

community

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

January 2011

news

Resolutions For The New Year

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear Friends and Members... Happy New Year! Each new year is an incredible time for planning, dreaming, and starting new. Each of us as individuals get to make our own resolutions. As a community we get to make big plans. As a movement we get to be reinvigorated with new strength and passion for justice in our world. It is not difficult for us to see and feel our brokenness. However, our challenge in this new year, as it has been our challenge in years past, is to try to be the glue that puts us all back together. It is places like the Community Church of Boston where that glue is created. It is in our coming together, Sunday after Sunday, that gives us the ingredients we need to make the beautiful, creative, radically inclusive glue we need.

What are some resolutions we can make as a community this year? Obviously we should come up with the answers together and to start us off here are some of my reflections. I hope that each of us would resolve to bringing someone new to the Community Church of Boston this year. We are an amazing community of people with incredible opportunities to hear brilliant speakers while holding one another gathered in loving arms. We are unique and important in Boston and as a force within our state. Each of us might want to bring one, two, ten friends or loved ones with us to church on Sunday morning. We gain strength by sharing those things that are important in our lives with other people who are also important. Take a risk, bring someone from work, bring your cousin, bring your partner, bring your child, bring your next door neighbor, bring the friend you see on the street every day, let us share our message of hope and liberation with others! There are only a few more months until we get to have our larger auditorium back again, let's show how well we manage to snuggle together in the Guatemala Room, creating a comfy place for learning and growing together.

Let us also resolve to be great stewards of our building. Let's take some time to be creative and figure out how we can most effectively use the space that we have. As we watch the second floor come back in to existence and as we see our building get more secure with greater fire safety protections let's build a vision of what is possible beyond what we have been doing for years past. While this flood and rebuild has been quite a disaster it is also a beautiful time for opportunity and radically new ideas. We also need to have a diligent eye on the work being done. We need to be sure we are living our values in the way work gets done. Transparency needs to increase and accountability needs to be more direct. This building belongs to all of us and we need to hear as many voices as possible to make the best decisions possible, giving us greater power as a community.

Let us also resolve to live the purpose of our church not just on Sunday mornings but take it with us the rest of the week. What does it mean for us to practice universal religion? What does it mean in your day-to-day life to apply ethical ideals to your individual life? How are you fighting for democratic and cooperative principles to extend to our greater social and economic life? These are high asks that we remind ourselves of each Sunday. The work is a tall order. As a congregation, as a community that chooses to care for one another, I hope we can resolve to ask one another about the different aspects of each of our lives that are living within the values we espouse. I hope we can resolve to support and challenge one another, knowing that each of us comes with the greatest intentions.

This year let us resolve to live with love! May we continue to struggle for a world based in justice and liberation! I look forward to making resolutions with you!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

January 2nd
COMMUNITY VOICES
“Singing in the New Year”

January 9th
THOMAS CINCOTTA
“What’s Behind the Recent Wave
of FBI Repression?”

January 16th
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
CHUCK TURNER
“COINTELPRO 2.0: The Targeting
of Black Elected Officials”

January 23rd
PAUL BARAN
“Re-Engaging the Muslim World:
An Obama Foreign Policy Doctrine?”

January 30th
GEORGE LEE
“Youth Violence in Boston:
Organizing for Survival”

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on December 14, 2010
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Financial Report: The treasurer presented a Spending vs. Budget report through November 10, 2010. The amount of \$152,000 was budgeted, resulting in a \$13,000 over budget which is why cuts in staff time were instituted. It was also recommended that a programmed thermostat be installed in order to

reduce heating costs which vary from \$1,100 to \$1,400 monthly with a discount.

Income vs. spending concerning renovations, at this point, are a negative \$500 to \$600 monthly. More money is needed to proceed with building repairs. Expenses are anticipated to be \$75,000 for the next stage of the building renovation.

Building Concerns: A detailed two-hour report was presented by Henry Putman, the reconstruction coordinator, who began by giving an account of the pipe bursting in December, 2009. The architectural plan requires two rated means of egress; we can get away with having one of them. Additional work is needed on exits leading to the fire escape. The fire alarm has been replaced to make it compatible with the required sprinkler system; it is now up to code and modern technological standards.

One-hundred thousand dollars is being received from the insurance companies to meet code compliance for life safety.

It will cover the entirety of the life safety work. The Church still needs an additional \$100,000 immediately to complete the repairs. Plumbing work and remediation has begun to prevent a similar incident to reoccur in the future.

