



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

September 25, 2014

Volume 5, Issue 9

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church in Dover:

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

If someone had told me five years ago I would be doing Youth Ministry, I would have disagreed. After all, I was the newly called Senior Pastor here and had an Associate Minister to do Youth Ministry. Maybe there was even a little "been there, done that" internal dialogue going on, like I had paid my dues and moved on to bigger and better things.

Well, as you all know, "things change" and "the only thing that is constant is change" and "one thing leads to another" and one thing did lead to another and change did happen and I became the Youth Minister at our church.

Why did I do it? Because I would not be here as a minister at all if it had not been for the youth ministry I had been gifted with 35 years ago.

Why did I do it? Because I remember how precious and fragile and challenging the teens years were for me and how absolutely helpful a loving, non judgmentally compassionate adult can be for someone in that place.

Why did I do it? Because I met these remarkable young people every year in our Confirmation Program and then I watched them disappear from our faith and fellowship because there was no longer anything for them here (actually, I didn't watch their disappearance, I just noticed it after the fact. Suddenly they were gone...and no one seemed to notice or care).

I thank God for calling me to Youth Ministry at The Dover Church. The last year with our young people has reminded me of so many reasons why I love being a pastor.

Here's why I love youth ministry:

- Teens show up expecting to, hoping to, be delighted.
- Give teens a forum for connecting with each other and...they do.
- Teens want to do meaningful things that make the world a better place and they are impressed when they do. Not impressed with themselves, but impressed with what happened.
- Teens really want to know God (by whatever name) and are trying their best to both "grow up" and not be hemmed in by life. It

LOOKING AHEAD

**World Communion
Sunday**

October 5th, 10:00 AM

**Carrie Swayne,
preaching**

October 12th, 10:00 AM

Movie Night

October 17th, 7:00 PM

**Stewardship
Campaign**

Kick Off Meeting

October 19th

See inside calendar for more details.



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



feels like they are right on the edge of losing the possibility of play and stupid joy. Play and stupid joy are my middle names.

- While teens do hide themselves from adults, when they trust one they open up. And they expect reciprocity.

Be prepared to have fun, unplanned, unscripted, unexpected. Just go with the flow and when a window opens, jump out.

Not to knock grown ups, but most of us have a lot to learn spiritually from our teenagers. I thank you all for this opportunity.

Peace,

Max - your pastor

Our Renovated Meeting House A Job Well Done

As we meet to rededicate our Sanctuary after its renovation, we may think, "It looks remarkable. What is new?" The list is comprehensive starting with steel in the attic and walls reinforcing stressed trusses and wall posts.

Staging was installed to allow the complete restoration of the plaster ceiling. The old speakers were removed and the holes repaired. The walls were patched and repaired and areas where walls had been opened for structural work were re-plastered.

The entire sanctuary was repainted including the walls, ceilings, shutters, doors, pews and wood floors. New carpeting was installed in the sanctuary, narthex and balcony.

Lighting and much of the wiring has been replaced. Emergency lighting has been installed. A new sound system is in place including a hearing assist loop which will service appropriate hearing aids.

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The band area has been expanded and a portable system available to allow the voices and instruments to be amplified through the main sound system. A recording system, both audio and video, will be added in the upcoming weeks to allow services to be recorded and posted on our web site.

You may also ask how all of this happened. Whom should we thank for the time and effort to achieve these significant improvements? The list has to start with our architect and general contractor. Don Mills of Mills Whitaker Architects LLC was engaged to help us develop a comprehensive renovation plan. Don assembled a talented team of consultants in the fields of structural engineering, plaster conservation, audiovisual, lighting and electrical engineering. With our plan in hand we selected Murray Brothers, a firm with extensive experience with religious structures, to implement the renovation. Their expertise, along with input from the various consultants, led to practical solutions to the structural issues and the "surprises" that always come with restoration of old buildings. They were always accommodating and pleasant.

