

News from Meeting House Hill

The Dover Church

"Building Christian Community"

March 10, 2011

To The Church in Dover,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Our Lenten journey has begun. My discipline this year is fasting. I fast from food from sunrise to sunset on Wednesdays. I am also refraining from certain foods which I eat and drink too much of, not to deny myself the simple pleasure, but rather to see what life is like without these props. And finally, I am fasting from mindlessly wasting my time, specifically aimlessly surfing the internet and television. I am looking forward to see what happens with all that precious time.

There is, however, one Lenten discipline which I am attracted to, but which circumstances presently keep me from starting. This came to me out of the exact situation I find myself in this Lent. What is that?

I am overweight. I do not do enough cardio-vascular exercise, the #1 contributor to a long and healthy life, along with diet and happy relationships. That's one side of my precise circumstances.

The other side has to do with the environment. I really am seriously concerned about global warming and environmental degradation. I know that this is like the bogey man for a lot of people. It's just so far in the distant future. Each of our individual contributions seems so minimal. The really big contributors to the problem seem to be beyond our ability to influence them, let alone the government's will to control them. Yet, there it is. I really love the natural world and would very much like our sons to have something like what I have known and loved to enjoy.

Add to that the rising price of gas. I actually only use our car to drive Lucas to daycare in Medfield and to get groceries. We obviously use the car for other driving, but that 10 mile radius of Medfield and Needham really is the extent of my primary gas consumption.

I am thinking about putting away my car and doing everything I need to do on a daily basis with my bicycle. I have looked into bike trailers and they cost about the same as three tanks of gas these days, maybe only two tanks by the 4th of July the way we are going. Right now there is still too much ice and sand for my comfort, but soon you may well see me doing my soul work on my bike. You see, spiritual life should not be disconnected from active life. If you are living shalom, wholeness, the two will always be interwoven.

In faith, hope, and love,

Max - Your Pastor

LOOKING AHEAD

March 13

Daylight Savings

Time Begins

1st Sunday in Lent

March 27

IHN Hosting Week Begins

April 3

One Great Hour of Sharing

'Kleine Orgelmesse'

during Worship

April 17

Palm Sunday

April 22

Good Friday

April 24

Easter Sunday

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

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



Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network March 27 - April 3 Hosting Week

Our support congregation Most Precious Blood Church will be coordinating our upcoming IHN hosting week. Volunteers are needed for:

- Set-up on Sunday March 27 (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm)
- Each day we need overnight hosts, breakfast servers, dinner cooks, and dinner hosts.
- We also need shopping for supplies for the week with a last-minute list.
- Breakdown on Sunday April 3 (7:00 am - 8:00 am)
- Laundry (towels and bed linens)

Please contact Donna Angelico directly if you would like to volunteer.

Home: (508) 785-9938
 Cell: (508) 801-3655
 Email: dmangelico2@verizon.net

Thank you -- we could not do this without your commitment and dedication!

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Christian Education Director Rev. Ingrid Barrett

Sunday School

This Sunday there is regular Sunday School for all grades. The children will leave for class after the first part of worship.



Ingrid

“The Big Pile”

Fasting and Almsgiving are spiritual disciplines of Lent. This year the Dover Church encourages every-



one to practice this discipline by creating “The Big Pile”. The following is how we are asking each family to pitch into “The Big Pile.”

- To Fast, put aside each day one food item or \$1.00
- Families with children ask them to select a food item
- Collect these items in a place in your home where you can watch the pile grow
- If you have been putting aside \$1.00 each day, go to the grocery store before Palm Sunday and buy \$40.00 worth of non-perishable food items

On Palm Sunday bring all your food items to Sunday morning worship.

“The Big Pile” of foods will be donated to a local food pantries such as *A Place to Turn*.

Let us all practice the spiritual disciplines of Fasting and Almsgiving this Lent by pitching into the “The Big Pile” so we will truly have a big pile of food to donate to our local food pantry.

The Ministry of Music

Michael and Stacia Kraft

On Sunday morning, April 3 we will gather as an expanded choir, with organ and two violins, for the 9:30 worship service to sing *Kleine Orgelmesse* (Little Organ Mass) of Franz Joseph Haydn. It is a simple, 15 minute composition that we will begin to work on next week. 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.

Michael

Thanks from Max and Ingrid

Thanks to everyone who made our Transfiguration Worship Service and Fat Sunday brunch such a great moment in our congregational life. So many people pitched in big and small ways, that it is easy to have missed someone's presence or contribution. Yet, without everyone's participation, our time together with God and each other would have been much less.

Starting in worship, as is only theologically proper, thanks to Michael, Stacia and the band, Mike, Stewart, Jim, Bob, Madeline and Jeff, for the music; The Melville's, Kip, Dave, Emily and Hannah, for greeting and ushering; the Deacons, Pam, Barry, Barbara and Anna, for serving Communion; Ingrid for her children's message about "The Big Pile"; and Pam for reading our scripture lesson for the morning.

The brunch was both delicious and good fellowship. Thanks to those on the Christian Education team and Deacons who helped make it such a success: Dawn Fattore, George Whiting, May Jane Law, Jim MacDonald, Dexter Donham, Barbara Baker, Anna Whiting, Lisa Procter, Pam Wassmann, Elizabeth Rosa, Linda and Bob Petit, Jane Moore, Beth Benjamin, and Karl Johnson who cooked all those pancakes.

Being church is first about gathering around our God in praise and worship, and then being the sum total of all the individual gifts and efforts which go into doing Church.
Thanks, Max and Ingrid

Thanks from Elizabeth and Bob Rosa

TO: All the wonderful people of the Dover Church -Especially the Board of Deacons, the Bible Study group and the Visitation Committee.

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your concern, support and prayers during Bob's recent illness. The telephone calls, emails, greeting cards, notes - the hand delivered orchid plant from the Deacons and the delicious comfort food were extraordinarily heart -warming and generous.

Bob and I tangibly felt the warmth, care and love each time you reached out to us - it was amazing and awesome. What a blessing you all are. This is truly what The Dover Church is all about. Thank you all for being there - It helped both of us enormously.

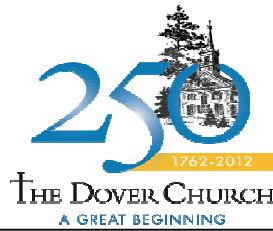
God Bless,

Elizabeth and Bob Rosa

Office Hours for Max Olmstead

Tuesday 12:30 – 4:00pm
Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00pm
Thursday 9:00 – Noon

Or by appointment



Don't forget.....April 30th is the date of our Auction!

Book the sitter early,

Read up on new vs. old world wines,

Dust off your checkbook or get the cash out from under the
mattress,

Leave your blackberries and apples at home, we'll provide dessert

Invitations arriving soon!!!!!!

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