



From the Minister's Desk

April 2010

Rev. Jennifer Brooks

“SOCIAL JUSTICE” ON OUR WEBSITE

Television personality Glenn Beck advises Christians to “run as fast as you can” from a church that has “social justice” on its website. Beck sees “social justice” as something new, springing from Marxism and not only irrelevant but harmful to Christianity. I sure hope his advice doesn't scare anyone off.

Unitarianism and Universalism grew out of Protestant Christianity, a movement that began with Luther in 1517. Over the years “Unitarian Universalism” has stepped away from rigid religious doctrine in favor of shared values. These values—comprising our seven “UU principles”—act as an ethical “roof” to shelter a wide diversity of theological ideas. One fundamental principle emerged from the turmoil of religious conflict in the 1500s: “free inquiry,” or the right to speculate about religious truth. Today that idea lives on in our fourth principle, which affirms “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

So Nantucket UUs are not exactly the sort of congregation Glenn Beck was addressing. But my “WWJD” instincts (“What Would Jesus Do?”), honed from a childhood among Methodists and Baptists, and my Harvard Divinity School education, replete with religious history courses, motivate me to offer a different perspective.

“Those who clearly recognize the voice of their own conscience usually recognize also the voice of justice.” —Aleksandr Solzhenitzyn

About 400 years ago, as Protestant Christians were sorting themselves out from Catholics and into a variety of denominations, a group of Christians settled in Raków, Poland. They were the historical forebears of today's Unitarians. They promised each other religious tolerance, so that they could freely discuss religious ideas. And they agreed to live in accord with the teachings of Jesus: WWJD?

Land was held in common. Nobles and commoners worked side by side to produce the food and trade goods the village needed. They practiced democracy in church and town governance. They founded a college that attracted more than 1,000 students, a third of them from the nobility. Academic freedom drew scholars from across Europe. Raków became an important publishing center. That no person should go without the necessities of life was a central tenet. Why? Because living this way is what Jesus would do.

This was no short-lived, idealistic commune. Raków was a flourishing city of 30,000. Visitors reported that an amazing tranquility and harmony had emerged from the melding of religious freedom with social justice. The community thrived for more than 60 years, until April 1638, when Polish government authorities burned the college, church, and printing press to the ground; jailed the city's most notable scholars and theologians; and drove the people from their homes.

The biblical roots of social justice go deep. Jesus preached from his Jewish tradition, quoting Isaiah and Amos, the prophets who called on their political leaders for social justice. Today the words of those prophets echo down through

the millennia, resonating with the hearts and minds of so many others who are religiously inspired to create justice in our world.

The founders of Raków 400 years ago sought to live tolerantly with others in literal accordance with the words of a Jewish rabbi. What they created was a society grounded in social justice. They clearly recognized the voice of their own conscience. So do we. And, yes, the words “social justice” are on our website.

Board of Trustees

Spring is finally here after a cold Nantucket winter and with it, a flurry of activity continues both inside and outside 11 Orange Street. In the church garden, the crocus are in full bloom with the daffodils and forsythia ready to burst forth with color any day now. The gardening committee members are eager to get their hands in the soil again. If you're interested in participating, contact Gretchen Anderson or Sharon Carlee. And by all means, be sure to take a stroll through the garden to see the beautiful floral display.

On the Internet, the new website committee—Georgen Charnes, Jack Weinhold, Bob Hall and Jennifer Brooks—have updated www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org and added new features, including a welcoming page for newcomers. This will play an important role in informing visitors and potential new members as they make their first “virtual” visit to 11 Orange Street via the web.

The OWL (“Our Whole Lives”) program is well under way with 19 Nantucket youth participating under the direction of Lifespan Education (LE) co-directors Lizie Hagenstein and Sally Ure and certified trainers Nancy Rappaport, Dan Ross and Ian Williams. The popular LE monthly spaghetti dinner continues on the third Wednesday of each month as well. If you haven't attended, make plans to do so on April 21 and support this community-building opportunity while you enjoy a delicious meal.

