

# NEWS FROM KING'S ✠ CHAPEL

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

## **BRING A FRIEND?**

It was reported in a workshop at a recent UUA General Assembly that the average member of a Unitarian congregation invites a guest to church once every 27 years. I wonder how people come up with statistics like this, but from several decades of observation my hunch is that this one is not too far off the mark. A related statistic – and this one well-established by any number of surveys and studies – is that overwhelmingly the most common reason that people attend a church for the first time is that someone personally asked them to come.

It should be a natural thing to do, actually. We share our enthusiasm with our friends for a great new restaurant we've found, or a movie we think they might enjoy. But when it comes to church, a certain reluctance seems to set in. A fear of being considered too "evangelical" perhaps, or a squeamishness about what may be seen as proselytizing. It may be that some of us are what could be called spiritually gun-shy. Or just plain shy, when it comes to talking about our faith and church commitments.

But it shouldn't be so difficult to do. If you've found something that nurtures you spiritually and religiously, isn't it really selfish not to share what you have with others? The worst thing that can happen is they won't be interested, but they may well be. The fact is that many, many people are searching these days, in these troubled and confusing times, searching for meaning, for connection, for hope. And how will they find out that there is a church that offers companionship for their journey, a community of fellow seekers, unless we tell them about it?

The King's Chapel Church School is having a "Bring-a-Friend" Sunday on November 9. Besides providing a day of special welcome for children and their parents, some of whom may become part of our religious education program, it is also a reminder and a provocation. For all of us. We can bring a friend to church any Sunday and every Sunday.

How long has it been since you invited someone to King's Chapel? I hope it hasn't been 27 years.



### Special This Month:

- ✠ New Seminarian
- ✠ Series on History of American Unitarianism
- ✠ Halloween Salon
- ✠ Reflections on Kolozsvár

**ALL PARISH RETREAT**  
See page 6

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## Sundays in October

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.

- OCT. 5 Holy Communion in the Transylvanian Tradition**  
Partner Church Sunday  
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.  
Joanne Giannino, Co-officiating  
Peter Sexton, Lector  
*The lessons are Numbers 27:12-23 and Matthew 21:33-43.*
- OCT. 12 Morning Prayer**  
The Rev. Paul Crego will preach.  
Earl Holt, Co-officiating  
Suzanne Boitano, Lector  
*The lessons are Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and Matthew 22:1-14.*
- OCT. 19 Morning Prayer**  
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.  
Daniel Cochran, Co-officiating  
Richard Weeks, Lector  
*The lessons are Ruth 1:1-19a and Matthew 22:15-22.*
- OCT. 26 Morning Prayer**  
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.  
Sylvia Soderberg, Lay Reader  
Barbara Fay, Lector  
*The lessons are Ruth 2:1-13 and Matthew 22:34-46.*

## 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](http://www.kings-chapel.org).

- OCT. 7** Jan Overduin plays the C. B. Fisk Organ:  
Music by Böhm, Cabena, Glass, Pärt
- OCT. 14** Olson/De Cari Duo (John Olson, guitar & Gioia De Cari, soprano):  
Music by Benjamin Britten, Terry Champlin & George Gershwin
- OCT. 21** Hermann Hudde, guitar:  
Music by Sor, Villa-Lobos, de Falla, Tarrega, Tansman
- OCT. 28** Amanda Keil, mezzosoprano;  
Barbara Poeschl-Edrich, harp:  
"Romance, Sin & Homesickness: Hidden Gems for Voice & Harp."  
Songs by Hermann Regner, André Caplet, Britten arrangements of 2 Humphrey songs, and a song attributed to Ann Boleyn.

## Wednesday Services

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

- OCT. 1** Midweek Prayer  
The Rev. Joanne Giannino will preach.
- OCT. 8** Midweek Prayer  
The Rev. Darrick Jackson will preach.
- OCT. 15** Holy Communion  
The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
- OCT. 22** Midweek Prayer  
Dean Denniston will preach.
- OCT. 29** Midweek Prayer  
The Rev. Anita Farber-Robertson will preach.

### IN MEMORIAM

## Family Service

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

- OCT. 5** The Rev. Joanne Giannino will preach.
- OCT. 12** The Rev. Earl Holt will preach.
- OCT. 19** Daniel Cochran, Seminarian, will preach.
- OCT. 26** At Ferry Beach Retreat



## OCTOBER Flowers

Are given in thanksgiving and in loving memory.

### FROM KING'S CHAPEL

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Lucy Sewall, Editor

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## Within the Parish

from *THE ASSISTANT  
MINISTER*

For several years now I have tended a garden, mostly perennial herbs and flowers, lavender, basil, oregano, chives, bergamot, and, more years than not, cherry tomatoes for my husband. I must admit, though, that I am not good at, nor do I enjoy, growing vegetables. They are untidy and need more attention than the herbs. This week three things happened that are challenging me to rethink my own garden habits, and the way I shop for and feed my family. Perhaps you have been thinking about these things too.

First. The other day I ran into an acquaintance who told me that she and her husband are trying to eat only local foods. They were inspired by the book *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life* by Barbara Kingsolver, Camille Kingsolver and Steven L. Hopp. "Americans put almost as much fossil fuel into our refrigerators as our cars," the authors write, including all the vehicles used in mass agriculture, but "the lion's share is consumed during the trip from the farm to your plate." So, they claim, "if every U.S. citizen ate just one meal a week composed of locally and organically raised meats and produce, we would reduce our country's oil consumption by over 1.1 million barrels of oil every week."

"Oh, my God," I told her. And this brings me to the second thing. Our Hospitality Committee just hosted an event inspired by the same idea. For our Homecoming Lunch they provided a meal in which the ingredients were raised locally, including the dessert and the wine! And they also issued a challenge to try to eat at least one meal a week in this way.

Third. In the most recent issue of *The Christian Century* magazine, editor John M. Buchanan recalls how reading the book *The Omnivore's Dilemma* by Michael Pollan changed him deeply. "Pollan," writes Buchanan, "explains how decisions the federal government made years ago transformed corn growing into an agribusiness that produces corn so cheaply that it ends up, in one form or another, in most of the food we eat... in the American food system, one-third of U.S. children eat a daily meal at a fast food restaurant. And we are growing dangerously obese."

The solution? Buchanan continues:

*MINISTERIAL  
OFFERINGS*

**GUEST PREACHER OCTOBER 12**

Formerly from Boston, Paul Crego is now at the Library of Congress, specializing in Armenian and Georgian material; he has just completed a fellowship year studying the Abkhazian-Georgian conflict and its background history. Paul holds a M.Div. from Harvard (1983) and Ph.D. in Theology from Boston College (1993), as well as an M.A. from the Soviet Union Program at Harvard (1979). Ordained in the United Methodist Church, he is now an active member and occasional preacher in the Episcopal Church. We look forward to welcoming him to our pulpit.

**INTRODUCTION TO KING'S CHAPEL**

On Wednesdays October 15 and 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Parish House Earl Holt will offer two sessions for anyone who would like to know more about King's Chapel, its present life, and its unique history. Although designed especially for newcomers, all are welcome! We always appreciate advance registration (call 617/227-2155), but it's not essential. We'll also have informal opportunities to ask questions after Morning Prayer on October 12 and November 9.

**SAVE THE DATE:** All-Parish Christmas Party Friday December 5, at the Parish House, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

*(Asst. Minister's Column Continued)*

"Pollan writes about the joy and environmental sanity of eating food that is grown and produced locally, without infusions of chemicals or fructose (corn syrup). For the first time in my life I'm now taking time to read the labels in the grocery store."

Buchanan admits: "There is no overt theology in Pollan's book and only passing references to religious food rituals. But Pollan expresses an almost sacramental awareness that the world, including the food we eat, is a gift for which the only appropriate response is gratitude."

What if we too had "a sacramental awareness of the world, including the food we eat?" I am grateful to those around me, including our own KC leaders, who are awakening me to this way of viewing the world.

*In gratitude, Joanne*

*UPCOMING EVENTS*

**SERIES ON THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN UNITARIANISM**

The ministers will host a monthly series on the "History of American Unitarianism," one hour on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. at the Parish House. The first two will be on October 19 and November 16. The series will be based, in part, on the curriculum *Our American Roots*, which includes a selection of very short video clips shot on location at UU churches and historic sites in New England. The video features leading voices in Unitarian Universalism yesterday and today. The DVD clips are hosted by Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, minister at the All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa, OK, and feature commentary by UU ministers: John Buehrens, Kendyl Gibbons, the late Dana McLean Greeley, Laurel Hallman, Earl Holt, Nicole Kirk, Rupert Lovely, Suzanne Meyer, the late Roy Phillips, and more.

**HALLOWEEN SALON—COME ONE, COME ALL**

It's been a while, but it's time for another Halloween-themed Salon. (The last one was memorable, to say the least.) Come to the parsonage at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 31, with some munchies to share, along with your favorite poem to read, story to tell, song to sing, instrument to play or whatever else you can imagine. Costumes welcome but not required (we'll have a prize or two for the best ones). Salons are just for fun, and we have a lot of it. Join your friends at the Holts' on Halloween.

