

# Fourth Notes

January 2010

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

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## MIND THE (Budget) GAP

### *Please help us close in on a balanced budget*

Member, friends, well-wishers, nice and decent strangers.... The gap between pledges for 2010 and expected expenses is now at press time around **\$19,500**. 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. The only way to close it on the expense side is to reduce pastoral staffing time. Nobody wants to do that, so please help us with your prayers and pledges. Session meets January 12 in preparation for the Annual Meeting on January 24, 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. (If 75 people increased their pledges by \$5 a week, for example, that would cover \$19,500.)

Do keep praying. We continue to make progress, and we continue to sense God's guiding hand!

### **Wednesday soup/study 12 Steps & Christianity**

Periodically, it is a great exercise to check in on the ways our Christian walk intersects with and informs the Twelve Steps of Recovery, which are so important to many in our congregation and our broader community.

We've done this before, but it is time to do it anew.

We will start Wednesday, January 13 (not the 6<sup>th</sup> as previously advertised!). Meet at 5:30 for a light supper, if you like, and we'll have our class time from 6 to 7pm. For those who want to sing in choir but cannot make Thursdays, we'll even sweeten the pot with a very short anthem run-through!

The 12 Steps of Recovery are the guiding principles of Alcoholics Anonymous and historically evolved from a Christian movement. There are MANY ideas which overlap and it's fruitful to discuss AA and our faith together.

YOU are WELCOME...

...if you know nothing of AA

...if you know nothing of church!

...if you know lots about either. Come. Bring a friend.

It goes Five Weeks, with Burns and some good AA leaders in the congregation.

### **Stewart is God's beloved, & so are you: jan 10 anointing**

January 10 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 get to celebrate the baptism of Stewart Chu (son of Foy White-Chu and Micah Chu).

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 a new year.

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 24**

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 2009 activities to Burns by Jan. 15.

### **jan 31- 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 31! 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 139<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?

### **leadership workshop – Jan 23**

New officers will be having a leadership workshop on Saturday, January 23, 9am-1pm, and all are welcome. The class will 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, period. We'll also have coffee in the morning, and lunch.

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 afternoon, January 3, 1:30-3pm, and Monday & Tuesday, January 4 and 5, 5:30-7pm. This ten-week session has classes in: Kids Create, Creation Station (Saturdays), musical theater (which will present "Annie" on March 26-27), piano and voice lessons, guitar classes, violin lessons, and even a cooking class for kids! We are also having an a capella singing group for youth. There will be two adult dance classes on Tuesday nights. Financial aid available.

## February 17 -- ash wed

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday - February 17 this year. We will have our evening Ash Wednesday Service at 7:15pm with communion, as well as ashes for those who choose to receive them.

A group will begin Lenten planning soon, most likely the week of January 12. We need help with the devotions book, visual art, special classes, and nightly prayer. Please tell Burns if you would like to help plan.

## And a Mardi Gras Party February 16??

This is NOT the big Mardi Gras Silent Auction fund-raiser of years past, BUT... some of us want to have a celebration right at the church. There would be some musicians playing songs like "Route 66"

and "Straighten Up and Fly Right". And some kind of Mardi Gras, food, too.

Stay tuned. Planning is in the works...

## Bluegrass BBQ- apr 7

Now THIS one is in fact, the big Silent Auction fund-raiser. The Bluegrass Barbecue makes a glorious return this spring. The details...

- Thursday, April 7, 6-9pm
- Where: The Stadium
- Live Bluegrass
- Cost: \$50 (or a couple for \$85)
- Silent and Live auction
- Ad book

Save the Date! And if you want to be a part of the planning, we NEED YOU!!! Meeting on January 17 after church. See Burns for more info.

## Thursday Prayers ...& a dessert each week

Lauren reconvenes our Thursday night prayer service on January 7, 7pm. Each week will feature a different speaker reflecting on Biblical passages which speak of God's Light. (These are the weeks after Epiphany, when The Light is known!) And after each service: The Dessert of the Week!

And after dessert....

## CHOIR REHEARSAL

Choir rehearsals resume Thursday, January 7, 7:40pm! Come to prayers at 7pm. Have dessert at 7:30. SING at 7:40.

For those who want to sing in choir but cannot make this

time, talk to Burns. He's willing to work out a package of Wednesday and Sunday run-throughs! But the best rehearsing and community-building happens on Thursdays.

JOIN US! All welcome.

## prayers

Albert Aloise is having bypass surgery the Monday after Christmas at BMC.

Alice Hageman is recuperating from her knee replacement.

Dina and Erik are back from Costa Rica.

Prayers for Bob Chase and other participants in the Labour Day Program. It is being cut due to state cutbacks.

Margaret Brennan at Marian Manor.

Erna Deeb sends her love and appreciation for the calls and cards.

Peter Macharia has sent us all beautiful batik pieces from Kenya. Come to the church to get yours! He is trying to return to the US for a visit.

Prayers for travelers. Amy Zheng is going to visit family in Germany, China and Australia. Young Ra is in Korea. Chris will be returning from California with Stephanie, who will now be able to stay in Boston!

We are a far flung crew.

And have you heard that health care is being reformed nationally? Be sure to note that the Massachusetts reform has been the main model, and remember that you helped make that happen... In two days of NY Times coverage back then, Dave Courage was featured one day and Peter Brook the next.

Y'all are a part of history.

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