



THE STEEPLE BELL

APRIL - 2016

Dennis Union Church Dennis, Massachusetts

**WITH JESUS AS OUR ANCHOR AND COMPASS,
GOD BIDS US TO BE A BLESSING IN THE WORLD**

The Dennis Union Church

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Though my handwriting has been classified as barely legible “chicken scratch”, and my signature is often mistaken for that of a physician signing a prescription blank, I enjoy writing notes, especially “thank you” notes. At the beginning of Lent, I enjoyed writing “thank you” notes to everyone who made a financial commitment to The Dennis Union Church for 2016.

Though I tried to make each note unique, I discovered that there were certain phrases that kept popping up in my writing. In each note, I used the word “*faithfulness*.” There are a variety of ways to be faithful, including supporting the mission and ministry of the church. We do that with our pledges. We do that by rolling up our sleeves and pitching in, even if we are not too talented, and our time is quite limited. We do that when we invite others to come to church with us and demonstrate that we are a church of extravagant welcome!

I found that in many of my notes, I wrote about how much I have been enjoying my ministry in Dennis, and I described The Dennis Union Church as “a strong, healthy church poised for growth.” That really is true! Dennis Union is strong! It is healthy! It is poised for growth!

One sign of our growth is that we received 13 new members into the church on March 13th, and several others, who could not be present on the 13th, have asked when the next opportunity would be to join? (mid-June)

Though I've only been with you for three months, I see other positive signs that indicate that the church is poised for growth.

- People love their church and are loyal to it.
- There is great energy within the church. The power of the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst.
- The Dennis Union Church is a generous, caring church. I'm impressed with the ways that the church reaches out to others. Mission is an important part of ministry.
- The Dennis Union Church is a “happy church.” There is little, if any, complaining or conflict. That is unusual for a church.
- The members of the church are open to change. There is a genuine interest in discovering what God is calling us to be and do, and what it might mean for us, as a church, to “live in the deep water.”

I'm looking forward to reading the notes from the “cottage meetings” organized by the Visioning Committee. I'm looking forward to the 150th anniversary celebration. I'm looking forward to seeing where God is leading us.

Terry Martinson, Interim Pastor



In April there will be two services of worship (9:00 and 11:00) on each Sunday.

April 3 – *The Moth Principle*

Matthew 5:13-16; Luke 10:25-28

Special Music (guest artists and soloists)

April 10 – Guest Preacher – The Rev. Lyle Ashby

DUC Singers

April 17 – *Because the Lord Is My Shepherd*

Psalms 23

Choir

April 24 – *Opening the Doors*

Acts 11:1-18

Bells



Your April Coffee Hour hosts are the members of the **Missions Committee**.

APRIL FLOWERS

- April 3 Given by Dick Powell
"In loving memory of Gayle"
- April 10 Given by Diana Hanford
"In memory of loved ones"
- April 17 Given by Marjorie Beyler
"In loving memory of my husband, Arthur"
- April 24 Given by Muriel Hanger
"For my Bill"



Please do not hesitate to ask me to visit with you at

home or to meet with you in the church office. I'm very willing to bring communion to those who are homebound. It is helpful to let me know about church members who are hospitalized or in nursing homes. I don't want anyone to be overlooked. (T.O.M.)

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Belatedly we express our sympathy to the family of Royston L. "Roy" Buck who passed away on Sunday, February 14th. A simple service for Roy will be held later this spring.



Please welcome the new members who joined the church on Sunday, March 13th:

- Paula Degree
- Gordon Bellemer
- Nathan Burgess
- Melissa Burgess
- George Cappola
- Glenna Cappola
- Douglas Hill
- Elaine Hill
- Marc Hildebrant
- Linda Hildebrant
- Leslie Prouty
- Lorrie Roughan
- Beverly Turner



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Dot Murray April 2
- Emir Sehic April 5
- Katie Clancy April 8
- Karen Mutti April 9
- Barbara Gray April 9
- Janice Conrad April 10
- Cindy Fiscus April 12
- Maggie Bossi April 12
- Irene MacDonald April 13
- Howard Kendall April 13
- Barbara Peirce April 13
- Gail Stern April 14
- Ed Brink April 16
- Tony Coccio April 21
- Richard Wilson April 27
- David Williams April 27

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- George & Joan Buffington April 24
- Tom Huettner & Shannon Goheen April 27

