



# The Parish Record

First Church and Parish in Dedham

[www.dedhamuu.org](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

Volume CXXVI, No. 3

October 4, 2005

## Calendar

### October

- 5, Wednesday, 7:30 pm:  
Church Council Meeting
- 6, Thursday, 7:30 pm:  
Parish Committee Meeting
- 9, Sunday, 10:00 am:  
Worship Service
- 10, Monday:  
Church Office Closed
- 15, Saturday, 10:00 to 2:00:  
**Fall Fair on the Green**
- 16, Sunday, 10:00 am:  
Worship Service
- 21, Friday, 6:30 pm:  
CAKES

## Sundays in the Meeting House

- October 9, 10:00 AM  
Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross
- October 16, 10:00 AM  
Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross

## Focus on Religious Education

October 4, 2005

When do we meet:

- Sunday, October 9th – **No Church School** – Special Activities
- Sunday, October 16th – Church School

**Don't forget to bring collection money for Children's worship on the 16<sup>th</sup>.**

On Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be deciding on an animal to donate to the Heifer Project. We have over \$100 because in addition to our children's worship collection, we received money from a "Share the Plate" collection.

Teachers – there are 3 butane lighters in the RE office for chalice lighting. They have child safety buttons and are more dependable than our old matches.

This is about a girl who should be coming to our Timeless Themes class. A ten-year old, under the tutelage of her grandmother, was becoming quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Then, one day, she floored her grandmother by asking, "Which Virgin was the mother of Jesus? The virgin Mary or the King James Virgin?"

The Parish Record is published biweekly.  
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](mailto:firstchurch@dedhamuu.org)

**Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education**

## From First Church Green

The Parish Community Network plays an important role in the life of First Church and Parish. It helps make our congregation a *caring* congregation. But, as occurs in many UU congregations, the responsibility for caring acts tends to fall on the same few people all the time. For that reason I have developed the idea of a *Caring Community*, where the range of caring *acts* and the *numbers of people* involved in them is considerably extended. Here is how it goes.

A **community** is the *context* of our life – everything to which our life is linked, including family, friends, congregation, and those beyond our immediate acquaintances with whom we share an environment. Our lives exist within a web of lives that are interconnected to one another, and are, in many ways, *dependent* upon one another.

**Caring** is a form of love that reaches beyond feelings based merely on interest. Caring not only acknowledges and responds to needs in others, it makes them a matter of personal concern. Personal concern becomes effective when it is realized through actions on behalf of others. Actions may be indirect, as in giving money for a charitable cause. Actions which respond *directly* to needs in a community are even more effective since they represent a greater personal commitment.

A **Community of Caring** expresses the close connection between personal spiritual growth and service to the needs of the communities in which we live. By our acts of kindness in response to the needs of others, we grow both in our own hearts and in our bonds with one another.

There are a number of ways in which the Parish Community Network can expand its function to link the talents, skills, and helping efforts of members of the congregation with people and families who have needs of various kinds. In this way the Parish Community Network can help the congregation extend the pastoral work of the minister to wider areas of service.

Some needs in the community are born of crisis; others exist every day. While the following is not an exhaustive list, needs typically include:

- Providing transportation for the elderly
- Helping with shopping, errands, or household chores
- Visiting those in the hospital or in nursing homes
- Preparing or delivering meals
- Helping with child care during family emergencies
- Adopting a house bound friend
- Caring for families during a divorce, with a sick or elderly parent, with a sick child, after a loss

Caring is not a set of techniques but a mutual process of building trust. The most important behavior, therefore, is honesty – coupled with respect for another's circumstances. Respect translates into the absolute imperative to honor the confidences shared with you in your listening and acts of kindness. Caring is also a spiritual experience because it is a response to suffering which reveals our humanness in a unique and paradoxical way. The paradox of suffering is the discovery that only in response to suffering do certain forms of human goodness arise – in particular, compassion, sympathy, and self-sacrifice. Because suffering reveals our humanness, responding to the needs of an ever-wider community can open us to new possibilities of meaning and spiritual growth.

A Community of Caring is an expanded network matching needs with capabilities and talents. If First Church and Parish is ready to establish such an expanded network, I will be very glad to help.

Rob

## **In Our Church Family**

Our sympathies go out to Susan Sennott in the death of her mother in law, Mary E. Sennott, last Saturday, October 1

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### **Committee on Ministry**

The Committee on Ministry met on September 20. Debbie Harrison and Peter Elefterakis are the co-chairs this year. Other members include Claudia Leone, Susan Sennott, Rob Ross, and Bob Osborne or Beppy Martin. The committee serves as a resource to the minister, the director of religious education, and the congregation. It strives for open communication and supports the collective ministry of the church. Parishioners are encouraged to share ideas or concerns with any member of the committee and are also welcome to the meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 7:30.

Debbie Harrison

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### **From the Alliance**

Reminder to all Alliance members: please send this year's dues (\$15) to Jenny Chamberlin at 304 Dover Road, Westwood, MA 02090, or leave in the Alliance mailbox at church. Checks should be made out to the Dedham Branch Alliance. Thanks,

Jenny Chamberlin, Alliance Treasurer

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### **Dedham Food Pantry**

First Church and Parish in Dedham continues to support the Dedham Food Pantry with financial donations, food donations, and the volunteering of our time.

The Pantry is open on Thursday afternoons and donations can be dropped off between 3:30 and 4:30 PM, or while clients are shopping on Saturday mornings, between 8:30 and 11:00 AM. Donated items may be brought to church and they will be delivered to the pantry.

The Women's Alliance still volunteers on Saturdays in March, but we also help out on other Saturdays throughout the year. If you want to volunteer, to donate or simply want to know more about the Dedham Food Pantry please contact the church's representatives, Pam Aist or Janet Hurwitz.

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### **Aerobics!**

Our new aerobics group meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30. Keep fit after an active summer--become more fit and healthy as the year progresses into holidays and other activities. Hold stress at bay! All sizes and shapes of folks are welcome! Try it---you just might like it!

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## Social Hour Help Wanted

Another year is here! I've lost count of how many years I've been "Coffee Lady". It is a fun job, but I **do** need help!

Please find a date of the sign up sheet in the dining room and go for it! The coffee is always made, juice and cookies and cheez-its are always available. All you need to bring is a quart of cream or milk and some sort of centerpiece (which is nice, but not absolutely mandatory). Come a little early to set up and stay a little later to clean up.

It's a wonderful way to keep in contact with old friends and greet new ones. This time is truly a "Social-Hour" and serves an important role in the life of our church. If you have questions, please call me!

Judy Barrington (781-762-2742)

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## Ministerial Search Information

### Let your voice be heard!

In two weeks everyone in the church community will have their first chance to give the Search Committee an idea of what they would like to see in our next settled minister. On Oct. 16, we will be mailing a survey to all members and friends who are 14 years and older. The survey will only be about 10 pages consisting of mostly multiple-choice questions. The individual responses will be completely anonymous, although the collective results will be compiled and shared with the congregation and with any prospective candidates. We are hoping everyone will take the time to complete the survey and get it back to us by Nov. 13. Surveys can be returned by mail in the enclosed return envelope or put into the "Survey Box" that will be located by the Search Info display in the dining room. Whichever method you use to return the survey, please also check off your name on the list next to the box. We are hoping to have a 100% response.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

The deadline for submissions for the next *Parish Record* is October 16.

Send notices directly by e-mail to: [tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org](mailto:tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org) or leave them in the box in the Church Office. **I can accept e-mail submissions until 2 pm Sunday afternoon, but written notes must be in the box by the end of Coffee Hour.** Any questions or suggestions? — call me at home: **617-816-9728.**

Tyler Carpenter



**DEDHAM BRANCH ALLIANCE 125th YEAR 2005 – 2006**

The First Church Dedham Women's Alliance Board met this past week to begin planning its 125<sup>th</sup> year. Please save these dates for events through December, 2005 and plan to join us.

**October 16, Sunday COFFEE HOUR**

Co-Presidents Janet Hurwitz and Judy Barrington and Alliance board members will be hosting the coffee hour.

Look for tables during coffee hour with Alliance information: learn about our history, our programs, the Harvest Supper, Holly Fair, Holiday Tea and much more. There will be no October Pot Luck Supper this year.

***SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL HARVEST SUPPER.  
EVERYONE IS INVITED!***

**November 12, Saturday HARVEST SUPPER**

6:00 PM social 6:30 PM dinner

Dinner will be served by Betsy as in the past.

Back again this year The Baystatesmen (barbershop) will entertain us.

**December 3, Saturday HOLLY FAIR**

9:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Parish House

Please see Janet Hurwitz, Judy Barrington, or other Alliance board members.

Trading post items can be brought to stage auditorium or speak with Beppy Martin Plan to help the week preceding the Fair, during the day or evening, and/or at the Fair. There are lots of opportunities, donate favorite baked or "canned" items, things to sell both at the gift table, in our Trading Post, for Books and Music section, Toys and greens table. There will be special treasures room, plus continental breakfast and a luncheon. This is a great way to get to know people if you are new to church or renew acquaintances by helping and having fun together. Mark the date and bring your family and friends.

**December 12, Sunday HOLIDAY TEA moved to February 12, 2006**

**ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBERS 2005-2006**

CO-PRESIDENTS: Janet Hurwitz and Judy Barrington

TREASURER: Jenny Chamberlin

SECRETARIES: Corresponding: Carol Dixon-Hutton Recording: Mel Chaplin

BOARD: Pam Aist, Susan Sennott, Sue White