

# THE MESSENGER

## PAYSON PARK CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478

617-484-1542 FAX 617-484-1526



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## JANUARY 2010

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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

**“We believe God is calling us to walk in the ways of Jesus Christ  
and to bear witness to the Gospel through worship and service, empowered by the Holy Spirit.”**

As the days of Christmas lead us into the season of Epiphany, we shift our attention from the baby lying in the manger to the early events of Jesus’ ministry. From the baptismal scene in the Jordan River, to the great moment of the transfiguration, such stories illustrate the ways in which Jesus reveals God’s reconciling grace in the world. Whether teaching in a synagogue or healing on the streets, Jesus shows us that God’s grace is for all people, no matter what one’s age or ethnicity, culture or economic background. As God’s beloved child, Jesus leads us to recognize that we, too, are cherished and loved as God’s blessed creation.

Of course there’s a hitch. While the invitation comes continuously through the teachings and Spirit of Jesus, it is up to us to respond. What will we do? Can we believe in such unconditional acceptance? Might we truly be transformed?

Martin Luther King, Jr. said “yes” to God’s invitation, making it the foundation of his life. Through his personal and vocational choices he allowed God’s grace to flow, striving to bring people together. Like Jesus, Dr. King worked for unity and peace, inspiring us to do the same.

It is for this reason I am excited to celebrate the ministry of joy and reconciliation in these days of Epiphany. From the offering of Vivaldi’s “Gloria” in worship on January 10<sup>th</sup> to City Mission Society’s “Day of Service” in honor of Dr. King on the 16<sup>th</sup> and our Annual Meeting the following week, we can give thanks for the ways we at Payson Park Church work to build unity in this world. May we all be transformed by the reconciling love offered through the stories of Jesus’ life and teachings. May we say “yes” to God’s invitation to live in harmony and peace.

Prayerfully from The Reverend Lael Atkinson



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# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2010** 10:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday after Christmas**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching:**

Sermon Title: "Are You a Wise One, Too?"

Scripture: Matthew 2: 1-12

The acolyte this month is Olivia Maldonado. The altar flowers are given by the Memorial Fund in memory of Caroline Russell. The deacons serving communion are Lorraine Clifford, Nancy and Paul Fergus, Cynthia Lasker, Carl Miller and Winnie Snow. The fellowship hour is given by the Christian Education Committee. The scripture reader is Lorrie Herzberg. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Phillip Ripley.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010** 10:30 a.m.

**"Gloria" by Vivaldi:**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

**Sermon "To Sing Our Praise"**

**Scripture Luke 1: 26-33 & 46-55**

The acolyte this month is Olivia Maldonado. The altar flowers are given by Bob & Linda Jones in loving memory of Charles & Edna Giles. The deacon serving is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by the Property Committee. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Phillip Ripley.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2010** 10:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

**Ian Holland, Ministerial Intern, preaching;**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding**

Sermon Title: "Being Humble"

Scripture: Acts 8:14-17 and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The acolyte this month is Olivia Maldonado. The altar flowers are given by the Benjamin family in loving memory of Olive & Harold Moore. The deacon serving is Pat Cappadona. The fellowship hour is given by the Ushers. The scripture reader is Gretchen Dunoyer. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Marilyn Brownlie.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2010** 10:30 a.m.

**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

Sermon Title: "Celebrating History"

Scripture: Matthew 9: 27-38

The acolyte this month is Olivia Maldonado. The altar flowers are given by Armen & Janet David in loving memory of Thomas and Marion Serino. The deacon serving is Nancy Fergus. The luncheon is given by the Diaconate Committee. The scripture reader is Cynthia Lasker. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Susan Clark.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010** 10:30 a.m.

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching**

Sermon: "The Courage to Be"

Scripture: Matthew 10: 26-33

The acolyte this month is Olivia Maldonado. The altar flowers are given by Rich MacDonald in loving memory of his mother, Amy MacDonald and altar flowers also given by Joan Agius in loving memory of her parents, Edward and Marjorie Dwyer. The deacon serving today is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by the Mission & Outreach Committee. The scripture reader is Cary Morse. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Cynthia Lasker.

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

We offer our gratitude to all those who worshipped with us through the month of December. Our services were filled with special components as we journeyed through the season of Advent together. Thank you for being a part of our service of holy communion and the Annual Christmas Pageant.

