



The Clarendon Connection

January 2009

www.clarendonhillchurch.org

Dear Friend of Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church,

I am writing because I know you care deeply about our church and would want to know about the critical point we are at. We have a \$30,000 deficit because our maintenance and operational expenses far outpace the contributions of our small but generous community. The strategic investments we made in the last few years to the church building—updating fire alarm systems, handicap accessibility, improved sound system for the hearing impaired and for our music events, plus greater energy efficiency—were critical to our continuing mission, but have resulted in rapidly depleting our investments. And our mounting debt leads us to consider some very difficult decisions.

At our emergency meeting with the church leadership a week ago, we reviewed our finances and budget. We decided that we have one year before our reserves are depleted and we must sell the building. As we considered our options we also reaffirmed our decision at last year's Annual Meeting to do everything possible to keep Karl as our full-time pastor – his warm, thoughtful presence is the heart of Clarendon Hill. And we rededicated ourselves to the church and our mission.

We know that one year isn't very much time but we are at a point where we must be proactive before it is too late to save our church and the many communities we serve: our faith community, the Open Center daycare, ARTSomerville, the Nave Gallery and the music performances that fill our church with joyful sounds. During this time we are reaching out to you with an appeal to contribute financial and time resources (members can submit pledges by mail or in the collection basket).

Please take heart that amid all this, our church has never been more vibrant or relevant to the community it serves. In the 5.5 years since Karl joined us, our community involvement has grown considerably. With groups for young adults, writing, yoga and Bible study, we have activities for a wide range of interests and needs:

- Our peace and justice mission-giving includes \$500 in donations to the RESPOND domestic violence agency during our interfaith fundraiser last April, \$500 to Teen Empowerment, and \$500 to Somerville Early Head Start, as well as Christmas gifts this December to Somerville Early Head Start families;
- The Nave Gallery, a collaboration between ARTSomerville and Clarendon Hill, now in its fifth year, provides a vital exhibition space for local artists, fundraisers, and even pancake breakfasts. Thanks to a diverse lineup of music performances, *The Boston Globe* recently named Clarendon Hill "the church of rock" (the tireless Randy Winchester uploads podcasts of concerts at www.clarendonhillchurch.org/music.html). Sunday services are also available as podcasts at our dynamic website: www.clarendonhillchurch.org, or check out our Facebook group <http://groups.to/clarendonhill> created by our outreach committee;
- We are also managing and administering a one-year grant from the New England Presbyterian Campus Initiative (NEPCI), coordinated by Harvard Divinity School student Kelsey Rice Bogdan. Kelsey is investigating campus ministries at accredited colleges and universities throughout New England to create a common mission statement and strategy.

We know the economic climate is difficult and the times are troubling. But we hope you can help us keep Clarendon Hill's mission alive. Please join hands, hearts, and prayers so we may continue to nurture and grow the vibrant spiritual community and mission of Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,
Liz Cavano on behalf of The Clarendon Hill Session

Clarendon Happenings

Annual Meeting and Potluck

On January 18, we will hold an Annual Meeting and potluck after church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting as we discuss the life of the church. All committees: please turn in your reports to Karl by the 13th.

Engagement

Congratulations to Alex Weisiger and Sarah Glass, who became engaged this December. They wanted to make sure everyone at CHPC had heard their news, especially since CHPC is how they met!

Our Sympathy

Mary Reynold's mother, Ruth Evelyn Reynolds, passed away on December 17, 2008. A memorial service was held Dec. 27 at the Presbyterian Church in Sudbury. For several years, Ruth joined us in worship and would sing with the choir. Heartfelt sympathy to Mary Reynolds and the extended family.

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.



Equal Exchange

Coffee orders will be taken on January 4 for delivery on January 11. If you will not be in church on Jan. 4, be sure to email your order to Katherine

by that date (kath.gustafson@gmail.com).

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Somerville Early Head Start Christmas gifts and the Christmas Joy Offering.



Writing Group

Everyone is welcome to join the writing group. We begin with a group check-in, move through 1-2 writing exercises, and finish with a group check-out. We will tailor each session to the interests of those who attend. Contact Rachel, reichiru@gmail.com, for meeting dates and more details.

Women's Horizons Bible Study

The Horizons Bible Study will meet at Salam Lebbos's house in Arlington on Friday, January 23 and February 27. We gather at 3:30 p.m. and Bible study runs from 4 to 5 p.m. All are welcome. Contact Katherine Gustafson if you need a ride: kath.gustafson@gmail.com.

Introduction to Yoga

Come join our small class after coffee hour to practice mindful breathing and gentle yoga postures. We will meet on January 4 and (possibly) 25. Great for stress release, improved flexibility and strength. Contact Liz at cavatorta1@hotmail.com for more information.

Visit Gusti's Blog!

The Massachusetts Bible Society has hired Gusti Newquist to provide weekly commentary on the Sunday lectionary. Her "mini-sermons" may be viewed on-line at www.massbible.org/blog.

Sunday Worship at Clarendon Hill

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 Jan. 4.

Dates at a Glance

Jan. 4	Coffee Orders; Yoga
Jan. 11	Coffee Delivery
Jan. 18	Annual Meeting and Potluck
Jan. 23	Horizons Bible Study
Jan. 25	Yoga (maybe)

Lectionary Readings

January 2009

January 4

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:(1-9) 10-18

January 6 (Epiphany)

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 11

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29:1-11
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 18

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 25

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

February 2009

February 1

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30

February 8

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

February 15

2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30:1-12
1 Corinthians 9:24-27
Mark 1:40-45

February 22

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6 2
Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

February 25 (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

Per Capita and Initial Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2009 have arrived. You will find them on the table at the back of the church, near the door. Please pick yours up. 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: \$69.01. 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 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.

Due to diligence, we have been able to cut back on the amount of envelopes that we have ordered in recent years. The cost per giving unit is \$3.00. The initial offering envelope is to help with the cost of the giving envelopes.

Church Assignments

	scripture	focus on mission	coffee hour	nursery
Jan. 4	A. Kwaa	S. Lebbos	Siggers	K. Gustafson
Jan. 11	E. Schemerhorn	R. Liberace	Gustafson/Cavano	V. Donovan
Jan. 18	P. Auger	K. Graf	POTLUCK	E. Schemerhorn
Jan. 25	L. Cavano	T. Siggers	Schemerhorn	N. Jirmanus
Feb. 1	M. Jirmanus	E. Schemerhorn	Donovan	K. Gustafson
Feb. 8	S. Donovan	C. Milanese	Jirmanus	V. Donovan
Feb. 15	R. Winchester	H. Rantisi	Augers	E. Schemerhorn
Feb. 22	E. Sweeny	P. Auger	Milanese/Kumpa	N. Jirmanus

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 February issue are requested by Jan. 25. 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



www.artsomerville.org

the nave gallery

**Upcoming Exhibit: "Shout Out!"
Jan. 16 to Feb. 7, 2009**



**Call for Artwork: Open to artists 21 and under from Somerville and neighboring towns
Artist Reception: TBA**

"Shout out!" will showcase the creativity of local young artists. Participants are invited to express their opinions on the issues that matter in their lives through art. The subject matter is completely open. Suggestions include but are not limited to: family, pets, love, sorrow, politics, violence, war, fantasy, happiness, poverty. The work chosen will represent the creative insights and thoughts of young people on these sometimes very adult subjects.

All media is accepted including video on DVD.

Artwork can be dropped off at the Nave Gallery on the following dates:
Friday, 9 January 2009, 4 - 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 January 2009, 12 - 2 p.m.

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