

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

March 2008
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

March 2nd -- 26th Annual W.E.B. DuBois Memorial Address

LOUIS A. ELISA, II

"The Idea of a Progressive Society"

Louis Elisa is an advisor to Boston City Councilor Charles Yancey and co-founder of World Disaster Management, serving now as its director of international outreach for Africa and Europe. He was a coordinator/advisor in the campaigns of Deval Patrick for Governor and John Kerry for President, and is often seen as a political analyst on television. Mr. Elisa held several high-level appointments at the Federal Emergency Management Agency from 1994 to 2001.

Mr. Elisa will speak about what we value as Americans, who and what sets our agenda and prospective in life. Have we made progress toward a color-blind society, equity or justice? Can we ever succeed?



March 9th -- In Honor of International Women's Day

VALERIE ELVERTON DIXON

"God Almighty, Have Mercy"

There is no such thing as victory in war. The question becomes: how profound is the defeat. History and current events teach us that the most vulnerable of humanity suffer the defeats of war most deeply. From the women of Troy to the women of the Congo, slavery and rape change their lives forever. Today, women as combatants also suffer sexual abuse at the hands of their fellow warriors. We hear and we pray a prayer of lament. "God Almighty, have mercy."

Valerie Elverton Dixon is a womanist scholar interested in ethics, hermeneutics, postmodern, postcolonial and neo-pragmatist thought. She also works on issues of peace and justice. She is currently working on a book, its working title is "Jumping Double Dutch: Musings of a Womanist Mind at Play."

March 16th -- GRACE C. ROSS

"The Drift toward Fascism: What Is Demanded of Us as Activists?"

As we look to the work of changing our world, we know what really matters is that we can build with People Power. What does a climate of fear and distrust create inside & around us that erects barriers to change, shifts the ground beneath us, yet offers unexpected opportunities for justice?

Grace Ross helped to bring the Rainbow Coalition & Green Parties together, standing for election as their gubernatorial candidate in 2006. She is a long-time community organizer and former director of two grassroots non-profits.



March 23rd -- JASON LYDON

"Resurrecting Radicalism"

Easter celebrates the resurrection of the Christian messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. There are two primary stories of Jesus, one of the man and one of the divine. Jesus, the man, was a social radical, persecuted and executed for his actions. Time and time again those who were active in radical movements of the 1960's and 70's say that the movement for radical change has died; crucified by the state. We will explore whether or not that is true and what it would mean to resurrect radicalism in the United States today.

Jason Lydon is the Congregational Director at the Community Church of Boston. He is also a Divinity student at Andover Newton Theological School focusing his studies on Abolition theology, Anti-racist theology, and queer liberation.

March 30th -- Prof. H. PATRICIA HYNES

"Beyond War: Preconditions and Prophets"

Patricia Hynes is professor of environmental health at Boston Univ. School of Public Health. She is currently investigating, writing and speaking on the health effects of war & militarism on society and, in particular, on women. She will discuss the necessity of peace going into the 21st Century after a century of war, as well as the age of extremes of wealth and poverty in which we live!

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

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

March 2008

news

Spring as a Time of Rebirth... and Reorganization!

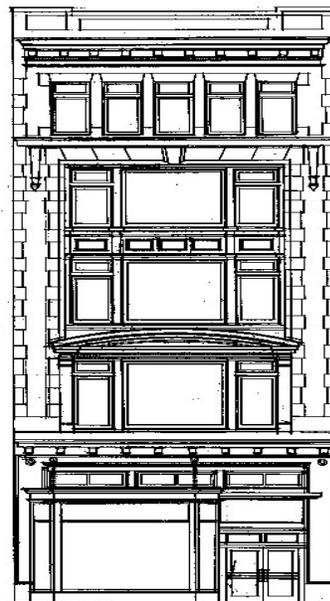
by Jason Lydon, Congregational Director

Dear friends and members... For such a short month February has been very long. I am certainly ready to welcome the beginning of March with hope for spring and reorganization.

Many of you are aware the church was broken into early in February. On three separate occasions someone was able to get into the church and steal three computers and a printer as well as help their selves to a meal in our kitchen. This violation of our space is painful and alarming. The Building Committee, Board, other volunteers, and myself have been working to address an assortment of issues that could have lead to this situation. The biggest thanks are due to Jim Casteris and Dean Stevens. These two guys have been ultra-present to the safety of the church and diligent in their response. We have replaced locks, doors, and some electronic equipment. While insurance will, hopefully, cover some of our outrageous costs, there is still more. Inside this newsletter you will find an envelope and a note asking for your financial support and contributions at this time. I ask that you give as generously as you can. As fears rise about the economy, the resources the church has to offer will become more and more important.

The material possessions we lost are only a part of the affects the break-in has. As we lose a sense of safety and security a common reaction is to target others and become suspicious. This loss and anxiety is a reminder to us of the importance of community building. The Community Church of Boston serves many people in our space, far beyond one organization or our services/forums on Sunday. It has been suggested numerous times for us to all take time to find out who we all are. This suggestion is finally turning into a reality. Monday, April 7th from 6:00pm-9:00pm will be an Open House at the Community Church of Boston. All those organizations and people who feel connected to the mission of the

church or the space at 565 Boylston Street are encouraged to come and build some stronger bridges. This will be an opportunity for youth from the Boston-area Youth Organizing Project to meet more folks who attend the Sunday services. This will be a time for our new tenant, Acupuncture for Everyone to connect with those who are part of Healing Our Land, the



HIV/AIDS ministry located on the 4th floor. We will also use this as an opportunity to share our space with progressive people throughout the Greater Boston area. We will recover from our break-in, but we will only do so by establishing and growing relationships. Please take time this month to reflect on your connections to the Community Church of Boston. Why do you affiliate yourself with us? What would you like to see here? How can you become more involved in the work of the church?

