

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

Brief Thoughts From Terry

Fall is upon us - I saw falling leaves while on a retreat in upstate New York last week. Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, begins in about a week and a half. Boston Public Schools start this week. September 1st is one of the traditional dates for the Church new year. The Opening Weekend party (you are all invited) will be at the Wardles' this Saturday. So this week begins our First Church UU church year; on Sunday we return to the sanctuary after summer services in the parish hall. What better time than at the beginning of a new year to try to understand who we are and who we are called to be?

A New Year suggests endings as well as beginnings, and the importance of taking our limited time seriously. It's a good time to look at our individual and congregational busyness and try to revision who we are called to be. May this be a New Year in which we try to take back some of our time from work and work and more work. May we take some of our time for revisioning and for that ultimately important task of deepening our spiritual lives. Happy New Year! See you in Church!

Welcome to New First Church Staff Members!

We are very pleased to have two new staff members with us as we begin the new year: **Jean O'Leary**, our new Church Administrator, started in the summer. One of her first tasks was to help clean out and organize the church office, along with several volunteers. Jean is a long-time resident of JP, and has attended events and services at the church.

Emily Lichtenstein is our new Acting Director of Religious Education. Emily, who lives in Dorchester, has been attending UUA churches for several years, has been a RE volunteer, and has many years experience as a teacher. She just started her work with us on September 2.

Relief Fund for Florida Disaster

Some of our Florida District congregations and members were hit hard by Charley, the Orlando Church in which their District Office is located, among them. By the time this announcement is made, they may have been hit again, by Frances, along with many more of our Florida UUs. A relief fund has been established. If you would like to make a contribution to the fund, the address is:

FLD-UUA Disaster Relief Fund
Florida District, UUA
1901 East Robinson St., Suite 18
Orlando, FL 02308

Annual Friends of the First Church Kick-Off Potluck Party

Saturday, September 11th at 6 pm At George & Joyce Wardle's house:
< Wardles' address edited out for privacy >

R.S.V.P.s will be appreciated. <George Wardle's phone number and email address edited out for privacy>. These should include whether you can bring lawn chairs and what food you will bring. A grill will be ready for foods needing grilling. Fairview Street is near the Arboretum-- Peter's Hill section for easy before the picnic walks or to provide a respite between supper and dessert. Driving from JP, go outbound on Centre St. past the light at Faulkner Hospital, take the next left on Walter Street, and take your third left onto Cotton Street, which ends at Fairview Street. You can also walk up Fairview Street (it's a big hill!) from behind the train station in Roslindale Square.)

If you'd like to come, you're invited!

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PLEASE NOTE: This party is usually held at Judith and Emerson's house; please go to the correct place!

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 9: 8 pm **Choir Rehearsal**, in the Parish Hall.
please speak to Ellen McGuire at <phone number edited out for privacy> if you are tempted to join us; new members are always welcome!

Service on **Sunday the 12th**, "**One in Eight: Janice's Journey**", will be presented by Cindy McKeown whose film with that name opens at Coolidge Corner on October 4th. She will share her thoughts on ministry of breast cancer education and advocacy.

Jamaica Plain Open Studios takes place at our church on Saturday, September 11, and Sunday, September 12, so plan to come to coffee hour after the service and enjoy the scene!

Celebrate 150th Anniversary

Mark your calendars! There will be three events this fall to celebrate the of our historic building and organ starting with an **Evening Worship Service** and Installation of Officers, Boston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists at First Church, followed by a reception. Please join us on **September 13, 7:30 pm**, to hear great organ music and singing. The church community is encouraged to attend! The **September 26** service will use the original order of service for the dedication of the building and organ on June 15, 1854. More to come on the November 19 service!

Liberal Bible Study - September 22nd at 8:00pm. If you wish to participate in this, please read the Gospel of John in the New Testament.

Book Group - Azar Nafisi's, Reading Lolita in Tehran, was so interesting that the book group has decided to spend two months discussing it. So the next meeting, Tuesday September 28, will also be devoted to it. Join us at 7:30 in the Morse Room.

Terry Burke will be starting a new class on Wednesday, September 29th, at 8pm on "**Mystics of the World Religions**" going through Wed. Nov. 3rd.

September 2004 Calendar

1	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
5	Sunday	11:00 am	Church Service: "Labor of Love"
8	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
9	Thursday	8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
11	Saturday	11:30 am	JP Open Studios
		6:00 pm	BBQ at George and Joyce Wardle's
12	Sunday	11:00 am	Church Service: "One in Eight" Cindy McKeown
		11:30 am	JP Open Studios
13	Monday	7:30 pm	Building Committee Meeting
		7:30 pm	American Guild of Organists Service
15	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
16	Thursday	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
19	Sunday	11:00 am	Church Service: Intergenerational Service—"Days of Awe"
		12:30 pm	Social Justice Committee Meeting
21	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Standing Committee Meeting
22	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
		8:00 pm	Liberal Bible Study
23	Thursday	8:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
24	Friday		Standing Committee Retreat thru Saturday
26	Sunday	11:00 am	Church Service: 150 th Anniversary of Bldg. & Organ RE Classes Start
29	Wednesday	7:00 pm	Prayer Group
		8:00 pm	Terry's Class: "Mystics of World Religions"