

ANNUAL REPORT

2010

Fourth Presbyterian Church
340 Dorchester Street
South Boston, MA 02127

Pastor's Report

In looking back at 2010, I take my cue from our fall stewardship campaign, which in turn took its cue from the Psalms: “My cup runneth over.” Those of us in session had a long and wonderful conversation back in October, and our hope was to get everybody to see pledging not just as a way to pay bills (as important as that task is), but as a way to walk the Christian Walk: stretching, trusting and feeling grateful all the way. Our goal was to help everybody behold and respond to the truth that had grabbed our hearts: economic hard times or not, God was blessing us and moving through our ministry. OUR cups here at Fourth Church were really runneth-ing over.

Assembling this annual report is always a remarkable exercise because it reminds me just how active the Spirit is in this place. Consider the fall, for example. We began with an accountability action with the five candidates for State Representative. That action was the culmination of a summer of house meetings and research sessions which brought together many different neighbors with different kinds of connections to Fourth Church. That good work then led to a new exploration of how our mission could include supporting our neighborhood elementary school. Meanwhile, the recent influx of gifted, hard-working musicians yielded a flurry of singing all over the place – in church, in extra concerts, for GBIO and Presbytery, and even in a first-ever Christmas Concert. And while this is all happening, our Bible Study creates a play about “Esther,” theater thrives with two productions, we meet 600 neighbors and increase voting by 15%, the food pantry cranks along powerfully, and the tutoring program has its best fall in many years.

And indeed, in the midst of all these overflowing cups, a heartening number of people have answered the invitation to Walk the Walk with serious, intentional pledges of support, producing the highest pledge total we’ve seen.

At this moment, an informal congregational gathering and an official vote from session have both affirmed that it is time to renovate our sanctuary. It’s time to freshen up our beloved vessel, and I suspect this will be a big project for the year. I welcome that challenge, but I’m even more excited to see how God will keep filling and re-filling these cups as we move into a new decade.

Burns Stanfield

Building Committee

After finishing the major renovation of the hall, we continued to make improvements around our facility:

Electrical Issues:

- 1) New 200 Amp Electrical Service
- 2) New lights for the entire dirt cellar
- 3) New Outlets in Sanctuary

Basement:

- 1) New Carpet for 3 rooms
- 2) New Refrigerators for food pantry

Kitchen:

- 1) New SS shelving
- 2) New Dishwasher
- 3) New Greenness / new dishes and silverware

Outside:

- 1) New Benches
- 2) Repaired front steps and railing

Bluegrass Event & Marathon

To make sure we had funds to pay for these improvements, we again raised funds in two ways during the spring. On April 7, we had our third Bluegrass Barbecue at The Stadium. It was an unseasonably hot day, and unfortunately, the venue was not ready with the air conditioning. Incredibly, we still made over our \$20,000 goal. All of those funds went into the Vision Fund to help with continuing capital costs.

A couple of weeks later, Burns ran the Marathon one more time, generating approximately \$9000 to pay down our principal balance for 5 Vinton Street.

This year we are having another spring fund-raiser specifically to do repairs and renovations in the sanctuary. We don't have a date yet, but it is likely to be the first week of May. The work we are imagining costs between \$30,000 and \$38,000.

Food Pantry

The pantry continued to see reliably high numbers of families seeking food assistance during 2010. The pantry, run by Carla Martin, Erik Jacobs, Young Ra Rhee and a regular group of 10 volunteers served an average of 1006 people each month.

Thanksgiving was our biggest food pantry of the year during which the pantry gave

away approximately 6,000 pounds of food and 176 Turkeys in one day. In total, 15,949 bags of food were given away in 2010!

The pantry only needs \$600 a month to feed the 300 families it sees (that is as little as ¢.60 per person). However, due to programing cuts in 2010 we now have to devote a significant amount of that money to the cost of transporting our food (a service we used to get for free).

Additionally, in 2010 the city of Boston stopped picking up the cardboard boxes generated by the pantry. Both the cost of our food transport and the overflow of cardboard pose the biggest problems for 2011.

Erik Jacobs

Annual Fall Retreat

Another fantastic fall retreat. Over fifty of us gathered in beautiful Wilmot, NH, enjoying a weekend away, laughing with new friends, reconnecting with old ones. We spent the weekend reflecting on what it means to abide in Christ—laughing with and being moved by speakers Sarah Manouchehri, Sam Courage, Jake Athyal, Holly Aloise, Katie Walsh and Stephanie Hoklotubbe; and exploring our thematic ideas through a series of stations aimed at allowing us to express thoughts, hopes, and lessons learned from the weekend. We played together and we prayed together. The weekend ended with a memorable Irish step dance lead by Katherine Pater and bond fire time with singing and s'mores—a time not soon forgotten. Many thanks to all who made this weekend so memorable.

Mike Motia

Seminarians

As always, seminarians were a key piece of our witness in 2010.

In the spring, these HDS students finished field education units: Young Ra Rhee, Kristin Raley, Mike Motia, Lauren Gallant.

In the summer, with many former field education students working with us “unofficially,” we also welcomed Cori Williams from Princeton Seminary.

This fall, we brought back Young Ra and Sarah Manouchehri, and also welcomed Katie Cole from BU and Katherine Pater from HDS.

Nurturing the Spirit

Worshipping, praying, studying, gathering. These kinds of activities continue to be

absolutely central to our body. And it is an intriguing challenge to “summarize” them for any given year, since many are planned, many spring up on their own, and others are woven into some other piece of ministry.

But let’s try...

