

December 2008 and January 2009

THE WHITE CHURCH
**BRIDGE**

Dear Friends,

It is interesting to think that we will celebrate the Pilgrim's holiday of Thanksgiving in full force and then immediately go into the season that the Pilgrims refused to recognize. Those *Mayflower* riders absolutely prohibited any mention of Christmas because to them it smacked "of Popery." In early Plymouth one didn't celebrate much of anything...least of all birthdays or any stories that involved anyone named Mary or Joseph. Christmas didn't come to New England until almost 200 years after the colonists.

When Christmas finally did break loose around here the celebrations were heavily influenced by the different ethnic groups. The English brought their carols, the Germans the idea of Christmas trees, the French brought cookies, the Irish the candles in the windows, the Portuguese the Christmas log, the Spanish their bonfires...it goes on and on. Do some of you have a pickle ornament on your tree, or an acorn?

I invite you to add something new to your traditions this year...maybe hang a paper lantern from your tree in recognition of our Chinese sisters and brothers celebrations; maybe put a small clay lamp on your front doorstep as they do in India; maybe buy a CD of steel-band Christmas songs to bring the sounds from the southern hemisphere into your homes.

The world is changing quickly around us. While it is important to hold on to traditions that ground us, it is equally important to recognize how others can add to our grounding. And as the sun goes down on December 21 please say a prayer for our sisters and brothers celebrating Hanukkah.

Our Pilgrim ancestors spent most of their life being afraid. May you be released from that tradition and find great joy in these holy days.

Peace to you all from Kathleen and myself,



Sunday Services in December & January

December 7	10 a.m.	Worship Service and Communion, Children's Communion in Room 6*
December 14	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Bells*
December 21	10 a.m.	Worship Service in Fellowship Hall with Church School Christmas Pageant
December 28	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages. No church school.
January 4	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion, Church School
January 11	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
January 18	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages with Bells, No Church School
January 25	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir, Church School
	After Worship	Annual Budget Meeting (see page 14)

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

Nursery Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

** See page 8 for information about Church School 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.
- 7:00 p.m.** Worship Service with the Bell Choir and the Adult Vocal Choir.
- 10:00 p.m.** Service of Readings and Carols.



From our Associate Minister



As I sit down to write on a mid-November evening, I'm struck by how dark it is outside. This is the season when we beg for light – not only as New Englanders surrendering to the rhythms of the seasons, but also as churchgoers. The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year, our journey towards light – a journey that is rarely without shadow. Despite the predictable stories from long ago that we hear each year at Christmas, if Christmas truly matters, if Christmas truly points to a way of love here on earth, we need to hear them again. We need to hear them again not for all the warm-and-fuzzy parts but also for the very human struggles that abound in the stories, along with an abiding divine presence that is with us.

I'm one of those people who loves Advent... the call to pause, to be present, to embark on a journey, to wait in the unknown. Weeks ago, the radio and shops started speeding towards Christmas. There was even a part of me a few nights ago that contemplated pressing the 'play' button on my playlist called "Christmas Mix". But I took a deep breath instead. It can be a struggle to find a different pace during this season and it can be easier to rush towards Christmas and numb out more, shop more, eat more. But the stories, if we listen and wonder, dare us to seek stillness long enough to startle us into compassion.

I wish you an Advent full of patience & presence, and a Christmas that surrounds you with hope. It is a joy to be among you and I look forward to sharing the rituals of this season with you in worship and church school.

In wonder,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a dashed horizontal line.

OFFICE CLOSINGS in December & January

The church office will be **closed** on Thurs. and Fri. Dec 25 & 26 and Jan. 1 & 2.

The office will be **open** from **9 a.m. - Noon only** on Dec. 24 and Mon.-Wed., Dec. 29-31.

The office will also be **closed** on January 19th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.

SOME NOVEMBER REMINDERS



BARRINGTON ANNUAL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Monday, November 24th 7:30 p.m.

**St. James Lutheran Church,
49 Middle Highway, Barrington**

The service will feature a portion of the play around the theme of hunger
BUT FOR THE GRACE...

by David Eliet; performed by Bob Jaffe.

PLEASE BRING A CANNED GOOD FOR TAP-IN

“Eliet has managed to strike a nice balance here, telling believable, engaging stories about those who face hunger on a daily basis..... Bob Jaffe is the cast, deftly slipping in and out of (11) characters as diverse as a 7 year old boy embarrassed by poverty and a widowed immigrant woman”

All are invited to the service and to a time of fellowship afterwards where members of agencies and advocate groups that struggle with hunger will be available for conversation.

All are invited to an

Advent Workshop & Simple Dinner



**on Sunday, November 30th,
from 5:30 – 7:00 PM
in Fellowship Hall.**

Join us for special activities to prepare you for the Advent season and to take goodies home with you to integrate Advent rituals into your family life in December. A simple dinner will be shared.

