



The Manual

May 2024

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Celebration

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About Our Church

Pastors

Rev. Kevin Baxter Rev. Colin Leitch

Church Officers

President	Stephen Dyson ('24)
Vice President	Janet Forbes ('24)
Secretary/Clerk	Patricia Blakeney ('25)
Treasurer	Thomas Peebles ('23)

Governors	Diane Beverly ('24)
	Carlton Doctor ('25)
	Debbie Hammer ('25)
	LiKam Lie ('24)
	<i>Vacant ('25)</i>

Staff

Bookkeeper	Don Vashaw
Church Administrator	Alex Ferraro
Director of Finance	Sue McQuarrie
Director of Music	Andrew Mattfeld
Receptionist	Mary Guarino

Who We Aspire to Be

The Boston Society of the New Jerusalem is a progressive Christian presence in the City of Boston, a reflection of the Swedenborgian theology of service and mission through our commitment to education, social justice, and human rights.

We seek to make a difference in the lives of strangers and seekers through our compassion and acceptance by inviting all who share our common values to be members of our community.

We attempt to be a “rock” of stability and support in an uncertain world — a tranquil and peaceful “home away from home” for all people, where a person is missed when absent, and where one can find comfort, healing, and normalcy when things are not going well.

We worship the Lord Jesus Christ according to His Holy Word and the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg. In following those teachings, this Church shall maintain free and open worship of the Divine and shall honor the good in all religions that seek to foster a positive regard for all humanity, recognizing unity and diversity.

❖ ❖ ❖ Kevin's Corner ❖ ❖ ❖



The church is entering the month of May, which is named after the Roman goddess Maia. Maia was the goddess responsible for the growing of plants. Some might not be aware, but Emanuel Swedenborg was quite the gardener. He had a garden with a little cottage in the center where

he would rest, write, and keep various religious and scientific journals. Throughout his writings, he uses his gardening knowledge as a metaphor or analogy for God's work in the world.

As we are reminded in scripture and in Swedenborg's books, the sun and the rain fall both on the just and the unjust. Swedenborg took this to heart. The mercy of God is a mercy that is given to all people, not just those who keep the commandments and who joined the right club. The same is true of forgiveness within the tradition. As I have been highlighting in recent sermons, we are forgiven. God loves us. God does not seek to punish us or do any ill to us.

If God is this picture of enduring and forgiving love to all, what then is the reason for evil? Why do bad things happen? What is the point of any of it? One of my favorite books by Swedenborg is entitled "Divine Providence." This book is really about the relationship between God and humanity. And in the book, he spells out the system put in place for our salvation through things called the laws of divine providence. As a scientist, just like Isaac Newton did, systemic rules of creation were understood to be laws, which is a different use of the term than we use in modern times.

Basically put, because we have been given the gift of freedom, we have also been given the gift of responsibility. What we do matters. God's love falls on us equally, but we must do our part to receive it. When we go against what God would have us do, we feel angst and pain, which is our conscience and the laws of providence reminding us that we need to change.

How many of us look at our difficulties in life and reflect on how we need to change? Often, I am guessing, people look around them and say, "the problem is that the things and people I don't like need to change." When we respond to the problems of our lives without the humility to understand our role in our own life, we run into a resistance to change. A resistance to change that stops us from fulfilling our created purpose. When we stop looking to God and stop looking at ways we can change and grow, we slowly believe the world should be created in our will. When we focus on our will instead of the Lord's, it's idolatry.

As we look at the flowers this month, let us remember that the Lord's love falls on them equally. The quality of soil and the nutrients the plant takes in can change the quality or the color of the blossom. What is our responsibility for our soil? Do our desires point to the love of the neighbor, the Lord, or ourselves?

Blessings,
Kevin Baxter



On April 28, Project STEP held a concert at the church. Twelfth-grade cellist Caleb Graupera performed, along with Project STEP teacher Joy Cline-Phinney on piano and Project STEP Artistic Director Dr. Ian Saunders on double bass.



Sounds on the Hill *Spring Music Events*

10
MAY

Friday 7:30 p.m.

