

community

The Newsletter of the Community Church of Boston
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

Summer 2012

news

Hope-Filled Transitions

by Reed Miller, CCB President

Hello! I hope that this newsletter finds you in the middle of an enjoyable summer.

My first visit to the Community Church was as an invited performer with Boston Sass Attack on a Valentine's Day service where we performed radical cheers such as "Consent is Sexy". Since then, I've grown to love the Church's down to earth feel, commitment to fighting oppression, compassion for and patience with one another, impressive history, and of course the amusing cast of characters. I'm happy to write to you this summer as the newly elected President of the Board, having served on the Board for a year and helped to coordinate this spring's retreat. I'm grateful to the Board for being so supportive of me and dedicated to this community.

On June 16th, the Community Church hosted a Farewell Party for Rev. Jason Lydon. The Lothrop Auditorium was filled with Church members and other people who love him and cherish his work. After the cutting of a cake made to look like a prison (breaking down its walls!), an open mic gave friends the opportunity to share tales and send best wishes. The Board presented him with the front panel of the old lectern which had "Welcome All" painted on the front, and signed by the party's attendees, and a gift certificate to a fancy restaurant. The following morning, he gave his final touching sermon.



Jason announced that he would be moving on from the Church to the Board in January, and since then a Search Committee diligently planned and took the necessary steps to find a great fit for the next era. During the spring retreat, the attributes of an ideal candidate were discussed by dozens. Roughly twenty candidates responded to the job posting, and after much deliberation, rounds of interviews and reference checks, **the Search Committee and Board are very pleased to announce that Linda Jenkins will be the next Congregational Director of the Community Church of Boston.** We hope that you will join us on **Sunday, August 12th at 11am for a Welcome Brunch** before the church season begins!

The transition from Jason's leadership to Linda's will likely have a few bumps as she gets to know us, and as we become acquainted with her style of leadership. Though I'm just 26, I'm no stranger to transitions, having lived the first 20ish years of my life as a woman, and having lived "full time" as a man for the past four years. To help ease Linda in to her new responsibilities, the Board has divvied up the task of booking fall Sunday Speakers; I will be inviting in a trainer on Transgender Awareness!

Doing things a bit differently takes time to get used to, and for months it might be the only topic of conversation at the lunch tables. After a while, though, a new rhythm will develop and things will fall in to place. We're all excited to take advantage of this transition period to reinvigorate our committees and discuss how we can help facilitate more inclusive, democratic and transparent processes. I hope that you will join in the discussions, and share your ideas and talents with this incredible community!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Upcoming Events

Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration on George's Island

On **Sunday, August 5th** the Community Church of Boston will hold our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration on George's Island. People wishing to attend should gather together at the **Long Wharf North Pier** (map, right next to Columbus Park and the Aquarium T stop) at **10:30am to get on the 11:00am ferry to George's Island**. Tickets can be purchased before hand or at the Pier.

Everyone is encouraged to bring food to share and other picnic related things, and to think about a remembrance, poem, or story to share about Hiroshima and why we choose to remember this day. We will have a short service together while we eat and share time with one another, living for a world free of nuclear weapons! Visit www.boston-harborislands.com to learn more about the different islands.

Round trip ferry tickets are \$15 for adults (12-64), \$11 for seniors (65+), \$9 for children (4-11), free for young children, and \$43 for a family 4 pack (2 adults, 2 children or 2 adults, 1 child, 1 senior). Return ferries depart on the half hour until 6:30pm!

Potluck Brunch to Welcome New Congregational Director Linda Jenkins

Join us for a casual meet and greet as we welcome our new Congregational Director Linda Jenkins on **Sunday, August 12th, 11am!**

Linda is excited to become a part of our community, so we hope that with this event she will be a more familiar face at the beginning of the church season, and that she will get to experience our joy at having her join us.

CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on June 12th, 2012
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

Minister's Report: Insurance increase for upgrades and for code coverage are to be implemented. Leases must be renewed by July for a two-year period. The minister has outlined a binder, containing information about personnel policies, building policies and the CCB By-Laws, for the person who is due to replace him.

Financial Matters: The treasurer discussed certain aspects of the Profit & Loss Budget Performance for May, 2012. Particular emphasis was on Office Expenses, Rental Income (ie, downstairs restaurant), Salaries-Benefit Expenses, Building Expenses (ie, utilities and insurance) and Maintenance. It was noted that oil charges had decreased during the past six months, while elevator costs increased during the same time period.

Building Committee: The Church needs a new air-conditioner, locksmith work and a new piano. Money needs to be spent on energy saving (ie, conversion from oil to gas heat). Is the Church roof suitable for a solar panel?