Please let Andrea know by Sunday, November 23rd if you are thinking of joining us. (474-4722 or andrea@bccucc.org)

The event is hosted by the CEYM Team and everyone is welcome to attend.



Food Drive for TAP IN

Our food drive for TapIn ends on Sunday, November 23. Please place your non-perishable food items in one of the baskets in the education building or in the sanctuary. Some popular food items that you could donate are: tuna fish, canned chicken, hearty soups, peanut butter, canned vegetables, spaghetti sauce, rice and pasta, breakfast cereals etc.

SPECIAL MUSIC PLANS FOR SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

In order to bring the music of the season to more of the congregation this year, we are planning several Sundays of special music during the worship services, rather than a separate concert.



December 7th – The Vocal Choir will present a modern cantata called “And This Shall Be a Sign” during the worship service. The story details the signs God gave the people about the impending arrival of Jesus, in both music and narration, and is accompanied by trumpet, flute, bass and piano. This is a fresh approach to an old story that combines new original music with some familiar carols.

December 14th – The White Church Ringers will play four seasonal pieces during the worship service. Rev. Larsen will preach on the meaning of one of the pieces – you won’t want to miss it!

December 21st – The Sing and Celebrate Choir will present several pieces in addition to the Christmas Pageant, which will also take place during that special service in Fellowship Hall.

We hope that these musical offerings will enhance your enjoyment of the season and allow you to hear God’s word in some new ways.

White Church Ringers to Play in Town Concert on Saturday, December 6th



The White Church Ringers, and several other musical groups, will present a concert of seasonal music on **Saturday, December 6th at 3 PM** at the Barrington Public Library Auditorium. The concert, which is hosted by the Barrington Dept. of Parks and Recreation with community support, will lead up to the **Annual Tree Lighting** in front of the Barrington Town Hall at 5 PM. Seating limited to 100 so come early!

The White Church Ringers will ring a number of pieces including: Silver Bells, Parade of the Wooden Soldiers, Jingle Bells, a Hanukkah piece, O Little Town of Bethlehem, I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day and more.

We invite you to bring a friend or neighbor with you to enjoy the sounds and sights of the season, and hope to see many familiar faces in the audience that afternoon!



**3-PART ADVENT BIBLE STUDY SERIES in the church library,
led by Jeff Larsen**

7:00—8:30 p.m. on Mondays

Whatever happened to...?



Monday, December 1: “Whatever happened to the census records that Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to fill out in the first place?” What was the political environment surrounding the birth of Jesus, the role of the Roman army, the fate of the poor “little people” like Mary and Joseph? Jesus was born into a poor peasant family in an oppressive culture – how did that shape his life?

Suggested reading: Jesus: A Revolutionary Biography, John Dominic Crossan, pp 1-28.

Monday, December 8: “Whatever happened to the gold, frankincense and myrrh?” What in the world were these gifts all about – given to a child and family who may have never seen them before, never mind known what to do with them. Who were these “Wise men?” What are they doing in this story? A star?

Suggested reading: Birth of the Messiah, Raymond Brown, pp. 165-201.

Monday, December 15: “Whatever happened to a quiet recovering time after birth?” The “Flight to Egypt” – why, what was that all about, what happened down there?

Suggested reading: Birth of the Messiah, Raymond Brown, pp. 202-228

If you need a copy of the suggested readings, please contact Jeff by the Wednesday prior to the Monday session to request a copy.



**Baby
Shower
for
JESUS**

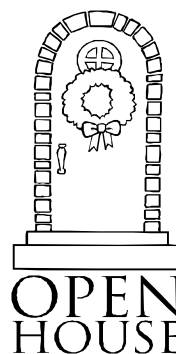
On **Sunday, January 4**, the day we will celebrate Epiphany—the arrival of the Three Kings to Bethlehem bearing gifts for the baby Jesus—you are invited to bring to church “**baby shower gifts**” for babies. These items will be collected and given to TapIn for distribution to families in need. Suggested items are: boxes of diapers (not the smallest size), sleeping onesies, socks, booties, infant clothing, baby wipes, baby lotion, powder and shampoo, baby blankets, etc.

As a thank you for all you have done for us this year
Kathleen and I would like to invite the church family
to our home for an

OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, December 7,
from 12-2PM.

It is at 7 Fireside Drive, off New Meadow Rd.

All are welcome. *Jeff*



DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

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

DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Doug Roach (star deacon),
Van Edwards, Lorraine Kenney, Helen Schall,
Mary Lou Slicker, and Sam Sylvester.

