

NEWS FROM KING'S ✠ CHAPEL

The Society of King's Chapel • 64 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108 • 617/227-2155 • www.kings-chapel.org

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

February is a month that needs all the help it can get. It's when we begin to get really tired of winter's cold and snow, especially if we actually had a January thaw with its reminder of what warm is like. Eliot said that April is the cruelest month, but I think a poll would give the nod to February. Maybe the best thing about it is that it's short.

But if it's a month that needs help, it's also gotten it. It has some of the most important birthdays, including George Washington, Abraham Lincoln (also William Henry Harrison and Ronald Reagan). The whole list is very long; those born during just the first *week* of February include Clark Gable, Langston Hughes, Boris Yeltsin, James Joyce, Ayn Rand, Norman Rockwell, James Michener, Betty Friedan, Gertrude Stein, Rosa Parks, Charles Lindbergh, Babe Ruth, Charles Dickens – and my mother.

It also the month of Groundhog Day (Candlemas in the Christian calendar), Mardi Gras, the Westminster Dog Show (“the second oldest continuously held sporting event in the United States” after the Kentucky Derby) and the Daytona 500. In 2004, the Academy Awards were moved to February.

Somehow, February has also scooped up the Super Bowl, which used to occur reliably on the last Sunday in January. In 2001 it slipped into February, and since 2004 it has always been on the first Sunday of the shortest month, and is scheduled to continue there at least through 2012. (You can look it up.)

Also, of course, Valentine's Day, my wife's favorite holiday. It comes two days after Lincoln's birthday and some years very close to Ash Wednesday, which led me once to preach a sermon entitled “Love, Lincoln, and Lent.”

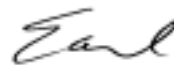
This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln on the 14th, born in 1809 remarkably on the very same day as Charles Darwin. I couldn't think of any way to combine those two, but look forward to an obvious opportunity to preach on the most theological of our Presidents this month, a very good month (as they all are) to be in church. Hope to see you there.

Special This Month:

- ✠ Visit from Kolozsvár
- ✠ New Member
- ✠ Job Search Support Group
- ✠ Interim Process

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Sundays in February

King's Chapel is at the corner of School & Tremont Streets in downtown Boston. Sunday services begin at 11 a.m. and last for approximately one hour.

- FEB. 1 Holy Communion**
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Co-officiating
Allen Speight, Lector
The lessons are Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and Mark 1:21-28.
- FEB. 8 Morning Prayer**
Sermon: "Abraham Lincoln's God"
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
Daniel Cochran, Co-officiating
Ray Hardin, Lector
The lessons are Job 7:1-7 and Mark 1:29-39.
- FEB. 15 Morning Prayer**
Marc Loustau, former Seminarian, will preach.
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Co-officiating
Stefanie and Abigail Muscat, Lectors
The lessons are 2Kings 5:1-14 and 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.
- FEB. 22 Morning Prayer**
Transfiguration
Commitment Sunday
The Rev. Joanne Giannino will preach.
Daniel Cochran, Co-officiating
Marie Wells, Lector
The lessons are 2 Kings 2:1-12a and Mark 9:2-9.

Tuesday Recitals

Tuesday Recitals at King's Chapel present a variety of programs, featuring local and visiting musicians. Admission is by suggested donation of \$3; the donations are given to the performers. Programs begin at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately 35 minutes. For more information, please call 617/227-2155 or visit www.kings-chapel.org.

- FEB. 3** The Cantabile Duo:
Music by Telemann, Marais and others
The O'Carolan Trio:
Music by the Irish bard and composer O'Carolan
- FEB. 10** Peter Sulski, viola
Works by Bach & Telemann
- FEB. 17** Trio Cordefiato
Laura Finkelstein, flute; Jeff Leiserson, clarinet; Sean Winkler, guitar
Works by Rossini, Debussy, Gershwin
- FEB. 24** Michael Nicolella, guitar
Works by Scarlatti, Dowland, Nicolella, Wallace, and Albeniz

Wednesday Services

Midweek Prayer services begin at 12:15 p.m. and last approximately 35 minutes.

