

community

The Newsletter of the Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

February 2007

news

Climate Change, Environmentalism and Social Action

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members, I began the October newsletter by mentioning how gorgeous the leaves on a tree outside my office window looked. I am again struck by the weather as I write today. It is January 14th, supposedly the coldest time in the year, and I find myself without the need for a scarf, gloves, or a hat.

I am likely one of the only people affiliated with this church who did not like Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth*. It was not the topic or the facts that I took issue with. However, much like Mr. Gore's campaign for president I found it quite boring. But this is not the time to be bored. We are living in a world where global temperature change is a reality. This is a fact I know but my honest information about global warming and climate change is severely limited. My experience of boredom by Mr. Gore is becoming less and less relevant as my need for information continues to grow.

Greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide are terms we are all familiar with. We are aware of their destructive influence on the world. But what are we really supposed to be doing to address the true creation of these agents? Riding bikes, car-pooling, and changing our household light bulbs to energy conserving ones are wonderful things to do and inspire us to do more. Unfortunately our individual acts are only a very small part of the solution. We must demand major corporate and governmental responsibility and accountability.

There are campaigns going on throughout the Commonwealth calling people into action. Massachusetts is not signed on with the Northeast Global Warming Plan that would require electric power plants to immediately cap and begin reducing their Carbon Dioxide gases. There are flaws within

this plan that need to be worked out; flaws that allow corporations off the hook for paying for changes and you can get involved to hold these corporations responsible. The Massachusetts Climate Action Network is just one of many organizations addressing climate change issues within the Northeast. Utilize your friends, neighbors, and the Internet for more information. Always remember to question how these organizations are working with communities most affected by the outcomes of environmental destruction. Poor communities, Communities of Color, and children regularly feel the affects of environmental destruction first. It is essential for organizations and us to listen to those most affected whenever we organize.



Here at Community Church we are going to continue moving forward with the small pieces we can. We utilize energy saving light bulbs as often as possible. Jim Casteris has installed energy efficient water heaters. The opportunities for small change around the building are seemingly endless. When spring approaches conversations are to be had about starting a rooftop garden; fresh vegetables during lunch would be a delight.

So as January continues on and we gain the financial benefit of not needing to heat the building so much let us continue to ask ourselves how we are going to be involved in protecting our planet. While the opportunity to bike without snow so far this winter has been nice we must heed this call to action in whatever way can.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

February 4

Superbowl Sunday

JARROD J. CHIN

"What Are You Watching?"

Deconstructing Superbowl Commercials"

February 11

MALLORY HANORA

"A Woman's Right to Choose"

February 18

SEAN GONSALVES

"Annual W.E.B. DuBois Award"

February 25

JASON LYDON

"From a Liberal Religion to a Radical Faith"

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

CCB Board Meeting

is Tuesday, February 27, 7:15pm

Annual CCB Fiscal Meeting

is Sunday, February 25, 1:30pm

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on January 17, 2007.

Following are highlights of the meeting.

The following board members were present: Mary Ann Cromer, Audrey Coulter, Kevin Devine, Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, Dick Keshishian, John Mac Leod, Ron Shapiro, Dean Stevens, and Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

Congregational Director's Concerns: The annual Sacco-Vanzetti Award will be presented to Pam Africa of MOVE, who will accept the award on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal on Sunday, March 25, 2007 at CCB.

Jason stated that he is seeking new ways to involve people in the work of the Church. He has suggested initiating more programs at CCB during weekdays, especially subjects concerning senior citizen issues, homelessness, yoga, and incarcerated prisoners.



Jason noted that he will be the keynote speaker at the Northeast Unitarian Universalist (UU) Adult Conference at First Church in Boston on February 1. During February, he will attend a conference in Atlanta sponsored by *Interweave*, a UU organization dealing with gay and bisexual matters. He will also participate at a conference in Los Angeles held by Stop Prison Rape, which focuses on stopping sexual violence in prisons across the USA.

Various Concerns: The Justice School December Board report was discussed, emphasizing the lesson plan initiated by Joo Young Choi. The lesson plan includes "writing a covenant and reviewing it weekly, reading a children's book about social justice, a fun activity to review what they have learned through skits, dance, art, games or music."

