



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXVIII, No. 2

October, 2007

## Calendar

### September

- 27, Thursday, 7:00 PM  
By-Laws Committee.  
27, Thursday, 7:30 PM  
Membership  
Committee

### October

- 3, Wednesday, 7:00 PM:  
Church Council  
4, Thursday, 9:00 AM:  
Music & Worship  
9, Tuesday, 7:00 PM:  
Parish Committee  
**13, Saturday, 10:00 AM:  
Fall Fair**  
19, Friday, 6:30: Cakes  
27, Saturday, 9:00 AM:  
Church Clean Up

### 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**

The Parish Record gets published monthly. The deadline for the next issue will be **October 21**

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Rev. Rali Weaver, Parish Minister  
Judy Butler, Office Administrator

## Sundays in the Meeting House

### October 7, 10:00 AM:

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach  
Church School will start in the Meeting House  
with special activities in the Parish House**

### Your Authentic Self

Are you defined by your work or is your work an expression of who you are at your very core? How often do you feel safe and comfortable being yourself? Are you living the life you believe you were meant to live? On October 7<sup>th</sup> we will explore concepts of integrity and confidence in the hope of helping us each strive toward living our most authentic life.

### October 14, 10:00 AM:

**Pet Blessing Sunday. The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach  
Church School: Curriculum Sunday**

### Right Relationships

On this Pet Blessing Sunday we will explore the blessings that come from relationships and what it takes to be in right relationship, not only with our pets but with other human beings. A Pet blessing service will take place on the green immediately following worship

### October 21, 10:00 AM:

**Association Sunday. The Rev. John Buehrens will preach  
Church School will start in the Meeting House  
and then join in Activities with the Needham Church School**

### Why Don't We GROW More?

John served growing congregations in Tennessee, Texas, and New York City before leading the UUA from 1993 to 2001 as President. The offering on this Sunday will be devoted by both congregations to supporting UUA efforts at greater public visibility for Unitarian Universalism, support for ministers and congregations serving communities of color, and grants to help congregations with growth. Both individual spiritual growth and congregational growth depend, he says, on realizing this: to grow more, we need one another.

### October 28, 10:00 AM:

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach  
Cool Deeds Sunday. Church School will start in the Meeting House.**

### Original Sin

As Unitarian Universalists we often reject concepts of sin. The idea of Original Sin can be particularly offensive to many liberals. How can we ever get it right if we start out with strikes against us? This Sunday we will explore concepts of sin and whether or not original sin exists and what if anything we can do about it.

## From Our Minister:

“If you think it is ever warranted to stop on the path of further understanding, you are very far from the truth. The life which we received was given to us not that we might just admire it, but that we should ever look for new truth hidden from us.”

-John Milton (Author)

Last month I went to the Dedham Square Circle event “Are we Crazy About Sports or Are Sports Making Us Crazy” which was held at the Allin Congregational Church across the street. It was an interesting debate about the purpose and effects of sports in our lives. Before the event began the Pastor from the Allin Congregation stood up and talked about being founded in 1638-- without any mention of our Parish. This omission distracted me throughout the evening. What about us? I thought. We were here too. (Not to mention that we provided extra parking)

My pigheaded distraction got me thinking that the problem with a church with a history such as ours is that it is very difficult to move beyond it. Don't get me wrong, I love the history and traditions of the First Church and Parish in Dedham. The foundations of belief and the struggles of the past have deep meaning to me both as your minister and as a person of liberal faith. The only problem as I see it is that when we stop exploring our history, and stop learning about our foundations they become stale and outmoded and die.

After further exploration I have come to the conclusion that it doesn't really matter if the Allin Congregational Church claims the same founding date (even though they did move across the street). Certainly the forefathers of both of our churches were part of the original founding of Dedham. I do believe however, that it is important that we know and claim our past and remain open to “that ever new truth that may be hidden from us” today.

My thanks to the Bi Laws Review Committee who were witnessed this past month spending countless hours reviewing files in the Parish House and over at the Dedham Historical Society. Your efforts have not gone unappreciated.

If you would be interested in exploring the history of the First Church and Parish in Dedham or sharing with me a bit of your own history, please don't hesitate to contact me. [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) 781-381-0107.

Rali

## Focus on Religious Education

On Sunday morning I overheard a very handsome red-headed boy suggesting we should think of a new name for Sunday School that doesn't include school! "Sunday Cool" was suggested, we'll have to see if it sticks.

