

community

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

June 2012

news

A Simple Faith

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear Members and Friends, Dean Stevens introduced us all to a song that speaks truly to what I believe our congregation and what Unitarian Universalism, in a larger sense, embodies. The refrain is as follows, "Ours is a simple faith/Life is a short embrace/Heaven is in this place/Every day/Hope is the ground we till/Make each day what you will/Thankful for dreams fulfilled/Every day." As a congregation we carry a multitude of theologies and political ideologies but I believe the Community Church of Boston lives a simple faith, where there is injustice, we will be there on the side of the oppressed; where there is suffering, we will be there on the side of those who suffer; where there is a loving struggle for liberation, we will be there with open hearts. This is my last letter to you all as the minister of this congregation, a hard reality for me to grasp, but even as I bring my ministry with you all to a close I commit to remaining with you all in this faith.

So much has happened since August 29, 2005. I joined the Community Church of Boston as the Congregational Director right after the horrific disaster of Katrina and Rita in New Orleans. Our first gathering together functioned as a fundraiser to send support to survivors of the storms and the human made racist disaster that took the lives of many. While much has changed in our world since then, much has stayed the same. Rebuilding in New Orleans has begun, but the brokenness of our world created by racism is far from mended. Even more of the world has changed since the days of Clarence Russell Skinner's ministry at this church but as I leave, as the eighth minister of the church, many of the same struggles that brought this congregation into existence are still here. The ministry of the Community Church has always been one of a free pulpit open to the power of sharing knowledge and building movements for justice and freedom. As you choose your ninth leader you will continue this legacy as a congregation and with your new leadership, there is 92 years of practice and it's going to get stronger.

Skinner encouraged this congregation, and the people within the Universalist faith movement, to live well and hold onto a "radiant hope," a deep knowing and living of love. The "radiant hope" Skinner introduced has the power to guide this congregation in a ministry that serves the greater Boston area and lives authentically in the purpose of the community.

This newsletter is also the first one that I have been part of without the contributions of Marty Lerman. Marty has been the lead organizer of our Sunday services since 1991, and certainly shaped the far majority of my time here at the church. We would gather as the program committee and attempt to meet the needs of the congregation and bring interesting, nourishing, challenging, informative speakers to our pulpit. There were days when we disagreed and times when we got on each other's nerves but we always got the work done and filled our Sundays with voices too often silenced Monday through Saturday. While Bill Alberts, Donald Lothrop, and Skinner often focused on bringing in the big name speakers, there has been something beautiful and powerful in hearing the voices of on the ground organizers from our communities. The Community Church of Boston's Sunday service provides a home to the stories of those seeking a better world. In Marty's absence this work needs to be shouldered by new bodies. There is much transition in this community right now, and it will take gentle patience with each other to keep things strong.

I leave the Community Church of Boston this month filled with love and gratitude. This congregation has been my home for the past seven years. You all have created me as a minister and there are endless memories that dance around in my head and heart. You remain in the trusted hands of each other and the legacy of this church. As individuals and as a community you will remain in my heart and prayers. As a collective we will continue to be part of the same movements knowing that we will be truly free when all are free.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

June 3rd
LANA HABASH & LAILA MURAD
“Muslim Political Prisoners from
Israel to the U.S.”

June 10th
*Annual Ethel and Julius Rosenberg
Commemoration*
**THROUGH BARBED WIRE
& FRIENDS**
“Words From The Inside”

June 17th
Rev. JASON LYDON
“Leaving Well: Tales of the
Last Seven Years”

Remembering Marty Lerman

As many of you may already know, Marty Lerman, a longtime CCB member and friend to many in our community, passed away in his home on Sunday evening, May 6th.

Marty will be remembered as a committed social justice activist, lover of hiking, avid sports fan, and ardent supporter of community theater. Since 1991 Marty has chaired the CCB program committee, making our Sunday services possible week after week. We are all greatly saddened by this loss.



A memorial service for Marty will happen at the Community Church of Boston on Saturday, September 1st; details forthcoming.

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on May 8th, 2012
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Minister's Report: The minister announced that a memorial service will be held at Community Church on September 1, 2012 for long time member Marty Lerman who passed away on May 6th. A memorial service with friends and family was held on May 13 at First Parish Watertown with many people in attendance.

The Church has inquired about increasing its insurance coverage. As yet no reply has been received; however no problem is anticipated.

Financial Matters: The treasurer summarized the Profit & Loss Budget Performance report, paying attention to the Annual Fund Drive, Rental Income, Building Expenses and Maintenance. General revenue is not keeping pace with expenses, although the situation is not to be considered critical.

