



# The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXIX, No. 6

February, 2009

## Sundays in the Meeting House

### February 1, 10:00 AM: "Sacred Flames"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This service will take place in the Parish House in an effort to conserve energy. Children will start in the dining room and be sung to their Sunday School classes.

In the Celtic calendar Feb 1 (or 2<sup>nd</sup>) is a time of the blessing of the sheep marking the return of spring. Imbolc is a harbinger of spring -- it's that point between Yule and Ostara where it may still feel of winter but the sun is returning to shine. Imbolc is a time to honor Brighid, the hearth goddess, and celebrate the sacred flames of life. This year we will explore Celtic myths and traditions of this season and the sacred flames may have to offer us.

### February 8, 10:00: "Social Action"

The Dedham Youth Group will be offering this Service.

This service will take place in the Parish House in an effort to conserve energy. Children will start in the dining room and be sung to their Sunday School classes.

The Dedham Youth Group of Glory spent Martin Luther King Weekend at a Social Action Conference. At the conference they participated in Anti Racism/Anti Oppression training, and met with groups to explore information about the Prison Industrial Complex, Mass Action/ Grassroots Organizing and The City School Boston. This Sunday they will share what they learned and their hopes for a Just Society.

## Calendar

**Service Auction: February 7**

**6:00: Silent Auction**

**6:30: Dinner**

**7:30: Live Auction**

### Also...

Street Renaissance: January 28, 7:00

Parish Committee: February 3, 7:00

CAKES: February 20, 6:00

Parish Players Practices:

Sundays, 11:30

Thursdays, 6:30

Youth Group: Sundays, 6:00

Aerobics: Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30

Meditation: Thursdays, 7:00

**Please see our website  
for the complete and  
up-to-date calendar**

If you do not receive our weekly church emails and would like to please contact the church office at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

### February 15, 10:00 AM: "If Love is the Answer What is The Question?"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to a special activity in the Parish House.

Every year on Valentines Day we see hearts and flowers and celebrate love. We hear accolades that the only answer is love. Well if it is true that love is the only answer what is the question? On this day after valentines day we will explore the meaning of this holiday, the nature of love and what a world with a loving response to all problems might look like

### February 22, 10:00 AM: "Evolution"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to their Cool Deed.

You will be invited to offer your Joys and Concerns as a part of Worship

In honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, as well as the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth on February 12, 1809 we will explore the theory of Evolution and how it might inform how we look at the world we live in today.

## From Our Minister:

I spent Martin Luther King weekend at a church in Redding with four of our youth at the Mass Bay District Social Action Conference. 55 youth from throughout the district participated. It was a marvelous event planned fully by the youth for the youth. I know there were days when youth run events like this were sometimes disorganized but having attended more than 6 of these events in recent years both in this district and in others, I can say for certain that times have changed. These youth are dedicated to this community and serious about their purpose.

On Friday night an organized registration took place where the youth themselves checked everyone in and got them settled throughout the Redding UU Church. Bridget who is the Health and Wellness coordinator and thus responsible for food, checked in with people about their food restrictions: Gluten Free, Nut and Peanut free and Vegan options were all provided for.

The youth started right in by explaining the ground rules to everyone then those new to youth conferences and all advisors had orientation. Once everyone was settled and oriented the work started up right away with the Reading Youth sharing their experience fund raising and then going to New Orleans for a Social Action trip. After the first workshop they had a worship that included a meditation lead by Eva another District Youth Committee member. What was remarkable (to a minister) was how all of the youth took the worship and meditation so seriously opening to Eva's suggestions. For long periods it was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. Everyone went to sleep early the first day because they new they had a long day coming up.

On Saturday they participated in a 3.5-hour Anti Racism/Anti Oppression training lead by a group of non UU Youth and Young Adults from Cambridge with rice and beans for lunch. Following Lunch youth had the opportunity to attend three other trainings one for the Jason Lydon of the Community Church in Boston did a presentation on the Prison Industrial Complex, Nancy Banks of UU Mass Action did a presentation on Grassroots Community Organizing and The City School in Boston did a presentation on Civic Education and Leadership empowerment. The youth were engaged and involved in every aspect of this training from organizing it to giving it their rapt attention. After the workshops were finished dinner was served and some business meetings took place, then an auction of items the youth brought to raise money for a charity of their choice an then a talent show and then closing with another worship. The work that was accomplished at this Social Action Con was remarkable but even more remarkable were the deep friendships that were gained and the love that was shared between the youth.

