



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXX, No. 2

October, 2009

Sundays in the Meeting House

October 4, 10:00 AM: "Foundations of Our Faith"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will lead worship.

Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to their Sunday School classes.

What does it mean to say you are a Unitarian Universalist? This day we will reflect upon the foundations of our faith tradition and explore ways we might make sense of this to our friends and family .

October 11, 10:00 AM: "Welcoming The Other"

Seth Carrier, our Ministerial Student will preach.

Children will begin in the Meeting House and be invited to a Special Activity.

This Sunday we will reflect upon what it means to truly be welcoming to those who are different from us. Seth will explore his experience so far as a Unitarian Universalist seminary student studying at a Christian seminary, and the challenges that has entailed. Other topics to be covered include how "welcoming" relates to the UUA's Standing on the Side of Love public witness campaign, and recognition of National Coming Out Day.

October 18, 10:00 AM: "Cross Species Communication"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

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

This Sunday we will reflect upon the animals we share the planet with and the nature of our interactions with them.

Following worship there will be a Pet Blessing on the green. All pets living and dead will be honored. Feel free to bring your living pet and store it in a crate in the auditorium during worship. Photographs, pet rocks and stuffed animals will also be blessed .

October 25, 10:00 AM: "Letting The Mystery Be"

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach.

Children will start in the Meeting House and be sung to their Sunday School classes.

What would happen if we let go of our scientific view of the nature of things and rested in the mystery of creation? This Sunday we will explore the mysteries that surround us and strive to embrace their magic.

Calendar

Fall Fair: October 17

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Also...

Pizza Day at Uno's: Oct 2, 6:00

Parish Committee: Oct 6, 7:00

RE Committee: Oct 13, 7:00

Welcoming Committee: Oct 20, 7:00

Welcoming Congregation Session: Oct 25, 11:00

New UU Classes: Every Monday at 6:30.

Youth Group: TBA

Aerobics: Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30

Meditation: Thursdays, 7:30

And...

Harvest Dinner: November 7

**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 by phone: 781-326-7463 or by email: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

From The Minister “Coming Together”

What a wonderful blessing it is to see so many faces in church on Homecoming Sunday. It is good to be back together. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand.

If you are new to us you might wonder how to get involved. There are many areas of church life that need your help. First you can look online at www.dedhamuu.org. Our website often has links to the email addresses you will need. Or you can always call 781-326-7463 or email firstchurch@dedhamuu.org the church office to get more information. Often sign up information is on tables in the Parish House and on the Bulletin Boards in the hallway.

Some easy ways to first get involved are to offer the Social Hour or Flowers or usher. There are also many committees that could use a hand. We have several upcoming events that could use extra helpers. The Fall Fair on October 17th needs many hand and the Harvest Dinner on November 7th could use set up and clean up helpers as well. There are several shut in parishioners who could use a friendly hello or a card or a ride to church on occasion. Your ideas and energy are always welcome around First Church. You can always meet with me or call me to find out the best ways to get involved

The most important thing that happens each week (from my perspective of course) is worship and seeing all of you on Sunday Morning is the biggest blessing of all.

It is good to be together for any reason

Rali

raliweaver@dedhamuu.org, 617 459 5979

Committees at First Church and Parish, with contact Information

Adult Religious Education: Pam Aist.....781.326.4640

Building and Grounds: Sam King.....SamGKing@verizon.net

Children’s Religious Education:

Aoife Barrington-Haber.....faeriecool@hotmail.com, 617.872.6960

Parish Community Network: Vicki Berg...781.269.5803

Membership Committee: Rali Weaver.....raliweaver@yahoo.com, 617.459.5979

Chancel Committee:Rali Weaver

Fall Fair: Liz Ames.....lizziesim@mac.com, 781.461.9559

Harvest Dinner: Natalie Jensen.....rayjen57@hotmail.com

Social Hour: Judy Barrington.....judys_house@hotmail.com

From Our Intern “Reflection and New Beginnings”

The beginning of the church year brings with it beginnings and endings. For me and many others in the school cycle, it brings the end of summer, and the beginning of classes. For all of us in the church community, it is the end of lay-led services and the mini-break from church that the summer months provide.

