



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVI, No. 10

February 15, 2006

Calendar

February

- 19, Sunday, 11:00: Amnesty International Letter Writing
- 20, Monday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics
- 22, Wednesday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics
- 27, Monday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics

March

- 1, Wednesday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics
- 4, Saturday, 6:00 PM: First Church Service Auction**
- 11, Saturday, 6:00 PM: Search Committee Feedback

Sundays in the Meeting House

- February 19, 10:00 AM: Religion and Mental Health. The sermon will be "Family Problems – Family Values" by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross
- February 26, 10:00 AM: Alliance Sunday in Meeting House. Members of the Alliance will conduct the service.
- March 5, 10:00 AM: Youth Group Worship Service

Focus on Religious Education

When do we meet:

Sunday, February 19th – 10 AM: Presidents Day weekend: Special activities (No teaching)

Sunday, February 26th – 10 AM: Social Service Project (No teaching)

This month's social service project will benefit the Welcome Baby Program. We will make gift cards and fleece blankets. This should be a fun and it's for a wonderful program. If you would like to help please let me know.

About Welcome Baby - when a baby is born, a basket filled with gifts is lovingly assembled and delivered to the family by a specially trained neighborhood visitor. This friendly one-time visit offers not only a beautiful gift from the community but information about community resources and services that families may need. So far, Welcome Baby's multi-lingual visitors have touched the lives of over 2500 families.

The Youth Group was unable to meet on the 12th due to the storm. Watch your email for the new date. Bailey will need everyone's help to prepare for the Youth Service on March 5th.

Continued on next page...

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

Focus on Religious Education

(continued from Page 1)

Last week I attended the May Bay District Meeting of DREs, the guest speaker was Sally Patton. For over 30 years Sally has advocated and worked for children labeled as special needs. She is the author of *Welcoming Children with Special Needs: A Guidebook for Faith Communities*. If anyone is interested in the book I'll leave a copy in the RE office.

Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education

All Around the Church Community

Let's get together!

The main work of the Search Committee this first year of the ministerial search has been to learn what the congregation would like in their next minister. The survey that many of you completed has been helpful, but we would like to be able to hear your thoughts directly. We have planned three "cottage" meetings to do just that. These are informal gatherings of 10 to 15 people at the home of a member or friend. Everyone will soon be getting a phone invitation to attend one of these gatherings. They will be held on Sat., March 11, 18, and 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. As we are hoping everyone will be able to make one of these meetings, we will schedule more to accommodate everyone's calendars.

What will happen at these gatherings? First, Committee members will give a short presentation highlighting the results of the survey and then pose a few questions for discussion. The rest of the evening will be devoted to hearing from you: not only concerning the discussion topics, but also whatever your concerns and hopes are for the church and our new minister. And, of course, there will be wine, cheese and other goodies for your enjoyment!

Expect a phone invitation in the coming week. As always, we need your participation!

Save the Dates!

Women's Alliance Winter/Spring Programs

Sunday, February 12, 2006, 2 PM: Alliance "holiday" Tea. Everyone is invited. Bring a friend. In connection with Valentine holiday this month, a "romantic" music program and poetry readings.

Sunday, March 26, 2006, 10 AM: Alliance Sunday in Meeting House

Members of the Alliance will conduct the service. The Alliance will be hosting the coffee hour.

April, 2006 Saturday Date TBD: Intergenerational afternoon program. All are invited. Bring a friend.

May, 2006 Tuesday, Date TBD: Potluck supper and business meeting

First Church Service Auction Update

We will be holding a Service Auction Saturday, March 4th, this will be a “fun” fund raiser that will support the operating budget of First Church and Parish in Dedham. The auction will be most successful if everyone participates.

The schedule for the night will be:

6:00 Beverages, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction

6:30 Dinner

7:30 Live auction

Andrea Gilmore has volunteered to be the chef and she will be preparing turkey dinner plus a vegetarian entrée so anyone who has tasted Andrea's cooking knows we will be having a wonderful meal.

We will be asking each person to pay \$10 to cover the cost of the meal and beverages.

Childcare will be provided but please let us know if need childcare. Please sign up to attend the auction by calling the church office (781) 326- 7463 or e-mail the church: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or sign up at coffee hour. (*look for the special auction table and browse the services from auctions past*). We will need some volunteers the night of the auction, sign up and join the fun.

