

NEWS FROM KING'S ✠ CHAPEL

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

SABBATICAL MINISTER'S REPORT FOR THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

Finally Spring has come. From my perch here in Earl's office overlooking Boston's Public Garden and Common, I see the buds popping, and lots more people strolling. Yesterday was the Boston Marathon, today I rode my bike to work – all heralds of spring.

Have you noticed how the empty space of a canvas holds the image created? Or how the pause in the music leads to hearing the sound? Voice teacher Pam Gore (look for her free voice class on May 18, page 5) told me once that when the speaker takes a breath, the audience digests the words just spoken – that pause is our chance to understand and process what we just heard.

One day Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci were chatting in Michelangelo's studio. He was working on his great big statue of David. It wasn't finished but you could clearly see the shape of the man – the head, the arms, the torso. Leonardo was enthralled, "How do you do that Michelangelo?" he asked. "How do you make something so powerful and beautiful from this hunk of marble?"

"It is simple". Michelangelo replied. "David was always in there in the rock. All I do is take away all that is not him."

Sabbatical times are exercises in pausing, and for zeroing in on what matters most and then taking away the extraneous. To some degree this happens naturally. A gradual sifting process occurs, itself a form of grace.

In churches, when the minister goes on sabbatical, it is not just he (or she) who is on sabbatical, the congregation is too. Sort of. The congregation doesn't get to travel, or study something new, or go on retreat. That's the extraordinary experience of the minister. But the congregation, though busy, is also in pause mode. The congregation is without their primary religious leader – and in that "time without" they – (you) – can hear, see, and discover some new things about themselves, about the church, about God. I'll be curious to hear how that might be the case for you – individually or corporately. It may be subtle or it may be strong, but I trust that something generative is occurring. Something is and has been stirring and moving and growing, just like the process of spring.

One reason I believe this sort of growth occurs is that a sabbatical is a gift. Even though a minister's sabbatical is written into his or her letter of call, even though it is earned by the hard work of years of ministry, it is also a wonderful thing a congregation gives to its minister. It is an act of generosity. With that spirit of generosity in motion, come other gifts to the giver, mysterious as the coming of spring and no less lovely or inspiring.

John

Special This Month:

- ✠ Auction Results
- ✠ Minns Lecture
- ✠ Summer Plans
- ✠ UU Revival

Inside this issue:

Sundays 2

Tuesday Recitals 2

Wednesday Services 2

Flowers 2

Upcoming Events 3

Committee Updates 4

Church School News 6

King's Chapel Calendar 7

May 2at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Memorial Service for Herbert Kahn in the Little Chapel, 64 Beacon Street. Mr. Kahn died on March 17, 2008.

Sundays in May

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.

- MAY 4 **Holy Communion****
The Rev. Judith Hoehler
(see column 3 this page) will
preach.
Patricia Brennan co-officiating
*The lessons are Deuteronomy
30:9-14 and Matthew 13:44-50.*

- MAY 11 **Holy Communion****
Pentecost
Eric Hausman, Seminarian, will
preach.
*The lessons are Isaiah 44:1-8
and John 20:19-23.*

- MAY 18 **Morning Prayer****
*Church School Sunday and
Mayfest Picnic* (see page 6)
Baptism of Aiden Rosell
The Rev. Patricia Brennan and
the Rev. Joanne Giannino co-
officiating
*The lessons are Deuteronomy
4:32-40 and Matthew 28:16-20.*

- MAY 25 **Morning Prayer****
All Church Sunday
The Rev. Patricia Brennan will
preach.
*The lessons are Leviticus 19:1-2,
9-18 and Matthew 5:34-48.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like a name read during Morning Prayer (for yourself or a relative), please contact one of the Ministers directly for placement on the active Bede List. The King's Chapel Prayer Circle prays for those on the Bede List as well as others upon request.

FROM KING'S CHAPEL

Voice: 617/227-2155 • Fax: 617/227-4101
E-mail: kchapel@kings-chapel.org

Published monthly with a combined July/
August issue and distributed free of charge
to Members and Friends of the Society of
King's Chapel.

