

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478
617/484-1542
office@paysonpark.org www.paysonpark.org

NOVEMBER 2011

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."*

With November's arrival we may find ourselves exclaiming, "Where did the year go? Can you believe the holidays are just around the corner?"

So often our thoughts about "the holidays" make us feel uncomfortable, a time when our schedules are busier than usual, our lists of things to do longer, too. With Christmas jingles filling some stores already we roll our eyes and groan. Ugh. Here come the holidays.

Of course as Christians our perspectives can be different. Not only is Christmas a time to celebrate new birth and God's abiding and merciful grace, but Thanksgiving offers a time for such renewal as well. As men and women of faith we have so much for which to be grateful. Will we approach this season in the spirit of true thanksgiving? Might we open ourselves to Spirit's love and compassion in new ways?

Here at Payson Park Church it is my hope that we can embrace an "attitude of gratitude" as November unfolds. As Cicero wrote centuries ago, "Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." Giving thanks for the gift of life and the wonder of love as revealed in the Christian story I hope each of us can take time to experience authentic gratitude, expressing such thanks in new ways here at church as well as at home and work, with friends, family, and strangers. Author Alfred Painter reminds us, "Saying thank you is more than good manners. It is good spirituality." May we be in touch with such grace now and for all our days to come, all in the goodness of God's presence and light.

Gratefully from The Reverend Lael Atkinson



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011 10:30 AM

**Communion Service
Food Pantry Drive**

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

“In Remembrance of Me”

We are grateful to the many members and friends of Payson Park who greet us each Sunday. The acolyte greeting from God’s Garden is Carolyn Gulley. Altar flowers are given Eleanor & Peter Kaptain and Irene Kandas in memory of Marjorie & Edwin Kelsey and their daughter Betty. The deacons serving communion are Nancy & Paul Fergus, Marty Gledhill, Merry & Terry Ray and Winnie Snow. The fellowship hour is given by the Christian Education Committee. Reading scripture is Gretchen Dunoyer. The ushers greeting are Gretchen Dunoyer & Carl Miller.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 0:30AM

Mission Sunday

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching
with Special Presentation by Guest Speaker**

**Alfredo Bartolozzi, Director
Watertown Food Pantry**

“Making Miracles”

Altar flowers are given by the Benjamin family in memory of Olive & Harold S. Moore. The deacon on duty is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by the Ushers. Reading scripture is Carl Miller. The ushers greeting are Ann Alves & Carl Miller.

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 homebound. Please call the Church Office at 617/484-1542 to participate.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 10:30AM

Thanksgiving Sunday & Ingathering

New Members Received

The Reverend Lael Atkinson, preaching

“The Bread of Life”

The acolyte greeting from God’s Garden is Carolyn Gulley. Altar flowers are given by Cynthia & John Lasker in memory of loved ones. The deacon on duty is Merry Ray. The fellowship hour is given by the church school parents. Reading scripture is Winnie Snow. The ushers greeting are Susan Clark & Carl Miller.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 10:30AM

First Sunday in Advent

City Mission Society/Christmas Shop Collection

The Reverend Lael Atkinson, preaching

“The Power of Appreciation”

The acolyte greeting from God’s Garden is Carolyn Gulley. Altar flowers are given Rich MacDonald in memory of his mother, Amy. The deacon on duty is Holly Bloomfield. The fellowship hour is given by the Property Committee. Reading scripture is Nancy Slavinsky. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller & Winnie Snow.



OCTOBER WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

We are grateful to those who worshipped with us in the month of October when we commissioned our Music Staff, celebrated Mission Sunday, and marked All Saint’s Day. Below is a recording of our attendance. Thank you for your participation!

October 2	75
October 9	51
October 16	83
October 23	87

COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

GIVING THANKS FOR SUCH ABUNDANCE: OUR FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall never hunger and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.” The teachings of Jesus as described in the Gospel of John remind us that as people of faith our lives are filled with abundance. From spiritual peace and emotional healing to deeper connections with God, people, and nature, our lives are enlivened by our faith, the *good news* of Christ a message that transforms our interactions on every plain.

