



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXVIII, No. 8

April, 2008

## Calendar

### March

- 30, Sunday, 4:00  
UU Discussion Group  
31 – April 3: 6:30: Parish  
Players Rehearsal

### April

- 4 - 6, Friday – Sunday:  
The Wizard of Oz  
6 – Sunday, 1:30: Difficult  
Behavior Class  
8 – Tuesday, 7:00: Parish  
Committee  
11 – Friday, 7:00 Men's Group  
18 – Friday, 6:30 Cakes  
19 – Saturday, 9:00 – 2:00:  
Yard Sale to benefit  
Dedham Food Pantry  
20 – Sunday, 2:00: Fran Grilley  
Memorial Service  
25 – Friday, 7:00: Passover  
Seder

### May

- 4 – Sunday: 11:00 Annual  
Meeting

### Also...

- Youth Group: Sundays: 7:00  
Aerobics: Mondays and  
Wednesdays: 6:30  
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 March 23.

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

## Sundays in the Meeting House

### April 6, 10:00 AM: "The Nature of Generosity"

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.  
Church School will have regular classes.**

As we kick off our stewardship campaign it is tempting to define ourselves in purely economic terms (ie: What it costs, and how much we can afford). This Sunday we will instead strive to understand our stewardship efforts within the frameworks of poverty, scarcity, generosity and abundance, exploring ways that an institutional commitment to the ideals of generosity might indeed help us to grow.

### April 13, 10:00 AM: "The Stories That Inform Our Lives"

**The Dedham Youth Group of Glory (with Rev. Weaver) will lead the service.  
Children will participate in this month's Cool Deeds Sunday**

History is full of stories and we all have our own stories to tell. This Sunday the youth will share the stories that have given meaning to their lives and explore ideas of how stories connect us both to the past and to the future.

### April 20, 10:00 AM: "Redemption"

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.  
Children start in the Meetinghouse with Special Activities to follow.**

Passover is the Hebrew Festival commemorating the Exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Israelites from slavery. This Sunday we will explore concepts of slavery, liberation and redemption and the way these concepts might inform our spiritual lives today.

### April 25, Friday, 7:00 PM: Passover Seder

All ages are invited to attend a Passover Seder in the Parish House. Please let Rev. Weaver know if you would like to assist with preparation ([raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) 781 381-01017) and RSVP to the church office if you can attend ([firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) 781-326-7463).

### April 28, 10:00 AM: "The Transcendental Club"

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.  
Church School will have regular classes.**

In honor of Membership Sunday and the anniversary of Ralph Waldo Emerson's death (April 27, 1882) we will look carefully at central thoughts of Transcendentalism and consider the benefits of sharing ideals within a group of like-minded individuals. New Members will be welcomed this Sunday.

## From Our Minister:

### You Get What You Pay For

Being that April is the beginning of the official Stewardship campaign I have been thinking a great deal about the spiritual nature of money and budgets and planning for the future. I had fanaticized about titling my stewardship sermon (on April 6<sup>th</sup>) “You Get What You Pay For”. Not because I wanted to scare you into upping your contributions for the year but only because I believe it is a fundamental spiritual truth.

Perhaps a better way of saying it is that “You can only get out of it-- what you put into it.” For example I recently joined a gym. As we all know joining a gym is the easy half of the battle. If I really want to get into shape I have to show up at the gym on a regular basis. I have to dedicate myself to a significant work out that will raise my heart rate and strengthen my muscles and I have to be consistent. If I only pay my dues at the gym I will not get into better shape. If I only show up sporadically I will not get the benefit of joining and if I go for a while and then stop, well that won't get me very far either. But when I do consistently commit my time and energy to getting in shape the benefits I reap are enormous: I sleep better, I slow the aging process, I have more energy, I strengthen my immune system, I gain increased endurance and some studies even point to better mental acuity.

I guess my point is pretty obvious. In all things we can only reap what we sow-- including church. What contributions we make to the church with our time and our energy and our money will be (I hope) always returned two fold and three fold in the relationships we develop, the new insights into our own lives, and the support we receive. But there is something else. The more commitment we each make as individuals is bound to translate into the more we can do collectively for the common good. What we accomplish is always far more than any one of us could accomplish as an individual.

I recognize that there has never been a scientific study to prove the benefits of commitment to a cause and measuring the benefits of church commitment would be difficult if not impossible. Still I believe that it stands to reason that even with Church you get what you put into it. As we continue to examine our role of stewards of the legacy of our Church and Parish I hope we will all remember this simple truth.

