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WEST ROXBURY

## Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury turns 300 this year

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 12, 2012 04:43 PM

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(Theodore Parker Church)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A West Roxbury church turns 300 this year and will celebrate its tercentennial with a series of free public events held throughout 2012.

A pictorial history of West Roxbury will be the first of several special gatherings this year at Theodore Parker Church in celebration of its 300th anniversary, church leaders said. The event will be presented by historian Anthony Sammarco, who has authored pictorial histories of several Boston neighborhoods.

The event is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sun., Jan. 22 in the church sanctuary at the corner of Centre and Corey streets. Following the lecture, refreshments will be offered in the adjacent parish hall, according to an announcement.

The religious institution said in a press release that the church is the direct descendant of a Puritan church founded in 1712 as the Second Church of Roxbury. That church, built in what is now the Arnold Arboretum, was later

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replaced by a larger building on Church Street and eventually moved to its current location at 1859 Centre St., church officials said. Over the centuries, it has evolved into the more theologically-liberal Unitarian Universalist church that it is today, according to the release.

Other planned events marking the church's tercentennial celebration include:

- A lecture by Prof. Dean Grodzins, biographer of Theodore Parker, on the early ministry of that abolitionist and social reformer. Sun., March 25, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- An illustrated talk by Mary Ann Millsap on the church's colonial-era silver collection, now housed at the Museum of Fine Arts. Sun., May 6, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- A presentation and book discussion by author Tony Williams about his book, *The Pox and the Covenant*, which the congregation will be reading this summer. Sun., Sept. 16, at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- An exploration of the various styles of worship and music experienced by previous congregations, led by three former ministers and several former interns. Sun., Nov. 4, at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary.

For more information, visit [www.tparkerchurch.org](http://www.tparkerchurch.org); call the church office at 617-325-4439; or e-mail the church at [tpcuu@verizon.net](mailto:tpcuu@verizon.net).

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