Our congregation also found time to lend a hand outside of our normal programs and activities by being the first island church to volunteer as a group to help build the new Habitat for Humanity house on Nantucket. A spirited group gathered on Saturday, March 27 to help paint the interior of the house and lend a hand on other projects. Thanks to all who participated and to Habitat board member Jennifer Brooks who organized the congregational volunteer program. Other committees, including music, personnel, membership, building & grounds, ministry, and peace & justice, continue to plan and carry out programs that enrich our congregation in many ways that are described elsewhere in the newsletter. The board is grateful to all the volunteers and leaders who dedicate their time to keep things running smoothly.

In closing, if you're not yet involved in an activity or committee, we need you! A small congregation like ours can only be successful if everyone does their part, both with their talents and financial resources. If you want to volunteer and aren't sure how to do so, please feel free to give me a call at 508-228-7892 or e-mail me at craigspery@aol.com. We'd especially like to hear from those of you who will be coming for the summer months and would like to jump right in when you arrive on island. We have a volunteer job for you!

Craig Spery – President

The Church is hosting another major musical event in the 1809 Sanctuary on April 24th at 8:00 PM, featuring the renowned jazz talent of Rio Clemente-The Bishop of Jazz. Also on the program will be the local blues group-Earth Got the Blues, showcasing the considerable talent of Andy Bullington, Erik Wendelken, Jake Vohs, and Tom Stoddart. Tickets at \$25, are on sale at Church offices, The Tennis Loft, Book Works, African Meeting House, and The Bean. This special Daffodil event is being promoted by The Nantucket Jazz Company. (see flier elsewhere in the Weathervane)

Music Notes

I have more history of the choir to pass on to all of you. This one is from **Ruth Chapel Grieder**:

I was probably 10 when I joined. Gus Bentley played the piano/organ and Frederick P. Hill of Sconset was choir director. He had retired as Bermuda choir director. One memorable event was going to Boston and singing in Symphony Hall with 500 other children! Among those in the choir were my sister, Mary Chapel (Humphrey), Alva Dunham (Waldie), Marilyn and Clara Studley, Jane Dunham, Carol Coggins and several more. I'll be talking with Alva to get a complete list. We practiced for months, even learning "Tantum Ergo" in Latin. I sang in the choir till about 1955. Gus Bentley played the organ for my wedding to Bill in 1946 upstairs in the big church. He also played for my mother's (Della Chapel) funeral service ("Sanctus", etc).

And here are some memories from **Ted Anderson**, Minister Emeritus. This is what he wrote when I asked him if he would write something about the history of the choir:

I gave my first sermon in the Second Congregational Meeting House some time during the fall of 1970. The congregation was rather small and when it came to the hymn I expected to hear the usual whispers and mumbles. Instead, the first notes hit me like a sonic boom. They nearly blew me out of the pulpit. It was as though the fifteen or twenty singing the hymn had been waiting for the past 60 years to open their mouths and sing. Sing they did, socking it to one of those rousing old tunes, even in parts. For once I did not feel as though I was singing a solo to a chorus of murmurs.

It is true that when I officially started at the church there was no choir. There was no piano, either, but there was music. There was the Goodrich organ in the choir loft and a little electric Hammond downstairs. On Sunday Gus Bentley played one or the other, the rest of the week he tickled the ivories for the patrons of The Upper Deck, Nantucket's notorious watering hole.

In his younger days Gus had composed popular hit music and sailed the world with his combo aboard a cruise ship. Just because there was no choir it should not be assumed the congregation lacked musical interest or talent. It had both. Gus was a good musician even though the organ was not his first instrument. Josephine Congdon and Mary Sherman were career music teachers. The silver scallop shell on bird feet that is our version of a baptismal font was given in Josephine's memory.

