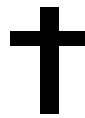


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Under the
Dome

Dunbar United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation
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Newsletter for July/August 2011

With fascination and sadness, I've been thinking about the Anthony Weiner drama. Look at the incredible things people do when their sexual energy is out of their control. That's the fascinating (frightening) part. The sad part is that poor people have lost one of their best advocates in congress. Generally, elected officials help the people who pay them. Corporations and wealthy people influence politicians with their constant flow of money. What do the millions of poor and sick and mentally ill and war-damaged people give to their elected officials? Nothing. Many of them don't vote, don't send contributions -- don't care. So a politician has nothing to gain by helping them. And yet, Weiner did.

Psychiatrist M. Scott Peck wrote in one of his books (Further Along the Road Less Traveled, page 226): "Sex is a problem for everyone. Sex is a problem for children, sex is a problem for adolescents, sex is a problem for young adults, sex is a problem for middle-aged adults, sex is a problem for elderly adults. Sex is a problem for celibates, sex is a problem for married people, sex is a problem for single people, sex is a problem for straight people, sex is a problem for gay people. Sex is a problem for bricklayers and plumbers, sex is a problem for dentists and lawyers, sex is a problem for

surgeons and therapists and psychiatrists. And sex is a problem for Scott Peck.” According to Peck, sex is a problem for all of us, not just Anthony Weiner. Some of the greatest people in the Bible were brought to their knees because of it. Look at the mighty King David. His sex-drive caused him to break most of the commandments -- he lied, stole and murdered to satisfy his passion for a woman. David killed Goliath, the greatest warrior alive, but he couldn’t overcome his desire for a married woman.

So Anthony Weiner, you’re in good company. I doubt that any of us are better than King David, and look at the nightmare he made. Does that mean that we are as vulnerable to the lure of evil as David was? The most interesting thing about the Wiener saga is that the real evil -- in congress and in our culture -- is barely addressed. It’s not so awful for a man to send lewd pictures on facebook. We’ve seen worse things. I get e-mails every week that I don’t want to see -- I delete them. If people don’t want to see Weiner’s pictures, stop twittering him for God’s sake. But while the media and American public express horror at Weiner’s overexposure, the real horror -- the real immorality and corruption at the heart of our nation goes on with little public outcry: the rich getting richer, and the poor, poorer. That’s the disease eating the soul of our country.

Jesus didn’t get angry at the woman accused of adultery. He told her: “I don’t condemn you. Go and sin no more.” The people Jesus got angry at were the rich and powerful who exploited the poor. In both testaments, this upsets God more than anything else. Not sex, but the poor being exploited by the rich. We are so distracted. Thank goodness for the conversations we have in our church with each other, in worship, in coffee hour, in Bible study. Our scriptures and tradition offer us a vision of what really matters to God. During a recent sermon I mentioned Anthony Weiner and one of the worshipper’s said from their pew: “He’s sick!” I agreed, because only someone not well could sacrifice so much through such a frivolous pastime. Then I asked: “Is it possible to be sick -- AND -- still follow Jesus?” Then two others (thank you Kathy Casolino and Barbara Hamilton), without hesitation, yelled out from their pews, “OF COURSE!!!!” I loved how they

didn't have to even think about it. And they are so right. In fact, according to the Bible, we're all sick. Sin is the disease the Bible identifies in us -- sin - a separation from God, which is the cause of our violence, our greed, our sexual perversions. Jesus said that if we were well, we wouldn't need him. So yes, Anthony Wiener is sick and we are sick and thank God for Jesus who heals our sin-sick souls. Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, la la, la la, la la.....

Yours, singing in the summertime,

George

If you or someone you know would like a call or visit, please contact Rev. George Manukas at (203) 287-8106 or revonweb@sbcglobal.net

Dunbar UCC Open and Affirming/Mission Statement

We, the members of Dunbar United Church of Christ, want Jesus to be the center of our lives. Our mission is to practice the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:34). We seek to follow God's will by loving our neighbors, friends and enemies alike. We seek justice for all.

We celebrate the image of God in every person. As an Open and Affirming Church, we welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of our church, and affirm that the grace of God, known especially through Jesus, is a gift meant for people of every race, color, age, ability, and sexual orientation. Worship, leadership, ministry, and employment are open to all.

We are on a journey of faith and invite all people to join us. No matter the church or community where your journey began, you are welcome here.



Missions

This summer Missions is helping with the garden and some members have planted extra at their homes to donate to St. Ann's, Miller Sr. Ctr. and any other cause that can use this great produce. If you have extra in your garden this year, please let me know so we can share it. Last month we donated to an Alabama foundation to help with education after the tornadoes. We had contacted an Alabama UCC church nearby to ask what they recommended and this was their choice. The church we contacted kindly sent us their history; they were founded right after the civil war and remain a small but mighty church. This summer is a great time to start collecting for your Operation Christmas Child shoe box. You can choose boy or girl. (Remember no liquids or war looking toys included.) The boxes will be collected on Sunday, November 12, so please mark that date on your calendar.