The book group (aka *Dinner and Discussion*) is meeting on the first and third Wednesday of each month to discuss material relating to faith, theology and social justice. Please feel welcome to attend at any time.

The annual fiscal meeting will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2007 at 1:30pm following the Sunday program and luncheon. PLEASE attend so that we can attain a quorum and proceed with the matters at hand.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at 7:15pm.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk



Teaching Peace & Justice: A Justice School Update

by JooYoung Choi

On Saturday, February 3rd we will be having a fun workshop for children and their parent(s) titled Teaching Peace and Justice. The event will be held from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM if you are interested in helping out with the workshop please contact me at jooyoung@commchurch.org or (617) 266-0449. We will need folks to help with setup, cleanup and snacks. This event is an opportunity for us to reach out to new families and introduce their children/youth to the Justice School. Flyers for this event are available at the church for you to hang up or give to friends and family.

Soon, the first draft of the lesson plans will be available for viewing at the church's website. If you don't have internet access there will be a copy of it available at the church. Please feel free to talk with me on Sundays during lunch or contact me with any advice or support. I look forward to your guidance, constructive feedback and involvement in starting up the Justice School.

Please talk with people in your local community about the Justice school! If you have talked to a family about the program, ask them if it would be possible for us to contact them with more information about the program. If they say yes, fill out the form below and return it to the Community Church and I'll make sure that they are contacted about the Justice School.

Name(s) of Youth/children: _____

Name of Parent(s): _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____

When is the best time to contact them? _____
Are they interested in attending the Teaching Peace and Justice: A Workshop for Children and Youth ?
<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> not sure

Planning Committee Survey Results

The Planning Committee has been hard at work over the past few months trying to get all of your surveys in and compile your responses. The feedback we have below is compiled from 24 surveys we received. The intention is to use your reflections and feedback to help shape the budget for this year.

Inserted is the tally for the majority of the questions. We are still in the process of summarizing your written comments that are not as easy to compile into a helpful document. If you have questions or feedback from the responses please send anything to the Planning Committee care of the church office. Many, many thanks to Dick Crowley and David Broeg for their time tallying and compiling the survey reflections.

Consider Making A Bequest

In the coming weeks, Community Church of Boston will be sending you a letter, asking you to consider making a bequest to the church - a simple, generous gesture to help ensure a future for ourselves and the next generations of our peace and justice community.

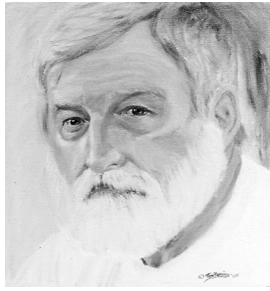
Look for the letter in the mail, and please give thoughtful consideration to the idea, with joy and hope that it will greatly strengthen what we can do to create a more peaceful and justice-filled world. Thank you.

Eric Weinberger Memorial Service

A memorial service for longtime social justice activist Eric Weinberger will be held on Saturday, February 10th, 1pm, at the Community Church of Boston (Lothrop Auditorium)

Can't Jail the Spirit

Art by *Political Prisoner Tom Manning (and others)*



This exhibit is currently on display at **Community Church of Boston**, in the **Lothrop Auditorium**

"It's necessary to create a dynamic that allows us to lend a voice to political prisoners and others suffering within the American gulag. Over two decades in prison has failed to crush Tom Manning's spirit. His art transcends concrete and razor wire with an unyielding vision and affirmation of life. At a time when far too many people accept without challenge the criminal acts of George Bush, et. al., the exhibit *Can't Jail The Spirit* conceptualizes the need for creative expression and resistance."

- **Ray Luc Levasseur**, *Portland Victory Garden Project*

Our Purpose

Community Church of Boston is a free community of women and men united for the study and practice of universal religion, seeking to apply ethical ideals to individual life and the democratic and cooperative principle to all forms of social and economic life.

Staff

Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*
Joo Young Choi, *Director of Children/Youth SJE Program*
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*
Jim Casteris, *Superintendent*

Board of Directors

Dean Stevens, *President*
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*
Ron Shapiro, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Christina Braidotti, Lenny Shames, Audrey Coulter, Kevin Devine, Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, John MacLeod



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

