

News from Meeting House Hill

The Dover Church

"Building Christian Community"

March 24, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 6

To the church of Christ in Dover:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

It sounds funny to say it this way, but I have been having a good Lent. By good, I mean spiritually fruitful. The disciplines which I have vowed to observe are all well along and bearing fruit for reflection. Just to remind you what I am up to, I am 1) fasting completely from certain foods and drinks which I have a tendency to over-indulge in or to use as boredom/comfort food; 2) water only fasting on Wednesdays from sunrise to sunset; 3) doing yoga at the church every Wednesday morning at 9 AM (please feel free to drop in and join this great spirit-body exercise; 4) gathering Centering Prayer every Tuesday morning at 9 AM, and on Tuesday nights which have meetings at 7 PM in the Meetinghouse; 5) leading contemplative Evening Prayer of Thursdays at 7 PM, also in the meetinghouse. It sounds like a lot perhaps, but it all helping me focus and center on God's grace in my life. Sunday morning worship has been a disappointment, as attendance has been very light, so it is hard for me to feel as if we are making headway as a congregation. Other than that, it is has been rich. As is usual for me, the day-long fasting has interesting physical results. I feel both energized and cleansed. It doesn't sound all that pleasant, but I even have a little head ache on Wednesdays as my body works out the toxins. Wonder which ones I ought to be cutting out all together when this is said and done?

In my last article, I wrote about another discipline that was starting to really get a hold on my heart and mind: parking my car in the garage and living on my bicycle. You might remember that this was a way of linking my environmental concerns with my desire for better physical health. Last week, with the lovely Spring weather, I went out and bought an aluminum bike trailer. The good news is that the trailer, which is a real beaut (the boys and I took it out for a test drive on Sunday) only cost the equivalent of four tanks of gas based upon my last fill-up. The bad news is that it snowed on Monday and it is cold again. It's funny how these things go, but you cannot force spiritual disciplines. They are supposed to be disciplines, which means "work, effort, challenge," but they are also supposed to be relevant to where you really are in your life. Maybe next week the weather will improve! How's your Lent going? In faith, hope, and love, *Max- your pastor*

LOOKING AHEAD

March 27

IHN Hosting Week begins

April 3

**One Great Hour of Sharing
"Klein Orgelmesse"
during Worship**

April 17

Palm Sunday

April 22

Good Friday

April 23

Easter Vigil

April 24

Easter Sunday

(See inside calendar for more details)

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

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Christian Education Director
Rev. Ingrid Barrett

Sunday School



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

April Sunday School Schedule

The spring teaching session begins ~

April 3rd - Children's Chapel at 9:30am for grades 3 and younger followed by Sunday School.

Regular Sunday School for grades 4 and higher.

April 10th - Regular Sunday School for all grades

April 17th - Palm Sunday with "Kids in Mission" for all children who attend church

April 24th - Easter Sunday - No Sunday School
All children are invited to attend either the 9:00am or 11:00am Easter worship service with their family.

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"The Big Pile"



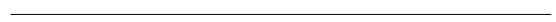
Fasting and Alms-giving are spiritual disciplines of Lent. This year the Dover Church encourages everyone to practice this discipline by creating "The Big Pile". The following is how we are asking each family to pitch into "The Big Pile."

- 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.



Transfiguration Sunday



High School Youth Group

Jen Hornsby



HSYG would like to announce its annual carwash fundraiser. The carwash will be held on Saturday, April 2 from 9-3 in the upper parking lot. Please stop by for some spring cleaning and to support our trip to West Virginia!

We will also be holding a bake sale on Sunday, April 10th during fellowship hour immediately following the service. You can find youth groupers and baked goods in Kraft Hall. During this time you can also sign up to spiritually support the youth group on their trip through the Prayer Partners program. If you would like to participate in the Prayer Partners program but will not be at church on April 10th, please email me at jen@thedoverchurch.org and I will make sure you are matched with a workcamp participant.