- FEB. 4** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
- FEB. 11** Midweek Prayer
Dean Denniston will preach.
- FEB. 18** Holy Communion
The Rev. Joanne Giannino will preach.
- FEB. 25** *Ash Wednesday*
Imposition of ashes
The Rev. Darrick Jackson will preach.



February Flowers

February Flowers are given in loving memory and thanksgiving.

FROM KING'S CHAPEL

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Lucy Sewall, Editor

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Family Service

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Little Chapel at the Parish House, 64 Beacon Street.

- FEB. 1** The Rev. Joanne Giannino will preach.
- FEB. 8** The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
- FEB. 15** **All Church Sunday**
- FEB. 22** Daniel Cochran, Seminarian, will preach.

from **THE ASSISTANT
MINISTER**

"What I realized was that no one is a Christian by self-identifying with a set of concepts, beliefs, or attitudes. The decisive motion is not intellectual but physical. 'The Word became flesh,' and the human body is no longer merely flesh, but can breathe spirit, life, and truth." - Margaret R. Miles, 1987

I attended the recent ARE retreat at Glastonbury Abby. It was good to be together in community for more than just an hour or two: To live together; to sleep in close proximity; to eat together; to sit in silence; to consider deep questions - informally and in structured gatherings; to engage our bodies, minds, emotions, and spirits in words spoken, words written, and images drawn and described; to worship. Being together in that embodied way made me consider other ways we can continue to explore our individual and collective spiritual lives.

There are now two small group ministry fellowships gathering once a month. One is meeting on Beacon Hill and one in Jamaica Plain. These small groups are opportunities for, as one person put it, "intimacy and ultimacy." At the end of the year, it will be good to hear from these folks about how it was to gather in this way.

Earl and I are planning other ways for us to gather this winter and spring. One idea that came up at the retreat was to offer the course, "Writing Your Spiritual Autobiography." If you are interested, or if you are curious about the course, let us know.

One ongoing opportunity is the course American Unitarian History which continues to meet once month. The next session is Sunday, February 8, after service at the Parish House. Please come (see this page).

There are two other opportunities beginning this month: "Growing Your Spirituality" will be offered for adults at 10:30 on Sundays at the Parish House monthly, beginning on February 8. This workshop employs tools developed by Peter Tufts Richardson who, among others, has discovered four spiritual types. Getting to know your type, and the types of others, can help us understand one another and point us toward spiritual practices best suited for our own growth.

I also invite any and all of you - children, youth, and adults - to come on Tuesday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m. for an evening

**MINISTERIAL
OFFERINGS**

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:
LENT THROUGH EASTER**

Bible Study continues on Thursday mornings at 8:45 a.m. in the Minister's office at the Parish House. A new seven-week series commences on February 26, including texts from the Torah as well as from the gospels of Mark and John. Newcomers are always welcome. Study materials will be available in the office in early January. \$20 per person. For further information contact Earl Holt at 617-227-2155 Ext. 310 or ekholt@kings-chapel.org.



Earl welcoming new member, Bob Goodwin, at Milk Punch Sunday.

AMERICAN UNITARIAN HISTORY

Our monthly series continues with a session focusing on William Ellery Channing, the Boston minister often called the founder of American Unitarianism. We will meet on February 8, beginning at 12:30 p.m. on the second floor of the Parish House. There is a growing circle attending this series, which includes short video clips from Our American Roots, followed by discussion led by our ministers. Newcomers or drop-ins are always welcome.

(Asst. Minister's Column Continued)

of sharing and listening based on the questions: Who is Jesus and What is God? We will have soup and salad to feed our bellies, and create a circle of respect and curiosity in which to share our experiences, thoughts, and feelings. Let me know if you plan to attend by noon on the 17th.