In terms of straight ahead classes, we had a steady stream of adult study classes on Sunday morning throughout the year. Last winter, Kristin Raley and Lauren Gallant lead weekly Bible studies on the lectionary readings. During Lent, they focused on passages in the Daily Devotional booklet that we had prepared as a congregation. Cori Williams led a Bible study in the summer.

Come fall, Katie Cole and Katherine Pater led studies on the parables, the Gospel of John, and an Advent series on music.

During Lent, Mike Moyes also led a study of different kinds of fasting.

Our Wednesday night Soup N Study sessions began with a popular series on Christianity and the 12 Steps. In fact, it was so popular, that we continued it into Lent and beyond, focusing on healing in the weeks after Easter.

In the winter, we had nightly prayer and communion on Thursdays, followed by a series of Lauren Gallant desserts. During Lent, we again had a prayer service all forty nights with different members taking turns sharing reflections. During the summer, we had lively outdoor worship every Wednesday, often with visiting church groups. And meanwhile, the 12 step group continued, meeting beforehand! In September, we had another church retreat in Wilmot. During Advent, we had Taize prayer every week. We also gathered for potlucks and other special receptions throughout the year.

The fall Soup n Study series was called “The Dramatic Word” and combined theater exercises with a Bible study of Esther. In the end, we presented the story of Esther in worship in October.

Another Soup N Study series (Oct-Nov) focused on the Lord’s Prayer, using John Dominic Crossan’s book “The Greatest Prayer.”

And speaking of worship... We reaffirmed baptism in our remembrance of Jesus’s baptism. Lent had its own special theme (Re: Lent) and presentations of the theological work of Mark Heim, Holy Week included the phenomenal foot washing on Holy Thursday, a stations walk through the neighborhood on Friday, a vigil ALL night Saturday, a sunrise service, a breakfast, and a big celebration on Easter. Pentecost was memorable with the seventh annual big group

picture at the end. Summer included first communion, confirmation, days for children and youth, as well as the traditional opportunity to think of Christmas in July.

In August, the deacons we again held worship at Castle Island - Jubilee, Remembering the Saints, Dedication Day, Ordination,... these are familiar to us now, but important.

Gathering, praying, singing... It’s all so important. Let’s keep it up.

The Deacons

As stated in our Presbyterian Book of Order, “[t]he office of deacon as set forth in scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ.” Or as David Courage has etched into my memory, “Deacons are the loving and welcoming arms of the church.”

In 2010, the deacon’s met once a month to discuss matters pertaining to pastoral care, flower deliveries, event-planning, and pot-lucks. In January each deacon was assigned a “mini-parish,” which consists of a portion of the congregation. The vision behind the “mini-parish” lists is that everyone in the congregation would have their own deacon who would periodically check-in on them to see how they are doing and to inform them about up-coming events at Fourth.

The Deacon’s Fund — including special contributions by church members and friends — was used to pay for the annual church picnic, for seasonal flowers distributed at Easter and Christmas, and for tokens of sympathy we send to those suffering illness or grief.

The deaconship is an ordained position, so we say “once a deacon always a deacon.” But as active deacons we serve three-year terms, no more than two consecutively. The deacons in 2010 were Jayme Bezan, Peter Brook, Eoin Cannon, Chris Hoklotubbe, Art Martin, Young Ra Rhee, Katie Romer, Betsy Schomburg, Ken Shallow, Tyiesha Thompson, Monica Titakum, Brett VanVeller, and youth deacons Kelly Schomburg and Liz Stanfield.

Our traditional calendar of events is dedicated to relationship-building among ourselves and the congregation, and to recognizing every member of the church community for their contributions and their humanity. The year includes our annual deacons’ retreat, Appreciation Sunday, distribution of lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas, the

church picnic and outdoor service on Castle Island, and the Thanksgiving potluck in November.

At our annual one-day retreat, we welcomed new members, bonded with one another, reviewed the previous year's events, and planned the coming year's ones. We also elected Chris Hoklotubbe as moderator, and re-elected Katie Romer secretary.

Appreciation Sunday found the church decorated with hundreds of colorful paper jigsaw puzzle pieces to symbolize the different parts that everyone plays within the larger picture of God's ministry. Just as jigsaw pieces are each unique, so are the varied personalities and gifts that bless us with their presence all yearlong. Fourth Presbyterian—it's where "it all comes together." We distributed the jigsaw pieces among the community, inviting everyone to write messages of gratitude and appreciation to one another. We strung these jigsaw pieces around the sanctuary to illustrate further the web of relationships that is the church. During the service we explained the theme and expressed our own gratitude to different members of the congregation as an example. After the service, many congregants took their puzzle pieces home as reminders of the love and appreciation others expressed for them.

For the fourth year in a row, we organized an outdoor Sunday worship service at Castle Island, followed by a delicious picnic lunch. After a few years of practice, this year's picnic was probably our most efficient and coordinated event yet. Betsy, yet again, came through on the permit for the site and the use of a shuttle cart. Ken led the transportation of materials. Chris organized the fleet of cars and drivers that transported members to the island. And everyone did their part in providing food, cooking, and cleaning up afterward. The weather was beautiful, the grills were smoking, and there were smiles to be had by all around—another successful picnic! success again.

The Thanksgiving potluck, held after church the Sunday before Thanksgiving, was a warm and festive community event. As always seems to happen, enough food to go around appeared. We appreciated greatly the assistance of all those who also contributed to the event.

Our most important work is in the pastoral care we try to perform throughout the church community. This work is enabled not only by what we learn in relationships with our fellow church members, but also by the advice

given to us by others, especially by the Rev. Burns Stanfield and Visitation Minister Heather Little-Andrade, both of whom are closely involved in most of our activities. We pray in very specific ways for the health and happiness of everyone that comes to our attention, and also for the life and community strength of the church as a whole. As much as we try to be actively present in the lives of those in our "mini-parishes," we'll be the first to admit that we haven't been perfect. Nevertheless we are eager to serve all the more diligently in 2011. If you haven't heard from a deacon recently, please feel free to reach out to one of us. We are here to serve.