Kay Berna led a weekly music appreciation soiree she called The Musicall. The Bernas and others of the congregation were active founders and supporters of the Musical Arts Society. For the first 25 years of its existence its well attended concerts were all performed "under the golden dome".

The younger people who began to trickle into the church often brought an interest in music with them. Dottie Thompson taught flute; Kathy Cronin played the clarinet, and every fortnight Gretchen Anderson lugged her cello off to Falmouth for lessons, slow boat all the way to Wood's Hole and back. When Dr. Harlan Davis organized a community chorus for a Christmas pageant about half those who signed up were Unitarians.

Such enthusiasm was not to be denied. Someone talked a young schoolteacher named Rob Bredesen into organizing a choir and before the winter was out we had a choir with plans for a summer concert, mainly Billings. The older members of the church were ecstatic.

We still did not have a piano. Then the widow of an old member and her beau decided to marry and consolidate their possessions into one house. Each had a piano. The bride remembered she had signed the book forty years earlier and gave us her piano on the condition that we would take it away and then

move his piano into her house.

That is how the choir got into the moving business. Both instruments were uprights and fit into Dick Cary's purple trailer, the one with the dark red polka-dots, so we paraded it up Main Street with Ron on the back pounding Scott Joplin ragtime. There was such applause we circled the block and did an encore. Then we went back for the second piano and detoured up Main Street again for a repeat performance. Unfortunately, no one thought to pass the hat but we finally had a piano and a choir to gather around it.

Serendipity. Susan Jarrell moved to the island just in time to take over for Gus. After 40 years as organist, ill health forced him to retire. Susan stepped right in as though it was the most natural thing in the world. She worked like crazy to improve her skills. We had no idea what a determined individual she was, or how many plans would come out of her head. When Ron moved off the island Susan came up with an ambitious scheme that would ultimately prove to be of enormous benefit to both the church and the town. She would organize a chamber music school with a half time professional director whose other half time job would be directing the Unitarian Choir. Surprisingly, Susan found someone who would accept those conditions. Her name was Barbara Elder. Thus began another chapter in the history of our music program. Hopefully it will be written by one who experienced those years as a choir member not just a hanger-on who went up into the tower on New Year's Eve to sing a Monty Python repertoire with people who could really sing.

One summer when the choir was still singing mainly Billings Genny Coffin invited the group aboard Byron's classic sailboat, The Sally Bramble, for a picnic and rehearsal. The Sally Bramble was a big, old wooden vessel that had to moor quite a ways out in the harbor. There was no way to hide the unusual activity getting underway on her deck. All Nantucket was paying attention, dialing up the grapevine, ready to tut-tut. As dusk gathered the singers voices paused for a moment, then broke into one final Billings hymn, "They that go down to the sea in ships." The well-sung harmonies rolled across the harbor and splashed up against the very docks and bulkheads from which, not many generations ago, mariners did indeed depart "to do business on the great waters." In the silence that followed the words of the last exuberant chord, "Welcome home", the air itself seemed to fill its lungs with gratitude for this island we call home; Nantucket. Then the clapping began, from the yachts, from the marina, from around the shore. It was one of those magical moments that define home.

Home is crucial to being. No other church and no other town in the world could give me the sense of "home" I feel here on Nantucket. One has to be taught national identity; local identity seems to come naturally. Without the emotional magnetism that connects a person to a place, "home" is like a lonely spouse waiting for the divorce to become final. There are many homeless people living in houses, some of those houses are mansions. People are losing their identity with place. That is a crisis of our times.

After the service one Sunday morning, a visitor asked, "I enjoyed the feeling in the church very much but could you please explain your theology?" I said, I don't think we have a theology. We sing.

Marcia Hempel – Music Director

THE NANTUCKET JAZZ Co.

Date: April 24, 2010

Time: 8:00pm

Location:
UNITARIAN CHURCH

Tickets: \$25.00

Contact Information:

The Nantucket Jazz
Co.

