

November 2008 Newsletter

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

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Rev. Terry Burke, Minister
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister
Rev. Peter Connolly, Affiliate Minister
George Wardle, Trustees Chair
Andrée Záleská, RE Director
Jean O'Leary, Church Administrator

Ellen McGuire, Music Director
Janna Frelich, Soloist
Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher
Monroe Heyman, Building Use
Laurie Corkum, Standing Committee Chair



Thoughts from Terry

Last Sunday, in my "Taking Back Our Time" sermon, I mentioned wanting to go on a spiritual retreat. Unfortunately, I couldn't find a place open for guests on a Monday, my day off. One nun told me, "It's like the old days when you couldn't get sick on Wednesdays" (doctors took the day off). Finally I arranged to stay at the guesthouse of the Society of St. Margaret on Fort Hill in Roxbury.

I left for my retreat on Sunday night, right after Marshall Hawkins's "Sunday Night aLive!" service. I drove the two miles in time for St. Margaret's evening Compline service, which started in darkness. I left our contemporary service (complete with Karl Haakonsen's jazz musicians) held in our old building, for an ancient chanted service held in a very modern chapel.

The convent I stayed in is a block from the Frederick Olmstead park with the historic Roxbury water tower. The area used to be called Fort Hill; now activists have renamed it Highland Park. The Revolutionary War fort whose walls Olmstead outlined in the park served to defend the Roxbury Neck against the British troops occupying Boston.

Years ago, I lived in a parsonage in Roxbury when I was finishing up at divinity school. Back then, Roxbury was a Black neighborhood. Last year, I heard Representative Byron Rushing say that now the neighborhood is roughly balanced between Blacks, whites, and Latinos. The neighborhood has changed. I loved being back in Roxbury and walking the streets on my retreat - the architecture is truly wonderful. People of all backgrounds would say "Hello" to me.

Behind the convent is a small statue of St. Francis, standing serenely while overshadowed by a huge outcropping of rock. We face great changes in our world - post-election changes, financial changes, and climate changes. For our next Second Sunday Potluck on November 9th, we will talk about the idea of starting "Real Security" support groups in the church. Perhaps you'd like to join us. Or attend the next "Sunday Night aLive!" service and potluck on the last Sunday of the month. Or drop in on Prayer Group Wednesdays at 6PM. Or simply come to church.

Change, whether good, bad, or indifferent, is part of our religious life; may we grow together in the change. Thankfully, we are part of a spiritual community at First Church, JP. We are connected to one another and to a God/Higher Power. In the chaos of crisis, we can say "Keep the change!" because we are RICH in community.

Yours, Terry

RE News

With mixed feelings I'm announcing to all of you in the First Church congregation that I have accepted a job offer from the JP Forum, and so will need to leave my position as DRE at the end of this year (December). It was a difficult decision, as I have enjoyed my work at the church, and also hate to leave the program in the middle of a church year. The RE Committee is strong now, and I am sure that with their leadership we can have a smooth transition to a new DRE. I do plan to stay active in the church—I think that after December you'll find me in the choir!

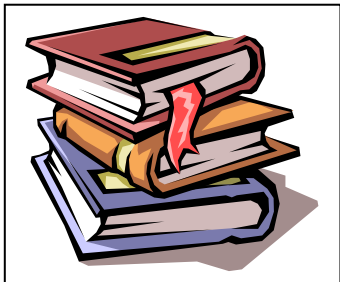
Please spread the word about the opening for a new DRE. All interested candidates can contact Carol Bell at cbell2@partners.org.

Meanwhile, things roll along as usual. We have the Christmas Pageant to look forward to soon. Have your children think about what parts they'd like to play. Thalia McMillion will soon be contacting you about casting, and rehearsals begin in late November.

Don't miss this year's first **5-Senses Sunday** this week—an intergenerational service for All Soul's Day. Families are welcome in the sanctuary to worship together.

Best wishes,
Andree Zaleska
DRE

Church Book Group



We meet on the first Tuesday of the month, in the Morse Room at 7:30 PM,. As always, anyone interested in any given book is welcome to come to that discussion. There are no entrance requirements, membership fees, poll taxes, or other impediments. On November 11, we turn to Dan DeLillo's novel, Falling Man about individual experiences and reactions to the bombings of 9/11. We'll have a potluck to celebrate the group's anniversary. Bring something to share to Denise Monks house: 79 Redlands Road, West Roxbury (off Centre by the Hess station), between 6:30 and 7. Upcoming books: Roland Merullo's Breakfast with Buddha and Gustave Flaubert's, Madame Bovary.