Religious Education at First Church is off to a great start. We have a wonderful group of teachers, with some wonderful teams of experienced teachers working with new teachers. Thank you, thank you, and thank you ... to all who have volunteered to teach or help in other ways.

We are teaching a new curriculum this year, UU Heroes. I hope the kids will pass along some of their knowledge to the rest of the congregation as this is probably new learning for most of us. Our middle school students are learning about Neighboring Faiths and will be making some visits out to other places of worship. Our Kindergarten and First Graders are learning about "Special Places and Sacred Spaces". The Alliance Room is becoming a sacred space for a mini-children's worship on curriculum Sundays.

Our first "Cool Deeds" Sunday will be October 28th. Allison Staton will be coordinating this event. Please let Allison or me know if you can help on October 28th.

UNICEF boxes have been ordered and should arrive soon. UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Education Fund, helps children all over the world. See the bulletin board for more information. Perhaps you can find a way to work UNICEF into your Halloween fun. See the RE Bulletin Board for more information.

Dates to remember:

- **September 30th - Church School Curriculum Sunday**
- **October 7th – Start in the Meeting House with special activities provided by Tam Johnson-Hellegers**
- **October 14th - Church School Curriculum Sunday**
- **October 21st - Joint activities with Needham UU**
- **October 28th – "Cool Deeds Sunday"**

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

HELP WANTED!

- Teachers to join the pre-school team
- Nursery volunteers
- "Cool Deeds Leaders" January 27th, March 16th, April 13th, May 11th

## From the Music Director Search Committee

### We will have a new Music Director!

After reviewing information from 8 applicants, interviewing and auditioning 3 candidates, we agreed – unanimously – that Linnea Bardardson is the right person for Music Director at First Church.

Those of you who were at Church opening Sunday had the pleasure of hearing her musicianship on both organ and piano, and the results of her working with the choir for 1 hour.

We are very pleased that Linnea has agreed to join the staff. She is enthusiastic and looking forward to expanding our music program!

Welcome, Linnea.

Natalie Jensen, Kerry Matthews, Peter McDonagh, Diane Winchester, Margaret Winchester

## All Around the Church Community

### The Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry is comprised of six members of the congregation who meet monthly to support and evaluate the minister as well as oversee the overall work of ministry at First Church. The Committee members are currently: Claudia Leone (Chair) Della Lawhorn, Carol Ewing, Peter McDonagh, Diane Winchester and Tyler Carpenter. If you have any issues or ideas regarding the Minister or Ministry at First Church please feel free to contact the minister or the chair of this committee, Claudia Leone

The Committee on Ministry met on Thursday, September 20. The committee talked about a variety of topics including future service goals for the parish, our desire to make the Committee on Ministry more visible to the community as a whole, and the new worship evaluation form which will soon be available in the church and parish hall. The Committee on Ministry meets monthly on the third Thursday in October.

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**Evaluating our Worship Services:** Rali Weaver and the Committee on Ministry want to know what you think about Sunday worship services. Forms, like the one included at the end of this issue of the Parish Record, will be available in the Church and at coffee hour. Please take the time to fill one out and let Rali know what you liked and didn't like about the service that day.

## All Around the Church Community

### Save the Date

Betsy Stevens invites members and friends of First Church to attend the worship service in celebration of the 375th anniversary of the founding of the Duxbury church. It will be held on **October 14 at 4pm** in that church and will feature the renowned speaker, the Rev. Peter Gomes from Memorial Chapel at Harvard.

First Parish Church was founded when the Pilgrims, who had moved to Duxbury, asked permission of the Plymouth town fathers to establish their own church so as not to have to return the 9 miles each Sunday for worship. It is the first church to be established from the original church of the Pilgrims.

Betsy Stevens is chair of the 375th Committee and will gladly provide driving instructions at [revebs@aol.com](mailto:revebs@aol.com).

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### An Open Note of Thanks:

I want to thank Jeffrey Hutton for tending to the headsets which are a vital part for me and others that are hearing impaired to hear and participate in the service each week. It makes such a world of difference for me.

Thanks again.

Peter McDonagh

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### Aerobics!

First Church has its own aerobics group! We continue to meet on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30. **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.

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We offer a note of congratulations our church secretary, Judy Butler, who has a paper published on this year's International Stuttering Awareness Day online conference. This is an interactive conference from October 1 – 22 at [www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/isadarchive/onlineconference.html](http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/kuster/isadarchive/onlineconference.html).