Rali

## Focus on Religious Education

Here we almost to the end of March, looking desperately for signs of spring. There have been many enjoyable RE moments to tide us through this long month. The Neighboring Faith's Class learned about Buddhism and the Quakers. A field trip is planned later in the spring to the Buddhist Cultural Center in Cambridge. The UU Heroes Class learned about "UU Heroes" Clara Barton and explorer, Vilhjarmur Stefansson. The "Special Places, Sacred Spaces" class created their own houses out of cardboard boxes and hosted an open house in the auditorium.

Thanks to Allison Staton for coordinating our "Cool Deeds Sunday" for March which focused on supporting the South African Partners Literacy Program. The children were excited to hear from their South African Pen Pals. Also thanks to everyone who bought books to support this program. For every book purchased in our sale, a book will be donated to a South African school. *The Blue Bunny* has graciously agreed to try to sell the books that were left over. Don't forget to look for the church school picture in the March 21<sup>st</sup>, *Dedham Times*.

Thanks to Rali, The Youth Group, and all the other Easter Bunny recruits for the Annual Meeting House Egg Hunt.

### Thoughts and Looking Ahead:

We have formed a Search Committee to interview applicants for the half-time, DRE, Director of Religious Education position here at First Church. This committee is comprised of: Carol Dixon, Rali Weaver, Meg Duncan, Allison Staton, Betsy Hetzler, and Liz Ames. Two applications have been received. The committee will follow up with these applicants.

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 any gently used books you would like to donate. A donation box will be set up in the dining room. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping with this program.

Our next "Cool Deeds Day" is April 13<sup>th</sup>. "Going Green Deeds" might be a good theme for the day. Please contact me if you are interested in helping out with some green deeds!

- ***Please save this date: The Church School Teacher and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> !***
- *Please note a schedule change: May 4<sup>th</sup> will be our "Cool Deeds Day" for May. We will collaborate with the Needham UU Church to hold a Mini-Walk for Hunger. May 11<sup>th</sup> will be a curriculum Sunday.*

Dates to remember:

**March 30<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Sunday**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Sunday**

**April 13<sup>th</sup> "Cool Deeds Sunday"**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Start in Meeting House with special activities**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Sunday**

Carol Dixon Hutton  
Religious Education Committee, chair [carolhdixon@gmail.com](mailto:carolhdixon@gmail.com)

## **From the Stewardship Committee**

### **What can First Church do for you?**

This is the question that has been pondered at each of the Stewardship Parties held this year for the purpose of getting input from the congregation about what we are each looking for from our church.

At this writing there have been three parties with interesting similarities and differences. Music at Sunday Worship has been rated as very important consistently. Specifically, the choir and organist are strongly valued. One comment was that the music enhances the emotional component of worship.

Religious Education has also been rated as very important. Children's RE is viewed as more important than RE for Adults.

Community Outreach is another highly valued aspect of church life and perhaps one that First Church could expand upon. Youth Group and Sermons rounded out the top "vote getters" at the parties so far.

This information was gathered using a simple questionnaire. After the questionnaire was completed the results were summarized and posted on a flip chart for discussion by the group. The purpose of these discussions was to gain a better understanding of where we should be putting our focus when planning for our next church year.

By the time you read this article there will have been two additional parties with even more input from the congregation. In addition, the pledge cards for the Stewardship Campaign will have been mailed. We hope you will each reflect on what First Church means to you and pledge your contribution to support the church accordingly.

Remember, Stewardship means the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. We have all been entrusted with the care of First Church. Working together we can achieve our goals.

## Membership News

### Membership Discussion Group, Sunday March 30, 4:00:

#### Sharing Our Spiritual Journeys

In this final membership discussion, Carol Ewing and Debbie Harrison will encourage us to explore how we view our individual spiritual journeys. Through sharing and listening, we will gain a deeper understanding of our own path and form deeper connections with each other. UU's of all ages and commitments are invited to attend.

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#### New Member Sunday – April 27<sup>th</sup>

To become a voting member of First Church you sign the book and be welcomed by the Parish Committee. We hope to celebrate our new members of 2007/2008 on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in becoming a member of First Church and are willing to be recognized on April 27<sup>th</sup> please contact Rev. Rali Weaver or any member of the Membership Committee on or before April 6<sup>th</sup>. Membership Committee: Carol Ewing, Pam Aist, Anne Schiraga, Debbie Harrison and Doug Howell.

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#### Evaluating Our Minister

Rev. Weaver is in her third and (hopefully) final year of the fellowshipping process. For this we need to file an evaluation of her ministry with the Ministerial Fellowship Council of the UUA. Rali's past evaluations are on file in the office. If you have comments or would like to add input to these evaluations please contact Claudia Leone the chair of the Ministry Committee [claudiaaleone@cs.com](mailto:claudiaaleone@cs.com) or (781) 762-3397 with your thoughts.

