



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVIII, No. 7

March, 2008

Calendar

February

29 – March 1, Friday-Saturday:
Olan Mills Photography

March

2, Sunday, 2:00: Installation
of Rev. Rali Weaver

9, Sunday, 1:30: Difficult
Behavior Class

11, Tuesday, 7:00:
Parish Committee

13, Thursday, 7:30
Membership Committee

14, Friday, 6:30: Cakes

14, Friday, 6:30: Men's Group

30, Sunday, 4:00
UU Discussion Group

31 – April 3: 6:30: Parish
Players Rehearsal

April

4 - 6, Friday – Sunday:
The Wizard of Oz

Also...

Play Rehearsal:
Sundays: 11:30 - 1
Thursdays: 6:30 - 9

Youth Group: Sundays: 7:00

Aerobics: Mondays and
Wednesdays: 6:30

Meditation: Thursdays: 7:30

**Please see our website
for the complete and
up-to-date calendar**

The Parish Record gets published
monthly. The deadline for the next issue
will be March 23.

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Rev. Rali Weaver, Parish Minister
Judy Butler, Office Administrator

Sundays in the Meeting House

March 2, 2:00 PM:

Installation of The Rev. Rali Weaver.

At this special service, we will officially install The Rev. Rali Weaver as our Minister. The Rev. David Hubner (retired minister who served both this parish and as the director of ministry and professional leadership at the UUA) will give the Call to Celebration, The Rev. John Newcomb Marsh (Interim Minister in Arlington) will be preaching, The Rev. Earl K. Holt (Minister at King's Chapel) will offer the installation prayer, The Rev. Elizabeth Stevens (Minister Emeritus) will give the Charge to the Congregation and The Rev. Victoria Weinstein (Minister in Norwell) will give the Charge to the Minister. There will be a reception to follow.

March 2, 10:00 AM: "The Servant Leader"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

March 9, 10:00 AM: "Lamentation"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have start in the Meetinghouse. Classes will follow.

March 16, 10:00 AM: Alliance Sunday

Children will participate in this month's Cool Deeds Sunday

March 23, 10:00 AM: Easter Sunday: "An Easter Faith"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

All Church Family Service. No Church School Classes

March 30, 10:00 AM: "Holding Hands, Walking With the Wind"

The Rev. John E. Hickey, Senior Minister and Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

Further details about the above services start on the next page

Sundays in the Meeting House

March 2, 2008: “The Servant Leader”. The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

The concept of the servant leader is a popular ideal in leadership circles and is also found exemplified in most of the world’s religions. This Sunday we will explore the ideal of servant leadership and how it might inform our work as a religious community.

March 9, 2008: “Lamentation”. The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Our culture often encourages us to avoid suffering and sadness at all costs but there is sadness in this life that we cannot control or manage. What do the world religions say about sadness, and grief and where might we as rational minded individuals take our lament?

March 16, 2008: “Alliance Sunday”

On this Sunday we welcome to the pulpit members of the Board of the Sharing Foundation. In 2006 Diane Winchester had the honor of visiting the children and facilities at the Roteang orphanage in Cambodia which is run by the Sharing Foundation. It was inspiring!

Sharing Foundation Board Members Mary Hult, Kelli Kirshtein and Sally Stokes will describe The Sharing Foundation's work in Cambodia bringing health care, education, and hope to hundreds of Cambodian children. Kelli adopted a son from Cambodia in 2001 and coordinates TSF's Roteang Orphanage Sponsorship Program.. Sally has been in Cambodia visiting Roteang Orphanage and other projects several times over the past two years, and Mary Hult has also visited TSF projects. Our guests will introduce us to some of the children at the Orphanage as well as give details of their lives and explain how TSF is able to continue and grow its work.

March 23, 2008: Easter Sunday: “An Easter Faith”. The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

The Story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection is well told but as rational minded Unitarians our minds often reject the magical qualities of the Easter Story. This morning we will explore the themes of the Easter story and how their messages might inform our own faith stories.

The Children are invited to bring their parents to worship this morning-- there will be no morning Sunday school. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt following worship this morning-- children of every age are invited to attend.

March 30, 2008: “Holding Hands, Walking With the Wind”. The Rev. John E. Hickey, Senior Minister and Executive Director of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry will preach

One of the oldest social service agencies in the country, the Urban Ministry has a long tradition of working with underserved communities in Boston and providing a means for Unitarian Universalists to put into action their commitment to social justice. With increasing violence in the inner city, UU's are making a significant contribution with programs for at-risk youth and those suffering from domestic violence. John will share his experiences and thoughts about what it means for Unitarian Universalists to engage in justice work, in a theological, spiritual, and everyday context.

John will be meeting with interested people during social hour this morning if you have some ideas about social justice you would like to share, want to learn more about the UU Urban Ministry and opportunities to volunteer with or support them, or have some questions about the message of the service, please join him over coffee.

From Our Minister:

Gold Stars from the Minister

As I write this we are moving ever closer to the day (March 2nd) when you will officially install me as your minister. As the day draws nearer I grow increasingly clearer about how the ministry of First Church is not mine alone because it requires all of our many hands to make it a reality. I want to find a way to express how grateful I am to have found a parish home that is so dedicated to working together and to make this a welcoming community for all. It is probably the teacher, still within me, that makes me want to hand out gold stars to you each this month. I have this urge in part -- because I cannot find ways to thank you enough for all of the amazing encouragement and support I have benefited from (and witnessed others benefit from) over the past seven months. I am astounded by the efforts to create a warm and home atmosphere for everyone at the dinners and social hours-- not to mention the seamless way that everyone at first church works together to clean up after events and the way the steps and ramps are shoveled (almost magically) each time it snows. And I cannot forget the coordinated efforts of our choir and the Parish Players and the efforts of those involved in the Fall and Holly Fairs to provide us with music and fun and festivity. We cannot forget the dedicated leadership of the committees, and how they work to manage all the wonderful things that go on here including and most especially the Religious Education Committee who has created a warm and inviting Sunday School Program with 100 percent volunteer effort in this year without a Religious Education Director. I also want to thank most especially all of those who supported Fran Grilley over the last month of life and assisted in cleaning out her apartment and fulfilling her final wishes. I hope you will forgive me for not thanking you each more personally, I fear I might forget a name. But I do want to hand you each a gold star - gold stars for your smiles and gold stars for your efforts, gold stars for your generous and kind welcome. It is with deep gratitude that I am installed as your minister this month knowing in my heart that it is the work of many hands working together as one that this church is able to function as a true beloved community. Thank you for bringing me here to Dedham and thank you for all you do to make this a true church home for us all.

Rali

All Around the Church Community

Becoming a Member of First Church

Becoming a member of First Church is both simple and complex. The process itself is simple: speak to the minister or one of the Membership Committee, sign the Membership Book, and be welcomed into membership by the Parish Committee, our church's governing board.

Arriving at the decision to join is rather more complex. Some people join after attending only a few months, others a few years. The commitment to our community of faith and to the liberal religious journey that we take together is a serious one. It deserves deliberate thought and consideration.

Being a member confers certain rights, most notably to take part in the governance of the church. As with most UU churches, congregational polity or democracy, is the governance model at First Church. Members have the right to vote at all congregational meetings where the major policy and budgetary issues facing the church are decided. Responsibilities also come with membership. All members are expected to support the church with their energy and action as well as participate in the annual Stewardship campaign to the extent that they are able.

To learn more about membership and Unitarian Universalism in general, we encourage you to attend the upcoming UU Discussion Groups planned for March:

- Sun., Mar. 16, 1:00-2:00: Learn how First Church and Parish works from the inside out.
- Sun., Mar. 30, 4:00-5:00: Explore and share with others your own spiritual journey, how we all came to First Church.

On Sunday, April 27, there will be a special worship service to welcome new members who have signed the membership book by April 6. If you are interested in joining or have any questions about membership, feel free to speak to Rali or anyone on the Membership Committee: Pam Aist, Dave Atkins, Carol Ewing, Debbie Harrison, Doug Howell, and Anne Schiraga.

Photographs for the Church Directory

On February 29 from 3:00 - 9:30 pm and again on March 1 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Olan Mills will be here to create a new church directory. By now, you should have scheduled your time or you should have received a call from Olan Mills about setting up an appointment. Every family photographed will receive a Church Pictorial Directory and an 8x10 portrait. You'll also have the option of purchasing additional photographs.