Even before this open house we will gather together for our Congregational Retreat in Sherborn at the Peace Abbey. This retreat is an opportunity for us to look at big questions of who we are, what we do, and where we are going. All are welcome to come with an open mind and ideas that flow freely "outside the box." The present and future of the Community Church of Boston is up to those who are willing to create and push forward a vision. Let us utilize this opportunity to its greatest potential.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

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*"The Drift toward Fascism: What Is
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March 23rd JASON LYDON *"Resurrecting Radicalism"*

March 30th Prof. H. PATRICIA HYNES *"Beyond War: Preconditions and Prophets"*

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on February 21, 2008.
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

The following board members and guests were present: David Broeg, Mary Ann Cromer, Selma Ganz, Dick Keshishian, Virginia Pratt, Ron Shapiro, Dean Stevens, Jason Lydon, *Congregational Director*, Joo Young Choi, Jwerry Kaplan, Sergio Reyes

Congregational Director's Concerns: Jason discussed the details of the recent break-ins at the possibility of installing a security system.

He met with John O'Brien and his family at their home for a brief visit. Visitors are encouraged to visit with John, but please call before you go.

A new tenant, "Acupuncture for All" has moved into the third floor office space.

Vice Presidential Concerns: Mary Ann composed a phone tree for members and friends of the Church to telephone the O'Briens on a certain day. Please see Mary Ann if you wish to be added to the list.

Excerpts from the notes which she had taken at the CCB board retreat during mid-January were also read.

Financial Concerns: Ron announced his resignation as treasurer, effective June, 2008.

He stated that the Sunday program contributions had decreased considerably and that a pledge drive would be undertaken within the next couple of months.

Justice School Report: Joo Young Choi gave a concise report for February, 2008. She stated that the students learned about Black history month and listened to a speaker from United for a Fair Economy.

She will begin to design a volunteer form for people who would like to volunteer for the Justice School. The position to volunteer will be at least a one-month commitment.

An overnight retreat for the Justice School students is scheduled for March 15-16, 2008.

Various Concerns: Jerry Kaplan and Sergio Reyes, representing the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society stated that a small patch of land in Boston's North End likely will be the site of a memorial to Sacco and Vanzetti, who were executed in 1927. The Committee will submit a written proposal or concept paper to the Parks Commission, which must render financial approval. The Committee needs to raise \$50,000 for the task. Several thousand dollars have already been raised and a fund has been set up at Citizens Bank.

The Board voted to raise the rental rates for its space throughout the CCB Building.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7:15pm, to which CCB members and friends are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

A Few Words from the President...

by Dean Stevens, CCB President

We warmly welcome to CCB's building, a new tenant to the office on the Guatemala Room floor. Anne Drogin, acupuncturist, is also the mother of two of our Justice School kids. We welcome you, Anne, with this poem and song, written by our friend and occasional Community Church performer, David Dodson (he also happens to be an acupuncturist):

Acupuncture by David Dodson

*A book about the Chinese people years ago I read
And when it came to acupuncture to myself I said
It's OK if that's the way the Chinese want to be
But you would never find them sticking needles into me*

*Then I got into trouble and I knew not where to turn
It's only desperate circumstance that forces me to learn
My health was balanced on the brink, I wondered if I'd die
I guess it is the time, I said, to give this thing a try*

*I walked into the office and she set me in a chair
And we examined why it was that I was sitting there
We must have talked an hour and then brave as I was able
I went into the treatment room and lay down on the table*

*An acupuncture needle's not much thicker than a hair
I hoped it wouldn't hurt but I was too far gone to care
It didn't feel the way I had expected it to feel
And as for being painful, it was really no big deal*

*I felt a change come over me transported back in time
To some place in my past where things had gotten out of line
And then the stream flowed free again, she pulled me from
the muck*

And after of years of sticking there I had become unstuck

*I now see Western Medicine as quite experimental
While acupuncture's principles are tried and funda-
mental*

*As to us in the West this information now appears
The trial and error and genius of the last five thou-
sand years*

*The modern Western doctor's skill is really quite
amazing*

*I've no desire to put it through a razzing or a hazing
Who else could patch a hole between the chambers of a heart
Or reconnect appendages when they've been cut apart*

*No, rather I would wish to change the western attitude
So often geocentric, pompous arrogant and rude
I fervently pray for the day when east and west connect
With mutual curiosity and mutual respect*

Recording available on David Dodson's CD.
"Weasel Rhythm". See Dean Stevens for a copy

The Return of CCB's Evening Service

While the surveys for the evening service are being filled out the 5:00pm service will resume. The format, at this time, will be an opening reading followed by 20 minutes of silence for prayer/meditation and reflection. Following the silence those who feel moved to share words will be invited to do so. All are welcome to join us in beginning the week with some grounding time.

Upcoming Topics:

March 2 -- Apathy
March 9 -- Anger
March 16 -- Fear
March 23 -- Faith
March 30 -- Freedom

March 8th Congregational Retreat!!

All are welcome to come to
the Peace Abbey (2 North Main
St. Sherborn, MA) from 10:00am
to 4:00pm

We will discuss who we are,
what we are doing, and where
we are going.

Contact the church if you need transportation.



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*
Joo Young Choi, *Director of Children/Youth SJE Program*
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*
Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*
Jim Casteris, *Superintendent*

Board of Directors

Dean Stevens, *President*
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*
Ron Shapiro, *Treasurer*
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Christina Braidotti, David Broeg,
Selma Ganz, John MacLeod, Virginia Pratt



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON

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