



On Call

We are approaching the time of year where hard working fellow members of the church are getting ready to unveil this year's Canvass, and where Rosemary and I are asked in what ways we can support all of you in a successful effort to fund and support the church we love...and I already know that I'll be talking about money on March 16.

I am working on taxes, as many of you are too, and the headlines of the daily news keeps its steady drum-beat of grim tidings...It is hard to ignore the role that money plays in our sense of happiness and security. Ministers, in my opinion, don't talk enough about the theology of money. In fact, in one poll, non-church goers said one of the chief reasons they did not go was that church did not help them cope with life problems, particularly financial--in fact, all the church did was ask for their money! Ouch.

And while I don't have any problem encouraging you to support your church in a generous way, this observation is too often true. As we slide into recession, and as money gets tight and many of our fellow citizens are losing their homes--well, we will take seriously the profound impact all this has. Our faith needs to help us deal with problems--or else what is it worth?

One thing to avoid is the notion that faith is somehow "above" money, that all it takes is the Bible notion of "Money is evil" and leave it at that (although what Jesus actually said was that "the love of mammon is evil"--money is itself not evil, being a neutral living symbol of our labor.) To ignore or dismiss the role of money is to dismiss one of the most powerful influences on our ability to be happy, to be generous, to live out our dreams. Religion has to be big enough, expansive enough, to include our financial insecurities and worries--and many of us face such worries now.

Rosemary and I are ready and able to talk with you about any aspect of your life--and that includes finances. We don't have advice or expertise to offer, but we do want you to understand we get it, that we live in the same real world you do, and that we stand with you, especially in tough times.

Stephen

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Volume 1, Issue 4

February 14 – 28, 2008

Services

February 17, 2008

"The Shadow Knows"
Rev. Stephen Kendrick

February 24, 2008

"Wisdom of the [S]Ages"
Rev. Rosemary Lloyd

March 2, 2008

"Once to Every Race"
Rev. Stephen Kendrick

P.S from Stephen -
Thanks to Grace and all
who helped make *"Shake
Off the Chill"* such a
resounding and delightful
success!

Sunday morning worship
services are broadcast live
at 11:00 am every Sunday
on WERS 88.9 FM.
Listen if you can't be
here!



R.E. Views:
Director of Religious Education,
Ruth Owen

Look at him go!

Last Sunday's bake sale by the youth group in support of Jamie's Boston Marathon run was a great success. We raised \$247.00! Thank you, everyone!

Sunday, February 17

Religious education classes and youth group will not meet this Sunday because of the Presidents' Day holiday and school vacation week. There will be child care in the John Winthrop School. Regular classes will resume on February 24. The online parents group will also take a break for school vacation week.

Star Island Information Session **Sunday, February 24, after church in** **the Auditorium**

Looking for something new and different for your summer? Come and learn about beautiful Star Island, a Unitarian Universalist conference center located on the Isles of Shoals off the New Hampshire coast. All summer Star offers conferences that serve many different interest groups, artists, naturalists, religious educators, people interested in politics, science and public policy and people who just want to vacation in a beautiful setting with fellow U.U.'s. Many of these conferences welcome children. Miriam Coe (of the International Affairs conference) and Ruth Owen (of the Lifespan Religious Education conference) will be showing pictures of the Island, distributing information and will be available to answer any of your questions.

A Special Tea in Honor of **Rev. Robin Whitehead and** **the American Friends of** **The Boston Stump** **Wednesday, February 27, 5-6 p.m.** **in the Parlor**

The week beginning Sunday, February 24, 2007 marks the official launch of the American Friends of The Boston Stump (AFBS), a non-profit corporation founded to raise \$3 million for the restoration of St. Botolph's Church in Boston, England (popularly known as *The Stump*) and provide educational programs about historic and contemporary relationships between this great English church and the churches (and city) of Boston, Massachusetts. The chairman of the board is Larry Phillips, who sings in our choir and is the vice president of the Partnership of the Historic Bostons, with which AFBS will work closely. Catherine Clark is its founder, volunteer President & CEO.

