

News from Meeting House Hill

The Dover Church

"Building Christian Community"

September 29, 2011

Volume 1, Issue 16

To the Church in Dover,

May grace and peace be yours in abundance, through God our Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ!

So, it's happened! The church has become so active that the Senior Pastor no longer can get room for theological reflection in the newsletter! You may think this is a good thing (the dimness of brilliance was too much for you), but so do I. I love the fact that so many people have so many ministries that they are so passionate about, and which they want to invite you to be passionate about with them! I will, therefore, use my space to make my announcements.

One of the most joyous moments in the life of our congregation is when we receive new members into our faith and fellowship. This year, this joyous day will be Sunday, December 4. If you or someone you know is interested in entering into our covenant with us (aka, "joining"), please let me know. I offer three gatherings after worship in the Church Library to orient people seeking membership. This year, these gatherings will be October 30, November 6 and 13. In these gatherings, we will get to know one another, talk about The Dover Church (who and what and how we are), Congregationalism (the Christian tradition which we follow), the United Church of Christ (the national denomination to which we belong), basic Christian beliefs (why we're here), and what membership entails at the Dover Church. Scheduling is always difficult, so please speak with Max (508-785-0957, max@thedoverchurch.org) sooner rather than later so we can begin planning.

Save The Date: Sunday October 30 - We Celebrate All Saints. We take this Sunday to remember our loved ones who have passed away by lighting candles. There is always special music. This year we are thinking about a gospel and bluesy feel.

And finally, I am leading two "going deeper" offerings this year for folks who want to explore their faith. The first is called "Putting Together Your Spiritual Toolbox." There have been many announcements about this so I will spare the details. The first meeting is October 4, either 10:30 AM or 7:30 PM. I am calling the second offering "What's on Your Heart?"

cont. on p.2

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. Emilia Halstead, Associate Pastor <emilia@thedoverchurch.org>

LOOKING AHEAD

October 2

World Communion Sunday

October 4

**Putting Together Your
Spiritual Toolbox Begins**

October 6

Family Handbell Choir Begins

October 9

Baptism Sunday

October 16

**Congregational Budget
Meeting/**

Deacon Hosted Luncheon

October 19

What's On Your Heart? Begins

October 22 & 22

Youth Group Retreat

October 30

All Saints Day

(See inside calendar for more details)

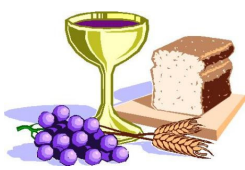


Associate Pastor

Rev. Emilia Halstead

Greetings!

It has been a wonderful past couple of weeks in Sunday school, working with our gifted teachers and gracious volunteers! The past two Sundays we have been working with the Communion Stations curriculum. It has been a delight to watch the learning and excitement that have been flowing in tandem as the children, Pre-K through 8th grade, have been expanding their understanding of the celebration of The Last Supper. Hanging on the walls this Sunday, Oct 2nd you will see some of the colorful and rich projects all of the children have been working on. In addition, the bread that we will all share together in Communion was made by the Pre-K through 3rd graders.



The bread making process was led by Mrs. Amy Barnett. The bread is completely gluten-free, and those who are preparing Communion this week are following close protocol to make sure all serving pieces are free of gluten traces.

Next week (October 9th) we have our first Kids in Mission project! I am looking for some energetic volunteers to help lead the project so that our teachers may have a chance to be in worship. Our project will be making large colorful cards for those who have graduated from the HSYG and are currently in college or on another life adventure. We are trying to compile a comprehensive list of all those young adults. If your child, or someone you

know, is in college, etc., please send us their current mailing address!

God Bless,
Rev. Emilia

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Max – cont. from p.1

This is going to be a drop in group where I will teach and lead discussion on a topic of your choosing. The first session, Wednesday, October 19, at 9 AM or 7 PM, will be “Finding or Holding Your Center in the Storm of Your Life.” The second session, November 16, will be “Simplifying Your Life,” just to give an idea of the sorts of things we will work with.

Peace,
Max – Your Pastor


**Congregational Meeting
and Luncheon**
**Sunday, October 16 following
Worship**
To be voted on are the proposed
Budgets for the 2012 Committees
and Church Operating Budgets.
This will be followed by a
luncheon hosted by the Deacons.
Please join us.