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## **All Around the Church Community --Save the Dates**

### **Opportunities To Help Youth**

Two Sundays in April we will be presented with opportunities to help youth during the Social hour. On Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> a representative from Big Brothers/ Big Sisters will be on hand to share the benefits of this program. On Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> a representative from ECI a non-profit student exchange program will be here to offer opportunities to sponsor foreign exchange students in the coming year. If you are interested in these events but cannot be here on that Sunday please contact Rev. Weaver for details [raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) or 781 381 0107.

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### **Dealing With Difficult Behavior**

We will continue our discussion on Dealing With Difficult Behavior on April 13 from 1:30- 3:30 (the time has been changed so as not to interfere with the performance of the Wizard of Oz). Although attendance at every class is helpful you do not need to attend every class to make it worth your while. Contact Rev. Rali Weaver with questions. [raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) or 781-381-0107

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### **Memorial Service for Frances Grilley**

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm there will be a celebration of the life of Frances Grilley, long time member of First Church and Parish in Dedham. Frances was a unique individual, who formed her own way in the world. Please join us for this celebration of her life. The service will be followed by a reception that will involve her favorite cake, in memory of what would have been Frances' 68<sup>th</sup> birthday (4/26).

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### **Passover Seder**

Please join us Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm for the reading of the Haggadah (the story of the Israelite exodus from Egypt) and traditional customs include drinking of four cups of wine, eating matzo and partaking of symbolic foods placed on the Passover Seder Plate and a festive evening. This is an intergenerational event. All are invited to attend. Please RSVP to the office. If you would be interested in helping with preparation on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> please contact the Rev. Rali Weaver 781 381 0107 or [raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) or 781 381 0107. Please reserve your place at the table through the church office.

## All Around the Church Community --Save the Dates

### Integral Thinking Study Group to Begin May 23rd

While scientists hold that the incredible diversity and complexity of life resulted from evolution we don't hear much about the evolution of consciousness. The closest was "consciousness raising" that was used in the 1970s to encourage people to leave behind their older ways of looking at things, especially in politics. Are we at the final stage of mental and spiritual evolution? Or are we on the threshold of a leap into what some call the "second tier?" Join us while we explore the thoughts of those who claim that we need to evolve a new way of looking at the world that respects and includes the previous ways while transcending them. Some pre-reading will be offered so please contact Rev. Rali Weaver ([raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) or 781 381 0107 or Henry (Scotty) Scuoteguazza [scuoteguazza@cs.com](mailto:scuoteguazza@cs.com)).

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**Friday, April 4,  
Saturday, April 5, and  
Sunday April 6**

### The Parish Players Present...

This year, The Parish Players will present "The Wizard of Oz" on April 4, 5 and 6. There are lots of opportunities to join in the fun even if you don't want to be on stage. We will need help with costumes, sets and props over the next month, and as we get closer to show dates you can contribute refreshments, help with publicity or sell tickets. All help will be enthusiastically welcomed! Please contact Natalie Jensen at 781-329-9289 or [rayjen57@hotmail.com](mailto:rayjen57@hotmail.com).

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### Aerobics Group

New Spring Session begins Monday, April 7, every Monday and Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, in the auditorium.

You don't need experience – just bring your interest to move to music and desire to have fun! Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers/sports shoes. Questions about the classes? Contact Debbie Harrison ([jchds@comcast.net](mailto:jchds@comcast.net)).

## All Around the Church Community

### Amnesty International

The following wrote letters on behalf of an Azerbaijani human rights activist: on March 16: Diane Winchester, Geoff Tegnell, Allison Staton, Peter McDonagh, Sharon Lane, Bob Estes, Meg Duncan, Tom Donaghey and Judy Barrington.

Peter Elefterakis

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### A Personal Note of Thanks

I thought the flowers looked lovely today, even though they weren't out as much as usual due to Easter arriving early this year.

Enid Gifford, Judy Barrington and I picked out the best ones we could find. The arrangement was overseen by Enid who has a wonderful eye for placement.

Thanks to Enid and Judy for your help and thanks to Judy Butler for your help with the sign up sheet. And thanks to all of you who signed up to remember your loved ones.