Chris Hoklotubbe, Moderator

Men's Breakfast

This past year saw the creation of an all-new ministry at Fourth—The Men's Breakfast. From the spirited mind of Thatcher Freeborn, this ministry began with an open invitation to all the men of Fourth to join together for a monthly breakfast, which would entail good food and "real" conversation. The vision behind the Men's Breakfast was to provide an opportunity for the men of Fourth to strengthen their bonds with one another so that they might better encourage, serve, support, and grow together as followers of Christ. Thus, a rag-tag gathering of guys found themselves feasting upon artery-clogging amounts of bacon at Victoria's Dinner and downing Dunkin' Donuts coffee at Vinton Street on a near-monthly basis—all the while, sharing life stories, stats on the latest Red Sox/Patriots/Celtics game, and reflections on Scripture. Thus far, the Men's Breakfast has proven to be a lot of fun and quite meaningful for those who have attended. If you have an interest in joining, please contact Chris Hoklotubbe, or simply join us at the Vinton Street House, 8:30 a.m. every second Saturday of the month.

Chris Hoklotubbe, Man

Golden Group Senior Club

There is a lot one could say about the Golden Group, a weekly gathering that has been going strong ever since Betty Collard approached Burns about have a "group for the

ladies” sometime around 1993. But our leaders are not ones to add unnecessary prose, so here is her concise report:

We have around 6-10 people.

We have lunch.

We have highs and lows.

We have prayer.

We go out for Christmas and celebrate birthdays.

We look for other excuses to go out for lunch, and we thank Jimmie Lou for sharing her Stadium gift certificate with us.

It was great to have Cori with us for the summer of 2010.

Summer Meals Program

SMP 2010 was themed “Voyage of the Viking Master.” The six-week program began on Tuesday, July 6th and ended on Sunday, August 15th with a big celebration at the church. This year, Tim Hughes served as director (a position he had actually never held!), Amanda Grant-Rose and Billy Whelan ran the Imagination Station, Liz McMahon returned as our art teacher, Katie Cole taught music, and Preston Pero and Nathan Stanfield were the outdoor games leaders. Our shepherds were: Julia Bach (for the 4 year olds), Sam Dreyfus (5 year olds), Ping Zeng (6 year olds), Erin Riddle (7 year olds), and Cori Williams (8 year olds). Annie Chaparro returned as the chef for the summer. This summer we had more ABCD teen workers than ever before (12!), as well as an amazing cadre of volunteers from all over Boston. It was nice to have Jake Athyal, as well as Audrey Reese’s youth group from South Carolina. As always, Diane Fuller proved to be immensely helpful with registration, administration, and attendance.

Each week of the program, our kids were visited by Erik the Red, a strange sailor whose dream was to become a Viking Master. This led him (and the kids) to six strange islands to learn stories of courage, virtue, and grace. Stories ranged from biblical tales (Daniel, King David) to fiction (Narnia) to civil rights history (Gandhi), culminating with a Viking Council that we will remember for a long time to come! All summer long, our games, crafts, songs, and stories stemmed from Erik’s adventures.

Like last year, we had loads of fun field trips this

summer. Older groups were able to visit the Children’s Museum, the Esplanade, and the Alewife Pool, while the youngest group went to the Frog Pond, took rides on the Swan Boats, and had a day at the beach.

All in all, SMP 2010 was a success. We had solid numbers all summer, averaging about 105 SMP attendees over the course of the six weeks. Including Mazemakers and Teen Crib programs, we served nearly 7,000 meals to children in need, while offering creative programming and nurturing mentoring relationships with caring adults.

Tim Hughes

Mazemakers

Mazemakers is a six-week summer enrichment program that runs parallel to the Summer Meals Program, for kids ages 9-13. Built upon the philosophy that children learn best in small, personalized contexts, we strive to provide a program that allows kids to create their own “mazes” to solve, whether they are artistic, athletic, intellectual, or relational.

As in previous year, the 2010 staff was a combination of veterans and newcomers, with many of our kids returning as well. As a result, we faced the challenge of going deeper with returning kids while engaging new kids at the same time. Happily, the staff was up to the challenge. We were thrilled to have Pat Bittorf back as our Mazemakers Director, after a year of teaching experience in Chicago Public Schools. Zack Osheroff also returned from last year’s staff. New staff members were Kevin Black, Thierry Alexandre, Ryan Hargesheimer, Kristie Smith, Kimberly Francois, and Samantha Green-Atchley. For the first time ever, we hired two teenage “Junior Staff” for the Mazemaker program, which was a great success. Our 2010 Junior Staffers were Lizzie Stanfield and Anthony Edwards.

Classes offered this summer were: Lights! Camera! Action (filmmaking), Superhero Class, Leadership, Jewelry Making, Yearbook, Glee, Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Outdoor Games, Gaming, and Dance. Four of these classes had never been offered before, which is a testimony to the creativity of this staff. As usual, we utilized every inch of space available, with a crew of kids that usually hovered between 50 and 60 kids per day. Each week was punctuated

by a Friday field trip, including a Harvard Yard Scavenger hunt, a pool party, a trip to the Science Museum, and the Esplanade. Our End-Of-Summer Celebration was an amazing night of acting, dancing, singing, and film presentations, followed by the annual sleepover.