*The newsletter of
The Dover Church is published monthly. 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.*

From the Music Director

Michael Kraft

A NEW HYMNAL: THE DOVER CHURCH HYMNAL

For years there has been talk of acquiring a new hymnal to replace our Pilgrim Hymnal, published in 1958. In the past, that idea has created much angst and emotional upheaval, not so much over the concept but over the alternatives that were available and considered. The New Century Hymnal which became the common replacement in many UCC churches created quite a divide in opinions concerning our hymnody, especially with regard to the unnecessary altering of familiar texts that were originally written with poetic grace, which many proponents of the NCH described as outdated English which our children would not relate to or understand. Well, there are now many hymnals available, both good and bad, and the music leadership of the church has chosen a hymnal called "Hymns of Truth and Light" as one that would fit our church and community quite well. At the moment, the plan is to have this in our pews for our 250th anniversary service in November 2012.

"Hymns of Truth & Light"

What began as a simple idea, born in the frustration of not finding an existing hymnal that met enough of our needs, soon grew to a project of considerable proportions. We started by choosing a pool of 800 hymns and 150 responses based on suggestions from the entire congregation. Many of the newer selections in this pool had demonstrated their appeal and 'staying power' during the past ten years. Next, a Hymn Selection Committee representing diverse congregational backgrounds sang and rated each of the hymns, selecting more than 500 for inclusion here. Because half of our membership comes from a denomination other than Congregational or UCC, the hymnal choices reflect many religious traditions. Initially our effort was to be a one-time only printing, just for our congregation. But word of our project spread and, by press-time, we were joined by four other churches, all UCC-affiliated.

*Since the first printing, there has been an overwhelmingly positive response from other churches. Today, the churches listed below are singing from the hymnal, and the eleventh printing is targeted for delivery in January of 2012. As of April 2009, these ninety-one churches are singing from **Hymns of Truth & Light**:"*

You can get more info if you go to the website: <http://fcc-houston.org/Hymnal.htm>

As I said, there are quite a few very good non-denominational hymnals available that contain hymns with the diversity of styles that is necessary for any hymnal to be successful. It is a Congregational hymnal, and very compatible with the theology and environment of The Dover Church. Notably, it retains 207 hymns that appear in The Pilgrim Hymnal, so in many ways it will feel like a new version of an old friend. It also includes over 50 familiar hymns not found in the Pilgrim Hymnal. There are new texts set to old tunes, older American hymn tunes, world music and completely new hymns, written after 1958. These new hymns will bring new voices into our worship and help to enrich our worship experience. Regarding language, the hymnal editors took a moderate but progressive position on inclusive and expansive language. Older texts, which could be gracefully modified without corrupting the poet's theology or intent, were altered. Others were left untouched.

The one thing that made this particular hymnal stand out to me was that each church can customize an 8, 16, or 32 page supplement with hymns of their choosing. In other words, The Dover Church will, in the next few weeks, go through a process beginning with a survey of people's favorite hymns and ending with a submission of our choices to the publisher by mid-October.

On Sunday, October 2 and October 9, there will be a time after church to view other church's version of this hymnal and ask questions. There is already a copy of this hymnal at the office that you can see if you want to stop by.

I thank you for your time and interest in this endeavor and hope that you find it not only acceptable but truly an exciting opportunity that will enhance our celebrations in 2012 and ultimately serve the next generations of The Dover Church.

