



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXIX, No. 1

September, 2008

## Calendar

### September

- 6 – Saturday, 9 - 2 Yard Sale
- 6 – Saturday, 9:00 Church School Setup (1)
- 7 – Sunday, 10:00 Water Communion Sunday
- 9 – Tuesday, 7:00: Parish Committee
- 13 – Saturday, 9:00 Church School Setup (2)
- 14 – Sunday, Noon: Drumming Workshop
- 16 – Tuesday, 7:00: Chalice Crafters
- 15 – Thursday, 7:15: Choir Rehearsal
- 19 – Friday, 6:30 Cakes

### October

- 11 – Saturday: 10 - 2: **First Church Fall Fair**

### 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 September 21.

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

## Sundays in the Meeting House

### September 7, 10:00 AM: "Swimming in the Waters of Life"

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.**  
**An Intergenerational Worship All Ages Are Invited To Attend**

Every year on Homecoming Sunday we bring water that represents our summer travels and share it in a communion service that provides the water for all of our child dedications throughout the year. This water represents our lives both together and apart. On Homecoming Sunday we will reflect upon the water of our lives and where the tide might take us if we ride the waves of life together.

**Bring some water from your summer vacation to worship this Sunday.**

### September 14, 10:00 AM: "Getting into Our Rhythm"

**Matt Meyer will lead the worship.**  
**An Intergenerational Worship All Ages Are Invited To Attend**

Join us this Sunday as we start out our New Church Year with a Big Bang.

Matt Meyer is a graduate of the Berklee College of Music and has studied abroad in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Matt has lead worships for dozens of UU congregations including General Assembly in 2006. He plays percussion for several bands around Boston, as well as teaching private lessons and leading workshops for schools and churches. Matt is active with the UU Young Adult movement and is always seeking new and better ways to combine music, spirituality and social justice work.

There will be a Pot-Luck picnic and drumming workshop on the green following worship. Call the Church Office to sign up.

### September 21, 10:00 AM: "Following the Path of Your Spirit"

**The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.**  
**Children will start in the Meeting House - Sunday School Begins**

How does your spirit inform your life goals? How do you discern your soul path? This Sunday we will explore new ways in which our individual spirits might inform our life journeys in new ways.

There will be an opportunity to discuss this subject following worship in the Sanctuary.

### September 28, 10:00 AM: "The Fire of Commitment"

**The Worship Committee will offer worship.**  
**Children will start in the Meeting House and then go to Sunday School.**

This Sunday the Worship Committee will reflect upon the fire of their commitment and explore the various passions we each bring to our community. Joys and concerns will be offered during worship.

## From Our Minister:

### Coming Home

I can hardly express how excited I am to see all of you again after the summer vacation. It has been both a busy and restful summer for me. If I were to bring my water for Homecoming Sunday from every place that I visited this summer there would be 5 different states represented as well as 8 locations. Fortunately I forgot to collect water from anywhere I went or our bowl might be full with just my travels. Instead on our first Sunday I will be bringing water from the kitchen tap in the parsonage that will reflect all my summer excursions from the perspective of coming home.

I hope that our Homecoming this year is truly a coming home for all of us.

To that end I am especially looking forward to the Children joining us for the first two Sundays and for the start of worship every Sunday this church year. While the RE committee has been diligently looking for a Director of Religious Education this summer we are still in search and I hope that we will soon find the perfect support for our children. In the meantime I am glad that our whole congregation can be one family at the start of worship every Sunday.

I am also looking forward to our second Sunday when we are hosting Matt Meyer a very spirited percussionist who will help us start off our new church year with a big bang. After worship there will be an opportunity for all ages to participate in a drumming and spirituality workshop on the green. I hope you and your family can stay for this unique opportunity.

This homecoming is full of possibilities for all of us at First Church and Parish to grow together in spirit and in love and I am grateful for the opportunity to be your minister this second year.

So remember to bring your water on September 7th.

And Welcome Home!!

