



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

May 28, 2015

Volume 6, Issue 5

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!

Two great pieces of good news!!!

First, we are hiring Carrie Swayne, our pastoral intern from Boston University School of Theology, to be our part-time Associate Minister, starting on July 1. Carrie enjoyed herself so much as our intern, and we enjoyed her so much as our intern, and we definitely have the ministry needs for a part-time associate, and Carrie has the time in her school schedule, and Carrie said how doing ministry here reminded her of why she was grinding her way through an M.Div... well it all added up to great opportunity for everyone. Carrie will be working 16 hours a week on four things:

- 4 hours a week on worship leadership with me and 8 hours on the weeks when she preaches,
- 8 hours a week on visitation and 4 hours when she is preaching,
- Developing family/intergenerational local mission opportunities for our church – finding sites that can host families/people of all ages, doing meaningful service in the Greater Boston Area, and
- Developing a faith development program for teens to complement our youth group. This would be for youth who want to specifically talk about God, prayer, the Bible, their faith, which is something that tends to happen incidentally in YG.

All I can say is "YAY!"

Second, we are going to offer some worship diversity beginning in September. Until now, we have largely had the same liturgy and musical feel week in, week out, with occasional forays into Dixieland or Country Music. What the Board of Deacons has heard over the last few years is that our traditional worship service does not speak to many people, that there is too much that seems superfluous. They have learned that people come to feel God's love, to feel welcomed into a community, to be energized and renewed, and to hear something enlightening. So, every other Sunday starting in September we will have worship that seeks to achieve just that. The other two Sundays will be our traditional liturgy and music for those whom that speaks to.

continued



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>



LOOKING AHEAD

Confirmation
Sunday, June 7th
at 10:00 am

Celebration Sunday
June 14th at 10:00 am

Summer Worship
starts on June 21st
at 9:00 am
in Kraft Hall

See inside calendar for more details.

Summer office hours will start the week of June 21st.



The office will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays From 9 am until 12 noon.

In short, we have much to look forward to after the summer. Your staff is hard at work putting all the pieces together.

Max

By the grace of God, Your Pastor

Summer at Church – Max's Sabbatical

Believe it or not, I will have been your pastor for 6 years in August. My, how time flies when you are having fun! One part of my contract which many of you may not be aware of is my sabbatical. Every 6 years, I get a 3 month sabbatical to renew, restore, recharge, rethink. Because we have school age kids, taking 3 months at one go doesn't make sense for me...and not for the church either at this point in our growth. So I am taking a month a summer for the next 3 summers, along with my 4 weeks vacation. This summer, I go away after the YG ASP service trip and will be back on August 31. I will be walking the 500 miles pilgrim trail to Santiago de Compostello in northern Spain. Carrie will be covering the church in my absence. Carrie can be reached at carrie@thedoverchurch.org or on her cell, 617-785-8522. We will post Carrie's office hours by mid-June.

Upcoming Services

Confirmation Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, June 7, 2015 at 10:00 am** as we welcome members of our confirmation class into the Church with a reception to follow during coffee hour in Kraft Hall.



Celebration Sunday

On **Sunday, June 14** we will celebrate the end of our program year. Join us as our children

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lead us in the Lord's Prayer and 100th Psalm. Our older students will tell the story of Pentecost as part of the service. This is the day we celebrate all we have done during our program year. We also celebrate the coming of summer!

Summer Services To Start

Our services will move to "summer hours" starting **Sunday, June 21st**. Please join us for worship at **9:00am in Kraft Hall**. (We enjoyed being in Kraft Hall so much last summer we decided to hold our summer services there again this summer.) **Church office hours** will be **Tuesday to Thursday, 9 am to 12 noon** starting the week of June 21st..

Spiritual Growth

Only a Few More Yoga Classes Before Summer

Yoga classes on Wednesday mornings will wrap up for the summer on June 17, so check it out soon or wait for September when we begin again.

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

A Message from the Moderator

In our March newsletter, I shared with all of you information about the process the church would follow toward becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. In the last two months, we have accomplished several steps of the process:

- Define the process, exchange ideas, solicit volunteers to write our statement
- Circulate amongst the writing group initial

- independent statement drafts
- Revise and rewrite statements, taking the best pieces from each submission
- Reach unanimous agreement on a draft O&A statement
- Discuss the process and present the draft to Church Council
- Discuss the process and present the draft at the May Leadership potluck dinner meeting
- Address comments and feedback from Church Council and Church Leadership

Following Max's April 12th sermon entitled "Open and Affirming at The Dover Church", I announced that I was looking for people to work on crafting an Open and Affirming statement for our church. A number of people volunteered their time and word-smithing talents and I am very grateful for their assistance. Our writing team consisted of: Joan King, Beth McGaw, Sally Shoemaker, Carrie Swayne, Francesca Wier and myself.

