

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

September Newsletter, 2007

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Rev. Terry Burke, Minister
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister
Rev. Patricia Brennan, Affiliate Minister
George Wardle, Trustees Chair
Andrée Záleská, RE Director

Ellen McGuire, Music Director
Janna Frellich, Soloist
Giulia Norton, Standing Committee Chair
Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher
Monroe Heyman, Building Use

Jean O'Leary, Church Administrator

Thoughts From Rev. Terry Burke

Andree Zaleska, our director of Religious Education, attended a workshop last spring on intergenerational worship. Drawing upon some of the ideas she heard, this year we're experimenting with several "Five Senses" intergenerational Sundays (the first will be our All Souls service on November 4th). The idea is to broaden the pallet of colors we can draw upon for those services, which mix young and old, adults and children and youth. Our services tend to focus on hearing - how can we engage the other senses for worship?

I'd love to hear your ideas!

We may love these "Five Senses" services, hate 'em, or be indifferent. They may be wildly successful, so-so, or smell to High Heaven! We can try new things, make mistakes sometimes, and trust in the strength of this remarkable community.

This fall, I'm offering a course on writing your own spiritual autobiography (the first session is October 10th). The course is based on author Dan Wakefield's book on that topic, which in turn comes from Dan's experiences in Carl Scovel's class at King's Chapel. People often find that looking at their spiritual past, better understanding that they are, is a prelude to new spiritual growth. In the spring we're planning a class on using the visual arts as a spiritual tool for dealing with memories, especially painful ones.

On September 23rd at 11AM, we will have a special Sunday morning worship service celebrating our recovenanting as minister and congregation. Recovenanting was a long, challenging, but rewarding process last year. Much energy and enthusiasm and many good ideas came from this process, and now we get to celebrate!

Barbara Prairie, a former leader of our church who for many years coordinated the UU General Assemblies, will be our preacher. Rev. Joe Bassett, who, when he retired last year from the First Church in Chestnut Hill, was the longest settled minister in the UUA, will give my charge. Our own Rev. Tricia Brennan will charge the congregation. We will "renew our vows" and pray for the blessing of the Spirit upon our shared ministry.

Seeking to understand who we are, and taking risks to understand how we are called to serve, are an essential part of our religious life in community. Join us this year for new adventures in the Spirit!

Your minister, Terry

Greetings from Andrée, Director of Religious Education

Welcome back to church and Sunday school! I hope to see many of you back this Sunday, September 9th, when the RE program will provide crafts and games during the service. **Chapel and RE classes will start the following Sunday, Sept 16.**

This year we will have 3 classes for children aged 4 to 12 on Sunday mornings, an OWL (sexuality education class) on Sunday afternoons, and a Youth Group meeting twice a month. Please contact me directly if you want more information about any of these options, or you don't know which class your child fits into.

Our program could always benefit from more families. If you know anyone seeking a liberal religious education for your child, please bring them along any Sunday morning to try our program.

Best wishes,

Andree Zaleska

The book group, which is open to all, meets on the first Tuesday of the month at **7:30pm** in the Morse Room. On **September 4**, we'll greet fall with Annie Dillard's remarkable Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, an appreciation of nature at its most real, not idealized or Disneyized.



➡ The annual Friends of First Church ⬅
Barbecue and Potluck will be held on Saturday, Sept. 8, at 6:00pm, Karl and Cherisse Haakonsen's **in Roslindale**. For directions email karlandcherisse@chezhawk.com. Children and significantans are welcome - please join us! **YOU** are invited!

There's nothing like singing in a choir! If you are interested in joining the adult choir at First Church, please speak to Ellen McGuire etut53@aol.com for more information. We sing every other week, and rehearse every other Thursday evening. Some of us can read music. Our first rehearsal for the fall will be on Thursday evening 9/6

Coming up at First Church:

Congregational Meeting: On **Sun, Sept 16**, at 12:30 there will be a brief all congregation meeting to **vote on some leadership positions**, including one we neglected at the spring Annual Meeting and some people who agreed to serve after that meeting.