Rali

## **From Our Music Director**

Greetings! In early August I attended the Unitarian-Universalist Musicians Conference here in Boston. It was thrilling to be with over three hundred other UU musicians as we immersed ourselves in workshops, worship and lots and lots of singing. (I even got to climb some very rickety stairs up to the bell tower of Arlington Street Church and ring the bells!) I'm armed with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm for music-making here at our church. Thanks to all of you for sending me to this enriching conference, and especially to Judy Barrington for helping with childcare.

Come sing with us! Adults and kids are invited to join the choir on Sept. 14th as we begin a tradition of monthly Family Choir. We will have a brief rehearsal (9:30 sharp) before worship to learn a fun and very easy song which we will sing during worship. It's low-key and light-hearted so don't be shy, all you closet choristers! We'll have fun.

Linnea Bardarson

## **Focus on Religious Education**

Here we are again in September, savoring the last days of summer and getting ready for the another church year. I wish I was writing to introduce you to our new Director of Religious Education, DRE. Alas, we have looked, interviewed, checked references and in the end we felt that our most hopeful candidate was not a good fit for our church. We will continue our search and hope that we will find someone during the year. Please be assured that the money appropriated for this position can only be spent on the DRE position.

The Religious Education program will be up and running in September. Thanks to Rali who is putting in a lot of time to fill in the gaps and to the Religious Education Committee and to all of our wonderful volunteers.

Church School will be structured in a similar format as last year; two curriculum Sundays, one Cool Deeds Sunday and one intergenerational service/ activities corresponding to long weekends.

If you sign up to teach you will be committing to 2 Sundays a month. I will run the Cool Deeds Sundays this year and will seek volunteers who are not teaching. Also we seek weekly volunteers to assist Adeline in the nursery. We currently need teachers at all levels except grades 6-8.

## Focus on Religious Education (cont.)

A quick list of our curricula are:

Nursery – babies to age 3, Adeline Farrell, Nursery Director

Pre-School to Kindergarten – Friendship Finder

Grades 1 and 2 – Special Times (An opportunity to learn about other religions)

Grades 3 to 5 – Timeless Themes (Stories from the Old and New Testament, with activities)

Grades 6 to 8 –

Fall: Neighboring Faiths

Spring Our Whole Lives

A brochure with a more detailed explanation of our Religious Education Program will be arriving in your mailbox soon.

There will be one change in format, the children will start in the Meeting House every week and will then go to church school classes. The classes may extend a bit into the coffee hour. The idea behind this change is to give the children the opportunity to be involved in worship on a weekly basis with their families. There will opportunities for children or families to ring the bell and light the chalice. If you have any concerns or questions about this change, please contact: Carol Dixon Hutton or Rali Weaver.

Thanks to everyone who donated items for our church school rooms. We have a lot to work with and will be setting up the rooms on Saturday, September 6th and September 13th starting at 9 am. Please come by whenever you are able.

Please call or e-mail with any questions or if you would like to volunteer.

Dates to remember:

**September 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> (Saturdays at 9 AM): Set up of church school rooms**

**September 7<sup>th</sup> Church starts and church school sign-up.  
Teacher training after church in Alliance Room**

**September 14<sup>th</sup> Curriculum Sunday/preparation for Children's Sunday**

**September 21<sup>st</sup> Start in Meeting House with special activities**

See you at Church

Carol Dixon Hutton

Religious Education Committee, Chair [carolhdixon@gmail.com](mailto:carolhdixon@gmail.com)

## Membership News

### Special Thank You Messages to our Amazing Summer Helpers

For the first time in many years, we had regular lay-led summer services every Sunday. I would like to thank everyone who made our services successful and our Church grounds beautiful throughout the summer days of June, July and August.

A Big Thank YOU to Jeff Hutton who keeps the lawn looking great.

A Big Thank YOU to Andrea Gilmore and Carol Hutton who keep up with the the weeds.

A Big Thank YOU to Sam King who always keeps an eye on things.

A Big Thank YOU to Judy Butler who got our new picture directories in the mail.

