

December 2007 and January 2008

THE WHITE CHURCH

BRIDGE

Dear Friends,

This note comes with wishes for each of you for a very warm and joyous Advent and Christmas season. Kathleen and I hope you all are able to find moments of gentleness in it. I have planned a series of worship services for the month entitled, “Working Our Way Towards Bethlehem” where I hope to give some guidance on how we might truly find Christ at the end of this journey.

Many people try to shift the focus away from present-buying to a broader understanding of what gifts are all about and I commend all of you who are working to make that happen. In addition to all the other very important ways you can contribute to the quality of other’s lives, I wanted to give you one more option.

Our April Mission Trip is going to Biloxi, MS to help rebuild a still-decimated area from Hurricane Katrina. We are oversubscribed for this trip as so many youth and adults realize the importance and value of being part of this. Pulling this off is an expensive proposition – costing over \$700 for each person. We have had several fund raisers already and the congregation has been very supportive. I would like not to inundate our church year with hands always reaching into your pockets. I would rather the group spend more of its time learning about what it will be facing and preparing itself spiritually.

A couple of people have asked if they can help in any special way. I invite anyone who is able to make a contribution above and beyond buying a pie at coffee hour. For every \$1000 we raise it lowers the cost per youth almost \$50. If anyone would consider the following please let me know (it can also be done anonymously):

1. Supply a van - \$500 each – we are going to need 4 of them
2. Pay for a youth’s airline ticket - \$440 each
3. Pay for a person’s room & board at Back Bay Mission - \$75 per person for the 5 days
4. Contribute to the gas costs for the van - \$300 per van
5. Provide group t-shirts with our logo
6. Cover cost of overnight hotel in New Orleans - \$50 each
7. Treat group to an ice cream at the end of a hot work day - \$75 per day

Christmas blessings to you all,

Jeff and Kathleen

Sunday Services in December & January

December 2	10 a.m.	<i>New Member Sunday</i> Worship Service and Communion, Pageant Preparation*
December 9	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Bells, Pageant Preparation*
December 16	10 a.m.	Worship Service and Children's Christmas Pageant
December 23	10 a.m.	All Family Worship Service. No church school Grades 1-8.
December 30	10 a.m.	Worship Service. Nursery & PreK care only
January 6		<i>Epiphany</i>
	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion, Church School
January 13	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir, Church School
January 20	10 a.m.	All Church Family Worship Service with Bells
January 27	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
	After Worship	Annual Budget Meeting (see page 10)

*Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8**

*Nursery Care Available**

Handicapped Accessible

* See page 5 for information about Church School and Nursery Care in December.

Parents of young children are reminded that if they need to leave the service with their child, there is a Nursery Nook downstairs in the vestry where parents can sit with their child and still hear the service via loud speaker.

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. Family Worship Service with the Sing and Celebrate Children's Choir. This will be a brief, children's oriented service.

10:00 p.m. Service of Carols and Readings with the Adult Vocal Choir.





Children's Communion Service

As the Deacons and the Christian Education and Youth Ministries Team continue to look at different ways for our children to participate in the communion service, they will be trying something new again this month.

On **Sunday, December 2nd** the children will have their own communion service in Room 6. All children in Kindergarten—Grade 8 should go to **Room 6 at 10 a.m.** for this special service which will be led by some of the deacons. Following this brief service, the older children who are involved with set decorating for the pageant will go to Fellowship Hall. The remaining children will participate in a different activity (see page 4).

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On **Sunday, December 2nd** at the **10:00 a.m.** service we will receive new members into this church.



Interested in becoming a member of our church?

Please contact Jeff Larsen at the church office (246-0111) to be included on December 2. Whether you're a newcomer or you've been coming to church for a long time but just never took the step of joining – this is a great time to do it! Talk with Jeff.

All Church Family Worship Service - Sunday, December 23rd



On this Sunday all children from First Grade and older are invited to stay in church with their families for the whole service. This gives families the opportunity to worship together and teachers the chance to be in church. The service will be geared more to the children.

The first Family Worship Service for 2008 will be held on January 20th. Watch the bulletin for details of what age children should remain in church.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL SERVICE

sponsored by the Barrington Clergy Association

Monday, January 21st, 2008 at 7:30 p.m at a location tba.

Save the date and watch the weekly announcements for more information.



At the special congregational meeting of BCCUCC held on October 28th, the **Rev. Elizabeth Barnum** was called to be our new Associate Minister. She is currently finishing up a fellowship at a church in Melbourne, Australia, and will be coming to BCCUCC in February, 2008. We look forward to her arrival.

Mark your calendar for....

Sunday, December 16th
when the children in kindergarten and older will present their

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

during the 10 a.m. Worship Service *in Fellowship Hall*. This year's pageant will be....

The Christmas Story
Through The Eyes of the Friendly Beasts

Directed by Amy Gorman
Accompanied by Barbara Ward



The pageant is open and available to all members of church school grades K-8. We would love participation from all ages whether it be behind the scenes, in front of the scenes, or next to the scenes cheering your friends on. The Christmas Pageant will be even better if more of you are involved. Please come and be a part of it in any way you can.