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### Breakfast o' Pancakes

The First Parish of Needham Youth Group invites the First Parish of Dedham to come and enjoy a delicious Pancake Breakfast before our 10:00 AM joint service on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Proceeds for this event will go to the Needham Youth Group's service trip in the spring.

## All Around the Church Community

### The Men's Group -- Rekindled

The long dormant Men's Group of First Church and Parish Dedham will gather on Friday October 12th at 6:30 PM in the dining room. Anyone with a "Y" chromosome is welcome. The program for the evening will be pizza followed by an audio essay from the Public Radio series "This I Believe" and any discussion that is generated. The purpose of the meeting is to share thoughts and ideas within in a no pressure Friday evening out of the house. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own refreshments and we will all share the cost of the pizza.

This I Believe is an international project engaging people in writing, sharing, and discussing the core values that guide their daily lives. These short statements of belief, written by people from all walks of life, are archived here and featured on public radio in the United States and Canada. The project is based on the popular 1950s radio series of the same name hosted by Edward R. Murrow.

The Men's Group will meet the second Friday of the month for the foreseeable future. Please mark your calendars and send me a brief e-mail message indicating your interest to [jhutton@bu.edu](mailto:jhutton@bu.edu). Your message will help gauge the pizza order. The evening will likely breakup around 8:30 PM. If you find your Friday evening free on the 12th, even at the last minute come on to the Parish House, I'll order extra pizza hoping to see you there.

Contact Jeff Hutton 781-461-0522 or [jhutton@bu.edu](mailto:jhutton@bu.edu) for more information.

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### From the Building and Grounds Committee

COME JOIN THE FAMILY FUN -- Saturday, October 27: 9am to Noon

All ages are invited to join in a church clean up day. Odd jobs including raking leaves, bulb planing and flower bed clean up will be the order of the day. No previous experience necessary just a love of the church and a willingness to lend a hand is required. Bring a smile and a rake and work gloves if you have them.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE.

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### Meditation Group

The Meditation Group will start in October, Thursdays have worked in the past. Everyone is welcome and no experience is necessary. If you are interested in participating in a meditation group please contact the church office, (781) 326-7463, e-mail [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or Carol Dixon Hutton, (781) 461-0522, e-mail [carolhdixon@gmail.com](mailto:carolhdixon@gmail.com).



# **Fall Fair**

Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

10 - 2

*The countdown begins...*

*Two weeks until the Fall Fair!*

**Thank you to all those who have volunteered!**

## **We still need:**

Bakers, face painters, soup makers, fortune tellers, flyer distributors, raffle items, ticket takers, set-up and clean-up assistants, apple recipes and more...

Sign up in the dining room or contact Liz Ames.

Something new at the Fall Fair:

## **Gently Used Clothing Sale**

Please donate clothing in excellent condition, completely clean, and wrinkle free (preferably on hangers). Donations will be accepted on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at coffee hour or anytime after 5pm on Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> at Liz's house.



## **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting** **August 13, 2007**

**Attending:** Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Jeff Hutton, Tyler Carpenter, Sam King, Sharon Lane, Rob Ross, Claudia Leone, Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order by Diane Winchester at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a moment of silence and reflection. "Rules for a Successful Meeting" were reviewed.

**Minutes of June 11, 2007 meeting - motion to approve by Sam King, second - passed.**

### **Minister's Report**

Rob expressed that it had been a pleasure to serve the Dedham church for the past two years. The committee thanked Rob for his service to First Church in Dedham. Rali reported that she had moved into the parsonage and was settling in. She has started meeting with various committees.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was submitted in written form by Dan Ewing. **Motion to accept as presented by Jeff Hutton, second - passed.**

### **Music Director's Search Committee**

Diane Winchester reported that the committee had met several times over the summer. The committee has received replies to the survey and the survey results have been compiled. Two candidates are interested in the music director position at this time.

### **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Sam King reported that the requested repairs related to the YMCA Lease have been completed. The Building and Grounds Committee is waiting for an estimated to re-grade the driveway, add more gravel, repair drain and clear brush.

The Parsonage painting is completed.

### **By-Law Committee**

Initial meeting held in June, committee will meet again in August. The committee is looking into the issues of church and parish. The committee is also searching for the by-laws that precede our current by-laws.

## **Religious Education Committee Report**

Carol Dixon Hutton presented a plan for organizing the Religious Education program for the upcoming year. Carol will chair the RE Committee this year and will be in charge of curriculum Sundays. Other volunteers will be needed to take ownership of Meeting House Sundays and Social Action Sundays.

