



THE STEEPLE BELL

SEPTEMBER - 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

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Organist & choir director

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Rev. Bette Anne Crowell

Associate

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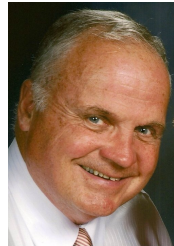
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Dave Crocker

Sexton



In June, our moderator, Judy Berrien, appointed a task team to educate and encourage the membership of the Dennis Union Church to officially become an "Open and Affirming" (ONA) Church. 157 (43%) of the churches in the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ are ONA churches.

Open and Affirming (ONA) is the United Church of Christ's designation for congregations which make a public covenant of welcome into their full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identity and expressions, physical and mental ability, physical appearance, age, race, nationality, language, economic, political and social status, faith and educational background, marital standing, and family structure. In other words, *Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.* Becoming an ONA Church is a formal process that provides the means for a United Church of Christ, like Dennis Union, to specifically and emphatically state their beliefs as related to acceptance of **all people** into the church.

In practice the Dennis Union Church has been an open and affirming congregation since 1985 when the membership voted in favor of a sweeping "Statement of Diversity." In 2005 the congregation voted to reaffirm this policy of inclusion.

During the next few months, the "ONA Task Team," will work to educate the congregation on what it means to officially be an ONA Church. The work of the team will include:

- Creating a "Statement of Welcome" to be voted upon by the church members
- Providing opportunities for conversation among church members using videos, panel discussions, etc. as conversation starters
- Listening carefully and responding with equal care to the questions and concerns of church members regarding being an ONA Church
- Providing resources for those who wish to dive more deeply into what it means to be an ONA Church
- Providing answers to FAQs in each issue of *The Steeple Bell*.

The members of our ONA Task Team are: Nancy Berquist, Judy Berrien, Sarah Carpenter, Deb Clemence, Vivian Cook, Paula Degree, Terry Martinson, Cal Mutti, and Pam Parker (convener.) Each and every one of us encourages you to share with us your questions, concerns and comments about the ONA process.

There is additional information about ONA later in this issue of *The Steeple Bell*.

Blessings,
Terry

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 4 @ 10:00 A.M.

Sermon: *Face to Face*

Text: Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-26

Sept. 11 @ 10:00 A.M. – **Rally Sunday**

The children and youth will lead worship

Sept. 18 @ 10:00 A.M. – **Blessing of the Animals**

Sermon: *All the Animals Got A Voice In The Choir*

Text: selected from Genesis 6 – 8

Sept. 25 @ 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Josh Crowell, preaching

Sermon: TBD

Text: TBD



The Christian Education Committee is sponsoring an all-church softball game and picnic on Rally Sunday, September 11th. The game will begin at 11:45 A.M. at the Corporation Beach ballfield. The picnic will begin at 12:45 P.M. Hot dogs, lemonade and watermelon will be provided. Please bring anything else you choose to eat.

NEW MEMBERS

New members will be received into the church on *World Communion Sunday*, October 2nd. If you are interested in becoming a member of The Dennis Union Church, please speak with the interim pastor, Terry Martinson (seniorpastor@duchurch.org)

DEFIBRILLATOR

We would welcome a donation of \$2,200 to purchase a defibrillator for the church.



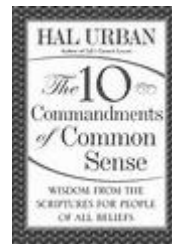
- Sept. 4 Given by the Flower Committee
- Sept. 11 Given, with love, by the Clancy Family "In honor of Dave and Dolores Ahern's 75th birthdays."
- Sept. 18 Given by Ed and Bev Brink "In loving Memory of our parents, Gretta and Max Brink, and Sylvia and Oliver Beitel."
- Sept. 25 Given by Robert and Doris David "In loving memory of our parents."



Youth entering grade 7 and above are invited to participate in our 2016 – '17 Confirmation Program, which will begin in early October. If you are interested in being confirmed in April of 2017, please contact Cindy Fiscus: (cindyfiscus@hotmail.com)

"TUESDAYS WITH TERRY"

It appears that Tuesday mornings might be a good time to gather for Bible Study, Book Discussions, and other small group activities. We will begin at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesday, September 20th. In the fall we will study *The Ten Commandments of Common Sense* by Hal Urban. New and used copies of the book are available on *Amazon*. There is also a Kindle edition. If you plan to participate, it would be helpful to order a copy of the book.





BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

The annual Blessing of the Animals will take place on Sunday, September 18th. The worship service is at 10:00 A.M. The Blessing of the Animals will begin at 11:15 A.M. on the green. All animals must be leashed.