May we always be open to new ways to learn and grow together. How does 'the Word become flesh' in your life? How does the spirit grow? In community. In love. In gathering. How else? Let's share.

in peace, Joanne

NOTEWORTHY

JOB SEARCH SUPPORT GROUP

In these difficult economic times, some of our members and friends are losing their jobs. A job search support group, open to both KC folks and the general community, has started meeting at the Parish House on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the group is to provide networking opportunities and to collaborate with other job seekers discussing successful search strategies and resources. The only prerequisite for joining is a commitment to maintaining a positive and productive focus in your job search. Contact Lucy (617-227-2155 x 314) if you are interested in joining us.

A RARE VISIT

The King's Chapel Partner Church Committee is pleased to announce that a member of our partner church in Kolozsvar, was successful in receiving her visa and will be visiting the Boston area and King's Chapel from Monday, February 16 to Wednesday, February 24. A researcher and teacher in the field of Sociology at Babes Bolyoi University in Kolozsvar, she will then attend the **International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women** to be held in Houston, Texas, from February 26 to March 1, 2009. This is the first international meeting of UU women!

The Partner Church Committee is planning a week that will include participation in the Wednesday church service on February 18, attendance at Morning Prayer, and a concert at King's Chapel on the 22nd; and other opportunities for sight-seeing or entertainment that may be offered by parishioners. In return, she will be happy to speak about the significance of Unitarianism and connection to American UU's in her native land of Transylvania, and many other topics of interest or concern in modern Romania. She speaks fluent English and is a very engaging!

If you have ideas for additional activities or hospitality for Ms. Veres, please get in touch with the Ministers, or Co-Chairs Peter and Vicky. We hope you will take advantage of this rare opportunity to meet a guest from our partner Unitarian Church.

COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

❖ ANNUAL APPEAL COMMITTEE

Please plan to attend Morning Prayer followed by a special coffee hour at the Parker House on Commitment Sunday, February 22, 2009. We are blessed to have a KC member as Honorary Chair for this event, marking the start of the Annual Appeal's Pledge Month for 2010. Dave has been involved in many aspects of community and KC leadership, including fundraising, and he will share some of his wise perspective on the importance of support for our church, particularly in the current economy.

We ask 100% participation in pledging, which represents everyone's shared responsibility to our church community... a commitment to God and to each other, as expressed in the King's Chapel Covenant. Even a small pledge... and some may have little more than the Biblical "penny from a poor widow" to offer at present... is an important symbol of our commitment to KC. In 2008 we received at least a token contribution from 87% of active members and friends. Let's hope some of us will be able to give more than we pledge next year as the economy improves. We have until June 30, 2010, to pay these pledges.

After church on February 22, we will cross the street to the Parker House for coffee and our now-traditional chocolate mousse cake covered with hearts and flowers. This event promises to be short on talk, and long on fellowship and gratitude for your support. Please come! ♥

—Amy, *Annual Appeal Chair*

❖ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Many thanks to these coffee hour angels who brought sustenance to us after Morning Prayer in January: Vicky, Amy, Julie, and Richard. Please let anyone on the committee know if you can serve in February: Barbara, Betty, Vicky and Betsy. Thank you.

—Barbara & Betty, *Co-Chairs*

❖ MUSIC COMMITTEE

A Night of Snow in Song and Poetry

Our choir and soloists under Heinrich's direction will warm your spirits at the February 22 concert. They will perform beautiful a cappella music by Francis Poulenc, in whose choral "universe" it is often winter - a season that perhaps inspired his hauntingly beautiful, crystalline sonorities. Our choir excels at unaccompanied singing, so this promises to be a special concert. The program opens with "Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël." It then traverses the winter season, from "Un soir de neige," poetry by Paul Eluard set to music through exquisite settings of French folksongs (from "Chansons Françaises"), and excerpts from "Figure humaine," "Sept Chansons," and "Messe en sol majeur." Readings of wintry poetry by T.S. Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and others between the choral works round out the theme.

