

Together we celebrate the work of God's Spirit among us through Christian fellowship and service throughout our community, practicing a welcoming spirit, honoring each person, and challenging one another to seek God's purpose in the world – with the promise of joy, renewal, and spiritual growth.

(Mission Statement, adopted 1996)

# HYDE PARK UNION CHURCH

Chartered in 1874 in the Free Church Tradition  
American Baptist/United Church of Christ  
5600 South Woodlawn Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60637  
phone 773.363.6063 • fax 773.324.3874  
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## July 2015

### July Church Calendar

#### Regular Weekly Events:

**Mondays** - Yoga & Centering Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays** - Bible Study, 1:00 p.m.

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**Friday, July 3**  
**Church Office Closed in Observance of Independence Day**  
Taizé Worship, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, July 5**  
Summer Series Worship with Communion and Sacred Jazz, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Dr. William Schweiker preaching on *The Church as a Moral Community of Interpreters*, Music by Robert Irving III Generations

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

**Thursday, July 9**  
Sacred Jazz Institute Jam Session, 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday, July 12**  
Summer Series Worship with Sacred Jazz and Remembrance of Chicago's Fallen Children and Youth, 10:00 a.m. Rev. Dr. Douglas Sharp preaching on *Diversity and Religious Conservatism and Liberalism*, Music by Howard Levy with Stu Mindeman and Josh Ramos

Union Inquiry, 11:30 a.m.

Chili-making, 11:30 a.m.

Memorial Service for Betty Cole, 1:00 p.m.

**Sunday, July 19**  
Summer Series Worship, Luis Carrizales preaching on *Quality Public Education: Funding and Access*

Union Inquiry, 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, July 26**  
Summer Series Worship, 10:00 a.m., Rev. Dr. Linda M. Eastwood preaching on *Immigrant Rights and Racial Justice*

Union Inquiry, 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour & Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.

From the Interim Minister  
**Douglas R. Sharp**

### Non-Random Thoughts

The warm and humid weather we look forward to in the frigid winter is finally here. Those who thrive in this weather are undoubtedly reveling in it. The rest of us are probably hunkering down in a place that has some high-speed fans if not some air conditioning. Personally, I don't do well in hot-and-humid conditions. On the other hand, I'm not particularly fond of freezing either.

For many people, the pace of work and play changes during these summer months, and I understand that many members and friends of Hyde Park Union Church are away from the area for an extended period in this season. While attendance at Sunday worship may be seasonally down, we are nonetheless pushing forward with the *Faith and Public Life* series, engaging our minds and hearts on the intersections between our spiritual life and commitment and our presence and participation in the public square. The campaigning for the 2016 election cycle has already begun, and it is only going to get more crowded and cacophonous. Our post-worship conversations on themes and issues addressed in the worship service will certainly be a type of contribution to citizen education and advocacy in the cycle.

New committees are in place and each has selected its chairperson to lead the committee's work and participate as a member of the HPUC board. At the board retreat on June 20, when the board chose Christian Bailey and James Bray to be the congregation's leaders for the coming year, I shared with the group an approach to planning for the upcoming program year that accounts for the fact that HPUC will soon be a one-minister church.

In brief, the approach builds on several fundamental principles, some key questions addressed to the various areas of congregational activity, and then some judgments and decision-making on those activities.

The fundamental principles are: 1) Our stated identity and mission, as published on our website, articulates our *purpose* and *core values*, and function as the *criteria* in program planning and decision making; 2) The way we *fulfill* our purpose demonstrates *stewardship* of all of our physical, financial and human resources; 3) Planning activities shows a relationship to our purpose and values, and thus a means to *assess* and *improve*; 4) Attention to the development of a *culture of care* and *communication* at HPUC will inform all activities and functions; 5) The *exercise* of leadership and *participation* in the decision-making process are *open to all* members of the community; and 6) Ministerial and lay leaders lead HPUC in a *collaborative* relationship of mutual empowerment and support.

Key questions to address to the planning and development of the various activities are: 1) *Purpose*: What are the particular goals and objectives in this area, program or process? 2) *Effectiveness*: What is the most efficient and effective way to do this? 3) *Resources*: What personnel, organizational, and financial resources are required to achieve this goal? 4) *Assessment*: What are the indications that this goal(s) has been accomplished? And 5) *Sustainability*: What can be learned from this and what needs to be revised in order to assure its sustainability or its ending?

