

Fourth Notes

September 2010

Fourth Presbyterian Church * 340 Dorchester Street, South Boston, MA 02127 * 617-268-1281

Pastor Burns Stanfield -- bstanfield@hds.harvard.edu Children/Youth Ministry: Tim Hughes -- timhughes79@gmail.com

A Season for Re-Grouping

Drawing on the Word as we Re-Gather

Community organizers in GBIO like to say “all organizing is re-organizing.” There’s a slogan in Presbyterian theology that’s similar: “The church reformed and always being reformed.” This is the way we thrive in the world. As wonderful as we may be at any given moment, there will be times to adjust, re-connect and re-group. This is such a season.

As in other years, we’ve said goodbye to some wonderful people whose vocations have led them to different parts of the world – Tara, Trinity, Sharon, Devina. And of course we’ve bid farewell to a wonderful summer intern *and* an incredibly rich and active summer. (Wasn’t the concert great? Wednesday nights were rich, too. And the programs served over 7000 meals to young people.)

Now we welcome home summer travelers.

We welcome students. We welcome the visitors fall often brings. And as this newsletter goes to print, we are on the cusp of our first candidates accountability action—arguably the most prominent display of our community witness to date.

It is a time to re-group; and our scripture readings for so-called ordinary time will have much to say. There is advice for newly (re)gathered people of faith. And that’s what we’ll reflect upon in worship on Sundays.

Please read these short articles and look for the ways you can be a part of our re-gathering movement.

There’s a retreat, programs needing volunteers, another concert (possibly), study groups, and more... In October we will have a campaign of one-on-one conversations. The brilliance of God’s Promise is that it keeps “re-shining” as we keep re-grouping.

Come and re-shine with us. .

church retreat! september 10,11,12

This year, the square dance will be Irish. But we will most certainly continue The Dance!

And once again we will have a chance to experience an array of “spirit stations” arranged by Mike .

And there are ample opportunities to swim, canoe, rest and play

Our theme this year is “The True Vine;” and we sincerely hope all of you can join us in the holy endeavor of abiding in God (along with the holy endeavor of play...)

Cost is \$55 per person over 12. (ages 4-12 : \$35)

We gather Friday night at the retreat center for a Chef McKenzie dinner, 6:30-8pm. Come early if you like and rest. That night we will have a Big Sing with Big Music accompaniment. Don’t miss it.

Candidates Night at Fourth- Sept. 8, 7pm

This may have already happened by the time you read this newsletter, but we all should know and celebrate that Fourth Church hosted an Accountability Action with all five candidates for state representative.

This was the culmination of an “Extended Fourth Church

Community” campaign this summer. We had house meetings not only within the congregation, but also with groups in relationship to the church – food pantry, youth group, theater parents, recovery groups, and more.

Through this we have established some great new relationships, and we have deepened the community witness that is so central to our witness in faith.

If you get this newsletter in time, PLEASE SHOW UP WEDNESDAY. And even if you don’t, say of prayer of thanks to God.

Another concert?

Many, many thanks to all who helped with the August 14 Gospel Concert. We had a good house, a cooled sanctuary, great food, and fantastic music.

On the money front, we have a little over \$8,000 right now with a good shot of \$2000 more coming in.. We need to raise 12,000 with this endeavor, so stay tuned; we just might have a November concert!

If we do, there are lots of good groups we might include since choirs are more available in the fall than in the summer.

That is to say, this concert might well be even more

fantastic. More info is on the way...

food pantry

Our food pantry shifts to a ‘by appointment’ mode during the Summer Meals Program in July and August, but we have now resumed our major, bi-monthly distributions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We had a distribution on August 31 and will have the next on September 14. Volunteers appreciated (contact Erik Jacobs).

Tutoring program starts Tuesday, sept 15

Homework Help resumes on Monday, September 13 and continues every Monday and Wednesday for the semester. Light dinner at 5:30pm, help with homework from 6 to 7pm. Tim Hughe sand Katie Cole are the primary contacts right now and they welcome volunteers. It’s a great way to connect with kids in the church and the neighborhood.

