

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

December 2012
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

December 2nd -- Rev. FRANKLIN HOBBS & GERRY SCOPPETTUOLO

"World AIDS Day: State of Emergency for People of Color"

Healing Our Land successfully lobbied for the passage of an HIV State of Emergency in the City of Boston in 2005 with the help of a community coalition led by faith leaders from the Black Community. However, much still needs to be done to assure that the resources appropriated every year make a real difference to the communities devastated by this preventable disease.

Minister Franklin Hobbs is the director of Healing Our Land and a longtime activist and initiator of HIV State of Emergency Declaration. Gerry Scoppettuolo is a member of ACT-UP Boston and the Peoples Power Assembly.

December 9th -- LOIE HAYES

"Climate Solutions, Here and Now"

Loie Hayes is a coordinator with Boston Climate Action Network. She has been organizing on climate issues since 2005, and has led energy conservation workshops and other local climate events in Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, Dorchester. Before becoming BostonCAN's coordinator, Loie worked in book and newspaper publishing for 20 years and continues to work as a freelance editor and writer.

December 16th -- THEATER OF RELATIVITY

"Snowman", A Play by John O'Brien

The Joker and the Scholar recall a winter afternoon long ago, when a traumatic event split them into two sides of the same coin in John O'Brien's darkly funny "Snowman".

John O'Brien was our beloved long time Community Church member, head usher and husband to our senior member Gwen O'Brien. He was also a prolific actor and playwright. Many of these plays were produced here over the years of John's membership.

December 23rd -- LINDA JENKINS & GUESTS

"Reflections on the Season: Spiritual Roots or Social Justice"

This season has been rich in mystery for millenia, giving rise to stories and rituals from many faith traditions. Those faith traditions embrace teachings of justice and solidarity. Today we reflect on and celebrate the mystery that underpins our commitment to social justice work and those of our ancestors.

Linda Jenkins is the Congregational Director at the Community Church of Boston.

December 30th -- COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

"A Better World is Possible: What Will it Look Like?"

Tragically, all of us have experienced, witnessed, and learned about many forms of injustice. But we have the capacity to dream. We can envision a tomorrow filled with justice and peace. We need these visions of a better world to guide our actions and fill us up with hope. What would a better world look like to you? What would remain from the world we live in today, and what would be different? We are each coming with different experiences and perspectives, and through sharing will be able to build stronger bonds with one another!

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 * 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

December 2012

news

Accompaniment: Feet of Faith (Part II)

by Linda Jenkins, Congregational Director

In last month's Newsletter, I described how I experience the Community Church of Boston as a place where faith is expressed by people using their feet, to show up in solidarity against suffering and injustice and for peace, sustainability and justice.

This month, as promised, I explore and report how our faithful feet are carrying us and the places they might take us.

A week ago a Church member asked me if we have a Social Justice Action Committee. I was grateful for his question, since this has been on my mind. A month ago after talking with a Board member and I talked about how to approach mobilizing for collective action, she took the initiative to create a survey, distribute it during a Sunday service and count up the results. The survey asked what issues people are interested in, what kinds of activities we'd like to engage in and what other organizations we'd like to collaborate with. Perhaps inevitably, I realize, after reviewing the results, that we overlooked some things, but perhaps that makes it an even better subject for discussion.

So here are the results:

Summary of Desired Involvements

Phone Tree: Yes - 5 / No - 4
Marches, Demonstrations: Yes - 10 / No - 1
Street Theater: Yes - 4 / No - 3
Mike Checking: Yes - 5 / No - 1
Bird Dogging: Yes - 1 / No - 3
Strategic Action Meetings: Yes - 5 / No - 2 / Maybe - 1
Media Consultant: Yes - 1 / No - 3
Planning Design (Banner/Tee Shirt): Yes - 6 / No - 1

Issue Priority

Antiwar - 8 ; AntiGMO - 9 ; Healthcare - 7 ; Prisons - 6 ;
Poverty - 8 ; Palestine - 9 ; Housing - 6 ; Homelessness -

6 ; Global Warming - 7 ; Sexism - 7 ; Racism - 7 ;
Immigration - 7 ; Strike Debt - 3 ; Banks - 6

Organizations for CCB to work with

Occupy Boston - 9
Veterans for Peace - 8
Local Colleges - 6
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - 7

Twelve step programs operate on a wise principle: growth by attraction rather than promotion. If 'right' actions are being taken, people will be attracted and will want to participate. This, I believe, is true for CCB. If we join our energies and collectively put our feet together for causes we embrace, we will be joined by others. For myself, personally, and as a member both of CCB and Occupy Boston, I recognize that today all causes in need of action are related to each other. I have personal preferences but my biggest priority is to join my feet and my energy with others, in whatever the particular group decides is next; the next right action. So I believe that we at CCB have the opportunity to decide together, and somewhat selflessly be willing to let go of our personal preferences, to see where we might be led, as a group, to put our feet next.

This, I believe, is key to our well-being as a community, to our current membership and to our growth: being faithful *together* with our feet. Whether we have a separate Social Justice Action Committee or mobilize our Growth and Membership Committee, let's explore to how we are faithful with our feet together. We can begin the discussion at a gathering of the Growth and Membership Committee, scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 15th, 7pm at CCB. Will you show up?

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

December 2nd

Marking World AIDS Day

**Rev. FRANKLIN HOBBS
& GERRY SCOPPETTUOLO**

**“World AIDS Day: State of Emergency
for People of Color”**

December 9th

LOIE HAYES

“Climate Solutions, Here and Now”

December 16th

THEATRE OF RELATIVITY

A play by John O'Brien

December 23rd

LINDA JENKINS & GUESTS

**“Reflections on the Season:
Spiritual Roots or Social Justice”**

December 30th

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

**“A Better World is Possible:
What Will it Look Like?”**

Upcoming Events

The Occupy Boston ‘Debt Group’ is hosting a book discussion about *The Debt Resisters Handbook* on December 6th. Free copies available at the Community Church of Boston. Location TBA.

Occupy Boston Community Gathering: Dinner & Debt on December 17th, 6pm. Come for dinner and then a continuation of the planning begun at the prior Community Gathering. All welcome to both events.

CCB Board Meeting

The Board of Directors met on November 13, 2012

Following are highlights of the meeting.

Congregational Director’s Report: The Committee on Ministry met recently and announced that Nancy Messom, its chairperson, was resigning her position. The board stated its appreciation for her excellent work of several years on behalf of the Church. Mary Ann Cromer and John Mannheim are the two remaining members of the Committee.

Financial Matters: The treasurer reviewed the Profit and Loss Budget Performance, October 2012. She concentrated on Rental Income, Expenses (some of which are running high), CCB Programming (costs are higher than expected). She pointed out that income was ahead of expenses by \$14,000.

Building Committee: There was a conference call meeting where many topics were discussed, including tenant relations and other building related issues.

Various Concerns: The board voted to give eight \$25 money orders to CCB prison members for postage expenses.

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom has made a one-time request of the board will allow Safety Net to use CCB’s 501(c)3 status in order to fund a holiday party for children in the Roxbury area.

The next scheduled meeting of the board is December 11, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

- Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Celebrate New Years Eve with the Community Church of Boston!

Monday, December 31st, 8pm
in the Lothrop Auditorium



Gather together to enjoy music, snacks, friendship and fireworks while welcoming in the New Year!

Radical Futures: Angela Y. Davis & Noam Chomsky



Saturday, December 8th, 7pm
at the Berklee Performance Center
136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston

Angela Y. Davis and Noam Chomsky, two leading political voices, will meet for public dialogue for the first time. The event aims to strengthen the movement for love and freedom and raise funds for three organizations: **Critical Resistance**, **City School** and **Black & Pink**.

Doors open at 6pm; Program starts promptly at 7pm; \$100 "VIP Meet/Greet" includes entry into a meet and greet with Angela Davis after the show. \$40 "Ticket+Donation" supports youth to attend the event. \$20 "Ticket" includes one ticket for yourself.

For more information, contact Critical Resistance:
(510) 444-0484

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



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

telephone: (617) 266-6710
email: info@commchurch.org
www.communitychurchofboston.org

Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116

