



On Call--

I hope you are having a wonderful respite from the toils of the rest of the year. I have been to many of our summer services, really enjoying them. The quality and fond fellowship, have been very high, and it is always good to see one another. We have tried, this year, to increase the number of services offered by you, the members, and it is an experiment that is working out very well indeed. So if you are burning to preach someday, speak to me!

This summer has been unexpectedly busy for me, with the sudden resignation of long-time Executive Director Barbara Hopcroft from the Hale Barnard House. The church has a long connection with Hale Barnard, and this is something we take very seriously--as well as the welfare and happiness of the more than 50 elderly residents there. So we had to arrange for temporary management, start a search committee, and get a new description of the position so we can find a new Director. If you wish to join the Hale Barnard board (which I head, and must have a majority of its members be from First Church), please let me know. My thanks to Howard Fuguet, Becky Richardson and Marian Brunck, for their summer labors.

Our summer minister this year is Molly Housh, a second year student from Harvard Divinity School. She will be covering for me in August. Give her a ring and say hello.

P.S. Our hearts and deep solidarity go out to the congregation of the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church who are all dealing with the aftermath of senseless violence that visited their sanctuary, during a summer children's musical performance. Two people died and many others were severely wounded. All have been harmed in spirit. The values that prompted this gunman's hatred, however, are still very much in evidence and are even strengthened—tolerance, respect and love. We stand with them, and send our love and deepest companionship, especially in sorrow.



66 Marlborough Street Boston, MA 02116
Tel: 617-267-6730 or 800-359-1630 Fax: 617-536-5895

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Summer Services in Hale Chapel

August 17, 2008

Margaret Fitzgerald,
church member

August 24, 2008

Annual Young Adult
Service, featuring
Matt Meyer, Rhythm Guy

August 31, 2008

Labor Day Weekend
Robin Tanner, Ministerial
Intern

September 7, 2008

Charter Day Celebration
Rev. Stephen Kendrick

September 14, 2008

Gathering Sunday &
Water Communion
Rev. Rosemary Lloyd

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

Summer Reflections

During the rest of the year, when we think about summer, we imagine a smooth endless flow of warm days and nights with time for rest, rejuvenation and fun. Rarely does it turn out to be as simple as all that. Summer, like the rest of the year, includes transitions, sadness, stress, unexpected happenings at work and at home, indeed at every turn. This summer is no different. Many of us participated in the summer rituals of graduations and weddings, happy and joyful events, but also events that mark life transitions. Now it is August. The celebrations are over and we are getting used to living with the changes. Some of us are now looking forward to more changes, getting ready to send a child off to college or to start a new job.

All of us were touched by the terrible tragedy of the shootings at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville. In addition to holding the victims in our thoughts and prayers, we must also deal with the shiver that passed through all of us –that church could have been our church. I want to recognize and thank the Boston U.U. Young Adults for pulling together the candle light vigil at Copley Square the day after the shooting. It was very healing for many of us.

I also want to mention a book for children who are touched by this kind of event. It is *"A Terrible Thing Happened: A Story for Children Who Have Witnessed Violence or Trauma,"* by Margaret M. Holmes and illustrated by Cary Pillo. The way the world is these days, we should all have it on our shelves.

Finally, this has been a difficult summer for many, in ways large and small. Some of us are figuring out how to deal with higher prices for food and fuel while we wonder how we are going to heat our homes, and if our jobs are secure. But, difficult or not, it is still summer. The sun is shining. Boats bob on the river and they are playing ball at Fenway. Summer is a resource for us all. Life goes on, but we have the soft stillness of summer evenings to remind us to listen within ourselves. We have the heat to slow us down and make us pay attention to our breath. And we have the beauty of summer days to enjoy. We talk a lot about the struggles and the joys of life. Summer is one of the real joys. Let us all make the most of it; life will still be there when we get back.

Important Staff News

We relate the news, with regret, that Bill Rabbitt has, in July, completed his years of service to the First Church. We wish him all the best in his future. Ken Hudson, our long-time assistant sexton, will assume the duties of Sexton for now, and in the fall, consideration will be given to a more permanent arrangement.

From the Standing Committee



Music at First Church

Music Committee Field Trip

On June 12, a group of Music Committee members traveled to Norwall, MA for a tour of the Zildjian factory.

Organized by Music Committee Chair Lollie Sharpe, the tour brought

committee members Ivar Hegstad, Lorna Lynch, Walter Jonas, Peter Banos, Lollie, guest Audrey Cienniwa and myself to the plant where member Keith Aleo can be found on most weekdays. (On those other weekdays, Keith is touring the globe either playing as a substitute percussionist with the Chicago Symphony or acting as a sales representative for Zildjian.) Our tour, led by Paul Struble, Vice President of Operations, began after Keith gave us lessons in cymbal laying technique.

