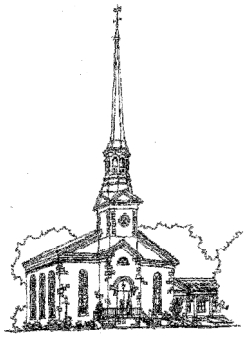


Life Together November 2011

WEST PARISH CHURCH
129 RESERVATION ROAD
ANDOVER, MA 01810-3430

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 AM

Phone 978 475-3528
Email: WESTPARISHCHURCH@VERIZON.NET
Website: WWW.WESTPARISHCHURCH.ORG
Fax: 978 475-7859

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Outreach will be collecting Thanksgiving dinners again this year for families in the Lawrence area who cannot afford the traditional Thanksgiving feast. This community wide effort is sponsored by Neighbors in Need, and they are counting on us again to share our bounty!

There is a signup sheet on the Outreach bulletin board, just outside of Fellowship Hall. Please sign up by Sunday November 20th. You may use the signup sheet or email Barbara Wrightson directly at wrightson@comcast.net. Please include your name, email address and phone number.

Please put together a Thanksgiving dinner for a family of 4 people. ***Please refer to the flyer from Neighbors In Need on page 5 of this newsletter to choose items for your basket.*** Try to fit the meal in one box or basket, and deliver to West Parish Church on Tuesday morning November 22nd between 7:30 and 8:30 AM. If you are unable to make that time or if you have other questions, please contact Barbara. Thank you so much for making this drive an annual success, and best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER

November 6
"Ready or Not"
Matthew 25: 1-13

+++++

November 13
"What Are We Burying?"
Matthew 25: 14-30

+++++

November 20
"Little Things Count"
Matthew 35: 31-46

Thanksgiving Sunday
Stewardship Sunday

+++++

November 27
"Day of the Lord"
Isaiah 64: 1-9
Mark 13: 24-37

First Sunday of Advent

+++++

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS

NOVEMBER 5TH

DON'T FORGET TO TURN BACK YOUR CLOCKS BEFORE BED SATURDAY NIGHT.

KOINONIA

Koinonia will meet on Monday, **November 7th** at noon in Fellowship Hall. In honor of Veteran's Day and all those who have served in the Armed Forces, we will have several people tell of their experiences in the service. Anyone wishing to be part of this program, please call Donna Ellsworth at 978 475-3009.

There will be a potluck luncheon. Participants will be our guests. All are Welcome, but please call Donna if you are not on our calling list.

WOMEN'S EVENING CIRCLE
NOVEMBER 10TH, 7:30 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

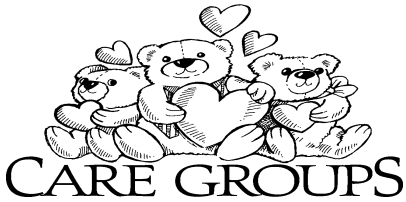
Pine Cone Wreath
Table Decoration Workshop

Hostesses are Donna Ellsworth and Barbara Putnam.

If you are not on our calling list and would like to attend please notify President Faye Pierce at 978 470-3401 so we have a sufficient amount of refreshments.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION

November 17th, 7:00 PM, Smith Purdon Room: No preparation needed for a book discussion? Really? Yes, really! Just show up and be interested in discussing short vignettes about the afterlife. Each chapter in this thought-provoking book offers a perspective on both the afterlife and human relationships. We will read several out loud and engage in impromptu discussion flowing from your reaction to each vignette. If you would like to read the book in advance, feel free. The book is *Sum: Forty Tales* from *The Afterlives* by David Eagleman. ALL are welcome Questions, please contact Kate Margolese.



November Call To Care Contact:

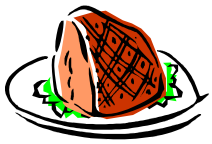
Abby Martin

978 475-3869

Please contact the "Call to Care" person with the names of any church member experiencing a life event in which church members may assist, i.e. birth, funeral receptions, cards, meals, etc.

