

News from Meeting House Hill

The Dover Church

"Building Christian Community"

January 27, 2011

To the Church of Jesus Christ in Dover,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I wonder how many of you practice a spiritual discipline? "What's a spiritual discipline?" you might ask. It's anything you do regularly and consistently which helps you open to the grace of God in your life. That's my own definition, so I hope I didn't leave out something important.

One of things I love to do, and have not had the opportunity to do much of at The Dover Church outside of Sunday morning worship, is spiritual formation. Another big term....help people reflect on the grace in their lives and learn ways to move into it rather than resist it. This month I wanted to offer all of you a relatively painless invitation into a spiritual discipline: Living the Word.

It's really quite simple. Tuesday-Friday morning you will receive from me via e-mail a verse or phrase from the Bible. Something like "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" (Psalm 23) or "What do you want me to do for you?" (Jesus to Zacheus). I will include the citation so you can consult your own Bible for further information. And then, you will memorize the verse by repeating it to yourself throughout the day as a mantra. Sound too simple? perhaps even childish? Maybe even medieval? I can assure you that the Word of God will begin to work on you in ways that will open you to the grace. There is not one faith tradition I am aware of that does not see memorizing sacred scripture as foundational and transformational. Believe me, this little practice has changed my life. It is rarely a quick fix and usually takes some time, but over the months and years you practice this discipline you will notice subtle and sometimes remarkable changes in your life.

Your mission, should you to choose to accept...(couldn't resist that!) is to send me an e-mail at max@thedoverchurch.org, and I will put you on an anonymous mailing list. This will be your own private chapel. I am feel certain that once a lot of us are praying the same Word daily, the grace of God will become inescapably tangible and powerful here in our church.

In faith, hope, and love,
Max - Your Pastor

THE DOVER CHURCH • P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030 • Tel/fax: 508-785-0957 • info@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org

Rev. Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, Senior Pastor <max@thedoverchurch.org>

Rev. Ingrid J. Barrett, Interim Associate Pastor <ingrid@thedoverchurch.org>

LOOKING AHEAD

January 28

Confirmation Retreat

Weekend

February 13

Haiti Presentation during

Worship

March 6

Lenten Fat Sunday Brunch

*See inside calendar for more
details)*

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

**THE DOVER CHURCH
SPRING AUCTION**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2011
KRAFT HALL**

**6:00 pm Cocktails/ Silent Auction
8:00 pm Dinner/ Live Auction**

**Questions? Call Kim Cone at
785-3039 or
email**

Kimberly_cone@comcast.net



Christian Education Director

Rev. Ingrid Barrett



Sunday School

There is regular Sunday School this Sunday for all age groups. Children will attend the first part of worship and then leave for class. During the first 15 minutes of the Sunday School time the children in 3rd grade and younger will meet with McGregor McGehee to learn a song for our special Sunday lenten service on March 6th.

February Sunday School Schedule

- February 2nd - Children's Chapel for 3rd grade and younger who will go directly to chapel at 9:30am. From there they will then go to regular Sunday School. The 4th and 5th grade class and 6th, 7th and 8th grade class will attend the first part of worship and then go to Sunday School as usual.
- February 13th - Regular Sunday School for 3rd grade and younger. Grades 4-8 will stay in church for the entire service to hear the Haiti presentation.
- February 20th - No regular Sunday School. Kids in Mission for all children attending church.
- February 27th - No regular Sunday School. Kids in Mission for all children attending church.

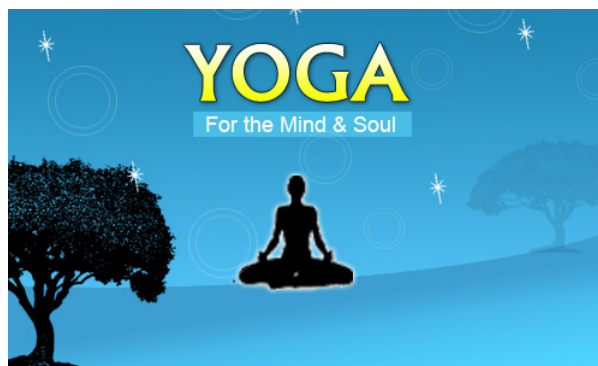
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Christmas Pageant 2010



