

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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✠ CONCERT SERIES, JANUARY 22

Let's cruise! Please join us for the next concert in our Sunday series, entitled "A Baltic Cruise", on January 22 at 5 PM. The program is inspired by a journey by sea; the ports of call will be Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, Tallinn, Riga, and Gdansk. The King's Chapel Choir will sing gems from the rich treasure troves of these countries' venerable choral traditions, featuring works by Pärt, Kreek, Lindberg, Mäntyjärvi and other, equally familiar names. Parishioners and friends are invited to an informal reception at the Parish House following the performance.

-Heinrich Christensen

Dear Friends,

It's a new year! A new calendar year, of course, and for us at King's Chapel a new fiscal year filled with new hopes, dreams and goals. A couple of months ago I attended a workshop with a New Year's theme of "Leading from the Future." It was conducted by Cameron Tremble of the Center for Progressive Renewal and Cynthia Huey from the Interim Ministry Network. They reiterated the truth that for churches the old is out; the new is in. For, as you may know, many mainline churches are closing just as technology continues to rise. Either congregations identify their mission, address membership and invest in technology -- or decline.

Well, we know this dynamic at King's Chapel. For our church has adapted creatively at times of paradigmatic change, as after the Revolution and the Civil War. I'll re-address the mission and membership growth issues at our next Interim Focus Group on the 8th. But with regards to technology, I recall that when I began ministry, I had more time to receive and initiate office visits and telephone calls, and to regularly see parishioners, including those *not* in hospitals or rehabilitation facilities. Today I continue to see members and receive phone calls and messages—landline and mobile-- but also about 100 emails a weekday. (That means, barring the glitches of technology, I am expected, I suppose, to answer all of these messages from members and staff, which obviously cuts into my being with people in person.) Likewise, our part-time staff tell us that they can no longer afford the time and expense to print, fold, tape, stamp and mail hard-copies of newsletters and other church letters, and are asking everyone, who is able, to convert to internet delivery.

Old at the church includes such unhelpful habits as *not* greeting visitors and newcomers, doing church business in the aisles, complaining and gossiping in order to get attention, not contributing to our Annual Appeal as generously as possible, not recycling in our kitchens and offices, and expecting the staff to somehow read our minds and for them to take on volunteer responsibilities. Over the past two years we have made solid progress in turning these around. *New* at the church includes such positive practices as creating a welcoming atmosphere for everyone to worship, caring for the spiritual well being of each other, not condoning negativity and the same-old same old, inviting friends to worship with us, supporting our Adult Religious Education, Church School and Social Action projects, upgrading and using our website including PayPal, and understanding that key church information is now managed by new electronic programs so we need to keep the office staff informed.

Out with the old; make way for the new! With God's help, prayer and our Covenant, which is in many ways timeless, we can continue to build on our real gifts, talents and strengths. Together we can make our way through the changing landscape of ministry in the 21st century.

New Year blessings,

Dianne

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPDATES, & EVENTS

❖ INTERIM FOCUS GROUP: *WHERE ARE WE NOW?*

JANUARY 8

Back by popular demand...We invite our regulars and any in our congregation to gather together to discuss where you think we are today as individuals and a congregation, and where we need to go from here.

In September 2009 we held a Vestry Retreat, under the then leadership of Sylvia Soderberg and Todd Lee, which resulted in the creation of a Covenant for Communication, and the formation of three Task Groups on Theology, Governance and Bylaws. The Theology Group resulted in the use of the phrase, "We are an ecumenical church, affiliated with the UUA." The Bylaws Group completed their work in February 2011, and revised Bylaws were adopted at the Annual Meeting in March with significant changes.

The Interim Focus Groups began meeting in November 2009 and gathered periodically through the winter of 2011. Topics discussed included Vestry Leadership, Staff Cooperation, Conflict Transformation, the History of Church Life, Ministry, the Church School, and the Mission and Vision of King's Chapel with Rev. Karen Nell from the Brookfield Institute. The latter was completed at the same time that the Search Committee began their Congregational Survey.

In the fall of 2011 a Liturgy Group was formed to discuss liturgy as "the work of the people," Morning Prayer and the Midweek Service. As a result the Ministers and church have adopted, by vote of the Vestry, use of the Revised Common Lectionary, which has been in ecumenical use since 1993. Another meeting will be held this January to discuss the Early Service in our Church School. Learnings have been reflected in improved congregational understanding and cooperation; a Church Time Line; the Lists of all Ministers, Senior and Junior Wardens, and Assistant Ministers of our church; the 5-pointed Star showing our public ministries of Worship, Education, Music, Service (Guide Program) and Social Action; and the Revised By-Laws and Organizational Chart used by our leaders and staff.

We hope that these congregational learnings will continue in the future for the religious development, spiritual health, and institutional survival of King's Chapel during particularly precarious social and economic times. Please join us on January 8th for more-conversation.

-*Dianne Arakawa*

❖ MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your Ministerial Search Committee – Leo Johnson, Allen Speight, Stefanie Muscat, Peter Malin, Cliff Allen, and Beth Chapin – continues its work of reading, discussing, and thinking. While arduous at times, the work has also been very rewarding. We have had the honor and pleasure of making the acquaintance of many talented and caring ministers We feel blessed. You should also know that the Committee has consulted regularly and been guided by the results of the Survey that you completed, now almost a year ago. We thank you most sincerely sharing your thoughts; they have been invaluable to us. As always, please send your questions and comments to the co-chairs.

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

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Let me begin by wishing everyone a very happy and productive new year. As we begin 2012 at Kings Chapel, the coming year will be both a year of excitement and challenge. Your leadership along with the ministerial search committee is working very hard to make 2012 the year of our new called settled minister. At this writing, the search committee is well along its check list of steps which are necessary to complete this process. Let us pray for a successful conclusion.

The coming year will also see a shift in our budgetary year to align with the calendar year. This change, which has been requested by so many members will make it much easier for members to calculate and monitor their annual pledges. On Sunday, January 22, following Morning Prayer, we will have a brief meeting to discuss and vote on the 2012 budget. The Wardens promise to keep this meeting both brief and concise. A quorum is necessary to pass the budget, so please do your best to attend this meeting.

As we look towards the coming year, we are energized and excited with the tasks set before us. The work that we as a congregation have done during the past two years has been hard, but also rewarding. As we begin a new year let us continue to move forward together, in faith, in love, and with high and positive expectations for our future together.

-*Dean K. Denniston, Jr.*

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

Join us for an ARE 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.

-*Ciel Hills, chair*

❖ ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Silence and contemplation, are indeed ways to self-knowledge, though difficult to practice today in our fast-paced culture. The ARE Committee, chaired by Ciel Hills, decided to explore these practices described in *Bridges to Contemplative Living* (Book One). The book included many passages from the writings of Thomas Merton as well as other contributors. The group, which ranged from four to eight, met for eight weeks under the guidance of Carol and Emanuel Genovese. The core of the discipline for the participants was trust in the contemplative dialogue, a way of listening to each other and oneself, without concerns for problem solving or outcomes. Themes such as Awe and Gratitude, God's Will and Silence, Living Deeply, were discussed and hopefully, more fully felt.

-*Barbara Fay and Emanuel Genovese, members*

FROM THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Greetings from the Church School. Before discussing other Church School news, I'd like to take a moment to honor the memory of Susan Wright. Susan celebrated her 14th birthday on December 13th, and she was in the eighth grade at Milton Academy. For many years, Susan studied flute with Pei-Chun Lin and we were fortunate to hear her play on several occasions. Also, Susan was an incredibly talented public speaker, frequently winning competitions and often putting us adults to shame when she read Old Testament lessons in church. Many of you have asked how you can support the Wright family at this time – at Katherine Wright's request, please consider making a donation to the Animal Rescue League of Boston in lieu of flowers, meals. Their website is <http://www.arlboston.org> sitePageServerpagename=new_homepage_1.

