

NEWS FROM KING'S ✠ CHAPEL

The Society of King's Chapel • 64 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108 • 617/227-2155 • www.kings-chapel.org

FROM THE SABBATICAL MINISTER

"Back like an old penny," one parishioner said, not without affection, upon learning that I would serve as your Sabbatical Minister during Earl's absence. I'll take that, and add to it a full measure of pleasure and surprise. For I wouldn't have thought I would be here again, and the surprise that I am is part of the delight.

Sabbaticals are really good things, I think, for the ones on leave and the institutions to whom they belong and whom they serve. I wish that the practice of sabbaticals extended beyond religion and academia, for the experience seems to benefit everyone. Earl will have a rest and a chance to explore topics of interest to him without the pressures, deadlines, and distractions - even the pleasant distractions - so common in parish life. The congregation has a temporary change from the ordinary, its own opportunity to reflect upon its ministry. We often resist permanent changes, but a temporary change is less unsettling and more enlivening. A little skip in the routine enables us to step back, take a breath, ask good questions, notice what is, use our imaginations, and appreciate what we have. It's not a long time, but is long enough for a pause, long enough to notice...who knows what? But with eyes, minds, and hearts open and curious, something will come to your attention, something worthy of your consideration, some insight, some truth, some prospect, some treasure. I look forward to accompanying you on the adventure these five months promise, to be with you as you discover what this sabbatical time holds for you as a congregation.

My responsibilities are what one would expect: liturgical leadership and preaching, supervision and collaborative work with the talented staff, pastoral care, and some administrative tasks. Though I will engage whole-heartedly in my ministry here, it is a half-time position and I trust you will understand if I cannot be in as many places or do as many things as Earl does. Fortunately Earl and the Sabbatical Committee have thought this through and, especially with Joanne's assistance, all should be well.

So, Happy New Year, good people of King's Chapel. Perhaps you are as surprised as I am that January 2008 finds me back here for a short stint in a new role. People always say that King's Chapel stays the same, but I don't know about that. I am prepared to meet some new babies and grown-ups, hear what good ideas you've been percolating, work with new staff and leadership, learn a new hymn, enjoy the newly refurbished sanctuary - oh, I am getting carried away.... let's just say I am prepared to be surprised.

See you at church-

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MONTHLY VESPERS

Please join us in the Little Chapel on the first Sunday of each month for a Vesper Service held at 7:00 p.m. Coordinated by Eric Hausman, Seminarian, this is a time for music, meditation, and worship, followed by a simple supper. Nourishment for body and soul.

Next Vesper Service is **January 6**.

*from THE ASSISTANT
MINISTER*

Did you know that parents are the primary religious educators of their children? When I brought my oldest son to church 14 years ago, when he was seven, I did not know that. I thought that he would learn all he needed to know from the church school leaders and the minister. What I found, however, was that the church would be part of his religious education – going to class, participating in worship, being part of a large faith community – but that his primary questions would be addressed to me, and that how I lived my spiritual life would serve as his example. Wow!

We are our children's primary religious educators. In my experience, I have found at least two ways to become more comfortable with the role:

1. Teach religious education: we learn most by doing, and we learn most from interactions with others, especially children.
2. Take religious education classes ourselves – religious education is a lifelong process.

During this winter and spring, I invite you to do both.

There will be opportunities, especially in January and during college spring break weeks, for parents to teach in the church school. Also, during the entire year, parents are welcome to be helpers in the classrooms. It is fun to be a helper, to learn from an experienced teacher, to play a supporting role, and listen to the wisdom of children. It also gives you time to get to know the children and another adult in the church school.

In addition, on four Sundays, I will lead a workshop concurrently with church school class (10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) called Parents as Resident Theologians. In the workshop, we will explore topics like the following: What are the theological questions that we and our children ask? What is religion? What is God? How do we deal with the difficulties of Life, including Death? Is there a useful symbol that we can use to understand our own faith? What are the things that give Life meaning? How do we talk to our children about their deep questions?

(Assistant Minister's Column, cont'd)

I hope that many of you will join me for these four sessions. The dates are Jan. 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 30 and Apr. 27. Please ask me about the workshop or sign up by calling or emailing me at the church (jgiannino@kings-chapel.org).

Religious education is a lifelong journey. We do it together. Many blessings on our shared journey.

— Joanne

**BIBLE STUDY:
TRANSFIGURATION TO EASTER**

A new 8-week series of Bible Study begins on January 31. We meet on Thursday mornings, at 8:45 in the Minister's Office, third floor of the Parish House. Each week we focus on one of the lessons for the following Sunday, using resources from the Bible Workbench series. Materials will be available in the Parish office after January 15 for \$20. Lent is a traditional time for study and spiritual reflection, and newcomers are especially welcome for this series. For further information contact Tricia Brennan (617-227-2155 x310 or P Brennan@kings-chapel.org).

