



# The Clarendon Connection

December 2010 and January 2011

[www.clarendonhillchurch.org](http://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.

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Sunday Worship

9:45 a.m. Choir rehearsal  
10:00a.m. Worship  
10:15a.m. Children's education  
11:00a.m. Refreshments & fellowship

Communion will be celebrated on August 1.

Minister: Rev. Karl Gustafson  
Music Director: John Adams  
Saxton: Arnie James

## “From the back office” December 2010

The season of Advent and Christmas is here already. Where does the time go? But ready or not, that season of gift and hope and joy is upon us. And I'm looking forward to it.

It's been kind of a rough year for all of us. In many different ways. To that experience of darkness and doubt, of anxiety and stress, comes a word of great joy to give us light and reason for hope.

Whether it be to the challenges we face at CHPC, in our own lives or even the whole country the word of this season is the same. “By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79)

## Advent Adult Education

Join us for Adult Education we begin our time of waiting during Advent. We will be reading and discussing “Reading Jesus: A Writer's Encounter with the Gospels” by Mary Gordon. Advent is a great time to delve once again in to the heart of the New Testament. Here is a brief synopsis of the book:

“Reading Jesus is a personal journey through the fundamental Biblical stories. As celebrated author Mary Gordon ponders the intense strangeness of a deity in human

form, unresolved moral ambiguities within the text, and the problem posed to her as an enlightened reader by the miracle of the Resurrection. What she rediscovers—and reinterprets with her signature candor, intelligence, and straightforwardness—is a rich store of overlapping, sometimes conflicting teachings that feel both familiar and tantalizingly elusive.”

We will meet in the Green Room after worship on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the book, please speak with Karl.

## **Christmas Joy Offering**

On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, Clarendon Hill will be collecting the Christmas Joy Offering. The theme for this year is “What Child is This?”

A Presbyterian tradition for almost 70 years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. You are encouraged to support the Christmas Joy Offering through gifts to your congregation's offering.

50 percent of the receipts to the Christmas Joy Offering are distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education through the General Assembly Council.

You will hear more about the offering during our Mission portion of the worship services in December. What follows is one way that your gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps those who serve the church.

### **A Life Giving Gift**

As a second-career pastor whose first calling was to early childhood education and poverty intervention with children and families, the Rev. Linda Stewart-Kalen understands what it means to live on little.

For years in her first vocation her salary was measured as a percentage of the poverty level. “I worked for low-income communities and I worked for a low income all of my working life,” she said.

So when Stewart-Kalen heard God’s call to the ministry, she answered it understanding and accepting that it also could mean limited wages and benefits. The pastor, who currently serves Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church in Portland, Ore., accepted that she might have to get help through the assistance program of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The program is one those made possible by the Christmas Joy Offering.

The blessing for Stewart-Kalen, however, has been her ability to serve small rural and urban congregations that might not otherwise have been able to afford a pastor. Prior to joining Colonial Heights in 2005 she was pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Point, Ore., a small congregation of limited means.

Although Colonial Heights only has about 50 members, it engages in a range of programs and activities, Stewart-Kalen said.

Providing music and environmental education for the community, supporting an acupuncture project for veterans, and nurturing families and children are just some of the efforts of the congregation. “I made a commitment to them I am going to stay for the long haul,” Stewart-Kalen said.

So, that means the San Francisco Theological Seminary graduate and her husband and two young adult children have had to make sacrifices. Stewart-Kalen’s husband has had medical issues that limit his ability to work, which makes her the sole wage earner for the family.

“This last year we had significant dental work,” she said. Plus, Stewart-Kalen had been deferring preventative medical care such as mammograms and bone density tests because of the out-of-pocket costs.

There are thousands of dollars of things that need to be addressed and to absorb that extra cost “is just overwhelming,” she said.

In early 2010 Stewart-Kalen received a shared grant from the Presbytery of the Cascades and the assistance program of the Board of Pensions to help with the family’s out-of-pocket medical and dental expenses.

“The medical assistance ... was really life-giving for us and for the congregation that I serve,” she said. The church would love to be able to more amply take care of us, but this is a small, blue-collar membership with minimal savings, Stewart-Kalen said.

Stable pastoral leadership enables Colonial Heights to turn to ministry in the community, she said. Roughly 150 to 200 people each week receive “some substantial service” in the church, which means “our footprint is larger than our membership.”

Stewart-Kalen said what the PC(USA) and those giving to the Christmas Joy Offering should know is that “one of the ways that we as a denomination address not abandoning small membership congregations is by being a network of support.”

“It enables them to engage in vital ministry within their community because they are not saying we are too small to have a pastor,” she said. “A whole community of faith surrounds them with their efforts.”

Please be as generous with your gift as you are able!

## Christmas gifts for a family from Somerville Early Head Start

This year we will be once again helping a family from Somerville Early Head Start. By December 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Christmas tree in the back of the sanctuary, on the table by the door, with tags attached to it. The tags will have specific information about items that our family needs. Please choose as many tags as you feel comfortable with.

The gifts do not need to be wrapped, but they must be NEW. Gift cards would also be welcomed, either for the items listed, or for local grocery stores. Please return your gifts no later than Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to attach the tag to the item so that we know who it is for. If you have questions, please contact Ellen. Thank you!

## Christmas at CHPC

On December 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a potluck lunch of soup, bread and desert. After eating folks will help decorate the sanctuary with greens and make ornaments for the tree. On December 19<sup>th</sup> after service we will have hot chocolate and cookies by all then we will put up the tree and the manger scene.

## Music Events

Saturday, 12/4, 8pm: Zefiro Advent Concert.

