

NEWS FROM KING'S ✠ CHAPEL

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

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UPCOMING SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE, Saturday
Christmas Pageant at 4:30 pm
Candlelight Service with Lessons & Carols
at 10:30 pm (Prelude starts at 10 pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY, Sunday
Morning Prayer with Holy Communion at
10 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE, Saturday
Evensong at 5:30 pm, Parish House
Dinner at 6:30 pm
First Night Organ Concert at 9 pm,
King's Chapel

Dear Friends,

“O Come, O come, Emmanuel” is not just one of the hymns that we sing during Advent. It is, I feel, the heart and soul of this season that leads to the Coming of the Light.

Look around. A few blocks away is the encampment for Occupy Boston. Regardless of what you think of “them,” they have called our attention to a more general longing for a just government and society. To this end they have been holding their own with the aid of a restrained police force, clarifying group norms, trying to articulate a common vision and disassociating themselves from trouble-makers. On Sunday evenings the Unitarian Universalists conduct Vespers for these denizens, on Tuesday evening the United Church of Christ offers Communion, and on Wednesdays the ecumenical community provides speakers.

Look abroad. See the Arab Spring (Awakening) in Egypt, Syria, Libya and other countries of the Middle East. A broad majority of those, who have long been oppressed by self-serving regimes, have emerged to communicate their impatient demand for democracy, greater freedom for men and women, and peace. They have been organizing, putting themselves in harm's way, confronting the intractable power of their countries' military forces and the re-surfacing of extremists. Still, they soldier on – with an indomitable will, unquenchable hope and the power of their greatest weapon, the internet.

Look among us here. Both within and without the church, there is clearly a desire for a better day-spring—a display of compassion and justice for the Common Good, the steadying of our global economic roller coaster, the taming of a polarized Congress and employment for our skilled citizens and young adults. As we carry such longing, we can draw on the wellsprings of our professed Faith. The hope for Emmanuel and the Birth of Christ can help us build up God's reign on earth in our communities.

Our Story of the birth of Emmanuel – which includes social ostracism, a journey to an unkind place, and heavy taxation by foreign rulers -- does not avoid worldly reality. Yet it resounds with love, hope and God's miraculous invitation to peace. Remember this, when we sing, “Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to thee, O Israel!” Rejoice when we celebrate with joyous Christmas carols!

Christmas blessings,

Dianne

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

✘ MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

In October, your Ministerial Search Committee – Leo Johnson, Allen Speight, Stefanie Muscat, Peter Malin, Cliff Allen, and Beth Chapin – completed initial, in-person interviews with some of the more than 70 ministers who have expressed interest in the position of Senior Minister at King’s Chapel. By the time you read this, we will have made arrangements to hear one or more of these applicants preach and we will have set dates for second interviews. These initial, in-person interviews have been approximately 90 minutes long and are both exhilarating and exhausting – exhilarating because we have had intense conversations with very thoughtful men and women and exhausting for the same reason. At each interview, we have followed the same format: questions from us followed by questions from the applicant. As always, please send your questions and comments to the co-chairs.

-*Cliff Allen and Beth Chapin, co-chairs*

✘ LITURGY GROUP, DECEMBER 7

We will meet again on Wednesday, December 7th, from 6-7:30 pm in the 5th floor room of the Parish House to discuss liturgy in general and our Midweek service in particular. Refreshments will be provided. Please let Dianne know if you cannot attend, but wish to be kept up-to-date about our discussions.

✘ HOME-STRETCH — CLOSING FAST!

2011.5 Annual Appeal At 75% - Needs You!

Now is the time for everybody who gave last year (ended in June) to come through for this half year ending December 31. It’s odd how many folk do not seem to understand this six month business. We have a not insignificant group of faithful annual contributors, who have not yet made their half-year contribution. January 1, 2012 starts a new year for the Annual Appeal. We need to wrap up this current stewardship effort in the next six weeks.

Contributions Picking Up

Daily receipts have improved over the past few weeks, but are still not getting us as far as reaching our goal. If we do hear from everybody who we expect to respond, we will be in good shape for the funds we need to complete this fall. But this means that the rate of contributing must continue to improve.

Participation Continues to Improve

The percentage of us who support our church through the Annual Appeal continues to grow, if modestly. The notion that there are some “others” who give “the Big Bucks”, and that it is not we, ourselves, who need to carry a fair share of our operational burden is slow to be refuted. But we do continue to learn, as shown in how wide-spread our donor base is, and how the number continues to grow..

