

# News from Meeting House Hill

**The Dover Church**

*"Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"*

**June 14, 2012**

Volume 3, Issue 7

To The Dover Church Members and Friends:

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ!

The other day I came across this story in a fantastic book of daily reflections, *The Book of Awakenings: Having the Life You Want By Being Present to the Life You Have*, by Mark Nepo. It goes like this:

"There's an old story about a young man who's freezing on the side of the road in Alaska. He's hitching a ride to Miami. He's so cold he can barely hold up his handmade sign. After a long wait, a friendly trucker stops and says, 'I'm not going to Miami, but I'm going as far as Fort Lauderdale.'

Dejectedly, the young man says, 'Oh,' and turns the ride down."

This story may be a myth, a folk tale, an urban legend, a joke, but I know it is a true story for so many of us. How many of us refuse our real lives under the guise of holding out for the right thing? How often do we turn down the path presented like a gift because it's not exactly what we're dreaming of? And more to the point from my point of view as your pastor, how often do we refuse to step forward into a more vibrant relationship with the living God, because it just doesn't fit in with our plans, our schedules, our existing priorities, the plans, schedules, priorities and opinions of people whom we love and who we want to be loved and respected by? Is it just inertia? Depression? Lack of interest?

I don't honestly know the answer to any of these questions for anyone but myself. But I do know that you're not going to get to Miami any quicker if you turn down the ride to Lauderdale and stand there beside the ALCAN highway.

Summer is usually a quieter time of relaxation, renewal and reflection for me. I pray that it is for you too. Nine months of worship with sermons, hymns, anthems, prayers and fellowship have passed since last summer. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who went out and sowed seeds." I pray that your summer is a time of quiet relaxation, reflection and renewal, and that, in that fertile soil, some seed planted in you this year at The Dover Church sprouts and begins to bear fruit.

Returning to the metaphor of the hitchhiker, the paradox and irony is that, unfortunately, you cannot possibly begin to imagine how good the destination is until you start actually living how good the journey is.

Have a safe and happy summer.

With faith, hope and love,

Max—your pastor

## LOOKING AHEAD

**June 17**

**Father's Day**

**Summer Worship begins  
at 9:00am**

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Rev. Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, Senior Pastor <[max@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:max@thedoverchurch.org)>

Rev. Emilia Halstead, Associate Pastor <[emilia@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:emilia@thedoverchurch.org)>



## Associate Pastor Rev. Emilia Halstead

I returned from my 10 day whirlwind tour of the mid-west on June 13<sup>th</sup>! I was sad to have missed both Confirmation and Children’s Sunday, big celebratory days in the life of our church. However, I bring you warm greetings from First Congregational UCC in Berea, Ohio as well as from Mr. Adam & Mrs. Jaclyn Seale, and Mr. Michael & Mrs. Angelynn Adams, with their deepest thanks for allowing me to join them together into newly wedded bliss.

I would like to thank you all again for an amazing year of learning, growing, and celebration. I look forward to getting to know you all better in the months and years ahead. One of my goals for the current year is to get to know each individual member of our community better – and I need your help to do it! I would love to get together with families or individuals over a meal or a cup of coffee, either at your home, or some place you love to go. I will be here during much of the summer, so please feel free to give me a call or send me an e-mail and let’s set up a time to get together. In the words of Anna, from *The King and I*, I am “getting to know you, getting to know all about you.”

Summer Blessings,

Rev. Emilia

**In this issue:**

- News from Max.....p1
- Emilia’s Update .....p2
- OWL Program .....p2
- Needham Community Garden p2
- From the Moderator .....p3
- Congregational Quilt.....p3
- Dover Mass Lending Team .... p3
- Confirmation 2012.....insert
- Church Directory..... insert

## OWL (Human Sexuality) Teachers Needed

From September through November 2012, the OWL program will be held at the Pilgrim Church in Sherborn. We have been working in cooperation with the Pilgrim Church on this important and beneficial class for 8<sup>th</sup> graders for many years. Part of this collaboration is the balance of an equal amount of teachers from both The Dover Church and the Pilgrim Church. We need both male and female teachers, as there needs to be one person of each gender leading the individual small groups.

