

community

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

November 2012

news

Accompaniment: Feet of Faith (Part I)

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

When I was thinking about applying to work at the Community Church of Boston, I came for some Sunday services to see what it was like. Each time, I found I was very moved during the service. What I saw and heard during those couple of hours stayed with me all week long. I appreciate that was that the center piece of each service is a generous space for people, usually from outside the group, to come and tell the story of the work they are called to do. And CCB calls them to the telling.

We hear stories of people who devote the resources in their care and control (time, money, energy) to take actions to create a world better than the one that exists now.

I call this faith of feet. This is different from the usual form of faith I see: faith of words. Clearly, words can be powerful in their own right. And after all, I'm talking about CCB hosting speakers who come with words. But the words they bring, week after week, are about their own specific, concrete experiences and interactions in specific concrete communities. Their experiences and interactions revolve around recognizing, with others, and addressing, with others, suffering or injustice. They most often speak of the ways they strive to be in partnership with their co-workers and stake-holders in these communities.

What is it that gives rise to this faith of feet?

This past weekend, I was at a retreat to celebrate the 25th anniversary of a small private foundation started by friends of mine, 3 Quaker women in New Hampshire and Maine. This foundation, the Lyman Fund, continues to give one-time grants of up to \$3000 to people who are on spiritual journeys and are requesting help to take the next right step. I was invited to attend because, in the early 1990's, I received 2 grants to help me start a non-profit organi-

zation to serve northeastern NH and western ME with a Parent-Child Mediation Program and then a Juvenile Court Diversion Program, using victim-offender mediation. I later served on the foundation's Board. A friend I had told about the foundation was also at the retreat. He got a grant to further his work with worker centers serving undocumented workers in eastern MA and RI. This group acknowledged that there is something, "spirit" some of us say, that guides and pulls us to action, though we don't share any specific theology.

Before coming to CCB, I described Occupy Boston as a new branch of my "faith family". I rarely, if ever, talk about faith, spiritual or religious topics with my OB friends. But when we discuss actions or plans for actions, we are on the same page, recognizing injustice and suffering as the focus and as the need to be addressed.

This is also what struck me about CCB and continues to nourish me here. We don't much talk about the energy that comes to us and that carries us into actions or planning for actions to address suffering and injustice. We show up. It's how I knew some of you before beginning as your Congregational Director. We would (and still do) show up at the same events.

It can be lonely being carried around by these kinds of restless feet. I'm glad I've landed where there are others carried around by some too.

In Part II, I will continue to explore and report about how our restless feet are carrying us and the places we might want them to take us.

Look in the December Newsletter for Part II of
Accompaniment: Feet of Faith

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

November 4th
EILEEN FELDMAN
"Death With Dignity"

November 11th
**PAKI WEILAND &
LOIS MASTRANGELO**
"CODEPINK: A Reportback from the
Pakistan Peace Delegation"

November 18th
Transgender Day of Remembrance
KADE CROCKFORD
"Boston Police Spying on Activists:
What's the Big Deal?"

November 25th
DANIELLE DELUCA
"We Are All Barillas"

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on October 9, 2012
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Congregational Director's Report: The following points were stated in the report:

(1) Pastoral Care: The congregational director has been visiting and becoming acquainted with several members of the congregation.

(2) Mission and Ministry: The Program Committee is meeting and hopes to set a regular meeting time to convene in the year ahead.

The Committee on Ministry should serve as a "support and liason" with the CCB board and community as soon as it is formed.

The congregational director participated in S17, the first anniversary of Occupy Wall Street, and S30, the first anniversary of Occupy Boston. Eight to twelve members representing CCB also took part in the Peace March and Rally on October 6th.

(3) Infrastructure: The congregational director would like to draft a work plan as well as employ a similar process in her role as supervisor of the other employees.

The congregational director met with Henry Putman and discussed the following points:

(a) liability and casualty insurance.

(b) tenant relations.

(c) maintaining and keeping records and all necessary and relevant permits, inspection, and most essential-assembly permit.

(d) capital expenses: identifying issues that need attention.

(e) real estate alternatives: a long term real estate plan.

Financial Matters: The treasurer reviewed line items on the Profit and Loss Budget Performance, September 2012, concentrating on maintenance and elevator expenses. She recommended concentrating on using email over snail mail regarding the CCB newsletter.

Building Committee: Tenant communication, expanding the Church library, and how to better beautify the space, making it more attractive and functional were discussed.

Various Concerns: A congregational meeting should be held every few months. A thorough cleaning of the Church space should be a priority. All committees should meet at a specified time every month. A discussion should be held about where the Church evolves as regards committee structure to give committees budgets to fulfill their mission.

*The next scheduled meeting of the board is
November 13, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of
the Church are invited to attend.*

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Budget Proposal Deadline

The CCB Committees budget requests deadline will be Monday, December 3rd. Please submit proposals to Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*

A Big Wish List for the CCB

by Dean Stevens, Vice President

We were talking at the Program Committee Meeting about having the last Sunday in 2012, December 30, be a sort of a Community Church New Year's Resolution and Wish List.

It got me thinking about wish lists: how we should have a wish list, in our newsletter, our bulletin, and on our website. It would be an ongoing reminder of how much room we have for improvement, and of how much better we could do things. How much more effective our activism could be. How much more deeply we could hold up one another in community. How we could really get to the core of what it is to have respect for each other, to listen profoundly, not just to the sound of our own voice.

There is, of course, the other side of what a wish list is: it's about stuff we want. For example, here we are with a gorgeously refurbished auditorium, but we could use a set of really comfortable, stackable chairs. We could use a nice built-in slide projector with a pull-down screen to offer to presenters who bring their audio-visuals with them. A portable stage would be occasionally useful. Some lighting equipment for performances and exhibitions. Elegant artwork, posters, portraits on our walls, halls and bathrooms. A wireless microphone, for our ever famous Q & A sessions. And my personal big wish, a really nice piano that would greatly enhance our auditorium. Or, if you don't hap-

pen to have any of these items lying around your house, we could use money to purchase them... Build it, and they will come.

Then of course, we have bigger wishes for the building. Our back wall is corroding, and needs serious work. We would love to upgrade our heating system, convert it to gas, and make other efficiency improvements to our decrepit old structure. A remodeled kitchen would be nice too. There is talk about a photovoltaic array on the roof. Lots of \$\$ we don't have. But never stop wishing.

We could use lots of input from you about our space. How to use it better. How to adorn it and beautify it in a way that delights our senses and instructs our minds, and commemorates our loved ones and our (s)heroes. How to put up respectful signage, that tells our many many visitors and tenants that the Lothrop Auditorium is the closest thing we have to a sacred space, to respect it, use it efficiently, and leave it clean.

We have a Building Committee that deals with some of these issues. But more to the point of this message, Reed Miller, our fearless president, is forming a Space Use committee that tackles not just plumbing and trash, but some of these more aesthetic challenges. Talk to Reed with your ideas about how to enhance our space, how make it our own.

Obituary: Rev. Jack Mendelsohn, former Interim Minister for the Community Church of Boston

Rev. Jack Mendelsohn, the era's leading humanist advocate of liberal religion and Unitarian Universalism, and who devoted his life to causes of racial, gender and economic justice, died at his home in Maynard, MA on October 11th, at the age of 94.

Jack started his religious education began at Boston University and Harvard Divinity School. He served congregations in Brewster, MA where he was ordained in 1945, the Beverly church in Chicago, then Rockford, IL, Indianapolis, IN, the Arlington Street Church in Boston, the First Unitarian Church in Chicago, and finally, the First Parish in Bedford, MA, and the Community Church of Boston as the interim Minister (from 1991-93).

More recently, Mendelsohn was CEO of the Civil Rights Project that produced the PBS civil rights documentary *Eyes on the Prize*.

Jack Mendelsohn gave progressive leadership to his denomination, serving the Unitarian Universalist Association's Women and Religion Committee, Beacon Press, Collegium, the UU Ministers Association and the UU Service Committee.

A prolific author, Mendelsohn wrote *Reluctant Radical*, *The Martyrs*, *The Forest Calls Back* and *Being Liberal in an Illiberal Age*.

A celebration of his life will be held on Monday, November 12, 1pm, at The First Parish, Unitarian Universalist (75 The Great Road, Bedford, MA). For more information: uubedford.org.

The submission deadline for the November CCB Newsletter is Monday, November 26th!

Bradley Manning Solidarity Vigil

Join members of OB-Strategic Action Assembly and Veterans for Peace for a weekly gathering in Davis Sq, Somerville supporting Pfc Bradley Manning, the WikiLeaks whistle blower who released half a million secret ifiles about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, including most famously the video CollateralMurder.com.



We meet every **Wednesday**, from **4–5pm**, in **Davis Square, Somerville** to speak and sing out, hold signs and collect signatures to free Bradley Manning.

For more information, visit our website:
<http://www.BradleyManningSquare.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.

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Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
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