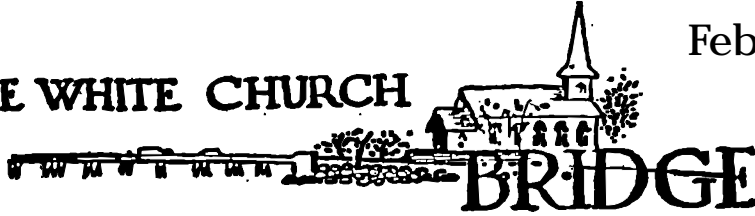


THE WHITE CHURCH



February 2008

Dear Friends,

Within days of your receiving this *Bridge* we will be welcoming The Rev. Elizabeth Barnum as our new Associate Minister. Many of you are participating in the many ways of welcome and for that I am very grateful. She will begin work during the week of Feb 4 and be with us in worship the first time on Sunday, Feb. 10. I am very excited for that day to arrive!!!

Just before she arrives I want to extend to you another word of thanks for all you have done for me in the last year and a half. You have been extremely patient as I have tried to find my way around, as I have tried to keep up with the busyness of who this church community is. You have forgiven my mistakes (except for the one you perceive and I don't – being a Yankee fan). You have been willing to let a few things go (extra programs, etc) because of limited time with only one minister. You have been extremely flexible as I have done things differently than you have done in the past.

I think most of us survived this transition time! I am as anxious as most of you to move ahead with Elizabeth into the future as a church family - I am very excited about where we might go. It will take the two of us a little while to get in synch as a team but I think you will immediately see an infusion of ideas and energy.

I expect, and demand, that your expectations be high. I feel very blessed to minister in this place with you...thank you for giving Kathleen and me such support and love.

Peace to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jeff'.

Sunday Services in February



- February 3 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion, Church School
- February 10 10 a.m. *First Sunday with our new Associate Minister*
Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir,
Lenten Craft Fair for children during Church School
- February 17 10 a.m. All Church Family Worship Service with Bells,
PreK, K and Nursery Care only
- February 24 10 a.m. Worship Service led by the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum,
Church School

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Child Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

Parents of young children are reminded that if they need to leave the service with their child, a Nursery Nook is provided in the Vestry below the Sanctuary where the service can still be heard via loud speaker. It is equipped with comfortable chairs and a few toys and books.



Wednesday, February 6th
at 7 p.m.

All are invited to this special half hour service during which ashes will be imposed and the choir will sing.

Jeff Away

The Rev. Jeffrey Larsen will take his winter weekend off from **February 22-24**. Our new associate minister, the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will lead worship and preach that Sunday.

Office Staff Away

Christine Wallis will be taking vacation from **February 13-21**. During her absence, the church office will be open shorter hours, so if you plan to stop in, please call first to make sure the office is open.

Pat Stoddard will be on vacation the week of **February 25—29**.



Welcome

..to our New Associate Minister.

Be sure to join us for worship on Sunday, February 10th when the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will be with us for the first time. At coffee hour following worship there will be a special cake and the opportunity to personally welcome her.

All Church Family Worship Service

Our next one will be on Sunday, February 17th. These are Sundays when all children from 1st 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. In our church we believe that our children are very important members of our church family and need to learn what worship is about and how to act in worship. We hope everyone will help nurture this.



Wanted....

....people willing to help lead worship on **Sunday, March 30th** when the worship service will be led by members of the congregation.



This is a great opportunity to learn about and be a part of planning and leading worship. No experience is necessary and some fresh faces are welcome!

To volunteer or for more information please contact Chris Brady at 246-2702 or cbradyri@aol.com.

It really is possible to be allergic to church!

The Jan 6 *ProJo* ran an article about how there are a number of people who have a very difficult time coming to church, or staying in church, due to allergies to perfumes, colognes, flowers, etc. You are asked to be as considerate as you can be when preparing to make yourself beautiful and handsome for our time together. Thank you.

LENTEN ADULT BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:00 PM Room 6 (except March 4 in Resource Room)

Following the Lenten theme: *Coming face to face with Jesus*

Each session will examine the upcoming Sunday's scripture passage, and all are welcome to participate in any or all of the sessions.

