



The Dover Church

"A Welcoming Community of Faith and Service since 1762"

September 30, 2015

Volume 6, Issue 7

News from Meeting House Hill

To the Church in Dover:

Grace and peace to you from God our Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ!

When someone says the word "church," Sunday worship is probably the first thing that comes to mind. At least it is the first thing that comes to my mind. As long as I can remember, I have been spending my Sunday mornings inside white, clapboard churches on town greens, singing hymns, praying, listening to (and preaching) sermons, celebrating the seasons, giving my gifts, and sharing community with neighbors. When I think of how things have remained the same since 1966 (when I was baptized...I actually remember my baptism as I was 3...a story for another time), and how some things have evolved so that people who don't know the old words, phrases and concepts can experience the same things - love, joy, peace, sorrow, comfort, inspiration - well, worship seems to me to be a good way to spend your life. It has been a good way to spend my life.

Here at The Dover Church, we have been breathing some new breezes this Fall in worship. We still have our traditional worship every other Sunday, a form of worship that would feel familiar to those folks at my baptism in 1966. We also have added new forms of worship in the hopes of communicating God's love for us in the life and ministry of Jesus to people for whom the old forms don't communicate that. To use a simile here is fraught with the peril of miss- or over-interpretation, but here goes. It's like the difference between black and white movies and present day blends of animation and acting. Some people just cannot appreciate the artistry of Lawrence Olivier on screen, because they have no fluency with that idiom. And then there are those who love Olivier and cannot stand Spielberg movies. Neither is better or worse. They both communicate in their own ways. And worship, if it is anything, is an act of communication, putting our deepest thoughts and feelings into word and music so that we might come into communion with the central force of the universe! Heady stuff.

I invite you to come on by Sunday mornings at 10 and see if you can hear it and feel it, if you can sing it and pray it - God's amazing steadfast love for each of us and all of us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

LOOKING AHEAD

**SHYG Service Trip Sunday
October 4th
10:00 AM**

**Movie Matinee
Friday, October 9th at 1 PM**

**Annual Fall Social
Saturday, October 17th
5:30 PM Cocktails
6:30 PM Dinner**

**Laity Sunday
October 18th at 10 AM**

**COA Community Lunch
Tuesday, October 20th
12 Noon**

**Stewardship Kick-Off
Meeting and Lunch
Sunday, October 25th**

See inside calendar for more details.



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



I also invite your heartfelt reflections on worship, which idiom works for you, why and how?

In faith, hope and love,
Max - your pastor

Upcoming Services

Our worship theme for October is "Giving and Receiving Gifts"

On **October 4**, we will celebrate communion (God's gift to us) by intinction and listen to our Youth Group talk and show slides about their Appalachian Service Project Service Trip to West Virginia last summer (gifts given and received).

On **October 11**, we will have the choir and Michael on the organ, as well as message about "Giving to God the Things that Are God's"

On **October 18**, Carrie will be leading worship lifting up the gifts our lay leaders share in our church's various ministries.

On **October 25**, we will have our choir and Michael on the organ again, and a sermon on "Getting the Measure We Give." After worship we will have our annual budget brunch, when we kick off our Annual Giving Ministry (aka Stewardship Campaign)

A Message from the Moderator

ONA Update: Our Statement Drafting Group is happy to share what we think is a well-suited ONA Statement for The Dover Church. We share it here with you all below. We are on track for a vote at our January 2016 annual meeting; as you may recall, this was the mandate the congregation voted on at our January 2015 annual meeting. Our group would welcome feedback - on the statement, on the process, on the upcoming vote.

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Please contact any one of us to share your thoughts.²
Thank you! Joan King, Beth McGaw, Sally Shoemaker, Jamie Simms, Carrie Swayne, and Francesca Wier.

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."

"For the Bible Tells Me So" - a 2008 documentary Delving into values of the religious right and the accompanying homophobia, "For the Bible Tells Me So" focuses on how conservative Christians' interpretation of the Bible is commonly used as a way to deny homosexuals equal rights. Following five families with an openly gay son or daughter, director Daniel G. Karlake offers a firsthand look at how those in the Christian community with an out child are affected by the homophobic fervor. Karlake also interviews a number of religious leaders.