All rehearsals will take place in Fellowship Hall and the rehearsal schedule will be as follows:

Sunday, December 2	10:15—11 a.m.	} These first two rehearsals will focus on set decorating/painting only and will involve mostly older children.
Sunday, December 9	10—11 a.m.	
Monday, December 10	5:30—7 p.m.	
Wednesday, December 12	5:30—7 p.m.	
Friday, December 14	5:30—7 p.m.	
Saturday, December 15	9—11 a.m.	Mandatory Dress Rehearsal
Sunday, December 16	Performance during 10 am worship service	

Questions? Call Amy Gorman at 246-7858.

Adult volunteers willing to help are also asked to call Amy.

A Summary of what's happening with Church School in December

Sunday, December 2

The Nursery and PreK class will take place during the entire worship time as usual.

All children Kindergarten–Grade 8 will go to Room 6 at 10 a.m. to participate in a special children's communion service (see page 2).

After this short children's service is over

- older children who are assisting with the set preparation for the pageant will go to Fellowship Hall.
- an alternative activity will be provided for the remaining children.

Sunday, December 9

The Nursery and PreK class will take place during the entire worship time as usual.

Older children who are helping with set preparation will go to Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m.

All other children (K–Grade 8) will go to church with their families for the first part of the service. After the children's message they will come to the CE building to participate in an activity.

Sunday, December 16

The 10 a.m. Worship Service will take place in Fellowship Hall and the Christmas Pageant will be performed during the service.

There will be Nursery Care only, with no classes for children in PreK—Grade 8.

Sunday, December 23

The 10 a.m. worship service will be an All Church Family service.

Children in Grades 1 – 8 will be expected to attend worship with their families.

There will be Nursery care and an activity for PreK and K children during the entire worship time.

Sunday, December 30

There will be Nursery care and class for PreK children only.

No church school classes for Kindergarten - Grade 8.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Andrea Bullard at 474-4722
or contact any member of the CEYM team.

The theme for Church School and Faithworks in January is

“Where is the Child?”

**Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12;
Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:29-42;
Matthew 4:12-23**

Confirmation Class Update:

The beginning of the winter term will be a class session on

Sunday, January 13,
11:20 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
in Room 8.





The Men's Group will meet on the first Sunday of the month and will next meet on
Sundays, December 2 and January 6
in the **library** from **8:30-9:30 a.m.**
(note the earlier start and end times).

All **men** are invited to participate in this group which chats informally about issues that relate to men's lives and faith. The agenda will be kept loose and Jeff will kick off the discussions and provide strong coffee.



The Spiritual Journeying Workshop

One's destination is never a place, it's a new way of looking at things.

Henry Miller

Group size: 8 minimum; 10 maximum
Meeting: Once a week for 90 minute sessions
Duration: 6 weeks
Dates/time: 7 pm on Tuesdays - January 8th to February 12th
Cost: FREE
Place: The Library at BCC UCC

Each session will help participants better define and enhance their own spirituality and spiritual journey. To do this, we will work to formulate a clearer sense of our own selves and who God is for each of us. We will also learn about various methods and practices to strengthen and enhance our connection to self and to God as we continue on our journey. The last workshop led by Gwen Ische Kangis was a hit! We've asked for an encore.

Advance registration is required to participate in this workshop.

Call Achina Stein at 247-7877 or send an email to apstein@cox.net to sign up.

The "Women in the Bible" group will meet on
Thursdays, December 6th and 13th, and January 3rd and 17th
from **10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.** in **Room 6**



This **women's** group is currently reading **The Faith Club** by Ranya Ildliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner and they welcome women of other churches and faith traditions to join them as they continue their study of this book.

Questions? Contact Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or ch12299@aol.com

Face God with Grace

Two of our deacons, Achina Stein and Doug Roach, are creating a practical book for your dining room table that lists different graces. If you don't already say grace, this book can prompt you and your family members to say grace without discomfort. Children find it fun and like to take turns saying or even singing graces. It is a stepping stone to having this ritual as part of your daily meal together and allows you to create your own graces with increasing comfort. We'd like to make the book more personal and include any favorite graces from members of the congregation.



If you have a favorite grace, please send it to Achina Stein via email: apstein@cox.net. Please put "grace" in the subject line. Or you can send it via regular mail to Achina's attention at the church office, 461 County Road, Barrington RI 02806. If the grace is copyrighted, we will need that information to obtain permission to use it. We hope to bind the books and sell them as a fund raiser for our church. If you have any questions or would like to help, please call Achina at 247-7877.

The Nativity of Christ

A Spectacular night of musical pageantry and puppetry featuring the

"Chi Rho Puppets"

and The United Congregational Church
Chancel Choir

Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th
at 6:30 pm. and 8:00 p.m.

(arrive early; doors close at showtime)

The United Congregational Church
524 Valley Road, Middletown RI

There is no charge for this family event

Free-will donations accepted.

All proceeds to benefit a local family.

For more information call (401) 849-5444

Sunday, December 2nd

Advent Craft Making



Following worship there will be an opportunity for anyone interested to make an Advent craft. All of the materials will be supplied – we just need you to come and provide the labor! This is a fun activity for all and is especially great for families to do together—but anyone is welcome to participate.