Jen

The Ministry of Music

Michael and Stacia Kraft

From the Music Director

A LITTLE BIT OF VIENNA AT THE DOVER CHURCH

If the English musician and writer, Charles Burney, were to visit Dover on Sunday, April 3, he might be as impressed with the town of Dover's church music as he was with the city of Vienna's in 1772. He was quoted as saying "There is scarce a church in Vienna, which has not every Sunday it's mass in music: that is, a great portion of the church service of the day, set in parts, and performed with voices, accompanied by at least three or four violins besides the organ." Franz Joseph Haydn wrote some of his first music for these hectic Sunday mornings at the age of seventeen. By the time of Beethoven and Schubert, church music had been relegated to the periphery of Austrian musical life. In our small town of Dover, with the absence of concert halls and opera houses, the musical life and culture is indeed centered in the churches.

Please come to our Lenten Communion Service with Haydn Mass for chorus, organ and strings on Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. While we do not celebrate mass in the liturgical form, the text and music of Haydn's "Small Organ Mass" are artistic expressions of our faith and beliefs. The 20 minute work will be heard immediately before the sacrament of Communion on that morning. The receiving of Holy Communion is open to anyone. In fact, many ministers often use the liturgical saying, "Christ invites to His table all that earnestly repent of their sins and seek to live in peace with one another."



From the Moderator

Hello everyone! We are moving ever closer to the start of our 250th year. We have a fabulous event coming up on April 30th. I know that our auction committee has put a lot of time and effort to ensure this will be a truly special evening. I hope all of you will join us.

Bill Barrett, Pam Wassermann and Elizabeth Rosa have been collecting memories from current members. They will be putting together a memory book for our celebration. I hope each of you will take a minute to share your special remembrances with them.

I have also had several members of the church approach me to express an interest in doing research into our church's history. It is time to get started on this part of our celebration planning. I would like to invite everyone who is interested in helping with this aspect of our 250th celebration to meet with me after church on Sunday, March 27, 2011 at 11:15 pm. If you are unable to attend, please let me know so that I make sure to include you in our plans.

I look forward to seeing each of you in church,

Beth

Upcoming Music at The Dover Church

Sunday, April 3 at 9:30 am – Chorus, strings and organ perform Haydn's "Little Organ Mass."

Friday, April 22 at 7 pm – Excerpts from Bach "St. John Passion" for Good Friday.



JAPAN RELIEF FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Sunday, March 27, 2011 ~ 7-10 PM
Roslindale Congregational Church
25 Cummins Highway, Roslindale, MA

Roslindale Congregational Church, Neal Braverman of Roslindale Open Mike, Satoru Nakagawa of his blues band "Tokyo Tramps", and Junko Ogawa are putting together a benefit concert for the recent earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan. There will be about 30 local artists performing one song (three minute maximum) each for the cause.



Free admission donations will be requested. All proceeds will go to United Church of Christ /Pacific Earthquake-Tsunami.

All are invited to this benefit concert. Food brought in to share as well as your donation are much appreciated.

For parking information, visit www.roslindaleopenmike.org. For more information, contact Junko at Junkosings@gmail.com or Neal at neal@roslindaleopenmike.org.

April 2011

THE DOVER CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 HSYG Car Wash Fundraiser
3 One Great Hour of Sharing Service 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 10:45 Confirmation 10:45 CE Meeting	4 1:00 pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	5 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG	6 9:00am Al Anon 12:00pm Dolphin 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Adult Choir	8	9
10 9:30am Worship and Sunday School 10:45am Confirmation HSYG Bake Sale	11 1:00 pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	12 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm 4th & 5th Grade 6:00pm Noanett Garden Club 7:30pm Meeting Night	13 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Adult Choir	15	16 HSYG Work Camp begins
17 School Vacation Week Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship and Sunday School	18 1:00 pm Al Anon	19 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm NO MSYG 7:30pm Deacons Meeting	20 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 Maundy Thursday 9:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Lenten Service 7:30pm Adult Choir	22 Good Friday  GOOD FRIDAY	23 7:00pm Easter Vigil
24 Easter Sunday 6:00am Sunrise 9:00am Service 11:00am Service 9:30am Worship	25 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	26 9:00am Centering Prayer 3:15pm 4th & 5th Grade Youth Group	27 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28 Auction set up begins 7:30pm Adult Choir	29 Confirmation Retreat	30 6:00pm Spring Auction 

