



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVIII, No. 1

September, 2007

Welcome, Rev. Rali Weaver!

Calendar

September

- 11, Tuesday, 7:00: Parish Committee Meeting
- 21, Friday, 6:30: Cakes
- 23, Sunday, 11:15 AM Congregational Meeting.

Also...

- Aerobics: Mondays and Wednesdays:
6:30 PM
- Meditation: Thursdays: 7:30 PM

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

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

September 9, 10:00 AM:
Opening Sunday -- All Church Service

Water Communion

Water is the one common element essential to all forms of human life. As humans we need it to survive and our bodies are made up of it. From the water we drink to the snow we shovel to the rivers and lakes and ocean we vacation beside -- water shapes our lives in ways we are both aware and unaware of. Bring some water from your summer travels (or even from your home tap) and share with us where you have been as we regather for our Homecoming Sunday after our summer hiatus.

September 16, 10:00 AM:
Sharing the Plate Sunday
Church School: Joint activities with Needham

What We Hold In Common

In colonial times the Commons or Common Land was a piece of land over which neighboring landowners could picnic, gather and allow their animals to graze. In our times what we share in common with our neighbors is not so easily defined. On this Sunday we will explore the value of sharing as well as look closely at our responsibility to our neighbors. The First Parish in Needham will be sharing their choir and joining us for worship this day.

September 23, 10:00 AM:
Church School Curriculum Begins:

Whom Do We Worship?

The psalmists wrote lyrics that lamented their circumstances and glorified a god who would not forsake them. If we do not believe in a God who supports and sustains us, whom do we worship; where do we take our praise and lament?

September 30, 10:00 AM:

Radical Hospitality

New Englanders are not known for their hospitality but their honesty. Would it be impossible for our hearts to open so wide that we welcome the stranger in our midst despite all of our New England sensibilities? This week we will explore themes of Radical Hospitality in the hope of opening the doors of the First Church in Dedham for all who want to enter in.

From the Minister:

I love that New England churches take a break in the summer. We stop our ordinary schedule to enjoy nature, to spend time with our relatives and to take a break from the ongoing hectic pace of our lives.

Very few of us though are actually able to stop our entire lives to enjoy the summer. Most people continue working and it is only our schools and churches that take this break. Families must wrestle schedules of camp and childcare in the summertime to find enough activities for children while teachers (and ministers) hopefully have the time to regroup and nourish themselves for the months ahead.

When I was young, August would roll around and I would start marking my calendar expectantly for the first day of school. I was itching to see my friends, excited by the possibility of learning something new and beginning again. Just before school would start my mother would always take me out to get new school clothes and new pencils and pens and notebooks and crayons. The preparation for the new school year was always an important part of making a fresh start.

Preparations for new beginnings are still important to me so my summer has been spent, cleaning up and preparing things for our new church year in Dedham. In an attempt to orient me, many of the church committees have met over the summer working tirelessly to prepare for the fresh start of the new church year.

It is my hope that if you are reading this, you too are marking your calendar and preparing for the fresh start that comes in a new church year. There are countless opportunities for you to lend your support to this new beginning.

- If you are excited about the possibility of welcoming new members to our parish we need greeters to meet with guests after worship each week in order to offer a bit of our history and escort visitors to coffee hour.
- If you are excited about the idea of offering new and innovative energy to our parish as a whole and to the community in and around Dedham we need your ideas and energy to plan outreach activities and Adult Religious Education.
- If you are excited by children and youth, the First Church Dedham Children's Religious Education would benefit from your input and support.

As Plato pointed out: "The beginning is the chiefest part of any work". I look forward to planning this new beginning with all of you and finding out where it will lead us.

If you have ideas and or energy to share feel free to email me at: raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or by phone at the church (781) 326 7463 or at home (781) 381- 0107. My office hours will be 9 - 1 Monday through Thursday and open office hours will be Wednesdays 2 - 6 or anytime by appointment.