Photos courtesy of Jim Alpers

Ease into Winter's Wisdom – Yoga at the Dover Church



Max and I are organizing a 4-week Yoga Class at the church for anyone who is interested. We will meet from 9 to 10:30 am on Wednesday January 26th, February 2nd, 9th, and 16th. The cost will be \$58 for the four dates: drop in fee is \$17.00 if you can only make one or two sessions. If you are interested, please send a check, payable to Donna Sherman, to the church office. Please mark your envelope "ATTN: Yoga Class." If this trial class is successful, we will look into scheduling additional sessions. If you would like additional information about the classes, please pick up a flyer in the church office or talk to me. We have space for 15 in this first session.

Beth Benjamin – Moderator

Instructor: Donna K. Sherman, RYT500, is a 500 hour (formal training) Registered Yoga Teacher, certified by the Kripalu Center for yoga and health, Lenox, MA. She feels privileged to have additional training with Rama Berch (Svaroopa yoga), Judith Lasater (Restorative and Hatha yoga) and other accomplished practitioners. She studied three years with Mukunda Stiles, author of *Structural Yoga Therapy*. She has been on staff at the Gold's Gym and YMCA for many years, as well as offering classes at her own studio and others' homes and organizations. Donna guarantees you a welcoming and safe experience.

Thursday Bible Study

Bible Study continues on Thursdays at 9:00am in the church library during the month of February. However, there will be no study on February 10th. The study this winter is entitled: *Smorgasbord: Tasting Biblical Topics*.

Everyone is invited to join us Thursday mornings. For more information contact Ingrid at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

High School Youth Group

Jen Hornsby



Important High School Youth Group Date Changes:

Please note that we will be hosting senior high youth group on two different SUNDAY nights, one in February, and one in March to try and accommodate people who have evening sports and other conflicts. We will be replacing the 2/14 meeting date with SUNDAY 2/13/11 and the 3/14 meeting with SUNDAY 3/13/11. These meetings will be held **instead of** the Monday night meetings those weeks. The meeting times will be the same, 6:15 - 8:15, and we will be meeting in Kraft Hall as usual.

The Ministry of Music

Michael and Stacia Kraft

From the Music Director

THE BEST REASONS NOT TO JOIN THE CHOIR

In my 30 years of being a church musician, I have heard many people give only but a few reasons why they could not consider joining the church choir. Here they are:

- There is too much commitment required.
- The choir seems a little “clickish” (and therefore, I would feel like an uninvited guest who won’t have much fun).
- The music is difficult and I do not want to be the weak link in the group.
- I am busy on Thursday evenings.
- I can’t sing.

In response, I would say that the commitment is flexible, in terms of personal schedule and availability. You may notice some of the same people every week singing in the choir, but you may also notice that people come and go seasonally or even monthly and weekly. Basically, we like to have people who enjoy singing, come when they can and try to come to the rehearsal or two before any given Sunday service. If being a click means getting together with people you know and having fun, then yes, we are a click. It also means that we want the group to expand and have more fun with more people.

So when you come, bring a friend or family member with you and the choir will get two new singers. The music may sound difficult and occasionally it is, but we usually prepare a normal Sunday’s music in two or three rehearsals. As a newer member, you also have the advantage of singing with people who do know some of the music which makes learning it yourself much easier.



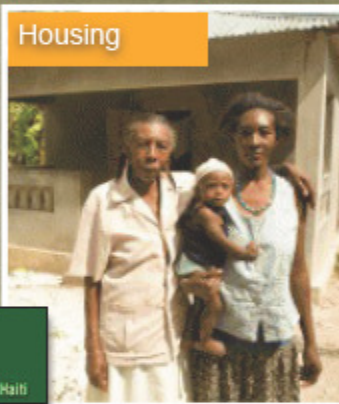
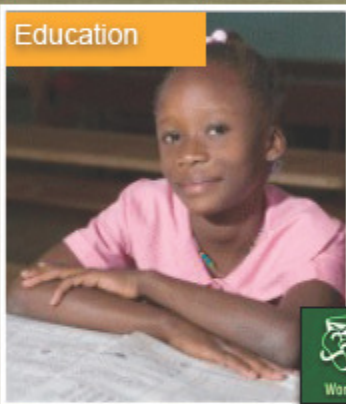
Clearing time off of your busy schedules can certainly be a challenge, but it is only an hour and a half after dinner on Thursdays and the rewards are great. “I can’t sing” is a tough one. For the most part I don’t believe it when people say it, but I guess most people really do know whether they can or not. Interestingly, some people who are currently in the choir tell me they can’t sing, but we are all working on it together and have a great time doing it.

On Sunday, April 3 we will gather as an expanded choir for the morning worship service to sing *Kleine Orgelmesse* (Little Organ Mass) of Franz Joseph Haydn. It is a simple, 15 minute composition that we can work on beginning in late February. I would like anyone who has sung in the choir, who has thought about singing in the choir, or should be singing in the choir to join us that day and for at least part of our Thursday rehearsals leading up to it. This is your chance to experience being in the choir with a short term commitment, a chance to get to know your fellow parishioners, and have fun singing beautiful and fairly simple music together in a Sunday morning worship service.

Upcoming Music at The Dover Church

February 13 Gospel music to celebrate Black History Month

March 6 Dixieland music to celebrate Transfiguration "Fat Sunday"



 St. Boniface
Haiti Foundation
Working together to bring healthcare and humanitarian aid to the poor of rural Haiti



12 MONTHS AND COUNTING... IS ANYONE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE?

The answer is YES!

Please come to our service on Sunday, February 13th at 9:30 a.m. and listen to the stories of two local organizations who are dedicated to making a real difference for the Haitian people by providing innovative health care solutions and saving lives in the process.

The Dover Church's Dr. Max Olmstead will host a discussion with Dover's own Elizabeth Sheehan, Founder and Executive Director of Containers to Clinics and Conor Shapiro, Executive Director of St. Boniface Haiti Foundation. They will provide a real-time view of the challenges on the ground in Haiti, and how they are "helping the Haitian people help themselves" by supplying materials, resources and expertise to deliver high quality and sustainable health care services.

The discussion will be followed by a Question and Answer session in Kraft Hall at 10:45.

All are welcome!

For more information on these organizations please click:

www.thedoverchurch.org www.containers2clinics.org www.haitihealth.org

Contact: Dr. Maxwell Olmstead, The Dover Church, 17 Springdale Ave. Dover, MA 02030 • 508-785-0967

February 2011

THE DOVER CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG	2 9:00am Al Anon 12:00pm Dolphin Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Choir	4	5
6 9:30am Worship and Children's Chapel and Sun- day School 10:30 CE Meet- ing	7 8:30am Fox Hill Garden Club 1:00 pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	8 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm 3th & 4th grade 7:30 pm Meeting Night	9 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 9:00 am NO Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Choir	11	12
13 Haiti presen- tation 9:30am Worship and Sunday School	14 Valen- tine's Day 1:00 pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	15 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG 7:30pm Dea- cons Meeting	16 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 9:00 am Bible Study 12:15pm Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Adult Choir	18	19
20 School Vaca- tion Week 9:30am Worship Kids in Mission	21 Washing- ton's Birth- day Church Of- fice closed 1:00 pm Al Anon	22 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm NO 3th & 4th grade 7:30pm Council	23 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Choir	25	26
27 9:30am Worship Kids in Mission	28 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG					

March 2011

THE DOVER CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:00am and 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG	2 9:00am Al Anon 12:00 Dolphin Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 9:00 am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir	4	5
6 Fat Sunday Brunch 9:30am Worship Sunday School 5:30 pm Confirma- tion class	7 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	8 9:00am and 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm 4th & 5th grade youth group 7:30pm	9 Ash Wednesday Beginning of Lent 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 9:00 am Bible Study 4:00pm Boston As- semblies 7:30pm Adult Choir	11	12
13 Daylight Sav- ings First Sunday in Lent 9:30am Worship Sunday School	14 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	15 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG 7:30pm	16 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 9:00 am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir	18	19
20 9:30am Worship Sunday School	21 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	22 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm 4th & 5th grade youth group 7:30pm Church	23 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 9:00 am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir	25	26
27 IHN Hosting Week 9:30am Worship Sunday School	28 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	29 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm NO MSYG	30 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 9:00 am Bible Study 4:00pm Boston As- semblies 7:30pm Adult Choir		

The Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch's next meeting will be on Thursday, February 17th at 12:15pm in Kraft Hall for a "bring your own" lunch.

We will be preparing fleece blankets for the children to assemble as their Kids in Mission project in February. These blankets will be given to two Dover seniors and six dormitory living areas at the Walker School for children. We are also going to make two blankets to be auctioned off at our 250th Anniversary celebration in April.

Come join us for fun, learning, service and friendship. For more information contact Ingrid at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

250th Anniversary Celebration

This is the last week that we will still be collecting your memories!

Please contact Elizabeth Rosa, Bill Barrett or Pam Wassmann for a Memory Book form if you would still like to contribute.

The newsletter of The Dover Church is published bi-weekly. Deadline for all submissions is Wednesday at noon. Please email all submissions to Joan Whalen in the church office at admin@thedoverchurch.org We welcome your news.

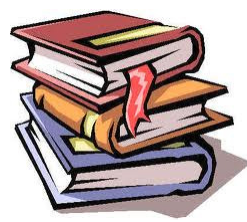
Book Group

I have just finished reading The Faith Club written by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner; a Muslim, a Christian and a Jew. These three women intentionally got together and formed the Faith Club to talk about their religions and spirituality. It was a meaningful and insightful read for me – a book I would love to discuss with others.

I am interested in getting a Book Group going at the church to talk about such books. There are great spiritual books out there, wanting and waiting to be discussed.

If you are interested in being part of a Dover Church Book Group please contact me at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

Ingrid



Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network Fundraiser

Several members of the Dover Church will be participating in the walkathon on Feb 5th at Wellesley College to raise funds for IHN. The overall goal of the walk is to raise 40K. Please sponsor our walkers by visiting our webpage and pledging. Even better join our team and walk with us!

<http://mihnwalkathon.mihnwalk.dojiggy.com/DoverChurch>

Social Concerns

Do you want to play a vital role in the Mission of the Dover Church?

Four times a year our church hosts guests through the Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network. Our guests stay with us for a week and volunteers from our church and from the Church of the Most Precious Blood serve meals, share in fellowship, set up bedrooms and clean up afterwards, to name the prime volunteer opportunities. I have found this an enormously enriching experience and know that many others who have participated share my enthusiasm.

Are you gifted at administration? Arranging volunteering rosters? Managing schedules? Connecting with participants and potential participants? Keeping on top of lists? We are looking for one person to manage our four weeks during the year. We have all of our past experience and favored procedures to share with you, so you will not be starting from scratch. We have gifted partners from Most Precious Blood who will be very helpful.

If you would like to lead one of the core missions of our church and feel you have the necessary skill set, please contact Max Olmstead at 508-785-0957 or max@thedoverchurch.org. You will interview with Max and one of the people who have been managing IHN at our church. If you are chosen, you will have the enormous satisfaction of facilitating the vitality of this important ministry and enabling your church friends to share in this great opportunity to grow in faith. Pray on it and give me a call.

Peace,
Max

**Office Hours for
Max Olmstead**

Tuesday 1:00 – 4:00pm
Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00pm
Thursday 9:00 – Noon

Or by appointment

Fellowship Hour Hosts

February

February 6 - Meredith Birdsall
 February 13 - Melissa Gilbert & Louise Crane
 February 20 - Pidcock Family
 February 27 - Linda and Jim Means

Deacon on Duty and Acolytes

February

Deacons
 February 6 – Elizabeth Rosa
 February 13 –
 February 20 – Amanda Dickerson
 February 27 - Anna Whiting

Acolytes
 February 6 – Brian Thompson & Kelvin Donoghue
 February 13 – Stephen Cone and John Kraft
 February 20 – Ilsa Kraft & Thomas MacWilliams
 February 27 - Emily Melville & Dana Rice

From the Moderator

Beth Benjamin

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting last week. As we move towards our 250th anniversary, it is wonderful to reflect on what has gone on before us in the church's history. It is also important to remember that we are the church right now at this point in its history. How you participate and get involved in the church then becomes who and what we are today.

Included in this newsletter is a sheet which lists some but not all of the activities which go on in the church (see page 11). If you were unable to attend annual meeting and/or have not completed this sheet, please complete it now.

Tell us how you want to participate in the church.

You can either return your form to the church office or email it to Beth@benjaminfamily.org

Thank you - *Beth Benjamin, moderator*

Arizona Work Camp 2010 High School Youth Group



From the Asst. Treasurer's Office

Anne Carter

Thank you to all those who made a pledge to the church for the 2011 budget. The 169 pledges totaled \$357,038. The Trustees were able to present a balanced budget to the congregational meeting on January 23rd.

If you are interested in numbers, in 2010 we had 176 donors pledging \$312,405; in 2009 we had 167 donors pledging \$282,935 and in 2008 we had 185 donors pledging \$364,163.

If you would like weekly contribution envelopes, please let Anne Carter know.

Donation statements for 2010 have been mailed—if you did not receive one, please contact Anne Carter at 508-785-0957.

Spring Auction Update

We are off to a good start with donations for the spring auction. So far, we have RED SOX TICKETS, BRUINS TICKETS, COOKING LESSONS, FRENCH DINNER, LOBSTER DINNER, WINE BASKETS and an OFF-SHORE FISHING DAY.

Need an idea for your donation?? Handmade items, vacation homes, dinner parties, dog walking, golf outings, bridge club playing, gardening lessons, luncheons, tutoring, boating, tennis court time, pool parties, are just a few. Auction Committee members will be available each Sunday in Kraft Hall to collect prize solicitation forms or e-mail Nancy Goodall at nggodall@comcast.net or Marie-Laure Grillet at mlgrillet@hotmail.com

The Dover Church
January 2011 Annual Meeting

As a congregational church, we are the church at this time in this place.

Please let us know how you would like to participate in our church community. Put a check mark next to the activities you are interested in participating in. There is space to add additional activities if we have forgotten something.

Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

I would like to:

- ___ usher on a Sunday morning
- ___ greet members on a Sunday morning
- ___ read the scripture in church on a Sunday morning
- ___ play my instrument _____ in a special band in church
- ___ sing in the choir regularly
- ___ sing in the choir on special occasions
- ___ provide flowers for the alter
- ___ provide coffee hour refreshments on a Sunday
- ___ help with Rally Day in September
- ___ teach Sunday school for one term
- ___ help with the Christmas pageant
- ___ help with Children's Sunday
- ___ help with Children in Missions projects
- ___ participate in the Ladies' Lunch Bunch projects
- ___ help with IHN during our hosting weeks
- ___ participate in a church service day
- ___ participate in a wider church service project
- ___ participate in our visitation ministries (visiting shut-ins, writing cards, etc.)
- ___ help with our fall/spring church yard clean-up
- ___ help with other House & Grounds projects
- ___ help when we have funerals or weddings
- ___ help with our youth groups
- ___ help to make Stewardship calls
- ___ help with personnel issues (staff reviews, etc.)
- ___ help with financial issues (investment of endowment, etc.)
- ___ help with fellowship activities
- ___ Other: _____
- ___ Other: _____
- ___ Other: _____

Confirmation Meetings

Sunday, February 13 @ 5:30 pm

Sunday, March 6 @ 5:30 pm

Sunday, April 3 @ 10:45 am

Sunday, April 10 @ 10:45 am

April 29 & 30 Mission Retreat

Sunday, May 8 @ 10:45 am

Sunday, May 15 @ 10:45 am

Sunday, May 22 @ 10:45 am

Sunday, June 5 Confirmation



THE DOVER CHURCH

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