The Rev. Robin Whitehead, the Rev. David DeVerny, the Mayor and Mayoress of Boston, England, and the former Mayor of Boston and her husband (John and Judy Cammack, well known to the First Church congregation) are arriving that week to preach at two Boston churches (Robin and David), attend a reception hosted by Dr. Phil Budden (the British Consul General), meet with potential donors, and attend a "media availability" as part of the launch week. The tea on Wednesday 27 will provide an additional opportunity for the AFBS board and the British contingent to talk with First Church parishioners about AFBS, the Restoration Appeal, and St. Botolph's 700th anniversary. All are welcome.



Music at First Church Dr. Paul Cienniwa

I Got a Robe

We've had our new choir robes for some months now, and the new look of the choir has settled in with multicolored v-front stoles. The former choir robes have now found a new home at a church in Dorchester, and I am happy to see that they have been recycled in this way.

In my planning for upcoming Sundays, I was amused to come across two different spirituals that refer to robes. *I got a robe* begins, "I got a robe, You got a robe, All of God's children got a robe, Lord they got a robe. When I get to heaven gonna put on my robe, I'm gonna shout all over God's heaven."

Given the weight and heat of our former polyester robes, I suspect that our choir members might agree with the text of *By and by*: "O by and by, I'm gonna lay down my heavy load. Know my robe's gonna fit me well, I've tried it on at the gates of hell."

Upcoming Rehearsal

Ringling Society

open to handbell ringers of all ages

Feb. 17—10:15 am rehearsal/ring at 11:00 am

Join the Ringling Society as we ring for a traditional Thai piece, "Ngam Sang Duan," sung by the First Church Choir.

Upcoming Concert at First Church

Boston Camerata, Sunday, February 17, 4:00 pm,
tickets: 866.427.2092

First Church Musicians in Concert

Weston OperaFest, March 1 and 2, 2008, First Parish Unitarian Church, Parish Hall, Weston, MA.

Choir members Christina English and Christie Teeters perform in Douglas Moore's *Gallantry* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. <http://www.firstparishweston.org>

Not a concert, but: Choir member **Bill Thorpe** will make his science-fiction horror film debut as the NASA Administrator in the upcoming film *The Box*, starring Cameron Diaz and Frank Langella, to be released some time this year. (Paul Cienniwa suggests that the science-fiction is the NASA part and that the horror is the NASA budget.)



Music at First Church on You Tube!
<http://www.youtube.com>



Rosemary's Reflections

We come together week after week to share an hour of song and prayer, meditation, reflection, fellowship and worship. There are practices we follow that we may take for granted if we've been attending First Church for a while. Many of us take our same seats and talk to the same people.

From time to time, each one of your ministerial staff takes time to sit among you for the service. It's our chance to participate in worship on a different level, without being responsible for leading. It can help us gain a perspective on the service and the sanctuary that we don't always get from sitting up in the chancel.

Your ministers meet with the Worship Committee each month to review past services and to share ideas for upcoming special services. We discuss ways that could make our services and our sanctuary welcoming while supporting deep, rich, and meaningful Sunday experiences. Here are some of my reflections that come from sitting in the seats and talking with members of the congregation.

Our sanctuary is designed to be just that: a place of refuge and safety. Many come to a sanctuary with a hope or expectation that it will be a peaceful, sacred space. In one sense, "sacred" means "set apart." It's a place that is not ordinary and, as such, offers us the opportunity to be not ordinary, too.

A practice we encourage is to respect the sacred refuge of the sanctuary by entering quietly, using a subdued voice, turning off your cell phone, and leaving food and beverages in the Narthex. (A closed water bottle to help quell a cough is fine.)

As we plan each week, we consider the Prelude the beginning of the service. We encourage you to be present for the Prelude and to observe it as a musical prayer-- not just background sound.