BACKPACKS, SCHOOL SUPPLIES, AND CEREAL

We gathered a great collection of backpacks in July and a "ton" of school supplies in August to be used in filling the backpacks. Thank you for your great generosity! We will bless the donated backpacks on Rally Sunday, September 11th, along with the backpacks of our students.

During the month of September, we will collect cereal. Our goal is **200 boxes**. Though all cereals are accepted, The Hands of Hope Food Pantry especially appreciates the donation of oatmeal.



MODERATOR'S CORNER

After more than 23 years of service and selling over \$1,238,000 worth of grocery cards, Strat Haskell has retired. This translates to over \$62,000 raised for the Housing Assistance Corporation. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Strat, for many years of dedication.

Please welcome Rachel Simons and Mert Ingham who have agreed to take on this responsibility during Fellowship Hours on Sunday mornings.

Wednesday evening services were enjoyed by a small number of attendees each week. Deacons will continue to consider other options for outreach to summer residents and visitors. The "open house" on Monday, August 8th (prior to the band concert on the green) attracted between 50 - 60 people who enjoyed tours and learning more about DUC.

Our Open and Affirming Team has met to plan educational events. Visioning is wrapping up. Renovation of our kitchen is scheduled to begin October 3rd. Photo shoots for our new directory will continue in September. We look forward to Rally Day, Blessing of the Animals, Apple Festival, new confirmation class, fund raising for the kitchen, stewardship campaign, choir rehearsals, study groups, worship and fellowship..."and then some".

Judy Berrien

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Your fellowship hosts for the month of September are your Music Committee.

BACK TO 9:00 AND 11:00

On Sunday, September 25, we will return to our schedule of having two services: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Usher's Ministry

SEPTEMBER USHERS

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 4 | Jim & Joan Van Baalen, Elsa Erickson |
| Sept. 11 | Jane B. Wilson, Bobbie Trepte |
| Sept. 18 | Francis Sellers, Gary Forrister, Barbara Lussier |
| Sept. 25 | 9:00 Earl Springer, Lois Andre, Linda Gillespie
11:00 Sandy Wiper, Jan Gardner, Elmer Eschenburg |

PARKING

We have been reminded that we **may not park** on the village green in front of the church. Parking damages the sprinkler heads and creates holes that folks have tripped in.

Parking perpendicular to the cemetery fence on Old Bass River Road is helping us to increase our parking capacity on Sunday mornings. If you are able, please leave the parking spaces closest to the church for visitors and for those who have difficulty walking.



The Visioning Committee encourages you to view the power point presentation – *Capturing the Vision*. The presentation will be shared on Wednesday, September 14th at 10:30 A.M. and on Sunday, September 25th following the 9:00 A.M. worship service. *Capturing the Vision* shares the findings from the Cottage Meetings that a number of our church folk attended. We hope these meetings will help to shape the future of the church.



Fall is Apple Festival Time! Our Eighth Annual Apple Festival comes to Dennis Union Church on Saturday, October 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It's truly a festive event, featuring fresh apples for purchase, baked apple goods, local crafters on the Green, delicious food, children's crafts and face painting, plus a boutique, and live music. Besides promoting great outreach into the community, everyone has a great time. We will need help with setting up

and clean up on the day, pie baking and other apple treats (apples are provided) beforehand, and assistance in the various booths. Look for sign-up sheets for these tasks during September in the Church Foyer.

Maggie Bossi, Sue Schofeld, Emily Woudenberg, Peter and Judy Berrien



If you would like to receive a visit from our interim pastor, please don't hesitate to call the church office. Please continue to let the church know when church members or friends are admitted to the hospital or become residents in a nursing home or rehabilitation center.

PRAYER CARDS

There are now prayer cards in the pews. Your prayer requests will be shared with the Deacons. They will not be included on the weekly prayer list unless you request it to be included



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Paul Woudenberg	Sept. 1
Bill Bacon	Sept. 2
Cara Watson	Sept. 4
Mary Aseltine	Sept. 6
Laura Foss	Sept. 9
Allison Vandersall	Sept. 10
Linda Hildebrant	Sept. 10
Alicia Peirce	Sept. 11
Margaret Clancy	Sept. 14
Connie Bickford	Sept. 15
Sue Schofield	Sept. 15
Bill Beimler	Sept. 18
Jane B. Wilson	Sept. 19
Marc Hildebrant	Sept. 19
Nellie Stidham	Sept. 21
Gordon Bellemer	Sept. 22
Sandy Wiper	Sept. 25
Bridget Foss	Sept. 26
Ginnie Haskell	Sept. 28
Beverly Larson	Sept. 28
Cal Mutti	Sept. 30
Ruth Lund	Sept. 30

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Doris David	Sept. 2
Peter & Judy Berrien	Sept. 11
Josh & Bette Anne Crowell	Sept. 12
Tom & Joan Clapp	Sept. 17
Rick Bishop & Mary Ann Agresti	Sept. 20
Gabe & Dot Fackre	Sept. 22

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS FOR 2016

Sept. '16	Music
Oct. '16	Stewardship
Nov. '16	Social Concerns
Dec. '16	Trustees

AUCTION THANKS!

The Silent Auction Committee would like to thank all of the church members, committees, and local businesses who helped make the Silent Auction a huge success once again!



• We are thrilled with the
• response from you
• to the first 3 days of
• photography.

We are off to a great start toward making this our most complete directory ever. Feedback from those who have already completed the process is that the team of photographers are very professional, absolutely no pressure to purchase anything in addition to a free 8x10 of the shot you choose for inclusion in the directory; and, surprisingly, as several folks commented: "it was fun."

Now we are ramping up for the next 4 days:

Wednesday, September 21	1:00-8:00
Thursday, September 22	1:00-8:00
Friday, September 23	1:00-8:00
Saturday, September 24	10:00-5:00

There are 3 ways to schedule your appointment:

- Do it yourself by going to the church website, duchurch.org. (2nd page)
- Sign up at church during fellowship hour at our table in the parlor doorway.
- Call Karen Mutti at 508-896-9780.

There are plenty of times available on these four days; and, even more spaces available on our final sessions:

Wednesday, October 5, 1:00 – 8:00

Thursday, October 6, 1:00 – 8:00

(We know of at least one party in the church for whom none of these dates is workable. So we are trying to find a nearby church site where the company is also currently doing photographic sessions.)

Thanks to all the folks who are giving their time and talent as volunteers in this effort: calling, hosting, editing, photographing, proofreading, etc. It's a big project; and hopefully, it will help us be better acquainted, more welcoming, and in touch with each other. The process itself is a generator of energy and spirit. Having this up-to-date reference tool will be a great gift for our new pastor, whoever and whenever that person arrives!

Many thanks,

Karen and Cal Mutti, Coordinators



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

RALLY DAY

September 11, 10:00 a.m.

Kids lead worship!!!

***New Bibles**

We are giving bibles to 3rd graders and a few older that haven't received one yet.

Please don't let me forget anyone!

If I haven't contacted you, CONTACT ME!

***Blessing of the Backpacks**

Bring 'em in for a school year blessing and receive a lanyard for the backpack!

***Dolphin Fund**

Please bring in a snack or single-serving item to 'feed the dolphin' for the DY High guidance department.

Parents

Please sign up to assist in the classrooms for ONE Sunday this year? If each parental unit/guardian/grandparent signed up, I'd be GOLDEN!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AUCTION!

Thanks to the efforts of so many, our 62nd Annual Auction was very successful. For the third consecutive year, revenue on auction day exceeded \$50,000. While the total revenue was down from a year ago, this was expected; in 2015 we benefited from two special donations arranged by Bob Eldred.

Revenue was \$50,444 this year compared to \$59,454 in 2015. The Bazaar total, which does not include under the tent and food, was about even with 2015 with Under the Tent decreasing \$8,400. Table results were mixed with gains in Furniture, +890.02; Linens, +858.00; Toys, +435.98; Country Store, +436.79; and Boutique, +973.85 offsetting decreases in other areas.

The Silent Auction again was a big attraction with revenue of about \$8,500 expected. Our total result will continue to increase as we collect the Silent Auction receipts. There are also several items at Eldred's to be auctioned later there.

Once again the dedication of our Pick-Up crew made this auction possible. These members and friends spend every Tuesday gathering the things we need to have an auction.

The set up and clean up went well with the fellowship spirit evident. We think everyone had fun!

Debbie Clemence and Lloyd Swaim are retiring from their leadership roles with Joanne Ashby and Ralph Aceti stepping up for the 2017 effort.

Debbie and Lloyd thank everyone for their cheerful effort on this auction! We are blessed!