Zildjian is a world-famous company known for making cymbals of extraordinary quality. The first Zildjian cymbals were created in 1623 in Istanbul by alchemist Avedis Zildjian, who, while looking for a way to turn base metal into gold, created an alloy combining tin, copper, and silver into a sheet of metal that could make musical sounds without shattering. Avedis was given the name of Zildjian (Zilciyân) by The Sultan, from the Turkish (*zil* - cymbal, *dji* - maker-seller, *ian* - son of), and began an industry in 1623, the details of whose main product remained secret for generations. It became family tradition that only the company's heirs would know the manufacturing process. The company moved to Boston in 1908, eventually settling in Norwall. At nearly 400 years old, Zildjian remains one of the oldest operating companies in the world and is the oldest family-run business in America. (adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avedis_Zildjian_Company)

On the tour, we were amazed to learn that composers such as Hector Berlioz would specify Zildjian cymbals in their scores. Jazz fans would easily recognized the names of musicians such as Buddy Rich and Gene Kruppa fixed to the hallowed walls of this venerable firm. Of course, we all enjoyed seeing our favorite percussionist Keith Aleo in action. Following our tour, the committee members enjoyed lunch at a nearby restaurant (See separate insert for photos).

Music at First Church Goes Blog

Did you ever wonder what music will be played or sung next weekend? Or did you want to know what it is you heard at church or on the radio? Or did you want to learn more about the singers in the choir?

Now you can find all of these things at First Church's music blog. Go to <http://firstchurchbostonmusic.blogspot.com> to see upcoming music, past Sundays and other great musical activities at First Church.

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



Rosemary's Reflections

Though August is technically still summer, my thoughts are already turned to fall and the beginning of the new church year. A number of new and important events are already on the calendar for September. I hope you will take note of them and plan to participate in the ones of interest to you. I'm looking forward to seeing you soon!

Service Trip to New Orleans Organizing Now for Oct. 9-14th

A second service trip to New Orleans is being organized by First Church and Arlington Street Church. Volunteers are expected to be flexible, patient and able to work a full day in a non-airconditioned construction setting. Skills are welcome but not required (supervision is provided for unskilled workers). Individuals cover their own expenses, including airline travel, food, lodging, entertainment and incidentals. While lodging and food are provided at a very reduced rate to NOLA volunteers (about \$30 per day), total costs are about \$600. For more information, or to let me know you are interested in joining the service team, please contact me at rosemary@firstchurchboston.org and look for more updates on our church website.

Women's Spirituality Groups Begin Monday, Sept. 29th

Small groups meet monthly for personal growth and spiritual development in a non-judgmental and caring atmosphere. Using readings, silence, deep listening, and open-hearted sharing, the groups foster connection, strengthen our religious community, and encourage opportunities for service. All First Church women are welcome to an opening gathering on Monday, Sept. 29th from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary. If you are not currently in a small group and would like more information, please see the new WSG section of the website (under "Groups", currently under construction) or email me: rosemary@firstchurchboston.org If you would like to talk on the phone, please call the office and leave your name and phone number and I will call you after Sept. 1st.

New Evening Services for the New Church Year

Two new meditative evening services are being added to our Winter Solstice offering this year at both the Fall and Spring Equinox. With World Music, poetry, silence and ritual, we will weave a service to support your spirit. Mark your calendar now for the Fall Equinox service on Wednesday, Sept. 24th at 6:00 p.m.. More information will follow.

Social Justice: What Are Our Priorities?

The Social Justice Committee will be seeking your input on how to focus our First Church resources to create justice in our community and beyond. What should be our priorities? Who shall be our partners in justice? Members of the SJ committee will participate in a Saturday training session in late September to prepare to facilitate a church-wide discussion throughout the Fall on our shared vision for justice. If you would like to expand your commitment to social justice through First Church activities, please contact me or Bob Schmalz. We would be delighted to talk with you about getting more involved.

Rosemary

Social Justice Committee News

The first meeting of the Social Justice Committee for the new church year will be held on Sunday morning, September 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the conference room on the second floor of Park House. We have an exciting year ahead for the work of Social Justice and this would be an excellent time for new folk interested in Social Justice to learn about committee activities.

The committee will be hosting several house meetings, or listening circles, in October to discern the various interests that members hold. We will be discussing the activities of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization in the areas of health care insurance reform, youth and public safety, and elder care issues. We will also be enhancing the relationship of First Church with UU Urban Ministry in Roxbury with the assistance of Rev. Rebekah Ingram, who is now coordinator of volunteer services at UUUM. We will also consider joining with other UU churches in the Welcome Massachusetts Campaign to create an affirmative environment for immigrants in our Commonwealth. There is much to do and all are welcome to participate.

