

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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From the Church School Director

From the Assistant Minister

Dear Friends,

May 21st at 6 p.m. came and went, like any other spring day, except perhaps that it poured buckets and the Red Sox played one of their worst games. It was in interleague play against the Chicago Cubs, no less in period uniforms, and we gave up seven runs in the eighth inning. But no Second Coming. No end-of-the-world. No rapture. Oh, well.

Doomsday sayers have been murmuring, too, that after this minister, that warden, or that member, King's Chapel or such-and-such a church will never quite be the same. It's a valley of dry bones, unrevivable by even the Holy Spirit. Oh, you know, the End is very close. How will anything remain the same? How can so much be changing? Well, in all my years in ministry, no one, not even ministers, has ever been indispensable to the growing life in the Church. I never knew the UUA to be at the top of the charts in numbers or Spirit. In fact right now, it has sunk to its figures for 1961. Now don't get me wrong: I respect our free-thinking and erudition. Nor is the United Church of Christ or any of the other mainstream Protestant churches growing by leaps and bounds, building multiple staffs, and adding on wings to their buildings. Key themes for our new age are diversity and sustainability.

But if doomsayers had heard our pre-kindergarten and elementary children sing "God is the One," on Children's Sunday, I think they would hold their quick tongues. For they would realize that the children singing their hearts out in the middle of our center aisle, in the middle of our church, and in the middle of our world, was a sign that wonderful things have been happening at King's Chapel.

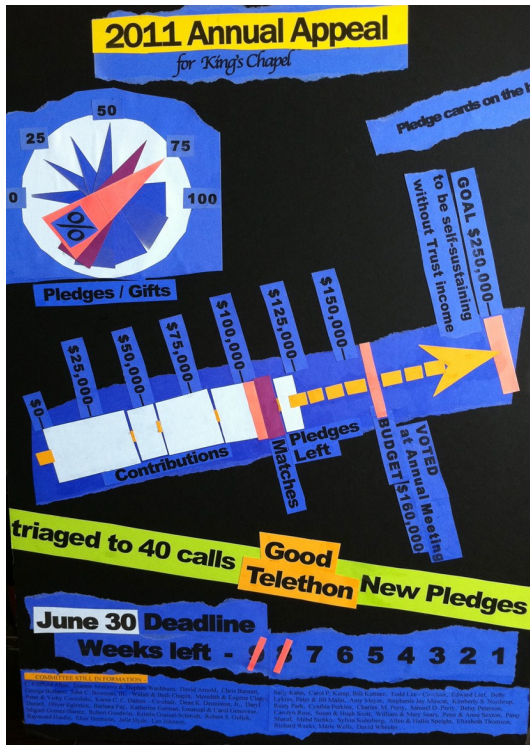
Members are working happily together for the Common Good and our 325th Anniversary. In January we held a fun-filled Auction, which helped raise enough funds to replace our well-worn carpet in our sanctuary. We revised our long-revered Bylaws at our annual meeting this past March to reflect our growing congregationalism and understanding about new ways of being together. Our Church School added a pre-kindergarten class, stabilized a Youth Group and joined the Big Church every second Sunday of the month. This June we will take in a few new members and baptize young children. Our attendance figures have held their own; our guide program has increased dramatically. Our Annual Appeal is finishing up, thanks to the love and commitment of our members. Our staff is the strongest I have seen. This July we will send seven of our own to join our Partner Church members at the Habitat Build in Kolosvar, Romania; three with scholarships. Thanks to everyone, who has contributed time, talent and treasure.

End of the world? I think not. Change? Most certainly. When you hear a word of nay-saying, just reply, "May 21st." Or, "Ezekiel 37:1-14." For, you know, the Spirit, the Spirit of Pentecost, cannot be held down, not by you or me. It's only a matter of time before the fullness of God's goodness is felt, new life is breathed into brittle old bones, the tired regain their energy and enthusiasm, and sinews and muscles are strengthened to dance and sing, "God is the one!"

