

Fourth Notes

March 2008

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

Pastor Burns Stanfield -- bstanfield@hds.harvard.edu

HOLY WEEK - March 16-23

Palm Sunday is March 16. Around here, March 16 is also St. Patrick's Parade Day. We will gather in the church hall for palms at 10:15, then have our own procession into the sanctuary, led by the confirmation class. After worship: hang around for the parade and help Barbara sell hot dogs and baked goods.

Nightly Prayer Services continue through Saturday, March 22. Meditation at 6pm. Prayer service 6:10-6:25.

Wednesday Soup N Study (march 19). Our last session in the Bible 101 introduction to the Old Testament.

Maundy Thursday (March 20) Meal, Communion & Foot-washing. We remember *and re-live* the last supper, gathering for a meal in Bevans Hall at 6:30pm (right after the nightly prayer service), and celebrating communion. We then move into a darkened sanctuary to remember that this is the night of Jesus' arrest. See Alice Hageman if you can help with preparations.

Good Friday Way of the Cross (March 21). Meet at St. Monica's Church (at the rotary) at 10am for coffee. We leave at 11am for a remembrance of the Stations of

the Cross as we walk through our neighborhood. We will be joined by folks from other SB churches. We finish at St. George Albanian Orthodox Church and have a reception.

Good Friday Vacation Bible School takes place that Friday, as well. Activities, lunch, and a chance to tell community children about the importance of these days. Volunteer with Nancy..

Saturday Easter Vigil, and Reaffirmation of Baptism (March 22). We have a special worship service at 7pm to remember our baptism and begin the wait for the sunrise.. From that point on, we ask all to consider signing up for one hour of vigil throughout the night.

Easter Sunrise Service Sunrise that morning is at **6:42** (DST). We meet at 6:35am at the café on Carson Beach. Then donuts!

Big Easter Potluck Breakfast at 9am at the church. Bring your favorite breakfast food -- fruit, muffins, whatever!

Easter Festival Service - 10:30

Continuing Lent ... A Practicing Faith

While we look forward to Holy Week, we are still very much in Lent. This year's Devotion Book is a classic, nightly prayer has been rich and wonderful, and the Lenten classes are in full gear. Join us...

Bible 101 ... Introduction to the OT

Brenda Hermanson continues her introduction to the Old Testament, every Wednesday. Soup at 5:30, Communion at 6pm, Brenda's class is 6:30-7:30pm

Sunday morning class - basics of being a member of the body...

Audrey Hartness continues to lead the 9:30am Sunday School class for adults with a study group on what it means to be a

member of a church (or any Christian body).

She has taken her cue from a piece of our Book of Order to develop this outline:

"Membership as Ministry:
Taking part in the Body."

- Wk. 1: Telling the Truth, Gospel Style
- Wk 2: Living and Worshipping together
- Wk 3: Prayer and Study: Keeping the Faith
- Wk 4: Give it up: Time, Tithes, Talents and Governance
- Wk 5: Live and Respond
- Wk 6: What does the Lord require of you? Seeking Justice as a member of the Body

nightly prayer service

During Lent, we gather every night (except Sundays) to pray. 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 is presented by different members of the Fourth Church community. Communion on Wednesdays

Passion play- Mar 9

The Passion Play will be presented Sunday, March 9. This is the fifth Sunday of Lent, which was once the traditional "Passion Sunday." In our case, it is a good time for this special remembrance because Palm Sunday happens to be parade day in Southie!

The cast of "Godspell" will be with us to help tell the story of Jesus's life and passion. This will give our story-telling a different flavor - lots of music, some dance, even some humor. And all quite special.

NOTE - The clocks need to change for March 9! Daylight Savings Time now starts earlier than it once did!

BLUEGRASS BBQ- April 3

After five successful Mardi Gras fund-raiser events for the Vision Fund, it feels like the right time to try something a little different for our biggest fund-raiser of the year. We now have a new building, AND a new non-profit, AND a growing need for a ministry to teens, AND.... Well, it just feels like the right time to stretch a bit.

So we introduce our Bluegrass BBQ !!!

Thursday, April 3

6-9pm

All at the Stadium (2 blocks from church)

Plenty of good BBQ

Vegetarian Options

Live Bluegrass music- The Spring Hill Rounders

AND Sweet the Sound

The introduction of our new non-profit

Silent Auction!!

And only \$50 per person.

See? Lots of exciting details to make this event a great one!! So please save the date.

New soup N study starting March 26...

Brenda Hermanson takes us into Easter tide with Part Two of her overview of the Bible. Shall we call it Bible 102? This is an overview of the NEW Testament. We'll again have the soup n study arrangement: Soup at 5:30, (no Lenten prayer service, however) study from 6-7pm. Choir will go back to its 7:15 slot.

A marathon run...

Burns and Peter have been keeping it quiet, but right now they both have the bug and plan to run the Boston Marathon on April 21 to raise funds for Fourth Church.

This time: they are running for children and youth programs. Pray for them. Bless their feet on April 20. And collect

donations if you know people eager to support such efforts!

Share the Vision... our mortgage

We are moving toward the end of our first year of mortgage payments on the new building. Congrats!

If you owe on your pledge, please try to catch up. Those bills come like clockwork!

And for all of us: We begin paying on Year Two this summer. Session will be leading another "Share the Vision" campaign after Easter. We will again be looking for many \$100 shares, but also for some leadership gifts in the \$1000-\$5000 range.

Keep this in prayer!

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?

Proceeds will support community ministry in the present and in the future: half will go to the expanding youth programs, and half will go paying off our mortgage.

There is plenty of room for helpers in the planning! Please see Burns, Marcia, Foy, Allison, Kathy, Dave Courage, Nancy, or Rae.

prayers...

We celebrate the news that Nancy and Peter McLaren are expecting their first child! They join Eoin and Michelle in an advent time of waiting!

Prayers for Erna Deeb, Dave McKenzie, Margaret Brennan, Phyllis Curtis.

Pray also for Linda Sullivan's nephew, Kenny Quigley.

Michelle Montplaisir had a dear friend pass.

Thatcher Freeborn has had two grandparents die within a few weeks of each other.

Joe Rogier's grandmother is also near passing.

Many thanks to all for your unbelievable response to Peter Macharia's emergency situation in Kenya. Your gifts are making it possible for his family to relocate to a safer place.

Fourth Presbyterian Church
340 Dorchester Street
South Boston, MA 02127

Return Service Requested

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