**WELCOME OUR NEW SEMINARIAN, DANIEL COCHRAN**

With the start of a new church and academic year, we have a new Seminarian. Daniel is a first-year student at the Harvard Divinity School. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Religion at the University of Rochester with Honors and Highest Distinction and has studied abroad in Arezzo and Rome, Italy. He grew up in a United Methodist Church in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, where he was an active member, and has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, among many other honors and activities. We look forward to his year with us at King's Chapel.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

### ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Presenting Ingmar Bergman's classic religious film:

#### *Winter Light*

Friday, November 14 at 7 p.m. at the Parish House followed by discussion led by Earl Holt. The movie deals with a minister's struggles about his faith through the eyes of the congregation and community.

RSVP to Barbara.

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

*Go Green, KC!* was a huge success at Homecoming luncheon on Sunday, September 14. And the cost came in under \$400 for over 45 diners plus cooks. The servers enjoyed noticing the delightful crush of eager, hungry faces to test out this non-meat meal. Even though organic and locally grown produce, fruit, and wines cost more, in the end, a meal can be cheaper without poultry or meat. Try it once a week and see if you do save.

The principal chefs included Vicky, Barbara, and Betsy. The parishioners clearly enjoyed their contributions of Universe Pie, lentil casserole, macaroni and cheese, field greens and goat cheese salad, and a variety of home baked pies. Vicky's pies were an outstanding addition to Barbara's carrot cake, Amy's plum kuchen, and Pam's brownies. The children enjoyed the PB & J sandwiches prepared by Jan and Andy.

The exuberant church community spirit spilled over into the kitchen where many hands were busy doing the clean-up. We continued to drink, munch and chat while getting the kitchen back to a shiny, clean place. Thank you, Angels.

Betty has put out a call for Hosting Angels for October. Please contact her if you can help. Thank you.

– Barbara and Betty  
Co-Chairs



### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### *Want to Learn More about King's Chapel?*

We'd love to talk with anyone who would like to learn more about our community, and perhaps take the step of formally joining our church. Please speak to one of the ministers, or call the Parish House (617/227-2155). We also invite you to a short meeting to learn more about KC membership after Morning Prayer, at the Church, on October 12, and to Earl Holt's class, "Introduction to King's Chapel," at 6:30 p.m. on October 15 and 22.

Our By-Laws require you to give us written notice three months in advance—so if you'd like to join in January, be sure to let us know in October!

### MUSIC COMMITTEE

#### *Concert Series begins 51st season on October 26!*

Please join us for the first concert of the 2008-2009 season. Based on an original idea suggested by Sylvia, the program, entitled "In Praise of Music," will present choral works whose texts celebrate the many glories of the musical arts. Ranging from the naive to the profound, from the Renaissance to today, you will hear poetry by, among others, Shakespeare, Auden, and Herrick, set to music by Britten, Purcell, Pinkham, Schubert, and many more. The crowning glory of the program will be Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music* for 16 soloists, violin, and organ, set to a text from Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*.

The King's Chapel Choir and soloists will be joined on this occasion by violinist Jodi Hagen and organist Ross Wood, with Heinrich Christensen directing.

### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

The Social Action Committee will have its first meeting since May on Tuesday September 23. The Chair is hoping that the committee will be able to do two projects with the Church School: "Guest at Our Table" and the Heifer Project which addresses hunger in third world countries by among other things providing animals such as goats that can serve a number of needs.

– Art, Chair

## Reflections on Kolozsvar

### Calling All Surveys

Last month, members and friends of King's Chapel who live nearby received a skills and interest survey.

- ◆ If you have returned yours, thank you very much.
- ◆ If you haven't, please do so ASAP, 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](mailto: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 or download it from the KC website.

Working together brings rewarding fellowship, especially when the project taps one's talents, skills, or interests. We hope to hear from you, and thank you.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Chair of Parish Council, Beth.

Palfrey Perkins was the minister of the First Parish of Weston in the summer of 1922. He and a group of American Unitarian Association members journeyed to Transylvania to witness, first hand, the plight of their Unitarian brothers and sisters. Palfrey had proposed marriage to Linda Wellington, but she still could not give him an answer before he departed for Transylvania. Palfrey offered Linda this ultimatum; if her answer was "yes" she would be there to meet his ship as it arrived in New York and if she was not on the dock when his ship arrived it would mean that her answer was "no." As his ship arrived Palfrey Perkins was stunned; there stood Linda Wellington on the dock calling his name and waving a red rose.

It all felt so familiar to me as we worshipped with the congregation at the First Unitarian Church in Kolozsvar, as my grandfather must have eighty-six years before. I felt that sense of home that I feel when I worship at King's Chapel. What a blessing it is to feel the strength of these precious connections which neither the passage of time, great distances, the tyranny of war, nor even death can ever weaken.

– Louise



## VESTRY VIEWS

The first meeting of our 323rd year addressed the work that Vestry and the Wardens need to do this fall. The November 2 Special Meeting includes votes to (a) accept the recommended scope and sequence of the Restoration Master Plan, (b) to establish a standing (rather than ad hoc) Personnel Committee, and (c) a long range plan, as well as immediate actions, being taken to increase our membership and participation.

