



# News from Meeting House Hill

**The Dover Church**

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

**November 29, 2012**

Volume 3, Issue 12

To the Church of Jesus Christ in Dover:

Grace and Peace be yours in abundance from God our Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This Sunday we begin Advent, a season of expectation and waiting. As we walk towards the darkest day of the year we wait for the coming of Christ, with expectations for new light shining into our lives. Our church life lives out this expectation and waiting with a series of Sunday worship services that rekindle our hopes in special ways. We begin Advent by lighting our Advent wreath, receiving new members and celebrating communion together. On Second Advent, we sing many of our beloved Advent hymns and hear the promises of the prophets. On Third Advent, we watch our children play out the Nativity in their Christmas Pageant. On Fourth Advent, we have our Lessons and Carols. We will also have a Blue Christmas (see below). And then, it is Christmas Eve! We hope you take the time to share in these celebrations.

**A Blue Christmas – Sunday, December 23 at 7 PM**—Christmas is a time of great joy and expectation for many people. For many others, however, it is not. Christmas can be a bittersweet time of facing loss and changed circumstances, a somber period of retrospection, remembering better times with loved ones who are no longer present. All of the joy and holiday hoopla are incompatible with the thoughts these people are really thinking and what they are really feeling. We would like to offer an honest Christmas to all of these people who struggle with getting into "the holiday spirit."

For two decades or more, churches around our country have recognized this and held "A Blue Christmas." This year we will celebrate it on Sunday, December 23, at 7PM. At this darkest time of the year, we will gather in candlelight around our Christmas story and many of the familiar carols. Rather than insist that everyone be joyous and expectant, we will go to a contemplative place that is open to ambivalence, sadness and doubt. Our faith teaches us that God with us, Emmanuel, meets us where we are, in the dark stables, on the lonely roads far from home and loved ones, in unfamiliar and unwelcoming presents where we long for the comfort of the past. We invite all of you who are in these places this year to join us, that together we may greet the Christ child who welcomes us once again. Your pastor, Max

## LOOKING AHEAD

### Special December Services

**December 2**  
**First Advent &  
Reception of New  
Members**

**December 16**  
**Christmas Pageant**

**December 23**  
**Lessons & Carols  
Blue Christmas**

**December 24**  
**Family Christmas Eve Service  
Candlelight Service  
Communion Service**

*(See inside calendar for more details. This calendar receives many updates after publication. The most up-to-date calendar is the electronic one on the church website [www.thedoverchurch.org](http://www.thedoverchurch.org)).*

**THE DOVER CHURCH** • P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030 • Tel/fax: 508-785-0957 • [info@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:info@thedoverchurch.org) • [www.thedoverchurch.org](http://www.thedoverchurch.org)

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)>





# Christmas Pageant

## Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Schedule

Sunday, **December 2nd** from 11:15--11:45pm

The following people are called to rehearse with Sarah Hefter: Emily Rosecrans, Aiveen Pidcock, Aiden Johnson, and Ben Dennison. The following people are called for singing rehearsal with Christopher Keene: Laurel Barnett, Leo Olmstead, and Linnea Whiting.



Sunday, **December 9th** from 11:15--11:45pm

The following people are called to rehearsal: Laurel Barnett, Leo Olmstead, Linnea Whiting, Mercy McGehee, Bethany Peterson, and Izzy Taylor.

Saturday, **December 15th** from 4:30-6pm - **DRESS REHEARSAL** - ALL CALL for CAST

We invite ALL children (not yet cast in the pageant) to join us during the dress rehearsal to participate as an angel, shepherd, or animal! Questions? Please call Rev. Emilia at 508-785-0957.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT 73% OF GOAL of \$392,511

Have you made your pledge for 2013 to help continue the many wonderful things that are happening at the church? If not, the stewardship committee will be calling you to ask for your support. Please add your name to the list of **103** other pledging units who care about The Dover Church.

As of November 27<sup>th</sup>, we have received pledges totaling \$261,396. Of this, \$25,265 is eligible for our matching gift challenge making a total so far of **\$286,661**. **Our matching gift challenge is \$30,000** so let's take full opportunity of this generous offer made by several of our members. Does your company have a **matching gift** program? If so, please remember the church. Have you considered **donating stocks** to the church? There are many tax advantages to doing this. Please speak with Anne Carter.

December 2nd during Worship

## Reception of New Members

Please join us as we welcome our new members. Coffee and cake will be served in Kraft Hall following Worship.

## New Office Hours for Max Olmstead

Tuesday 11:00 – 3:00pm  
or by appointment  
Cell Phone: 508-982-0422

*The newsletter of  
The Dover Church is published monthly. Deadline for  
all submissions is **Monday at noon prior to publi-  
cation**. Please email all submissions to Joan Whalen  
in the church office at [admin@thedoverchurch.org](mailto:admin@thedoverchurch.org)  
We welcome your news.*

# December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Police Breakfast
2 <b>1st Advent Reception of New Members</b> 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service & Sunday School 11:00am Advent Workshop 11:15am Pageant rehearsal 11:30am Confirmation class 5:30pm NO Worship 6:15pm HSYG Food Drive	3 1:00pm Al Anon	4 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer	5 9:00am Al Anon 12:00pm The Dolphin Group 1:00pm 4th & 5th grade youth group 7:00pm Boy Scouts	6 4:00pm Boston Assemblies 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	7 12:00pm Caring and Grieving	8 8:00am DMA Pancake Breakfast
9 <b>Family Promise Week Begins</b> 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service 10:00am Class presentation 11:15am Pageant rehearsal 5:30pm NO Worship	10 1:00pm Al Anon	11 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Trustee's Meeting 7:30pm Deacon's Meeting	12 9:00am Al Anon 12:15pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	13 6:30pm MSYG 7:00pm Choir	14 1:00pm Men's Lunch Group	15 11:00am Memorial Service 4:30pm Pageant dress rehearsal
16 <b>Christmas Pageant</b> 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service 11:30am Art Reception	17 1:00pm Al Anon	18 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer	19 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	20 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	21 Winter recess	22
23 <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service 7:00pm <b>Blue Christmas</b>	24 1:00pm Al Anon 4:00pm Family Service 7:00pm Candlelight Service 11:00pm Communion Service	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed	28 Church office closed	29 _____ 30 8:30am Choir 10:00am Service 5:30pm NO Worship/ HSYG _____ 31 Church office closed

# January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <b>New Year's Day</b>	2 9:00am Al Anon 12:15pm Dolphin Group 5:30pm Art Night 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	4 12:00pm Caring and Grieving	5
6 Epiphany 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service & Sunday School 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation class	7 1:00pm Al Anon	8 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Trustee's Meeting	9 9:00am Al Anon 12:15pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 4:00pm Boston Assemblies 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	11 1:00pm Men's Friday Lunch Group	12
13 Cutter baptism 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service & Sunday School 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation class	14 1:00pm Al Anon	15 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Deacons meeting	16 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 12:15pm The Lunch Bunch 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service & Sunday School 5:30pm Worship	<b>21 Martin Luther King Day</b> Office closed 1:00pm Al Anon	22 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer 7:30pm Council Meeting	23 9:00am Al Anon 12:15pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 6:30pm Middle School Youth Group 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	25 High school youth group retreat	26 High school youth group retreat
<b>27 Annual Meeting &amp; Brunch</b> 8:30am Choir 9:00am K-12 Chorale 10:00am Service & Sunday School 5:30pm NO Worship	28 1:00pm Al Anon	29 9:00am Centering Prayer 7:00pm Centering Prayer	30 9:00am Al Anon 7:00pm Boy Scouts	31 7:00pm Choir		



## Volunteers Needed for Family Promise!

During the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>, The Dover Church will be hosting homeless families in need through our affiliation with Metrowest Family Promise. The organization is a not-for-profit affiliation of faith communities committed to offering shelter, food and support to families in transition who are committed to finding their way to independence. They work with the staff to find employment and transitional housing to support themselves. While in the program, the participating faith communities in our area provide shelter, meals and fellowship to help them on their way and most importantly, to keep families together in the process.

**We need your help!** There are many ways to volunteer and support the mission! We are looking for volunteers to cook a meal, join the families for dinner as a host, serve breakfast or become an overnight chaperone. Hosts and chaperones need to attend an introductory training session if they have not already done so.

