

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

Newsletter, January 2006

P.O. Box 186, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 – (617) 524-1634

email: Firstchjp@aol.com

web site: www.firstchurchjp.org

Rev. Terry Burke, Minister
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister
Karl Haakonsen, Standing Committee Chair
George Wardle, Trustees Chair
Andrée Záleská, Interim RE Director

Ellen McGuire, Music Director
Janna Frelich, Soloist
Robin Teague, Director of the Children's Choirs
Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher
Monroe Heyman, Building Use

Thoughts From Terry

As you have probably heard, my mother Virginia Burke died suddenly on December 13th at the age of 86. One of my earliest memories of my mother is of her reading to me. She loved books, and I told a friend, "Heaven for my mother would be an endless library." Poet John Donne wrote that all the chapters of our life books would be "translated" by God into "a better language," for that "library where every book shall lie open to one another."

Thank you for all of your support and sympathy, your prayers, flowers, calls, food, notes, cards, and hugs. Being part of a community helps at a time like this. I wish you a joyful New Year!

Yours, Terry

Greetings from Andrée, Interim Director of Religious Education

December was full of fun activities in the program. Thalia McMillion once again led us in a successful Christmas Pageant, with musical help from Ellen McGuire and Robin Teague. Be sure to read the Boston Globe article about Thalia that's posted on the church bulletin board. This month the RE kids also decorated a Christmas tree, wrapped presents for Sojourner House, and hosted coffee hour.

After a busy holiday season we are all ready to get classes started again on January 8. We also look forward to getting our Youth Group up and running again soon. Our citywide OWL class continues with Brendan Halpin teaching.

Thanks to all the teachers who volunteered for winter term: Kip Keith, Robert Amelio, Chris DeChene, Suzanne Demarco, Kevin and Valerie Marren and Alice Hawley. Our babysitter and class-assistants continue to do a wonderful job: Elizabeth Hawley, Olivia Wardle and Amelia Burke. Good luck to you all.

Best wishes, Andrée Záleská

Coming Up at First Church

The book group, which is open to anyone who would like to attend, has three upcoming meetings. All are Tuesdays at 7:30. Since we've selected some meaty books, start reading early! On January 17, we'll discuss Doris Lessing's groundbreaking The Golden Notebook, about a single mother/novelist in the late 50's when the concept was unusual. On February 28, the topic is Atonement, which is about a character author Ian McEwan calls 'my fullest invention.' Then we journey to Haiti, with Tracy Kidder's Mountains Beyond Mountains on April 4.

(coming up at FC cont.)

Adult Ed Class on Spirituality and Contemporary Film: A new adult ed course will be offered this winter on spirituality and film. Marshall Hawkins will lead the six-week class, which is based on the book "Finding Faith at the Movies." We will watch clips of contemporary films, reflect on them theologically, and look at some biblical passages that relate to those themes. We'll watch parts of six different familiar and fairly recent films. The group will meet Monday evenings in the Morse Room from 7:30pm until 9:00pm beginning on Monday January 8 and ending Monday February 13. Participants are asked to try to commit to attending all sessions, so we can develop a consistent group for good discussion throughout. There is a sign-up sheet on the table at the front of the sanctuary. Or sign up by contacting Marshall Hawkins.

Announcements

Do you enjoy singing?! Ever thought of joining the First Church Choir? You don't need to be a professional singer to be in the choir, you just need a desire to enjoy singing music from a wide range of genres and having lots of fun with you choir mates!! The choir would love to have new singers join us and share in on the wonderful musical experience we get to enjoy. The choir sings in church approximately 2 Sundays/month (usually alternating Sundays) and rehearses the Thursday before singing from 8-9:30 at the church, so it is not a weekly commitment. And here's a seasonal bonus: Upcoming choir treats are the Fellowship Dinner skit (Sunday evening, Feb. 12) and the Medieval Feast (Saturday evening, March 4). Speak to Ellen McGuire or any choir members if you're interested.

January Birthdays

Zachary Burlingame-Luckett	1	Rowen Shanks Halpin	17
Noah Burlingame-Luckett	1	Grace Zaborski	17
Spencer Marren	6	Allison Casey	17
Cora Heyman	6	Olivia Wardle	22
Molly Heyman	7	Nancy Ahmadifar	25
Isadora Bernasconi	10	Florence Farrell	31
Lucyanna Burke	14		

UU Offerings

Join the UU Coaching Network! UUCN is growing and invites you to join! This non-profit association is a community of professionally trained life coaches anchored in the UU principles of compassion, integrity and inclusion. To learn of its mission, and how you can benefit from membership, please visit www.uucoachingnetwork.org.

UU World's 2006 Whale Coast Alaska: Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite other UUs to our eco-cultural programs in June, July and August 2006. See the REAL Alaska! Alaskan UU's provide B & B accommodations in their homes in Anchorage, Seward, Fairbanks, Juneau and Sitka, lead tours and hikes and host parties. Visit with Tlingit, Inupiat and other Native Alaskans. See whales, sea otters, sea lions, seals, bears, moose, caribou, wolves, puffins, eagles and other birds in the wild from the Arctic Ocean to the Inside Passage in the south, and visit Denali and other national parks. Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, will lead the program. Visit website www.wuurld.org, e-mail dick@wuurld.org, or phone toll-free 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure. Taking reservations now.

January 2006, Calendar

- 1 **Sunday** 11:00 am *Burning of Grudges, Grievances, and Sins*
- Happy New Year!!!!**
- 2 **Monday** 7:30 pm Building Committee Mtg.
- 4 **Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Group
- 5 **Thursday** 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 8 **Sunday** 9:30 am Newcomer's Breakfast
11:00 am Carl Martland, *A Rich and Fertile Mystery*
Signing of Membership Book by new members
12:30 pm Social Justice Meeting
12:30 pm Nextel Discussion
4-6:00 pm OWL Youth Meeting
- 10 **Tuesday** 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting
- 11 **Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Group
- 15 **Sunday** 11:00 am *Martin Luther King Sunday*
- 17 **Tuesday** 7:00 pm Standing Committee Mtg.
- 18 **Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Group
- 19 **Thursday** 8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 22 **Sunday** 11:00 am *Candles of Hope and Concern*
Semi-Annual meeting following service
4-6:00 pm OWL Youth Meeting
- 25 **Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Group
- 29 **Sunday** 11:00 am *The Hero as Loser*
4-6:00 pm OWL Youth Meeting
- Happy Chinese New Year!**

Church Administrator: Jean O'Leary is in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 3:30. You can reach her at the main number (617) 524-1634.