

NEWS FROM KING'S ✠ CHAPEL

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

SHOW UP, PAY ATTENTION, LET GO

In a recent Bible Workbench session, the group looked at the very first chapter of the Bible, Genesis 1, the story of God creating the world. One person noted that this creative act writ large contains the same steps found in any artistic work: be fully present, notice and fully engage in your activity, then let it go. Another said how true that is for parenting, as well, which lead to a general sense that showing up, paying attention, and letting go is a good practice for life. I pass along that nugget of wisdom with the group's permission.

Now it is time for me to "let go" of my Sabbatical Minister relationship with King's Chapel. I am grateful to Earl and the church for entrusting me with this responsibility. I am appreciative of the fine staff with whom I worked closely, and of the hard-working lay leaders who give so much of themselves to this church. I leave with a deeper appreciation for the large job Earl does here, day in and day out. And I depart with a stronger sense of the strengths, challenges and potential of this community, and deep affection for you all. I trust in God's continued work with you, and encourage you to keep asking the question "who and what is God calling us to be?" Showing up (at church), paying attention to God's presence in the midst of this community, and letting go of all that no longer serves the greater good is a spiritual practice that I commend to you.

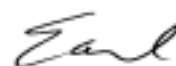
Welcome back, Earl. Christ's peace to you all.



KUDOS AND MANY THANKS FROM EARL

As she concludes her term as our Sabbatical Minister, I want to express my personal thanks to Tricia Brennan, both for agreeing to be our Sabbatical Minister and for serving us so well in that capacity. Interim ministries, under whatever circumstances, require particular qualities and skills that Tricia possesses in abundance. Added to this was her previous experience with King's Chapel as Seminar-ian for two years and Assistant Minister for more than three. She knew us so well both personally and institutionally – our customs and traditions as well as the Prayerbook and liturgy – and knows us even better now. I think we all felt secure in her ability to lead and serve us well, certainly I did, and also knowing she would do so with her characteristic grace and good spirit. We wish her rich blessings in her future endeavors, as she has blessed us.

And thanks to all those others who worked to make the Sabbatical an enriching period not just for me, but for the parish as well. This includes in particular the Sabbatical Committee, chaired by Peter Cocoluto, who selected and made the arrangements for the outstanding group of guest preachers who graced our pulpit over the past five months and oversaw many other details as well. Also the Wardens and Vestry, staff, and other lay leadership, who carried an extra measure of responsibility during this time. I am most grateful to all of you who in ways large and small, visible and hidden, contributed to making me this gift of time for rest, refreshment, and renewal. I look forward to being among you again, eager to share my experiences with you and to hear of yours. My deep and sincere thanks to you all. See you soon!



Special This Month:

- ✠ Pledges to 09 Annual Appeal
- ✠ Walk For Hunger Update
- ✠ Send a Message to Kolozsvar
- ✠ Building & Grounds Clean up

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Sundays in JUNE

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.

- JUN. 1 Holy Communion**
"Growing in Gratitude"
The Rev. Patricia Brennan, Sabbatical Minister, will preach. The lessons are Genesis 12:1-9 and Philippians 1: 1-11.
- JUN. 8 Morning Prayer**
"Hoping Against Hope"
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach. The lessons are Hosea 5:15-16:6 and Romans 4:13-18.
- JUN. 15 Morning Prayer**
322nd Anniversary Sunday
"We are the Future's Past"
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach. The lessons are Genesis 18:1-15 and Matthew 9:35-10:8.
- JUN. 22 Morning Prayer**
Special Communion Service in the Transylvanian Manner.
Commission and Blessing of our Habitat for Humanity Build Team
"The Missionary Position Reconsidered"
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach. The lessons are Genesis 28:10-17 and Matthew 10:24-39.
- JUN. 29 Morning Prayer**
The Rev. Joseph Bassett will preach. The lessons are Genesis 32:22-32 and Matthew 10:34-42.

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.

- JUN. 3** Brenda Portman plays the C.B. Fisk Organ
Works by Bach, Bédard, Boëllmann, Sowerby
- JUN. 10** Yun Thwaits, pipa
Traditional Chinese Music
- JUN. 17** Nadia Stevens plays the C.B. Fisk Organ
Works by Bach, Scheidt, Hakim
- JUN. 24** Wilshire Youth Choir and Shekinah
Doug Haney, director
"With a Voice of Singing"
Music by Vivaldi, Rutter, many more.

COLLECTION FOR MYANMAR & CHINA

On May 18th, Children's Sunday, it was announced that the morning's collection would be given to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to assist in their relief work in Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Save the Children, to support their relief work in China. If you were not there that Sunday and would like to contribute via King's Chapel to these efforts, please send your check to the Parish House, marked for this purpose, and it will be forwarded. Thank you.

Wednesday Services

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

- JUN. 4** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
- JUN. 11** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Arthur Judge will preach.
- JUN. 18** Holy Communion
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Assistant Minister, will preach.
- JUN. 25** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time." - John Lubbock



JUNE Flowers

The communion table flowers are given in loving memory and thanksgiving.

FROM KING'S CHAPEL

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Lucy Sewall, Editor

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COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

❖ BUILDING & GROUNDS TIDYING UP

With the encouragement and help of the Parish Council, I am overseeing “tidying up” the Crypt. Much has accumulated, some of it, like discarded equipment parts, is obviously of no use. We are discarding or recycling material that we no longer need after making an effort to identify the committee that “owns” it and consulting with the chair, Trustees, et al. For some objects, like the five 2x4s with a caster on one end, it is hard to know what they are and who might have an interest in them. If you know of items that are in the Crypt and that might be mistaken for abandoned or useless stuff, please let me know either directly or through Lucy Sewall.

—*Oliver,*
Building & Grounds Chair

❖ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Social hour is just getting livelier and livelier through the spirited efforts of our Hosting “Angels” this year. It was mentioned to me recently that the congregation finds this a great opportunity to chat, catch up on church business and be generally friendly to members - creating and enhancing community.

The kiosk built by Miguel and placed in the vestibule every Sunday is so helpful to the “angels” who serve the social hour. Most of the supplies are stored in there, eliminating trips to the crypt. We are ever so grateful to Miguel for this convenience, which is also a very handsome piece of furniture.

Thank you to Karen who served wonderful homemade bundt cakes on April 13, the only Sunday social hour in April. Thanks to those who assisted with serving and clean-up at the other events in April.

Many thanks to Karen for hosting on May 4. Her delicious home-baked cakes are always devoured with zeal and zest. A very lively congregation joined in wish farewell to Eric, KC Seminarian for the past two years at social hour on Sunday, May 11. Hosts Julie and Sam offered delicious tea sandwiches, fruit, pastries and a lem-

onade punch laced with fresh violets and mint from Julie’s garden. A carrot cake was baked and decorated appropriately for an aspiring minister.

Vicky and Barbara will host social hour on May 25 with punch on the bricks, weather permitting.

Thank you Betty for accepting the position of co-chair. We are ever so grateful to Vicky whose unstinting labor and enthusiasm has inspired us to create community, camaraderie, and good fellowship through social hour after service. Vicky will continue to serve on the Hospitality committee along with Betsy and Karen. Anyone else who would like to be part of this committee is most welcome. The schedule for June hosts/hostesses is unfilled at the moment. Please contact any of the committee members if you can serve. Thanks.

—*Barbara, Chair*

❖ PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

Send a Message to Kolozsvar!

King’s Chapel will be sending its largest group ever (15 members) to Kolozsvar (Cluj, Romania) on a Habitat for Humanity work project for ten days beginning June 29. While the time in Kolozsvar will be primarily oriented to the Habitat work project, the group will have an opportunity to worship at our partner First Unitarian Church, as well as meet with the minister and members.

This is a great opportunity for anyone at King’s Chapel to send a greeting to our fellow Unitarian congregants there. Perhaps you would like to establish a “pen pal” relationship with one of the Kolozsvar members, perhaps one of the youth? Do you have a question about their worship or faith practices that you would like someone from the KC group to ask? Perhaps there is a particular hymn—one that you feel expresses something unique about King’s Chapel, or just one of your favorites—that you would like to ask our visiting group to learn so that it could be sung in Kolozsvar as a “gift from the heart” of King’s Chapel?

If any of these notions intrigues you, please contact one of the travelers to send your “message.” As of this writing, the KC group consists of the following: Patricia,

Peter and Vicky, Denton, Kathe, Eric, Earl, Cynthia, Dick, Louise, Charles, Nick, Betsy, Anne and Peter.

Tales of our travel will be shared with the Parish as we celebrate our partner church connection on the first Sunday in October at a special Coffee Hour at the Parker House, following Morning Prayer featuring Communion in the Transylvanian tradition.

UPDATE ON KING’S CHAPEL HFH BUILD IN KOLOZSVAR

We have 15 participants from the King’s Chapel community and four others who will be building in Kolozsvar leaving on June 27. Our partner church will be confirming parishioners during our stay. The scholarship fund was a great success. Three participants will be fully funded by the generosity of our members.

If you get a last minute urge to join us, contact Peter.

❖ SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

As the new chairman of the Social Action Committee, I wish to recognize and honor Peter Coccoluto for his many years of leading our committee. As the saying goes, his are big shoes to fill. Thankfully, for the committee and myself, Peter is going to stay on as a member and my mentor.

Not unlike Peter, my style will be to lead, but also just be one voice on the committee. It is my intention to continue the many traditional works of the committee. In addition I plan to explore with the other members newer projects, some of which I hope can include the Church School. Some areas that I plan to explore over the summer include letter writing for Amnesty International, UUA prisoner pen-pal program, food and water as basic human rights. Also, I welcome any suggestions that you have.

Social justice issues were one of the main reasons that I retired from the practice of medicine to enter Andover Newton Theological School (M.Div., 2000). I was quite active in prison ministry for a number of years. I feel excited and happy to lead this committee. Respectfully,

—*Art, Chair*

(continued on page 5)

from **THE ASSISTANT
MINISTER**

VESTRY VIEWS

(Committee Reports Cont'd)



SOGGY, BUT SUCCESSFUL

Rain on Walk for Hunger Sunday, May 4, didn't dampen the dedication of KC walkers and their supporters. Fueled by a hearty breakfast prepared at the Parish House by Jan Lundberg and church school families, several stalwarts stepped out to join some 40,000 other weather-resistant walkers who participated in Project Bread's 40th annual walk. Some managed just a few miles before heading back in time for KC morning worship at 11:00 am. Others (bless them!) went the full twenty-mile distance.

Our wet and weary KC walkers were well rewarded, with well over \$2,000 of pledges supporting them. And, again this year, the Charities and Appeals Committee has agreed to augment this total. This annual event is one of the more tangible forms of King's Chapel's outreach to our broader community, and the need for support for Project Bread's many programs has never been greater.

Bravo, walkers, and thank you, supporters.

There are conversations about membership growth at King's Chapel. How can we get the word out about us? How can we attract new members? These are great questions. Some more questions for all of us may be: What first brought me and my family to King's Chapel? What keeps us coming? How has being a member enhanced and even transformed my life? What aspects of church life have nudged me toward living more fully towards my religious values?

A recent study on church growth suggests that when we begin to get a list of what keeps us coming, then we work on making more of *that* happen and sharing that it happens *here* with others, then, they will come too!

In the study, the following questions were asked of twelve congregations that grew substantially: what draws people to your congregation; what is the role of the minister in growing the congregation; how does your congregation help people move inward and outward on their spiritual journey; what needs to be in place, organizationally, institutionally and practically for a congregation to grow; what are obstacles or hindrances to growth, and what has helped?

I found the most profound responses were: Growth is the wrong conversation. *It is more about feeding the hungry. We are here to change lives – to make souls larger. People come because the spirit is moving. There is a buzz, a vibe, pouring out into the community. Let us offer living bread, not dying crust. We are grateful for what we have and want to share it. We do what we are called to do with a glad heart and we want to share it.* If we do the work we are called to do, a visible sign is that we grow. *We grew through word of mouth and the Internet, news stories not advertisements.*

I would love to get into deeper conversation with you about this thing we are doing – remembering why we come and wanting to share that with others. Let us work together to answer our own questions and perhaps some from the study. This is a good time for King's Chapel. We are on a cusp of history and at a point of return and reunion

MEMBERSHIP At its most recent meeting, Vestry had energy and ideas for reversing the downward drift of numbers of new members joining King's Chapel, dwindling attendance at worship, and "tiredness" of our core of active members. An energetic discussion of these issues occupied the bulk of the May meeting. The topics of marketing and focusing attention on our assets, and the need to be made visible and attractive to potential new members were intensely discussed. Vestry has this firmly as its first priority for the next year. "Take our work seriously, but not take ourselves too seriously," was Tricia's wry invocation. We welcomed new vestry members Jill and Arthur, and noted the invaluable work of Cynthia and Leo, whose three-year terms were accomplished. We also thanked Elsie and Ruth for staying on for another term, having just completed partial terms.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT 275 members, plus or minus on any given day. That seems to be a "good number" for the size of our membership, reported Betsy, Chair of the Membership Committee, which has been winnowing the master list by applying generally accepted criteria – attending church, contributing, in communication, serving in some way. In addition, we have a sizable number of Friends, and others who want to be kept on our mailing list.

MINISTERIAL AND PERSONNEL MATTERS The Ad Hoc Committee reported on its work and moved that at the Special Meeting of the Society in October, the Vestry recommend changing our by-Laws to make the Committee on Ministerial and Personnel Affairs a Standing Committee. After questions and clarification of the charge, the Vestry voted to recommend.