**Please volunteer!** If you would like to join our team and help these families in need, please contact Donna Angelico to volunteer. Donna can be reached at 508-785-9938 or [dmangelico2@verizon.net](mailto:dmangelico2@verizon.net).

## Caring and Grieving Group

Dear Friends,

Many of us are caring for elderly parents while raising a family. Many of us are grieving mothers and fathers who have died. This is a difficult new world to live in, being a caregiver to one who raised you or an orphan. As your pastor, I have felt a growing call to offer some sort of community of support to you. I myself am in the early stages of the caring stage.

I am gathering a lunch group on the first Friday of every month, 12-1 or 1:30. We meet again on **December 7**. Bring your own lunch. We will have lunch together and allow whatever is most acute to lead our conversation. I am not an expert on this subject, but the collective wisdom of all of you, as well as the collective compassion, will prove to be a meaningful resource to all of us. Come as you are able and so moved.

Also, please invite your friends outside the Dover Church community.

Peace, Max

## Youth Groups Give Back to our Troops

On separate occasions our 4/5<sup>th</sup> and Middle School youth groups will gather in Kraft Hall to create and decorate gift boxes for members of the armed services who do not receive gifts from home this holiday season. Gift boxes will include: socks, a deck of cards, trail mix, beef jerky, hand sanitizer, a thank you post card, and letters from our youth.

**December 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30pm -- 4/5<sup>th</sup>**

**December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm - MSYG**

If you would like to support the youth in this effort, by sponsoring a box, please send a check for \$25 to Anne Carter, made out to 'The Dover Church' with a memo, "Gift Packages for Military." Thank you!!

## Caroling for the Dover Mother's Holiday Breakfast

On December 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-10:30am all 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited (with their parents) to join in leading the young families in singing secular Christmas songs (Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman, etc.)! The younger children adore the chance to spend time with the "big" kids and we hope to have many youth and parents in attendance. Please RSVP to Rev. Emilia by December 5<sup>th</sup> - Thank you!

## LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE - COME AND SING!

This year's Lessons and Carols service is on **Sunday, December 23 at 10 am**. We are starting rehearsals for that this Thursday at 7:30. The service includes the congregation's favorite carols and carols for choir, organ and brass. This is a great opportunity to sing with the choir without the long term commitment.

Speaking of that, we continue to rehearse each week at 8:30 am on Sunday mornings for the weekly service. The idea of doing that is to encourage people to come and join whenever they are in town and/or available, again, without the commitment of a week night rehearsal. Believe me, you will be greeted with open arms whenever you come!

Below is a schedule of Thursday rehearsals for Lessons and Carols.

Thursday, November 29	7:30-9 pm
Thursday, December 6	7:30-9 pm
Thursday, December 13	7:30-9 pm
Thursday, December 20	7:30-9 pm

## Kids for Timoun

(Timoun means 'kids' in Haitian Creole):

So far our Sunday school students have raised **\$65 dollars** for "Kids for Kids"! Another \$135 and our Sunday school students will have raised enough to fund a child to go to school for a year!

For those of you who have joined us in supporting educational opportunities for kids in Haiti, we thank you and your generosity of spirit! There are two ways kids can help raise money for the St. Boniface Foundation in Haiti. They can donate their money earned from Chores or Allowance between now and Christmas Day 2012 AND/OR talk with their parents about donating the money that would otherwise have been spent on a Christmas present for them.

Questions? Contact Rev. Emilia at 508-785-0957.



## Solar Project at The Dover Church

As of November 27, we have kept 1, 011 lbs. of carbon from being emitted into the atmosphere, saved 10 trees, and we have not used 53 barrels of oil.

We have saved \$59 on our electricity bills, while generating 722 kwh. And that is just 2 weeks!!!

## Special December Services at The Dover Church



<b>December 16</b>	<b>10:00am Christmas Pageant</b>
<b>December 23</b>	<b>10:00am Lessons and Carols 7:00pm Blue Christmas</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Services: 4:00pm Family Service 7:00pm Candlelight Service 11:00pm Communion Service</b>

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### THE DOVER CHURCH

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