Within the church, the list expands even further. The Trustees had regular meetings with the architect and general contractor to discuss progress, costs and changes. The Design Group which had done so much throughout our 250th Renovations continued to select colors, carpet and other appointments within the sanctuary and narthex. The Deacons established guidelines for sound and lighting to allow the systems programming to be in step with our services. The church staff supported the scheduling and payment systems along with providing valuable input. And, most importantly, we received substantial financial support from donations to our 250th campaign, a major bequest to the church and individual generous support for specific projects. The Trustees also approved limited use of our endowment to allow the completion of the renovation.

As we celebrate this milestone in our church history, we celebrate the hours we have spent exchanging and discussing opinions and strategies. We celebrate compromise and consensus amongst ourselves. And we celebrate a job well done.

Bob Cocks, Dawn Fattore, Steve Karlson
Board of Trustees

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 a third one that profiles Diana and George King:

Diana Eng King and her husband, Dr. George L. King, have been members of The Dover Church for 21 years. Their parents immigrated respectively from Canton, China and Taiwan to the United States. Diana was born in Washington, DC and George was 10 years old when he arrived with his parents.

It was during their childhood when Diana and George were introduced to God through their neighborhood churches. In Washington, D.C., Diana had the Salvation Army Church around the corner from her house and George attended a Baptist Church in Richmond, VA.

It was the actual church building, the members of the congregation and outreach programs that brought their attention to Christianity. And it was during this period when they began to be nurtured in faith. The children's Sunday school, Christmas pageants, summer vacation bible schools, and summer Christian camp weeks were all very important.

In their adult life, when Diana and George moved from place to place for school and work, there was always a welcoming church and congregation for them to find a comfortable place in the community.

Fast forward to when George and Diana relocated to the Boston area with their first son in 1981 and in 1982 their second son was born. They first attended the Wellesley Baptist Church and then later in 1993 they began attending The Dover Church.

At the Dover Church, Diana immediately joined the choir led by Judy Niblock. George joined the outreach mission of the church. Diana also joined the Christian Education Committee for 3 years of which she served as the chair in the 3rd year. Over the years, Diana worked with Lee Graham as the Wedding Belles who volunteered their time on wedding days to welcome and assist during the ceremonies. Later, Diana served in the role of Deacon under Pastor John Nelson's pastorship. For the past 6 years, George and Diana with others have driven Laurie Baird to church. Since George's work requires him to travel frequently,

he assists in whatever projects Diana or the church need help with. 3

In the past 21 years at The Dover Church, Diana and George not only were growing in their faith and being involved with church missions, they were also growing personally. The opportunities and the individuals with whom Diana and George were able to cross paths with were blessings.

George, Diana and their two sons are so grateful to have God in their lives and are thankful and mindful of the many generations of people who have donated their time and resources to keep the Christian faith alive in so many communities in the United States and world. In their words, "to have Christianity continue to be vibrant, strong and far reaching, it is up to the congregation of individuals and families to donate funds to maintain this momentum as generations before us have done. Our minister is our vessel to God. Get to know him, support him and love him. It is so important to pledge, since caring must go beyond the doors of this Church. Please give and give with gladness."

Over the last several newsletters we have been introducing you to members of our congregation who have shared their reasons and inspirations for giving in support of our church. We will continue with these "profiles in giving" in the months ahead, but this update is to introduce you to our stewardship campaign, it's theme for this year and the schedule. We hope that you will begin thinking early about how you can best support The Dover Church financially for 2015.

Give With Gladness

As we began speaking with members of the church about our campaign and their involvement with the church there was a consistent feeling about giving; that they were pleased to be doing it and that it made them joyful when they did. In this spirit we have chosen to use the theme "Give with Gladness" for our effort this fall. As well as how we feel about giving to the church, there is much scripture that supports this theme. From St. Paul, "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a

cheerful giver." You'll hear more about what scripture has to say about giving with gladness as our campaign moves along.