(Vestry Views continued on page 6)

(Asst. Minister's Column Continued)

from a sabbatical period – a time rich for congregation and minister.

"We are here to..." Let us answer that together. We have something fabulous to share! It is so.

in faith, Joanne

✦ THE CHURCH SCHOOL

One of the most important things Unitarian Universalist religious education tries to offer its students is a sense of connection. The greatest gifts we can give our children, it is said, are “roots and wings.” U.U. religious education seeks to give us all, no matter our age, roots of connection and wings of possibility and hope. Our religious education is “lifespan in scope, progressive in theory, experiential in method, and liberal in its theological and ethical perspectives.”

It was a wonderful year, and heartfelt thanks go out to a great many people. Earl and Rali helped me kick off the year with their wisdom and experience. Astrid was here from the beginning, offering words of encouragement and advice. Thank you to the committee who met every month to weigh in and guide the process.

I was fortunate to “hit it off” with our new assistant minister, Joanne, who is a wealth of information and is easy to talk to and learn from. The amazing teachers, some of whom were college students, were okay with getting up early on a Sunday morning! I’m impressed! And Carol and Emmanuel came home from Italy and were immediately willing to lend a hand.

Thank you to Tricia for stepping in and stepping up and guiding this novice through the long winter and, finally, spring. And thanks to Lucy Sewall, who, in many ways, is the brains behind the operation, keeping us all together - the perfect den mother!

And thank you to the parents! Especially the ones who were willing to put their names on the infamous white board that looms at Coffee Hour!

See you in September, *Jan*

(Vestry Views Continued)

OTHER MATTERS The Treasurer reported that the Society is, in his opinion, in a good financial position, having reserves appropriate to our size and needs, and with expenses running slightly behind our balanced budget for the year.

Vestry approved the request of Carl Scovel, Minister Emeritus, to grant a limited license for sale and use of the tapes of a few of his radio sermons, to be sold on an inspirational website which is being started by a former King’s Chapel person. Buildings & Grounds reported that the repointing project to the Chapel will start soon.

The meeting was enlivened by an unexpected cameo appearance of our tanned and rested Minister. All were delighted to meet Earl’s grandson, David, a beautiful child who seemed to enjoy his grandfather’s company enormously.

— *Todd, Junior Warden*

EXTEND YOUR BEACH SEASON

Intergenerational Weekend at the Ferry Beach Conference Center on the Beach in Saco, Maine. October 24, 25, 26. Earl will share some of his thoughts and experiences from his Sabbatical. Children’s programming depends on attendance. Watch for more specifics as the time approaches. Conference center is accessible by train from North Station! Contact Ruth if you have questions or would like to help with planning. Think sunshine!

King's Chapel House
64 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

The Rev. Earl K. Holt III, Minister
The Rev. Patricia Brennan, Sabbatical Minister
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Assistant Minister
The Rev. Carl R. Scovel, Minister Emeritus
Heinrich Christensen, Director of Music
Jan Lundberg, Church School Director
Lucy Sewall, Parish Administrator

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST



HAIL, AND FARE WELL!

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGE

An ad hoc committee on ministerial and personnel matters, created by the Vestry, has met since last November. Its charge was to study and report to the Wardens and Vestry regarding whether the By-Laws of the Society should be amended to add a new standing committee on Ministerial and Personnel Affairs. At its May meeting, the Vestry heard the committee's report, given by Hugh and Vicky, co-chairs, and voted to recommend to the Society that the by-laws be changed to include this new standing committee. A vote will be taken next October, at a special meeting of the Society. More information and details will be provided in the Fall.

On Sunday, June 15, our annual King's Chapel birthday party will include a very special celebration, to welcome the Rev. Earl Holt back from his five-month Sabbatical leave and to express our appreciation and best wishes to our Sabbatical Minister, the Rev. Patricia Brennan. We, as a congregation, were blessed during these five months to have the strong continuity afforded by an outstanding staff, including Assistant Minister, Joanne Giannino, and Parish Administrator, Lucy Sewall, and by our dedicated lay leadership of Wardens, Vestry and other officers and committees. But a major contribution to the Sabbatical success was the reassuring and gracious pastoral presence of Patricia Brennan, whose return to us in this vital role was indeed a blessing.

So come and join us on June 15 at the Parish House after Morning Worship to hail the return of our Senior Minister (tanned, refreshed, and a new grandfather!) and to bid a fond farewell to our dear "Tricia." And, oh yes, to savor a bit of birthday cake in celebration of King's Chapel's 322nd birthday!