It is in gratitude for such abundance that we approach our fall stewardship considerations. Embarking on a new year together we recognize that it’s through our acts of gratitude that the church thrives in this contemporary time as we contribute our time, talents and treasures to God and this place. From our worship services on Sundays to the classes of God’s Garden, our mission and outreach efforts to our adult education and music programs, life here is full of deep connection. How are you a part of this church? Are you able to give thanks for God’s loving presence in your life by offering financial support to Payson Park?

These are the kinds of questions we’ll be asking ourselves through the weeks of November and December as we work to prepare a faithful and balanced budget for the year 2012. Through special, entertaining moments in worship to informational meetings about our budgetary plans, we will move prayerfully forward, working together for the good of God’s church and world. “I am the bread of life,” we hear Jesus say. May we give thanks for this great Spirit of hope and healing.

GIVING THANKS FOR OUR STAFF:

A REQUEST FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

In order to grow as a healthy organization we recognize the need to look back as well as look forward. In this regard, the members of the Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committees seek your assistance. Annual reviews for our staff and pastor will be taking place in the coming month and we seek your input. If you have feedback you would like to provide, please contact the appropriate Committee chair soon, or speak with our Co-Moderators, Lorrie Herzberg or Al Gledhill or Pastoral Relations Committee Chair, Linda Knight. We are grateful that our staff team is so strong at this juncture. Help us to keep it that way!

CHURCH OFFICE

Please note the church office will be closed on Friday, November 11, in observance of Veteran’s Day. And on Friday, November 25, for Thanksgiving. If you need church assistance, please call Cindy Lou Benson, Tuesday through Thursday on those weeks.



BELMONT RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE:

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 5:30 PM,

Are you in town prior to the holiday? Would you like to give thanks for life and our wider community? Members and friends of Payson Park Church are invited to attend the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Belmont Religious Council and led by members of the Belmont Interfaith Clergy Association. This is a beautiful way to gather with our neighbors and friends to give thanks for the heritage. The service will be held on Sunday, November 20, 5:30 pm at First Baptist Church at 129 Lexington Street. Singers of all ages and abilities are invited to join the choir (rehearsal time 4:30 pm). A time of lively fellowship and great refreshments will follow.

MISSION & SERVICE

THANKSGIVING 2011

Once again an ingathering of non-perishable food and our Thanksgiving Offering will take place on Sunday, November 24th. They will be given to Pilgrim Church in Dorchester for its food pantry and on Boston Common. We are grateful for their faithful dedication to their mission. Please give with the joy of generosity knowing that your help meets an ongoing need.



NOTE OF THANKS

To all who contributed to the Neighbors-In-Need Offering, heartfelt thanks for the gift of \$589.00 which we sent to the United Church of Christ this year. May you be blessed in your giving.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

The City Mission Society's Annual Christmas Shop needs restocking with new gifts of clothing and toys for children and teens and adults too! Boxes will be placed in the narthex for your contributions starting Sunday, November 27th through December 11th. When you make your Christmas lists, please put CMS Shop on them and bring items to share.

Submitted by the Mission & Outreach Committee

THE MINISTRY OF ALL BELIEVERS: OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ABOUND

Are you looking for a way to serve the church or the world? 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, Nominating Committee Chair.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011

SPECIAL MISSION PRESENTATION BY

ALFREDO BARTOLOZZI,

DIRECTOR, WATERTOWN FOOD PANTRY

We welcome Alfredo Bartolozzi, Director of the Watertown Food Pantry on Sunday, November 13. As it was important to learn about Belmont's program last spring, so we can be glad Alfredo will tell us about the needs in and services offered to the Watertown community.

BRISTOL LODGE MEALS

Next date: Wednesday, November 30

Times: preparation - 4:00, serving - 5:00 p.m.

Menu: Costco lasagna, tossed salad, Italian Bread

I will be purchasing the lasagna, salads, bread and beverages at Costco. Monetary donations are always welcome. I will also heat the lasagna at the Food Kitchen so help will be needed in preparation and serving only on November 30. Our next date is Thursday, December 29. The menu is chili, salad & corn bread. We will need 7 volunteers to cook the chili. Thank you, Cynthia Lasker.