Renaissance Men
Retrospective Concert

12
MAY

Sunday 3 p.m.

Choir of the New Jerusalem
Spring Concert

16
JUNE

Sunday 3 p.m.

Zamir Chorale
in Concert

Church on the Hill | 140 Bowdoin St. Beacon Hill
churchonthehillboston.org



Office of the Chancellor

University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125-3393
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April 12, 2024

Mr. Stephen Dyson
c/o Boston Society of the New Jerusalem
140 Bowdoin Street
Boston, MA 02108-2799

Dear Stephen,

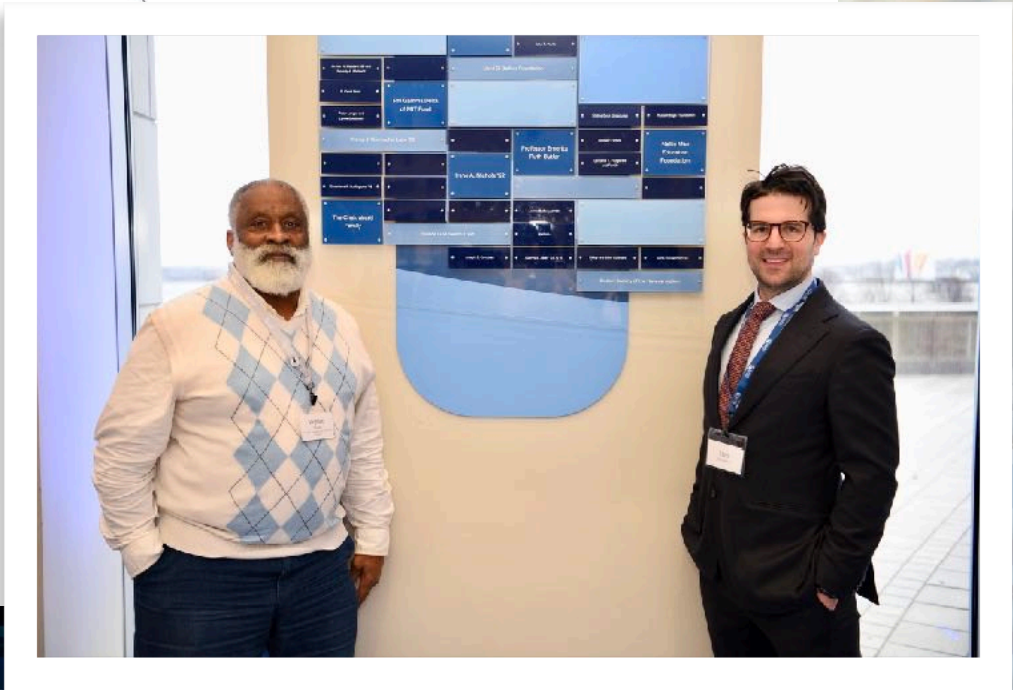
To see so many of our supporters, alumni, and beneficiaries gather for the Celebration of Philanthropy on the eve of my inauguration was a moving tribute. I was honored by your presence and am delighted that the Church on the Hill's significant contributions to our diverse, under-resourced student body are properly publicly acknowledged through our new Founders' Circle recognition mural.

As Danielle Grant aptly described in her remarks, your scholarship fund germinates a garden of future leaders. I know they will go on to serve their communities with empathy, lending the same care to others that you have shown to them.

I look forward to our paths crossing again soon. In the meantime, may you enjoy the beauty of springtime in Boston.

Warmly,

Marcelo Suárez-Orozco
Chancellor





On April 4, BSNJ President Stephen Dyson represented the church at a Celebration of Philanthropy dinner at UMass Boston. On the facing page is a letter from the university chancellor and a photo of Stephen with Matthew McBride, the university's director of development for special gifts.

Above is Stephen with Klein scholarship recipients Emma Johnson and Ethan Alexander. Below, Stephen with the event photographer.



Our Days Have Become Our Nightmares by Janet Forbes

Shortly before I retired from my nursing career, I had the privilege of spending a year in Israel. My responsibility was to be a consultant to the Ministry of Public Health.

