



# The Manual

Summer 2023

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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	Ora Damon ('22)
	Carlton Doctor ('25)
	LiKam Lie ('24)
	Paul LoGiudice ('25)
	Debbie Hammer ('25)

## 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.



## July & August Birthdays

Michael Bancewicz  
Laura Cohen  
Bill Davis  
Victoria Davis  
Alex Ferraro  
Jim Johnson  
Eduardo Gonzalez  
Genry Gonzalez

Iris Gonzalez  
Marvin Gonzalez  
Matthew Griffiths  
Mary Guarino  
Charles McCarthy  
Louis Partin  
Manny Pina  
Rene Rotondo  
Bimola Wal

## Church Picnic

Join us on **Sunday, August 26**, for an outdoor service followed by a picnic lunch at Myles Standish State Forest. Take the bus (which will leave the church at **9 a.m.**) or meet us there for the service at **10 a.m.**





## From the President's Desk



Hello to everyone,

I want to capture my experience as a first-time attendee at the 199th Convention of the Swedenborgian Church. It was a time of The Practice of Optimism and The Year of Spiritual Uses (2023-2024).

I want to report that I attended every business meeting and had to choose from several mini-courses that ran concurrently. The ones I attended were very historical and informational about the history of the Swedenborgian movement and its interactions with other religious traditions.

I was greeted very warmly by attendees hailing from the West Coast, the East Coast and everywhere in between, including Canada. I also

was present for the ordination service and reception for Rev. Dr. Devin Zuber at the Bridgewater New Church. Many of you may remember that Rev. Zuber preached here several years ago.

We also visited and toured the Elmwood New Church and had a Fourth of July BBQ under a fully enclosed tent in the rain! So, my takeaway was the way I was treated in a loving caring way, and the sincerity folks showed me both emotionally and spiritually. My hope is that I am afforded the opportunity to attend the next convention, when and wherever it may be.

On another note, I would like to report on the balcony restoration project that is ongoing. Phase One was the cleaning out of all the trash and sorting through piles of books and old paperwork, along with the total renovation of the Studio B space, which is now the home of the music department. Phase Two will be the renovation of Studio A, which will provide another work space for church operations. This work is expected to start shortly. Phase Three will be the remaining Balcony Restoration which will provide added overflow seating and mobility impaired seating. The before and after photos included here document the transformation of Studio B and its connecting hallway.

Peace and Blessings!  
Stephen



Studio B and hallway **before** renovation...





# Studio B and hallway **after** renovation





## ❖ ❖ ❖ Kevin's Corner ❖ ❖ ❖



The world changes pace in the summer. Boston has a host of free and interesting activities. The streets fill with tourists and life that is drastically different than the bundled-up commuters of winter. For me, summer brings the convention of the

Swedenborgian Church (General Convention of the Church of the New Jerusalem) and summer camps. One might ask, “what’s up with this convention and summer camp thing?”

What is the point of a convention? Some believe having a larger body to be accountable to is important, which it is. Others look at services denominations have to offer like ministerial credentialing and assistance with difficult issues. Both are ideas for when things go awry — a less than happy occasion. I want to talk about the value of a friend. Like-minded folks who care about the same things you do. People who are struggling and working that share their experience. A place where different folks present what they love, that we might be transformed through their joy. These are the positive ideas behind why convention and camps are worthwhile.

At convention this year, a series of mini-courses were inspiring and transformative for some. Topics such as the future of the New Church and optimism in Asian traditions expanded the mind. Reports from the Swedenborg Foundation and other churches showed myriad resources for both church and personal growth. Conventions are

places where the dedicated people of the church from all over the country gather to talk about the church — surely a worthy endeavor.

Church camps are a nice break from the schedule and monotony of our work-a-day lives. But more than the possibility of splendid view and a chance to swim or boat, they are opportunities to examine our lives. At the Swedenborgian church camps, each day has talks and classes to help us examine ourselves. Through worship, classes, and conversations, we go to a spiritual mountain top in hopes that we can descend back to our world transformed and ready to fulfill the plans the Lord has laid out for us.

Buddha, the Lord in scripture, Swedenborg and so many more remind us that we should not live for what perishes, but for what is eternal. Our televisions and media companies try to distract us with the things that are not eternal, but conventions and camps remove us from those sensory desires to see charity and faith as the true eternal. A few folks headed off to convention and to camps, what is it that you do to step outside your life and refocus? This does not require a trip — staycations have become popular — but each of us need a moment to reset and look at our lives.

