



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXIX, No. 10

June, 2009

Sundays in the Meeting House

June 7, 10:00 AM: Children's Sunday.
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

This is an Intergenerational Service. We will be recognizing our graduates and teachers in worship and explore all that our UU Youth have learned this year and all that they have to teach us.

The Intergenerational Choir will sing. If you are interested in singing please arrive at the church by 9:30 am sharp for practice.

June 14 10:00 AM: "End Beginnings"
The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Seth Carrier our Ministerial Field Study Student for next year will assist.

On our final Sunday of this year we will reflect on all of the transitions in our lives. We will explore how everything has a beginning, middle and end and meditate upon how to surf the waves of life without losing any of the joy of the ride.

Calendar

Church Yard Sale: June 6, 8:00 AM

Parish Committee: June 10, 7:00

Boston Pride Parade: June 13, 10:00

Sheep Skate on the Green: June 13, Noon

CAKES: June 19, 6:00

Welcoming Committee: June 25, 7:00

Chalice Crafters: May 19, 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

June 21, 10:00 AM: Lay Led Worship Begins

We will begin the first of eleven summer Sundays where we will meet in the parish house for worship at 10 am. Summer services are abbreviated lay led services followed by fellowship intended to give us a chance to gather each week and touch base as needed and desired. If you would be interested in offering a worship service this summer please contact Judy Barrington or Tam Johnson or Rev. Rali Weaver

Summer Services will take place in the Parish House at 10 am on

June 21

June 28

July 5

July 12

July 19

July 26

August 2

August 9

August 16

August 23

August 30

Our homecoming Service will be Sunday, September 6th. Watch our Website www.dedhamuu.org for details

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 alike returned in the fall ready to begin anew.

In some strange way 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 all very familiar. In contrast summer vacation helped us to remember what missed about each other giving us more affection for each other in the fall than we had left with in the spring.

Summer vacation has a place. Taking a break is important. Leaving room for our souls to rest and recreate and cogitate might seem frivolous in such times but that is what is necessary for growth.

May all our summers be full of surprises and may we find room to relax and recreate
And may we all return to Church on Homecoming Sunday (September 6th) relaxed
and ready to begin anew.

I will be available by email and my cell phone throughout the summer.

Please don't hesitate to call if you need a thing.

Rali Weaver
617 459 5979
raliweaver@yahoo.com.

Focus on Religious Education

It is hard to believe that church school is almost over. We will have our last week of classes on Sunday, May 31st. On Sunday the children will be preparing for Children's Sunday which will be on June 7th. The children participate in this service. It is a time to celebrate our Religious Education program and all our volunteers. We also recognize graduating seniors. We also celebrate the end of the church year with a special cake at coffee hour.

We have had a good month and we are happy to have more new families in the church school. We welcome the Harrison family and their children Hunter and Oceannah. Our "Cool Deed" for May was to celebrate our mom's with granola and an Amazing Mother Award. Thanks to Tam Johnson for leading a special activity for children on Memorial Day weekend.

As we move into June we are already planning for next year. We have posted the DRE (Director of Religious Education position) again with a higher salary of \$18,000. We hope that position will be filled next year. Whether we have a DRE or not Religious Education is a volunteer program. Over the summer, I hope you may give some thought to what some activities or concepts you would like to see included in our Religious Education Program. We have set curriculum for certain age groups but there is lots of flexibility on Cool Deeds Sundays or on Special Activity Sundays. We are always looking for ideas for Cool Deed Sundays. Please share your ideas with a member of the Religious Education Committee or with Rali. We are always looking for new ideas and can work together to make an idea "kid friendly". We love have so many wonderful moms volunteering in the church school, it would be great to have more dads. Having dads in the church school makes a difference and sends a message.

Please begin to think about how you can contribute to the Religious Education program next year. Ways you can volunteer are by: being part of a teaching team, volunteering in the nursery, serving on the Religious Education Committee, helping with Cool Deeds or helping with Special Activities on long weekends. Besides helping, you learn a lot, have fun, and make new connections by being part of the Religious Education program. Thanks to everyone for all their help and participation this year. Have a wonderful summer.

Looking Ahead:

- May 31st Preparation for Children's Sunday
- June 7th Children's Sunday Family Choir
- June 14th Flower Communion and Picnic – No church school

The Religious Education Committee

Carol Dixon Hutton, Chair

Liz Ames, Tyler Carpenter, Betsy Hetzler, Judy Barrington,

Julia Gecha, Rali Weaver

All Around the Church Community

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events in June

Saturday, June 6th: The Spring Yard Sale is back!! Join the fun by renting a space of your own or donating items to the First Church sale table. This is always a popular event, so you are sure to find a treasure or two of your own to take home. Hotdogs, hamburgers and drinks will be available for purchase as well. Space is \$25. Space plus a table is \$30. Sell that stuff you've been waiting to clean out of your attic, basement, and storage locker. Reserve your space by calling the church office at 781-326-7463 or e-mailing at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

Saturday, June 13th 10 AM: Trip to the Boston Pride Parade. As part of our Welcoming Congregation an opportunity to witness the pride parade together will be offered. We will be leaving from the Parking Lot at First Church at 10 AM

Sunday, June 14th: Closing Sunday. Following worship we will have a church picnic on the green to celebrate our year together. Hot dogs, Hamburgers and drinks will be provided. Please sign up to bring salads and desserts in the Parish House or contact the church office.

For those interested in attending we will continue to worship together in a more informal way throughout the summer in the Dining Room. If you would be interested in Planning Worship or hosting or officiating at a service please contact Rev. Rali Weaver.

Important Message from the Church Office

An alarm has been installed in the Parish House. If you need to enter the building, please contact Rali Weaver and she will show you how to use the alarm.

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

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

Fall Fair

Saturday, October, 17, 10-2

Mark your calendars now! Just 4 months separate us from all the fun, the frolic, and the congeniality of the Fall Fair. All of your favorite attractions will once again be featured: pony rides, crafts, take home foods, children's games, the "Frank 'n Stine" lunch, fortune telling, a moonwalk and our ever successful raffle. We will also try to build momentum for our 2nd annual baked goods contest and sell second-hand dress-up and Halloween costumes.

This event has great potential as a community builder and a significant fundraiser! Its success, therefore, will be in direct relation to the number of First Church members who become involved. Please save the date to participate in the excitement! Volunteer opportunities abound!

To ensure success on the 17th, we need minds and bodies. If you have an interest in baking, raffle items, pumpkins, apples, public relations, advertising, children's games, face painting, fortune telling, soup or day labor, we NEED you. At the very least, we hope everyone will spread the word about this wonderful event and of course, attend.

Please contact Liz Ames (781-461-9559 or lizziesim@mac.com) with your suggestions, comments and inquiries. Let's work together and have a great day on the 17th!



Massachusetts Bay District of UU Congregations @ Work

www.mbdoua.org / 617-393-4216

NEW: Bridge Connections Program

The Office of Young Adult Ministry at the UUA has launched a new effort that connects graduating youth who are leaving their home congregations with local congregations, campus ministries, and district programs in other parts of the country. We encourage all graduating, or bridging, youth to fill in their contact info at www.uua.org/bridgeconnections.

Additionally, your congregation should have received return-paid postcards that ask for the same information for the new database. If your congregation has not received these postcards, please request some from the UUA.

We also encourage ministers, religious educators, and all other congregational leaders to connect youth with these resources. Consider holding a Bridge Connections Party at which you can all gather enjoy good company, fill out the information (online or on postcards) and share some of the *Bridging Resources* available from the Leaders' Library on the UUA website. This could also be worked into part of your Bridging Ceremony or Youth Sunday Worship service if you have one.

Look out soon for more information in the May issue of the *Mass Bay District May e-Newsletter* at www.mbdoua.org/news/mbd-newsletter or contact me at 617-816-0402.

Greg Buckland, *Youth & Young Adult Ministries Coordinator*

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting **April 7, 2009**

Present: Judy Barrington, Audrey Cecil, Carol Dixon, Dan Ewing, Sam King, Jeff Hutton, Kerry Matthews, Allison Staton, Rev. Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

Unison Affirmation

Opening words by Kerry Matthews.