Sunday, February 22, at 5 p.m.; doors open at 4:30. Parishioners and their friends who attend are cordially invited to an informal reception at the Parish House following the concert.

❖ PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE **IT DID HAPPEN!**

Thanks to all our parishioners—and visitors too—who contributed to the Partner Church "Attic Fund" last year with their in-kind contributions and generous bidding at the 2008 spring auction, fulfillment of pledges in November and December, and purchases of note cards this past fall.

Congratulations to all of YOU, for making it possible to reach last year's goal of raising \$10,000—the second year of a three-year plan totaling \$30,000—for King's Chapel's contribution toward the renovation of the top floor of the Parish House of our partner Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár. With two-thirds of the funds now in hand for the project, and with steadfast optimism as we enter another new year, we are confident that the Attic Project at our partner church will be sufficiently pre-funded so that construction can begin soon.

—Vicky and Peter, *Co-Chairs*

Social Action Committee members and guests enjoyed inspiring messages and music at the annual Martin Luther King memorial breakfast on January 19, at the Boston Convention Center.

❖ SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Action Committee welcomes its newest member, Bob Goodwin. We look forward to Bob's new energy and ideas. The January meeting will occur after this newsletter deadline. The committee will be focusing on Social Action Sunday March 8 when Rev. June Cooper of City Mission Society will be our guest in the pulpit as well as at our luncheon to follow in the Parish House.

—Art, *Chair*

FEBRUARY MOVIE NIGHT

February 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish House. Title to be announced.

CONSIDER JOINING KING'S CHAPEL!

We'd love to chat with anyone wondering about becoming a Member. Just speak to either of the Ministers, or anyone on the Membership Committee. The sooner, the better--our by-laws require you to declare your interest in writing three months in advance.

UUA Process for Interim Minister Selection

The January Vestry meeting was principally concerned with understanding the UUA process for finding a suitable Interim Minister. While we may develop our own scenario, understanding the baseline procedure for our denomination is prudent. UUA District Executive, Teresa Cooley, made a highly informative presentation. She confirmed that the UUA process is only a recommendation, and that we are free to follow what we think best. For example, we might decide to begin immediately, to advertise both within and outside the UUA, to be solely responsible for vetting candidates and to make whatever contract we wished with a suitable candidate. Whatever our process, she said the UUA would endeavor to be helpful.

In general, UUA interims are older ministers, some retired or nearing retirement, but all with at least ten years experience, and who have been trained in being effective interims. Generally they are interested in transitions and are focused on working with congregations effectively on a relatively short-term basis. The UUA job description for an interim is to reflect back to the congregation what he/she is perceiving. An interim is frank, but although he is a pastoral presence, pleasing everybody is not part of the charge.

If KC were to follow the UUA process, we would do the following:

1. In the next month or so, Vestry members and Earl would each complete the UUA exit interview to ascertain the issues that we need to address with an interim. Are we concerned about worship, pastoral care, mission, healing, etc.? The results may remain confidential or they may be shared at KC. They will be given to the interim minister, and shared with the UUA Dept. of Ministry. Also, in the next month or so, the Wardens would present a five-person search committee to the Vestry for its approval.

2. King's Chapel would submit its formal application for an interim minister to the UUA on April 1.

3. On April 15, John Weston from the UUA would send us the names of five candidates together with their ministerial records. If none of these is satisfactory, we can ask for more names. The pool varies from year to year, but is approximately 75 persons, of whom 30-40 are fully accredited as interims. Within the pool, Ms. Cooley expects there would be three or four with the strong Christian orientation consistent with KC's liturgy and values.

4. During the following two weeks, the Search Committee would read applications, interview candidates, check references including contact with past congregations, and make a recommendation to the Vestry. The congregation does not vote on hiring an interim. Our choice must be in by April 30.

5. The usual contract is for one year with the option of renewing for a second; contracts usually begin in August or September. Interims serve a maximum of two years in one parish; if we were to need more time, then we would be required to repeat the process.

6. Candidates do not preach for the congregation prior to selection, but we are free to hear anyone who is preaching locally.

