

BOSTON SOCIETY
of the **NEW JERUSALEM**
Established 1818



CHURCH
on the **HILL**



Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28



Ministers

Rev. Colin Leitch
Rev. Kevin Baxter

Music

Carlton Doctor, *Minister of Music*
Victor Cayres de Mendonca, *Organist and Pianist*

Board of Governors:

Douglas Peebles - President
Jenifer Whitmore - Vice President
Patricia Blakeney - Secretary
Susanne Rogers - Treasurer
Nicholas Tranquillo
Paul Logiudice
Vicki Davis
Ann Klein
Janet Forbes

A mission for our future: what do we believe God is calling us to do? Our core purpose ~

- ❖ To be a progressive Christian presence in the city of Boston, a reflection of Swedenborgian theology of service and mission, through our commitment to education, social justice, and human rights and the faithful stewardship of our financial resources.
- ❖ To make a difference in the lives of strangers and seekers through our compassion and acceptance by transforming them into members of our community who share our common values.
- ❖ To be a “rock” of stability and support in an uncertain world - a tranquil and peaceful “home away from home”, where you are missed when you are absent, and where you can find comfort, healing, strength, hope, and constancy when things aren’t going well.

Therefore, we covenant to ~

- ❖ Show the love, compassion, acceptance, and forgiveness in our common life;
- ❖ Value the diversity and variety of gifts within our community;
- ❖ Seek to consciously understand other points of view by listening deeply;
- ❖ Encourage all to speak and to share our own ideas respectfully as we seek consensus;
- ❖ Strive to be transparent and honest in our personal interactions, communications, and decision-making;
- ❖ Welcome and facilitate the participation of all.

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH*New Jerusalem Church**Circa 1845*

The foundation of the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem (BSNJ) can be traced back to 1784 and the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. It was then and there that admirers of, and those interested in learning more about, Emanuel Swedenborg first met to hear a lecture on Swedenborg by James Glen. In 1818, twelve people, some of whom were among the early “Green Dragon Tavern crowd,” organized a Swedenborgian Church in the city. Chartered in 1823, the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Inc. is the first Swedenborgian Church established in Massachusetts. Members of the Church met at several locations before finally settling in 1845 at its present location atop Beacon Hill. The location inspired the name by which many today know the society: the Church on the Hill (Swedenborgian). Through the years, noted BSNJ members include Timothy Harrington Carter, publisher, and founder of the Old Corner Book Store; Sampson Reed, writer and mentor of Ralph Waldo Emerson; Lydia Maria Child, author, social activist and abolitionist; Warren Felt Evans, writer and healer;

Theophilus Parsons, dean of Harvard Law School; Otis Clapp, apothecary, publisher, member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, co-founder of The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Boston University, and founder of The Home for Little Wanderers; Theophilus P. Chandler, architect; Clarence Barron, financier, editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, and president of Dow Jones; George James Webb, hymnologist; and The Honorable Malcolm Nichols, Mayor of Boston. A beautiful Gothic Revival structure served the membership until the 1960s when it was replaced with a new Church building and an eighteen story high-rise apartment. Today, the main sanctuary of the Church is accessible from Bowdoin Street. The Church has also served as a place of worship and gatherings for the local Muslim Community and other faith-based communities. The Church has organized and runs many programs to meet the needs of the Church community and larger surrounding neighborhood.

Use of the Church facility is offered to human service and outreach organizations.

National Day of PRAYER



MAY 4, 2017

Mother's Day



MAY 14, 2017



MAY 29, 2017

Cover photo attributed to Captain Tucker on www.wikimedia.com

The Swan Boats in the Boston Public Garden celebrate 140 years of operation. Still in the same family, the Paget's, the Swan Boats remain a popular Boston tradition.

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And more ...



Kevin's Corner

It's hard to believe we have welcomed spring, celebrated Easter, and now contemplate our June members' meeting. This means it is the time of year

when the Nominating Committee seeks people to fill the various positions that are open on committees. I would be remiss if I failed to address the importance of committee participation, not only for the church but also for each of us.

Emanuel Swedenborg talks about how God, or love, is infinite, which means that it is continually growing. Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God. We are not infinite ourselves, but God's love does flow through us—to the degree that we love.