Where will you be in five or 10 years? What are you doing to begin to prepare for it? This is the question our church must ask — but each of us also should be asking it of ourselves and putting plans into motion.

Blessings,  
Kevin Baxter



## From the Organ Bench



In the heat and humidity of these summer months — and they have been hot and humid, dear reader — many new and exciting

things are still happening with the music program at Church on the Hill. While our full company has been reduced, we've never faltered in our dedication and resolve to offer the best musical experience we can for our beloved community.

This past week we celebrated our nation's birthday with fireworks and family gatherings. Our music reflected just that. I programmed a series of pieces by the American composer William Billings, a contemporary of the Revolutionary War and fierce advocate for choral music in America at the time. Billings was involved in teaching singing schools throughout his life. In 1769, when Billings was 23 years old, the following announcement appeared in the *Boston Gazette*: "John Barrey &

William Billings Begs Leave to inform the Publick, that they propose to open a Singing School THIS NIGHT ... where any Person inclining to learn to Sing may be attended upon at said School with Fidelity and Dispatch." He taught a singing school in Stoughton, Massachusetts in 1774. Billings's work was very popular in its heyday, but his career was hampered by the primitive state of copyright law in America at the time. By the time the copyright laws had been strengthened, it was too late for Billings: the favorites among his tunes had already been widely reprinted in other people's hymnals, permanently copyright-free. With changes in the public's musical taste, Billings' fortunes declined. His last tune-book, *The Continental Harmony*, was published as a project of his friends, in an effort to help support the revered but no longer popular composer.

In other news, the relocation of the music director's office has been completed *far* ahead of schedule. I would personally like to thank everyone who was involved in this rather tricky



task of moving a great many scores, books, hymnals and equipment over to the other side of the balcony, where the office had been completely redone with new carpet, paint, blinds, lights, electrical work and even a new wall. It is a wonderful place to work, with everything one could need to be as efficient as possible. I look forward to many happy years in this new office. I invite you all up to view the new space when you can.

Looking ahead to the fall dear reader, a concert calendar will be published soon

of all the concerts Church on the Hill will be presenting or hosting for the coming church year. Please stay in touch to find out more details. Our first concert will be an afternoon with the Choir of the New Jerusalem as they present a fall Liederabend shortly after returning from their summer break. We look forward to hearing what they will sing for us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrew David Mattfeld

## Come and learn how to make Chinese egg rolls!

Join us **Thursday, August 24**, for a lesson in making egg rolls led by Likam Lie. The lesson will begin at **10:30 a.m.** and last for about two hours — and afterward, we'll sample our product.

This class only has 8 spots available, so signup is required. Call the office to reserve your spot.





## Who is Your Hero? by Janet Forbes

I'm sure many of you remember as children poring over comic books that featured characters named Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman. They were depicted as heroes, but I think we realized they really couldn't possibly do everything shown in those colorful pages.

Then, as we got older, we learned there actually were real heroes. It may have been the neighbor who always seemed to have a Band-Aid when we skinned a knee or the teacher that would stay after school to give us extra help.

As adults, perhaps our hero was the driver who stopped to help us change a flat tire or the stranger who returned our lost wallet with the entire contents.

One short definition of hero is “a person that exhibits noble qualities.” It says nothing about needing to be wealthy or have multiple degrees. Hopefully, we all are heroes. Do we offer to do what we can to help others? Do we visit our ill neighbor? Do we call or write a note of sympathy to a grieving friend? All of these are noble qualities and cost us little or nothing.

I recently was incredibly fortunate following a lengthy hospitalization. If one is seriously ill, there is no better place to be than Boston with

its-world class medical facilities — but that knowledge did very little to diminish my fears. My discharge plans included followup visits by a home care nurse from Mass General Hospital. I could tell after the first visit that this was a no-nonsense professional.

Now, many visits later, this nurse has become my hero. It's become very clear that he takes his role in my recovery very seriously. He's been tough at times, but is always keenly aware when I've become discouraged and is quick to offer encouragement, often delivered with good humor. Every visit has become a learning experience as he teaches me about the new medications I've been prescribed and the lifestyle changes I need to make. I have no doubt he is a hero to all his patients. Most importantly, I've learned that recovery from a major illness is similar to taking a journey. There will be good and bad days but I must concentrate on the good and never be afraid to ask questions of my health care team.

In closing, may I urge you all to always look for opportunities to be a hero for others. Equally important is to always express gratitude to those that exhibit heroic qualities to you.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Forbes



## BostonView Update

The directors of BostonView met in the parlor and online on June 21, 2023 at 4:05 p.m. As is normal, Charlesgate management and superintendent were present for the meeting.

Our first order of business was to ratify the \$25,700 email vote to approve the Embree Elevator Repair invoice. The city came to perform the annual elevator inspection and informed us that the elevator cables need to be replaced in elevator B. We had previously replaced the cables in the A elevator and asked Embree if the second one needed to be done as well. They felt it did not need to be done immediately, but soon. We had placed it on the docket for next year; the city inspection disagreed. They gave us a 90-day permit which we hope will be long enough to fabricate the needed parts.

The stairwell door was replaced and now shuts securely. The church has a new glass inner door at the inner door entry point. The door is very inviting and welcoming and transforms a new person's entry into the church.

We approved two plumbing projects: \$16,000 to the JRM Group to install a two-zone mini split system in the BostonView foyer and lobby, and \$9,500 for the JRM Group to replace the drain stack for the 04's kitchen drains.

The facilities division is planning to stain the 18th floor wood and the front doors. Weather will impact the ability to stain. Also, they have been working on the various church air-conditioning units. Also, they added power to the choir closet for iPad charging.

After much work, the laundry machines are all now working.

A question was brought to us from Charlesgate management about long term employees receiving a pension upon retirement. As the employees work for Charlesgate or the previous management companies, this question should be directed to Charlesgate human resources, as they are the employer. By federal law, the board is not able to give money to anyone other than its shareholders.

Charlesgate was proud to tell us that the building has had very few turnovers and continues to be operating at 100 percent occupancy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin K. Baxter, secretary



## Mission Committee Update

At its meeting on July 9, the Mission Committee reelected Likam Lie as chair for the coming year, July 2023 through June 2024. The first Sunday of each month at 12:45 p.m. will continue to be our standard meeting time.

On August 6, a speaker from Rescuing Leftover Cuisine will join our meeting to make a presentation on their program. Our church has been supporting this program for four years.

We also have speakers lined up to join us after community lunch in July and September. On July 19, a speaker from Old West Church will deliver a presentation on

their church's food forest, which provides freshly grown vegetables to Women's Lunch Place, Rosie's and other local groups. On September 20, a United Way speaker will update us on our funding to their programs. Our church has funded them for years.

Our third Habitat for Humanity build is scheduled for Saturday, September 9. There are 10 slots available. To volunteer, call Mary in the office.

See you at any of our meetings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Likam Lie

## Third Wednesday Community Lunch

Join us at noon on third Wednesday of each month for a community lunch, open to all.

We have guest speakers lined up for the next three community lunches. In July, we'll have a presentation by a representative from Old West Church. In August, the Massachusetts Attorney General's office will speak on avoiding scams that target seniors. And in September, a speaker from United Way will update us on the work they've been doing with our donations.





## Annual Members Meeting Update

The members of the church held their annual meeting in the sanctuary on June 25 at 12:45. The sanctuary allowed for virtual attendance of members who were not able to attend in-person, though virtual attendees were not able to vote. Stephen Dyson, the president, chaired the meeting.

The membership approved three changes to the church's bylaws. The first change allowed non-members to serve as secretary, similar to how the church already handles the office of treasurer. This provision also allowed for the secretary or treasurer to be considered employees of the church. The second change allowed for instant runoff elections to more easily resolve contested elections for officer positions and committee seats. The third bylaw change shifted the church's signing authority to any two officers (as opposed to the secretary/clerk).

The membership voted to strike the City Mission Society from the church's annual meeting policy (a formality, since that organization no longer exists) and voted to change the church's charitable donation matching program from a 1:1 match to a 2:1 match.

The membership then elected church officers, governors and committee

members. Janet Forbes was elected as vice president and Patricia Blakeney was elected as secretary. Deborah Hammer, Paul LoGiudice and Carlton Doctor were elected to full terms on the Board of Governors. There were no nominations to fill the one-year unexpired term on the Board of Governors.

