

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

# sunday forums

**November 2010**  
**Sundays at 11:00a.m.**

## **November 7th -- BRADLEY MANNING SUPPORT NETWORK**

### **"Bradley Manning: National Traitor or Hero of the People?"**

In late May 2010, Private First Class Bradley Manning, an intelligence analyst with the US Army in Baghdad, was arrested. On June 6, 2010, he was charged with 2 counts of violating the Uniform Code of Military Justice, including eight criminal offenses and four noncriminal violations of Army regulations. His arrest was precipitated by an alleged online chat confession to well-known hacker and journalist Adrian Lamo. Since his arrest, Bradley Manning has issued no formal public statements. Daniel Ellsberg, the famed whistleblower behind the Pentagon Papers, has heralded Pfc. Bradley Manning as a hero. We will discuss the case in detail and consider our role in supporting a man considered a traitor by some and a hero by others.

The Bradley Manning Support Network is an ad hoc, international grassroots effort to help accused whistle blower Pfc. Bradley Manning.

## **November 14th -- ROBERT F. CAHALAN**

### **"The Climate Change Challenge: Reason for Hope"**

Bob Cahalan is head of the Climate & Radiation branch at NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. He will have just given a talk on climate at Harvard, but will address with us his own ethical and scientific responses to the crisis rather than the "science".

Bob writes: "Global disruptions of Earth's climate and biosphere are leading to loss of biodiversity and ecosystem collapses, depletion of fish and forests, loss of fresh water, ocean acidification and species extinctions. What can be done to address these challenges? Can individuals actually make a difference? Is there a legitimate reason for hope?"

## **November 21st -- Rev. CLYDE GRUBBS**

### **"Native Americans and Thanksgiving"**

What is celebrated in the Pilgrim story and did the experience of missionary conquest of New England shape America? How does this racist colonial story impact our communities and what happens to the stories that go untold?

Rev. Clyde Grubbs is a Unitarian Universalist minister living in Revere and working to build a community ministry rooted in Boston. His work includes support and nourishment of individuals and communities struggling to overcome and survive the impacts of trauma. Clyde honors his Native American heritage (Texas Cherokee) which informs his spiritual understanding and practice, and his anti-racist and anti-oppressive commitment. He has also worked for peace, justice and equality since he was in the Unitarian Universalist youth movement, Liberal Religious Youth.

## **November 28th -- THEATRE OF RELATIVITY**

### **"Witness", a One-Act Play by John O'Brien**

This year the Theatre of Relativity brings to life another morality play by our late friend John O'Brien: two teachers, one bad student, a thorny situation. What's the right thing to do? It's an ethical dilemma! The cast will be made up of Jason Taylor and Jim Loutzenhiser. This staged reading is being directed by Michelle Markarian.

Afterward will come discussion of the play, then an open mike to tell some John O'Brien stories, read a few of his poems and generally remember John.

**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*

November 2010

# news

## Finding Warmth in Community

*by Rev. Jason Lydon, Minister*

Dear friends and members... The cold weather is upon us. The bundling up has begun. The hot chocolates and hot apple ciders are being poured into cups to warm our fingers and insides. We can see our breath as we hustle from the train to work and work to home. It is mid autumn in Boston and it is beautiful!

The cold weather means more layers of sweaters and jackets. It means more layers of blankets on the bed. As I spend less time outside exercising it also means a few more layers of Jason that keep me warm for the winter months. This growing abundance makes me think of the warmth we create as a congregation. Each Sunday we gather in the Guatemala room and honor one another with our presence. We take the time to get out of our warm beds and be together, and we do so because the warmth of our bodies close together and the warmth of our care for one another can make the cold of the week more bearable. The Community Church of Boston is a home that is strong because of our passion. We are passionate about justice. We are passionate about freedom. We are passionate about making this beautiful, broken world a safer home for all who exist in it.