*In the event of a pastoral emergency after hours, if
you cannot reach Jeff (247-1787 home) or
Elizabeth (245-3467 home) please call a deacon.*

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

October 26 – 171
November 2 – 149
November 9 – 189
November 16 – 211

Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will
be away from the office
January 7-11 for a continuing
education workshop.
She will also be away from
the office January 16-19.

Would you like to participate in an Advent or Christmas Eve Service?

We are seeking individuals or families to light the **Advent Candles** at the worship
services on December 7 and 21 and also at the 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Christmas Eve
services.



We also need **scripture readers** for the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve
service of readings and carols.

And finally we need a **piano accompanist** for the carols at the 10 p.m. service.

Anyone interested should contact Jeff (246-0111 or jeff@bccucc.org.)



SPECIAL HAPPENINGS WITH CHURCH SCHOOL IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Sunday, December 7

10 a.m. Children will be in the Sanctuary for the lighting of the Advent candles at the beginning of the worship service. They will then leave and come over to Room 6 for their own Communion Service.

Following communion PreK– 2nd Grade will go to their Godly Play rooms for church school and Grades 3-8 will go to Fellowship Hall to work on the pageant.

Sunday, December 14

The children will start in the sanctuary for the lighting of the Advent candles and then leave. Children in PreK—Grade 2 will have their regular Godly Play classes and Grades 3-8 will go to Fellowship Hall to work on the pageant.

Sunday, December 21

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

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

Sunday, December 28

10 a.m. Worship service for all ages. There will be no church school but there will be Nursery care as usual.

Sunday, January 18

10 a.m. Worship service for all ages. No church school. Nursery care only.

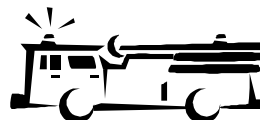
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Andrea Bullard at andrea@bccucc.org or 474-4722 or contact any member of the CEYM team.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

In order to help parents locate their children during an emergency the following colors have been assigned to each classroom.

If there is a reason to evacuate the education building, the children will be taken to the commuter parking lot at the south end of the building. Teachers will hold their colored signs up so parents can easily locate their children.

RED----- NURSERY
BLUE ----- PREK & K
GREEN ---- GRADES 1 & 2
YELLOW --- GRADES 3, 4 & 5
PURPLE ---- GRADES 6 & 7
ORANGE --- GRADE 8



Mark your calendar for....

Sunday, December 21st
when the children of the church school will present their

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

during the 10 a.m. Worship Service *in Fellowship Hall.*



This year's pageant is adapted from "A Children's Liturgy For Christmas Eve" by Jerome W. Berryman from the Godly Play curriculum. It will be directed by Amy Gorman with piano accompaniment by Barbara Ward.

The pageant is open 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. Sign up sheets are on the vestry table or sign up at coffee hour. Adult volunteers willing to help are also asked to sign up or call Amy Gorman (see below).

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

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Wed., Dec. 3 | 3:45—4:45 p.m. | Pageant and music covered. |
| Sun., Dec. 7 | After children's communion. | Painting/decorating for the pageant for grades 3 and up. (Children in preK—Grade 2 will have their regular Godly Play class). |
| Tues., Dec. 9 | 3:45—4:45 p.m. | Pageant and music covered. |
| Wed., Dec. 10 | 5:45—6:45 p.m. | Pageant and music covered. |
| Sun., Dec. 14 | After advent candle lighting. | Painting/decorating for the pageant for grades 3 and up. (Children in preK—Grade 2 will have their regular Godly Play class). |
| Sun., Dec. 14 | 2:30—3:30 p.m. | Pageant and music covered. Finish any painting/decorating. |
| Wed., Dec. 17 | 5:45—6:45 p.m. | Pageant and music covered. |
| Sat., Dec. 20 | 9:00—11:00 a.m. | Dress rehearsal. This is "a must come to be in the pageant" rehearsal so be sure to attend!! |
| Sun., Dec. 21 | Pageant during 10 am worship service | in Fellowship Hall. |

Questions? Call Amy Gorman at (401) 935-4209.



All Church School volunteers are invited to join Elizabeth and Andrea for a **TEACHERS' TEA** on Sunday, December 7th from 9:15 - 9:45 a.m. in their offices. Come and enjoy a cup of something warm, ask questions, share ideas, gather resources, look at schedules and check in with one another. They look forward to seeing you!

JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (JPF)
All youth in grades 6-8 are welcome to participate

Sunday, December 14th 5—7 p.m. Meet at the church in Room 8.

We'll be making Christmas cards to send to recovering American soldiers and will also celebrate the holidays together with some food and fun. Join us! Please RSVP to Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net.

Sunday, January 11th 1—4 p.m. Meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. to go play laser tag at Lazergate in Fall River.

Cost: \$15 to cover 2 games and snack.

RSVP by January 5th to Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net.

Additional parent chaperones/drivers may be needed.



Sunday, January 25th 1—4 p.m. Ice Skating and Hot Chocolate in Newport.

Contact Leslie for more information.

More details forthcoming in JPF email. Stay tuned to your inbox!

Battle of the Bands



Friday, December 19th

7—10 p.m.

BCCUCC Fellowship Hall



All are invited to attend this fundraiser for the April 2009 Mission Trip to h.o.m.e. in Orland, Maine.

Cost: \$5 per ticket/ballot to vote for your favorite band.

Parent and Youth Volunteers are needed—contact either Scott Clemens (scottclemens@verizon.net), Zach Luther (Zachary.Luther@gmail.com) or Elizabeth Barnum (Elizabeth@bccucc.org).

CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY



Saturday, December 6th 2:30—6:00 p.m. Help at Soup Kitchen
The Confirmation class is invited to help the CEYM Team serve at the Park Place Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket.
Meet at the church at 2:30 p.m. Return to church by 6:00 p.m. Please watch your email inbox for a request for parent volunteer drivers and permission slip. If you plan to attend, please email elizabeth@bccucc.org

Sunday, December 14th 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class in Room 8

Sunday, January 11th 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class in Room 8

Sunday, January 25th 5:00—7:00 p.m. Confirmation Class — Film and Discussion in Room 8



You are invited to come learn more about Godly Play at the...

Godly Play Winter Info Sessions for Teachers, Parents, and Interested Members

"I wonder..." Come to one of these sessions to learn more about this religious education program that takes place on Sunday mornings for our PreKs, 1st and 2nd graders. We'll show you a new sample lesson for the winter months, explain the room, provide materials for those who will be teaching, and share with parents and interested members about this meaningful teaching and learning experience. Join us!

Wednesday, January 14th from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 24th from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

The sessions will take place in our Godly Play Rooms (Rooms 5 and 7).

Please let Andrea know if you'll be attending one of these sessions and also if you'll need childcare. Andrea can be reached at andrea@bccucc.org or 474-4722. Thanks.



We continue to collect **Shaw's Supermarket receipts to raise funds for our Christian Education and Youth Ministries programs.** All we need you to do is.....

- Save your register receipts from Shaw's (originals only)
- Deposit them in the specially marked plastic box on the wall in the Education Building hallway (outside of the office workroom).
- Keep bringing in your receipts. There's no limit to how many we can submit and we get money back from Shaw's for every \$5000 worth of receipts that we submit.

Mission Trip 2009 April 14 -19, 2009



This regional trip will take place during the public school vacation in April for participants in grades 9-12. We will journey to Orland, Maine to partner in ministry and service with h.o.m.e. (Homeworkers Organized for More Employment) which utilizes a basic needs approach to community development.

h.o.m.e. was organized in 1970 by low-income local people looking for a way to augment meager earnings. It has grown into a multifaceted community development corporation based on meeting people's basic needs for shelter, food, useful work, and health care. h.o.m.e. is part of the Emmaus International movement. Basic principles of Emmaus are:

1. help those in need
2. help people help themselves
3. help communities not just individuals
4. overcome oppression

For more information check out their website at www.homecoop.net

If you did not attend the November Mission Trip Meeting or receive a letter in the mail with more detailed information at the end of November, please contact Elizabeth Barnum at elizabeth@bccucc.org or 246.0111. If you are planning to participate in the 2009 Mission Trip, please confirm participation by December 7th with Elizabeth. There are a limited number of spaces available and any spaces not filled from our group will be opened to other groups.

Any adults who are interested in possibly chaperoning are also asked to contact Elizabeth Barnum for more information.

The Barrington Inter-Faith Clergy Association will not be having its annual service on Martin Luther King, Jr Day this year. Instead they will be hosting a series of workshops in conjunction with the Barrington Substance Abuse Task Force and the Barrington Police Department sometime in January/February. Please look for further announcements.



Parenting for Prevention Tip
Kindly offered by the BAY Team - Barrington's
Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force

Don't be a turkey!

Remember: a designated driver
abstains from alcohol to keep friends
and family safe.

Choose one, be one, stay safe.

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY



On December 7, 1981, Barrington Town Council voted 3-2 not to display the town's traditional crèche on the town hall lawn. This came after a US District Court ruling that banned a government sponsored crèche in Pawtucket.

Faced with nowhere to display the town's crèche, Barrington Congregational Church offered the use of its front lawn and the crèche has been displayed here ever since. We thank Carolyn Materne who was instrumental in bringing the crèche here initially, and to Dick Fairfield who for many years has been responsible for setting it up each advent.

Also in December 1981 a larger privately owned crèche was displayed for the first time on private property on County Road opposite the town hall.