We are delighted that so many people are happy to see one another at church on Sunday, but if you must continue a conversation into the sanctuary, please be mindful of others and keep your voice to a concert-level whisper. And if you are still out in the Narthex and the Prelude has begun, please be aware that voices carry and disturb the quiet of the sanctuary.

We all look forward to this brief hour on Sunday when we can rest in the refuge and safety of a sacred space. Thank you for helping us all "conspire" together in our beautiful sanctuary.

Yours in Peace,

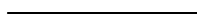
Rosemary



It is cold and flu season in New England. In an effort to help curb the spread of viruses, we will be placing hand sanitizer in the Sanctuary and Narthex.



Your ministers will be using it before greeting you in the line after the service. We invite you to please use it, too. And kindly take any used tissues with you.



If you would like to visit church members who cannot come to church, please contact Revs. Stephen Kendrick or Rosemary Lloyd.





Social Justice: Robin Tanner

If you would like to receive Social Justice news and announcements via email, please let Robin Tanner know at

rtanner@hds.harvard.edu

Aging With Dignity

The Aging with Dignity Workshop scheduled for next Sunday, February 24 has been cancelled as GBIO takes a new direction with their eldercare support system. At FCB, however, we want to know how many members were interested in a Geriatric Management Care Coordinator/ Organizer. Initially GBIO had intended to partner with churches and assist in providing a Care Coordinator who could help congregations and church members navigate the eldercare system, but has decided to reconsider their plan. If you were interested in the possibility of a Care Coordinator, please contact **Rev. Rosemary Lloyd**, or **Robin Tanner**. Your comments, concerns and feedback will allow us to speak with GBIO and perhaps push for further exploration of eldercare resources within the congregation.

Make Your Voice Heard in March!

This March, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee decided to focus on ending the war in Iraq and supporting our troops as part of the Justice Sunday program. There are plenty of ways to support the troops and contribute to the peace movement. If you are interested in participating or hearing a bit more about Justice Sunday, please be in touch with **Robin Tanner**.

Men's Group

The next meeting of the **Men's Group** will be held, in the conference room at Park House, on Sunday, February 17 at 9:15 am. Dudley will facilitate the discussion of the topic *"How does one navigate one's life through global climate change, given the economic and environmental impact of such change?"* All men of the church are invited to attend for good food and conversation. Contact **Bob** or the church office for further information.

 ★ **Space Usage at First Church in Boston** ★
 ★
 ★ First Church in Boston is fast becoming a
 ★ sought-after venue for space rental in the
 ★ Greater Boston area. There are a number of
 ★ musical concerts, school programs, youth
 ★ group overnights and conferences that are held
 ★ here on an ongoing basis (some concerts have
 ★ been regularly held at FCB for over 30 years.)
 ★ Did you know -
 ★ ◆ The Sanctuary has some of the best
 ★ acoustics in Boston
 ★ ◆ Our rental rates have not increased
 ★ since 2003
 ★ ◆ There is a 50% discount for a
 ★ Friday rental
 ★ We would like to encourage our members to
 ★ make use of this wonderful space too! Please
 ★ contact Joan Whalen in the Church Office at
 ★ 617-267-6730 or by email at
 ★ joan@firstchurchboston.org for further details.
 ★
 ★*****

Newsletter Deadlines

February 28—March 13

Monday, February 25

March 13—27

Monday, March 10

Email Joan@firstchurchboston.org by 9:00 am

Book Club News

Evening Book Group

The **evening book group** will meet on Thursday, March 20, at 7:30 pm, and will discuss *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*, by Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor-in-chief of the French magazine *Elle*. Contact the church office for more information.

Daytime Book Group

Next book group meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 26, at noon** in the parlor. For February, we will be reading "*God is Not Great*" by Christopher Hitchens. Contact ruth@firstchurchboston.org



Thank you

for making

SHAKE off the CHILL!

A fun-filled, fabulous fundraiser that exceeded its financial goal of \$5,000. We nibbled, sipped, bid and danced the night away while raising money to support the education and outreach programs at First Church.