CHURCH HOLIDAY



This year, Patriot's Day falls on Monday, April 18. In observance of the holiday, the church offices will be closed on April 18th.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Search Committee is charged with the responsibility of finding the right candidate to be the next settled pastor of The Dennis Union Church. The committee's work follows a prescribed format. Currently the committee is in the process of preparing the church's profile, the document that will help candidates to know who we are. The church profile is filled with information about the church and the community. The information used is taken from annual reports, the all-church survey, the visioning process, and figures provided by the Finance Committee. The Search Committee anticipates that our profile will be ready to be sent to the Conference by late spring. Members of the Search Committee are: Patti Goyette, Judy November, Jean Tripp, Luke Furey, Lyle Ashby, Sam Crowell, Sarah Carpenter, and Carol Bohn. Rev. Martinson meets with the committee up until the time candidate's profiles are received and reviewed.

Christian Hospitality

Hospitality is one of the practices of a fruitful congregation. Our Welcoming Committee does a great job making visitors feel welcome, but I remind you how very important it is for all of us to welcome not only our visitors, but those who attend regularly. In Mid-February we were visited by a vacationing pastor and her husband. She was so impressed with the welcome they received that she wrote the following for her March church newsletter:

As Jim and I entered the church building in Dennis that morning, we were warmly greeted by 2 men at the door acting as ushers. I was impressed because they asked us our names and introduced themselves, also asking where we were from. What happened next was wonderful— each person took us to someone else and introduced us to other church members. We were enthusiastically welcomed over and over. In their conversations they sought to learn more about us and connect us with others with whom we might have some common interest or experience. They were genuine in their welcome— despite their knowledge that we did not live there. It was obvious that they loved their church and they wanted to make us feel like welcome guests. One of their members and her husband even came to sit with us. We felt like honored guests with the red carpet rolled out. As we left that Sunday, several folks urged us to come back again. I want to go back— it felt so good to share worship with them that day.

HOSPITALITY

Are you willing to serve as a greeter on Sunday mornings at the parking lot door for either the 9:00 or the 11:00 A.M. service? We would love to develop a team of greeters. If you volunteer, you would be on duty once every six weeks.

The Welcoming Committee is hoping to expand their team of Sunday morning "welcomers." Team members greet visitors, create a nametag for them, and make them feel "at home." Please speak with Sue Schofield if you are willing to join the team.



RECEIVED IN THE MAIL

To the Entire Dennis Union Church Family~

Bob's family has been overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, sympathy, and kind words received from our congregation. You have been a continuing source of strength for me, and I am most grateful.

-Mary Ann Eldred

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your good wishes, prayers and cards. It meant so much to me to know you cared. I was in rehab for eight weeks and am now recuperating at home. I hope to be able to come to church soon.

Lovingly, Gerry Noble

THANK YOU!

Pam Parker's daughter, Becca Hinds, is home from her deployment as a combat medic. She plans to continue with her military career, but she will also be going to school and getting married this summer. Pam and Becca are both very grateful for the prayers of the congregation.

PASTORAL RELATIONS

The Pastoral Relations Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 to allow the pastor to share his concerns and the committee members to share any concerns the congregation may have. The members of the committee are: Debi Rilea, Paul Gray, Jane B. Wilson, and Sue Martin.



AUDIO VISUAL

The Audio Visual Committee is hoping to find a few new volunteers for the "A V Team." Team members record the 9:00 A.M. service for broadcast. On-the-job training is available. Please speak with Jane B. Wilson to volunteer.

KEYS

If you have a key to the church that you are no longer using, please turn it in to the church office. Thank you.

HANDS OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY

A program of the Cape Cod Council of Churches
49 Rt. 28 P.O. Box 387
West Harwich, MA 02671
508-432-1312 churcheshoh@comcast.net

Early spring 2016

Thank you for your food collections! We have been so busy, we appreciate all of your support. Items we need: Cereal, Small vegetable or Canola cooking oil, Healthy school snacks, Chili, Stew, Spam, Chef Boy R Dee, Canned Corn, Canned Pineapple, Pasta sauce, Pasta or spaghetti, Jelly, Coffee Crackers or Cookies

It's a Boy! 

Congratulations to Rev. Grandpa Terry Martinson and his entire family on the baby boy, born March 6 to his son, Eric, and Eric's wife, Meg.

AUCTION 2016

There will be an Auction planning meeting on Tuesday, April 26th, at 4:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room for the Auction Committee, Table Chairs, and anyone else interested in joining us, as we discuss preparations for our 62nd Annual Auction and Bazaar to be held on August 13th. All are welcome and encouraged to become a part of this very special event for our church and community!

SPRING RING!