908-229-1215

or

732-735-4213



vesu_y0B12s fotosearch.com

Ticket Locations

The Tennis Loft
Book Works
African Meeting House
The Bean
UU Church Office (9-12)

Keeping Music Alive 30 miles out

Rio Clemente'
"The Bishop of Jazz"
&
Earth Got the Blues



There might be no better way to celebrate Daffodil Weekend than to spend it with the "Bishop of Jazz" and a medley of passionate ballads and an evening of unforgettable music. Come and join us!

Earth got the Blues

Andy Bullington
Erik Wendelkin
Jake Vohs
Tom Stoddart



April 2010

March 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2010

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

■ AR=Activities Rm; HH=Hendrix Hall; US=Upper Sanctuary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ■ 10:45 AM "Arrival" (Primrose Sunday; Palm Sunday) ■ 1:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH	29 Passover (begins at sunset on March 29)	30	31	1	2	3
4 Passover (begins at sunset on March 29) ■ 10:45 AM "Passion" Flower Communion Sunday (Easter) ■ 1:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH	5 ■ 5:15 AM Board, AR (Date Changed) ■ 7:00 PM Frameworks Film & Discussion: Torture ■ 7:30 PM Bahai Gathering	6	7	8	9	10
11 ■ 10:45 AM "What We Invite" ■ 1:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH	12	13 ■ 12:00 PM Interfaith Council at Methodist Church ■ 4:30 PM Board-Workshop with Bill Zelazny	14 ■ 10:00 AM 5Ws ■ 2:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 5:15 PM Ministry Committee Parsonage	15 ■ 10:00 AM La Leche ■ 12:00 PM Website Committee ■ 2:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 4:15 PM Staff Meeting ■ 5:00 PM Choir	16 ■ 9:00 AM Music Director, HH	17 ■ 9:00 AM Music Director ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH
18 ■ 10:45 AM "Tolerance and Intolerance" ■ 1:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH	19	20 ■ 7:30 PM Webinar on Growth: Michael Durall and Peter Bowden	21 ■ 10:00 AM 5Ws ■ 2:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 5:30 PM Spaghetti Dinner	22 ■ 2:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 5:00 PM Choir	23 ■ 9:00 AM Music Director, HH	24 ■ 9:00 AM Music Director ■ 12:00 PM Newsletter Deadline (Submissions to Les Olinger) ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH ■ 8:00 PM Jazz Concert
25 ■ 10:45 AM Lay-Led Service-Craig Sperry & Jack Weirhold ■ 1:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH	26	27 ■ 5:15 PM Board, AR	28 ■ 10:00 AM 5Ws ■ 2:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 5:00 PM LE Committee	29 ■ 2:00 PM Music Director, HH ■ 5:00 PM Choir	30 ■ 9:00 AM Music Director, HH	31 ■ 9:00 AM Music Director ■ 7:30 PM A of G, HH

South Church Preservation Fund

What are the tasks presently before the SCPF Board of Directors and what are we doing?

1. We need to finalize the contracts and get work started on the next phase of restoration work on the outside of the building this spring. A final contract with Michael Burrey for the work on the tower is being developed following review of all the proposals that were received. In addition, we are seeking to contract out the painting of the tower and building with replacement of the flashing as needed and repair or replacement of the copper gutters.
2. A request for proposals for restoration of the wall decorations and interior painting in the auditorium and entry area is nearing completion. We know that at least three firms with wide experience in this type of work are interested. As we proceed, we need to be sure that our plans are accepted and supported by the Society. With this, we need help.
3. We need to determine what other work in the auditorium, for example on the windows and their frames and the lighting, is to be included in the restoration.
3. We are working on Phase III of the fund raising campaign, the purpose of which is to obtain the additional approximately \$800,000 needed for this work and then for an endowment fund in the amount of about \$1,000,000 for future maintenance of the building. With the improving financial climate, this will initially concentrate on major donors. Here also, we need the help of Society members and its friends as well as others who treasure the Meeting House.