7. Interims have no role in a congregation's search for a settled minister.

Common mistakes in hiring an interim include:

1. Not making the distinction between a candidate who would be a good minister for me personally, and the candidate who would be good for KC in its self-examination.

2. Thinking that an interim will save us money. In fact, interims should be paid the same as the senior minister, and when a particular interim is in demand, a bidding war can result. Interims negotiate their own salary packages.

3. Making a decision before meeting all candidates.

4. The congregation's inability to be clear about what it wishes to accomplish; different interims have particular strengths.

5. Hiring a member of the congregation to serve as interim. Candor is required to do the interim job well, which can compromise personal relationships. KC may be the exception because many of its member ministers are neither actively involved in parish life, nor well known in the parish. Therefore, one of them might be able to serve as interim without the constraints of friendships and allegiances.

The role of the Vestry includes :

1. Insuring that the process is open and transparent and that the congregation knows what is going on. Individual members need to have a way of voicing their concerns.

2. Being responsible for the finances.

3. Welcoming and supporting the interim.

4. Providing appropriate opportunities for all to say good-by to Earl. Ms. Cooley stressed the importance of doing this well.

Discussion among Vestry members and visitors raised questions about the usefulness of the UUA process to us especially because of the timing (late start, late finish, short review time), the two-year limit, and especially the relatively few UU Christian candidates. It was suggested that we talk with the Chestnut Hill Church about their current experience with an interim and possibly with Weston about their experience ten years ago. It was recommended that we scrutinize both a candidate's academic preparation with regard to Christianity as well as her/his commitment to it. Concern was also raised about the balance between pastoral presence and candid observation. It was noted that the interim will need to perform all the normal liturgical practices – weddings, christenings, funerals, etc.

At its February meeting, the Vestry will vote to authorize a search committee (members currently proposed are Arthur and Beth, co-chairs, Dean, Helen, and Anne) and to write its charge. King's Chapel members are encouraged to contact the Wardens and/or members of the committee to share ideas about what we want and need to accomplish during the interim time.

— Todd, Junior Warden

✧ **THE CHURCH SCHOOL**

FAREWELL TO JAN

Jan Lundberg, our Church School Director since the fall of 2007, resigned her position at the beginning of the new year and completed her tenure on January 11. We all appreciate the work she has done for King's Chapel, and especially our children and their families. We will miss her enthusiasm and warm and gracious spirit. The Church School Committee has made plans for the interim and begun planning a search for a new Director. We extend farewell blessings to Jan, her husband Steve, and daughters Greta and Lucia, with all our best wishes in her future endeavors.

MEMORIES of CHRISTMAS

**FEBRUARY
CALENDAR**

Feb 1 9:45 a.m. Family Service &
Church School, Youth Group

Feb 8 9:45 a.m. Family Service &
Church School

Feb 15 All Church Sunday

Feb 22 9:45 a.m. Family Service &
Church School

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED.

The Rev. Earl K. Holt III, Minister
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Assistant Minister
The Rev. Carl R. Scovel, Minister Emeritus
Heinrich Christensen, Director of Music
Pei-Chun Lin, Children's Music Director
Lucy Sewall, Parish Administrator

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PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY.

Special Interest

KING'S CHAPEL CONCERT SERIES
A Night of Snow

A cappella choral works by Francis Poulenc

King's Chapel Choir and Soloists
Heinrich Christensen, Director

Un soir de neige
Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël
Excerpts from Figure humaine, Sept chansons, Chansons
françaises, and Messe en sol majeur

Interspersed with readings from wintry poetry by
T.S. Eliot, Thomas Hardy,
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and more

SUNDAY, FEB. 22, AT 5 P.M. AT KING'S CHAPEL



Notice!

**The refrigerator and freezer in King's
Chapel's crypt
Need a clean-out!**

If you have food there to be saved—
**PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON IT
IMMEDIATELY!**

All other perishables will be tossed out by
February 15.