Not surprisingly, while our program was strong, the best thing about Mazemakers 2010 was the kids themselves, who continually amazed us with their creativity, courage, and willingness to learn new things.
Tim Hughes

Music Lessons

The Fourth Presbyterian Church Music and Arts Program continued to offer quality musical instruction to children and adults in the neighborhood. During the Winter Session, Irena Caku, Brenda Huggins, Fumiko Nawate-Muto, and Ranko Stevanovic offered piano lessons. While we were sad to lose Fumiko to Japan, we were happy to add Katie Cole as a new teacher! Nellie Jabotinsky offered violin lessons in the Winter Session, and was replaced by Wes Goldsberry in the Fall session, while Suzuki-style lessons were offered throughout. Matt Sullivan continued his guitar lessons when not performing with the Rock Opera, and this fall we added a second guitar teacher, folk-rocker Ryan Lee Crosby. Ryan also taught "School of Rock," a group guitar class this fall that brought down the house with "Twist and Shout." Kevin Black offered private voice lessons throughout the year, which bolstered our advanced theater program and launched at least one Karaoke star. Despite several significant faculty transitions, we concluded 2010 with a robust Fall Recital, featuring a remarkable diversity of performers and a dance recital in the hall. Much credit goes to Alicia Jurus, who served as registrar and air-traffic controller for all lessons and kept things running smoothly.

Soul Possibilities After-School Program

Our after-school outreach and enrichment

program offered classes for kids Mondays through Saturdays, in addition to two weekly nights of dinner and homework help. Below is a report upon each of these classes:

Young Artistic Masters. Harvard Divinity School intern Kristin Raley brought a combination of art history knowledge and crafty creativity to a class that studied art in styles from around the globe. Students made art in the style of the masters.

MegaFun. "Fun with Megan Humphreys-Loving" became "MegaFun with Nancy McLaren" and in 2010 the fun continued with Tim Hughes. Students ventured down to the MEM Task Force Center, completing a photography project, creating a homemade miniature golf course, making a puppet theater, filming a movie, and utilizing spy decoders. This fall we witnessed "MegaFun with Liz McMahon and Erin Riddle." The saga continues!

Dance Classes. 2010 was a big year for dance at Soul Possibilities! In the Winter and Spring sessions, Rene Martin offered "Hip-Hop and Beyond" for kids, as well fitness classes for adults. In the Fall Session, Kathy Encarnacao picked up the reins, offering a whopping four dance classes, including a creative movement class for young children, a hip-hop and salsa class, and two jazz/ballet classes. The dancing continues in 2011...

Soul Food with Matt Canton. In the Winter Session, culinary student Matt Canton and his students made comfort food that did just that, cooking up barbequed chicken, macaroni and cheese, and other dishes that were happily eaten by our Homework Help students!

Kids Create! Liz McMahon and Erin Riddle brought the arts to the MEM Task Force Center on Thursdays this Winter and Spring, working on projects that ranged from Easter decorations to Valentines to homemade pastries and sculptures.

Lights! Camera! Action! Tim Hughes brought his filmmaking course to all sessions of Soul Possibilities this year. Students learned about various genres of film and performed acting exercises before creating more YouTube cult

classics, such as *The Adventure of the Carnival Kids*, *Framed!*, and *Danger House*. No Academy Award nominations...yet.

Magazine Madness! Kristin Raley led a group of Monday students into the world of magazine publishing this spring, looking at popular magazines, talking about layout and copy and design before each student created their own, self-published magazine. These magazines were celebrated with a 'publishing party' in June.

Fast Fashion. Fashionista and former Mazemaker instructor Kerriann Virgo taught this class on fashion and design basics in the Fall of 2010. Students focused on winter accessories such as hats, gloves, and scarves, creating an ensemble just in time for the snowy weather!

Comic Creations. What makes a superhero? What makes a villain? And who will win? These are just some of the important questions students wrestled with in Tim Hughes' new class on comic books and cartooning. Students at the MEM Task Force Center learned the basic skills of drawing the face and body before creating their own works, ranging from heroes to sidekicks to mutants to secret plans to arch-enemies. In 2011, students will begin putting together storylines that will be featured on a new Comic Creations blog. Stay tuned!

Homework Help. It was a great year for Homework Help, and the credit largely goes to BU intern Katie Cole. She began volunteering her help to the program months before her internship began, and devoted considerable energy to expanding it this fall. Here is her report: "Homework Help has thrived in 2010! We ended the spring semester with three faithful students in June and celebrated by going to see an IMAX 3D movie. We started a new semester in September and had a group of 10 – 15 earnest students and a core group of 7-9 devoted tutors going strong, all the way through December! Students each made a homework contract with learning goals, working every day to earn stars that they could cash in for prizes. Special thanks to our tutors, Katie Cole, Tim, Katherine, Sarah, Kristie, Jonathan, Jason, Erin, Elaine, and Rick! We're looking forward to another semester!"

Children's Ministry

Sunday School

Each of our children's Sunday School classes benefitted from consistent and excellent instruction in 2010. Kathy Burger continued to teach **the Pre-School class**, and was greatly relieved to have newfound support in Stephanie Hoklotubbe. They continued to work from the "Wee Believe" Presbyterian Curriculum, and we are all hoping to find some new pre-schoolers in 2011 so the class keeps growing!

Michelle and Tim Sanchez and Chris Hoklotubbe taught **the Older Elementary class** in 2010, using the "We Believe" curriculum but mixing in a generous amount of their own creativity. Students report that the class was "way more fun" in 2010, and grew considerably over the year. Nice work!