Minutes of 3/03/09 –Motion made to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Second, motion carried.

Ministers Report

April 26, 2009 is Membership Sunday. We anticipate that four individuals will sign the membership book. The Parish Committee warmly welcomes the two who have already signed, Nora Sotomayor and Jenny Carlson-Pietraszek.

March was a busy month with many activities. There was a huge turn out for work on the food pantry. There was a Spirituality Convention for Youth at the church. Rali plans to be around some during the summer months. Summer Worship committee is being organized. Rali will attend GA. Rali is considering taking on the supervisory role of a ministerial intern.

Work of the Parish Committee

Personnel Review Committee – Claudia Leone presented the draft Personnel Policies and Procedures document. Each employee is to have a specific supervisor. The Parish Committee is responsible for hiring and firing of employees.

A Personnel Committee will need to be formed. It will be a four-person committee. Three members will serve for three-year terms, with one person being replaced each year on rotation. The fourth member will be appointed by the Parish Committee annually and must be a Parish Committee member.

We also briefly discussed the topic of CORI checks and health insurance benefits. Rali will research the cost of CORI checks to see how implementing this would impact the budget. We will discuss the draft policy document again more thoroughly in May and vote on acceptance of the document.

Welcoming Congregation Committee- The first session of the Welcoming Congregation was successful. Another session is planned. The process appears to be going smoothly.

By-Laws- A By-Law Committee is to be formed. Allison Staton will contact potential members. Jennifer Green is interested in being on the Committee.

Stewardship Campaign 2009

The Committee continues to collect pledges. Calls will be made to members to remind them to send in their pledges.

Y10 Budget Development

Rali Weaver, Carol Dixon, Sharon Lane, and Dan Ewing are working to prepare budget info for the annual meeting on May 17th. On May 3rd, Dan will conduct a budget hearing right after church from 11-12pm.

Treasurer's Report

February results were good. Utility bills were lower than budgeted. Office expenses were lower than budgeted. Plate collection and pledge collections are coming in lower than anticipated.

Annual Meeting

Date: 5/17/09

Moderator: Olly Ames if available. Andrea Gilmore if Olly is not available.

Nominating Committee: The Committee will generate a slate of candidates to vote on at the annual meeting. The Committee consists of one Alliance member (Sue White), one Deacon (Eileen Sullivan), one R.E member (Carol Dixon), one Parish Committee member and one member at large (Jeff Tegnell). They will nominate (2) new Parish Committee members, a new Treasurer, the Auditors, and the Clerk.

Behavioral Covenant Vote -We will vote on the document prepared by the covenant committee.

Warrant: The warrant needs to be prepared and signed by all members of the Parish Committee at the next Parish Committee and posted by May 10th.

Building and Grounds

Family Fun Days will be April 25 and May 2 to do clean up projects. Budget requests need to be determined for the carpet replacement in the Parsonage and shutters for the Meeting House. The water line to the Parsonage needs to be replaced but the Deacons will fund this project.

Fund Raising

A Spring Yard Sale will be organized and a food/bake sale might be a good thing to include as part of the event.

The food concessions at last month's Coffee House raised approximately \$80.00.

Coffee Hour – Easter

Will be hosted by Parish Committee.

R.E. Committee

The childrens' fundraiser, "Pennies for Peace" raised lots of pennies. Shaw's Grocery store agreed to count the pennies for us at no cost. Two new families have registered children in the church school. The nursery cribs have been fixed. Parents will be asked to make sure that the children do not play downstairs in the nursery space. April 19th will provide an Earth Day activity outside. An R.E. Director candidate is moving forward to a second interview.

We continue to thank Carol Dixon for serving as interim R.E. Director.

New Business

Buildings and Grounds will move the downstairs refrigerator in the Parish Hall into a closet. A request for racks to store the extra tables will be made to the Deacons.

Next meeting will be May 5, 2009 at 7pm

Sam King will offer the opening words.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey H. Cecil