OF INTEREST

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 6th

**PARTNER CHURCH LUNCH
And Fun-raiser**

**at KC Parish House
after Morning Prayer**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Many warm thanks to all who have made me feel welcome this fall, especially the hosts of the welcome lunch and dinner. Thanks to those who attended the meals, those who have stopped by to talk, those who have made appointments, those who have spent time at coffee hour, and sat with me in worship. I look forward to more times to get to know one another this winter. Blessings, Joanne

HfH for SAS

As is obvious from this headline, **Habitat for Humanity** will be our featured guest on **Social Action Sunday**, on February 10, 2008. The Social Action Committee chose HfH at its December meeting, especially in light of the remarkable response to a planned Habitat/King's Chapel Group Build next summer. That trip, to the home city of our Unitarian "Sister Church" in Kolozsvár, Transylvania, currently has 20 firm participants, of whom 17 are from King's Chapel. If you are interested in joining this group, or wish more information, contact Peter. Prompted by the enthusiasm generated by plans for this trip, the Committee envisions the possibility (depending on much further discussion) of a later KC/HfH build in Honduras, where the El Hogar orphanage has long been supported by the KC Church School. A dream, perhaps, but worth pursuing!

Social Action Committee

COMMITTEE UPDATES & EVENTS

❖ ANNUAL APPEAL COMMITTEE

Thanks to all generous KC members and friends who have pledged or given to the 2008 Annual Appeal. If you are new to KC, or haven't pledged for FY08, it isn't too late! Gifts and payments of 2008 pledges will be very gratefully received through June 30, 2008.

The FY09 campaign begins on Commitment Sunday, March 2, with a special coffee hour after church at the Parker House. Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend. March is pledge month, and our major goal is 100% participation, reflecting a commitment by every member of KC community. Please consider your pledge with a loving heart. ♥

—Amy, Annual Appeal Chair

❖ CHANCEL COMMITTEE

The Chancel Committee hastens to offer their heartfelt thanks for all the willing workers who joined us for the annual Hanging of the Greens at King's Chapel on this year. All their work was much appreciated and certainly gave us a strong sense of joint effort on behalf of the beautification of the sanctuary. From the smallest votive candle to the highest garland in the gallery, everything worked together to make the church look lovely for the holiday season, and we will all enjoy the results of such careful work throughout Advent III and IV, as well as Christmas, and the first of the New Year. With best wishes to one and all and many thanks again.

— Neela and Louise

Chancel Committee Co-Chairs

❖ HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Seeking church members who can possibly plan beyond this busy, blessed time of year to serving KC coffee hour in January. Can this be you? If so, **we need you!**

As of this writing, all four Sundays in January are in need of a hostess/host. Some folks have been partnering and that works out really well; one brings goodies, the other does the set-up. Bring a friend or relative! Bob, our Sunday verger, cheerfully goes to Dunkin Donuts for a jug of java (give him \$10 in cash). If you can

manage to make a carafe of decaf and bring it that is always welcomed by some. So is apple cider or juice. Generally, a plate of crackers and cheese and one quick bread cut up in small pieces serves well. Home-baked goods or store-bought are fine.

The social hour is growing splendidly in its effort to foster fellowship and to connect with guests and friends. Parish Council has agreed that when no one will volunteer there will not be a coffee hour. Please help to keep it happening.

Might you be in a hurry to get somewhere else? Not to fear, let it be known. There are always "angels" who appear at the end to help with clean-up. There will be a sign-up sheet at Milk Punch this Sunday or just let me or Vicky know of your intention.

Thank you, thank you to these gracious hosts and hostesses in Nov. /Dec.

—Barbara, Hospitality Chair

❖ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Another Fabulous Christmas Party was enjoyed by nearly 70 parishioners ranging in age from 15 months to 80+, and enriched by many offerings of food and drink. Special thanks to Anne Sexton, organizer-in-chief; to Julie Sexton, who chose and delivered a fresh green tree—cut locally that very day; and to all who decorated it. Mark came up with the exact number of Hershey kisses in the guessing jar, Suzie and Ry tied on the first round of Musical Chairs, and Andy narrowly edged out (bumped?) Eric in the even livelier adult round. The grand finale, again: Earl leading all of us in drumming and leaping and so forth for the Twelve Days of Christmas." (If you can't picture that, you must come next year!)

A special luncheon for the Midweek congregation. Lunch is offered in the vestry every Wednesday after the midweek service, thanks to Ed, who sets out sandwich-makings and various tempting snacks for the few who can stay. We chose December 12 to gather a larger group, and sixteen of us came together to celebrate our midweek congregation and to thank Ed for his faithful effort and hospitality.

