

**First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist**

**January Newsletter, 2007**

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Rev. Terry Burke, Minister	Ellen McGuire, Music Director
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister	Janna Frelich, Soloist
Rev. Patricia Brennan, Affiliate Minister	Robin Teague, Director of the Children's Choirs
Giulia Norton, Standing Committee Chair	Jean O'Leary, Church Administrator
George Wardle, Trustees Chair	Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher
Andrée Záleská, RE Director	Monroe Heyman, Building Use

**Thoughts From Rev. Terry Burke**

My son Willis enrolled as an undergrad at Boston University this Fall. As part of the parents' orientation, I won a package of prizes (including a BU yoyo and tickets to a BU/BC hockey game) by knowing who Howard Thurman was. Howard Thurman was a great African-American religious leader in the 20th century and the Dean of BU's Marsh Chapel. He was a mentor to BU doctoral student Martin Luther King, who in his later life always carried Thurman's book *Jesus and the Disinherited* in his briefcase. Thurman also introduced King to the non-violent teachings of Mohandas Ghandi.

Our Unitarian Universalist hymnal has a responsive reading from Howard Thurman, which always comes to my mind this time of year. It goes:

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among the brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

One evening before Christmas, I dropped off assistance from my discretionary fund to two families, one in Upham's Corner in Dorchester and another in Brookline. In a mere twenty-five minutes, I drove from a street with memorials to shootings to comfortable suburbia. This January, today, now, the work of Christmas begins. What would Howard Thurman do? What would Martin Luther King do? What should we do?

Love, Terry

## **Greetings from Andrée, Director of Religious Education**

Happy New Year to all at First Church! I am looking forward to the next two terms of our program. Classes start January 7. Here's a few random tidbits of news from the RE Program:

- On the 21<sup>st</sup> Molly Heyman will be visiting to tell us about her experience this past summer working in a home of street children in Tanzania. Last year's Children's Chapel helped finance her trip to Africa, and we're eager to hear how it went.
- Middlers and Youth are planning a visit to Common Cathedral, an outdoor ministry for the homeless on Boston Commons, where they will be hosting lunch.
- Work continues with the Building Committee on reclaiming and cleaning the stage area. The floors were just refinished and are so shiny they're barely recognizable! In a predictable development, we have learned that the stained-glass window needs a LOT of work (who is surprised to hear this?) And big beautiful cabinets will be arriving very soon to contain all the supplies for both KidsArts and the RE Program.
- The RE program will soon begin hosting a monthly folk-singing group for families (Sunday afternoons in the Parish Hall). More information will be coming soon.

As always, we can use the talents of all the adults in the congregation. Please contact me if you have ideas, time or materials to offer our program.

Best wishes,

Andree Zaleska

## **Coming Up at First Church**

**The book group continues to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 here at church.** For January, we're reading Zadie Smith's White Teeth, a much-heralded novel about cultural identity and assimilation, biological determinism and accident. In February, we'll discuss Chet Raymo's, Skeptics and True Believers, which goes beyond the God versus Science argument to consider how we individually and collectively search for truth. It will be hard to forget the book title for March -- The March -- by E.L. Doctorow, a work of historical fiction about Sherman's march through the South. Dates are as follows: Jan. 2; Feb. 6; March 6.

**Upcoming Adult RE Class:** Genesis, led by Marshall Hawkins  
Meeting Wednesday evenings for six sessions, Jan. 24 - Feb. 28, 7:30-9:00pm, in the Morse Room.

Genesis contains some of the most compelling and iconic people and stories in all the Hebrew Scriptures. Our group will look at some of the classic characters of the book, including Cain and Abel; Isaac and Abraham; and Rachel and Leah. We will reflect on how their stories are metaphors for the human experience--and consider how these ancient characters can still speak to us today. Minimal reading required. Visual media and art used to enhance the discussion. Participants should try to commit to attending all six sessions, to help build group chemistry. Sign up at the side table in church, or send an email to: mhawkins@gis.net.

## January 2007 Calendar

- 1 Monday **Have a Peaceful, Healthy New Year!**
- 2 Tuesday 7:30 PM Book Group
- 4 Thursday 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 7 Sunday 11:00 AM Epiphany: Candles of Hope and Concern  
12:15 PM All Church Recovenanting Meeting
- 14 Sunday 11:00 PM Lift Every Voice & Sing  
12:30 PM Social Justice Committee Mtg.  
4:30 PM Family "Church History & Museum" potluck  
8:30 PM RE Committee Mtg.
- 15 Monday **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- 16 Tuesday 7:00 PM Standing Committee Mtg.
- 18 Thursday 8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
- 21 Sunday 9:30 AM Newcomer's Breakfast  
11:00 AM Holy Storytelling: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov
- 23 Tuesday 7:00 PM Church Council Mtg.
- 24 Wednesday 7:30 PM Genesis Class w/Rev. Marshall Hawkins
- 28 Sunday 11:00 PM "Hank Williams Died for Our Sins"  
12:30 PM All Church Mid-Year Mtg. and Potluck
- 31 Wednesday 7:30 PM Genesis Class



### Happy Birthdays!

Zachary Burlingame-Luckett	1	Rowen Shanks Halpin	17
Noah Burlingame-Luckett	2	Grace Zaborski	17
Spencer Marren	6	Allison Casey	17
Cora Heyman	6	Olivia Wardle	22
Molly Heyman	7	Nancy Ahmadifar	25
Isadora Bernasconi	10	Florence Farrell	31
Lucyanna Burke	11		