Various Concerns: The Church needs to set up a schedule for Sunday morning programs for the summer months.

An ad-hoc Program Committee consisting of David Broeg, Kevin Devine, Reed Miller and Dean Stevens has been put into place.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

THE MIDNIGHT BAND: Tribute to Gil Scott-Heron & Political Prisoners! A Benefit Concert for Political Prisoners in the U.S.

**Saturday, July 21st, 8pm
The Middle East, 472-480 Mass Ave, Cambridge**

Join us for this night of music to honor our imprisoned freedom fighters and our warriors who have passed, featuring Gil Scott-Heron's very own Midnight Band!! All proceeds go towards the struggle to free political prisoners.

<http://jericho-boston.blogspot.com>

Welcoming the New CCB Congregational Director

by Virginia Pratt

We are very excited about the new Congregational Director of Community Church of Boston, Linda Jenkins. Linda was recommended to the board of directors after reviewing over 20 applicants and interviewing 5. The recommendation was based on Ms. Jenkins experience including current activism with Occupy Boston, volunteerism with Justice At Work, support and participation in promoting unions and unions benefits for underpaid minority workers as well as her previous experience. Linda developed mediation and domestic violence services in rural New Hampshire at time when these programs were highly innovative. She worked professionally and as a volunteer in many aspects of Quaker organizations. She has strong commitment to Social Justice.

The search committee: John MacLoed, Mary Ann Cromer, David Broeg, and Virginia Pratt were very impressed with Linda's personality as well. During the interviews, Linda listened attentively, asked good ques-

tions and offered to help with long term planning, visioning, fostering a sense of community, as well as fund raising. Linda seemed to know a good deal about the mission and activities of the church and displayed a strong interest in continuing our efforts to respond to and involve our prison membership.

Linda talked about being grounded as a Quaker and evolving from that foundation for her increased social activism, particularly around issues of financial accountability. Ms. Jenkins has participated in our Sunday services/speaker forums and wants to continue the tradition of the free pulpit in action. Linda seems capable of balancing the nitty gritty aspects of the position – dealing with building and tenant issues, coordinating the work of the staff, while attending to more long term needs of the church. We felt fortunate to have such a skilled and dynamic person joining us in the fall as our new director. We look forward to Linda beginning her new position in August.

Court Confirms Ten-Year Sentence for Lynne Stewart

by Jeff Mackler, Lynne Stewart Defense Committee

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit today confirmed the 2010 decision of Federal District Court Judge John Koeltl to change his 28-month jail sentence for radical attorney and human rights activist, Lynne Stewart, to ten years.

Following federal prosecutors' appeal of what was widely considered a "lenient sentence," the Second Circuit all but ordered a compliant Koeltl to re-sentence Stewart and harshly. Koeltl did just that, forcing Stewart to appeal to the very court that originally pressured Koeltl, in what was widely considered a "career decision" to do Stewart great harm.

Stewart was convicted at an outrageous 2005 New York frame-up trial on five counts of conspiracy to aid and abet and provide material support to terrorism. Her crime? Representing the "blind Sheik," the Egyptian cleric, Omar Abdel Rachman, who had also been convicted on trumped-up conspiracy charges. Stewart issued a press release from her client stating his views on how Egyptian Muslim oppositionists should react to the ongoing crimes and murders of Egypt's then President Hosni Mubarak.

Stewart was convicted of violating a vaguely-worded court-ordered Special Administrative Measure that barred her from revealing her client's opinions. The penalty for such violations had traditionally been a mild slap on the wrist, perhaps a warning to not repeat the "violation" and to bar attorney-client visits for a few months. Barring an unlikely Supreme Court reversal, she will now serve her ten-year sentence with perhaps a one-year or ten percent reduction for "good behavior." She is presently incarcerated at FMC Carswell in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Free Lynne Stewart" must remain the rallying cry of all those who cherish civil liberties and democratic rights. Stewart, like so many others, but perhaps among the first tier, was a victim of the government-promoted malicious and murderous "war on terror" aimed at stifling all dissent and imprisoning the innocent to justify its wars against working people at home and against the oppressed and exploited across the globe.

www.lynnestewart.org

DAVID ROVICS

In Concert

Thursday, October 4th, 8:00pm
at the Community Church of Boston
565 Boylston St, Boston



Admission: \$15 (in advance)
\$20 (at the door). Sliding scale.
No one turned away if house is
not sold out. For more informa-
tion, call: 617-869-3014

Advance tickets:
www.brownpapertickets.com

*"The peace poet and troubador
for our time."* - Cindy Sheehan

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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