It has been a busy summer. The Skills Survey has been prepared and distributed. The new Directory has been finished and is about to be mailed. The revised Parish Council Handbook (care and feeding of committees) is ready to distribute to committee chairs, the computer database has been upgraded with the ability to note individuals' skills added, the sanctuary lighting has been visibly improved, and there has been a wonderful Habitat for Humanity trip to Transylvania.

Buildings and Grounds has acted upon many projects: completion of the Church south wall repairs, the process of Church and Parish House being brought into compliance with insurance inspection criteria, improving the lighting in the sanctuary, the pointing project underway at the Parsonage, and a new sign for the Parish House planned. Future Sanctuary projects are following the Master Plan.

Vestry noted with enthusiasm the work being done to institute a Bible-based curriculum for the Church School, and the formation of two Small Group Ministries. Finally, the Treasurer was able to report – many months earlier than has been the pattern – that the books for FY 2008 are closed, and for the first time to present a consolidated and understandable balance sheet with all but one account showing “above the line.” The Society continues to be in sound financial condition.

— Todd, Junior Warden

## ✕ THE CHURCH SCHOOL

For those of you who were unable to make it to the Parent's Meeting last month, here is a quick overview of what our curriculum committee chose for our new Church School year. After much research and consideration four outstanding and innovative curricula were decided upon. I'd would like to thank our committee of volunteers, Assistant Minister Joanne Giannino, Carol, Beth, and Carolyn for their dedication to our children. If you have any questions please contact me.

### 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

*Faith Footsteps* was developed by Joan Hunt of First Parish of Weston. This curriculum introduces children to their faith tradition through selected bible stories. Each lesson is based on one story, with activities that allow children to experience the story with their senses.

#### Goals for Participation

- to learn about the Christian faith tradition
- to experience a sense of wonder, awe, and worship
- to feel trust, courage, and hope about God's purpose for people

### 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

*Bibleodeon* tells stories for children - like the Nickelodeon television channel that helped suggest its name. Bibleodeon presents Hebrew and Christian stories in a U.U. setting. Participants explore connections between biblical events and U.U. principles and values, between biblical ideas and their own lives. Just as important to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, Bibleodeon is fun! Participants listen to some stories and act some out. They investigate others the way television reporters would. They immerse themselves in music and art and creative activity, achieving in the process new understanding of and appreciation for some of civilizations most important books.

### 6<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> grade

*The Gospel According to the Simpsons* curriculum embarks on an exploration of the religious themes prevalent in the popular animated comedy series "The Simpsons." Topics include prayer, the bible, morality, God, pluralism, hell, and the devil. As a complement to this curriculum, we will be relating show content back to personal beliefs and U.U. principles. *Neighboring Faiths* introduces youth to the faith traditions and practices of other religious groups in their community. This program actively engages youth in exploring the religious traditions in the area and encourages awareness of the many connections between Unitarian Universalism and other faith traditions.

I invite everyone to sit in on a session to get a real feel for the curricula. We have an open door policy in the classrooms and parents are encouraged to participate at any time.

*Be well, Jan*

## REMINDER

### **ALL PARISH RETREAT AT FERRY BEACH — OCTOBER 24-26**

*Come one...Come al!! Deadline to register is October 12. Don't miss this fun weekend on the coast of Maine, with programming for all ages. Worship will include Morning Prayer in the outdoor chapel in the pine grove. Wonderful meals, catered by Rich O'Brien of Pangea Foods in Saco. \$140 per person includes two nights and six meals. Ending in time to get to the KC Concert at 5 p.m.*

*Questions? Contact the ministers or a member of the Planning Committee: Ruth (Chair), Julie, and Carolyn. Register by calling the office, 617-227-2155 Ext 314 or by e-mail to lsewall@kings-chapel.org.*

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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*KING'S CHAPEL CONCERT SERIES*

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*King's Chapel Choir and Soloists*  
*Jodi Hagen, violin; Ross Wood, organ*  
*Heinrich Christensen, Director*

*Featuring Ralph Vaughan Williams's Serenade to  
Music for 16 soloists, violin, and organ; text from  
Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice*  
*Additional works by Pinkham, Britten, Purcell,  
and Schubert*

*SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, AT 5 P.M. AT KING'S CHAPEL*

*Admission by suggested donation of \$12  
(\$8 seniors and students)*

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*Please Come!*

***Partner Church Sunday***  
*October 5, 2008*

*Morning Prayer*  
*Transylvanian Communion*

*Celebrate the King's Chapel*  
*Habitat for Humanity work project*  
*And Partner Church visits*

***"Summer '08 in Kolozsvat"***  
*with*  
*Stories, photos, and refreshments*  
*At the Parish House*  
*12:30 p.m.*