Schedule

Annual stewardship campaigns officially kick off on the third Sunday in October when we have our membership meeting. This year the meeting will occur on **Sunday, October 19th**. At that meeting a proposed budget for 2015 will be presented. The budget will include items to be funded from all groups and committees at the church. We will also see an amount in the budget to be funded by stewardship giving.

The next day we will send information about our campaign to you. This information will include the amount which The Dover Church wishes to raise to support the proposed budget and information that can help you make a decision on a strong financial commitment to the church.

Between then and Agape Sunday, November 23rd, we will continue to provide information about how your gifts will be used to further the work of The Dover Church in our community and throughout the world. We will also provide information on the ways in which you can pledge and make your payments to the church over the course of next year.

On Agape Sunday we will collect pledge cards and rejoice and be glad for all that we have gotten from this church. So in the five weeks between October 19th and November 23rd we hope that you will find time to carefully consider and reflect on what our church means to you, our community and the world.

There is so much good work being done by our church from every perspective. Teams of people meet to further their spiritual journey, teach our children, improve the services, restore our sanctuary, share stories, support one another, support those in need all around the world, and to have fun; all in God's name.

We have much for which to be thankful. Let us all give thanks with a vigorous and successful fall stewardship campaign.

With continued thanks,

Glenn Jensen Steve Karlson
Chris Newport Lisa Procter
Tara Spalding

Church Leadership

Our Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, October 14th at 7 pm. Our Board of Deacons will meet on Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 pm and Church Council will meet on Tuesday, October 28th at 7:30 pm. 4

Upcoming Services

World Communion Sunday

Please join us for World Communion Sunday on October 5th at 10:00 am. The Dover Church Band will join us this Sunday with music from around the world.

Sunday, October 12th

Carrie Swayne, our pastoral intern, will be leading worship on Sunday, October 12th. Please join us for worship at 10:00 am.

Serving Others



Family Promise

Many thanks to our volunteers who helped with our Family Promise hosting week. Our guests greatly appreciated the care and support we provided to them during their stay. We will host again the week of November 9th and hope you will find a way to be volunteer.

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, October 14th at 7 pm** at the Needham Congregational church, 1154 Great Plain Avenue, Needham.

We hope you will join Family Promise Metrowest for their fall fundraiser: **KEEP THE PROMISE: An Evening of Food and Wine Tasting to Benefit Homeless Families on November 1, 2014, 7:00PM - 11:00PM.**

Come and enjoy delicious small plate appetizers, wines from around the world, Jack's Abby beer and delectable desserts. Join their silent

and live auction with Comedian Chris Zito and dance the night away with The Stacey Peasley Band. Tickets are on sale now. Purchase before October 1 to get the Presale ticket price. Visit the Family Promise Metrowest website to purchase tickets and to learn more about this event, www.familypromisemetrowest.org or call the office at 508-318-4820. Come join the fun and help raise funds and awareness for Family Promise Metrowest.

Haiti Update



The St. Boniface Haiti Foundation Annual Gala with special guest speaker **Paul Farmer** will be held on **Monday, November 17th**, 6 to 9 pm at the Boston Marriott Newton. To learn more and to purchase tickets, please go to <http://haitihealth.org/get-involved/events/> and click on the link to purchase tickets. We hope many of you will attend this event. Please let the church office know if you are interested in sponsoring a table at this event.

Our next mission trip to Fond des Blanc will be on November 20th- 24th and we are excited to send the following members: Steve and Rebecca Karlson, Jennifer and Rachel DaSilva, Tom McElrath and the Melville Family. We look forward to their update report on the Villa Clinic after they return.

Youth Programming



SHYG

Senior High Youth Group – SHYG – will meet on the following nights: October 5th, 19th and 26th. We will not meet on October 12th. If you have a high school student who would like to

join us, we welcome all! Let the church office know if you would like to be added to our SHYG eNews letter. The weekly eNews will provide details for each week's meeting.

MSYG

Our Middle School Youth Group (MSYG) will meet on the following **Wednesdays**, this month: **October 15th and 29th**. If you have a middle school student who would like to join us, we welcome all! Let the church office know if you would like to be added to our MSYG eNews letter. The MSYG eNews will provide details for each meeting.