ACTIVE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

A MONTHLY OFFERING TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY

We give thanks to the congregation for their participation in our monthly food pantry offerings as they are going very well! Our next collection is Sunday, November 6, please bring in new canned goods and dry food items. The youth will coordinate the donations. Help is needed to drop the contributions off to the Watertown Food Pantry on that Tuesday. If you are interested in being part of this ministry, please call the office, 617-484-1542. Thank you.

SHARING & CARING

JOIN IN THE LIFE OF PAYSON PARK CHURCH:

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED SOON

Are you looking for a new church home at this time in your life? Are you curious about what it means to be a member of Payson Park Church? New members will be received on Sunday, November 20th, and we invite YOU to investigate what it means to be a formal part of this loving Christian community. If you have questions about the meaning of membership or know you would like to join, please speak with Lael Atkinson.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES COMING!

As the holidays approach, we have many opportunities to share the joy of our faith and love together. Please mark your calendars for the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 11 (during worship; holiday lunch to follow); our annual Service of Lessons & Carols on December 18; and Christmas Eve worship at 7:00 on the 24th followed by a spirited Sunday service on Christmas morn at our regular gathering time at 10:30 am. These are beautiful services to which we can invite family and friends. Mark your calendars and make some think about reaching out to someone you love!

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN WORSHIP:

SHARING OUR LIVES WITH ONE ANOTHER

We want to hear from you! Sharing news about events in the church and wider community as well as personal concerns and celebrations for prayer is a vital way we grow together. Through the fall season, announcements will continue to be made by the pastor during Sunday's worship service so that the information can be heard by all. If you have something to share, please speak with Lael during the week or before Sunday services so that your information may be announced to the congregation. You may also give a written request to an usher. Thank you for sharing – and caring!

REACHING OUT TO CHURCH MEMBERS IN THIS SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

As the holiday season unfolds, we have the opportunity to offer our care to those long-time members of the church who are not able to attend worship regularly at this time in their lives. Please reach out to those you miss seeing on Sundays with a note or phone call. It is with such loving outreach we offer the loving Spirit of Christ to the wider community.

We reach out especially to Phil Ripley who has recently moved to New Hampshire to live with his son, Kenny and family. Please call the church office for his address.



TRANSPORTATION:

RIDES TO CHURCH AVAILABLE!

Do you or someone you know need a ride to Sunday worship services or a special church event? The Transportation Committee is here to help! Please speak with Tom Cappadona or our pastor if such assistance would allow you to be more active in the life of the church. Don't be driven to despair – let us help you be transported to hope and life in community!

A TIME OF THANKSGIVING:

CELEBRATING IAN HOLLAND'S MINISTRY

It is with joy and thanksgiving we celebrate the call of our former Ministerial Intern, Ian Holland, as he prepares to serve as Pastor of First Congregational Church of Swampscott beginning November 21. This full-time position is an answer to prayer and Ian's willingness to serve. We offer our continued support to him and his family in this exciting time and can look forward to attending his Service of Ordination next spring. The service is tentatively scheduled at Old South Church in Boston on April 22 at 3:00pm.

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

A NOTE FROM THE YOUTH CHORUS DIRECTOR

Advent is fast approaching, and with it, our preparations for our Christmas Pageant, *Carriers of Light*. This pageant is a wonderful way to be involved in passing on the message and spirit of the Christmas season! Rehearsals for this pageant, which will be performed by our energetic youth, will be held during Youth Choir rehearsals on each Sunday morning, as well as during God's Garden in late November and early December. Pageant Sunday is December 11th during the church service. If you have a child new to our church, or visiting church during these months, please consider having them join us! Even if your child doesn't care to sing with the Youth Choir on a regular basis, we'd love to have them join us either in singing, or even in a non-speaking part. Please let me know if you have any questions. I am available during fellowship hour or you may email me at:

ymdirector@paysonpark.org

Molly Jo Rivelli

Youth Music Director

AN INVITATION:

A NOTE FROM THE ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR

Greetings to all. What a beautiful autumn we are having. I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful New England light that graces us each and every fall. As always, I'd like to invite anyone interested in singing to join the Chancel Choir for our Sunday morning rehearsals at 9:00 AM. We will continue to explore works from American composers and learn some beautiful pieces from the Renaissance Era. We will also be starting to prepare for all of the wonderful Advent Services leading up to and including Christmas Day. The choir is small but mighty this year and we welcome you to come and lift up your voice with us!