On Christmas Eve, we gathered for our 19th Christmas Pageant, with Wendy Franco Almquist as Director and Pei-Chun Lin as Accompanist. The pageant was dedicated to Susan, and it was performed as beautifully as ever. I would like to thank all of the children and youth who participated in the pageant for the many hours they spent rehearsing and for ensuring that every role was filled and every song was sung. I would also like to thank Emanuel Genovese for taking on the role of Joseph a mere week before the performance – fortunately, he'd seen the pageant a "few" times before! Blessings to all in the new year. Remember, "No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow." ~Proverb

-Shannon Lee

❖ 2011.5 ANNUAL APPEAL COMPLETES ITS GOAL, AND THEN SOME

The six month Annual Appeal for the short fiscal 2011.5 year – has finished above its \$80,000 goal! We should feel good about our stewardship of the church and its resources. Just about everyone who contributed to the 2011 Appeal that ended June 30 last summer, contributed to this last six-month period. Some were significantly more generous! We had new donors who more than make up for those we have lost. However, it is salutary that as a group we have generally increased our giving per family/member maintaining our financial strength. We are working to have our new database and new church software come online in January, 2012. This will allow us to generate the acknowledgement letters including the tax receipts with new accuracy and timeliness.

So thank you to our Members and Friends for making this most recent Annual Appeal a success. Thank you to our Committee members for your labor when asked for, as well as your active participation and steadfast moral support. Thank you to our Parish House staff who work so diligently to keep all the records, phone calls, emails and paper moving properly. And finally, we thank our Ministers for their creative and focused attention to this effort. All of you make this assignment a joy. There will be a 2012 Annual Appeal that will run in parallel with the fiscal/calendar year: January 1 through December 31, 2012, to begin in late winter.

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

FROM THE ASSISTANT MINISTER

Forty nine years ago, the man whose birthday the nation will celebrate midway through this month wrote the following from a Birmingham jail cell: "The church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society." While most of us remember Martin Luther King, Jr. as a brave civil rights leader, it can be easy to overlook that his work for social justice was rooted in his vocation as a minister. His vision encompassed not only change in national rights and politics, but also the way in which the Church might lead that change.

As we approach Epiphany, the season of light, I wonder how we at King's Chapel might take up the work of community leadership. As our children and youth continue their religious education, as our adult members and friends continue our spiritual journey through the liturgical calendar, and as our congregation continues to prepare for a new settled minister, the question of how we are being called to "transform the mores of society" is big in my mind. Beyond our work inside the parish, beyond charity, where are we as a congregation called to bring God's light into our wider community? How are we called to serve others, and to welcome all of who they are into our parish? In what new and wonderful ways might this service change and transform us?

As we faithfully engage these questions together, may we all be blessed with awareness of the new places in our hearts, our church, and our world where God's light and love shine anew.

-Kristin

❖ CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING, JANUARY 22

We will have a short congregational meeting on January 22, 2012 to approve the FY 2012 budget. This covers the period from January to December 2012, because we have changed to a calendar year budget cycle. If inclement weather prevents attendance from achieving quorum requirements, we will reschedule the meeting to January 29th. Copies of the budget will be sent early in January. We are in the process of making final adjustments to the budget at this time. Members can expect the budget to be very similar to the previous budget in both income and expenses.

-Wardens

❖ THE WORK OF OUR HANDS, FEBRUARY 26TH

A New Year - new inspirations and new challenges! What more can we ask for? On Sunday the 26th of February we offer you these in the form of a show - "The Work of Our Hands" presented by you and me! What have you created? Photos, paintings, writing, music, sewing or knitting, culinary goodies or any other form? We will display our talents for one day only—how modest can we be? We hope those with talent in the kitchen will submit their specialty at lunch time and a few others will help to set up our exhibit the day before. The work of your hands may be left on Saturday the 25th and picked up after the show closes on Sunday or Monday.

-Elsie Hermann and Emmanuel Genovese, coordinators

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.

1 Holy Communion

The Rev. Dr. Rand Peabody, preacher
The Rev. Dianne Arakawa, co-officiant
William Kuttner, lector
The lessons are Isaiah 61:10-62:3 and Luke 2:22-40.

8 Morning Prayer

The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, preacher
The Rev. Dianne Arakawa, co-officiant
Marie Wells, lector
The lessons are Genesis 1:1-5 and Mark 1:4-11.

15 Morning Prayer

The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, preacher
Lee Glenn, lector
The lessons are 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) and John 1:43-51.

22 Morning Prayer

The Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, co-officiant
Peter Sexton, lector
The lessons are Jonah 3:1-5 and Mark 1:14-20.

29 Morning Prayer

The Rev. Dianne Arakawa, preacher
The Rev. Kristin Grassel Schmidt, co-officiant
Carol Genovese, lector
The lessons are Deuteronomy 18:15-20 and Mark 1:21-28.

