



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVII, No. 9

May, 2007

Calendar

April

- 28, Saturday, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM: Texas Hold-'em Tournament to benefit the Dedham Food Pantry
29, Sunday: Sharing the Plate: International Rescue Committee

May

- 2, Wednesday, 5:30 PM: CRANS Pot Luck Dinner
8, Tuesday, 6:00 PM: Parish Committee Meeting
10, Thursday, 8:00 AM: Building and Grounds
13, Sunday, 11:15 AM: Special Congregational Meeting
18, Friday: 6:30: Cakes
22, Tuesday Evening: Annual Meeting
27, Sunday: Sharing the Plate: Dedham Community House Camp Scholarship

Also...

- Several Candidating Week events over the first two weeks of May. See the full calendar inside.
Aerobics: Mondays and Wednesdays: 6:30 PM
Meditation: Thursdays: 7:30 PM

The Parish Record is published monthly.

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Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross

Interim Parish Minister

Susan Sennott

Director of Religious Education

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

May 20. Send notices directly by e-mail to:

tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org or call me with questions: 617-326-9728.

Sundays in the Meeting House

April 29, 10:00 AM: Religious Ecology Part II -- Deep Ecology: Rev. Dr. Robert Ross

May 6, 10:00 AM: Candidating Sunday: Rev. Rali Weaver

May 13, 10:00 AM: Candidating Sunday: Rev. Rali Weaver

May 20, 10:00 AM: Coming of Age Sunday

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

Focus on Religious Education

Sunday, April 29th – Social Service Project

Sunday, May 6th – Start in the Meeting House – The ministerial candidate will have a story for everyone.

Sunday, May 6th – 7:30 PM Youth and Coming of Age groups to meet with the ministerial candidate.

Sunday, May 13th – Candidate Service: No Sunday School. The Youth Group will provide child care so teachers and parents may attend and vote

Sunday, May 20th – Coming of Age Service

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

Sunday, June 3rd – Children's Sunday

Sunday, June 10th – Closing Sunday

All high school age youth and Coming-Of-Agers are invited to meet the candidate minister on Sunday Evening, May 6th at 7:30 PM.

Continued on next page...

RE has purchased an “Easy Share” Digital Camera and Printer which is available for church use (time to replace that Polaroid). We are working on a “quilt” of church members to display, so get your smiles ready.

Our friends at Theodore Parker in West Roxbury have let us know about an interesting event on Thursday, May 3, at 7 PM in the West Roxbury Branch library auditorium; there will be a discussion of *March* by its Pulitzer Prize winning author, Geraldine Brooks.

I had a chance to read this book over vacation. It is set during the civil war, but it's themes of the futility of war, tolerance, gender roles are just as relevant today. The book features a protagonist modeled on educator and philosopher Bronson Alcott, father of novelist Louisa May Alcott ("Little Women") and friend to Parker, as well as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and many of the Brooke Farm Transcendentalists (in other words lots of interesting UUs).

Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education

From the Ministerial Search Committee

Candidating Week: May 5-13

On Easter Sunday, the Search Committee announced their selection for Ministerial Candidate, **Rali Weaver**. Next week the whole church community will have a chance to meet Rali and get to know her. Candidating Week starts on Sat., May 5, when Rali arrives in Dedham. That evening she will have dinner with the Search Committee and their spouses. The following day she will conduct worship in the Meetinghouse. We encourage all members and friends to come to this service and then stay afterwards for lunch hosted by the Search Committee.

Throughout the rest of the week, Rali will be meeting with smaller groups: various committees, the Youth Group, the Women's Alliance, a group at Fox Hill. The full schedule is included in this edition of the Parish Record. In addition, she will be available in the office to speak with people on Tues., May 8, 2:00-4:00 and Fri., May 11, 8:00-12:00. You are welcome to make an appointment or just drop by.

There will be 3 other larger gatherings to which all are invited to attend. On Fri., May 11, 6:00-8:00, there will be an Open House at the home of Eileen Sullivan. The next day there will be two family friendly events: a Pancake Breakfast in the dining room from 8:00 to 10:00 in the morning and, that evening, a Spaghetti Supper from 6:00 to 8:00. Since these three gatherings require some food planning, we ask that you contact Carol Ewing, 781-769-1359, or Natalie Jensen, 781-329-9289, if you will be attending any of them.

The week will culminate with another worship service led by Rali on Sun., May 13. Again, all members and friends of First Church are urged to attend. Immediately after the service, there will be a special Congregational Meeting at which all members present will vote to call Rali as our next minister.

From the Ministerial Search Committee

During candidating week there will be many opportunities for our congregation to meet Rev. Weaver. In addition to the scheduled meetings with various committees, there will be several social events that all members and friends of First Church are invited to attend.

To help us with planning, please let us know if you intend to join us at any of the following gatherings. Return the enclosed postcard or call the listed contact people for specific events.

Wednesday May 9	Meeting at Foxhill with Rev. Weaver and Rev. Buehrens Please call Doug Howell (781-329-1955) about attending this event.
Friday May 11	Open House from 6-8 pm at Eileen Sullivan's'-drinks and appetizers
Saturday May 12	Pancake breakfast from 8-10 am, in the Parish House *
Saturday May 12	Alliance tea at 2 pm, in the Parish house. Please contact Janet Hurwitz (781-329-1386) if you wish to attend.
Saturday May 12	Spaghetti supper from 6-8 pm, in the Parish House *
Tuesday, May 8, 2-4 PM Friday May 11, 8 AM to Noon	Open office hours. You may drop by the church offices to chat, or call to schedule an appointment

* -- These events are particularly family-friendly.

The lunch on Sunday May 6 and coffee hour on May 13 are also open to all members and friends, no RSVP necessary.

Please see the full schedule of events on the next page...

	SAT, MAY 5	SUN MAY 6	MON MAY 7	TUES MAY 8	WED MAY 9	THUR MAY 10	FRI MAY 11	SAT MAY 12	SUN MAY 13
M O R N I N G		10 am service			Meet with Susan Sennott	B & G meeting, 8 am Morning with Judy Butler	Office hours 8 am-noon *	Pancake breakfast 8-10 am Dining room	10 am service 11:15 - Congregational meeting
A F T E R N O O N		Lunch after service by Search Committee	Office hours 2-4pm *	Parish Community Network meeting, 5:30pm	Lunch and service at Foxhill, with John Buehrens	Mid-week check-in lunch w. Search Comm.		Alliance tea, 2 pm	Coffee hour
E V E N I N G	Dinner with Search Committee and spouses	Meet with Youth Group and COA students 7:30 pm	Committee on Ministry meeting 7:30 pm	Parish Committee meeting and dinner 6:00 pm	Membership and RE Committee meetings 6-8 pm	Music and Worship meeting, 7 pm	Open house at Eileen Sullivan's 6:00 – 8:00	Spaghetti supper, Parish House dining room 6:00 – 8:00	

* Or contact Natalie Jensen or Carol Ewing to schedule an appointment at another time

From the Ministerial Search Committee

And your name is ... ?

In less than two weeks, Rali Weaver, our Ministerial Candidate, will be here to participate in Candidating Week, May 5 through May 13. She is as eager to meet us, as we are to get to know her. While we all know her name already, she will be at a real disadvantage learning all of our names. Let's all help her out by wearing our name tags. It will make a huge difference for her and will show her how welcoming we can be to newcomers.

You will notice when you pick up your name tag that there have been a few changes. First of all, Natalie Jensen has rebuilt our name tag board so that the tags will be stored in a little different fashion. Secondly, I have remade all the name tags with new holders that clip, rather than pin, to clothing. Now everyone will have a name tag that won't harm your clothing. No more excuses for not wearing one! If you don't like the way your name tag reads, just let me know. I'll be glad to make a new one.

Carol Ewing

All Around the Church Community

Amnesty International

On Sunday, April 15, we wrote letters to Ms. Fawzia Hashim, the Minister of Justice in Eritrea, on behalf of Aster Fissehatsian, an Eritrean Prisoner of Conscience.

Doug Howell, Sharon Lane, Peter McDonough, Tyler Carpenter, Judy Barrington, and Allison Staton

Thank you.

Peter Elefterakis

Marge and Jake Wiren would like everyone to know that they are at Traditions of Dedham, 735 Washington Street, Apt. 318, Dedham, MA 02026, and that the phone number is 781-326-4213.

All Around the Church Community

Stewardship Campaign Update

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to First Church. We are grateful for such a generous response. If you have not yet had an opportunity to make a financial contribution to First Church in Dedham please consider making your pledge before April 28th. It is our goal to complete our Stewardship Campaign before Candidating Week (May 6th –May 13th). We hope that you will consider the future of First Church in Dedham as you determine your pledge for next year.

Here are the numbers so far:

- As of April 22nd, 37 pledges have been received, we have a potential of 64 pledges.
- We have 2 new pledges and 14 increased pledges.
- At this moment we have received \$60,639 in pledges for next year, last year we raised \$87,102 in pledges.

The proposed budget will be drawn up in May. Here's a quick summary of where the money went in the 2006-2007 budget: **Salaries** (minister, secretary, organist, custodian, youth leader, nursery director) - \$97,850, **Utilities and heat** - \$21,000, **Insurance** - \$7,000, **Office and printing** - \$8,000, **Buildings and grounds** - \$13,500, **Committees** - \$4,875, **Contributions** - \$8,000. First Church is fortunate to derive some income from building use, YMCA rental, fund raisers, First Church funds and Alliance contributions however almost all of our salaries are funded by pledges.

Remember our final budget will be adopted at Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 22nd. Please plan to participate in this important event.

If you have not yet made a pledge please take some time to consider how you can help generously support First Church with your financial contribution. We encourage each contributor to increase their current pledge by 10% to move us toward more opportunities that support growth.

A closing thought... When we give to the church we give to each other but also to the generations that follow us. Thank you for participating in this stewardship campaign with generosity and gratitude for the abundance in your life.

The Stewardship Committee

Carol Dixon Hutton, Vicky Berg, Liz Ames, Beppy Martin, and Judy Barrington

All Around the Church Community

Wanted: Church School Teachers

Teaching Sunday School is fun and The Religious Education Committee needs you to sign up to teach Sunday School next year.

The pay and benefits are great:

- Laughter
- Sticky hands
- Make new friends
- Make a difference
- Learn new things
- Change lives

Please sign up to teach in our Religious Education Program. You do not need to sign up for the whole year. You will be asked to teach for a semester and your time commitment will be approximately 2 Sundays a month. We seek to have pairs of teachers, often it is very effective to pair a new teacher with an experienced teacher. Dads make great teachers and boys think Sunday School is more fun if there are some dads in the classrooms. For more information contact Susan Sennott, ssennott@rcn.com, sign up and curriculum will be available at coffee hour.

Just think how powerful the 20,000 Unitarian Universalists in Massachusetts could be (as one in 10 UUs in America lives here!) if we coordinated our work to make the world a better place.

You are cordially invited to attend a historic event: The **First Annual UU Lobby Day!** It will take place very soon, on **Thursday, May 3rd, from 11 to 3 at the Stat3e House in Boston, and at the national Headquarters of the UUA**, which is right next door at 25 Beacon Street!

From 11:00 until 1:00 on May 3rd, we will be at the UUA to hear Reverend Bill Sinkford, the President of the UUA, speak. The issues Unitarians across the state chose for this year are Global Warming and Equal Marriage, and you will get all the training you need about what you can say to your legislator about those issues. At 1:00 we will walk next door to the State House to visit our state Senator and Representative. We need to RSVP by April 26th in order to reserve a \$5 box lunch, and to make sure appointments have been made with our legislators. Please RSVP if you are considering going and if you may be interested in carpooling.

Minutes of the Church Committee Meeting
April 10, 2007

Attending: Rob Ross, Judy Barrington, Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Jeff Hutton, Beppy Martin

Meeting called to order by Dan Ewing at 8:45 PM.

Motion that the Church Committee accept the recommendation of the Settled Minister Search Committee and recommend The Reverend Rali Weaver as the candidate for Parish Minister, by Jeff Hutton, second by Natasha Lawhon-Schneider – passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned, 8.47 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting
April 10, 2007

Attending: Rob Ross, Judy Barrington, Carol Dixon, Diane Winchester, Dan Ewing, Eileen Sullivan, Natasha Lawhon-Schneider, Jeff Hutton, Beppy Martin

Meeting called to order by Dan Ewing at 7:10 PM. The meeting began with a moment of silence and reflection.

Minutes of March 13, 2007 meeting - motion to approve by Diane Winchester, second - passed.

Parish Minister's Report

Rob reported on his work with the Music and Worship Committee, Parish Network, and Stewardship Committee. He reported that Dea Angiolillo signed the membership book.

Motion to welcome Dea Angiolillo as a member of First Church and Parish in Dedham, by Jeff Hutton, second – passed.

DRE Report

Submitted in writing, the report outlined Susan's communication with Rali Weaver and plans for teachers and children on May 6th and May 13th. Susan also reported on Youth Sunday and Easter Activities (egg tree and egg hunt), and on Social Service activities. The RE Committee met and discussed curricula for next year. The RE Committee will begin teacher recruitment on April 15th. The COA service will be on May 20th and Children's Sunday will be on June 3rd.

Treasurer's Report

Dan Ewing reported that 66% of the 2006-2007 pledges have been paid while we are already 75% of the way through the church year. Discussion occurred regarding fund raiser and the Alliance Contribution.

Special Congregational Meeting

Parsonage Utilities

Dan Ewing presented a chart outlining Parsonage Utilities from 7/1/06 to 6/1/06. The chart showed the utilities added up to \$5,346 and showed who is responsible for paying each item. The Parish Committee agreed to work out a payment plan with the Sennotts.

T-Mobile

Andrea Gilmore reported on the T-Mobile contract. Ollie Ames and a colleague reviewed the contract. The committee discussed how to best present the contract at the Special Congregational Meeting. Natasha will present, Eileen will prepare document.

Buildings and Grounds

Andrea Gilmore reported for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Carpet will be installed in the Meeting House on 4/16/07. Andrea will meet with Steve Chase regarding interior work on the parsonage. She also reported on possible painting of the exterior of the Meeting House.

Settled Ministerial Search Committee Report

Eileen Sullivan reported on the Candidating Week Schedule. The committee discussed the procedures of the vote to call a settled minister. Paper ballots will be used.

Committee Staffing

The Nominating Committee reported that they have finished their work. They are recommending the following officers for the 2007-2008 church year.

Parish Committee (3 years) – Claudia Leone, Sharon Lane
Treasurer - Dan Ewing
Clerk - Carol Dixon Hutton
Auditors - Kathy Elefterakis, Henry Scouteguazza

Announcements

4/22 Tyler Carpenter
4/29 Eileen Sullivan
5/6 Jeff Hutton
5/13 Search Committee

Meeting Dates

- **4/22/07 - Special Congregational Meeting**
- **5/22/07 - Annual Meeting (Tuesday evening)**

Meeting adjourned, 8.44 p.m.

Next meeting of the Parish Committee will be *Tuesday, May 8th at 6pm. (a dinner meeting) with ministerial candidate The Rev. Rali Weaver.*

(a business meeting will be held after the dinner)

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dixon

From First Church Green

UUs Are Green Too

Given the sermons this past week and next on Religious Ecology, I thought it might be useful to say something about how the UUA approaches this subject in a more organized fashion. An affiliate organization of the UUA is the UU Ministry for Earth. This group had previously been known as the Seventh Principle Project.

It describes its mission as working to support UUs who wish to affirm and promote the Seventh Principle, “respect for the interdependent web of all existence . . .” Like many others, the Ministry for Earth has come to the awareness that the lifeboat we all inhabit – this planet Earth – is in serious danger of swamping. And despite the customary havoc wreaked by nature in the form of hurricanes, typhoons, earthquakes, drought, floods, by far the biggest peril this lifeboat faces is the one we have wreaked on ourselves. We have at last met the enemy and it is us. Human havoc has many forms: pollution, uncontrolled emission of greenhouse gases, thoughtless over-harvesting of animal species for human consumption, disrespect for the waters of this planet, better living through chemistry . . .

Members of the Ministry for Earth, as people of faith, see the state of lifeboat Earth as a moral and spiritual crisis of the first order. Ministry for Earth sponsors the congregation based Green Sanctuary Program. This program provides a framework for study and reflection, and encourages individual and collective action for responding to the call to heal the Earth. Ministry for Earth also maintains a presence at General Assembly.

Perhaps one of the most valuable efforts of Ministry for Earth is to make UUs aware of the growing number of congregations across the continent that have environmental groups that conduct environmental activities for their members. Some focus on earth centered worship. Others on individual initiatives and spiritual practice. Still others on useful scientific educational programs that address many different environmental issues. Ministry for Earth helps individual UUs link to technical and organizational resources both within the community of UU activists and beyond.

We all know that you can't fool Mother Nature. But Mother Earth has also let us know she is quite pleased UUs are finally coming around to understand the respect and the healing she is due after decades of neglect. This is true. You can look it up.

Rob