

The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

March 25, 2015

Volume 6, Issue 3

News from Meeting House Hill

To the Members and Friends of The Dover Church:

Under New Business at our church's 253rd Annual Meeting on January 25, 2015, Dexter Donham, a member of the Board of Deacons, made a motion that we declare our church to be an "Open and Affirming" Congregation. As many of you know, Open and Affirming is the rubric within the United Church of Christ for congregations that emphatically welcome gay, lesbian, transgender, and bisexual Christians and seekers into their faith and fellowship. The "sense" of the meeting was that this would be a clarification of what we mean when we call ourselves a "Welcoming Community of Faith and Service," a topic of discussion for a decade in our church. After some discussion, it was decided that we would declare our *intent* to become Open and Affirming and engage in a process of doing so in the coming year. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote.

At the following Church Council meeting, we discussed how we would go about enacting this motion. We wanted to create a process that was not onerous or cumbersome, as we want to facilitate broad participation and ease of conversation. Church Council decided the following:

- 1) Our pastor, Max Olmstead, will preach a sermon on the topic of Open and Affirming on April 12. You should know that Max enthusiastically endorses this motion, but will try to be explanatory, although some exhortation will most likely creep in.
- 2) There will be a discussion in Kraft Hall after services on the 12th, at which people will be encouraged to voice their opinions and discuss what Open and Affirming would look like at The Dover Church.
- 3) Following the April 12th discussion, Church Council will appoint a writing team to draft our church's Open and Affirming statement, something that is essential to the process. We need a clarification of what we mean by Open and Affirming that we will place in our publications.
- 4) The writing team will present a draft for approval to both the Board of Deacons and Church Council for either approval or edit, after which Church Council will approve the final document to be presented to the congregation.

LOOKING AHEAD

**Resurrection Day
Easter Sunday
April 5th**

**6:00 am Communion Service
at Channing Pond**

**9:00 am Communion Service
in our Meeting House**

**11:00 am Communion Service,
by Intinction,
in our Meeting House**

**Open and Affirming
Sunday, April 12th
at 10:00 am**

**Celebration of Carrie's
Internship
Sunday, April 26th
at 10:00 am**

**Mother's Day
Choral Sunday
May 10th at 10:00 am**

See inside calendar for more details.

- 5) Church Council will call for a Congregational Meeting, and the associated warrant, including the proposed Open and Affirming Statement, will be posted outside the church, on our website, and in our newsletters.
- 6) At the Congregational Meeting, we will discuss the proposed statement, any other questions of related concern, and vote to accept the proposed statement and move forward or reject the proposed statement and begin again.

In closing, our congregational way of functioning as a church is unique. We operate best when our business is both transparent and as broadly participatory as possible. As your Moderator, I hope that all of you who love our church will come and share your thoughts so that our expression of being an Open and Affirming Church may most closely reflect our aspirations and reality. I further hope all of us should feel free to speak with Max if we have questions or concerns about the theological and spiritual implications of declaring ourselves "Open and Affirming".

Sincerely,
James A. Simms, *moderator*

Upcoming Services

Easter Services

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. **Easter Sunday – April 5** – We will celebrate communion, at **6:00 am** at Channing Pond, in the pews at **9:00 am**, and by intinction at **11:00 am**.

Open and Affirming Sermon

On **Sunday, April 12th**, Max will be preaching on the topic of Open and Affirming. Please join us at 10:00 am.

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Baptism

We will be baptizing Audrey Joan Kerr, daughter of Patrick and Aimee Kerr, on **Sunday, April 19th at 10:00 am**. Patrick is a former high school youth group advisor and we welcome him, Aimee and their family for this joyous occasion.

Celebrating Carrie's Internship

We have been blessed with our pastoral intern, Carrie Swayne. Her time with us is swiftly coming to an end. Come join us on **Sunday, April 26th at 10:00 am**, to celebrate Carrie. (Earth Day is April 22nd so we will also be celebrating Earth Day on the 26th.)

Reception of New Members

We will be receiving new members into the church on **Sunday, May 3rd at 10:00 am**. Please come to welcome them to our church community.

A Mother's Day "Choral Sunday" at The Dover Church

Please join us for our Mother's Day worship service, **Sunday, May 10 at 10 a.m.**, celebrating our mothers, and celebrating the three choirs of The Dover Church.

If you or your children are interested in joining any of these groups, even if just for that day, please contact Michael. The Senior choir will be rehearsing a 10 minute Haydn Mass to be sung that day, with organ and strings, on most Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. between now and then. The Junior choir rehearses at 11:15-11:45 after church most Sunday mornings and are learning to sing in harmony and to sing alone. And the Cherub choir sings together every Sunday when there is Sunday School.