Leslie W. Ottinger - Chairman, Board of Directors

Teen Poetry Slam featuring Nicole Terez

Thursday, April 1, 7:00-8:30PM, Great Hall at the Atheneum

This is a performance poetry contest for teens hosted by local poet Len Germinara. The contest is open to all poets between ages 12 and 19. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. For contest rules and information including how to sign up, please call the Weezie Library at 508-228-1110. Free admission. Audience welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Spoken Word Nantucket

Sunday, April 11, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, Grace Grossman Environmental Center, 180 Polpis Road
Free and open to the public; open mic. for poets and musicians; pass the hat for the feature.

This month's featured poet - **Joe Gouvei** - Special musical guest - **Tim Comings**

For information - www.spokenwordnantucket.org or <<http://www.spokenwordnantucket.org>>

Spoken Word Nantucket is sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Mass. Cultural Council

Nantucket UU Congregation

Website Submission Guidelines

Introduction. These guidelines are intended to help committees, departments, and staff announce and promote their activities, events, and news on our website, www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org. There are two goals: (1) to make the process of submitting material clear and easy for groups within the church, and (2) to make the task of collecting and posting material straightforward and non-onerous for the volunteer Website Manager, Georgen Charnes: curiositykeeper@gmail.com.

Organizational Structure. The Website Manager receives and posts material that fits within the standard categories established by the current design of the website, and makes minor typographical and grammatical corrections as appropriate. The Website Manager is a member of the Website Committee, which considers ideas for additional pages, changes in design, and changes in the underlying technical architecture of the site. Currently the Website Committee includes the Website Manager: Georgen Charnes, Jack Weinholt, Bob Hall, and Rev. Jennifer Brooks ex-officio. They encourage anyone interested in joining the committee to contact Bob: bobval65@hotmail.com

Submission Process

When

- 1- Decide whether to aspire to weekly, monthly, or quarterly submissions of website content.
- 2- Adopt a periodic system for reviewing and updating of your pages.
- 3- Mark 12 noon Thursday on your calendar for website submissions (The same day as Sunday Bulletin submissions). All submissions, regardless of their submission date, are collected by the Website Manager on Thursdays and will be posted within a week.

How

Submissions should be made by email to the Website Manager, Georgen Charnes, curiositykeeper@gmail.com, with a cc sent to the Minister nantucketminister@comcast.net and Patti Demarest in the Office uuchurch@verizon.net (so that they stay informed). The text should be attached to the email as a Word document or pdf, or in a pinch, within the body of the email. The Website Committee is happy to give instructions for creating Word document and PDF attachments.

Lifespan Education

We, with the support of the LE Committee and Jennifer, are busy keeping several programs running this winter and are enjoying the range of challenges these activities present. The OWL class is well under way, having met 4 times in March, and 4 more classes and a weekend overnight are planned in April/ May. We have had 16 to 23 teens attending any given week, and we are gratified and proud to say that on the whole, they are a polite and interested bunch of young people. We are indebted to Nancy Rappaport, Dan Ross, and St. Paul's youth coordinator, Ian Williams, for helping keep this class lively and professional.

Sunday School children are continuing the curriculum, "We are on our way", a diversity discovering program that at the moment is looking at keeping ourselves safe and helping others stay safe. Given the prevalence of teasing and bullying in modern society, this subject has been avidly attended to by the kids and input has been good at all age levels. The bake sale was cancelled, but we will try to find another community service project so that the kids can experience making a difference in our community. We would love parental input on this as it is largely parents who play the supportive role in enabling the younger children to take part. Let us know your preferences for types of community service.