Beloved, join us for a screening of this film on **Sunday, October 18, 2015**, following Sunday Fellowship (approx. 11:30 am), as we seek to open ourselves to conversation around the LGBTQ community and the Open and Affirming process. - Carrie

From the Stewardship Team

Please join us on Sunday, October 25th following worship for our Stewardship Kick-Off meeting. Lunch will be served and day care will be provided for children of all ages.

From Our Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to take this opportunity to thank the CE committee members who organized our Welcome Back Sunday activities and lunch. Thank you for making this a fun and

welcoming day.

We would also like to thank George and Beth Webb and their children for sharing their home for our Fall Family Potluck. We had great food and fellowship with over 60 adults and children.

We are excited about our upcoming social events—our Annual Fall Social is next! We hope you will all join us for cocktails in Kraft Hall and dinner among friends!

Youth Programming

Sunday School:

Pre-K - K: Will be learning about “Abram and Sarai”, “Exodus”, and “Ten Best Ways to Live”. Colorful felt underlays set the scene for wood figures to play out the stories and allow children to expand their imagination.

Grades 1st-2nd/3rd - 4th: Each week, kids watch an animated Bible story video, talk about the story, read their Bible Storybook or Bible, and try a creative activity. This month they will be learning about “Exodus”, “The Stone tablets”, and “Deborah”.

Grades 5th - 6th: Students will experience an entire church service on October 4th. The service will focus on the Senior High Youth Group’s involvement in Work Camp when they went to Craigsville, WV. On the 18th and 25th they will continue to explore the themes of “Commandments” and “Promised Land” working with the Connect Curriculum.

R4 Ministries and Rob Bell - Grades 7th-8th: Students will experience an entire church service on October 4th. The service will focus on the Senior High Youth Group’s involvement in Work Camp when they went to Craigsville, WV. On the 18th they will learn about “Experiencing Trust” using the curriculum R4 Ministries by Rob Bell. On the 25th they will have a lesson about how to tell time using the “Church Calendar”.

Online Registration!: We have sent out an email asking you to register your children for 2015-2016. If you haven't registered yet, please use our new, on-line registration form to enter the information for your children.

Do you have seven hours?: Last year we tried out a team teaching model last year. It was so successful we are continuing with it this year. With our team teaching model of four teachers

per grade, every teacher has to teach only seven times over the course of four and a half months. We can work with your schedule! Please sign up to teach in the winter and spring (mid-January to June). We take care of all the preparation for you; you only need to spend a little time reading the lesson ahead of time. If you are interested in teaching, please contact Sarah Hefter know at sarah@thedoverchurch.org.

Youth Group News

Middle School Youth Group (MSYG), for 6th through 8th graders will meet on **Wednesday, October 14th** at 3:00 pm, to go canoeing and on **Wednesday, October 28th** at 3:00 pm for a Halloween Event. We hope your youth will join us. Bring your friends and join in! Please make sure to register online by going to the church’s website—Youth Group Page.

Senior High Youth Group (SHYG) will be sharing reflections from our June service week in worship on **Sunday, October 4th**. Following worship we will be in Kraft Hall with additional photos. This year we want to sponsor a home for repairs, so our goal is to raise \$5,000 for Appalachia Service Project. We hope you will join us to hear our stories and will support our efforts.

On **Sunday, October 18th**, at 7:00 pm we will hold our first **ASP Organizational Meeting**. This meeting is for any youth interested in finding out more about our service trip for next June. Parents, we hope you will also join us for a special parent meeting at the same time.

On **Sunday, October 25th**, join us at 7:00 pm for **Pumpkin Carving Madness** in Kraft Hall. All youth are welcome. Please make sure to register online through the church’s website—Youth Group page.

Serving Others

Family Promise

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with our guests or who provided needed items for our Family Promise hosting week. We had a successful hosting week providing shelter for four families, which included 8 children. Jennifer, William and Yari, Tacha, Jackie and their children thank everyone for the delicious meals and the kindness and caring they received while here. If you were unable to help during this past host-

ing week, we will be hosting again in December. We hope everyone will get involved.