Burns Stanfield and Tim Hughes co-taught **the Confirmation Class**, which is in its second and final year. It was an eventful year for the class, beginning with a short film they created for a Presbyterian competition, called "Living Waters." The movie was filmed all over Boston and we were proud to be chosen from 95 films as one of top ten finalists! After completing and presenting the film, the class studied the Bible for several months before launching a unit of civil rights, which culminated in a spectacular pilgrimage to Georgia and Alabama (see entry below). As 2010 concluded, they studied Christian testimonies and prepared to write their Faith Statements and go before Session seeking confirmation in 2011!

In October of 2010, the Confirmation Class embarked on their **Civil Rights Pilgrimage**, a five-day journey through Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, and Montgomery, following in the footsteps of the civil rights protestors who paved the way for racial equality in America. Burns Stanfield, Tim Hughes, and Michelle Sanchez led the group, which consisted of Billy Whelan, Aaliyah Mendes, Daisy Green, Jacqueline Morales, Jena Benson, Grace Stanfield, and Marguerite Belcher. The group spent several nights in Atlanta in the home of Tim's uncle, as well as a night in a Selma hotel. We were very fortunate to meet and talk with a number of "primary sources," who had seen the movement with their own eyes. We met a woman who walked across the Pettus bridge on Bloody Sunday in Selma, a man who participated in the

Children's March in Birmingham, Martin Luther King, III, and one of Gandhi's granddaughters! It was an incredible and life-changing trip for all involved.

In 2010 the **Teen Sunday School** class was taught by Mike Motia in the spring and Sarah Manouchehri in the fall. The class grew larger with the addition of the previous confirmation class, and studied a range of topics, some biblical and some topical. The group took several field trips, including a sleepover and a bowling trip, and they look forward to more good work in 2011.

In 2010, we are also very grateful to have consistent Sunday morning childcare workers in Brighdin Fitzpatrick and Lauren McMahon. Thanks for your good work!

Trips and Parties

It wasn't all work and devotion in 2010: Fourth Church kids also enjoyed their share of trips and parties! The year started with a '**Banana Gram Party**,' featuring the game that many kids received at the 2009 Christmas party as well as homemade banana pudding. A number of us were able to visit the **Big Apple Circus** at Government Center in May. All summer long kids competed in the '**Canobie Lake Sunday School Challenge**,' which challenged kids to maintain excellent attendance through the summer months. A whole group of kids (including a number from the Summer Meals Program) took advantage of this opportunity.

There were two **Pancake Parties** in 2010, a January "Welcome Back" breakfast and the annual Fall Kick Off. Both breakfasts depended on the help of a whole crew of volunteer cooks (thank you!). **The Halloween Spooktacular 2010** was a great party, with over 150 neighborhood children in attendance! The Advent season was packed with special events, including **the Gingerbread Party** and **the Children's Christmas Party**, which featured a popular snow-globe activity and nativity puppets. All of our Youth and Children's Sunday School classes made us proud by leading worship during the **Hanging of the Greens**, and many of our kids played pivotal roles in a brand new **2010 Christmas Pageant**.

Children's Sunday and Vacation Bible School

We also enjoyed a special **Children's Sunday** in the spring. Students of all ages worked really hard to write the liturgy, learn songs, and lead worship. Vany Cardoso preached a fantastic sermon on the story of Paul and Silas, and Burns unveiled an original song on the same subject. The "Time for Adults" illustrated the story in dramatic terms, and many other students brought their unique voices to the service.

We had two Vacation Bible School experiences in 2010. Our weeklong **Vacation Bible School**, entitled "Carry The Torch!" occurred during February Break. The week was themed around the Winter Olympics, which were occurring at the same time. Every morning for a week, forty kids were greeted by a character who was training to pursue his dream of Olympic greatness. Students learned stories of faith, before making crafts and playing games. Kristin Raley served as Program Director, and we received critical help from a number of adult and teenage volunteers. This week of VBS was followed up by a **one-day program on Good Friday**, in which students learned the Passion story, created artwork, baked Hot Cross Buns, and walked the Stations of the Cross through South Boston.

Youth Ministry

From Sunday morning to Friday night, there are many faces to Youth Ministry at Fourth Presbyterian Church. Below are reports from multiple fronts in 2010:

Friday Night Live!

2010 was a good year for 'Friday Night Live,' our evening program for neighborhood youth. We typically had 10 to 25 teenagers join us each week, with as many as 40 at our social events. During the summer, Friday Night Live benefitted from its partnership with Teen Crib, our summer drop-in program, when we expanded our programming to three nights a week and aimed to attract new youth into the program. As stated last year, we are incredibly blessed with a group of faithful, consistent adult volunteers, including Matt Canton, Erin Riddle, Sarah Manouchehri,

Katie Romer, Jonathan Pierce, Jenny Hall, and Kerriann Virgo. I tell our volunteers every week that I couldn't do it without them, and it is true. We were very sorry to say goodbye to Mike Motia (who spends his weekends with his fiancé!) and Mark Longhurst (who moved to the Berkshires).

Friday Night Live begins with homemade dinners made by volunteers on a weekly basis. Typically, we move on to games, ranging from the Indoor Olympics to Jeopardy to the ever-popular Hide-and-Seek-In-The-Dark. Finally, we conclude the evening with "God-time," a conversation about faith, the Bible, and the real life. Special events included a bowling night, a Halloween House Party, a Thanksgiving Iron Chef Cook Off, a weekend at Camp Wilmot, a dinner at Tim's house, a revival, and ice-skating at the Frog Pond. A new and positive development in 2010 was a greater degree of overlap between Friday Night Live and other programs. We had youth working and participating in our afterschool programs, our youth organizing project, confirmation class, and the Summer Meals Program staff. We continue to work on discipleship and increasing Sunday morning church attendance. Goals for 2011 include building a deeper community and faith, discussing more issues that affect youth in the community, and increasing our hospitality to newcomers, and developing a sense of mission.

