



Eliot Oak

Fall 2007

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The Eliot Church
45 Eliot Street
Natick, MA 01760

From the Minister

Welcome Back! It is great to see everyone in church again as we kick off the New Year. The Eliot Leadership has been hard at work for over a month getting things ready. Special thanks goes to the Religious Education Committee and volunteers for all the work they did to get Church School up and running by September 9 and the tech committee for their work on the new web page. I am also grateful for the steady patience of **Felicia Nadel**, our Church Administrator who has provided a great deal of support to the many committees as they prepared for the fall.

Like many of you, I have had an eventful summer. As many of you already know, I spent the early part of it in Chicago, working on a Doctorate in Preaching. Needless to say, they gave me a great deal of homework! In particular, I have been given a “preaching project” to work on for the next six months with the assistance of a small committee of Eliot members and friends. Over the next year you will

occasionally see a video camera in the sanctuary. Also, there may be some changes or alterations to the Order of Service.

There is one final note concerning this project. This year I will be offering an Adult RE program focusing on “Progressive” or “Liberal” Christianity. We are a theologically Liberal Christian Church and this affects how we look at God, the world, and ourselves. We will be using a special curriculum entitled “Living the Questions”. It was developed by many of the more respected and well-known biblical scholars and pastors in our movement. A schedule will be forthcoming. I hope that you are able to attend at least one of the sessions.

Of course, this isn’t all that is going to happen at church this year! It is a year of great potential for us as a community. I look forward to see you around.

Yours in Faith and Hope,
Adam

Organized by The Eliot Church -
for the entire community!

The FALL FAIR

Listen to live music from the South Natick Bluegrass Band, *Vote* in the Second Oldtown Photo Calendar Competition, *enjoy* great food and family activities, *meet* local nonprofit groups. *Coffee hour* after church that day will be at Memorial Hall. ***Come join the fun!***

Sunday, October 21, 11:30-4

John Eliot Memorial Hall, 40 Eliot St., South Natick



From the Moderator

As we enter the new church year, things are off to a fast start. Kudos go to the Religious Education Committee and all who helped with the wonderful RE sign-up coffee hour. There was food aplenty (bagels, fresh fruit and even tasty sandwiches) and lots of good will and enthusiasm to go along with it.

The Building & Grounds Committee continues to do yeoman's labor keeping our historical buildings in good repair. Beyond the constant

plugging and patching they quietly do and coordinate, recent major B&G projects have included painting the exterior of Memorial Hall and the phased painting of the Eliot Church building's exterior.

On the Finance Committee front, I'd like to recognize the efforts of **Dave Dimmick** who, after many years doing the challenging job of Finance Committee chair, and seeing us through the big financial bite of the steeple repair and our transition to a full time minister, has stepped down. Thank you Dave! I'd also like to thank **Bill Brodnitzki** for

stepping-up to the plate and taking over the Finance Committee reins. Bill's doing double duty as Finance chair and a member of the B&G Committee overseeing the church building.

Also not to be forgotten is the Eliot Church Membership Committee. They've been hard at work on a new Eliot Church Face Book, which will debut soon. Another group of unsung volunteers is the newly minted Tech Committee, tech savvy members who have been diligently working on the development of a new Eliot Church web site slated to officially launch this fall.

Other future activities of note include the Fall Fair, which this year will be happening on Sunday, October 21st. The Oldtown Photo Calendar Competition, very ably coordinated by **Tod Dimmick**, will once again this year be a key Fall Fair feature. *Invite your friends to come vote!* The Oldtown Calendar, with the winning photos from last year's photo contest, is now available and on sale. For more on how to purchase a calendar go to www.oldtowncalendar.org.

Later this fall, the Ladies Club semi-annual Rummage Sale will be happening on Saturday, November 3rd. Donations will be gladly accepted. More on the Rummage Sale and the Ladies Club to come in a future Sunday order of service.

The Eliot Church is a community church in the Christian tradition, with ties to both the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. Visitors of all faiths are always welcome. Further information on the Eliot Church can be found at www.theeliotchurch.org

Minister: The Rev. Adam Tierney-Eliot
Music Director: Dr. Stephen James (508) 881-7931
Worship Services: Sundays at 10:00 AM
Communion: First Sunday of the Month at 10:00 AM
Church School Classes: Sundays at 10:00 AM
Minister's Office Hours: By appointment - call
Church Office/Study at (508) 653-2244
Memorial Hall (508) 652-9010

Moderator and Parish Committee Chair: Fred Pasche 508/405-2632
Treasurer: Elaine Hayes 508/653-9098
Asst. Treasurer: Nancy Dyer 508/653-6855
Clerk: Victoria Pasche 508/405-2632

Nominated Committees

Deacons: Andy Frankenfield 508/655-6505
Nominating: Bill Seymour 508/653-0615

Parish Committee: Fred Pasche 508/405-2632
Religious Ed: Molly Campbell 508-655-3017

Appointed Committees

Buildings and Grounds: Rich Miche 508/308-1712
Canvass: Rosemary Driscoll 508-653-0615
Endowment: Lowell Warren 781/235-7586
Ministry: Holly Glidden 508-653-7624
Finance: Bill Brodnitzki 508/653-2195

Housekeeping: Aileen Zogby 508-655-6279
Membership: Jacqueline Brodnitzki 653-2195
Music and Arts: Randy Glidden 508-653-7624
Outreach: Barbara Bailey 508-655-6914
Strategic Planning: Bill Seymour 650-0720
Women's Club: Mary Ellen Ames 653-7066
Doss Frazee 781/237-9519

The Eliot Oak

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Circulation: Felicia Nadel

On another front, The Parish Committee, based on the initiative of several Eliot Church members, has voted to support a dialogue on Eliot Church becoming an Open & Affirming (ONA) congregation. Both the Unitarian Universalist

Association (UUA) and United Church of Christ (UCC), our affiliated denominations, have developed a version of the ONA program. ONA encourages congregations to reflect on issues of diversity and, via the ONA program, officially recognizes them as an open and affirming community welcoming of all races, creeds and cultures, as well as sexual orientations and genders. Anyone interested in joining the working committee spearheading the ONA effort can contact **Molly Campbell** via email at mcs98@verizon.net.

donation of \$5 per copy to offset the printing cost.

