# NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON CHURCH OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

### **Ministers**

Search Committee

### **Executive Officials**

Mary Guarino, *President*Diane Williams, *Vice President*Robert von Wolfgang, *Chairman of the Board of Trustees*Susanne Rogers, *Treasurer*Michael Bancewicz, *Secretary/Congregational Director* 

### **Directors**

Edward J. Mackenzie, Jr., Director of Operations

### **Emeritus Officials**

Michael Latkowitch, President Emeritus Anna Hunt Latkowitch, Church Council Emeritus

### Music

Carlton Doctor, Minister of Music Victor Cayres de Mendonca, Organist and Pianist

> Michael Bancewicz, Acting Editor Craig Williams, Assistant Editor

## GOALS AND OUR LIFE AS A CHURCH

- Seeking to be guided by love of God, love of others, being in community, seeking to be of service.
- Church services and classes being vital and central.
- Nurturing teamwork and community throughout the church.
- The church welcoming diversity of people working together as one.
- Developing a pervasive spirit of caring in the church community.
- The church developing as welcoming of all generations (from children to senior).
- Concerted efforts to involve young people more fully in the life of the church. Perhaps with aid from adults, having leadership emerge from young people. Involvement of young people in service projects in the community.
- Strengthening of programs for seniors, drawing on resources both within and outside the church.
- Developing processes for ministry preparation.
- Growth of participation from the congregation in the church activities.

# HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

New Jerusalem Church Circa 1845

The foundation of the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem (BSNJ) can be traced back to 1784 and the Green Dragon Tavern in Boston. It was then and there that admirers of, and those interested in learning more about, Emanuel Swedenborg first met to hear a lecture on Swedenborg by James Glen. In 1818, twelve people, some of whom were among the early "Green Dragon Tavern crowd," organized a Swedenborgian Church in the city. Chartered in 1823, the Boston Society of the New Jerusalem, Inc. is the first Swedenborgian Church established in Massachusetts. Members of the Church met at several locations before finally settling in 1845 at its present location atop Beacon Hill. The location inspired the name by which many today know the society: the Church on the Hill (Swedenborgian). Through the years, noted BSNJ members include Timothy Harrington Carter, publisher, and founder of the Old Corner Book Store; Sampson Reed, writer and mentor of Ralph Waldo Emerson; Lydia Maria Child, author, social activist and abolitionist; Warren Felt Evans, writer and healer;

Theophilus Parsons, dean of Harvard Law School; Otis Clapp, apothecary, publisher, member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, co-founder of The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.), Boston University, and and founder of The Home for Little Wanderers; Theophilus P. Chandler, architect; Clarence Barron, financier, editor of the Wall Street Journal, and president of Dow Jones; George James Webb, hymnologist; and The Honorable Malcolm Nichols, Mayor of Boston. A beautiful Gothic Revival structure served the membership until the 1960s when it was replaced with a new Church building and an eighteen story high- rise apartment. Today, the main sanctuary of the Church is accessible from Bowdoin Street. The Church has also served as a place of worship and gatherings for the local Muslim Community and other faith-based communities. The Church has organizes and runs many programs to meet the needs of the Church community and larger surrounding neighborhood.

Use of the Church facility is offered to human service and outreach organizations.

# Annual Members Meeting Sunday, Nov. 25 ~ 12:30 PM

The church will be holding its fall Members Meeting on the Sunday, November 25th.

We have potential new members to vote on as well as some other business to attend to.

We strongly encourage all members to attend.

# Jack and Jill Baby Shower

Wednesday, November 28 ~ 6:00 PM

Jesus and Tanya Rodríguez are expecting their first child. Church on the Hill will be hosting their "Jack and Jill" baby shower. We are currently putting together a list of what they will need. We hope you can make it to the shower or donate some baby supplies for them.

All are invited.

