

THE MESSENGER

PAYSON PARK CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT, MA 02478
617-484-1542 FAX 617-484-1526
office@paysonpark.org www.paysonpark.org

FEBRUARY 2010

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."*

Each month we gather around many tables together. We gather for committee meetings; we gather at Coffee Hour; we gather in God's Garden. In large and small groups we meet and talk, offering our time and love to the mission of the church, striving, as we proclaim, to "walk in the ways of Jesus."

It's with this ultimate purpose at the heart of our life together that we can admit there's one table around which we gather that's more important than all the rest. It is the table of Holy Communion. What an honor it is to be invited to that meal! What a joy it is to share in that sacred way! Through Communion we celebrate our unity with God and one another in word and deed, and that's why I'm grateful we celebrate this sacrament on the first Sunday of each month and at our Ash Wednesday service. Holy Communion is a ritual that allows us to acknowledge our hunger for human healing and spiritual unity in a most physical way. In prayer and contemplation we're joined with the One who calls us into new life, offering us a chance to recommit ourselves to "the living body of Christ." What a great thing to be a part of!

It's with this sense of excitement we can move through 2010 together. With our new slate approved at the Annual Meeting and with our fellowship and service groups and education classes in full swing, we'll gather around many tables in the months ahead. May our thoughts and words always be inspired by the table set by Jesus: the table of abiding and inspiring communion with God. Amen.

With love from The Reverend Lael Atkinson



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010 10:30 AM

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion Service**

**Ian Holland, Ministerial Intern, preaching
The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding**

Sermon Title: "I Believe; Help My Unbelief!"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The acolyte this month is Julia Dunoyer. The altar flowers are given by Isabella Martin in loving memory of William H. Martin. The deacons serving communion are Lorraine Clifford, Marty Gledhill, Cynthia Lasker, Carl Miller and Merry and Terry Ray. The fellowship hour is given by the Music Committee. The scripture reader is Sally Markham. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Sally Markham.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010 10:30 AM

Transfiguration

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

Sermon Title: "A Holy Sight"

Scripture: Psalm 91: 1-10; Luke 9: 28-36

The acolyte this month is Julia Dunoyer. The altar flowers are given by Irene Richard in loving memory of her sister, Grace Stockbridge. The deacon serving is Nancy Fergus. The fellowship hour is given by the Payson Park Nursery School Committee. The scripture reader is Ann Alves. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Philip Ripley.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010 7:00 PM

Ash Wednesday

**Ian Holland, Ministerial Intern, preaching
The Reverend Lael Atkinson presiding**

Sermon Title: "Dust to Dust"

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-23

Please call the Church Office if you need a ride. The Confirmation Class will be assisting in the service. The ushers greeting Marilyn Brownlie and Carl Miller.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2010 10:30 AM

First Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

Sermon Title: "Are You Open to Suggestions?"

Scripture: Psalm 23; Luke 9:51-62

The acolyte this month is Julia Dunoyer. The altar flowers are given by Karen Norton in loving memory of her mother, Jean Eaton, and also by Mary Simonds in loving memory of her husband, John. The deacon serving is Pat Cappadona. The fellowship hour is given by the Endowment Trustees. The scripture reader is Alyson Karakouzian. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Pat Cappadona.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2010 10:30 AM

Second Sunday in Lent

The Reverend Lael Atkinson preaching

Sermon Title: "When the Light's too Bright"

Scripture: Psalm 26: 1-7; Luke 11: 33-41

The acolyte this month is Julia Dunoyer. The altar flowers are given by Rich and Lynne MacDonald in loving memory of Rich's Mom, Amy. The deacon serving today is Carl Miller. The fellowship hour is given by the Diaconate Committee. The scripture reader is Ned Gully. The ushers greeting are Carl Miller and Susan Clark.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Thank you for being with us in January – in person as well as in spirit! With the weeks being cold and often snowy, our worship attendance was understandably low. It is on such days we may trust that even when absent our love and prayers are with one another. We were grateful to enjoy Vivaldi's "Gloria," rescheduled on January 10, and we thank Frances Burmeister, the many choir members and other musicians for leading us in worship that day.

