

community

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

June 2007

news

Realizing Our Potential at Community Church...

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Time flies! The 2006-2007 season for Community Church is already coming to a wrap. This has been an incredible season. The community of people who attend Sunday services regularly has grown. We have heard from some brilliant speakers, including so many young people this year. It has been a great joy to watch our congregation welcome speakers with a wide range of experience. We even had a number of youth teaching us how to dance one morning. This is a community that is thriving and headed into a great direction for growth. With that noted, this June must not lose momentum.

We will spend Sunday, June 3rd welcoming the youth and children (as well as their families) who come for the first get together of the Justice School. This is a really exciting moment for us at Community Church. It has been quite some time since we've had a significant number of young folks involved with our congregation. This day will be an opportunity for the youth and children to find out what the Justice School will be like and it is also an opportunity for the adults in the family to find out what Community Church is like. I hope everyone takes the time to welcome those who come. I would encourage you to invite your friends with children to come and check out the program as well. This first Sunday does not mean the family must immediately become wedded to the Community Church or our Justice School, but instead enjoy the "trial run" and give suggestions for the upcoming program to begin in September.

The second Sunday of June is also essential. Other than the great experience you will have with me speaking that Sunday it is also our Annual Meeting. By the time you read this letter you will, likely, have received the announcement for the meeting. We will hear reports from all the committees about the successes of the year as well

as the areas for possible growth. We will discuss our current financial situation and our hopeful fundraising possibilities for the rest of the year. Three Board positions are opening up and you will have the opportunity to vote for new members to lead our congregation. A decision will also be made about my ongoing involvement with Community Church.

In regards to the last decision listed, there is much to be considered. This August will mark the two-year anniversary of our relationship. A relationship, like all relationships, that has had beautiful days and days of struggle. My current contract with the church ends in August 2008. In order to meet the needs of all possible outcomes of the decision about my continuation here at Community Church, we need to decide now. This September I will become a full time student, for the first time in four years, at Andover Newton Theological School in a program to receive my Masters of Divinity. I would be excited to continue serving the Community Church during my time in school and it would require numerous adjustments in our current organizational structure. A reorganization I think we could work out together. There are certainly areas of growth on all sides of our relationship and I look forward to the possibility of going the long haul with you all.

Our potential is limitless. In this spring season, running full speed for summer, I have faith in our ability to take on the difficult choices in front of us. With loving honesty and hopeful visioning the next steps for Community Church will become more and more clear.

Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

June 3

DOROTEA MANUELA & SERGIO REYES

*"The World-wide Struggle Against
Migrant Worker Exploitation"*

June 10

JASON LYDON

*"Power, Privilege, and the
Effects of Assimilation"*

June 17

*Annual Ethel & Julius Rosenberg
Commemoration*

Atty. ROBERT MEEROPOL
*"McCarthy-Era Lessons for
Bush's America"*

BOARD NOMINATIONS

The following members have been nominated for three-year terms on the Community Church Board of Directors, to be elected at the June 10th Annual Meeting: David Broeg, Virginia Pratt, Leonard Shames

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following have been nominated for one-year terms, with two others to be nominated from the floor on June 10th: Kevin Devine, Gwen O'Brien

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on May 15, 2007.

Following are highlights of the meeting.

The following board members were present: Kevin Devine, Karl Jones, Dick Keshishian, John MacLeod, Ron Shapiro, Dean Stevens, Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*

Congregational Director's Concerns: Jason announced that he has been accepted to Andover Newton Theological School for the fall term. Discussion concerning his salary and working hours at CCB will take place shortly with the Finance Committee.

There will be an orientation day on Sunday, June 3rd for all families interested in the Justice School program. Joo Young, the coordinator of the Justice School, along with several volunteers, set up a table at the Wake Up The Earth Festival last month and reached out to several families.



Financial Concerns: Ron presented a detailed report on the status of the CCB funds, stating that although expenses still outweigh income, the financial picture seemed to be improving.

Various Concerns: The board voted to postpone, until October, a decision regarding the amendments and changes to the CCB bylaws.

Joo Young has requested that a committee for the Justice School be formed by August. Betsy Gynn, John MacLeod and Ron Shapiro have expressed interest in becoming members. The committee welcomes anyone who wishes to join.

Dick announced that twenty-nine individuals have submitted their pledge cards as of May 15th, amounting to \$14,630.00.

Four names have been submitted as candidates for the Sacco-Vanzetti Award for 2007. The final decision will be made at the annual meeting on June 10th.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2007 at 7:15p.m. All CCB members and friends are invited to attend.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Never Underestimate the Collective Power of your Efforts...

Joo Young Choi, Director of Children/Youth SJE Program

I am writing to thank the handful of folks who helped volunteer during our tabling effort at the *Wake Up the Earth Festival* in Jamaica Plain. This event allowed the Justice School to get the word out to many families while helping organize a fun activity for the children attending the festival. Through out the day we invited children to come paint a picture on our Peace Murals, by the end of the day we completed three large paintings on sheets of canvas. The children had a lot fun and many of the parents we talked to seemed interested in the program.

Our next big goal is to hold a Justice School event on June 3rd 2007. Our plan is to invite children and their families to visit the church and "try out" the Justice School. Upstairs in the Guatemala Room we will give the students a chance to meet one another and to see if a

Justice education is something that interests them. Afterwards we will invite students to sign up for September and answer any questions the families may have about signing up for the program.

To make this happen we are looking for your help in spreading the word to your neighbors, friends and family. I will be making flyers about this specific event, and will hand them out during church. Another way you can help is by donating any of the following items for our classroom: Throw pillows, Markers, Crayons, School Scissors, Glue, Construction Paper, Bookshelves, Board games, Stickers, Easel, Butcher paper and Beanbags.

Please contact me with any questions or suggestions: jooyoung@commchurch.org or 617.266.6710

A Mother's Day "Walk for Peace"

Community Church of Boston was proud to participate in the Mother's Day "Walk for Peace", an annual walk hosted by the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in Dorchester, MA. It was a beautiful, sunny day and hundreds of people throughout the city -- moms, kids, friends, family, supporters -- stepped out to make peace visible in the city streets, and to support those most affected by violence in Boston.

Thanks go to walkers Jason Lydon, Karl Jones and Betsy Gynn (and Virginia Pratt who walked as part of the WILPF group); and sponsors including Mary Corcoran, Mary Ann Cromer, Hong, Karl Jones, Dick Keshishian, Jason Lydon, John Mannheim, John O'Brian, and several individuals not affiliated with the church. The walkers finished by late morning, which left plenty of time for families to celebrate Mother's Day with their loved ones.

Community Church should consider participating in the Mother's Day "Walk for Peace" every year, to support those working for peace and justice on the city streets, and to make our own community a more visible presence for justice and peace.

- Betsy Rueda Gynn

CCB's 2007 Annual Pledge Drive

Last month cards were sent out to friends and members of the church as part of our annual pledge drive. If you haven't yet returned your card with a pledge, please consider doing so soon.

Your pledge helps the Community Church continue to thrive. This year we plan to use the money raised for more young adult programming, to grow our Sunday Forums, and to get our new *Justice School* off to a great start. Your pledge will make this happen, so please give as generously as you can!

Sacco-Vanzetti Award Nominations

The Sacco & Vanzetti Award process has changed again. We are hoping to get more people involved in making the decision. Each person affiliated with the Community Church is welcome to nominate an individual for the Sacco & Vanzetti Award. All nominations should be sent in by June 6th and be no more than 4 sentences of a bio for the individual you wish to nominate. During the Annual Meeting members will have a chance to vote, instant run-off style, for the 2007 Sacco & Vanzetti Award recipient. Please send nominations to: jason@commchurch.org

Celebrate the Children of Resistance!

June 19, 7:30pm
Back Bay Events Center
(John Hancock Hall), Boston

A benefit for the Rosenberg Fund for Children honoring Ethel and Julius Rosenberg's resistance and celebrating those who continue that legacy today. Words of activist families, music and poetry, form a program that embraces progressive struggle and inspires a commitment to social justice. Starring: Angela Davis, Eve Ensler, David Strathairn, Howard Zinn, Martín Espada, Karen Brandow & Charlie King, Pamela Means, The Foundation Movement, Workmen's Circle Chorus; Meeropol/Rosenberg family, Iraq War resister Camilo Mejía and Boston "local heroes" including Felix Arroyo, Margaret Burnham, Soffiyah Elijah, Tony Kahn, Sofia Snow and others.

Tickets and info:
Rosenberg Fund for Children
tel: (413) 529-0063; email: amber@rfc.org
<http://www.rfc.org>

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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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