We will also provide transportation if you do not care to drive in the evening. Please let us know if you would like transportation.

Vicky Berg will be preparing the program. It takes a while to put the program together so she would appreciate receiving your services as soon as possible. Bring your services to coffee hour this week or e-mail them to Carol carolhdixon@gmail.com or call Carol (781) 461-0522 or Vicky (781) 326-3723 and we will be your scribes.

We are a church made up of talented, creative people so there should be a great selection of services available at the auction. As we are a community, you may want to donate a service that allows you to make a connection with someone in the church or one that gives you the opportunity to share an interest or talent with someone else in the congregation. A few ideas for services are listed below.

Is there a service that you are looking for, if so, please call or e-mail Carol Dixon Hutton, (781) 461-0522, carolhdixon@gmail.com. A Service Donation Form is included in this Parish Record. Please fill it out and return it to the Church Office by February 18th.

Continued on next page...

All Around the Church Community

All donations are welcome there is no donation too large or too small. In the past, some people have donated:

- **Services of time** (something you love to do but someone else despises)
i.e. errands, gardening, window washing, organizing, cooking, babysitting, sewing, painting, dog walking, pet sitting, etc.
- **Services of sharing**
i.e. a dinner, weekend or week at a vacation home, a round of golf, a boat ride, art, crafts, or sharing a talent or interest with an adult or child, etc.
- **Professional services**
i.e. some of your professional time you would share, *i.e.* consultation, tutoring, lessons, treatment, etc. (silent auction available)
- **Gift certificates or tickets**
i.e. dinners, museums, sporting events, shows, movies, concerts, etc.
- **Cooking**
i.e. a special food item you would make for someone else at a mutually agreed upon time
- **Your own ideas!!!!**

Examples of services offered in at the last auction:

- I will take two children to a Boston museum (Children's, Science or Aquarium) on a weekend afternoon, includes lunch.
- Anyone need assistance in learning to fix something in your home? I will be glad to help you become a handyperson.
- Treat yourself to cut flowers delivered to your house, three times during the year.
- I will work in your garden doing whatever you so direct for two hours.
- Come spend a day by the sea. Hunt the "fruit de mer" (quahogs) with a licensed shell fisherman. Walk to a deserted island and see the roseate tern. Includes lunch and dinner at a seaside cottage.

Your participation will make this event a success. Please donate a service or services. This is an event builds and strengthens our church community. Please plan to attend the auction on March 4th.

Thank you,
The Service Auction Committee
Carol Dixon Hutton, Andrea Gilmore, Vicky Berg, MaryAnne Osborne,
Natasha Lawhon-Schneider

From First Church Green

Now You Are Fit To Live

The fact that Buddy has not been around too often recently doesn't mean he has not been thinking of things important for the spiritual growth of First Church and Parish . . . from his point of view, of course. So Buddy instructed me to share with you all this story of how the *proper* alignment of human and canine came into being. It is a story from the Apache Indian tradition.

Before there were any people, the Creator had a heavenly companion named Dog. One day the Creator told Dog, "I'm going to go away for a while."

Dog asked, "Will you be gone very long?"

The Creator answered, "Yes, I'll be gone for a long time."

Dog said, "I'll get lonely."

So the Creator thought and said, "I'll make a companion for you." The Creator took clay and shaped it into a man.

He told the clay to sit up and the man sat up. He told the man to walk and the man walked. Dog was becoming very excited about his companion.

The Creator told the man to run and the man ran, with Dog running and jumping and barking at his side. Then the Creator told the man to laugh. The man laughed.

The Creator said, "Laugh again." The man laughed even more.

The Creator said a third time, "Laugh again." And the man laughed and laughed and laughed.

And the Creator said, "Now you are fit to live."

And that is the story of how man became Dog's best friend.

Signed,

Buddy

***First Church in Dedham
Service Auction - 3/4/06
Service Donation Form***

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Description of service donation:

Date (if applicable): _____

Estimated Value: _____

Minimum Bid (if applicable): _____

*Please return to the church office by: **February 18, 2006***

Questions???

Call Carol Dixon Hutton at 781-461-0522 or email at carolhdixon@gmail.com

