

The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

August 27th, 2014

Volume 5, Issue 8

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church in Dover:

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Welcome back from your summers. Mine was awesome and I hope yours were too. Marie-Laure, the boys and Ella are well and we had great fun and real relaxation.

Our SHYG Workcamp trip to Fayetteville, WV, was everything I hoped it would be. We got to meet two great families, did some real good work (replaced a roof, rebuilt a bathroom, and sheet-rocked and plastered a bedroom ceiling, dug a drainage ditch, replaced a floor, and much more), got to know one another better, met some really cool youth and adult leaders from other places, and visited with two really nice UCC churches for overnight stays. We are planning a date to share our adventures with all of you and hope, if you have a teenager, you will join us as this is a life enhancing experience if there ever was one.

Wait until you see all the work done in our Meetinghouse. It is going to be beautiful and we have much to thank all the people who led and coordinated this effort on our behalf, as well as those who contributed financially. I don't know the details that well as I haven't been directly involved, but it seems to me that this project has rebuilt important parts of the Meetinghouse structure and it should be good for another 175 years. Thanks be to God.

In the area of personnel changes, we say goodbye to Christopher Keene as our Children's Music Director and occasional Senior Choir Section Leader. He brought us great joy and we thank him and wish him well.

Carrie Swayen, a Master's of Divinity Student at Boston University on ordination track in the United Church Christ, will be joining us this year as our first seminarian in many moons. Her bio will be coming in the next edition.

Maren Bucher, from Germany, will also be joining us this year as intern. Maren is studying to be a teacher of English and Theology and our church is her English language internship site.

Kelsey Calhoun, a freelance writer, has been working with me on our new Middle School Youth Group. Kelsey does all the organizational work which I, quite frankly, just don't have the time for with all

LOOKING AHEAD

**Welcome Back Sunday
September 7th
at 10:00 AM
in Kraft Hall**

**Sunday School
Begins September 7th**

**Photo Directory Pictures
September 7th,
8th and 9th**

**Reflections On
Serving Others, by
Our Senior High
Youth Group
September 14th**

See inside calendar for more details.

my other responsibilities, and then she and I lead the group. We had 30 and 20 kids respectively at our two meetings last spring and hope to really fly this Fall.

And finally (this feels very breezy as I rush through so much that has happened or is about to happen) our leadership teams (Welcome, Outreach, Worship, Social, and Spiritual Growth) are gearing up to implement the changes and programmatic additions and tweaks our Deacons learned about in last year's survey and focus group meetings. There is enormous energy and enthusiasm uncorked here at The Dover Church and a growing congregationalism which I can only praise God for. If, for some reason, you have not been asked to join in leadership and want to be by all means let Beth Benjamin or me know. We have been holding quarterly Leadership Potluck Suppers in Kraft Hall at which we both get to know each other and work on this faith and fellowship project called The Dover Church. Our next one will be September 9. Speak with us if you want a place at the table.

In faith, hope and love,

Max—your pastor

Sanctuary Project Update

We are still on schedule for the wedding on the 27th and the possible first service in the "new" Sanctuary on the 28th. We did eat up most of our calendar cushion with some additional structural work that needed to be performed but luckily the contractor had some built-in!

There is still much work to be completed but they are working in tandem to complete everything on time. We have been blessed with a wonderful team of contractors!

Bob Cocks, Dawn Fattore
and Steve Karlson, *Board of Trustees*

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From the Stewardship Team

As we get closer to our annual stewardship drive, we continue to put together profiles of members describing why they give to the Dover Church. Here's one from Lisa and Ben Procter:

Lisa grew up in a devout Italian Catholic family in Long Island, New York. Going to church on Sunday was a given. After a stack of pancakes, it was off to church. Religion and service were a big part of her faith, but except for the standard Sunday collection, the finances were a mystery. Ben also grew up as a Catholic. His grandmother converted to Catholicism after spending several years living in Rome. Shortly after the Procters moved to Dover in 1987, they were searching for a church and were invited by Bob and Judy Davis to meet members and the current minister, Tom Niblock at their home. They were looking for a church of faith, but one that had a strong sense of community and outreach. Relatively soon after joining the church they had their first child, Emily. Bill Gow and those wonderful parents encouraged them to come and surrounded them all with love.

