

# community

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

May 2009

# news

## Opening Our Doors, Opening Our Community

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Finally, April showers brought May flowers! I hope everyone takes time to connect with the beauties of our planet. Whether one believes in a God or feels deeply connected to humanist principles we all need to recognize our interconnectedness with all that exists. I encourage taking some time with the greens, reds, yellows, purples, and sparks of life that surround us.

I also want us to take time this May to reflect on our commitment to the Community Church of Boston. Those of you who have not come to church on Sunday in a while, we miss you. I want to affirm everyone's choice to spend Sunday mornings in the way that is most fulfilling. I also want to welcome any reflections or thoughts on how Sunday mornings at the Community Church of Boston could call you from your bed, your brunch plans, your family walks on the beach, or other Sunday morning adventures. Our community is far more than just the speakers we have to speak to us. We gather to tell stories of our week, to share food together, to listen to our elders experience of years before, to sing together, to learn from our speaker, and to provide each other support as we all continue to take action to bring about the global transformation we seek. We would graciously accept you as well as your family and friends into the folds of the Sunday morning community.

Those of you who do come regularly, or sporadically, on Sunday mornings I invite you to choose a Sunday, or even better, a few Sundays in May to bring friends with you. The Community Church of Boston is unlike any other church that I know of in the Greater Boston area. Take some time to call up a friend you have not seen in some time or who you do not often talk about church with and bring them to one of our Sunday servic-

es. Our mission does not claim to be proselytizing, however, if we are to actualize our desires to bring about a culture that uses, "democratic and cooperative principles in all aspects of social and economic life," then we are going to need to expand our community more. We need to open up more not only to share what we have to offer but also to listen and learn from the many voices out there. The Community Church of Boston is a FREE community that opens its doors to those who want to gather for the purpose of actualizing true justice. Take some time this month to help us be more welcoming and bring a new person to church with you.

The act of growing a congregation and strengthening its membership is both a juggling act as well as a beautiful painting project. We all come to church with our own needs and expectations thus we need to juggle each individual's desires for the community. However, we also have a mission, and the purpose of the church is to fulfill our mission doing justice in the world, expanding our capacity to transform and be transformed. As we work to fulfill our mission sometimes we will not all be comfortable all of the time. Church is a place for growth and learning. Our community becomes a mural with fluid colors running into each other; each stroke and image impacting or influencing the next. To be oriented towards growth, whether that is numerically, financially, spiritually, or emotionally, we must be willing to step out of our comfort zones and take some risks. I hope that we can each push ourselves this May to help grow the reach of the church and its influence on ourselves and our communities. Let us take our own paint brushes and add color to our communal mural.



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

**May 3rd**

*International Workers' Day (part 2)*

**CENTRO PRESENTE**

**"Giving Voice to Immigrant Workers"**

**May 10th**

*Mothers' Day*

**AUDREY COULTER**

**"A Journey toward Political  
Consciousness"**

**May 17th**

**SHAHID BUTTAR**

**"New Threat to the Constitution:  
Domestic Intelligence Collection"**

**May 24th**

**COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE  
PEOPLE OF EL SALVADOR (CISPES)**

**"Change Comes to El Salvador"**

**May 31st**

**JOHN MILLER**

**"Recession, Depression, Repression:  
What's in a Name?"**

**Evan Greer & Friends**  
Community Church of Boston  
Friday, May 8th, 7:00pm

Featuring performances by the following friends:  
BROADCAST LIVE (radical hip-hop band from albany),  
TAINA ASILI Y LA BANDA REBELDE (special acoustic  
set!), MIMI LAVALALLEY (nyc singer/songwriter)  
and lots more surprises! \$5-20 sliding scale.

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on April 16, 2009*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

The following board members were present:  
Christina Braidotti, David Broeg, Dick Keshishian,  
Jason Lydon, John MacLeod, Nancy Messom and  
Virginia Pratt

**Congregational Director's Report:** Jason met with the Unitarian-Universalist publicity person concerning outreach for CCB. The first Sunday in May may be designated as "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday".

Jason will perform his Charles River swim on June 21st, in order to bring money to the Church.

The "Robert Hillary of the Angola 3" function on April 5th was a huge success and was attended by nearly seventy people.

Twenty people have signed up for the "White People Challenging Racism Workshops" on Sundays from April 19th to May 10th at CCB.