See you in September.

Bob Schmalz and Daphne Thompson-Addabbo
Co-Chairs

Thank You, Discussion Leaders!

Whatever happened to the summer doldrums? They disappeared, thanks to Summer Learning Community and its engaging leaders: Ira Dobrow on how to win at baseball; Ruth Owen on food and how we get it; David Reno on the public and private life of Dashiell Hammett; Michael Walczak on the drama of Willy Loman and Roy Cohn; Peter Banos on trends in religion; and Lollie Sharpe on the short stories of Antonio Tabucci. All that, plus air conditioned comfort and savory suppers. Watch for the start of fall Learning Community on Oct. 15.

Nancy Atwood and the ARE Committee

The youth of the
Roxbury Youth Program at
U.U. Urban Ministries would like to
invite everyone to a:

Peace Fair

Wednesday, August 13, 2-6 p.m.

At U.U. Urban Ministries (www.uuum.org)

This Summer U.U. Urban Ministries has been serving as a Boston Youth Fund jobsite and 16 young people have been participating in a summer long work program that culminates in this Peace Fair. It has been my privilege to work with the young people all summer and I know how much work they have put into this event and how excited they are about it. There will be food, music, activities for children and information booths about all aspects of peace making. So, please come out and show your support for the Roxbury youth and enjoy yourselves at their fair.

Ruth



A Note From our Summer Minister

Dear First Church in Boston,

I am excited and honored to introduce myself to you as Summer Minister. In the grand tradition of First Church as a teaching congregation, I am with you this summer to get to know the congregation and to learn from you all. The tradition of summer ministry at First Church in Boston is a great way for divinity students like me to jump in and test out the waters of church life, and I am honored to stand in a line of First Church student summer ministers that includes such respected and beloved UU ministers as Rev. Forrest Church.

I come to you from Harvard Divinity School, where I am getting ready to start my second year. As well as pursuing my studies at Harvard, I have also spent the past year working in the Office of Congregational and Growth Services at the Unitarian Universalist Association, and I continue my work there currently. I grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at All Souls Unitarian Church, and my minister there, Rev. Marlin Lavanhar, had great things to say about his time learning with the First Church in Boston community. Feeling a forceful call to ministry, and a somewhat less forceful call to cooler weather, I moved to Boston last summer from Little Rock, Arkansas, where I received my Bachelor's degree in Religion from a small liberal arts school, Hendrix College, just outside the city.

I visited First Church in Boston multiple times during my first year at Harvard, and enjoyed my experiences here so much that I am especially excited to receive a part of my training here. This month I will be spending some time in the office and hopefully getting to know you better. So if I can be of service, or if you have some wise words to share, or if you'd just like to chat, feel free to give me a call at the church.

Take care,
Molly Housh

A Note About Childcare and Services in August

There will be no childcare in August, however "Busy Boxes" will be provided each week for young children to amuse themselves with art materials and a small snack during the service.

Congratulations!

Alan Mitchell and Erin Mulligan welcome the early arrival of their daughter, Ada, in July this year. We wish them our heartiest congratulations.

Also, Lollie Sharpe's new grandson, Elijah Emerson Gubisch, was born June 10, 2008 in Los Angeles, to Lollie's son, Chris Gubisch and his wife, Anya.

SEPTEMBER 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Church Office closed	2 Ramadan	3	4	5	6 8:30 am First Church Birding Trip
7 Boston Charter Day Service	8 2:00 pm Women's Spirituality Group 6:30 pm Women's Spirituality Groups	9	10	11 7:00 pm Young Adults Group	12	13 Boston Pride
14 Water Communion Service 12:30 pm Music Committee	15	16 6:00 pm Standing Committee meeting	17	18 7:00 pm Young Adults Group	19	20
21 9:15 am Men's Group meeting 10:00 am Social Justice Retreat 6:00 pm Circle of Worship	22 Equinox	23	24 6:00 pm Equinox Service	25 7:00 pm Young Adults Group	26	27 8:30 am First Church Fall Wildlife Hike
28 Social Justice Sunday 12:00pm Intro To Unitarian Universalism 12:0 pm Membership	29 5:00 pm Womens' Groups General Meeting	30 Rosh Hashana 12:00 pm Daytime Book Group				

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

Summer Services 2008

Hale Chapel

August 17 - Margaret Fitzgerald, church member

August 24 - Annual Young Adult Service, featuring Matt Meyer, Rhythm Guy

August 31 (Labor Day Weekend), Robin Tanner

Sanctuary

September 7 - Charter Day Celebration, Rev. Stephen Kendrick

September 14 - Gathering Sunday, Water Communion, Rev. Rosemary Lloyd



First Church in Boston
Unitarian Universalist
66 Marlborough Street
Boston, MA 02116



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