Looking into many more places missions can do their best work. We have a great crew who wear many hats and always give all. Thank you, Debbie

Women's Fellowship

The Apple Festival will be on **October 22** this year, please star it on your calendars. Keep in mind all our tables - bazaar, Grandma's attic, Grandpa's tool shed, jewelry, toys - when you are cleaning out those closets and drawers. We can use any items in good shape! **Pie making starts on Wed. Sept 7.** and anyone can order pies on that date or any Wed. after that until Oct. 12. Looking for volunteers for the festival, please call me if you can give some of your time that day to help us out. **Our next work meeting is July 13** at 9:30 to make more bazaar items. Thanks, Debbie

Board of Christian Education



We kicked off our Summer Bible Story Time on June 19th. Every Sunday during the summer immediately following children's time we will go out to the picnic table and read and discuss a story from the bible. We'll tend the garden, maybe do a craft and play on the playground. It's a great way to continue our children's learning of the bible during summer vacation. We need volunteers to keep this going. If you're interested please see Nancy Braen after church or email me at njbraen@comcast.net.

Thank you to all the teachers and helpers who volunteered this year to teach Sunday school. We couldn't have done it without you. If you'd like to volunteer to teach Sunday school next fall, please see Nancy Braen or email me at njbraen@comcast.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Braen.



Scholarship Report

The Scholarship Committee of the Dunbar Women's Fellowship met in May to review applications from ten young members who will be attending college in the fall. We are pleased to be able to make an Award to each one. The Women's Fellowship provides the majority of the funds with additional monies coming from Memorial Gifts, the Church Operating Budget, and the loose collection from a June church service.

The students are:

Augie Bonadies: University of Rhode Island

Jennfier Browning: Gateway Community College

Gary Burkbuckler: Fairfield University

Kara Burkbuckler: Middlesex Community College

Lindsay Chicoine: Albertus Magnus College

Taylor Jacques: Quinnipiac University

Michelle Kresta: Quinnipiac University

Robert Pascarella: McGill University

Katie Straka: Ithaca College

and Leslie Hurd who graduated from Marist College and will be pursuing a Master's Degree at SCSU.

Please support the Apple Festival in October which is a primary source of funds. Also consider making a contribution to the Memorial Gifts Fund in honor or memory of loved ones. Donations can always be made to the Scholarship Fund at anytime, just properly mark them for correct accounting purposes.

Thank you, Meg Nowacki, Chair



BETSY LEWIS

September 13, 1924 - April 7, 2011

BETSY LEWIS

Betsy Lewis of Eastham, died April 7, at Harwich Epoch Nursing Home. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Kenneth D. Lewis, four children, eleven grandchildren nine great grandchildren and a sister. She is predeceased by her daughter, Kathy.

Betsy was born September 13, in Amherst, MA, and grew up in Hamden, CT where she attended Hamden Hall High School. Later, she received a degree from Post Junior College in Waterbury, CT. She and Ken and the family lived in Hamden for many years before retiring in 1985 to Eastham on the Cape.

Betsy was a member of the *Whale Stranding Group* in Harwich, *Eastham Park Recreation Commission*, *Dousers Club* and an associate member of the *Federated Church of Orleans*. She also served as president of the *Cape Cod Writers Guild* and actively worked with the *Narragansett Tribe of RI* and the *Wampanoag Tribe of MA*. Soaring Seagull will be laid to rest at Yarmouth Quaker Meeting house on Saturday, May 28, 2011 surrounded by family and friends.

Betsy's husband, Ken Lewis, was a charter member of Dunbar United Church of Christ in 1947, along with Ken's parents, Harold and Arline Lewis



Women's Fellowship:

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK APPLES! Peeling and pie making start **Wednesday, September 7**. Please keep in mind our tables for Apple Festival; if you are parting with something that would contribute to our Grandma's Attic, Jewelry, Toy or Bazaar table, please save it for our festival!
Thank you, Debbie



Masselli Farm House:

We were hoping to start renovating this house starting July 1st, 2011. Unfortunately, the purchase of this property by Habitat is currently on hold, due in part to the proverbial “red tape”. As soon as I know more, I will gladly pass it on. We may start another home in New Haven in the mean time. This too is bogged down in paperwork.

I greatly appreciate everyone’s interest and look forward to start our next home/project. You can check the website

(<http://www.sleepinggiantbuild.org>) for additional information.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jim Arseniadis (203) 605-8493 aspetuck.appraisal@yahoo.com

DEACONS

The Deacons committee met on June 12, 2011. During this time we met with Lois and John Kasarauskas and Eleanor Ferri who are planning on joining our church family. They will officially become new members during our Sunday June 26 service. Welcome Lois, John and Eleanor!

The Vesper service will also take place June 26 @ 4 pm at Chapel in the Woods. There will be no Saturday services for the months of July and August. We decided due to summer vacation schedules, communion for August will take place August 21 when George will be performing the service. Our next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2011 @ 9 am.