The activity is sponsored by CEYM

All are invited to the Annual

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 9th

3 p.m.

in the Sanctuary



Music by

Adult Vocal Choir

White Church Ringers

Sing and Celebrate Choir

The program will include.....

Contemporary and Traditional Anthems

Carols of the Season

Piano and Organ Music

Congregational Singing of Carols

A Freewill Offering will be taken

We invite you to bring a friend to share in the enjoyment of the sounds of the season!

The Christian Community Choir

(made up of 47 singers from
Barrington and East Bay area churches)

with orchestral accompaniment

will perform the Cantata

Let Heaven and Nature Sing Gloria

by Mark Hayes

on **Tuesday, December 18**

at **7 p.m.**

at **St. Luke's Church,**

108 Washington Road, Barrington

All are invited.

Admission: \$10 adults, Under 15 are free

Proceeds will go to Crossroads of RI



The Providence Singers

**with the Rhode Island
Philharmonic**

present

Handel's

MESSIAH

Saturday, December 8,

7:30 p.m.,

**Veterans Memorial Auditorium,
Providence**

Tickets \$20—\$50;

\$5 children and students

(401) 248-7000

ProvidenceSingers.org

A chance to say "thank you"

During the first 3 weeks of December you will find in the pews an envelope marked "Staff Christmas Bonus." We are blessed to have wonderful people working here who give more hours to our church than expected or than compensated for. I invite you to join with me in giving them a gift during these holidays. Please be generous. Your gifts will be divided up among eight different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Assistant, Jack, Frank, Kenny and Jimmy on the custodial staff, and Marina at our organ, percentage-wise according to the number of hours they work.

Thank you ahead of time, Jeff.

DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Jim McCartney (star deacon),
Van Edwards, Lorraine Kenney, Lois McCartney,
Doug Roach, and Mary Lou Slicker.

DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Susan Seader (star deacon),
Chris Brady, Bill DeWitt, Marshall Hoyler,
Achina Stein, and Beverly Travers.

*If in a pastoral emergency you cannot reach Jeff
Larsen (247-1787), please call on one of the deacons.*

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

October 28 – 192

November 4 – 191

November 11 – 169

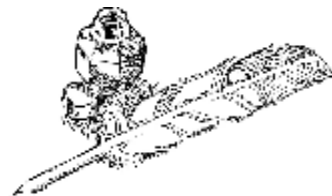
November 18 – 188

November 25 – 146

The **By-Laws Review Team** will be starting its work in December. If you have any comments or concerns with the current By-laws please put them in writing and drop them off at the Church office or mail them to Lee Miller. They can also be e-mailed to bccucc@fullchannel.net or to trustlemi@aol.com.

Not sure what's in our current (2001) By-laws? They can be found on the *Information for Church Members* page of the church website at www.bccucc.org. If you don't have access to the web, you can stop by the church office to pick up a copy.

Church By-Laws Review



Have You Made a Pledge for 2008?

Thank you to everyone who has pledged financial support to BCCUCC for 2008. Your generosity is much appreciated.

If you haven't yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. It's not too late to make a pledge for next year and it can be for any amount, large or small. The income from pledges is used to support the work of the church which includes everything from missions outreach, programming, paying the bills, and paying the staff. Additional pledge forms are available from the vestry table, the rack outside the church office, or call the office at 246-0111 and ask for one to be mailed to you. Thank you.

**PUTTING
OUR FAITH**



**INTO
ACTION**



BUDGET CONVERSATION

After worship on **Sunday, January 20th** in the Vestry. All are welcome to come and learn more about the 2008 church budget and ask questions.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 27th after Worship in the Sanctuary.

All church members are encouraged to attend. Child care will be provided.



Warrant for the ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island

Sunday, January 27, 2008

The annual budget meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC is hereby called to take place in the sanctuary following the regular 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, January 27, 2008**. The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To review and vote on the proposed church budget for fiscal year 2008.
- ARTICLE III: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE IV: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Wuth Clerk

2008 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

If you requested pledge envelopes **please pick them up from the table in the narthex** (where the greeters stand) beginning in late December - or stop by the church office to pick them up. Pledge envelopes have only been assigned to those people who requested them on their 2008 pledge card. If you did not request envelopes but would like a set, please call the church office (246-0111) and we will be happy to assign some to you.



Never get behind with your pledge payments again. Sign up for...

PledgePay

Convenient – Reliable - Secure

PledgePay is a way for you to make monthly pledge payments to the church through direct withdrawals from your checking or savings account, starting January 2008. We are happy to offer this hassle-free way to pay your pledge and hope to save you time in the process.

PledgePay forms are available from the vestry table or the rack outside the church office.

Please fulfill your 2007 pledge

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, passes a balanced budget at the beginning of each year at its Annual Budget Meeting, based upon the amount the congregation has pledged. The church relies on the income from those pledges in order to pay its bills, fund programs, give money to missions, and pay the staff. We respectfully request that if at all possible, you fulfill your financial pledge to the church before December 31st.

