

**Community Church of Boston**  
*A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920*

# sunday forums

**May 2011**

**Sundays at 11:00a.m.**

**May 1st -- Celebrating Labor and the International Workers' Movement**

**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS of the WORLD (IWW)**

**"May Day, Haymarket and the Birth of the Modern Labor Movement for Social Justice"**

As the nationwide strike on May Day 1886 for the eight-hour workday was succeeding, police in Chicago responded with murderous repression. In its aftermath, eight leading figures in the workers' movement were framed up on a bomb charge and five of them--the famous Haymarket Martyrs--were executed! These events gave rise to May 1st being observed as Labor Day around the world.

Steve Kellerman, a retired machinist and IWW delegate, will speak about the foregoing events on their 125th anniversary and discuss their relevance for today.

**May 8th -- Mothers' Day**

**A Member of PHYSICIANS for SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**"Why Nuclear Power Is Not Good for Women, Children and Other Living Things"**

**May 15th -- Annual Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award (Please note: this Sunday begins at 12pm!)**

**TRUTH AND JUSTICE RADIO**

Truth and Justice Radio has been bringing honest reporting and stories to the greater-Boston area for over a decade. Honesty and transparency in media are values too often hidden from the public. It is because of all of their incredible work that the Community Church of Boston will be honoring Truth and Justice Radio with the 2010 Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award. We will sing, listen, and eat together as we celebrate the gift of Truth and Justice Radio!

**May 22nd -- JOHN SKINNER**

**"Challenging Corporate Control of Water"**

John Skinner is a researcher with Corporate Accountability International, a non-profit organization based in Boston that runs grassroots campaigns targeting corporate abuses. At CAI he works primarily on the "Think Outside the Bottle" campaign, where he studies the ways that transnational companies are seeking to control access to water and how we can organize to prevent this.

**May 29th -- Memorial Day Weekend**

**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR**

**"Honor Veterans by Ending War!"**

The mission of the Iraq Veterans Against the War is to mobilize the military community to withdraw its support for the war and occupation in Iraq. The IVAW works towards three distinct goals: immediate withdrawal of forces in Iraq; reparations for the human and structural damages suffered in Iraq so that the people there might regain their right to self-determination; and full benefits, adequate healthcare, and other supports for returning servicemen and women.

**COMMUNITY**  
CHURCH OF BOSTON

**Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister**

**Community Church of Boston \* 565 Boylston Street, Boston MA (in Copley Square)**  
**tel. (617) 266-6710 \* fax (617) 266-0449 \* [www.communitychurchofboston.org](http://www.communitychurchofboston.org)**

Park at the Back Bay Garage for \$3 on Sunday until 1:30 with a special sticker available from the church.  
By public transportation, Community Church is minutes from the Back Bay station (Orange line) or Copley (Green line).

# community

The Newsletter of the Community Church of Boston  
A Peace and Justice congregation since 1920

May 2011

# news

## Remembering Haymarket

by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister

Dear Friends and Members, Happy May! We are finally making it into the month when spring actually shows up in Boston. The greens, purples, yellows, and reds are brightening up gardens all around. These signs of new life remind me of the hope flourishing throughout North Africa and the Middle East. Seeds are being planted and revolution is being born, introducing us to the great possibilities of our own communities.

This May also marks the 125th Anniversary of the Haymarket Affair. On this day in 1886 nearly half a million workers around the country rallied, marched, and protested for the agreed upon 8-hour work day. The Federation of Organized Trade and Labor Unions had set May 1st as the day that an 8-hour work day would become the national standard. In Chicago, community organizing anarchists Albert and Lucy Parsons, led the largest protests of the day with 90,000 people marching down the streets of Chicago. They were ready to make their demands heard and there was no compromising to be done!

Workers in Chicago were on strike as this was going on and on May 4th during a rally a bomb exploded that killed a police officer and injured a large number of other people, cops and protesters alike. While it has been made abundantly clear that the bomb was set off by the company thugs, many still believe that that the disaster and deaths of the day was the responsibility of the anarchists who organized the rally. Five of the anarchists involved with the organizing that day were railroaded through a sham trial (something many of you are familiar with) and put to death in November of 1887. The men executed were August Spies, Albert Parson, Adolph Fischer, and George Engel. As they were led out to be hanged they sang together the Marseillaise, the song of the international revolutionary movement and as he was about to die August Spies

cried out, "The time will come when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today!" He wanted to executioners to know that the movement would continue on and victory would turn the five men into martyrs, he was right.

