



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXVIII, No. 5

January, 2008

## Calendar

### January

- 4-6, Friday to Sunday:  
YRUU Star Island  
Reunion
- 6, Sunday,  
11:30: Parish Player  
Auditions  
12:30: Dealing with  
Difficult Behavior
- 7, Monday, 7:00: Building  
Your Own Theology  
(Mondays)
- 8, Tuesday, 7:00:  
Parish Committee
- 11, Friday, 6:30:  
Men's Group
- 13, Sunday, Noon: Social  
Action Lunch
- 18-20, Friday, MBD Social  
Action Retreat
- 18, Friday, 6:30: Cakes

### Also...

- Youth Group: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Sundays: 7:00
- Aerobics: Mondays and  
Wednesdays: 6:30
- Building Your Theology:  
Mondays: 7:00
- Meditation: Thursdays:  
7:30

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 **January 20**.

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## Sundays in the Meeting House

**January 6, 10:00 AM:**  
**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.**  
**Church School will have regular classes.**

### Taking Our Chances

Is there ever a sure thing? What element of risk is necessary in order to succeed? These are the questions we will explore in worship this morning in the hope of getting us all off on the right foot in this New Year.

**January 13, 10:00 AM:**  
**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.**  
**Church School will have regular classes.**

### Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters And Righteousness Like An Ever Flowing Stream

In honor of the birth and life of Martin Luther King Jr. we will explore the accomplishments and ongoing efforts of the civil rights movement and what it will take to bring true justice to the world..

**January 20, 10:00 AM:**  
**The Rev. Sarah Person will preach.**  
**No Regular Church School Classes.**  
**Children are invited to bring their parents to worship this Sunday.**

### Wage Peace

Religion and war have processed hand in hand throughout human history. What response does faith have to war? What does peace finally require of each and every one of us?.

**January 27, 10:00 AM:**  
**Music and Worship Sunday.**  
**Children will participate in this month's Cool Deeds Sunday**

### Hymn Sing!

Worship will take place in the dining room where the Worship committee and choir will lead us in a hymn sing on this winter Sunday.

## From Our Minister:

**“Conversation about weather is the last refuge of the unimaginative.” – Oscar Wilde**

I am writing this column when I would normally be preaching to you because today worship has been canceled on account of snow. While on the one hand I wouldn't want anyone venturing out into such blustery and icy weather-- I am a Mainer at heart and believe that bad weather should never limit our activities.

As I write this I am also noticing how much I miss being together this morning and how Sunday seems to be missing somehow and the question that is puzzling me this morning is why do we worship together and how can it be so easy to just cancel it?

Certainly part of what I miss is seeing all of your faces. So fellowship is part of why we come together. But part of what I miss is also the pause in my weekly routine. The chance to sit in the quiet and peace of the meeting house and pray. I miss the music this morning too. Part of why we come together this week is to hear Linnea play the organ so beautifully and the choir always lifts my spirits.

I live right next door to the meeting and parish house so it would be easy for me to open the doors. But gathering the choir on such a day as this might be difficult – if not impossible. Do we call off church simply because the choir cannot be there? Or is there something sacred and precious that marks our Sunday in worship even when it isn't exactly the way we expect it to be?

I hope so.

I am certain that we can each mark our Sunday in a worshipful way even when we are not in church. We can hold Sabbath as sacred at home, or in the woods or even when watching the Patriots play. Even so I pray that in the future the snow will hold off until Sunday evening in order to give children a day off from school-- without interfering with Sunday worship.

If worship is canceled again this year due to bad weather-- I encourage everyone who stays at home to find some way to mark the day as sacred so that your sense of Sabbath is not lost. If you are to venture out on such a day as today --I invite your hearty soul to gather with me in the parsonage for warmth and reflection.

May all of us be safe and warm this winter season.

Rali

## Focus on Religious Education

It has been a busy month in the church school. The Heifer Project Granola Sale was a great success netting \$64.50. The children decided to buy shares of a water buffalo, shares of a goat and shares of a flock of chickens with their earnings. Thanks to Grace Pena and Sharon Lane for coordinating this "Cool Deed". The Neighboring Faith's Class learned more about Islam. The UU Heroes Class published their own "UU Magazine" after learning about "UU Hero" Lydia Maria Child. Child was well known for writing the lyrics to "Over the River and Through the Woods. She also wrote and published magazines for children and wrote many anti-slavery articles.

In spite of the snow, our pageant was a wonderful mixture of angels, shepherds, sheep, joy and laughter. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated. A special thank you to Diane Winchester for organizing and directing the pageant.

We had a very generous response to our Renewal House Gift Tree and Mitten Tree. The holidays were brightened for many by the kindness of our church community. Thank you to Rali and to Jennifer Pike for organizing and transporting the gifts to Renewal House.

