



THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BOSTON NEWSLETTER

110 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, Ma 02116
phone 617-267-3148
firstbaptistchurchofboston.org

ADVENT CHRISTMAS, 2004

Two Churches United For Bartholdi

What was expected to be a simple exchange of gifts between FBC Boston and the Reformed Protestant Church of Boissy-Saint-Leger, turned out to an immersion into French culture for Donald Thacker, Susan McEvoy and Suzanne Mangano, ambassadors representing our church during a recent cultural exchange.

The FBC trio were met with open arms by several members at the church just outside Paris, given tours of their beautiful edifice, and hosted with wine and cheese. At the Sunday Service, designed especially for the 100th celebration of Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, our FBC folk were met with many wonderful surprises.

First, a protestant choir from Versailles performed special music for the packed church, and a local orchestra ended the service with Bartholdi's March and Waltz. Donald presented moderator Michel Mondenard and Colette Baltzer with a framed photo of the four friezes on our tower. They presented us with a book about their charming village. All in all it was a memorable three days with great fellowship, French cuisine and lots of fun. Thanks to all at FBC for providing a simultaneous service here. Thank you Boissy and Boston!

Nick Carter Installed as New President of Andover Newton

Dorothy Williams recently represented the church at the installation of Nick Carter as President of Andover Newton Theological School. The school founded out of this church in the 19th century is one of the more prestigious protestant theological schools in the country



Candlelight Carol Service December 18, 7:00 PM

Well folks it is that time again for the 19th annual Friends Candlelight Carol Service which will be held in our festively decorated sanctuary. This year's guest preacher will be the renowned minister from King's Chapel in Boston, the Rev. Carl Scovel (retired), and officiating will be the Rev. Jay W. Van Horn. Bruce Herrick and the choir will perform their magic in uplifting our hearts with beautiful Christmas music. Rayford Glasgow will provide the children's message and the service will conclude with our traditional carol sing and candlelight. Please bring your family and friends to this awaited tradition at FBC Boston.

**The Annual Meeting is sooner
than you think...**

**Sunday
February 6th, 2005**
(the deadline for reports is
Sunday, January 9th, 2005)

Old South Church Elects Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor as Senior Minister

Editor: *Old South's call of its first female Senior Minister in its 335-year history elicited favorable interest both locally and throughout the US, being the subject of numerous media reports, interviews and even being picked up as an Associated Press story for use nationwide. Here is the full text of the Old South press release that was sent to media outlets.*

BOSTON, Oct 3 – The congregation of the Old South Church in Boston, a towering architectural landmark in Copley Square and one of the nation's most historic churches, today elected the nationwide head of the United Church of Christ, the Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Taylor, to be its twentieth senior minister. She is the first woman senior in the 335-year history of the church, which was founded in 1669.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Massachusetts with nearly 100,000 members in 425 churches. The roots of the UCC, which was formed in 1957, go back to the Puritans and Pilgrims who founded the state. Nationally, the UCC includes 6,100 congregations and 1.4 million members. Taylor served nationally as moderator of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ from 1999-2001.

Taylor, 48, has served since 2001 as the Minister and President of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, based in Framingham. Old South, founded in 1669 and located at the corner of Boylston and Dartmouth Streets, has about 500 members from Boston and the Greater Boston area. She will resign from her present role and take office at Old South on Monday, January 24, 2005.

The overwhelmingly favorable vote occurred in an afternoon congregational meeting following Taylor's "candidating sermon" to the congregation about "A Vision of Community." [Sermon is posted at www.oldsouth.org]

"Today, on World Communion Sunday," she said from the pulpit, "a remarkable thing is happening. Christians around the world – Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant – are gathering to share Christ's meal in a symbolic expression of our unity, despite our differences, despite our diversity."

She noted the words "Behold, I have set before thee an open door," which are carved in stone on the Boylston street porch of Old South Church. "Here," she said, "the table is spread for all, all: rich and poor, wise and foolish, lost and found, homeless and housed, gay and straight, member and visitor, saint and sinner."

She continued, "Here, together, we build faith – not in the things of this world, not in the false security of arms and armaments, but in the power of God's mercy to save us even for ourselves."

News from the Christian Education Committee

The Christian Ed department is teaming with news. Earlier this fall, it was discussed and decided that we return to a split classroom environment. Megan Brown will work with the younger youth and Linda Vanhorn has agreed to help teach and work with the senior high youth in our Sunday school. I will float and fill in when and where needed.

Many of the youth had a chance to gather with one another for a festive afternoon of apple picking in October. We spent the afternoon at Smolak Farm in Andover, MA. We had a wonderful day of sun and fellowship. However, Stephen and I had a tough time finding our favorite apples because the orchard had been picked over quite thoroughly that day. We had a later start this year with regards to picking apples and having a full selection from which to choose. In addition to the apples, Megan also found a lovely pumpkin to help decorate her new apartment.

The youth will assist with the annual church Thanksgiving Dinner by providing the table set-up and decorations once again this year. It looks to be another colorful and tasty day in which to gather with friends and guest to give thanks to God for continuing to bless this church family.

The Sunday school youth will also be involved with the Friend's candlelight service in December. So, as you can see, the FBC youth have had a relatively busy and educational fall. The church year is fresh with energy and learning. Praise Be to God.

Lastly, I have begun my preparations for another (YLC) Youth Leadership Core program year. And I am proud to have one of our own, Collin Trayner, join the group this year. Our first retreat will begin on the weekend of Nov 5-7, 2004. We will spend time in Ocean park, ME and help camp Oceanwood with a work project as it prepares to close down for the winter season. I look forward to a wonderful and energetic group of high school teenagers. Stay tuned for more festive youth happenings at FBC Boston.

Peace & Orange!!
Rayford Glasgow

Please join us for the Annual
Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner
Sunday November, 21, 2004, 12:30 pm
in Wayland Hall
Love Gift offering welcome