



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXVI, No. 15

May 3, 2006

## Calendar

### May

- 3, Wednesday: 6:30 Aerobics (Each Monday and Wednesday)
- 7, Sunday, 11:00 AM Empty Bowls Lunch
- 8, Wednesday: 6:30 Aerobics
- 9, Tuesday, 7:30 PM: Parish Committee
- 11, Thursday, 8:00 AM: Building and Grounds
- 12, Friday, 6:30: Cakes
- 14, Sunday, 11:30: Amnesty International Letter Writing
- 21, Sunday, 11:00 (After the service): Annual Meeting
- 23, Tuesday, 6:30: Alliance Pot Luck Supper

### June

- 6, Tuesday, COM Meeting
- 10, Saturday, 9:00 AM Yard Sale
- 11, Sunday, Noon: Annual Church Picnic

The Parish Record is published biweekly.  
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Interim Parish Minister  
Susan Sennott  
Director of Religious Education

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The next deadline for submissions is May 14. Send notices directly by e-mail to: [tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org](mailto:tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org) or call me with questions: 617-816-9728.

## Sundays in the Meeting House

May 7, 10:00 AM: Children's Sunday.

May 14, 10:00 AM: Mother's Day. The sermon will be "My Mother" by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross.

## Focus on Religious Education

When do we meet:

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>** – 10 AM: Children's Sunday & Empty Bowls Lunch. OWL meets from 10 to 12.

**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** – 10 AM: Teaching Sunday (Mother's Day). OWL meets from 10 to 12

On April 23rd children from the Needham Church joined us and together we made 30 bowls for the Empty Bowls Project, an international effort to fight hunger.

Thank you, Lisa Houck, for leading us in this project. Lisa not only helped the children create bowls, she brought all the bowls to her studio for us to fire and glaze.

On Sunday, May 7th immediately after the Children's Service we will be hosting an Empty Bowls Lunch. The bowls that the children created will be used to serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests will choose a bowl to use and to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. In exchange for the meal and the bowl, the guests will give a suggested minimum donation of ten dollars. All the money collected will go to the Dedham Food Pantry.

Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education

## All Around the Church Community

### What's Next from the Search Committee?

Now that the Cottage Meetings are over, the Search Committee would like to thank everyone for their valuable input. We now have a much clearer picture of what we should be looking for in a minister.

Our goals for the next few months are to complete the Congregational Record that has to be submitted to the UUA in September and to finish the Church Packet so that it will be available for interested candidates in November. We could use your help with this second project. If anyone has photographs of church activities or services, we would love to include them in the Packet. The pictures would be copied and promptly returned to you. Please speak with Natalie Jensen (781-329-9289) if you are able to help.

### The Nominating Committee Wants YOU!

The Nominating Committee will be at work during the month of May to fill a number of leadership positions for the upcoming year. The By-Laws of the Church and Parish state that the Nominating Committee will be comprised of: one deacon, one Parish Committee member, Chair of Religious Education, President of the Alliance, and the President of the Men's Club. Jeff Hutton, Deacon; Diane Winchester, Parish Committee; Judy Barrington, Alliance; Betsy Hetzler, Religious Education; and Peter Elefterakis appointed for the Men's Club; will be serving on the committee. The men's club is currently inactive however Peter has graciously agreed to serve in that slot.

The following positions are available:

- Deacon - 6-year term
- Parish Committee members
  - 2 members – 3-year terms
  - 1 member - 1-year term
- Clerk of the Parish Committee - 1-year term
- Treasurer - 1-year term
- Audit Committee - 1-year term

If you are interested in any of the above positions please or just want to know more about the process please contact Jeff Hutton (781) 461-0522 or [jhutton@bu.edu](mailto:jhutton@bu.edu) for more information or any of the committee members.

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## All Around the Church Community

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### The Fools Parade

A belated report following the "Fools Parade" dinner and dance back on April 1. Folks had a cajun good time with Rob's band "Mes Amis" that evening. Afterwards, the Committee on Ministry had \$65 left over that was donated to the Church.

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### Amnesty International

In April, Judy Butler, Judy Barrington, Audrey Cecil, Meg Duncan, Bob Estes, Betsy Hetzler, Jeff Hutton, Natalie Jensen, Beppy Martin and Eileen Sullivan wrote letters on behalf of a human rights activist in Ecuador. Our last letter writing session for the year will be on the 14th of May during coffee hour.

As always, thanks to all who helped

Peter Elefterakis

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### American Red Cross

The American Red Cross would like all of us to know that there is a blood shortage, and that all of us can help them out by donating our blood. They are at 180 Rustcraft Road in Dedham, and are open late on Tuesdays and Thursdays and they welcome walk ins. Please Call Shelly MacDonald at 718-461-2023. Go to [www.newenglandblood.org](http://www.newenglandblood.org) for more information.

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### Save the Date:

## The Annual Church Picnic

Sunday, June 11, 2006, Noon - 3pm

Dedham Country Day School

Plan to join us for a fun day including a barbeque, swimming and games.

We need to borrow coolers and we will need volunteers to cook. Sign up sheets will be posted in the dining room in May.

Thanks,

The Membership Committee

## All Around the Church Community

### Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to First Church. In this transition year giving to the church shows faith in our future. The success of this year's stewardship campaign will directly help our search for a settled minister. Giving to the church is a true act of commitment and generosity. When we give to the church we give to each other but also to the generations that follow us.