Wrap-Up Letters in the Mail

Folks from whom we have not yet heard, but who have been generous in the past, have received a reminder email from the 2011.5 Annual Appeal. It claims that we know you mean to contribute before Christmas, and exhorts you to do it before the festive season sweeps your attention away.

Now is THE time.

In the next few weeks, we look forward to hearing from all of you who have yet to make your fall 2011.5 contribution. Let’s have a strong base of stewardship with which to greet our new minister.

-*Todd Lee and Karen C. C. Dalton, co-chairs*

✘ DEDICATION OF THE CARL SCOVEL TABLET, DECMEBER 11

The Commemorative Tablet in honor of our minister emeritus, Carl Scovel, has been completed and installed in the Chancel at King’s Chapel. On Sunday, December 11, during the service of Morning Prayer, we will dedicate the Tablet, and give you the opportunity to view it. After the service, we invite everyone to a celebratory reception with Carl and his family, to be held at the Parish House at 64 Beacon Street. We thank all who contributed to, and helped with this project, which is a part of our 325th Anniversary celebration.

-*Sylvia Soderberg, 325 chair*

✘ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

On Sunday, December 11, our gracious hospitality committee will be hosting a reception for Carl Scovel at 64 Beacon Street after the tablet dedication at Morning Prayer.

Festivities continue on the following Sunday, December 18, with receiving of new members, the Milk Punch celebration and the Christmas Party at the Parish House.

Meanwhile, social hour is kindly hosted throughout December. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed, however, for January, February and March. A sign-up sheet will be on the food table at church, or one can contact hospitality co-chairs Sally Kahn or Anne Sexton. A recruiting email will go out at the end of December. Just a reminder; hosting includes cleanup, as well as providing coffee, juice and food.

-*Sally Kahn and Anne Sexton, co-chairs*

✘ FALL UPDATE: FREEDOM TRAIL GUIDE PROGRAM

As the weather gets colder and our dedicated guide staff keeps warm in the King’s Chapel entryway with the help of a space heater, our tourism program and public outreach are still going strong! After having our busiest and most profitable summer to date, we are using the quieter fall and winter season to focus on program growth and building a “local” following. Since September, King’s Chapel has hosted many international visitors and UUA groups from around the country. Now, we are thinking of ways to reach out to local schools with our educational historical programing, and how to draw in more local foot traffic so that our fellow Bostonians become aware of the rich history, beauty and ministry in their midst. Of course, our guests from afar will remain a priority, especially as we begin to plan for our busy spring and summer months ahead! This fall, the guide program has a number of *new staff*, both graduate and undergraduate students, who, along with our dedicated “veteran” guides, enrich our educational outreach with expertise in such fields as archaeology, architecture, history, religion, forensic anthropology, art history and film. We have a number of new books and other new merchandise for sale at our bookstore, and are in the process of updating our freedom trail program signs within the Chapel for historical accuracy. Our “Bells and Bones” tours of the crypt and the bell tower are extremely popular, and we encourage all members of the King’s Chapel to come take a tour with us! We will be closing for a period in December and January for the Christmas holidays, and will be thinking of ways to make this our best spring and summer season yet. We continue to be so happy to be a part of the public ministry of King’s Chapel!

-*Theresa Cooney O’Hara, lead guide*

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Greetings from the Church School. As always, December is a busy month for the Church School. We have Advent Crafts early in the month, and we have the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Both events are great fun for our community; and they offer an opportunity for all to engage in outreach by bringing family, friends, and others to highlight our Church School offerings.

Advent Crafts

We have our annual Advent Crafts on Sunday, December 4th from 10:15 a.m.-12 p.m. At Advent Crafts, we have stations where children, youth, and adults can make Christmas cards and bookmarks; decorate pillar candles, Advent wreaths, and Christmas tree ornaments; and bake holiday cookies. We also have a social action table where we will be selling handmade goods made by individuals from Performing Life, a nonprofit organization that supports youth who live and/or work on the streets of Bolivia. Additionally, we will have the sign-up sheet for purchasing holiday cakes through the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless.

Christmas Pageant

We have our annual Christmas Pageant on Saturday, December 24th at 4:30 pm. Please join us in supporting the hard work of our children and youth as they perform multiple roles to bring *The Miracle of Christmas* to life. Also, if you have a child who is not currently in the pageant but is interested in participating and/or you are interested in becoming involved in the pageant (e.g., costume design, ushering), please feel free to contact me.