April will bring Easter with our annual egg hunt, Daffy day, another Spaghetti Night on Wednesday, 21st April, 5.30pm to 7pm, and another free babysitting night on the 8th April, 6pm to 8pm. We will send out reminders nearer the time. Watch out for MOTH Story time coming soon, and a turkey dinner potluck (date TBA). Special thanks to all those who donated for the primroses, with a special thank you to Theresa Droz for underwriting the event. For Spaghetti Night, a big thank you to Bob Hall for his rich and sizzling spaghetti sauce, to Les and Joan Ottinger for the home made vegetarian tomato sauce and Linda Sonnanstine, Maggie Sullivan, Sissy and Brian Girard, and Les and Joan for the brownies, Irish soda bread and Irish Lace cookies. Anyone wanting to volunteer for Spaghetti Night can email me, sure165@gmail.com or just turn up! It is a lot of fun being on the team and a great way for new people to get to know church members and staff. Not to mention, the food is awesome!!!

Sally and Lizie

Spring HAS to come

**In Black Ice dark December
Pray let me remember
Pale Cherry Blossom petals
When they drift down on me
And I reach hungry for their silk
And drink again at April's Oasis
And Life is reborn
In my drought parched soul
And once more drown
In Spring's azure pool of Beauty
Lost in the Sound of one soft Breeze
Under a Butterfly's Wings.**

Marta Allen, January 2003

The Peace & Justice Committee

March 19th, the seventh anniversary of the Iraq war, seemed to pass this year with barely a mention. There was no vigil, as many of the Peace & Justice stalwarts were away, and I don't recall seeing anything about it in the newspapers or hearing much about it in the news. There were no op-eds in the New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, or the Washington Post. Not even a Twitter feed graced the airwaves. I guess we're getting used to this thing called war. Even in a year where "The Hurt Locker" won the Oscar, focusing our attention on the perils of war, specifically the Iraq war, the real war anniversary went by unnoticed. Is it that we think its end is signed, sealed and will soon be delivered? Or are our thoughts turned more toward the future and resolution with the Iraq elections? Or is Afghanistan now the one to beat? Or are we just tired of it all or feel ineffectual? Or maybe the home fires of our own lives are cause enough to defend.

Whatever the case may be, my thoughts turn once again to Howard Zinn, his recent passing, and the legacy of peace and justice that he left behind. As a World War II bomber pilot, he saw for himself the unmitigated horror of warfare, which served as the foundation for his lifelong quest for peaceful solutions to conflict, and it was steadfast. New York Times columnist Bob Herbert referred to Zinn as "chagrined by the present state of affairs, but undaunted." That, in itself, may be a lesson to us all. Herbert also wrote, "I always wondered why Howard Zinn was considered a radical. (He called himself a radical.) He was an unbelievably decent man who felt obliged to challenge injustice and unfairness wherever he found it. What was so radical about believing that workers should get a fair shake on the job, that corporations have too much power over our lives and much too much influence with the government, that wars are so murderously destructive that alternatives to warfare should be found, that blacks and other racial and ethnic minorities should have the same rights as whites, that the interests of powerful political leaders and corporate elites are not the same as those of ordinary people who are struggling from week to week to make ends meet?"

On April 21st, the Peace & Justice Committee will be showing the DVD "The People Speak," Zinn's last major project. The documentary brings to life the inspirational words of everyday citizens whose struggles led to some of the most profound changes in our nation's history, the very people that Herbert is talking about when describing Zinn's work. We hope you will come see this profound documentary, honor Dr. Zinn's quest for peace, and fan the flames of justice and democracy in our hearts and lives. "The People Speak" will show at the Atheneum on Wednesday, April 21st at 7:00 pm. Admission is free.

UU Advocacy Day

Please consider putting the 4th Annual UU Advocacy Day on your calendar! On Wednesday, April 28th from 10:00 to 2:30, join with other Unitarian Universalists to make a difference. They will meet in Boston at the national headquarters of the UUA, literally next door to the State House, and then - after being trained and having lunch together - walk to the State House and visit our state Senators and Representatives. The issues this year - chosen by survey of UUs - are homeless prevention, climate change, and the health disparities between rich and poor. UU Advocacy Day is sponsored by UUMassAction with the UU Urban Ministry. RSVP and reserve your \$10 lunch to Nancy Banks at nancy.banks1@verizon.net or 617.835.5426. More information at www.uumassaction.org.