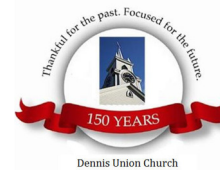
Our Bell Choir will join with other Cape choirs (about 10 choirs and 100 ringers) for a concert on Saturday, April 23, at 3:00 p.m. at the Harwich Community Center. All are welcome! A free-will offering will be taken. We are enjoying the challenge and opportunity.



If you have a particular musical talent, the Music Committee would like to know about it. Even if you think we already know, tell us again! Reply to Shannon at gardenwriter@verizon.net or Mary at mwcrowell@gmail.com with "DUC Music" in the subject line. Maybe we'll be able to make beautiful music together!

AuctionNews

Your Auction Pick-Up Crew has lost three men since the last auction. Help! We are looking for men who can help us on Tuesday mornings. We meet on Tuesdays from about 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There is a list of members and a picture of the group on the bulletin board at the church entry. Secondly, we can really use a truck to help us pick up items! The driver wouldn't have to do any lifting...just be willing to make a round trip. We are approaching our busy time, so this is really important! If anyone is interested, you can let Nancy (in the office) know or talk to any of the auction pick-up members. Also...thank you to everyone who so kindly brought us boxes. We asked...you answered! Thank you!



150TH ANNIVERSARY TEA SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH, FROM 2:00 TO 4:00 IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

A special event celebrating the 150th Anniversary of Dennis Union Church will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 2:00 to 4:00 in Fellowship Hall. Ladies, come sip the specially-blended tea provided by History Tea Presenters – Donna and Ron Lasko of Courtship Tea in Centerville, and enjoy the delicious afternoon tea treats provided by our committee members. Donna and Ron will share their ROMANCE OF HATS program with us. Invitations/tickets - \$5.00 – will be sold during coffee hours on April 10, 17, and 24, and from Nancy in the office. Only 64 seats will be available, so don't miss out, and be sure to wear that lovely hat (if you have one). Betty Boothe 774-330-2191



Hands of Hope Outreach Center: For over twenty-five years, **HANDS OF HOPE OUTREACH CENTER** has provided critical emergency assistance to low-income families in need in the mid-Cape area (Mashpee to Harwich), offering emergency food, financial assistance to prevent evictions and homelessness, emergency sheltering, assistance with utility and medical bills, clothing, and small household goods. On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, we encourage our congregation to bring in NON-PERISHABLE food items for our collection basket. We make sure the items get to Hands of Hope.

A Baby Center: Founded in 2000, **A BABY CENTER**, provides critical basic baby needs to income eligible families (WIC) for infants up to age three, on Cape Cod and the Islands. Approximately 525 babies are served every month. A new component, Child-Safe Car Seats, ensures infants and children are safely transported in vehicles. Diapers and baby wipes are always an urgent need. Please bring these items to church whenever possible, and we will make sure they get to ABC. Also, gently used baby clothing is also accepted. They do not accept toys or stuffed animals at this time.



HOMELESS MINISTRIES: After providing safe sheltering in churches for over a decade, in 2013 Overnights of Hospitality transitioned into **Hospitality Housing**, a housing-based program. 'Overnights' men and women are now living in transitional housing, receiving on-going case management services and working towards their goals including permanent housing. Financial assistance through **Lydia's Gifts for women** and our **Emergency Housing Fund** helps cover community fees and rents when needed. Church volunteers, coordinated by the Homeless Ministries Volunteer Coordinator, remain a key component of the Homeless Ministries program. At Dennis Union, we have assisted women and men transitioning into new housing by donating household items, when needed. From time to time, emails are sent to all churches on the Cape looking for drivers to help residents get to appointments. The Social Concerns Committee notifies the congregation when assistance is needed.

Days of Hospitality ~ Individuals sign-up at Salvation Army to partake of weekend lunches at Cape churches. Our church prepares a Sunday lunch for the 4th Sunday every-other-month. We normally prepare enough food to feed about 25-30 people. Social Concerns is thankful for all the cooks, and also the drivers needed to transport the guests from Hyannis to church - and back again. If you would like to drive our guests or provide a food item, notices of reminder are posted in the weekly bulletins and in our weekly emailing.