What an honor, and certainly the most interesting year of my career.

I lived for three months with each of four host families who lived in four areas of this very small country. Each one treated me with such kindness. I was invited to join in their religious practices and they in turn accompanied me to a Protestant church every Sunday. I was even assigned daily chores as though I were a family member. I forged lifelong friendships with each family but one in particular was extra special. This family of seven lived so close to the Gaza border that it was hard to tell where their property ended and their neighbors' property began. They shared farm equipment and freely helped each other at planting and harvest time. My host family grew vegetables and cotton; their neighbors had a large orchard of various fruit trees and grew fields of magnificent roses for export.

The children in each family attended the same school, played together daily and often enjoyed birthday parties and sleepovers in each other's homes.

The highlight of my stay there was the evening meals. We always ate on a patio that was surrounded by grape and honeysuckle vines, and numerous varieties of climbing roses. Before the meal was over, we were usually joined by some

of the neighbors, who always brought baskets of freshly picked fruit from their orchard.

When I first arrived, I was given a tour of their shared bomb shelter, large enough for both families to occupy in case of danger. A few times while I was there, rockets did burst nearby and we quickly ran to the shelter. It actually was quite comfortable, with cots and bunk beds for the children. The walls were lined with shelves of non-perishable food and gallons of drinking water, along with first aid supplies, short-wave radios and generators.

At the end of the three months, I was saddened to leave and was overwhelmed by my farewell party, which was planned by both families and attended by many neighbors on either side of the border. The children all gave me handmade cards that I treasure.

Since then, I've kept in fairly frequent contact by phone and letters with many of these dear friends.

Over the years, the composition of the families has changed due to many births, deaths and marriages, and the friendships across the border have continued to flourish.

Then the attacks of October 7 happened. It was weeks before I was able to make contact, and was saddened to learn that two of the grandparents had been killed in a nearby village as they shopped for supplies.

I learned that both families continued to share the bomb shelter but now it was rarely ever safe to leave. The children had grown tired of being

underground, and were missing their friends at school and the ability to play outside and swim in the nearby pond. There are no more shared meals on the patio and the gardens of both families no longer exist.

As the daughter of my host family told me, "our days have become our nightmares."

The sounds of warfare are almost constant. Both homes have suffered major damages, and there is no possibility to rebuild in the foreseeable future.

Laughter is rare and it's very dangerous to shop for food and water in the village.

In spite of the current situation, these two families of different nationalities and beliefs care

for each other just as avidly now as they have for the last 50+ years.

What a world this would be if we all lived this way, respecting others' differences, always sharing what we have with others, and being supportive of each other in all life's situations.

I finish with two questions:

When is the last time you checked on a neighbor?

Do you know their name and do they know yours?

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Forbes

New Church Day Celebration

On Wednesday, June 19, we will be holding a day of celebration of the life of our church. The program will begin at **5 p.m.** and will include dinner, music, fellowship, an awards ceremony recognizing individual service to the church, and the unveiling of a special addition to the church's portrait collection.

The event is open to church members and regular worship attendees, and plus-ones.

Note that the church will be closed the rest of the day in observance of New Church Day and Juneteenth.

Mission Committee Update

The flowering trees are in full bloom. Forsythia, tulips, hyacinth and lilacs perfume the air. Winter coats can finally be put away!

First, as chair of the Mission Committee, I want to thank Dr. Mary Kay Klein for years of service to our church. Mary Kay started and spearheaded in 1998 (26 years ago) the ACHA (Adult Congenital Heart Association) walk and program within our church. Each year, she coordinates "Karen's Team" of walkers, in memory of her daughter Karen Klein McNulty. More recently, she has coordinated our Uganda mission and worked with Rev. Baxter in creating our missions giving survey. We are currently evaluating the results and are looking for ways to include more affordable housing programs.