Lucy Sewall, Editor

©2008 The Society of King's Chapel

USPS 011-271

Periodical Postage rates paid at
General Mail Facility, Boston, MA
02205-9618

Postmaster: Send address changes to
News from King's Chapel
64 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

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.

- MAY 6** Yael Handelman, soprano &
Steve Lin, guitar
Music by Dowland, Morley

- MAY 13** Concordia Consort
Sheila Beardslee, director
Elizabethan Delights: fantasias &
dances by Dowland, Holborne,
Byrd, Dering, Tye

- MAY 20** Heather Holland, mezzo soprano;
Heinrich Christensen, organ
Spirituals

- MAY 27** Dale Henderson, cello
Bach unaccompanied suite for
cello.

Wednesday Services

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

- MAY 7** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Patricia Brennan will
preach.

- MAY 14** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Joanne Giannino,
Assistant Minister, will preach.

- MAY 21** Holy Communion
Preacher TBA.

- MAY 28** Midweek Prayer
The Rev. Arthur Judge will
preach.

GUEST PREACHER FOR MAY

The Sabbatical Committee is pleased to announce the following distinguished May preacher:

MAY 4: The Reverend Dr. Judith Hoehler is Minister Emerita of the First Parish Church in Weston, MA, where she served in co-ministry with her husband Harry for over 30 years. She currently sits on the Boards of the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the Newton Wellesley Weston Committee for Community Living, an agency serving adults with developmental disabilities. Judy and Harry also tutor part-time in a public elementary school in Roxbury.



May Flowers

Flowers on the communion table are given in loving memory and thanksgiving.

Early Service

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

- MAY 4** The Rev. Patricia Brennan will
preach.

- MAY 11** **Flower Communion and
Mother's Day**

- MAY 18** **Church School Sunday and
Picnic**

- MAY 25** **All Church Sunday**

from *THE ASSISTANT
MINISTER*

“Summer is a-coming,” says the old ditty. So, it is not too early to plan for some religious education and fun – for all ages – during those long days and short nights. If you check the bulletin board at the Parish House, you will find an assortment of goodies. Here are a few highlights:

The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, of which King’s Chapel is a member, June 25-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Workshops for all ages and business of the association is featured. Pre-GA includes UU University which some from KC will attend. President of Andover Newton Theological School, the Rev. Dr. Nick Carter, will work with church leaders on how to lead through the borderlands of difference that naturally occur in a context of diversity: diversity of thought, diversity of opinions, diversity of theologies, and diversity of any kind.

Rowe Camp and Conference Center, in Rowe, MA, is open year round and has announced its summer line-up including camp weeks for children, youth, and adults, as well as weekend gatherings.

Star Island Conference Center, in New Hampshire, on one of the Isles of Shoals, opens June 14 with the Conference on the Arts. Other offerings include Family retreat weeks, Religious Education week, a Meditation retreat, the Institute on Religion in the Age of Science, Elderhostel, and more. Star Island has been my spirit’s home for more than ten years – RE Week rocks, and not just because the island is made of rocks, lots of them!

Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine, has announced its summer offerings, including camps and conferences for adults, families, and youth. Ferry Beach is unique in its setting on the sea, for its arts program, and for its worship in “the grove.”

For those who may enjoy the summer days and nights with a good book or a good church resource, I suggest new books from Skinner House and Beacon Press, offerings from the UUA Bookstore, (all three at www.uua.org) and, for church leaders, *Interconnections*, a quarterly (email interconnections@uua.org to sign up to receive).

(Continued on page 5)

SABBATICAL NEWS

SABBATICAL THOUGHTS

Being on the Sabbatical Committee has given me occasion to consider what this interval in our church year means to me, and I believe there are more than a few of us who hope that the sabbatical will provide an impetus for us as a congregation to examine what brings us together, what keeps us coming back, and what makes us grow in our personal faith and in our strength as a community.

