

community

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

April 2007

news

Thinking About Strategy and Commitment

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members, I write this letter with great anticipation of spring. Spring gives us an opportunity to be outside and soak in the warm rays of the sun, watch the flowers poke their colorful heads out of the ground, and see the birds return to our parks from their winter-long migration. Even with the sniffles I hear, from the return of pollen, I think so many of us welcome the longer days and warmer afternoons for our rallies, marches, and picnics.

The end of March was a very exciting time. Many connected with the church were involved with the anti-war march on the 24th and then so many came to our 30th annual Sacco & Vanzetti Social Justice Award service on the 25th. That was a weekend with more than enough for everyone to do.

For me that weekend brought up a number of questions. On Saturday as I walked around the Common and watched people gathering, dancing, talking, listening, and playing music I wondered about our strategy. As we marched through the streets with our police escorts, through government center and downtown crossing, I wondered more about our strategy. When we chanted the chants, banged the plastic drums, and cheered the same cheers as we did four years ago I wondered even still about our strategy. When the anarchists, and friends, stood outside of the overly policed recruiter center chanting, cussing, and calling for a "class war" I wondered again about our strategy.

Certainly it was a joy to see so many different organizations represented in the Common and on the march. I was excited to march with the anti-bio-lab contingent. I was also overjoyed to see Joo Young at the Justice School of Community Church table. I was saddened that so few from the church actually volunteered to be with Joo Young at the table. Our continuous lack of volunteers

has made me wonder about our strategy as a community committed to peace and justice. How do those who are connected with Community Church come to own the responsibilities more? How do you, as you read the newsletter, come to events, enjoy community on Sunday, feel connected to Community Church of Boston and our work and witness?

As the anti-war movement struggles with the same tactics year after year our community also struggles with creating new ideas that excite and motivate more individuals to get involved. The Justice School, Community Church's developing Sunday school, is an opportunity for new ideas and a stronger community. However, this program does not belong to Joo Young it belongs to the members and friends of Community Church. In order for this program to be as amazing as it can be it will take the involvement of many. I encourage you to be in contact with Joo Young and myself. There is publicity to be done, curriculum to be looked over, and families to inform. You can be involved with this if you wish. If the Justice School isn't what excites you maybe you want to work with others doing publicity, or the program committee, or with Dean on music. Maybe you even want to create a new group of folks to work on something else. The possibility is endless. I encourage you to look at our community as one to prioritize and make of it what you want. I am committed, Joo Young is committed, and others are as well to be there in support of creating a strategy that best serves our community and our mission for justice in our world. As we welcome in the spring season, the new life and longer days, let us also welcome a renewed commitment to strategizing for justice as well as following through on caring for and nurturing our community.



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

April 1

LEE FICH

"Liberation Seder: Reinterpreting the Story of Passover"

April 8

JASON LYDON

"Finding Easter Hope in Struggle"

April 15

NEW ENGLAND WAR TAX RESISTANCE

"Praying for Peace, but Paying for War?"

April 22

Observing Earth Day

**ROXBURY ENVIRONMENTAL
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM**

*"Alternatives for Community
and Environment"*

April 29

May Day Celebration

TONY PINCKNEY & BILL REGAN

"Commuter Rail Workers for Equal Rights"

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on March 27, 2007.

Following are highlights of the meeting.

The following board members were present: Christina Braidotti, Mary Ann Cromer, Selma Ganz, Karl Jones, Dick Keshishian, John MacLeod, Ron Shapiro, Dean Stevens, and Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

Congregational Director's Concerns: Jason stated that the Wednesday night book group will no longer meet here due to poor attendance. He is searching for new ideas, i.e. dinner and conversation or Sunday afternoon/evening showing of films.

The first Sunday of each month will be "young adult focus Sunday," whereby representatives from various youth groups will be the speakers.

Steve Dubin, of *PR Works*, has written up a proposal on how the Church could improve its public relations image. He has agreed to work within the Church budget and initiate the necessary steps so that CCB can eventually take charge of the project on its own. The cost will be between \$1,000-3,000.

Various Concerns: Jim Casteris discussed the several repairs he has recently completed on the CCB building.

The Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice program on March 25, was a huge success with approximately one-hundred people in attendance.

The new tenants for the fourth floor space will move in during April.

The board also approved a proposal regarding open nomination for the annual Sacco-Vanzetti Award. The board suggested that persons nominating candidates submit no more than a four-sentence biographical sketch of their choice and submit it to the Church before the middle of May. The vote on the nominees will take place at the annual meeting in June.

