

The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

November 25, 2014

Volume 5, Issue 11

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church in Dover:

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

We have been in the midst of the Stewardship season here at The Dover Church, which is something of a misunderstanding of Stewardship – that it is a three week fundraising drive which happens in the fall every year. True Christian Stewardship is a spiritual practice which happens every day for individual disciples as well as congregations. The divine economy, if you will, of giving and receiving, to and from God.

The Apostle Paul teaches us, "The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9: 6-8) Yes, Paul really did say that!

Two Sundays ago I gave \$5 to every child who came forward for our Children's Sermon. The kids were very excited and all of us could see the happiness wheels spinning in their imaginations – "what will I do with this money?" My purpose with the \$5 was to inspire them to think of what work of God's kingdom they might do, that they speak with their parents, teachers and classmate, about what good work their \$5 might accomplish. Obviously, this was not a one way transaction >>> Money Out. I very much want to hear back from the children about what they did with their \$5. I very much want everyone in our church to hear the stories. Not only do I want to see good works done, but I want the kids to inspire Stewardship, which is not giving what you can afford to keep the heat on in the church, but rather giving abundantly so that you might receive abundantly.

I look forward to the new life I hope our children are planting. I look forward to the new life all of us are planting.

Peace,

Max – your pastor



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LOOKING AHEAD

**December 7th
Advent Workshop**

**December 14th
Christmas Pageant**

**December 21st
Lessons and Carols
Service**

**December 24th
Christmas Eve
Services**

4:00 pm Family Service

8:00 pm Youth Service *

**11:00 pm Communion
Service**

See inside calendar for more details.

* new time

Upcoming Services

**Advent Workshop
Sunday, December 7th**

Join us for the Second Sunday in Advent, December 7th, following worship for our Advent Workshop. Everyone is invited to join us for fun and fellowship! Come create a family advent wreath and make some holiday crafts. Kids! You can even make an edible winter wonderland.

**Annual Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 14th**

Join us on Sunday, December 14th, at 10:00 am, as we celebrate our Annual Christmas pageant. Our Sunday School students have a wonderful surprise for us, a delightful pageant along with lots of joyful singing. The pageant will take place during our 10 am worship service. We know that all of our members, young and old, will enjoy hearing the Christmas story from our children's perspective.

**Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 21st**

The Dover Church will have its Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 21 at 10 a.m. The service is based on six lessons with responsive carols for congregation, choir, and organ. The six lesson outline is based on the nine lesson version developed by the Royal School of Church Music. The service, over the years at the Dover Church, has often been described with words containing the phrase – "now it feels like Christmas!" Come rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.

In this issue:

From Your Pastor	p 1
Upcoming Services	p 2
From the Stewardship Team	p 2
Youth Programming	p 3
Music Fellowship	p 3
Fellowship Opportunities	p 3
Calendar	p 5

Christmas Eve Services December 24th

We have three services on Christmas Eve, a little something for everyone. At **4:00 pm**, our **Family Christmas Service** will be geared towards families and children. We will again be collecting **children's hats, scarves and mittens**. The children will come forward during the service to bring their gifts to the baby Jesus. Your generous donations will be given to Cradles to Crayons.

NEW TIME! We have moved our second Christmas Eve service to **8:00 pm**. This service will include **youth singers and candlelight**. And our **11:00 pm** service will be our traditional service of **communion and candlelight**.

We will be collecting two **special offerings** on Christmas Eve. Our 4 pm offering will go to **Heifer International**. We hope to be able to purchase gifts of milk and honey (a heifer, \$500, water buffalo, \$250, a goat, \$120, honey-bees, \$30). Look for the special offering envelopes in the pews. www.heifer.org



For our 8 pm and 11 pm services, our special offering will go to **The Christmas Fund**. The Christmas Fund offering (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross offering) is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who served as clergy (and certain lay employees) who are now retired or disabled and financially strained. During this holy time of year, the offering is a profound gift. It helps provide pension supplements, health premium subsidies, emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of retirees and to those who are disabled. Special offering envelopes will be available in the pews on Christmas Eve.

