilgrims were supposed to be heading to Virginia, instead they ended up on Cape Cod, an area known in England, as fishermen had travelled to the New England coast for over a decade before the pilgrims arrived to form temporary fishing villages for the summer then travel to England with their catch, salted and dried before the bad weather.

On the Mayflower the pilgrims were accompanied by adventurerers and servants. Since they were not in Virginia, as agreed, the adventurerers thought they, "Would use their own liberty; for none had power to command them...." The Mayflower Compact was written and agreed to, to form one government rather than 102 anarchies.

“In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, etc. Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith and honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering, and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620.”

Thus was the first English government in Massachusetts formed. The colony would face a deadly first winter. They would give thanks for a harvest that fall with friendly neighbors and almost 400 years later we still covenant together to form a civil body and give thanks to God for the many blessings we receive.

Pastor Brian

## NOVEMBER SERMON TOPICS

- 11/2 “Faith in God”
- 11/9 “Will You Choose the Lord?”
- 11/16 “We Better Work”
- 11/23 “I Give Thanks for You”
- 11/30 “The Peaceful Kingdom”



SERMONS

Children's Time 11/30: The Crèche



Join us at the Community  
Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wed., Nov. 26th at 7:30 P.M.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
35 School Street, Auburn

**KEEPING AUBURN WARM  
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER**

**Saturday, November 8th at 5:30 p.m.  
North American Martyr's Church Hall,  
8 Wyoma Drive, Auburn**

Featuring roasted chicken, oven roasted potatoes,  
shells and sauce, garden salad, cranberry sauce, dinner rolls,  
beverage and dessert

gift basket & gift card drawings & 50/50 cash drawing

Tickets \$10 (children 12 and under are \$5)

For tickets or information call:

Ann Weston 774-633-1123 or Betty Murphy 508-832-2019

Catered by Tastefully Michelle of Webster

**FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Thank you to everyone who shared in Consecration Sunday. On that special day, we celebrate our commitment to the church and our connections to each other.

If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please bring it to church or mail it in. **Please do this even if you're not pledging.** Then we'll know we heard from you and won't need to send a follow-up letter.

In His Love,  
Your Stewardship Committee

*Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you. Luke 6:38*

**PLEASE HELP ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

In December, I will be participating in a full marathon in Memphis, Tennessee. I am running to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. At this hospital no child is ever denied treatment because of the family's inability to pay. It costs over a million dollars a day for this organization to operate. I have a fundraising goal of \$2,500, but there is no such thing as a small donation. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please go to <http://heroes.stjude.org/Shan> to donate. Thank you!!

–Shannon Vayo

**Go "Green" with the Electronic Tidings**

In an effort to reduce printing and mailing costs, we are asking members to consider receiving the *Tidings* electronically. If you have an internet connection you can view the *Tidings* online at our website, [www.AuburnFirstUCC.org](http://www.AuburnFirstUCC.org) by clicking on the "newsletter" button on the left hand side of the home page. And, if you prefer a printed version, you can print it out right at home! If you would like to explore this option, please send an email to [Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org](mailto:Tidings@AuburnFirstUCC.org) with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. Each month you will receive an email notifying you when the *Tidings* has been placed on the website (in most cases days before you would receive the mailed version). If for any reason you do not enjoy the electronic version of the *Tidings*, you can go back to the printed version at any time by contacting the Church office.

**Thank you for considering this cost saving option.**



**\*\*\* FALL FAIR EXTRAVAGANZA! \*\*\***

By all accounts the Fall Fair was a huge success! **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated, whether through donations, by working the fair, making purchases, or all of the above — it was a real team effort!



**MANY THANKS** to Cindy Ryan for all her hard work. Her vision began in January with the purchase of Christmas markdowns. (When the receipt was held shoulder high it overlapped in folds on the floor numerous times!) Thank you to Judy Murphy for all her help along the way as well, and to those who took on responsibility for the various tables — thanks, and well done!

Dear Rev. Grover,

Last year, through the generosity of the community, Auburn Youth and Family Services provided food baskets and gifts to 147 needy families. The need is greater this year and we anticipate that we will assist even more families! The gift of “giving” is the true meaning of the Holiday Season. We are in need of donations of gifts, food, financial support, and volunteers. If you are interested in making a gift or food donation, please contact Megan Sutter at 508-832-5707, ext. 10. If you are interested in making a monetary donation simply mail in a check (payable to Auburn Youth and Family Services) or visit our website to donate via credit card.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our Holiday Giving Program. Your gift of time, talent and/or funds will make a true difference in the quality of life for Auburn families.

Sincerely,  
Sally D. D’Arcangelo, Executive Director

Suggested Food Donations: (Thanksgiving deadline is Nov. 20th; Christmas deadline is Dec. 15th)

juice	cereal	canned soups & pastas	baby food/formula
Parmalat milk	gravy	instant potatoes	cranberry sauce
instant oatmeal	tuna fish	canned veggies & fruits	stuffing mix
mac ‘n cheese	puddings/jellos	peanut butter & jelly	English muffins/loaf of bread



**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped with this year’s pumpkin patch. At the time of this printing we were at \$17,760.75 in sales!

