

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist
Newsletter, March 2005

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Rev. Terry Burke, Minister
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister
Karl Haakonsen, Standing Committee Chair
George Wardle, Trustees Chair
Emily Lichtenstein, Director of RE

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

Thoughts From Terry

This is a busy Lenten/Easter season at our church. For Lent, we look within and try to learn how to "Take Back Our Time," and we look without at the wider world in need of transformation by hearing the voices of prisoners, and trying to act in response to the breast cancer epidemic.

Our Easter week services include the last of our "Cotton Patch Gospel" Vespers on Wednesday, a simple communion service, open to all, on Thursday (we will also be presenting Bibles to some of the children of church school), on Friday, Tenebrae, where we read stories of modern day crucifixions, stopping the service in darkness, on Sunday, a Unitarian Universalist "sunrise" service at 7AM in the graveyard with Marshall Hawkins, and our special 11AM celebration of Easter in the sanctuary with music and choirs and joy. Come join us!

Greetings from Emily, Director of Religious Education

I am excited to tell you of all the wonderful goings-on in our RE program over this winter term, but first – a movie recommendation! I almost never get to the movies these days, but over February vacation, I took my kids to see [Because of Winn Dixie](#). I found it to be a film that truly embodies our UU principles, particularly our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and in the importance of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. With so many of today's media offerings for children adopting a cynical, "too cool" attitude, it is great to come across a movie with integrity.

And now, a word about your fabulous children and their RE adventures. Our youngest group is now fully engaged in a study of the works of Dr. Seuss. Led by Larry Zaborski, Laura McCord and David Gdula, they are studying the works of one of the greatest children's authors of all time, and learning that a person's a person no matter how small, that it doesn't matter whether you have a star on your belly or not, and that a dictatorship can be overthrown by the actions of one small but determined turtle (if your curiosity is sparked, read [Horton Hatches an Egg](#), [The Sneetches](#), and [Yertle the Turtle](#)).

Our UU Superheros continue to learn about Unitarian Universalist role models. This winter, they have been introduced to a variety of remarkable people, including Christopher Reeve, Sophia Lyons Fahs, Joseph Priestly, and Vilhjalmur Stefannsson (who?!! Ask one our children, or their fearless leaders, Abby Krueger and Nancy Inghilleri). Each of these heroes led a life that embodied what is great and good about Unitarian Universalism, and we hope that our children will be inspired by their example.

Our oldest group continues to explore the theme of creativity, religion and the self. Together with co-leaders Janet Chumley and Carol Bell, they have been thinking deep thoughts about the nature of art and the relationship of art to religion and to identity. In the process, they have also created beautiful works of art, including masks that were used to decorate the Parish Hall for our Renaissance feast, and a large mandala made of colored rice.

The middlers and youth group have also been very active this winter. On the day of our semi-annual meeting, they cooked and served a luncheon to the congregation, raising \$201 to aid tsunami victims. They have also launched a project entitled "Families." This photo documentary program, which we are field testing for the UUA, will result in an exhibit of portraits of all the families that make up our church community. Watch for further announcements about how and when you can get your picture taken!

- Emily Lichtenstein, Director of Religious Education

Coming Up at First Church:

Coffee Hour discussion: After Sunday's worship service with the *Public Voice Project*, the Project speakers and a divinity school intern from City Mission Society will lead a discussion with us. We will have an opportunity to respond to the sermon, to explore our thoughts and feelings about people who have been incarcerated, and to identify ways that we as a faith community can address some of the issues of the "coming home" process. The discussion will be held in the Parish Hall or on the stage.

The Public Voice Project seeks to: 1) establish a strong public voice for reform in the Massachusetts criminal justice system; 2) support leadership skills for formerly incarcerated people; and 3) develop effective partnerships with concerned people and organizations to work towards implementing effective change.

Youth Group To Hold Family Photograph Sessions

The youth group of First Church is doing a curriculum about families. Part of the project is to photograph the families of our church. We hope everyone will be a part of it. We plan to take pictures on two dates. The first will be after the Easter Sunday service on March 27. We could also photograph a few families before the service. We will also be having a Families Potluck at the church on Sunday, April 3 after the service. Please let us know which day and time is convenient for you. We will have sign up sheets out on the table in the sanctuary and at coffee hour, so please sign up for a convenient time. We are sure looking forward to it, and we hope you are too!

- Emily Wright, Youth Group Member

Save the Date! On Sunday, March 20 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm, First Church in Jamaica Plain (6 Eliot Street, Corner of Centre and South Streets) will host a screening of **One in Eight: Janice's Journey** followed by a panel discussion with representatives from breast advocacy and environmental activist organizations. Find out how to take action against breast cancer! The event is free; however, donations are appreciated. For more information, please visit www.oneineight.net .

