



The Clarendon Connection

February 2010

www.clarendonhillchurch.org

Clarendon Hill welcomes all people to our church.

Young or old,
gay or straight,
faithful or seeking,
you are welcome to join us
on our shared journey
of faith.

We are a small but growing congregation seeking to serve God, our community, and our world. Our resources may be limited, but our imaginations and desires are not. We are constantly seeking ways to serve others and to work for a more just world.



Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:30 a.m. Worship
10:45 a.m. Children's education
11:30 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship

Communion will be celebrated on February 7.



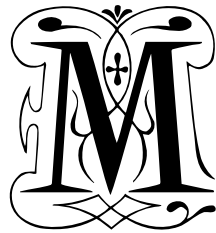
Minister
Rev. Karl Gustafson

Music Director
John Adams

Sexton
Arnie James

Thoughts from the Back Office

by Pastor Karl Gustafson



Much has been on my mind since my last dispatch, and most of it has to do with the mission of Clarendon Hill Church. We have reached a point in our life that can be described as either a "critical moment" or a "creative moment." I much prefer to see it as a creative moment that God is offering us, an opportunity for reflection and decision.

That process has already begun and the Session has spent the past year struggling with some difficult realities. Each member has put in lots of time and energy thinking about who Clarendon Hill Church is at this point in its history, all our strengths and weaknesses, our hopes and dreams. Much is still to be done and more decisions will have to be made.

The first decision that the Session has come to is that we can no longer sustain both our building and a full-time pastoral position. Therefore they will propose at the upcoming Annual Meeting (see page 2) that we change our "staffing pattern" from a full-time pastoral position to a $\frac{3}{4}$ time position. The details of the proposal will be presented on February 7 and we hope that most of you can attend.

The larger opportunity awaiting discernment has to do with the building and what we should do with it. Several options are being envisioned at this point and will be researched over the coming months. Whatever is ultimately decided will have significant ramifications for the direction our ministry will take. That is what I find so enticing. We have an opportunity to rethink and recreate our identity and our mission. I hope that we all jump into this with positive anticipation and assurance. This really is a moment of great creative possibility for the next phase of Clarendon Hill's life that will be challenging for sure, but if done faithfully and hopefully, promises interesting opportunities for rejuvenated witness and service.

Understandably the Session is feeling a little overwhelmed by all of this, and so am I, to be honest. But there is a good spirit and increasing energy on their part and it is hoped that you all will feel the same. They cannot do everything, I cannot do everything, alone. We need your help.

See you all on February 7.

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Clarendon Hill Happenings



Presbyterian Coffee Project

Presbyterian Coffee Project orders will be taken on February 7 for delivery on February 14. Orders can be emailed to Katherine (kath.gustafson@gmail.com) by Feb. 7

Women's Horizons Bible Study

Horizons Study Group will meet at Salam Lebbos's house in Arlington on Friday, February 12 at 3:30 p.m. All women are welcome to attend. Contact kath.gustafson@gmail.com for directions.

Introduction to Yoga

Come join our small class after coffee hour to practice mindful breathing and gentle yoga postures. Meeting dates will be February 21 and 28. Contact Liz at cavatorta1@hotmail.com for more information.

Book Group

Our newly revived book group is reading *Skeptics and True Believers: The exhilarating connection between science and religion* by Chet Raymo. Learn more from Pastor Karl: pastork@clarendonhill-church.org.

Resident Acupuncturist

Ching Ling is a CHPC member and an acupuncturist who has an office in the church building. If you or someone you know would like to try acupuncture, contact chingling1943@yahoo.com.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Please be aware that an Al-Anon group meets in the green room on Tuesday evenings.

Upcoming Events That You Will Want to Attend

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, February 7. A potluck will follow that morning's church service, after which the meeting will commence. Childcare will be provided. See Pastor Karl's comments on p. 1.

Adult Education Resumes

Adult Education resumes on Sunday, February 14. We will pick up where we left off in the book *The Sins of Scripture* by John Shelby Spong.

Home Social

On Friday, February 19, the second home get-together to socialize and raise questions about things on our hearts will be held at the home of Esti Arce and Scott Fish. Call the church for details: 617.625.4823.

