

The Trumpeter Lent / Easter 2011

The First Baptist Church of Boston

www.firstbaptistchurchofboston.org



Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Senior Pastor

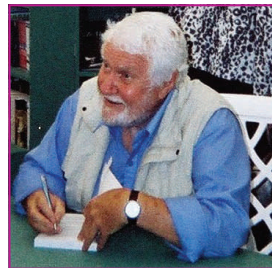
David C. Green, Music Director/Organist
Donald G. Thacker, Newsletter

Kimberley Stradal, Secretary
Clarence McGregor, Sexton

2011 Theme 'Pray Without Ceasing'

The J. Walter Sillen Lenten Lectures at the First Baptist Church of Boston

110 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02116



Abel Clerk's 'Bibel', with Steven Sims

'I was deeply struck and much moved; full of extraordinary imaginative turns and insights.'
- **Rowan Williams, The Archbishop of Canterbury**

Wednesday, March 9th at 6PM
Sunday, March 13th at 1PM
Wednesday, March 16th at 6PM

A questioning, curious and sometimes playful poem of underlying seriousness; heart-warming, sad, violent, tender, sensuous and in sharp focus. Its 81 sections correspond to the Bible from a theologically open viewpoint, for which a narrator provides an overall continuity. The angle of this approach is embodied in the character of Abel Clerk, whose constant intervention as narrator helps to give an overall unity to the work. The remarkable thing about Abel Clerk is how unremarkable he is. He sees himself as an arranger or orchestrator, much more a finder than an author of poems. By temperament he prefers to watch his sum of things unfurl. 'We can hear 'the music of the spheres', he might say, 'but cannot touch or interfere'. If you were to stumble upon him sitting in the park minding his own business and enjoying the butterflies, you might find yourself getting into conversation about the ordinary things of life, mutual friends, a book you were reading. Not much more is known of him. The author, Steve Sims, joins us from England for this special event.

Dorothy Williams, Moderator

Dr. Henry P. Henderson, Treasurer

Donald G. Thacker, Clerk, Archivist

Earl A. Norman, Trustees, Historian

Melvin Jemmison, Deacons

Deborah Porter, Missions

Sarah Zettek, Music Committee

Heather Cook, Christian Education

Marianne Norman, Friends

Advisory Board

Mary Chin
Henry P. Henderson
Melvin Jemmison
Earl A. Norman, Jr.
Marianne J. Norman
Percy Mathis
Louise Takvorian
Donald G. Thacker
Dorothy Williams



Please join us for this special Lenten event and come meet Steven Sims and his wife Susan. Subsequent series led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray. Please contact Secretary Kimberley Stradal at 617-267-3148 for reservations-Dorothy Williams Moderator

TRUSTEES

2010 was a very busy year for the board. New gates were installed in the carriageway, the alley entrance and the 110 school entrance. The southside of the sanctuary and southwest valley were repaired by Peshorn Roofing. Lighting throughout the building was repaired and restored and this wonderful edifice will always require loving maintenance. We are blessed to have on board a new Music Director/Organist David Green, and a new Secretary Kimberly Stradal. Thank each of you for assisting in the future of our beloved Church.

-Earl Norman, Chairman



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Following Church Service, April 24

See Heather Cook and
Cynthia Murray for details

Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee

Maundy Thursday Service

Please join us for this most solemn service of the year

7PM

Wayland Hall

April 21, 2011



MUSIC COMMITTEE NEWS

The choir resumed on September 12. In November the Church was blessed to call Mr. David C. Green as Music Director/Organist. His talents and organizational skills have been wonderful. Our choir is the best in years!

-Sarah Zettek

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The Women's Ministries is continuing its successful clothing drive and we are currently accepting clothing for women, men and children. Clothing donations may be brought to the church and will be taken to a local area clothing store. We welcome other ideas for local, national, and international mission ministries and we thank the congregation and pastor for their support of this vital ministry of the church.