I share all of this with you in an attempt to offer you some insight into what our UU Youth have been up to and to share how amazing I think they are. It is amazing what youth empowerment can lead to. Our Dedham Youth will be sharing their experiences in worship on February 8<sup>th</sup>. If you wonder what our UU faith has to offer our children as they enter adolescence I would be happy to share my experience or offer you a chance to view it for yourself. Our UU Youth are truly remarkable people.

Rali

## Focus on Religious Education

A snowy morning did not deter us from starting “Pennies for Peace” which will be our “Cool Deed” for the winter months. This project supports the building of schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. “Pennies for Peace” also advocates for the education of girls in these countries. This work was started by Greg Mortenson and his efforts are described in the book *“Three Cups of Tea”*. We hope everyone will save their pennies and add them to the “penny jar”. The “penny jar” is in the hallway outside the dining room.

Our next **“Cool Deed”** will be on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will continue to work on the Pennies for Peace program. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> we will provide hands on activities that help the children learn more about school children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The overall idea is to promote tolerance and understanding of those who are different from us.

Please take a moment to check out the Pennies for Peace bulletin board. More information is available at [www.penniesforpeace.org](http://www.penniesforpeace.org). Please let me know if you would like to work with me on this project.

The spring semester will start on January 25<sup>th</sup>. We welcome new teachers to the “Special Times” class grades K -2 and to the “Timeless Themes” class, grades 3-5. Anne and Kerrie will be teaching “Special Times”. Liz and Olly will be teaching “Timeless Themes”. Thank you to Debbie, Mel, Simone, Meg and Virginia who taught in the fall. Also thank you to Judy, Grace and Jennifer who continue to be the mainstay of the pre-school class. Substitute teachers are needed for the spring semester. Please let Carol or Rali know if you could help out for a couple Sundays during the spring semester.

### ***Help Needed:***

- Sign up at coffee hour or contact Carol Dixon Hutton to be a nursery volunteer. Help our nursery director, Adeline with our littlest First Church friends.
- Substitute teachers are needed for the spring semester. Please let Carol or Rali know if you could help out for a couple Sundays during the spring semester.
- Three volunteers needed to help with, February 22<sup>nd</sup> **“Cool Deed”**.

Please let us know if you can help.

- Resources needed: magazine pictures of Pakistan and Afghanistan for a collage activity.

continued

## Focus on Religious Education

### *Looking Ahead:*

February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Curriculum
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	Curriculum, Family Choir
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	Intergenerational Service or Special Activity
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	“Cool Deeds”
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Curriculum

Carol Dixon  
Chair, Religious Education Committee

## Focus on Religious Education: Our Whole Lives

### **A special message for parents with kids in the Neighboring Faiths class:**

On March 1, we will offer our 6-8 grade students the OWL (Our Whole Lives) curriculum in joint classes with the 7-8 grade students from First Parish in Needham. Allison and Tyler will co-lead this class with two leaders from Needham, Liz and Jay. Jay, Liz and Tyler have all led this class before.

In anticipation of taking this class, we will hold a short parent meeting for Dedham parents only on Sunday, February 8 at 11:15 (after church, hopefully working within the Parish Players schedule), and a full **OWL parent orientation meeting on Sunday, February 8 from 7 to 9 PM in Needham**. The first meeting will just be for questions about the joining of our classes and the decisions we made regarding class locations. The second meeting will be a full parent orientation to the OWL curriculum and a chance to meet all of the parents and leaders in the program. We will distribute permission forms at both of these meetings, and the forms will need to be signed by both parents before we can enroll your child in the class. We encourage you to attend both meetings, but the joint orientation on February 8 will be essential for you to know about the class. It'll be fun too, I promise.

We also would like to hold two joint social get-togethers for the students before classes start. The first one will be at the Needham YMCA on Friday, February 8 for swimming and then a tour of the Needham church, and a second one on Friday, February 27 here in Dedham for pizza and games.

As the OWL curriculum considers and discusses issues of a personal and sensitive nature, any student in that class must have his or her parents attend an orientation and sign a permission form before attending the first class. For more information on OWL please visit the UUA site, <http://www.uua.org/owl> or talk with Tyler or with Allison. Thank you.