Upcoming Family Promise Events: **The 10th Annual Sweet Sounds Concert:** Please join us for an evening of musical entertainment, including an eclectic mix of performers and genres - everything from Paganini to Chicago, folk and blues - all while enjoying some delicious desserts on **October 3, 2015** at Christ Lutheran Church. This concert is a benefit for Family Promise Metrowest's Transitional Housing Program with a suggested donation of \$25. You don't need to go into Boston for an evening of outstanding musical entertainment—it's right here in Natick! To purchase tickets contact the Family Promise MetroWest office 508-318-4820

Family Promise Week - October 18 - 25— is a time of joyful celebration and appreciation. The week culminates in **Sweet Sounds for Kids**, a concert for children of all ages on **Sunday, October 25 from 3:30-5:00pm** given by musician David Polansky, hosted by Energy Fitness and Gymnastics, 1 HF Brown Way, Natick. Tickets are \$5 per person with a cap of \$20 per family. To purchase tickets contact the Family Promise MetroWest office 508-318-4820

Keep The Promise—On Saturday, November 7, Temple Shir Tikva in Wayland will host **Keep the Promise**, an evening of delectable appetizers and savory sweets from local restaurants. Comedian Chris Zito will entertain us during the bidding of the live auction and Stacey Peasley and The Grown Ups will lend their musical talents. Last years event was sold out, so don't miss the opportunity to have fun, eat well and enjoy local music while raising funds and awareness for Family Promise Metrowest. Tickets are on sale now for \$50 per person

DID YOU KNOW? Family Promise Metrowest opened its doors in October, 2008 with 13 host and 8 support congregations and 750 volunteers. (The Dover Church is one of the founding host churches.) Since then we’ve sheltered 85 families, including 189 children. Our network now includes 18 host congregations, 32 support congregations, 55 business partners, and 2,500 volunteers from across the Metrowest community

In 2014 alone Family Promise volunteers provided:

- 10,335 meals at a value of \$31,005;
- In-kind donations valued at \$77,083
- 30,507 volunteer hours, valued at \$533,791

FPM is one of over 190 affiliates across the country uniting communities to help children and families who are without a home. Together 6,000 congregations and 160,000 volunteers have served 600,000 people since 1988. Family Promise Metrowest has grown beyond our shelter program to also include:

- **Transitional Housing:** This program provides a chance to move into independent housing with ongoing case management and subsidies to ensure there long term sustainability. It doubles the number we serve.
- **Steps to Success:** Families often come to Family Promise having lost their ability to strategize about their future—to create goals, to dream. This comprehensive vocational planning initiative will allow families to reach their highest earning potential.
- **Affordable Housing:** Family Promise Metrowest is collaborating with local developers, realtors, government, and nonprofits in Natick to expand the stock of affordable housing.

SBHF and the Villa Clinic

“The St. Boniface Haiti Foundation is hosting their **Annual Gala on November 3rd** at the Newton Marriott, from **6-9:00p.m.** Co-chaired by Barrie Landry, Beth Floor, and Rev. John J. Unni, this event honors the hard work and dedication of both our employees on the ground, as well as our kind and generous supporters across the country. The evening will feature Karen Keating Ansara and Dr. Inobert Pierre, Director General of St. Boniface Hospital, as co-speakers. Please visit www.haitihealth.org for more details or to purchase tickets.”

Music Fellowship

Cherub Choir: Sings each week after Sunday school in lower Kraft Hall (Pre-K through Grade 3) for 10 minutes, learning simple, fun songs together.

The Caryl Singers: Rehearses each week after Sunday school, from 11:15 to 11:45 (Grades 3-8) in the music room. **Godspell:** We are working on musical selections from Godspell throughout the year, along with other pieces for participation in Sunday worship services.

Senior Choir: Rehearses Sunday mornings at 8:30, before worship and monthly on Thursday



evenings. (Grade 8 and beyond)

Instrumentalists: Please let Michael, Stacia, Max or Beth know of your and your children's musical talents and willingness to share them either in the band or as a prelude before worship. (See our calendar for band rehearsal dates.)