January 3: 42 (snowy) January 10: 131

January 17: 94 January 24: 110

January 31: TBD

WORSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

SEASON OF LENT

Join us as we begin the season of Lent with a service of prayer, song, and reflection. This time of worship helps us to enter the forty day journey to Easter in the spirit of mindfulness and humility. Please call the Church Office (617/484-1542) if you need a ride. Also, mark your calendars for special Holy Week services as we plan to gather on Maundy Thursday (April 1) and Good Friday (April 2) to reflect upon the stories that describe the final days of Jesus' life.

NEW DIRECTORY

With the online in '09, we are aware of misprinted or omitted information and are preparing a new listing to be distributed this winter. Please review your information and contact the office at 617.484.1542 or email to office@paysonpark.org with any additions or corrections.

PLEDGING OUR LIVES AS PART OF THE VINE: ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As the annual stewardship appeal continues at Payson Park Church we are happy to report that our numbers are increasing! Thank you for committing your financial support to the church and to the mission of Jesus Christ. We have currently received 55 pledges for a total of \$117,000. If you have not yet made a pledge and would like to do so, please contact the church office soon. We are grateful to be growing together in faith and service.

CELEBRATING OUR NATION'S HERITAGE

In observance of Presidents' Day, please note that the Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 15. The Church Office hours are regularly Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., when Cindy Lou Benson, Administrative Coordinator, is happy to assist you.

DO YOU NEED TO REACH THE PASTOR?

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

ANNUAL MEETING & LUNCHEON: THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Thank you to all who helped with and attended the Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Sunday, January 24, with a special thanks to our Senior Deacon, Nancy Fergus, and members of the Diaconate. It was a festive and meaningful occasion for all, helping us to build our relationships with God and one another. Thank you for being a part of Payson Park Church!

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED INTO THE LIFE OF PAYSON PARK CHURCH

Are you looking for a church to call "home" at this time in your life? Would you like to explore what it means to be a member of Payson Park Church and the United Church of Christ? New members will be received into the life of this congregation in spring. Please speak with Lael if you have questions about membership opportunities.

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.



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

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE

FELLOWSHIP:

TUESDAYS IN FEBRUARY, 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: 2, 9 and 16, 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, FEBRUARY 23, 2:00 - 3:30 P.M.

“Aging isn’t for the faint of heart.” Isn’t that the truth! Join us as we continue sharing some tips to help beat the hands of time. This is a fellowship and discussion group that continues to give thanks for the gift of life by sharing tips about caring for the mind, body, and spirit. We gather in the Parlor, where delicious and nutritious refreshments will be provided by participants. All ages are welcome as we give thanks for God’s creation in this unique and human way. [Note: in case of snow, please call the Church Office to find out if this event has been postponed.]

THE ART OF PRAYER:

CONFIRMATION CLASS, POTTERY WORKSHOP

The Confirmation Class, under the tutelage of Jennie Reis and Cindy Lou Benson, has been meeting faithfully on the first Sunday of each month. The two upcoming pottery workshops are in addition to their monthly meetings. The 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. Look for this opportunity to come to the congregation this spring.

ADULT EDUCATION:

**ENTERING INTO JOHN’S GOSPEL
WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 3 AND 10
7:00 PM**

After the enigmatic start of John's Gospel, we enter into the story of Jesus' ministry and his encounter with John the Baptist. But the poetry and imagery of the first verses continue to come through in the narrative that follows. Come join a discussion of discovery and meaning as we enter into the middle verses of the first chapter of John. We will look at the baptism of Jesus as told in the other Gospels to see what they added or removed, and see what these details might mean for our own understanding. Join Ian Holland in a two part discussion on the beauty of John 1, as we prepare for Lent. John’s words might speak to each one of us differently. So, let’s learn from each other. All are welcome, even if you missed the early discussions on John's Gospel this past fall.