HAM & BEAN SUPPER
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH
5:00 to 6:30 PM

<u>We will need volunteers to cook and serve the Ham & Bean Supper!!</u>

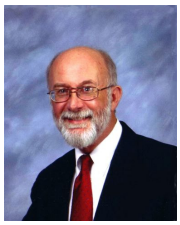


WPC will host a Ham and Bean Supper on Saturday, November 5th. Come and join us for a delicious meal that will include ham and beans, hot dogs, baked macaroni and cheese, side dishes, and dessert.

Part of the Ham & Bean Supper tradition is "pies for dessert", donated by WPC members. Please help us make this an overwhelming success by donating a home-baked pie for the event. You can drop it off in the kitchen Friday or Saturday, November 12th or 13th.

If you can help cook or serve, please contact: Jon Glesmann at 978-470-2998 or the office at 978-475-3528. Thank You

From the Desk of Rev. Thomas McMillan, Senior Minister



Dear Friends:

I recently received an email with a subject line that asked an intriguing question: "Should you use the Bible as a fortune cookie?" Since the email was an ad for a new book, I'm surprised it didn't go into my junk mail folder. But I'm glad it didn't because then I would have had to come up with another subject for this month.

The blurb describing the book says, "The Bible can be hazardous to your health if it is read with faulty expectations." Expecting it to work like a fortune cookie would definitely be faulty, and there's a story that shows how that might be hazardous. A man was looking for guidance in dealing with some problem in his life. He closed his eyes, opened his Bible at random, and put his finger on a passage. Unfortunately, he hit on Matthew 27: 5, which, speaking of Judas, says, "and he went out and hanged himself." That wasn't so good, so he tried again. This time he hit on Luke 10: 37, where Jesus says, "Go and do likewise." Now 0 for 2, he tried a third time and found John 13: 27, where Jesus tells Judas, "Do quickly what you are going to do."

The story is apocryphal, which makes it humorous. It's not so humorous, though, when we consider all the faulty and unreasonable expectations people do bring to their reading of the Bible. Those faulty and unreasonable expectations lead to "Reading the Bible for All the Wrong Reasons". (Which just happens to be the title of the book the email was plugging. It's by Russell Pregeant, if you're interested.)

One wrong reason for reading the Bible is to find unequivocal answers to any and all questions life sends our way. This attitude is fostered by the Gideon Bibles found in every hotel/motel room. At the back of the Bible is an addendum with several pages of if-you-have-this-problem, read-this-verse kind of advice.

It's seldom quite that simple. Many problems, especially those with an ethical dimension, have to be wrestled with and don't lend themselves to simplistic, fortune-cookie solutions. If your daughter is pregnant and considering an abortion, there's no Bible verse that will tell her what to do.

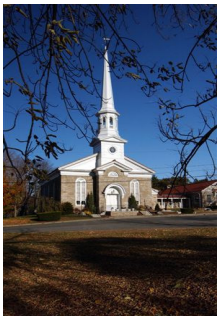
Another wrong reason for reading the Bible is to find answers to questions it was never meant to address. The Bible was never intended to be a science textbook, or any kind of textbook, for that matter. The battle against teaching evolution that creationists wage in the name of the Bible is misdirected and unnecessary. The creation stories in Genesis simply reflect the world view of a pre-scientific culture. When that is understood, any perceived conflict between science and the Bible simply disappears.

So let's all read our Bibles, by all means. But let's make sure we read them for the right reasons, not to glean fortune-cookie wisdom, which may indeed be hazardous to our health.

Blessings,
Tom

NEIGHBORS IN NEED FOOD COLLECTION

Non-perishable food collection. The bags will be passed out on October 30th and may be returned Sunday, November 6th or they may be left in the yellow box opposite the Nursery at any time



2011 West Parish Church Stewardship Campaign

A Message From Stewardship

A focus on Stewardship at WPC will be celebrated with a luncheon on November 13th after worship and a message during the service on November 20th Though there is neither beginning nor end to stewardship, it is our tradition at West Parish to conduct our annual pledge drive in November. It is a time to remind ourselves about and to renew our pledge to the work of our Church, its outreach and mission and the local, national and global activities of the UCC denomination in November.