The event succeeded because a terrific committee imagined every detail of the evening, from groundhog design to placement of silent auction baskets, from food and music selection to table arrangement in the Sanctuary. Kudos to a remarkable team of women: **Carrie, Janet, Lynne, Darcy, Grace, Maureen, Janine and Torie**.

Success must also be attributed to a dedicated staff at First Church that worked tirelessly behind the scenes and in front of the curtains. Administrator **Joan Whalen** processed reservations, checks, raffle tickets, updated lists and gave prominent space to our newsletter publicity. Chief Sexton **Bill Rabbitt** cheerfully supported and carried out our plans to transform the Narthex and Sanctuary into a Saturday evening night club. **Alex Silva**, a notable Salsa dancer, ably helped Bill, as did **Ken Hudson**.

Hosannas to our ministerial team that allowed us to subvert the Sunday morning announcements with dancing, costumes and a quiz game throughout the month of January. Thank you **Stephen** and **Rosemary**. Special thanks to **Paul Cienniwa** who didn't blink when we asked him to play a few bars of *Begin the Beguine* on January 13. Our gratitude to **Ruth Owen** (and **Pete**) who stepped in to manage the busy registration table during the event.

Lastly, we can't end this now lengthy paean without thanking **Bill**, who purchased and ran the over-21 liquid refreshments stand, and **Jack**, who processed credit cards and counted money late into the night. Special thanks also to **David, Bob, Art** and **Gordon** (a friend of Bill and Grace.) Each lifted, lugged, pushed, picked up furniture and party items before and after the event, helping to deconstruct and later reconstruct the church spaces after the dancers all had gone home.



Thank you everyone!

FEBRUARY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 6:00 pm "Shake Off the Chill" event
3 9:30 am Social Justice Committee 12:30 pm Writers' Group	4 2:00 pm Women's Spirituality 6:30 pm Women's Spirituality (2 groups)	5 6:00 pm Standing Committee	6 10:00 am Membership Committee 6:00 pm Films at First	7 5:00 pm Ministers' Tea 6:30 pm Women's Spirituality Group 7:00 pm Young Adults Group	8 4:00 pm Young Adults Winter Conference (all weekend))	9
10 9:15 am Caring Network 9:30 am House Committee	11 6:00pm Purls of Wisdom Knitting Group	12	13 6:00 pm Films at First	14 Valentine's Day 7:00 pm Young Adults Group 7:30 pm Book Group	15 10:00 am Historic Bostons	16
17 9:15 am Men's Group 10:30 am Ringing Society 12:30 pm ARE Committee	18 Presidents' Day, Church Office closed 6:00 pm Hour of Silence	19	20	21 7:00 pm Young Adults Group	22	23
24 12:30 pm Adult ARE meeting	25 6:00pm Purls of Wisdom Knitting Group	26 12:00 pm Daytime Book Group	27	28 6:00 pm Worship Committee 7:00 pm Young Adults Group	29	

Sunday Services are held at 11:00 am every Sunday, followed by Coffee Hour. All visitors are warmly invited to attend.

Rev. Stephen Kendrick, Senior Minister, pannabeth@aol.com
 Rev. Rosemary Lloyd, Associate Minister, rosemary@firstchurchboston.org
 Ruth Owen, Director of Religious Education, ruth@firstchurchboston.org
 Dr. Paul Cienniwa, Director of Music, paul@firstchurchboston.org
 John Benson, Chair of Standing Committee, John.Benson@state.ma.us
 Joan Whalen, Administrator/Events Coordinator, joan@firstchurchboston.org
 Bill Rabbitt, Facilities Manager/Lead Sexton, billrabbitt@gis.net
 Rebekah Cutler Ingram, Intern, ringram@hds.harvard.edu
 Robin Tanner, Intern, rtanner@hds.harvard.edu

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00– 5:00 pm

Please check this box and return this page to the office if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter.

First Church in Boston
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