



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVIII, No. 6

February, 2008

Calendar

January

21, Thursday, 7:15: Choir Rehearsal

February

3, Sunday, 12:30: Difficult Behavior Class

3, Sunday, 3:00: Nhojj Concert

8, Friday, 6:30: Men's Group

9, Saturday, 6:30: Welcoming Dinner

12, Tuesday, 7:00: Parish Committee

15, Friday, 6:30: Cakes

24, Sunday, 1:00: UU Discussion Group

29 – March 1, Friday-Saturday: Olan Mills Photography

Also...

Youth Group: 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 February 24.

First Church and Parish in Dedham

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Rev. Rali Weaver, Parish Minister

Judy Butler, Office Administrator

Sundays in the Meeting House

February 3, 10:00 AM:

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

“The Ripple Effect”

How are we each influenced by ideas? How does a good idea get passed along? This Sunday we will explore the ripple effect (or as Malcolm Gladwell writes about it: The Tipping Point) and consider what will make it possible to go from a small group of concerned citizens to a mass of people ready to change the world. .

February 10, 10:00 AM:

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Church School will have regular classes.

“Agape”

In the Christian tradition agape is the spiritual form of love. This Valentine’s Sunday we will explore what love in spiritual community means and how our cultural ideal of romantic love might interfere with deepening our relationships.

February 17, 10:00 AM:

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

No Regular Church School Classes.

“Economic Justice”

Three percent of the population holds ninety percent of the wealth in the world creating an imbalance that seems impossible to right. Today we will explore the religious themes of wealth and poverty and what- if anything - we might do to right some of the economic injustice in the world.

Following worship this morning’s worship there we will continue our discussion of Social Justice concerns over a potluck lunch. All are invited to attend.

February 24, 10:00 AM:

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Children will participate in this month's Cool Deeds Sunday

“The Liberal Religious”

Liberal Religion is often confused with Liberal Politics. This Sunday we will explore why being a liberal has gotten a bad name, what being liberal truly means to Unitarian Universalists and how as the Liberal Religious might respond to Religious Conservatives.

Following worship at 1:00 pm. we will begin our series of Membership discussions. This first discussion will focus on what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist-- all are invited to attend.

From Our Minister:

On the Difference Between Charity and Justice

On Sunday January 13th several concerned citizens gathered to discuss further the Social Justice concerns shared at the October 28th discussion. Two themes continue to come to the forefront: concerns about Global Warming (i.e.: reducing our carbon footprint) and issues of Economic Justice were the central focus of our discussion.

Many interesting ideas emanated from this discussion including continuing to set up community educational forums around issues of Global Warming (as demonstrated by the successful Harvest Dinner planed by Andrea Gilmore and Natalie Jensen last fall), as well as helping to facilitate community wide discussions on issues of race and poverty and economic privilege that affect our town. A desire to begin working to better advocate for the disenfranchised in our own town by serving as witnesses at town meetings and supporting our Educators and Schools was expressed. We also discussed the importance of having the Membership of First Church fully support any plan of action and of getting more organized and working with other churches and town groups to meet the changing needs of our town.

The desire to do something (anything) to improve the injustices and imperfections in the world Right Now is great. But we acknowledged that real change takes time and planning and most of all cooperation.

An idea to provide gently used and new books for children to the Dedham Food Pantry was formed and is being explored. Being a pathway for resources (such as food and books) is one way we can do something, but we acknowledged that providing resources is charity and is as a band-aide temporarily healing bigger problems that must be addressed.

As I see it there is something wrong with that old adage “Give a man a fish and you feed him for today, teach him to fish and you feed him forever.” While we all know that providing resources for today is important we also know that there is more than feeding or today alone that is needed to improve the quality of life for all. However if we are only in the teacher mode we act as though we have all the answers and we loose the opportunity to create new solutions that can only come from involving the voices of those who are disenfranchised within our communities.

I think we should rephrase the old adage to say “If you give a person a fish you feed them for a day, if you teach them to fish you feed them until they are too sick or too old to fish for themselves anymore, but if you work cooperatively with them to find ways to meet the basic needs of us all you will find solutions that will benefit the quality of life for everyone for many generations.”

