



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXIX, No. 5

January, 2009

Sundays in the Meeting House

January 4, 10:00 AM: "Giving Life the Shape of Justice"

The Rev. Victor Carpenter and Tyler Carpenter will preach.

Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to their classes.

Last October, Tyler, Victor and Cathe Carpenter visited the country of Israel and the land of Palestine. By traveling with a "Health and Human Rights Project" they talked to a far wider variety of people than one normally meets when visiting the Holy Land. They learned of the past, the present, and the many possible futures of the people who live there and who seem intertwined in an endless cycle of bitterness and destruction with one another. And they saw hope. In this service they will share all they learned and their hopes for the future of Palestine.

At 12:30, we'll have a slide presentation and a discussion led by others who accompanied us on this trip. All are invited to attend.

January 11, 10:00: "Manifesting Your Hearts Desire"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

The Intergenerational Choir will sing this week.

Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to their cool deed.

Many of the new wave belief systems talk about the abundance of the universe and manifesting your hearts desire. This week Rev. Weaver will explore abundance theologies from Norman Vincent Peal to The Secret and try to find out what if any insight they might give to setting productive New Year's Resolutions.

There will be an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas following worship in the Meeting House

January 18, 10:00 AM: Hymn Sing

This will be the first of four Sundays where we will worship in the Parish House to conserve fuel costs.

The Music and Worship Committee will offer this service

Children will start in the Dining Room and then choose between a special activity or staying and singing.

Music is a central part of what we do in worship. The songs we hear and the songs we sing can inspire us, comfort us and encourage us. The Music and Worship Committee will be on hand to offer up your favorite hymns. And the Choir will also teach us a few of their favorites that we might not be familiar with. We look forward to singing together and hope to see you there.

January 25, 10:00 AM: "The Origins of our Faith Tradition"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Worship will take place in the Parish House.

Where does this religion come from? What makes us Unitarian Universalists? How do our principals and purposes inform our lives? This Sunday we will explore some of the theological beliefs and central ideas from both Unitarians and Universalists that have brought us to our present day.

You will be invited to offer your Joys and Concerns During Worship this week.

Calendar

Christmas Eve: December 24

6:00: Carol Singing on the Meeting House Steps

6:30: Candlelight Service

Also in January...

Parish Players Auditions: January 4, 11:15

Parish Committee: January 6, 7:00

Spiritual Discernment: Starting January 12:
Mondays, 7:00

CAKES: January 16, 6:30

Greening Event: January 28, 7:00

Youth Group: Sundays: 6:00

Meditation: Thursdays: 7:30

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

If you do not receive our weekly church emails and would like to please contact the church office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

From Our Minister:

As this New Year has begun I have been reflecting upon teachers. I always think the New Year is a time to point us toward new learning and our teachers are a very important to the process of learning. This is not because learning can't go on without a teacher because there are plenty of learnings that happen without a teacher in sight. But with a teacher learning is easier and with a teacher as witness growth can be measured.

In this New Year I too am looking to lean on a new kind of teacher, a saxophone teacher. I received a saxophone for Christmas three years ago and as much as I practice on my own I make very little headway. I need someone to show me the way to play the saxophone if I am to have made any real progress at all.

However there is something that prevents me from calling to set up lessons. In my heart of hearts I wonder if I will ever be better than I am and if I can really learn the saxophone. I wonder if I will make a fool of myself or if I will ever be able to get something other than the squawking sound of a bird out of that horn. The truth is that without plugging away and practicing I will never learn to play the saxophone. And without a good teacher to guide me I might never have the confidence or the fortitude to try.

As we enter this New Year I sure hope we all find the teachers we require to accomplish our individual goals. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our Religious Education teachers who knows what strange pathways we might have taken to get here without you to guide us.

Rali

Focus on Religious Education

The month of December has been a busy but joyous month for the church school. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time to make all of our activities a success. The advent craft day, Parent's Night Out, and of course the pageant would not have been possible without so many helping hands. The pageant once again was "the Best Christmas Pageant Ever". A special thank you to Diane Winchester for making the pageant such a wonderful experience for everyone.

We will return to our regular schedule on Sunday, January 4th. The spring semester will start on January 25th.

