

## First Church in Jamaica Plain, Unitarian Universalist

6 Eliot Street • PO Box 300186 • Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • 617-524-1634

Rev. Terry Burke, Minister  
Rev. Marshall Hawkins, Affiliate Minister  
Rev. Peter Connolly, Affiliate Minister  
George Wardle, Trustees Chair  
Andrée Záleská, RE Director  
Jean O'Leary, Church Administrator

Ellen McGuire, Music Director  
Janna Frelich, Soloist  
Philomena O'Donnell, Head Usher  
Monroe Heyman, Building Use  
Laurie Corkum, Standing Committee Chair



### Thoughts From Rev. Terry Burke

How do churches grow? Long-time UU urban minister Rob Eller-Isaacs lists three ways: worship that touches peoples' hearts, small groups where they can be real, and getting the church folks to pray. That list seems to me a good foundation for spiritual growth AND numerical growth.

Regarding worship, our Music Director Ellen McGuire attended the Unitarian Universalist Musicians' Network national conference in Boston and came away with many new ideas for our worship. We'll experiment with a few of those throughout the year. Religious Education Director Andree Zaleska, Ellen and I have also been scheduling more intergenerational "Five Senses Sundays" for the new church year. Marshall Hawkins has been working on a Sunday evening alternative service. This last Sunday of the month worship service would include a potluck, and be aimed at younger adults in the neighborhood.

Our small groups this year include Marshall's leading a class to work with *The Artist's Way*. In October I will lead a group on the Inklings, the literary/drinking club that included C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. Later in the year, I'm offering a course on "Green" writers such as Wendell Berry and Rachel Carson, and also a class to read Huston Smith's classic *The Religions of the World*. I'm also organizing a second Sunday of the month potluck after church, giving us a chance to schmooze with lots of great people. The first potluck, on September 14th, will feature a short program by Andree Zaleska on her "Green House" Project.

Peter Connolly is reviving our weekly prayer group. Come join us on Wednesday at 6PM, starting on September 10th for this important addition to our church life. Whether you can make the group or not, please take a moment to pray for our congregation in this new year, that we may better become the people we are called to be.

I hope you have a great church year!  
Yours, Terry

### Church Potluck and Barbecue on Saturday, September 6th at Karl and Cherisse's house! All are welcome!

Directions to fabulous food and a great time to connect and reconnect with folks are as follows: **From Jamaica Plain:** Take **Centre Street** south to **South St.** Go straight under the overpass.... **Forest Hills T station** will be on your left. After about a mile, you'll enter Roslindale Square (a.k.a. Roslindale Village). There will be a little triangular park in the middle of the street that you'll be forced to go around (it functions like a triangular rotary). Keep making lefts around this park until you're facing the **opposite direction on Washington Street**, and then turn **right** onto **Cummins Highway** (it's just a street, not a highway, and it goes between two large brick buildings). Take Cummins Highway to the first light (**Sycamore Street**). Go left at this light, then take your first right onto **Prospect Ave.** I'm at **#43 Prospect Ave.** about 7 or 8 houses up on the left side (on the corner of Sherwood Street). If people need help, they can call us.



## Dear RE Families and Friends

I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely summer.

After much preparation and training we are ready to debut the new ***Spirit Play*** program in RE for all children ages 4 to 10. This curriculum, based on storytelling and art, will be the mainstay of our program for younger children. (The Nursery will continue to be staffed by our two teen babysitters, Olivia and Emily, for younger children.)

Our Middlers (11-13) will be undertaking an extensive study of world religions this year, with a curriculum called ***Neighboring Faiths***, which will take them on visits to faith communities of a wide variety. They will be frequently joined by a group of their peers from the Brookline church, who are studying the same materials.

The Youth Group, coordinated by Janna Frelich, will host monthly film nights and other activities according to the interest of its members.

To round out these programs, we will continue to offer ***Children's Chapel*** at the beginning of the RE hour for younger children, so that they may gain experience in liturgy, prayer and song. And there are several ***5-Senses Sundays*** planned throughout the year, in which we hold an intergenerational service for all ages in the sanctuary.

All in all, the RE program in our church is now streamlined and focused, allied closely with our UU values, and designed as well to be FUN. I hope you will spread the word among your friends and neighbors. If we can strengthen our numbers this year the success of the RE makeover will be complete.

A wonderful team of volunteers has stepped up to help this year. Materials have been bought and prepared, and we are all ready to start on Sept. 7. (Let's hope we get our stained-glass window back soon!)  
See you in church!

Best wishes, Andrée Záleská  
Religious Education Director

## Jamaica Plain Forum Tuesday, September 9th

***"There Are No Illegal People"* with Photojournalist David Bacon**

Veteran photojournalist David Bacon visits the Jamaica Plain Forum to discuss the connections between labor, migration, and the global economy. His book, ***Illegal People*** explores

- The human side of globalization, exposing the many ways it uproots people in Latin America and Asia, driving them to migrate.
- U.S. immigration policy makes the labor of those displaced people a crime in the United States
- Why our national policy produces even more displacement, more migration, more immigration raids, and a more divided, polarized society.

"Illegal People" argues for a sea change in the way we think, debate, and legislate around issues of migration and globalization, making a compelling case for why we need to consider immigration and migration from a globalized human rights perspective.

## Friday, September 19th "Chicago 10" Film and Discussion

Mixing animation with archival footage, Director Brett Morgan explores the build-up to and unraveling of the 1968 Chicago Conspiracy Trial. *CHICAGO 10* is a parable of hope, courage and challenge as it portrays the struggle of young Americans speaking out and taking a stand in the face of an oppressive and armed government.

Please join us to watch a 60-min version of this film, and then stay to share your experiences, memories, and thoughts about the 1968 Chicago Conspiracy Trial and how this history impacts our experiences today.

### Prayer Group at a *new* time

Prayer Group will resume Wednesdays, at 6:00 PM, in the Morse Room starting on *September 10th*. Please join us to talk about prayer and the role it plays in your life and then we'll pray together. The earlier start time will allow those who want to take part in Adult RE classes throughout the year to attend those sessions as well.



### Monthly Potlucks at First Church!

Back in the day, we used to have lots of church potlucks. First Church potlucks had good food and great company, and you had a chance of getting to know people beyond coffee hour chit-chat. Well, happy days are here again. This year we'll have a potluck every second Sunday of the month after church. Try out that recipe that has always intrigued you. Bake your mother's favorite pie. Bring soda from exotic locations. If you forget to bring something, come anyway! Our first feast is on the 14th at 12:30PM. Religious Education Director Andree Zaleska will give us a short introduction to her "Green House" Project. Come join us!

### What was Inking?

Terry Burke will lead a five-session class on the British literary/drinking club that included **C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams**. The Oxford group would meet either in Lewis' college rooms or at the Eagle and Child Pub (always known to them as "the Bird and the Baby") to talk, tell jokes, and hear from one another's most recent writings. Works including *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Lord of the Rings* were first heard by fellow Inklings. We'll learn about the group and some of its famous members, read excerpts from their words, and perhaps celebrate the Inklings with a pub field trip. The first session is Wednesday, October 1st at 7:30PM at church. Please email Terry or leave a phone message if you plan to attend so that he can plan on the number of handouts.

### Trust Notice Re: Planned Giving to First Church

Would you like to help your children's children, nieces and nephews attend First Church in the future? The Trust, the church's endowment, contributes to the operating budget and makes needed repairs to the Church building each year. The Trust has also provided the required matching money, which enabled the Church to receive grants to build the disability access ramp and bathroom and to reupholster the pews in the sanctuary.

Include First Church in writing your will or preparing your estate plan. You may directly contact Vauntina Franklin, 617-434-4627, the Trust administrator at Bank of America, or you may speak with any Trustee. The Trustees are: George Wardle, Penny Wells, Theo Colburn, Gerry Culver and Judith Garfunkel.

**We have Volunteer Opportunities! - BIG and little.**

There are several small, but important tasks essential to the smooth running of First Church. We have compiled a short list below. If one of them sounds like something you would be good at or like to do we would love to hear from you. We hope to have someone who can commit to three months or more in each category (though we will consider all offers). Contact the church office for more information. This is a great way to give and be more involved without spending too much time. If you need more info on how much time is involved with each category, call the church office.

•**Newsletter** – Help compile, write, collect, create, and otherwise encourage articles from the church community for the monthly newsletter. Work closely with church administrator.

**Food pantry** - Keep an eye on it, organize it, and tell office when it is running low.

•**Religious Education program** - Come at 10:30 AM on Sunday and help set up, or stay after the service to help straighten up.

•**Flowers for Sunday Service** - Straighten altar table, and/or create sign-up sheet for weekly flowers, and coordinate with the office.

•**Greeters** - Welcome Sunday visitors, show families to the Parish Hall, hand out order of service, encourage name tag use...

•**Phone Tree** - set up a way for us to notify each other rapidly, in case of emergency, special event, weather, etc.

•**Sign Board** - Change service info on corner signboard after each service.

•**Volunteer Coordinator** – Keep up a list with contact info for volunteers in each category. Organize finding new volunteers for these, and other tasks that present themselves over the church year!

Church Calendar next page

September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>Labor Day</b> 	<b>2</b> 7:30 Book Group 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  8 pm choir reh.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm <b>Start of year party</b> <b>Cherisse &amp; Karl's</b> 
<b>7</b> Membership Com. 9:30 11:00 sermon: <i>Last Lectures</i> Communion	<b>8</b> Building Committee 7:30	<b>9</b> JP Forum: <b>"Illegal People"</b> <b>David Bacon</b> <b>Parish Hall</b>	<b>10</b> Prayer Group 6 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Social Justice 12:30 11:00 Sermon: <i>Dear Hunting w. Jesus</i> Potluck Songfest	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Standing Com. + Church Council	<b>17</b> Prayer Group 6 pm	<b>18</b>  8 pm choir reh	<b>19</b> JP Forum: <b>"Chicago 10"</b> <b>film – Parish Hall</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> RE Comm. 9:00 11:00 sermon: <i>The Legacy of C.S. Lewis</i> 12:30 Special Budget Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Prayer Group 6 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Youth Night 	<b>27</b> 11:00 am <b>OPEN STUDIOS</b> 
<b>28</b> HOLY DAYS 11:00 sermon: <b>Rosh Hashana &amp; Eid al Fitr</b> No RE Classes <b>OPEN STUDIOS</b>	<b>29</b> Rosh Hashanah eve.	<b>30</b>				