Many of us learned to sing with our mothers when we were toddlers. It seems a fitting tribute to combine a celebration of music with a celebration of them.



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



Spiritual Growth

Wednesday Morning Yoga...is going great!

For the 5-12 people who come to practice yoga on Wednesday Mornings, this has been a great spiritual time out. If you have never practiced before or have practiced but haven't been able to find time, take some and come to Kraft Hall on **Wednesdays at 9 am**. It is warm, bright and sunny. There is bouncy music playing. And we take some time to care for our minds, bodies and spirits.

Labyrinth Walk

During Holy Week, **March 29th** through **April 4th**, we will have a beautiful labyrinth set up in Kraft Hall. We encourage everyone to stop by during the week to walk. You could come during church office hours, **9:00 am to 3:00 pm** and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine pouring through the Kraft Hall windows. Or come during our evening hours, Monday through Friday, **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** and enjoy a candlelight walk.

Church Membership

New Members

If you have been coming to the church for a while, but are not a member, we encourage you to think about joining the church! We will be receiving new members into the church on Sunday, May 3rd.

Please speak to either Max, Beth Benjamin or Barbara Baker, chair of our Board of Deacons, if you would like to find out more or are ready to join.

Youth Programming

Sunday School

If the snow melts, we will have an **Easter egg hunt on Easter after the 9am service!**

Sunday School has been a great success this year! We are almost at the end and we are looking to finish strong. We follow our Safe Church Policy by having two teachers in each classroom every week and are always looking for

volunteers to teach. There are openings for April and May. We have set up an online sign-up for teaching Sunday School through www.signupgenius.com. If you are interested in teaching and do not have access to our sign-up genius website please contact Sarah Heffer 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 April:

Young Children in Worship - Pre-K - K

This April the children will be learning bible stories from the New Testament which include: "Jesus Is Risen: Appearance of Mary Magdalene", and "Road to Emmaus". 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 April students will be learning biblical stories from the New Testament. The stories included in this unit are: "Man Through the Roof", and "Mary and Martha". 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

On April 12th Carrie, our pastoral intern, will be conducting a question and answer discussion with this group. The students have prepared a wide range of questions in advance about religion. On April 22nd the students will journey through the New Testament starting a new unit called The Church. The theme of the lesson is called "The Body of Christ". 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 exploring biblical text, and creating projects that range from games to art and more.

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Earth Day Grocery Bags

In celebration of Earth Day, we will have a special awareness project for our children. We have grocery bags which we would like our children to decorate with messages about things they can do to help take care of our earth. Jordan Pfeifer did this bag.



Bags will be handed out in Sunday school on April 12th and we ask that you return them to us on April 19th. You can also stop by the church office to pick up a bag. Decorated bags will be brought to Shaw's and Roche Brothers to be used on Earth Day, April 22nd.

Confirmation

Our confirmation class will meet on **April 12th and 26th** from **5:30 pm to 6:45 pm**. On April 12th, we will meet in the church library. On the 26th, we will meet on the stage in Kraft Hall.

SHYG

SHYG will meet on **April 12th and 26th**. The 12th will be our ASP Introduction to Tools night. Watch the SHYG eNews for the location. On the 26th we will be chilling out with yoga and a group building activity **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in Kraft Hall.

MSYG

Our Middle School Youth Group will meet on **Wednesday, April 29th at 3:00 pm**. On the 29th, we will be working on Earth Day Projects. Bring clothes that can get dirty and an appetite for solar-oven brownies.

Serving Others

Family Promise MetroWest

What's it like to participate in the Family Promise MetroWest Annual Walk Away Homelessness Event? If you enjoy camaraderie, high spirits and getting some pleasant outdoor exercise on a spring morning, you'll have a wonderful time! On top of all this, you'll also be helping to raise funds for Family Promise MetroWest, an interfaith organization sponsored by the Dover Church, along

with many of our community faith neighbors.

Peggy Cross has participated in Family Promise MetroWest's walkathons since they began five years ago. In her opinion they just seem to get better and better. There are walkers of all ages, including many families with young children, and plenty of kid-friendly activities going on at the Natick Town Common (the start and ending site of the Walkathon). A certified trainer from the Happy Healthy Kids Fitness Studio does an upbeat warm-up with the crowd before the walking begins, Dunkin Donuts coffee and donuts are provided as well as other refreshments from WholeFoods...and this year there will even be chair massages offered by the Down to Earth Muscular Therapy Studio.