Getting warm in this cold weather is best when done with other people. Cuddling up together by a fire, sharing an extra coat, putting hands in one another's pockets, smooshing together into a small room to share each others body heat, when we share our warmth with another it simply makes us warmer. I think it can be difficult at times to be the giver and difficult to be the receiver of such generosity. We are told that we must be afraid of not having enough. As our economy struggles and our communities suffer from violence we are told over and over again to protect our own. We are also told that if we want to get by we must do so on our own. We are not allowed to accept hand outs or we are showing that we are weak. We are told to feel ashamed of needing. However, just as we must shed the fear we have been taught to have of people who

are different from us, we must also shed these feelings of guilt and these feelings of scarcity. To survive and thrive in the beauty that is our community we must give generously of ourselves and receive with gracious joy.

There are many ways to give to the Community Church of Boston. We are a congregation of people who are committed to the transformation of our society. Giving to our community looks like energy and effort on committees. It looks like inviting your friends to join you at a church service. It looks like rallies in the street with Community Church of Boston signs. It looks like visits to one another's homes and the sharing of meals together. It looks like financial contributions that keep our work growing. It looks like writing to our prisoner membership. It looks like showing up to Chuck Turner's court case and sharing our love with him and his other supporters. To be loving stewards of our congregation we must give generously, give out of our great abundance, give of ourselves so that we may be more whole and filled. In our act of giving we honor ourselves and the things we believe in. We show our commitment and our passion. I ask you to give to our community in as many ways as you can and to give just one more bit than you think you can, I promise that we will be there to keep holding you up.

Along with all of this generous giving we must also learn to receive graciously. As a community, we receive from one another and expressing thanks openly is as important as giving. With each gift of time, money, and energy we need to thank one another. As we give and receive with love and attentiveness the abundance will continue to flow freely. It is thrilling to know that the warmth of our community is there every Sunday and I am thankful to each and every one of you for contributing to our community in whatever way you do. I look forward to your continued giving and to the bright future of the Community Church of Boston.

# COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BOSTON



Sunday Service &  
Speakers Forum

in Lothrop Auditorium  
Sundays at 11:00am

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## CCB Board Meeting

*The Board of Directors met on October 12, 2010  
Following are highlights of the meeting.*

**Ministerial Concerns:** Prison membership is going well. The minister complimented Rodney Burston on the excellent job of performing renovations on the CCB building. He also proposed that Rodney use his working time hours to transport seniors to and from the Sunday program, with compensation for fuel expenses.

**Financial Concerns:** There are joint concerns about finances and the building. The Church needs a budget which comes from donations and Sunday morning collections. Taking monies from the PAX Funds should be avoided. Telephone expenses are high; we might seek a less expensive service. People should be encouraged to put money into the lunch basket; speakers could be requested to contribute their honorarium. Individuals on the CCB mailing list may be willing to accept email instead of a hard copy as regards the monthly newsletter. Emphasis must also focus on fundraising.

**Building Concerns:** The CCB fire escape inspection is up to code. There should be no problem in attaining an assembly permit. The fire alarm inspection has been completed. Following a lengthy discussion, the following motion was proposed by Mary Ann Cromer: "The board has requested the minister to speak to the management company regarding the desire for a prompt undertaking of the repairs of the second floor, with the understanding that the sprinkler system can be added at a later date as is planned for the restaurant." The motion passed by a majority vote with two abstentions.

**Various Concerns:** Dean Stevens has offered to take charge in planning a concert event for the 90th anniversary of CCB.

*The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:15pm. Members and friends of the Church are invited to attend.*

-Dick Keshishian, Clerk



*P.S. This writer recently attended the 20th anniversary celebration of the Rosenberg Fund for Children (RFC) held in Northampton, MA, with 250 people present.*

*The special guest speaker was Ray Levasseur, a leader of the Ohio 7, who was convicted and sentenced to 20 years in prison for participating in illegal activities in the 1970s and 80s, trying to force corporate divestment from apartheid South Africa and protesting U.S. intervention in Central America; he had previously been acquitted on federal Seditious Conspiracy charges.*

*Thanks to the efforts of State Senator Stan Rosenberg, a State Senate official citation, signed by Senate President Therese Murray, was presented to the RFC. - D.K.*

