

**Community Church of Boston**  
*A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920*

# sunday forums

**April 2013**  
**Sundays at 11:00a.m.**

**April 7th -- VICTORIA BRITTAIN**

**“Shadow Lives: The Forgotten Women of the War on Terror”**

This forum will highlight some individual women in the UK and how the war on terror has affected them as their husbands, sons and fathers have been imprisoned without trial in the UK. We will also discuss the cases of some daughters in the US and how they have managed very difficult circumstances after their fathers or brothers have been sentenced to extremely long periods in SuperMax prisons.

Victoria Brittain has lived and worked as a journalist in Washington DC, Saigon, Algiers, Nairobi, and worked extensively in many African and Middle Eastern countries.

**April 14th -- COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON'S ANNUAL RETREAT**

Instead of a service in our auditorium, we plan on gathering for a day-long retreat to reflect and vision. From 10am-4pm, we will share songs and food, and put our heads together about who we are and where we are going.

**April 21st -- Earth Day**

**PETE CANNON**

**“Mountain Keepers”**

In Central Appalachia, a decades long battle over the survival of mountain communities and the existence of democracy is coming to a head. Mountaintop removal and other forms of strip mining have decimated labor unions, forever destroyed hundreds of mountain ranges and thousands of streams, and poisoning & permanently impoverishing communities. The voice against strip mining has never been stronger, and backed with a growing body of scientific evidence, a new chapter is opening for a region that has been a resource extraction colony for over 150 years.

Pete Cannon is a Jamaica Plain resident and has been engaged in Appalachian justice issues with a number of organizations, including Rising Tide North America, Appalachia Rising, Rainforest Action Network and others.

**April 28th -- Celebrating Labor and the International Workers' Holiday**

**JOHN LAMBIASE**

**“May Day Commemoration”**

In these times of economic uncertainty and union give backs, John will talk about what is wrong with today's organized labor and what must be done?

John Lambiase was an active union member and elected regional President of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America based in Erie, PA, now retired. He was an active union member from high school and college onward, a staff member of the United Farm Workers in California with Cesar Chavez, and approximately 30 years as a UE union organizer in PA.

**COMMUNITY**  
CHURCH OF BOSTON

**Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director**

**Community Church of Boston \* 565 Boylston Street, Boston, MA (in Copley Square)**  
**tel. (617) 266-6710 \* [info@commchurch.org](mailto:info@commchurch.org) \* [www.communitychurchofboston.org](http://www.communitychurchofboston.org)**

Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$5 on Sunday for 3hrs with a coupon available from the church.

By public transportation, Community Church is minutes from the Back Bay station (Orange line) or Copley (Green line).

# community

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

April 2013

# news

## On Being God's Fool

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

It doesn't often happen that Easter and April Fool's Day come right together. At first it seems incongruous, doesn't it, to observe the serious, even mysterious event, marking the making of a human into God, here on Earth; back to back with a day celebrating foolishness? In fact, for me it is really appropriate to have these two smack dab together.

First, let's look at what characterizes a fool. A fool may lack seriousness, be given to frivolity; may be dull-witted or not very bright; may act like a child, have a simplicity or an innocence of the heart. Because fools don't follow social conventions, don't behave the way people are supposed to behave, they are not held to the same standards as other people. They create different expectations for themselves in the people around them, about how they will act and speak. Because they surrender their claim to credibility, or are stripped of it, they are marginalized, shunted to the side. "Oh that's just the fool! What s/he says has no meaning or weight. Has no value." Being played a fool is to be tricked into believing what is not "true".

The kind of truth I want to talk about here is the kind that I feel all the way through my being. When I feel very clear about something, not just in my thinking, but with all my faculties, for me that is the most compelling form of truth. That I love my little grandson, Jace, who was here several weeks ago, is truth. Right away, you can see that this kind of truth mobilizes many parts of oneself. It's not limited to rational thought.

As there are different kinds of truth, there are different kinds of fools. The "wise fool" has appeared through the ages, in different cultures and religious traditions as a spiritual practice or path. The First Testament prophets were wise fools, speaking truth to power. In the west, perhaps Jesus is the most known wise fool, in the life he leads, free of material possessions, transgressing all social boundaries. St Francis was called God's jester for imitating Jesus, deliberately striving to live as the wise fool.

The tradition of the wise fool exists in the Hindu tradition, with Gandhi, being the best known of their Avadhuta and in Islam in the Sufi. In the Buddhist tradition it's known as crazy wisdom.