Please join us on **Saturday, April 11th** for the 2015 Walk Away Homelessness event. We have formed 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. We have signed up as The Dover Church Strollers! Here is the list of walkers so far: Ruth Mallett, Maggie and Josie Danielski, Ellen Weinberg, Meredith Birdsall, Peggy Cross, and Beth Benjamin. WE WANT YOU! So please join us.

Go to the Family Promise MetroWest website to register. On the registration page, choose "Select A Team" and then scroll down until you see The Dover Church Strollers. We will have fun walking together.

(<http://familypromisemetrowest.org/>)

If you can't join us, please support us by making a donation. From the Walkathon webpage, select "Sponsor a participant". Type in the name of the one of our strollers and help us to raise money to walk away homelessness! We have a modest goal of \$500 and it would be wonderful if we could double that!

We will be hosting again the **week of April 12th**. Watch for the volunteer sign up email coming soon. It takes a village to care for our guests and we encourage everyone to find a way to get involved. If you would like to attend a Family Promise training session, the next session will be held on **Tuesday, April 7, from 7-8:30 pm** at Christ The King, 600 Central St, Holliston.

If you would like to find out more about our Family Promise hosting, please speak with Beth Benjamin in the church office.

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Music Fellowship

Music For Teens

Would you like to sing with other teens or sing solos for a church service? We are starting a new opportunity for teens to work with Stacia Kraft on music to share with the congregation. Working with Stacia can help you increase your range and improve your vocal techniques. Arrangements may be made with Stacia for rehearsal times after church on Sundays.

In addition, any high school or college student is welcome to join the senior choir on **Sundays**. The choir rehearses is at **8:30am** before the service and often on Thursday evenings. Check the newsletter or contact Michael for a schedule. This is a great opportunity to hone your skills!

Dover Church Band

Our rehearsals in April will be on **Mondays, April 13th and 27th 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 our email reminder notices to our musicians.

Spring 2015 Lifetime Learning: Music through the Ages

The organ is one of the oldest instruments still used in European classical music. Its earliest predecessors were built in ancient Greece in the third century, BC. The history and evolution of this magnificent instrument will be related by Michael Kraft, executive vice president of C. B. Fisk Organ Builders, and the music director of The Church in Dover since 1993, when Fisk Opus 107 was installed. Michael will take us on a journey through the ages beginning with a short history of the pipe organ in the early medieval context. The course will highlight the Baroque Period (1600-1750), followed by the 19th century Romanticism in music. The course will culminate in a short study of modern music and the pipe organ. The four classes will be held in the lovely, historically relevant Dover Church. **Wednesdays 10:30-11:30, April 29, May 6, 13, 20.**

To register for this class and for additional information, contact the Dover COA at 508-315-5734, or email at coa@doverma.org.

Fellowship Opportunities

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The Dolphin Group

The Dolphin Group is a group of older men who meet for lunch. Please join us this month on **Wednesday, April 1st at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office by March 31st.

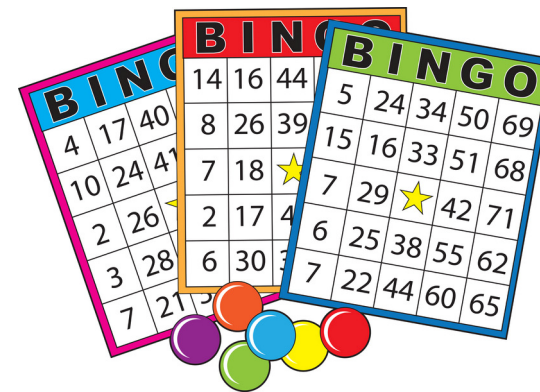
Ladies Lunch Bunch

Please consider joining us for our next Lunch Bunch Meeting on **Thursday, April 9th, at 12:15pm in Kraft Hall.** We hope all of the women of the church will join us. We welcome your friends as well. Don't forget to bring your lunch!

Movie Matinee

Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! **Friday, April 10th at 1 pm** we will be showing "**Enchanted April**" (1992 film adaptation of Elizabeth von Arnim's 1922 novel, "The Enchanted April," directed by Mike Newell) starring Josie Lawrence as Lottie Wilkins, Miranda Richardson as Rose Arbuthnot, Polly Walker as Caroline Dester, Joan Plowright as Mrs. Fisher, Alfred Molina as Mellersh Wilkins, Jim Broadbent as Frederick Arbuthnot and Michael Kitchen as George Briggs.