Michael

October 2011

THE DOVER CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Old Home Day UCC Super Saturday
2 World Communion Sunday 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:30am Confirmation Class 6:00pm HSYG	3 1:00 pm Al Anon	4 9:00am Centering Prayer 10:30am Spiritual Toolbox 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Spiritual Toolbox	5 7:30am DSHS Peer Helping 9:00am Al Anon 12:00pm The Dolphin Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 9:00am Yoga at The Dover Church 7:00pm Family Handbell Choir 7:30pm Choir Practice	7	8
9 Baptism Sunday 9:30am Worship Service & Kids in Mission	10 Columbus Day Church Office Closed 1:00 pm Al Anon	11 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Meeting Night	12 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 9:00am Yoga at The Dover Church 6:30pm MSYG 7:30pm Choir Practice	14 1:00pm Men's Lunch Group	15
16 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:00am Congregational Meeting / Deacon Luncheon	17 1:00 pm Al Anon	18 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Deacon's Meeting	19 9:00am Al Anon 9:00am What's On Your Heart? 9:00am What's On Your Heart? 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 7:00pm Family Handbell Choir 7:30pm Choir Practice	21 Youth Group Retreat	22 Youth Group Retreat
23 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:30am Confirmation	24 1:00pm Al Anon	25 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Council Meeting	26 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	27 4:00pm Boston Assemblies 6:30pm MSYG 7:30pm Choir Practice	28	29
30 All Saints IHN Week Begins 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:30am New Member's Class 6:00pm HSYG	31 IHN Week 1:00pm Al Anon					

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 IHN Week 9:00am Centering Prayer 10:30am Spiritual Toolbox 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Spiritual Toolbox	2 IHN Week 9:00am Al Anon 12:00pm The Dolphin Group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 IHN Week 7:00pm Family Handbell 7:30pm Choir Practice	4 IHN Week	5 IHN Week
6 Daylight Savings Time ends IHN Week ends 9:00am Family Worship 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:30am New Member's Class 6:00pm HSYG	7 1:00pm Al Anon	8 Election Day 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Meeting Night	9 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 4:00pm Boston Assemblies 6:30pm MSYG 7:30pm Choir Practice	11 Veteran's Day Church Office Closed 1:00pm Men's Friday Lunch Group TBD	12 8:00am CDC Pancake Breakfast
13 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 11:30am New Member's Class 6:00pm HSYG	14 1:00pm Al Anon	15 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Deacon's Meeting	16 9:00am Al Anon 9:00am What's On Your Heart? 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm What's On Your Heart?	17 4:00pm Boston Assemblies 7:00pm Family Handbell 7:30pm Choir Practice	18	19 Confirmation Retreat at Grotonwood
20 Agape Sunday 9:30am Worship Service & Sunday School 6:00pm HSYG	21 1:00pm Al Anon	22 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Council Meeting	23 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 Thanksgiving	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:30am Worship Kids in Mission	28 1:00pm Al Anon	29 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer	30 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts			

Operation American Soldier

"Thank you to all who have contributed packages of beef jerky and tuna in pouch containers for Operation American Soldier's early October cheer package ship date. For those who have not yet done so, we are helping OAS collect these items through this coming Sunday, October 2nd. Help us support this worthy cause by bringing your donations to the collection box outside the music room. Our service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan thank you!"



Francesca Wier

Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network

The Metrowest IHN is "a cooperative, interfaith partnership offering hope to homeless families with children: through safe transitional shelter, meals, and supportive case management as they seek permanent housing." The Dover Church is one of several metrowest area host churches in this vibrant and meaningful interdenominational effort to address the severe family homelessness crisis in Massachusetts.

The next MIHN hosting week at the Dover Church will be Sunday Oct. 30 - Sunday Nov 6. During this week we will provide dinner, overnight housing in the Kraft Hall Sunday School rooms, breakfast and hospitality to Metrowest homeless families participating at that time in the MIHN network.

We do this in collaboration with our support congregation, Most Precious Blood Church, and we also hope to secure volunteers from St. Dunstan's Church and Grace Church.

The Social Concerns Committee is currently seeking volunteers for the following hosting week coordinator roles:

> Weekly Coordinator: Has oversight of the hosting week and promotes awareness of MIHN volunteer opportunities.

> Volunteer Coordinator: Recruits and coordinates volunteer assignments.

> Dinner Coordinator: Works with dinner volunteers to ensure variety and food needs of our guests.

> Daily Coordinators: Responsible for opening up Kraft Hall at 5:00 pm each hosting day, greeting our MIHN guests as they arrive from day center in Natick, and welcoming dinner volunteers.

If you are interested in one or more of these coordinator roles, please contact Peggy Cross by October 5th at peggy.cross@regiscollege.edu or (781) 768-8356.

