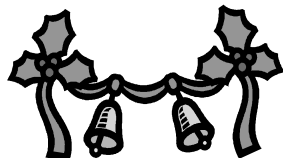


NEWS FROM KING'S ❖ CHAPEL

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



SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Christmas Eve
10:30 p.m.
King's Chapel Choir
Music by Byrd,
Poulenc, Gubanov,
Betinis, Distler
Heirnich Christensen, Director

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON

It has become conventional to complain about the too-muchness of what we have come to call "The Holiday Season." And there certainly are certain aspects of it which are too much. Not least of these is its length. Christmas used to be a day. The Holiday Season on the other hand grows steadily longer, its indeterminate beginning coming earlier each year. I usually take as a measure the date when I receive the first catalogue dedicated to my "last-minute shopping." This year it arrived in October.

In the Holt household, as it happens, between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, we also have to factor in both our birthdays (through no fault of our own) and our wedding anniversary (for which I suppose we must take responsibility). Marilyn's birthday is always close to Thanksgiving and mine always comes on New Year's Eve. It is, as the saying goes, too much of a good thing.

Christmas is a time of miracles, and perhaps the greatest is that its spirit manages to survive the Holiday Season. But even though threatened by the commercialization and excesses that have grown around it like kudzu, Christmas does survive, because it stands for the good things of which we cannot have too much. We can't have too much love, or too much faith, or too much generosity, or too much hope. And certainly, we cannot have too much peace. The bright star of Christmas still shines, and when we turn off the artificial lights and stop running away from the darkness that is never far away, we can see it shining.

All the too much of the Holiday Season is a vain attempt to create Christmas, to control, to make it come. It will come, but more in spite of than because of our efforts. It comes not in the glitter and tinsel of the outward show, but rather in an inner and outer darkness. The wise men could see the star only because of the dark. It was a lonely cave beside the inn that was filled by the birth of love. The shepherds who waited at night on a lonely hillside and trembled in fear were the first to hear the good news.

The vain trappings of the season disguise a great emptiness, but that emptiness waiting to be filled is the heart of Christmas, the goodness of which there can never be too much. And in that emptiness, that darkness, Christmas is waiting to be born.

Special This Month:

- ❖ New Sign at 64 Beacon St.
- ❖ New Member
- ❖ Special Meeting of Society
- ❖ Holiday Schedule
- ❖ Partner Church Update

Inside this issue:

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Sundays in December

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.

- DEC. 7 Holy Communion**
Advent II
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.
Joanne Giannino Co-officiating
Hallie Speight, Lector
The lessons are Isaiah 63:16-64:8 and Mark 1:32-37.
- DEC. 14 Morning Prayer**
Advent III
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
Pat Bass, Lay Reader
Arthur Judge, Lector
The lessons are Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and John 1:6-8, 19-28.
- DEC. 21 Morning Prayer**
Advent IV
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Co-officiating
Astrid Muller, Lector
The lessons are 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and Luke 1:26-38.
- DEC. 28 Morning Prayer**
Daniel Cochran, Seminarian, will preach.
The Rev. Earl Holt, Co-officiating
Robert Gulick, Lector
The lessons are Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Luke 2:22-40.

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.

- DEC. 2** Colette Camp, handbells
Russell Camp, guitar/keyboard
"Ring Out, Wild Bells!"
Christmas Classics
- DEC. 9** Lynnfield Pioneer Singers
Stephen Bloom, director
Holiday Favorites
- DEC. 16** A-No-Ne Trio
Jazzy Christmas Carols
- DEC. 23** Denise Konicek, soprano
Thomas Gregg, tenor
Heinrich Christensen, organ
"Sweet was the Song the Virgin Sang"
- DEC. 30 NO RECITAL**

Family Service

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

- DEC. 7** Daniel Cochran, Seminarian, will preach.
- DEC. 14** The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
- DEC. 21** ALL CHURCH SUNDAY
- DEC. 28** NO CHURCH SCHOOL OR FAMILY SERVICE

Wednesday Services

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

- DEC. 3** Holy Communion
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Assistant Minister, will preach.
- DEC. 10** Holy Communion
Dean Denniston will preach.
- DEC. 17** Holy Communion
Daniel Cochran, Seminarian, will preach.
- DEC. 24** NO SERVICE
- DEC. 31** Midweek Prayer
Arthur Judge will preach.



December Flowers

The flowers in the church celebrate the Christmas Season.