Musical Meditation

Sunday, February 28 will be a great time to be in church. John Adams, our wonderful director of music, will have the sermon time in worship to present a meditation in music. You do not want to miss this.

Dates at a Glance

February 7	Annual Meeting & Potluck Coffee Orders
February 12	Horizons Bible Study
February 14	Coffee Delivery; Adult Education
February 19	Home Social
February 21	Yoga
February 28	Musical Meditation; Yoga



www.artsomerville.org



Songs of Hope for Haiti

Benefit Concert for Haiti Disaster Relief
Friday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Featuring

Celia Slattery, www.celiaslattery.com

Allysen Callery, www.myspace.com/theallysencallery

Allyssa Jones, www.allyssajones.com

with pianist **Mark Shilansky**



Songs of Hope for Haiti is a project to help relief efforts in Haiti. The artists performing are friends of The Nave Gallery. All of them responded quickly and generously with their participation in this project.

The Songs of Hope for Haiti album is underway. It will be released first online as a free download, then we hope for it to be available as a real CD in time for the benefit. All proceeds will go to Partners In Health (www.pih.org).

Listen here:

www.jamendo.com/en/artist/Songs_of_Hope_for_Haiti



Upcoming Exhibit: Lost & Found

19-21 February 2010

Opening reception: 19 February 2010, 6 p.m.

Energy isn't destroyed or created, it's simply lost by one and found by another. Lost & Found at the Nave showcases local artists who have been given the task to create video, photography, print, and sound that portrays their own unique take on the theme of "Lost & Found."

To volunteer to help with an event, contact Randy at rwinchester@artsomerville.org.

Lectionary Readings

February 2010

February 7

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
 Psalm 138
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
 Luke 5:1-11

February 14

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalm 99
 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2
 Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

February 17 (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
 Psalm 51:1-17
 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
 Romans 10:8b-13
 Luke 4:1-13

February 28

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
 Psalm 27
 Philippians 3:17—4:1
 Luke 13:31-35

March 2010

March 7

Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8
 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Luke 13:1-9

March 14

Joshua 5:9-12
 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 21

Isaiah 43:16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3:4b-14
 John 12:1-8

March 28 (Passion / Palm Sunday)

Liturgy of the Palms
 Luke 19:28-40
 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Liturgy of the Passion
 Isaiah 50:4-9a
 Psalm 31:9-16
 Philippians 2:5-11
 Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49



Church Assignments

	scripture	focus on mission	coffee hour	nursery
February 7	H. Rantisi	J. Bray	POTLUCK	V. Donovan
February 14	R. Liberace	J. Auger	Augers	E. Schemerhorn
February 21	E. Schemerhorn	S. Lebbos	Donovan	K. Gustafson
February 28	L. Cavano	R. Liberace	Siggers	V. Donovan
March 7	S. Donovan	C. Milanesi	Augers	E. Schemerhorn
March 14	P. Auger	R. Winchester	Schemerhorn	K. Gustafson
March 21	R. Winchester	E. Schemerhorn	Milanesi/Kumpa	V. Donovan
March 28	E. Sweeny	P. Auger	Camelio/Braga	E. Schemerhorn

If you would like to be added to the rotation for any of these ministry opportunities, please contact Ann Crews Melton, editor@clarendonhillchurch.org or 617.646.9690.

The Clarendon Connection is edited by Ann Crews Melton. Articles for the March issue are requested by February 21. Email editor@clarendonhillchurch.org with news, photos, tidbits, suggestions or corrections.

Per Capita and Initial Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2010 have arrived, and you will find them on the table at the back of the church, near the door. Please pick yours up. If you have been giving regularly, you may find that you have had envelopes assigned to you. If you don't currently have envelopes, and would like to have some, please contact Ellen (ellends@verizon.net).

The amount of per capita for this year has been calculated as well: \$70. This is the amount our church will be sending to the national church for each member of our congregation. Please do all that you can to help us send the full amount – we must send it whether or not we are reimbursed from you. Please remember when figuring out your per capita amount that it includes all members of your family who are members of the church, even if they are away at school or living and working elsewhere.

We will give you the amount for the initial offering envelope (which pays for the cost of having the envelopes printed and shipped to us) shortly.



Image courtesy of bookgrl via Flickr Creative Commons.

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