Rali

Focus on Religious Education

As the days get a little shorter and the peepers sing at night, we begin to think of September, back to school and back to church school. In the midst of the great joy of welcoming Rali as our minister it is with sadness that we announce that Susan Sennott will no longer be volunteering as our DRE. Susan has decided that it is in the best interest of herself and her family not to continue as our Director of Religious Education. We greatly appreciate Susan contributions and the gifts that she has given all of us for the past four years. We hope to have a celebration to honor Susan's contribution to First Church later in the fall.

Of course, Religious Education will continue on at First Church as it has for over 175 years. The program will continue as it has with a similar structure: a Meeting House Sunday, a "Cool Deeds"/Social Action Sunday, and two curriculum Sundays per month. First Parish in Needham will be joining us for worship four times during the year, on those days our RE program will meet jointly with Needham. Susan did much to make our RE program work. This year we will run the program on a cooperative basis organized by the RE Committee. Volunteers will be needed to take ownership of specific parts of the Religious Education program. A specified list of volunteer opportunities will be mailed out before the end of August, please look carefully at this list and find a job that meets your time and talents. We will all need to work together this year.

During the month of September, Rali and the RE Committee will be holding Parent Meetings to get your input and to answer questions about how Religious Education will work this year. If you have questions before church starts please feel free to call me (781) 461-0522, I'm home during the day until school starts. Look for your letter in the mail and don't forget volunteering in Religious Education is fun and you are making a difference!

Dates to remember:

- **September 9th – Religious Education registration – kids in Meeting House**
- **September 16th - Church School starts, joint activities with Needham UU**
- **September 23rd - Church School curriculum starts**
- **September 30th – Church School Curriculum Sunday**

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

From the Music Director Search Committee

GREETINGS!

Thanks to all of you who have responded to the questionnaire!

We had a wide variety of responses---they will be very helpful both to the Music & Worship Committee and to our future Music Director. If you have not had the opportunity to respond there is still time to have your answers included in the mix. Why not take the opportunity today?

Now for our progress. We have read resumes and conducted interviews. There is such wonderful talent out there We are now getting ready for the next step of our process which will involve the choir and the rest of the congregation. Keep your eyes (and ears) open as we keep you informed.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact any of us on the committee: Natalie Jensen, Kerry Matthews, Peter McDonagh, Diane Winchester, Margaret Winchester

See you all soon!

All Around the Church Community

Our Minister and Church in the News:

On Wednesday, August 15, the Daily Transcript ran a very nice article highlighting our new minister introduction in our church. The article is available on the Transcript's website here: <http://www.dailynewstranscript.com/news/x676311856>,

Pew Pals

In an attempt to make Meeting House Sundays more fun for children (and their parents), we are planning to have a collection of quiet toys that children can play with during church. With all the recent toy recalls it is a little daunting to know what to buy. Please let me know if you have ideas for some "quiet toys" that would be fun, safe and non-toxic and where these toys can be purchased. Shoppers would be greatly appreciated!!

Carol Dixon Hutton

All Around the Church Community

Grounds Help Needed

Do you like to work outdoors? Do you have an hour or two that you could volunteer to help spiff up the grounds around the church and parsonage? Interested... if so, please contact Jeff Hutton (781) 461-0522 or jhutton@bu.edu.

Sarah Person's Ordination:

Please mark September 16th at 4p.m. on your calendars, as our own Sarah Person will be ordained as a UU minister on that date, and she would love to see everyone from First Church! The ceremony will be held in Weston, and Sarah wishes to express her thanks for our wonderful support throughout this process. She looks forward to celebrating with us.

Aerobics!

First Church has its own aerobics group! We meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30, beginning Sept. 10. **No experience is necessary!** Come move your body and sing along to the music! Anyone is welcome--including friends of parishioners. Spread the word! Contact Debbie Harrison (781-329-2852) with questions.

