



The Outdoor Church

Annual Report

Published April 2011

SUNDAY SERVICES *of prayer & communion*

9:00am

PORTER SQUARE
outside T station (rain
location: inside station)

1:00pm

CAMBRIDGE COMMON
near tall Civil War mon-
ument (rain loc: across
street in Christ Church
Cambridge sanctuary,
at Zero Garden Street)

2:00-5:30pm

WALKING ROUTE
(in Harvard and Central
Squares, offering
pastoral care, food,
socks, toiletries)

all activities incl. meal

JOIN US

All are welcome to:

Attend a service.

*

Make a donation.

*

Encourage your
church or organization
to partner with us.

*

Volunteer.

*

Tell others about us.

*

Join our mailing list.

CONTACT US

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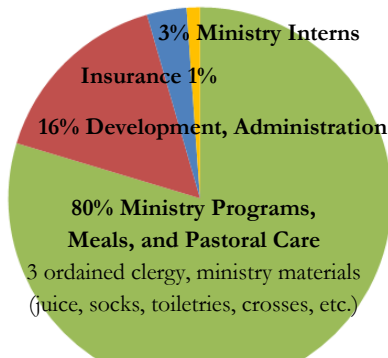
www.theoutdoorchurch.net

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978-456-0047

In 2010, the Outdoor Church served nearly 100 homeless men and women every week, outdoors, in all seasons, with our programs of pastoral care and material assistance:

- two services of prayer and communion on Sunday
- outdoor meals on Saturday and Sunday
- walking ministry every Sunday in Harvard and Central Squares
- pastoral visits in shelters, hospitals, prisons ;
- memorial services;
- an ecumenical ministry team of three ordained clergy
- student ministers serving through our field education partnership with Harvard Divinity School;
- more-than 100 volunteers each month from supporting schools and congregations;
- Bible Study group; and,
- frequent visits from youth groups, in collaboration with the City Mission Society of Boston.



Allocation of Expenses in 2010

Without a building, the Outdoor Church exists in our people and our consistent presence outdoors. By showing up every week for eight years, in every season, our ministers have developed trusting relationships with most of the chronically homeless men and women in Cambridge. Through these relationships, we turn volunteer partnerships and in-kind donations into ministry that provides physical and spiritual care to our congregation.

The Outdoor Church offers nearly 200 meals every weekend, along with socks, toiletries, and juice, for less than \$1 per person in material costs to the Church.

Ministry Update

In 2010, the Church added two ministry programs—Saturday meals and a Bible Study group. After learning that our Sunday meal was the only food accessible to many of our congregants during the weekend, we called on volunteer leaders to recruit teams to make and distribute a sandwich meal every Saturday in Harvard and Central Squares, with each team committing to one Saturday per month. This program not only provides a meal, but also encourages our volunteers to build relationships with homeless men and women outdoors. The Bible Study group began to meet on Saturday mornings after several congregants asked Rev. Jean Chapman to facilitate a weekly discussion group.



(Top) Members of the congregation assist with communion at Porter Square. After the service, the altar cart becomes the gathering spot (bottom) where Rev. Jean Chapman and student minister Laura Shatzer share juice, socks, sandwiches and conversation. (Left) Rev. Jedediah Mannis and Rev. Pat Zifcak officiate at the Sunday afternoon service in Cambridge Common.

PEOPLE

The clergy of the Outdoor Church are **Rev. Pat Zifcak**, **Rev. Jedediah Mannis**, and **Rev. Jean Chapman**. In 2010, our ministry interns from Harvard Divinity School were **Laura Shatzer**, **Thomas Hathaway**, and **Kieran Conroy**. **Emma Crossen** serves as the Executive Director.



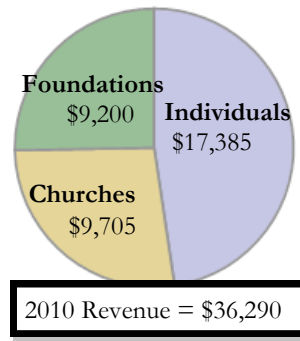
In the coldest days of winter, our Porter Square congregation meets just inside the MBTA station.

Our Congregation

Most of the people we seek to serve have lived outdoors in Cambridge for an extended period of time. Our mission is to be their church by meeting them wherever they are, without judgment. All of the chronically homeless people we serve are destitute; most are in poor health; and many are substance abusers, mentally unstable, or both. In 2010, the Church also welcomed more congregants who are formerly homeless or currently transitioning into housing. Importantly, our Sunday services provide a space for homeless and housed people to gather in community.

Fundraising in 2010 and Looking Forward

In 2010, we hired our first Executive Director to focus on development activities. Less than a year later, we are seeing the fruits of this decision in our unprecedented revenue gains at the end of 2010 and start of 2011. The graph at right illustrates the distribution of revenue sources in 2010. Individuals' giving increased 82% over 2009. Already in 2011, Foundation giving has exceeded the amount shown from 2010 and we have achieved 90% of our projected income from Foundations in 2011. Financial support from churches is a strategic focus of development efforts in 2011. While more churches than ever before know about the Outdoor Church, we've also learned that some of our closest neighbors are not familiar with our ministry. Accordingly, we are investing renewed energy in making connections with new church partners and expanding our support base in and around Cambridge.



Volunteers and Community Partners

Nearly 100 volunteers—individuals and groups—participate in the Church every month. In 2010, our monthly volunteer base grew to include eight congregations that each make sandwiches for our meals program on at least one Sunday per month: Hancock United Church of Christ (Lexington); First Church in Cambridge, Congregational; Old Cambridge Baptist Church; St. James Episcopal Church (Cambridge); North Prospect Union UCC (Medford); Harvard Epworth United Methodist Church (Cambridge); Pleasant Street Congregational Church (Arlington); and Christ Church Cambridge Episcopal. We also rely on individual volunteers to assist with our Sunday afternoon walking ministry. Through City Mission Society and the Boston Urban Outreach program, we welcome visiting youth and adult groups from across New England to our Sunday services in Porter Square and Cambridge Common. Additionally, our ministers regularly interact with social workers and other staff at shelters, meal programs, and hospitals.



Children at North Congregational Church in Woburn made this cake when Rev. Mannis visited to preach about the Outdoor Church. The red rings represent the red wristbands we give out with emergency contact information for the Church. Many of our most active volunteers are children who make sandwiches for our meals program.

Thanks to the following Churches and Foundations for their exceptional generosity during 2010 and the start of 2011.

\$8000

Boston Baptist Social Union

\$4000

CCC of Newton Legacy Trust

First Church in Cambridge

\$2000

Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church

Cambridge Community Foundation

\$1500-\$1999

Memorial Church at Harvard

St. James's Episcopal in Cambridge

First Church in Chestnut Hill

St. James Woonsocket/Nightingale Fund

Christ Church Cambridge

\$1000-\$1499

First Congregational Church in Chappaqua

North Prospect Union UCC

\$500-\$999

Federated Church of Charlton

Mennonite Congregation of Boston

United Parish of Auburndale

North Congregational Church

King's Chapel

Alewife Deanery

Check out our new website at www.theoutdoorchurch.net.

Site includes current volunteer needs, maps, online donations, stories, and more.