God's love is why churches encourage giving. We feel better and fulfill our purpose when we love; therefore, churches encourage generosity and giving as a spiritual practice. As we read in Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you." We know from research that churches that lack giving at their core tend to struggle as organizations. They struggle to find a coherent identity, they struggle in their fellowship, and they struggle in their work.

Many churches focus their energies on financial giving, which is, of course, important. Some churches have a food-sharing emphasis, offering lots of potluck dinners and coffee hours. What we need here at Church on the Hill is for our members to practice giving through participation—not only in worship but also by serving on committees. We thrive, and help others to thrive, when our members dedicate a portion

of their lives to help the church become a shining gem in God's crown of the faithful.

As a church, we want to move from a scenario in which a small group of dedicated members do the bulk of the work—we seek to diversify our active participant base. We want to see this happen for two reasons. First, having a small core group of active members creates the appearance that only certain people guide the church's direction. Second, when our active core is small, these few folks carry a heavy load and need help to lighten the burden.

"But what can I do?" you may ask. Perhaps you wonder whether you have anything of value to offer. Be assured that you do! Perhaps you feel that you aren't present enough at church to contribute. But I hope that each of us will use this time to recommit to our church community, as well as the larger community we serve. Each of us matters.

Spiritual giving is not only healthy but necessary: the church needs its members to serve on committees if we are to respond to the congregation's shared goals for fulfilling the Lord's requirement: showing our love for our neighbors. While the church and its committees do their best to share information about activities and initiatives, participation begets a sense of inclusion and involvement. In other words, you only get out of something what you put into it. Without investing time and energy, we cannot feel included and involved.

Please take this opportunity to use your gifts for the church and the community. If you have any questions about serving, please speak with the Nominating Committee or one of the pastors.

We look forward to working with you next year!

From Rev. Colin Leitch

Scapegoating is among the least attractive behaviors found in human beings. It is a simple phenomenon with deep psychological and religious roots. Wars depend on scapegoating for their motivations and their enthusiasms.

Think of a three year old called out by a parent. The hysterical finger pointing at an older sibling, a neighbor, a stranger. The age old tactic: “Not me, them!”

Transfer this behavior to tribes and religions and nation states and you have a portrait of the modern world. Responsible leadership focuses first on personal responsibility, then on an honest critique of circumstances and causes.

Where do you see such leadership? Well, hopefully, in faith communities. We emphasize self-examination – what and where are *my* sins? Remember, self-examination is where spiritual growth occurs.

When we know who we are, we are in a better position to evaluate the world around us. As the Psalmist said, “my sin is always before me.”

Now comes the news that anti-Semitic incidents have recently risen dramatically in Massachusetts and around the country and in Europe. Blaming the Jews when times are tough is one of the ugliest aspects of human history and the Christian religion bears heavy responsibility.

Anti-Semitism is a belief or behavior hostile toward Jews just because they are Jewish. That Christians have often been flagrantly anti-Semitic is paradoxical to say the least. Jesus lived and died a Jew. He did not seek to supplant the Jewish Law. He did not found Christianity.

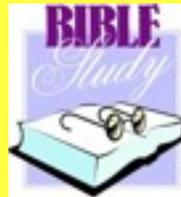
We emphasize, self-examination – what and where are *my* sins? Remember, self-examination is where spiritual growth occurs.

- CL

Most of the people in the Bible and most of our heroes – Mary, Paul, Peter, Lazarus, Martha, Mary Magdalene, etc. were Jewish. And yet Christians have persecuted Jews through the ages.

We are called now to be steadfast and outspoken in our condemnation of anti-Semitism. We need to be diligently aware of anti-Semitism and not the least bit hesitant in pointing it out. It’s not just our moral duty. The integrity of our religion is at stake.

Bible Study will continue every Wednesday in May



Bible Study Series
continues on Wednesdays.
at 7:00 PM.

Coffee will be available .

Everyone will get several chances to give their analysis of the reading.

All Are Welcome!!

Please join us!
Colin

Wed. May 3,
Tue. May 9
Wed. May 17
Wed. May 24
Wed. May 31



*Memorial Day
Pondering's*

It is a day we pause to think about a chain formed link by link that binds us to the liberties that God desires for all.

