

News from Meeting House Hill

The Dover Church

"Building Christian Community"

January 6, 2011

To the Church of Jesus Christ in Dover,

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

Just before Christmas, Marie-Laure and I had a wood stove installed in our living room fireplace. Heating with wood has been a long-term dream of mine, beginning way back in the first Oil Crisis of the 1970s when our nation started talking about environmental consciousness and the danger of reliance on foreign oil. When I came to Dover and learned that our church had a wood lot off Pine Street for the pastor's use dating from the early days of our church, my dream started to look not only possible, but likely.

My initial impulse towards heating with wood was one glamorizing self reliance and living locally. After our first winter in the parsonage, it was also one of habitability. The parsonage is both old and poorly insulated with exceptionally inefficient windows, which means that the downstairs front of the house was not comfortable during the colder months. Last year, we essentially closed the doors to the front living room and my study, sealing in the cold as it were, and lived upstairs and in the back of the house for the winter. I reasoned that a wood stove would allow us to enjoy our living room this winter, and I was right. It is lovely, warm and charming with a fire burning.

More important however has been the spiritual lessons I have learned in the last month of heating with wood. Between all the cutting and chopping and stacking and carrying which a wood stove requires, not to mention the fact that our wood stove is small and relatively quick burning, which means that we have to check regularly and feed it often, I have become intensely mindful of what heating our house entails in terms of human effort, material consumption, and waste disposal. When it was only a matter of going over to the thermostat and making adjustments now and then, it never really crossed my mind how much energy we were consuming to live comfortably. I never even really saw the oil bills, which went to the Trustees. Now I know exactly, so many logs an hour, so big a pile a day, moved from the woodpile in the backyard to the front steps and gradually through the front door and to the hearth as needed.

(Please turn over)

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

This Sunday

January 9

Confirmation Class

Sunday, January 23

Annual Meeting and

Presentation by the

250th Committee

following Worship

January 28

Confirmation Retreat

Weekend

(See inside calendar for more details)



Continued from p.1

Jesus taught a spirituality of mindfulness, of being aware of the world around us and how we are in the world. Our modern way of life makes it challenging for us to live mindfully when we just pull into a gas station and fill up when we're running low, or hop over to Needham for some fresh oranges in January when the craving hits, not thinking of the fossil fuels used to grow and transport those five oranges from Florida to my table. And the list goes on: lighting, clothing, recreation, everything. It's just there for people like us who have the money to buy what we want when we want it.

That little black wood stove slows me down and gets me thinking about how many trees I needed to heat my house, how many hours it took me to make them burnable, the gas for the chain saw, and so on. My lilacs are going to love the ash waste in the Spring, but what about the smoke going up the chimney right now?

I offer this as an example of mindful living. Loading wood into our stove is a spiritual exercise for me. Shopping for, preparing and eating a meal can be too. Buying clothes as well. I invite all of us to live more mindfully in God's creation. It is good for the life of the world and good for your soul.

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

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Christian Education Director

Rev. Ingrid Barrett

Regular Sunday School for the winter session begins this week. Children will go to the first part of the service and then leave for Sunday School as designated in the worship bulletin.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to our winter Sunday School teachers.

For 5th grade and younger the **Rock Solid** curriculum in January introduces the children to Bible stories known as parables. These are the stories that Jesus told to help people know what God was like. These stories used familiar images and settings to help people understand. The children will find much to learn from each story.

- ◆ The story of the two houses Jesus teaches us to have a strong faith.
- ◆ The story of the mustard seed shows us that our faith grows.
- ◆ Through the story of the unforgiving servant, we learn to forgive one another.
- ◆ The story of the lost sheep assures children that God loves us and cares for us.
- ◆ The story of the forgiving father teaches us about God's forgiveness.

The Middle School grades will continue their study in the **Generation Why** curriculum. The topic is entitled "*Maxed Out! How Old Testament Personalities Handled the Stress.*"

On Sunday January 16th which falls during a holiday weekend, there will be "**Kids in Mission**" for all children. All children who are in town are invited to join in a mission project that Sunday. I am looking for help with this project - if you wish to help, please contact me at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

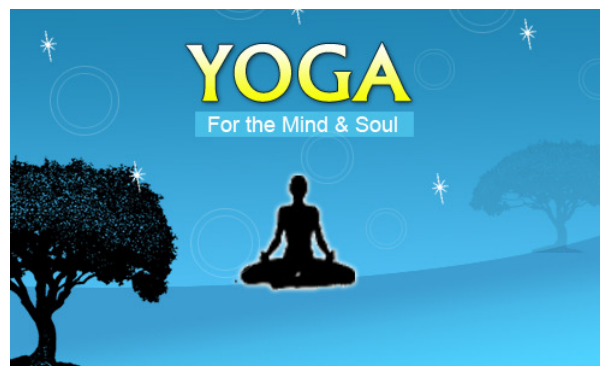
Ingrid



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 (Svaroopo 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

Thursday Bible Study will begin again on January 13th at 9:00am in the church library. We begin an interesting study entitled: Smorgasbord: Tasting Biblical Topics. Each week we will taste one or two biblical subjects by reading scriptures concerning those topics. Hopefully a lively discussion will ensue and we will learn from one another as well as our scriptures. The first two topics to be covered are "Heaven & Hell."