A Hymn Sing is scheduled on Sunday, November 20 (or 27th). We will meet in the choir room at noon. This event is open to all of you, your friends and family members. Come and sing your favorite hymns.

amdirector@paysonpark.org

Megan Henderson

Adult Music Director



SUNDAY NURSERY CARE

OPPORTUNITIES TO SING WITH THE CHOIRS

Nursery care has been extended to 9:15 to noon and is provided every Sunday under the supervision of our experienced and qualified staff. The church nursery provides a Christian environment as well as a joyful safe space.

These new hours were specifically planned so parents may join the choir rehearsal before church. If you have questions about this great opportunity, please speak with Cindy Lou Benson, Christian Education Director, during fellowship hour or email her at:

cedirector@paysonpark.org

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

FAITHFUL REFLECTIONS:

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

As the fall season unfolds, our weekly adult education classes continue as we gather in the Parlor on Thursday evenings, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Led by Lael Atkinson, the discussions will focus on the upcoming Sunday's gospel text, allowing participants to contemplate the theme of our worship service in an extended manner. Each discussion will be self-contained, so members and friends of the church may attend weekly or as they are interested or able. Join us for this time of prayer and sharing. Light supper fare is provided to help those coming from work ease into the evening hours.

LIVELY FELLOWSHIP & SHARING:

THE GOOD AFTERNOONS

Looking for a way to meet new friends and learn about cutting-edge health initiatives? "The Good Afternoons" is a group of supportive and inquisitive people who give thanks for the gift of life by sharing tips about caring for the mind, body, and spirit. This month, in addition to sharing our joys and concerns with one another, we'll continue learning about probiotics and how "good" bacteria is essential for our health. Nutritious refreshments will be provided, not to mention some excellent handouts. Please join us on Wednesday, November 16, 2:00 to 3:30 PM.



THE JOY OF LEARNING:

BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR LOAN IN THE PARLOR

Are you 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. Working on the honor system, you're invited to browse the collection regularly and take a book to read, replacing it once you're finished.

AUTISM WALK

A BIG SUCCESS!

On October 2nd, the Gulley's and the Cronin's were among 25,000 participating in the Walk Now for Autism Speaks at Suffolk Downs in East Boston. We slogged our way through lots of mud on the track, but at least it didn't rain. The Jay Walkers raised over \$6000 for the cause, including many donations from the congregation. It means a lot to us that you were supporting us once again! The total funds raised for the Boston Walk is approaching a million dollars! It is not too late to donate; please make checks out to "Autism Speaks" and give or mail to Wendy Gulley, 11 Belknap Terrace, Watertown, MA 02472. Thank you!

ANNUAL COMMISSIONING

FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE FELLOWSHIP

Celebrating our prayer shawl ministry, a special commissioning of our Faith, Hope, & Love fellowship group will be included in our service on Sunday, December 4th. Web Brown, chaplain of the hospice program will participate in worship as we give thanks for this ministry of comfort. If you would like to join in this group's time of weekly fellowship and service, please come to the Parlor Tuesdays from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. [Please note: the groups' final meeting prior to the holiday season will be November 15th. We will reconvene weekly beginning January 3.]

MAKING STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER

TEA FUNDRAISER THANKS

Dear Friends, Just a quick note to thank all who participated in our first Making Strides for Breast Cancer Tea Party. It was a huge success and lots of fun. We hope to be able to repeat it next year. Many wonderful teas and sweets were served in our lovely bone china tea cups. We even had a friend arrive with a pretty hat. It is always fun enjoy each other's company. Thank you again for supporting our team and all others who have been stricken with breast cancer. Let's hope we can end this disease soon.

Love from Marty Gledhill & Nancy Fergus

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

WHY IS PAYSON PARK HOSTING SUNDAY MOVIE EVENTS?

