

**First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist**  
***Newsletter, October 2004***

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*Rev. Terry Burke, Minister*  
*Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister*  
*Karl Haakonsen, Standing Committee Chair*  
*George Wardle, Trustees Chair*  
*Emily Lichtenstein, Director of Religious Education*  
*Ellen McGuire, Music Director*  
*Janna Frelich, Soloist*  
*Robin Teague, Director of the Children's Choirs*  
*Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher*  
*Building Use: Monroe Heyman, 617-796-8613*

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### **Thoughts From Terry**

We had a great celebration of our building and organ's 150th birthday on September 26th. Special thanks to Music Director Ellen McGuire and Historian George Wardle for their hard work. Here are the remarks I made for the service:

Today is a rare benchmark occasion in the life of our community. Today, the line between past, present and future blurs. One hundred and fifty years ago we were given the monumental gifts of this building and its organ. Our great Hook organ signified a democratic commitment to music for all: Boston Public Schools at that time were the first schools in the country to teach music. We have heard today some of the music of the past - George Frederick Handel, and hymns used in the dedication exercises 150 years ago. Careful study brought those to light. We remember our past and give thanks.

This building echoes with the music of the present. We hear the sounds of Ellen McGuire on the organ, the voice of our soloist Janna Frelich, and the singing of our adult and children's choirs. But some of our music would sound very different to a guest from the past. We also hear toddlers making Music Together, multicultural sounds from the KidsArts after school program, and music for gender free English country dancing and line dancing. Recently we heard the organ music of an American Guild of

Organists' worship service; afterwards, some of the organists remembered the days when this Jamaica Plain church had a handful of members, and seemed ready to close. A week ago Saturday we heard wonderful new music: Ellen McGuire and Tim Williamson sang a beautiful duet of the shape note song "More Love" for Tim Williamson and Robert Amelio's wedding. We all add our voices to the hymns of worship and the chorus of activities that this congregation engages in. We celebrate our present.

In his dedication sermon 150 years ago, our minister Rev. Reynolds preached that even though the building construction had been completed, members of the congregation were still building the uncompleted church building with their lives. For Reynolds, people made the church a sacred and holy place by how they worshipped and lived their lives. In our time, we have revived this urban congregation and renovated our building. However, our church building is still incomplete; we need to strain to hear the songs of the time to come, and try to live faithful lives for the future.

Today we heard the story of Jacob's dream. In a time of crisis, Jacob gathers stones for a pillow and goes to sleep. He dreams that angels are ascending to Heaven and descending to earth at his spot, which he describes as "the house of God." Presumably, those angels of Jacob's were singing. May we go deeper in the Spirit so that we are singing angels of service in our world. May we dream how we can sing our liberal faith in the world of the future. We dream our future. May the song of the church, the song of MORE LIVE! sing in us. Amen.

Yours, Terry

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### **Greetings from Emily**

What a whirlwind this first month at First Church has been for me! It's been great to meet you and your wonderful children, and to begin to find my way around the church.

As of September 26, our new year at Church School has been fully launched, with six different groups of children and youth busily engaged in learning what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. Look for details about goings-on in each of these classes in future newsletters. For now, let me just say that if you walk through the building on Sundays between 11:00 (when our Children's Chapel begins) and 1:00 (when our youth groups

end), you will see a whole lot of creating, sharing, thinking, discussing, singing and fun going on!

I look forward to introducing myself to all of you during the October 17 Worship service. At that time I hope to share with you a bit about my background, what led me here to you, and my vision for religious education at First Church. In the meantime, I hope that you will look for me at coffee hour, or contact me (email: ELichtenstein@verizon.net; phone 617-436-1532) so that we can get to know each other.