Thank you and God Bless,

Heather Sibley and Nicole Jacques

hls157@aol.com

nicolejacques23@yahoo.com

Dunbar Church is Online!

Did you miss a sermon? Or a Dome? Want to read what you heard last Sunday or pass it along to a friend? Maybe you want to check out some pictures of the kids baking cookies. Or maybe you forgot who has coffee hour next month and you want to make sure it's not you! All this and more is online at <http://www.dunbarchurch.com>. Visit the website and check out what going on. Send comments and suggestions for the web site to Nancy Braen at njbraen@comcast.net.

And now we're on Facebook! Click the "Like" button on the website and be taken directly to our Facebook page or search for Dunbar United Church of Christ in Facebook. All the weekly happenings are posted there. Feel free to start a discussion by writing on the wall. Tell us what you think should be

posted there. Your Facebook admins are Cindy Long, Geneene Luedee and Nancy Braen. You can find us on Facebook of course!



The Garden Committee is looking for anyone interested in helping maintain (water & weed) the “Feed the Hungry” Garden. Email Tom at twparlapiano@aol.com

Going on Vacation this summer?

Keep your pledge current using Electronic giving.

Making a donation is easy and secure, simply go to the church website www.dunbarchurch.com and click the donate button on the left side of the screen. This will bring you to a secure site that is managed by Vanco services. By signing up online you control the frequency and amount of your donations. You can make a one time or recurring donation. Your donations can be transferred from your checking account or charged to your credit card. It's all up to you. You can also stop donating electronically at any time.

By keeping your pledge current there is no “catch up” pledge necessary when you return and the church will continue to have the money available to pay the bills that continue over the summer when church attendance is typically lower.

2011 Dunbar United Church of Christ

Pastor:	Rev. George Manukas	Email: revonweb@sbcglobal.net; Phone: (203) 287-8106
Moderator:	Jim Arseniadis	Email: aspetuck.appraisal@yahoo.com; Phone: (203) 605-8493
Treasurer:	Joe Braen	Email: jbraen@comcast.net; Phone: (203) 230-8043
Assistant Treasurer:	Mark Rosa	Email: Mark.Rosa@beiinc.com; Phone: (203) 287-9927
Clerk:	Sandra Kops	Email: sandrakops@aol.com; Phone: (203) 288-2535
Sexton:	Victor Mitchell	Email: vicm56@aol.com
Secretary:	Geneene Luedee	Email: ducc67@sbcglobal.net; Phone: (203) 288-2342
Hall Rentals:	Geneene Luedee	Email: ducc67@sbcglobal.net; Phone: (203) 288-2342
Web Site:	Nancy Braen	Email: njbraen@comcast.net; Phone: (203) 230-8043
Nominations:	Bruce Detmers	Email: brdetmers@snet.net; Phone: (203) 248-6201
Altar Flowers:	Betty Detmers	Email: brdetmers@snet.net; Phone: (203) 248-6201
Budget:	Steve Hurd	Email: stephen.hurd@kemira.com; Phone: (203) 281-5429

Deacons

George Manukas (Pastor)
Nicole Jacques (Chair)

Heather Sibley (Chair)
Jordan Jacques (2012)
Kathy Straka (2012)
Betty Detmers (2012)
Tom Palapiano (2012)
Judy Campbell (2012)
Mark Rosa (2011)

Missions and

Concerns

Debbie Laffin (Chair)
Nancy Braen (Co-Chair 2012)
Donna Burkbackler (Co-Chair 2012)
Olga Dryfoos (2012)
Janet Braen (2014)
Dale Long (2014)
Sandy Hurd (2014)

Trustee's

Meg Nowacki

Gary Burkbackler (2013)
Bob Corona (2013)
Ted Endriss (2013)
Larry Liseo (2012)
Al Via (2012)
Chuck Walters (2012)
George Braen (2014)
Paul Jacques (2014)
Bruce Detmers (2014)

Christian Education

Nancy Braen (2012 Chair)
Donna Burkbackler (2012)
Janet Lavorgna (2012)
Cindy Long (2012)
Libby Wamser (2012)
Bell Forte (2014)
Janet Manukas (2014)
Ellyn Liseo (2014)
Taylor Jacques (2014)
Olga Dryfoos (2014)

Investment

Bruce Detmers (Chair)
Jim Arseniadis (Moderator)
Joe Braen (Treasurer)

Meg Nowacki
Tom Parlapiano
Chuck Walters

Pastoral Relations

Meg Nowacki (Chair)
Jim Arseniadis
Judy Campbell
Steve Hurd
Betty Detmers

Columbarium

Bruce Detmers (Chair)
Bob Corona
Betty Detmers
Ellyn Liseo
Barbara Walters
Chuck Walters
Ann Watjen

Publicity

Cindy Long
Tom Parlapiano

Memorial Gifts

Ginny Granquist