



Eliot Oak

Fall 2009

Mark your Calendar (see inside for details...)

October 25
Teacher training led by Matt Carriker after church

October 25, 1-2 PM
West Virginia Work Camp open house

November 8, 3PM
Concert at church led by our own Steve James

November 22
New Member Sunday Thanksgiving brunch

December 6
Yuletide Craft Workshop during service

The Eliot Church
45 Eliot Street
Natick, MA 01760
www.theeliotchurch.org

From the Minister

Welcome Back!

Now that we have had a few weeks back you may have noticed the new energy and the new faces at Eliot Church. I know that I have had a chance to see most of you and that you have all had a chance to meet our new Assistant Minister for Religious Education Matt Carriker! We are very happy and excited to have both him and his wife, LaToya as part of our church community. All of us on the staff and leadership have been working hard to get everything ready for what should be an exciting year for our church community. The Sunday School, in particular, is off to a great start and I urge you to take a moment and read Matt's column here in the Oak for further information. You will, of course, notice other changes as well throughout the year but right now I wanted to point out two new elements in our worship life.

The first item has to do with our new "Third Sunday" sermon series. This year, on the third Sunday of every month we will hear a sermon on the theme "Closer to Creation". I will preach most of them, but we will hear from others as well. We all are trying to become more

environmentally aware and to live increasingly sustainable lives. This is a way that we, as a church community, can help each other do that. The first sermon, preached on September 20—the same day as the Ingathering-Water Communion service—addressed the idea of creating a personal "Covenant with the Earth" in which we promise to alter our lifestyles in one individual, specific, and achievable way for the next six weeks. The sermon, on October 18, addressed this theme by focusing on our relationship with what we eat. One of the great gifts of being in a faith community is that we can support each other through our desired changes. Included in this *Oak* is a brief announcement of the series with some additional information.

The other thing I wanted to mention was that the fourth Sunday of every month will contain a "Children's Focus". We have always done a few of these throughout the year. However, with our growing Religious Education program we wanted to make a commitment to the children to better include them in our congregational worship time. The time for children will connect in some way with the theme for the rest of the service and—therefore—may very well be helpful for adults,



too! Again, we would love to see you and your children on these Sundays.

In fact, we would love to see you all on every Sunday! We serve communion on the first Sundays and I like to think that the second Sundays are fun, too. The Eliot Church is a community that you are a part of. Please don't be a stranger during this time of growth and deepening of spirit. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Faith and Hope,
Adam

From the Moderator

Another Eliot church year is fully under way. Our pastor, the Reverend Adam Tierney-Eliot, in his first few sermons, has struck several themes which, based on conversations at coffee hour and Adam's preaching project post-sermon surveys, have struck a chord with many members. The first theme revolves around the three goals of worship, "Renewal, Reflection, and Inspiration" highlighted in Adam's September 13th sermon. The second theme is "being green" and how the Eliot Church congregation, as a community, can connect with our neighbors

in MetroWest and broader environs, to make a difference.

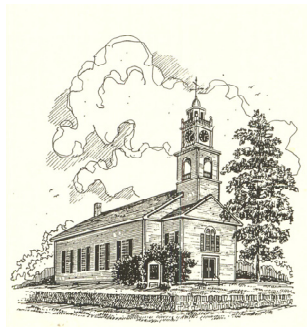
The theme of community has also come to the fore in the strategic planning effort being led by the Parish Committee. As one congregant recently put it, "I want there to be more focus on community, than committees." This sentiment raises interesting questions: Do we want to reorganize the governing structure of Eliot Church to reflect the goal of fewer committees and closer community? And if so, how?

On a similar note, what does "community" mean to our congregation members? How, as we potentially seek to become more connected to each other, do we create more opportunities, like the community dinners and West Virginia Work Camp, for the members of the Eliot Church community, to get to know one another better as people? Especially given we lead busy lives and, outside of church, may travel in different orbits?

As we answer these questions, those answers may help further enhance Sunday service and the sense of renewal, reflection, and inspiration service offers. They also, in the words of the Ames Covenant, will help us as a congregation, in the love of truth, and the spirit of Jesus, to unite together for the worship of God and service of all.

Fred Pasche
Moderator

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) 620-1626
Asst Pastor of Religious Education: Matthew Carriker
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: William Seymour 508-650-0720 *Asst. Treasurer:* Regina Wolf-Fritz 508/653-3237
Clerk: Victoria Pasche 508/405-2632

Nominated Committees

Deacons: David Dimmick 508-653-2198
Aileen Zogby 508-655-6279
Nominating: Tod Dimmick 508-785-2006

Appointed Committees

Buildings and Grounds: Rich Miche 508/308-1712
Canvass: James Gorman 508-653-7494
Endowment: Ben Bailey 508/655-6914
Ministry: Mike Ward 508-651-8786
Finance: Bill Brodnitzki 508/653-2195

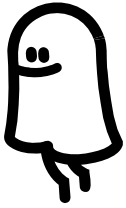
Parish Committee: Fred Pasche 508/405-2632
Religious Education: Molly Campbell
508-655-3017

Membership: Jacqueline Brodnitzki 653-2195
Music and Arts: Randy Glidden 508-653-7624
Outreach: Barbara Bailey 508-655-6914

The Eliot Oak

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Happy Haunting.....



and Trick or Treat!