Diana and Dan Dechichio are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Paul to Christine Andriole. No date has been set. The couple lives in Providence, RI

Amnesty International

I'd like to thank the following for supporting Amnesty International during the past church year by writing letters on behalf of prisoners of conscience and several human rights groups:

Judy Barrington, Vicky Berg, Milo Carpenter, Simone Carpenter, Tyler Carpenter, Meg Duncan, Lea Dunham, Bob Estes, Virginia Ferentinos, Ben Ewing, Carol Ewing, Dan Ewing, Andrea Gilmore, Deb Harrison, Betsy Hetzler, Doug Howell, Janet Humble, Carol Dixon Hutton, Jeff Hutton, Natalie Jensen, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Beppy Martin, Peter McDonagh, Linda Meyer, Sue Sennott, Allison Staton, Eileen Sullivan, and Diane Winchester.

We wrote letters on behalf of: Haitian-Dominicans, Eritreans, Iranians, a Syrian Kurd, a Bahraini, Colombians, and the New Bedford immigrants.

Many thanks, and see you in September,

Peter Elefterakis

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting June 11, 2007

Attending: Judy Barrington, Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Jeff Hutton, Beppy Martin, Tyler Carpenter, Sam King, Sharon Lane, Rob Ross, Claudia Leone

Meeting called to order by Dan Ewing at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a moment of silence and reflection.

Minutes of May 8, 2007 meeting - motion to approve by Eileen Sullivan, second - passed.

Treasurer's Report – The treasurer's report was submitted in written form by Dan Ewing.

Minister's Report – Submitted in writing, within the report Rob thanked the parish for the gifts of appreciation. Rob also stated that he will be available to do pastoral check-ins and for any pastoral needs, and for transition until Rali is settled in.

DRE Report – Susan Sennott informed the committee in writing that she would not be able to continue to volunteer as our DRE. The committee accepted Susan's decision with regret and with appreciation for all she has done for First Church. Letters to Susan will be drafted and sent by the Parish Committee and by the Religious Education Committee. A letter will be written by the RE Committee to inform the congregation of Susan's decision.

Sharing the Plate – The committee discussed Sharing the Plate and decided to continue this practice one time/month. The committee will be flexible about which week of the month "Sharing the Plate" will occur.

Dates for Fall 2007

UUA Review of Purposes and Principles – Date will be set in the fall of 2007.

Start Up Seminar – A Start Up Seminar for New Ministry will be held on September 30th. This is a 3 hour workshop, a light lunch and child care will be provided. Need to do: engage youth group (?) for child care, confirm date with Rali and Theresa Cooley.

Leadership Arts and Crafts, March 2008 – The committee agreed that First Church will host this conference. (Natasha will contact Rali).

YMCA Lease – Diane Winchester met with Barbara O'Brien of the YMCA. The YMCA agreed to a \$100/mo. increase for the 2007 -2008 school year, on the contingency that repairs would be made to the: parking lot, doors would be painted and secured, and ceiling tiles would be replaced. The Building and Grounds Committee will supervise these repairs.

Collaborating with Needham UU –

We will host several joint services with the First Parish in Needham here in Dedham. The dates of these services will be:

- 9/16 /07 – Rali Weaver preaches (60 -70 children may attend RE from Needham)
- 10/21/07 – TBD
- 12/9/07 – John Buerhens preaches
- 3/08 – specific date TBD
- First Parish in Needham will hold pancake breakfast fundraisers on 10/21/07 and 12/9/07.

There will be special Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

- 6:30 pm – First Church in Dedham usual service (Needham invited)
- 8:00 pm – First Parish in Needham service (held in Dedham)

Space Needs:

- 1st Sunday of Month, 4:30-6:30, parents of young children
- Monthly – Adult Ed and Social Action
- Living By Heart , 2nd Wednesday of month, will store 24” TV on cart under stairs
- Parish Committee, 2nd Monday of month
- Before 9/16, need to determine how collection will be handled.

Parish Committee Co-Chairs – Diane Winchester and Tyler Carpenter were nominated as co-chairs of the Parish Committee for the 2007-2008, motion by Eileen Sullivan, second, approved.

Next Meeting: Monday, August 13th, 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon

