

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

# sunday forums

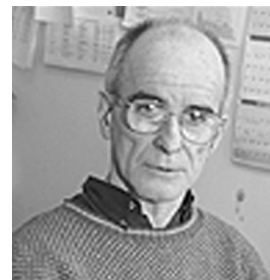
**December 2008**  
**Sundays at 11:00a.m.**

**December 7th -- Join us in Celebration!**

**2008 Sacco & Vanzetti Social Justice Award Ceremony**

**Presented to JIM HARNEY**

Jim Harney lived with the poor of El Salvador; he lived with the Communities of Population in Resistance in Guatemala; he travelled to Acteal, Chiapas, Mexico to interview survivors of the 1997 massacre; he's travelled to Argentina, Colombia, Iraq and elsewhere to witness and report on the struggles that occur among the most oppressed segments of those societies. The power of the stories he has collected revolves around everyday people engaged in redefining power in their own lives and communities.



Joining in the celebration will be Jeanne Gallo, who has worked with hundreds of individuals and done decades of extensive human rights work in Central America. And we welcome Dean Stevens, singer-songwriter extraordinaire, who'll lead us in jubilant song. Following the program, please join us for a delicious Central American buffet.

**December 14th -- Sr. CLARE CARTER and the FOUNDATION MOVEMENT**

**"The Three-Month Peace Walk from Hiroshima to Tokyo"**

Our guests today participated in a walk from February to May of 2008 in support of Article 9 in the Japanese Constitution, which renounces war. The dramatic walk, originating at Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, also preceded a global conference to abolish war held in Tokyo on May 4.

Sister Clare represented the New England Peace Pagoda, along with six members of its support community (including John & Carrie Schuchardt). The two men we know as the Foundation Movement did the entire walk as well. The Peace Pagoda newsletter described them thusly: "The hip-hop artists from Boston, Erok and Optimus, have amazed everyone--they walk all day and perform at night--rain or shine, wherever they are."

**December 21st -- JASON LYDON**

**"Saturnalia: The Holiday Christmas Desperately Tries to Hide "**

Saturnalia—a holiday in honor of Saturn, the god of agriculture—was celebrated right around the time Christmas we declared. During the festivals the everyday rules were turned topsy-turvy. The masters waited on the servants. All sexual prohibitions were lifted. It was a time of true good will towards all men. So often only right wing preachers talk about sex and sexuality from the pulpit, we have got to be part of changing that. While many Christians will celebrate the virginity of Mary we will discuss healthy human sexuality and the beauty of the things that often happen in the dark.

**December 28th -- Rev. ROBERT MURPHY**

**"The Green Revolution in Religion"**

"Energy justice" and "environmental justice" are new themes that are being raised in many places. Unitarian Universalists and others are connecting economic justice and anti-oppression concerns to environmental protection issues. Today, we'll give special attention to energy issues in Massachusetts.

Rev. Robert Murphy is a former business agent for SEIU, Local 254, who is a leader in the "energy justice" movement. Bob has worked on community health and safety issues for many years and he now serves as the parish minister for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, on Cape Cod.

**COMMUNITY**  
CHURCH OF BOSTON

**Jason Lydon, Congregational Director**

**Community Church of Boston \* 565 Boylston Street, Boston MA (in Copley Square)**  
**tel. (617) 266-6710 \* fax (617) 266-0449 \* [www.commchurch.org](http://www.commchurch.org)**

Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$3 on Sunday until 1:30 with a special sticker 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

December 2008

# news

## A Season of Celebration and Responsibility

by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

**D**ear friends and members... Winter is fast approaching. The days are continuing to get shorter and the cold chill of the air cuts through layers of clothing reminding us of our human frailty. I hope everyone is drinking hot cocoa, tea, or coffee to warm you from the inside out.

During this season of celebration from Hanukkah to Solstice; Christmas to New Years this is a time of celebrating the miracles of light. These images of light, of candles, of lights on the Christmas tree, of the light coming into the world are reminders of ways light is vital to our every-day existence. We depend on lights for getting around, whether that is street lamps to illuminate our paths, car headlights to open our eyes to what is in front of us, bike lights to make ourselves known to the people behind us, lamps in our homes that allow us to see what is happening at night, and on and on. As we realize how important light is to our lives it is also our responsibility to remember those without access to the same light.

