



# The Parish Record

First Church and Parish in Dedham

[www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

Volume CXXVI, No. 6

December 8, 2005

## Calendar

### December

12, Monday, 6:30: Aerobics  
12, Monday, 7:30 Parish Committee  
(note date change)  
14, Wednesday, 6:30: Aerobics

## Sundays in the Meeting House

December 11, 10:00 AM: Winter Solstice. The sermon will be "Solstice", by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross

December 18, 10:00 AM: Christmas Pageant. The sermon will be "If Only In My Dreams", by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross

December 24, 10:00 AM: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The sermon will be "Christmas in Other Lands", by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross

The Parish Record is published biweekly.  
Tyler Carpenter, Interim Editor  
670 High Street  
Dedham, MA 02026

Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross  
Interim Parish Minister  
Susan Sennott  
Director of Religious Education

Church Office:  
Hours M-F 9 a.m.–noon  
Phone 781-326-7463  
FAX: 781-326-7464  
E-mail: [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

The next deadline for submissions (the New Year's Issue) is December 26. Send notices directly by e-mail to: [tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org](mailto:tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org) or call me with questions: 617-816-9728.

## PLEASE, PLEASE!

The Search Committee wants to know what you want in our next minister. All friends and members of First Church have been sent a survey asking for your input. We are hoping to get a response from everyone. If you haven't filled out your survey yet, it's not too late. Do it today! Drop off the completed surveys in the Survey Return Box by the Search Info display in the dining room or mail them the enclosed return envelope. If your copy has been misplaced, we'll be happy to give you another—just speak to any member of the committee.

Now, if you've already sent in your survey, then –  
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

**The Ministerial Search Committee**

## Focus on Religious Education

December 5, 2005

When do we meet:

Sunday, December 11th – pageant practice and costume planning. (Teachers needed)

**Saturday**, December 17<sup>th</sup> – 9AM Pageant rehearsal in the meeting house. (Teachers needed.)

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> – 10AM All Church - Holiday Pageant in the Meeting House

**Front Page News** – I hope you all saw the November 18<sup>th</sup> issue of the Dedham Times, where our brownie bakers made the headline!

### Other Activities:

1. December 14<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Night Out – from 6 to 8 PM see flyer for details.
2. The Giving Tree for Renewal House is on the bulletin board outside the dining room, gifts should be brought to the parish house by December 18<sup>th</sup>.
3. The Mitten Tree for Renewal House will be decorated on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### REMINDERS:

Guest at your table boxes should be returned on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Save the Date: On **Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Cradles to Crayons in Braintree. We are schedule to be there for about 1 ½ hours starting at 10 AM.

**Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education**

## Holly Fair Update

### Thanks to everyone who contributed items and help!

We want to say special thanks to all who helped at the Holly Fair on Saturday, Dec. 3., to all who contributed items for sale, and to all those who setup during the week. The fair was a big success. So far we have made over \$4000; plus what we will receive from the Mini-Fairs at coffee hours - Dec. 4 and Dec. 11. We still have many nice items left so plan to shop at coffee hour this coming Sunday. It isn't possible to mention everyone here for fear of missing anyone; but each and everyone of you that volunteered or donated items has made a difference and we really could not have done without you, including the teens who helped with the TOYS, and the younger children who not only made items to sell, but helped with their parents setting up and selling. It was indeed a church-wide effort. Sincere appreciation and thanks to all of you and wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season.

Janet Hurwitz and Judy Barrington, Alliance Holly Fair co-chairs

## In Our Church Family

---

It is with sadness that we learned of Phyllis Ambrose's passing last week. Phyllis requested no memorial service. Andrea Gilmore is available for more information at [agilmore@bcausa.com](mailto:agilmore@bcausa.com).

---

### **Parish Players News**

*Save the dates –  
Saturday, December 10  
Sunday, December 11*

The Parish Players are pleased to announce that they will be sponsoring a production of “**Amahl and The Night Visitors**” this holiday season. Performances will take place in the Meeting House on Saturday, December 10th and Sunday, December 11th at 5 pm. The show runs about 1 hour and is suitable for all ages. No tickets or reservations are needed. Please join us for a wonderful holiday treat!

Update- At the moment there are no plans for a spring Parish Players production as the producers are taking a sabbatical due to other church responsibilities. We are still looking for people who would be willing to help produce or direct a small-scale show with an emphasis on children's participation. No experience is necessary! Please call Natalie Jensen at 781-329-9289 if you'd like more information.

---

*Save the date II – Sunday, January 8, 2006*

Come celebrate Rob Ross in church and at coffee hour! Rob has been with us since September, and the Committee on Ministry is sponsoring an "official" welcome. This will be a service for all ages as some young folks will participate, Susan Sennott will tell a "Story for All Ages", the choir will offer an appropriate song or two, and Rob may have a surprise himself! The Committee on Ministry plans to bring the flowers and plenty of coffee hour goodies.

---

If your Parish Record is arriving very late (or not at all), please let me know. I spoke with Patty the Dedham Post Office this fall to ask about the problem. She recommended that we sort the Parish Record by zip code and also place it in an envelope. Still, some people are not getting their Parish Record promptly. I will visit the Dedham post office again this winter with the addresses of people who are getting their Parish Record late.

Judy Butler, Church Administrator

## From First Church Green

There is a legend from the Ukraine about how even the smallest and seemingly insignificant of animals share in the Christmas spirit.

Once, a long time ago, a gentle mother was busily cleaning her house for the most wonderful day of the year in the Ukraine. This was the day Father Christmas would come to bless the house. Not a speck of dust was left. Even the spiders had been banished from their cozy corner in the ceiling to avoid mother's busy cleaning. Finally, the spiders fled to the farthest corner of the attic.

It was Christmas eve at last! The tree was decorated and waiting for the children to see it. But the poor spiders were frantic. From their hiding place in the far reaches of the attic they could not see the tree, nor be present for Father Christmas' visit. Then the oldest and wisest spider suggested they peep through a crack in the door to see. Silently the spiders crept out of their attic, down the stairs, and across the floor to wait in the crack in the threshold. Suddenly, the door opened a wee bit and the spiders quickly scurried into the room. They had to see the tree up close, since their eyes weren't accustomed to the brightness of the room. So the spiders crept all over the tree, up and down, over every branch and twig, and they saw every one of the pretty decorations. At last they were able to see every inch of the Christmas tree's beauty.

But alas! Everywhere they went the spiders had left their webs. They feared they might have ruined the tree and ran off again to hide. But when Father Christmas came to bless the house he was dismayed that his beloved little spiders were not there. For these spiders were God's creatures too. But Father Christmas knew the mother, who had trimmed the tree for her little children, wouldn't feel this way. So Father Christmas touched all the webs and they turned to sparkling, shimmering, silver and gold!

Ever since that time, people in many places in the world hang tinsel on their Christmas trees. But in the Ukraine, where the legend began, it continues to be a custom to include a spider somewhere among all the decorations on the tree.

Rob

# *Amahl and the Night Visitors*

*By Gian-Carlo Menotti*

*Directed by Diane Winchester*

*Accompanist- Sharon Lee*

*Mother- Diane Winchester      Amahl- Nick Ray*

*King Kaspar- Bob Estes*

*King Melchior- Tom Donaghey*

*King Balthazar- Virgil Glenn*

*For further information call (508) 543-6406*

*Or (781) 326-7463*

*December 10 and 11, 5pm*

*Free Will Offering*