We are aware that circumstances change and that you may no longer be able to meet your commitment, in which case we ask that you please either call the church office or speak with the minister to let us know. Thank you.

Tax Free IRA Distribution to Barrington Congregational Church Endowment Fund

Available until December 31, 2007

Owners of traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs can exclude qualified charitable distributions from income when 1) the owner is 70½ and 2) the distribution is made directly by the custodian to the charity.

Major benefits of the charitable distribution are that the IRA payment 1) is not part of gross income and 2) is taken into account in satisfying the required minimum distribution for the year.

For more information call Lee Miller at 245-5635.

The Dine-Out Group invites you to join them on

Friday, December 7th

when they will eat at

The Wharf Tavern
215 Water Street, Warren.

at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Helen Schall at 245-4724 or Bev Travers 253-6760 by Tuesday, December 4th to reserve your spot or to make carpooling arrangements

All are welcome.

Watch the weekly announcement sheet for January's gastronomic venue!



Adult Reading Circle

will meet on

Tuesday, December 18th
and

Tuesday, January 15th

at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot
501 Main Street, Warren.



All are welcome!

December: **This Boy's Life**
by Tobias Wolff

In PEN/Faulkner Award-winner Wolff's fourth book, he recounts his coming-of-age with customary skill and self-assurance.

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January: **In the Country of Men**
by Hisham Matar.

Matar's debut novel tracks the effects of Libyan strongman Khadafy's 1969 September revolution on the el-Dawani family, as seen by nine-year-old Suleiman, who narrates as an adult.



The **Third Friday Bridge** Group will next meet on
Friday, January 18th
at **7:30 PM** in the **Vestry**

(They will not meet in December).

Come enjoy an evening of cards, fellowship, refreshments and prizes. All bridge players are invited, and need not have a partner to enjoy this fun evening. For further information contact Sheila Hutton at 245-4941.



The deadline for submission of articles to be included in the February *Bridge* will be
Wednesday, January 16th.

Are the Doors Locked?

Please remember to check that **all** outside doors are locked when you leave the building—especially after evening meetings. Don't assume that someone else will do it! If you unlock a door to get in **it may remain unlocked**—so please check that you don't inadvertently leave a door unlocked. This is especially true of the new doors to the church building.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas, or for delivery by a deacon to our homebound, please complete this order form and return to the church office with payment **by Tuesday, December 11th, 2007.**

Alternatively, the completed form and payment can be left with a member of the Chancel Ministry Team who will be at the piano in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour following Sunday services.

In addition to plants being given in memory of a loved one, plants may also be given in thanksgiving for, or celebration of, someone or something (a person, birthday, anniversary, etc). *Please be sure to complete the correct portion of the form with your dedication.* All dedications will be listed in a special insert to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Every year our deacons deliver poinsettias to our homebound, sick and recently bereaved. If you would be willing to have your poinsettia used for delivery by the deacons prior to Christmas, rather than to decorate the sanctuary, please be sure to check the appropriate box on the order form. A small portion of the cost of each poinsettia is used for the purchase of some of the additional poinsettias that are delivered by the deacons.

Those who purchase poinsettias are given the option of taking them home following the 10 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Those that remain will continue to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas Season. *We respectfully request that no plants be removed from the Sanctuary before the end of the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service.*

The money collected will be used to purchase red poinsettias for delivery by the deacons, and a variety of different poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas services.

See next page for order form.

Cottage Meeting Update

During January thru March of 2007 our church family participated in a series of Cottage Meetings that gave everyone a chance to voice their concerns, hopes and dreams for our church life together over the next 3-5 years. From those meetings a long list of suggestions was compiled. Each one of those was directed to the appropriate ministry team and many of them have been acted upon.

The Associate Minister Search Committee took strong direction from the priorities identified in the meetings in forming the job description for Elizabeth, who will be joining our staff in February.

The Deacons, at their recent retreat, reviewed the status of those forwarded to them. These include:

1. Further developing our ministry to one another as a congregation – meals, visits, etc.
ACTION: contact person for meals, cards, heightened awareness about visiting
2. Sermons that address current events
ACTION: Conversations with Jeff about relating sermons to everyday life
3. Spiritual nourishment for adults
ACTION: Recognize part of this will be the responsibility of new Associate Minister but also contracted for an adult series in Oct – Nov and another in Jan - Feb
4. Alternative service times and format
ACTION: Have had discussions, are reading materials, no decisions yet
5. Helping people find their own ministry and accommodating hectic lifestyles
ACTION: Continue to be very sensitive to these needs, no specific actions
6. More quiet, led, prayer time in worship
ACTION: Suggested to Jeff he include more of this in a variety of ways
7. Becoming an “Open and Affirming” church
ACTION: No specific plans yet but recognize the need to work on this soon.

The calendar for December 2007
as it appeared on page 16 and 17 of the newsletter
can be found in a separate document
on the calendar page of the website.

In addition, the **church's on-line calendar** can also be
accessed either through the home page of the website or from
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MISSION TRIP to Back Bay Mission

The next all-group meeting is
Sunday evening, December 16,
7 - 8:30 PM In Fellowship Hall.