- Tim Hughes

Harambee

Harambee is a same-gender small group youth ministry at Fourth Church. Presently, we have a Girls' Harambee Group and a Boy's Harambee Group, and we are preparing to launch a new Girl's Group this winter.

Girls' Harambee was capably led 2010 by Katie Romer, Courtney Vanveller, Natasha Small, and Pauline Jennett. Having completed several years of official "Harambee" existence, the group has continued to meet regularly to discuss their lives and support each other in high school and beyond. Meanwhile, a new group of younger girls is in talk to form a new Harambee group in 2011, likely under the leadership of two new adult women.

Boy's Harambee was led in 2010 by Matt Canton and Ivens Derival, whose Junior High

Harambee group now has several regular members. Conversations have ranged from the struggles of faith and doubt to sexuality to high school and college applications. In September, Tim Hughes joined the group, as well as several senior high "veterans" of the Harambee program, who wanted to help give a similar experience to younger guys in our group. The result has been a series of very interesting discussions of the challenges and responsibilities of Christian manhood, as well as bible study. I'm excited to see where this group goes in 2011...

Teen Crib

For several years now, Fourth Church has offered a drop-in center for teenagers during summer evenings, running three nights a week for 3-5 hours at a time. This year, the program was redesigned and enhanced as "Southie Summer Nights," a program designed to provide safe space and opportunities for enrichment and growth. In addition to three nights of safe space, our staff was able to offer:

- a weekly, supervised basketball game on the courts in the Old Colony Development
- an advanced theater program with Kevin Black
- weekly opportunities for community cookouts with the church community
- exciting opportunities for civic engagement through the Youth Organizing Project.

Unfortunately, construction in the Old Colony Development stopped us from operating Teen Crib from the OC Teen Center, as we have in past years. This decreased our attendance, although we still met many new kids from the neighborhood – relationships that are still bearing fruit throughout the year. Over the course of seven weeks, we saw almost 100 different kids, with a core of 15 to 25 per night. Much thanks to our excellent staff, who provided solid supervision in a year when Tim was less available than normal. Staff included Matt Canton (cook), Jonathan Pierce, Kerriann Virgo, Pat Bittorf, Ryan Hargesheimer, Kimberly Francois, Cori Williams, Katie Romer, Erin Riddle, and Tim Hughes.

- Tim Hughes

GBIO and Youth Community Organizing

Due to the success and active youth participation in the voter outreach campaign of 2009, we set our sights a bit higher than last year in terms of what we could achieve. Our spring organizing culminated in a 70-person action with State Senator Jack Hart around the issue of youth jobs. We hired and trained 6 youth organizers, 5 of whom were from the local housing projects Old Colony and Mary Ellen McCormack. Teens from a local partner, the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation, hosted a conversation with our youth about power-building in oppressed urban communities, exposing our youth to relatable role models. Professional organizer and Morehouse college graduate Jason Garrett offered a training in one-to-one relational meetings and house meetings for our youth, and will be on board to facilitate a future project around access to quality educational resources.

In April, we responded to the concerns of our neighborhood youth and the current context of economic recession and job cuts by bringing our political capital resources to the youth jobs issue. Through 62 one to one relational meetings with youth and parents, 2 research meetings with other campaign organizations, 2 house meetings, eighteen youth, surveys of one hundred youth, our team identified youth jobs as an exciting issue to organize around. We immediately set about planning an action to meet with State Senator Jack Hart to ask him to commit to youth jobs funding in the state budget. Youth organizations had been having a hard time getting a meeting with Senator Jack Hart. We used the church's social capital, as well as the increasing youth organizer reputation built through voter turnout work, to secure a meeting with Senator Hart. In the Fourth Church fellowship hall, with seventy people present, the youth completely led an "action" asking Senator Hart if he would work for full restoration of the \$8 million YouthWorks jobs funding in the Senate Ways and Means Budget. He committed to doing so, and thereafter became a leader on the issue. We later attended a meeting in which the coalition of neighborhood organizations asked if Senator Hart would be the lead sponsor for an amendment in the state budget to restore youth jobs funding. He accepted and our 6 youth organizers took an active part in exercising collective power around an issue of crucial importance to youth in South Boston. The youth

funding was eventually restored by Governor Patrick through emergency funding.

Further, State Representative Candidate Mark McGonagle attended our action on his own accord and asked if he could meet with the youth. Following up from the action, our youth organizers met and developed a professional relationship with him, which has become fruitful in our upcoming "Greater 4th Church campaign" to plan and implement an action for the five South Boston State Representative Candidates.

Through the "Greater 4th Church campaign" we are built on our learning in the fall voter campaign that youth and adults working together as leaders formed a stronger collective voice. The action with Senator Hart paved the way for summer campaign of house meetings across the whole church preparing for an action with 200 people and all five State Representative candidates in South Boston. Across the church, we have held 7 house meetings, and youth have led 2 house meetings. Across our various church constituencies, we have learned that South Boston issues intersect with youth issues.

I was so proud of the role our youth played in 2010, and especially in the Greater 4th Church campaign this summer." -- *Mark Longhurst*

Note: Mark Longhurst was our youth organizer for two years, and a huge asset to the Youth Organizing Project and our general youth ministry. In September of 2010, we said goodbye to him as he moved to Western Massachusetts to accept a new call as a minister. We were sorry to lose him, but excited to hire a new organizer, Jenny Hall. Look forward to great work from Jenny and a new crew of youth organizers in 2011!

The Evening of Gospel Music

This year we again held a summer Gospel concerts, and raised over \$10,000.

Our Fourth Singers presented new and old music, and they were joined by a joint choir from JP/Hyde Park, and Grant AME Church.