Faith Neighborhood Kitchen ~ The FNK is a consortium of churches which picked up the Monday-Wednesday-Friday dinners formerly provided by Calvary Baptist Church until fire destroyed their church in March 2012. Since April 2012, the consortium has cooked and carried meals to Faith Assembly of God Church, 154 Bearses Way, Hyannis. Dennis Union Church cooks on the 1st Friday of every month. We require cooks, helpers, and people to serve the meal. A huge blessing has been all the people from our church that provide all the "extras"; the salad ingredients, fruit, bread, and drinks. Five members from D.U.C. became ServSafe eligible to prepare meals. If you would like to cook the main entree for 150 people, help prep the meal, or serve the meal, please ask. Reminders are posted in the weekly bulletin and emailing.

On-Site Salvation Army lunches ~ this mission almost has a life of its own, under the capable direction of Gayle Williams. Gayle and her crew prepare a lunch at Salvation Army on the 4th Monday of each month. If you would like to assist Gayle's team, or provide a dessert, please call 362-9746.

OUR NEXT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

1. **Friday, April 22** (date changed from our usual 1st Friday) Faith Neighborhood Meal
2. **Monday, April 25**, Salvation Army lunch. Desserts needed. Please call Gayle Williams, or bring dessert to church on Sunday, the 24th.
3. **THE YOUTH are collecting SOCKS and TOILETRIES for Youth StreetReach event on April 23, please bring into church ALL MONTH!**



April Sunday School

"God's Sheep"

SHEEP are mentioned in the bible more than 500 times!
We get really *sheepish* in April.

Riddle: Why is it easier to count cows than sheep?

Youth Overnight and Mission Opportunity!
Overnight on Friday, April 22

Saturday morning, April 23, **YOUTH STREETREACH Breakfast**
Federated Church of Hyannis (INFO being sent to homes!)



ELIZABETH!

For the next several months, the CE will be following Elizabeth Egan's travels to South Africa. We were able to assist Elizabeth with her travel expenses thanks to a generous gift the CE received a few years ago. Elizabeth is a student at Merrimack College and is a member of Dennis Union through Confirmation. What you will read below is **week 3 and 4** of her mission trip. Stay tuned – more in May!

Weeks 3 and 4: I will move in with a different host family within a township in Cape Town. Townships are considered to be the "slums" or "ghettos". Here I will be working on building Eco-friendly homes for the residents of the township, as well as a community center, and a large sports field for the children to play on. I will also receive physical education lessons on which I will be able to volunteer in teaching those classes as well.

Phys-Ed curriculums have been cut from the school systems throughout the continent of Africa because they can barely afford to teach their students to read, write, and have basic math skills. Therefore, teaching physical education becomes a volunteer effort. The building itself will take place in the mornings, as it will be too hot to do such work in the afternoons. My afternoons will be spent volunteering as a physical education teacher during the week days, helping to organize and participate in community events on the weekends, and helping to feed the residents of the township dinner throughout my 2 weeks on this particular project. (Here is a link to some general info on the Building Project in South Africa: <http://www.projects-abroad.org/volunteer-projects/building/general-building-projects/volunteer-south-africa/>)

Elizabeth's email: lizze25147@aol.com

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL KITS

The Youth Fellowship will be assembling school kits. If you are able to donate any of the following items, bring them to church Sundays through April:

- BLUNT tip children's scissors
- 70-count bound notebooks (NO looseleaf paper, please)
- 12" ruler
- hand-held pencil sharpener
- a large eraser
- new, unsharpened pencils
- box of 24-count crayons



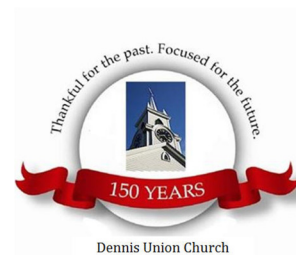
Usher's Ministry

APRIL USHERS

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>11:00</u>
April 3	Carlene Brown Frank Corsini Elsa Erickson	Bob & Joan Sue Day
April 10	Bill & Joanne Crowell Ken Mills	Dewey & Ruth Lund Bobbie Trepte
April 17	Dick & Jane Wilson Betsy Crowell	Elmer Eschenburg Sandy Wiper
April 24	Mike & Cheryl Cerbonne Barbara Lussier	Sandy Wiper Bob Waldo

USHERS

The Deacons are looking for individuals to volunteer to serve as ushers once each month. If you are willing to usher, please speak with Earl Springer.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, May 1, at 3:00 p.m.

Dennis Union Church's 150th Anniversary Concert

We are building a wonderful program of anthems based on great hymn tunes. There will be opportunities for the audience to sing, and we have amassed a festival choir from our own church and other local choirs. With guest artists, Donald Enos, Joan Kirchner, and Mariellen Sears...conducted by Margaret Bossi. No tickets or reservations, but a free-will offering will be taken to help with concert expenses.