And a VERY BIG Thank YOU to Judy Barrington and Tamosin Johnson-Hellegers for overseeing summer worship and Greg Civian for playing the piano.

And most especially, thank you to all of our summer preachers who prepared and presented excellent and inspirational homilies every Sunday during the summer

## The Fall Fair

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 10-2**

With fall fast approaching, planning for this year's Fall Fair has begun. Though the fair almost runs itself, we do have the awesome task of surpassing the success of last year's fair. However, by maintaining our efforts in draws such as the moonwalk, the raffle and the homemade goodies; strengthening our efforts in children's activities; and adding some new attractions, the fair can and will be better than ever.

Volunteers are needed now..... and then! Showcase any of your organizational, creative and leadership potential through the Fall Fair. For example, behind the scenes, we need new ideas, publicity agents, soup-makers, bakers and raffle donations. At the fair, we need face painters, cooks, salespeople, heavy-lifters and accountants. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be ready for your signature, upon return to church, at our very first coffee hour. Or, you can contact me at [lizziesim@mac.com](mailto:lizziesim@mac.com).

Set out on the green, the Fall Fair is a wonderful community builder, both for members of our church and for the whole town of Dedham. Every year, more and more young families attend the fair and comment on its accessibility and spirit. Building this event, while maintaining its character, will enhance our unity as a congregation, while we welcome new and old friends, from in and around Dedham, to experience just some of what we have to offer.

Let's get started!

## **Big Fun For All Ages--Save the Dates**

**All Ages are invited to get into  
the rhythm of the new church year with Matt Meyer**

**Sunday, September 14th, following Coffee Hour**

Following our September 14th worship service our service leader will be offering a "Drumming and Spirituality" workshop on the green. This will offer all skill levels a to participate in hands on rhythm- making. We will experience the spirituality of community music-making through different activities, stories, games and discussions as well as look at how rhythm and music intersect with Unitarian Universalist values. Bring your own drum if got one- for those who don't, enough will provided. There is no fee for this workshop but donations to defray costs will be accepted.

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**A Trip to Maine For the Common Ground Fair**

**Friday to Saturday, September 19th, 20th**

The Maine Organic Farmers Association puts on the Common Ground Fair every year the third Sunday after Labor Day. "Come to the Fair and see why Downeast Magazine calls Common Ground "Maine's most authentic country fair, uniting, as it does, old-time folkways with progressive ideas about living the good life on a fragile planet."

Those interested will carpool and go up on Friday evening and stay in a local establishment and spend Saturday at the Fair. Room for 8 participants. Estimated cost \$50 per person for gas, lodging and a ticket to the fair. Meals not included. For more information about the Common Ground Fair go to <http://www.mofga.org>.

Contact Rev. Rali Weaver [raliweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:raliweaver@yahoo.com) or 781 381 0107 to sign up.

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**Chalice Crafters**

**Tuesday, September 16 from 7-9**

Crafty parishioners join together to visit and to work on their wares. If you have something you are working on and would like some company or if you would like to learn to make things to later be sold at church events, please join the group every third Tuesday of every month from 7- 9 pm. Contact Dale Meyer Curley for more details [daley219@gmail.com](mailto:daley219@gmail.com)

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## All Around the Church Community

### **Congratulations to our Summer Newlyweds...**

Congratulations go out to Paul Dechichio and his new spouse Christine who were married on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June at First Church

And congratulations go out to Jeremiah Chaplin and his new spouse Joanna who were married on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, also at First Church

May you find love, support and fulfillment in your lives together.

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### **2nd annual First Church Yard Sale Sat. Sept. 6th 9 to 2**

**Tables are \$25**

Sign up on our website: [www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org) or call 781-326-7463

Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sam King ([SamGKing@verizon.net](mailto:SamGKing@verizon.net))

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From Janet O'Connor Humble:

I have been to most of the Heinz Women's conferences. They get better every year, lots of very helpful and relevant information re women's and family health. It is a free conference and almost 2000 people attend, there is a luncheon and some of us could go as a group. I used to take a vacation day from work as it was so worthwhile. I think it may fill up faster this year so if you are not sure there is no harm in signing up and canceling later.