All Around the Church Community --Save the Dates

Sunday, March 9 at 1:30: Dealing with Difficult Behavior Class

We will continue our discussion on Dealing With Difficult Behavior on March 9 from 1:30- 3:30 (in order to give those involved in the Wizard time to attend) If you are not involved in Wizard feel free to bring something to eat and come early for informal conversation over lunch. Although attendance at every class is helpful you do not need to attend every class to make it worth your while. The Class will also meet again on April 6th from 1:30 to 3:30. Contact Rev. Rali Weaver with questions. raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 781-381-0107

Membership Discussion Groups

Sunday, March 16 at 1:00: What does it mean to be a Church and Parish?

Have you ever wondered why we are called a Church and Parish? Or do you have questions about what it means to have Congregational Polity? Are you wondering what benefits and rights you might enjoy if you join as a member of this church? Members and Friends and Visitors to this parish are all invited to join in this conversation about our polity and how it shapes our religious community.

Sunday, March 30 at 4:00: What does it mean to be a person of faith?

In this final membership discussion Carol Ewing and Deborah Harrison will encourage us to explore how we view our individual spiritual journey. The hope is that through sharing and listening we will gain a deeper understanding of our own path and form deeper connections with each other. UU's of all ages and commitments are invited to attend.

**Friday, April 4,
Saturday, April 5, and
Sunday April 6**

The Parish Players Present...

This year, The Parish Players will present "The Wizard of Oz" on April 4, 5 and 6. There are lots of opportunities to join in the fun even if you don't want to be on stage. We will need help with costumes, sets and props over the next month, and as we get closer to show dates you can contribute refreshments, help with publicity or sell tickets. All help will be enthusiastically welcomed! Please contact Natalie Jensen at 781-329-9289 or rayjen57@hotmail.com.

All Around the Church Community

News From the Youth Group

For the first time in the last decade or so, the youth group at First Church and Parish in Dedham went to a weekend long conference as a group. This particular conference was the annual Social Action Conference hosted by the Mass Bay District. We got the chance to learn and discuss many great issues we face in the world today, including prison reform, anti-racism/anti-oppression, homelessness, animal rights, Hurricane Katrina, and a few others. Various people and groups hosted these topics. The minister at the Community Church in Boston hosted the prison reform workshop. He hosts a series of workshops raising issues about prison reform, queer rights, anti-racism/anti-oppression, and a few others. For more information about his programs go to www.blackandpink.org. Mass Bay's Social Action Coordinator Noah Hurowitz held the anti-racism/anti-oppression work. For this program we did a segment of YRUU's groundwork training, which is a very successful training throughout the entire UUA. For more information on groundwork you can visit www.uua.org/yruu. Musician Evan Greer hosted the workshop on Hurricane Katrina. He is in a folk band called riot folk, which addresses many issues ranging from discrimination based on race or class to police brutality. All of the workshops were well run and very enjoyable, and everyone who attended had a great time at this conference. We met good people, got involved with a great community, and found a good place to start learning about important issues we face today.

You may also contact Milo Carpenter (milocarpenter@dedhamuu.org) for more information about the doings of the youth group.

Amnesty International

During the month of February we had two letter writing Sundays for Amnesty International. One Sunday we wrote letters on behalf of a Libyan Human Rights Activist, and on the other church members called for a halt to the laws sanctioning the stoning of adulterers in Iran.

The following wrote letters this February: Judy Barrington, Bob Estes, Jenny Carlson-Pietraszek, Tyler Carpenter, Kerrie Gallagher, Deb Harrison, Virginia Hickey-Ferentinos, Doug Howell, Beppy Martin, Peter McDonagh, Grace Pena, Flo Perkins, Jennifer Pike, Lynn Rogal, Allison Staton, Eileen Sullivan, Geoff Tegnell, Rali Weaver and Diane Winchester.

Peter Elefterakis

All Around the Church Community – Good and Welfare

In memory of our friend Fran Grilley.

As many of you know Frances Grilley died at Harrington House on February 1st, 2008.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 20th at 2 pm. All are invited to join us in this celebration of her too short life. A reception, which will include birthday cake in honor of what would have been her 68th birthday on April 26th, will follow.

There are several other ways to honor Fran's memory.

