



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVI, No. 12

March 15, 2006

Calendar

March

- 14, Tuesday, 7:30 PM: Parish Committee Meeting
- 15, Wednesday, 7:00: Final Phase 1 Session of the Value Analysis Workshop
- 17, Friday, 6:00 PM: Cottage Meeting: Dixon-Hutton's Home
- 20, Monday, 7:00 PM: Membership Meeting
- 21, Monday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics
- 25, Saturday, 6:00 PM: Cottage Meeting: Eileen Sullivan's Home
- 23, Wednesday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics

April

- 1, Saturday: Church Work Day
- 1, Saturday: 6:00 PM: Celebrate Fools Parade
- 8, Saturday, 6:00 PM: Cottage Meeting: Location Ollie and Liz Ames' Home

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Tyler Carpenter, Interim Editor
670 High Street
Dedham, MA 02026

Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross
Interim Parish Minister
Susan Sennott
Director of Religious Education

Church Office:
Hours M-F 9 a.m.-noon
Phone 781-326-7463
FAX: 781-326-7464

E-mail: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

The next deadline for submissions (the New Year's Issue) is March 26. Send notices directly by e-mail to: tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org or call me with questions: 617-816-9728.

Sundays in the Meeting House

- March 19, 10:00 AM: Faith as Openness. The sermon will be "The Card Game" by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross.
- March 26, 10:00 AM: (Sharing the Plate Sunday for the Dedham Food Pantry) Service by the Worship and Music Committee
- April 2, 10:00 AM: Stewardship. The sermon will be "Commitment" by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross.

Focus on Religious Education

When do we meet:

Sunday, March 19th – 10 AM: Teaching Sunday. OWL meets from 10 to 12

Sunday, March 26th – 10 AM: Social Service Project (no teaching), OWL meets from 10 to 12

On Sunday March 5th the Youth Group lead us in a wonderful service. They got us thinking about the lyrics in some popular music and called on us to "stand up" for what we believe. Thank you Kristina, Milo, Molly and Nichole for pulling through, I know Bailey would be very proud of you. Bailey, our youth advisor, had worked with the youth to prepare the service, but was unable to attend due to the sudden death of her grandmother. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bailey and her family.

Following the Youth service, the Our Whole Lives (OWL) youth from Dedham and Needham joined for games and pizza, and on March 12th they had their first OWL class.

Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education

All Around the Church Community

You Are Invited...

The Search Committee would like to invite everyone to join them for an evening of interesting conversation, good food and wine. We have planned three gatherings at the homes of Committee members. They will take place on Fri., Mar 17, at the Huttons, Sat., Mar. 25, at the home of Eileen Sullivan and Sat., Apr. 8, at the Ames' home. We would like to share the results of the Congregational survey done in the fall and get your feedback on what is most important in our next minister. If you haven't received a phone invitation to one of these gatherings and would like to attend, please call Carol Ewing, 781-769-1359.

Please join us...we want to hear what you have to say!

Dedham Food Pantry

There is still a need for volunteers on the Saturday this month. Sign up in the dining room. You can show up and we will put you to work. If you cannot volunteer to be at the Pantry, there is always a need for non-perishable items. See the list below. Bring them to Church and put them into the container in the women coat closet. Money donations are also welcome. Send your checks to the Dedham Food Pantry, 50 Oakdale Ave., Dedham MA 02026.

Items needed:

- Pasta
- Tomato paste
- Solid white tuna
- Canned meats
- Instant pudding
- Spices
- Soups: especially chicken and rice, vegetable, minestrone
(Progresso and Chunky soups are welcome, but NO TOMATO)
- Toothbrushes and tooth paste

Thanks Pam Aist

Amnesty International

On February 19th, Eileen Sullivan, Judy Barrington, Tyler Carpenter, Diane Winchester, Bob Estes, Jeff Hutton, Richard Hellegers and Betsy Hetzler wrote letters on behalf of a Chinese human rights activist. Many thanks to these letter writers.

Our next letter writing session will be on the 19th of March. See you at coffee hour.

Peter Elefterakis

All Around the Church Community

Church Email Problems...

Lately, the email in the church office has been working only intermittently. So if you have some e-communication you must get to the church administrator, please also send it to Judy Butler's home address at butlerslp@verizon.net. Thanks.

Judy Butler

Remember the Trading Post

As you clean out your closets and basement this spring and summer, remember the Trading Post. The TP is the generator of much of the fun and fund\$ at the December Holly Fair. The books, toys, Special Items and even many of the items on the Gift Table are funneled through the Trading Post, and are sent on to the proper department. So we really need all your "trash and treasures" One person's trash is another's treasure, remember?