New Members, January 27

We welcome five parishioners who will take the formal step of joining the Society of King's Chapel during Morning Prayer on Sunday, January 27. We give thanks for their presence in our parish.

PARTNER CHURCH UPDATE

THANK YOU from the King's Chapel Partner Church Committee!

Thanks to the contributions from many, many parishioners, the Partner Church Committee is pleased to announce that its first-year goal for support of the Attic Project, a long-deferred dream of our partner First Unitarian Church in Kolozsvár (Cluj), has been reached! Thanks to all for both your donations and your interest in responding to our partner church's needs in this meaningful way. With your help, "It will happen!" (a phrase we have heard frequently in Transylvania).

While the KC Habitat Build scheduled for late June, 2008 in Cluj is not directly connected to the Attic Project, the group members are looking forward to meeting and worshipping with our Partner Church congregation. Members of the group hope also to visit the "before" attic site, visualize its potential, and report to King's Chapel on Partner Church Sunday, October 5, 2008.

—Vicky, Partner Church Committee Co-Chair

❖ SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Martin Luther King Breakfast, Jan 21, 2008

The King's Chapel table is almost sold out, so if you'd like to join us at the Martin Luther King Breakfast, please call Amy immediately! This event at the Boston Convention Center is one of America's oldest and largest celebrations of Dr. King's legacy. It attracts a huge, star-studded attendance, and combines inspiration and reflection with political insights, especially in an election year, when candidates are sure to turn out. Tickets are \$35 each, first-come, first-served!

VESTRY VIEWS

(Committee Reports Cont'd)

✠ MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Music of Poetry/The Poetry of Music

In the dark and cold of January, come find some warmth and light at the third concert in this year's Concert Series. The theme is "New England Poetry," and, following Dan Pinkham's practice of commissioning new works from young composers, Heinrich has commissioned new works from two local composers, each of whom knew Dan. Carson Cooman has composed a suite called "In the Midst of Wild Being" for choir, French horn, and harp based on poetry by the poet Elizabeth Kirschner: "The Garden," "The Sea," and "The Forest." Kevin Siegfried has taken poetry by Henry David Thoreau as the basis for his "Nature" for choir a cappella.

In addition to these premieres, the program includes Dan Pinkham's extended work "Getting to Heaven," a setting of Emily Dickenson's poem originally commissioned by the UUA in 1987; "Choose Something Like a Star" from Randall Thompson's "Frostiana," based on poetry by Robert Frost; and Scott Wheeler's "Prospects," a setting of a poem by Anthony Hecht.

Our choir is joined by the Triton Brass Quintet and Barbara Poeschl-Edrich, harp. Heinrich will conduct. Parishioners who attend are invited to an informal reception at the Parish House after the concert.

Tour of the Supreme Judicial Court

A Parishioner who is also Reporter of Decisions for the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, has generously offered a tour of the Recently Restored John Adams Courthouse and Supreme Judicial Court on Wednesday, January 9. Meet at King's Chapel at 1:00 p.m. (whether or not you attend the Midweek Service).

Following his invocation and adoption of the November minutes, Earl Holt noted the sadness that has overshadowed the parish at the sudden death of Nick Barnett. It is good to see the support the family is receiving from KC.

The Treasurer's Report explained "the draw" (the funds the Society receives annually from the Trusts, as distributed by the Trustees), the composition and purposes of the various trust funds, and the difference between Current Income and Capital Appreciation. This primer is critical to the Vestry, so that it can more completely and effectively discharge its responsibilities.

The Treasurer observed that, due to trustee diligence, hard and effective fundraising work, and careful expenditure by staff and committees, as of 11/30 KC was ahead of budget for '07. He further noted that the recent draw had been established by the Trustees to make the Society's operating costs easier to manage. He indicated that about 1/3 of the current budget is covered by pledges, 1/3 by endowment and 1/3 by other income. Since making up the shortfall between income and draw amount is taken from principal, the message is clear – the Society needs to look more to its own support, rather than relying so heavily on the Trust to fund our daily operation. The Treasurer got a vote of thanks for the clarity of his report.

The Parish Council report indicated the continuing growth in the strength of our committees. In particular, the Church School is looking for concrete outcomes from its discussions, and the Council (with Vestry) is looking for ways to strengthen Membership.

With a joyful, emphatic and unanimous vote on the newly UUA required sponsorship of candidates for the ministry, the Vestry recommended King's Chapel's support of our Seminarian.