Corey Lincoln at the Pilgrim Church is the coordinator this year and her e-mail is [ce@pilgrimsherborn.org](mailto:ce@pilgrimsherborn.org). Corey is happy to answer any questions about the program and what it means to be teacher in the program. We are looking for teachers of all ages, ranging from 21 years old to 101! Please contact Rev. Emilia at [emelia@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:emelia@thedoverchurch.org) or call 508-785-0957.

Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **Attention all Children and** \*  
\* **Youth (and families)!** \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\* This summer I have the honor of keeping a \*  
\* garden plot in the Needham Community \*  
\* Garden. I don’t know about you but I nev- \*  
\* er ceased to be amazed by the power of a \*  
\* new life growing out of the ground! \*  
\* Are you interested in helping me to tend, \*  
\* weed, water and care for the plot? Then \*  
\* give me a call in the office 508-785-0957, \*  
\* and we can set up a time to work together! \*  
\* P.S. There is ice cream not far away... I \*  
\* will be donating half of what grows to A \*  
\* Place to Turn, the emergency food pantry \*  
\* in Natick. Emilia \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## From the Moderator

The grounds in Taylor Garden and around the church building look wonderful. I want to thank Jeanne Lukenda and Betty Brady for their hard work in getting the new plantings designed and installed. We are so fortunate these two talented women have shared their love of gardening and garden design with the church.

I am working with Barbara Baker to organize our ushers and readers for Fall 2012 through Spring 2013. I will be sending out letters to many of you asking that you commit to ushering on one Sunday during the next year. The preamble of our Church's Mission Statement declares that 'we welcome, in Christ's name, all those who wish to worship with us.' As an Usher and Greeter, you are able to make that "welcome" especially warm and tangible. We would like to invite as many members and family as possible to participate. I hope that you will say yes when asked to usher.

Beth

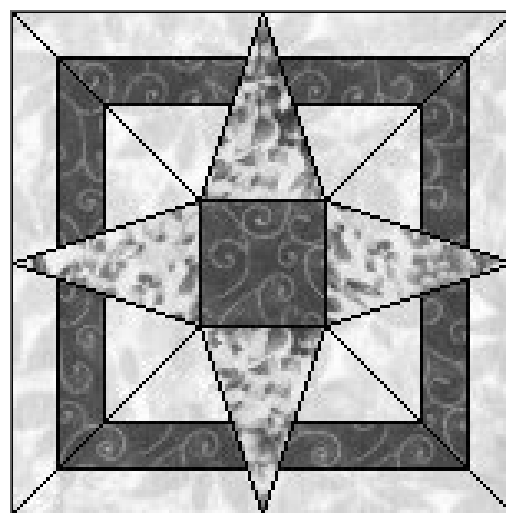
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## Congregational Quilt

As part of our 250<sup>th</sup> celebration, we are planning on making a congregational quilt in the fall. Kay Guild has agreed to lend us her quilting expertise, and I am looking for some volunteers to work with her to help get this project organized.

If you would be willing to help on the 250<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Quilt project, please let me know. I can be reached either by phone, 508-785-2696 or email, [beth@benjaminfamily.org](mailto:beth@benjaminfamily.org). Thank you for volunteering to help!

Beth



## The Dover Mass Lending Team



We have formed a micro-financing team, making loans to people in the developing world in \$25 amounts. To date, **17** people have joined with a total of **\$1,775** in loans made to **52 individuals** in places like Peru, Mongolia, Sudan, Jordan, Armenia and El Salvador.

Visit our team page and join us: [http://www.kiva.org/team/dover\\_mass\\_team](http://www.kiva.org/team/dover_mass_team)



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