Organ Concert: Sunday, **October 25th** at 3 pm at the Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown. Michael Kraft, our music director, will be one of the featured organists.

Fellowship Opportunities

Yoga

Yoga is an embodied form of meditation, here at The Dover Church, which cleanses your mind of thoughts and is doctrine free. We will continue to offer weekly classes **Wednesday morning from 9 am -10 am** in Kraft Hall. This class is restorative and transformative rather than exhausting and debilitating. Please join us. If you are unable to attend at this time, please talk to Max or Beth and suggest another time.

The Dolphin Group

The Dolphin Group is a group of older men who meet for lunch and fellowship once a month. If you haven't joined us for lunch before, we invite you to come! Please join us this month on **Wednesday, October 7th at noon** at the Dolphin Restaurant in downtown Natick Center. Please RSVP by calling the church office by October 6th.

Movie Matinee

Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! **Friday, October 9th at 1 pm** we will be showing **"Saving Mr. Banks"** starring Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, and Anne Rose Buckley.

When Walt Disney's daughters begged him to make a movie of their favorite book, P.L. Travers' *Mary Poppins* (1964), he made them a promise - one that he didn't realize would take 20 years to keep. In his quest to obtain the rights, Walt comes up against a curmudgeonly, uncompromising writer who has absolutely no intention of letting her beloved magical nanny get



mauled by the Hollywood machine. It is only when Walt reaches into his own childhood that he discovers the truth about the ghosts that haunt her, and together they set *Mary Poppins* free to ultimately make one of the most endearing films in cinematic history.

We welcome everyone to join us. Popcorn, Coffee and Dessert provided.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

The Ladies Lunch Bunch is a multi-generational group of women from our church and the community who meet monthly for lunch. In addition, we work together to support many of our church's outreach opportunities.

We invite you, the women of our church (and your friends), to join us on **Thursday, October 15th at 12:15 pm in Kraft Hall.**

Annual Fall House Parties

Our Annual Fall House Parties will be on **Saturday, October 17, 2016!** Please plan to join us! Enclosed with this newsletter is a response flyer. Please complete and return to the church office. Or, email us! Just send us the information from the flyer and we will count you in. This event has been a great way to get to know fellow members and friends of the church.

COA Community Lunch

The Dover Church will once again host the **Dover Community Lunch** program for the Council on Aging at The Dover Church's Kraft Hall on **October 20th from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.** The monthly Community Lunch is held by all four Dover churches on a rotating basis. October will be the DC's first lunch of the new school year.

These lunches offer our town seniors a valuable outlet for fellowship and a chance to meet new faces at each hosting church. **In one year the lunch attendance has grown from 15 to an average of 25 seniors.**

Please consider helping Lunch Bunch entertain our seniors by volunteering to cook or assist day of. The most rewarding aspect of the lunch is chatting with seniors over lunch.

If you have any questions please contact Ruth Mallett (rmallett3@comcast.net) or Beth Benjamin (beth@thedoverchurch.org). The COA much appreciates all our efforts!!

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CPR/AED Training

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 6-7:30 pm, Caryl Room #203 Cost \$50 (this is before the Deacons meeting) A group from the church are going. Sign up via Doverparkandrec.com, click on activity registration and follow links

Ladies Who Lunch

The Ladies Who Lunch group is a social lunch group. We hope you will join us on **Wednesday, October 21st at noon.** We will meet at **Heritage of Sherborn (formerly the Sherborn Inn), 33 N. Main Street, Sherborn.** Please RSVP by October 20th if you plan to join us. If you need a ride, please call the church office so that we can organize rides for everyone.

Men's Breakfast Group

Men of all ages from the Dover Church have been getting together monthly for breakfast, conversation & laughter for 60-70 minutes. Our next breakfast will be on **Friday, October 23rd @ 7am** at Steve Karlson's house, 7 Adams Lane, Dover. If you can make it, please email Glenn Jensen at glennjensen@comcast.net. We hope to see you!