Because the life of our parish continues on seamlessly, thanks to the capable and enlightened ministries of Tricia Brennan and Joanne Giannino, there seems to be a sense of life going on as usual. But thanks especially to Tricia and Joanne, we have begun to meet in small fellowship groups, hoping to encourage that very growth. We might think of this as our sabbatical exercise, and I wonder what we might dare to learn from and share with one another, and how we might open a loving conversation of where we want this experience to take us.

The wonderful sermons keep flowing from the pulpit, the concerts are magnificent, and our noble sanctuary stands its ground. And what about us? How are we, who are the lifeblood of this church, coming along?

The experience of small group ministry has been shown to strengthen the sense of purpose in many churches, and to enhance the individual spiritual life of those who participate. We hope to look back on this sabbatical as the beginning of a renewal of our spiritual connections and our communal strengths, of looking at ourselves from a fresh perspective. It’s spring again, and there’s promise in the wind.

— Julie

PLAN AHEAD

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Welcoming the Stranger:

Unitarian Universalist Forum on Immigrant Rights on Saturday, May 10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston. Sponsors & Speakers: UUA, UU Service Committee, Arlington Street Church Sanctuary & Social Action Committee, Centro Pesente, and MA Interfaith Committee on Worker Justice. Highlights: view the documentary, “Detained”; learn what we can do with the Welcoming Massachusetts initiative, the New Sanctuary Movement, moratorium on ICE raids, immigration reform, and more. A Latino lunch will be provided. RSVP to Audra Friend at afriend@uua.org.

Unitarian Universalist Revival:

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at First Parish Canton, 1508 Washington Street, Canton. Worship and preaching from the Rev. Tim Kutzmark, the Rev. Parisa Parsa, the Rev. Victoria Weinstein, the Rev. Erik Witstrom. Experience traditional and contemporary music, join in fellowship and sharing in small discussion groups, bring your children to experiential religious education programming. Cost: \$30 per adult; \$15 per child or youth; \$65 per family (of 3 or more). Register and send check to Ballou Channing District, 325 W. Elm Street, Brockton, MA 02301. Sponsored by the Mass Bay and Ballou Channing Districts.

October Weekend

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 Shepard at (508/651-8108 or RuthShepard10@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like to help with planning. Think sunshine!

COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

❖ ANNUAL APPEAL COMMITTEE
PLEASE PLEDGE FOR 2009... and PAY FOR 2008! ♥

Our Annual Appeal pledge and “collection” system is complicated in the way our fiscal years overlap. Sometimes we pledge so far in advance for the following year, that it’s hard to remember to PAY for the current year. Please check the status of your FY08 pledge, and if there is a balance outstanding, pay it by June 30, 2008. This will spare you getting “follow up” notes and calls from the AAC... thank you!

And, heartfelt thanks to all who have pledged for FY09. March was Pledge Month; and in April we held a successful AAC Telethon.... We have been blessed by many wonderful pledges, including some generous increases over last year. Thank you! If you haven’t yet pledged for FY09, we urge you do so asap... it’s not too late to help move us closer to the **100% participation** goal... everyone sharing responsibility for our church.

Contact Lucy with any question about your FY08 or 09 pledge or contribution; and Amy, with any question or comment about the Annual Appeal.

—Amy, Annual Appeal Chair



Peter

Walk Forth on The Fourth

It’s not too late! If you’re reading this before Sunday, **May 4**, there’s still time to join the King’s Chapel team who’ll be stepping out for the fortieth annual Walk for Hunger (after a hearty breakfast at the Parish House).

And even if that date has passed, it’s not too late to participate in this most worthy event by making a contribution. Your gift will be added to those of the walkers and those who pledged to support them, and these will be combined as part of the overall King’s Chapel donation to Project Bread. An added incentive to your generosity is that our collective individual contributions are magnified by support from our Charities and Appeals Committee! Whatever you can give will be used by Project Bread in providing food and related support to a wide array of Boston area organizations. For further information, before or after May 4, please call Betsy or Peter. Many thanks for your support!

BIG PARTY JUNE 15!

Welcome back, Earl!

Thank you, Tricia!

Celebrate KC’s 322d Birthday!

Lunch and cake at the Parish House
hosted by the Sabbatical and
Membership Committees

Minns Lecture at King’s Chapel

Thursday, May 6

The Rev. Mark Harris, Minister at First Parish Watertown, will give the 2008 Minns Lectures. The theme is Unitarian Universalism. A Faith for a Few?

Universalist Piety and a Classless Heaven, Tues. May 6, 7:00 p.m. at King’s Chapel Parish House; Lecture 4: The Science of Salvation, Wed. May 7, 7:00 p.m. at First Parish of Watertown; Lecture 5: A Faith for a Few? Sun. June 29, 1:30 p.m. at GA, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For full details, see flyer in Parish House.



Neela at the auction speaking of the 1922 visit to Transylvania by her father, the Rev. Palfrey Perkins.

❖ PARTNER CHURCH COMMITTEE

**MINISTERIAL
OFFERINGS**

AGREAT OPPORTUNITY

There are still a few spots left in the free voice class that Pamela is offering for those from Kings Chapel who are lay readers and lectors at our liturgies. Pam is a King's Chapel member, a former member of the choir, and a distinguished voice teacher. The class will be held on May 18th, from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Little Chapel. There will be an opportunity for all participants to practice and handouts will be distributed.

Reading Scripture or the liturgy is a form of service and prayer, and reading well is a gift to the congregation. Consider yourself invited if you have read or aspire to read at any of our regular services: Morning Prayer, Midweek Prayer, or the Early Service. Please email Tricia to indicate your interest; a maximum of 12 people can be accommodated.

(Assistant Minister's Column Continued)

Finally, how many of you read *UU World*, available free to all members of our congregation? *UU World* descends from a long line of Unitarian and Universalist publications going back almost two centuries: *Universalist Magazine* and the *Christian Register*.

Well, that should be enough to get you started. For more information on any of the above, please talk with me or visit the first floor for flyers, brochures, etc.

*Blessings to all,
Joanne*

...from the Seminarian

I can hardly believe how quickly two years go by. As my internship with King's Chapel comes to a close, I am filled with appreciation and joy for the experiences I've had with all of you. From Christmas parties to Vestry meetings, from retreats at Glastonbury to teaching church school, this congregation has taught me invaluable lessons about congregational life, about ministry, and about myself.

King's Chapel has been a safe and nurturing environment and at the same time challenging. It has been a wonderful opportunity to preach and to work on finding my own voice, forcing me constantly to rethink my expectations, to learn, and to grow.

I am sincerely grateful to this congregation, and wish you all the best in the upcoming years. I am excited about a possible future for this church that outshines even its illustrious past, and look forward to staying in touch in the upcoming years.

Thank you for having me as your seminarian minister these last two years; it has been an experience I will never forget. But I also want to say good-bye — not for good, but as the seminarian.

I will be leaving on May 23 for Frankfurt, Germany, and will be working at a hospital as part of an international chaplaincy program, after which I will join the King's Chapel team in Kolosvar, working with Habitat for Humanity for two weeks. When I return to Boston, I will work at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute until September, when I begin my third and final year at Harvard Divinity School.

All my best,
— Eric, Seminarian

VESTRY VIEWS

The Rev. Joanne Giannino reported that the Fellowship Groups have begun their series.

John walked vestry through the options presented in his 63/64 Real Estate study (in your Annual Meeting packet). Vestry commended John for the clarity and usefulness of the report. It appears that the proceeds from a sale or lease of the properties likely would be balanced out by costs related to replacement space. In discussion it became clear that the Society has an obligation to raise a new \$1 million endowment, the income of which is needed to support the Operations and Maintenance of 63/64, which at this point are a constant drain on general funds. The entire 63/64 issue is to be further discussed at the Hearing and the Annual Meeting, with a definitive action proposed to be brought before the Society for a vote as a part of a fall meeting.