Our "Cool Deed" for January will be "Pennies for Peace". This project supports the building of schools in Pakistan. This work was started by Greg Mortenson and his efforts are described in the book "*Three Cups of Tea*". I would like to try to involve other churches and community groups in this collection. Please let me know if you would like to work with me on this project. More information is available on at www.penniesforpeace.org. Our "*Cool Deed*" Sunday will be on January 11th

Help Needed:

- Sign up at coffee hour to be a nursery volunteer. Help our nursery director, Adeline Farrell with our littlest First Church friends.
- Three volunteers needed to help with, January 11th "*Cool Deed*".

please let us know.

Looking Ahead:

January 4 th	Curriculum	Family Choir
January 11 th	"Cool Deeds"	
January 18 th	Intergenerational Service or Special Activity	
January 25 th	Curriculum	

Best wishes to everyone for a joyous holiday and a healthy, happy New Year.

Carol Dixon
Chair, Religious Education Committee

All Around the Church Community

Fund Raising is off to a great start!!!

So far this year we have raised \$4,416.10 toward our goal of \$10,000 in support of the FY09 Operating Budget.

Since our “church year” spans 10 months and we need to raise \$10,000 the math is easy to express this as a monthly goal. So, we need to think about ways to raise \$1,000 each and every month that the church is open during our FY09 fiscal year. Thus far we are ahead of our target as we have raised over \$4,000 in September and October combined. Now we just need to keep the momentum going.

Here is what we have raised so far:

● Yard Sale	659.00
● Fall Fair	2,011.10
● Harvest Dinner	1,746.00
Total	\$4,416.10

We owe special thanks to everyone who organized and worked at these events for their contributions to the life of our church and to helping meet our financial goals for FY09.

There is a group already planning a Service Auction for later this year but more ideas are needed. Anyone who has an idea should feel free to float it and see where it takes us. We need a lot of little successes to make our goal and everyone can participate in their own way.

There is a Fund Raising Thermometer in the Parish House to show our progress. Remember, all we need is \$1,000 per month and we will make it to the goal.

January 4th 11:15 AM in the Parish House

The Parish Players are pleased to announce their 2009 production, “**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!**”. The performances will take place on March 13,14 and 15. Auditions will be held on Sunday, January 4th and as always everyone is invited to join us. Beginning this Sunday you may sign up in the dining room for an audition time. Please note that we will see all kids under the age of 7 together, with or without their parents, between 11:15 and 11:25, and those from age 7-10 from 11:25-11:35. If you have been in a previous show and would like to be in the chorus, no audition is necessary; please complete the information form and return it by January 4th.

All Around the Church Community

January 4th 12:30 PM in the Parish House

Israel/Palestine Slide Presentation and Service

Accompanying Tyler and Victor Carpenter on their trip to Israel and Palestine, were Jeff Klein, a retired union president and Howard Lenow, a Wayland-based labor attorney. On the afternoon of this service, Mr. Klein and Mr. Lenow will give a slide presentation of Palestinian lives under Israeli Occupation as observed from their visits to the area under the auspices of the Health and Human Rights Project of Jewish Voice for Peace. They will describe the impact of the Israeli Occupation on the daily lives of Palestinians, explore the background to the conflict – and suggest what we can do here to promote a just peace. The speakers will also address the little-known issue of systemic discrimination against the 1.5 million Palestinian citizens within Israel.

January 12th, 7 PM at the Parsonage

Spiritual Discernment

Beginning Monday evenings January 12th The Rev. Weaver will offer 4 sessions of Spiritual Discernment. How do we as Unitarian Universalist without a common sense of Divine Will determine our highest good? We will meet at the parsonage for 4 weeks Jan 12 through Feb 2nd to explore various methods of Spiritual Discernment and share our own ideas about how we determine the best path for our lives.

January 16th 6 PM at the Parish House

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Our on-going CAKES group is going to be studying the new curriculum, “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven in Ancient Times”. It is a 5 session religious curriculum in feminist theology. It is an opportunity for women to know their female religious roots from diverse cultures. It will be led by our Minister Emeritus- The Rev. Betsy Stevens. The group will meet Friday, Jan. 16 at 6:30pm in the Parish House and will continue on the 3rd Friday of the month through May. The evening will begin with a pizza supper and will finish by 9pm. All women are invited and encouraged to join the group and they may do so by signing up on the clipboard in the Dining Room.

All Around the Church Community

January 28th 7 PM in the Parish House

Greening Event

The Livable Streets Alliance is a non-profit organization formed in July, 2005 that believes urban transportation has the power to make Boston a more connected, livable city. They challenge people to think differently and to demand a system that balances transit, walking, and biking with automobiles. They promote safe, convenient, and affordable transportation for all users in urban Boston. Streets that are enjoyable to use will better support neighborhoods and small business districts. On January 28th Jeffery Rosenblum and Christopher Hart of Livable Streets will be on hand to discuss their vision for a safe city for innovative transportation. Watch www.dedhamuu.org for more details

Dedham Food Pantry Volunteers

There is a change in the dates for First church to staff the pantry for 2009. Normally we have done a volunteering four Saturdays in March. The Pantry volunteer coordinator is new and had some of the slots filled. Our new dates are:

January 17
January 24
March 21
May 16

The Dedham Food pantry relies on volunteers to help with the clients shopping on Saturday mornings 8:30 to 11:00 am. With the need going up we are looking for 5 volunteers. Older students are welcome to come and help with the clients bags and other jobs as needed. This good if you need Community Service credits.

The Pantry is located at St John's Methodist Church in Oakdale Center. See Pam Aist or Janet Hurwitz for more information.

Look for sign up sheets for the January dates. We love to have your help.

Pam Aist

If you do not receive our weekly church emails and would like to please contact the church office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

All Around the Church Community

Coming to a Church Near You: The Service Auction!

On February 7, 2009, First Church will be holding one of our most popular fund raisers: the Service Auction. Mark it on your calendar. You won't want to miss it!

And for your entertainment until then, we bring you this poem.

*Twas the night of the auction and all through the (Parish) House,
First Churchers were gathered, every one, every spouse.*

*The dining room was set with infinite care
In hopes that big spenders soon would be there.*

*The programs were printed soon to be read,
Loaded with services ready for bid.*

*And Andrea in the kitchen making pasta for all
While everyone else was having a ball.*

*Folks had started to bid, though silently.
They'd learn after dinner who the winners would be.*

*The meal, it was scrumptious with nothing left to show
And all settled in their seats, satisfied faces aglow,*

*When what to wondering eyes should appear
But three not-so-tiny auctioneers!*

*It was Jeff and Dan and Rich, who, after all,
Would make certain that the bidding never did stall.*

*They jumped to the stage and started right away,
Called out the services to see what the bidders would say.*

*The services were so many—just to name a few:
Babysitting, flowers, a vacation home or two,*

*Home repairs, lawn care, and yummy baked beans,
Sunset cruises, gourmet dinners and gutters so clean.*

*The bids they came quickly, the auctioneers worked fast,
With a "Do I hear?" and a "Sold!" they soon got to the last.*

*And when it was over, the church budget was not so tight
For everyone had been generous and all had a good night!*

(With apologies to Clement C. Moore)

All Around the Church Community

Meditation Group

The Meditation Group will begin again in January 8th at 7pm. The group will focus on a book written by Pema Chodron, called *When Things Fall Apart*. The book has short chapters, 5 to 6 pages, which could be the focus of each meditation session. The book can be purchased through Amazon, through Shambala Press or at Barnes and Noble in Braintree. Please let me know if you are interested or call the church office.

Carol Dixon

Amnesty International

Next time you go to coffee hour note the bulletin board on the right in the corridor. There you'll find the names of people released from prison due to AI letter writers.

The following wrote letters on behalf of a Sri Lankan human right's activist: Judy Barrington, Bob Estes, Virginia Hickey-Ferentinos, Doug Howell, Sam King, Beppy Martin, Allison Staton, Eileen Sullivan, Rali Weaver and Diane Winchester.