It is the hope of those gathered that we might find ways to move from a mindset of charity to one of justice in order to make lasting change on issues of Global Warming and Economic Justice by deepening partnerships within our membership as well as the wider community in order to make our town (and our State and our Nation) stronger for many generations to come.

We hope to start small by organizing our parish so that those interested in these issues can be both well informed and fully involved. It is our hope that involving increasingly more voices in the conversation will help more organic and lasting solutions to come forward.

In the meantime we will continue to provide food for today by offering canned goods (and possibly children's books) to the Dedham Food Pantry. We will continue our discussion of where to go from here on February 17. If you are able to attend please bring a potluck item and join us after coffee hour for discussion. If you have any questions or are unable to attend but would like more information or share your own ideas please contact me raliweaver@dehamuu.org or 781 381 0107.

Rali

Focus on Religious Education

Here we in January already. Everybody seemed happy to be back to our regular church school routine after the ever exciting month of December. Amongst the hustle and bustle of the holidays, the Neighboring Faith's Class learned more about Christianity and the difference between Protestant churches and the Roman Catholic church. The UU Heroes Class learned about "UU Heroes" Lewis Latimer and Christopher Reeve. The "Special Places, Sacred Spaces" class learned about our bodies are homes for our bones, muscles, eyes, ears, and our brain. Our brain is a home for our ideas. On January 20th, Tam Johnson led children in learning more about Dr. Martin Luther King and in ahring their dreams for our world. There are wonderful thoughts and ideas being shared in our Religious Education Program. Thanks to everyone who taught and helped this semester.

Our winter/spring semester will begin on February 3rd. Some classes will have new teachers and some teachers will continue. .

Continued on next page

Focus on Religious Education

Sunday School Teaching: February to May 2008

Pre-School/Friendship Finder:

- Judy Barrington
- Grace Pena

Kindergarten-Grade 1/ Special Places, Sacred Spaces:

- Meg Duncan
- Debbie Harrison (some Sundays)
- Carol Dixon Hutton (as needed)
- Janet Hurwitz (as needed)

Grade 2-4, UU Heroes:

- Liz Ames
- Virginia Hickey Ferentinos
- Julia Gecha

Grades 5-8, Neighboring Faiths:

- Tyler Carpenter
- Betsy Hetzler

We have a wonderful group of teachers. We are still looking for volunteers to help in the pre-school class and to fill in on a few Sundays in the Special Places, Sacred Spaces class. As our nursery grows, it would be helpful to have a weekly volunteer in the nursery. Please contact me if you would like to help in any of these classes.

January 27th – “Cool Deed Sunday” We will be preparing bagged breakfasts for children at the Channing School in Boston. This will continue our focus on hunger, poverty and justice. I will lead this “Cool Deed” but need volunteers to keep everyone interested and engaged.

Thoughts and Looking Ahead: We hope to cook a meal for the Arlington Street Dignity Dinner Program in April. I have recently purchased a book *“Packaging Girlhood Rescuing Our Daughters from Marketer’s Schemes”*. It might be a good book for a discussion group in the future months.

In the next months we will be collecting books that will be donated to the Dedham Food Pantry. Please check at home to see if you have books you would like to donate. A donation box will be set up in the dining room.

Dates to remember:

- January 27th “Cool Deeds Sunday”
- February 3rd Curriculum Sunday
- February 10th Curriculum Sunday
- February 17th Start in Meeting House with special activities
- February 24th “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 9th at 6:30 pm. 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 March Parish Record and the website (www.dedhamuu.org) for more information.

Sunday, February 24 at 1 pm

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

The Rev. Rali Weaver will facilitate this discussion.

Have you ever wanted to talk about what it means to you to be a UU? Have you ever wondered what being a UU really means? This Sunday after church (and after lunch) we will gather in the parish house to look historically at what Unitarian and Universalism stand for and what it means to each of us to be a UU today. Old and New UU's are encouraged to participate in this discussion.