Pentecost blessings,

Dianne

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS



❖ SIX WEEKS LEFT - Annual Appeal Completion, Pledges and Matches

The pace is quickening. Our telethon last week reached (or left messages for) a select group of our community. We did a triage to determine where our calls would be most effective. We did not call many members of the Appeal Committee (assuming that they were focused on the finish), nor did we spend time with the repeat non-responders.

We *DID* call to remind pledgers to complete, and to increase their stewardship over last year to get the match, if they could. We also called folks who had been generous to us in past years, but from whom we had not heard this year.

Remember the Matching Funds-Some of us are indeed responding to the leadership donors who have stipulated that their contributions be used to match individual gift increases over last year's. Members of our community are going back, and adding to their current pledges and gifts to be eligible for the match.

Poster-The image shown is of the poster, updated weekly, that is displayed in the Vestibule on Sunday mornings, and accompanies us to other fund-raising events, and some 325 occasions.

List of Pledgers, Donors and Matched-The strength of new contributions, plus feedback from the telethon, prevents us from publishing (as promised in the last issue) the Donor List codified into Pledgers, Givers and gifts with Matches. We will likely email this reminder (also USPS for the few) a week or two before the deadline.

Closing In-We are closing in on the deadline and moving towards the interim goal for this June 30 of \$160,000 with purpose. Thank you to all who support (or intend to) the finances of our church.

Best wishes,

-Todd Lee and Karen C.C. Dalton, Co-Chairs

❖ INTRODUCING THURSDAY ORGAN RECITALS

As a new musical initiative for the month of June, Heinrich Christensen will play organ recitals on the first four Thursdays of the month, i.e. June, 2, 9, 16, 23, from 12:15-12:45 PM. The repertoire for all four recitals will be "Bach & More". Free admission, we'll put a basket at the door and any donations will benefit the music program at King's Chapel.

❖ CULMINATING 325TH MORNING PRAYER

On Pentecost, the birthday of the whole Christian church, we will hold the culminating 325th Anniversary Morning Prayer. Everyone is invited to wear red. The preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Harvey Cox, who is the Hollis Research Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School. Dr. Cox taught for 41 years, and specializes in the interaction of religion, culture, and politics. He has lectured widely and written a dozen books including *The Future of Faith*, *Jesus Came to Harvard*, *The Feast of Fools*, and *The Secular City*.

We will receive three new members--Judith Giacomozzi, Grady Jones, and Paul Luca. Our choir will return. They will be joined by Triton Brass, familiar to King's Chapel from their tri-fold appearance in the 50th anniversary season of our Concert Series, 2007-2008. The brass players will contribute to the festivities with music by Vaughan Williams, Widor and more.

❖ FROM THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Thanks to our many gracious angels, congregants participated and enjoyed coffee and treats provided by a slew of hosts this past season. Conversation was very lively; visitors were drawn into conversation and felt welcomed. We should also take note of how great the consistent hospitality support from volunteers was and is--not only during coffee hour--but also with the major events of Homecoming, Milk Punch at Christmas time, and the pre-annual meeting lunch. The committee has deep appreciation and admiration for those angels who assist with donations and clean-up at these events.

On Sunday, May 18th, Sylvia Soderberg, KC Dalton and Todd Lee added sparkle to the coffee hour with bubbly and berries in honor of our 325th Anniversary celebration, and for the Rev. Dr. Carl Scovel who preached. The vestibule was packed and good cheer was rising to the rafters. In April, Amy Meyer and David Wheeler renewed their marriage vows at KC. They hosted an elegant coffee hour in celebration. Such milestones or honoraries at the social hour are welcome by this committee. If you wish to host a similar event, please contact any one of us on the committee. Punch on the Bricks will start soon with the warm weather. Albeit a little more challenging to host than coffee, we will be seeking more gracious ones to serve.

-Barbara Fay, Sally Kahn, Anne Sexton, co-chairs

❖ FROM THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

As of the Newsletter deadline, the Committee is looking forward to a mock interview in late May. This is a step in the search process recommended by the UCC who arranges for a recently settled, UCC minister to act as our 'candidate.' In advance, the Committee will have written questions and developed a procedure; the 'candidate' will have submitted his/her papers for the Committee's review. After the 'interview,' the 'candidate' and the Committee will share impressions. We anticipate that this will be extremely helpful. We'll let you know how it goes. As always, your questions and comments are welcome. Please send them to the co chairs. Thank you.