Anarchist movements and anarchist leaders have long been part of the Community Church of Boston's family. This month we are also celebrating the legacies of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, two Italian immigrant community organizing anarchists who were maliciously executed by the Massachusetts government on August 23, 1927. We honor these two men, in large part, because of their voices and organizing for a better world based in equity and justice. A testament to the two men hang in our Lothrop Auditorium, quoting Vanzetti's last words, "What I wish more than all in this last hour of agony is that our case and our fate may be understood in their real being and serve as a tremendous lesson to the force of freedom so that our suffering and death will not have been in vain." We struggle to be sure that their suffering and death was not in vain by continuing a fight to keep their memories and legacies alive, both through our work as a congregation and by honoring the tremendous work of others.

We do not all have to consider ourselves anarchists in order to recognize the contributions anarchism has offered to movements for liberation. Peggy Kornegger wrote in her essay, *Anarchism: The Feminist Connection*, "[t]o separate the process from the goals of revolution is to insure the perpetuation of oppressive structure and style." She reminds us that our behaviors and the way we interact with the world on the journey to the revolutionary society we wish to live in must reflect the values we proclaim. During our celebrations of Spring and commemorations of Haymarket as well as Sacco and Vanzetti let us remember the gifts available to us from anarchist movements around the world.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



## Sunday Service & Speakers Forum

### May 1st

*Celebrating International Workers' Day*  
**INDUSTRIAL WORKS OF THE WORLD**  
"May Day, Haymarket and the Birth  
of the Modern Labor Movement  
for Social Justice"

### May 8th

*Mothers' Day*  
**A Member of PHYSICIANS  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
"Why Nuclear Power Is Not Good for  
Women, Children and Other Living Things"

### May 15th

*Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award*  
**TRUTH AND JUSTICE RADIO**

### May 22nd JOHN SKINNER

"Challenging Corporate Control of Water"

### May 29th

*Memorial Day Weekend*  
**IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR**  
"Honor Veterans by Ending War!"

## Annual Mothers' Day Walk for PEACE

The 15th Annual Mothers' Day Walk for Peace is a fundraising walk to support the programs and services of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute of Boston.

The walk will take place on the morning of Sunday, May 8th, 8:30am at Townfield Park in Fields Corner, Dorchester.

For more information: .  
[www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org](http://www.ldbpeaceinstitute.org)

## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on April 12th, 2011*  
*Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Minister's Report:** The Harriet Tubman Center in the Back Bay has been suggested as a probable venue for the annual Sacco-Vanzetti Award for Social Justice.

The board expressed its gratitude to the New England War Tax Resisters for its generous contribution to CCB.

The Church was presented with an award from Jobs With Justice at its annual banquet for formally expressing solidarity and support to the Shaw's Market workers who eventually won their strike.

There will be a workshop sponsored by the Unitarian-Universalist Mass Bay Congregations. Area churches are invited to send six people to attend. The event will take place in Littleton on Saturday, May 14th from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The cost to attend is \$100. CCB is willing to contribute \$50 for each participant who wishes to attend.



**Financial Matters:** The treasurer reviewed and discussed certain aspects of the Profit & Loss Budget Performance ending for the period of March, 2011. Rental Income, Building Expenses and Repairs/Improvement-Building were particularly emphasized.

**Building Concerns:** The minister will meet on a weekly basis with the building contractor. The repair of the building doors will be completed by the first week of May.

It was suggested that the board approve obtaining two or three bids when engaging in repair or construction negotiations estimated to be in excess of one-thousand dollars.

**Various Concerns:** The concert at the First Church in Jamaica Plain featuring musician and satirist Roy Zimmerman, to benefit CCB's Flood Reconstruction Efforts, was a great success. Over sixty people attended. Special thanks to Dean Stevens for a superb job in organizing and coordinating the event.

