



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVIII, No. 10

June, 2008

Calendar

May

- 27 – Tuesday, 6:30: Alliance Supper
- 30 – Friday, 7:30: Sharing a New Song
- 31 – Saturday, 10:00: Dedham Square Music Festival

June

- 1 – Sunday: 11:00: Dedham Square Music Festival
- 8 – Sunday: 11:00: Church Picnic on the Green
- 10 – Tuesday, 7:00: Parish Committee
- 13 – Friday, 7:00 Men's Group
- 17 – Tuesday, 7:00 Chalice Crafters

July

- 8 – Tuesday, 7:00: Parish Committee
- 15 – Tuesday, 9:00 AM Chalice Crafters

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 summer issue will be June 29.

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 E-mail: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org
 Rev. Rali Weaver, Parish Minister
 Judy Butler, Office Administrator

Sundays in the Meeting House

June 1, 10:00 AM: Children's Sunday

An All-Church Worship.

Children are invited to bring their parents and friends

Worship will reflect upon all of the things the children have learned this year and focusing on their commitment to protecting the world we live in.

We will also recognize all of those who have offered their energy and support to our church school this year..

June 8, 10:00 AM: Flower Communion Sunday

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

No Church School – Intergenerational Church Service

Celebrating the beauty of our religious community with The Rev. Norbert Capek's ritual reminding us of the beauty in the world and in this community even as we go our separate ways for the summer. Everyone is invited to bring a flower to worship this morning to exchange with a friend.

This will be our final service in the meetinghouse for this church year

Summer Lay-Led Services begin on June 15

We encourage worship throughout the summer and will hold abbreviated lay led worship at 10 AM every Sunday in the Parish House. If you would like to offer a summer service or serve as a greeter please contact Rev. Rali Weaver at 781-381-0107 or by email: raliweaver@yahoo.com.

June 15: A Guyanese Seder, Of Sorts: Sam Martinborough will share his Guyanese heritage with us through word, music and food.

June 22: What Do UUs Do In The Summer: Tam Johnson

June 29: God Is Not A Four Letter Word: Judy Barrington

July 6: Reflections On Our Independence

July 13: Thoreau's Birthday

July 20: What's On God's iPod?: Sam King

From Our Minister:

When I was new to teaching (my previous career) I would agonize over what my students would forget during their Summer Vacation. In the months before summer I found myself drilling them with facts in the hope that the long sought after multiplication tables or phonetic spelling would become cemented in their brains. And on the last day of school I would send them home with elaborate practice packets.

After about three years of teaching I realized that no matter how hard I or my students would work, there would always be regression. And this started me thinking about the risks and benefits of summer vacation.

What good is a summer vacation anyway? We no longer need to help our families gather the harvest, so what possible benefit could a summer vacation have? After a short time of observation I realized that although my students returned each year having forgotten a few academic details they were significantly changed in other ways. Each year seemed to mark growth in maturity and character that I might not have noticed if we had never taken the break. Most importantly students and teachers after the summer break always returned in the fall refreshed and ready to begin anew.

Quite surprisingly I found that our time apart always seemed to make us grow closer together. Teaching the five days per week in a self contained classroom for six hours a day made us very close, but it also gave us very little time to miss each other. Summer vacation helped us to remember what we liked about each other by pointing out what we missed and giving us energy to begin again.

As we begin our reduced Summer Schedule at First Church and Parish it would be normal to worry about what might be lost. We have worked hard and accomplished a great deal this year. We have been on the verge of growth and yet there is still much to be done if we are to accomplish all of our dreams and the temptation is to keep on going.

Taking time to rest and recreate and cogitate might seem frivolous in such times but I am pretty sure taking a time off is exactly what is necessary to make things grow. I hope as you plan your summer you set aside a string of days when you are free of anything more than enjoying the season. And if you love to worship that you join us for our abbreviated summer services with no expectation greater than to enliven your mind and lift your spirits.

Most importantly I hope that all of our summers are full of surprises with plenty of room to relax and recreate giving us time to remember what we like about First Church and Parish and giving us energy and new ideas to begin again full force in the fall. May we all return to Church on Homecoming Sunday relaxed and ready to start anew!

Rali

Focus on Religious Education

May is flying by and we are busily preparing for Children's Sunday. This special service will be on June 1st and I hope everyone will be able to join us. This will be a great day to celebrate and learn more about our Religious Education program. The children will be participating in the service and sharing some of their musical talents. This year our theme is a "Going Green – How We Help the Earth". This is based on the seventh UU principle "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part".

Thoughts and Looking Ahead:

- Now that we have funding for a Director of Religious Education, we will confidently move forward to find someone to fill this position.
- We are already planning our programs for next year. Please consider signing up to teach church school next year. Church school teachers and volunteers are the heart of our Religious Education Program
- The RE Committee welcomes new members. If you are interested in finding out more about the RE Committee, please contact Rali Weaver or Carol Dixon.

Dates to remember:

May 25th	Start in Meeting House with special activities
June 1st	Children's Sunday
June 8th	Church Picnic

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

All Around the Church Community --Save the Dates

May 27th: Alliance Supper

We cordially invite you to attend and enjoy good food and good company at our annual Alliance Supper on Tuesday, May 27 at 6:30 PM at the Parish House. It will be a pot luck supper with a brief business meeting afterwards. To help out, please sign up in the dining room after church this Sunday.