\$15 general admission / \$10 for students and seniors

Zefiro is a Boston- and Providence-based ensemble of eight singers devoted to performing vocal music of the 14th-17th centuries. Founded by six members of the group formerly known as Passio, this award-winning group takes inspiration from specialist groups from around the world such as the Tallis Scholars, the

Sixteen, and the Taverner Consort. Zefiro's credits include winning a project grant from the Somerville Arts Council, chapter of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and National Endowment for the Arts, and serving as artists in residence (as Passio) to Bennington College in Vermont.

Zefiro: <http://www.zefiroensemble.com/index.html>

Zefiro at The Nave Podcast: <http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/47717>

**Saturday, December 11, 4pm: Somerville Community Chorus Fall 2010 Concert**

Our December concert will feature music for chorus and a small orchestra by Purcell and Bach, in addition to music for the season and a Cantata of Christmas Carols, narrated by a special surprise guest!

Somerville Community Chorus: <http://www.somervillechorus.com/>

Somerville Community Chorus at the Nave podcast: <http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/28340>

**Sunday, 12/12, 4pm: Cambridge Chamber Singers 29th Christmas Concert**

**\$18 Adults, \$12 Students/Seniors**

For more information call: 617-521-2075

A Ceremony of Charols, Medieval to Modern

Featuring Britten's Ceremony of Carols, Poulenc's Quatre Motets pour le temps de Noël, and more!

Cambridge Chamber Singers: <http://www.cambridgemadrigals.org/>

**Saturday, 12/18, 8pm: Jason Anderson presents the Fourth Annual Good Cheer Festival**

**\$5 - all proceeds go to Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church**

Just in time for Christmas, the Good Cheer Festival makes a triumphant return to the Nave Gallery. Last year's event was simply incredible, featuring dramatic readings of *The Night Before Christmas* and *The Polar Express*, a piano-led group carol sing, a surprise visit from Santa Claus himself, and free egg nog, cookies and cider! This year is going to be even merrier; a truly awesome event for the \*whole\* family that will get you ready--and excited!--for this holiday season!

As always, there will be a prize for the best Christmas sweater, so \*please\* dress the part, and come ready to sing, smile and feel the warmth of community. The cookies, cider and nog will be back, and remember, the Good Cheer Festival is a free event, open to one and all! Yay!

Jason Anderson: <http://www.jasonandersonswebsite.com/>

Jason Anderson at the Nave podcast: <http://www.jamendo.com/en/album/34601>

## Announcements

- Christmas Eve Worship, 4 pm
- The Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa order will be taken on Sunday, December 5 for delivery on Sunday, December 12.
- As of this month, Equal Exchange has increased prices on all coffee products by about \$1 per pound. Contributing factors include rising costs for farmers, climate change and extreme weather.
- The recent "Wrap Around" sale of hand knit items at the Nave Gallery raised \$510 for the Somerville Homeless Coalition, a great success. Thank you to all who donated items and made purchases.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Nursery</u>
1/2/11	Arce/Fish	C. Milanesi	Winchester	Cavano	Gustafson
Commu nion					
1/9/11	Allen/Rhoads	Rantisi	Beran	Milanesi	V. Donovan
1/16/11	Schemerhorn	Liberace	Cavano	Auger	Schemerhorn
1/23/11	Donovan	Cavano	Auger	V. Donovan	S. Donovan
1/30/11	Siggers	Winchester	Jirmanus	Schemerhorn	Gustafson
2/6/11	Augers	S. Donovan	Liberace	Kumpa	V. Donovan
Commu nion					
2/13/11	Milanesi/Kumpa	Beran	Milanesi	Liberace	Schemerhorn
2/20/11	Camelio/Braga	Jirmanus	Schemerhorn	Cavano	S. Donovan
2/27/11	Reynolds/Bartin	P. Auger	S. Donovan	Milanesi	Gustafson
3/6/11	Gustafson/Cavano	Schemerhorn	V. Donovan	Auger	V. Donovan
Commu nion					
3/13/11	Arce/Fish	Reynolds	Kumpa	V. Donovan	Schemerhorn
3/20/11	Allen/Rhoads	J. Auger	Camelio	Schemerhorn	S. Donovan
3/27/11	Schemerhorn	Bray	Winchester	Kumpa	Gustafson
4/3/11	Donovan	Allen	Beran	Liberace	V. Donovan
Commu nion					
4/10/11	Siggers	C. Milanesi	Cavano	Cavano	Schemerhorn
4/17/11	Augers	Rantisi	Auger	Milanesi	S. Donovan
4/24/11	Milanesi/Kumpa	Liberace	Jirmanus	Auger	Gustafson
East er					
5/1/11	Camelio/Braga	Cavano	Liberace	V. Donovan	V. Donovan
Commu nion					
5/8/11	Reynolds/Bartin	Winchester	Milanesi	Schemerhorn	Schemerhorn
5/15/11	Gustafson/Cavano	S. Donovan	Schemerhorn	Kumpa	S. Donovan
5/22/11	Arce/Fish	Beran	S. Donovan	Liberace	Gustafson
5/29/11	Allen/Rhoads	Jirmanus	V. Donovan	Cavano	V. Donovan
6/5/11	Schemerhorn	P. Auger	Kumpa	Milanesi	Schemerhorn
Commu nion					
6/12/11	Donovan	Schemerhorn	Camelio	Auger	S. Donovan
6/12/11	Siggers	Reynolds	Winchester	V. Donovan	Gustafson
6/19/11	Augers	J. Auger	Beran	Schemerhorn	V. Donovan
6/26/11	Milanesi/Kumpa	Bray	Cavano	Kumpa	Schemerhorn

If you are unable to fill your commitment, please do your best to switch with someone else. To be added to this list, please contact Val Donovan ([mabel312@aol.com](mailto:mabel312@aol.com)). *The Clarendon Connection* is edited by Salam Lebbos.

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