A copy of the Dec. 22, 1981 Barrington Times article from which this information was taken is on the board outside the church office

2009 Pledge Campaign Update



Since last month, the number of households that have pledged for 2009 has grown to 128 (total amount pledged is \$295,237)!

We are grateful for each and every pledge received to date, and look forward to hearing from the 42 households that

pledged in 2008 but have not yet pledged for 2009. Reminder phone calls have been made to those households, and we hope that you will respond as soon as you are able. In addition, we hope that those who have never pledged will prayerfully consider doing so. We still have significant progress to make in order to meet the needs of our church in 2009. Just to give you some perspective, pledges for 2008 totaled \$343,813.

We are in the midst of planning the 2009 budget and pledge support is critical to those plans. Your pledges help pay for the various programs and ministries here at BCCUCC, local and national missions, the running and maintenance of the church buildings and parsonages, and staff salaries. There are lots of exciting programs and activities happening at our church and we hope, with your help, to continue these in 2009.

If you didn't receive a pledge packet or have misplaced your pledge card, extra ones are available outside the church office or on the vestry table. Or contact the church office (246-0111 or office@bccucc.org) and we will happily mail you one. Thank you.

*The world of the generous gets larger and larger
from Proverbs 11:24*



BUDGET CONVERSATION

After worship on **Sunday, January 18th** in the Vestry. All are welcome to come and learn more about the 2009 church budget and ask questions.

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 25th after Worship in the Sanctuary.

The budget meeting takes place immediately after the worship service has ended and all church members are encouraged to remain in the Sanctuary to attend this important meeting.



Childcare (with snack) will be provided for any child in the Education Building until 11:30 a.m. so that parents can remain in the sanctuary for the budget meeting. Please plan to pick up your child at that time. Thank you.

Warrant for the ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island

Sunday, January 25, 2009

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 25, 2009**. 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 2009.
- 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



YEAR END ALERT Re: 2008 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 Pat's desk in the church office. ***Any expenses turned in after December 12th, 2008, will be charged to the 2009 budgets!***

2009 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2009 pledge envelopes will be available on the Narthex table (where the greeters stand) beginning in late December - or you can stop by the church office to pick them up. Pledge envelopes have been assigned to those people that used them in 2008. If you did not use envelopes this year but would like a set for 2009, please call the church office (246-0111) and we will be happy to assign a set to you.



SIGN UP FOR PLEDGEPAY

Convenient — Reliable — Secure

Pledge Pay is a convenient way for you to make monthly pledge payments to the church by direct withdrawal from your checking or savings account. We are happy to offer this hassle-free way to pay your 2009 pledge and hope to save you time in the process. Enrollment forms are available from the vestry table, outside the church office or via e-mail from Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org) or call the church office (246-0111).

If you used PledgePay in 2008, you will need to submit a new form for 2009 **only** if you make any changes in your plan (account, amount etc).

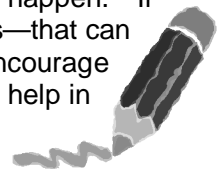
Please fulfill your 2008 pledge

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, passes a 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 and speak with our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard, or speak with the minister to let us know. Thank you.

Help Us Keep Our Pews Clean!

It has once again come to our attention that there are pencil marks and scribbling on the backs of several of the church pews. Parents are reminded to please keep an eye on their children during the worship service to make sure this doesn't happen. If children want to draw there are "doodle cards" located in the pew racks—that can also be used by anyone wishing to make notes. Please strongly encourage your children to use the pew pencils on paper only! We ask everyone's help in being good stewards of our beautiful, historic building. Thank you.



The calendar for December 2008
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
the calendar page.

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Knitting for Others

(Crocheters are also most welcome!!)

Do you like to knit (or crochet)? Then we invite you to become a part of a new ministry here at BCCUCC. On the first Thursday evening of every month, we will get together to knit/crochet items for others. These could be hats for newborns, children's hats, prayer shawls or blankets for seriously ill children etc.

The group will next meet on **Thursday, December 4th** from 7—9 p.m. at the Parsonage at 7 Fireside Drive to knit **Lids for Kids**—simple children's hats that will be donated to the hat and mitten tree here at church.



Mary Lou Slicker has provided a simple knitting pattern for a child's hat that uses one skein of worsted weight yarn and size 8 needles—and is a great way to use up left over yarn. A copy of the pattern can be picked up from the church office so you can get started ahead of time if you want to. Or just come on Dec. 4th with your needles and any leftover worsted weight yarn. Contact Mary Lou Slicker (245-0085) if you need yarn. It's hoped to get a number of homemade hats on the mitten tree in time for Christmas.

If you're working on any other knitting project for donating you're also welcome to come along and join the group (see below for some other worthy projects).