FROM KING'S CHAPEL

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Lucy Sewall, Editor

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CHRISTMAS DAY AT 10 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

Continuing a tradition begun in 1686, we celebrate Communion on Christmas Day, with an offering taken for the homeless and poor in our city.

NEW YEAR'S EVENSONG
5 p.m. in the Little Chapel

Complete holiday schedule on back cover

from **THE ASSISTANT
MINISTER**

Christmas is coming. And, what does that mean for you? Our congregation is providing opportunities for deeper reflection on the meaning of Christmas.

There was the workshop Reclaiming Christmas, based on the book *Unplug the Christmas Machine: A Complete Guide to Putting Love and Warmth Back into the Season* (1991) by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli, that several parents of young children took part in.

There are two on-going series of Advent Bible Study meetings in which participants are reflecting on the meaning of the texts assigned for this season of getting ready.

There is the conversation Hard Times, Christmas and Being a Christian, on the 15th, during which participants will share a meal of soup and bread, and discuss the Alban essay: "Our worth comes from God, not money."

There are the upcoming Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services: the Christmas Pageant led by Wendy Almquist and performed by the children of the parish; the Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols with the full complement of the KC choir and our music director and with participation by many members who serve as readers; and the traditional Christmas morning worship service with Holy Communion.

Whether you have participated in or will participate in any of these offerings this season, I hope you take some time by yourself or with those you love to consider what meaning Christmas holds for you.

You might take some time to remember childhood celebrations – what you enjoyed – and how you might incorporate some of that into your current celebration. You might take some time to acknowledge the pressures of the holiday and ask yourself what things are most important to you and your loved ones – discarding even for just this year that which holds little true value for you and embracing those traditions that hold the deepest meaning.

You might take some time to complete this sentence: Christmas is a time for ... Some have said that Christmas is a time "to be a peacemaker, within my family and the world at large; to enjoy being with my im-

**MINISTERIAL
OFFERINGS**

ADVENT EVENING BIBLE STUDY

"The Texts of Advent"

Four Tuesday evenings at the Parish House at 6:30 p.m., continue on Dec. 2, 9, and 16. Discussions led by Earl Holt. Please read Isaiah 64:1-9 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24-37. Reserve a space at 617/227-2155, x314 or lsewall@kings-chapel.org

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS BIBLE STUDY
BEGINS NOVEMBER 25**

Thursday morning Bible Study begins on a Tuesday this season. Confused? Due to the three upcoming Thursday holidays, the Advent/Christmas Bible Workbench series begins on Tuesday, November 25, then continues on Thursdays (December 4, 11, 18), with the last two sessions again on Tuesday, December 23 and 30. All meetings begin at 8:45 a.m. in the Minister's office at the Parish House. Newcomers are always welcome. Materials are available at the Parish House for \$20. Call Earl Holt for further information.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like a name read during Morning Prayer (for yourself or a relative), please contact one of the Ministers 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. These requests can also be directed to the Ministers or to Lee Glenn, who coordinates and circulates information to the Prayer Circle.

(Asst. Minister's Column Continued)

mediate family; to celebrate the birth of Christ; to exchange gifts with my family and friends; for parties, entertaining, and visits with friends; to help those who are less fortunate; to strengthen bonds with relatives; to strengthen my church community; to be relaxed and renewed."

Do any of these hold true for you? What come out on top? What might you add?

Whatever Christmas is for you, I hope that you make and find and share some of that this year. *Many blessings, Joanne*

UPCOMING EVENTS



**DECEMBER 21, MILK
PUNCH SUNDAY:**

Please join us on Sunday, December 21st as we celebrate the holiday season with King's Chapel's traditional Milk Punch Sunday. The festivities will be held at the Parish House following Morning Prayer. Parishioners are encouraged to bring a favorite holiday treat to share. For further information please contact Anne. This event also provides an opportunity to welcome Bob as he becomes a member of the King's Chapel family. *(See below)*

NEW MEMBER

Whether you are a member of the Society of King's Chapel, an occasional attendee of the Wednesday afternoon service, or a tourist walking the freedom trail, once you step off the Tremont Street sidewalk and enter our front doors, you are likely to be engaged by the welcoming presence of our verger, **Bob**. Bob always has a smile, extends a hearty handshake, and is at the ready with friendly conversation. This month Bob will be adding a second title to that of Verger, since he has expressed his intention to join King's Chapel. Bob will become our newest member on Milk Punch Sunday, December 21.

When asked to provide information for the newsletter, Bob declined the usual biographical sketch, saying that he played football, served in the Navy and the Army, and has always been around. What Bob did share were his thoughts on becoming a member of King's Chapel. When Bob was hired as a verger several years ago, he was not a member of any church. As he served as verger, he became aware of the benefits this church could bring to his life. Bob states that he has always believed in tolerance, rationalism, social conscience, and a God. He also expresses the importance of loving one's neighbor. By joining King's Chapel, Bob hopes to be a better Christian and gain additional self-respect.

COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

❖ ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Movie Night at the Parish House

Pizza, popcorn, salad, wine,and Ingmar Bergman too! enlightened 20 parishioners on Friday, Nov. 14. We viewed *Winter Light*, filmed in 1962. A difficult film about a disillusioned priest brought about a very lively, intelligent, discussion led by Marilyn and Earl Holt.

Next event will be held on Friday, Jan. 23 at 7p.m. at the Parish House. Suggestions for titles are forthcoming and more are welcome. And so are you. Thanks to Lucy and crew for setting up the viewing equipment and seats. It all worked perfectly.

❖ DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

“Hard Times, Christmas and Being a Christian.” Monday December 15th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Parish House. Drop by or stay a while - we will share soup, break bread, and discuss the essay by James Hudnut-Beumler, recently published in the Alban Institute’s Alban Weekly: “Our Worth Comes from God, Not Money.” We will talk about the essay’s radical message, and take time to reflect how we individually and as a congregation might compassionately approach family, friends, neighbors, colleagues (perhaps even ourselves) who have financial worries during this economically difficult holiday. The session will be led by Beth and Elizabeth. Copies of the article will be available on December 15.

❖ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The mission of the hospitality committee, to create a venue for community exchanges, thrives through the sustaining efforts of our willing hosts. We shower a grateful “Thank-you,” in this season of Thanksgiving, to the November Coffee Hour hosts: Mary and Donald, Beth, Elsie, Astrid, Karen, and Todd, as well as all those who minister to us with their hospitality. A variety of refreshments provided by these generous hosts nourished us all!

December brings the annual Milk Punch Sunday on Dec. 21 at the Parish House,

and no coffee hour on the 28. Hosts are requested for Dec. 7 and 14. Please contact Betty or me if you can serve either of these dates. Betty will furnish the guidelines (helpful to anyone who has never served before). Reimbursement for cream/milk and coffee is available. Don’t be bashful! There are several of us around to help including John, our Sunday verger, who has been especially supportive of this weekly church event.

— Barbara and
Betty Co-Chairs

❖ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Christmas party

Friday, December 5, 6 to 8 pm!

Don’t miss it! By now it’s a lively tradition, when “big church” celebrates the Church School, and all have a ball—trimming the tree, decorating cookies, lots of goodies to eat and drink—and Musical Chairs!

New Year’s Eve Open House

Join us at the Parish House for any or all of these festivities—Evensong at 5, First Night Parade and Family Fireworks on the Common, and a potluck supper (or just drop in), finishing in time for Heinrich’s concert at King’s Chapel at 9:00 p.m.

❖ MUSIC COMMITTEE

Music in the New Year

There are three more splendid programs, all at 5 p.m. on Sundays, in this season’s King’s Chapel Concert Series:

* January 25: Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons” arranged for solo violin and organ. We have commissioned Graham Gordon Ramsay to write seasonal interludes inspired by Vivaldi; they will be played between the four concerti. Jodi Hagen is the stellar violinist; Heinrich accompanies.

* February 22: A Night of Snow. Exquisite a cappella choral music by Francis Poulenc, beautifully sung by our choir under Heinrich’s direction, with wintry poetry by T.S. Eliot and others interjected.

* March 29: A Bach Celebration. Our season ends with a salute to Bach: Cantata 21, “Ich hatte viel Bekümmernis,” Part I; a motet, “Fürchte dich nicht”; and Bach’s “Mass in

G Major,” all performed by our choir, soloists, and a chamber orchestra, directed by Heinrich. Parishioners are invited to an informal reception at the Parish House after the concerts on January 29 and February 22. Do come!

❖ PARTNER CHURCH UPDATE

A RARE VISIT

Good news! The King’s Chapel Partner Church Committee has learned that **Ms. Eniko Veres**, a member of the Partner Church Committee in Kolozsvár, is planning to attend the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women to be held in Houston, Texas, from February 26 to March 1, 2009, the first international meeting of UU women!

