

Fourth Notes

January 2009

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 2009 and expected expenses is now at press time slightly around **\$13,000**. 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 probably again on January 18 in preparation for the Annual Meeting on February 1, 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).
- If you have already pledged, please consider an increase. (If 65 people increased their pledges by \$4 a week, for example, that would be over \$13,000.)

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

Wednesday soup/study Preaching Class

Burns has taught preaching at two area seminaries and it is time to bring that teaching to Fourth Church.

Starting January 21, there will be a 5-week Preaching Course, every Wednesday, 6-7pm (with a light supper at 5:30).

All are welcome, but we ask that you try your very best to make all five weeks. The sessions will be building upon each other.

We've timed it so we can work on crafting Biblical reflections together right before the season of Lent begins. During Lent, there are daily prayer services where everybody has a chance to share Biblical reflections.

We will work on short "mini-sermons" and lay a foundation for more preaching work. See Burns if you have questions. ALL are welcome!

you are god's beloved.. jan 11 anointing

January 11 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.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation- Feb 1

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 2008 activities to Burns or Diane by January 19.

jan 25- 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 25!

This makes that Sunday a great day to invite first time visitors!

Feb 8 – ordination of officers

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, February 8. This is a chance for everybody to celebrate our special calling.

leadership workshop – Jan 31

New officers will be having a leadership workshop on Saturday, January 31, 9am-1:30pm, 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 4 1:30-3pm, and Monday,

January 5, 5:30-7pm. This ten-week session has classes in: Kids Create, Creation Station (Saturdays), musical theater (which will present "Enchanted" on March 27-28), piano and voice lessons, guitar classes, violin lessons, and even a cooking class for kids! We are also an a capella singing group for youth and a mime class. There is an adult art class on Tuesdays. Some adults are asking for an adult theater class, too. (Tell Burns or Tim if you want this!) Financial aid available.

February 25 -- ash wed

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday -- February 25 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.

Bluegrass BBQ- apr 2

The Bluegrass Barbecue makes a glorious return this spring. The details...

- Thursday, April 2, 6-9pm
- Where: The Stadium
- Live Bluegrass
- Cost: \$50 (or a couple for \$85)
- Silent and Live auction
- Ad book
- Proceeds benefit community ministry and Hall Renovations! (see below)

Save the Date! And if you want to be a part of the planning, we NEED YOU!!! Meeting on January 11 after church. See Burns or Marcia Campbell.

Major gift launches Hall Renovation!

The family of Edith Jackson, and Libby and Jean McCartney has made a significant contribution to launch our campaign to renovate the fellowship hall.

The building committee has overseen major repairs to the bathrooms, the roof, the siding and the foundation of the church building. Having "sealed" the building, they turned to a vision which imagines-

- Improved insulation and heating/cooling systems to save energy and costs,
- A new kitchen,
- A beautified hall with a higher ceiling.

The committee recognizes that our hall is the hub of all kinds of ministry: tutoring, potlucks, food pantry, Summer Meals, classes, Golden Group... and more. They want to maintain flexibility and make this heavily used space as attractive as possible.

Our spring fund-raiser and the April Boston Marathon campaign will also help with this effort. Tell the Building Committee if you want to be involved (Trinity, Philip, Erik, Peter, Ken, Burns).

prayers

Shirley Duggan's husband, Joe Duggan, passed in December. He was instrumental in founding the South Boston Action Center. Keep Shirley in prayer.

Margaret Brennan has been very ill.

Alison Slade and Tara McKee are both expecting babies in the next few months.

So is Carlynn Whitt, who worked at Fourth in 2004-05. She and her husband, Geoff, live in Los Angeles.

A special thanks to Nick Rose, who has been a champion snow shoveller for the church.

Darla Danilowicz's sister is quite ill, and Darla will most likely go out to Indiana to help care for her. Keep Darla and Wendy in prayer.

Please pray for those hurt by the economy, especially retirees living on IRAs and those without jobs.

Many many thanks to everybody who helped with the many holiday festivities, parties, performances: Alison Slade and her voice students, Fred Caku, Alicia Jurus and Betsy Schomburg, the Pierces & Jen Belcher (for the great pageant costumes), the Secret Santa, Tim Hughes, Theater parents, Dawn, Diane, Barry, Susan Barnes and the Food Pantry crew, Peter on trumpet, Holly and Karen..... Thank you.

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