However, this year, could you Please Hold Your Donations, If Possible, Until Later in the Fall. We understand that the Parish Players are going to do a theatrical production sometime in the fall. They assure us the stage and auditorium will be available for the Yankee Trading Post come the first week in December, but the stage must be empty for them during the fall. If AT ALL possible, could you find a nook or cranny at your house to store your donations to the Trading Post until after the play. If you can't do that, call Beppy Martin, and I will arrange to store them somewhere on the church grounds (sky hook, shed, cellar, somewhere). We really want and need those donations, so don't toss them. I even have a little space in my garage. But if you can keep them, at your house until near fair time, that would be great.

Please do not put things on the stage. If you have donations you need to get out of your house right away, call Beppy Martin (781-326-2288) and I will arrange something.

Beppy and the Trading Post crew

Easter Flowers

There will be a sign up sheet in the dining room on which to sign up for Easter flowers. Flowers are usually given in memory of someone and money is given to buy the plants. The plants are put in front of the pulpit on Easter Sunday and people who have signed up can take a plant after the service. Please give your money to me by April 9th. Easter is Sunday, April 16th. If you have questions, please call me at 781-762-3546. Thank you all,

Susan White.

First Church Service Auction Report:

A Great Success!

Thank you to all who participated in the First Church Service Auction. The evening was a great success and we were able to raise \$5000 to support the church's operating budget.

The success of the event was due to the active participation of so many First Church folks. Thank you to everyone who participated by: donating a service or gift certificate, attending, bidding, purchasing, and helping out. Special thanks to the fabulous committee who put this event together and who took on multiple tasks (Andrea Gilmore (the cook extraordinaire), Vicky Berg (the program), Natasha Lawhon-Schneider (flyer, bar, numbers) and MaryAnn Osborne (decorations, beverages). Kathy Elefterakis deserves special thanks for being the cashier and thank you to Sue White and Claudia Leone for assisting her.

Also, thank you to Jeff Hutton and Dan Ewing for doing a great job as auctioneers. Thanks to Arnie Sacks for being willing to pitch in and to Rich Trethewey for being willing to volunteer his time. Thanks to Carol and Dan Ewing, for their help with set up, hors d'ouvres and for manning the bar, and to Judy Barrington for preparing the flowers and apple crisp. Thanks to Andy Hutton, Julia Ray and Tyler Carpenter for helping with child care. The whole event was cleaned up with many people's help but thanks to Julia Gecha for all her help with the dishes.

In the next couple weeks, everyone who donated a service will receive a letter letting you know who purchased your service. Thanks again for making the First Church Service Auction a wonderful evening and a great success.

Carol Dixon Hutton

From First Church Green

In January I shared with you some ideas for membership growth – a task First Church and Parish must address in its immediate and long-term future. I would like to continue putting forth some additional ideas to stimulate action on many of the thoughts expressed so far in our Value Analysis process.

- Create a religious education program for adults that would be appropriate for inviting friends and acquaintances to participate. The program could be coupled with a social event or meal. Post flyers about these (and other) events in key locations around the community. (I am happy to lead this at any time and just need some topics of concern and interest to the congregation.)
- Involve even more people in Sunday services. Participation has improved – especially by our young people – but we could still use additional readers and moderators for announcements.
- Place occasional "testimonials" in the Sunday service and in the Newsletter, in which members share why they are Unitarian Universalist and what the church means to them. Devote space in the Newsletter for personal or inspirational notes.
- Develop a more substantial strategy to welcome and honor diversity of race, culture, and lifestyle. Review both our physical space and programs, including Religious Education and worship, to assess how we might improve promoting First Church and Parish as a locus of diversity and religious freedom.
- Expand the celebrations that are special to our congregational life. Follow these up with discussion of how learnings from these celebrations affect our life and the life of our congregation.
- Add more attractive bulletin boards and keep them up-to-date.
- Remind members that welcoming newcomers is everybody's job, not just that of the designated committee members.
- Do a demographic study of our community. See how our membership compares with the community around us and make knowledgeable decisions about folks we might try to attract in the future.
- Join the local community cable network and train someone in the congregation to videotape special programs for cable. Include in these programs a tag line about our congregation's program and a few testimonials from members, including young adults.
- Send press releases regularly to community newspaper calendars or newsletters. (African-American, Deaf, Parents Without Partners, gay and lesbian, college campus publications, etc.)
- Volunteer as a congregation for the telethon for the local public television or radio stations. Purchase as a congregation one or more days of programming.

Again, these are probably enough ideas for now, but I will suggest more in the future. I have great confidence in First Church and Parish and its ability to become a truly strong parish in the district.

Rob