Various Concerns: The board decided that each of its members should engage a Sunday speaker during September and October until a Program Committee has been assembled, hopefully by November.

Fifteen applicants have applied for the position of minister. The search committee emphasized the importance of a good match rather than a quick replacement.

The Nominating Committee, due to unforeseen circumstances, was unable to function. The clerk assumed responsibility, with recommendation from the board, to compose a slate of officers and directors to be presented at the annual meeting. The following persons have been nominated for the Board of Officers and Directors:

Officers:

President - Reed Miller
Vice President - Dean Stevens
Treasurer - Virginia Pratt
Clerk - Dick Keshishian

Directors:

Jim Casteris, Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom, Susan Mortimer

The following individuals have been asked to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2012-2013:

- 1) David Broeg
- 2) To be determined
- 3) To be determined

Nominations may also be made from the floor during the meeting.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Boston Pride Week 2012

The largest gay pride event in New England, and one of the most popular on the Eastern Seaboard, Boston Gay Pride takes place each year in June. This year the main parade, festival, and neighborhood block parties take place the weekend of June 9th and June 10th, but there are a number of related community events held throughout the prior week.

Pride celebrations in Boston officially kick off at noon, Friday, June 1st, with an official Flag Raising at Boston City Hall Plaza. The following day, Saturday at the city's iconic Faneuil Hall Marketplace, there's entertainment and shopping in Quincy Market during Pride Day at Faneuil Hall, which takes place from 10am-5pm.

On Friday, June 8th, the Boston Common Parkman Bandstand is site of the Boston Dyke March, at 6 pm.

The following day, Saturday, June 9th, is the most prominent day of Boston Pride Week. At noon, the Boston Gay Pride Parade commences at noon, departing from around the intersection of Tremont and Clarendon streets, in the city's most gay-identified neighborhood, the historic South End. The celebrity Grand Marshal of the parade this year is actor, poet, and activist Alexis Arquette. The parade winds north-east, then north on Berkeley Street into the Back Bay, where it turns east onto Boylston Street and passes by the famed Boston Public Garden. It then turns left onto Charles Street, heading north alongside the scenic Boston Common, before turning east on Beacon Street and passing before the Massachusetts State House, then winding around Tremont Street and Cambridge Street to end at Boston City Hall. This is

one of the more popular and scenic gay pride marches in the country, drawing enormous crowds and passing before some of the city's most prominent sites.

Also kicking off at noon on Saturday, the Boston Gay Pride Festival takes place at City Hall Plaza, right where the parade ends. At the festival, you can



watch a number of top entertainers (this year's stage features Deborah Cox, Niki Haris, and many others), visit with more than 100 business vendors and

community groups, and mingle with hundreds of fellow participants. This is followed by Club Sizzle, the Pride Party for those 21 and older.

On Sunday, June 10th, the fun continues with a pair of GLBT Block Parties, held in two of the city's most gay-popular neighborhoods, the South End and Jamaica Plain. In the South End, the Stuart Street Block Party takes place along Stuart between Arlington and Berkeley streets, from noon until 8pm. Over in Jamaica Plain, the JP Block Party takes place from noon until 7 pm on Perkins Street, between Centre Street and South Huntington Avenue.

For more information on events for the week:
www.bostonpride.org

Stonewall Warriors' Unity Statement for Boston Pride 2012

This year our LGBTQ community stands in solidarity with those who have fought back against oppression and unjust persecution. We honor those both in our LGBTQ, allied and other communities. Our solidarity is class wide and has no borders. Because of the serious economic crises we face and the daily torrent of harassment and acts of violence against our community,



youth, People of Color, women, Immigrants and people with physical or other disabilities, we cannot justify fighting for single issues and ignoring the overlap and intersections among multiple forms of oppression.

By honoring CeCe McDonald, Trayvon Martin, Private B. Manning and Tarek Mehanna, we oppose not only bigotry against LGBTQ people but racism, incarceration of political prisoners, unemployment, Islamophobia and the Pentagon war machine. Stonewall Means Fight Back!

Honoring Jason Lydon's Ministry with Community Church

Saturday, June 16th, 6:00pm
at the Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston St, Boston

Join us for food, story-telling, fellowship, and celebrating the past seven year partnership between the congregation at the Community Church of Boston and Jason Lydon.

This marks the closing of another chapter at the CCB and a great moment of turning the page to new possibilities. Join us in this celebration!



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*

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David Broeg, *President*
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Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
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Jim Casteris, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,
Reed Miller, Susan Mortimer



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