December 6: 118      December 24: 189

December 13: 147      December 27: 49

December 20: snow date

# WORSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

## NEW DIRECTORY

With the online in '09, we are aware of misprinted or omitted information and are preparing a new listing to be distributed at the Annual Meeting on January 24. Please review your information and contact the office with any additions or corrections.

## PLEDGING OUR LIVES

### AS PART OF THE VINE:

#### ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As the annual stewardship appeal continues, we thank YOU for making a financial pledge to benefit the church and the continued mission of Christ in this glorious and yet broken world. Working toward 100% participation, we have at this point received 47 pledge cards. Thanks to those who have made such a commitment, and "please pledge soon!" to those we have not yet heard from. The green pledge cards are available in the narthex. Every friend and member counts as we work to build a community filled with God's unifying and inspiring Spirit!

#### SCRIPTURE READERS WELCOME

Would you like to give voice to one of the scripture readings during our Sunday morning worship services? A sign-up sheet for the upcoming months is on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. We would love to have you be a part of our prayerful time together in this way.

## THE MINISTRY OF ALL BELIEVERS:

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ABOUND

Are you looking for a way to serve the church? The Nominating Committee is currently recruiting members and friends of the congregation to serve on the committees of the church. If you would like to explore ways to offer your talents and time, please speak with Carl Miller, chair of the Nominating Committee.



Save the date! The Annual Meeting of Payson Park Church will be held on Sunday, January 24, after worship. This is an important event as we discuss not only the financial concerns of the church but also topics related to membership growth and long-range planning. Please plan to attend this meeting and the luncheon to follow.

## CELEBRATING DR. KING:

### WORKING FOR JUSTICE & PEACE

Join us as we celebrate the ministry of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this year. On Sunday, January 17, The Reverend Lael Atkinson will help us reflect on the ways we are called to work for justice and peace, following in the footsteps of those who participated in the Civil Rights Movement. As listed on the Mission & Outreach page, a workday on Saturday, January 16 will also be taking place. On Monday, January 18, our celebration continues as we join with the others in the community at Belmont High School for the Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast held from 8:45 – 11:00 am. Please join neighbors and friends for this important time of witness and sharing. Reservations can be made at [www.belmontagainstracism.org](http://www.belmontagainstracism.org)



## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE:

### RECEIVING OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Did you know that The Messenger is now available through email? Would you like to help reduce paper and postage costs here at the church? Over fifty people have now elected to receive our monthly newsletter online each month. If you would like join in this environmentally friendly effort, please email the Church Office. [office@paysonpark.org](mailto:office@paysonpark.org)

# EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



## **FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE FELLOWSHIP**

**TUESDAYS IN JANUARY, 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.**

The group is back from taking their winter break! They would like to invite you to join them whether you knit or not. They meet on these Tuesdays: 5, 12 and 19, weather permitting. Inspired by the knitting of prayer shawls, this is a time of “sharing and caring” in the spirit of faith, hope, and love, please consider coming once or every week to get together with new and old-time friends of the church.

## **THE GOOD AFTERNOONS:**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.**

Through the year we have enjoyed sharing tips about healthy living. In our January gathering we will review the information we have shared, discussing together the joys and challenges we face with aging. If you have the afternoon free and would like to join us, please come. All ages are welcome as we give thanks for God’s creation in this unique and spiritual way.

## **GROWING IN**

### **FAITH & UNDERSTANDING:**

**BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN IN THE PARLOR**

Looking for a good book to stimulate your faith and spiritual practices? Or would you like to share a volume or two that you found particularly inspirational? The Christian Education Committee’s book cart may be just the thing for you! Located in the parlor near the piano, this cart serves as our church’s lending library. As we lend on the honor system, you’re invited to browse the collection regularly and take a book to read, replacing it once you’re finished. If you have questions or suggestions for this wonderful program, please speak with Lorrie Herzberg, chair of Christian Education.

## **THE ART OF PRAYER:**

**EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH LITURGICAL ARTS  
CONFIRMATION CLASS WORKSHOP**

The Confirmation Class, under the tutelage of Jennie Reis and Cindy Lou Benson, have been meeting faithfully on the first Sunday of each month. These two upcoming workshops are in addition to their monthly meetings and will be held on Sunday, January 31 and February 21, 2010: 1:00 to 3:00PM. This class will explore the history of the sign of the cross as well as other religious symbols while the class creates their own symbols out of clay in the form of wearable art, tiles or wall hangings.



## **LET IT SNOW,**

**LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW...**

**BUT PLEASE, NOT ON SUNDAY!**

As we enter the winter season, the Diaconate reminds you that Sunday morning worship services will be cancelled when a parking ban is in effect in Belmont. To confirm such a cancellation, please call the church after 8:00 a.m. on the Sunday in question. The recorded message will provide information about the morning service (if you call the church and do not hear the recording, please call again. The line may be busy with another caller). Thank you!

# MISSION AND OUTREACH NEWS



## HELPING THE HUNGRY NEAR HOME

Date: Friday, January 29  
Delivery: 3-5 p.m. delivery to Emmanuel  
Methodist Church, Waltham  
Serve: 5-5:45 p.m.  
Menu: Oven Beef Stew, tossed salad, rolls

In the spirit of a new year, why not consider a new personal mission? Help is needed in preparing monthly hot meals for men and women in the Waltham area. It's easy to buy the ingredients and prepare the basic meal for 12 people and it's also rewarding to serve the food to the appreciative guests at the Waltham church. Check the M & O bulletin board for details, recipes and sign-up. The future dates are: Tuesday, March 30, Thursday, April 29, Sunday, May 30 and Wednesday, June 30. Please speak with Cynthia Lasker if you have any questions.

## CARING FOR CREATION: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BOOK DISCUSSION

From group discussions about winterizing our homes to informative materials available at Coffee Hour, Payson Park Church's environmental group "Caring for Creation" continues to lead us to be faithful stewards of God's great earth. Through the winter months we have the opportunity to read and discuss a compelling work, copies of which are available in the parlor. Thomas L. Friedman's "Hot, Flat and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America" has been recommended by many. Please pick up a copy and speak with Carolyn Fish if you would like to be a part of a discussion group later this winter.

## WALKING IN THE WAYS OF JESUS:

### A WORD OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SERVICE

On behalf of the Mission & Outreach Committee, a heartfelt "thank you" is offered to all those who reached out to those in need through our special holiday drives in November and December. From the food collected for the Belmont and Watertown food pantries, to the clothes and toys donated to City Mission Society, and breads bought to support Mass Coalition for the Homeless, we shared our love and faith with many in this world. Thank you for "walking in the ways of Jesus" in such meaningful ways.



## HONORING DR. KING:

### DAY OF SERVICE, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

The Mission and Outreach committee is sponsoring a day of service on Saturday, January 16 in conjunction with City Mission Society's MLK Day of Service. We will be part of a team of volunteers emulating Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King's message of peace instead of simply commemorating it.

Last year 140 volunteers from two dozen churches came together to worship and to perform a variety of services throughout the city, from painting and cleaning at service sites to packing up books and other items to be shipped to people in need. One said: "Saturday was a wonderful experience for all of us. It provided an outlet to honor Martin Luther King that appealed to those of us who want to 'do something.'" If you are interested, a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or you can contact Ian Holland at [intern@paysonpark.org](mailto:intern@paysonpark.org).

# SHARING AND CARING

## **A NOTE ABOUT PARKING:**

### **TREATING OUR OLDER MEMBERS & NEIGHBORS WELL**

As we seek to grow together here at Payson Park Church, we celebrate the fact that the number of people attending Sunday services and other events is increasing. The challenge that arises from such growth is that parking space near the church is limited. Please park carefully, being sure you do not block a driveway. With the start of a new year and particularly as the winter's snow arrives, we want to be good neighbors. We also hope that those who arrive early to church for choir, ushering, or other duties, will save parking close to our entrances for those who have difficulty walking in the inclement weather. We thank you for presence here and for your caring consideration.

## **ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?**

### **CHURCH LOST & FOUND**

Did you leave a hat or glasses at church one Sunday? Are you missing a button or umbrella? If you get home and find something is lost, please call the Church Office during the week. It's there we have a Lost & Found box and Cindy Lou Benson will be happy to help you locate your missing item if it has been turned in.

## **ALTAR FLOWERS:**

### **HONORING OUR LOVED ONES**

Would you like to honor someone in your life? Each Sunday our altar flowers are given in honor or remembrance of those we hold dear. Coordinated by Cindy Lou Benson, our Administrative Coordinator, this program also offers us a chance to reach out to those in our congregation who cannot attend worship, as the flowers are regularly delivered by our pastor or others to those hospitalized or shut in. If you care to make a donation, please call Cindy Lou. 617.484.1542.

## **NEW LIFE IN OUR MIDST...**

### **BABIES!**

#### **GLEDHILL GRANDCHILD**

Jenn and John Rogers are the proud parents of Otto Montgomery Rogers. He weighed 8 lbs and is 20 inches long. Born on December 11, 2009 at 9:34 am. His proud grandparents are Al and Marty Gledhill. Cards may be sent to Jenn and John Rogers, 840 Main St., Bolton, MA 01740.

#### **ALLEN VANDER MEULEN IV**

Stephanie and Allen Vander Meulen welcomed "Junior" on December 9 at 1:15 am. He weighed 7 lbs 12.5 oz and 20.5 inches long. Cards may be sent to P.O. Box 6352, Lincoln, MA 01773. With love we say, "welcome to the world, and welcome to our family of faith."



**Good Tidings To You**

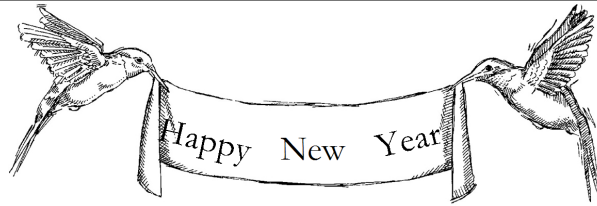
## **SERVING GOD'S CHURCH:**

### **THE ASINGER'S MOVE TO FLORIDA**

It is with gratitude for his faithfulness to our own and the wider church community that we receive the news of The Reverend Rob Asinger's call to serve a UCC congregation in Florida. In an email Rob tells us, "I will be the new Senior Minister at the Church By The Sea near Miami Beach. I start on January 8, 2010. It is a church of about 400 members two blocks from the ocean!"

A celebration was held at the home of Cathy Meyer in December. If you were not a part of that gathering and would like to send Rob and Barbara your thanks for their ministry among us and good wishes for the future, please send cards to Reverend Rob Asinger, Church By The Sea, 501 96th Street, Surfside, FL 33154-2498.

# JANUARY 2010



## FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

New Year's Day - Church Office closed

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Nursery Care  
10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  
12:00 Noon Confirmation Class  
12:00 Noon Junior Choir Rehearsal

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love Fellowship  
7:00 PM Church Council Meeting

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 7

3:30 PM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  
12:00 Noon Junior Choir Rehearsal

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love  
7:30 PM Property Committee Meeting

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 14

3:30 PM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 16

8:00 AM CMS Day of Service

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Nursery Care  
10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 Continued

12:00 Noon C. Ed. Committee Meeting  
12:00 Noon Junior & Youth Choir  
12:00 Noon Mission & Outreach Com. Mtg

## MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office closed  
8:45 AM MLK Breakfast – B H School

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love  
7:00 PM Diaconate Committee meeting

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 21

3:30 PM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 24

9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Nursery Care  
10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
11:30 AM Annual Meeting and Luncheon  
12:00 Noon Junior & Youth Choir

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

2:00 PM The Good Afternoons

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal  
10:00 AM Nursery Care  
10:30 AM Worship & Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  
12:00 Noon Junior Choir Rehearsal  
1:00 PM Confirmation Class, Pottery Workshop

### Do You Need to Reach the Pastor?

The Reverend Lael Atkinson can be reached through the Church Office or at home (617) 464-4990.

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

365 BELMONT STREET

BELMONT MA 02478-3438

Rev. Lael Atkinson, Pastor; Rev. Terence R. Willis, Pastor Emeritus; Ian Holland, Ministerial Intern; Cindy Lou Benson, Christian Education Director; Frances Burmeister, Interim Director of Music; Jeff Cronin, Treasurer; Will Clifford, Assistant Treasure; Sally Markham, Messenger Editor; Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director.

## **“THE INNKEEPER’S WIFE”**

### **2009 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PAYSON PARK CHURCH**



1st row: Sadie, Adeline, Adeline, Elliott, and Anna Mae

2nd row: Emily, Zac and Olivia

3rd row: Jing, Cindy Lou and Matt