It is with great pride that I take the next step in the process, namely, presenting our draft statement to the entire congregation. I believe it is important for me to share with you all the goals the writing group identified as being crucial to our statement:

- Create a pithy, yet powerful, statement of our commitment to an expanded definition of "welcoming".
- Complement and remain consistent to our Uniting Covenant, which is unchanged.
- Specifically state "Open and Affirming", making our intent clear to those for whom this expression is meaningful (the gay and lesbian community).
- Reference Biblical inspiration and support for the statement.
- Acknowledge/affirm our congregation's commitment to human dignity, freedom, justice, and to lead by example.
- Avoid problematic phrases and words that might be unnecessarily provocative, unclear, or awkward.

We welcome and value your feedback. Shortly, the Deacons will be circulating a brief questionnaire covering the O&A process and the draft statement. Please know that it is important that all voices be heard in this process. Your comments can be directed to any of the members of the writing committee or you can wait to reply to the questionnaire. Jamie Simms, *moderator*

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DRAFT - Open & Affirming Statement
PRELIMINARY & SUBJECT TO REVISION
Reviewed by Church Council, April 28, 2015

~~~~~  
We, the members of the Dover Church, following Jesus's great commandment to love God and one another, invite all people into our community of Christian faith and declare that we are an Open and Affirming congregation. No matter who you are, who you love, what your physical and mental characteristics are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. In a world often lacking in deference, respect, and inclusivity, we strive for a better way. We open our hearts in love and extend our hands in welcome to all seeking Christian fellowship in our church, a community of faith and service since 1762.  
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From the Stewardship Team

Greetings from the stewardship team. We met the other day to review last year's campaign and the impact that your pledges have made on The Dover Church, and to look forward to this year's fundraising effort. We want to begin sharing our thoughts on these topics.

Last year's fundraising effort included different components. As you will recall, the theme of the campaign was "Give with Gladness". It was clear to us as we began the campaign that our members want to be invested in the work of our church, and therefore really do give with gladness, so the theme came almost naturally. We also produced a number of "profiles in giving" articles that described members of the church and why they give so generously, and gladly, as part of their stewardship. The goal of these elements was to help us all recognize what we love about this church and realize why we should support it.

As for the numbers, our goal for last year's fundraising was \$349,000. This goal was aggressive, representing a 16% increase in giving from what was raised the year before. We didn't quite meet that goal, but we received pledges of \$322,070 from 143 families, for an average pledge of \$2,252. This represents a net increase of 5 pledging families from the year before and an increase of 7.7% in the amount pledged. The

average pledge also increased by 4% from \$2,167 to \$2,252. Of the 143 pledging families, 57 families increased their pledge from the year before, 50 remained the same, 18 reduced their pledge and 18 were new pledgers. As we move to this year's campaign in the fall, it's good to see what our current pledges are supporting so far this year. Here's just a sample of the great things that your investment in our church has brought:

- We just recently enjoyed a new members party at the parsonage (8 new adult members plus their children joined the church),
- We had a fantastic Potluck Dinner and Bingo Night on April 11th,
- We have two wonderful, new youth choirs, the Cherub Choir and the Junior Choir,
- We recently had a beautiful Choral Sunday,
- The Senior High Youth Group is heading to West Virginia with the Appalachian Service Project with 32 participants (up from 16 last year!),
- The Middle School Youth Group is up from 0 last year to a consistent 7-9 attendees with Kelsey Calhoun as a new Middle School Youth Group Leader,
- We're very fortunate to have Carrie Swayne as our new, part-time associate, and
- Weekly service attendance numbers are up and participation in other groups is stronger.

As we move closer to the campaign to raise funds for 2016, we're working on ways to do a better job at exciting more members to make financial pledges and more members to make larger pledges. We are also looking at ways to get more youth involved with stewardship and implementing technology to help organize and facilitate the pledging and gifting process. Look for the next update from the stewardship team later in the summer.

Thank you for all your support for The Dover Church and the work of Christ in our community.

The Stewardship Team: Beth Benjamin, Glenn Jensen, Steve Karlson, Chris Newport, Lisa Procter and Nancy Simms

Youth Programming

Celebration Sunday

On Sunday, June 14 we will be celebrating all the students who have participated in Sunday School this year as well as all the teachers who have worked with them. We hope all of you will be able to join us on this joyous occasion. We have opportunities for all of our students to participate in the service that day. **Grades 1 and 2** will be reciting The Lord's Prayer. **Grades 3 and 4** will be reciting the 100th Psalm. The students in **Grades 5 - 7** will be helping throughout the service, and look for a special blessing from our youngest students in **Grades Pre-K and Kindergarten**.

Many students will be participating in our Pentecost Pageant, and the Cherub and Junior Choirs will be singing.

Children will be receiving acknowledgement for their participation in Sunday School, and those students who will be in Third Grade next year will be receiving the Bibles they will be using in Sunday School next year.

Even if you have not been a frequent attendee throughout the year, we hope you will join us the Sundays leading up to Celebration Sunday and on Celebration Sunday. Please invite family and friends to come as well!