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### **Holiday Fair**

The holiday fair is scheduled for December 4 2004 (Saturday) please save that date, and the night before, so you can help with set up. And, save your money, you'll want to buy lots of gifts there. The notices just went out to all our prior vendors, but we'd love some new vendors - if you or a friend has a craft you'd be interested in selling contact Abby Krueger about renting a table or send an e-mail to JPCRAFTSFAIR@Yahoo.com

### **Newcomer's Breakfast**

Newcomer's breakfast October 17th - want to help? Email Abby at dear\_abby2@yahoo.com

### **GBIO Action and Hurricane Relief for Haiti**

Join the GBIO Action on Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 pm at Temple Salem, 222 Woodrow Ave. in Dorchester. Your participation is needed to support the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization's campaign for the nursing home bill of rights--of both workers and residents. This is a chance to put social justice into action. See First Church GBIO delegates--Marshall Hawkins, Peggy Hopper, or Nancy Ahmadifar--for more information about GBIO or the event. Carpooling to the event is an option.

As another way to support Boston's nursing home workers, many of whom are Haitian-Americans, GBIO has set up a special fund through Citizens Bank to collect donations for the Hurricane Jeanne victims in Haiti. These funds will be distributed to the organized relief effort. Checks should be made out to "Hurricane Jeanne Relief Fund for Haiti." In order to receive a tax receipt, you must send your check via mail to : Hurricane Jeanne Relief Fund for Haiti, c/o Haitian Multi-Service Center, 12 Bicknell St., Dorchester, MA 02121.

## **Basement Clean-up Plans**

The Building Committee has agreed to rent a dumpster to discard trash from the yard sale which is in the basement (and other places). We will have the dumpster delivered on Friday, November 12, and will have a "Blue Jean Sunday" on November 14th to throw stuff out. We are looking at the ENTIRE basement, so *if anyone in the church has anything they do not want thrown out, please let us know or mark it yourself with a sticker or label.*

## **Recipe for A Church Cookbook**

Ingredients:

1 Congregation of fun, creative, people  
6 Designated Niggers  
8 meetings  
271 E-mails  
6 Hymn Titles (food related)  
dash of humor

Combine above ingredients. Dice recipes into 5.5 inch widths. Simmer over summer, pursue further recipes at cookout. Stir well, season with drawings by Michael Wilhoite, and production consultation by Joanna Zito. Garnish with memories and stories. Serve with cheer at the Holiday Fair.

## **[WWW.firstchurchjp.org](http://WWW.firstchurchjp.org)**

The website for First Church is up and looking great! Please take some time to look it over and see what it has to offer. It is an work in progress and already filled with calendar items as well as information about our RE program, our church community, church governance, history, etc. This user friendly website has already brought in new visitors to the church!

## October 2004 Calendar

<b>3 Sunday</b>	8:30 am	RE Committee Mtg.
	11:00 am	<u>World Communion Sunday: Mystics of World Unite</u>
	12:00 pm	Blessing of the Animals
<b>4 Monday</b>	7:30 pm	Building Committee Mtg.
	7:00 pm	“One in Eight” Film Screening at Coolidge Corner Theater
<b>6 Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
	8:00 pm	Mysticism in World Religions Group
<b>7 Thursday</b>	8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>10 Sunday</b>	11:00 am	Intergenerational Service Sermon: Mystical Teacher, Evelyn Underhill (no Church School)
<b>12 Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	Ministry Committee
<b>13 Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
	8:00 pm	Mysticism in World Religions Group
<b>14 Thursday</b>	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
	7:00 pm	GBIO-Temple Salem, Dorchester
<b>17 Sunday</b>	11:00 am	Emily Lichtenstein Preaching New Comers Breakfast
	12:30 pm	Social Justice Committee Mtg.
<b>19 Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	Standing Committee Mtg.
<b>20 Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
	8:00 pm	Mysticism in World Religions Group
<b>21 Thursday</b>	8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>24 Sunday</b>	9:30 am	Terry’s UU 101 Talk
	11:00 am	“Take Back Your Time” RE Classes Start
<b>26 Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm	Church Council
<b>27 Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
	8:00 pm	Mysticism in World Religions Group
<b>31 Sunday</b>	9:30 am	George’s History Talk
	11:00am	“An Election Sermon”