

Fourth Notes

September 2009

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

Pastor Burns Stanfield -- bstanfield@hds.harvard.edu Children/Youth Ministry: Tim Hughes -- timhughes79@gmail.com

A Season for Re-Grouping

Drawing from the Wisdom Tradition as we Re-Gather

Community organizers in GBIO like to say “all organizing is re-organizing.” There’s a slogan in Presbyterian theology that’s similar: “The church reformed and always being reformed.” This is the way we thrive in the world. As wonderful as we may be at any given moment, there will be times to adjust, re-connect and re-group. This is such a season.

We’ve said goodbye to some wonderful people whose vocations have led them to different parts of the country – the Slades, the Pierces, Debbie and Lori. And of course we’ve bid farewell to some wonderful summer interns *and* an incredibly rich and active summer. (Wasn’t the concert great? Wednesday nights were especially fun this year, too. And the programs served over 7000 meals to young people.)

Now we welcome home summer travelers.

We welcome students. We welcome the visitors fall often brings. And we continue our biggest building project ever in renovating the fellowship hall.

It is a time to re-group; and our scripture readings for the season fittingly come from the Wisdom tradition (especially the Letter of James). There is advice for newly (re)gathered people of faith. And that’s what we’ll reflect upon in worship on Sundays.

Please read these short articles and look for the ways you can be a part of our re-gathering movement.

There’s a retreat, programs needing volunteers, facility improvements needing donations of time or money, weekly prayer, study groups, and more... In October we will have a campaign of one-on-one conversations.

The brilliance of God’s Promise is that it keeps “re-shining” as we keep re-grouping.

Come and re-shine with us. .

church retreat! september 11,12,13

Wilbur and the boys are back to lead the square dance (and a free-form dance party, too).

We’ll have a chance to experience an array of “spirit stations” arranged by Mike .

And there are ample opportunities to swim, canoe, rest and play

Our theme this year is “Made to Worship, Called to Love, Forgiven and Free;” and we sincerely hope all of you can join us in the holy (and really fun) endeavor of play...

Cost is \$55 per person over 12. (ages 4-12 : \$35)

We gather Friday night at the retreat center for dinner, 6:30-8pm. Come early if you like and rest. That night we will have a Big Sing with Big Music accompaniment. Don’t miss it.

Thursday Weekly Prayer Service

This fall begins a new season of ministry and a special time to reflect on our mission. That kind of reflection needs prayer.

And so.... with our usual Lenten evening prayer services in mind, we are looking to have a weekly prayer service on Thursday evenings, probably at 6:45pm.

Lauren Gallant will be working on this as part of her field education this year, so contact her if you would like to help. The likely start date is October 1.

Thanks for a great gospel night

Many, many thanks to all who helped with the August 15 Gospel Concert. We had a packed house, a cooled sanctuary, great food, and some of the best music *ever*... Really.

On the money front, we have \$12,100 right now with \$700 more promised. We are SO close to our \$13,000 goal. Chip in a little if you are so inclined!

..And another concert is on the way...

Burns Stanfield turns 50 on November 4; and he and his family are intending to celebrate it with music and food. There are some details to work out, like the date! (Maybe November ???) But they know they’ll be inviting the congregation, and that there will be a chance for people to share music and other performance pieces.

food pantry

Our food pantry shifts to a ‘by appointment’ mode during the

Summer Meals Program in July and August, but we have now resumed our major, bi-monthly distributions on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. We had a distribution on August 25, and will have the next on September 8. Volunteers appreciated (contact Susan Barnes).

Tutoring program starts Tuesday, sept 15

Homework Help resumes on Tuesday, September 15 and continues Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the semester. Light dinner at 5:30pm, help with homework from 6 to 7pm. Tim Hughes and Katie Cole are the primary contacts right now and they welcome volunteers. Note that we are expanding from TWO days to THREE days. It’s a great way to connect with kids in the church and the neighborhood.

A Housing Mission Trip next June?

