



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVII, No. 10

June, 2007

Calendar

May

- 27, Sunday: Sharing the Plate: Dedham Community House Camp Scholarship
- 28, Monday: Memorial Day. Office Closed
- 30, 6:30 PM: Alliance Pot Luck Supper

June

- 2, Wednesday, 5:30 PM: CRANS Pot Luck Dinner
- 8, Tuesday, 6:00 PM: Parish Committee Meeting
- 10: Sunday, 11:00 AM: Church Picnic on the Front Lawn
- 11, Monday, 7:00 PM: Parish Committee Meeting
- 15, Friday: 6:30: Cakes
- 16, Saturday: 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM Yard Sale!

Also...

- Aerobics: Mondays and Wednesdays: 6:30 PM
- Meditation: Thursdays: 7:30 PM

The Parish Record is published monthly.

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The deadline for submissions for the July-August issue of the Parish Record will be

July 8. Send notices directly by e-mail to: tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org or call me with questions: 781-326-9728.

Sundays in the Meeting House

- May 27, 10:00 AM: Memorial Sunday. Sermon to be announced
- June 3, 10:00 AM: Children's Sunday
- June 10, 10:00 AM: Closing Sunday. Flower Communion Service.

Focus on Religious Education

Sunday, May 27th – Memorial Day Service: NO Sunday School

Sunday, June 3rd – Children's Sunday (rehearsal in the Meetinghouse at 9:30) – Children should be there before then.

Sunday, June 10th – Flower Ceremony – intergenerational service

Congratulations to our 2007 Coming of Age Class:

Ben Ames

Simone Carpenter

Kiersten Hellegers

Julia Ray

Many thanks to Carol Dixon Hutton, COA leader, and to the mentors: Judy Butler, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Allison Staton and Diane Winchester. We all enjoyed the wonderful COA worship service, the credos of the youth and reflections of the mentors will linger in our memories...and the Rosie's cake won't soon be forgotten either!

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Focus on Religious Education

Don't forget we are in need of teachers and RE committee members. We have opportunities for all levels of experience and it's a great way to learn. If you've never taught before we can pair you with an experienced teacher. Classroom teaching will be limited to two Sundays per month.

If classroom teaching isn't for you – you can still help:

- How about working with a few children on the 1st Sunday of each month to help them prepare the meeting house for worship service and ushering.
- Also on the 1st Sunday of the month (when the children are dismissed from worship early) we need someone to help direct them in activities until the service is over. This is the perfect job for anyone who loved being a camp counselor.
- On the 4th Sunday of the Month we will continue our tradition of social service activities. For these Sundays we can use volunteers who might only be able to commit to a particular day.

There really is something for everyone!

Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education

From the Ministerial Search Committee

A Wonderful Week!

The Search Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in Candidating Week. It was exciting to see so many people involved: over 70 came to each of the Sunday worship services and 30 or so to each of the scheduled social events. Our thanks go especially to the hosts/chefs of these events: Eileen Sullivan, Andrea Gilmore, Jeff Hutton and Sam King. We certainly know how to eat well!

The week was capped off, of course, by the nearly unanimous vote to call Rali Weaver as our next Parish Minister. A tremendous surge of excitement and energy was felt by all as she returned to the church to accept the call. We urge those of you who were unable to meet Rali, to come to church next September and take some time to talk with her. She's a great listener and her humor and grace will capture your heart.

The future is looking bright!

From Our New Minister

To the First Church and Parish in Dedham:

It is with joy and appreciation that I accepted the call to be your minister on May 13th. I am deeply grateful to the search committee and every parishioner who rearranged their schedule in order to spend time with me during the candidating week. It was a wonderful week which I will always remember. For those of you I have not yet met, I look forward meeting you in the near future.

I will be completing my ministry at King's Chapel during the summer and moving into your lovely parsonage to begin working with all of you at the First Church and Parish in Dedham. I look forward to meeting some of you over the summer seeing you all back at church in September. In the meantime if you would like to contact me for any reason my cell phone number is 617 459 5979 and my email address is raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

I look forward to getting to know you each much better over the months and years ahead and growing together in service to the wider community.

