

community

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

July-August 2013

news

CCB Answers Some Questions

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

At the CCB retreat this past spring, there was sharing and discussion that was reflected and recorded in many good questions about what is important to this community. At the final Sunday Service, June 16, we continued the discussion. We spent much of the time answering some of those questions. Here are the questions and answers we arrived at.

First, in answer to my question of what do we want to accomplish this summer, the answers were: Have Sunday morning gatherings for a pot luck meal and discussions hosted by community members. David Broeg volunteered to be the point person for these. (These have begun with the attenders of the first such gathering deciding to start each Sunday at noon. It was a lovely time and I hope you'll all come as you can!) We stated we want to close down the National Security Administration. (Some of us have already attended local and regional actions with this focus). We want to address the rear exterior wall of the building, including using it for a mural or some other expression of our values. We want to create a phone-tree by updating the CCB Directory. Mary Ann Cromer and Dick Kesheshian volunteered to be the point people for this effort. We want to invite collaborations with other individuals and organizations, including those who collaborated on John McGrath's Memorial Service.

The next question I posed was: What do we want to accomplish/do in the next year? Answers: Have a beer and potato party for Bernadette Devlin's birthday, next April 23; Carry out a direct action of creating a prison cell in Copley Square and have an occupant there 24/7 for a specified period of time, to promote prison abolition (I volunteered to be the point person on this project, in memory of John McGrath); re-frame our Sunday Programs with over-arching themes, including anti-oppression training for ourselves, human-trafficking; invite collaboration with other organizations, explore "what is our Liberation

Theology"; adopt an organizational purpose statement and make sure we are on the same page on it; work on our library and website, asking Mark to post url's for videos of services and/or find other ways to make these recordings available.

The final question was: in the next two years, what do we want to accomplish? The answer, that resulted in what seemed to be a thoughtful silence was: Know what the "prizes" or goals are that we want to work for: we know we want a revolution. What would it look like?

To pursue these goals, I can report to you that I have been busy connecting with local faith based organizations, especially appreciating the sustained work coordinated by Interfaith Worker Justice supporting the workers at the Meridian Hotel in Cambridge, who have been trying to meet as a group with management to discuss and improve their work conditions there. Most recently, a group of faith leaders from about 6 different communities met and brought folding chairs and held a (brief) prayer meeting in the Hotel's lobby. We have heard from workers that they appreciate our efforts that have been mentioned by the corporate leaders as among those that they won't let affect them!

I've also been twice to Ft Meade, MD to support Bradley Manning and attend his court martial and was arrested and attacked by a Boston Police officer while peacefully leaving the Obama/Markey rally at Roxbury Jr. College after interrupting the President by shouting "Whistle-blowing is not a crime! Free Bradley Manning!", and then blowing whistles we brought for that purpose. I have seen many of you at lots of the local events supporting the causes that, inter-connectedly, continue the oppression of "the 99%". Please come on Sunday mornings, through Labor Day, to share these experiences.

I look forward to seeing you all, too, at the first regular Sunday Service of the next season, on September 8. Enjoy the summer!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Upcoming Summer CCB Events

**SUMMER SUNDAY
POTLUCK GATHERINGS**
at the Community Church of Boston

July 7 - September 1, 2013
12:00pm

Please join us for Potluck Brunches,
political conversation, action planning and
getting to know each other. All are Welcome!

August 4th
**ANNUAL HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI
DAY COMMEMORATION (10:30am)**
(meet at Long Wharf North Pier)

August 17th
**CCB's ANNUAL
SUMMER PICNIC (2pm)**
(at the home of Lenny Shames)

September 8th
LINDA JENKINS
"Homecoming / Water Communion"

Important Dates

The CCB Program Committee will meet on
Wednesday, August 14th, 5:30pm at the Porter Square
Panera Bread (5 White St, Porter Sq, Cambridge).

Deadline for the September CCB Newsletter
will be on Monday, August 26th. Please send your
submissions to: info@commchurch.org

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on June 11, 2013
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Various Concerns: An ad-hoc Personnel Committee
upon which the board voted was formed, consisting
of Diane Lerman, John MacLeod & David Rothauser.
The Committee will examine the grievance policy and
will report to the Board.

The Hiroshima Day commemoration will take
place on Sunday, August 4th. The CCB annual picnic
will be held at the home of Lenny Shames on August
17th (rain date will be August 24th).