The group plans to get together at various homes from 7—9 p.m. on the following Thursdays over the winter: January 8, February 5, March 5 and April 2.

For more information or questions, please contact Kathleen Larsen at 245-1787 or klarsenswc@hotmail.com

For more information about knitting (or crocheting) for these various causes as well as free patterns, check out

- ***Knit One, Save One*** campaign to make hats to keep newborns warm at www.SavetheChildren.org
- ***Project Linus*** blankets for children who are seriously ill at www.projectlinus.org
- ***Prayer Shawls*** at www.shawlministry.com

PHOTO ORDER UPDATE



- For those of you that had pictures taken in September or October and placed an order, your order is available in the Church Office for pick-up (either during the week or on Sunday). The photos will be on the extra desk next to the photocopier for you to collect.
- If you were not able to have a picture taken for the Photo Directory, you can email a digital photo to the Church Office (office@bccucc.org). If you choose to submit a hard copy picture, the photographers will do their best to include it in the Directory (one photo per family, please).
- If you wish to have your photo taken at the Back2Back Photography Studios for inclusion in the directory, you must schedule your appointment with them by November 30th (508-837-8427).
- ***The photo order deadline is Wednesday, December 3rd.***
After that date, all photo links will be removed from the website. Go to www.back2backphotography.photostockplus.com to view your photos (all photos for anyone that has not ordered are currently posted). They have made access to your photos much easier – you no longer need a password – simply scan the page for your family (or look for your order form reference number) and click on that photo to open your file; then click “view photos” to see all of your photos. You can even place an order for most options online if you prefer. Some items must be ordered by hard copy – contact the church office for that information (246-0111).

A big thank you to all the women who joined us for our fellowship event honoring women and friendship. We had a terrific afternoon meeting new friends, reacquainting ourselves with dear older friends and enjoying the fine art of eating an artichoke.

Thank you to Elizabeth for her assistance and skill in providing us with a wonderful program. For those of you who could not join us, we missed you. There is an extra copy of the book we based our program on "She Taught Me To Eat Artichokes" now available in the book cart in Fellowship Hall. Please borrow, read and return for others to enjoy.

Thank you,
Kathleen Larsen



Photos from the event will be on the church website at www.bccucc.org

★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU! ★

...to everyone who has donated food and other items to our TapIn collection that ends on November 23

...to the Simply Serving group of 6th and 7th graders who made (and froze) 39 small pumpkin breads for donation to the TapIn Thanksgiving food baskets that will be given to those in need

...to Ann Wood, Amy Gorman, Kristin Westmoreland, Mary Dewitt, Bill Dewitt, Holly Ogden, Van Edwards, Laura Ward, Debbi Summers, Chris Brady, Sharon Sylvester, Francis Seader, Lauren Browning, Cheryl Muth, Sara Clemens, Zach Luther, Kelsey Hoyt, Emma Edwards, Michelle Noonan, Drew Todd & Andrew Lennon for volunteering in Church School

...to the members of Buildings and Grounds for all of their work on the front steps (see p. 25)

...to Al Pointe of Riverside for donating a pen and ink drawing of the church, now hanging in the office

...to Ann Wood and Clyde Slicker who helped with the November photo session for the church directory

...to Kathleen Larsen for all of her hard work organizing (and shopping for) the women's event on November 16 that was a big success (see page 221)

...and to Lisa Browning for putting so much effort into organizing a Golf Tournament that unfortunately had to be postponed twice due to bad weather! It is now hoped to hold the tournament sometime in the spring.



The Women's Faith Group welcomes all women from BCCUCC as well as from other churches and faith traditions. They meet twice a month on Thursday mornings from **10—11:30 a.m. in Room 6.**

On **December 4** they will finish their study of *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd.

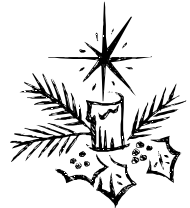
On **January 8 and 22** they will begin their study of *The Shack* by William P. Young.

Copies of *The Shack* are available for purchase from the church office at the discounted price of \$12 each.

For more information contact Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or chl2299@aol.com or Nancy Martin at 273-1078 or nancy.martin3@verizon.net.

A chance to say "thank you" to the Staff

During the first 3 weeks of Advent (Nov. 30, Dec 7 and 14) 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. We invite you to join with us 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 and Elizabeth



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. If you need a nametag, please contact the church office and we'll be happy to make one for you.

A message from the *Pastor Parish Relations Team*

The team is charged with dealing with the concerns of the ministers, the staff and the congregation. They meet on a regular basis with Jeff and Elizabeth. As a member of the congregation, this is a place where you can share any concerns you may have.

Feel free to contact any member of the Ministry Team at anytime.