Lisa soon joined the Christian Education committee and subsequently became its chair. Over the years she has served in many roles including Sunday school teacher, treasurer and the chair of trustees. She currently serves as a Deacon. All of these positions made her deeply connected to the church and the importance of financial support. It was during her position as Trustee that she found humility. There were the generous families that have given substantially to the church. They "GOT IT". This generation supported the Church and its mission for years. She soon realized that it was time for her generation to step to the plate. Her concluding words to the congregation at the annual meeting several years ago included a challenge to her peers to support the Church as generations have done in the past. She explained how much the Church had given her family: faith, love, community, education and last but not least that wonderful youth group experience. Her children are better people because of it.

She is saddened to think that some current members don't have the same financial commitment to stewardship of the Church as others once did. As she explains "I don't know if we are not educating members enough, but there is no mother church that is going to pay the bills, it is us". She feels good about being a part of The Dover



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The Reverend Dr. C. Maxwell Olmstead, Pastor <max@thedoverchurch.org>



Church in service and support. She made a point that we are lucky to have a wonderful and energetic minister who is working hard to build the Church. We need to support him and the efforts of the Church in our community and beyond with strong financial stewardship.

Glenn Jensen Steve Karlson
Chris Newport Lisa Procter
Tara Spalding

Church Leadership

We have a **Leadership Potluck** planned for **Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm**. If you are a member of any church board or ministry team, you are invited to attend. Beth Benjamin will be emailing details to all church leaders shortly. We hope you will join us. Please make sure to RSVP to Beth.

Our Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, September 16th at 7 pm. Our Board of Deacons will meet on Tuesday, September 23rd at 7:30 pm and Church Council will meet on Tuesday, September 30th at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming Services

Welcome Back Sunday

Please join us for Welcome Back Sunday on September 7th at 10:00 am. We are excited to gather again to kick off our fall season and to welcome back everyone. Our worship service will include music played by the "Centrestreeters". We will continue to celebrate our backyard style homecoming with bluegrass music, horseshoes, piñatas, pin-the-tail on the donkey and more! A delicious lunch will be provided by Blue Ribbon BBQ! So put a straw in your hat and we'll see you there partners!

As part of our after church events, we will have Annie Lee, a church member and professional photographer, here starting at noon to take photos for our Photo Directory. We ask that you sign up to have your photo taken by calling the church office.

Reflections on Serving Others

Join us on Sunday, September 14th at 10 am for our Work Camp Sunday. Youth and adult volunteers from our June service trip to West Virginia will share their reflections on their experiences.

Serving Others

Family Promise

We will be hosting with Family Promise in September and are looking for volunteers. Our guests will be with us from **Sunday, September 21st to Sunday, September 28th**. The Volunteer Sign-up sheet can be accessed online or in Kraft Hall. <https://sites.google.com/site/thedoverchurchfamilypromise/>

We need Overnight Hosts! As well as Cooks, Dinner Hosts and many others. Please sign up to help with this important outreach mission of The Dover Church.

If you would like to get involved in our hosting efforts and have not been through the **Family Promise Training**, there will be a training session on **Tuesday, September 16th at 7 pm** here at the church. We will meet in the music room. Please let us know if you will attend.

We give special thanks to Ruth Mallet. Ruth recently connected Laurie Allen, who heads up the Dover charity run by HS students "Backpack for Kids", with Family Promise. Laurie is a member of our support congregation, Most Precious Blood. Ruth and Laurie dropped off six backpacks with school supplies for Family Promise students currently in the system. Family Promise was thrilled with the donation.

Haiti Update

We are happy to announce the church achieved its fundraising goal of \$50,000 targeted toward the operating costs of Saint Boniface's Villa Clinic! In achieving our goal we also maximized a \$50,000 matching fund challenge put in place by Saint Boniface Board Member Jim Ansara.

These funds represent a significant contribution towards the Villa Clinic's annual operating costs. A brand new facility is scheduled to come on line this fall. We will keep everybody updated with photos and progress this fall. Thank you all for your support!