**WE OWE A HUGE DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO DIANE MOORE & SHIRLEY HILL**

for all the work they did in organizing this fundraiser.

**Happy Birthday wishes to:**

- Rich McPherson ~ Nov. 6th**
- Nick Stockhaus ~ Nov. 7th**
- Victoria Stockhaus ~ Nov. 14th**
- Suzanne Kress ~ Nov. 22nd**



## From the Director of Religious Education

Happy Thanksgiving to you all! The pies are ordered and ready for pick up on Nov. 23 after service.

All 29 (we had one DOA) pumpkins were carved beautifully and we enjoyed a spectacular event at the EcoTarium.

Sunday school is busting at the seams and any and all who wish to participate are welcome. Just this last week we had 5 new children come and join us. It's nice when a child comes down to join us and is reluctant to leave Mom/Dad until they see a classmate and become excited and pops right in. The new curriculum is working well and the kids seem to like it. We have been learning about creation and most of them can recite the first week of creation with little prompting. I told them that we may come up to coffee hour and quiz you all. So be ready.

This year the Sunday school class has decided to send their offering to an organization that works for or with children. Jennifer Bohn came down in September and explained the process of Outreach and how we as a church help others locally and globally. I introduced different agencies and the kids voted to work with Abby's House in Worcester. To date we have raised \$53.17. I believe it is good for the kids to learn that the offering goes to help others as well as our church. We will be collecting for Abby's House until the end of November when we will then research and choose another agency. If you have any ideas please let me know.

Youth On a Mission had a great time at our first lock in. We made apple dumplings with the help of John and Pam Lazerick. YOM then sold them the next day as an impromptu fundraiser. Thank you to those who purchased one. Even though we had little to no sleep, we were up and ready to help with pumpkins after a great pancake breakfast made by Pastor Brian and Alex. We are still running our Rada cutlery fundraiser which will be ongoing because we can place orders online. You may place your order (minimum of \$10) at [www.helpourfundraiser.com](http://www.helpourfundraiser.com), internet ordering # 505046, password (lower case) afucc. If you're not in a rush, (or your order is less than \$10) you may place your order with a YOM member. YOM members can also provide you with a catalogue and order forms. We think you'll be surprised at how much Rada offers, and they make great Christmas presents!

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in the past month. It was a very busy time, but I think everyone had a good time at the various activities.

Please take time to thank all those who are a blessing to you, especially this month.

Being happy doesn't mean you have it all, it means  
being thankful to the Lord for all you have.



Go with peace in your heart,  
Jean McPherson, Dir. of Religious Ed.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:**

11/2 John Lazerick	11/23 George Scobie
11/9 Shannon Hartmann & Karen Facteau	11/30 Amy & Joe Eckman
11/16 Paula Comeau & Heather Caouette	

Weekly Volunteer: Laurie Babcock



Congratulations to the Ringgard Family on the recent birth of **Michael Paul Renaud**. Michael is a little preemie miracle baby who was born on October 6th and weighed just 2 lbs., 3.8 oz. and is doing well and gaining weight.

Proud family members include parents, Alicia and Mike, and great-nana, Joyce Ringgard.



### Here We Grow Preschool

Welcome everyone to the third month of the school year. The crying has stopped and each morning we are greeted by the smiling faces of the children waiting to be let in. With the month of December fast approaching, the children and staff are busy planning and preparing for the winter holidays.

During October we had visits from the Auburn Fire and Police Departments. The children talked about the safest way to exit their homes in case of fire. The police talked to the children about Halloween and safety tips they should follow.

In October we started our visits of potential students for the 2015/16 school year. A few have also shown an interest in filling some of our openings of this school year. We still have spots in the 3's and 4's classrooms.

During the month of November the students of **Here We Grow** will be learning about: Healthy Foods and Bodies, Five Senses, Manners, What We Are Thankful For, and the colors blue & brown, and the rectangle shape.

Our feast days are November 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. Our feast day tradition began over 26 years ago when Fawn Robidoux, **Here We Grow's** first director, began this wonderful experience. This year's menu is cornbread, made by the 3-year-olds, a friendship fruit salad, cheese and crackers, turkey and ham, and to top it off — brownies, made by the 4-year-olds, and yummy cool whip on top. With the help of the **Here We Grow** parents, who will supply and serve the food, I know it will be a wonderful experience for all.

Once again the children and families of HWG will be participating in "The Giving Basket." All foods collected will be given to Pastor Brian to distribute to families in need during the season of thanksgiving. We hope to continue with the tremendous amount of support from the HWG families. The need seems to be greater and greater each year.

One of the school's requirements is to offer some type of gross motor every day. With the cold weather fast approaching, it reminds the staff, children, and families how lucky we are to have the use of a large indoor playground.

Until next month, enjoy the season of fall and stay healthy.

Dawn Murphy, Director  
**Here We Grow** Preschool

Our monthly potluck supper get-togethers in the vestry (downstairs kitchen) area continue. The potlucks begin at 5:30 p.m. on movie nights with the movie viewing during dinner, and discussion to follow at its conclusion. On book discussion nights, the potluck begins at 6:00 p.m. with the book discussion beginning at approximately 6:30-6:45 p.m. You do NOT have to read the book, if you just want to come for food and fellowship, please do!