We then added a Talent Extravaganza in November which netted an additional \$2000.

Gospel Night is now counted on to raise at least \$12,000 to meet the budget. The more people we have soliciting ads, the better we can do. There really are a good number of people out there eager to support our ministries; we just need to ask them. Please consider helping us do that come May and June.

More Music, More Choirs

Music, choir, and special events are always an important part of our life here at Fourth Church. This year, it seemed like special music events were particularly plentiful.

In addition to the music at the Bluegrass Barbecue, the choirs of Gospel night, and all the pieces we hear on Sunday morning, we had in 2010...

- A Mardi Gras party with live music from Dan Teager, Tony Medeiros, Thatcher Freeborn, Burns Stanfield, and friends
- A Talent Extravaganza in November with a long list of in-house talent
- A Boston Presbytery Revival in October where Fourth Church musicians were the key musical leaders
- A GBIO event with gubernatorial candidates where our singers again provided key “spice”
- Visiting performance by the Gospel choir of Milton Academy,
- A Concert by a touring youth choir from Macon, Georgia,
- A remarkable concert by the Kellogg Community College Choir of Battle Creek, Michigan,
- A visiting choir from France
- Our own choir went to sing for a memorial service to support South Shore Hospice ministry
- Our very first (and very successful) Christmas Concert

We have fantastic musicians in our midst. Great work everybody.

Burns Stanfield

GBIO

Fourth Church continues to be an important part of the Greater Boston Interfaith

Organization, a community organizing effort which seeks to make life better for more people in greater Boston. We are a charter member of GBIO, and we can take pride in the contribution it is making to life in Boston.

Continuing its response to the economic crisis, GBIO worked together with similar organizations in other cities (an alliance called MetroIAF) on an anti-usury campaign. A major success was getting State Treasurer Tim Cahill to agree to move state funds from Bank of America to more community minded banks when B of A refused to apply state interest limits to their credit card practices. Fourth Church was involved in that particular action, and we have been involved in the campaign to have individuals move their money out of Bank of America. The usury team is currently meeting with community bank leaders and city officials to coordinate more movement away from Bank of America.

GBIO’s energy turned toward the governor’s race in the summer, and sponsored a hugely significant accountability action meeting with all four candidates in October. GBIO got great recognition from all the candidates and solid coverage. Fourth Church was active in this action, as well, with Tim Hughes leading the floor team, Tim Sanchez providing key sound expertise, Burns leading a section on the ballot questions and the choir injecting some spirit. Erik Jacobs also covered the event as a photographer!

GBIO is now stepping into Education policy, having been essentially invited to do so by the Boston School Superintendent and the mayor. We will be working on the transportation issue, in particular.

“Extended Fourth Church” Campaign and Sept. 8 Action

This past summer, we used GBIO tools to do work in our own neighborhood in something we called both “The Greater Fourth Church Campaign” and “The Extended Fourth Church Campaign.”

The key insight is this: We are connected to many constituencies beyond our official church membership. There is the food pantry population, theater parents, Friday night youth, etc... With an open State Representative position and (of course) a lively South Boston political race, we decided to step in and use house meetings to identify important issues for our “extended Fourth Church

community.” We then met with each candidate and hosted an Accountability Action on Sept. 8.

Our issues: Usury (from the GBIO work), Youth jobs (from the youth’s work), Recovery, and Education.

Our work on recovery issues – and specifically trying to stop Question One -- ended up making its way to the agenda for the gubernatorial candidates meeting described above. Our work on education has led to a new outreach effort to the Perkins School (described below) and new research on reforming Boston Public Schools.

For the Accountability Action meeting itself, we have 200 community people packing our sanctuary. We got terrific recognition from all five candidates, and we expect to build on this in our community presence.

Good work, everybody!

Civic Engagement Project

In 2010, from Sept. 1 to Nov. 3, the “Voter Campaign” group knocked on the doors of about 600 potential voters in Precincts 5 and 6, in connection with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, encouraging them to vote in the Nov.2nd election. We stepped into this after our Accountability Action with the candidates for State Representative (see above)

Incredibly, voting in Precinct Six increased by 9.5%, compared to four years prior; and voting in Precinct Five increased by 25.5%.

Volunteers from both adult and youth groups worked in close cooperation for this project. GBIO organizer Lauren Jacobsen worked hard with us, and intern Young Ra Rhee was diligent in mobilizing the troops.

Like in 2009, the the youth orgznizers were crucial in getting door to door. We also had big help from the recovery community, since we were also using these outings to encourage a No vote on Question Two (which nonetheless prevailed to remove the alcohol tax which had been funding substance abuse prevention and treatment.) At our Thanksgiving potluck, Sen. Hart and Representative-elect Nick Page came to congratulate the hard working team.

New Perkins School Partnership

The Fourth Church/Perkins School Partnership project grew out of a GBIO pilot project in Dorchester, seeking to link church members interested in education with Boston public schools in need of supplementary help.

Jason Garrett, a GBIO community organizer, did extensive liaison work with the principal and staff of Perkins School, a small elementary school located in the Old Colony Housing Project. Interested Fourth Church members subsequently met several times with Jason to discern what kind of support we could offer, based on the school’s needs and the abilities of the members.

In the short term, we have 3 adults from the committee who are actively volunteering weekly to work with First and Second Grade students. Two members also attended the annual Literacy Open house and participated in the food and activities with students and parents.

Burns has initiated a musical theater program, with participating students enthusiastically performing a version of Jungle Book. A finished performance is planned, as well as a general expansion of volunteerism. We are actively seeking possibilities. Perkins School has welcomed Fourth Church with open arms.