Toiletry Collection

Do you bring home the travel sized shampoos and soaps when you travel? Don't know what to do with them? Bring them to the church! We are again collecting travel sized toiletry items: soap, shampoo, conditioner, etc. These items will be donated to the Women's Lunch

For Our 8th Graders

We are partnering again with Pilgrim Church for our "*Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective*" course. (HSCP) Parents, if you are considering participation in the HSCP course, here are the three steps you must take:

Reserve a place for your student by sending his/her name and contact information to beth@thedoverchurch.org **no later than September 2nd**. We can accept no more than 12 Dover Church students this year; preference will be given first to active church families and second to friends.

At least one parent **must attend** the parent orientation on **Sunday, September 14, 6:30-8pm**, even if you have had an older child go through the program previously.

Your eighth grader **must attend** the student orientation on **Sunday, September 21, 6:30-8pm**.

Here is the complete list of dates for this program:

Parent Orientation: Sunday, September 14, 6:30-8:00pm, at Pilgrim Church

Student Orientation: Sunday, September 21, 6:30-8:00pm, at Pilgrim Church

Eight Classes: Sundays; September 28; October 5, 19, 26, November 2, 9, 16, 23; (no Columbus Day) 6:30-8:30pm; at Pilgrim Church

Fee:\$60 due before first class on September 28. Scholarships are available.

Confirmation for 8th graders will also begin later in the fall. We have registered for a Confirmation Retreat on **November 7th and 8th**. If you would like to participate in confirmation and have not registered, please contact Beth Benjamin.

SHYG

Senior High Youth Group – SHYG – begins again. Max and Beth are excited to welcome back our teens. SHYG meets on **Sunday nights, 7-8:30 PM**. Our first meeting will be on **September 14th** at 7 pm and we are excited to have the youth who went to West Virginia share their thoughts on our mission work with Appalachian Service Project. We invite all of our members, young and old, to join us. HS youth – Bring your friends!

MSYG

Our Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) kicks off on **Wednesday, September 10, 3-4:30**, at

Place, in Boston. Look for collection boxes outside of the music room and in the Kraft Hall entrance.

Youth Programming

Sunday School

There is a lot of enthusiasm surrounding our upcoming Sunday school year. Many exciting changes have been made to the curriculum and we need your help to put them into action! Whether you have taught in the past or are looking to give it a try please join us for our **Sunday school teacher training sessions** in Kraft hall on either **September 2nd or 4th at 6:30-8pm**. Refreshments will be provided. The session will include:

- Introduction to our new curriculum
- Expectations for teachers each Sunday
- Basics of classroom management
- How to prepare for each lesson

Here is an overview of the three different curriculums we will be using:

Young Children in Worship - Pre-K - K

Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Young Children in Worship approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play.

Holy Moly - Grades 1st – 2nd/3rd – 4th

Holy Moly lessons follows a four-part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect, and Create. Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Holy Moly Bible Storybook or Connect Bible, and participate in a creative activity.

Connect - Grades 5th - 7th

Connect lessons follows a three-part sequence: See, Explore, and Make. Each week, tweens focus on and reinforce a theme by watching a witty video, exploring biblical text, and creating projects that range from games to art and more.

If you are interested in teaching but are not available to come to the either of the teacher training sessions, please feel free to contact me for alternate training possibilities. I look forward to seeing you all. Thank you so much for supporting our children.

Sarah Hefter, CE Director at The Dover Church
sarah@thedoverchurch.org

the Caryl Park Field, where we will get reacquainted, play some wacky games, talk about what we're going to do this year, and have some snacks. Invite your friends. Everyone is welcome.

On September 24, (same time, maybe starting a little later because of the drive) we are going kayaking at Nahanton Park in Newton, through Paddle Boston. We will hand out more information for this event at our September 10 meeting. THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN!

Music Fellowship

Come And Sing!

Have you ever considered joining the choir and decided that you were not up for the commitment? Do you have the desire to be more involved with making music in church but have no idea where you would find the time - or what kind of contribution you could make? Hopefully you are still reading this and will consider this an invitation to come any **Sunday morning at 8:30am** to join the choir in our preparation rehearsal before the church service at 10am. This schedule has proven to be very effective the last year and a half in welcoming singers, no matter the commitment level, to be a part of choir mostly on your own terms. It means that you show up for rehearsal at 8:30, rehearse the music for that service, sing at the service, and just like that you are part of the choir. Please speak with me or anyone currently in the choir if you are interested, or surprise us and just show up! **The choir starts rehearsals on September 14th.**

The following additional schedule of periodic Thursday evening rehearsals is meant for those that can attend, to work a few weeks ahead and to enable us to prepare for things like Agape Sunday, Lessons and Carols etc.

- Thursday, September 11 7:30-9 pm
- Thursday, October 2 7:30-9 pm
- Thursday, October 23 7:30-9 pm
- Thursday, November 20 7:30-9 pm

Dover Church Band

The Dover Church Band is a group of friends and members of the church who get together to play music. Our band plays many different genre of music: Dixieland, gospel, bluegrass, country and world music. We offer music in worship six times during the year.

Our first rehearsal will be on **Monday,**

September 22nd at 7:30 pm in the music room. 5

If you would like to join the band, we welcome you! If you would like to be included on the email to our musicians, please email Beth Benjamin, beth@thedoverchurch.org, or call the church office, 508-785-0957.

Fellowship Opportunities

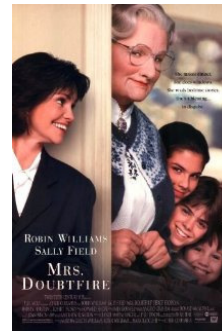
Save the Date!

Our Social Team is excited to announce that they have organized a **Church-wide Potluck on Friday, September 19th at 6:00 pm** at the home of Beth and George Webb. This should be a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to relax and get to know each other better. Since this is a potluck event, we will be asking you to bring either a salad, side dish, or dessert. Watch for the sign up sheets coming soon!

Movie Matinee

Our September Movie Matinee is scheduled for Friday, September 12th at 1 pm.

As a tribute to Robin Williams, we will be showing "Mrs. Doubtfire" starring Robin Williams, Sally Field, and Pierce Bronson. *After a bitter divorce, an actor disguises himself as a female housekeeper to spend time with his children held in custody by his former wife.*



Ladies Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch is a group of women who meet once a month over lunch to learn about local non-profit organizations and how we can assist their organizations. Our meeting/lunch format is casual with everyone bringing her own lunch. The 2014/2015 Ladies Lunch Bunch Meeting Dates are: **September 18**, October 16, November 20, January 15, March 5, and May 14. We meet at **12:15 pm in Kraft Hall**. We hope you will join us.

Dolphin Group

The Dolphin Group is a group of older and/or retired men who are members of the Dover Church. It generally meets for lunch the first Wednesday of every month at **12 noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center.

If you are interested in finding out more about this group or would like to join us on

Wednesday, September 3rd at noon, please RSVP by calling the church office

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, September 12th at 8 am**. Watch the eNews and Sunday announcements for location.

Ladies Who Lunch

The Ladies Who Lunch is a social group for women in the church We meet once a month for lunch. In September, we will meet at the Wellesley College Club on **Tuesday, September 23rd at 12:00 noon**.

This is a purely social event, open to all ages, with any topic of conversation such as family, travel, gardening, current events, or whatever comes to mind. No obligations, just fun and fellowship. The college club is located on the left of the Route 16 (Washington Street) entrance to the campus, overlooking Lake Waban, and serves a buffet lunch with various salads, a soup, sandwiches and a dessert table. The cost is \$20.

Please let Beth Benjamin at the church office know that you are coming. If you would like a ride, please contact the office as we will arrange it. Please RSVP by Monday, September 22nd.

Social Team Seeking Helpers!

Our newly formed Social Team has lots of fun planned for the upcoming year! From potlucks to movie nights to cocktail hour...please let us know if you would be interested in helping out! It can be a big job or very small one -- we'd love for many to be involved in these fun events!

Please let Beth (beth@thedoverchurch.org) know if you would like to help out!