# The Ordination and Installation of Jason Lydon

Jason's ordination and installation was over a month ago, hard to believe how quickly time passes. There are those who were not able to attend the celebration who need to be brought into the folds with a little summary of what happened on the day. Firstly, it was a beautiful ceremony. David Broeg did an excellent job welcoming people and facilitating the flow of the service. Each speaker was incredibly powerful. Rev. Hope Johnson and Betty Jeanne Rueters Ward began with pieces about the calling of ministry and Jason's personal commitment. Betty Jeanne emphasized the need for Jason's ministry to be radical, queer, anti-racist, and rooted in the traditions of the youth movement that formed both of them in their lives as Unitarian Universalists. City Councilor Chuck Turner and Kip Tiernan spoke about the ministry needed in Boston and the role the Community Church of Boston must play in creating a radically welcoming city that nurtures movements for justice. Elandria William and Rev. Ian White Mahr were the last speakers and they focused on the charge for Jason's ministry, the next steps and growth of Jason's ministry. Elandria lovingly teased Jason while also telling stories of their work together around the country. Ian asked Jason to join him in realizing that regardless of how radical we are that we have joined an institution and must take responsibility for that institution.

The Foundation Movement, Dean Stevens, and Ruth Anna all provided beautiful and moving music that got people out of their seats and their voices filling the sanctuary at First Church Roxbury. Lindsay Caddle, an incredible performer and friend of Jason's for over 15 years, danced majestically through the aisles. One of the most powerful moments of the service was the laying on of hands. During this ritual Jason knelt before the congregation and was then surrounded by mentors, Community Church members, clergy present, family present, and then

everyone else. Each person reached forward with their hands to touch Jason or the person in front of them so that all of the people present could bless the ongoing ministry of Jason. David Broeg and Dick Keshishian led the Community Church members in the formal commitment between the CCB and Jason, solidifying the relationship of Jason as minister to the church.

Following the service there was a reception in the parish hall where people chatted and got to know one another. Reunions occurred between people who had not seen each other in years. Over 250 people gathered at the celebration and the reception was an opportunity for



*David Broeg leads the church in the ordination of Jason*

everyone to hug and love each other while eating and drinking together. A few of Jason's closest friends took the stage and brought out a pinata, a pinata shaped like a prison. Megan Selby informed those gathered that indeed our prisons are filled

with great gifts that are too often denied their greatest potential. Jason was invited to smash the prison, without the traditional blindfold, and bask in the beauty of destroying the symbolic prison. Everyone then got to take part in eating the treats that fell from the broken walls. Jason's ordination and installation was made possible because of so many hands and the work continues with passion and commitment!

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## Stand With City Councillor Chuck Turner!

City Councilor Chuck Turner was unjustly convicted on October 29th at the Moakley Court House. Many CCB members were present throughout the trial showing our support and love of Chuck Turner. Chuck has long been a friend of the Community Church, he is a past recipient of the Sacco and Vanzetti Social Justice Award, and has championed justice in all of his work serving Boston. Chuck was targeted by the FBI as part of the government's ongoing attempts to take power away from Black leadership. As Chuck has long stood with us we must stand with him.

Chuck has asked that people show their support by sending letters to City Council President Michael Ross. Ross and the other Councilors need to keep Chuck as part of the City Council. Letters are also needed to keep Chuck out of prison. We must all take time to send letters to

Judge Woodlock asking that Chuck be given probation rather than a prison sentence. These letters should be sent to Chuck's office so that they can be put together by his lawyers for the sentencing hearing that will occur on December 1st. Letters for Mike Ross should be sent both to him and a copy to Chuck's office. The City Hall address is: 1 City Hall Sq. Boston, MA 02201

We will stand with Chuck through it all. The Community Church of Boston knows what it is like to be targeted by the FBI and we will not abandon our friends when they go through the same thing. Not only do we stand with Chuck we also stand against any ongoing FBI targeting of communities of color here in Boston and around the country. As we chant in the streets, "What do we do when we are under attack? Stand up, fight back!"

# National Day of Mourning

Thursday, November 25th, 12:00 noon  
Coles Hill, Plymouth, MA

An annual tradition since 1970, Day of Mourning is a solemn, spiritual and highly political day. We are mourning our ancestors and the genocide of our peoples and the theft of our lands. It is a day when we mourn, but we also feel our strength in political action.



There will be a rally with speakers, followed by a march through the historic district of Plymouth and a potluck social.

For more information: <http://www.uaine.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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