Thousands of homes in the greater Boston area have had their utilities shut off due to their inability to pay. Household after household has had to make the inhuman decision of food or fuel; feed the mouths of the children or keep the lights on and heat going. We live in a country where we can bail out destructive corporations with billions of tax dollars but we will let low-income and poor folks in our communities freeze and be without lights.

Virginia Pratt has, generously, compiled information for us about the many resources available around the city for utility assistance and food services. You can

find the information within this newsletter. If these numbers and this information is not helpful for you directly I ask you to put in a place where you think others who need it can find it. Sometimes it can be hard for individuals to ask for help and assistance when they need it. If emergency numbers and information about free weatherization are available freely more individuals and families will be able to find access to the things they need. I ask you to please do your part.

People like Al Gore are heralded for their work on addressing climate change yet he hardly ever holds corporations accountable for the destruction they are causing to the planet. Certainly it is a good thing to do to replace your light bulbs with energy saving bulbs however consumers make up such an incredibly small percentage of the energy consumption. As we work to make changes to the entire energy consuming industry we must make it so that those who do not have access to energy can get that access. Middle class and rich people who change their light bulbs and drive hybrid cars need to start challenging the corporations that manufactured the equipment they use in their lives and also stand with poor and low-income people who are forced to stand by as utility companies like NStar shut their power off.

In this season of light I encourage us to remember that the word radical comes from the Latin word *radix*, meaning root. We must get to the root of our global energy crisis and continue to care for those who need the light to shine in the darkness of their homes through this season.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

### December 7th

*2008 Sacco & Vanzetti Social  
Justice Award Ceremony*  
presented to **JIM HARNEY**  
(with special guests **Jeanne Gallo,**  
**Dean Stevens,** and more!)

### December 14th

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from Hiroshima to Tokyo"

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Desperately Tries to Hide"

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"The Green Revolution in Religion"

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on November 20, 2008.  
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

The following board members were present:  
David Broeg, Kevin Devine, Dick Keshishian, Jason  
Lydon, John MacLeod, Nancy Messom, Ruediger  
Volk. Guests included: Adam Machson Carter, Dick  
Crowley.

**CCB Matters and Concerns:** The roof work on the  
Church building is due to be started in spring. Volunteers  
are needed to clear the roof of debris before the start of the  
project.

Jeanne Gallo will be the principal speaker at the Sacco-  
Vanzetti Award for Social Justice observance. She will  
receive the award on behalf of the recipient, Jim Harney,  
who is unable to attend due to ill health.

Reverend Bob Murphy from  
the Falmouth Unitarian  
Universalist Association will pre-  
sent a program, including the  
showing of a video on the aspects  
of "energy Justice" and its effect  
on the general population. Representatives from several  
organizations may take part and discuss the many ways  
working people are bringing energy into their homes. The  
program will be part of the CCB open house on  
December 31, from noon until 7:00pm.



The formation of a committee to set up a library within  
the Church building, to be named in honor of the late  
John O'Brien, has been proposed.

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

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

## Small Office Space Available

Well-suited space for grassroots groups, activists,  
unions, etc. \$400/month includes heat and electricity;  
free wireless internet; use of common rooms for  
meetings/trainings; use of auditorium twice yearly  
for large events. Available immediately. For more  
information contact: [info@commchurch.org](mailto:info@commchurch.org)

## 2009 Calendars for Sale!

Once again you can help to support groups with  
whom we have been friendly for many years, and  
whose stuff has continued to be popular at CCB: the  
Syracuse Cultural Workers, War Resisters' League,  
I.W.W. and Cat Lovers Against the Bomb. There will  
also be other political, environmental, indigenous and  
art calendars/datebooks--as available. Look for them  
on our book table throughout December and January,  
as gifts or for yourself!

# Preparing for a Long Cold Winter and Getting Service Year Round

by Virginia Pratt, CCB Treasurer

We all know that prices for basic services have risen. The cost of food, shelter, and utilities has gone up dramatically in the last couple of years. These increases are especially hard on poor and working class people. There are some services that can help. They are not perfect, but they can help lessen the sting of the rising cost of living.

Beginning in early November, agencies across the city including ABCD will start accepting fuel assistance applications. Anyone income eligible should apply for Fuel Assistance. Approval for Fuel Assistance results not only in lowering your heating bill but also qualifies you for a reduced rate on your utilities and eligibility for conversation services and maintenance on your heating systems. For more information Boston residents should contact ABCD tel. 617-357-6012. People outside of Boston can call tel. 1-800-632-8175.

People who are low income and not eligible for the LIHEAP programs can sometimes get help through the Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Program, tel. 617-236-7233. The City of Boston offers both the "HEAT Works" and "HomeWorks" programs that provide emergency grants and low or no interest loans for heating system and other home repairs, tel. 617-635-4663.

For discount heating oil contact Citizens Energy Corporation, tel. 617-951-0450. They provide one tank of heating oil per season beginning mid December at half the usual cost. Citizens Energy Corporation has applications along with other information on their website: [www.citizenenergy.com](http://www.citizenenergy.com). Home heating oil can also be purchased at discount throughout the year with MassEnergy, formerly known as the Boston Oil Consumers Alliance, tel. 617-524-3950. Mass Energy does not have any income requirements, and has a sliding scale for membership along with an array of services. Membership is for people who qualify for Fuel Assistance/LIHEAP.

During the winter neither NSTAR nor Kespern can shut off service. The moratorium is typically in effect from November to April. However, the bill continues to accumulate even if you are not paying it, and service can be shut-off after the moratorium. Elders and people with serious and or chronic illness can apply for hardship and "protected accounts." Households with a child under one year of age can also request protection from shut off. Verification of hardship/eligibility is required. Low income households may qualify for discounts on their utilities if members receive any of the following

benefits or services: Food Stamps, SSI, Transitional Assistance, Emergency Assistance, Medicaid or MassHealth, Veteran's Benefits, Mass. Commission for the Blind, Head Start, National School Lunch, Public Housing, and School Breakfast.

To find out if you qualify for food stamps or to get information about local food pantries call the Project Bread Hotline: tel. 1-800-645-8333. The Food Source hotline tel. 1-800-645-8333 can provide information about local food pantries. Seniors age 60 and older are eligible for Meals on Wheels along with other Senior Services, tel. 617-635-4366.

Lower cost telephone service can be arranged. The Life Center, through the Brockton United Way offers 1,000 minute telephone cards for \$5, tel. 508 - 587 - 4651. Both AT&T and Verizon are said to offer discounted telephone service at \$15, and \$16 a month. tel. 1-800-222-0300 and tel. 1-800-870-9999.

City of Boston residents who own and occupy their properties should double check to make sure they are getting "Residential Exemptions" on their property taxes. The exemption can save you up to \$1,500 a year in property taxes. For more information check the website "City of Boston Assessing" and or call tel. 617 - 635 - 4287. The city also has programs for seniors to defer taxes as well.

Remember there will be lots of completion for these scant resources. Good Luck.

## Emergency Phone Numbers

Health Care for All: 1-800-272-4232  
Mass Coalition for the Homeless: 781-595-7570  
Disability Law Center: 617-723-8455  
Office of Child Care Services: 617-245-6543  
Department of Transitional Assistance: 800-249-2007  
Mayor's Hotline: 617-635-4500  
Substance Abuse Hotline: 800-327-5050  
Battered Women's Hotline: 800-235-2331  
AIDS Action Hotline: 800-235-2331  
Rape Crisis: 617-492-7273  
Fire, Police, and Ambulance: 911  
City of Boston Foreclosure Prevention: 617-635-4663  
Alcohol and Drug Services: 800-327-5050

# Energy, Justice & Peace for 2009!!

## New Years Eve at the Community Church of Boston

The Community Church will open its doors on New Years Eve, December 31st, from noon to 7:00pm. We will show a number of films/documentaries about the energy crisis, we will hear from a local Peak Oil activist, listen to music, and more.

Come to start off the new year with a commitment to engaging more with the church and spreading the good word about energy justice and the possibility for transformation and change in 2009.

Bring food to share if you would like, hot cocoa will be available (vegan versions too).



## 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



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