Phyllis Buckley	245-1098
Lynne Lehman	289-0101
Jim McCartney	245-3288
(chair)	
Sharon Sylvester	247-4532
Marshall Hoyler	245-1118

Consider reading *The Bridge* on line

Help us reduce the cost of publishing our monthly newsletter by reading *The Bridge* on-line. Doing so will also save valuable natural resources used to make the paper and ink. We will e-mail you each month to let you know when the latest edition of *The Bridge* has been posted to our website www.bccucc.org. Contact us at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org. Thank you.

"E"NNOUNCEMENTS

A shortened form of the weekly announcements is emailed out mid-week to those church members that have email addresses on file with the office. If a mid-week reminder of what's coming up at BCCUCC in the next 10 days or so interests you, please e-mail Pat Stoddard at pat@bccucc.org and ask to be included.

In December the Dine Out group invites you to join them when they will eat at

Leo's Ristorante
365 Hope Street, Bristol



on **Friday, December 5th** at **6:30 p.m.**

To make a reservation, RSVP to Abby Randazzo preferably by e-mail to randazzoam@yahoo.com (or call 247-1030) by *Monday, December 1st*.

Max number of people is 40.

All are welcome — both singles and couples.



The **Third Friday Bridge Group** will next meet on
Friday, January 16th
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.

Calling all thespians!

Anyone interested in being in a play – where you could read the script instead of memorizing lines, where there were only a few informal rehearsals, minimal costumes and scenery, and a guaranteed friendly audience? Jeff Larsen is thinking of organizing something for a mid-winter pot luck supper program and he's looking to release the inner thespian in a few willing folk.

Contact Jeff if you're interested at 246-0111 ext 103 or jeff@bccucc.org



The Book Group

next meets on

Tuesday, December 9th
(this is a week earlier than usual)
at **7:30 p.m.**

at **The Coffee Depot**
501 Main Street, Warren.



Come and join us
as we discuss what
we will read next year.

All are welcome!

For more information on the group contact Helen Schall at (401) 245-4724 or helenschall@hotmail.com.

The Providence Singers
with the **Rhode Island**
Philharmonic

present

Handel's

MESSIAH

Saturday, December 20
8 p.m.

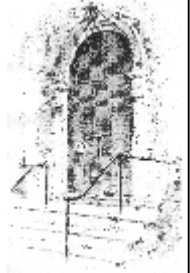
Veterans Memorial
Auditorium
Providence

Tickets **\$22—\$62**
\$12 children and students
(401) 421-ARTS
www.ProvidenceSingers.org

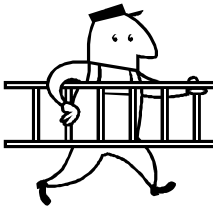
Thank You for our new Front Steps

Many thanks to the members of our Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team who put in many hours of volunteer time to replace the front steps up to the church. New handrails that meet current safety requirements have also now been installed.

Additional work still needs to be done to repair/replace the front doors and door frame as well as the framework around our beautiful stained glass window.



Where's the Ladder?



Does anyone know what happened to the church's aluminum extension ladder that for many years lived on the side wall in the vestry but was relocated to the outside shed in recent years. We are unable to find it anywhere and hope that someone can help us locate it's whereabouts.

Please contact Paul Dennis at wrbtwks@aol.com or 245-6296 if you have any information—or call the church office. Thank you.

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!).



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.

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.



From Your Social Action and Justice Ministry Team.....



This year the Social Action and Justice Ministry Team will be setting up a "Giving Tree" of sorts, with envelopes for donations of various amounts to apply to gifts cards to supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, utilities, toy stores, Wal-Mart, shopping malls, etc. to help needy families afford the necessities and also allow them to have money for gifts for their families and themselves.

The gift cards will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

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. The knitting group will be making "Lids for Kids" handmade children's hats for the tree - see p. 20 for details.



A warm thank you to everyone who can help.

A GREATER GIFT

Anyone wishing to order items from the SERRV (A Greater Gift) catalog is reminded that orders need to be in to Helen Schall by November 30th.

Look for the catalogs during coffee hour or contact Helen Schall at 245-4724.



DONATIONS OF MEDICATIONS FOR HAITI

The Haiti Task Force of the RI Conference of the UCC is in the process of preparing for their next Haiti trip on Feb. 16th. They are collecting **over the counter medications** to take with them such as adult, pre-natal and children's vitamins, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal creams. A collection box is being set up here at BCCUCC for anyone who can help with donating any of these items. They would like to get them as soon as possible so that they can determine what their resources are for the trip.





Every seven weeks we provide the Saturday meal at the Community Soup Kitchen at Park Place Congregational UCC, 71 Park Place, Pawtucket.

