



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVIII, No. 9

May, 2008

Calendar

May

- 4 – Sunday, 11:00 Budget Hearing
- 8 – Thursday, 7:15: Choir Rehearsal
- 9 – Friday, 7:00 Men's Group
- 13 – Tuesday, 7:00: Parish Committee
- 15 – Thursday, 7:15: Choir Rehearsal
- 16 – Friday, 6:30 Cakes
- 18 – Sunday: 11:00 Annual Meeting
- 29 – Thursday, 5:00: Music Fest set up
- 30 – Friday, 7:30: Sharing a New Song
- 31 – Saturday, 10:00: Dedham Square Music Festival

June

- 1 – Sunday: 11:00: Dedham Square Music Festival

Also...

- 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 May 26.

First Church and Parish in Dedham
670 High Street,
Dedham, MA 02026
Church Office:
Hours M-F 9 AM.–Noon
Phone 781-326-7463
FAX: 781-326-7464
E-mail: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org
Rev. Rali Weaver, Parish Minister
Judy Butler, Office Administrator

Sundays in the Meeting House

May 4, 10:00 AM: "The Flip Side"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

Have you ever thought about the fact that there are two sides to every story? How there is more than one answer to every question? And there are countless ways to see things? This Sunday we will examine the gifts of dyslexia on our dualistic culture and how trying to see both sides of any story might set us free.

A Budget Hearing will be held following worship.

May 11, 10:00 AM: "Caring For The Mother Of Us All"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

In honor of Mother's day we will explore the myths and traditions that view the earth as Mother of Us All. And explore what, if anything, we can do to care for her.

May 18, 10:00 AM: "Music Sunday"

Children will participate in this month's Cool Deeds Sunday

Music Sunday this year will incorporate compositions by American composers in the worship service. There will be two poems by Herman Melville set to music by Robert Evett. You will also hear two Robert Frost poems set by Randall Thompson. In addition there will be two pieces by Aaron Copland: a minstrel song (see how fast we can do this one!) and a stirring piece titled "The Promise of Living", a Thanksgiving Song from the opera "The Tender Land".

A 12 person choir and Linnea have been working diligently to present to you this varied and interesting music and look forward to sharing it with you.

The Annual Meeting will follow worship.

May 25, 10:00 AM: "Remembering"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

This Memorial Sunday we will explore the history of Memorial Day and the importance of remembering our losses as a part of living more fully. There will be a candle lighting remembrance as part of this service.

From Our Minister:

“If liberty and equality, as is thought by some, are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.”

-Aristotle

This month is our Annual Meeting month. On May 4th there will be a budget hearing and on May 18th we will have our Annual Meeting. These are important events in the life of the church and I hope you can attend. I say these are important events in the life of the church because in August of 1648 our forefathers gathered to create the Cambridge Platform, a document that (in short) endorsed the idea that the parishioners made up the communion of saints and handing over to this communion voting rights to make the decisions of the church.

I point this out on the eve of our Annual Meeting because it is important to recognize that the reason all these decisions are made by the collective is because they are the collective's decisions to make. And as Aristotle pointed out the only way to make the system truly work for good is to include all of our voices in the decision making process. This of course does not mean we will all get our own way. But it does mean that it is only in giving us each our vote that we will find the best collective decision.

I hope you can take the time to participate in the process this month.

See you at Annual Meeting

Rali

Focus on Religious Education

Spring is upon us with all its glory! April has been a busy month with many great RE moments. The Neighboring Faith's Class visited a mosque in Sharon, MA and began to learn about Hinduism. The UU Heroes Class learned about "UU Hero" Beatrix Potter. The "Special Places, Sacred Spaces" class will be exploring stories that relate to questions children have about death.

Our "Going Green Deeds Day" was a very successful. Our "Help the Earth – Turn Off the Lights" signs are reminding us all to be more careful with our energy consumption. There was a good reaction to using china cups instead of paper cups at our "Green Deeds Coffee Hour".

There is a change of plans for this week's "Cool Deeds Sunday". The Needham UU Church will not be joining us for a "Mini-Walk for Hunger". Instead we will continue our "Help the Planet" theme. **Please have your child bring an old t-shirt to church school on Sunday, May 4th. (This should be shirt you do not want to wear again). We will do a special recycling project.** If you haven't had a chance to help with a "Cool Deeds Project" this year, please give a hand this Sunday, May 4th. Please contact me for more information.

Thoughts and Looking Ahead:

Please plan to participate in the Budget Hearing on May 4th and in the Annual Meeting on May 18th. Your input is important. Both of these important events are after church and child care will be available.

Dates to remember:

May 4th	"Cool Deeds Sunday"
May 11th	Curriculum Sunday/Mother's Day
May 18th	Curriculum Sunday/preparation for Children's Sunday
May 25th	Start in Meeting House with special activities
June 1st	Children's Sunday

Carol Dixon Hutton
Religious Education Committee, chair carolhdixon@gmail.com

Membership News

Evaluating Our Minister

Rev. Weaver is in her third and (hopefully) final year of the fellowshipping process. For this we need to file an evaluation of her ministry with the Ministerial Fellowship Council of the UUA. Rali's past evaluations are on file in the office. If you have comments or would like to add input to these evaluations please contact Claudia Leone the chair of the Ministry Committee claudiaaleone@cs.com or (781) 762-3397 with your thoughts.