Rev. Earl Holt has invited Eniko to visit King’s Chapel in Boston while in the U.S., and if the visa application process goes well, she will come to Boston around February 18 for one week until departing for Houston on February 25.

The Partner Church Committee looks forward to planning a week for Eniko that will include attending church services and a KC concert on the 22nd; and other opportunities for sight-seeing or entertainment that may be offered by parishioners. In return, she is offering to speak about the significance of Unitarianism and connection to American UU’s in her native land of Transylvania. She speaks fluent English and is a professor and researcher in the field of sociology.

If you have any ideas on activities or hospitality for our Partner Church guest should the visit materialize, please let Peter and Vicky know.

It is not too late to contribute to the **Partner Church Attic Fund** for the year 2008! Our ambitious commitment has been to raise \$10,000 per year for three years to support the renovation of our Partner Church’s top floor in its Parish House in Kolozsvár. We

(Committee Reports continued on page 5)

**SPECIAL SOCIETY
MEETING**

reached the goal in 2007, and as a result of the generosity of parishioners at last spring's auction we are well over 75% of the 2008 goal!! All those generous and committed persons who made three-year pledges, and all those who wish to support our Partner Church at any time, may send their contribution for collection prior to year-end.

NEW INTERNATIONAL NOTE CARDS!

Charming picture note cards are now available in two assortments: scenes from Transylvania, including our Partner Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár; and a King's Chapel assortment, featuring the sanctuary and the Parish House parlors. Each packet contains 12 cards, 3 1/2" X 5," and is offered for a donation of \$20 to the Partner Church Fund. Use these cards to send a note (or seasonal greeting) to your friends with a boost for King's Chapel too! Custom orders may be arranged upon request to Vicky.

—Vicky, Partner
Church Committee Co-Chair

❖ SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The tough economic times that we are all facing will make it all the harder for those living on the margins of society. The Social Action Committee (SAC) asks all at King's Chapel to support our holiday efforts to help those less fortunate than ourselves. In conjunction with the Church School the SAC will support the "Guest at Our Table" program. As is traditional the SAC along with the Church School will sponsor the collection and wrapping of socks for the Women's Lunch Place. The SAC also will sponsor the sale of baked goods for the MA Coalition for the Homeless.

— Art, Chair

SPECIAL MEETING PASSES ALL THREE MOTIONS

At its Special Meeting on November 16, 2008, the Society had more than the required quorum (50 to amend the By-Laws and 30 for other business) with 77 members duly signed in. Prior to the meeting, members of the Society had received detailed information about each motion as required by the by-laws. After an invocation by the Rev. Earl Holt, the Senior Warden invited introduction of the motions.

The Society voted to accept each motion. Discussions were ably led by the presenters of the motions: Ollie Egleston, Chair of Buildings and Grounds for Motion I; Hugh Scott, Esq., Vestry member, for Motion II, and Steve Weber, Treasurer, for Motion III.

Motion I – Master Plan: Accept the Executive Summary of the Master Plan as edited by the committee and distributed at the 2008 Annual Meeting, as the general guideline for future restoration work. Yes – 74, No – 0, Abstain - 3. **PASSED.**

Motion II – Ministerial and Personnel Affairs Committee: Amend the By-Laws to add a Standing Committee on Ministerial and Personnel Affairs. Vote : Yes – 55, No – 22, Abstain - 0. **PASSED.**

Motion III – To Fund the Minister's Retirement Package: Accept the package as presented, thereby authorizing the release of the Society's funds.

The Minister addressed the Society, saying that the proposed package had been reached by common agreement through several months of cordial discussions, in which he was well supported and represented. He concluded by saying that it is important for the Society to support its congregational leadership. On behalf of the Society, the Senior Warden warmly thanked Earl Holt and his wife, Marilyn, for their eight years of service. The assembled company spontaneously broke into a sustained standing ovation. After discussion with Treasurer Steve Weber, the Motion was voted: Yes – 75, No - 1, Abstain – 1. **PASSED.**

Before adjournment the Senior Warden thanked the Society and noted that there is much work for all to do going forward, and concluded, paraphrasing Julian of Norwich, "All will be well" ...but added, "if we make it be so."

— Todd Lee, Junior Warden

THANKS FROM EARL

As we enter into the season of thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude to the Society for its approval of the agreement presented at the recent congregational meeting, providing for my retirement from the ministry of King's Chapel in June of next year. It has been an honor to serve this venerable institution, founded in the Seventeenth Century, during the early years of the Twenty-First.