The Mission Trip group will be sponsoring a

Swing into Spring Sale

in March, 2008 to raise money for their trip to Biloxi.

They are looking for people to not only rent tables to sell their used items, but crafters and other merchants and professionals as well. Tables will be available for \$20 each and it will be held in Fellowship Hall.

If you plan on renting a table to sell your used items, now is a great time to gather them together.

For more information, or to reserve a table, please e-mail Gabrielle Sclafani at LittleSclaf101@hotmail.com or call her at (401) 247-1620.



Help our mission trip participants get to Biloxi.....

Mission Trip Christmas Tree Ornaments
are being sold at coffee hour during the Sundays in
December for a suggested donation of \$5.

All money raised goes to the Mission Trip Fund.



A Christmas Gift Idea.....

Copies of the **NEW CHURCH COOKBOOK** (published Spring 2006) are available for purchase at **\$15** each. The cookbook contains favorite new recipes from church members as well as a few of the most popular recipes from the old yellow cookbook.

These cookbooks make a great Christmas gift and all proceeds from their sale go toward funding Mission Trips. Stop by the church office to purchase a copy or talk to a member of the Mission Trip team.



Do you know how Back Bay Mission was started?

*This information is brought to you by your
Social Action and Justice Ministry Team.
and was obtained from the website, www.backbaymission.com.*



Back Bay Mission was founded in 1922 as an outreach effort of the First Evangelical Church of Biloxi (later United Church of Christ), whose members responded with compassion and service to the needs of poor "fisher folk" living in deplorable conditions along the Back Bay of Biloxi, Mississippi. Since then, Back Bay Mission has continually grown its services and ministries, always keeping the impoverished and marginalized at the center of its concern. Although there were no longer any UCC congregations in Biloxi or in the state of Mississippi by the early 1970s, Back Bay Mission remained to offer a witness of the United Church of Christ. Its commitment is to be faithfully responsive to the emerging and critical needs of God's people, ever seeking a day of greater justice and peace.

Following the crippling Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, Back Bay Mission found itself with no habitable facilities. In fact, of the seven buildings, six have been demolished and the seventh is awaiting a complete interior rebuild. All ministries were discontinued for a few weeks before receiving two donated work trailers from which the staff resumed work and began shaping services to fit the space and the post-Katrina reality. Within a few months workcamping, now more accurately called "disaster relief/recovery," began receiving work teams from across the country to help the Mississippi Gulf Coast dig out and rebuild. Three mobile homes now serve as housing for these inspired and inspiring groups. Because of the incredible outpouring of support from UCC churches, individuals, and organizations, Back Bay Mission is recovering more quickly than many locally based agencies. The staff of seven full time employees and four part time persons provide direct services to poor families while creating new independent service agencies. Because of past and current UCC investment in Back Bay Mission's work, over \$10 million in vital services are delivered annually to South Mississippians in such diverse areas as education, legal aid, health care, feeding programs, early childhood development, family counseling, housing, and domestic violence.

Help our mission trip participants get to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi by purchasing a Mission Trip Ornament on sale at coffee hour (see previous page).



As the icy weather approaches it's even more important that those who are able remember to park in the commuter lot, leaving the spaces in front of the education building, including the handicapped spaces, for those who have difficulty walking — both on Sunday mornings and for evening meetings and rehearsals. Thank you.

**Barrington Congregational Church United Church of Christ
is a "5 for 5 Church"**



On Sunday October 28th, we welcomed Susan Sanders, Minister and Team Leader for the Global Sharing of Resources of the UCC, who distributed red 5 for 5 stickers to the congregation. But what exactly is a 5 for 5 church? We are one of more than 1150 UCC churches across the country who generously contribute to the 4 mission offerings of the UCC as well as to the Basic Support of the Church's Wider Mission. The mission offerings include: One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Christmas Fund and Strengthen the Church. These mission funds enable us to offer our care and support to those who are suffering from disaster, war, injustice and poverty around the world and throughout the United States. Thank you for your gifts - they do make a difference!

QUESTION. How can you save trees, save energy, and save the church some money?

ANSWER. By reading your *Bridge* on-line at www.bccucc.org

The *Bridge* is posted on the church website the same day it gets mailed so there's the added advantage that you don't have to wait for your copy of the *Bridge* to arrive in the mail in order to read it.

If you're a computer savvy household, we ask that you consider removing your household's name from the mailing list for the *Bridge*, and instead read it on line. An e-mail will be sent to you as soon as it's been put on the website to let you know it's there.

To stop receiving the *Bridge* in the mail, please contact Christine at the church office at bccucc@fullchannel.net or 246-0111 with your request.

Should you find at a later date that you prefer to read a hard copy, we'll happily start mailing it out to you again. Thank you.

Exhibition of Sculpture by Charles McCollough

by Dorothy Muth

Several women from the church attended the opening of the exhibit of sculpture at Andover-Newton in October. One of our former ministers, the Rev. Dr. Charles McCollough, presented his newest works. This was the most impressive exhibition we have seen. He bases all of his works on the Bible, with this one being on the parables.