In April, the Board of Governors approved missions giving for Habitat for Humanity, Y2Y, the Base, More Than Words, Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and Artists for Humanity. We will recommend to the

Board of Governors continued funding for Community Servings, INNE (International Institute of New England), Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, Ukraine aid (through Save the Children for refugees in Poland, and World Hope International in Moldova), ABCD, Uganda, and others. New business will include supporting Fryeburg Swedenborg summer camp repairs.

Three Habitat for Humanity build days are scheduled: second Saturday of May, July and September. To volunteer, contact Mary in the office a week in advance, and join Rev. Baxter and others to hammer away. A bag lunch also awaits you!

As always, the Mission Committee meets on the first Sunday of every month, at 12:45 p.m. at the church. See you there!

Respectfully submitted,
Likam Lie

End of Life

When a member of the church dies, we do our very best to follow their wishes for their service, burial, and anything else they might want us to do. If there are no written instructions, we work with family members, if they are available.

Recent experience reminds us that written instructions are a blessing for all concerned. Please take a moment to review your plans and your instructions

to the church. Your written instructions will be our directions. The end-of-life survey form that the church provides is a good place to start. Please speak to Mary Guarino if you would like a copy of the survey.

Thank you for your help in our doing your wishes.

God bless you,
Pastor Colin Leitch

A Beacon Hill Fixture by Pastor Colin

Charles Joseph McCarthy, a long-time church member, died on April 5 at the Brockton VA Medical Center. He was 84 years old.

Charlie was known to close friends as the "patriarch of Beacon Hill." He moved into the River House, 145 Pinkney Street, in 1965, and is fondly remembered there by many residents.

Charlie loved the neighborhood events, particularly the Christmas Stroll along Charles Street. He rarely missed a gallery, restaurant, cafe, or shop opening, and happily held court in each setting.

Sunday after Sunday, for over 25 years, Charlie trudged up the brick Beacon Street sidewalk to the Church on the Hill. He typically arrived by 10:00 a.m. for coffee and conversation. By 10:50, he was in his seat near the back of the sanctuary. He stayed for lunch. Charlie served on several church committees through the years. With his good friend, Stanley Goldstein, Charlie did the Sunday dishes for a number of years. He and Stanley also ushered and greeted. We will remember his presence and his service.

Charlie was raised in the village of Waban in Newton. He was baptized and took First Communion in the Catholic Church. He went to elementary school at St. Bernard's in Newton and began high school at St. Mary's in Waltham. He graduated from St. Sebastian's in Newton where he played football as a left-handed quarterback.

Charlie served in the Army Signal Corps and then went to Boston College where he graduated in 1964. He worked for Xerox, had a career in real estate, and later worked as an extra in the film industry. He was married in the

1970s to Carol Paul, a school teacher. They later divorced.

Perhaps Charlie's happiest days were spent in the summer in Harwich and Harwich Port on Cape Cod, often with his dear friend of long standing, Faith Rubin. He loved seafood, especially mussels and clams, particularly at the Snow Inn. Charlie enjoyed his fellowship with his numerous Cape friends.

In Boston, Charlie favored the No Name Restaurant and any Irish political reception he could find, including with Ted Kennedy and Tom O'Neill. He never missed the Boston Seafood Festival. He was a regular at Harvard Commencements. He knew more about the Harvard football team than most Harvard graduates.

No one knew all the facets of his life save Charlie. Beacon Hill and Cape Cod will keep his memory, if not in totality. His memorial service will be in our sanctuary on May 3 at 11 a.m. His ashes will be interred in Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne on May 8 at 1:45 p.m.

A woman known only as Daisy lived in the Back Bay for years. She owned a nice automobile and Charlie had a driver's license. They could be seen, Charlie at the wheel, Daisy in the rear, predating the film. Add it up, it was a life, Charlie McCarthy's. May he rest in peace.

God Bless you.

Pastor Colin Leitch

BostonView Update

Due to illness, the BostonView report was not in last month's newsletter. This report covers what happened over the past two months. Both meetings were called to order and the regular business of financial reviews and minutes were addressed.

The Board approved a bid of \$29,450.00 from JRM for the setup and removal of temporary heaters and circulators during the boiler project.