There are dangers in deliberately choosing to experiment with being/playing the fool. Playing the fool is a way to get attention, even create the illusion of some kind of superiority. Genuine humility and sincerity are required. This means paradoxically a process of being continually self-aware and then moving away from self-awareness as a focus.

All this is important because of the dire need today for new ways of effectively confronting the powers that be. That means effectively building connections, community, coalitions so we can mobilize to stand together in the face of powerful systems of thought and instruments of coercion. For example, haven't we have all bought into the erroneous belief in something called "the economy", which is a set of institutions that have been mythologized as the only set available. Don't we all live as if this is true?

How do we begin to build different psyches that will be open, resilient and strong enough to challenge these systems to their roots? How do we cultivate the courage and readiness to live without the trappings of the only world we have known, during the inevitable transition period to new systems? Until we speak openly of the fears and insecurities that under-gird our inertia, we will be chained to it.

Being willing to play, perhaps become, the wise fool might be one way to address these needs, to question everything with tenaciousness born of knowing that rationality isn't the whole story, that we may never be able to put into words the "whole story," but living the truth that there is one, just the same. People are beginning to do this and I am trying to too: to let go of what has seemed most valuable, to question assumptions and risk looking the fool by saying and doing things that don't make "sense".

A recent example of this occurred when friends and I went out the office of the Transcanada Corp, which is trying to build the Keystone pipeline. When the police told us to leave, I found myself engaging the commanding officer in dialogue instead of using my good sense and getting out of there. I acted out of what I presume to call a sense of truth-seeking, truth-telling. It felt right to stay and engage.

For me, this is an experiment in truth-seeking, truth-speaking. I don't know if it is a good thing or not, but risking being the wise fool feels promising to me.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &  
Speakers Forum

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**April 7th**

**VICTORIA BRITTAIN**

**“Shadow Lives: The Forgotten  
Women of the War on Terror”**

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BOSTON'S ANNUAL RETREAT**

**April 21st**

*Earth Day*

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**“Mountain Keepers”**

**April 28th**

*Celebrating Labor and the International  
Workers' Holiday*

**JOHN LAMBIASE**

**“May Day Commemoration”**

## CCB Statement Regarding Search Dogs in Prison

On March 6, 2013 the Massachusetts Department of Corrections posted an announcement that all prisoner's friends and family would be subjected to search by drug-detecting dogs upon visits.

The CCB Prison Membership Committee prepared an open statement to Gov. Deval Patrick condemning this practice, which the CCB Board & Congregation unanimously endorsed.

This statement is posted on the CCB website and Facebook page, and a copy has been sent to Deval Patrick.

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on March 12, 2013*

*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Congregational Director's Report:** The following statements are excerpted from the report presented at the March 12 board meeting:

**Mission/Purpose of CCB:** In the past month I continued to participate in the Thursday afternoon pickets of the Interfaith Worker Justice Campaign to support the Cambridge Meridan Hotel workers' efforts to organize and improve working conditions. I also continued to attend meetings and carry responsibilities for Occupy Boston, its Finance Accountability Working Group and its StrikeDebt group. The Strike Debt group held an event with an academic whose area is history of debt resistance. This group is planning an April 6th event targeting student debt. CCB hosted a viewing of "3000 Years and Life: Walpole Prisoner 1973 Seizure of Power," in follow-up of the February 16th 'Love Not Jails' event.

**Pastoral Care:** I continued to interface one-on-one, this month, primarily by phone and on Sundays. I also made a visit to the Venezuelan Consulate to sign the Book of Condolences available there for the death of President Hugo Chávez. While there, I met the new Consulate General and spent a pleasant hour chatting with him and other members of the Latino activist community.

**Administration:** I organized a meeting with the upstairs tenants where various matters were discussed. I have also met with the following committees this month and worked on their tasks: Program, Building, Ministry, Finance, Growth & Membership/Social Action.

**Ministry:** In my care of the Congregational Director and care and coordination of the Sunday services, I have met with the Ministry Committee, continued to participate in the peer-group at Still Harbor Center in South Boston, to meet monthly with a local UU Minister, and a Quaker group.

**Financial Concerns:** Office and CCB expenses were detailed and subsequently discussed. It was also noted that the Church needs to increase its insurance policy. The change from oil to gas heat was also discussed again.

**Various Concerns:** The Committee on Ministry reminded the board that the six-month trial period for the newly hired Congregational Director had become due. The board subsequently voted unanimously to accept the Congregational Director on a permanent basis.

*The next scheduled meeting of the board is April 9, 2013 at 7:00pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# Budget for Peace and Plenty versus Widening the Wealth Gap and Greater Austerity

by Virginia Pratt

About a year ago, the Occupy movement arose to express national frustration with high employment, enormous student debt, and foreclosures. Occupiers had it right when they highlighted the gap between the 1 percent and the 99 percent. Wealthy individuals and corporations are not paying their fair share in taxes. Some corporations pay nothing in taxes and still get tax breaks. Here in Boston, Occupiers asked; "How do we solve the Deficit?" and answered: "End the Wars and Tax the Rich". This simple formula might go a long way towards solving our country's woes.

In the current debate about cutting military funding, it is never mentioned that the Defense budget practically doubled under the Bush administrations. Nor is it mentioned that the US has 800-1,000 military bases. The US military budget is larger than the military budget of the next 7-8 countries combined. Why does the US need a military budget that is so much greater than China, Russia, England, France, and Canada? What is mentioned is job loss, without acknowledging that we could hire more people in civilian jobs and endeavors for the same money - i.e. teachers, construction workers etc.

Why should we fund Defense rather than programs such as Head Start, Job Training, Meals on Wheels, Social Security and WIC? Why should seniors be asked to work until they are 70-years-old to get Social Security? If those of us lucky enough to have jobs have to work until we are 70, won't we be taking up jobs that

younger workers need? What about the people over 55 who can't find jobs due to age discrimination? If education and job training are not adequately funded won't we enter a process of de-development?

Here in Copley Square we see the impact of the wealth divide between the homeless contrasted with those with incredible wealth. Increasingly, local residents have to depend on food pantries, homeless shelters, charities, free care and other vital services. Do we really want to have more people entering the ranks of the homeless, the hungry, and the unemployed and underemployed? Do we want a society where only those who can afford it get quality medical care and education?

Let's follow the directive of the Occupiers - Tax the Rich and End the Wars. Let's go back to working on enacting the dream of the Great Society with the goal of a level playing field where success is measured by investment in what Dr. King referred to as programs of "social uplift" rather than military might. And, with our added knowledge of the crisis of climate change, let's embrace the wisdom of Van Jones who asserts that Green Jobs are the solution to both the bad economy and climate change. If we direct our elected officials to look more assertively at tax havens, unnecessary military bases, homeland security, exit from Afghanistan, etc., we'll find that we have the all money we need. It is simply a matter of the political and social will.

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## CCB Volunteer and Wish Lists

The Community Church of Boston provides a place for people from many organizations to gather, learn, listen, debate, strategize, and struggle towards our shared vision of social and economic justice. Can you help support this unique place by sharing your time or items? Please call or email to let us know. Thank you in advance!

### Volunteer Wish List

Enhance our website (It runs on Wordpress, we'd like to add videos and other features); Create an online timeline of the Community Church history using <http://xtimeline.com> or similar; Grant writing assistance; Coordinate a fundraiser for CCB!; Organize the

books in our library; Tend to the plants; Join a committee! (the following committees are currently seeking new members: Growth & Membership, Social Action, Space Use Committee, Building Committee, Finance Committee).

### Donation Wish List

Computers (recent and speedy to upgrade current equipment): Desktop for office, Laptop for Congregational Director; Tablecloths for four 5' round tables; Banquet chairs and carts

- Reed Miller, *President of the Board*

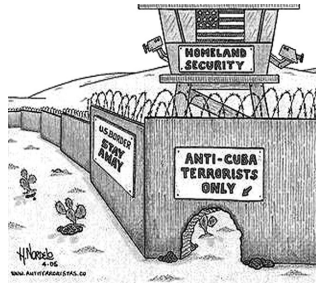
# Humor From My Pen

an exhibit of the political cartoons of **Gerardo Hernández** (one of the Cuban Five)

**April 6-14, 2013**  
at the **Community Church**

## Gallery Hours

Saturday, April 6th, 4-7pm  
Sunday, April 7th, 1-3pm  
Sunday, April 14th, 11am-3pm



Gerardo Hernández is one of the Cuban Five political prisoners incarcerated in the U.S. since 1998. The 5 were convicted of "conspiracy to commit espionage." Their only crime was monitoring violent paramilitary groups operating out of Miami, who were responsible for the deaths of over 3,000 Cubans. Gerardo, who is serving two life sentences, turned to drawing these cartoons as a way to share his political views and creative energy.

sponsored by *Community Church of Boston, July 26th Coalition*  
and *International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5*

## 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

Linda Jenkins, *Congregational Director*  
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*  
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*  
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*  
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

## Board of Directors

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

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



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