Tyler Carpenter and Allison Staton

## All Around the Church Community

### The Service Auction!

The First Church Service Auction will be held on Sat., Feb. 7. By now, everyone should have received an announcement and an auction donation form in the mail. If you haven't, please contact the church office or download a form from our website. We're hoping everyone can donate at least one item. If you need a donation "consult", we will be glad to help. Please return the forms by **Jan. 25** to make sure in your auction items are included in the catalog.

Please sign up to attend the auction by calling the church office (781) 326- 7463 or e-mail the church: [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org) or sign up at coffee hour. (*look for the special auction table and browse the services from auctions past*). We will need some volunteers the night of the auction, sign up and join the fun.

The schedule for the night will be:

6:00	Beverages, hors d'oeuvres and silent auction
6:30	Dinner
7:30	Live auction

Andrea has volunteered to be the chef and will be preparing a delicious pasta dinner that will include vegetarian options. Anyone who has tasted Andrea's cooking knows we will be having a wonderful meal.

We will ask each person to pay \$10 to cover the cost of the meal and beverages.

Childcare will be provided, as well as transportation for those who prefer not to drive. Let us know if need you need either.

If you will be out of town Feb. 7, you can still participate by putting in a pre-auction bid on any items. Catalogs listing all the items will hopefully be available by Feb. 1. if everyone gets their service items to us as soon as possible.

***This is an even that builds and strengthens our church community. Please plan to donate a service and attend the auction on Feb. 7. Your participation will make this event a success!***

*The Service Auction Committee: Carol Dixon, Carol Ewing, and Anne Schiraga)*

## From the First Church Greening Committee

Several First Church members attended the Town of Dedham's Carbon Café on January 7. This is a program of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) which provides information to residents about reducing their carbon footprint. Participants were encouraged to form teams of 5-8 households who would pledge to reduce their energy consumption and "lose" 5000 lbs of carbon emissions in 30 days. Information about the program can be found in the book "The Low-Carbon Diet" by David Gershon, available at the Blue Bunny Bookstore, or online at [www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd) . There was some interest expressed in forming one of these teams at First Church.

Also, the Town of Dedham has applied to be part of a new program of MCAN, "Cool Mass" Communities, which will support communities as they work to reduce their carbon footprint by 25%. If accepted, the town will receive training, educational materials and possibly grants to help reduce energy consumption. Part of this work is done in partnership with community organizations such as schools and churches. First Church has already been invited to be involved in this program if Dedham is chosen, which would involve improving energy efficiency at church as well as at parishioners homes, and which would require a commitment from us as a community.

As you listen to your heating system run during these cold days of winter, give some thought to these opportunities to learn how we can live more lightly on the earth.

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### **January 28<sup>th</sup> 7 PM in the Parish House: Greening Event**

#### **Street Renaissance: A vision for more livable streets**

On January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, First Church in Dedham will host a discussion with Jeff Rosenblum & Christopher Hart of Livable Streets Alliance, an urban planning non-profit formed in 2005 to educate and advocate for a system that better balances transit, walking, and biking with automobiles. Based on the belief that "...more livable streets result in healthier more active citizens, vibrant neighborhoods, and thriving small business districts," this presentation will include examples from their work in Boston and discussion of local options.

This event will take place at the Parish House at 670 High St. Admission is free and all are welcome.

If you do not receive our weekly church emails and would like to, please contact the church office at [firstchurch@dedhamuu.org](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

## All Around the Church Community

### Save the Date: The Parish Players Upcoming Production is March 13-15

Rehearsals are underway for "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown", and we're looking forward to another successful show. Now we need people to volunteer to help with the many off-stage parts of the production: publicity, tickets, refreshments, sets, props, costumes etc. Whether you have an hour to spare for a shopping trip or you'd like to organize ticket sales, we can use your help. Please contact Natalie at 781-329-9289 or [jenray1@msn.com](mailto:jenray1@msn.com). There will also be a sign up sheet in the dining room.

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### Meditation Group

The Meditation Group will continue to meet each Thursday at 7pm. We will focus on a book written by Pema Chodron, called *When Things Fall Apart*. The book has short chapters, 5 to 6 pages, which could be the focus of each meditation session. The book can be purchased through Amazon, through Shambala Press or at Barnes and Noble in Braintree. Please let me know if you are interested or call the church office.