It was a happy occasion for us to be there and have a chance to visit with both Charles and his wife Carole. They were getting ready to leave for South Dakota where they will work with the native American folks there.

We hope that Charles will bring some of his sculptures to Barrington in the spring.

CHRISTMAS FUND

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and distant neighbors.

The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross), one of four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

Christmas Fund Gifts provided some form of Ministerial Assistance to approx. 1,500 persons during calendar year 2007:

- Monthly Pension Supplementation is provided to 469 persons, These gifts total \$92,853 per month. A significant part of this comes from the Christmas Fund.
- Emergency Grants have been provided to 33 individuals and families, which totaled \$38,665.50 in the first nine months of 2007. It is estimated that 50-60 persons will receive an Emergency Grant by year-end.
- Christmas Gift checks, which are scheduled to be given to 810 persons in 2007. Of those who will receive checks, 24 are over 100 years of age (the oldest being 106). The 810 gifts will total \$222,750.
- Quarterly Health Premium Supplementation to 287 families, totaling \$140,571 per quarter. All of the funding for health premium supplementation is derived from the Christmas Fund.

Your generous contributions do make a difference. Please make checks payable to "Barrington Congregational Church" and mark the memo line "Christmas Fund". Your donation can be placed in the attached envelope and either put in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you.



Please continue to bring in used (or new) men's clothing for the **George Hunt Help Center** in Providence. Warm clothing of all types is especially essential during the winter months for those living on the streets. Donations may be placed in the box in the vestry hallway.

100,000 for Peace



The UCC's Collegium of Officers is committed to active peacemaking this Christmas – and is asking us to keep the momentum going. They have announced the next phase of “100,000 for Peace.” Here is their request for all of us:

- **First**, in the next seven weeks, we need to raise at least \$100,000 to provide shelter, food, clothing and education for Iraqi war refugees and their children. At least four million people have been displaced by the Iraq War – two million internally and two million who are fleeing to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Our ecumenical mission partners have asked that we respond urgently and generously, so we are bringing this emergency appeal directly to you. **Your gift of \$40 will feed an Iraqi refugee family of four for two weeks.** We have pledged to gather \$100,000 by January 6, because it is a significant date. For western Christians, this is the day of Epiphany, the time in which Christians proclaim the light of Christ to the world. But it's also Orthodox Christmas Eve, the time when most Iraqi Christians will gather to celebrate Christ's birth.

- **Second**, also by January 6, we're asking for an unprecedented show of support for our U.S. service personnel in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. We are hoping to **lift and send more than 100,000 prayers, letters and signs of support to those serving in the military.** In the coming days and weeks, you'll receive information, resources and online tools to help make this a reality. You'll also be asked to advocate on behalf of returning soldiers. We will be calling on the U.S. government to provide for the health and welfare needs of our veterans.

- **Third**, we want our **Pastoral Letter on the Iraq War** to be delivered 100,000 times to the in-district offices of our U.S. Senators and Representatives. **What was delivered to Washington collectively must now be delivered – by each of us – to the local offices of each member of Congress.** In a massive wave, starting in December and going through January 6, we want the Pastoral Letter to be delivered through local visits, personal letters or phone calls. Together, we'll use the UCC's website to calendar our local visits so that we can visualize our collective efforts and pray for one another.

For more information go to: <http://www.ucc.org/100kforpeace/>
and watch for more information from your Social Action and Justice Ministry Team.

Bill Moyers Video. Bill Moyers was a keynote presenter at the UCC General Synod last June. Join us to watch the video of his speech at the home of Bev Travers on **Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00. p.m.**

Call Bev (253-6760) or Helen Schall (245-4724) for more information.

Support our troops!



The Holy Joe's Cafe in Baghdad, is a project of military chaplains who are running coffee houses to encourage our troops to come in for conversation and counseling. Coffee may be an unlikely ally of the Gospel, yet in the hands of a chaplain it can enable meaningful ministry addressing an individual's normal reactions to extreme situations. More information on how you can send coffee to the Holy Joe's Café will be available in January.

Upcoming events from the Social Action and Justice Ministry Team

Over the first two or three months of the new year we hope to have several sessions for our church community to participate in. Look for dates and times for the following:

- **GreenStart** presentation from People's Power and Light – why you should consider switching to GreenStart.
- **Marriage Equality** presentation from the Conference Open and Affirming Task Force will consist of three parts, a Behavioral Science position, a religious perspective, and a personal testimony by the parents of a gay son.
- A study on the **topics surrounding Biloxi and other Gulf areas** following Hurricane Katrina and the connections with poverty, racism and a Christian response.



The Social Action and Justice Ministry Team will once again be sponsoring a Mitten Tree. You are asked to please fill the Christmas tree in the narthex of the church with **new hats, mittens and gloves** of all sizes - for **children** (not forgetting the **teenagers**) and **adults**. The items will be donated to various local agencies for distribution to those in need.

Interested in helping **“Adopt-a-Family”** this Christmas? Watch for information in the weekly announcements or talk with someone from the Social Action and Justice Ministry Team.

