

# Fourth Notes

January 2011

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

Pastor Burns Stanfield -- [bstanfield@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:bstanfield@hds.harvard.edu) Dir. Children & Youth Tim Hughes- [timhughes79@gmail.com](mailto:timhughes79@gmail.com)

## TOWN MEETING – January 9

### *Exploring Sanctuary Renovations, Our Spring Fund-Raising Event & Our 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

Save the date and join us!

We have now been a congregation in South Boston for 140 years. It seems like a good time to do something special.

We are also due to some maintenance (and maybe beyond) in the sanctuary: the carpet is frayed, the windows don't seal properly, we need a paint job... It seems like a good time to visualize a refreshed sanctuary.

After seven years of fantastic spring fundraisers to support the Vision Fund, we might want to imagine a new kind of event? It seems like a good time to brainstorm the Spring Event.

And so we are putting these pieces all together for a "Town Meeting" after worship on Sunday, January 9. We will have some kind of light sandwiches to tide people over, and we will get you out by 1:30. Members of the Building committee will share with you a Wish List of

things we could improve. Our in-house fundraising experts will help us with event visioning. Elders and Deacons will help us facilitate small group conversations. Among other things, we need to process whether we would want to change the look of our sanctuary in any way. We also need to discern whether we are ready to step into a project this big right now.... Or not?

Our session takes the official votes on these kinds of matters, but they rightly believe something of this magnitude really needs input from as many congregants as possible.

So, to everybody who cares about Fourth Church: Save January 9 and join us for this important – and exciting – conversation. (And if by chance, there is a nasty snowstorm... We'll do it January 16!).

### **Wednesday soup/study The Bible & Emotions**

A new Bible study, everybody! We'll start January 12 (Supper at 5:30, Study from 6 until 7, Choir at 7:15).

This one is on emotions we all experience at some point – anger, sadness, joy, and more -- and we will look to Scripture for guidance and insight.

We welcome EVERYBODY. All kinds of folks have relevant experience when it comes to these kinds of feelings. More to the point, all kinds of folks can learn something from the wisdom we can find in the Bible.

Invite friends.

We will plan on four weeks, with an option to add more before Lent.

### **Sunday School for Adults - Reading (& Creating) Psalms**

Fresh from a lively Advent series with study, singing and music-making, Katherine and

Katie have a new Sunday School class for January: The Psalms.

As you might expect, you will read and study the Biblical psalter. You will also have a chance to create your own songs and poems of faith.

Starts January 9, 9:30am.

You surely don't want to miss this!!

### **You are God's beloved: January 9 anointing**

January 9 is a day to remember the Baptism of the Lord, and for us a chance to remember our own baptisms. It is also the day we step into a new year and consider some major church endeavors—see above.

All will have a chance to be anointed and hear the words: "You are God's beloved, and in you God is well pleased." It's a great way to step into any year or any ministry endeavor.

If you can think of people who need to hear this, please invite them to join us that day.

### **Annual Meeting of the Congregation- Jan 23**

Please book this Sunday! We will gather after worship to receive the annual report, vote on our pastor's terms, and elect officers. This meeting embodies all sorts of ideas that are near and dear to us: representative democracy, clergy accountability, the ministry of ALL members, to name a few. The nominating committee is developing a slate of names to be nominated for the officer positions.

NOTE: All leaders of different kinds of ministries are asked to submit articles summarizing their 2010 activities to Burns by Jan. 13.

### **Jan 30- church birthday, ordinations, potluck lunch**

We've taken a two-month vacation from potluck lunches for the holidays, but end-of-the-month potlucks make a return on January 30! This will be the

day we ordain and install newly elected elders and deacons.

It is ALSO the day we have chosen to celebrate the church's 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Come with a birthday present for Fourth Church! Gift ideas:

- Blue painters tape
- Labels: for Laser Jet
- Gifts to close budget gap!
- Markers, glue...kid stuff
- Windex
- Other creative ideas?

And depending upon what we discern at the January 9 town meeting, we might want to do something on this day to launch an effort to refresh the sanctuary...

### **leadership workshop – Jan 22**

New officers will be having a leadership workshop on Saturday, January 22, 9-11am and all are welcome. The class may well have different elders and deacons assisting Burns in the presentations, and we will address key Presbyterian principles of church organization AND what makes for good church leadership. We'll also have coffee and bagels in the morning.

Newly elected officers will be expected to attend, and others may sign up with Burns if they choose. (Do sign up with Burns so we get a good count.)

### **music & art registration**

Registration for the winter session of classes takes place Sunday morning, January 16, 9:30-10:30, and Monday & Tuesday, January 17 and 18, 5:30-7pm. This ten-week session has classes in: musical theater (one class presents Sound of Music on April 1-2, and

another presents "Willy Wonka" on April 8-9 ), piano and voice lessons, guitar classes, violin lessons, and even a food art for kids! There are also classes in dance, video, graphic novels and tutoring. Financial aid available.

### **Mind the Budget Gap**

Members, friends, well-wishers, nice and decent strangers.... The gap between pledges for 2011 and expected expenses is now at press time around **\$21,000**. We are getting closer to the balanced budget we need, but that gap is still too big to close with reduced purchases here and there. Nobody wants to do our balancing by reducing pastoral staff time, so please help us with your prayers and pledges. Session meets January 11 in preparation for the Annual Meeting on January 23, at which a budget will be presented to the congregation....

If you have not turned in a pledge, please do so right away. Send it to the church or email treasurer Susan Devine ([suzzand@verizon.net](mailto:suzzand@verizon.net)).

If you have already pledged, please consider an increase.

Do keep praying. The spirit of this year's pledging has been wonderful. With God, we know we can do this!

### **CHOIR REHEARSAL**

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, January 12, 7:15pm! Come to soup N Study at 5:30 for supper, 6 for study.

Many thanks to the choir for some incredible singing and their willingness to share it with Greater Boston- with GBIO, with VNA Hospice, with Boston Presbytery, with the city in a first-time Christmas Concert. You all are wonderful.

### **prayers**

Ed Buccieri's situation with cancer is quite serious. Please keep him in prayer.

Sheila Buckman has pneumonia. She also appreciates prayer.

These friends have a hard time getting out of their home: Phyllis Curtis and Barbara Turcotte.

Phyllis is thrilled to have Cindy and Matt Brown visiting this season.

Pray for Helen McElmon and Erna Deeb, as well.

John Titakum is in Africa, tending to family in Cameroon. Their situation is quite hard.

Pray for Monica, too.

Franco Akum loves his job! Congratulations!

Jen Belcher loves her job, too, and her students have voted her the funniest teacher in school....

Many are traveling to visit family. Too many to name!

Philip Wilkinson has architectural projects all over the world and is wicked busy...

---

Fourth Presbyterian Church  
340 Dorchester Street  
South Boston, MA 02127

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Boston, MA  
PERMIT # 50565