Carol Dixon

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### Aerobic Dancing

Group meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 in the auditorium. No experience is necessary, and beginners are welcome.

- Low impact dances!
- Dance at your own level!
- Elevate your heart rate!
- Get some exercise!
- Sing along!
- Have fun!
- Come and try!

Any questions--contact Debbie ([jchds@comcast.net](mailto:jchds@comcast.net))

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### Chalice Crafters

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. Our next meeting is on February 17. Contact Dale [daley219@gmail.com](mailto:daley219@gmail.com) for more details.

## All Around the Church Community

### Amnesty International

Last month, Tyler, Ruth, Tomoko, Betsy, Robert, Sharon, Beppy, Peter, Grace, Allison and Eileen wrote letters in support of a Mexican human rights activist last month. Many thanks.

Peter

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## News from the District



### Massachusetts Bay District of UU Congregations @ Work

#### Listening for Strength in Our Congregations by Rev. Sue Phillips, Acting Director of Program Development

When something is not quite working in our congregations (a conflict perhaps, or a troubled church program), we have a tendency to focus on what is going wrong. We attend to the sticking point, throwing resources of time, emotional energy, and sometimes money to address the problem. A quick look at most Board or Parish Committee agendas attest to the fact that Unitarian Universalists tend to be a problem-solving people! No matter how good we are at problem solving, though, we regularly miss opportunities to concentrate on what is going *right*.

Appreciative Inquiry is a strategy that helps us get out of this problem trap, and invites us to concentrate on our strengths. Instead of trying to fix what isn't working, we turn our attention to doing more of what is already working well in our community. Appreciative Inquiry questions are always framed positively around affirmative topics. Questions like *What do you value most about being part of our congregation? What do you think is making a positive difference in how we're working together as a committee? When you are being your best self, what qualities do you bring to your church work?*

Appreciative Inquiry is a creative way of asking questions that nurtures collaboration and builds community. The process of listening builds dynamic relationships that in turn strengthen the congregation and the people in it.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

about Appreciative Inquiry or other tools to help your congregation thrive see the Appreciative Inquiry Commons at <http://appreciativeinquiry.case.edu/> or contact Rev. Sue Phillips at [sPhillips@uua.org](mailto:sPhillips@uua.org) or 617-803-1116

#### UPCOMING AT MASS BAY DISTRICT

*The Prophethood of All Believers: Sermon-Writing and Preaching for Lay People:* February 21, 2009

*Lay Pastoral Care Teams Training:* March 21, 2009

*Seeking Wholeness in a Fragmented World,* Spring Conference and Annual Meeting: April 25, 2009

*"Once you experience such an event, [you] ... get a stronger appreciation for our faith and the community at large."* (event participant)

[www.mbdoua.org](http://www.mbdoua.org) / 617-393-4216

# BEING OLDER and WISER

7 session workshop

**Facilitator:** *Karin Tanenholtz*

**Time frame:** Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18 12 noon – 2 PM  
*Bring a brown bag lunch- Tea and Coffee will be provided.*

**Class size:** *minimum: participants, maximum: 15 participants*

**Here's to becoming older and wiser!** *We acknowledge the advance of years but at some point may feel growing older may not be so great. It is a challenge – and also a gift. Invite a diverse age group to come together in your congregation. Karin will work with them to bring into their lives a reality transformation of personal experience and spiritual life. It is a gift to be able to proceed in life with more clarity and intention regarding the deeply meaningful time of elderhood.*

Today's popular view of the aging process needs reform. Our culture isn't particularly helpful, yet history shows societal views of elderhood have been both negative and positive. A society's positive change begins with an enriched outlook by elders. No matter the number of life experience years, a person can be part of this interactive group and explore her or his life through guided imaging, the research and work from several writers, and small and large group sharing. Our root source will be Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's book, From Age-ing to Sage-ing. A copy of the book is included in the registration fee.