The board expressed its profound gratitude to Henry Putman for the countless hours of his time and expertise.

Various Concerns: The minister’s workdays are Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. He will not be accepting telephone calls on other days except those involving pastoral emergencies. He urged everyone to be aware of the needs of the elderly members of the Church.

Heartfelt condolences to Dian & Marty Lerman on the recent passing of Dian’s mother, Ms. Alice Jaffe, in Woodstock, NY.

CCB conveys to all its congregants, friends and to their families, a healthy and peaceful New Year, 2011!

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk



Help End the Inhumane Treatment of Bradley Manning!

The Marine Brig at Quantico, Virginia is using “injury prevention” as a vehicle to inflict extreme pre-trial punishment on accused Wikileaks whistleblower Army PFC Bradley Manning. These “maximum conditions” are not unheard-of during an inmate’s first week at a military confinement facility, but when applied continuously for months and with no end in sight they amount to a form of torture. Bradley, who just turned 23-years-old last week, has been held in solitary confinement since his arrest in late May. We’re now turning to Bradley’s supporters worldwide to directly protest, and help bring a halt to, the extremely punitive conditions of Bradley’s pre-trial detention.



Wikileaks whistle-blower
Bradley Manning

We need your help in pressing the following demands: End the inhumane, degrading conditions of pre-trial confinement and respect Bradley’s human rights. Specifically, lift the “Prevention of Injury (POI) watch order”. This would allow Bradley meaningful

physical exercise, uninterrupted sleep during the night, and a release from isolation. We are not asking for “special treatment”. In fact, we are demanding an immediate end to the special treatment.

Please contact these Marine Corps officers and respectfully, but firmly, ask that they lift the extreme pre-trial confinement conditions against Army PFC Bradley Manning:

Quantico Base Commander
Colonel Daniel Choike
3250 Catlin Avenue, Quantico VA 22134
+1-703-784-2707 (phone)

Quantico Brig Commanding Officer
CWO4 James Averhart
3247 Elrod Avenue, Quantico VA 22134
+1-703-784-4242 (fax)

For more information and updates
on Bradley Manning:

<http://www.couragetoresist.org>

Further Updates on the CCB Building

by Dean Stevens, Building Committee

We are poised to start work on the 1) sprinkler system installation and 2) the stairwell fireproofing. This will be a difficult and disruptive time, for us and for our guests and our tenants. It involves noise, dust, debris, workers in and out of the building. We apologize in advance for this temporary inconvenience, that will get us to our goal: a renewed, upgraded, safe, up-to-code space.

We will also be working on the auditorium renovations, improvement of our third floor fire egress (through the window and out across the roof). If we can afford it, we will remodel and expand the third floor bathroom for wheelchair access.

We have partial funding for all of this from Church Mutual, our insurance company. We will also be needing additional funds, either from our endowment (AKA the Pax Funds), or from a construction

loan from the Unitarian Universalist Association, or some combination of these two sources. Whatever bold and inventive fundraising we are able to do will allow us to come out of this in better financial shape. There will be a January 9 meeting after lunch, to discuss a funding plan, and to ask the congregation to vote on a resolution. I will not be at this meeting, as I am leading a delegation to El Salvador. I hope that we can reach a consensus about how we are going to finance this important work.

We are at the first anniversary of the flood. I call it CCB's Perfect Storm. We will come away from this stronger, better prepared for the next hundred year event. I sincerely hope that 2011 will see us in our restored Lothrop Auditorium. Enormous thanks go out to Henry Putman, for his valiant efforts in helping us navigate these complicated waters.

Haiti Remembrance Day

Wednesday, January 12th, 5-9pm
Roxbury Community College

Please join AFAB (Asosyasyon Fanm Ayisyen nan Boston), MACHHA (Massachusetts Coalition of Haitian Hometown Associations, of which FATEM is a member) and several other Massachusetts-based grassroots organizations in honoring the victims of the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake that crippled Haiti.



For more information:
<http://www.mpahaiti.org>

Our Purpose

Community Church of Boston is a free community 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

Rev. Jason Lydon, *Minister*
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

Board of Directors

David Broeg, *President*
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Jim Casteris, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,
Susan Mortimer, Matt Osborn



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

telephone: (617) 266-6710
fax: (617) 266-0449
email: info@commchurch.org
www.communitychurchofboston.org

Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