This year, the UCC theme is "Count Yourself Blessed." We usually hear the expression "count your blessings" which asks us to take the time to review our good fortune, no matter how small we think it is. Asking us to count ourselves blessed is a more active request and one that pushes us to reflect perhaps on an external force or being blessing us. How do you count yourself blessed? The 2011 Stewardship Committee wants to know and we will be asking for participation from the congregation to help shape the message and materials for this year's pledge campaign at our November events.

Lisa Doucett

Chair, Stewardship

Neighbors In Need
Adopt-A-Family
Food Guidelines for Turkey Dinner

Basic Dinner:
Turkey—Frozen
Potatoes (5 pound bag)
Fresh Vegetables—Squash, Broccoli, Onions, Celery, Carrots, Yams, etc.
Fresh Fruit
Rice – Canilla or Carolina (NOT Uncle Ben's or Minute Rice)
Canned beans, especially Green Pigeon Peas (gandules)
Stuffing Mix and/or Stuffing Ingredients
Cranberry Sauce and/or Cranberries
Gravy
Dessert, or
Pie ingredients—Apples, Squash, Pumpkin, Pie Crust Mix, Evaporated Milk.

Options:
Coffee or Tea
Cream
Shelf stable 1% milk (e.g., Parmalot)
Salad Vegetables
Desserts—Pie, Cake or cupcakes, Cake mix
Baking supplies—Butter, Sugar, Flour
Canned vegetables, preferably low sodium
Bread or Rolls
Nuts
Candy
Candles
Napkins

Please pack everything in ONE box with a cover so that they are easy to transport.

Except for the Turkey, **please do not include frozen foods.**
Where possible, please include fresh fruits and vegetables.

Meals will be delivered to the families on , November 22, 2011.

We request that you deliver your meals between 7:30 and 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 22nd, to West Parish Church..

SEASON MUSICAL FAVORITES!

As we approach the holidays, please join us in Worship for the upcoming special music:

- **November 13th** - Jazz Service, played by the delightful and soulful Carolyn Wilkins, professor at Berklee College of Music.
- **December 11th** –"A Winter Mosaic" – Treble Chorus of New England's Schola choir will perform several holiday selections. Schola is the premier high school chorus.
- **December 24th** – Our traditional Christmas Eve late service, featuring favorite advent hymns and special music by the WPC choir and also family members returning for the holidays!

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE

After worship coffee hour will be sponsored by the Ministry of Worship for the month of November. Please join us!

Thank you all for the prayers, cards caring and concern for husband Bud, and our family.

Love and Peace,

Bette Henderson & Family

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

November 17th is the deadline for the December Newsletter. Please leave your articles or notices in the Newsletter mailbox in the church office or email to: www.westparishchurch@verizon.net.

POINSETTIA ORDER
CHRISTMAS 2011

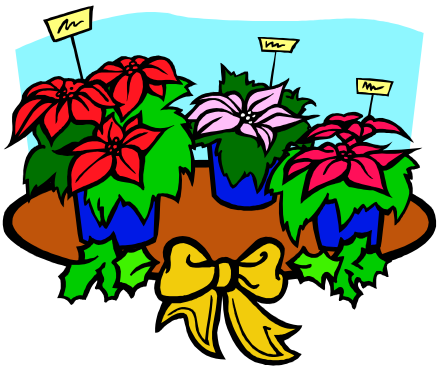
As Christmas nears, it is time to order poinsettias for decorating the sanctuary and for remembering our loved ones.

The cost is ***$11.00*** *per plant this year.*

Please complete the order form below and make your check out to : "West Parish Church Flower Committee."