The types of judgments and decision-making entailed in this approach are guided by both the limitations of our resources and the need to envision a new future. Thus this present period in the life of HPUC becomes a time to exercise *triage* in planning and decision-making. First, there are activities, processes and programs that are *essential* to our identity and purpose, such that we could not be who we are or fulfill our mission without them. We need to determine what appropriately falls into this category. Second, there are activities, processes and programs that may very well be *important*, maybe even essential, but they could be conducted, led or facilitated by lay leadership, or done differently, more simply or more effectively. And third, judgments need to be made regarding activities and programs that actually *consume* time, energy and/or resources that could be more strategically and effectively allocated elsewhere, or have outlived their effectiveness, or can be sustained without the allocation of personnel and/or financial resources.

Certainly the application of this approach of triage thinking will be difficult, but one of the results of engaging in this approach is that we are talking with each other about who we are, why we are here, and what we should be doing to clarify and advance our sense of mission.

I have a few other items I want to put on your radar screen as we enter more fully into the summer months. The first one is that Union Inquiry will be offered on July 12, 19 and 26 for persons who would like to explore membership at HPUC. The sessions will be held in the pastor's office from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., after worship.

A special committee is planning an event to celebrate Amanda's ministry among us and provide an occasion to say thank you and farewell to her. Please block out the late afternoon and evening of Sunday, August 16 for this event. More information will be published as the day draws closer.

As a denominational region, the American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago has historically been involved in a variety of types of ecumenical and interfaith campus ministry, primarily in the Hyde Park area. For some time, the region has held funds that were distributed to the former partners of the United Protestant Campus Ministry at the University of Chicago.

The governing board of the region recently decided to use this resource to fund an experimental campus ministry to the growing number of South Asians at the university, focusing on persons in our area from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and working collaboratively with other campus ministry initiatives. One of the Associate Regional Ministers for the ABC Metro Chicago region with responsibility for the region's Asian churches, the Rev. Dr. Chakravarthy Zadda-Ravindra ("Chaks"), has been assigned to lead this campus ministry project to South Asian students.

Chaks will be using the associate minister's office at HPUC on a part-time basis while he is in Hyde Park, and there will undoubtedly be occasions when a campus ministry event takes place in our building. I have known Chaks for several years (we serve together on the region's Ordination Commission) and I'm looking forward to introducing him to the congregation.

And speaking of ordination, Jeffrey Challberg is preparing to enter into the process of ordination with the region as a member of Hyde Park Union Church. He and I have been in conversation about this process, and though he will continue in clinical chaplaincy in Minnesota for the foreseeable future, I will guide him through the procedures and interviews to come. Jeff is quick to say how significant was his formation and relationships at HPUC, that it is most fitting to have this congregation ordain him when the time for that has arrived.

And last, but certainly not least, a word about the Fall Series (yes, I know, it's barely summer, but fall is coming!). The weeks between the startup of the fall program year and the beginning of Advent will find us doing two things during the Second Hour following worship. First, each of the HPUC standing committees will take responsibility for presenting and interpreting its work to the congregation, with opportunity to discuss and engage each other on purpose, planning and program. The fall season will be a good time for these conversations because the congregation will be entering a new phase of the search and call process.

The second topic of the fall series will be four presentations and discussions on the matters addressed in a seminal 2011 book by Christine D. Pohl, titled *Living into Community: Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us*. The "practices" we will explore are gratitude, promise-making and keeping, truthfulness and hospitality. Dr. Pohl's discussion can stimulate reflection and engagement on such questions as "What kind of community do we want to be?" and "How can we be more intentional in achieving that?" This discussion will be germane to both the stewardship campaign and the pastoral search process. I encourage you to get a copy of the book for yourself and do some advanced preparation.

As we get closer to the launch of the new program year in the fall, you will get more specific information about the

actual schedule of Second Hour programming, so stay tuned. In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

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### ***In Memoriam: Betty Cole (1922-2015)***

*Published in a Chicago Tribune Media Group Publication from June 20 to June 28, 2015*



Betty Cole, 92, longtime Hyde Park resident, passed away June 14 after a brief illness. She was born October 15, 1922 in Oacoma SD, to Henry A. and Helen Jackson Boe. She grew up the eldest of three sisters in nearby Kennebec SD. She attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls, graduating magna cum laude in three years with a degree in English. While at Augustana, she met a fellow student, Bruce Cole, whom she married the day after her graduation. They were married for 61 years until his death in 2005. After World War II they settled in Chicago where they raised three sons.