Please contact me or Sue Sennott (who also attended last year) for more information, or visit their website: <http://www.reginavilla.com/heinz2008.html>.

Also, my daughter Emily will participate in the 20th Annual Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk on Sun Sept 21, 2008. In the past year she has been a regular volunteer at the Dana Farber Pediatric Resource room which provides fun activities, information, and entertainment for pediatric patients and their siblings.

I would like to invite anyone interested in supporting her effort to check out the information on the bulletin board or if you have any questions you can ask me also.

Thanks

## All Around the Church Community

From Della Lawhon and Natasha Schneider at the Sikh Ashram in Millis

Greetings to everyone

The Sikh ashram and gurdwara in Millis is showing a film called Divided We Fall, which you may know is about a man in Arizona who was killed after 9/11. He was a Sikh and the people who killed him thought he was a Islamic terrorist. The website for the film is <http://www.dwf-film.com/> The film actually goes beyond the events of his death and explores larger issues of hate, healing and belonging in America. It's won numerous awards here in the States and abroad.

We'll be showing the film at the Franklin UU congregation on Monday, September 15th which is the anniversary of Balbir Singh Sodhi's death. (I don't yet know the time, but will let you know when I do.) The local Punjabi Sikh community as well as western Sikhs will be in attendance -- it will be a truly authentic multicultural gathering. I think a number of UUs would be interested in the film and are deeply concerned about the issue it raises.

Please contact me at [dellalawhon@mac.com](mailto:dellalawhon@mac.com) if you would like to attend the screening or if you want more information about it.

All the best,

Della Lawhon

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## **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting July 29, 2008**

**Present:** A. Staton, S. King, - A. Cecil, C. Dixon, D. Ewing, S. Lane, C. Leone, J. Hutton, K. Matthews, E. Sullivan

**Meeting called to order** at 7:10pm by Audrey Cecil

Jeff Hutton suggested that we elect a new chair and co-chair.

**Motion to approve Allison Staton and Sam King as co-chairs second, approved.**

**Minutes of May 10, 2008 -Motion to approve minutes of 6/10/08 with one correction of A. Staton having been present. Second, approved.**

### **Ministers Report**

No Ministers Report as Minister is away.

### **Treasurers Report**

Dan Ewing presented the treasurer's report. End of year accounting was reviewed.

**Motion to accept Treasurer's Report, second, approved**

### **Religious Education**

Still interviewing for Dir. RE.

RE rooms were inspected and a wish list for what is still needed will be developed.

It was suggested that the room known as the Nursery will be called The Larcom Room.

Storage will be reconfigured.

### **Building Use Committee**

Building use Schedule & Fees will be described in more detail on our web site.

New Business

1. Dates for the coming year
  1. Lay-led Sunday services through the summer
  2. Return to regular services 9/7/08
  3. Sunday School to start 9/14/08
  4. Sharing the plate
    1. September 14 – gift to Tennessee UU Church
    2. October 19 – UNICEF
    3. November 16 – Norwood Food Pantry
    4. December 7 – Globe Santa
2. The tragedy at the Tennessee UU Church and our response was discussed.
  1. Theme for next Sunday service will be Tennessee event
  2. Building security discussed
  3. Security system for Parsonage to be discussed at a future meeting
3. Dates for Fund Raising were reviewed.
  1. Sept 6 Potential Yard Sale – coordinated by Sam King
  2. Fall Fair Oct 4 – the committee thought 10/4 might work better than Columbus Day but did not make a decision without Liz Ames. She needs to

be contacted.

3. Service Auction – early March
  4. Harvest Dinner (?)
  5. A request was made to have fund raising be a regular agenda item
4. Parish Committee Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 7pm except in Sept when the meeting will be on 9/9/08 at 7pm

**Next meeting will be September 9, 2008**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey H. Cecil**