Thank you

Peter Elefterakis

Winter Walk Through the Frozen Wilds of Dedham

I'm planning a walk through the frozen wilds of Dedham. The walk will take us from the church to Wilson Mountain traveling on the fewest roads possible and returning by a different route. The key to this walk is cold cold weather as we will be walking over several marshes that need to be frozen for successful traverse.

If your feeling hale and hearty this winter plan to join me for a three hour walk in the woods. Ideally we could make this small trek in late December or early January when the ponds have frozen but before any big snow. It all depends on the weather. It might be that the weather won't cooperate and the plan will bust for this year. But we could be lucky and have a great walk. You could see parts of Dedham you never knew were there.

So if your ready for a winter walk, be prepared to decide on a few days notice cause when everything starts to freeze we will only have a few days notice for the winter walk. If your interested or want to know more send me your e-mail address. It just might be a way to simplify your life for a few hours.

Jeff Hutton
jhutton@bu.edu

All Around the Church Community

Thanks in Hearts (not spades) to all the Trading Post elves

Every year I wonder if we will be able to pull it off, and every year the minor miracle happens.

This year:

Joan Wislocki and MaryAnne Osborne brought their experienced eye and hard work. Martha Leonard washed what looked like junk and turned it into treasure. John Barrington tested our electrical items, and Peter McDonough did a lot of everything, including pleasantly guarding the door on Fair day. Natalie Jensen and Kathy Widger pitched in with great energy and cheer. Lucy Jensen brought her enthusiasm, keen eye for the unusual and interesting “find” and hard work. Barbara Barnes came faithfully to lend her expertise. Fred Martin, Kate Martin and Heather Gardner wrapped and cashiered calmly amidst the 9 am. rush. Janet Haynes and Kate make our many books available for the book lovers. Sue Sennott stepped in to the breach with great aplomb in an emergency, as did several others. And untold numbers of people collected unneeded items over the year, and brought them in for us to sell so others could enjoy them – and we could support our good causes.

And so it goes. Because so many in the Alliance and the Church as a whole pitched in, it all worked again this year. **The Fair earned over \$5,500.00!**

The Alliance contributed \$5000 to the church this year, but it also gave smaller donations to Clara Barton Camp for girls with diabetes, the Community House, Food Pantry, First Church Benevolent Committee, the Dedham Council on Aging, Parish Players, Renewal House, Rosie’s Place, Star Island, the UU Urban ministry, The UU Service Committee, Visiting Nurse, and Friends of the Mentally Ill. All that, through the hard work not just of the Alliance, but of the whole church, and a few good friends beyond the church. So...

Congratulations, thanks! MERRY CHRISTMAS & a Peaceful New Year

Beppy Martin

From the First Church Greening Committee

Alternative Transportation

I was supposed to talk about alternative transportation this month but as the weather grows colder and the winds bring the temperature down I began thinking it might be more important to address a perhaps more pressing concern.

To warm up or not to warm up your car- that is the question.

Many people believe it is best to let your car sit idly and gently warm up before driving off to work. Of course it is natural to want the interior of your car to warm but this is a significant waste of energy and creates pollution.

According to The New York Times and Click and Clack the Tap It Brothers it is a bad idea to warm up your car more than 30- 60 seconds in the wintertime. Modern day fuel injection engines have a computer that tells your fuel injectors to stay open longer and allow more fuel into the engine in order to help it run efficiently in the cold. So as you drive your car and your engine warms up more efficiently, your fuel injectors return to normal and let in less fuel.

When you allow your car to sit idle it actually takes a much longer time for it to reach its operating temperature and so a cold engine sitting idly for more than one minute actually releases more fuel than if you were driving it. Not only that but a cold engine also emits more unburned hydrocarbons than a warm engine and so sitting and idling a cold engine, (which makes it take a longer time to warm up) releases an increased number of unburned hydrocarbons because the catalytic converter needs high exhaust temperatures to work properly.

If it is 10 Degrees Fahrenheit or colder your car can benefit from letting the engine warm up for about a minute to allow the oil to thin out and circulate fully but other than that the best thing you can do when driving in the cold is to start your car and then let it run for 30 seconds, then start off slowly. This will make your engine warm up faster, your exhaust system get up to functioning temperature faster and help the catalytic converter do its job to save the ozone.