It is a day for looking back at how the mourners dreaded black maintains the colors that we love... the red, the white and blue.

In cemeteries far and near small flags at grave sites make it clear that freedom's price was freely paid by those who spent their lives.

And so on this Memorial Day we place a wreath and humbly pray that these who died courageously will not have died in vain.

--Copyright 2006 by Greg Asimakoupoulos, Mercer Island, WA.

*From the common
cathedral newsletter*



Longtime friend Mike Bancewicz (left) leads a planting activity at Feed Your Spirit

"Feed Your Spirit" Bible Study continues to be blessed by the presence of special guests, who share what they do to keep themselves spiritually fed. We have listened to music, played with Playdough, eaten special foods, and shared in so many different ways.

Recent guest - and great friend - Mike Bancewicz from Boston's Church on the Hill brought seeds and soil, and together the group did some spring planting, because "we plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.."



37,000 American Flags, Boston Common
May 22, 2015.

The members of the Church passed the following resolution at the Winter Members' Meeting:

In listening to the fears and concerns of the congregation which arose in response to the recent letter about the Bostonview Board election, the Governance/Bylaws Committee recommends that we postpone the election until the Annual Meeting in June, to provide time for the Board of Governors to appoint a committee to develop a clear and orderly process for nominations and to make recommendations concerning stipends for Bostonview Board members. We further recommend that this committee work on revising the Bostonview Bylaws as a whole prior to December 31, 2017.

Following the meeting, President Doug Peebles, with the approval of the Board of Governors, appointed a Bostonview Review Committee to discuss these issues and to develop recommendations for the June 25 Annual Meeting. Committee members are: Vicki Davis, Janet Forbes, Stanley Goldstein, Lisa Hadley, and Mary Kay Klein.

Please feel free to contact members of the committee to offer input or to ask for information.

From the archives



Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Inc.
 199th Annual Members Meeting
 June 25, 2017 12:45 PM

All Members are encouraged to attend!

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

- 1Peter 4:10

For the want of a nail, the horseshoe was lost;
 For the want of a horseshoe a horse was lost;
 For the want of a horse, the rider was lost;
 For the want of a rider, the message was lost;
 For the want of a message, the battle was lost;
 For the want of a battle, the war was lost;
 For the want of a war, the kingdom was lost;
 And all for the want of a horseshoe's nail

Luke 14:13

... But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

Luke 14:14

And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”



That time of year, let the good times roll!



Cathedral of the Pines, 2015. Join us this year on July 1st.

Don't walk behind me; I may not lead. Don't walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.

- Albert Camus

America is hope. It is compassion. It is excellence. It is valor.



- | | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Happy Birthday Andrew M. | 2nd |
| Happy Birthday Jenifer W. | 7th |
| Happy Birthday Polly B. | 8th |
| Happy Birthday Cody B. | 12th |
| Friends | |
| Rev. Joan Murray | 29th |

From the Minister of Music, Mr. Carlton Doctor



Dear Church Members,

On May 7, 2017 the music ministry at the Church On The Hill will present a concert of music by various composers. Some of the composers are familiar to you (Vivaldi, Handel, Puccini and Beethoven)

and some may not be (Janequin, Sherman and Fonseca). It is our belief that all of this music was created from hearts that understand that there is a God, someone greater than each of us. By re-creating this music in your presence we hope to give praise to God. The majority of the music will be vocal selections because so many of the New Testament scriptures speak of praise in the form of vocal music or singing.

James 5:13 *Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.*

Colossians 3:16 *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and song from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.*

1 Corinthians 14:15 *So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.*

Each Sunday, as we all join in singing hymns, not only are we praising God but we are also rendering service to God. Therefore, as you join us on May 7th we invite you to listen to the music with your hearts and always join us in singing the hymns with praise and understanding.

We will have a special guest performer on May 7th, violinist, Isabel Garita-Chin, an 8th grader at Presentation of Mary Academy. Ms. Garita-Chin has been a Project STEP student since 2013 and currently

studies with Magdalena Richter. She is a winner of the 2016 New England Conservatory Prep Concerto Competition and performed last Spring with the NEC Youth Repertory Orchestra onstage at Jordan Hall.