Susan White

## From the Wider UU Community

### Mass Bay District- Upcoming District Sponsored Social Action Workshops

Congregationally Based Community Organizing is the topic for MBD Social Action Workshops

#### Workshop Locations – Just one left..

- Saturday, April 5, UU Church in Reading

Is Social Action important to you? Do you feel that it is an integral part of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist? Would you like to increase the capacity of your congregation to organize for social justice with oppressed communities?

The Mass Bay District of Unitarian Universalist Churches is offering a half-day training workshop in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry and the Unitarian Universalist Associations Program for Advocacy and Witness and UU Mass Action. Presentations focus on a three-part training of the underlying philosophy of grassroots community organizing and social justice principles and how your congregations can become more effective and more involved.

Along with the training there will be opportunities to share success stories and successful strategies among UU activists to inspire and entertain. The workshop will also provide you with a chance to learn more about the programs offered by UU organizations working on justice issues and to learn how our congregations can become more involved. The workshop concludes with a networking lunch where everyone can share ideas and get to know one another.

The program is the same for each workshop; please register for the one that best fits your schedule and location (see below). The cost is \$200 per congregation or \$25 per individual. For more information, contact Andrew Taylor, MBD Social Action Coordinator at [ataylor@mbduua.org](mailto:ataylor@mbduua.org) or (646) 812-6581 or Rev. Rali Weaver at [raliweaver@dedhamuu.org](mailto:raliweaver@dedhamuu.org) or (781) 381-0107.

## **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting March 11, 2008**

**Attending:** Carol Dixon, Tyler Carpenter, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Rali Weaver, Judy Barrington, Allison Staton, Sam King, Jeff Hutton, Dan Ewing

Meeting called to order by Tyler Carpenter at 7:05 pm. The meeting began with a moment of silence.

**Minutes of February 12, 2008 meeting - motion to approve as amended by Sam King, second - passed.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report was submitted in written form by Dan Ewing. Comments included: revenue is currently ahead of expenses, pledge payments are on track.

**Motion to accept as presented by Sam King, second - passed.**

### **Payroll Service Option**

Dan reported on some information regarding the option of employing a payroll service. Dan reported that many local UU churches employ Jim Fox to do their payroll. An estimate was received for our payroll of seven employees was \$37/month. Some advantages of this service would be: direct reporting to the IRS and the option of direct deposit. The committee discussed this option and decided it sounded reasonable. Dan will follow up on the references and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

### **Stewardship Committee Update**

Dan Ewing reported that six parties have been planned for the next three weeks. The goal of the parties is to provide the opportunity for small group discussion regarding the stewardship initiatives and goals for the church. The committee reviewed the materials that will be presented at the parties. Rali will attend most of the parties. Pledge cards will be available at the parties, for those who cannot attend the parties, pledge cards will be mailed with an accompanying letter later in the month. The committee was asked to call the people who do not return their pledge cards by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Dan reported that there is a potential of 85 pledges, 59 pledges were returned last year.

### **Minister's Report**

Rali thanked the committee and the congregation for her installation. She asked thanked the congregation for the support that she has received in the past few weeks. Rali reported on plans for future services. She is also working on plans for an abbreviated summer service schedule. Rali will be away 3/28 – 4/2/08. She will be attending a Ministerial Retreat and a Homiletic Festival in May.

## **Religious Education**

Carol Dixon reported that a committee has been formed to interview applicants for the DRE position. The committee is comprised of: Carol Dixon, Rali Weaver, Meg Duncan, Allison Staton, Betsy Hetzler, and Liz Ames. Two applications have been received. The committee will follow up with these applicants.

## **Annual Meeting**

Annual Meeting will be on May 4<sup>th</sup>. A Nominating Committee will be formed to seek nominations for the following positions:

- Deacon - 1 (6 year term)
- Parish Committee - 2 (3 year term)
- Clerk - 1 (1 year term)
- Treasurer - 1 (1 year term)
- Auditors - 2 (1 year term)

The proposed nominating committee is:

- Representative of the Religious Education Committee (not confirmed)
- Representative of the Alliance (Judy Barrington)
- Representative of the Parish Committee (Sam King)
- Representative of the Deacons (Jeff Hutton)
- Member at Large (not confirmed)

**Motion by Jeff Hutton, Sam King will represent the Parish Committee on the Nominating Committee, second – passed.**

## **Other Business:**

**A Night at the Movies** – This was an offer from a Boston Production Company to screen a movie at our church. The committee decided that the idea was interesting but then timing was not right.

**Church Website** – Discussion occurred regarding the church website. The website will be updated and it will be off-line for a few days.

The Committee was reminded that they would be the Easter Coffee Hour Hosts.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, 4/8/08, 7pm**  
**Jeff Hutton will do opening words**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Dixon,  
Clerk