

Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

sunday forums

September 2010
Sundays at 11:00a.m.

September 12th -- Homecoming Sunday

JASON LYDON

"Water Communion"

After a summer of being away we return to our regular Sunday services with a celebration of our different journeys. Please bring water with you that represents your journey through the summer, whether that was a journey out of the area or a personal journey of growth. Jason will share with us some stories of Unitarian, Universalist, and Unitarian Universalist theologies that shape the movement and can push us further to the left as a religious community.

Jason Lydon is the congregational director of the Community Church of Boston.

September 19th -- Rev. WILLIAM CHESTER McCALL III

"History of Race in Unitarian Universalism: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly"

Unitarian Universalism has struggled since its inception with issues of race. White culture and white power structures have continuously maintained control and dominance within the faith community. Yet a community of resistance has always been around organizing and mobilizing for a different kind of faith community, an authentically anti-racist multicultural faith. We will discuss the roles of organizations of color within UUism as well as tell some of the stories of white anti-racists along with the stories of where we have fallen short as a faith.

Chester McCall has long been a Unitarian Universalist minister he has served churches in California and Pennsylvania. Chester has been an active part of the Jubilee anti-racist ministry out of the UUA and worked with youth, young adults, and adults all around the United States in the forward movement of anti-racist organizing.

September 26th -- DAN MCKANAN

"Uncovering Our History: Community Churches in Context"

Understanding where we come from is essential as we consider where we want to go in the future. The Community Church of Boston and the Community Church of New York come out of a century-long tradition inherited from freewheeling radical congregations, including the "Freethinker" congregations of the 1820s and 1830s and the "People's Churches" of the 1880s and 1890. Prior to the Great Depression, American religion could be far more radical at the level of individual congregations than at the level of denominations, we will explore some of the ways the community churches were part of that radicalism and what that means for our next hundred years.

Dan McKanan joined the Harvard Divinity School faculty in July 2008 as Ralph Waldo Emerson Unitarian Universalist Association Senior Lecturer in Divinity. His first book, *Identifying the Image of God: Radical Christians and Nonviolent Power in the Antebellum United States* (2002), explores theological understandings of violence and nonviolence among abolitionists, pacifists, and temperance activists.

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

September 2010

news

Learning From Our History, Building For Our Future

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear friends and members... It is with great excitement that we begin our 90th season! I hope that everyone has had a wonderful summer filled with time for reflection, relaxation, and new revolutionary ideas for nurturing our community and movements. It is through our love and care of one another that we begin to build the alternatives that are necessary as we struggle to rid ourselves of all forms of oppression. I hope to see your beautiful faces at church on Sunday mornings this season as we strive to create one of those essential alternatives in our church.

I am sure everyone is wondering about how things are going with our building. After far too much time we have finally been given a building permit by the city and work has begun on numerous aspects of the rebuild. Jim Casteris, Virginia Pratt, John MacLeod, Rodney Burston and Dean Stevens have been working diligently throughout the summer to keep us on track and making good choices for the future of our building. In the months to come you will be seeing fundraisers and calls for your generous support to get our building back in order. It has taken us until now to get a good sense of the total cost of rebuilding and we are going to need to all step up. Our building is a large part of our ministry in the world, many organizations and radical events find their home inside our walls, we must figure out how to keep our space vital and thriving.

As we prepare for our new season there is much going on in the world. President Obama has been trying to deceive us that the occupation of Iraq is ending. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been rounding people up around the country and right

here in Massachusetts. Los Angeles County Jail approved a heat ray gun to shoot at prisoners as a form of discipline. The fifth anniversary of Katrina has come even as the oil from the BP spill continues to spread. Massachusetts has yet another epidemic of prisoner suicide. And yet even with these struggles that we know about, and those that we are yet to learn of, there is incredible resistance and reason for hope. New Orleans community organizing is continuing to grow and resist the racist rebuilding policies. More and more soldiers are refusing to go off in Obama's imperialist wars. Immigrant resistance is strengthening and stopping racist policies from gaining more strength. The NAACP, numerous unions, and others are organizing a national mobilization for 10.02.10 in Washington. Our congregation is beginning our 90th year and we get to continue our commitment to justice in the world.

For the month of September we are doing "Back to Church" Sundays, different from the past few years of "Back to School." We are going to learn some of our own history and talk about what it means for us to be "church." As a non-traditional community of people who carry many different theological ideas what is it that makes us a church? The term church comes from the Greek ecclesia, meaning the body, the collective coming together to create one. When we come together to learn and organize we are building that body of resistance and nourishment. As we come together this season I hope we can continue to imagine new ideas of what it means to make ourselves whole and push ourselves in the direction of loving liberation. Let us find strength in the greatness of our possibility!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium
Sundays at 11:00am

Back to Church Month!

September 12th
Homecoming Sunday
JASON LYDON
"Water Communion"

September 19th
Rev. WILLIAM CHESTER McCALL III
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Commutation for Arnie King: SAVE THE DATE!!

Please be aware that Arnie King's commutation hearing has been scheduled for **Thursday October 7, 2010**, at 10:00am. It will be held at the Parole Board's central office, 12 Mercer Road, Natick, MA. More to come...

Also, A new petition has been filed. Postcards are available for mailing to Governor Patrick. Please email Dianne at diannezimbabwe@yahoo.com and request postcards, which you can distribute to family and friends at church, school and various community activities.

Please email a copy of the letter to: (Attorney) Ed Berkin via edb@edberkin.com and by postal mail to: ARNIE KING, BAY STATE CTR, BOX 73, NORFOLK MA 02056.

Ordination and Installation of Jason Lydon

On September 19th at 5:00pm the Community Church of Boston will ordain Jason Lydon as a Unitarian Universalist minister and install him as the minister of our church. Jason will be the first minister ordained by the Community Church of Boston in our 90 years.

Please join us for this celebration at the First Church of Roxbury located at 10 Putnam Street in Roxbury. The church is a short walk from Roxbury Crossing or Dudley Station. All those who practice ministry are invited to robe and process, please arrive at the church by 4:30pm.

Speakers will include clergy and Unitarian Universalist lay leaders who have shaped Jason's ministry. We will also be blessed to have City Councilor Chuck Turner and Director of the Poor Peoples Fund, Kip Tiernan, as speakers as well. The Foundation Movement, Boston hip hop group and friends of the church, will perform for us as will Evan Greer and Mimi LaValley. Please stick around for refreshments and music after the service.

Celebrate Latino Pride!

Latino Pride begins on Wednesday September 29th! Thursday September 30th 6-9 pm - Celebrate our Roots through Theater and Community Fair. At the UU Urban Ministry at 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury.

Join Somos Latin@s for the kickoff event to the 7th annual Latino Pride. This will be a night of fun with creative pieces by members of both the Latino/a and LGBT communities. The performances will be followed by a spirited discussion on the intersections of race and sexuality, as well as a fair that will highlight local services available to our community. The event is free and open to all!

JWJ Solidarity Committee

The Jobs With Justice Solidarity Committee is composed of local union activists and members of the community concerned about workers' rights. We work with unions on organizing and collective bargaining campaigns to make a real difference in workers' struggles, honed over twelve years' work and experience. Solidarity Committee Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month.

For more information on how you can get involved contact 617-524-8778 or jennifer@massjwj.net

Lynne Stewart's Ordeal: A 30-year Legal Career Vanishes Behind Bars Because She Did Her Job

by Martin Murie, *The Progressive Populist*

On July 15 of this year the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights received another sledge hammer blow. Lynne Stewart, requested by her client in prison to issue one press release by which the sheikh could contact his family in Egypt and tell his comrades in Egypt that they should not consult him; they were on their own. He had been sentenced to 100 years for complicity in the first bombing attack of the World Trade Center. The press release was his last chance to tell them they should forget him and his advice. They were on their own.

The press release took place in the Clinton regime and his Attorney General, Janet Reno, decided that Lynne's violation was too trivial to pursue. This changed in the hysteria after 9/11, aided and abetted by Bush and Cheney and the other high officials of his regime. The new Attorney General, John Ashcroft, dug up Lynne's violation of the Special Administrative Measure that all lawyers with clients in prison signed off on. He charged her with "Aiding a Terrorist," asking for 30 years. The jury convicted her and the federal district court judge, John G. Koeltl, in sentencing, praised Lynne for her devotion to helping people and set the sentence at 28 months, with freedom to pursue her appeal.

We became close friends with Lynne and her partner, Ralph Poynter. They attended our anti-war protests in Malone, county seat of Franklin county in New York state, adjoining Quebec's southern line. Lynne's calling that one press release was an act of compassion, at the request of her client, Sheikh Omar Abdul-Rahman, and out of a deep commitment in her lawyerly career of more than 30 years to the down-and-out. Later she

learned that her client-lawyer privileges had been violated. Listeners were following her supposedly protected conversations with her client.

Lynne and Ralph were stalwarts at our anti-war protests; their long experience with people of all sorts was clearly evident. They are NOT terrorists, nor



AIDERS of terrorists. Nothing untoward happened after that one press release.

The Second Circuit denied the appeal and took the unusual step of demanding that the lower court judge extend his original sentence to anywhere from 15 years to 30 years. This was a one hundred percent act of political opportunism. Koeltl caved in, gave

Lynne ten years in prison. It is so blatantly obvious that Ashcroft was intent on terrorizing citizens, especially lawyers who contemplated defending terrorists.

That is the current status of Lynne's ordeal. We await her legal team's decision and then will do everything we can to spread the word.

-- reprinted from *The Progressive Populist*, September 1, 2010. Martin Murie is a retired professor of biology at Antioch College. Email: packrat7881@att.net

Mobilize to End Mountaintop Removal

Appalachia Rising is a mass mobilization in Washington DC on September 27th calling for the abolition of mountaintop removal and surface mining. It is a culmination of the national movement against surface mining and a foundation upon which to build a pan-Appalachian movement for prosperity and justice. Coalfield citizens and organizers envision a vibrant mobilization of thousands to converge on Washington DC for a day of non-violent action and dignified civil disobedience targeting the politicians and agencies who could abolish surface mining with the stroke of a pen.

Appalachia Rising declares that we are not a national sacrifice zone. We will not stand idly by as we see

our past and future blasted to rubble, our communities and mountains eliminated, and our neighbors poisoned as coal executives and their shareholders grow rich. Appalachians are not, and never will be, collateral damage. We are proud of our coal mining fathers, hard-working neighbors, and Appalachian past, present and future!

We invite all who share our vision to join with us on September 27, 2010 in our nation's capitol for an end to mountaintop removal, surface mining, and a renewed vision of Appalachia.

<http://www.appalachiarising.org>

'One Nation Working Together' National March

Saturday, October 2nd in Washington, D.C.

Tens of thousands of people are expected to gather at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Oct. 2nd for the One Nation Working Together organization's rally for jobs, justice and education.

We all deserve a just and fair chance to achieve the American Dream. Our national identity is rooted in the ideal that all people – regardless of race, class, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, heritage or ability – should have the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

One Nation Working Together will chart a bold, pragmatic path toward a more unified, sustainable, prosperous future by building support for these core principles and policy ideals.



<http://onenationworkingtogether.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

Rev. Jason Lydon, *Minister*
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*

Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*
Jim Casteris, *Building Superintendent*
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,
Susan Mortimer, Matt Osborn



DATED MATERIAL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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