



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

January 30, 2015

Volume 6, Issue 1

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church in Dover:

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

When I was in seminary, those of us preparing for ordination in the United Church of Christ were required to take a class on United Church of Christ Polity, History and Identity. Of the 62 students enrolled in that class, 4 of us were lifelong members of United Churches of Christ. Can you imagine that? 4 out of 62. Our church is a refugee camp from other ways of being church. The seminary needed to make sure that all of the other former Baptists, Unitarians, Roman Catholics, agnostics, Lutherans, atheists and others understood the congregational way of being the Church. As a "lifer," I truly cannot imagine another way of being church.

This past week renewed my love affair with our Congregational Way. First, we had a very rich Leadership Potluck Meeting at which we round-tabled all the great things bubbling up in our church in 2014. To hear people's passions and enthusiasm for the ministries and missions they are working on is truly moving for a local church pastor. I shot a home movie which I will be sharing with all of you in our ENews. Enjoy!

And then there was our 253rd Annual Meeting. First, a huge shout out and thank you to the Deacons for hosting our luncheon. Barbara Baker, Nancy Simms, Mary Yanke and Becky Petersen made delicious soups and stews. Second, a huge shout out and thank you to Jamie Simms for his vital ministry as Moderator. Jamie has been moving discretely tirelessly, compassionately and generously to ensure the future vitality of our church. He ran a great meeting last Sunday which was harmonious and warm feeling. And third, a final huge shout out to Dexter Donham for moving under new business that The Dover Church begin the process of declaring ourselves to be an Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ, a church that welcomes enthusiastically all people, irregardless of anything, particularly sexual orientation. There is still the drafting of a statement to that effect which needs to be approved in Congregational Meeting, but the motion was received enthusiastically by the Meeting.

Gotta love the Congregational Way!
Max - your pastor



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LOOKING AHEAD

**Fat Sunday Service
And Pancake Breakfast
February 15th
At 10 am**

**Lent Begins
February 18th**

**Ash Sunday
February 22nd
at 10 am**

**The Crucified God
March 1st
at 10 am**

**The Cross and Self
March 8th
at 10 am**

**The Cross and Being
The Church
March 15th
at 10 am**

**The Cross and Culture
March 22nd
at 10 am**

See inside calendar for more details.

Upcoming Services

Sunday, February 1, 2015

Carrie Swayne, our pastoral intern, will be preaching on Psalm 111 and Mark 1:21-28. The Psalm speaks to us about God's great works and Mark tells us of the power of God, through Jesus, to make the unclean clean and whole. We live in a world where we are bombarded by negativity and bad news. We are surrounded by media stories of violence and death. We are reminded of how broken our world is and of how broken we are. In all of the devastating news, negative media, and within our own brokenness we are not left without hope. We are reminded through the scriptures for this Sunday that our world can be made clean again and we can be made whole through the love of God and the salvation we were given through Jesus Christ! There is hope, there is light, and there is wholeness for all of us. May we find that light, hope, and healing so that we may be that for others.

Sunday, February 8, 2015

Dr. Rodney Petersen will be preaching on Sunday, February 8th at 10:00 am. "A Civic Faith": The acclamation of Jesus as Israel's long expected messianic prophet, priest and king led not only to the early church's understanding of and preaching the gospel but to a civic piety grounded in early congregationalism and shaping democratic principles.

Lent This Year

Lent is one of the fulcrums of the Christian year, 40 days when we reorient ourselves (the Biblical word is *repent* - ouch!) so that our focus in life, at least for those 40 days, rests on our Lord, specifically our Lord and the Cross. We don't *do* the Cross all that much at The Dover Church, and

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yet the Cross stands not only at the center of our faith, it hangs in the center of the front of our church. This Lent we are going to look at the Cross and what it means for us. Max is working up the following worship schedule so that you might know what is coming, be intrigued, and make time in your calendars for a little Lenten spirituality this year.

- **February 15 – Fat Sunday:** Dixieland Music during worship followed by a Pancake Breakfast before we begin repenting.
- **February 22 – Ash Sunday** – instead of a Wednesday night service, we will have our service of repentance on a Sunday morning this year. Max will be moving us through all the layers of life which we need to turn from. There will be ashes for those who feel so moved.
- **March 1 – The Crucified God:** Why the Cross?
- **March 8 – The Cross and Self:** How does the Cross Liberate each of us?
- **March 15: The Cross and Being the Church:** How the Cross of Christ deconstructs the Church of Christ.
- **March 22 – The Cross and Culture:** how we can see our world through the Cross.
- **March 29: Palm Sunday – The Cross and Activism:** why Jesus went into Jerusalem that Passover and why we follow.
- **Easter – April 5** – We will celebrate Communion, at **6 AM** by Channing Pond, in the pews at **9 AM**, and by Intinction at **11 AM**.

Youth Programming

Sunday School

We want to welcome our new teachers Caleb Petersen and Natalie Hyde! These two will be our permanent teachers going forward until June! Caleb will be joining the PreK-K classroom and Natalie will be in the 5th-7th grade classroom. We follow our Safe Church Policy by having two teachers in each classroom every week and are always looking for volunteers to teach.

We have set up an online sign-up for teaching Sunday School through 'Sign Up Genius.' If you are interested in teaching and do not have

access to our sign-up genius website please contact Sarah Hefter at sarah@thedoverchurch.org. You can sign up for individual classes which fit your schedule. Thank you for supporting this important ministry of our church! If you haven't taught yet this year, we encourage you to do so. We love our new curriculum and think you will too!

Here is a brief overview of what will the kids will be learning in February:

Young Children in Worship - Pre-K - K

This February the children will be learning bible stories from the New Testament which include: The Parable of the Mustard Seed, The Parable of the Sower, and The Lenten Puzzle. 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

This February students will be learning biblical stories from the New Testament. The stories included in this unit are: The Mustard Seed, Jesus and the Children, and the Widow's Mite. Every Holy Moly lesson 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 Bible Storybook or Bible, and try a creative activity.

Connect - Grades 5th - 7th

This February students will journey through the New Testament continuing with the unit called Jesus: Ministry. The themes they will be learning this month are: Healings and Teachings. Students will explore the connections between several stories each week. Every Connect lesson 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.

Confirmation

The confirmation class will meet on Sunday, February 22nd at 5:30 pm. Please meet Max on the stage in Kraft Hall. If you would like to provide the meal for our meeting, please speak to Max.

SHYG

Our SHYG will meet on **Sunday, February 8th and 22nd at 7:00 pm in Kraft Hall** this month. On the 8th we will be making valentines for Dover Seniors. We will also play some board/video games if there is time.

On the 22nd, we will have our second ASP organizational meeting. This month we will be working through an exercise to see how the ASP staff selects who receives help. For every 20 applications they receive, they are only able to provide help to 5.

MSYG

The MSYG will meet on two Wednesdays, February 11th and 25th at 3:00 pm. February 11th may be our rescheduled skating. Watch for the eNews for details. On the 25th, we will be going to play Laser Tag in West Roxbury. Youth will need entrance money. We will need drivers. Please email Max if you can help.

Fellowship Opportunities

Wednesday Morning Yoga

Wednesday Morning Yoga with Max will continue in February. Join him each Wednesday at 9 am in Kraft Hall.

Dover Church Band

Our rehearsals in February will be on **Mondays, February 2nd and 9th at 7:30 pm**. We are always looking for musicians. If you play an instrument, we hope you will join us. Please email Beth Benjamin, beth@thedoverchurch.org, or call the church office, 508-785-0957, if you would like to be included on the email reminder notices to our musicians.

The 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, February 4th at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office.

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Altar Flower Class

Would you like to learn how to arrange altar flowers at the Dover Church **Friday, February 6th at 10AM** Betty Brady will demonstrate with multiple containers how to create an altar arrangement. You can then create your own arrangement. All materials will be supplied at no charge. Please reserve with Betty so she can have plant material for everyone. 508-785-0790 or doverhugh@comcast.net

Ladies Who Lunch

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, February 11th 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, February 10th.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on **Friday, February 13th, at 7 am**. Watch for details to follow on location.

Movie Matinee

Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! **Friday, February 13th at 1 pm** we will be showing "**Moonrise Kingdom**". (2012) We invite everyone to join us!

The year is 1965, and the residents of New Penzance, an island off the coast of New England, inhabit a community that seems untouched by some of the bad things going on in the rest of the world. Twelve-year-olds Sam (Jared Gilman) and Suzy (Kara Hayward) have fallen in love and decide to run away. But a violent storm is approaching the island, forcing a group of quirky adults (Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Murray) to mobilize a search party and find the youths before calamity strikes.



Ladies Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on not meet in February. Join us next month on Thurs-

day, March 5th at 12:15 pm in Kraft Hall.

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Dover Church Social event

The Dover Church Social team has scheduled a second Family Movie Night. We will be showing "Dolphin Tale 2" on **Friday, February 27, 2015 at 7:00 pm**.

DOLPHIN TALE 2 continues the true story of Winter the dolphin, whose miraculous rescue and recovery – thanks to a groundbreaking prosthetic tail – made her a symbol of hope and perseverance to people around the world. It has been several years since young Sawyer Nelson (Nathan Gamble) and the dedicated team at the Clearwater Marine Hospital, headed by Dr. Clay Haskett (Harry Connick, Jr.) and his daughter Hazel (Cozi Zuehlsdorff), rescued Winter. With the help of Dr. Cameron McCarthy (Morgan Freeman), who developed a unique prosthetic tail for the injured dolphin, they were able to save her life. Yet their fight is not over. Winter's surrogate mother, the very elderly dolphin Panama, has passed away, leaving Winter without the only poolmate she has ever known. However, the loss of Panama may have even greater repercussions for Winter, who, according to USDA regulations, cannot be housed alone, as dolphins' social behavior requires them to be paired with other dolphins. Time is running out to find a companion for her before the team at Clearwater loses their beloved Winter to another aquarium.



Serving Others

Family Promise MetroWest

Join us on Saturday, April 11th for the 2015 Walk Away from Homelessness event. We are forming a team of walkers and want you to join us! The Walkathon is a Family Friendly Day. There will be snacks, prizes, awards, face painting, crafts and music. Everyone can participate. Please let the church office know if you and your family would like to be part of our Dover Church walking team.

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><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></p>						
<p>1 Worship 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School</p>	<p>2 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 12:00 PM Dolphin Group Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 10:00 AM Flower Arranging Class</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Worship 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 7:00 PM SHYG</p>	<p>9 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>10 7:00 PM Trustees' Meeting 7:30 PM Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>11 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group 1:00 PM Movie Matinee</p>	<p>14 Happy Valentine's Day</p>
<p>15 Fat Sunday Service and Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School</p>	<p>16 Presidents' Day Office Closed 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>17 12:00 PM COA Community Lunch</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday 9:00 AM Al Anon 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Ash Sunday Service 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM SHYG</p>	<p>23 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>24 7:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p>25 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 7:00 PM Family Movie Night</p>	<p>28</p>
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Fat Sunday and Pancake Breakfast



Join us on Sunday,
 February 15th at 10 am for the last
 Sunday before the start of Lent.

Our Dover Church Band will
 play New Orleans "Mardi Gras"
 style music.

A Pancake Breakfast will be
 served following the service!

THE DOVER CHURCH

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