Eliot Bids Goodbye to the Women’s Club

Mary Ellen Ames and Doss Frazee gave a presentation to the church Sunday, October 4, on the history of the Women’s Club. The following is a transcript of part of their talk

Last June at our Annual Luncheon Meeting, the membership voted to dissolve the Eliot Church Women’s Club. This decision was made with great regret and sadness .. Our membership has been declining, fewer people have attended our programs and the physical strength of the members who worked on the Rummage and Bake Sales has waned.. In thinking how best to announce this to the congregation, Adam graciously suggested that we devote a portion of a church service this fall to a review of our services to the church over the 62 years of our existence.

In 1947 the Eliot Church had as members both Congregationalists and Unitarians from the former two churches that existed in

South Natick. There were two separate women’s groups; The Ladies Aid and the Alliance. It was decided that it would be better to have just one group to be called The Eliot Church Women’s Club. The purpose of the organization was to aid the Eliot Church and to provide programs of recreation and educational value for the members and friends. Mrs. William Stimson was its first President. There were about 30 members at the beginning and many activities for entertainment and profit were planned.

One of the chief fund raising projects was the Church Supper which was popular for years in the community. Another fund raiser proved very helpful to young mothers and was called ‘Tot Tending’ Twice a week from 8 – 12, volunteers from the Club took care of young children at the cost of \$1.00 per child. Strawberry festivals with strawberry shortcake sold was another money maker. But the most successful of all was the Rummage and Bake Sale which was held twice a year and continued through 2009.

I am happy to announce that the Eliot Church will still be represented in the traditional joint program of which the Women’s Club was a third partner. In March the three South Natick societies, The Natick Historical Society the Friends of the Bacon Free Library and the Eliot Church Women’s Club have for many years sponsored a joint program

with a more highly paid and star performer than anyone of us could singly afford. Thanks to Adam and the Parish Committee the Eliot Church plans to continue this partnership.

The Women’s Club has had a “good run”, but times have changed. The time these days for women to meet in groups for recreation and enrichment and learning is not what it was since the advent of TV, Face book, Twitter, and the change in the economy which often means both wives and husbands are working. So whatever the next step the women of the church decide to take, we wish you the best of luck and hope that you all will have the joy and the friendship that we of the Women’s Club have had over these many years. As a result of the friendships that have been built up, we plan to meet socially throughout the year beginning in October.

**October 4, 2009
Mary Ellen Ames and Doss Frazee, Co-Presidents
Eliot Church Women’s Club**

Membership

A warm welcome to each member of our church family! Many members of our congregation enjoyed this summer spending time with family, traveling a little, and enjoying the relaxing days of summer.

In September it has been terrific to see so many members and friends of our congregation returning to spend Sunday mornings together in worship and in service of our large group of children.

Please let us know if you would like to have a name tag created for you. We know some do go missing from time to time and want to make sure everyone has a name tag as we congregate, so we can remember each other's names, and welcome guests to our warm church home.

As always, we will have an Information Dessert in early November for anyone interested in learning more about the Eliot Church. We will also have our New Member Service and Thanksgiving Brunch on Sunday, November 22nd. If you are interested in coming to an Information Dessert or joining the church, please call Jacqueline Brodnitzki at 508-653-2195.

Happy Thanksgiving!



The Oldtown Calendar
2010
Celebrating communities along the Charles River
made famous over a century ago in Oldtown
Field by Harriet Beecher Stowe
by Bill Brown on the River

The 2010 Oldtown Calendar is Going Fast!

Order your 2010 calendars now! If you don't have your copy yet, please send in your order form today, or order online at www.oldtowncalendar.org. Don't forget, this is not only a gorgeous, unique calendar for your wall, but *the net proceeds support the work of our Church.*

“Closer to Creation”

This year there will be a sermon series at the Eliot Church that will address the challenges we face as we try to live more earth-centered and sustainable lives. Few people today would disagree that it is important to hear what nature can teach us and to develop a closer relationship with it. The problem is that our lives can sometimes seem too overwhelming for us to make substantive alterations in how we do what we do. It is hoped that this series will help us to better understand the forces that make change in this area difficult and to inspire us to develop new ideas and ways of being.

The name of the series attempts to outline a goal. The assumption is that a closer

relationship to creation will be not only good for the earth but also better for us perhaps physically, but certainly spiritually. The term “creation” is traditional and implies a divine relationship as well as a human one. Certainly, thanks to contemporary debates surrounding the theories of evolution in general and natural selection in particular, the term has taken on other, perhaps unintended layers of meaning. Our purpose, however, is to re-appropriate the term and broaden its meaning in order to lift up our environment’s sacred nature. It is not meant as an endorsement of creationism, which is a different thing.