*The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2011 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk

# You're Invited to the 1st Annual CCB FUN RUN/WALK/ROW/ROLL/RIDE!

Join members and friends of the Community Church of Boston for the First Annual Fun Run! Meet at the Harvard Boat House!

We will run/walk/row/roll/scoot/crab walk down the path along the Charles River, Cross over to Dartmouth Street, and celebrate our shared victory in Copley Square. There will be prizes for best costume, most creative way of finishing, best team name, and more!

All proceeds go to support the Community Church of Boston and its amazing work.



**Saturday, May 21st, 11:00am**  
**Start at Harvard Street Bridge, Boston Side**  
**Finish at Copley Square**  
**Entry Fee \$15-\$50**

For more information  
[www.communitychurchofboston.org/home/fun-run](http://www.communitychurchofboston.org/home/fun-run)

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## Mumia Abu-Jamal to be Given New Sentencing Hearing

A federal appeals court on Tuesday ordered a new sentencing hearing for convicted police killer and death-row activist Mumia Abu-Jamal, finding for a second time that the death-penalty instructions given to the jury at his 1982 trial were potentially misleading.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals told prosecutors to conduct the new sentencing hearing within six months or agree to a life sentence. Abu-Jamal's first-degree murder conviction still stands in the fatal shooting of Officer Daniel Faulkner.

District Attorney Seth Williams said he would consider mounting another appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. Defense lawyers for the former Black Panther, meanwhile, said the ruling addresses "an unfortunate chapter in Pennsylvania history."

Tuesday's ruling is the latest in Abu-Jamal's long-running legal saga.

A federal judge in 2001 first granted him a new sentencing hearing because of the trial judge's instructions on aggravating and mitigating factors. Philadelphia prosecutors have been fighting the order since, but the 3rd Circuit ruled against them in a pivotal 2008 decision.

In rejecting a similar claim in an Ohio death-penalty case last year, the Supreme Court ordered the Philadelphia appeals court to revisit its Abu-Jamal decision.

On Tuesday, the 3rd Circuit judges stood their ground and noted differences in the two cases. Under Pennsylvania law, Abu-Jamal should have received a life sentence if a single juror found the mitigating circumstances outweighed the aggravating factors in Faulkner's slaying. The three-judge appeals panel found the verdict form confusing, given its repeated use of the word "unanimous," even in the section on mitigating circumstances.

The decision upholds the 2001 ruling by U.S. District Judge William H. Yohn Jr., who first ruled that the flawed jury instructions warranted a new sentencing hearing. While prosecutors were fighting that ruling, Abu-Jamal has been trying unsuccessfully to have his conviction overturned.

**17th Annual Youth  
Pride Celebration!**  
Saturday, May 14th, 12pm.  
in the Boston Common  
[www.massyouthpride.net](http://www.massyouthpride.net)

# 33rd Annual 'Wake Up The Earth' Parade and Festival!

This year's Wake Up The Earth Parade and Festival will take place on **Saturday, May 7th** (rain date May 8th). Parade starts at 10:30am, Curtis Hall. Festival starts noon, Southwest Corridor Park opposite Stony Brook T stop.



Featuring multicultural music, dance, theater, storytelling, children's activities, with community group tables, crafts and food for sale!

[www.spontaneouscelebrations.org](http://www.spontaneouscelebrations.org)

## Our Purpose

Community Church of Boston is a free community united for the study and practice of universal religion, seeking to apply ethical ideals to individual life and the democratic and cooperative principle to all forms of social and economic life.

## Staff

Rev. Jason Lydon, *Minister*  
Mark Laskey, *Office Manager*  
Xinli Xu, *Bookkeeper*

Luis Alonzo Guzman, *Custodian & Cook*  
Rodney Burston, *Building Maintenance*

## Board of Directors

David Broeg, *President*  
Mary Ann Cromer, *Vice President*  
Virginia Pratt, *Treasurer*  
Dick Keshishian, *Clerk*

Jim Casteris, Kevin Devine, Nancy Messom,  
Susan Mortimer, Matt Osborn



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