From the Stewardship Team

Thank you very much to all who have already made their pledge to the church for 2015. We're off to a great start with many pledges increased to support the proposed 2015 budget. As we receive pledges we will continue to report on our progress.

If you have yet made your pledge, please take the time now to do so. It is very easy. There are three ways to pledge: send your pledge card back to the church, go to the church website, www.thedoverchurch.org, and complete and send

the pledge form, or simply email Nancy Simms, our Assistant Treasurer, Nancy@thedoverchurch.org with your pledge amount. Thank you from all of us on the Stewardship Team.

Youth Programming

SHYG – Two Fundraisers

Our Senior High Youth Group is going to Appalachia and we are raising money to help reduce the cost. **We have two fundraisers coming up in December: a Holiday Shopping Babysitting Event and our Annual Carol-O-Grams.** Thank you for supporting our youth by participating in these events.

The holidays are coming up! Need to get some shopping done? Our SHYG will be holding a Holiday Shopping Babysitting Event on Saturday, **December 6, 2014 from 1 to 6 pm** in our Kraft Hall. We invite you to drop off your child for our HS youth to watch while you get some holiday gift shopping done. We ask that you pay \$10 per child, which will go towards our service week trip to Appalachia next June.



Please **RSVP** to the church office to let us know the names and ages of the children who will be coming. (office@thedoverchurch.org, or 508-785-0957) We will have age appropriate activities planned along with goldfish and apple juice on hand for a snack. (If your child has allergies, please provide a snack.) Our High School Youth Group will take good care of your children while you are shopping!

Carol-O-Grams are a great way to send Christmas greetings to your friends and neighbors! Please purchase a Carol-O-Gram from our high school youth during Sunday Fellowship on **December 7, 14, and 21.** (Or you can stop by the church office during the week.)



The cost is a donation amount you would like to make. (Please bring cash or a check with you if you want to sign up during Sunday Fellowship.) On the afternoon of December 21st,

our high school youth will be traveling to deliver these special messages!

The money raised will help to reduce the cost of our service mission trip to Appalachia next June.

MSYG

On December 17, The MSYG will have a Christmas Party in Kraft Hall at 3-4:30. We will decorate gingerbread people and have a Yankee Swap/Secret Santa (details to follow). Hope you can come. Invite your friends.



Music Fellowship

Dover Church Band.

We welcome everyone into the band! If you play an instrument, come and join us! Our rehearsals in December will be on Mondays, December 1st and 15th. We will be playing Christmas carols for the 4 pm Christmas Eve Service. 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

Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! Friday, December 12 at 1 pm we will be showing **"The King's Speech"**. (2010) We invite everyone to join us!

England's Prince Albert (Colin Firth) must ascend the throne as King George VI, but he has a speech impediment. Knowing that the country needs her husband to be able to communicate effectively, Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) hires Lionel Logue (Geoffrey Rush), an Australian actor and speech therapist, to help him overcome his stammer. An extraordinary friendship develops between the two



men, as Logue uses unconventional means to teach the monarch how to speak with confidence.

Join Us For Lunch

The Dolphin Group is a group of older and/or retired men who meet for lunch. Please join us this month on **Wednesday, December 17th at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office.

The **Ladies Who Lunch** is a social group for women in the church who meets once a month for lunch. This month, we will meet at the Wellesley College Club on **Wednesday, December 16th at 12:00 noon**. The cost is \$20. If you would like a ride, please contact the office as we will arrange it. Please RSVP to Beth Benjamin in the church office by Tuesday, December 16th.

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will not meet in December.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Friday, December 12th, at 7 am, at the home of Steve Karlson, 7 Adams Lane, Dover.



Bridge Lessons

Would you like to be a better bridge player? Want to learn more about Jacoby Transfers or Doubles? Then join us for Bridge Lessons. We will be holding two one-day workshops: one on Jacoby Transfers and another on Doubles. The cost is \$20 per session and we need 8 players to hold each session. Possible dates are: Mondays, Dec. 8 or 15, 9:30-11 am, or Tuesday, Dec. 2, 10–11:30 am. Please let the church office know if you are interested in attending either workshop (we need 8 players!) and which of these dates would work for you. (Please let us know all of the dates listed which work for you.) Invite your friends! Please RSVP as soon as possible so that we can set the dates!



We need you on Sunday morning!

Please call or email the church office to let us know when you are available to usher, read the

scripture, or supply goodies for our Sunday Fellowship time. Please don't wait! Call or email today!

We spend an awful lot of time each week trying to get people to sign up. Help us to be more efficient in our work efforts by contacting the church office to sign up. You can also sign up by going to the following online signup sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ccc?key=0AoAgWbSTcfDhdFNTRGJDVFBiempEM0FFcXltNmK2NVE&usp=drive_web#gid=0

New Hearing Assist Loop

If your hearing aid does not have a T coil switch and if your hearing aid doesn't work with our new hearing assist loop, please speak with the Deacon on Duty who will be able to provide you with a hearing receiver for use during our worship service.



An induction loop is provided for the benefit of hearing aid users. To use please switch your hearing aid to 'T'

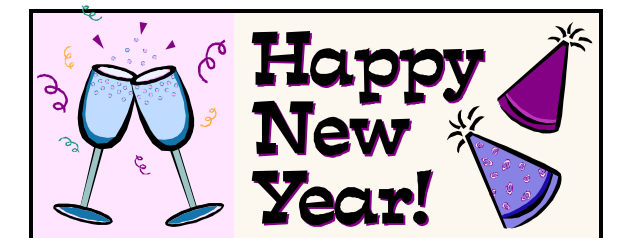
Making Announcements



We ask that everyone making an announcement during worship to please use the handheld microphone. The microphone is connected to our hearing assist loop and will allow everyone to hear your announcement.

Office Hours During Holidays

There will be reduced office hours during the holidays as Beth and Nancy will be taking some vacation days. Please call the church to see when the office will be open. Please remember that you can always reach Max on his cell phone, 509-982-0422 at any time.



December 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>						
30 1st Advent Sunday Baptism 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service Sunday School	1 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	2 7:00 PM Trustee's Meeting	3 9:00 AM Al Anon 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	4 4:00 PM Social Dance	5	6 8:00 AM Dover Police Holiday Breakfast 1:00 PM Holiday Shopping Babysitting
7 2nd Advent Sunday Advent Workshop 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM SHYG	8 1:00 PM Al Anon	9 7:30 PM Deacon's Meeting	10 9:00 AM Al Anon 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	11	12 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group 1:00 PM Movie Matinee	13 8:00 AM DMA Breakfast Pageant Rehearsal
14 3rd Advent Sunday Christmas Pageant 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM SHYG	15 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	16 7:30 PM Church Council	17 9:00 AM Al Anon 12:00 PM Dolphin Group 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	18 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 4th Advent Sunday Lessons and Carols 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 1:00 PM SHYG Carol-O-Grams	22 1:00 PM Al Anon	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Service 8:00 PM Service 11:00 PM Service	25 Christmas Day Office closed	26 Office closed	27
28 Worship 10:00 AM Worship Service	29 1:00 PM Al Anon	30	31 New Year's Eve 9:00 AM Al Anon	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2 Office closed	3

Christmas Eve Services



Join us on Wednesday, December 24th for one of our **Christmas Eve Services.**

- At **4:00 pm** for our Family Christmas service.
- At **8:00 pm** for a service with youth singers and candlelight.
- At **11:00 pm** for our traditional service of candlelight and communion.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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