All Around the Church Community --Save the Dates

Opportunity To Help Youth

On Sunday, May 25 Marnie Littleford from ECI a non-profit student exchange program will be here to offer opportunities to sponsor foreign exchange students in the coming year. If you are interested in assisting a foreign exchange student and cannot be here there are flyers in the meeting house.

Dealing With Difficult Behavior

We will continue our discussion on Dealing With Difficult Behavior on May 25 from 1:30- 3:30 (the time has been changed so as not to interfere with the Annual Meeting. Although attendance at every class is helpful you do not need to attend every class to make it worth your while. Contact Rev. Rali Weaver with questions. raliweaver@yahoo.com or 781-381-0107

Integral Thinking Study Group to Begin May 23rd

While scientists hold that the incredible diversity and complexity of life resulted from evolution we don't hear much about the evolution of consciousness. The closest was "consciousness raising" that was used in the 1970s to encourage people to leave behind their older ways of looking at things, especially in politics. Are we at the final stage of mental and spiritual evolution? Or are we on the threshold of a leap into what some call the "second tier?" Join us while we explore the thoughts of those who claim that we need to evolve a new way of looking at the world that respects and includes the previous ways while transcending them. Some pre-reading will be offered so please contact Rev. Rali Weaver (raliweaver@yahoo.com or 781 381 0107 or Henry (Scotty) Scuoteguazza scuoteguazza@cs.com.

All Around the Church Community

Amnesty International

A big thank you to those of you who wrote letters on behalf of an Azerbaijani human rights activist. The good news is that through your efforts and countless other Reza Daghestani was released from prison.

A big thank you also to those of you who wrote letters on behalf of a Tibetan refugee in April. They include the following: Jeff Hutton, Milo Carpenter, Tomoko Graham, Allison Staton, Doug Howell, David Hurwitz, Betsy Hetzler, Diane Winchester, Bob Estes, Tyler Carpenter and Judy Barrington.

Peter Elefterakis

Calling all Crafters:

Do you crochet, knit, sew, or do anything else crafty? Would you like to put those skills to use for charity and fund raising?

Tuesday May 20th will be the first meeting of the "Chalice Crafters". This meeting will be to discuss and plan the goals of the crafting group, including making items for sale at our annual Holly Fair.

The meeting will be from 7-9 in the Parish House sitting room. Feel free to bring ideas of a charitable organization, patterns, or even a craft to work on while talking!

For more information please contact Dale Meyer-Curley at 617-835-2374 or daley219@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting April 11, 2008

Attending: Carol Dixon, Tyler Carpenter, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Judy Barrington, Allison Staton, Sam King, Jeff Hutton, Dan Ewing, Diane Winchester

Meeting called to order by Tyler Carpenter at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a reading by Jeff Hutton.

Minutes of March 11, 2008 meeting - motion to approve as presented by Dan Ewing, second - passed.

Minister's Report

The minister's report was submitted in writing. The committee discussed setting up a sub-committee to complete Rali's final fellowship evaluation. Eileen Sullivan, Sharon Lane, and Judy Barrington volunteered to work on this evaluation. The goal is to complete the evaluation by the end of May. Claudia Leone will coordinate and organize the various evaluations.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted in oral and written form by Dan Ewing. The committee discussed the price of oil and its affect on the budget. **Motion to accept as presented by Sam King, second - passed.**

Religious Education

Carol Dixon reported one DRE applicant has withdrawn her application. An interview is scheduled with another applicant on April 9th.

Building Use

The Dedham Square Circle submitted a building use request to use the green on Saturday, May 31st and Sunday, June 1st for a Music Fest. The group will pay for electricity and will be erecting a large tent.

The committee discussed this proposal and agreed to accept the proposal with the following conditions: The Dedham Square Circle will be responsible for clean up, they will need a liability insurance policy of at least \$1 million dollars, and they will need to provide "Johnny on the Spot" for toilet facilities.

Stewardship Committee Update

Dan Ewing reported that 30 pledges have been received totaling \$45,000. At this time the average pledge is \$1500. We have \$80,000 left to raise to meet our goal. Thank you notes and follow-ups will be done by the Parish Committee.

New Members

The following new members were welcomed by the Parish Committee pending signing the membership book: Milo Carpenter, Tomoko Graham, Dale Meyer-Curley, Kathy Widger, Geoff Tegnell, Grace Pena, Jenny Carlson, and Linnea Bardarson.

Preparation for Annual Meeting

The committee discussed that Annual Meeting Reports would be due on April 20th. Reports should be sent to Judy Butler. Also that child care provisions should be made for the Annual Meeting. The budget and a date for a budget hearing were discussed. The committee decided on April 29th at 7:30 pm for budget hearing. The congregation will be informed via an all church e-mail.

Buildings and Grounds

Andrea Gilmore has obtained a written estimate for painting the exterior of the Meeting House, the estimate is for \$26,000.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 5/13/08, 7pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon,
Clerk

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting Additional Meeting – Convened April 14, 2008

Attending: Carol Dixon, Tyler Carpenter, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Judy Barrington, Allison Staton, Sam King, Dan Ewing, Diane Winchester, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order by Tyler Carpenter at 8:55 pm.

Motion to change the date of the Annual Meeting to May 18th and to change the budget hearing to May 4th, by Sam King, second - passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon
Clerk