✦ SECOND-SUNDAY OFFERING

This month's Second Sunday Offering will be made to the Bridge Over Troubled Waters Program. Bridge Over Troubled Waters' mission is to enable high-risk, runaway and homeless youth to achieve a healthy and productive adulthood through prevention, intervention, and education services. Serving 2,433 youth ages 14 – 24 each year, Bridge offers a comprehensive range of health, educational, career and housing services.

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.

- 3 Trium Vocal Ensemble
"Love Came Down"
Works by Cornysh, Willaert, Holst, and more
- 10 Solar Winds Quintet
Works by Coleman, Turrin, Parker
- 17 George Sargeant, organ
Works based on Spirituals
- 24 Jodi Hagen, violin
Heinrich Christensen, organ
Antonio Vivaldi: Winter from The 4 Seasons
Works by Bach & Rheinberger
- 31 Carson Cooman, organ
Works by Pinkham, Bell, Asplund, Bédard

WEDNESDAY

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

4 Midweek Prayer

Reverend Kristin Grassel Schmidt, preacher
Amy Meyer, lector

11 Midweek Prayer

Dean Denniston, preacher
Ray Lynds, lector

18 Holy Communion

Reverend Kristin Grassel Schmidt, preacher
Charles Dimino, lector

25 Midweek Prayer

Reverend Dianne Arakawa, preacher
Cliff Allen, lector

✦ CHANCEL FLOWERS

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

- 1 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Sister Mary Jerome Moore, O. S. B., a loving teacher and life-long friend, by Peter Thomson.
- 22 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Ralph Gordon Soderberg by Sylvia Soderberg and Amy and Mark Nichols
- 29 The flowers on the Communion table are given in loving memory of Felicia Reed Clark by Todd Lee.

NEWS FROM KING'S CHAPEL

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

Elizabeth Sloane, editor

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USPS 011-271

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

Postmaster: Send address changes to

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JANUARY 2012 EVENTS

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---------------------|--|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| New Year's Day Morning Prayer Holy Communion 11:00a.m. | | Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. Church School Committee 6:00 p.m. | Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m. | | | Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Family Service 9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Interim Focus Group 12:30 p.m. Youth Group 12:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 1:00 p.m. | Vestry 5:45 p.m. | Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. | Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m. | | ARE Retreat | ARE Retreat |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal 1:00 p.m. | | Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. | Midweek Communion 12:15 p.m. Charities & Ap- peals Committee 5:00 p.m. | | <i>February Newsletter Deadline</i> | Choir Rehearsal 10:00 a.m. |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| Family Service 9:45 a.m. Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. Budget Meeting 12:00 p.m. <i>Concert Series</i> 5:00 p.m. | | Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. Parish Council 6:00 p.m. | Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m. | <p>✘ HABITAT FOR HUMANITY UPCOMING ACTIVITIES</p> <p>-April 28, 2012: King's Chapel Spring Build, Dorchester or Roslindale, a Social Action Committee activity, 10 people maximum.</p> <p>-September or October 2012: King's Chapel Autumn Build, exact date and location to be determined, a Social Action Committee activity, 10 people maximum.</p> <p>-Summer 2013: King's Chapel HFH Global Village build, Cluj (Kolozsvar), Romania, in conjunction with First Church Boston (and possibly First Unitarian Universalist Church, San Francisco) exact date to be determined, Peter Sexton, leader. For further information contact Peter Sexton (petersexton@alum.mit.edu) or Cliff Allen (clifford_allen12@comcast.net).</p> | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | | | |
| Morning Prayer 11:00 a.m. | | Midweek Recital 12:15 p.m. | Midweek Prayer 12:15 p.m. | | | |

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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.**

✘ **KING'S CHAPEL IS GOING GREENER...**

As of February, King's Chapel will become even more environmentally responsible by moving to an all e- Newsletter. We will be sending out the Newsletter entirely by email, instead of the current mix of email and mailed print copies. However, there will be printed copies available at both the Parish House and Church for those who would like them.



We would also invite all those who would like to receive Between Sundays each week to send a request via email to frontdesk@kings-chapel.org.

Please send us your updated email, if we do not already have it! We want to continue to bring you good news from King's Chapel about services, programs and activities.

Thank you for your help!

-Elizabeth Sloane, editor and parish administrator