

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

February 2012
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

February 5th -- Superbowl Sunday

JONATHAN FEINMAN

"Redefining Strength"

The mission of Innercity Weightlifting is to reduce violence and promote professional, personal and academic achievement among urban youth. It serves young people on a direct path to gang involvement, former and active gang members, and victims of domestic violence through the sport of Olympic Lifting. They work to empower youth with the confidence to say "no" to violence and "yes" to opportunity.

Jon Feinman, a former staffer at Northeastern University's Sport in Society, is founder and executive director of Innercity Weightlifting. Some of his students may participate. Why weightlifting? Find out; this will be different!

February 12th -- Rev. JASON LYDON

"Healthy Goodbyes"

Since Jason announced his plan to bring his ministry at the Community Church of Boston to a close at the end of this season this is an opening for all of us to look at how we say goodbye. There are many times in our lives when things come to an end, the death of a loved one, the end of a romantic relationship, the parting of a dear friend to a new city, and even the departure of a minister. We will explore how we say goodbye in a way that nurtures community, honors the past, and recognizes opportunity for transformation as well as justice.

February 19th -- BILL of RIGHTS DEFENSE COMMITTEE

"Military Detention Without Trial: Where Do We Go from Here?"

Ten years ago, Congress enacted a draconian law with no transparency, regard for process or even awareness of the profound erosion of constitutional rights that it--the PATRIOT Act-- would entail. Congress did it again this holiday season, abandoning its constitutional role by authorizing--in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)--indefinite military detention of even U.S. citizens without trial. Does the NDAA authorize political repression? It certainly could!

February 26th -- 30th Annual W.E.B. DuBois Address

Rep. BYRON RUSHING

"The Race of Massachusetts Politics: Where the Color Line Rests Today"

It is most appropriate that The Community Church of Boston established an annual William Edward Burghardt DuBois Memorial Address. Dr. DuBois was a prophet of black liberation and of world peace, and a frequent speaker from our pulpit.

In 1982, Byron Rushing was elected as a representative of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He has been the chief sponsor of the law to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public schools, and an original sponsor of the gay rights bill in Massachusetts. He also lead the Massachusetts state pension fund to launch community development investment of poor communities of Massachusetts.

COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF BOSTON

Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Community Church of Boston * 565 Boylston Street, Boston MA (in Copley Square)
tel. (617) 266-6710 * fax (617) 266-0449 * www.communitychurchofboston.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

February 2012

news

Saying Goodbye is Never Easy

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear Friends and Members, It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. It has been an incredible honor to serve this congregation since the late summer of 2005. We have been on a wonderful and transforming journey together. It is with sadness, and yet with faithful optimism, that I am announcing my resignation effective June 30th, 2012.

The Community Church of Boston has had many adventures since 2005. We have welcomed new, wonderful members and have said loving goodbyes to those who passed. We have celebrated life transitions together and struggled through the hard parts. We have built trusting relationships and strengthened a congregation that has been going for over ninety years. I was only 22-years-old when I was hired as the Congregational Director. We took a chance on each other and I believe we are all better because of it. The learning and growth I have gained from serving this church will shape me in all that I do in the years to come.

I know that saying goodbye can be very difficult and I want to be present to the multitude of feelings that can come up as I finish my ministry here. I do not want to assume what feelings anyone will go through as we navigate the next six months together, rather I want to listen and effectively engage in positive transitioning processes. I am hopeful that we can have a productive and loving conclusion to our relationship, and I know there is still much work to be done.

Serving the Community Church of Boston has been exactly what I wanted to do. This congregation is a group of my favorite people in the world. I have come to love this community like a family, honoring the most beautiful moments we have shared together and even those moments when we were going to make each other crazy. I have so many great memories of joining our membership on George's Island, commemorating the violence of US attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki while

also being open to the beauty of the world and the love of each other. Our Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award celebrations, especially the ones with Lynne Stewart and Chuck Turner, will long stay in my heart as moments our congregation lived authentically in our call to do justice, standing on the right side with those under attack. I am incredibly proud that this congregation took a risk and created a children's program, the Justice School, with JooYoung. While the program did not continue, the willingness to try creative programs to serve our community gives me great joy. This congregation is a gift.

Our years together have not only been wonderful for our internal ministry. We have had great moments of solidarity with immigrant justice organizations, Palestinian freedom fighters, LGBTQ young people, youth of color in the city fighting for jobs, union struggles, and so much more. The Community Church of Boston is an essential resource for Boston's radical communities. It has been a blessing to me to stand with the congregation and witness on behalf of the congregation in campaign after campaign for a more just city, state, country, and world. The reputation of the Community Church of Boston is known and respected in wide circles, it has been a privilege to be a part of that.

My next move is not to serve another congregation, I cannot imagine serving a church besides this one. Rather I am hoping to pursue further education, hopefully a PhD program in theology here in Boston. I will likely affiliate as a community minister at a church in Boston and I will not be leaving this city I love so much. I know my staying involved in Boston's justice work will make our separation somewhat more complex and over the next few months I know we will figure out what the best boundaries will be for moving forward. I am incredibly grateful for my time here at the Community Church of Boston and look forward to watching this church flourish and grow in the years to come.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &
Speakers Forum

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Superbowl Sunday
JONATHAN FEINMAN
“Redefining Strength”

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CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on January 10th, 2011
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Minister's Report: The minister has announced his resignation effective June 30, 2012. He plans to enroll in a PhD program in theology at a school in Boston and eventually pursue a teaching career in his chosen field.

Tarek Mehanna was found guilty on all counts on trumped up charges of “terrorism” and faces a possible sentence of life imprisonment. Sentencing will take place on April 12; he will appeal his charges.

The Prison Ministry Committee will attempt to involve other congregations involved in its work. The Committee is currently engaged with several organizations and with individuals in striking down the proposed Habitual Offender legislation known as the “Three Strikes Law”. The Church will continue it's ties with Through Barbed Wire concerning prison issues.

Financial Matters: The treasurer reviewed the line items on the budget from January 1, 2011 to December 11, 2011, covering such items as the Annual Fund Drive, Fundraising/Events, Rental Income, and Building Expenses.

Various Concerns: The renovation of the Boston Youth Organizing Project on the fifth floor are now considered a priority.

The CCB retreat is scheduled to be held on March 31, 2011 at a venue yet to be named. An ad-hoc committee consisting of David Broeg, Reed Miller, and others who may wish to join, is undertaking plans for a successful event.

Due to Valentine's Day activities, the next meeting of the board will take place on Thursday, February 16th, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

Lynne Stewart Sentencing Appeal Update

The Second Circuit oral arguments in Lynne's case will take place on **February 29, 2012**, at the **U.S. Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, Lower Manhattan.**

From Lynne Stewart: “Our Brief attacks the increased sentence [from 28 months to 10 years] on two different fronts –one on a doctrine of “substantive unreasonableness” meaning it's just too much of an increase, five fold – given the circumstances. Secondly, we argued that the only “new” information before the

Judge were my statements after my first sentence in October of 2008 and remarks I made on the Courthouse steps before I surrendered to prison. We contend strongly that this is protected speech under the First Amendment of the Constitution, and cannot be used to increase or as a basis for sentencing.”

Lynne will not be there but hopes for a massive show of public support! For more information:
<http://lynnestewart.org>

Stop The Cuts! Stop The Hikes!

Say NO to MBTA Fare Hikes & Service Cuts

On January 3rd, the MBTA has released two drastic proposals to raise fares and cut service to fill a \$161 million budget gap. Both plans will decimate our public transit system and throw our communities into crisis—especially devastating young people, seniors and lower-income riders.

Under the first scenario, there would be cuts to bus service, combined with a 43% overall increase in fares. For Senior Citizens who depend upon the RIDE, the price would increase from \$2.00 to \$4.50. Fees at T parking lots would increase by 28%. Under the MBTA's second scenario, overall fare increases would go up by 35%, but there would be far more extensive cuts to bus service.

In addition, costs for students' and senior's monthly passes would increase under both proposals. The MBTA would raise pass prices for students and seniors to \$40 under scenario 1 and \$39 under scenario 2. Currently they are under \$20. Both proposals would also eliminate weekend service on Green Line E branch, the Mattapan high speed line and the commuter rail.

According to its announcement, the MBTA expects to implement one of the two plans on July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The MBTA's debt to the banks can be traced to the year 2000. Prior to this date, the state of Massachusetts funded the T directly. However, in 2000, the Enabling Act, also known as Forward Funding, ceased direct and full public funding for the T. Henceforth, the state contributed only a fixed percentage of state sales tax (20%) to the MBTA. A decrease in sales tax revenues now results directly in a decrease in funding to the MBTA.

At the same time, the state of Massachusetts also transferred \$3.8 billion of its debt-load — most of which stemmed from Big Dig related expenses — onto the MBTA as part of Forward Funding. Deprived of guaranteed public funding and pinched within the new financial structure, the managers of the MBTA took loans from private investment banks and engaged in risky "gambling" practices involving interest rate swaps. Then the recession hit, resulting in diminished sales tax subsidies for the T.



The result of these complex transactions and diminished state funding has been that the MBTA currently finds itself indebted to UBS Bank for \$9 million, Morgan Stanley for \$182,000, JP Morgan Chase for \$4.4 million, and Deutsche Bank for \$8.6 million. Each of these banks was the recipient of federal bailout money in 2007-8.

The T is a lifeline for our communities and vital for building a strong community. Short-sighted laws and policies have failed the MBTA, saddling it with Big Dig debt and a ballooning financial crisis. Every penny of our fares is spent paying debt -- not on the maintenance we need to keep our system in working order. These fare hikes and service cuts are a false fix that forces us to pay now and every year later. Its time for the governor and legislature to finish the job they started and provide a sustainable solution that won't force riders to bear the brunt of Big Dig debt. We can have an affordable and reliable public transit system that benefits all of us, whether we ride, drive, walk or bike. Stop the cuts! Stop the hikes! TAKE ACTION!

For more information:

T Riders Union

www.ace-ej.org/tru/stopthehikes

Occupy Boston's "Occupy The MBTA" Campaign

www.facebook.com/AgainstTCuts

Students Against T Cuts

www.studentsagainsttcuts.org

Rescheduled CCB Congregational Retreat!

The Community Church of Boston's congregational retreat will take place on Saturday, March 31st (location to be determined). We will gather together to share, learn, and plan as a community.

The Community Church of Boston belongs to those who wish to make it what it can be and it is through dialogue and storytelling that we can shape the future of our work in the world. Please bring food to share.

If you have any questions, please speak with Reed Miller or David Broeg.

Day of Mass Action to Stop War on Iran!

Saturday, February 4th, 1pm

Rally at Park Street, march to the Israeli Consulate, and end with a rally at Copley Square to demand No War on Iran!



Let the whole world see that we will not let the U.S. rain death, destruction and devastation onto yet another country and further inflame a dire situation in the Middle East. One thing we know is that when people stand up together to resist the crimes of their government like the courageous protesters of the Arab Spring and Occupy, something beautiful can emerge.

**NO war. NO sanctions.
NO intervention. NO assassinations.**

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

Rev. Jason Lydon, *Minister*

Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*

Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*

Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*

Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

Board of Directors

David Broeg, *President*

Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*

Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*

Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Jim Casteris, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,

Reed Miller, Susan Mortimer



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