*The Rev. Karin Tanenholtz has been a Unitarian Universalist minister for eighteen years, serving as a parish minister, spiritual director, college chaplain, and religious educator. She is an Affiliated Community Minister at First Parish in Framingham, Unitarian Universalist. Rev. Tanenholtz is certified as a Spiritual Director by the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation and is trained in the "Sage-ing" program developed by Rabbi Schachter-Shalomi. She and her husband live in Southborough, MA where she is a painter, gardener, and dedicated environmentalist.*

Recommended Donation to cover costs of Facilitation and books: \$30

Register in the First Church office 781-326-7463 firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or at Social Hour

## **Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting December 2, 2008**

**Present:** Judy Barrington, Audrey Cecil, Carol Dixon, Dan Ewing, Sam King, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Jeff Hutton, Kerry Matthews, Allison Staton, Eileen Sullivan, Rev. Rali Weaver

**Meeting called to order** at 7:04pm. Opening words by Audrey Cecil.

**Minutes of 11/11/08** –Motion made to approve the corrected minutes of the last meeting. Second, motion carried.

### **Ministers Report**

Rali Weaver submitted the minister's report both orally and in writing. Rali reported on the theft of last Sunday's collection plate from the church office. Rali will send an all church email reminding everyone that **the church office must be kept locked at all times when not occupied**. Sam King will research the purchase of a safe.

Rali received a building use request from Life Line Screening, a health related organization, for dates in March '09. The building use form will need to be completed and signed prior to approval. Dates will be specified so as to not conflict with the Parish Players production.

Rali distributed a copy of the Behavioral Covenant. A motion was made to invite members of the Behavioral Covenant Committee to present their draft document at the January meeting at 7:10pm. Motion second, carried.

### **Role and Function of the Parish Committee**

The Parish Committee retreat took place on November 22, 2008 from 10am – 4pm. Everyone felt it was a positive event and a lot was accomplished.

- **Personnel Policy** – A motion was made to form a sub committee to review the personnel polices and bring them to the Parish Committee. Sharon Lane will chair the committee and Judy Barrington will be on the committee. An interim report will occur in March and a final report will be ready in May. Motion second, carried.
- **By-Laws** – Olly Ames is in the process of writing up the work of the previous By-Law committee that was established to refurbish the Church By-Laws that were written in the 1950's. Olly will be invited to our January meeting to report on the status of the prior committee's work. A By-Law committee will need to be reconstituted and refocused to complete the task of updating the Church By-Laws.
- **Membership Ideas**- Sharon Lane proposed establishing a volunteer group of greeters to meet and talk with visitors each Sunday. She has drafted guidelines for the greeter role. At January's meeting we will review her formal proposal and establish a committee. In the meantime, we will pilot the plan by having Parish Committee members assume the greeter role in December.

### **Stewardship Campaign**

The Stewardship committee will be formed in January. Each Parish Committee member was asked to suggest and invite someone to be on the committee. We have yet to identify a chair. The stewardship committee has numerous tasks including letter writing, organizing a kickoff, hosting events, record keeping, and writing thank you notes, so lots of different skills are needed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Alliance check was received by Dan Ewing. It was decided that we will table our discussion of how the check should be divided until the January meeting.

### **Religious Education**

Carol Dixon reports that the church school raised over \$80 in this year's UNICEF campaign. The children made cards for different members of the church community at last week's crafts morning. Susan Sennott will organize the gift tree this year. Pageant preparation will take place in the coming weeks. Parents Night Out is being organized this month.

Once again we wish to thank Carol Dixon for continuing to coordinate the RE program while we search for a new RE Director.

### **Meeting House Renovations**

Proposed Meeting House renovations will be discussed at the combined meeting of the Building Committee and the Music and Worship committee in January.

### **Fund Raising**

1. Service Auction will take place February 7<sup>th</sup>. Ann Schiraga will chair the event. Her committee is already in place and the planning is moving ahead.
2. Rali Weaver will investigate the possible use of Amazon.com for fund raising that would return a certain percentage of sales to the church.
3. Eileen Sullivan will research the Pizzeria Uno fund raiser.
4. Sharon Lane plans to have a Yard Sale in the spring with proceeds going to the Church. She will invite other people to join in the event.

### **New Business**

A question was raised about building use by Dedham Village. Their payments have not been received on a regular basis. Our former liaison is no longer involved and we do not know who the new liaison is. We need to identify who in their group has building keys. Dan Ewing will call about payments and Jeff Hutton will speak inquire about the liaison.

**Next meeting will be January 6, 2009 at 7pm**

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Audrey H. Cecil**