-Cliff Allen and Beth Chapin, Co-Chairs

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Church School!

The Church School has just celebrated Children's Sunday, and families and staff have said their goodbyes and see you next fall. While the Church School is on hiatus until mid-September, parents and other family members continue to have very active roles as spiritual guides for their children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Summer is a great opportunity for families to practice answering their children's questions and/or, better yet, have discussions in response to their children's questions. As I was writing this, I turned to my knowledgeable companion, Google, and came across a fantastic article by Rabbi David Wolpe, entitled *How to Talk to Your Kids about God*.

Rabbi Wolpe offers families the following guidelines for having conversations about religion and spirituality. (For a complete copy of the article, please go to <http://www.jewishfederations.org/page.aspx?id=11672>.)

- **Ask.** Studies show that almost all children by the age of six have developed some concept of God. Ask them. Do not allow your own preconceptions to determine the range of their curiosity – let them think, speculate, dream, imagine. Children will grow in their understanding, but only if we do not cut off conversation by dictating the "truth" or by evading the issue.

- **Tell Stories.** Stories encourage children to form concepts of character. To learn about God, tell the stories of the Bible and talk about experiences from your own life. Children are less adept at manipulating abstract concepts than they are at understanding concrete operational ideas. Along with stories, use descriptive language: Rather than "God knows everything", try to be specific: "God is the one who helps us to grow."

- **Bring God into everyday life.** Tell your children that God loves them. Explain that the world is filled with evidence of God's concern and artistry. If the language seems alien or difficult, find ways to ease into it. "Who loves you?" Go through a list – parents, siblings, grandparents, and God.

- **Do not be defensive at challenges.** Thoughtful children – especially once they enter into adolescence – will challenge our religious ideas. That is a sign of thoughtfulness. When we are angry or defensive, we show our own insecurities, our unease with the religious ideas we profess. Welcome the challenge – recognize that there are many good reasons to doubt God's existence or benevolence. Engage in a dialogue, not a diatribe.

- **Learn good answers.** There are no definitive answers to difficult questions, but there are good ones. Try not to fall into the trap of giving facile answers that may satisfy a six year old, but will be transparently unacceptable when the child is older and more sophisticated. It is better not to be understood yet, than to misrepresent the complexity of the issues. Still, in many cases hard questions can be addressed very early: "If God dwells everywhere, is God in my pocket?" The appropriate answer to this is to explain the difference between physical and non-physical objects. The wind is invisible, but physical. Love is intangible. Ask a child, "Where is love?" You cannot point to it, but you can feel it. The same is true with God.

All my best,
-Shannon

FROM THE ASSISTANT MINISTER

Dear Friends,

Recently, I have been reflecting a lot about the difference between reacting and responding. When anything good, bad, painful, or pleasurable happens to us, we each experience some sort of emotional or physical reaction. If we touch a hot pan, we react when we yell, "Ouch!" Response, then, is the step beyond reaction. After saying "Ouch!" we can respond to the hotness of the pan by removing our hand from it, and then turning the stove off.

A few weeks ago, I witnessed the nation's reaction to the death of Osama bin Laden with astonishment. It seems to me that as a nation, we have not yet dealt with our "Ouch!" feelings, and that the celebratory responses of many the nation over came out of a place of continuing deep hurt. I must admit that I felt a brief sense of relief when I heard news of bin Laden's death, but I could not celebrate the taking of any person's life, no matter how twisted his theology, evil his actions, or heinous his crimes. For as we are instructed in the book of Proverbs, "Do not rejoice in the downfall of your enemy and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles" (24:17).

We can experience intense emotional reactions to positive things, too. Like many of you, my heart was filled with gladness when the Rev. Dr. Carl Scovel preached on Mother's Day. In my conversations with church members since, it is clear to me that his words have stirred up a broad mix of emotions, including gratitude, nostalgia, joy, sadness, pride, and hope. I share many of these reactions.

The entire month of June likewise promises to be an emotional time at King's Chapel. Like any church in transition, as the Search Committee continues its good work we may feel curious about what our new settled minister might be like, and what the upcoming transition might look like. We have begun to say goodbye as another Church School year has ended and summer approaches. We say goodbye to our beloved Sunday School teacher, Aaron Stockwell, who will be transitioning out of his position with us and into his ministerial internship with First Parish in Lincoln, MA. And finally, we approach the culmination of the 325th church anniversary, and all of the festivity, nostalgia, and hope for the future that it will bring.

As human beings, we will inevitably react emotionally to all of our experiences, whether good or bad, pleasurable or painful. But our inevitable emotional reaction does not have to translate into automatic response. This does not mean we don't say "Ouch!" when things hurt us, or cry when things move us, or laugh when things make us happy. It means that we take the time to move through our emotions so that we might then choose how best to respond. As people of faith, we are called to lives of thoughtful and compassionate response, guided by love and forgiveness, as challenging as that can be. During this emotionally charged time, I pray that we might each find space to honor our feelings, and then consider deeply how we as a congregation are being called to respond to our challenges, and to the great wealth of blessings and opportunities headed our way.

In faith,
-Kristin

✦ 325TH ANNIVERSARY SERMONS

Copies of the sermons delivered by Professor Daniel P. McKanan of the Harvard Divinity School, and the Rev. Dr. Carl Scovel will be available at Morning Prayer on June 5th.

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.

5 Holy Communion

Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Carol Kemp, Lay Reader
Allen Speight, lector
*The lessons are Isaiah 41:17-20 and
John 14:15-21*
Charles Robert Stephens, soloist

12 Morning Prayer, Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Harvey Cox, guest preacher
Rev. Dianne Arakawa and Rev. Kristin
Grassel Schmidt, co-officiants
Dean Denniston, lector
*The lessons are Isaiah 44:1-8 and John
20:19-23*
King's Chapel Choir with Triton Brass

19 Morning Prayer

Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, preacher
Todd Lee, lector
*The lessons are Deuteronomy 43:2-40 and
Matthew 28:16-20*
Karen Gardner, soloist

26 Morning Prayer

Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Marie Wells, lector
*The lessons are Leviticus 19:1-1,9-18 and
Matthew 5:34-48*
Jill Malin, soloist

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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.

- 7 Spivey Hall Children's Choir
Martha Shaw, director, Judy Mason, assistant director; "Songs of the Earth, Sea and Sky" by Paulus, Hogan, Brunner
- 14 Travessada Renaissance Flute Consort
"From the 20 & 7 Songs" by Sermisy, Gombert, Passerau, and more
- 21 Franziska Huhn, harp
Music by Back, Faure, Hayden
- 28 15th Annual Young Organists Initiative
Showcase Recital
Scholarship winners ages 13-18 play works by Back, Pachelbel, Franck

SECOND-SUNDAY OFFERING

This month's Second Sunday Offering will be given to the Strong Kids Annual Campaign of the YMCA. The Strong Kids program provides financial assistance to youth, adults and families to allow them to participate in programs that build healthy minds, spirits, and bodies.

KOLOSVAR COMMISSIONING

In our June 19th service we will commission the delegates from our church, who will be representing us in Kolosvar, Romania, for the Habitat for Humanity Build and visit to our partner church--Ray Hardin, Becky Malin, Kristin Grassel Schmidt, Peter and Anne Sexton, Jonathan Washburn, and David Wheeler.

BAPTISMS

On June 26th, we will baptize the children of Andrew and Alexandra McMullen.

WITHIN THE PARISH

Best Wishes to Abigail B. Tracy & Carl F. Tuke III, who were married at King's Chapel on May 14th by Rev. Arakawa.

WEDNESDAY

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

- 1 **Midweek Prayer**
Aaron Stockwell, preacher
Amy Meyer, Lay Reader
- 8 **Midweek Prayer**
Dean Denniston, preacher
Charles Dimino, lector
- 15 **Holy Communion**
Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Cliff Allen, lector
- 22 **Midweek Prayer**
Chaplain Art Judge, preacher
Ciael Hills, Lay Reader
- 29 **Midweek Prayer**
The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, officiant
Charles., Dimino, Lector

FLOWERS

If you wish to donate flowers, please contact Louise Perkins, Chancel Committee Co-chair.

