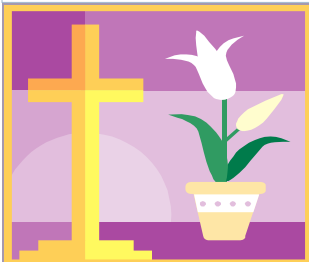


# The Trumpeter Lent-Easter 2010

**The First Baptist Church of Boston**

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



Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Senior Pastor

Charles W. Raines, Music Director/Organist  
Pastor Clarence McGregor, Sexton

Ann Herrick, Secretary  
Donald G. Thacker, Newsletter



## In Preparation for the Resurrection

**PASTOR'S POINT**-Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, Senior Pastor

We are living in a time of transitions. Despite the current wintry weather, soon enough the trees will overrun with green leaves, flowers will bloom wherever we look, and weather will accommodate long walks in the warm, languid evenings. Although that can be a sticky nuisance to some, perhaps for others it is a gentle reminder that trips to the beach are excellent, relaxing fun. We yearn for the freedom that Spring and then Summer can bring, and it is calling to us even though we yet reside in snowy landscapes.

Of course, as a church we recognize the liturgical transition that we journey through with Lent. In this season, we accompany Jesus of Nazareth through Lent and into Easter season through a remarkable transition. For a time, we focus especially on Jesus' way of living, on his teaching and healing ministry. And then, during Holy week, we gather together to mark the events that led to Jesus' death on the cross at Golgotha. Although, horrific, although tragic, these are the events and transitions of a very human life. No matter what claims one may make about this certain man living in Palestine, the geography of his life has all of the familiar landmarks of one that is human at his very core.

But then comes the moment of controversy, the moment at which Christianity takes a detour from other religions that may recognize Jesus as merely a great teacher or even a prophet. Our celebration of Easter is the celebration of a remarkable event, resurrection. And no matter how that resurrection is interpreted, whether as a spiritual revelation or as the actual revivification of a human being, the resurrection is an event that shakes us up.

It is an event that may cause us to think of living in a new way. The potential is that we can feel free to live in greater freedom. Many psychologists and theologians say that what is at the heart of anxiety is a fear of death. Paul Tillich discussed this as the "radical encounter with non-being." Yet, what happens in the resurrection is that the ultimacy of death is conquered. A new possibility is raised that despite the passing away of our physical bodies, life goes on anew through the work of a God who claims us, loves us, finds value in the ongoing connection with us. We continue, yet we are a new thing, a new creation. That is the possibility at the heart of what happens in the resurrection of Jesus, that we may too believe in a God who acts so radically, so decisively, against the constrictions of our existence. We are left with the possibility of living in a freedom that is only God's to give. Beautiful weather is upon us. Let it inspire us to live free, live well, live boldly. The message of Easter tells us nothing less. Amen!

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

Percy Mathis, Christian Education

Marianne Norman, Friends

### Advisory Board

Mary Chin, Henry P. Henderson

Melvin Jemmison

Earl A. Norman, Jr.

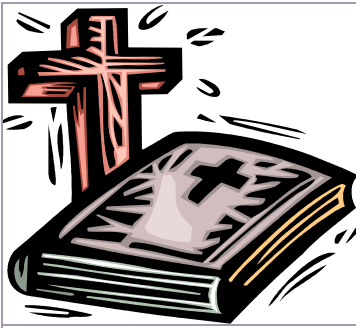
Marianne J. Norman

Percy Mathis, Louise Takvorian

Donald G. Thacker

Dorothy Williams





## Rev. J. Walter Sillen Lenten Lecture Series Schedule

During the 1970's our late Pastor Rev. J. Walter Sillen involved many neighboring churches in his Lenten Lecture Series. That tradition still continues in his honor. The Sillen Fund is a gracious gift founded by Dr. Ruth and her sister Rose Setterberg many years ago. The funds may be only used with consultation with the family for guest lecturers. **This will be a pot-luck dinner, so we ask that you bring your favorite dish.** Refreshments will be served.

LENT IS ALIVE  
AND LIVING AT  
FBC BOSTON,  
PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR WONDERFUL  
EVENINGS!.

In Preparation for  
the  
RISEN CHRIST!

This year, our Lenten adult education series will focus on church renewal. Our pastor, Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray, has been doing research on how small churches have successfully turned around to gain membership. Throughout Lent, Rev. Murray will lead us through a series of presentations and group discussions on ways in which our church might work toward membership renewal. These Lenten evenings together will be on the following nights:

**Thursday, February 25th at 6:00PM**

**Thursday, March 4th at 6:00PM**

**Wednesday, March 10th at 6:00PM**

**Thursday, March 18th at 6:00PM**

**Thursday, March 25th at 6:00PM**

*Please advise Ann Herrick in the church office, or Melvin Jemmison, or sign up on the bulletin board, if you're able to attend.*



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Please join us on Thursday, April First, at 6:45PM for our most solemn service of the year. Tenebrae. This is a moving service depicting Jesus' last supper with his disciples including you. It is an hour of strict reverence, inspirational music, and a moment in time that touches the soul of everyone in attendance. When our old clock strikes seven, the service begins. The service is held in Wayland Hall and guests sit around a cross shaped table with only candlelight and depart at the end into darkness awaiting the resurrection of Christ. -Mr. Melvin Jemmison, Chairman of the Board of Deacons

### PRAYER LIST

Alan Andersen, Sarah Zettek, Earl Norman, Deborah Porter, Marianne Norman, Christine Chin, Deborah Degenhart, Louise Takvorian, William Triantafilu, Isaura Delgado, Bruce Herrick family, Dorothy Williams family, Ellen Grey, Angelina Dentiste, Danny Wood, Thelma Sears, Anne Foreman, The Cali family, Velma DuPont family, Frovis Roewer, The Utzinger family, David Mokoema, The Vosler family, Edward Davis, the Fayne family, Balls family, Travis Kennedy, Floyd Donald, Karla Johnson, Tara Wall, Terris Reddick, Charles Zettek. Haiti earthquake disaster, our national economy, peace in the middle east. Our world, local, state, leaders.