Katie Cole and Tim Hughes are doing more than leading tutoring this year. They are also exploring whether we might be able to send a group of youth and adults to West Virginia to help with a housing mission program. This would happen next summer.

Interested? Tell Tim and Katie.

PANCAKE PARTY

Sunday, September 20, 9am: A new year of Sunday School

While we don't stop Sunday School and maintain classes for different ages during the summer, September is a time for new classes and that is a great excuse for a party. Come Sunday morning, September 20 at 9am for a pancake party and introduction to your class.

Interested in helping with the pancakes?? Interested in helping with the kids classes? See Tim Hughes or Kathy Burger.

Sunday offerings will include:

- The class for ages 6 and under (Leader: Kathy Burger)
- One or two classes for 7-12 year-olds not in confirmation (Tim Hughes & Chris Hoklotubbe)
 - Confirmation Class (Burns Stanfield & a Star to be Named Later)
 - Teen Class especially for those teens who have been through confirmation (Mike Motia)
- A new adult class !... A Bible Study with Courtney Van Veller looking at upcoming lectionary texts

Civic engagement Project

Working with GBIO and other congregations, we are trying to build the power of our neighborhood and do the holy work of civic engagement (in rich resonance with our Presbyterian Christian tradition).

We are gathering regularly to meet neighbors, hear their concerns for the community, and encourage them to vote. Our goal: increase voting 20% compared to four years ago in our precinct, Precinct Six.

We eagerly welcome your help. See Burns, Young Ra, Dave, Art, Sugar, Tim, Mark Longhurst, or Laura Massie.

NEW sunday adult class: Bible Study with Courtney

Courtney VanVeller has a dissertation prospectus due soon, but she is willing to help launch a new fall of Adult Sunday School! (loud cheers for Courtney, please) She's an active congregant of Fourth Church and stellar Ph.D. student at Boston University in New Testament and Early Church History. And her class will be a Bible Study looking at upcoming lectionary texts.

So what are those texts? Well, the lectionary is leading us to spend some time with Job and also with

the Epistle to the Hebrews, as well as more time in Mark's gospel. So we'll have to see where Courtney (and the class) want to go.

It all starts at the Pancake Party on September 20, and it lasts 3 weeks. Come eat breakfast at 9am and check it out.

International Intercultural Extravaganza! Sept 30

We have got a great Soup N Study on the way, led by Young Ra Rhee and the new International Group. They are arranging a series of presentations to help us learn about the many cultures represented in our congregation. Some of the countries: South Korea, Cameroon, Singapore, China, Haiti and perhaps the Philippines.

We really hope to get the hall renovated first, so we are delaying are start to Wednesday, **September 30** with a supper at 5:30 and our study/presentation at 6pm. (Tutoring is available for children from 6-7pm. Children might also appreciate our presentations.) All welcome.

Music and arts classes sign up

It's time for the 2009-10 Music and Arts Program. Registration takes place on September 20

during the pancake party and on September 21-22 (Monday and Tuesday), 5:30pm-7:00pm.

There will be classes in children's musical theater (Tuesdays), piano, violin, guitar, voice, art, and more. Brochures with specific courses are on the way.

prayers....

Audrey Hartness gets married in October in South Carolina. Burns will be co-officiating.

Thatcher Freeborn and Erin Albright also get married in October, at BU where Erin attended the School of Theology.

Prayers please for Micah and Foy White-Chu. They had accepted the adoption referral of an infant from China whom they named Claudia Hannah, but Claudia died before traveling to the US.

Pray also for Micah and Foy as they approach the final weeks of Foy's pregnancy. She is due in early October.

Prayers for Margaret, Erna Deeb.

And also for Michelle Montplaisir's parents who are moving to better serve her dad.

Pray for Albert and family, and (his sister) Arline's friends and family, too.

Franco Akum has been granted political asylum in the US. Alleluia!

Fourth Presbyterian Church
340 Dorchester Street
South Boston, MA 02127

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