May 2011

THE DOVER CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30am Worship Service and Children's Chapel	2 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	3 9:00am and 7:00 pm Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG	4 9:00am Al Anon 12:00 Dolphin Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	5 7:30pm Adult Choir	6	7
8 Mother's Day 9:30am Worship Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation class	9 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	10 9:00am and 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm 4th & 5th grade youth group 7:30pm Meeting Night	11 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	12 7:30pm Adult Choir	13 HSYG Retreat	14
15 Work Camp Sunday 9:30am Worship Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation class	16 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	17 9:00am Centering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG 7:30pm Deacons meeting	18 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	19 7:30pm Adult Choir	20	21
22 9:30am Worship Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation class	23 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	24 9:00am Centering Prayer 3:15 pm 4th & 5th grade youth group 1	25 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	26 7:30pm Adult Choir	27	28
29 IHN Hosting Week begins 9:30am Worship Sunday School	30 Memorial Day Church Office closed 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	31 9:00am Centering Prayer 3:15 pm NO MSYG				

The Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch's next meeting will be Thursday, April 14th at 12:15pm in Kraft Hall for a "bring your own" lunch. We will be making crosses out of palms for our congregation on Palm Sunday. Join the Lunch Bunch - come for fun, learning, service and friendship. For more information contact Ingrid at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

Special Offering

On Sunday, April 3, we will be receiving a special offering for disaster relief in Japan. 100% of this offering will go to Japan through the United Church of Christ's One Great Hour of Sharing. This is possible because of the mission partnerships the larger church has established in Japan. The need is great and your gift can make a difference.

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Newsflash from Beth Benjamin -
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Last Night, Church Council gave Max and I its approval to identify members for our nominating committee. Max and I plan to bring the members' names to our April council meeting for approval. These individuals will work to identify and propose to council the slate of members to fill upcoming board and committee positions for January 2012. This slate will then be voted on at our annual meeting. If you would like to know more about the nominating committee, please speak to me.

Recent Events at The Dover Church



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

Planning Your Funeral

One of the most important church services in your life will be your funeral. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to plan his or her funeral with me to come, sit down, and talk.

There is so much that goes into a funeral: the music, the readings, the prayers, the participants, the flowers, the question of bequests, the eulogy, the general theme, etc. I always find funeral planning much more meaningful if I am able to speak with the person whose life we will be celebrating rather than to leave it for grieving family members to try to figure out what you would have wanted.



You do not need to be facing this service in the very near future to want to begin planning with me. You can also change your plans at any time. I will keep your plans in a confidential file for future ministers, should you outlive me or need them unexpectedly when I am on vacation and your family does not want to wait for my return. If you would like some sort of worksheet to begin gathering your thoughts, that can be arranged. This is ultimately a conversation about your life, which is infinitely important to our God and the church where you have lived your life.

Max

Office Hours for Max Olmstead
Tuesday 1:00 – 2:30pm
Wednesday 9:00 – 4:00pm
Thursday 9:00 – Noon

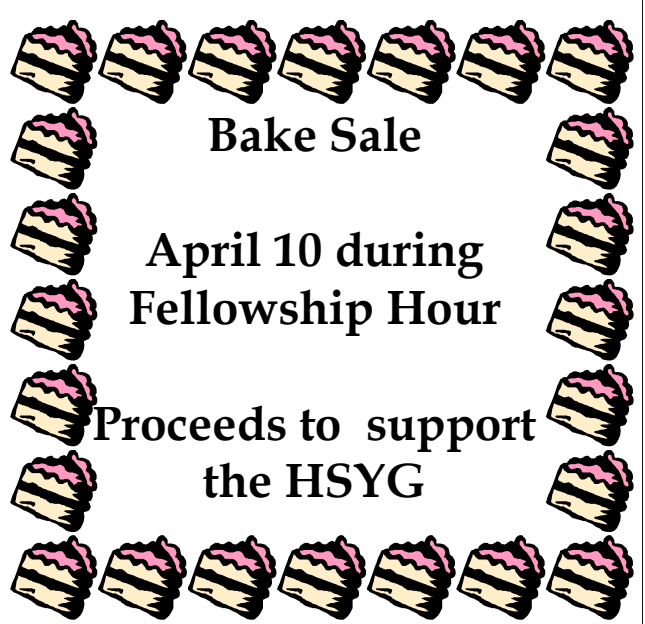
Or by appointment

Fellowship Hour Hosts

April
April 3 – Dexter Donham & Joan Seamster
April 10 – Ken and Joan King
April 17 – The Fougères
April 24 – No Coffee Hour

Deacon on Duty

April Deacon/s on Duty
April 3 – Dexter Donham
April 10 – Barry Fougere
April 17 – Elizabeth Rosa & Anna Whiting
April 21 – All Deacons to Attend
April 22 – Dexter Donham
April 24 (9:00am) - Bob Pettit
April 24 (11:00am) -


Bake Sale
April 10 during Fellowship Hour
Proceeds to support the HSYG



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!!!!!!

Social Concerns

Saving the Earth Ministry

Last month, I offered an ecological perspective on the food we eat. This month's installment of the Environmental Stewardship Ministry comes to you from the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ's (of which we are a part) daily tip for a Lenten Fast from carbon. Every day I receive something new via e-mail to think about and try out in my life. I would like to share two with you that should be particularly appealing to thrifty New Englanders. You can help save Creation and save money at the same time. Neither are new ideas. For those of you who remember the first Oil Crisis on the 1970s, you'll remember the government advising Americans to do both of these as a way to decrease our dependence on foreign oil. While winter is almost over, think about trying the following advice out in your home...we practice this in the church during the week!

Put on a sweater and turn down your thermostat to 65° - 68° when people are home and active and 55° - 58° at night as well as when no one is home. In warm climates, raise your air-conditioner thermostat 4° or up one setting. Home heating and air-conditioning are responsible for a large portion of our carbon footprint.

Your hot water heater represents about 20-30% of the carbon emissions of your home, the biggest user of energy in your house. Consider setting your hot water thermostat to 120 degrees F. Insulate your hot water tank with an insulation jacket if available for your system. Arrange for your boiler to be serviced so it runs more efficiently. When you next replace your boiler, get a condensing boiler - they use less fuel than conventional boilers to produce the same amount of heat and can save 32% on fuel bills.

Max

It's that time of year again!

Please plan to join members and friends of The Dover Church on Saturday April 9, 2011 as we offer our service to **The Food Project (www.thefoodproject.org)**.

The Food Project's mission is to bring together youth and adults from diverse backgrounds to work together to build a sustainable food system. We will be serving together at the West Cottage Street urban fields in Dorchester. The Food Project's early season work consists mostly of preparing the raised beds for planting later in the spring. In addition to our service, we'll all learn more about the value and challenges of sustainable agriculture, especially in an urban environment.

This is a really fun and interesting service project for adults and children of all ages. All that volunteers need to bring along is a pair of gardening gloves and sturdy shoes - the Food Project supplies everything else. Volunteers should plan to meet at Kraft Hall between 7:15 am - 7:45 am. We will return by 1:00 pm. This service project will be led by Mike Donoghue. Lunch will be provided. The sign-up sheet will be found on the bulletin board in Kraft Hall.

Confirmation Meetings

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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