Here are the numbers so far:

- As of April 27th, 36 pledges have been received, we have a potential of 80 pledges.
- At this moment we have received \$52,477 in pledges for next year, which is \$6000 over the half way mark, so we have some work to do to reach last year's pledge income of \$93,000 so we will continue to maintain our current operating budget.

The proposed budget is available in the church office. Here's a quick summary where the money goes in the budget: Salaries (minister, secretary, organist, custodian, youth leader, nursery director) - \$97,850, Utilities and heat - \$23,000, Insurance - \$7000, Office and printing - \$8000, Buildings and grounds - \$13,500, Committees - \$4,875, Contributions - \$8000. First Church is fortunate to derive some income from building use, YMCA rental, fundraisers, First Church funds and Alliance contributions however almost all of our salaries are funded by pledges.

A budget discussion will be held after church on Sunday, May 7th. Remember our final budget will be adopted at Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 21st. Please plan to participate in this important event.

If you have not yet made a pledge please take some time to consider how you can help generously support First Church with your financial contribution. We encourage each contributor to increase their current pledge by 10% if at all possible to make up the \$5000 incentive we were given last year.

A closing thought... we get used to living in an impersonal world, sometimes it feels like what we do or say doesn't matter... each one of us matters here... each pledge matters. Everyone adding to the pot keeps us vital and going forward. Each person that doing whatever role they have decided to take on in our church matters. We all make a difference here.

The Stewardship Committee

Carol Dixon Hutton, Vicky Berg, Liz Ames, Meg Duncan, Beppy Martin, and Judy Barrington

## From First Church Green

The following was an account shared with me by a man I know who lives in Monument Valley. For those familiar with my Oral Traditions Project, it is a good example of “lived religion”.

The evening was a dream. I was lying in the hammock my wife had given me for my birthday, watching twilight set in. Looking up from my woven perch into the slowly darkening sky was making me drowsy, and soothing my senses. I was captivated by the varying shades of blue presenting themselves to the small patch of heaven I could see above me. Shades of turquoise, then medium blue satin, then dark blue velveteen rolled in like lazy ocean waves. Each time I closed my eyes, they reopened to darker tones and richer color saturation.

I was situated on a small strip of grass facing the sharply peaked roof of our house. A brace of towering blue spruce trees shaded my back. To my left, a magnificent old cherry tree spread its oversized branches in a protective embrace. To my right the garage roof blocked the lights of the nearby convenience store. I could just see the full-bodied locust tree peering around the edge of the house.

There was a slight, cooling wind causing the tree branches to sway in slow rhythmic motions. The leaves danced on the breeze, making a barely discernible, soothing rustle in the night air. The multitude of small birds that inhabit our desert oasis were whirring about overhead, causing a ruckus and looking to settle in for the night. I could hear my wife digging in the flowerbed near the south wall while I read *The Pollen Path*, a collection of Navajo myths retold by Margaret Kent. I shared a quote with her that I found inspirational:

Remember always to walk in the pollen path of peace and of blessing.  
Be still within yourself, and know that the trail is beautiful.  
Whenever you are in danger walk carefully and quietly.  
Your feet will be blessed with pollen and your hands will be blessed with pollen.  
Let your mind and your voice go forward on the pollen path.

My reverie came to an abrupt end as I looked up into the face of my hard working wife. She looked at me and said, “Maybe you could follow the path to the garden. It needs watering, and I am sure you will find pollen there.”

I carefully removed myself from the hammock and moved onto the garden path. I cleared my mind and refrained from voicing an alternate opinion, but my pollen path was turning into a rocky, uphill climb. She followed me into the garden and began weeding as I watered the tomatoes, corn and pumpkins. We started talking about the day's events, and who was being bossy and working too hard and who was just plain lazy. Our three children wandered up the path and joined in. I was soon outnumbered and gave up my defense. Children always side with their mother if they think she is being picked on.

But as I stood there watching, listening, and learning, reality set in and the evening took on a warm, embracing glow. The beauty around me was of a richer, more vibrant nature. There was compassion, caring, understanding, support and above all else, a deep abiding love. All of that, along with the wonders of the natural world, provided me a feeling of belonging, and a sense of being that I could not have imagined earlier.

Whether you are seeking the pollen path or stumble onto the garden path, family plays the most important role in making the journey a success. With them, dreams and reality merge as you walk these trails.

Rob

***SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US***

***You are invited to an***

***ALLIANCE MEETING***

***POT LUCK SUPPER***

***TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2006***

***6:30 PM***

***FIRST CHURCH, DEDHAM***

***PARISH HOUSE***

***PLEASE RSVP FIRST CHURCH OFFICE - 781-326-7463***

***OR***

***SIGN UP AT COFFEE HOUR***

***Questions: Janet Hurwitz or Judy Barrington***

**DEDHAM BRANCH ALLIANCE**

***STAR Island***

**SUMMER 2006**

**THE ALLIANCE WILL CONTRIBUTE TOWARD  
THE COST OF YOUR STAY  
FOR A ONE WEEK PROGRAM**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT  
Janet Hurwitz or Judy Barrington, Co-Presidents**

**OR OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:  
Pam Aist, Jenny Chamberlain, Mel Chaplin  
Carol Dixon-Hutton, Susan Sennott, Sue White**