The **Pastor Parish Relations Team** is charged with dealing with the concerns of the minister, the staff and the congregation. If you have any such concerns, please contact any member of the PPR: Phyllis Buckley, 245-1098; Moyne Cabbage, 245-4641; Jim McCartney, 245-3288; or Lynne Lehman, 289-0101.

TAP-IN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

Each year, Tap-In (Touch a Person in Need) provides new toys and gifts for over 200 needy families in the East Bay area. The program runs primarily on **donations of money, new toys and gift certificates** (movies, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, etc.) from local residents. Tap-In creatively bags the toys and gifts for the families and will distribute them to the parents on December 15th. On distribution day Tap-In is festively decorated and the volunteer elves hand out the gaily wrapped bags of toys. The most challenging age group to provide for is the 11-14 year old age group, so keep them in mind—gift cards are very popular with this age group! Tap-In is also accepting **Shaws and Stop and Shop Gift Cards** to give out as well. If possible, please make your donation by Dec 10th so that it can be handed out on Dec. 15th. Tap-In is open for drop offs Mon-Fri from 9 a.m.—Noon. For more information call 247-1444.



Celebrating a Birthday? Each week the bulletin announcements list members of our congregation who are celebrating a birthday that week. However, we are only able to list the names of those whose birthdates we have in our computer. If your name doesn't appear and you'd like it to, please contact the church office and let us know your date of birth.

YEAR END ALERT

Re: 2007 Reimbursable Expenses.

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out vouchers (*which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team*) and send them to the church office, with receipts attached, as soon as possible. Vouchers are available from the folder at the front of the desk in the church office.



Any expenses turned in after December 14th, 2007, will be charged to the 2008 budgets !



Jeff Larsen

jeffbuccucc@fullchannel.net

Church Office

buccucc@fullchannel.net

Financial Secretary (Pat Stoddard)

financebccucc@fullchannel.net

Christine Wallis (Office Administrator)

christinebccucc@fullchannel.net

Pat Stoddard (Office Assistant)

patbccucc@fullchannel.net

Do we have YOUR e-mail address?

Please e-mail it to us at

buccucc@fullchannel.net

PUTTING OUR FAITH



INTO AUCTION

This is the name for our Auction/Silent Auction to be held in September. It is not too early to start thinking about what you might donate to make this auction another fabulous event (see article below).

Save the date of **Saturday, September 13, 2008**

(the date published last month was incorrect!)

for **Dinner** and an **Auction/Silent Auction**
at **Stanley's Boat Yard.**

For those of you who attended the last one, you will remember what a terrific night you had. We are ready to do it again and we need your help. A committee has been formed and we are looking for additional help. There are numerous ways in which

you can contribute to this team. If you are interested in having a really good time and doing that in a very brief period, then this is the committee for you. If you are interested in contributing to the success of this auction, if you are interested in really fun meetings with lots of action, then now is the time to "Put your Faith into Auction" and join us to get this organized.

If you are interested, please call or e-mail

Kathleen Larsen 247-1787 Klarsenswc@hotmail.com

or Susan Seader 245-5679 Seader@cox.net

Communications Team



This Holiday Season as you shop or go to return that gift that just wasn't quite right, **think of us.**

Our Auction/Silent Auction needs you!

That's right, we need you and your stuff. It's not too early to be thinking of what you might donate to make our event a success. So before you return that Waterford crystal vase, consider donating it to the church. Someone gave you a gold bracelet and you prefer silver, we'll take it. We are looking for any and all donations. Please keep us in mind for fine art work, summer or winter home rentals, tickets, boat rides, yard work, pet sitting, painting or wallpapering, dog walking, dinner out, sewing services, and that is to just name a few. Let's get creative. Our committee stands ready to receive any and all ideas and donations.

Please call or e-mail

Bernie Hawes 437-1860 bhawes1@cox.net

Donations Chair

**PUTTING
OUR FAITH**



**INTO
AUCTION**



For Sale - Cat's Meow rendition of The Barrington Congregational Church, UCC.

We still have a few of the Cat's Meow wooden replicas of our church available for purchase at **\$20.00 each**. They make great Christmas gifts and were so popular last Christmas that we sold out and had to order more.

A few of this second order of churches are still available for purchase, but once they're sold out we won't be ordering any more - so hurry to buy your church before they're all gone! Please note that BCCUCC is the only place where this unique gift can be purchased.

Stop by (or call) the church office to purchase your copy. We have even shipped them to several people in different parts of the country for an additional \$5 fee to cover postage.



OFFICE CLOSINGS in December & January

The church office will be **closed** on Tuesdays, December 25th and January 1st

The office will be **open** from **9 a.m. - Noon only** on Monday, December 24th and Wednesday through Friday, December 26—29th, and Monday, December 31st.

X

The office will also be closed on January 21st for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.

Jeff Larsen will be away January 1st — 4th.

In a pastoral emergency while he is away please call the church office at 246-0111 for information about how to reach a minister.



Church Cancellation Plans in Bad Weather

When the church service has to be cancelled due to bad weather, the information will appear on Channels 6 & 10 cancellation lists that scroll across the television screen. Cancellation information can also be accessed via www.turnto10.com. The church office answering machine will also include any cancellation announcements. (Note: all this is dependent upon there being power to use the technology!).