Karen Flaherty

International Group

Since we, international group, held the first meeting in April, 2009, we have felt we have improving into the group to embrace and grow each other, with current members including Franco Akum, Jonathan Ng, Mia Kim, Young Ra Rhee, Shemiram Fabian, Solomon Chum, and Edmond Fongang from diverse places such as Cameroon, Singapore, Iran, India, South Korea, Philippines, and more. Last year, we had both a good and bad news. The bad one is to take leave of De Vera family(Paz, Ernesto, Eileen, and Patrick). We had a farewell party at Shemiram’s house. We also miss Amy Zheng who now is working in D.C. The good news is to have new member , Edmond from Cameroon. He studied in France, lives in Dorchester, and is preparing for medical school. Last April 11, we had a meaningful event, or an International Group Worship. All of us were nervous and busy, but we realized in each step to prepare it, why God led us to attempt this. We could get to understand each other more deeply. This year, we especially pray for De Vera Family, Devina Patel who were our passionate member and now working in Washington, and Mia working as a seminarian at the MIT Chapel. We meet the first Sunday every month after worship. If you would

like to join, please contact Young Ra Rhee(yrree@mail.harvard.edu, 857-998-0194)
Young Ra Rhee

Recovery Groups

It's easy to take for granted all the 12-step groups that meet in our church. It's worth pausing to remember that lives are saved in those meetings. Community leaders regularly thank Burns for the Young Peoples AA meeting on Sunday night. Keep these groups in your prayers. There is a Saturday NA group, too, as well as a small NA group on Thursdays. Our own 12 steps and the Christian Faith class is now a steady weekly gathering, as well.

Same Church, New Name-Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida(New Life Baptist Church) (previously Iglesia Bautista Shalom)

Dearest 4th Presbyterian partners in the Gospel, as we take a look at 2010 we can begin by saying that it was a year of continuing to strengthen within and re-starting. After a mass exodus of people that left in 2009, we were encouraged with the arrival of a new local family to our congregation and the attendance of a large amount of children of the South Boston community. Some Sundays we have up to 15 Children all from South Boston.

It was still a year of many challenges for us as struggled to meet out financial commitments and thanks to God's faithfulness and the few committed families left on the congregation it all balanced out and we made it.

We thank God for your continuous commitment , prayers, and partnership in the Gospel. We also thank God for being able to use your building and pray that God will bless your ministry in big ways for your kindness towards us.

As we minister in the inner-city we continue to

encounter the many challenges that a city brings. Many of the people we minister too are challenged with many cultural adaptations, many move back to their country or relocated to less expensive communities. Although we face a never ending challenge, it has also been a blessing to be in the community of South Boston delivering the message of salvation and ministering to so many children.

In 2010 as we tried to continue strengthen within our vision continued to be an evangelistic one . We are committed to reaching the Community and nearby communities with a Message of Hope. In order to reach our goals below are some of the ministry work we have accomplished in 2010.

In the Spring of 2010, we had a special outreach service on Easter. During the summer we did personal evangelism and prayer walking in the community. We also participated in an outdoor service in a nearby community.

In August 2010, we celebrated our sixth anniversary. The Sunday before Thanksgiving, we had a special Thanksgiving service outreach and provided a Thanksgiving meal to families in the community that visited that Sunday. This was also the day we were officially notify about our affiliation to the Conservative Baptist Mission to the Northeast. Now the church has dual affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention. During this time our congregation also began to talk about changing the name of the church to better fit the make up of our small congregation. At our first congregational meeting in 2011, we voted to re-name the church to Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida(New Life Baptist Church) and hope to incorporate the church with this new name. As you can see the only word that was changed was the word Shalom as it often confused people.

In September 2010, we started to have a Bible Study in a community room in Villa Victoria in the South End on Thursday.

In Winter 2010, we had a Christmas celebration where we invited children and family members of the community to be part of a special worship program. At the end of the service we were able to provide a token of appreciation to the children in addition to a meal to the families. We had

special music and also the growing children's choir participated. We also had an end of the year service on 12/31 at our home and invited the families of the congregation to join us.

All year we provided Bilingual Children's church to all the children that attended our services. The children's choir continued to sing at some of our special services.

Something great that has happened recently is that a large amount of children of the community are attending on Sunday children's church. We are working on a special Easter play involving the children in an attempt to outreach the parents of these kids that are not attending at this time. What a great opportunity to reach out and touch these parents.

Thanks for your continued partnership. We continue to pray for you, we thank God for the opportunity you give us to be able to have Spanish services in your building.

Blessings, Pastor Jose Flores

Vinton Street Hope Initiative –

At the encouragement of the session in 2008, a new organization was born: The Vinton Street Hope Initiative. The mission of the group is to "nourish families with enlivening programs which nurture young and old, forge community relationships, and feed the soul."

The group offered successful dance classes in the winter and spring. It has also facilitated an important grant from Citizens Bank to the Summer Meals Program and some private donations.

It will be exploring whether it makes sense to be a part of the Perkins partnership.

It is now on the list of organizations that employees in certain work places can support with employer-matched funding.

Current board members are: Burns Stanfield, Kathy Burger, Thatcher Freeborn, Rene Martin, Dana Seero and Donna Brown.

Passages

Deaths: Margaret Brennan

Child baptism: Stewart Chu, Nailanny Morales, Jasmine Vincent, Dayla DePina, Kenese Cohen

Affirmation of Faith & Baptism: Jared Neilan, Patricia Cohen

Other New members: Stephanie Hoklotubbe, Layne and Danae Jacobs, Amanda and Stephen Grant-Rose, Jonathan Pierce, Ryan Darmody, David Hoffman, Mina DePina