CARING FOR CREATION:

**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BOOK DISCUSSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 7 P.M.**

Join our book discussion! "Hot, Flat and Crowded" -- how did our world get that way, and is there hope? YES! says renowned journalist Tom Friedman, who has traveled widely and researched climate issues over years. Of this upbeat book our church has 15 donated copies, for which we thank Watertown Library and Carolyn Fish. We are planning the first discussion evening, on Parts 1 & 2 (pp. 3-199). Come with your questions and reactions, and bring anyone with whom you have shared your borrowed book! All generations are welcome! A few books are left, check the Caring for Creation info table before dinner on Sunday. If you borrowed a copy and didn't sign the list, please do so then or let us know!

MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS



HELPING THE HUNGRY NEAR HOME

Date: Tuesday, March 30
Delivery: 3-5 p.m. delivery to Emmanuel
Methodist Church, Waltham
Serve: 5-5:45 p.m.
Menu: Mission Soup

(one recipe to serve 12, approximate cost \$25.00)

Please consider volunteering your time and talent in this close-to-home mission project. You will be helping very needy and grateful neighbors by providing a nourishing hot meal. See the bulletin board outside of the church office for details, recipes and sign-up, or speak to Cynthia Lasker. The future dates are: Thursday, April 29, Sunday, May 30 & Wednesday, June 30.

MISSION TRIP NEWS:

EFFORTS POSTPONED AT THIS TIME

With sadness the Mission Trip Planning Committee has decided that our plans to help at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi this April need to be postponed. What does that mean? It means the trip will be rescheduled - hopefully in 2011 - and that all your contributions will go to help fund that trip. If you have questions about this, please speak to a mission trip member or our pastor. Thank you for your generosity and your understanding.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 9:00AM – 2:00 PM

Every minute of every day, someone needs blood. That blood can only come from a volunteer donor. There is no substitute for your contribution, and donations are needed for relief efforts in Haiti. Spread the word – share the gift of life! Church volunteers as greeters are needed to offer one hour commitments. What time are you available to help? Sign up today on the church bulletin board.



CHURCH WORK DAY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 9:00 TO 11:00AM

All hands on deck! As through the months of spring and summer, it is now winter and we all have the chance to keep “pitching in” around our church home, helping with cleaning, maintenance, and repair projects. Our next work day is scheduled under the direction of Ian Holland and Hank Thidemann. As specific indoor projects need to be coordinated, we ask that you let the Church Office know by Thursday, February 18 if you will be coming. We thank you for pitching in!

OFFERING OUR CARE:

AN INVITATION FROM ELE COFFIN FOR HEARTS WITH HAITI

My friends in Haiti are counting what blessings they have: they have their lives. What they don't have is food, water, and medicine. Many of the kids have medical issues that require medical intervention. Wings of Hope, where I have volunteered, they now have the 40 Wings of Hope students and the 20 St. Josephs boys plus an unknown number of staff living in two rooms about the size of two large living rooms. The situation is VERY desperate in all of Haiti. If you choose to give to Haitian relief, please consider Hearts With Haiti. I know where the money goes, I know the dedication of the staff (many work for no pay), I know how great the need is. I was scheduled to travel back to Haiti this June but as of this time it is very unclear when we will be able to return. My thoughts, hopes and prayers are with my friends in Haiti. Please put them in yours. Thank you from Ele Coffin. Send donations by check to:

Hearts with Haiti, 11503 Springfield Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45246 Or email donations to: heartswithhaiti.org

SHARING AND CARING

WITH GRATITUDE: A NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR

Sunday, January 10 marked my sixth anniversary with you all at Payson Park Church, and it was wonderful to have a time of thanks for our history together at Fellowship Hour. I thank our Senior Deacon, Nancy Fergus, for her kind words, and all of you who came together to contribute to the gift, enjoy the cake, and share in that special moment of celebration. As it was mentioned at that time, these six years have been full of joy and challenge. It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Pastor, and I am grateful that we continue to grow in faith, service and love. Blessings and peace to us as we continue this journey together!

SPECIAL MUSIC IN WORSHIP:

THANKS FOR THE GREAT & JOYFUL NOISE!