Our ministry teams do this on a rotating basis but often need additional help from members of the congregation. You can help by either going to the soup kitchen to help serve and/or you can help by providing a main dish, fruit or dessert—to be delivered to BCCUCC by 2:30 p.m.

To volunteer please contact our soup kitchen coordinators Diane or Drew Todd at (401) 245-4681 or you can e-mail Diane at diane.todd@verizonbusiness.com or Drew at todda09@bpsmail.org.



Beyond Our Walls (BOW) sends volunteers to Habitat for Humanity on the

4th Saturday of every month. So whether you're a novice or an expert willing to share your skills, Habitat gives you the chance to help others out of sub-standard housing and the chance to swing a hammer or wield a paintbrush. If you are interested in participating please contact Rich Simpson of BCCUCC (247-1005 or rts.ri@cox.net) or David Renner of BOW at daverenner@cox.net. For more information about Habitat Providence, visit their web site at <http://www.habitatprov.org>

Some Christmas Gift Ideas..... that help raise money for the Mission Trip

Copies of the **CHURCH COOKBOOK** (published Spring 2006) are now available for **just \$5** each (originally \$15). 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. At \$5 each they're a great buy!! Stop by the church office to purchase a copy.



ON 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 the new lower price of **\$15 each** (originally \$20). They make great Christmas gifts and 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 'church'.

Proceeds go to our Mission Trip fund.



★ CHRISTMAS FUND

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 promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA) 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 "Thank You" Gift checks to hundreds of annuitants each year.

When the United Church of Christ celebrated 50 years of ministry in 2007, the Christmas Fund celebrated 105 years of continuous ministry.

A 1953 publication stated: "In 1902, a little money was collected and special Christmas gifts were sent to ten older ministers." The same article also reported that \$121,054 was received for the Christmas Fund in 1952.

Fifty-five years later, the 2007 Christmas Fund received \$1,571,050, providing assistance to nearly 1,500 families. Our goal is to be able to provide at least \$1,650,000 in assistance from the 2008 appeal.

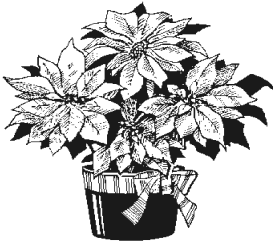
The theme for the 2008 Offering is: "Don't Be Afraid—Shout!" We are commissioned to boldly proclaim Good News: that the incarnation of God in the Christ Child has happened—Good News that a new day, God's day, has dawned. The church today is the incarnate presence of the Christ—the Body of Christ. We are called to be the presence of the Christ in the lives of those who have served the church so faithfully, as well as to usher in a new day for God's whole creation.

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 "SHOUT" in God's name, to participate in God's promise of renewal by supporting this vital ministry of compassion and care.

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.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to donate 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 9th, 2008.**

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.

Those who donate 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 until after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service.*

See next page for order form.

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.



The deadline for submission of articles to be included in the February *Bridge* will be

Thursday, January 15th.

Contact us by e-mail

Church Office: office@bccucc.org

Senior Minister Jeff Larsen: jeff@bccucc.org

Associate Minister Elizabeth Barnum:
elizabeth@bccucc.org

Office Administrator Christine Wallis:
christine@bccucc.org

Financial Secretary & Office Assistant Pat Stoddard:
pat@bccucc.org

Christian Education Assistant Andrea Bullard:
andrea@bccucc.org



Mary Kutcher has moved and is now at

164 Carousel Drive
Apt C211
Riverside RI 02915

Family Footnotes

We welcome the following new members who joined our church on November 16th, 2008

Jessi Champion

Vinny Champion

Carole Costello

Janet Gausland

Lisa Graham

John Kelley

Lauren Pollard

Lori Rosa



May Smith, Vera Eaton,
Dottie Butler, Bob Louttit,
David Speed,

Helen Schall's sister, Wynne Tripp,
Mary Lou Slicker's brother, John,
Ann Wood's daughter, Elaine,
Bob Mason's sister and May Smith's daughter, Sandra.



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

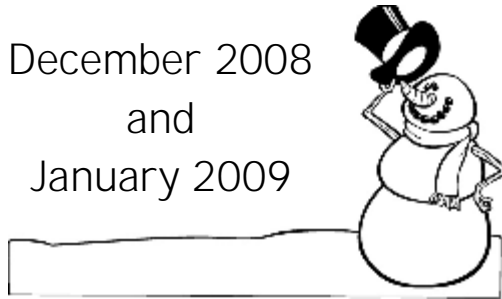
Liz White on the death of her aunt,
Barbara Barnard.

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

Senior Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen
Associate Minister:	The Rev. Elizabeth D. Barnum
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

December 2008
and
January 2009



*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.*