Thank you!

Barbara Baker, Lisa Procter, Jane Moore and Rachel Motley

Bridge Lessons

Lisa Procter, a member of our congregation and our Board of Deacons, has recently been certified to teach bridge. She is also an amazingly talented player.

We are pleased to offer **Bridge Lessons by Lisa** this fall at the church. The class will be eight sessions long and we ask that you commit to all eight sessions. The cost is \$132 which includes a

text book and all instruction. If you are interested, **please stop by the church office to complete a form indicating which days of the week and times are best for you**. Please let us know by **September 2nd** if you are interested. Once we have everyone's information we will set up a schedule for the sessions. 6

Photo Directory

We are working to put together a photo directory of our members and friends. On Sunday, **September 7th** we will have Annie Lee, a member and gifted photographer, here from **noon until 3:00 pm**. She will also be at the church from **4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on September 8th and 9th**. Please sign up for a photo sitting time slot by calling the church office. If you do not want to have your photo taken, we ask that you send us a picture of your family for us to use. Thank you!

Lay Leaders Needed

Having Lay Leaders participate in our worship service is one of the cornerstones of being a congregational church. We need ushers, scripture readers and Sunday Fellowship hosts! Please sign up by calling the church office, 508-785-0957, or emailing Beth Benjamin at beth@thedoverchurch.org. An online sign up link will be sent in our next eNews.

Care Ministry Update

We have had an update on Wendy Nye, a long-time member of the church. In addition to living with Parkinson's Disease, Wendy has been in the hospital since Saturday, August 16. The official report is that she has a hematoma that is pressing against her stomach and diaphragm. Her doctors are watching it closely with the hope that it will dissolve on its own. Wendy tires easily and is taking nourishment via an NG tube (nasogastric intubation), but she is able to speak and welcomes short visits to the hospital. Please keep Wendy in your prayers. Isabel Wendy Nye (the hospital records list her by her first name) Brigham & Women's Hospital 10th floor, Room 20, Bed 2 75 Francis Street Boston, MA 02115 (617) 732-5500 = the main switchboard

September 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>(This calendar receives many updates after publication. The most up-to-date calendar is the electronic one on our website: www.thedoverchurch.org).</i>						
31 Worship 9:00 AM Worship Service	1 Labor Day Office Closed 1:00 PM Al Anon	2 6:30 PM CE Teacher Training	3 9:00 AM Al Anon 12:00 PM The Dolphin Group	4 6:30 PM CE Teacher Training	5	6
7 Welcome Back Sunday! 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School BBQ Lunch 12:00 PM Photo Directory Pictures	8 1:00 PM Al Anon 4:00 PM Photo Directory Pictures	9 6:30 PM Leadership Potluck 4:00 PM Photo Directory Pictures	10 9:00 AM Al Anon 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	11	12 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group 1:00 PM Movie Matinee	13 Dover Days
14 Reflections on Serving Others 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service 6:30 PM HSCP: Parents Meeting 7:00 PM SHYG ASP Presentation	15 1:00 PM Al Anon	16 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	17 9:00 AM Al Anon 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	18 12:15 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch	19 6:00 PM Church Potluck Dinner	20
21 Family Promise Hosting Week 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 6:30 PM HSCP: Youth Meeting 7:00 PM SHYG	22 FP Hosting 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	23 FP Hosting 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch 7:30 PM Deacons Meeting	24 FP Hosting 9:00 AM Al Anon 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	25 FP Hosting	26 FP Hosting	27 FP Hosting 2:30 PM Wedding
28 Worship 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 6:30 PM HSCP: Class 1 7:00 PM SHYG	29 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	30 7:30 PM Council Meeting	1 9:00 AM Al Anon 12:00 PM The Dolphin Group 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	2	3	4



Welcome Back Sunday!

Join us for worship with music by the "Centrestreeters" followed by a backyard style home-coming with bluegrass music, horseshoes, piñatas, pin-the-tail on the donkey and more! A delicious lunch will be provided by Blue Ribbon BBQ! So put a straw in your hat and we'll see you there partners!

September 7th at 10:00 am

THE DOVER CHURCH

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