As some of you know there is no longer a social security death benefit for people without minor children. As Fran had no life insurance policy the Benevolent Committee helped to pay for her funeral expenses. The benevolent committee was established to help those in need. In order that their funds may continue to be available to the living, we ask that those who choose to do so make a donation to the Benevolent Committee in Fran Grilley's name.

Bruce and Dotty Clary have also suggested that we revive the parish library in honor of Fran -- who was a lover of books. If you wish to contribute you may bring lightly used or new books that you would like to share with your fellow parishioners and donate them in Fran's Memory to the Parish Library. Bookplates will be available in the office for those who wish to mark their contribution. There will also be blank bookplates available for those who would like to honor some other memory with their gift.

At her request, Fran's belongings are being distributed for the benefit of various charities which support children and families and animals.

Special thanks to Tam Johnson-Hellegers, Richard Hellegers, Sam King, Beppy Martin, Kate Martin, and Eileen Sullivan, for their willing assistance in moving Fran's belongings and cleaning her apartment.

Deep gratitude to all of those who visited with Fran, called Fran and sent Fran cards during her last days. Most especially-- thanks to everyone who was ever kind to her despite her sometimes curmudgeonly exterior Fran was truly grateful for you all.

All Around the Church Community – Good and Welfare

The Parish Community Network

The Parish Community Network is always in need of a few extra hands. If you have time to visit someone in at their home, or drive someone to an appointment, or bring a family a meal or have some other service you would enjoy providing to a fellow parishioner- please let Rev. Rali Weaver know so that we can be sure to partner you with someone who could benefit from your gift. raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 781 381 0107.

Welcome Home Marshall!

Congratulations to Dave and Jennifer Atkins and Sharon and Jason on the arrival of their new son and brother -- Marshall Schuyler Atkins born February 19, 2008 at 12:48 pm; 9lb 7oz; 21.5in. Welcome Home!

In Our Thoughts

Margaret (Peggy) Young Matthews died at 5 am February 25th at the Golden Living Center (Formerly Eastwood) in Dedham following a long illness. She is survived by her husband Robert Matthews who continues to live at the Golden Living Center and her sister Winifred Slocum from Maine. Bob and Peggy were married at First Church and Peggy sang in the choir for many years and is remembered fondly.

We do not have many details about the funeral service at this time. For more information, please feel free to contact Rali by email (raliweaver@yahoo.com) or phone, 781 381 0107.

Newsflash: Dedham Unitarians Avoid Avoiding

Did our teaser headline work? Was your curiosity piqued? Great! Keep on reading! This is the first in a series of articles about the 2008 Stewardship Campaign. We believe that many of us avoid this topic whenever possible but we're sure that this will not be the case today. So, thank you for reading this far and thank you for reading to the end.

Stewardship is defined in Merriam-Webster's dictionary as "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Using this definition, there are many ways in which we can each act as stewards of First Church and Parish in Dedham. Some of these ways include:

- Participating in the Parish Community Network by providing assistance to another member of our congregation
- Serving as an Usher during Sunday Services
- Singing in the Choir
- Hosting Coffee Hour
- Teaching Church School
- Serving on a Committee
- Working at a "Family Fun Day"
- And of course, making a financial contribution to support the work of the church

The 2008 Stewardship Campaign is about all of these, and especially about the financial health of this 370 year old institution.

Our campaign will begin in March with small gatherings at the homes of congregational members. These gatherings will provide you with the opportunity to learn first hand about the dreams and challenges that we face as a church and as a community as we head into our 2009 fiscal year. Although this will, of course, involve a discussion about money, we want to focus more on how we as a congregation can better serve one another and the larger community and what we can all do to accomplish this.

We look forward to working with you to bring all of our dreams to reality.

The Stewardship Committee

Liz Ames, Judy Barrington, Tyler Carpenter, Carol Dixon-Hutton, Dan Ewing (Chair), Jeff Hutton, Sam King, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Allison Staton, Eileen Sullivan, Diane Winchester

From the Wider UU Community

Mass Bay District- Upcoming District Sponsored Social Action Workshops

Congregationally Based Community Organizing is the topic for MBD Social Action Workshops

Workshop Locations

- Saturday, March 1, First Parish in Wayland
- Saturday, March, 15, Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury
- Saturday, April 5, UU Church in Reading

(The program is the same for each workshop; please register for the one that best fits your schedule and location)

Is Social Action important to you? Do you feel that it is an integral part of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist? Would you like to increase the capacity of your congregation to organize for social justice with oppressed communities?