Elizabeth von Arnim's novel tells of four dissimilar women in 1920s England who leave their rainy, grey environments to go on holiday in Italy. Mrs Arbuthnot and Mrs Wilkins, who belong to the same ladies' club but have never spoken, become acquainted after reading a newspaper advertisement for a small medieval castle on the shores of the Mediterranean to be let furnished for the month of April. They find some common ground in that both are struggling to make the best of unhappy marriages. Having decided to seek other ladies to help share expenses, they reluctantly take on the waspish, elderly Mrs Fisher and the stunning but aloof Lady Caroline Dester. The four women come together at the castle and find rejuvenation in the tranquil beauty of their surroundings, re-discovering hope and love.



Spring Potluck Dinner and Bingo Night

We hope you will join us on **Saturday, April 11th** for a **Potluck Dinner and Bingo Night.** This event is for everyone, young and old. Please rsvp to the church office by either completing our flyer or emailing or calling the church office. We have put together an online sign up for you to sign up to bring something. If you can't access this, please call the office and we can take care of entering your dish.

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, April 15th at 12:00 noon.** We had a great group of ladies who joined us last month. We hope you will join us. 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, April 14th.

Attention Men!

Each month men from the Dover Church have been getting together for breakfast, conversation & laughter for 60-70 minutes. We would love to have you join us. Our next breakfast will be on **Friday, April 17th, at 7 am.** We will meet at the home of Steve Karlson, 7 Adams Lane, Dover.

If you can make it, please email Glenn Jensen at glennjensen@comcast.net to make sure we have enough bagels & muffins for everyone. We hope to see you!

Lay Leader Sign Up

We are making it even easier to sign up to participate as a lay leader in worship. We have set up an online Sign Up Genius site so

you can sign up as an **usher, scripture reader or Sunday fellowship host.** We have also set up an online Sign Up Genius site to sign up your 3rd-8th grader to be an **acolyte.** Please look at your calendars and sign up for those Sundays you know you will be available.

Upcoming Art Show



Irish Cow, by Walter Robb

We are pleased to announce that our next Art Show, "Down On The Farm," will feature the work of Anne and Walter Robb. Their art will be installed and available for viewing starting on Sunday, April 26th, and will hang until Sunday, June 14th. We hope you will enjoy their wonderful art.



Donkey, by Anne Robb

Wanted

Do you have an old amp taking up space in a closet somewhere? We are looking for one to run the keyboard for the Cherub Choir. If you have one, please contact the church office, 508-785-0957, admin@thedoverchurch.org and we'll be happy to come by and pick it up.



April 2015

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>						
29 Palm Sunday Walk Our Labyrinth 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM SHYG	30 Walk Our Labyrinth 1:00 PM Al Anon	31 Walk Our Labyrinth	1 Walk Our Labyrinth 9:00 AM Al Anon 12:00 PM Dolphin Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts	2 Walk Our Labyrinth 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	3 Walk Our Labyrinth 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	4 Walk Our Labyrinth
5 Easter Sunday 6:00 AM Service 9:00 AM Service 11:00 AM Service	6 1:00 PM Al Anon	7	8 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 7:15 PM Scouts	9 12:15 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 1:00 PM Movie Matinee	11 8:30 AM Family Promise Walkathon 6:00 PM Potluck And Bingo Night
12 Family Promise Hosting Week 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 11:15 AM Junior Choir 1:00 PM FP Set up 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM SHYG, Tool night	13 Family Promise Hosting Week 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	14 Family Promise Hosting Week 7:00 PM Trustees' Meeting 7:30 PM Deacons' Meeting	15 Family Promise Hosting Week 9:00 AM Al Anon 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts	16 Family Promise Hosting Week 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 Family Promise Hosting Week 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group	18 Family Promise Hosting Week
19 Worship 7:00 AM FP Breakdown 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 11:15 AM Junior Choir	20 Patriot's Day Office, closed 1:00 PM Al Anon	21	22 Earth Day 9:00 AM Al Anon	23 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 Worship 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 11:15 AM Junior Choir 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM SHYG	27 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	28 7:30 PM Church Council	29 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 10:30 AM COA Music Lecture 3:00 PM MSYG	30 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	1 New Member Reception	2



Easter Sunday
April 5th

6:00 am Sunrise
Communion Service
at Channing Pond

9:00 am Communion Service
with Junior Choir
in the sanctuary

11:00 am Communion Service
in the sanctuary

THE DOVER CHURCH

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