Sunday School Registration 2015 - 2016

In order to plan for our next year of Sunday School, we will be asking families to register their children for Sunday School this spring. We will be sending out our new on-line registration form by early June. Please complete it promptly to help us in our scheduling.

Do You Have Seven Hours to Give?

We are developing our teaching schedule for the 2015 - 2016 Sunday School Year, and we are looking for teachers at all levels. If you have seven hours you can give to help the children in our Sunday School, we would greatly appreciate it. You may sign up to teach either in the fall (until mid-January) or the winter and spring. We can work with your schedule, so please let Kristen Dennison know if you can help us. She can be reached by email, sarah@thedoverchurch.org, or by calling the

church office. The teaching burden is not heavy, and there's nothing like laughing and learning with children to brighten your day!

SHYG

SHYG meets for the final meeting of the year on **Sunday, June 14th**. Watch for details on when and where!

We invite you to **support our SHYG service trip** to WV by purchasing stock. Please help us reduce the cost for all of our 32 volunteers (in particular the adults who are giving up a week of their time to come with us.) Please complete and return the stock form enclosed with this newsletter along with a check payable to The Dover Church. Many, many thanks!

Music Fellowship

Dover Church Band

Our rehearsal in June will be on **Monday, June 1st at 7:30 pm**. We will be getting ready for our Celebration Sunday service on June 14th.

We are always looking for musicians. If you play an instrument, we hope you will join us. Please email 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, June 12th at 1 pm** we will be showing **"The Hundred Foot Journey"**, starring Helen Mirren, Om Puri, Juhi Chawla, Manish Dayal and Charlotte Le Bo.

In "The Hundred-Foot Journey," Hassan Kadam (Manish Dayal) is a culinary ingénieur with the gastronomic equivalent of perfect pitch. Displaced from their native India, the Kadam family, led by Papa (Om Puri), settles in the quaint village of Saint-Antonin-Noble-Val in the south of France. Filled with charm, it is both picturesque and elegant – the ideal place to settle down and open an Indian restaurant, the Maison Mumbai. That is, until the chilly chef proprietress

of Le Saule Pleureur, a Michelin starred, classical⁵ French restaurant run by Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren), gets wind of it.

"The Hundred-Foot Journey" abounds with flavors that burst across the tongue. A stimulating triumph over exile, blossoming with passion and heart, with marjoram and madras, it is a portrayal of two worlds colliding and one boy's drive to find the comfort of home, in every pot, wherever he may be. 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, June 3rd at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office by June 2nd. This is our final meeting of the season.

Men's Breakfast Group

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, June 19th, at 7 am**. Watch for future announcements on the location.

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

We are working to schedule our June get together for the Ladies Who Lunch. Watch the eNews and announcements for the date. Location is the Wellesley College Club, 727 Washington St, Wellesley, MA 02481.

SUPPORT A TEEN - PURCHASE STOCK IN ASP

Please take this opportunity to make an investment in the Dover Appalachia Service Project (DoverASP). Stock in DoverASP may be purchased for \$25.00 per share. Please fill out and send in the form at the bottom of this page to lend your tax deductible support to this life-enhancing cause. Your donation will help us to reduce the overall cost of our trip.

DIVIDEND TO ALL INVESTORS: A postcard from a volunteer during our week of service.

YOUR INVESTMENT OF:	WILL PURCHASE:	WHICH COULD BE USED TO:
\$ 25	1 Share	Paint a room
\$ 50	2 Shares	Build an outhouse
\$ 75	3 Shares	Dig a 40 ft. drainage ditch
\$ 100	4 Shares	Repair a foundation
\$ 125	5 Shares	Build a safe porch
\$ 250	10 Shares	Re-shingle a roof

FOR YOUR RECORDS: Shares Purchased _____

We thank you for your support!

***** CUT HERE *****

DOVER APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT Stock Order Form

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____
Street
Town
State
Zip Code

- ____ 10 Shares \$ 250
- ____ 5 Shares \$ 125
- ____ 4 Shares \$ 100
- ____ 3 Shares \$ 75
- ____ 2 Shares \$ 50
- ____ 1 Share \$ 25

Please make your tax deductible check payable to
"The Dover Church" and mail with this completed form to:
 The Dover Church - HSYG
 17 Springdale Avenue
 P.O. Box 305
 Dover, MA 02030

June 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>31 Worship 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 2:00 PM Ordination 7:00 PM SHYG-ASP Meeting</p>	<p>1 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 12:00 AM Dolphin Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Confirmation Sunday 9:00 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School</p>	<p>8 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>9 7:00 PM Trustees' Meeting</p>	<p>10 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 1:00 PM Movie Matinee</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14 Celebration Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Service TBD SHYG—Final Meeting</p>	<p>15 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>16 7:30 PM Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>17 9:00 AM Al Anon Yoga 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group</p>	<p>20 SHYG leave for Service Week in WV</p>
<p>21 Father's Day Summer Worship Begins Services in Kraft Hall 9:00 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>22 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>23 7:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p>24 9:00 AM Al Anon</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28 Worship 9:00 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>29 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Happy 4th of July!</p>



Join us on Sunday,
June 14th at
10:00 am for our
Celebration Sunday
service. This is the day we
celebrate our accomplish-
ments from this year as
well as the coming of
summer!

THE DOVER CHURCH

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