"Sunday Night aLive" Coming to First Church-November 30

Beginning on Sunday October 26 First Church will be offering an alternative evening worship service called "**Sunday Night aLive**". This service will take place on the last Sunday of each month, beginning at 6:00 pm. Meeting in the parish hall, the service will be non-traditional, utilizing contemporary music, participation from those who attend, artistic images, prayer and more. Dinner will be served following the service. Childcare will be provided. The service is open to all, and is particularly geared toward serving young adults in the community (people in their 20s and 30s). Those who would like to cook some food for the event can contact Cherisse Haakonsen.

Monthly Potlucks at First Church!

Our first **Second Sunday** potluck gathered over 25 people to eat good food, enjoy one another's company, and hear about the concept of Real Security Groups. It's a way to deal with financial crisis in a spiritual way. Come join us for the next potluck on Sunday **November 9th**.



Membership Updates

Greeters:

A BIG thank you to all our greeters for the month of October! Your time and effort was much appreciated - by just being you, you have helped to make our church community more welcoming! As you can tell, we need more greeters for November 16th, 30th, and the Sundays in December (see schedule below). Please let Abby know which of these Sundays you would like to greet (dear_abby@comcast.net). Thank you in advance from the Membership Committee.

Greeting schedule for the month of November:

Date	Name
November 2	David Dorney Margaret Suby Anne Rogers
November 9	Jan Egdall Marie Power
November 16	Jom Michel
November 30	Alice Kociemba

Committee Members:

We, the membership committee, are inviting you, to become a member of our committee. We meet the first Sunday of every month in the Parish Hall - **the next meeting is this Sunday at 9:30 am**, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us, either at a meeting, or to share any ideas or advice that would help us to serve you as a committee. Our current members are:

Cherisse Haakonsen (Chair)

Lyra O'Brien

Karl Haakonsen

David Parke

Marshall Hawkins

Jom Michel (liaison to the Standing Committee)

Abby Krueger

Please email Cherisse if you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, cherprieve@yahoo.com, or if you have any ideas/suggestions for us to discuss. Items that will be on the agenda for the meeting on Sunday, November 2nd: Outreach strategies, newcomer's breakfasts, working with the Fellowship committee, and welcoming packages!

Nametags:

PLEASE remember to wear your name tag on Sunday! If you have forgotten it at home you can wear a temporary one that will be provided for you – if it is lost, crumpled, or destroyed, please let Cherisse know so she can make you a new one. Do not be one of those nameless folks wandering around the church – we need to know who you are!

News Corner:

Welcome:

On Sunday October 19th we welcomed our newest member, Sarah Martin, at the 11:00 am service. Sarah's favorite quote is "You must be the change you want to see in the world." *Mahatma Gandhi*. Her always cheerful smile, her willingness to help, not to mention her exemplary culinary skills, has made her a valued member of our church community. Welcome Sarah!

Visitor's Day:

Visitor's Day was a success! Thanks to all of you who invited friends, loved ones and random strangers... and thanks to Kurt and Charlotte Hemr who provided cake and ice cream during coffee hour. Another round of thanks to everyone who contributed to making this day a special one...we all had a wonderful time!

Sojourner House
THANKSGIVING DONATIONS

We hope to provide Thanksgiving baskets for Sojourner House for distribution to residents and through their food pantry. We are collecting the following foods to make up the baskets:

**Bread mix
Stuffing mix
Cranberry sauce
Rice
Canned fruit
Canned vegetables
Cake mix
Mashed potato mix
Pasta
Piecrusts
Canned gravy
Sugar
Flour
Sweet potatoes
Turkeys! Fresh or frozen**



**Canned items may be brought anytime. All other items, November 23.
FOOD WILL BE DELIVERED TO SOJOURNER HOUSE ON NOVEMBER 23d.**

Thanks from the Social Justice Committee!

Our Annual Christmas Pageant

will take place during the worship service on Sunday, Dec. 14. There will be a rehearsal Sat. morning Dec. 13, and also during services for several weeks beforehand.

Mark your calendars!

Thalia McMillion, *pageant director*

Ellen McGuire, *music director*