Partnering with a neighborhood School?

There is a possibility we can develop a partnership with the local elementary school (Perkins). Session will be exploring this. Interested folks can contact Burns.

PANCAKE PARTY

Sunday, September 19, 9am: A new year of Sunday School

While we don't stop Sunday School and maintain classes for different ages during the summer, September is a time for new classes and that is a great excuse for a party. Come Sunday morning, September 19 at 9am for a pancake party and introduction to your class.

Interested in helping with the pancakes?? Interested in helping with the kids classes? See Tim H or Kathy Burger. Sunday offerings will include:

- The class for ages 6 and under (Stephanie Hoklotubbe & Kathy Burger)
- One or two classes for 7-12 year-olds not in confirmation (Michelle Sanchez & Chris Hoklotubbe)
 - Confirmation Class (Burns Stanfield & a Tim Hughes)
- Teen Class especially for those teens who have been through confirmation (Sarah Manoucheheri)
 - A new adult class !... A Bible Study with Katie Cole on the Parables of the Bible

Civic engagement Project

So last year, we had an amazing victory, increasing voter turnout by 30% in Precinct Six. This year, we build on that foundation and again work with GBIO to increase voting in precincts five and six.

And here's some great news: the unbelievable Young Ra Rhee will be a key leader again (yes!). More great news: the youth organizers will be leading the charge again.

We are trying to build the power of our neighborhood and do the holy work of civic engagement (in rich resonance with our Presbyterian Christian tradition).

We are gathering regularly to meet neighbors, hear their concerns for the community, and encourage them to vote. All welcome!

NEW sunday adult class: Studying the Parables with Katie

We have a few excellent teachers in the wings to lead our adult Sunday School classes this year. Courtney Van Veller is ready with her considerable NT expertise, Katherine Pater is joining the team with her passion for John's Gospel, her love of theater and Irish dance, and her openness to trying anything!

And stepping up to lead the first class: Katie Cole with a class on the Parables of Jesus !!

It all starts at the Pancake Party on September 19, and it lasts 5 weeks. Come eat breakfast at 9am and check it out.

The Dramatic Word - Wed. study & theater!

We've got something NEW for the first four Wednesdays of Soup N Study Season. We are mixing together Bible study, theater (for adults and teens) and the great story of Esther.

So what does this mean? Come Wednesdays at 5:30 for a little food and a check-in time. From 6pm to 7:15, we will do Bible Study AND theater prep, all to get ready for a special dramatic presentation of the story of Esther on October 17.

This is a new kind of workshop for us, but as you can tell, it's combining some things that we do quite well.

What if you're new to theater? ALL WELCOME

What if you're new to the Bible? ALL WELCOME

What if you're dead set against public performing? COME ANYWAY,

Music & art sign up

It's time for the 2010-11 Music and Arts Program. Registration

takes place on September 19 during the pancake party and on September 20-21 (Monday and Tuesday), 5:30pm-7:00pm.

There will be classes in children's musical theater (Tuesdays), piano, violin, guitar, voice, art, and more. New this year is a Fashion Class with Kerriann and Graphic Novel class (ie, make your own comic book!). Returning is Tim's popular Video Class. Brochures with specific courses are on the way.

prayers....

If the way be clear (through a congregational meeting on September 5), we will ordain two new elders on September 12. Pray for our new leaders.

Phyllis Curtis has had a medical procedure and continues to need prayers.

Micah and Foy White-Chu are getting ready to adopt a new child! Pray also for Micah's mother, who has had some health concerns.

Prayers for Karen Foley, whose long-time friend Charlie Crowley passed recently. We'll have a memorial service for Charlie on Saturday, September 18, 11am.

Check out these great interns for this year! Young Ra Rhee, Sarah Manouchehri, Katherine Pater, Katie Cole! Blessings on them.

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South Boston, MA 02127

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