Sunday, March 16 at 1 pm

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

Sunday, March 30th at 1 pm

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

Dealing with Difficult Behavior Class

We will continue our discussion on Dealing With Difficult Behavior on February 3rd from 1:30- 3:30 (in order to give those involved in the Wizard time to attend) If you are not involved in Wizard feel free to bring something to eat and come early for informal conversation over lunch. Although attendance at every class is helpful you do not need to attend every class to make it worth your while. The Class will also meet March 9, and April 6th from 1:30 to 3:30. Contact Rev. Rali Weaver with questions. raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 781-381-0107

All Around the Church Community

Save the Dates:

Folk-Jazz-Reggae Concert at the Church

The music/worship committee is pleased to announce that on Sunday February 3rd at 3:00 p.m. Nhojj, a gentle soul with a beautiful voice, will be performing in the dining room of the Parish Hall. His music has been described as a “Honeyed, Subdued and unadorned combination of Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye” (Logo Magazine). You can find information about Nhojj and listen to his music on line at www.nhojj.com or www.myspace.com/nhojj. There will be a free-will offering for the artist.

Photographs for the Church Directory

On February 29 from 3:00 - 9:30 pm and again on March 1 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Olan Mills will be here to create a new church directory. Every family photographed will received a Church Pictorial Directory and an 8x10 portrait. You'll also have the option of purchasing additional photographs. So please save these date, as we'll announce more information as it's available.

Amnesty International

We finally had an Amnesty letter writing session, after a two month hiatus due to reasons of scheduling and weather. Church members wrote letters in support of a prisoner of conscience from Egypt and from Korea. Thanks to the following letter writers: Judy Barrington, Kerrie Gallagher, Deb Harrison, Betsy Hetzler, Virginia Hickey, Doug Howell, Beppy Martin, Grace Pena, Jennifer Pike, Geoff Tagnell and Kathy Widger.

Hope to see you in February.

Peter Elefterakis

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting January 8, 2007

Attending: Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Eileen Sullivan, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Rali Weaver, Judy Barrington, Allison Staton, Sam King

Meeting called to order by Diane Winchester at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a reading by Judy Barrington.

Minutes of December 14, 2007 meeting - motion to approve as amended by Sam King, second - passed.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was submitted in written form. Comments included: building use is up due to payment from Needham UU Church, fund raising is at 100%, plate collections are strong, and pledge payments are more in line with a linear payment schedule. **Motion to accept as presented by Sam King, second - passed.**

Minister's Report

Rali reported on the on the health needs of some parishioners. She expressed thanks to Sharon Lane, Judy Barrington, and the many people in the congregation who have helped support fellow parishioners with health needs. Rali also thanked the people who have shoveled in the recent snow storms, Sam King, Dan Ewing, Jeff Hutton and the Gilmores. The Membership Committee is moving towards creating a photo directory with Olan Mills. The Youth Group will attend a social action retreat on Martin Luther King Weekend; Jane Kelly will accompany the group. Rail will be away January 16th to January 26th.

By Law Committee

This committee did not meet in December.

Religious Education

Carol Dixon Hutton reported that Religious Education classes continue to go well. Attendance is consistent and many people appear comfortable with teaching. The Winter/Spring semester will start February 3rd. The Christmas pageant was very successful, thanks to Diane Winchester for organizing and directing the pageant.

The DRE Job Posting was discussed. Suggestions were made as to wording. The RE Committee will finalize the wording of the job description and Rali will contact Liz Strong regarding posting this position.

Stewardship Committee

Dan Ewing has agreed to be the chairperson of the Stewardship Committee. Liz Ames will work with Dan.

Building Use

April 10th and 11th, UU Historical Society, contact Betsy Stevens – approved

A donation was gratefully accepted from the Dedham Village AA Group thanking First Church and Parish for the use of the building for the Christmas and New Year's Marathon Meetings.

Deacons

A copy of the principle endowment information as requested at the Special Congregational Meeting on 12/9/07 has been attached to the original 2006-2007 Deacon's Report. If anyone would like a copy please contact the church office.

Annual Meeting will be on May 4th.

Carol Dixon, Claudia Leone, and Judy Barrington will complete the UUA Membership report.

General Note: Rali is *highly allergic* to pine. Please be sure that no pine is included in floral arrangements that are used in the Meeting House.

Sharing the Plate

- January – *Amnesty International*
- February – *Dedham Food Pantry*
- March – *UU Urban Ministry*

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 12th, 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon