

community

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

September 2008

news

Summer is Ending, but the New CCB Season Begins!

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... Welcome to another new season of the Community Church of Boston. I hope everyone has had an incredible summer of rest, rejuvenation, relaxation, and maybe even some revolution. It is time for us to come back together for our Sunday services/forums and continue in our collective struggle for justice and sustainable community.

As we begin the 2008 - 2009 season I ask you to sit with the following question, in what ways can you contribute regularly to the Community Church? We gather together every Sunday at 11:00am for political, social, and spiritual fulfillment. Do you come every Sunday? Do you come most Sundays? Do you want to? Community is built stronger by consistent participation and engagement. Can your contribution to the community be your regular presence? Would you be willing to take risks and share yourself with the community? As Sunday attendance becomes more consistent we have greater potential to make an impact as a congregation.

Maybe your contribution happens another time during the week. Our building is a wonderful space for progressive and radical organizing in Boston. Do you encourage organizations you are part of to utilize our space? Currently we welcome regular meetings from a number of local radical and progressive organizations. It would be a benefit to our space if you brought your extended community of activists together in our building. As we start this new season consider introducing your other networks to the work of the Community Church.

This is the second year of the Justice School, our Sunday children's program for supporting the leadership and development of young activists and justice seekers. Do you know young people between the ages

of 7 and 14? Are your own children in this age group? Take time to speak with JooYoung about ways you can help grow the Justice School and increase its impact on the lives of young people. Building intergenerational community is *essential* for any true radical change. Maybe your contribution this year is to the growth and empowerment of the Justice School.

Can your contribution also be a financial one? The Community Church of Boston offers a Sunday service/forum that no other church does. We offer a children's program on Sunday like no other. We provide a vital space for radical organizing in Boston. We offer an opportunity for inter-organizational relationship building and networking. Our capacity to offer programming, services, and community space can be sustained and grow by your generous contribution. The 2008-2009 season is an opportunity for you to consider increasing your pledge, consider making a pledge for the first time, or send a one-time donation. No amount is too small and, of course, no amount is too large. We welcome your generosity in whatever amount possible. Help us meet our pledge goal of \$20,000.00

Whether you can give money or volunteer time, all of your contributions make our church stronger. Use the 2008 - 2009 season as your opportunity to commit to this community. I look forward to the great possibilities of this new season.

P.S. Please keep Dean Stevens, his wife Jennifer, and son Daniel in your hearts as they go through a challenging time. Please also hold Selma Ganz in your heart as well and wish her a speedy recovery.

Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

-- *Back To School Month* --

September 7th

Homecoming Sunday

JASON LYDON

*"The Impact of Education
in Our Lives"*

September 14th

**BOSTON YOUTH
ORGANIZING PROJECT**
*"Youth Organizing Around
Public Transportation"*

September 21st

JESSE MERMELL

*"You Can't Judge Learning with
a Standardized Test!"*

September 28th

ACTIVISM AS A SUNDAY
"Youth Way on the MBTA"

Summer (almost Fall) Picnic

Join Gwen O'Brien and Jason Lydon at 41 Delle Ave in Mission Hill for our annual summer picnic on Saturday, September 13 at 1:00pm. We will gather rain or shine. Please bring food/drinks to share, games to play, and stories to tell. If you need directions feel free to call Jason at the church.

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on August 18, 2008.

Following are highlights of the meeting.

The following outgoing and incoming board members and guests were present: David Broeg, Mary Ann Cromer, Kevin Devine, Dick Keshishian, John MacLeod, Nancy Messom, Virginia Pratt, Ron Shaprio, Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*.

Financial Concerns: The Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has moved out of the CCB building. The board will meet with a representative from the ADC to negotiate a mutually agreeable settlement to collect back rent. The Church hopes to continue a friendly relationship with the organization.

The need for an alarm system and a push pad (code) in order to enter the CCB building was discussed as was the installation of locks for all of the doors within the building; the cellar must also remain locked. The security system is scheduled to be installed during the second week of September. A tenant committee to oversee the above-mentioned projects will also be formed.



Various Concerns: The annual Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice will take place on the first Sunday of December. A planning committee will be initiated for the event. The participation of CCB members and friends to serve on the committee is needed.

John MacLeod has agreed to join Mary Ann Cromer and Nancy Messom on the Committee on Ministry.

The Justice School will reopen its doors on September 7th. Please talk to those, with youngsters, with whom you are acquainted and familiarize them with the work, and the many educational and social benefits of enrolling.

Virginia suggested that CCB members be encouraged to be the principal speakers, on occasion, at the Sunday morning programs so that congregants may get to know one another on a more friendly basis.

The next meeting of the board will be on Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 7:15om, to which CCB members and friends are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

The Justice School is Back in Session

by Joo Young Choi, Director of Children/Youth SJE Program

Our first class of the new school year will be September 7th 2008. We will meet at the Community Church of Boston on the third floor at 10:45 AM. We are meeting a little earlier than usual because we will be taking a field trip to the Boston Common for the MSPCA-Angell: Walk for Animals. Please bring a bagged lunch to eat after the walk. Students and their family members are welcome!



The Justice School provides peace and justice education for children and youth (ages 6 -14). We are the Community Church of Boston's Sunday school. Unlike

traditional Sunday schools this education program is not focused on a particular religious faith. Our goal is to help young people have faith in themselves as activists, team leaders, group members, students and agents of positive change. We hope you will join us in creating a proactive peace and justice community for young people. Each Sunday is filled with fun and interesting activities. Our students use skits, art, games and books as tools for learning. Our class also goes on field trips and meets with local social justice organizers.

If you are interested in joining us feel free to show up, we meet each Sunday, usually at 11:00 AM and finish our class around 12:45 PM. Also, if you have any questions you can contact JooYoung Choi (Justice School Director) to learn more about our fun Social Justice Sunday School Program: (617) 553-4259. Email: thejusticeschool@gmail.com

5:00pm Sunday Meditation/Prayer Services

I have tried to include a spiritual component to our congregation by starting the 5pm service. This service has not picked up a large following. However, what I will begin offering instead is prayer/meditation time. From 5:00 – 5:30pm every Sunday the Lothrop room will be made available for spoken prayer, silent prayer, spoken meditation, silent meditation, and time for musical inspiration.

John Haynes Holmes, one of our founding ministers, reminds us of the importance of non-denominational prayer. "Prayer, in its ultimate and highest meaning, the conscious and deliberate attempt to gain contact with the universe or... it is the attempt to merge our lives in the life of the whole... The process of prayer is a human process, a normal process, a natural process." This time will be set aside for those radical, progressive, left folks who are looking for some time at the beginning of the week to ground themselves in whatever their faith is.

Many of us live challenging lives and time for reflection is essential for self-care and sustainability. All are welcome regardless of where they are in their spiritual/humanistic/theological path.

The 2008 'Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award' Goes to Jim Harney!

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We will celebrate Jim Harney this year as the recipient of the Sacco and Vanzetti Award on Sunday, December 7th. If you are interested in helping coordinate this event please join the Sacco and Vanzetti Planning Committee. First meeting will be announced soon.

Many thanks to all those who nominated individuals for this award. A special congratulations to Nick Burlack and the Berrigan-McAllister family for being 2nd and 3rd runners up. All the nominees will receive certificates of celebration for their incredible work and commitment to social justice.



October 11th Boston March and Rally Against the War!

We call for an end to this criminal war on the Iraqi people and demand nothing less than the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all occupation forces from Iraq and the closing of all military bases. We call for the redirection of resources to further justice, equality, and human needs here at home, not death and misery.



Planning Meeting: Saturday, September 6, 3:00 PM
Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison Ave, 5th Floor
Boston, MA (Chinatown stop on the Orange Line T)

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*
Joo Young Choi, *Director of Children/Youth SJE Program*
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



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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