- 5 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of their parents and grandparents by Carl and Faith Scovel.
- 12 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Paul and Elizabeth Schmid from Paul, Mark, and Lisa, and their families.
- 19 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of his grandmother, Katherine Perry, and his father and mother, Henry and Marian Perry, by Charles M. Perry.
- 26 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Thaxter Parks Spencer and Norma Mutti Brizzi in honor of his 90th and her 101st birthday, by Cynthia Mutti.

UU CHURCHES VISIT

As usual we have had a stream of UU church groups visit us. Recently it was from Bethesda, MD, Annapolis, MD, Columbia, MD, Beverly, MA, Manhasset, NY, Lexington, MA (Follen), and Evanston, IL.

E-NEWSLETTERS AND HARD-COPY NEWSLETTERS

Our church leaders and staff wish to continue to decrease the number of hard-copy newsletters we send out, in order not to waste time and paper and because postage rates increased last month. If you are able to switch from hard-copies to our e-newsletters, which arrive on time and are in color, please notify Aaron Stockwell at frontdesk@kings-chapel.org, leaving the email you wish to use. We think you will be very pleased with your decision to switch.

JUNE 2011 EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m.	Thursday Organ Recital 12:15 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Holy Communion Morning Prayer 11:00a.m.		Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. Church School Committee 5:30 p.m.	Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m.	Thursday Organ Recital 12:15 p.m.	<i>July-August Newsletter Submission Deadline</i>	Boston Pride Parade 10:30 a.m. Country Picnic and Barndance 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pentecost Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. <i>New Members</i> Kolosvar Luncheon 12:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting 5:45 p.m. Parish Council 7:00 p.m.	Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m.	Holy Communion 12:15 p.m.	Thursday Organ Recital 12:15 p.m.		Parish Council Retreat 9:00 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Morning Prayer 11:00a.m. <i>Kolosvar Commissioning</i>		Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m.	Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m.	Thursday Organ Recital 12:15 p.m.		
26	27	28	29	30		
Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. <i>Baptisms</i>		Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m.	Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m. Harborfest Begins			

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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, Head Guide

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

BOSTON PRIDE PARADE, JUNE 11TH AT 10:30 A.M.

The Social Action Committee will lead a King's Chapel team in the 41st annual Boston Pride Parade, a colorful celebration of gay rights in Boston. As last year, the KC team will join other UU churches under the banner of the UU Mass Bay District, one of more than 140 groups already registered.

The Pride Parade starts in the South End (Tremont and Clarendon Streets) where we line up at 10:30 a.m. and start walking at noon. It ends with a festival at City Hall plaza at 3:00 pm. The route is approximately 1.6 miles in total. KC members and friends are cordially invited to walk—all or part way—with our group.

This is an uplifting event, a great way to support human rights and diversity while getting some light exercise and having fun with fellow members. Wear your KC T-shirt (optional) and bring along some sunblock and a bottle of water. Please contact Amy Meyer (617-523-3780; amymeyerw@comcast.net) to sign up.

COUNTRY PICNIC AND BARN DANCE JUNE 11TH FROM 2:00 TO 8:00 P.M.

We're celebrating King's Chapel's 325th Anniversary. Please bring your families and friends to join us for a fun picnic and a barn dance to celebrate summer and our history.

We hope everyone will bring something they love to eat, and enough of it to share, and we will provide an assortment of beverages. We're also hoping to have a delightful array of cakes and pies for dessert. Nothing too fancy, just bring what you love, and share it.

We will be inside the old red barn, or outside, whatever weather permits, but there's room to explore, stroll across the babbling brook, sit and chat, or join in for the dancing with musicians and caller.

Kids of all ages will enjoy this great space. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes suitable for the barnyard. We don't have many animals these days, but the horses make their presence known.

For information call Julie Hyde (781-237-6576 or juliehyde@gmail.com).