Over the past few months, the directors have been facing issues with quorum due to a lack of participation of one of the Board members. Ora Damon, who had been faithful in her service, has faced health issues and has been unable to attend meetings. After the president stated that she had reached out to Ora, the directors voted to remove Ora Damon for cause. The bylaws give the directors permission to remove a director for cause with due notice to the directors and shareholder. Due notice was given to the shareholder and all directors. The directors are looking for someone to fill the vacant seat.

BostonView continues to examine the design of the lobby, roof deck, 12th floor deck, and the 3rd floor roof space in hopes of creating a plan to modernize the lobby and roof spaces.

The windows in 309 (pastor's residence) are not sealing and need to be replaced. Not only do the windows let a great deal of air through, but the smells of people smoking below easily enter. Patrick stated that the installed windows were not properly rated for a Boston

climate and massive leaks are not surprising to him.

The 04 drain stack developed another leak. JRM identified and addressed the issue. The building will replace floors and walls within the unit as needed. The hot water boiler and circulator will be replaced next week and it will cause a good bit of discontent with residents, but JRM hopes to get it done as quickly as possible.

Rev. Baxter and Stephen Dyson performed the annual building walkthrough with Charlesgate management, while some issues were identified, there were no significant concerns to report. The Board formally agreed that Charlesgate continues to perform above expectations and unanimously voted to continue the relationship.

The annual elections were held and Patricia Blakeney (trustee), James Fenton (trustee) and Rev. Baxter (not a trustee) will continue to serve in the same corporate offices they held last year (president, treasurer and secretary, respectively).

The building continues to operate at or near full capacity, which means Charlesgate expects that it will achieve its budget predictions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Baxter
Secretary, BostonView Corporation



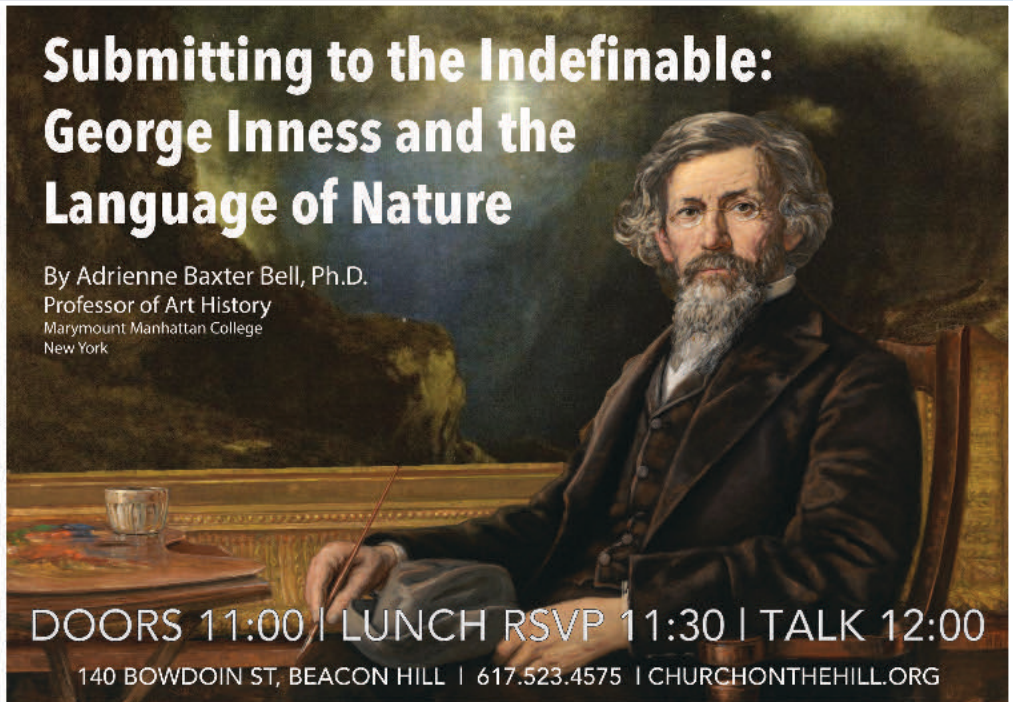
JUNE 1, 2024

You are invited to join us for a visionary talk about George Inness, a visionary landscape painter.