With deep appreciation,

Rali Weaver

All Around the Church Community

In Our Thoughts

Our thoughts go out to the family and friends of Rev. Ralph Norman Helverson, a former interim minister at First Church, who died on April 25 at the age of 95.

First Church will host a yard sale on June 16, rain or shine from 8:00 - 2:00. Rent a table and sell your stuff!

Table/space size is about 6 feet wide. Rent a table for \$30 or bring your own table and rent a space for \$25. Call the church office to reserve your spot. Questions: call Sharon Lane or Pam Aist at 781-326-4640.

Our closing service on June 10 will be the Flower Communion Service. Everyone is encouraged to bring a flower with them.

This year's annual end-of-the-church-year picnic will be held on the front lawn after the service. Please bring a salad or a desert to share. Sandwich-makings and drinks will be provided by the membership committee. If it rains we will picnic inside. Sign up sheet is on the table in the dining room. Questions? call Anne Schiraga 781-329-9699 Hope to see you there.

All Around the Church Community

Parish Community Network

On May 17th, Lanny Kutakoff, Executive Director of Partakers, spoke with the Parish Community Network. He described the mission and activities of this faith-based non-profit organization. By preparing, sponsoring and mentoring prisoners in their pursuit of higher education and by working toward state-level criminal justice reform, Partakers helps prepare prisoners for their release and reduces the rate of recidivism. They state that the recidivism rate for college graduates is 0% to 11%. The rate for those without a college degree is 67%.

A group of four to six committed people from a church or organization works together to sponsor and mentor a single prisoner who has a sentence of at least several years. One or two group members visit the prisoner at least once each month. Working with an established curriculum, they may help prepare a prisoner to pass the high-school equivalency exam or the entrance exam to qualify for participation in Boston University's "Bridge to College" program. Prisoners who complete this program earn a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies from Boston University. The members of the group provide financial support, encouragement and help with time management, study and test taking skills. The official program ends when the prisoner is released.

The Parish Community Network would like to see if we have a group of people who could commit themselves to this program. Partakers will provide orientation for the group. If you would like to learn more about this program please contact Doug Howell at (781) 329-1955 or dougbigdoc@aol.com.

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting May 8, 2007

Attending: Judy Barrington, Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Jeff Hutton, Beppy Martin, Susan Sennott, Tyler Carpenter, Sam King

Meeting called to order by Dan Ewing at 7:00 pm. The meeting began by welcoming Rali Weaver, who attended as well, followed by a moment of silence and reflection.

Minutes of April 10, 2007 meeting - motion to approve by Jeff Hutton, second - passed.

Treasurer's Report

The committee reviewed a written copy of the treasurer's report prepared by Dan Ewing. Discussion occurred regarding pledge income and utilities.

DRE Report

The committee reviewed a written copy of the DRE report prepared by Susan Sennott. The report outlined plans for candidating week, the COA service, continuing teacher recruitment, status of the RE committee (the need for new members and a chair/co-chairs), Children's Sunday (6/3), and a request from the Youth Group to "fix-up" the upstairs room.

Stewardship Committee

The committee reviewed a written copy of the Stewardship Committee Annual Report. As of 5/7/07, we have received 44 pledges and with a pledge total of \$71,543. We have potential of 15 more pledges. If these pledges come in as they did last year the Stewardship Campaign will meet their goal.

Sharing the Plate

Discussion occurred regarding improved procedures for tracking Sharing the Plate donations.

T-Mobile

Omnipoint went before the Zoning Board of Appeals to put an antenna in the First Church Steeple which is outside of the cellular zone. There was neighborhood opposition to the antenna. This appeal was denied and Omnipoint can not go back to the Town of Dedham for two years.

Motion to welcome Bob Estes as a member of First Church and Parish in Dedham by Beppy Martin, second, approved unanimously.

Annual Meeting 5/22/07

Dan Ewing reviewed the proposed budget for the '07-'08 church year. **Motion to approve the proposed budget for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, 5/22/07 by Jeff Hutton, second, approved.**

The committee reviewed the votes taken at the October 15 Special Congregational Meeting. Carol Dixon volunteered to write up the status of these votes for the Annual Meeting.

By-Law Review Committee

The committee discussed forming a sub-committee to review the by-laws of First Church and Parish in Dedham. Diane Winchester will convene the committee. Parish Committee volunteers include: Sam King, Jeff Hutton, Judy Barrington, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Beppy Martin. Olly Ames has also agreed to serve on the committee. Two meetings will be held in the summer, one at the end of June and one in August.

Ministerial Transition

A reception will be held at coffee hour after the last service, June 10th to recognize Rob's service to our church.

Volunteers:

Cake –Dan
Gift – Tyler

The committee discussed ministerial coverage for the summer months.

Youth Group Proposal

The Youth Group is interested in fixing up the upstairs conference room. The committee suggested the Youth Group make a proposal outlining what they would like to do to the conference room.

Meeting Dates

5/22/07 - Annual Meeting (Tuesday evening)

Meeting adjourned, 8.20 p.m.

Next meeting of the Parish Committee will be **Monday, June 11th at 7pm. (please note change of day)**, Claudia Leone and Sharon Lane will be invited to attend this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon

From First Church Green

Spirit in the Summer

The following are a number of activities that both individuals and families can use to teach children and one another different aspects of Unitarian Universalist wisdom and reflection. The activities include ways to raise our awareness of nature and the spirit of all life, opportunities to reflect on the importance of giving one's time in charity, respect for elders, the importance of family time, and learning how to take responsibility for one's actions. In our relationship with the natural order, which indeed becomes more apparent and immediate in the summer months, we can look for those things that display consistency, and think of ways to use them as a model to make natural values part of our daily life. Parents in particular should display the qualities described in the following list themselves.

A Time to Share Peace

During summer months, children will likely be around the house more often. Let everyone get into the habit of saying "Peace to you" (or an expression of your own creation) to one another whenever you enter a room. Urge your children politely to do the same. Some seekers of spiritual fulfillment would make a greeting such as this even if a tree separated them while walking. This form of communication is a small effort but can really help to set the tone of a home and the relationships within.

Shared Responsibility

Designate a child to make a prayer before meals during the summer months. Rotate a schedule for all siblings or family members to take on the responsibility.

Around the World in a Summer

Have children do different creative projects on how Unitarian Universalists think about the world. For example: Prepare an exploration each fortnight on a country in which there exist Unitarian Universalist congregations. Have children learn about the culture and people by visiting the library or speaking with members of the local community who may have emigrated from that country. Conclude the effort by having a special meal in your house where the family joins together in cooking special foods from the chosen country. Invite the individuals who were interviewed. Make a night of it!

Is It Related?

Have a weekly study circle within the family. Keep it simple (5 minutes). Each day, one family member should read a favorite poem, hymn, prayer, or any other expression related to Unitarian Universalist principles out loud, then explain it in their own words.

Are You Shipshape?

Children love to get dirty – especially while playing outside in the summer. Have the younger children make up an "Are You Shipshape?" chart for the bathroom. This way they can keep track of how many times a day they have washed and brushed their teeth.

Build a Reflection Hut

Set up a tent or shelter outside or a room in the house as a Summer Reflection Hut – a space to be used for quiet thinking or even family worship. If outside, provide mats for sitting and a place to pin up decorations or writings. If inside the house, move all the furniture out or push it aside.

Children can have fun decorating the hut or room by drawing posters or practicing their writing skills. Keep a timetable on the wall and let the children be responsible for setting up mats and calling the family to join in at the appropriate times. When the children call, respect their effort and praise them!

Fair in the Yard

Hold a special night for family and friends. Get a hold of a small tent and camp out in the yard with the intention to wake up – or stay up late to share stories outside under the stars. If you live within the city core, make it a special family night where everyone agrees to wake up late for ice cream and stories. For younger children, do the stories first and follow it up with a midnight snack of something special such as Neapolitans and whipped cream. For older children or the adventuresome, see if you can include nighttime stories and then watch the sunrise as a family.

Try some of these activities out and see if they can add some new dimensions to your summer. Oh, and one more observation. These activities parallel those that our brothers and sisters in other faith traditions recommend to their own families as opportunities for summer fun and spiritual growth. Another dimension to sharing.

Rob