The recently appointed Buildings & Grounds co-chair, in concert with the Master Plan Task Force chair, is developing – and acting upon – a prioritized, consolidated list of all the maintenance and immediate capital projects identified. *(continued on page 6)*

SABBATICAL NEWS

A sabbatical is a wonderful tradition, not just for the minister who takes it, but for the congregation. It is a time of rest, reflection, and growth for the minister, it is also a time of heightened activity and growth for the congregation. While Earl is away, we have the opportunity to take more responsibility for our worship and our Congregational life; and we at KC are ready to do so this spring.

As announced, we have our good friend Tricia Brennan as our Sabbatical Minister, and Joanne Giannino as her able Assistant. Your Sabbatical Committee has arranged for a series of outstanding guest preachers, who were listed in the December newsletter. There will be the usual educational and social activities such as the Glastonbury Retreat and planning for the Habitat trip to Kolozsvár.

The recognition of Earl's adventure was December 16, 2007. Our adventure moves into a new phase when Earl's sabbatical starts on January 1. If you need the Sabbatical Minister or have suggestions for things that should happen, please contact Tricia Brennan, Joanne Giannino, or Lucy Sewall, who may also be able to assist (617/227-2155). Do not be shy about contacting any of the above or a member of the Sabbatical Committee (listed in the December Newsletter). We are all here to serve you!

Everything is in place to keep KC going smoothly while Earl is away. Now, you need to be in the pews, activities, and at the spring meetings. To paraphrase a song from the '60's, "All we need is you!" See you in Church!

*Respectfully submitted, Ruth Shepard
for the Sabbatical Committee*



*Bill Kuttner ringing in the
World Champion Red Sox
during the parade*

✂ THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Welcome 2008!

- **THANK YOU** to Alecia and all of her helpers for the massive amount of time and energy that went into Advent Crafts. What a blast for the kids!

A very quiet month in comparison to December, January is a month of **thank yous...**

- **THANK YOU** to Wendy and Pei for another year of spectacular pageantry! And thank you to all the moms and dads and other volunteers for their gracious offer to help. As usual, the performance was memorable and warm. Great Job!

- Many of our teachers are gone until January 20th, so please consider pitching in for the first two Sundays of the month. Contact me if you would like to substitute.

- For those of you following the bright green calendar that was handed out in September: most of it is accurate, but some things have changed. Please check your Thursday e-mails for the most current information.

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season. It is always a little sad to see it go, but then again, I'm a little relieved it's over. I'm sure some of you know what I mean! Time to settle in for the cold months ahead.

See you Sunday, Jan

SHADES OF CHRISTMAS PAST

The finishing touches...

...and a partridge in a pear tree...



Christmas Musical Chairs

Vestry Views, continued

The B&G chair explained the various efforts to date, including fixing leaks in the Chapel and 63/64, and repair of the Vestry floor. A project to take necessary care of the School Street wall and windows of the Chapel, as funded by various Trusts and authorized by Vestry, and is planned for the spring.

In an important parallel effort, we are attempting to make the B&G process more transparent and orderly in order to improve oversight. So that B&G can function with clarity and ease, a working group is developing contractual procedures and supporting moves for Vestry approval.

Vestry adjourned to join a dinner to welcome Joanne Giannino.

— Todd, Junior Warden

King's Chapel House
64 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

The Rev. Earl K. Holt III, Minister
The Rev. Patricia Brennan, Sabbatical Minister
The Rev. Joanne Giannino, Assistant Minister
Heinrich Christensen, Director of Music
Jan Lundberg, Church School Director
Lucy Sewall, Parish Administrator

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OF SPECIAL INTEREST

KING'S CHAPEL CONCERT SERIES

New England Poetry

King's Chapel Choir and Soloists
Triton Brass Quintet
Barbara Poeschl-Edrich, harp
Heinrich Christensen, director

Poetry by Emily Dickenson set to music by Daniel
Pinkham, poetry by Robert Frost set by Randall Thomp-
son, and poetry by Anthony Hecht set by Scott Wheeler
Premieres of new works of poetry by Elizabeth Kirschner
set by Carson Cooman and poetry by Henry David
Thoreau set by Kevin Siegfried

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, AT 5 P.M.

Admission by suggested donation of \$12
(\$8 seniors and students)

Party time!

Monday December 31- First Night

New Year's Eve Open House at the Parish House
A special way and an ideal location to end the year—
whenever you can drop in!

Worship at 5:00 p.m. The Rev. Christine Jaronski
preaching.

Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Fireworks at 7:00 p.m.

Organ Concert at the church 9:00 p.m.

Sunday January 27 New Member Reception

Following Morning Prayer, join us at the Parker
House to welcome the new members of King's Chapel.
We also extend a special welcome to parishioners who
can't join us very often—try to come on that date!