-Shannon Lee

❖ ADVENT LETTER FROM VERMONT

Advent greetings and blessings from Vermont. As we begin this season, it is always important to reflect on the meaning of this season as Christians. We celebrate the birth of Christ, and the new Covenant with God as revealed through Jesus. It is also a new church year. Thus, it is appropriate at this time to examine our Christian faith as both individuals and members of a congregation. At a recent adult religious education class of mine, we discussed the "three legs" of the Anglican church--the centrality of the Bible to our faith, the liturgy and traditions that are key to our identity and that God created us as rational beings who interpret these principles within our historical context. This metaphor has stayed with me because this is how I experience King's Chapel...a three-legged stool.

- Craig Sterling, Wilder, Vermont

❖ THE WORK OF OUR HANDS

Everyone, adults and youth, is encouraged to start work on a handmade creation - art, needlework, woodwork, culinary - for exhibit on Sunday, February 26th, 2012. The sharing of our community's talents will be held at the Parish House. Please contact us, if interested.

-Elsie Hermann and Emanuel Genovese. coordinators

FROM THE ASSISTANT MINISTER

In one sense, the world around us has been preparing for Christmas for months already. The day after Halloween department stores began running Christmas shopping ads. At the same time malls, grocery markets, and big box stores erected their winter holiday displays. I even began receiving holiday donation reminders in my inbox and mailbox weeks before Thanksgiving. Even for those of us who adore everything Christmas, this can seem like holiday overload.

For the last several years the Advent Conspiracy (www.adventconspiracy.org) has reminded those lucky enough to come across their website that there is another way to prepare for the holidays. "Spend less on gifts, give more *presence*, love like Jesus," this ministry suggests.

When I start to feel overwhelmed by all of the wrapping, baking, cleaning, and cooking it takes to make Christmas "happen," I try to remember the simplicity of how the first Christmas happened. I love to deck the halls of my home, just as I'm looking forward to seeing and smelling King's Chapel once the greens have been hung. But I'm glad when I remember that it's ok to take a step back, to cook one less dish for Christmas dinner this year, to forego buying that extra needless gift, and to focus on preparing a place for God to be born anew in my heart just as much as I'm preparing for the birth of my first child.

However you and yours prepare, I wish you a simple, festive, and contemplative Advent. And however you celebrate, I hope your Christmas is very merry indeed!

Blessings,

-Kristin

❖ NEW YEAR'S EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

Join us in worship and fellowship to ring in the New Year! We will gather for Evensong in the Little Chapel at 5:30 p.m. and enjoy a potluck supper after. Please let Carol Kemp know what dish you will contribute at 617-522-8432 or carol.kemp44@comcast.net.

❖ INTERIM FOCUS GROUP, JANUARY 8

An Interim Focus Group is being planned for Sunday, January 8th, from 12:30-2 pm in the Parish House around the question--"Where Are We?" If you have attended any of these other groups you will know that they have been invaluable in planning for the future of our church. If you have not attended, now is the time -- for the health of the church. Please reserve the date in your 2012 calendar, and speak with Dianne Arakawa if you have any questions.

❖ KING'S CHAPEL RETREAT AT GLASTONBURY ABBEY, JANUARY 13-15, 2012

Join us for a program to deepen your spirituality and get to know other members and friends better. Experience the beauty and living tradition of this Benedictine Abbey on the South Shore. Comfortable lodging for two nights with meals for a total cost of \$135 per person. Make your reservation now to guarantee a spot. Please call Ciel Hills at 781-647-0719 to get more information and to book your space.

KING'S CHAPEL SERVICES

SUNDAY

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.

4 Holy Communion

Second Sunday of Advent
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Denton Crews, lay reader
Louise Perkins, lector
The lessons are Isaiah 40:1-11 and Mark 1:1-8.

11 Morning Prayer

Third Sunday of Advent, Tablet Dedication
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Kristin Grassel Schmidt, co-officiant
Abigail Muscat and Gene Clapp, lectors
The lessons are Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11 and John 1:6-8.

18 Morning Prayer

Fourth Sunday of Advent and Receiving of New Members
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, co-officiant
Cliff Allen, lector
The lessons are 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 and Luke 1:26-38.

24 Christmas Eve

Pageant, 4:30 p.m.
Lessons and Carols, 10:30 p.m.
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, officiant
Seven Lectors
Anne Sexton, Acting Verger

25 Morning Prayer

Christmas Day Holy Communion
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, co-officiant
Richard Weeks, lector
Todd Lee, Acting Verger
The lessons are Isaiah 52: 7-10 and John 1:1-14.