### MEMORIAL EASTER LILIES

It is time to order your Easter lilies, by calling Ann Herrick 617-267-3148, or by signing up on the bulletin board. Please designate the person(s) you wish to celebrate. The cost is \$10.00 per lily.





As we survey our community, we see countless people in need of Jesus' love and healing touch. You may ponder, as I do, how you can reach out and make a difference in so many lives. It's a difficult challenge to take on as an individual, but I am convinced that as American Baptists working together, we can make a difference by supporting the America for Christ Offering 2010.

This year's theme—"With Willing Hands: Connect. Care. Celebrate"—is a powerful reminder that Jesus' public ministry was all about connecting and caring for people in need. Through the work of National Ministries, which is supported by the America for Christ Offering, we can participate with our Lord in connecting, caring, and celebrating the power of the Gospel:

- as people come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ;
- as children in poverty are reached through the Penny Project;
- as youth, children, and adults grow in discipleship;
- as communities are changed through Christian centers;
- as we increase church vitality through the Church in Mission trainings; and
- as we help to support and relocate refugees into churches and communities.

The America for Christ Offering 2010 strengthens our churches by providing support to our pastoral counselors and chaplains, designing leadership workshops and conferences, promoting excellent discipleship resources through Judson Press, and providing opportunities for churches, individuals, and youth groups to participate in home mission through Volunteer Ministries.

We are encouraged by this year's theme to come alongside people "with willing hands" to connect, care, and celebrate. How do we see Jesus at work in our community and country? How can we help Jesus with this important work?

Please join me in giving generously to the America for Christ Offering 2010 and help us to reach our goal. Together we can touch and change lives for the cause of Christ. Together we can make a difference.

*"For the love of Christ urges us on..." (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).*

Sincerely in Christ,

Deborah Porter, Chairman

Board of Missions Please make your check to FBC Boston (AFC) and mail c/o Dorothy Williams, Financial Secretary . Thank you!



## MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear Members and Friends in Christ,

As we are blessed to enter into the new year, 2010, a new decade and a new year. I am taking this opportunity to share with you some of the events at First Baptist Church of Boston that strongly affect us.

This is the second year of the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Stephen Butler Murray. Along with the Trustees, Deacons, and other Boards and Committees, we are planning the programs and the processes that will open our doors to more people in our community and thus encourage church growth and participation.

Our Church calendar has been planned for the year 2010. Some of our youth had attended church in their formative years are now young adults and parents. Members of this group have returned to the church. The young adults have taken on leadership roles on the Board of Christian Education. We have other young adults that come and support the ministries with their presence, time, and talents. We are deeply appreciative of our young adults and we ask that you keep them in your prayers. It is a pleasure to work with them and explore new ideas to keep the church growing and faithful to our Christian work and witness.

We are also blessed to have a church website as well as a church newsletter to help us keep in touch with you. Again, our own church members spearhead these efforts and we are the beneficiaries of their superb talents.

We have also been blessed by the musical talents of our new Music Director/Organist, Mr. Charles W. Raines. Our plans and activities will need your full continuous spiritual and financial support. Your presence is especially welcome when it is possible for you to join us. With these positive blessings we can see that we must grow our church as God and our efforts shall enable us.

I PRAY THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US BY WHATEVER MEDIUM YOU CHOOSE.

Most Sincerely,

Dorothy Williams, Moderator

## ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The Annual Meeting showed a nice presence of interested active members and friends, and a sumptuous luncheon was provided by Spinelli's Catering.

Cautious financial reports were provided by Treasurer Henry P. Henderson and Financial Secretary Dorothy Williams. However, our investments continue to take an upswing in current markets.

Church Secretary Ann Herrick compiled a beautiful annual report presentation, and Donald Thacker was thanked for the artistically designed cover. Church Officers, Board and Committee members were elected for 2010. A feasible imbalanced budget was adopted for the year and we're off to a good beginning with our new ministry team. Stewardship in its many fashions will be a focus for the ensuing year.

## OUR SACRED EDIFICE, ETC.

Since the early 1980's our church became actively involved in historic preservation efforts to restore our wonderful grande dame with its Bartholdi friezes to its original grandeur, and we have spent hundreds of thousands on building maintenance, repairs, and restorations. Some of the items are listed below and we welcome your gifts and support to continue our efforts:

- Architectural feasibility studies
- Stained Glass Windows
- Hook and Hasting Organ repairs
- Infrastructure (heating, pipes, etc.)
- Day Care Center
- Clarendon Street porch gating
- Roof, exterior repairs, including tower and trumpets
- Interior repairs
- Sanctuary repainting
- Wayland Hall restoration and repairs
- And planned, including, organ restoration, new kitchen, continue building restoration for life, and other projects discussed in recent times.
- *-Earl A. Norman, Trustees Chairman*