The new beginnings can often be easy to get excited about. Starting in my new position as the Student Minister in Dedham is an exciting beginning for me, as I look forward to meeting all of you, learning and sharing stories about our lives, and sharing in ministry with you. The beginning of the school year also brings about new classes for me, new opportunities in the interfaith fellowship I received for this school year, and new faces at school to get to know in my role as a Spiritual Formation Group leader. It is a great pleasure to see all the new students, so eager to start on what for most of them is a major decision in/about their lives.

There can be a tendency though, in the excitement of the new beginnings, to forget that there is almost always loss involved with any change. When two people get married, we tend to assume that this is purely a time of celebration, a time of joy and wonderful new things. It is indeed all of that, but there is also an accompanying loss of being single. This loss is not necessarily a bad thing, it is something carefully chosen (at least one hopes), and it brings many positive benefits, but it is a loss nonetheless. Likewise, the birth of a child is always a cause for great celebration; the fact remains often unspoken and unattended to, however, that the parents lives have been irrevocably altered, and that there may need to be some grieving around the loss of how life used to be.

The loss that almost always accompanies change in some shape or other, is important to honor. Sometimes it is an easy loss to let go of, sometimes harder. The end of summer for most of us is a loss of sorts, whether it be of vacation time for kids in school, or of warm weather and trips to the beach for others – well, at least in most summers. It is a common interpretation that since Buddhism teaches us that attachment is the source of all suffering, we should learn not to be attached. While attachment indeed is what creates the sense of loss that accompanies change, Buddhist teachings can also be interpreted to mean that it is important to be aware of and honor the attachments we have. I believe grieving our losses is in fact how we honor the attachments, as the sense of loss helps us to appreciate the value of the experience that is ending. When something changes and it doesn't bother us, it usually means at least in my life that I tended not to care so much about it. Those little (and sometimes much larger) aches of the heart are signposts of the things we hold most dear.

So while starting my Field Education experience with you as the Student Minister is a tremendous opportunity for which I am very excited, there is also a part of me that will miss the free time that this additional structured component of my education brings to the school year, time previously spent laughing with friends, reading for pleasure, or relaxing in nature. Given that my free time this year will be that much more precious, I will appreciate those activities even more when I have the opportunity to do them. I will also value our time together even more, as I hold the amazing opportunities along with the losses in balance.

Peace and love to all of you.

- Seth

Focus on Religious Education “Educating the Spirit”

Welcome Autumn! Our last days of August were unbearably hot and sticky, so much so it was hard to function without air conditioning. What did I ever do before AC? But now the cool breezes of “Prince Autumn” are gently ushering “Queen Summer” on her way, her path gloriously strewn with leaves of red, orange and gold. My daughter Nerissa has just started preschool at Drumlin Farm, and is thriving in the beauty of the outdoors, examining leaves, collecting eggs, and gathering courage to visit the sheep.

Would that every year of her schooling could continue to nurture her spirit and encourage her sense of wonder. But the more I hear about the direction our public schools are taking, the more I worry that this will not happen. Playtime is quickly being replaced by test-taking, even for the youngest children. Students are no longer allowed to be guided and inspired, but must be molded and measured. It is crushing to the spirit of both student and teacher alike.

Thank goodness, at least, for Sunday mornings. Perhaps in this brief window of time that we come together as a congregation we can seek put back some of what is lost in the academic rat-race from Monday through Friday. Let Sunday be a day of rest and spiritual rejuvenation for us and our children. As I said to our team of volunteer teachers, we are here to support one another, to come together and learn to be with one another in a community. We are gifted with a wonderful team this season:

Preschool, *Storytime*: Judy Barrington, Kerry Matthews and Jennifer Greaney

K-1st, *Special Places, Sacred Spaces*: Virginia Ferentinos and Grace Pena

2nd-3rd, *UU Heroes*: Kerrie Gallagher and Stef Harrison

5th-6th, *Amazing Grace*: Meg Duncan, Carol Dixon and Julia Gecha

7th-9th, *Our Whole Lives*: Tyler Carpenter and Allison Staton

Upon walking through the empty RE rooms after classes, I could not call them empty. It was absolutely heartwarming to see the important work displayed on the walls and the chalice tables. I am so excited to see this work unfold and to help the teachers in any way I can. If you are excited too then I encourage you to get involved. We need help with our Cool Deeds Sundays, both in the activity and helping out with the preschool class on those days. Our dear Adeline Farrell has returned to the nursery this year and could definitely use adult and teenage volunteers to care for our littlest spirits. Please contact me via phone or email to get involved.

Peace,

Aoife Barrington-Haber

All Around the Church Community

Good and Welfare

Please hold in your hearts and minds and prayers all parishioners who need our love and support at this time.

We hope you will remember especially

Francis Brooks
C/O Clark House Assisted Living
30 Longwood Dr
Westwood, MA 02090

Dotty Clary
Forest View Nursing Home Room #118
50 Indian Hill Road
Wareham, MA 02571

Marge Wiren
C/O Ellis Nursing Home
135 Ellis Avenue
Norwood, MA 02062

If you have pastoral needs please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Rali Weaver raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617 459 5979. If you have time and would like to help out a friend or neighbor of First Church you might consider joining the Parish Community Network Committee and/or filling out a form to be found on a side table during Social Hour.

Building and Grounds Needs Your Help.

There are a million jobs to be done to keep our building and grounds cared for and we need your help. All levels of interest, experience and time availability are accepted. You could join our meetings and help with long range planning and prioritization of needs or you could lend a hand by doing one task of your choosing. The next Building and Grounds Meeting will be held on Monday, October 19th at 7 pm at the Parish House. Please see Sam King or Jeff Hutton for more details.

Mark your calendars for Fall Clean Up Days.

We need help around the grounds the more the merrier! Please join us on Saturday, October 24th from 9 to 12 and Saturday, November 14th from 9 to 12. Caring for our building and grounds is an intergenerational activity.

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

All Around the Church Community

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars!

Pizza Day – October 2nd

Pizzeria Uno/Chicago Grill, that is. Take your family, friends, and neighbors to Pizzeria Uno on Rt. 1 in Dedham anytime on October 2nd, eat in or take-out, and First Church will get a percentage of the check. We could be 15 or 20% depending on the total amount taken in on that day. The only requirement is that you get a coupon to give to the server, The coupons will be available at church on Sundays and in the office during office hours. Please take as many as you want, hand them out to neighbors, family members, etc. So, enjoy a yummy meal on October 2nd and know that you will help First Church's fund raising efforts.

Mangia!!

R U A Nu U U?

(read that title out loud to understand) – Are you new to Unitarian Universalism? Would you like to know more? Do you love discussing our foundations and values? Or just examining your own? If so this would be the class for you. Join us Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8 from September 28th to November 16th. Please sign up in the Dining Room or by contacting Rev. Rali Weaver at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

Welcoming Sessions!

The Welcoming Committee is planning not just one, but TWO Welcoming Sessions for the month of October.

Sunday, October 4th: "Gender Socialization and Homophobia."

Sunday, October 11th: "Experiences of BGLT People."

Both of these sessions will be after Social Hour, starting around 11:45. Please feel free to bring your lunch to the Session.

These sessions are to increase our community's awareness of BGLT issues, with a goal to become designated as a Welcoming Congregation in 2010.

If you have any questions about these events, or anything related to the Welcoming Committee, please contact Dale Meyer-Curley at daley219@gmail.com

The Fall Fair needs YOU!

First off, the Fall Fair needs **YOU** to mark your calendars and spread the word! **The Fair will be held Saturday, October 17th between 10am and 2pm** on the green. As always, it will feature many activities designed to ensure fun for all ages and stages. Highlights will include pony rides, a moonwalk, pumpkin and cupcake decorating, take-home foods and of course, the ever popular (and economical) Frank 'n Stine Lunch. Please plan on attending... and bring friends and family!

Second, the Fall Fair needs **YOU** to volunteer. Even if you cannot attend (Heaven Forbid!) the fair, there are many ways other ways to get involved. Putting up publicity posters, baking for the take-home foods or donating Children's Halloween costumes or dress-up, for example, are just some of the invaluable ways to pitch in. When we return to regular service in September, sign-up sheets for the various volunteer opportunities will be available at coffee hour in the Parish House. Or, feel free to contact me via email (lizziesim@mac.com) or telephone (781-461-9559).

Third, the fair needs **YOU** to consider taking on more responsibility. Over the years, my job is significantly lessened by those independently running certain activities. Even better, these events have always run incredibly smoothly, thanks to the consistency of experience and enthusiasm. However, some popular attractions do not or no longer have this type of leadership. Therefore, I am looking for a few good.... people.... who might like to oversee Pumpkin and Cupcake Decorating or the Children's Halloween Costume and Dress-up Corner (new this year).

And last, the Fall Fair needs **YOU** to connect! We need raffle items, and in the past, fair goers have been easily persuaded to pay for the chance to win a Maribu, Dedham Community Theater or Blue Bunny gift certificates. Therefore, it would be great for those who have relationships with or frequent various Dedham establishments to solicit their help for this year's raffle. I would really appreciate it!

If **YOU** are interested in helping out in any of the ways I have outlined above, please let me know. If you have any questions and want to discuss any of this with me, I am at your service! Anything you decide to do for the fair will be greatly appreciated and hugely helpful.

Thank you!

Liz

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

Present: Judy Barrington, Audrey Cecil, Carol Dixon, Jeff Hutton, Sharon Lane, Claudia Leone, Kerry Matthews, Michael Roberts, Eileen Sullivan, Jeff Tegnell, Rev. Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Unison Affirmation. Opening words by Sharon Lane

New Parish Committee members Michael Roberts and Jeff Tegnell were welcomed. Grace Pena was unable to attend tonight.

Minutes of 6/10/09 – Motion made to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Second, motion carried.

Ministers Report- Rali has been approved for CORI checking. We will be able to have CORI checks done for no-fee. Rali attended GA. She participated in a governance seminar called “UU University”. The church calendar will be coordinated three times per year. We are going to try to be more organized with on-line posting and a bulletin board to track church events. Rali will be away July 16 – August 15. She will be available by phone during her absence.

Work of the Parish Committee – Individuals from the Parish Committee will be the contact person for the following committees: Finance Committee/Jeff Hutton, Stewardship Committee/ Sharon Lane, Nominating Committee/Audrey Cecil, Membership Committee/Carol Dixon, Personnel Committee/Eileen Sullivan.

Treasurer’s Report – Michael Roberts reported that he is being added on as signatory in his role as the new treasurer. He and Dan Ewing will be meeting within the next 10 days to transfer information. Dan will be sending the June budget report to the Parish Committee in the coming days.

Building and Grounds – Jeff Hutton reported that the water line in the Parsonage has been repaired. The carpet will be installed on the Parsonage stairs in the Fall. Bids are being solicited to paint the exterior of the Parish House entrance.

Fund Raising – Rali researched the electronics recycling program and decided that it will not be appropriate for us. She is getting more details on the book bin idea. Eileen Sullivan found out about the Uno’s Pizza program and it looks like a good idea. She will arrange a Friday in September or October as our fund raiser date. Judy Barrington will take care of the publicity. Eileen will also look into an ink cartridge recycle fundraiser. Sharon Lane has offered 4 Patriots tickets and 2 Bruins tickets, one game each as a possible silent auction for the church community. The Fall Fair will be October 17.

R.E. Committee - The RE Committee has selected a candidate for the RE Director position. They would like to offer the position to Aoife Barrington- Haber. She has a BA from Antioch and a Masters Degree from Emerson. She is the parent of a three year old child. She has strong writing skills and a strong drama background. We discussed some of the job specifics including being hired for one year as the Acting DRE. The position is 18-20 hrs per week. No health care benefits are included. The job will include having four Sundays off during the church school year.

A motion was made to offer the position of Acting DRE at a salary of \$15,500 with \$2,000 for training. The motion was amended to offer \$16,000 with up to \$2,000 in training funds for the first year. The amended motion was voted on and passed.

New Business –

1. Food Pantry -Lynn Rogal, the Co-Director of the Dedham Food Pantry spoke with us about the fact that the Food Pantry is having trouble finding a new physical space now that they are being evicted from their current space as of 10/01/09. She asked us to consider housing the Food Pantry at First Church. The Parish Committee voted to respond in the following way; “We feel that we have undeveloped space we could donate to the Food Pantry for a permanent home but we need the Food Pantry Board to spearhead a town wide movement to help fund development of the space. We are committed to collaborate with them in this effort.”
2. A Special Meeting will need to be scheduled to close out the books in the Fall.
3. No Parish Committee will occur in August. One agenda item for our next meeting will be to discuss how to handle the fifteen thousand dollar surplus in the budget due to no RE Director having been hired last year. Partial pay back of the endowment and a rainy day fund will need to be included in the plan. This issue will also be taken up with the congregation at the Special Meeting.

Next meeting will be September 1, 2009 at 7pm.

Judy Barrington will offer the opening words.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey H. Cecil