



News from Meeting House Hill

The Dover Church

"Building Christian Community"

June 9, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 11

To The Church in Dover,

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

The past few weeks have been enormously rich for me as your pastor. I have been blessed to be intensely part of the two sides of Christian ministry: the ministry of presence and the ministry of service.

Last Sunday, we celebrated the Baptism and Confirmation of nine 8th graders and it was a joyous morning. When I thought of the six months we spent together, getting to know one another, learning, questioning, sharing, praying, reflecting; when I thought of the lifetime which brought these young people to kneel on our altar that morning, of the love of parents, godparents, grandparents, family, friends, our church, which was so clear in our celebration; when I thought of my own confirmation 35 years ago and the long path which brought me to ordination and to being called as your pastor; when I thought of the 2000 years of Christian tradition and millennia of Jewish tradition before that into which these young people were diving...well, it was moving. More importantly, I could see it on the confirmands' faces, on the faces of those who came forward to lay hands of blessing on them, on the faces of everyone in the congregation as we prayed for and welcomed them. This is the ministry of presence, of being here on this hilltop in this town at this time as the Church of Jesus Christ, proclaiming God's love for all creation and the path of life on which we follow Jesus...this is important stuff, life changing, world changing stuff which we should never take for granted.

Two weeks before that, I was in Haiti with Dave Melville and Jim MacDonald, seeing the reality of catastrophe, poverty, famine and pestilence lived out in the lives of so many people, and praying about how we might be Christ's hands and hearts in this place. Many people, while praising us for our gumption, also expressed cynical pessimism. Why bother? It's such a mess, always has been, always will be. I went to rise above that pessimism, to live into the Resurrection of hope and new life. I am confident that we have our feet on some path of God's guiding. When we leave our familiar world, step outside ourselves, and kneel at the feet of a someone who needs us kneeling there, God's grace just blows us away....the ministry of service. You can see a video on our website (www.thedoverchurch.org) and read a reflection at max-olm.blogspot.com. In faith, hope, and love, **Max** - Your Pastor

LOOKING AHEAD

June 12

Pentecost Sunday

Children's Sunday

Workcamp Slide Show

June 19

Father's Day

June 26

Summer Worship

Begins

at 9:00am

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>



Christian Education Director

Rev. Ingrid Barrett

Children's Sunday

June 12, 2011

Everyone is invited to Children's Sunday this Sunday, June 12th to celebrate our Sunday School and our children. It has been a year rich with learning and fun. We have much to be thankful for -

- ◆ Class banners will decorate the sanctuary.
- ◆ Children will help lead worship.
- ◆ 3rd Graders will receive their Bibles.
- ◆ Sunday School teachers will be recognized for their outstanding teaching, wonderful creativity and special love for our children.
- ◆ There will be special treats for the children after the service.

Please join us for this end of the year Sunday School celebration

Ingrid



In this issue:

News from Max	p1
Christian Education.....	p2
Thinking of Others	p2
Emilia's Ordination.....	p3
Thank You's	p3
Lacrosse Drive.....	p3

Thinking of Others This Summer

The Lunch Bunch is holding a donation drive for *A Place To Turn* this summer. As they have told us, *A Place To Turn* runs low on inventory during the summer months but the need is still just as great.



We have a collection theme for each month:

June: baby items - diapers, wipes, baby food

July: canned vegetables - any canned vegetables, any size

August: school snacks - snack packs of potato chips, popcorn, etc and juice boxes.

There will be a box just inside the office wing by the choir room for you to put your donations. You can bring your donations to church on Sunday or drop them off during the week during office hours. If you wish to bring other food donations like cereals, jelly or pasta, you most certainly may.

The ladies of the Lunch Bunch thank you for taking the time to think of others during the summer months.

Welcome to our new Associate Pastor, Emilia Halstead!!

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.

THE DOVER CHURCH

P.O. Box 305 • Dover, MA 02030 • Tel: 508-785-0957 • Fax: 508-785-0957 • info@thedoverchurch.org

NEWS from Meeting House Hill

THE DOVER CHURCH
P.O. BOX 305
DOVER, MA 02030