Respectfully,
Carlton Doctor
Minister of Music

"Music is the divine way to tell beautiful, poetic things to the heart." (Pablo Casals)

Fuel Assistance

ABCD's Energy Department administers the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP offers financial assistance to qualifying low-income households who require support in paying their home heating bills. Applicants must have a gross income at or below 60% of the state median income.

ABCD's Fuel Assistance Program helps more than 20,000 low-income households in Boston, Brookline and Newton pay fuel bills during the heating season. Read below to learn more about eligibility requirements, and to find out where you can access Fuel Assistance near you.

Call 617-357-6012

Extended until May 12. Apply now.

Hospitality on the Hill



Sunrise Service 2017



Kevin & Anthony, Easter Vigil project



Polly & Katie, Easter Vigil



Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday



Seya Fadullon on her last day.



Maundy Thursday



Sunrise Service



Jenifer & Alex preparing to serve tacos.

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

- Hebrews 13:2 (KJV)

Food For Thought...

Once upon a time a psychology professor walked around on a stage while teaching stress management principles to an auditorium filled with students. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the typical "glass half empty or glass half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, the professor asked, "How heavy is this glass of water I'm holding?"

Students shouted out answers ranging from eight ounces to a couple pounds.

She replied, "From my perspective, the absolute weight of this glass doesn't matter. It all depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute or two, it's fairly light. If I hold it for an hour straight, its weight might make my arm ache a little. If I hold it for a day straight, my arm will likely cramp up and feel completely numb and paralyzed, forcing me to drop the glass to the floor. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it feels to me."

As the class shook their heads in agreement, she continued, "Your stresses and worries in life are very much like this glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and you begin to ache a little. Think about them all day long, and you will feel completely numb and paralyzed – incapable of doing anything else until you drop them."

The moral: It's important to remember to let go of your stresses and worries. No matter what happens during the day, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the night and into the next day with you. If you still feel the weight of yesterday's stress, it's a strong sign that it's time to put the glass down.

(Angel and I discuss this process of letting go in the Adversity and Self-Love chapters of 1,000 Little Things Happy, Successful People Do Differently.)

Excerpted from marcandangel.com

Boston Iced Tea



Spring is here ... Simple and Refreshing!

Ingredients

- 1 gallon water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 15 tea bags (black tea)
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can frozen cranberry juice concentrate

Directions:

1. Put water in large pot, and heat on high until boiling. Add sugar and stir until dissolved. Add teabags and let steep until desired strength is acquired. Stir in cranberry juice concentrate, and allow to cool.

Angels in the Alley

Author Unknown



Diane, a young Christian University student, was home for the summer. She had gone to visit some friends one evening and time passed quickly as each shared their various experiences of the past year.

She ended up staying longer than planned, and had to walk home alone. She wasn't afraid, because it was a small town and she lived only a few blocks away.

As she walked along under the tall elm trees, Diane asked "God" to keep her safe from harm and danger. When she reached the alley, which was a short cut to her house, she decided to take it, however, halfway down the alley she noticed a man standing at the end as though he were waiting for her. She became uneasy and began to pray, asking for "God's" protection. Instantly a comforting feeling of quietness and security wrapped around her, she felt as though someone was walking with her.

When she reached the end of the alley, she walked right past the man and arrived home safely.

"Because she wasn't alone. She had two tall men walking on either side of her."

The following day, she read in the newspaper that a young girl had been raped in the same alley, just twenty minutes after she had been there. Feeling overwhelmed by this tragedy and the fact that it could have been her, she began to weep.

Thanking the Lord for her safety and to help this young woman, she decided to go to the police station. She felt she could recognize the man, so she told them her story. The police asked her if she would be willing to look at a lineup to see if she could identify him. She agreed and immediately pointed out the man she had seen in the alley the night before. When the man was told he had been identified, he immediately broke down and confessed.

The officer thanked Diane for her bravery and asked if there was anything they could do for her. She asked if they would ask the man one question. Diane was curious as to why he had not attacked her. When the policeman asked him, he answered, "Because she wasn't alone. She had two tall men walking on either side of her."

Moral of the story? Never underestimate the power of Prayer.

(sourced from www.inspire21.com)

Overheard at the water cooler ...