Announcements

Sojourner House, the shelter with whom we have a helping relationship, is currently caring for nine homeless families and turns away several more each day. Their Food Pantry serves these families and many more, including former residents of the shelter and the neighborhood poor. For our own celebration of Easter and Passover the Social Justice Committee is collecting and delivering Easter food baskets to Sojourner House on March 20th. Please help! Buy an extra bag of groceries on Saturday to bring to church with you on Sunday....ham, potatoes, fruits and vegetables, even a chocolate bunny or two for the children. If that seems like an enormous grocery bill get together with a neighbor or friend and share the cost. Or buy just a few items to donate. Let's make this a holiday of hope for the families of Sojourner House. For more information contact Judith Garfunkel.

Future Offerings

Boston Gay Men's Chorus Concert Discount: On Sat. March 19 (8 pm) and Sun. March 20 (3 pm), the BGMC will present "**Love & Marriage.**" This concert is a celebration of the progress we have made in the extending the right to marry to same-sex couples and an acknowledgement that it will take a diverse community of straight and gay people working together to create a society that respects its gay and lesbian citizens. The concert is designed to be a source of inspiration and energy around that goal. The BGMC appreciates the role that progressive clergy and faith communities are playing in the struggle for same-sex marriage rights in Massachusetts and is offering a discount for the Sunday concert to area congregations.

Love & Marriage, Sunday, Mar. 20, 3 pm, Cutler Majestic Theatre (219 Tremont St.)
group tickets: \$20 each (save 40% off regular prices)

All you have to do is call the BGMC office at 617-524-SING (7464) to order a ticket for the concert and mention that you are coming from the First Church in Jamaica Plain, or email: steve_smith@bgmc.org. Order by March 15 to get the discount. There is no minimum group size to get the discount, but be sure to mention First Church. We are welcome to attend the Saturday evening concert, but there is no discount

Spring Fair! Anticipating spring is an act of faith, and planning, for First Church. We're embarking on its second annual Spring Fair, scheduled for June 4, 2005. With a central location, heavy foot traffic, and an inviting front yard, expanding the annual yard sale and barbeque to include artists and craft vendors seemed a natural, and the crafter community had come to know and Anticipating spring is an act of faith, and planning, appreciate the locale from the holiday fairs held in the parish hall.

Last year's Spring Fair created a festive atmosphere with balloons calling in a crowd,

and vendors offering pottery, photographs, jewelry, hand-made children's clothing, and even chair massage. The crafters rent spaces with all proceeds going to the church, support all the church programs – the minimum cost is \$40. If you, or a friend is interested, please leave a message in box number 5 at the church, or e-mail JPCRAFTSFAIR@YAHOO.com

Recipe for Yum

There have been requests that the recipe for this delicious new soup, served at the Renaissance Feast by George Wardle, be included in a newsletter. Enjoy!

ROASTED RED PEPPER AND PEAR SOUP

2 large Red peppers – diced
3 Carrots – sliced
4 Shallots – peeled and diced
1 Pear - peeled and sliced
2 cloves of Garlic – minced
2 Tbsp Olive oil
2 Tbsp Butter
4 Cups Vegetable broth (or Chicken broth)
½ tsp Green Tabasco Sauce
Pinch Cayenne Pepper
1 12 Oz. jar or can – Roasted Red Peppers

Heat the butter and olive oil in a soup pot. Add garlic and shallots, and cook two minutes. Add fresh red peppers, carrots, and pear, and cook for ten minutes. Add broth and spices. Bring to a boil and then simmer for 30 minutes. Add jar of roasted red peppers. Puree soup in a processor. Heat and serve. Makes 6-8 servings.

Miscellaneous

Request for Committee Reports: Our Annual Meeting is May 22, 2005. This is a request for the various church committees (Standing, Social Justice, Building, Finance, Religious Education, and Membership) to begin preparing their reports for the Annual Report. Please try to have them available by May 8th so that they can be ready for the meeting.

The Website for First Church is up and looking great! Please take some time to look it over and see what it has to offer www.firstchurchjp.org

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

March 2005, Calendar

- 9 Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Group
8:00 pm Cotton Patch Vespers
- 10 Thursday** 7:30 pm Finance Committee
- 13 Sunday** 8:30 am Religious Education Meeting
11:00 am Voices of Prisoners
12:30 pm Social Justice Committee Mtg.
- 15 Tuesday** 7:00 pm Standing Committee Mtg.
- 16 Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Group
8:00 pm Cotton Patch Vespers
- 17 Thursday** **Happy Saint Patrick's Day!**
8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 19 Saturday** 7:00 pm Silent Candlelight Vigil in front of church
for Second Anniversary of the start of
the Iraq War
- 20 Sunday** 11:00 am Discipleship (Palm Sunday)
3:00 pm One in Eight Screening
- 23 Wednesday** 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting
8:00 pm Cotton Patch Vespers
- 24 Thursday** 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday
Communion Service
8:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
- 25 Friday** 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service
- 27 Sunday** **EASTER**
7:00 am Sunrise Graveyard Service
Rev. Marshall Hawkins preaching
11:00 am Intergeneration Easter Service "Hope"
- 29 Tuesday** 7:00 pm Ministry Committee