The Church is ready to receive on-line donations; those wishing to contribute money may do so by automatically withdrawing from their bank accounts.

CCB has ordered 250 stickers to be placed on one's jacket or articles of clothing.

**Financial:** The Church is seeking a contract that provides more coverage for the building elevator, although the rate per hour may increase for more service demand.

Rental income of \$2,125 is owed to the Church from several groups.

**Committee on Ministry:** The chairperson, Nancy Messom, commented on the results of the March membership survey which revealed that the congregation approves a moment of silence and spirituality during the Sunday program. Other issues included focusing on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, health care, the situation in Gaza, and subjects related to the economy, energy and the environment. Those surveyed also wish to concentrate only on one or two topics at a time. Ideas for events during the upcoming summer months are also welcome.

*The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# May 1st: International Workers Day

## We Voted for Change, Now We Make Our Demands!

### EAST BOSTON

2:30pm

Central Square

March from Liberty Plaza in Central Square  
to Chelsea City Hall

### CHELSEA

3:00pm

Chelsea City Hall

March from Chelsea City Hall to  
Glendale Park in Everett

### EVERETT

4:30-5:30pm

Glendale Park (50 Elm St, Everett)



This event is organized by the May 1st Coalition of Chelsea, East Boston and Everett, and co-sponsored by AFSC/Project Voice, Boston Mayday Coalition, MIRA Coalition and more! For more information call the Chelsea Collaborative: 617-889-6080.

## 13th Annual Mothers Day Walk for Peace

May 10th, 7:00-10:30am  
beginning at Townfield, Fields Corner

This is a fundraiser for the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Download a registration form from [www.louisdbrownpeaceinstitute.org](http://www.louisdbrownpeaceinstitute.org) or see Jason for a form. The mission of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is clear; to create and support an environment where families can live in Peace and Unity.

Our Goals and Objectives are three fold:

- (1) Schools: To develop programs and activities that teach and instill the values of peace and enrich the lives of young people.
- (2) Families: To assist and empower survivors of homicide victims with tools that not only rebuild their lives but also their communities; through Education, Collaboration, and Policy Advocacy.
- (3) Community: To inform and educate the public about the causes and the consequences of violence on the individual, the family and the community, while transforming the community into an environment where young people are valued by adults and by their peers for their peacemaking efforts.

## Support the Parole of Ralph Hamm

Co-author of the book "When the Prisoners Ran Walpole," an unlikely story about a group of prisoners in a maximum security prison and their struggle for self-determination Ralph Hamm is up for parole.

Ralph went to prison at the age of 17. He acknowledged his presence at the crime scene but not his culpability for all that was done.

He was given two second degree life sentences for a crime where no one died. His case is under review. Because of this, the parole board does not want to hear him for parole. Accepting responsibility for your actions is a pre-requisite for parole. Fighting your conviction is a barrier. So, at 41 years incarceration--he is facing the parole board for the third time with narrow hope for success.

Read this important book and please write a letter to the parole board supporting Ralph's parole. Ralph was and is a radical intellectual. We cannot change who he is, perhaps it is time the State hear why this is important to so many of us. The parole board address is below:

Massachusetts Parole Board  
Central Office  
12 Mercer Road  
Natick, MA 01760

# 31st Annual 'Wake Up The Earth' Festival



**May 2nd, 11am-5pm  
Jamaica Plain, MA**

Spontaneous Celebrations invites you to the 31st Annual Wake Up The Earth Festival on Saturday May

2nd, (Raindate Sunday May 3rd) from 11:00-5:00 at the Southwest Corridor Park at the Stonybrook Orange Line-T Stop.

The Parade, complete with live music, Puppets, Masks, and Stiltwalkers, begins at 11:00 at the Monument in Jamaica Plain and travels from centre Street through Hyde Square to Lamartine Street.

<http://www.spontaneouscelebrations.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*  
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*  
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*  
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*  
Jim Casteris, *Superintendent*

## Board of Directors

John MacLeod, *President*  
David Broeg, *Vice President*  
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*  
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Christina Braidotti, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,  
Leonard Shames, Ruediger Volk



DATED MATERIAL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

telephone: (617) 266-6710  
fax: (617) 266-0449  
email: [info@commchurch.org](mailto:info@commchurch.org)  
[www.communitychurchofboston.org](http://www.communitychurchofboston.org)

565 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON**

non-profit  
organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
Permit No. 9672