

# Fourth Notes

January 2008

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)

## 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 2008 and expected expenses is now at press time slightly around **\$34,000**. 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. 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 6 and 8th in preparation for the Annual Meeting on January 20, 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 Barnes ([srbarnes@comcast.net](mailto:srbarnes@comcast.net)).
- If you have already pledged, please consider an increase. (If 100 people increased their pledges by \$4 a week, for example, that would be over \$20,000.)

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

### **Annual Meeting of the Congregation- jan 20**

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 2007 activities to Burns or Diane by January 9.

### **Wednesday soup/study Poetry with Prof. Eoin**

Our next soup and study will go from January 9 through January 30 and explore spiritual poetry.

The poems will be great (and you can read them in the class if you are not one inclined to do homework!)... BUT here is the real treat- Our own Deacon Eoin Cannon will be leading the study. Eoin is getting his doctorate in literature at BU. He has taught at BC, and he is currently teaching at Harvard as

part of special program there. In other words, he is REALLY GOOD at this.

Lucky you. You can enjoy his teaching and some soup every Wednesday in January. Soup at 5:30pm. Study at 6pm.

### **Epiphany- January 6**

It is sometimes called "little Christmas" or "Three Kings Days" or just plain Epiphany. But this year it falls on a Sunday, so we have a great opportunity to mark this day when "The Light is seen and recognized." We will have a pageant in worship, plus communion. We are also hoping for King Cake afterwards! Sunday at 10:30

### **you are god's beloved.. jan 13 anointing**

January 13 is a day to remember the Baptism of the Lord, and for us it is also a chance to remember our own baptisms. 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.

### **jan 27- ordination & potluck**

We each have a call, and some of us are called to service in particular offices of leadership in the congregation. Elders and deacons will be ordained on Sunday, January 27. This is a chance for everybody to celebrate our special calling. And then eat... Yep, we also share the Epiphany Light when we put on a good banquet. Bring food, bring friends.

### **leadership workshop – Jan 26**

New officers will be having a leadership workshop on Saturday, January 26, 9am-2:30pm, 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 a good lunch.

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

## music & art registration

Registration for the winter session of classes takes place Sunday afternoon, January 6, 2pm-4pm, and Monday, January 7, 5:30-7pm. This ten-week session has classes in: Kids Create, Creation Station (Saturdays), musical theater (which will present "Godspell" on March 14), piano and voice lessons, guitar classes, violin lessons, and even a cooking class for kids! Financial aid available.

## February 6 -- ash wed

Lent begins very early this year. Ash Wednesday is February 6 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 is beginning Lenten planning right away: January 10 at 10am! We need help with the devotions book, special classes, and nightly prayer.

## Bluegrass BBQ- apr 3

Because of this year's early Lent and other factors, we are giving the Mardi Gras theme a rest this year. BUT we will still have a marvelous fund-raiser. We are still crossing t's, but we are 90% that the event will look like this:

- Thursday, April 3, 6-9pm
- Where: The Stadium
- Live Bluegrass
- Cost: \$50 (or a couple for \$85)
- Silent and Live auction
- Ad book
- Proceeds benefit ministry NOW (youth programs)

and IN THE FUTURE  
(pay down mortgage)

Save the Date! And if you want to be a part of the planning, we NEED YOU!!! See Burns.

## Fire leaves Cantons without home

As of press time, we've just learned about a Dorchester fire which has left the Cantons without a home. Matt, Den, Leiyon, their mother (Armide) and their friend (Anthony Edwards) are all grateful to have survived this fire, which took the lives of two children in another part of the building.

Still, they are without a home, furnishings, clothes, etc. If you are in a position to help in anyway, please contact Burns at 617-285-0039.

And of course, they value your prayers, for their own family, but especially for the family which lost two children.

## Remembering Pauline and Larry

Pauline Donovan passed in December, as did Larry Poor. Many will remember Larry as a constant presence at the church some years ago. He fixed, cooked, gardened, and greeted passers by. The large food pantry cupboards were his creation; and he organized the first Gospel Night.

Pauline came to Fourth a little after her husband, Fred, joined the church. She brought a huge smile and loved seeing the kids sing. Health issues kept her homebound for many years, but we thank

Heather for keeping in steady contact with her.

We thank God for Pauline and Larry, and keep their families in prayer.

## prayers

Please keep Kevin Berry in prayer. He is very ill. Remember, too, his daughter Devin (who is moving to Clinton for a different college).

New babies: Tim Ellis and Amanda have a new child: Jayden Mykal Ellis. Candy Emiliano has twin boys. Delena Mack and Alex Butler have a new child. Matt, Laurie and Ramona Pierce are getting ready to welcome a new addition.

Dave McKenzie is now living at Margaret Brennan's home, helping her with home-living.

Lots of traveling... the Aloises went to Montana, seminarians went home.... And we got to see Philip Wilkinson's family at Christmas... also Erin Sherburne's parents.

Ricky Danilowicz got a big deal scholarship! Congrats!

Alice Hageman's neighbor and friend died suddenly. Prayers are appreciated.

Thanks to the SB Tribune for giving us tickets to see Nemo on Ice. Another great outing.

Thanks also to the hearty crew that came to worship on Dec. 16, and the lively carolers who blessed the Stanfield's neighborhood with music. On both days, people made it though adverse weather conditions, to say the least!!

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340 Dorchester Street  
South Boston, MA 02127

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