In a world where the average person sees up to 3,000 marketing messages a day, life is too cluttered and noisy for any one technology to endure. Vehicles like these, the mediums that carry communication, will disappear. But there is one thing that will not. One thing that is as old as the parables and as new as "tweets." One thing that has the power to change countries, jump over emotional walls and reach the places where lives are transformed. What is this thing? It is a story. Join us Sunday afternoon for a movie and a story!

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SCHOOL SCHEDULED UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 6 Movie Afternoon showing **Facing the Giants** at noon. Pizza after!

Sunday, December 4 Movie Afternoon showing **Mrs. Miracle** at noon. Pizza after!

Sunday, December 11 Christmas Pageant at 10:30

Sunday, January 1 Movie Afternoon showing **The Water Horse – Legend of the Deep** at noon.

Sunday, January 8 – Special guest, STORYTELLER Valerie Tutson visits God's Garden.

Sunday, February 5 Movie Afternoon showing **Hand in Hand** at noon. Pizza after!

Sunday, February 12 Special guest, Deborah Costine, puppeteer visits God's Garden.
www.gerwickpuppets.com

Sunday, March 4 Movie Afternoon showing **The Lost Medallion** at noon. Pizza after!

Sunday, March 11 Special guest, Ryan Lee, Project Bread visits God's Garden.

Sunday, April 1 Movie Afternoon showing **Hachi, A Dog's Tale**, based on a true story

Sunday, April 15 – Surprise special guest visits God's Garden.

Sunday, May 6 – Movie Afternoon

Sunday, June 10 - Youth Sunday - All Invited!



CAMPUS TOUR

Carolyn Gulley, Eleanor, Elizabeth & Harry Thidemann, along with Emily Dallman, Dora Elliott and Sally Markham, joined Cindy Lou Benson, Christian Education Director, on the recent Sunday morning tour of the Perkins School for the Blind, led by Mike Cataruzolo and Linda Oleson, Perkins Volunteer Services staff.

Mike shared with us the rich history of the school and grounds as we toured the Perkins History Museum and explored the tactile areas located in the main hall of the Howe building. I asked our group, "what were some of your favorite parts of the tour?" We were happy to see the beautiful campus and found it interesting that it has over 35 acres. We all liked the swimming pool and were surprised to "see" or feel that it is kept at a very warm temperature. Charles Dickens, from England, visited the school and donated money for the making of Braille books. These books actually travelled to Alabama and into the home of Helen Keller. This in turn brought Helen up to New England and to the school, where she is still remembered today as being part of its rich history.



NOVEMBER 2011

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 *All Saints Day*

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

6:30 PM Faithful Reflections

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10:00 AM Book Drive, delivery

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

10:30AM

Communion Service

Food Pantry Collection Drive

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM Nursery Care
9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
12:00 PM Fellowship Hour (Christian Education)
12:00 PM Movie: *Facing the Giants*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9:00 AM Food Pantry Delivery
2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love
6:30 PM Finance Committee
7:00 PM Property Committee

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

6:30 PM Faithful Reflections

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 *Office Closed*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:30AM

Mission Sunday

**The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching
with Special Presentation by Guest Speaker**

Alfredo Bartolozzi, Director, Watertown Food Pantry

9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM Nursery Care
9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (Ushers)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love
6:30 PM Diaconate

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 *Messenger Deadline*

2:00 PM The Good Afternoons

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

10:30 AM Staff Meeting
6:30 PM Faithful Reflections

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

10:30AM

Thanksgiving Sunday & Ingathering

New Members Received

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM Nursery Care
9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (Church School)
12:00 PM Ingathering Delivery, Pilgrim Church
12:00 PM Hymn Sing
5:30 PM Thanksgiving Service (*First Baptist Church*)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 *Thanksgiving*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 *Office Closed*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

10:30AM

First Sunday in Advent

City Mission Society/Christmas Shop Collection

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

9:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
9:15 AM Nursery Care
9:15 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour (Property)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

9:00 AM Messenger Committee
5:00 PM Bristol Lodge Meal: Serving



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

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Giving thanks for the abundance we share in faith and community!

Join us for this time of thanksgiving & prayer on

Sunday, November 20, 10:30 AM



See page 4 for more information on the Ingathering of Food for Pilgrim Church...