AFTER THE AUCTION 2016

Hundreds of volunteers are resting for the moment...Soldiers field is cleared, the tent is gone from the village green....it has been another successful year for the Dennis Union Church auction! We take a moment to regroup, and the silent work of the pick-up crew will begin again collecting (what some think of as junk and others see as treasures)....for next year's summer event. Before getting ahead....there is more to this year's stories....little noticed are those who come to pick up things that we see as "leftovers"...but go on now to help others here on the Cape. Hands of Hope in Harwich friends pack boxes of things to sell in the gift shop that help raises money to rent the facility for this

ministry to keep folks warm, fed, clothed, and in their homes throughout the year. Things from the boutique and linens head this way. The Animal Rescue League use bedding from linens to comfort animals who are in need of care. A Baby Center can use toys and equipment for little ones. Habitat for Humanity's ReSTORE loads up furniture that can be used to help others. Harwich Family Pantry of Cape Cod collects things to serve other neighbors. Dennis Yarmouth Womens' Club use Christmas items to help support others. Lower Cape Cod-Eastham Kiwanis Club collected things for their fall sale as they support our neighbors in that area. Flower Angels in Yarmouth will receive hundreds of small containers this week to use in their ministry of repurposing flowers into arrangements for nursing homes throughout all of Cape Cod...in just two years these volunteers have sent out 18,000 arrangements to cheer the lives of others. Books are still available to those who would like to pick up a good read....they will be soon picked up.... And new groups are already being added to the listing of the silent workers who will collect things again in 2017.....to reach out and help others on Cape Cod....home to many of us and many others...

Many, many thanks to this wonderful, committed and spirited "crew" for the unseen outreach ministries of Dennis Union Church ... after the auction.

-Bette Anne

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

The minister, officers and congregation of Dennis Union Church offer their sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Dot Murray who died on July 30, 2016.

The minister, officers and congregation of Dennis Union Church offer their sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Seth Crowell's wife Lura, who died on August 25th, 2016.

NAMETAGS

Please remember to wear your nametags at worship. Introduce yourself to those sitting around you. Welcome visitors as you would like to be welcomed. Abundant hospitality will help the Dennis Union Church to grow!

BEADS OF NOTE

Beads of Note has created ANNIVERSARY BEADS from the church bulletins from our special and memorable service. Place your orders by calling: Ruth Lund at 508-394-1714; or Betty Boothe at 774-330-2191.



POTLUCK DINNER

Enjoy food and fellowship with your DUC friends
Sponsored by your Stewardship Committee
Tuesday – September 27 @ 6:00 P.M.
Bring a dish to share: entrée, vegetable or
dessert. Beverages will be provided.

Watch for sign-up sheets at September fellowship
hours or call the church office to sign-up



OPEN AND AFFIRMING

Please read the Pastor's Page to learn more
about what it means to be an Open and Affirming
(ONA) church.

In this and future editions of the *Steeple Bell* we
will provide some answers to FAQs about the
ONA process.

What does it mean to be an "Open and Affirming" church?

A congregation is Open and Affirming when it
affirms a public covenant that "lesbian, gay,
bisexual and transgender people (LGBT)" (or
people of all "sexual orientations, gender

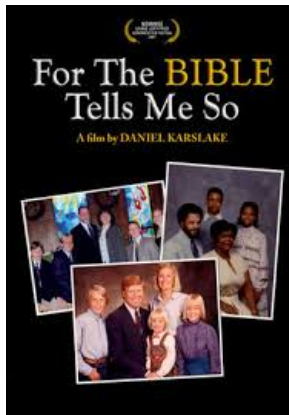
identities and expressions") are welcome in the
full life and ministry of the congregation (e.g.
membership, leadership, employment.) Through
its covenant, the congregation promises to live
out that welcome in meaningful ways in response
to Christ's teaching of radical hospitality.

How will our ONA covenant make a difference?

Your ONA covenant will make a difference to
lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender adults
who have personally experienced silence or
condemnation in other churches. It will make a
difference to LGBT youth who are at higher risk
for suicide when they experience bullying or
mistreatment because of their sexual orientation
or gender expression. It will make a difference to
parents of LGBT children whose families need
the same affirmation and support congregations
offer to other families. It will make a difference to
LGBT seniors who are often closeted, isolated or
abused in retirement communities and nursing
homes. It will make a difference to all Christians
who experience a deeper understanding of the
Gospel and a stronger commitment to Gospel
values when the congregation reaches out in
love.

Can't we simply say "all people are welcome?"

No, not if you wish to be listed by the Coalition as
an Open and Affirming congregation. LGBT
Christians have learned from painful experience
that a vague welcome often doesn't include them
and their families. The words are important. Just
as a marriage covenant normally centers on an
exchange of vows, an ONA covenant shows that
the congregation is serious about its commitment
to LGBT inclusion.



**A MOVIE TO SPARK OUR
CONVERSATION ABOUT BECOMING
AN ONA CHURCH**

The ONA Task Team, appointed by the Moderator, invites you to attend a film titled: *For The Bible Tells Me So*. "An incredibly powerful film everybody should see. It restores your faith in people." (National Public Radio.)

The film will be shown at The Dennis Union Church on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 P.M. Please join us for dessert at 6:30 P.M. and for the conversation that will follow the film.