Flower Committee Appeal

The Flower Committee is in need of donations to defray the cost of decorating the Church for the Christmas season. Any amount will be greatly appreciated. Help is also needed on **Saturday, November 28** to hang the wreaths and garlands on the Church. November 29 is the first Sunday of Advent and we want to be prepared. Please contact Betty Brady if you are able to assist in these efforts. (508-785-0790 or do-verhugh@comcast.net)

In addition, there are a few openings to dedicate altar flowers on a Sunday. Your dedication can be "In honor of" or "In memory of" a loved one. You may arrange the flowers yourself, have them arranged by a florist or have a member of the Flower Committee arrange for you. The cost is \$50 if a member of the Flower Committee does the arrangement. Please contact Betty Brady, Chair of the Flower Committee, to see what will work best for you.

Recordings Available

We have recordings of our worship services. If you would like to listen to a Sunday wor-

ship service, please speak with Beth Benjamin. We have CDs you can check out. Just like the library!

Save The Date!

The Ladies Lunch Bunch invites you to The Dover Church's First **"Festival of Wreaths"** to benefit the SHYG Service Trip. Cocktail Party, Silent Auction, **Friday, November 20th, 7-9 PM**, in Kraft Hall. More details to follow.



In Remembrance

Roger Marcus had been a member of the Dover Church for over forty years, that's four decades plus! And, he was a very active member as well, freely giving of his time to many committees and boards. He was a member of the stewardship committee for at least two terms, often taking on the task of finding people to speak about what the church means to them during a Sunday worship service. He was a deacon, serving for two terms. He served on the Social Concerns committee and was instrumental in bringing youth into that board.

Besides his work on various committees and boards he volunteered his time to special building committees. One of these was the project to connect the then existing church buildings with a wing to provide not only more useful space but passage from the sanctuary to Kraft Hall without going outside, creating what we now call the administrative wing, a project that went on for many years. Another of them was a committee to address certain issues in Kraft Hall. And a third was to serve on the committee organized to select a new organ for our sanctuary. In this capacity his role was to negotiate the contract with the Fisk Organ Company.

In addition he was a long-time and most loyal member of the choir. In reality this not only meant his arriving an hour before church every Sunday it also meant evening choir practices and these were weekly for many, many years.

So, taking all of the above together, it is very likely that there were any number of weeks when he had two evening meetings plus an early arrival time on Sunday mornings, such was his commitment. And we, the people of the Dover Church are most grateful.

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October 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>27 Worship 9:00 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>28 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00 AM Al Anon</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Sweet Sounds Concert</p>
<p>4 World Communion Sunday 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service Sunday School 11:15 AM The Caryl Singers</p>	<p>5 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 6:30 PM - Leadership Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>7 9:00 AM - Al Anon - Yoga 12:00 AM Dolphin Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>8 6:30 PM Music Committee Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9 1:00 PM Movie Matinee</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Worship 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service 11:15 AM The Caryl Singers</p>	<p>12 Columbus Day Office closed 1:00 PM Al Anon</p>	<p>13 7:00 PM Trustees' Meeting</p>	<p>14 9:00 AM - Al Anon - Yoga 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>15 12:15 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 5:30 pm Annual Fall Social</p>
<p>18 Laity Sunday 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 11:15 AM The Caryl Singers 11:30 AM Movie 7:00 PM SHYG</p>	<p>19 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 12:00 PM Community Lunch 6:00 PM CPR/AED 7:30 PM Deacons' Meeting</p>	<p>21 9:00 AM - Al Anon - Yoga 12:00 PM Ladies Who Lunch 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Group</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Stewardship Kick-Off 8:30 AM Choir Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship Service/ Sunday School 11:00 AM Stewardship Kick-off Meeting and Lunch 11:15 AM The Caryl Singers</p>	<p>26 1:00 PM Al Anon 7:30 PM Band Rehearsal</p>	<p>27 7:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p>28 9:00 AM - Al Anon - Yoga 3:00 PM MSYG 7:15 PM Scouts</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Happy Halloween</p>



Our worship theme for October is
“Giving and Receiving Gifts.”
 We hope you will join us for worship on
Sundays at 10:00 AM.

THE DOVER CHURCH

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