Betty worked for many years at the University of Chicago, beginning in cataloging at Harper Library, and eventually becoming head of the Reserve Reading Room at Regenstein Library. Following her retirement from the University, she served as a longtime board member of the Cook County Hospital Auxiliary.

She is survived by her sons, David (Jane Kenneally) and Nick (Diane Pyle) of Chicago, and Chris (Mitzi) of Bowie MD, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as countless other friends and loved ones.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Augustana College of Sioux Falls SD, or the Hyde Park Union Church of Chicago.

**A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 pm on July 12, at the Hyde Park Union Church, 5600 S Woodlawn Ave, Chicago 60637.**

***Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.***

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### ***Gilead Ministry: Serving in Collaboration in Community***

*Rev. Erma Y. Croom, Director of Gilead Ministry*

*For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry; ye are God's building.*

*I Corinthians 3:9*

Much can be said about the value of collaboration. Even Jesus in his earthly ministry did not undertake his mission of bringing the good news to God's people alone. Initially he chose twelve apostles and later other men and women to work in collaboration with him in ministry. Likewise, Gilead Ministry at Jackson Park Hospital could not adequately carry out its ministry apart from its collaboration with our partners. Because of their support we are able to continue to provide spiritual care and pastoral services to patients, family members, and staff at Jackson Park Hospital.

The members of the Gilead Auxiliary provide layettes and memory boxes for new mothers, magazines for waiting areas, and clothing for men and women on the behavioral units. Other co-laborers include Care Ware volunteers, a group who make baby items such as knitted blankets, quilts, and baby hats for newborns and donates them to hospitals for mothers who are in need of these items. Books for the layettes are made available through Open Books, a nonprofit social venture that provides literacy experiences for readers.

Gilead Ministry collaborates with McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago Divinity School, and Urban CPE Consortium, Inc. and provides interns an opportunity to explore or test their sense of call to chaplaincy and/or pastoral ministry. We also partner with the Gideon's International, Chicago Bible Institute, and Our Daily Bread Ministries in order to provide Bibles and other inspirational reading material for patients and staff. I am grateful for all of the support and resources Gilead Ministry receives as a result of our on-going collaborations in community.

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### ***Hello from Minneapolis***

*Jeff Challberg*

Greetings from Minneapolis, Hyde Park Union Church! I'm glad to be back in the ordination process with you. It seems appropriate to let you all know a little about the last year.

Reading newsletters, I know this has been a year of change for all of you; and it has been for my (now) wife Leah and me too. As some of you might remember, we packed up late July of last year to move to Minneapolis, Minnesota. We unpacked our U-haul August 1st, were married in a small ceremony of family and friends on August 9th, and we each

began Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) residencies at the end of August at two different hospitals.

I admit that I vastly underestimated how disorienting so much change would be all at once. In the resiliency training that has been a part of CPE, I learned that it takes about two months to feel oriented to new, significant change—and that felt about right. While we adjusted to our new work settings and the intensive reflective process that CPE entails, Leah and I were also getting to know each other as husband and wife (and perma-roommates). By mid-November, Leah and I were beginning to feel like we had a rhythm. Sadly, the sense of normalcy didn't last.

Leah and I each had ill parents. My mother, who had been living, and in many ways thriving, with pancreatic cancer for five years had been feeling ill since May of 2014. While she was able to celebrate our wedding with us, she would not make it to our apartment, just twenty miles away from their home, until more than three months later. In November, she discovered that her illness was the result of aggressive tumors that had returned in her abdomen. On Christmas Day, she announced that she would go on hospice. She lived for a sacred month, during which her family and friends surrounded her and supported her, even as she supported us. She died on January 25th, 2015.

In the same span of time, Leah's father in northern Iowa, who has lived with Lewy body dementia as long as my mother lived with cancer, has experienced significant progression of his own disease process. The future is as filled with ambiguity as the present is with ambiguous loss.

While the decision to move to MN was very difficult to make, and Leah and I had to grieve—we still miss people from Chicago dearly—we have both said that we couldn't have been anywhere else this year.

In our roles as chaplains this year, we're often talking with patients and caregivers about loss, grief, relationships, coping, mourning, hope, and resiliency. While we don't always show our hand in the business of keeping boundaries, we have a personal stake in the work, deepened by our own family experiences of illness and loss.