★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU! ★

...to Paul Movsesian for creating the new signs that you will see sprouting up around our facility. The Membership Team is responding to requests from newcomers to help find their way to restrooms, etc and Paul has come through with the product – thank you very much!

...to Carol Louttit and family for the generous donation of new church coffee mugs to the Membership Team, to be given to visitors during Sunday church services

...to Joe Weissfeld for assisting Buildings and Grounds in securing a new contract for our parking lot services

...to the Seaders, Beverly Travers, Carol Strakosch, Cindy Steger, the Rotblat Walkers, the Fodors, the Schalls, and the Colbys for making possible the auction item for the Haitian Hoopla. The gift certificates for *2nd Story Theatre* and the *Downstairs Bistro* were auctioned as a gift from the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC.

...to everyone who donated food and other items to Tap In; to Ann Wood for organizing the Thanksgiving Food Drive; and to those who helped hand out bags the week before and those who helped get the food to Tap-in the following week

...to all who baked or purchased a pie to help raise more funds for the 2008 Mission Trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. \$476 was raised!

...to the many church members (too many to mention by name) who helped with the memorial service for Jon Converse by ushering, running the elevette, helping with the reception, setting up chairs etc

...to Zach Luther for organizing the live feed of the memorial service to the vestry and Fellowship Hall, and to David Speed for all of his technical assistance

...to the members of Boy Scout Troop 6 for all the work they've done recently around the church. This has included moving dirt down into the crawl space below the music office to increase the back fill around the foundation, as well as helping the Tot's parents spread mulch around the new wooden boat in our playground

...to Barbara Ward for playing the piano at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held at the Temple.

...and to Liz Rosenholm for once again making the beautiful bows that adorn the greens and wreaths in the church—blue during advent and red for Christmas.



Barrington Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

YOUR
NAME

Thank you to everyone who is remembering to wear their nametag on Sundays, both for worship and for coffee hour.

Remember—you can drop your nametag in the baskets near the exits from Fellowship Hall and they will be returned to the racks in the vestry for the next Sunday.

Book Exchange Cart in Fellowship Hall

All are invited to borrow and/or add books for others to enjoy reading.



Help keep us informed

If you or a church member you know is ill, in the hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit of any kind, please let us know. You can call the church office at 246-0111 or contact Jeff directly at 246-0111 ext 103 to leave a confidential voice message, or e-mail him at jeffbuccucc@fullchannel.net.



Are You in Need of a Handyman?

We have a church member willing to donate his services to other church members by doing odd jobs around their house or yard. A number of church members have taken him up on his kind offer and been very grateful for his assistance.

If you are a church member that is in need, either financially or physically, and would be interested in his help, you are welcome to call the church office at 246-0111 for more information.



Can't make it to church?

If you are homebound, or sick for an extended period and unable to come to church, we are happy to mail you a copy of our weekly bulletin. Just call the church office at 246-0111 and we'll add your name to the list.

Letter from our mailbox



Many sincere thanks to all our friends at church who sent cards and made phone calls of sympathy to us following the death of my mother, Mary Hale. And a very special heartfelt thank you to Jeff for the support and the wonderful memorial service.

Sincerely,

The Louttit and the Hale family

Marilyn Darling's new address is

Laurelwood Unit #54
170 Providence Pike
North Smithfield RI 02896
401 767-2015

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request, you are invited to call Kathleen Larsen at 247-1787 or e-mail her at KLarsenswc@hotmail.com who will pass it on to the confidential e-prayer chain.

Family Footnotes

Baptisms

Lola Gray Silva

Daughter of Mark and Kimberly Silva



**For in the one spirit we
were all baptized into
one body.**

1 Corinthians 12:13



BIRTHS

Claire Kathleen Kiley

and

Caitlin Joyce Kiley

born November 7, 2007

to Meghan and Brian Kiley

Grandparents: Jeff & Kathleen Larsen

Frank and Vera Eaton, Abby Randazzo,
Bill and Mary DeWitt's brother-in-law Stan,
and Barbara Spicer.



We offer our prayers, support and sympathy to....

to Susan Baxter on the death of her father, William Doss;
to Dan and Terry Converse on the death of their son,
Jon Converse;

Carol Louttit and family on the death of her mother, Mary Hale;

Marilyn Darling on the death of her husband, Bob Darling.

Barrington Congregational Church
United Church of Christ.
461 County Road
Barrington, RI 02806
Telephone: (401) 246-0111
Fax: (401) 246-7825
e-mail address: bccucc@fullchannel.net
website: www.bccucc.org

The Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a Christian community that worships God, embraces all people, ministers to one another, works for justice and peace, and renders loving service to God's world.



December 2007 and January 2008

Senior Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen
Organist/Choir Director:	Marina Zabinski
Office Administrator:	Christine Wallis
Office Assistant:	Patricia Stoddard
Financial Secretary:	Patricia Stoddard
Christian Education Assistant:	Andrea Bullard
Custodians:	Jack Salvaggio, Frank Wyrostek, Ken York, Jim Salvaggio