



The Clarendon Connection

July/August 2009

www.clarendonhillchurch.org

New England Presbyterian Campus Initiative: A Good Year

By Kelsey Rice Bogdan

If you chanced to look in the Sunday School room last week, you may have noticed that the desk of the New England Presbyterian Campus Initiative (NEPCI) looked a bit bare. The NEPCI project, a year of examining collegiate ministries in New England, is finished... for now.

NEPCI ended a year of interviews, student focus groups, and data collection by issuing a report to the Presbyteries of Boston, Northern New England, and Southern New England (see link below). NEPCI also hosted a wonderful campus ministry summit, **Great Expectations: For Students and Ministry in Higher Education**, at The Presbyterian Church in Burlington, MA, on May 30. Karl and Katherine Gustafson, Sarah Glass, and Liz Leavitt from Clarendon Hill all participated in that event.

The Presbytery of Boston hopes to recruit one or two campus ministry liaisons in each church who will advocate for collegiate ministries and help congregations get involved. If you're interested in being one of the liaisons for CHPC, check in with Karl. Collegiate ministry will also be one of the themes of Presbytery Day in November, so mark your calendars!

Though NEPCI was sponsored at the presbytery and synod levels, in many ways Clarendon Hill has always been the real home of the project. You offered me office space and supplies, to be sure, but CHPC's contribution to the project went far beyond such practical necessities. You gave me the time, energy, and wisdom of your minister, Karl, to work with me in shaping the project and to help me carry it out. You offered your enthusiasm every time I came to church, and some of you even agreed to be interviewed for the project. This church contributed much to NEPCI's eventual success.

And you gave me a nurturing environment to explore ministerial gifts that went beyond NEPCI, allowing me to co-lead both a Lenten worship and a Bible study within the congregation. Both the worship and the Bible study were invaluable experiences for learning about my own vocation. But the best part of the worship and Bible study for me was the opportunity to build relationships with several of you in the congregation. A good field education experience allows you to develop your skills—a great field education experience surrounds you with wonderful companions on the journey. I can unequivocally say that my field education placement at Clarendon Hill has been great.

Thank you all for making this a wonderful year of growth for me at CHPC. May God's love go with all of us until we meet again.

NEPCI Final Report:

<http://www.synodne.org/mediagallery/album.php?aid=22&page=1>

NEPCI Blog:

<http://nepci.blogspot.com>

NEPCI Facebook Group:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=49693036772&ref=ts>



Clarendon Happenings

Presbyterian Coffee Project



Presbyterian Coffee Project orders will be taken on July 5, for delivery on July 12. August coffee orders need to be in by July 26, for delivery August 2, since the Gustafsons will be

away August 9 and 16. If you aren't in church to sign up on July 26, email your order to kath.gustafson@gmail.com.

Women's Horizons Bible Study

Horizons Study Group will have a summer gathering at Salam Lebbos' on Friday, July 24 at 3:30 pm. This will be an informal social gathering. We extend a special invitation to all women in the church whose summer schedules might allow them to attend. For more information, directions, or a ride, contact Salam or Katherine Gustafson, kath.gustafson@gmail.com.

Introduction to Yoga

Come join our small class after coffee hour to practice mindful breathing and gentle yoga postures. Great for stress release, improved flexibility and strength. We will meet 7/12, 7/26, 8/9, 8/23, and 8/30. Contact Liz at cavatorta1@hotmail.com for more information.

Calling All Kids (of All Ages)

We are going to be writing and putting together a play. Come join us during Sunday School time in July.

Dates at a Glance

July 12	Coffee Delivery; Yoga
July 15	Session and Deacons Mtg.
July 26	Coffee Orders; Yoga Reception for Augustus
August 2	Coffee Delivery
August 9	Yoga
August 23	Yoga
August 30	Yoga

Congratulations, Graduates!

Best wishes to all the graduates in our Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church community.

