

# Fourth Notes

February 2009

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)

## LENT begins Feb. 25: *Everywhere...*

## *Everybody... Everytime...*

Where do we find God? To whom is God reaching? When can we find the presence of Christ? Everywhere... Everybody... Everytime..

The Lent planning group is still at work with their preparations, but they know they will be using the season to invite all of us to practice that wonderful spiritual discipline of looking a little bit deeper for The Holy. 'Cuz that awesomeness of God is all over. As John Calvin wrote 500 years ago: "Creation is the theater for God's Glory."

Traditionally, there are some rich ways to practice this faith: by study, by prayer, by service, by worship... by any of a number of disciplines. Consider observing a discipline this season, some sort of daily or weekly practice that – in time -- creates a window for God to move in your life. Fourth Church is offering several opportunities to help folks practice a discipline during this time of wilderness traveling. You might want to commit to private prayer every day (our homemade devotion book is available February 22, thanks to Lauren Gallant ). Or you might want to commit to attending prayer service one night a week, or even several nights (always at 6pm). You might want to try choir for Lent, or volunteer with the youth

group, or help with tutoring. You might want to take part in the Wednesday Soup & Study Class (where a different person will share faith insights from their own vocation each week) or one of two Sunday morning classes, one with Lauren on searching for the Holy, or one with Laurie Pierce on fasting.

A word on that last class. Laurie has rich experience in that ancient spiritual practice of fasting and she is available to help people try it. There are many traditions of fasting, and Laurie will introduce them to you and invite the group to fast on the following Saturday. Sunday then becomes the day to break the fast, and the class is a time to share reflections on the experience.

One of the great things about Lent is that it is long enough to let you get into a particular discipline; but it still has an end point, making it easier for most of us to begin the discipline in the first place.

Have a blessed season. Use these opportunities as they are helpful. This can be a rich time for anybody who makes even a little room for the Spirit.

### **Ash Wednesday service- Feb 25, 7pm**

We begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday communion service at 7pm. Ashes available for those who chose to have them.

### **lent wednesdays: soup, study & communion (March 4)**

Think of making Wednesdays in Lent a time for gathering and study. Supper is available at 5:30. We'll have a celebration of the communion at 6pm. All welcome.

Following the service, there will be a study featuring the experiences of our own members and the spiritual insights they get from their own vocations. Erik Jacobs, for example, will share his faith observations from his

work as a photographer. Each week will feature a different expert, and we will invite everybody to look into their own vocations and lives to identify God's work and presence. Starts March 4.

### **nightly prayer service**

Starting Thursday, February 26 and continuing through Saturday, April 11, we will have a simple prayer service every night (except Sundays). Doors open by 6pm for a time of music and meditation. Liturgy begins at 6:10 and we will be done around 6:25. A reflection each night will be presented by different members of the Fourth Church community. Communion on Wednesdays

### **Passion play- April 5**

The Passion Play will be presented Sunday, April 5. Save the day, and be sure to tell Burns if you want to participate in this lived remembrance of Christ's Passion.

### **February Sunday morning class-- "from Christ to canon..."**

Courtney Van Veller continues her wonderful class on the formation of the New Testament this month. Sundays, 9:30am. Learn about the earliest Christian writings, and how some came to be our New Testament.

# BLUEGRASS BBQ- April 1

The Bluegrass Barbecue event felt right last year, so we are bringing it back. Wednesday, April 1, 6-9pm at the Stadium.

There will be plenty of good BBQ, vegetarian options, Silent Auction, Live auction, live bluegrass music by the Spring Hill Rounders and The Down Home Singers. (Tell Burns if you want to join the singers.)

The price is again \$50 per person, \$85 for a couple. We are raising funds for the Vision Fund, and we have our "Vision Eyes" on a long-needed renovation of the fellowship hall and kitchen, replete with a "greener" building through dramatically improved insulation and heating/cooling systems.

## Ordination: Feb 8

AS of Feb. 1, the annual meeting will be behind us, and we can all celebrate some exceptional new officers.

At press time, we know nominees, but not election results, so we can't name names, but we know there are some terrific candidates out there. This ordination will be a great celebration!

It will also be a chance to thank exiting officers: Elders Philip Wilkinson and Susan Barnes, and Deacons Dave Courage and Al Circeo.

## Baptism and potluck: Feb 22

CJ, Ashley and Brianna Burgess met us through the Mazemakers summer program. They have become regular church-goers, and now bring their parents, Jamie and Nancy. On Sunday, February 22, we baptize them and celebrate the deep, deep love God has for them. Come and bask in that day. Come with food, too, and create a great potluck feast for afterwards!

## Concert and chili: Feb 22, 4:30

Liz Stanfield, one of our young people, has a chance to travel to South Africa with a school jazz group. She is raising money for the trip with a special concert and chili supper on Sunday afternoon at 4:30, February 22. The concert will feature all kinds of performers, youth and adult, including a barbershop quartet! Kirk Wegter-McNelly, Alison Slade, Mike Motia, and many more! Suggested donation: \$10

## Rummage sale- Feb 7

These sales are still happening, friends! Amazing. The next one is Saturday, Feb. 7, 10am. Many thanks to Carla so many others for continued help!

## GBIO house meetings on the economy

With churches, synagogues, and mosques throughout

The key to making this a success will be B-R-O-A-D participation. Please make a point of coming yourself and enticing 2 or 3 or 10! of your friends to come and support our community presence. THAT will pack the house! Also, please think about what Silent Auction items you might be able to get donated to the cause. Perhaps sports tickets? Restaurant certificates?? Art? and half will go paying off our mortgage.

There is plenty of room for helpers in the planning! Please see Lindsey or Michael Moyes, Burns, Marcia, or Tim.

Greater Boston, Fourth Church will soon be hosting house meetings for small group discussions on how economic disruptions are affecting us personally. Stay tuned for more information. If you would like to help us organize, see Tim Hughes or Michelle Sanchez.

**prayers...** We pray for David McKenzie, who has been in the hospital, and Darla Danilowicz, who has been in Indiana taking care of her ill sister.

Tara McKee and Alison Slade are both expecting their first children any day!

Prayers for students awaiting word on doctoral programs...

Prayers for the Edwards family, who lost their apartment and belongings in a fire.

Margaret Brennan is in the Marian Manor.

Many thanks to all who have braved no less than three Sundays of Big Snow to gather for worship!

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340 Dorchester Street  
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