Dean Stevens, Christina Braidotti, Mary Ann Cromer, Karl Jones, Kevin Devine, and Jason Lydon comprise a committee to plan the Cynthia Foster memorial meeting on April 15 following the Sunday morning program.

Please note that the February 27, 2007 board meeting was cancelled due to lack of attendance. The next scheduled board meeting is Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 7:15pm.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

CCB Board Meeting

is Tuesday, April 17, 7:15pm

CCB Program Committee Meeting

is Sunday, April 22, 2:00pm

Results of the 2006-07 CCB Membership Survey

compiled by David Broeg and Dick Crowley

I. VISION

1. Sell Church? Y: 04. / N: 16.
2. More Programs? Y: 12. / N: 0.

II. SUSTAINABILITY

1. Visioning Retreats: 1yr: 14 / 2yr: 7 / 5yr: 4.
2. Farm Access: Y: 10. / N: 16.
3. Environmental Workshop: Y: 10. / N: 5.

III. INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Change Name: Y: 7. / N: 15.
2. Shorter Service: Y: 4. / N: 20.
3. Sunday Lunch: Y: 22. / N: 2.
4. Phone (re:Pledges): Y: 11. / N: 10.

IV. ANTI-OPPRESSION

1. Wknd. Anti-Racism: Y: 4. / N: 15.
2. Church Reputation in Communities of Color: positive: 6; negative: 3; unfamiliar with us: 15.
3. Sexism: present: 7; not present: 5; needs work: 8.
4. GLBT: welcoming: 21; not welcoming: 1.
5. Shared Leadership: Y: 13 / N: 4.
6. Oppression Statement: Y: 9 / N: 9.

V. YOUTH

1. *Ideas To Make CCB More Welcoming:*

- (a) Include Speakers from Universities;
- (b) Encourage young people here to invite friends;
- (c) More Sundays w/younger speakers;
- (d) Separate Service for Young Adults;
- (e) Young people taking part in services, weekly;

(f) Concentrate on 18-35 sector for Recruitment - Colleges, & Grad Schools;

(g) Lectures & Music more appealing to them;

(h) Programs for younger people could be at a later time/different day;

(i) Send delegates to THEIR mtgs, and discuss;

(j) Address young people's everyday lives, not just "world events";

(k) Start a weekly, Evening, Youth-Group, like "Leftist Lounge";

2. *Should we use resources to provide more programming for young people in our space?:* Y: 15 / N: 2

VI. GROWTH / FUNDRAISING

1. *Communities to develop relationships with, in order of perceived "significance":*

- (a) Communities Of Color.
- (b) Colleges/Youth.
- (c) Progressive Labour.
- (d) Other Churches.
- (e) Family Members.
- (f) Non-CCB types.

2. *Items likely to lead to active involvement, membership growth, and financial stability:*

- Maximize Rentals: 9
- Advertize: 9
- Share
- CCB w/others: 7
- Decrease bldg.Costs: 3
- More Social Functions: 8
- Sell Church: 2
- Refurbish: 7
- Be More Welcoming: 7
- More Programs: 6
- Overcome Racism: 8
- Social Justice: 10
- Soup Kitchen: 3
- Civil Disobedience: 8

Improve Sundays: 4
Expand Website: 4
Ask Folk Why they Leave: 7

VII. COMMUNITY

1. *Which Events do you Attend w/other CCB Members?*

- (a) Sunday Forum: 17.
- (b) Lunch: 11.
- (c) Concerts: 10.
- (d) Evening Mtgs.: 4.
- (e) Wed. Dinners: 3.
- (f) Other: 7.

2. *Human Relations:*

- (a) Could be more upbeat...
- (b) Less Conversation during Music, Speakers.
- (c) More visiting w/newcomers at lunch.

VIII. INFORMATION

1. *Mostly gleaned from:*

- (a) Bulletin: 19.
- (b) Luncheon Announcement: 7.
- (c) Website: 4.
- (d) Phone: 3.
- (e) Email: 9.

2. *Useful Media Outlets:*

- (a) Cassettes: 1.
- (b) CD: 3.
- (c) Computer: 7.

IX. JASON

1. *Command Of Public Address:*

- (a) Excellent: 8.
- (b) Good: 7.
- (c) Fair: 2.
- (d) Give It Up!: 1.

2. *Ordain Jason:*

- (a) YES: 12.
- (b) Maybe: 5.
- (c) No: 0.

Boston Protests Fourth Anniversary of Iraq War



Demonstrators from all over the state demanded an immediate end to the war and that all US troops be pulled out of the region.

Joining millions in protest across the globe, several thousand people gathered on the Boston Common on Saturday, March 24, for a rally and festive march against the continuing war and occupation in Iraq.



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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