The Gloria was glorious! This special music celebration by Antonio Vivaldi offered thanks to God and joy to the hearts of those on Sunday, January 10 (rescheduled from the stormy day on December 20). We thank Frances Burmeister for her organization and direction of this performance, in addition to the regular and visiting members of the choir, and the professional musical accompanists, for their devotion as they brought to life this great piece. May such sounds inspire us to new levels of faith and praise!

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

Did you leave a hat, glove or scarf 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.

PAYSON PARK NURSERY SCHOOL

The Nursery School will be hosting an Open House on Friday, Feb.5th at 9:30AM. Please contact Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director, for more information 617/489-4824 or nurserydirector@paysonpark.org.

NEW LIFE IN OUR MIDST: WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

On Epiphany, January 6, at 9:00 p.m., Cerissa, Scott, and Stella Lafferty welcomed son and brother, Tucker Carl, into their family. We can look forward to greeting Tucker at church soon as we give thanks for the Lafferty's presence among us. We also give thanks for the birth of Mia Sloane Lasker on January 1, daughter of Philip and Tara Lasker and first grandchild of John and Cynthia Lasker. Join us in offering our prayers and congratulations!

IN MEMORIAM:

RICHARD LAHAISE OF WEST ROXBURY

It was with sadness we received the news of the death of Dick Lahaise in early January. Dick specialized in the servicing of church organs for decades, and conducted our re-leathering project several years ago in addition to maintaining Payson Park's organ on an ongoing basis. We give thanks for the ways Dick helped us and so many others "make a joyful noise" to God throughout his lifetime and send our condolences to his family.

FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM: HARVEY FAMILY LETTER

"Hopefully, by now you have had a wonderful Christmas, full of family blessings and special moments. We would like to extend our best wishes to you over the festive period and for the year ahead, whilst also bringing you up to date a little on what the Harvey's have been up to. Since arriving back to England in September we have been trying to rebuild our lives, getting the kids into schools, setting up home, establishing new routines, adjusting to changes in lifestyle and generally getting a feel for our new surroundings..." (You may find the rest of this letter on the bulletin board outside the office door.) Please send notes to: The Harvey's, Dalforth House, Bambers Green, Takeley, CM22 6PD, United Kingdom. Karen.harvey1@mypostoffice.co.uk

FEBRUARY 2010

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

7:00 PM Adult Education

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:30AM Nursery School Open House

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

9:00 AM Community Blood Drive

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

9:00 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, FEBRUARY 9

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

7:00 PM Adult Education

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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 & Youth Choir

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15 - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Payson Park Nursery School Vacation

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Office Closed

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Newsletter Deadline

2:00 PM Faith, Hope & Love

7:00 PM Diaconate Committee

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 Sign up for Work Day

3:30 PM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal

7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

9:00AM Work Day at Payson Park

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

9:30 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal
10:00 AM Nursery Care
10:30 AM Worship & Church School
12:00 Noon Christian Education Committee
12:00 Noon Junior & Youth Choir
1:00 PM Confirmation Pottery Workshop

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

2:00 PM The Good Afternoons
7:00 PM Caring For Creation

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

9:00 AM Messenger Committee
3:30 PM Alleluia Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

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 & Youth Choir Rehearsal

LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW...BUT PLEASE, NOT ON SUNDAY!

During the winter season, the Diaconate reminds you that the 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!

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; Liza Roman, Assistant Treasurer; Sally Markham, Messenger Editor; Janet Coleman, Nursery School Director.



COMING SOON... VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2010

“HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION, EXPLORING THE MIGHTY LOVE OF GOD”

Our June Sumner Program is in its planning stages and we need your help. The Decoration Committee is beginning to collect items. If you have an item to lend or donate, please bring it to church and give to Cindy Lou. We are looking for fishing nets (or soccer nets), ship's wheels, spy-glass, blue cellophane, wooden barrels, lanterns, crates, and nautical knick-knacks, ships in a bottle, parrot or pelican beanie babies. Registration information and confirmed dates will be available in March. Please speak with the director; Cindy Lou Benson on Sunday or send an email to cedirector@paysonpark.org