Tuesday, Nov. 18 - *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant - 6 p.m. start time

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - *White Christmas* - 5:30 p.m. movie start time

We welcome your suggestions for movies and/or books.

### Library Tidings

What an inviting presentation of the broad selection of items that greeted patrons of the October Church Fair. Cindy Ryan and her committee earned all of the praise that they received. Charlotte and I had weeded out over 100 books (which had served their value or appeal) from either the children's or adult libraries to contribute to the sale.

If you ever locate a church library book which fits one of these categories, or for some other reason is unsuitable, please let us know. A note left in the "return books drawer" would be great. Perhaps turning the book upside down on site would also work, especially if you're in a rush.

Our circulation in *Here We Grow* preschool remains terrific, but is an extreme contrast to what it used to be in Sunday School. There are many unfortunate universal reasons why this is the case. This is also why we do not purchase the quantities of adult books as we did in the past. However, we continue to have some wonderful gifts which are soon put into the displays. We try to change them at least every 2 months. The categories exceed 20 and some are unusual or treasures. Remember, a good book will never die and God provides illumination even though power may fail. You are a large portion of our inspiration.

Charlotte Steffen, Jean McPherson,  
Debbie Pranaitis and Gloria Whitehead



Happy Fall, Happy Ending to Daylight Saving Time and Happy Thanksgiving!

November is American Diabetes Month, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, National Family Caregiver's Month and National Healthy Skin Month. It is also National Hospice Palliative Care Month, and National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

Thanksgiving is a time when we should reflect on what we are thankful for. It is a sad time for some, especially if you've lost a loved one. It might be a time to reflect on past Thanksgivings and all the good times that you've shared in the past. When we stop to think, we all have some things that we are really thankful for and we should focus on them.

A reminder of the closet when you enter the educational wing — if you need medical equipment, feel free to take it. There have been recent donations and the supply changes frequently!

Hand washing is still the best way to prevent the spread of colds and flu. Sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Happy Birthday," or say the ABC's while washing.

God Bless!

Debbie Pranaitis  
Parish Nurse



Please be in prayer for the family of Linda M. Noel / McNeil, 57, of Charlton, who was called home by the Lord on September 29, 2014 after complications with Scleroderma. Linda was born in Worcester, the daughter of the late Raymond J. and Esther M. (Staples) Noel. She leaves her husband of 20 years, William J. McNeil; one sister, Cheryl A. Noel, her two daughters, Aimee M. Powlowski and Wendy L. Lashua; two sons, Barrett McNeil and Connor McNeil, a niece and three grandchildren.

Linda graduated from Doherty Memorial High in 1976 and attended Springfield College. She worked for UMass Memorial Hospital before becoming seriously ill in 2005. She surrounded herself with family and friends, and spent most of her life helping others. Her funeral was held October 6th at our Church and burial followed in Worcester County Memorial Park in Paxton.

**Roast Beef Community Supper**

**Saturday, November 15th at 5 P.M.**

Join us for a delicious roast beef supper with all the fixings.

~ **All Are Welcome** ~

*(Servers: Stewardship; church volunteers needed)*

**Coffee Hour Hosts:**

- 11/2, 11/9 Financial Sec’y/Treasurers
- 11/16, 11/23 Library Committee
- 11/30 B.O.C.E.
- 12/7 Historian, Nominating, & Memorial/Scholarship

**Neighbors In Need - Another World Is Possible**

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC’s Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. You’ll find an offering envelope enclosed in this month’s *Tidings*. Please return it to the church, and thank you for your help.

**FROM THE TRUSTEES**

The trustees are accepting bids for snow-plowing and sanding the church parking lot. Please mail bids to the attention of the Trustees or place in their mailbox on Sundays. If you have any questions, contact Todd Dube, todddube.bdsupply@verizon.net or 508-864-6601.

Thank you —

Remember to turn your clocks back on November 1st before retiring for the evening. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 2nd.



**2014 Christmas Poinsettia Order**

Once again we are offering the opportunity to purchase poinsettias at great prices. In the past we've decorated the sanctuary with these beautiful plants and at the close of the Christmas Eve Service members are able to claim their plants and continue to enjoy them at home, or give them as gifts. You may dedicate your poinsettias in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc. Please complete the poinsettia order form below and include a check or cash with your order.



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

or \_\_\_\_\_

In Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Size: (Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd color choices.)

Single Stem \$12.00

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

Double Stem \$18.00

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

Four Stem \$28.00

Color: Red \_\_\_\_\_ Pink \_\_\_\_\_ White \_\_\_\_\_ Marble \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes people are unable to collect their poinsettia after the Christmas services. Please check here if you want the Deacons to bring your poinsettia to be donated to a shut - in or another member of the church family.

Please use a separate order form for each plant. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ron or Connie at 508-832-4227.

**Order by Nov. 23**



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*God's church in Auburn Center  
 doing Christ's work in the world.*  
 Web: auburnfirstucc.org



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**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**