I am grateful to all those who have supported my work here and have faithfully supported the church over these years by their presence, energy, and generosity of spirit, and substance. And I look forward to the seven months ahead, as we celebrate the cycle of the holy seasons once more and work together to ensure a smooth transition, leading toward what I am confident will be a bright future for King's Chapel. In the words of William Greenleaf Eliot: "The past has much for which we may reasonably be grateful, but the future must and will have better things in store."

✦ THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Christmas Morning

Christmas bells, awake and ring
Your carol of long ago,
Awake O wintry sun and fling
Your beams across the snow!

Children, merrily, merrily sing
That all the world may know
Today the angels earthward swing
To bless us here below!

Harry Behn



December Calendar

- Friday 12/5 Church Wide **Christmas Party** - 6:00p.m.
- Sunday 12/7 Family Service & Church School
Pageant Rehearsal 1-3p.m. – please bring
brown bag lunch
- Friday 12/12 **Youth Group** 6:30-8:30p.m.
- Sunday 12/14 **Family Service & Advent Crafts**
Please return Guest @ your Table boxes!
Pageant Rehearsal 1-3p.m. – please bring
brown bag lunch
- Saturday 12/20** **Hanging of the Greens** 1-4p.m. / Junior
Chancel Committee
Pageant Rehearsal 4-6p.m. – please bring
brown bag lunch
- Sunday 12/21 **Church School & All Church**
Milk Punch Sunday- don't forget socks for
the Women's Lunch Place
- Tuesday 12/23 **Pageant Dress Rehearsal** 4-6p.m.
- Wed 12/24 **Christmas Eve & Pageant**-4:30 p.m.
curtain call @ 3:00p.m.
- Sunday 12/28 No Family Service or Church School

The season is upon us, so hold on to your hats and enjoy!

Be Well, Jan

SIXTY-FOUR BEACON STREET HAS A NEW SIGN!

The style, proportions and coloring of the display box look just like a little chapel - right down to the copper flashing roof. The Church School community thanks Oliver Egleston for his efforts to make this possible.
Alecia, Chair, Church School Committee.

Only Fourteen Percent ?

Many, many thanks to the members and friends who have responded to the Skills and Interest Survey. Your responses have been logged in and will be of great help especially to the Nominating Committee. However, when this Newsletter went to press, only 14% of King's Chapel's members and friends had replied.

KC needs the talents, skills, wisdom, and energy of all. Volunteering at KC – for both long-term and short-term projects — is an opportunity to share your expertise, to make friends, to acquire new skills, and to enjoy a good time. Please, let us hear from you, and thank you.

You can reply either by regular mail to Lucy Sewall at King's Chapel House or by downloading the survey from the KC website and then emailing it to Lucy at lsewall@kings-chapel.org If you don't have a survey and would like to participate, please telephone the Parish House (617-227-2155) or email Lucy to request one. If you have questions or comments, contact the Chair of Parish Council, Beth.

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

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
Jan Lundberg, Church School Director
Pei-Chun Lin, Children's Music Director
Lucy Sewall, Parish Administrator

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**HOLIDAY
EVENTS**



- DEC. 5 All-Parish Holiday Party**
6:00 p.m. at the Parish House (*see page 4*)
- DEC. 14 Advent Crafts**
9:45 a.m. at the Parish House
- DEC. 20 Decoration of the Church**
12:00 p.m. at the church
- DEC. 21 Advent/Christmas Music Sunday**
Featuring our Choir
12:15 p.m. Milk Punch at the Parish House
Wrapping Socks for Christmas Gifts
- DEC. 24 Christmas Eve**
4:30 p.m. Family Worship and
Annual **Christmas Pageant**
- Lessons and Carols**
10:00 p.m. Organ Prelude
10:30 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
featuring our Choir

- DEC. 25 Christmas Day**
10:00 a.m. **Holy Communion**
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
Amy Meyer, Lector
*The lessons are Isaiah 62:6-7,
10-12 and Luke 2:1-20.*
- DEC. 31 New Year's Eve**
5:00 p.m. Evensong in the Little Chapel
6:00 p.m. Potluck Supper, Parish House
7:00 p.m. Boston Common Fireworks
- First Night Concert**
9:00 p.m. Heinrich Christensen plays the
C. B. Fisk Organ.
*First Night Button required;
parishioners may contact the
Parish House for free tickets.
(617/227-2155)*