RSVP Required by May 24 for the luncheon, but not the talk

Submitting to the Indefinable: George Inness and the Language of Nature

By Adrienne Baxter Bell, Ph.D.
Professor of Art History
Marymount Manhattan College
New York



DOORS 11:00 | LUNCH RSVP 11:30 | TALK 12:00

140 BOWDOIN ST, BEACON HILL | 617.523.4575 | CHURCHONTHEHILL.ORG

Members Meeting and Officer Elections

There are five Board of Governors and officer positions up for election at the members meeting on **Sunday, June 23**. Everyone currently serving is eligible for re-election, and there is one vacant seat. We will also be filling two committee vacancies and electing replacements for committee members who are term-limited. The full list of committees and open positions is posted in the membership information center across the hallway from the office. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact the office or the Governance/Bylaws Committee.

May Birthdays

Andrew McLain
Jennifer Whitmore
Polly Baxter

Cynthia Duryee
Don Vashaw
Ann Klein

VISITS, CARDS, AND PRAYERS

Please take a moment to call, send a card, or visit those in our community who are not able to be with us!

If you would like assistance arranging a visit, contact the pastoral care pastor or office.

Bill Davis
Cambridge Rehab Nursing
8 Dana St.
Cambridge, MA 02138

William "Martin" Coor
Tewksbury Hospital
365 East St.
Tewksbury, MA 01876

William Wen Li Yen
South Cove Manor
288 Washington St.
Quincy, MA 02169

Dorothy Ann Klein
Hebrew Rehab Center
1200 Centre Street
Berger, Fl. 1, Rm. 129 South
Roslindale, MA 02131

CALENDAR

Administrative Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May Events

5 th	Church Discovery Group	10 a.m.
10 th	RenMen concert	7:30 p.m.
11 th	Habitat for Humanity build	8:30 a.m.
12 th	<i>Mother's Day</i>	
	Spring choir concert	3 p.m.
15 th	Community lunch	12 p.m.
	BostonView meeting	2 p.m.
18 th	Cathedral of the Pines trip	9 a.m.
19 th	Board of Governors meeting	12:45 p.m.
27 th	<i>Memorial Day (church closed)</i>	

June Events

1 st	George Inness presentation	11:30 a.m.
2 nd	Church Discovery Group	10 a.m.
15 th	Bowling	11 a.m.
16 th	<i>Father's Day</i>	
	Board of Governors meeting	12:45 p.m.
	Zamir Chorale concert	3 p.m.
19 th	New Church Day celebration	5 p.m.
	<i>In observance of Juneteenth, the church will be closed during the day (No community lunch; BostonView meeting will be rescheduled.)</i>	
23 th	Annual members meeting	12:45 p.m.

Weekly Events

Worship

11:00 Sundays

Alcoholics Anonymous

12:00 Weekdays

Purls on the Hill

10:00 Mondays

Zoom Prayer Time

11:00 Mondays

Pastors' Coffee

10:00 Tuesdays

Board Games

2:00 Tuesdays

Spirituality & Scripture Class

12:00 Wednesdays

Tai Chi

1:30 Thursdays

Regular Committee Meetings

Mission: first Sunday of each month at 12:45 p.m.

Membership: last Monday at 1 p.m.



Boston Society of the New Jerusalem
Church on the Hill (Swedenborgian)

140 Bowdoin Street
Boston, MA 02108-2799

200 Years of Celebration
1818-2018



Emily Elizabeth Parsons
(1824-1880)

Union Army nurse, founder of Mount
Auburn Hospital, and member of the
Boston Society of the New Jerusalem.

“There is no question, national or international, no question of the individual or collection of individuals, which cannot be settled by the laws which belong in the human heart. Such laws may be called spiritual or natural, divine or human; they are one and the same. ... It is only for the world to hear and to do.” Clarence W. Barron

www.churchonthehillboston.org | (617) 523-4575