The Mass Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Churches is offering a half-day training workshop in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry and the Unitarian Universalist Associations Program for Advocacy and Witness and UU Mass Action. Presentations focus on a three-part training of the underlying philosophy of grassroots community organizing and social justice principles and how your congregations can become more effective and more involved.

Along with the training there will be opportunities to share success stories and successful strategies among UU activists to inspire and entertain. The workshop will also provide you with a chance to learn more about the programs offered by UU organizations working on justice issues and to learn how our congregations can become more involved. The workshop concludes with a networking lunch where everyone can share ideas and get to know one another.

If you would be interested in joining a contingent from First Church and Parish in Dedham who will attend the workshop at the Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury on March 15th, Please contact Rev. Rali Weaver at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 781 381 0107.

From the Dedham Community: An Energy Awareness Checklist

Green up your home Dedham by applying just one of these energy efficient measures per month and by year end you will have saved money, energy, and helped the environment!

- Turn off lights, computers and your TV when not in use
- Unplug appliances and electronics such as DVD players and VCRs
- Replace incandescent bulbs with energy saving compact fluorescent bulbs. Replace a 60-watt incandescent with a 13-watt CFL and save \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb
- Purchase a programmable thermostat that automatically changes the temperature of your home and save \$150 per year on your heating and cooling bills!
- Contact NSTAR (www.nstar.com) or MassSave (www.masssave.com or call (866) 527-7283) for a FREE home energy audit
- Look for the ENERGY STAR logo when purchasing your next home appliance. Visit www.energystar.gov for a list of approved appliances
- Control air leakage by sealing windows and doors with caulking or weather stripping. Install storm windows or a plastic interior film to reduce heat loss from windows in winter months
- Set your water heater to 120° F. Wrap your water heater with an approved insulated blanket that can be purchased at most hardware stores
- Receive a \$100 rebate from the Dedham Westwood Water District when you purchase any model of front loading washers or a \$50 rebate when you purchase any model of high efficiency toilets (limit 2 per household). For more information contact 781-329-7090 or visit www.dwwd.org
- Install low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators
- Visit the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative website (www.masstech.org/renewablesenergy/residential.html) for information on rebates for small wind and photo voltaic energy installations

Brought to you by Dedham Renewable Energy Committee For more information on how to become part of the solution to global warming call 781-751-9213

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting **February 12, 2007**

Attending: Diane Winchester, Tyler Carpenter, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Claudia Leone, Sharon Lane, Rali Weaver, Sam King, Judy Barrington

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as written.

Minister's report:

- Continuation of social action on Sunday, 2/17
- Much time spent with Fran Grilley during her last days.
- Welcoming dinner, hosted by the Membership Committee was well attended and long time members were acknowledged and applauded.

Treasurer's report:

- Budget is good with income up and expenses down through January
- Pledges are at about 95% which is very good.

Stewardship Committee

- Discussion around the schedule of the stewardship campaign.
- Discussion of various ways to old the campaign this year.

Charles River Nursery School

The Charles River School sent a letter informing the church that they will not be renewing their lease as their program is closing. Dan will contact the Y to see if there might be a way for them to stay. This is a significant loss of income for the church.

Sharing the Plate

Discussion of how best to inform the congregation where each month's sharing the plate collection will go. Rali will announce the recipient the week before the collection is taken so that all will know where their donation is headed. Rali suggested that the offering taken during her installation go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Fran Grilley:

As Fran had no living relatives and felt that the church was her family, Rali will announce that anyone who would like to assist with the funeral costs do so by making a donation in that regard to the Benevolent Committee. The Benevolent Committee will then write one check.

Since Fran was an avid reader and worked the book table at the Holly Fair for many

years, Bruce and Dottie Clary would like to create a book table in her honor. Rali will get more details from them as to what they envision.

Religious Education

Thank you to those who volunteered to cover the Church School program while Carol Dixon Hutton is away.

Membership numbers have been sent to the UUA as required each year.

It has been recommended that the congregation develop a Behavior Covenant. An ad hoc committee will be appointed to draft such a document for presentation to the congregation for a vote, hopefully at the annual meeting on May 4.

Respectfully Submitted by

Eileen Sullivan