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.

6 Pioneer Singers of Lynnfield
Steven Bloom, director
"A Holiday Garland"

13 A-No-Ne Trio
Hiroaki Honshuku, director
Jazzy Christmas Carol

20 Joeli Marshall, soprano
Mindy Hinkel, contralto
Brendan Daly, tenor
Daniel Perry, bass
Heinrich Christensen, organ
"The Half Hour Messiah: Handel Excerpted"

27 Ina Zdorovetchi, harp
Works by Bach, Liszt, Donizetti

✦ SECOND-SUNDAY OFFERING

This month's Second Sunday Offering will be made to the Ecclesia Ministries. The Ecclesia Ministries was founded to serve the homeless in Boston. The organization has grown to serve many of the homeless throughout all of Boston's neighborhoods.

NEWS FROM KING'S CHAPEL

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Elizabeth Sloane, editor

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News from King's Chapel
64 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108

WEDNESDAY

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

7 Midweek Prayer

The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt,
preacher
Amy Meyer, lector

14 Midweek Prayer

Dean Denniston, preacher
Medb Sichko, lector

21 Holy Communion

The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt,
preacher
Cliff Allen, lector

28 Midweek Prayer,

Ciael Hills, preacher
Robert Gulick, lay reader

✦ CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Louise Perkins, co-chair.

4 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Don and Lola Minifie by their children.

11 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Lucy Rantoul Sprague by her family and friends

18 The boxwood star in front of the pulpit is given in loving memory of Aunt Mabel Lyman and Thaxter Spencer by Lydia Lyman

25 Christmas Day

✦ HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Hanging of the Greens will take place at the church on Saturday, December 17th beginning at 10:00 a.m. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Louise Perkins at 978-744-2954 or lwperkins50@hotmail.com

-Louise Perkins, co-chair

DECEMBER 2011 EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Family Service 9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer Holy Communion 11:00a.m. Youth Group 12:30 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal 1:00 p.m.		Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. Church School Committee 6:00 p.m.	Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m. Liturgy Group 6:00 p.m.			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Morning Prayer Tablet Dedication 11:00 a.m. Scovel Reception 12:15 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal 1:00 p.m.	Vestry 5:45 p.m.	Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. Parish Council 5:45 p.m.	Midweek Communion 12:15 p.m.		<i>January Newsletter Deadline</i>	Hanging of the Greens 10:00 a.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Family Service 9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer and Receiving New Members 11:00a.m. Milk Punch Celebration and Christmas Party 12:15 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal 3:00 p.m.		Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m.	Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m.		Pageant Dress Rehearsal	Christmas Eve Christmas Pageant 4:30 p.m. Candlelight Service <i>Lessons and Carols</i> 10:30 p.m. <i>(Prelude begins at 10:00 p.m.)</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Christmas Day</i> Morning Prayer Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.		Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m.	Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m.			New Year's Eve Evensong 5:30 p.m. New Year's Dinner 6:30 p.m. First Night Organ Recital 9:00 p.m.

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Rev. Dianne E. Arakawa, Interim Senior Minister
The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, Assistant Minister
The Rev. Carl R. Scovel, Minister Emeritus
Heinrich Christensen, Director of Music
Shannon Lee, Church School Director
Elizabeth Sloane, Parish Administrator
Theresa Cooney O'Hara, Head Guide

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

❖ **HOLIDAY BAKED GOODS PROJECT**

Once again the Social Action Committee is partnering with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless as a participant in the Holiday Bake Goods Project. Coalition advocates have learned that many students in at-risk families do not have a bed and are sleeping on the floor or with a sibling. In many schools, social workers have set up cots in quiet areas of libraries because students are falling asleep at their desks. Families living in poverty often do not have money to buy a bed, which has a major effect on a child's ability to come to school prepared to learn, thus having long-term consequences on the child's education.

The Coalition has launched "A Bed for Every Child," in order to purchase a twin mattress, frame, and linens for each child referred to the Coalition by its partners in the public schools. Currently, the Coalition is working with the Lynn elementary schools to ensure that each student who is referred will have a bed delivered to his or her home. This year's sales from the Holiday Bake Goods Project will be directed to purchase beds for low-income children in need. The goal over the next 12 months is to raise \$200,000 to allow distribution of 1,500 beds to children in need who are attending school. Orders will be accepted up to Wednesday, December 14th, and delivery will be made during the week of December 19th. ***Checks should be paid to the order of Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless and mailed to C. Clifford Allen, 12 Jewett Road, Beverly, MA 01915.***