Music Fellowship



Senior Choir

Come any **Sunday morning** to join the choir in our preparation rehearsal before the church service at 10am. Additional rehearsals on Thursday evenings are:

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



Dover Church Band

Our rehearsals this month will be on **Mondays, October 20th and 27th at 7:30 pm** in the music room.

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

Movie Matinee

Our October Movie Matinee is scheduled for Friday, October 10th at 1 pm. We will be showing **"Heaven Is For Real"** (2014)



Movie Night

Our October social event is a Movie Night for our congregation. All ages welcomed! Please join us for popcorn and fellowship on **Friday, October 17th at 7:00 pm** in Kraft Hall for **"Muppets Most Wanted"** (2014)

Ladies Lunch Bunch

Bring your lunch and join us! This month we meet on **Thursday, October 16th**. 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 meet for lunch. Please join us this month on **Wednesday, October 22nd at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, September 17th at 7 am** at the home of Steve Karlson, 7 Adams Lane, Dover.



Ladies Who Lunch

The Ladies Who Lunch is a social group for women in the church We meet once a month for lunch. This month, we will meet at the Wellesley College Club on **Wednesday, October 22nd at 12:00 noon**.

The cost is \$20. If you would like a ride, please contact the office as we will arrange it. Please let Beth Benjamin at the church office know that you are coming. Please RSVP by Tuesday, October 21st.

Bridge Lessons

Bridge Lessons with Lisa Procter will start on Tuesday, September 30th at 10:00 am and will run for 6 weeks. (9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, and 11/4) If you have not already signed up, please contact Beth Benjamin in the church office. The cost is \$105 and includes all instruction and the course book. We can take up to 20 people, so sign up with a friend.



Save the Date!

Our annual fall social will be on **Saturday, November 8th**. Come celebrate our annual fall social with great food and fellowship! We will start in Kraft Hall at 5:30 pm for appetizers and a glass of wine. At roughly 6:30 pm we will go for dinner and dessert at homes of those kind enough to host.

We ask that you sign up if you plan to attend dinner so that we can plan our numbers. We will assign you to a home for the dinner. Please return the enclosed flyer to the church office by Wednesday, October 29th. We encourage all to attend. Please join us for this opportunity to relax and to get to know each other better.

New Hearing Assist Loop

Carl and Vivian Krause tested out our new hearing assist loop. Look for our handout, with instructions on how the loop works, so you can take advantage of this new technology.



October 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>						
28 Sanctuary Rededication Service 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 10:00 AM Bridge Lesson 7:30 PM Council Meeting	1 9:00 AM Al Anon 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	2 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 World Communion Sunday 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 6:30 PM HSCP: Class 2 7:00 PM SHYG	6 1:00 PM Al Anon	7 10:00 AM Bridge Lesson	8 9:00 AM Al Anon 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	9	10 1:00 PM Movie Matinee	11
12 Worship 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School	13 Columbus Day Office Closed 1:00 PM Al Anon	14 10:00 AM Bridge Lesson 7:00 PM Trustees Meeting	15 9:00 AM Al Anon 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	16 12:15 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch 4:00 PM Social Dance	17 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group 7:00 PM Movie Night	18
19 Congregational Budget Meeting 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 11:00 AM Budget Meeting 6:30 PM HSCP: Class 3 7:00 PM SHYG	20 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	21 10:00 AM Bridge Lesson 12:00 PM COA Lunch 7:30 PM Deacons Meeting	22 9:00 AM Al Anon 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch The Dolphin Group 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	23	24	25
26 Worship 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 6:30 PM HSCP: Class 4 7:00 PM SHYG	27 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	28 10:00 AM Bridge Lesson 7:30 PM Council Meeting	29 9:00 AM Al Anon 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	30	31 Happy Halloween	1 Keep The Promise Event



Join us for worship October 5th at 10:00 am as we celebrate World Communion Sunday with music from around the world.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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