## **Pledge Update**

As of August 13, 2007 we have received \$83,753 in pledges. 5 members that pledged last year have not yet returned their pledge cards. A letter will be sent to these church members when we return to church to encourage these members to continue to pledge this year.

## **Sharing Space with Needham UU**

First Parish in Needham submitted a request for choir rehearsal space for selected Thursday evenings throughout the church year. This request was approved. The committee discussed how best to coordinate Needham's requests for space with our own needs. Rali and Judy Butler will work together to balance scheduling needs and Dan Ewing will be the Parish Committee liaison with First Parish in Needham. It will be important for committee chairs to inform Judy Butler of meeting times so they can be recorded on the church calendar.

## **Building Use**

The updated Building Use Policy was distributed and it was decided that this policy will be added to the church website.

## **Membership Committee Report**

Rali reported that the Membership Committee had met and they are looking for volunteers to be greeters.

## **Announcements**

Rali will do announcements for the first three months of the church year.

## **Sharing the Plate**

**September – Norwood Food Pantry**  
**October – UUA Association Sunday**  
**November – Minister's Discretionary Fund**  
**December – Globe Santa**

## **Installation**

A fall date will be set for Rali's installation.

**Dates for Fall 2007**

**Congregational Meeting** – September 23rd, after church.

**Start Up Seminar** – A Start Up Seminar for New Ministry will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a 3 hour workshop with Theresa Cooley, a light lunch and child care will be provided. Need to do: engage child care.

**Goals for the year**

Continue by-law review process  
Keep finance committee active throughout the year  
Implement consent agenda

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon

## **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting September 11, 2007**

**Attending:** Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Jeff Hutton, Tyler Carpenter, Sam King, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Rali Weaver, Judy Barrington

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

**Minutes of August 13, 2007 meeting - motion to approve by Sam King, second - passed.**

### **Minister's Report**

Rali submitted a written report to the committee. She expressed her appreciation for the help she has received. Rali reported on her work with various committees and on "Opening Sunday". A Ministerial Start-Up Workshop, facilitated by Theresa Cooley, will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm. In accordance with her letter of agreement Rali will be working with a ministerial consultant from the Alban Institute for the coming year. Rali stated that she would like to focus her energies on Adult Religious Education, Outreach Activities, and membership growth.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was submitted in written form by Dan Ewing. Discussion occurred regarding the new format and specific items within the format. **Motion to accept as presented by Jeff Hutton, second - passed.**

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

The special congregational meeting will be postponed as suggested by the auditors. The congregation will be notified by an all-church e-mail.

### **By Law Committee**

This committee has not met since the last parish committee meeting. The committee has obtained records compiled by, former Deacon Bob Clark. These records explain the past governmental structure of First Church and Parish. The by-laws that precede our current by-law have not been found.

### **Music Director's Search Committee**

The Music Director Search Committee has been very busy. Two candidates are interested in the music director position at this time.

## **Ordination**

The committee discussed details of Sarah Person's upcoming ordination.

## **Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Sam King reported on an estimate received from Millennium Paving to grade and potentially pave the parking lot. The committee discussed the merits and expense of paving the parking lot. The committee also suggested that we should obtain another bid for the job. Andrea Gilmore will investigate permitting issues.

## **Religious Education Committee Report**

Carol Dixon Hutton reported on the Religious Education program. Registration for church school began on 9/9/07. Most teaching slots have been filled. There is still a need for more pre-school teachers and leaders for four "Cool Deeds" Sundays. Rali will be meeting with Youth Group until a Youth Leader is hired. One goal of the committee is to re-establish the nursery.

## **Sharing Space with Needham UU**

Dan Ewing reported on his conversation with Needham UU regarding building use.

## **Building Use**

Sharing a New Song Rehearsal – November 7<sup>th</sup>

## **Dates for Fall 2007**

**Start Up Seminar – A Start Up Seminar for New Ministry** will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a 3 hour workshop with Theresa Cooley, a light lunch will be provided.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon

# Worship Service Evaluation

Date of Worship Service:

How did worship leave you feeling?

Was the service as a whole cohesive?

Did you find the sermon topic relevant?

Did you think the sermon flowed from beginning to end?

If you were to give one sentence describing the point of the sermon, what would it be?

Were the speakers easy to listen to? If not, why?

Please write any other thoughts you have about this service or future services. Feel free to use the back of this form.

Thank you. If you would like to have someone contact you, please leave your name and phone number. Evaluation forms can be left in the Evaluation Return box or in the Church Office or returned by mail