The next meeting of the board is scheduled to be
held on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 7:00pm.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Annual CCB Picnic

Saturday, August 17th, 2:00pm
at the home of Lenny Shames
(Watertown, MA)

This year's annual CCB picnic will take place at the
home of Lenny Shames, 81 Nyack St. Watertown.
Please bring food and refreshments to share!

Directions by car: From Watertown Square - go
west on Main St. (toward Waltham) about 8 or 9
blocks, to Lexington St. Turn right, go 6 blocks, to
Philip Darch Rd. Turn left, go 6 blocks to Nyack St.
(corner house).

Directions by the T: Kenmore bus (#57), to
Watertown Square. Or Harvard Square, #73 bus to the
end (Waverly Square).



A recent birthday celebration for Luis at CCB

Marty's Marvelous Book Bash

by Dean Stevens, Acting President

I have lately spent some many hours with Marty Lerman's books. His house, which was sold and needed to be emptied, had a pretty large inventory of the books that he would bring to CCB, to match each Sunday's topic. Over the course of forty years he bought LOTS of books, and sold quite a few too. Now, as per Dian's request, for better or for worse (mostly better!!) we have his collection. It's presently on tables in the far end of the auditorium. I wanted to get it all out to see what was there. There were also about twenty boxes of his books that had been sitting in the closets of CCB. They are all out there.

My firend Phil Nouwers, from Theodore Parker Church, came to help me. He is a handyman and an online book dealer. He bought a number of titles, and was very interested in the collection, and in helping out with our event, whose object is to liquidate this wealth of books.

This is the end of a long tradition of CCB's book tables. Our archives show that book sales were, back in the day, an important source of income for the church. There was a book table committee, that schlepped boxes to every different auditorium where we held our services, set up tables, sold books and publications, reported their income at the monthly board meetings.

When we get back to town in August, first thing I want to do is contact Ken Gloss (his mom, Dorrit, our

faithful member for decades). His store, Brattle Books, is a respected rare bookshop, and has a large used catalog as well. There's nothing rare here, but he might, knowing the church well, offer us something for a portion of the books. I'd also like to see if New England Mobile Bookfair, where Marty bought most of these books over the years, might take some books back for some kind of value. Mark suggested that an announcement about the event on Craigslist would attract other online used book folks, with their iPhones, checking ISBN numbers for value. I also want to contact the book buyer at Lucy Parsons, see if they are interested in any of this collection. Another idea is for individuals to take a box to some of the store that offer small value for books: Harvard Bookstore in Harvard Square, Booksmith in Brookline. Maybe we could raise some money that way too.

It's been a great exercise, opening up everything that has not seen the light of day for years, and seeing what is there. Phil thinks it's about 1800 books! I hope its presence there over the summer is not a hindrance to the events in the auditorium. I hope a lot of attendees to the events see the books. I hope you help me figure out how to celebrate, and get rid of, all these books. Eventually they will get donated: Boomerangs, Prison Books, Lucy Parsons, etc. Marty's Marvelous Book Bash!! A Happy Summer to You All!

Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration

Sunday, August 4th
George's Island

The Community Church of Boston will hold our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration on George's Island. People wishing to attend should gather together at the **Long Wharf North Pier** (right next to Columbus Park) at **10:30am** to get on the 11:00am ferry to George's Island.

Tickets can be purchased before hand or at the Pier. Everyone is encouraged to bring food to share and other picnic related things. We will have a short service together while we eat and share time with one another, living for a world free of nuclear weapons!



Ferry Tickets are:

Adult: \$14 ; Senior (65+): \$10
Child (ages 3-11): \$8 ; Children under 3 yrs: Free

For more information:
www.bostonharborislands.com

Peace is the Way - Offering Peace at Every Step



Sunday, September 15th, 2pm
Copley Square, Boston

Thich Nhat Hanh will lead a peace walk from Trinity Church, inviting everyone to walk mindfully together in silence, generating the energy of peace, solidity, and freedom.

Preceding the Peace Walk, you are invited to participate in a sitting meditation guided by Thich Nhat Hanh on the grounds of Copley Square.

Participation is free, no tickets necessary. This is a walk open to everyone, all ages, from every path, experienced or not. We kindly ask for there to be no display of any banners or signs, nor giving out of flyers during the Peace Walk.

For more information:
www.tnhtour.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.

Staff

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

Board of Directors

Dean Stevens, *Acting President*
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

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



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