Return this form and check to the church office or mail to:

West Parish Church Flower Committee
West Parish Church,
129 Reservation Road,
Andover, MA 01810



The DEADLINE for the receipt of orders is:

Sunday, November 27, 2011

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

GIVEN BY:_____

IN MEMORY OF:_____

_____

Choice of Color: _____Red _____White _____Pink
(If Available)

Choice of Disposition of Plant:

_____ I will take my plant home after the 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service, December 24th.

_____ I would like the Ministry of Fellowship to give my plant to a shut-in.

The Flower Committee thanks you for your participation in this joyful project. If you would like to assist in the set up or contribute additional funds for the Christmas Decorations, please contact Abby Martin(978 475-3869).

The West Parish Church of Andover, United Church of Christ

West Parish Church
Holiday Calendar 2011

Nov 20	✧ Thanksgiving Sunday, 10:00 AM Stewardship Sunday
Nov 27	✧ 1st Sunday of Advent, 10:00 AM
Dec 4	✧ 2nd Sunday of Advent, 10:00 AM ✧ Advent Workshop, 3:00 PM
Dec 11	✧ 3rd Sunday of Advent, 10:00 AM Treble Chorus of New England
Dec. 18	✧ 4th Sunday of Advent, 10:00 AM ✧ Blue Christmas - 4:00 PM ✧ Christmas Caroling 5:00 PM
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Family Service 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10:00 PM
Dec 25	Christmas Day Worship 10:00 AM

JOIN US FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2011

Mark Your Calenders
2011 Holiday Events

ADVENT WORKSHOP AND SUPPER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

3:00—6:30 PM

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 4th. We hope you will join us in starting the Christmas season together as a church family.

The afternoon will begin at 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall with holiday crafts for all ages, wreath making, music and refreshments. From 5:00-5:30 PM we will have Caroling and at 5:30 PM the Ministry of Fellowship will serve a spaghetti supper. Please bring a dessert to share.

This is an all-church celebration with plenty of fun, fellowship, and Christmas spirit for all ages.

ADVENT WORKSHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers who have ideas of a Christmas Craft for the children to make - or who can help work at this special event. The Christmas Crafts should be geared for children ranging from 5 to 16 years old, be non-breakable, fairly simple to make, and preferably has special meaning to you or your family. We will purchase any supplies you need - but we especially would love crafts that use materials from nature or recycled materials. If you have an idea or would like to help at the event, please contact Pam Denny at pam_denny@verizon.net. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17TH

In the Christmas spirit and in the spirit of **many hands make light work**, we are looking for 10 adult (or nearly adult) volunteers to bring the pageant to life. Responsibilities include:

- building the set,
- serving food,
- casting,
- costuming,
- applying make-up
- directing the actors,
- locating animals,
- finding volunteers
- writing for publicity
- managing the cast in the stable

If you have an interest in leading the effort for any of these needs or another, please let Kate Margolese or Jill Sergeant know, so we will know if we have all the hands we need to bring the Christmas story to life by the West Parish Arch this year. No previous experience is necessary-- we will provide on the job training! Thanks!

Ministry of Worship

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH

5:00 PM

Fun for All Ages!

2011-2012 Chairpersons/Officers

Governing Board	
Governing Board Acting Chair	Dennis Klockow
Clerk	Suetta Tenney
Treasurer	Steve Vano
Moderator	
Ministries	
Education	Pam Denny
Fellowship	Ed Pass
Outreach	Holly Kingsley
Stewardship	Lisa Doucett
Worship	Jan Peters
Commissions	
Investments	David Bertetti
Operations	Pat Denny
Collector	Read Fleming

Committees	
Flowers	Abby Martin
Music	Ed Pass
Nominating	Joan Johnson
Planned Giving	Frank Hopkins
Smith Purdon	Lisa Doucett/Belva Hopkins
Women's Evening Circle	Faye Pierce
Church Staff	
Minister	Rev. Tom McMillan
Director of Music	Yoo-Kyung Kim
Office Administrator	Elizabeth Collins
Sexton	Mauri Johnson
Wedding Coordinator	Kathy Vano
Cemetery Superintendent	Mark Atwood

West Parish Church, U.C.C
129 Reservation Road
Andover, MASS 01810-3430
Address service requested