—Sarah Zettek

PRAYER LIST

Alan Andersen, Christine Chin, Deborah Degenhart, Marianne Norman, Louise Takvorian, William Triantafilu, Isaura Delgado, Dorothy Williams family, Sarah Zettek family. Richard Dunshee family, Thelma Sears, Ann Foreman, Velma Dupont family, Frovis Rover, Utzinger family, David Mokoema, Vosler family, Edward Davis family, Fayne family, Balls family, Travis Kennedy, Floyd Donald, Karla Johnson, Tara Wall, Charles Zettek. Earthquakes in Japan, Chile, Haiti, our national economy, peace in the Middle East, civil wars in Asia and Africa. Our church, local, state, national and world leaders.



MEMORIAL CHANCEL FLOWERS

If you have signed up for memorial flowers we ask that you remit the amount of \$75.00 to Financial Secretary Dorothy Williams at least one-month before your scheduled altar display remembering your loved ones. If the amount is not received in advance the church cannot honor purchasing fresh floral arrangements.

The J. Walter Sillen Annual Lenten Lectures at the First Baptist Church of Boston

110 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02116



How the Gospels Came to Be: Four Evenings on the Origins and Communities of the Christian Faith

*Presented by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray,
Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Boston
and College Chaplain and Professor of Religion at Endicott College*

MARK - Wednesday, March 23rd at 6PM
MATTHEW - Wednesday, March 30th at 6PM
LUKE - Thursday, April 7th at 6PM
JOHN - Wednesday, April 13th at 6PM

The New Testament begins with four Gospels, short books written by separate authors for different communities of faith. Each Gospel offers a perspective on the life, purpose, and nature of Jesus of Nazareth and the God whom he worshipped. As we read the four Gospels together, we realize that the stories, though similar, are not always the same. We wonder why each author made the choices about narrative, tone, language, and theology that he did. In these four evenings together, we will explore how each of the Gospels came to be and about the communities out of which and for which each of these Gospels were written. In this way, we will learn more about the New Testament, about Jesus, and about God in this Lenten season.



FBC 2011 Choir-Mr. David C. Green, Music Director/Organist

Palm Sunday Brunch

April 17, 2011

\$5.00 donation

Please bring your favorite dish!



Pastor's Point-To the Members and Friends of the First Baptist Church of Boston,

This year, our historic church celebrates the season of Lent through our annual series of the J. Walter Sillen Lectures, this year given in two parts. The Sillen Lectures will begin with "Abel Clerk's Bibel," offered by the author, Steve Sims, who travels from England to join us for this special event. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, remarked on this work, "I was deeply struck and much moved; full of extraordinary imaginative turns and insights." A questioning, curious and sometimes playful poem of underlying seriousness; heart-warming, sad, violent, tender, sensuous and in sharp focus. Its 81 sections correspond to the Bible from a theologically open viewpoint, for which a narrator provides an overall continuity. The angle of this approach is embodied in the character of Abel Clerk, whose constant intervention as narrator helps to give an overall unity to the work. The remarkable thing about Abel Clerk is how unremarkable he is. He sees himself as an arranger or orchestrator, much more a finder than an author of poems. By temperament he prefers to watch his sum of things unfurl. 'We can hear 'the music of the spheres',' he might say, 'but cannot touch or interfere'. If you were to stumble upon him sitting in the park minding his own business and enjoying the butterflies, you might find yourself getting into conversation about the ordinary things of life, mutual friends, a book you were reading. Not much more is known of him. Steve Sims' three separate and different presentations on *Abel Clerk's Bibel* will be on:

Wednesday, March 9th at 6PM

Sunday, March 13th at 1PM

Wednesday, March 16th at 6PM

Following this series, I will offer a series of lectures and conversation on the topic, "How the Gospels Came to Be: Four Evenings on the Origins and Communities of the Christian Faith." The New Testament begins with four Gospels, short books written by separate authors for different communities of faith. Each Gospel offers a perspective on the life, purpose, and nature of Jesus of Nazareth and the God whom he worshipped. As we read the four Gospels together, we realize that the stories, though similar, are not always the same. We wonder why each author made the choices about narrative, tone, language, and theology that he did. In these four evenings together, we will explore how each of the Gospels came to be and about the communities out of which and for which each of these Gospels were written. In this way, we will learn more about the New Testament, about Jesus, and about God in this Lenten season.