June 8th: Regular Church Year Closing Service and Picnic

You are invited to bring a flower to exchange during worship. Following worship there will be an End of year Picnic on the Green. Hot Dogs and Hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Sign up sheets in Parish House – Please sign up to bring a salad or dessert or email the office with your offering. Bring blankets and chairs to sit on and games and other entertainment. If you want to have a green alternative bring your own plates and cups and silverware and take them home to wash.

Rain or shine. See you there!

Fun-Raising!

Come enjoy some fun as we work to meet the goal we set for ourselves last week to produce a successful Fund Raiser. We think it's time for another Auction, perhaps next winter. The following opportunities are available:

- publicize the event
- solicit donations from local businesses
- solicit services from First Church members and friends
- create a form to record donations
- select beverages
- set-up
- plan and prepare a simple dinner
- prepare hors d'oeuvres
- tend bar
- entertain and encourage bidding
- clean-up

We already have volunteers to type a descriptive program, record bids and total customers' treasures.

To volunteer, ask questions or offer suggestions call Peter McDonough (781) 461-5787 or Vicky Berg (781) 326-3723.

All Around the Church Community

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

It has been a surprisingly busy year for our youth, who are rapidly moving to the world beyond! This May we will see 4 of our former students graduate from high school and 1 graduate from college.

- Anna Dewar is graduating from Walnut Hill School, Anna will attend Bennington College.
- Frannie McBrian is graduating from Milton Academy, Frannie will attend Mount Holyoke.
- Stefanie Porcaro is graduating from Medfield High School. Stefanie will attend Providence College.
- Nina Sennott is graduating from Thayer Academy. Nina will attend Northeastern University.
- Michael Schiraga is graduating from University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Congratulations to all of you! You're now ready to go and make the world a better place!

Amnesty International

A big thank you to those of you who wrote letters on behalf of an Azerbaijani human rights activist. The good news is that through your efforts and countless other Reza Daghestani was released from prison.

A big thank you also to those of you who wrote letters on behalf of a Tibetan refugee in April. They include the following: Jeff Hutton, Milo Carpenter, Tomoko Graham, Allison Staton, Doug Howell, David Hurwitz, Betsy Hetzler, Diane Winchester, Bob Estes, Tyler Carpenter and Judy Barrington.

Peter Elefterakis

Call for Shopping Bags and T-Shirts!

Do you have tons of plastic shopping bags hanging around your house? Do you have too many T-Shirts?

During your spring cleaning, the Chalice Crafters are asking for these items to use in projects to create for our annual Holly Fair.

We will begin collecting the plastic bags and T-Shirts after church services on 6/1.

For more information, or if you have these items but can't get them to church, please contact Dale Meyer-Curley at 617-835-2374, or daley219@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting May 13, 2008

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

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

Minutes of April 8 and April 14, 2008 meetings - motion to approve as presented by Sam King, second - passed.

Minister's Report

The minister's report was submitted orally and in writing. Rali reported that today was the first anniversary of being called to the ministry at First Church and Parish in Dedham. She relayed that Music Sunday will be in the Parish House and some summer services are planned, beginning on June 15th. Memorial services were held for Fran Grilley and Jake Wiren, Rali thanked Linnea and the choir for participating in these services. Rali will be attending the Festival of Homiletics, May 19th -23rd.

Treasurer's Report

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

Religious Education

Carol Dixon reported that the RE Committee met to configure classes for next year and to plan next year's curriculum. Children's Sunday will be on June 1st, the theme is "Green Ideas and How We Take Care of Our Earth". The committee has received one new resume for the DRE position.

By Law Committee

The By Law Committee will continue their review over the next year.

Behavioral Covenant

The Behavioral Covenant committee has been formed and is in process.

Annual Meeting Preparation Stewardship Committee

Dan Ewing reported that \$98, 350 in pledges had been received at this time. With this amount of income we are able to fund the DRE at \$15, 500 and restore some janitorial services. He added that we had the potential of \$6000 more in pledges based on last year's figures. 50% of this figure was added to the proposed budgets for raises for our current employees and to partially restore the youth leader position. The committee discussed funding committees with any extra incoming funds.

Motion to accept the FY 2009 budget as proposed, by Sam King, second - passed.

Nominating Committee

Jeff Hutton presented a partial slate of officers that will be finalized before the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2008.

Sharing the Plate

Sharing the Plate on Sunday, May 18th will be for Instrumental Maintenance at First Church.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 6/10/08, 7pm

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon
Clerk

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting
May 18, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 am

Olly Ames was nominated for moderator, second - passed

Motion to approve minutes of Special Congregational Meeting, 12/9/07, second – approved

Motion to accept the report of the minister, second – approved

The Treasurer’s Report and Auditor’s Report will be deferred until a special congregational meeting in September 2008.

The Deacon’s Report and Auditor’s Report will be deferred until a special congregational meeting in September 2008.

Committee Reports

Motion to accept the reports of the Committees as written, second, approved

Proposed Budget

Dan Ewing reported that pledge income to date is 100,750. The proposed budget includes: \$15,500 for a DRE, restoration of some janitorial services, raises for our employees and partial restoration of the Youth Leader position. Most committees are not funded in this budget.

Motion to accept the proposed FY’09 budget and the proposal that the Parish Committee will be empowered to allocate any additional income to the various committees, second - approved.

The congregation thanked Dan Ewing for heading up the Stewardship Committee this year.

The Nominating Committee presented the new slate of officers for congregational approval:

Parish Committee (3 Year Term): Carol Dixon, Kerry Matthews

Treasurer: Daniel Ewing

Clerk of the Parish Committee: Audrey Cecil

Auditors: Doug Howell, Natalie Jensen

Motion to approve the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee, second – approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon
Clerk of the Parish Committee