Please watch for upcoming announcements about other ways you can volunteer for the upcoming hosting week!

West Suburban Community Network

The West Suburban Community Network (CHNA 18), a coalition of public, non-profit, and private organizations supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health are conducting a Community Health Assessment in the towns of Brookline, Dedham, Dover, Newton, Needham, Waltham, Weston, Westwood and Wellesley. We would like to speak with you about Dover and how you view the overall health of this community.

The conversation will take approximately 20 minutes of your time. Your responses will provide us with essential insight into the issues that are important to both you and the community so that CHNA 18 can direct its future programs and funding activities in an informed manner. CHNA 18 is dedicated to improving the health of all our communities.

Please let us know if you are willing to support the CHNA 18 needs assessment by allowing us to conduct an interview with you. Send an e-mail or call Elizabeth Theriault at the Regional Center for Healthy Communities at (617) -455- 5219 or etheriault@healthier-communities.org.

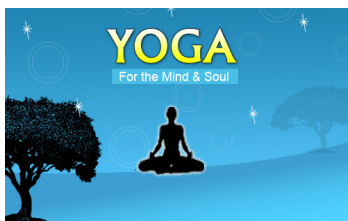
The Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch will meet next on Thursday, October 13th at 12:15pm at the church for a “bring your own” lunch. Come join us as we continue our planning for the fall which includes possible speakers, donations and hands on projects. All women are invited to attend. For more information contact Ingrid Barrett at ijbarrett@comcast.net

Yoga at The Dover Church

Through SAFE stretching, postures and breath awareness, you will mobilize your joints, strengthen and open your back and spine, relax neck and shoulders, tone virtually every muscle in your body, revitalize your energy, and refresh your spirit.



Dates: Thursday, four weeks: Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6 and 13.

Just \$58 for the session. Drop in: \$17

All are welcomed. Bring mat (most discount stores now carry). Dress comfortably in layers.

To reserve your space, please send check for \$58 payable to Donna K. Sherman

TO: The Dover Church, Attn: Yoga., P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030

Questions? Please call instructor, 508-660-1664

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 (Svaroopaa yoga), Judith Lasater (Restorative and Hatha yoga) and other accomplished practitioners. She studied three years with Mukunda Stiles, author of *Structural Yoga Therapy*. Donna has over 3000 hours' teaching experience. 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 other homes and organizations. She has taught at Sunset Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 2008 and 2009. Donna guarantees you will enjoy a welcoming and safe experience.

Sunday Fellowship



- October 2 Jan Scott/Linda Pettit
- October 9 Peggy Cross
- October 16 Luncheon hosted by the Deacons
- October 23 Donoghue Family
- October 30 Cone Family

Deacon on Duty



- October 2 Lisa Proctor
- October 9 Pam Wassmann
- October 16 Barry Fougere
- October 23 Lisa Proctor
- October 30 Lee Graham

Ushers



- October 2 Peter Wier/Stephen Cone
- October 9 Bill Barrett
- October 16 Mike and Cathy Thompson
- October 23 Roger and Nancy Mackay
- October 30 Dave and Kip Melville

Readers



- October 2 Stephen Cone
- October 9 Bill Barrett
- October 16 Mike Thompson
- October 23 Roger Mackay
- October 30 Dave Melville

Youth Group upcoming Dates & Events

Middle School: Our next gatherings are Sept 29th and October 14th.

High School: Our next gatherings are Oct 2nd and October 16th.



HSYG ***FALL RETREAT*** is Friday, October 21st through Saturday, October 22nd. We will leave from the Dover Church at 5:30pm and return to the church at 9:00pm. Permission slips can be found in the church office, or contact Rev. Emilia and she will e-mail one to you! We will be staying at the Edwards House Retreat Center of the UCC Massachusetts Conference, in Framingham.

*****PLEASE NOTE*****

4/5 Grade youth group is taking a *different scheduling* track, to accommodate the schedules and availability of those families. Rather than the first and third Tuesday afternoon of each month, the 4/5 youth group will be meeting once a semester at a date and time to be determined by Rev. Emilia with the input of the youth group families. Please e-mail Emilia with questions or suggestions for date/time.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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