Blanca DeLeon was elected to fill unexpired term on the Governance/Bylaws Committee; Lisa Hadley elected to a full term. Likam Lie and Victoria Davis were elected to the Music Committee. Likam Lie and Mary Kay Klein were elected to the Mission Committee. Carlton Doctor and Patricia Blakeney were elected to the Program and Events Committee (there were no nominees for the third opening on the committee). Deborah Hammer and Victoria Davis were elected to the Membership Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alex Ferraro



## Live and Let Live by Pastor Colin

The birth of a human baby is the renewal of God's promise. It is a moment of pure gift. With it comes opportunity and responsibility.

In God's eyes, no child will ever be more important than another child. All are allotted from God endless care, comfort and compassion.

God alone is holy. The lack in each person results in singular broken qualities. God's image is an invitation to strive for God's personality and character — always to fall short.

Each will do what they should not do, each will not do what God would require. Sin is found where holiness is absent.

How should we live? With gusto and enthusiasm and endless imagination. We could always do better, we could always enjoy more. Jesus' abundance comes to mind.

How should we be judged? Have we in any way harmed created life, perhaps especially other people? Have we lived only for ourselves and for those we think are like us? How have future generations been affected by our time on earth?

Have we diligently and repeatedly searched our souls and sought amends where feasible? Do

we keep goodness in God's provenance, and hope in ours?

Have our religions, again and again, appropriated God's prerogatives for their own purposes and for the advantage of those in power?

Do we embrace God's mercy as our only hope?

"It is God who has made us and not we ourselves." Were we to be perfect without sin, God would have made us so. Consciousness and conscience give us the work of our lives, every life. Such honor we are given. To God be the glory.

God bless you.  
Pastor Colin



## Project STEP at 40

On June 7, 2023 members of the church community and music committee attended the Project STEP 40 Year Celebration. The event was held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum. In this magnificent setting, attendees enjoyed a tour of the Museum, performances by former students and staff of Project STEP, and a reception. During the remarks, founding members of Project STEP were recognized and a congratulatory video from Governor Maura Healey and one from cellist Yo Yo Ma were played. The keynote speaker was Mr. Michael J. Bobbit, executive director of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Our church's name appeared in two separate sections of the printed program.

Project STEP provides early and long-term access to high-quality classical string training for student musicians, and advocates for our society to value the diverse cultures and ethnicities of our communities. For *four* decades, Project STEP has provided students with a creative and safe learning environment. Our program has always been a platform to build ethnic and racial equity, and we continue to amplify the stories and voices of our young musicians of color. While many educational programs in New England offer music training for children, they do not match Project STEP's comprehensive package of high-quality, early, and long-term training that also includes support services and scholarships intended specifically for children from backgrounds underrepresented in classical music. Our students are able to break through socio-economic barriers to become excellent musicians, creative and confident students, and successful young adults. Spending up to 12 years in Project STEP, our students are challenged to achieve and maintain high levels of musicianship. The perseverance, social and

leadership skills, self-discipline, confidence, problem solving skills, and strong work ethic they develop in our program prove to be invaluable in their future musical and non-musical pursuits. For forty years, 100 percent of Project STEP's graduates have attended college or conservatory and approximately 60 percent of students have gone into the music profession.

Since 2004, the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, with the support of the Music Committee, has directed financial support to many young musicians. Below is current information about two of these students, Isabel Chin Garita and Forrest Eimold.

Violinist Isabel Chin Garita has completed her first year at Bard Conservatory studying with Professors Gil Shaham and Adele Anthony. She started playing the violin at age 5 and has studied at the New England Conservatory Preparatory School, Project Step (String Training Education Program, 2013-2019) and Project BEAM (Bridge to Equity and Achievement in Music). She is the recipient of the Eleanor L. Campbell Scholarship and the Carlton Doctor Scholarship, sponsored by the Boston Society of New Jerusalem. As a soloist, she has performed with several orchestras including the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Costa Rican National String Orchestra, New England Youth Repertory Orchestra, Rivers Conservatory Ensemble, and Nashua Chamber Orchestra. In addition to solo performances, Chin enjoys chamber music and collaborating with other musicians. She performed as the Chin Duo with her brother on From The Top, a live broadcast radio station featuring promising young musicians. Church members of BSNJ attended the performance, which took place at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Isabel also spent



many years as part of Project STEP's Honors Quartet. For the past few summers, she has attended the Bowdoin International Music Festival. Her music has taken her to world-renowned concert halls in Boston, Costa Rica, Spain, Czech Republic, and Hungary.

Forrest Eimold is currently a New York-based composer-keyboardist. Forrest has been hailed as "incredible" and "fearless" by the Boston Musical Intelligencer, "extremely impressive" by Harmonie, and as having "ably responded to the many virtuosic demands" of today's compositional vanguard by The Washington Post. Whether writing for the Choir of Trinity Wall Street, Ensemble Dal Niente, Fonema Consort, Mivos Quartet, National Sawdust Ensemble, and the Wet Ink Ensemble — or performing with ensembles ranging from the Grammy-nominated Trinity Baroque Orchestra to NOVUS NY — Forrest's work embraces our quantized environment in the hopes of pointing to the unbound world latent within it. Forrest first gained notice at age 13 as the youngest-ever interpreter of Olivier Messiaen's longest organ work, the nearly two-hour-long *Livre du Saint-Sacrement*; by age 16, Forrest had performed all five hours' worth of the composer's post-1945 organ music. In the years to follow, Forrest's committed engagement with the music of living composers has led to performance collaborations with such luminaries as Gerald

Barry, Michael Finnissy, John Harbison, Molly Joyce, Paola Prestini, and Judith Weir. Furthermore, Forrest's reputation as a sight-reader and score-reader have led to répétiteur work for world premières by the likes of Du Yun, Huang Ruo, Nico Muhly, Emma O'Halloran, Arvo Pärt, and Tyshawn Sorey, nearly all from full score. Compositional honors include the Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts from Columbia University, a Density Labs Fellowship from the Juilliard School, a Blueprint Fellowship from National Sawdust, and multiple awards from the National YoungArts Foundation. A publication of Forrest's organ transcription of Gerald Barry's *Chevaux-de-frise* is forthcoming from Schott Music. Having graduated in 2022 from the dual program between the Juilliard School and Columbia University, Forrest currently studies composition at the Yale School of Music with Martin Bresnick. Having served as Music and Organ Scholar at Trinity Church Wall Street (2018–22), Forrest now works as Staff Pianist at the Juilliard School (2021–present).

The Project STEP – BSNJ Scholar for 2023-2024 is Caleb Graupera, cellist. The Music Committee at BSNJ looks forward to hosting students from Project STEP, in performance, sometime in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carlton Doctor









# CALENDAR

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

## July Events

- 15<sup>th</sup> Bowling 2 p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting 12:45 p.m.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Community lunch 12 p.m.
- BostonView meeting 4 p.m.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Guest speaker: Cheryl Harris 11 a.m.

## August Events

- 13<sup>th</sup> Mission Committee meeting 12:45 p.m.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Membership Comte. meeting 12:45 p.m.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Community lunch 12 p.m.
- Music Committee Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- BostonView meeting 4 p.m.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Bowling 2 p.m.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Egg roll cooking lesson 10:30 a.m.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Church picnic 9 a.m.

## Weekly Events

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### Worship

11:00 Sundays

### Alcoholics Anonymous

12:00 Weekdays

### Purlo on the Hill

10:00 Mondays

### Zoom Prayer Time

11:00 Mondays

### Pastors' Coffee

10:00 Tuesdays

### Board Games

2:00 Tuesdays

### Tai Chi

1:30 Thursdays

**Our Wednesday spirituality class and Friday scripture study are on hiatus for the summer and will return in the fall.**

### Regular Committee Meetings

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

Board of Governors: third Sunday at 12:45

Membership: final Friday at 1:30



## 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

**Andrea Martin**

Webster Park Healthcare  
#200 B1  
56 Webster St.  
Rockland, MA 02370

**Dorothy Ann Klein**

Hebrew Rehab Center  
1200 Centre Street  
Berger, FL 1, Room 129  
South  
Roslindale, MA 02131

**William Wen Li Yen**

South Cove Manor  
288 Washington St.  
Quincy, MA 02169

**William “Martin” Coor**

Tewksbury Hospital  
365 East St.  
Tewksbury, MA 01876





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

140 Bowdoin Street  
Boston, MA 02108-2799

**200 Years of Celebration  
1818-2018**



Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880)  
Member of the BSNJ  
Writer, Author, Abolitionist, &  
Civil Rights Advocate

“It is my mission to help in the breaking down of classes, and to make all men feel as if they were brethren of the same family, sharing the same rights the same capabilities, and the same responsibilities. While my hand can hold a pen, I will use it to this end; and while my brain can earn a dollar, I will devote it to this end.” Lydia Maria Child

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