

# community

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

September 2006

# news

## Welcome Back to a New Season at Community Church

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

**W**elcome back!! This is the beginning of a new season here at the Community Church of Boston and it is our opportunity to start fresh, revived, and filled with energy for growth and action. Over the summer programs have continued somewhat but now that September has come we have the capacity to do so much more. As we restart I want you all to think about how you can be involved this season and what you want to see happen with our space and our efforts.

Our voice in Boston is up to us and this September we can begin strengthening our voice to have the impact we desire. I hope to see folks continuing to volunteer, coming up with new ideas for change, and welcoming all the new possibilities and new energy that will hopefully be coming our way. There is much turmoil in our world right now. There is much work needed to be done right here in our city. We are also at the one-year commemoration of hurricane Katrina and the systematic racism that displaced so many from New Orleans. As we begin our new season these are things for us to consider organizing ourselves around.

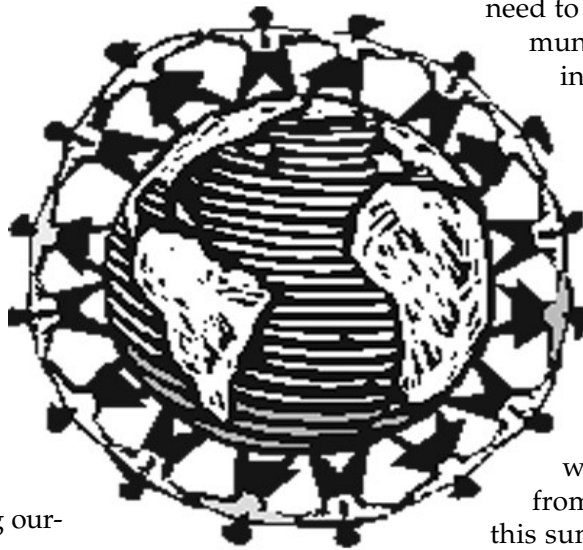
Beginning September 5th my hours at the church will increase to 28 from 24 and I am going to have a more consistent schedule to make myself more accessible to all of you. My hours will, generally, be Sunday 9:00am to 5:00pm and Monday through Wednesday 11:00am to 5:00pm. I will also be available for committee meetings beginning at 7:00pm Monday through Thursday. As always you can reach me on my cell phone for emergencies and that number is 617.519.4387.

During my regular hours I would love to continue visiting you all at your homes and having meals out together. Also during my regular hours I will continue going to meetings for the organizations we have committed ourselves to. I hope that by creating some more structure within my hours we will have a more organized office space. As we hire a new employee to run our social justice program for children and youth,

Mark, that person, and myself will need to spend more time communicating with each other in order to best serve this congregation. Please share all ideas with me for helping this process run more smoothly.

Our first Sunday together is September 10th. I am hoping that you all would take a moment to bring some water or sand or stones from somewhere you went this summer or representative of something you did while we were

apart. As we gather together again for our first Sunday this is an opportunity for us to ignite the flame within our community and celebrate with each other our experiences from the summer and our hopes for a new church year. Please take some time to reflect on a lesson you may have learned or a new experience you had to share with us. I certainly look forward to being with everyone again that Sunday.



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

**September 10**

JASON LYDON

*"Homecoming Sunday"*

**September 17**

Prof. MARK I. SOLOMON

*"Strategies for Building a  
Progressive Majority"*

**September 24**

JANE CROSBY & MARTIN SCHOTZ

*"Cuba's Socialist Revolution and the World's  
Struggle for Peace & Justice"*

**October 6**

JONATHAN MCINTOSH

*"Indonesia: A Case Study  
on Corporate Globalization"*

## Upcoming CCB Meetings and Events

**Next CCB Board Meeting**

is September 14th, 7pm (at the church).

**Dinner With Spirit**

will continue on the first and third  
Wednesday of the month at 7pm (at the church)

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on July 17, 2006.*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Congregational Director's Concerns:** Jason continues his clinical pastoral education program at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. He is planning on conducting one-to-one interviews with members of the Church during the coming autumn months. He was scheduled to speak at the Arlington Street Unitarian Church on Sunday, August 13, 2006.

**Financial Concerns:** The Boston Youth Organizing Project has decided to renew its lease for the fiscal year.



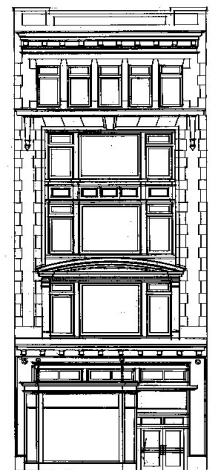
**Various Concerns:** The Personnel Committee will meet to further discuss plans to introduce a Sunday Social Justice Education program for children and young teenagers.

Andrea Hornbein made a presentation on behalf of the Statewide Harm Reduction Coalition, of which the CCB is a sponsor. She asserted that the state is planning "jail expansion" and may add six-hundred additional beds to various penal institutions to be able to accommodate more prisoners.

*- Dick Keshishian, Clerk*

## Small Office Space Still Available in Copley Square

Well-suited space for grassroots groups, activists, etc. Office is approximately 9'x12' and can comfortably accommodate 1-2 people/desks. \$400/month includes heat and electricity; free wireless connectivity; shared kitchen and bathroom; use of common rooms for meetings/trainings; use of auditorium twice yearly for large events; available immediately.



Located at 565 Boylston Street (4th floor). Minutes from the Orange and Green subway lines as well as numerous bus lines. For more information or to view the office space, contact Mark Laskey at the Community Church of Boston at [info@commchurch.org](mailto:info@commchurch.org) or 617-266-6710.

# Bring It On! ...from the President

by Dean Stevens, President

Folks, it was a pleasure and an honor to welcome you to our home for the church picnic. It didn't even matter that the weather did not cooperate. It was a marvellous showing, and a great way to get us energized for the new season. My family and I were away most of the summer (El Salvador, Costa Rica, Maine and Vermont), and the house needed to be warmed and spirited by the likes of all of you, your food and beverages. Let's change our names to the Church of the Sacred Potluck, the Church of the Proud Picnic, the Church of the Infinite Appetites. We thank you, our guinea pigs thank you.

This summer I read two books that grabbed me in a big way. Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" movie has a book that accompanies it (I haven't seen the movie yet), and is a project will that hopefully finally open our eyes to the obvious reality of climate change, a glaring truth that this administration chooses to simply ignore. George Bush's ostrich head is deep in the sand, and his oil company backers urge him to stick it even deeper in. The planet is dying, the Great Extinction is on. The Tipping Point is here. Our children will reap the fruits of our every inaction. I believe that climate change is what should be driving our every decision. I need to insulate this house, and get a car that gets twice the gas mileage, get on my bike more often, live simply, need less stuff. We need to

direct all of the resources we can into making our CCB building much more efficient. We need to be urging our elected officials at every level that government has to take the driving lead on this, that it is the foremost issue at hand, if we are to give a green earth to our grandchildren. A Marshall Plan for the Planet is what we need, NOW.

The second book I read, "Plan B 2.0", by Lester Brown of the Earth Policy Institute, spells out the planetary predicament in a methodical way: it looks at all of the enormous global ills wrought by humankind. Lester Brown comes up in the first part of the book with a pretty grim outlook for the future, if we don't change course NOW! In the second part of the book, he spells out a basic plan for change, involving an immediate global focus on conversion to sustainable, clean and renewable energy, channelling enormous resources into education in developing countries, changing the way humans produce their food and manufacture their products. Believe it or not, despite the enormity of the task, Brown gives us, in the end, an optimistic outlook. It can be done he says, it must be done, and will be done. "A Challenge to Greatness" is the name of his last chapter. Can we be challenged in the same way in our own lives, to bring on the change that human culture needs to save this planet? I hope so. Let it begin with me and you. Then with all of us in this church, city, country, planet.

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## Kartrina: One Year Later

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

The end of August was the one-year commemoration of the avoidable tragedy of Katrina. Here in the northeast we are not as connected to the work that is going on regarding rebuilding, right to return issues, levee restructuring, and so on. The Boston Globe ran a succession of stories regarding work going on, but there is far more to be done and far more to be addressed. Here are some ways that those of us from the Community Church of Boston can get involved:

We can demand that FEMA honor its rental assistance agreement for displaced persons. Further, Congress must ensure that the U.S. government adheres to its policy - *Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons Policy* (USAID) - that establishes the human rights protections of people who are forced to leave their communities as a result of a natural or man-made disaster.

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security: Peter T. King (R-NY), Curt Weldon (R-PA)  
(202) 225-7896; (202) 225-2011

U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee: Susan M. Collins (R-ME) Joseph I. Lieberman (D-CT): (202) 224-2523; (202) 224-4041

We can support the Black Activist Coalition on Katrina and the Peoples Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition campaign to convene an International Tribunal on Katrina and the human rights abuses of the US Government. More information is available at: <http://www.peopleshurricane.org>

We can organize a trip down to New Orleans in October or early November. The Unitarian Universalist church of Baton Rouge has developed relationships throughout the most affected communities in New Orleans and they are calling UU churches to step up and organize themselves to get down to do good work. We could consider doing our part this way as well.

There is plenty of work to be done. We need to remember that the tragedy of Katrina could have been stopped but because of the structures of racism and classism poor folks and folks of color were left to die. We may be looking at the next racial reconstruction of this country. Let's make sure we are doing our part to challenge the white supremacy that continues to dictate our country's policies and practices.

# Through Barbed Wire

The fourth Friday of every month at 7:00, in the Lothrop room, *Through Barbed Wire*, Community Church of Boston, Boston Jericho, and others organize together to present a conversation, film, dialogue, or poetry reading to address issues concerning those sentenced to life in prison. Arnie King has been the lead organizer in this effort, amazing as he does so from inside the prison walls. For more information get in touch with Jason or email: [throughbarbedwire@yahoo.com](mailto:throughbarbedwire@yahoo.com)



## 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*  
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*  
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*  
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*  
Jim Casteris, *Superintendent*

## Board of Directors

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Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*  
Ron Shapiro, *Treasurer*  
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*  
Christina Braidotti  
Lenny Shames  
Audrey Coulter  
Kevin Devine  
Selma Ganz  
Sara Sue Koritz  
John MacLeod



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