And so we find ourselves now still grieving but once again also recovering rhythms amid the immense change this year has brought. Turning our gaze to the future, Leah will be following her call to congregational ministry with the United Methodist Church (where she is also pursuing ordination); I, for my part, am looking to pursue more chaplaincy after the conclusion of residency this summer.

In the book *Moonwalking with Einstein*, Joshua Foer notes that our perception of time is relative to change and novel experience; more novelty and change feels like more time. Leah and I joke that, though we're only approaching our first anniversary, we feel like we've been married for years. Even with all the challenge and grief this year has brought in

ministry and marriage, we are looking forward to many more.

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## ***Mindfulness and Theology***

*Amanda Guthrie*

I recently finished an 8-week course called, "Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction," through the Insight Center in downtown Chicago. There were 25 or so people in my class, and we were all looking to get different things out of it. I hoped, in part, that the class would give me more tools to help myself and those I'll work with in the future think more carefully about the relationship between our bodies, minds, and spirits. These three aspects of ourselves are not three separate entities; they are intimately connected and in constant communication with each other. When we are anxious or stressed, our bodies and/or spirits hold that tension. Some of us have stomachaches or headaches; others become cranky and irritable. When our bodies hurt, our minds create stories to give meaning to this pain. Often these stories aren't helpful – they lead to cyclical feelings. "I wish this pain would go away" may lead, for example, to frustration or anger, which leads to more pain. Mindfulness practices create distance between us and our thoughts. Mindfulness practices are ancient and yet receiving wider attention today with a newer understanding in the field of psychology that we are not our thoughts. According to some psychologists, humans have something like 70,000 thoughts a day and we make choices about which ones we identify with. We listen to those thoughts that tell us the same, old stories – stories about our stress, our pain, our relationships, our work, our self-worth, etc. Mindfulness practices help us see those stories just as they are – stories that we've created over time. These stories repeat so often that they become habitual; we *react* to familiar circumstances automatically rather than giving ourselves the opportunity to *respond* in a new way. Since, for most of us, our stories are so engrained, it takes time to untangle them – to make new pathways in our brains so that we can respond rather than react. And so we need to practice; we need to have some period of mindful attention to the present moment every day. In the MBSR course, we learned four formal practices: a Body Scan, Yoga, Sitting Meditation, and Walking Meditation. And we were also encouraged to engage in non-formal practices – like paying attention to the sensation of brushing our teeth, to our eating habits, to our walks to work, etc. When we are immersed in the present moment, there is no space for our stories and judgments. We simply see what we see and respond accordingly. When we struggle to be in the present moment, coming back to the sensation of the breath is a gentle reminder to let go of the story and become present again.

This year, teaching Confirmation, applying for hospital chaplaincy residencies, and preparing for ordination interviews have all encouraged me to reflect deeply on my

personal theology. And I've had to think about how mindfulness relates to my faith, because it has become an essential practice for me, as I know it is for all those who practice regularly. My practice enhances my relationship with God, myself, and others. And I've wanted to think about why that is and how to articulate that meaning in theological language so mindfulness practices might become more accessible to those who find their grounding in the Christian tradition. There are easy to find scriptures, ones I've always taken comfort in, about God's desire that we experience peace and lightness. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells those gathered, "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ... And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" (Matthew 6:25, 27). Later he tells the crowds, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest in your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light'" (Matthew 11:28-30). In his letter to the Philippians, Paul encourages the people there to, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be made known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." I have come to believe that the peace that passes understanding is a gift from God that we can become familiar with through a mindfulness practice. Now it's tempting to think that these passages, and mindfulness practices that help us become familiar with their hopes for us, are intended simply to reduce our stress. To help us not worry so much. And this is a healthy byproduct of the peace that God desires for us, that mindfulness helps us cultivate. But the true result of deep peace, for Christians, is not that we won't have burdens to bear. It is that we will bear Christ's burdens, which are light. Experiencing the peace that passes understanding, we become free from the same, old stories we are used to telling ourselves and so become free to see a new thing. When we enter into the present moment, we are more available to see the people around us and so to see their needs and struggles. Free from the burden of our own stories of limitation, we become free for others – to hear one another's stories and to care deeply, rather than reacting to others based on familiar patterns. And so we begin to live with Christ's burden – loving God with our whole hearts, and souls, and minds and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

I hope this summer will present many opportunities for each of us to slow down – to experience the expansiveness of the present moment, the infinite number of possibilities it holds. I hope we will see God in all of God's creation and the Spirit moving in each of our lives. And I hope we will become available to experience the peace that passes understanding, to carry Christ's burden, which is much lighter than our own.

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## ***Update from the Call Committee***

*Fred Behlen*

The Call Committee, known in many churches as Pastoral Search Committee, was commissioned by the congregation to find and present a candidate for the Senior Minister. We've had a lot to learn about the process, and have been helped and schooled by Rev. Douglas, and counseled by the Rev Vertie Powers (Associate Conference Minister, UCC Chicago Metropolitan Association) and Larry Greenfield (Executive Minister, American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago). Meeting (almost) every Tuesday night, we've gathered information about ourselves, our community, and the process of working with our denominations who will distribute notices of the opening and perform initial screenings of applicants. They have told us to expect 30-50 qualified applicants, from each denomination. It will be a lot to go through, and we're looking forward to it.

A key part of our information gathering is the survey, which we published on June 18. You can take the survey on line at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MCMYJLL>, and if you prefer paper, we've been including hardcopy surveys in the Sunday worship bulletins. **The survey ends July 5, so please submit your survey responses ASAP.**

Meeting with the congregation in Second Hour on June 21, we got interested attention, kind support, specific cautions and general advice; exactly what we were hoping for. It's been clear that we have a lot to work with, and a lot of work to do. Our church has a distinguished history, a dynamic community and beautiful facilities.

Everything we've heard says we are in good position for this recruitment. Prestigious pulpit, distinguished history, reputation, building and all that. And yet, our work is not about past but about the future. Look around: there are lots of glorious relics falling into disrepair and despair. I have every faith that such will not be the future of HPUC. There is a new generation of God's people, and with hope and vision and skillful execution, HPUC will serve and prosper them. We will find the person to take that message forward.

We're going to take a little extra time, include feedback from surveys and prepare information for distribution to and by our denominations, but still expecting to have our materials out to the denominations in July. For your part, we need those surveys submitted by July 5. Godspeed.

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HYDE PARK UNION CHURCH SUMMER SERIES  
FAITH AND PUBLIC LIFE

Joanne Howard  
Ingrid Wallace  
PENDING

- July 5* THE CHURCH AS A MORAL COMMUNITY OF INTERPRETERS  
Rev. Dr. William Schweiker, University of Chicago Divinity School
- July 12* DIVERSITY AND RELIGIOUS CONSERVATISM AND LIBERALISM  
Rev. Dr. Douglas Sharp, Hyde Park Union Church
- July 19* QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION: FUNDING AND ACCESS  
Luis Carrizales, Community Renewal Society
- July 26* IMMIGRANT RIGHTS AND RACIAL JUSTICE  
Rev. Dr. Linda M. Eastwood, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America
- August 2* ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
Nadia Stefko, Sandhill Family Farms in Grayslake
- August 9* DEATH AND DYING: DIGNITY AT LIFE'S END  
Dr. John Hardt, Loyola University Chicago
- August 16* THE LGBT COMMUNITY: QUEST FOR HUMAN/CIVIL RIGHTS  
Amanda Guthrie, Hyde Park Union Church
- August 23* PUBLIC FAITH  
Rev. Dr. Douglas Sharp, Hyde Park Union Church

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**Board Update**

*Sophie Behlen*

Members of the church board and standing committees, both those outgoing and those newly elected, met on Saturday, June 20th to establish the new Board and hear some committee reports.

For the year 2015-16, the Board stands as follows:

Moderator: Christine Bailey  
Treasurer: Malvirse Dervin  
Secretary: Kathy Bridges

Deacons at Large:  
James Bray (Vice-Moderator)  
Cynthia Garraway

Committee Chairs:  
Caroline Anderson (chair, Fellowship)  
Sabine Charles (chair, Christian Education)  
Ray Gadke (chair, Worship & Music)  
Cheryl Haugh (chair, Personnel & Pastoral Relations)  
Tony Montag (chair, Property & Finance)  
Joe Witte (acting chair, Missions & Social Concerns)

The next Board meeting will be on September 20, after the worship service.

The Fall Congregational Meeting will be on October 4.

Our thanks to all who have served in this past year, and to those who are moving into new leadership positions. For my part, it has been a pleasure to serve as Moderator with you all these last two years.