The topics for the week will be published the week before and scripture readings will be sent to those interested in participating. However, it will not be necessary to do those readings beforehand so anyone at any time can attend the Bible study.

Come join us Thursday mornings. For more information contact Ingrid at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes kick off **THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 9**, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm in the Church Library.


There will be 11 meetings in total, culminating in Confirmation Sunday on June 5.

If you would still like to sign up, contact Rev. Max Olmstead at max@thedoverchurch.org



January 2011

THE DOVER CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Children's Chapel	3 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	4 9:00am and 7:00 pm Cen- tering Prayer	5 9:00am Al Anon 12:00 Dolphin Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 7:30pm Adult Choir	7	8
9 Epiphany 9:30am Worship Sunday School 5:30 pm Confirma- tion Class	10 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	11 9:00am & 7:00pm Cen- tering Prayer 3:15pm 4th & 5th Grade YG 7:30pm Meet- ing Night	12 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 9:00 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Lunch Bunch 4:00pm Boston Assemblies 7:00pm Al Anon 7:30pm Adult Choir	14	15
16 9:30am Worship Kids in Mission	17 Martin Luther King Day Office clos- ed 1:00pm Al Anon	18 8:30am No- anette Garden Club 9:00am & 7:00pm Cen- tering Prayer 3:15pm MSYG	19 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 9:00 am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir	21	22
23/30 9:30am Worship Sunday School Annual Meeting	24/31 1:00pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	25 9:00am & 7:00pm Cen- tering Prayer 3:15 pm MSYG 7:30 Council	26 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 9:00 am Bible Study 7:30pm Adult Choir	28 Confirmation Weekend Retreat	29 Confirmation Weekend Retreat

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	7 8:30 am Fox Hill Garden Club 1:00 pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	8 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm MSYG 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 9:30am Worship and Sunday School	14 1:00 pm Al Anon 6:15pm HSYG	15 9:00am & 7:00pm Centering Prayer 3:15pm 4th & 5th Grade YG 7:30pm Dea- cons	16 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 9:00 am Bible Study 7:00pm Adult Choir	18	19
20 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 MSYG 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					

The Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 13th at 12:15pm in Kraft Hall for a “bring your own” lunch. At our meeting in December we began discussions on some interesting and meaningful projects and learning possibilities.

The first of these projects began with Kids in Mission making snack bags for kids at A Place To Turn. We are now looking for donations of box drinks to fill those bags. If you would like to donate to this project please bring the box drinks to the church office.

On the 13th we hope to get started on some of the other projects – as well as have fun and share holiday stories. All women are invited to join us for friendship, fun, learning and service.

For more information contact Ingrid at ingrid@thedoverchurch.org.

250th Anniversary Celebration

We are still accepting your contributions of memories.

Please contact Elizabeth Rosa, Bill Barrett or Pam Wassman for a Memory Book form.

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.

Stewardship 2011 Drive

As of January 5, we have received **\$356,288.26** from 167 pledges.

This represents **96%** of our goal of \$370,259.

Thank you!

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: **ANNUAL MEETING** :
: **Sunday, January 23 following** :
: **Worship** :
: **Following this meeting, there** :
: **will be a presentation by the** :
: **250th Committee.** :
:
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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**

Social Concerns Committee

Let it Snow!

Thanks for the success of the Giving Tree for IHN families

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank everyone who adopted gifts from the Giving Tree for the former members of the IHN network that are now resettled in homes. All the folks who received gifts were simply delighted and asked to relay their thanks to the members of The Dover Church for their generosity.

Also we were very fortunate to have a terrific response from church members to the request for emergency funds for Aloris and John's family. They were extremely grateful for the donations that enabled them to get through a tough time and buy much needed groceries, gas and medicine for the family.



The church is looking for someone who could shovel the sidewalks and steps to the lower parking lot when it snows. The sidewalks would need to be cleared before 8AM on weekdays for the Dover Nursery School and before church on Sundays. Flexibility is the key!

If you know someone who might be interested in this paid position, please contact Anne Carter at the church at 508-785-0957.

**REGISTER TODAY for Metrowest IHN's
Second Annual Walkathon!**

**Saturday, February 5, 2011 Indoors at
Wellesley College**

**Go to MIHNWALKATHON.DOJIGGY.COM
TO REGISTER**

*Thank
you*

**Office Hours for
Max Olmstead**

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

Or by appointment

**Christmas Offering for
OCWM was \$3,140 –
thank you!**

**Centering Prayer on
Tuesdays
9 AM & 7 PM**

*Max is leading a Centering Prayer
group every Tuesday at 9 AM and 7 PM
in the Meetinghouse. We begin with some
instruction and then prayer for
10-15 minutes.*

*Centering Prayer is a prayer of silence in which
we seek to move through or
beyond all of the internal noise
we listen so intently to
inside our heads.*



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NEWS from Meeting House Hill

THE DOVER CHURCH
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