Sunday Services & Sermon Topics

Selected sermons are available on our website, www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org. For others, get in touch with Rev. Jennifer Brooks, 508-228-7597 or nantucketminister@comcast.net. Copies of readings used in a Sunday service are available on request.

March 2010

Mar. 7, UUSC Justice Sunday: Economic Justice

Mar. 14, "Force," Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Mar. 21, "Songs from the Earth," Earth Music Sunday with the Youth and Children's Choirs

Mar. 28, "Arrival," Primrose Sunday (Palm Sunday), Rev. Jennifer Brooks

April 2010

Apr. 4, "Passion," Flower Communion Sunday (Easter), Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Apr. 11, "What We Invite," Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Apr. 18, "Tolerance and Intolerance," Earth Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Apr. 24, Lay-Led Service with Jack Weinhold and Craig Spery

Sunday Bulletin. To put an announcement in the Sunday bulletin, please call the Church Office at 508-228-5466 or email nantucketminister@verizon.net no later than **12 noon Thursday**.

Newsletter. To put an item in the *Weathervane*, mailed out monthly, please email the Church Office at uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net or Editor Les Ottinger at lwojso@comcast.net by the 20th of each month, or drop an article off in the Church Office. For more exact deadline information, or to volunteer to prepare the *Weathervane* for mailing, call Les Ottinger (508-228-8710).

Caring Community. Our Minister and the volunteers who make up the "Care Network" stand ready to help with pastoral care or other support during an illness or family crisis. Call the Minister (508-228-7597). May each of us reach out in love to offer support when it is welcome. To volunteer, sign up on Sunday or call the office.

Office Hours & Space Reservations. The Church Office is open Monday-Friday mornings from 9:00 am – noon. To reserve space for an event, call the office (508-228-5466) and speak to Patti Demarest.

Photo & Video Use Policy. The Lifespan Religious Education Committee has adopted a policy on photo and video use in the congregation's publications. The policy continues the current practice of not using images of children without parental permission, and adds the requirement of written consent. As before, children will not be identified. Consent forms are available on the literature table and are part of the Sunday School registration.

April 6 Frameworks: "Torture" (7:00 – 8:15 pm Tuesday, April 6)

The constitutionality of torture (and its definition) is the topic of the next session of the discussion series *Frameworks: The U.S. Constitution in American Public Life*. Rev. Jennifer Brooks introduces a short video (produced by the National Religious Coalition Against Torture) that is being shown in congregations across the nation. The forum, which is open to the community and free of charge, will take place at 7 p.m. on Tues., Apr. 7 in Hendrix Hall. Our congregation is a member of the Coalition, which a few years ago produced the compelling film on the abuses at Abu Ghraib. This year's film, called "Ending US-Sponsored Torture," looks at the post-9/11 history of US-sponsored torture. The discussion that follows will consider the Constitutional and other legal limits on torture, and the current status of legal challenges to its use.

The *Frameworks* discussion series focuses on Constitutional issues that affect not only public policy but also ordinary people in their daily lives. Recent "Frameworks" forums have focused upon the use of force by police officers (Bryan v. MacPherson), with guest speaker Nantucket Police Chief Bill Pittman; a high school's strip-search of a teenage girl (Redding v. Safford United School District). The 7 pm Tuesday time is new, for the series, which in the past has met on Sunday afternoons.

Coming Up: Frameworks in May

May 4: "Citizens United." The controversial US Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* has sparked a number of responses, including a proposed Constitutional amendment, to limit the finding that corporations have free speech rights of human beings. What is the basis of the Court's decision? What are its consequences? Can legislation change the result, or is a Constitutional amendment required? What is the Constitutional amendment process? 7 pm Tues., May 4, in Hendrix Hall.