If you want to reduce your carbon footprint more significantly your other option is to leave your car at home and take public transportation, your bicycle or your snowshoes to work, but on cold days that might seem a bit extreme.

However you travel this winter lets hope your travel is safe and energy efficient.

-Rali

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting November 11, 2008

Present: Judy Barrington, Audrey Cecil, Carol Dixon, Dan Ewing, Sam King, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Jeff Hutton, Kerry Matthews, Allison Staton, Eileen Sullivan, Rev. Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order at 7:04pm

Opening words by Allison Staton.

Minutes of October 7, 2008 –Motion made to approve minutes of the last meeting. Second, motion carried.

Ministers Report

Rali Weaver submitted the minister's report both orally and in writing. We have had many new visitors this past month. She attended Mass Bay District Annual meeting. General Assembly is coming up and we will want to raise the congregation's awareness of election candidates and issues during the coming months.

There has been a change in the church office hours. The office will be closed on Mondays. Judy will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30 – 2:00pm. Rali Weaver is generally in the office on Thursday.

A Jewish Renewal Group has indicated interest in renting space from us for worship on a long term basis. They will be asked to submit a written proposal and building use form.

The Dedham Food Pantry is experiencing difficulties due to high volume and inadequate space. We may want to consider the viability of offering space on our grounds or assisting with the process of obtaining new space elsewhere.

Welcoming Congregation Committee

At the recent Special Congregational Meeting, it was proposed that we establish a committee to address our effort to look at the Welcoming Congregation process.

Motion made to establish a committee consisting of Dale Myer, Alison Staton, Carol Ewing, Jane Kelly, Judy Barrington and Eileen Sullivan. Second – motion carried.

Building Use Forms

Allison Staton presented the revised Building Use Form. Motion made to accept the new building use form. Second, motion carried. The form will be entered into the church website.

Role and Function of the Parish Committee

The Parish Committee retreat will take place on November 22, 2008 from 10am – 4pm. We will focus on clarifying and defining the role of the Parish Committee.

Treasurer's Report

Dan Ewing presented the budget review for October. Pledges are not coming in as expected; however, October was a good month for fund raising. Over \$3700 was raised by two events, the Fall Fair and the Harvest Dinner.

Rali Weaver added a fund raising image of a thermometer to the church web site to help us track our fund raising effort. The visual cuing is helpful.

The budget for the year is on course at present. There is always variation from month to month, making it difficult to predict accurately, but right now, the financial health of the church looks good.

Religious Education

Carol Dixon reports that the church school has had many new visitors and two new families have enrolled. It is important to keep our classroom volunteers involved at a consistently high level to accommodate the new children in each classroom. A crib is being readied for the nursery. We are coming into the holiday season with some changes in the RE schedule. Volunteer helpers are needed for upcoming activities. The pre-school class will meet every Sunday regardless of the schedule for the older children. We need to buy a new table for the pre-school. A Parent's Night Out is in the planning stage. **We ask that everyone be cognizant of peanut allergies. It is requested that no outside food be brought into the classroom.** The church school teachers have all been alerted to food allergy issues. They provide only nut free snacks to the children. The R.E. Director position will be posted again. Thank you to Carol Dixon for continuing to coordinate the R.E. program while we search for a new director.

Building Use Committee

Sam King reported that a joint meeting of the Building and Grounds Committee and the Music and Worship Committee is being planned for January to discuss the possibility of making alterations to the Meeting House to enhance concert readiness as well as accommodations for wheelchair users. A proposal regarding changes will need to be put together and presented to the Parish Committee and then to the congregation for consideration.

Fund Raising

The Harvest Dinner was a big success.

A Service Auction is being planned for February 7, 2009. Ann Schiraga will chair the event. Carol Dixon, Carol Ewing, Vicki Berg and Andrea Gilmore will form the planning committee.

Eileen Sullivan is exploring the possibility of a fund raiser through Pizzeria Uno in Dedham.

New Business

1. We need to move toward finding a chair for this year's stewardship committee.
2. The idea of a winter church/community supper was proposed by Jeff Hutton.
3. The idea of a soup exchange was proposed.

Next meeting will be December 2, 2008 at 7pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey H. Cecil