Thank you,

Sophie Behlen

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Members and friends of HPUC are invited to donate flowers for the Communion Table in the chancel for worship on non-Communion Sundays.

Flowers may be given to memorialize a friend or loved one or to commemorate a special occasion. The cost of flowers is a minimum of \$35 for a small bouquet. Requests for flowers for the chancel may be made to the Church Office or to the Worship & Music Committee ([worshipmusic@hpuc.org](mailto:worshipmusic@hpuc.org)). Sign-up sheets will also be available in the Social Hall during coffee hour.

Thank you for enhancing our Sunday worship with the gift of flowers!



## ***Musical Traipsing***

*Jade Maze*

So I spent the week of June 14<sup>th</sup> doing a little musical research on the East Coast.

First stop, the Jazz Vespers service at [St. Peter's Church](#), NYC on June 14th. The sanctuary was a wash of white and sand making the music feel/sound balmy and light. The congregation was made up half of national and foreign visitors, and half of regular church members—about 100 total. The music director is a bass player and there were two “jazz cantors.” The musical guest was the [Angelo Di Loreto Trio](#). The service was very fluid and the musicians and the preaching were intertwined. Though stylistically opposed (sermon formal, music flowing), they worked well together. There were candle lighting stations, and my favorite part of the service was when people came forward for the laying of hands while the singers improvised Psalm scripture over the improvised music. I went forward and was prayed over as well. I left feeling invigorated and full of the living spirit!

Stop number two: Chorus America Conference in Boston, MA. Admittedly, I was a little put off by the tone of the conference on the introductory day. People were neither friendly nor helpful, the choral performances were so-so, and in my mind I kept comparing the whole thing to the 2013 conference I attended in Minneapolis, which was a sheer pleasure. Day two was much better. Lots of powwows about keeping the choral art alive in small community choirs and fundraising. The concert by the [Handel and Haydn Society](#) at the Boston Symphony Orchestra Hall was phenomenal from the sea shanties sung by the boys' ensemble to the singing of Handel's *Coronation Anthem No. 1* by the professional choir. The two highlights of the conference were the performance of the [Te Deum](#) composed by Arvo Pärt (what a tremendous piece!), and the conducting master class of Harry Christophers, Artistic Director of the Handel and Haydn Society. He believes in conducting the architecture of a piece rather beating every count. I loved his approach.

Last but not least stop: Jazz Service at Old South Church. I snuck out of the conference for a couple hours and walked over to the jazz service at Old South Church on Boylston Street. It was in the small sanctuary just across from the main sanctuary. Saxophonist Willie Sordillo and a nice trio were providing the music. The service was very contemplative, not unlike Taizé, the music faded seamlessly into silence and a short sermon went forth. The preacher spoke over the elements and the congregation went forward to tear off pieces of bread and dunk them into the grape juice and file back to their seats, or to meditate over paintings lit up with candle light the mournful music playing all the while. It was incredibly rich feeling.

This musical jaunt gave me a lot to reflect on and planted many seeds for musical partnerships if we want to do some of the larger choral works this year.

August will be mostly in-house for us. Musical offerings will feature our own congregants. You are in for some lovely surprises. Our special guest will come toward the end of the month in the form of organist extraordinaire Dr. Stephen Alltop. He will visit us twice this summer and I just can't wait. For those of you unfamiliar to him, he is the director of all things organ and harpsichord at Northwestern University and Director of Music at the Alice Millar Chapel. It's always an honor to have him here as our guest.

May the music continue to bless you as the summer revs up!



Pictures (clockwise): St. Peter's Church, NYC; Angelo Di Loreto Trio, Vicar Joseph Schattauer-Paille at SPC; Jade with Willie Sordillo at Old South Church, Boston; Conductor Harry Christophers at Chorus America Conference.

Join us for Taizé Worship on the first Friday  
of the month at 7:00 p.m.



Next Service: July 3

S A C R E D J A Z Z

A poster for a "Sacred Jazz" jam session. The background is dark with vibrant, flowing musical notes in yellow and red. The text is white and yellow. At the top, the words "S A C R E D J A Z Z" are spaced out. The main text reads "Jam Session 5-7pm 2nd Thursdays". A yellow banner says "ALL AGES 9-90". A list of dates is provided: June 11th, July 9th, August 13th, September 10th, October 8th, and November 12th.

HYDE PARK UNION CHURCH 5600 S. WOODLAWN AVE., CHICAGO, IL. HPUC.ORG



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