Holy Week at Church on the Hill was amazing. The Sunrise Service was particularly jaw dropping to have 31 people show up on the roof at 6:01 am. We would have had 32, but Polly Baxter (Happy Birthday!) stayed downstairs in the kitchen to cook our eggs.

In the second week of May, Susanne will be fleeing to Bermuda for a little R & R, and Craig will be heading to

San Diego to spend time with his sister.

The Wednesday Night Bible Study has been nicely attended with a great amount of inspiring participation. The group meets at 7:00 pm and ends “promptly” at 8:00 pm.

On April 30th we had a special guest, Sr. Tess Browne preaching from the pulpit, “Recognizing Jesus In the Breaking of the Bread.” Sr. Tess is a long time friend of the church and advocate for social justice and workers rights.

Are you traveling this summer? Going to any great events? Please take pictures, add some notes and share with the rest of us.

‘Merry Month of May’ film series at the West End Branch Library every Wednesday in May at 3:00 p.m.

May 3, “Pippin”
 May 10, “Sweeney Todd”
 May 17, “Carousel”
 May 24, Billy Elliot”



If you would like to either walk , run or volunteer as part of “Team Church on the Hill” please call the office. There are also opportunities to sign walkers in at the finish line.



Walk at 8:30am
 Town Field Park, Fields Corner
 1520 Dorchester Ave.
 Dorchester, MA 02122

Church Calendar Events 2017

All are welcome. Come as you are.

May 2017

Thursday May 4	All Day	National Day of Prayer
Sunday May 7	All Day 11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Walk for Hunger Church on the Hill Choir Spring Concert Board of Governors Meeting
Wednesday May 10	6:00 PM	CMM's 51st Anniversary Fundraising Dinner
Sunday May 14	All Day	Mother's Day
Wednesday May 17	12:00 PM	Senior Lunch
Sunday May 21	10:00 AM	Swedenborgian Class with Rev. Kevin Baxter
Friday May 26	9:00 AM	Mass. Coalition for the Homeless Monthly Meeting
Monday May 29	----	Memorial Day (Church Admin. closed.)

And more to come ...

ON GOING EVENTS

Every Sunday
11:00 AM Worship

Every Monday &
Thursday the Oasis
Women's Group Meets
9:00 AM

Every Monday Night is
the Oasis Monday Night
Dinner. 5:30 PM

Every Tuesday the
BSNJ Children's Choir
3:45 - 4:45 PM

Every Wednesday is
Computer Class
1:00 PM

Bible Study continues
on Wednesday
evenings at 7:00 PM
except May 9 will be a
Tuesday.

Every Friday is Friday
Flix. 1:30 PM

Church Calendar Events 2017

All are welcome. Come as you are.

June 2017

Sunday June 4	2:00 PM	Rev. John Odams Installation First Baptist Boston
Sunday June 11	1:00 PM	Board of Governors
Sunday June 18	All Day	Father's Day
Wednesday June 21	12:00 PM	Senior Lunch
Sunday June 25	12:45 PM	Annual Members Meeting/Holy City Sunday



Below are addresses of members and friends whom you may want to visit or send a card to.

Michael Latkowitz
Soldiers Home
Center Building 3rd Floor
91 Crest Ave
Chelsea, MA 02150
617-884-5660

Bill Davis
Cambridge Rehabilitation
Nursing
8 Dana St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

Al Cortese
Marion Manor
130 Dorchester St. Rm. 222
So. Boston, MA 02127
617-997-3036

Carolyn McLain
Saugus Care & Rehab
266 Lincoln Ave.
Saugus, MA 01906

Alice DeRosa
North End Rehab
70 Fulton St. 4th fl.
Boston, MA 02109

Andrew McLain
2 Rogers Ave. Apt B.
Lynn, MA 01902



**Church on The Hill (Swedenborgian)
The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Inc.**

140 Bowdoin Street, Beacon Hill
Boston, MA 02108-2799



Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880)

Member of the Church
Writer, Author, Abolitionist,
Civil Rights Advocate
Writer of "Over the River"



"It is my mission to help in the breaking down of classes, and to make all men feel as if they were brethren of the same family, sharing the same rights, the same capabilities, and the same responsibilities. While my hand can hold a pen, I will use it to this end; and while my brain can earn a dollar, I will devote it to this end." Lydia Maria Child