Alicia, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported next year's slate of nominations. She noted that the core group of the church's leadership is "tired," and that new members and increased participation had become critical. The committee strongly recommended to Vestry - and the church as a whole - that membership was the central issue needing attention to maintain the good work and energy of our church.

The Master Plan Task Force has completed its current assignment, and will present its Recommendation to the Hearing and Annual Meeting, with a formal Society vote proposed for the fall. The Vestry voted unanimously to recommend that the Society accept the plan as the starting point to begin the fund-raising process.

It is good to be able to report that yet another Vestry meeting has been marked by energy, good will, a fine sense of shared purpose, and even the occasional spark of hilarity.

— Todd, Junior Warden

✦ THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Teach your Children Well

There is a great need for effective religious education in the home and in the church. In his book, *The School Years*, Dr. Benjamin Spock expressed concern that the American family was being eroded. He stated, “The demands of the workplace and of the schools, the excessive mobility of our society, the materialism of our beliefs, the weakening of spiritual beliefs- these are just a few of the changes tugging at the bonds that connect generations.” Spock called for an emphasis on spiritual values, especially generosity, kindness, and cooperation. He also stated the importance of religious beliefs and churches’ religious education of children.

As our Church School year winds down I look forward to September, and there is much to consider.

1. Our curriculum task force is hard at work planning a new and exciting curriculum for the Fall. We will have approximately 35 returning students all eager to learn and who also feel loved and cared for. Thank you to the committee for all the time and effort you have put in. We are an enthusiastic and dedicated bunch and I hope it shows when we unveil the fruits of our labor in September. We will continue our work through this month and welcome your input.

2. Ideally, we will have a handful of parent volunteers in September. Remember: you do not have to be a Bible scholar to teach children. Our approach to teaching Church School will be based on the ages and needs of our children, but the overall goals will be the same: helping children to love God and helping children to love others and themselves. You can do it!

Be Well, Jan

Important dates in May:

May 4th : *Walk for Hunger* - The Lundberg family will serve breakfast at the Parish House at 8:00a.m., so be there or be square! We are also fortunate to host volunteers from the Walk on the day of the event. They will be camped out on the fifth floor during most of the day on Sunday overseeing the event mostly by phone. K.C. is part of the nerve center for this year’s Walk, so this will create quite a buzz!

May 11th: *Mother’s Day and Flower Communion* - Everyone brings a flower to exchange. This is also the last Church School of the season!

May 18th : *Mayfest / Children’s Sunday* - 11:00 Morning Prayer followed by end of the year picnic. Please watch for your E-vite for more details and respond A.S.A.P. so we can plan accordingly. And if you haven’t heard already, Joanne G. will bring her Maypole!

Youth/Young Adult Survey: Sandra, a social work student at Smith College School of Social Work, has asked that the survey she designed for her community practice project be made available to GLBTQ (gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgendered and queer) youth and young adults (ages 14-35) in UU churches in the Mass Bay District. Her objective is to understand the experience of GLBTQ youth in the UU churches, including to what extent they feel supported in the church, what has contributed to their experience, either positive or negative, and whether or not there is a need for additional programs/services. More info and the survey can be found at www.surverymonkey.com/Uuqueeryouth.

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

PERIODICAL
Postage
PAID
Boston, MA
USPS 011-271

POSTMASTER:
THIS CONTAINS TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Rug Wanted

We seek a replacement for the rug in the Vestry room at the church, which has exceeded its useful life. Before considering a purchase, we would like to see whether there is anyone who has a suitable replacement to donate to King's Chapel. The Vestry serves as Earl's office, as a robing room for all who minister to us, and as an anteroom for weddings and other ceremonies. Although a replacement could be smaller than the 8' x 11' original, it cannot be larger. If you have such a rug and would like to give it a new home, please let Lucy Sewall know at 617-227-2155.



Walk Forth on The Fourth
MAY 4

There's still time to join the team.

See page 4 for details

Minns Lecture at King's Chapel
Thursday, May 6

See page 5 for details



A Great Opportunity

See page 5 for details

King's Chapel's Birthday
June 15



See page 4 for details