Community Gatherings

We will have sign-up for our Community Gatherings in the Lady's Parlor in September and early October. It provides a great opportunity for us to have some fun and get to know each other better in a more intimate setting. We hope you will participate this Fall - you're sure to have a good time.

The Fall Fair needs YOU

Last year's activity managers – We hope you will once again run those activities! We will add new ones this year, and need several new folks. New members - we'd love your help for an hour or two that day. For info contact **Andy Frankenfield** at funoboyfun@comcast.net

Bake sale! Please bring something for the bake sale table! Contact **Harriet Buckingham** for info: buckingham@mindspring.com

Our Fall Fair committee is busy planning for the best fair ever. We've made big changes this year so the event will be more fun and conflict less with busy schedules.

*The Fair will be on **Sunday, right after church!** Coffee hour will be at Memorial Hall as the action starts.*

We hope you will come join the fun, and stay to listen to music, to vote in the photo competition, and join the fun.

Finally, I'd like to recognize the on-going efforts of the Reverend **Adam Tierney-Eliot** and his able associates in the church office (and choir loft) – Felicia Nadel, the Eliot Church's administrative person, and our music director, **Stephen James**. Sunday services, the core of our church experience, literally wouldn't happen without them!

Thanks to all.
Fred

Membership!

Welcome back to church. It was nice to see so many of our congregation on September 9th. It reminds us what a warm and interesting group of members and friends we have in our church community.

Face Book

The updated Face Book will be available by the end of September. We are asking for a

Incarnational Translation

One recent Sunday (September 16), we included an "Incarnational Translation" in the service. Its purpose is to help us better understand the scripture passages by putting them in a contemporary context. This particular one was developed by my DMin. Committee. Usually these translations won't appear in the actual service but may show up on my website, <http://www.revtierneyeliot.net>. For those of you who missed it, here it is:

Matthew 7:7-20

If you need an answer, just ask and it will be given to you. If you actually search for a solution, you will find what you seek. Though all may seem a mystery, if you bang on the door, it will open. This is because those who ask--those who search for answers--are the ones who find them.

Come on now, if a child asked you for something, like a glass of water, would you give that child an empty cup? Or if that child asked for a cookie, would you send her out in the yard with a rabid dog? Of course not! So if you then--who are so flawed, misguided and confused--still know how to take care of your kids, how much more will your parent in heaven give good things when you ask?

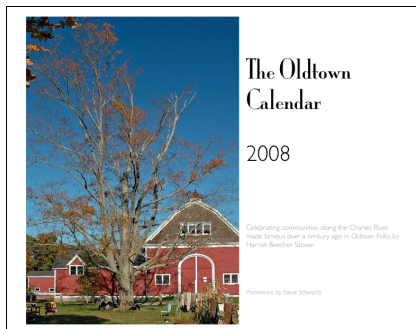
We say, "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you." This is what the tradition and the teachers of our faith require. Now, this is not as easy as it may seem, but do not take the easy way. The other path is harder and at times you will become exhausted, but the easy way (though it is very popular) can trick you into becoming complacent and dead to all that really matters. The hard way can make you come alive; that is, if you can find it.

Beware of those self-appointed talkers and teachers who tell you how easy it is to become more alive. Yes, they seem sensitive and caring enough with their soft, muted sweaters on the covers of their self-help books. They don't really care about you. They are taking advantage of your weaknesses. They just want you to buy their books! Spirituality without religion? That is what they sell. You will know true prophets by what they teach, that is, by their fruit. Are grapes gathered from thorns? Do apples come from vines? The fruit of these false

teachers makes no sense. They have no roots in true faith. But the true teacher, like the good tree, bears good fruit. True teachers honor their roots and tradition. They have respect for what God truly reveals. The lessons of the true teacher, though they may be hard to hear, will last and sustain us all forever. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown to the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.

Yours in Faith,
Adam

The 2008 Oldtown Calendar is HERE!



Purchase yours from the church, and proceeds go to the church. They are available in the parlor, or on our website at www.oldtowncalendar.org!

Price per calendar is \$18 each, or \$15 each if you order 3 or more

*The Oldtown Calendar is planned and organized by The Eliot Church.
Thank you for your support*

The Perfect Gift for people who love this area!

Women's Club

DID YOU KNOW?

That for nearly 60 years, the Eliot Women's Club has been a vital force in the Eliot Church, where they have financially supported many programs, activities and causes, as well as reaching out to the wider community.

Membership dues and the twice-yearly Rummage Sales are the only source of income for the club. Our **Fall Rummage Sale** will take place on **November 3rd** from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The club would be most grateful for support from the friends and members of the Eliot Church through donations of articles for the Sale, your presence at Memorial Hall on the day of the affair and, if possible, help at the Sale itself. We need

- Clean Clothing,**
- White elephants,**
- Children's toys,**
- Books and games.**

This is your chance to check the attic!

These should be brought to the John Eliot Memorial Hall on Friday, November 2nd between 5:30-8 p.m. For information call Augie Chase at 508-653-1139.

Our October 15th meeting will be held at 12:30 p.m. at John Eliot Memorial Hall. Jean Stahl will present her very interesting and popular program on the History of Nantucket Basket Weaving. Again all are welcome. Refreshments will be served.