High School

Will Adams and Isabelle Milanese

Harvard Divinity School

Master of Divinity: Kelsey Rice Bodgan, Sarah Glass, and Liz Leavitt

Doctoral Program: Christian Rice

Tufts Post-Doctoral Research Completion

Voltaire Organo

Farewell to Augustus

Please join us during coffee hour on Sunday, July 26 for a farewell recognition and appreciation for Augustus Kwaa. Augustus will be leaving for a ministry job in Ghana, to start in the middle of August. We want to recognize his service to Clarendon Hill Church over the years he has been with us, and wish him all the best in his new position.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

If you are interested in teaching Sunday School in the fall, please contact Pastor Karl: pastork@clarendonhillchurch.org. We would like to have enough volunteers to do a periodic class for our middle school-aged participants, as well as a program for our elementary school-aged children.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:15 a.m. Choir rehearsal
- 10:00 a.m. Worship (July and August)
- 10:15 a.m. Children's education
- 11:00 a.m. Refreshments and fellowship

Communion will be celebrated on August 2.

Resident Acupuncturist

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

Current Exhibit: Physical Digital
11 July-9 August 2009
Artists: Rachel Gargiulo, Ted Ollier,
John Pyper, Liz Shepherd



Today we find ourselves surrounded by data, meta-data, information, references, keys, passwords, hyperlinks, applets, status bars, transactions, and other digital ephemera. While these tools can provide a bona fide relief, this data is often an annoying companion that we are forced to live with daily. A digital fog, sometimes navigable, sometimes tiresomely perplexing, has descended on our lives.

Physical Digital features sculptures and works on paper by Rachel Gargiulo, Ted Ollier, John Pyper, and Liz Shepherd, each of whom explores unique aspects of the structure and configurations inherent in living digitally.



Jason Anderson, Strand of Oaks and Friends

Friday, 28 August 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Check www.artsomerville.org for ticket information and updates.

"**Jason Anderson** is an animal. This New Hampshire native lives on the road. He plays more than just another indie rock show. Jason preaches the gospel of rock James Brown style. He shows us the book of partying Andrew W.K. style. His band rips like Springsteen's E Street Band rips. He shows us what it means to be alive. What it means to have music course through our veins. He shows us that none of us are too cool to have fun. This is OUR party! Bring your friends, bring your loved ones! Be ready to sing and dance! Believe in yourself. Believe in US!" - Joe DeGeorge of Harry and the Potters



Strand of Oaks: A Hoosier transplanted to the coal highlands of Northeast Pennsylvania, Timothy Showalter has nested in fertile musical soil. Taking cues from luminaries such as Nebraska-era Bruce Springsteen and a burgeoning Neil Young, Showalter extends a musical gesture and searches to find modesty in the midst of confusion, addressing insecurities and settling existential debt with a simple and beautiful delivery. The personification of a midwestern grandfather's advice, his songs smack with hard truth and poignant severity.

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

A Note from Voltaire

Hello!

Just letting you know that I'm back in the Phils! Woohoooo!!! I arrived last Tuesday evening. It really feels like home. You know...the warm (90+ F), very humid weather...crowded streets....the traffic....crazy jeepney drivers...warm hugs from family and friends...Tagalog-speaking folks....malls sprouting on every corner....Mom's cooking...aaahhhh....no place like home.

I'm at home, relaxing and recovering from jetlag. Besides, people prefer that I stay at home for fear that I may be bringing the swine flu virus (even if I don't have the symptoms other than jetlag). Can't complain though.

I'll be reporting to work next week as faculty at the University of the Philippines in Manila. Classes already started last June but I'll start teaching in August. Hopefully, I can also start working with undergrads on small research projects.

Anyway, just want to keep in touch and let you know that all is well here. Hope all is well with you on your side of the world. Regards and keep in touch.

Blessings in Christ,
 Voltaire

Clean Your Desk Campaign

Yes, it's that time of the year again; college students have packed up their dorm rooms and are home, or out into the world! And after a very late year, all students are out of school! But what about all those school supplies that are left over at the end of the academic year?

We need your gently used (or NEW!) notebooks, paper, pens, pencils (regular and colored), crayons, etc. for our annual Clean Your Desk Campaign.

What is the Clean Your Desk Campaign?

The material below is from the Quest for Peace website (www.quixote.org):

Recycle, Reuse, Renew Hope for Nicaraguan Kids!

Each year with your help, Quest for Peace sends 60 tons of school supplies to Nicaragua for use in the rural schools.

With an average annual income of \$250, families cannot afford supplies for their several children -- nor does the government provide supplies. In addition to school supplies, "parents must come up with additional salary, desks, materials, school repairs, water and electric bills, and cleaning materials," says Nan McCurddy in *Education: A Privilege in Nicaragua*.

Your educational supplies will build friendship between our people, help educate Nicaraguan children and open a new world for you.