As we move into the second half of the church year we will be welcoming new teachers to the Special Places (K-1) and UU Heroes (2-4) classes. The fall semester ends January 13th and new teaching teams will begin on the next curriculum Sunday which is February 3rd. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Religious Education Program so far this year. We do need another teacher for the Special Places Class (K-1) and in our pre-school class. There are also still a few open "Cool Deeds" Sundays. Please contact me if you might be able to volunteer for a Sunday or two in the next few months. We all have many talents to share. Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

### **Dates to remember:**

- **January 6<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum Sunday**
- **January 13<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum Sunday**
- **January 20<sup>th</sup> – Start in the Meeting House with special activities provided by Tam Johnson-Hellegers**
- **January 27<sup>th</sup> – "Cool Deeds Sunday"**

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

## All Around the Church Community

### Upcoming Membership Events Please Mark Your Calendars:

#### **WELCOMING DINNER - February 9, 2007**

The whole parish is invited to join in welcoming our new visitors on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The Membership Committee is hosting and Andrea Gilmore will be Chef. We hope you will join in the warmth of fellowship of old friends and new on this cold wintry eve. Please RSVP to the Church office so that we know how many seats to set at the table.

#### **Introductory and Deepening Discussion Groups:**

In the weeks following the Welcoming Dinner three discussion groups on membership topics will be offered for all members, friends and visitors of First Church. Watch your February Parish Record and the website ([www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)) for more information.

#### **Sunday, February 24 at 1 pm**

Topic: What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist?

#### **Sunday, March 16 at 1 pm**

Topic: What does it mean to be a Church and Parish?

#### **Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm**

Topic: What does it mean to be a person of faith?

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### **Sharing The Plate**

December 9 was "Sharing the Plate" Sunday, when we share our offering with others in our outreach ministry. We collected \$518, which we divided in half between the First Church in Dedham and First Parish Needham. Additionally, First Parish Needham received checks for \$55; therefore they raised \$314 for African Baobab, Inc., [www.africanbaobab.org](http://www.africanbaobab.org). First Church in Dedham received \$40 in checks and a \$100 check made out directly to Globe Santa; therefore raising \$399 for The Boston Globe's Globe Santa. Thank you!

## Dealing with Difficult Behavior Class

Have you ever felt cornered and uncomfortable or been searching to find ways to respond from your values in dealing with someone else's bad behavior? This class will offer you a chance to recognize and understand your own buttons, deal with difficult behavior in an increasingly effective way and how to respond from a caring and compassionate core in interpersonal interactions. **This class has been rescheduled in order to make it available for the most number of participants. The Class will meet January 6<sup>th</sup>, February 3, March 9, and April 6<sup>th</sup>. From 12:30 to 2:30.** Contact Rev. Rali Weaver with questions. [raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) or 781-381-0107. Although attendance at every class is helpful you do not need to attend every class to make it worth your while.

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## From the Parish Players... We're Off To See The Wizard!

The Parish Players will be producing "The Wizard of Oz" in 2008! Auditions will be held on **January 6<sup>th</sup>** at 11:30, and production dates are **April 4-6**. All are welcome to audition, and all who audition will be cast. Please see Diane Winchester or Natalie Jensen for further details.

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## Social Action Lunch

In order to continue the conversation from last fall's Social Action discussion a potluck lunch and discussion is planned for January 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00- 2:30. If you have ideas about social action or interests in social justice you would like to share with others please join us. If you have questions or would like to sign up for something to bring for lunch please contact Rali Weaver at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or at 781 381 0107

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## Build Your Theology!

**Building Your Own Theology**, a five-week adult religious exploration workshop, considers questions of God and faith, suffering and doubt, morality and politics. With group activities and discussions, we will engage these topics in light of our own religious journeys and our principles as Unitarian Universalists. Lucas Hergert, the intern minister at the First Parish of Needham, will facilitate. The course will be held at the First Parish of Dedham in January, with days and times to be arranged. Contact Lucas at [lhergert@hds.harvard.edu](mailto:lhergert@hds.harvard.edu) or 513-919-5808 for details.

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

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

Meeting called to order by Diane Winchester at 7:20 pm. The meeting began with a reading and a moment of silence. Allison Staton was welcomed as a new member. **Minutes of November 13, 2007 meeting - motion to approve by Sam King, second - passed.**

### **Minister's Report**

Rali reported on the work of the Membership Committee. A welcoming dinner will be set up in January followed by discussions, re: *What is it to be a UU, Faith Development and Church History*. Sunday morning attendance data is now being recorded in a data base.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was submitted in written form by Dan Ewing. Dan stated that pledges are behind based on a linear payment schedule. **Motion to accept as presented by Jeff Hutton, second – passed.**

### **By Law Committee**

This committee will meet tomorrow night.

### **Discussion of Auditor's Report**

The committee discussed the pros and cons of having an outside auditor. Dan, Allison, Tyler and Judy B. volunteered to follow up with outside contacts.

### **Building Use**

January 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> YRUU Retreat – approved

### **Stewardship Committee**

Discussion occurred regarding a potential chair of the Stewardship Committee.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

**Sam King suggested the church participate in an Energy Audit conducted by N STAR. – approved.**

### **Visioning Exercise**

The committee participated in a visioning exercise related to “Our dreams for the church.”

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, January 8, 7pm.** Judy B. will do opening words.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon