

The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

April 30, 2015

Volume 6, Issue 4

News from Meeting House Hill

To the church in Dover,

Grace and peace to all of you from God our Father and our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ!

Life has a lot of sweet spots, sometimes long, uninterrupted stretches of sweetness, so that are no spots to it at all. Some people live most of their lives in the sweetness. Many people take this sweetness for granted.

Life also has tough spots, sometimes all at once for a brief flash, and sometimes for long, uninterrupted stretches. Some people live their whole lives in tough spots. Many people take this toughness for granted.

When we're living in the sweet spot, it is very tempting to think that the toughness will not come our way. We think it never will. We hope and pray it never will.

One of the great blessings of God calling me to pastoral ministry has been the openness it has brought to my life. Having stood and kneeled and prayed with so many in their tough spots, as well as having danced and hugged and sung and laughed and prayed with so many in their sweet spots, I know that "to everything there is a season" (*Ecclesiastes 3*) and that "nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Romans 8*). I don't just think it or hope it. I know it.

The last two months have been a very tough stretch for me and my family. During February school vacation, I called my mother to see how she was doing and to tell her I loved her. She told me she was not feeling well. Very bad, in fact.

"How long have you felt this way, Mum?" I asked.

"A few days," she said.

"I'll be right over to take you to the doctor."

"No, I'll be alright. I just need to rest."

"I'll be right over"

My mother became utterly exhausted just walking out to my car. Within five minutes of her doctor's appointment, it was clear that she needed to go to Emergency. She was having a heart attack, had atrial fibrillation, and pneumonia. As I kissed her good night 8 hours later in ICU and left the hospital in the cold, winter darkness, I knew

LOOKING AHEAD

**New Member Sunday
May 3rd at 10:00 am**

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

**Blessing of Our High
School Youth
Sunday, May 17th
at 10:00 am**

**Confirmation
Sunday, June 7th
at 10:00 am**

**Celebration Sunday
June 14th at 10:00 am**

**Summer Worship
at 9:00 am
starts on June 21st**

See inside calendar for more details.

that my life hard turned a corner.

For two weeks, it was touch and go, whether she would get better and be able to come home. The treatments didn't take. Her heart didn't normalize. She looked so old and frail. Marie-Laure and I talked with the boys at dinner about grandma maybe dying.

The extra four hours a day it took to drive out to Worcester after work, on top of being a husband, father and pastor, were exhausting. Finally, my mother was able to come home, but she was not out of the woods. Physical and occupational therapy. Home healthcare aides. Weekly appointments in Worcester. A final cardioversion. Back to normal but worn and aged by a close dance with death. Both of us.

Without the love and support of Marie-Laure at home and Beth Benjamin and Carrie Swayne helping out double time at work, it could have been a much tougher stretch for me.

And then, on the Saturday before Easter, my baby sister died. Kirsten turned 45 on March 25. She had surgery on a Wednesday, was home on a Thursday, smiling and chatting on a Friday, and didn't wake up on Saturday.

I had to tell my parents and sisters, try to start "taking care of her affairs," which is something of a euphemism or understatement or misdirection...I'm still not sure which, all while I am grieving myself. Oh, I also had to get up and preach three times on Easter. One of the most intense mornings of my life.

Grief for me has been like a low grade headache which peaked from time to time, a bodily heaviness - I had to walk back three miles from a run because I felt like my sneakers were concrete - a feeling of emptiness. Just nothing to say, nothing on my mind, no fixed point to concentrate on...not easy to be a minister and preacher when that's your reality. One moment I cried because of joy at

In this issue:

From The Pastor	p 1
Upcoming Services	p 2
Spiritual Growth	p 3
From Our Deacons	p 3
Youth Programming	p 4
Serving Others	p 4
Music Fellowship	p 5
Fellowship Opportunities	p 5
Upcoming Community Events	p 6
Calendar	p 7

the happy memories followed by the sadness that they were now forever past...we wouldn't be able to share them over a meal again - the next I cried with remorse for things I wished had gone differently and were now forever unchangeable.

And, of course, the work of the church went on. We have been heavily engaged on a number of big initiatives that are close to bursting forth with new life in our church, issues which, like it or not all you Congregationalists, needed professional pastoral guidance and theological reflection.

The affection so many of you poured out on me and my family with cards, flowers and meals was like a cool breeze on a hot day, a warm bed on a winter morning, a plunge into a tropic sea - sorry for so many similes and metaphors - but it meant a lot to me and that's what it felt like. To know one is loved and that others care is so vital. To come home and find that Youth Groupers and members of a women's spirituality group I am blessed to be part of had planted flowers, cleaned up our yard, and given us new welcome mats in front of our doors was one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me. Welcome was suddenly very real for me.

Community and my spiritual practice of connecting my heart with my head with my body, of centering, releasing and nurturing, these are the things which have made this "a time to mourn" for me.

I share this not so that you feel sorry for me. I share this to tell you that I love you. I share this to affirm and celebrate **you** as ministers of God's love in the world. As we say in Confirmation and Youth Group, "You are blessed to be blessings."

Amen

Max

By the grace of God, Your Pastor

Upcoming Services

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

If the English musician and writer, Charles Burney, were to visit Dover on Sunday, May 10, he



THE DOVER CHURCH • P.O. Box 305, Dover, MA 02030 • Tel/fax: 508-785-0957

info@thedoverchurch.org • www.thedoverchurch.org

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



might be as impressed with the town of Dover's church music as he was with the city of Vienna's in 1772. He was quoted as saying "There is scarce a church in Vienna, which has not every Sunday it's mass in music: that is, a great portion of the church service of the day, set in parts, and performed with voices, accompanied by at least three or four violins besides the organ."

Franz Joseph Haydn wrote some of his first music for these Sunday mornings at the age of seventeen. By the time of Beethoven and Schubert, church music had been relegated to the periphery of Austrian musical life because the city had become a place with many concert halls and a famous opera house. In our small town of Dover there are no longer concert halls let alone opera houses. But we still have the occasional chance to hear this great music at The Dover Church.

Please come to our Mother's Day "Choral" Service featuring our Cherub Choir, Junior Choir and Adult Choir, Sunday, May 10 at 10am. The music will include "Peace Like a River" sung by the Cherubs, a Calypso rhythm piece and John Rutter's "All Things Bright and Beautiful" sung by the Juniors, and a 15 minute Haydn Mass for chorus, organ and strings. While we do not celebrate mass in the liturgical form, the text and music of Haydn's "Small Organ Mass" are artistic expressions of our faith and beliefs.

Celebration of our Youth in Worship

On May 17, we will be having a celebration of our youth in worship. First we will tell our graduating seniors how much we love them and send them off with our blessing, and then we will bless our Youth Groupers who will be going on this year's Appalachian Service Project trip to Craigsville, WV. Come join us for this happy morning and hear the McGehee-Cocks Singers.

Spiritual Growth

Yoga and Youth Empowerment

Yoga classes on Wednesday mornings have been great. We have had between 4 and 12 students throughout the winter. I have had to cancel a number of classes due to my mother's medical appointments, but we have still raised \$300 for the Youth Empowerment Fund. This will be a fund that TDC teens can apply for a grant to, a grant for some "make the world a better place"

project s/he would like to carry out. Considering I have not spread the word about either the yoga or the fund outside the walls of the church, I think it is coming along. Please join us some Wednesday morning. Contributions are voluntary.

Want to deepen your faith?

Many of you might know that I have been leading small groups in our church for the last five years. These are groups of 2-10 people who meet regularly (weekly, twice a month, monthly) with me for an hour to talk about faith, pray, and become friends. I have been writing a book as a discussion tool/companion piece, with chapters that touch on the questions the people of our church raise. If you would like to dive deeper into your faith next September, I am looking to form new groups. You can either come to me as an individual and I will find you a group, or as a group and we will find a time. Peace, Max

From Our Deacons

New Members

We are very excited to welcome new members to the church during worship on Sunday, May 3rd.

Maggie and Tom Danielski moved to Dover from Brighton last summer with their children, **Josie** (5) and **Arthur** (3). Both Tom and Maggie are attorneys, but Maggie is home full-time with the kids for the next few years. Maggie is a member of the Dover Mother's Association. Maggie and Tom love being outdoors, exercising, and working on home improvement projects. Josie loves soccer and ballet and Arthur's favorite things are trucks and super heroes!

Heather and Steve DePaola live in Dover with their daughter, **Mckinlee** (8). Heather grew up in Dover and is the daughter of Dick Hodgson. She and her sister have their own business and Steve is in sales and market research for an industrial automation company. The DePaolas are outdoor enthusiasts, and this winter added alpine skiing to their list of favorite family activities.

George and Lynne Hong live in Westwood with their children, **Christine** (18), **Sophie** (10), and **Viviette** (4). George is a marketing strategist for a biotech company and Lynn is

a dermatologist. George likes to cook and has helped as a homeless shelter cook. Music is something they all enjoy; from singing to playing the piano and violin. Lynne's dad, **Sung Ok Chang**, and her mom, **Haing Ja Chung**, are also joining our church.

Please help us welcome these families to our church.

Youth Programming

Change is Coming to the Christian Education Office

As you probably have noticed, Sarah Hefter is due to have her baby boy any day now. She will be on maternity leave from now until the end of June. Kristen Dennison will be her replacement during that time. If you need to contact Kristen, use Sarah's email, sarah@thedoverchurch.org. You may also call the Church office and leave Kristen a message. She will usually be in three mornings a week.

Sunday School

Here is a brief overview of what the children will be learning in May.

Young Children in Worship - Pre-K - K

This May the children will be learning bible stories from the New Testament which include: "The Good Shepherd and the Wolf", and "The Good Shepherd and the Lords Supper" and "Pentecost". 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 May students will be learning biblical stories from the New Testament. The stories included in this unit are: "The Prodigal Son", and "Ten Outcasts" and "Pentecost". 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 May 3rd Carrie, our pastoral intern, will be con-

ducting a question and answer discussion with this group. The students have prepared a wide range of questions in advance about religion. On May 10th the students will journey through the New Testament continuing with the unit called The Church. The themes of the lessons is called "Spread the Gospel" and "Pentecost". 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.

There will be no Sunday School on May 24, Memorial Day Weekend.

Starting May 31, each classroom will be preparing for our Celebration Sunday Pageant which will focus on Pentecost. They will also be practicing for their class's individual presentations.

Confirmation

Our confirmation class will meet on **May 3rd, and 17th from 5:30 pm to 6:45 pm.**

SHYG

SHYG will meet on **May 3rd, 17th and 31st.** The 3rd and 31st will both be ASP organizational meetings. We meet from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** in Kraft Hall.

MSYG

Our Middle School Youth Group will meet on **Wednesday, May 13th at 3:00 pm.** We will also be attending a local Greek Festival for our final celebration the week of May 27th. Watch for the email from Kelsey for more details.

Serving Others

Family Promise Metrowest

We had a successful hosting week in April and would like to thank everyone who helped. It was wonderful to have so many volunteers. Many of you helped by providing meals and supplies, which were gratefully eaten. Set up and break down went smoothly and we still have some members who are helping to wash the laundry to get it ready for our next hosting week in September. We couldn't provide this important service to our

guests without all of you. If you would like to find out more about our Family Promise hosting, please speak with Beth Benjamin in the church office.

Thank You For Your Generosity

During April we had several opportunities to support our mission work. We want to thank you all for your generosity. On April 11th we had 9 members who participated in the Family Promise Walk Away Homelessness 5 K walk. In total we raised \$2,250. Family Promise Metrowest raised over \$103,000.

Many thanks also for your generous Easter Offering. We raised \$12,231 for the St. Boniface Haiti Villa Clinic. Our Sunday school collected \$115 during Lent. This money will be invested in our Kiva account.

Music Fellowship

Dover Church Band

Our rehearsals in May will be on **Mondays, May 4th and 18th at 7:30 pm.**

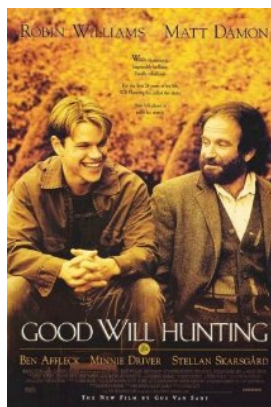
We are always looking for musicians. If you play an instrument, we hope you will join us. Please email Beth Benjamin, beth@thedoverchurch.org, or call the church office, 508-785-0957, if you would like to be included on our email reminder notices to our musicians.

Fellowship Opportunities

Movie Matinee

Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! **Friday, May 8th at 1 pm** we will be showing "**Good Will Hunting**", starring Robin Williams, Matt Damon, Stellan Skarsgård, Ben Affleck and Minnie Driver.

The film follows 20-year-old South Boston laborer Will Hunting (Damon), an unrecognized genius who, as part of a deferred prosecution agreement after assaulting a police officer, becomes a patient of a therapist (Williams) and studies advanced mathe-



5
matics with a renowned professor (Skarsgård). Through his therapy sessions, Will re-evaluates his relationships with his best friend (Affleck), his girlfriend (Driver) and himself, facing the significant task of thinking about his future. Popcorn, Coffee and Dessert provided.

The Dolphin Group

The Dolphin Group is a group of older men who meet for lunch. Please join us this month on **Wednesday, May 13th at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office by May 12th. (Please note that this is the **second Wednesday** of the month.)

Ladies Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on **Thursday, May 14th, 12:15pm** in Kraft Hall. This will be the final meeting before the summer season. We will be planning our hosting of the May 19th Community Lunch at Kraft Hall. In addition we will be selecting future meeting dates for the September-May 2105/2016 year. Please join us for planning, plotting and laughter.

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, May 15th, 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!

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, May 20th 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, May 19th.

Lay Leader Sign Up

We want everyone 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. Please look for the link in the weekly eNews.

Upcoming Community Events

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.**

Wednesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM - "Harvard and Religion"

At the Dover Library, Lower Level. Rodney L. Petersen, PhD, will speak on *Harvard and Religion: College, Church, and State: The Origins of an American Sense of Church/Community, Governance, and Education.*

Rodney Petersen, PhD is a Research Associate at Boston University. He serves as executive director of The Lord's Day Alliance, the organization that fostered the weekend in the United States, and as executive director of Cooperative

6
Metropolitan Ministries in Boston. Prior to coming to these positions he was executive director of the Boston Theological Institute (BTI), the consortium of theological schools, seminaries, and university divinity schools in the Greater Boston area. He has taught in BTI member schools and overseas. His extensive bibliography includes publications in history and ethics. Dr. Petersen, his wife Rebecca, and their family live in Dover. He serves on the town Warrant Committee and on the Board of Deacons at The Dover Church.

The Role of Religion in Promoting Justice

"**The Role of Religion in Promoting Justice for All**" is the theme of the **May 7th Annual Dinner of Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries (CMM) at First Church, 11 Garden Street in Cambridge, at 6:30 pm.**

The keynote speaker is the **Rev. Dr. Jonathan L. Walton**, Minister of Harvard's Memorial Church. Rev. Michael McGarry of the Paulist Center and others will be recognized for their contribution to CMM's interfaith Prayer Book: "Spiritual Voices -- Envisioning Just Peacemaking in our Communities."

All are invited to the dinner which will feature a performance by the Boston Children's Chorus. For information, please go to CMM's website: <http://www.coopmet.org/> and please register at cmm49thannualdinner.eventbrite.com.

COA Community Lunch

Please join us on **Tuesday, May 19th at 12 noon** for the COA Community Lunch. Our Ladies Lunch Bunch will be hosting this event. Please let us know if you would like to help by providing food for this meal.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the COA office to RSVP. **508-315-5734, or email at coa@doverma.org.** If you need a ride to the lunch, please call the church office and we will help get you to the church on time!

Ordination Service

We are pleased to announce the ordination of **Rebecca Sommer-Petersen.** She is being ordained to serve as a community minister by the Rumney Marsh Fellowship of the International Council of Community Churches. The service is here on **May 31st at 2 pm.** All are welcome.

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30 PM New Member Reception	2
3 Reception of New Members 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-ASP Meeting	4 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:00 PM Investment Committee 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	5 6:30 PM Leadership Potluck Dinner	6 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 10:30 AM Music Lecture 7:15 PM Scouts	7 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00 PM Movie Matinee	9
10 A Mother's Day Choral Sunday 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School	11 1:00 PM Al Anon	12 7:00 PM Trustees' Meeting	13 9:00 AM Al Anon & Yoga 10:30 AM Music Lecture 12:00 AM Dolphin Lunch 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Scouts	14 12:15 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch	15 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group	16
17 Graduating High School Youth and Service Trip 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	18 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal	19 12:00 PM COA Community Lunch 7:30 PM Deacons' Meeting	20 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 10:30 AM Music Lecture 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts	21	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School	25 Memorial Day Office closed 1:00 PM Al Anon	26 7:30 PM Church Council	27 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 7:15 PM Scouts	28	29	30
31 Worship 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 2:00 PM Ordination 7:00 PM SHYG-ASP Meeting	<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>					



Join us on Sunday, May 10th at 10:00 am for a special Mother's Day "Choral Sunday" service.

THE DOVER CHURCH

P.O. Box 305 • Dover, MA 02030 • Tel: 508-785-0957 • Fax: 508-785-0957 • info@thedoverchurch.org

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Dover, MA 02030
Permit No. 4
Carrier Route Presort

NEWS from Meeting House Hill
THE DOVER CHURCH
P.O. BOX 305
DOVER, MA 02030