Invite your church to gather funds and simple school supplies such as:

- pencils & erasers
- paper & notebooks
- art supplies
- crayons & markers
- scissors & rulers
- musical instruments
- basketballs, baseballs, etc.

Please... NO books, 3 ring binders or anything battery operated.

The supplies are put in large cargo containers and shipped to Nicaragua.

The supplies travel to the 300 plus schools in 30 municipalities which we serve in Nicaragua.



Last year, we shipped many pounds of supplies. There will be a box for donations in the foyer of the church, along with a more extensive list of the supplies that are needed. Remember to ask friends and neighbors to participate too. And if you or your colleagues haven't cleaned your work desk (or desk at home) in awhile, take a look to see what you can bring in. We will collect supplies throughout the month of July and send them at the end of July.

If you don't have school supplies to send, we would also be grateful for monetary donations to help defray the cost of shipping. Please contact Ellen (ellends@verizon.net) for more details.

Lectionary Readings

July 2009

July 5

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48:1-14
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 12

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24:1-10
Eph. 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

July 19

2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 26

2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14:1-7
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

August 2009

August 2

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6:24-35

August 9

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33
Psalm 130:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
John 6:35, 41-51

August 16

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14
Psalm 111:1-10
Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

August 23

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84:1-12
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 30

Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 2009

September 6

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23
Psalm 125
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Mark 7:24-37

September 13

Proverbs 1:20-33
Psalm 19
James 3:1-12
Mark 8:27-38

September 20

Proverbs 31:10-31
Psalm 1
James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a
Mark 9:30-37

September 27

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22
Psalm 124
James 5:13-20
Mark 9:38-50

Church Assignments

	scripture	focus on mission	coffee hour	nursery
July 5	M. Reynolds	T. Siggers	Augers	K. Gustafson
July 12	P. Beran	K. Graf	Milanesi/Kumpa	V. Donovan
July 19	J. Auger	R. Liberace	Camelio/Braga	E. Schemerhorn
July 26	J. Bray	M. Reynolds	Chapman-Adisho	K. Gustafson
August 2	H. Rantisi	P. Beran	Reynolds/Graf	V. Donovan
August 9	R. Liberace	J. Auger	Gustafson/Cavano	E. Schemerhorn
August 16	K. Graf	J. Bray	Donovan	K. Gustafson
August 23	L. Cavano	S. Lebbos	Schemerhorn	V. Donovan
August 30	S. Donovan	C. Milanesi	Siggers	E. Schemerhorn
Sept. 6	P. Auger	E. Schemerhorn	Milanesi/Kumpa	K. Gustafson
Sept. 13	A. Melton	R. Winchester	Augers	V. Donovan
Sept. 20	R. Winchester	H. Rantisi	Chapman-Adisho	E. Schemerhorn
Sept. 27	E. Schemerhorn	P. Auger	Reynolds/Graf	K. Gustafson

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 September issue are requested by August 23. Email editor@clarendonhillchurch.org with news, photos, tidbits, corrections or suggestions.



155 Powder House Blvd.
West Somerville, MA 02144-1613
tel: 617-625-4823
www.clarendonhillchurch.org

Rev. Karl Gustafson, Minister Augustus Kwaa, Parish Associate/Evangelist John Adams, Music Director Arnie James, Sexton

Thoughts from the Back Office by Pastor Karl Gustafson

I want to pass on some wise words I saw in the alumni magazine of the University of Maine Farmington. They are written by Theodora Kalikow, UMF's president, in the Spring 2009 edition.

“Based on my experience with confronting change at UMF, here are my change principles for today (subject to change!):

Go slow to go fast. But go fast enough.

Stick to your mission.

Recognize reality.

Be conservative in projections.

Think about the future, not the past.

As you cut, also invest.

And finally, don't waste a good crisis. We don't get many opportunities in our lives when world circumstances align to encourage us to be radically creative.

And also, finally, be brave.

And finally, finally, hope to be lucky.”



All of those apply to us at CHPC as we work our way into the changes we may need to make in the months ahead. The session has begun meeting with an old friend of mine, Mark Wendorf, who is helping us imagine our way into the future. We have met once and will meet again soon. The spirit is positive, hopeful, and confident.

As we continue in whatever changes are necessary, I will keep President Kalikow's list in mind. The only thing that I will not adhere to is her last thought. From the perspective of faith that last comment should be: “And finally, always trust God to provide.”