These four evenings together will be as follows:

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MATTHEW - Wednesday, March 30th at 6PM

LUKE - Thursday, April 7th at 6PM

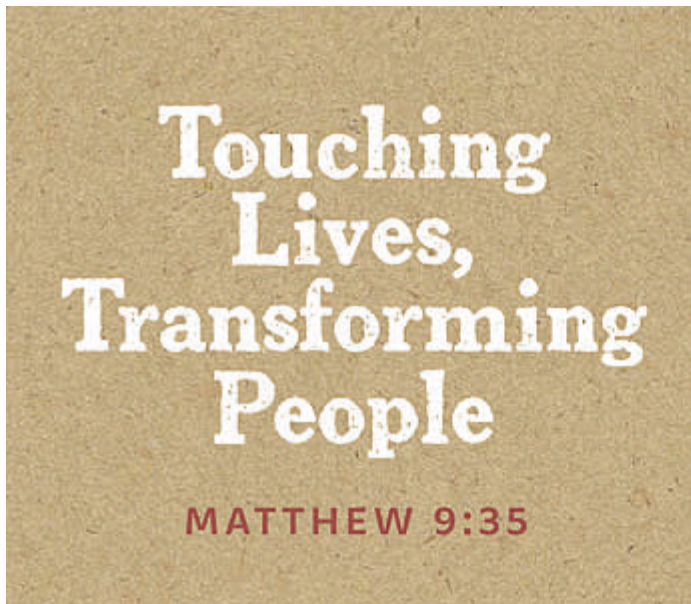
JOHN - Wednesday, April 13th at 6PM

On Thursday, April 21st at 7PM, we will commemorate Maundy Thursday together in the Tenebrae style, one of the oldest and most beautiful liturgies of the Christian tradition. Then, on Sunday, April 24th, we will celebrate Easter together at our 11AM service, followed by our second annual Easter Egg Hunt, which drew large crowds to our church last year.

We hope that you can join us for these wonderful events in the life of our church!

Peace in Christ,
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray
Senior Pastor

Please contact Kimberly Stradal at the church office for reservations 617-267-3148 or Bartholdi350@aol.com.



“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness.”

MATTHEW 9:35 (NRSV)

Recognizing that all people are made in God’s image and are loved by God, our church must reach across cultural, social, economic and racial lines with practical acts of love within the church and the community. Holistic ministries should address physical, social, psychological and spiritual needs of individuals— particularly the needy, forgotten and defenseless. Our church must be characterized by believers who are committed to the reconciliation of relationships among all people.

Loving relationships within the local church produce unity, accountability and a powerful demonstration of God’s presence within our communities. Beyond the local church, they are manifested in cooperation and interdependent relationships with other Christians locally, nationally and internationally. Together, we can make a difference for the cause of Christ by supporting the America for Christ Offering 2011.

This year’s theme—“Touching Lives, Transforming People”—is an encouraging reminder that Jesus’ public ministry was all about a transformational hope for people in need. With his hands, Jesus touched, comforted, prayed and blessed people. The same hands, whose power restored sight to the blind, made the lame walk and miraculously fed the 5,000.

In Christ, we have both the model and the strength to “touch and transform” people in the church and the community. It is our personal walk with the Lord that transforms and enables us through the power of Christ to live not for ourselves, but to serve God by serving our neighbors. Our hands become the tools of Christ in a world of need and opportunity. Christ’s work of transformation is accomplished when we step into the lives of people around us.

We are impelled by this year’s theme to touch people with whom we come in contact every day with the transformational love of Jesus Christ. I ask you to join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering 2011 and in helping us to reach our goal in support of touching and transforming lives for the cause of Christ.

With Eternal Hope,

FBC Board of Missions

Deborah Porter, Chairman