

ADVENT 2010 - *Broken, But Not Beyond Repair*



Advent begins Sunday, November 28, and with it a brand new liturgical year. We all know that the weeks before Christmas can be festive, hectic, wonderful, overwhelming, and more. Those of us on the Worship Team invite you to let these day be holy.

The inspiration for our theme this year comes from the non-working paper towel dispenser in the bathroom this fall. Intrigued? Check out the picture above, or better yet, come and hear the story.

Sundays: singing & reflecting on our theme

Katie Cole and Katherine Pater lead a new Sunday morning class starting November 28, 9:30am. Katie is ready to get our class singing -- Advent hymns, no less -- while we discuss Advent and this year's theme: *Broken, But not beyond repair*.

wednesday prayer & soup gathering



So how do we *really* prepare for the Coming Light? With all the concerts, parties and shopping opportunities, what is the best way to prepare a way for the Divine. One suggestion -- The Practice of Prayer.

Every Wednesday night of Advent, we'll gather for a light supper at 5:30pm.. Then at 6:00pm we will have our prayer time. (Children are welcome, by the way, but tutoring is also available and happening at the same time.)

The prayer service is in the style of Taize. We sing simple chants, have an extended time of silence,

and share candlelight. There is also a scripture reading.

In the darkness, with candlelight, we will pray for the Light. Come join us.

caroling party- dec 16

The Stanfields host the annual Christmas caroling party on THURSDAY, December 16, 6pm-8:30. Soup, bread and whatever-folks-feel-like-bringing will be available at 6pm. We'll go out to sing around 7pm, and then we can re-gather for desserts and such.

The Stanfield's home is at 11 Norway Road in Milton (02186). The "Capen" stop on the Ashmont-Mattapan trolley is two blocks away. For drivers, take exit 12 on 93 to Gallivan, then south on Adams, right on Eliot. Take Eliot to Cliff, and left on to Norway.

Welcome new members!

We have a great group of newcomers in our midst, several of whom have decided to officially join Fourth Church. Welcome to:

Broken, but not beyond repair-- It's a truth that burns beneath our yearning for Light, for Peace, and for The Christ.

We invite you to join us in the preparing, hoping and waiting of this season, beginning with worship on the morning of November 28. That night we also have our **Hanging of the Greens Service at 7pm.** FIVE different church groups will lead that service: the International Group, Sunday School children, confirmands, the teen group, and our interns. We'll also have a craft and goodies party afterwards. And of course, we decorate our sanctuary.

Each Sunday morning worship will include communion, and the adult Sunday School class will explore our theme with conversation AND singing (in a new twist).

Every Wednesday night, we'll have a 5:30 supper, and a 6:10 Service of Taize Sung Prayer. Choir rehearses at 7:15 in preparation for a Christmas Concert on December 18, 4pm.

There is also caroling at the Stanfields, gingerbread house construction on the 18th, and the kids party on the 19th. It's a full season. Enjoy.

Mina De Pina, sister of Antiona Barros and mother of Dayla, who is a guidance counselor at Dearborn Middle School.

Jonathan Pierce, a hospice worker and enthusiastic musician. He has led a bereavement group this fall at Fourth.

Amanda and Stephen Grant-Rose. Amanda (daughter of Ken) is a special education specialist who has spent time in Tanzania and now works full time with a group supporting mission work in Africa. Steve does human resource work with *The Boston Phoenix*.

David Hoffman lives in the South End and has already blessed us many times with his stunning classical guitar music.

Patricia Cohen is Kenese's mother. They live nearby and Patricia is Head Start teacher with great energy and spirit!

Ryan Darmody is another friend we know well. He works in a theater downtown, loves Springsteen, and is a regular performer of stand-up comedy.

Welcome to you all!!

church 140th birthday – celebrate on jan 30

The official anniversary of Fourth Presbyterian Church is December 12, so often pick a Sunday near then to celebrate our birthday—replete with cake, presents, the works.

Mindful that these anniversaries come right in the middle of Advent and Music/Art performances, session is moving our celebration to January 30 (which is also the day to ordain and install new elders and deacons).

The hope is that we can keep our focus on Advent during Advent... and then more fully LET LOOSE with a party in January.

As we continue to move toward a sanctuary renovation project, perhaps we'll use this 140th anniversary party as a launching ?

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7pm

Our annual Christmas Eve Worship Service takes place at 7pm. There will be lessons, carols, this year's all-ages Christmas Pageant, and our candlelight circle. There will be a rehearsal for the pageant after the childrens party (Perahaps Tuesday, December 21? See Tim!). But there are also many ways to participate without rehearsing!

Please check in with Tim Hughes or Burns Stanfield if you or somebody in your family is interested in participating in the pageant. ALL AGES are welcome!

pledge cards out there!

As of press time, we have \$74,000 in pledges toward 2011. We have deliberately stepped into this campaign without a set goal. We want everybody to prayerfully consider the call to tithe and give proportionately.

As we get closer to budget time, session will indeed have to name the threshold amount needed to continue programming with a full-time pastor. But right now, KEEP

PRAYING and DISCERNING. Please turn in a pledge by mail, by phone, or by email. Pledge cards are available. Feel free also to email Burns or treasurer Susan Devine

(suzzand@verizon.net)

gingerbread house party

A Saturday morning gingerbread house-making festival has become an important piece of our Advent traditions. Alice Hageman is our expert, but we need a full array of helpers to work with Tim! It takes place Saturday morning, December 18. Children and adults will have a chance to build gingerbread houses. Adult helpers are much appreciated!! See Tim to volunteer.

Christmas concert- Saturday, Dec 18, 4pm

This is new for Fourth Church, though some of our friends have presented something very similar in past years with a musical ensemble called "Sweet the Sound." It's a concert of Christmas songs from American folks traditions, mixed in with some Christmas scripture readings, congregational carols, and candles.

It's all quite wonderful, and it is happening in the Fourth Church sanctuary. No admission charge, just a free-will offering. Invite all your friends needing a dose of Christmas Spirit.

children's party on Sunday the 19th

Each year, a major outreach to community children for us is our Christmas Party the Sunday before the big day. We expect a big crowd and welcome your help: cash donations help, as do offerings of time to : supervise, lead crafts, clean up, cook, stuff stockings, dress up as a big guy

in a red suit...See Tim Hughes to help. Donations of time and/or money are needed. \$500 makes this happen!

weekend of performances

We are fast approaching that December season of frequent performances!

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, December 3 and 4 -- Two nights of "Pippin" performances by the theater workshop, 7pm

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, December 10 and 11 – Two nights of "Wizard of Oz" performed by the younger set, 7pm.

SUNDAY, Dec 12 - music recitals at 4:30 and 5:45, with a short hip hop dance presentation in between.

Annual meeting- jan 23

The congregation has its annual meeting on January 23. We will receive the ANNUAL REPORT and budget for 2011. We'll also elect new officers and vote on the revised terms of call for Pastor Stanfield for 2011.

prayers...

Thanks to the food pantry crew for a major distribution right before Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to Young Ra Rhee and volunteers for an impressive civic engagement campaign! 543 door-to-door contacts! Voting up 9.5% in precinct 6 and 26.5% in precinct 5. WOW

Prayers for Ed Buccieri, Erna Deeb, Sheila Buckman, Tatum, Courtney and Brett (a new child coming!), Lauren and Daniel (ditto).

Prayers also for Dychell Reeves, whose uncle passed.

Pray for the building committee as they explore sanctuary renovations. Save January 9 for a proposed "town meeting" to discuss!

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