Wanted--donations of finger food for the reception after the recovenanting ceremony between Terry and First Church, Sunday September 23. The reception will be at the regular coffee hour time. If you are willing to chair this event, or can donate something, please contact Margaret Suby (margaretsuby@msn.com) or Mary Brady (mbrady1983@aol.com). Thanks!

Membership Corner:

One of the missions of First Church in JP is to encourage diversity within our congregation, promote our liberal church tradition, and welcome all those who wish to come together with us. Those of you who would like to see our church live this mission, please come to the Membership Committee meeting on **September 16th at 9:30 am**, to discuss and share your ideas on how we can best do this in the coming year. Also, please contact Cherisse Haakonsen, Chair of the Membership Committee to sign up to "meet and greet"...let's show our community we truly are a welcoming congregation.

The Holiday Fair is 3 months away - many of our previous vendors are eager to come back, but we always need new blood, especially people who are not selling jewelry (sorry, but there are only so many we can take before it all starts to look the same!!). So, put up a flyer, tell your friends, keep the word moving!

Date: December 1, 2007

Cost: Rent starting at \$40, but most people spend more to get more space.

Questions? JpCraftsFair@yahoo.com

(Also, we can always use more help, there is a special role waiting for you!)

Denominational Affairs Committee: On October 14th, we will be joining thousands of Unitarian Universalists in affirming our common bonds and purposes on the first annual Association Sunday!

Our liberal faith is needed to help heal our wounded world, and now is the time to pool our resources and let people know who we are and how to find us. The Unitarian Universalist Association will distribute funds raised by this Sunday's collection.

Half of the money raised on this special Sunday will go to new national marketing efforts; one quarter will be directed to resources supporting our ministers- and seminarians-of-color and the congregations who call them; and the final portion of funds will come right back to our district for grants in support of individual congregations' growth and outreach projects. (These are incentive grants, as the gifts returned to the district will be proportionate to the Association Sunday funds raised by the district!) Come join us on Sunday, October 14th, ready to give generously to help grow our faith, because we are better together!

More information about Association Sunday can be found at:

<http://www.uua.org/giving/associationsunday/index.shtml> or calling (617) 948-6544 or our toll number, (888) 792-5885.

JP Forum: The People Decide: Oaxaca's Popular Assembly

Nancy Davies, Independent Journalist

Author of the new book "The People Decide: Oaxaca's Popular Assembly"

Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00pm

First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary
6 Eliot St (across from the Monument), Jamaica Plain

For the last 15 months, a powerful popular movement in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca has challenged the corrupt and repressive government of PRI Governor Ulises Ruiz. Journalist Nancy Davies, a resident of Oaxaca, has covered the rebellion and the rise of the popular assembly movement. *Nancy will be sharing stories from the front lines in her **only U.S. appearance this year.***

Her new book, *The People Decide: Oaxaca's Popular Assembly*, will be available for purchase.

For more information, visit the Jamaica Plain Forum website at www.jamaicaplainforum.org

September Calendar

Sunday, 9/4	7:30pm	Book club at church
Thursday, 9/6	8:00pm	Choir rehearsal
Saturday, 9/8	6:00pm	Kick Off Barbecue @Haakonsen's
Sunday, 9/9	11:00am	Opening Service Grace
Tuesday, 9/11	7:00pm	JP Forum: (see above)
Sunday, 9/16	11:00am	All Cong. Meeting
	12:30pm	Holy Days in Conversation
Saturday, 9/22	3:00pm	Memorial for Dick Kimball Goddard Chapel, Tufts
Sunday, 9/23	11:00am	Celebration of Recovenanting Barbara Prairie preaching
September 9/29-30		JP Open Studios
September, 9/30	11:00pm	Ordinary Time: Edward Hopper