For the most part, the sermons in this series will be preached on the third Sunday of the month.



**From Music & Arts:
A Piano Trio Concert!
Save the date...**

Concert: Sunday, November 8, 2009, 3 pm, reception to follow. Trio, led by Stephen James: piano, violin and cello. Watch for more details to come!



Sunday School staff (from left to right) Lee Manuel, Amy Ward, Molly Campbell, and Asst Pastor of RE Matt Carriker

Sunday School Teacher Training
October 25th after Sunday Service
11:15 - 11:45am
Choir Loft, Sanctuary

Please join Matt for a brief yet informational teacher training for all Sunday school teachers after church on October 25th. Most parents will be teaching at various times during Sunday school throughout the year. This training will give teachers a familiarity with the new resource for Sunday school ("The Whole People of God") and how to use it; of new rituals as part of Sunday school; and of some best practices and suggestions for those who will be teaching. Please do come! Any questions, please do email Matt at <mcarrike@hotmail.com>.



A good time was had by all at the annual religious education brunch

Winter is on the Way: The Eliot Snow Policy...

It's fall in New England, which means that wintertime, and SNOW, can't be far behind. For the skiers, and children (both actual and at-heart) among us, this is good news.

However, for the rest of us, it does present some challenges.

When weather conditions are severe and the potential for road accidents increases, regular worship services, Sunday school classes, and scheduled activities will not take place. A message to this effect will be placed on the church phone lines (508/653-2244) by 8:00 AM. This will always be the case when the governor declares a snow emergency. Cancellations can also be heard on WBZ NewsRadio 1030am at five past and thirty-five past the hour on Saturdays and Sundays.

Eliot Church snow cancellation information can also be found on our website www.theeliotchurch.org in the Member Info section.

Christmas is Coming!

The second annual Yuletide Craft Workshop is coming December 6 and we are looking for volunteers to host a table at this year's event. Last year's Workshop was a boatload of fun, and we are hoping to spread the joy churchwide.



You don't have to be crafty or artistic to have a good time.

Here's how it works: You choose a simple craft, buy and prepare enough materials for about 20 items, set up the table and help the kids make the item. If you are short on inspiration but long on enthusiasm, we would be happy to send a few craft ideas your way.

Last year, we had everything from photo Christmas tree ornaments to bath salts to decorated flip flops, and everybody had a ball. Best of all, the kids came home with a cache of homemade gifts to put under the tree for family and friends. Please contact Carol Hildebrand at cjhilde@comcast.net, or 781 235 1981, if you are interested in learning more.

New Outreach Committee members wanted!

The Eliot Church Outreach Committee is looking to add new members to its roster and is actively seeking Church members and friends who want to contribute to the church in a meaningful way through their involvement.

Responsibilities are minimal and rewards are great. Your ideas and input are your greatest gift. Contact Barbara Bailey at babsbailey@rcn.com or call her at 508-655-6914.

Greetings from the Assistant Pastor of Religious Education



Dear friends at Eliot,

What a pleasure it has been to begin the journey of life and faith with the wonderful people at Eliot church! I have been so appreciative of the welcome each of you has offered to me. Though I have not yet met everyone at the church, I do look forward to meeting more of you throughout the fall! Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself!

As I prepared for this fall with Adam, Molly, and the RE committee over the summer, I held an eager anticipation for the beginning of this new and exciting ministry! And so far, the start of the religious education year has not disappointed me! I have been inspired by the youth and adults at Eliot, and by your commitments to spiritual formation and service. I thank you for welcoming me into the rich history and traditions of this church. What a blessing!

As I come to meet each of you, I am eager to know what is important to you in religious education. What is it that drew you to Eliot? How are you spiritually nurtured here, and how do you want your children to be spiritually nurtured in this place? What do you want you and your children to come away with from the RE experience? Answering these questions, and sharing them with me, the RE committee, and others, will only deepen the meaning and value that we generate through the RE experience at Eliot. Thank you for being partners in this process!

As "Assistant Pastor of Religious Education", I look forward to assisting not only in the spiritual formation of Eliot's youth, but in the spiritual formation of the whole church. Within the limits of my part-time position, I am excited to support kids of all ages (i.e. adults too!) in walking together on this spiritual journey-at the heart of which is service, transformation, and love.

There will be much to talk about in the unfolding of religious education at Eliot. Though I have a primary role in facilitating the journey of religious education at Eliot, I encourage all of you to become participants in the process. I think you'll find, as I have, the truth of the wisdom of many spiritual traditions that "We are all one. That which we give to others, we give to ourselves. And that which we give to ourselves, we give to others."

That has been my experience- not that giving is a "sacrifice", but a wonderful and joyous opportunity (of course, don't forget to take time to receive for yourself too- not a self-centeredness; but a sacred "self-ness", as my professor Kirk Jones would say). The more each of us give joyfully to this process, the more I know we will receive out of it.

In joyful expectancy for the upcoming year,

Matt Carriker



A few Oldtown Photographers at the October 18 Photo Show!