Tuesday, February 19 John 4: 5-42

Jesus goes face to face with the Samaritan woman at the well

Tuesday, February 26 John 9: 1-41

Jesus is face to face with the blind man

Tuesday, March 4 Matthew 27: 1-2, 11-26

Jesus is face to face with Pontius Pilate

Tuesday, March 11 Matthew 21: 1-11

Jesus is face to face with the crowds on Palm Sunday



The Men's Group meets the first Sunday of the month in the church **library** from **8:30-9:30 AM** and invites other men from the church to join them.

The group is arranging a conversation with some Muslim brothers in the near future and for their next meeting on **Sunday, February 3rd** will be reading the book,

A History of Christian Muslim Relations, by Hugh Goddard.

Jeff has a couple of extra copies that you may purchase from him for \$12.50.

The "Women in the Bible" group has changed its name and is now the
Women's Faith Group.

They will next meet on **Thursdays, February 7th and 21st**
from **10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.** in **Room 6**



They are currently reading **The Faith Club** by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. The group welcomes women from our church as well as from other churches and faith traditions to join them as they continue their study of this book. For more information contact Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or chl2299@aol.com

Confirmation Class Update

Next meeting is **Sunday, February 17,**

11:20 a.m.-12:10 p.m. in Room 8.

Yes, it is school vacation week but please make every effort to be there as the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum, our new Associate Minister, will be at the meeting.

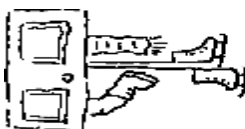
Be sure to let Jeff know if you will not be there for any reason..



Communion Sunday,
February 3rd



Children will join their families in worship at 10 a.m. for an "early" communion and then leave at the usual time with their teachers for church school.



Let's Go Ice Skating!

Junior PF are going Ice Skating on **Saturday, February 2nd** at the Newport Yachting Center, followed by hot chocolate and cookies at the nearby Starbucks. They will meet at the church parking lot at **1:45 p.m.** and return at **6 p.m.** All youth from the church in grades 6-8 are invited to go. The best part is that Leslie Peck has secured free passes for the skating, and thanks to the generosity of her husband, Steve, manager of the Starbucks, the hot chocolate and cookies will also be free. The only cost involved is \$5 for skate rental, should you need it.

Jr PFers interested in going must contact Leslie ahead of time at peckmarketing@cox.net or 245-1820.

Schedule for 2008 Mission Trip Participants

Sunday night, February 10	Pasta Dinner – you all have assignments
Sunday night, March 2	7-8:30 p.m. Regular meeting
Saturday, March 8	<i>Swing Into Spring</i> event – you all have assignments
Sunday, March 16	Fund raising project during coffee hour – all you and families expected to be there
Sunday night, March 30,	7-8:30 p.m. Regular meeting
Saturday April 12—Saturday April 19	THE TRIP!



WANTED - for a special project by the Mission Trip group....

- Sunday colored comic pages
- Artificial flowers
- Scraps of wrapping paper in springtime colors
- Ribbon – any length or color
- Scraps of colored fabric, netting, lace etc



If you have any of these items to donate, please drop them in the box at the back of Fellowship Hall at coffee hour, or in the church office during the week. Donated items must be received by Sunday, March 9th.

“On Call” Snow Shovelers Needed



If you can lend a hand with shoveling snow at the church when needed, please call the church office (246-0111). Although the driveway and parking lot get plowed, the sidewalks and steps all need clearing by hand. Volunteers are

needed to assist our custodians with this task—especially now that the town requires that we also keep clear the sidewalk along County Road that is adjacent to our property. When you call the office we will add your name to the “on-call” list so that Buildings and Grounds can muster a team of volunteers as needed.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who came in on Monday, January 14th to help clear away the snow.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

December 2 – 147

December 9 – 197

December 16 – 35
Snow Storm

December 23 – 210

December 24 – 423
Christmas Eve

December 30 – 94

January 6 – 208

January 13 – 186

January 20 – 144

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 PPRT: Phyllis Buckley, 245-1098; Moyne Cubbage, 245-4641; Jim McCartney, 245-3288; or Lynne Lehman, 289-0101. The team next meets on **Monday, January 28th at 6 p.m.** in Jeff’s office.

Pasta Dinner

on **Sunday, February 10**

from **5 - 7 p.m.** in **Fellowship Hall**

to support the Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission* in Biloxi, MS this April.



Tickets on sale at Coffee Hour or from the church office

Adult \$8 Child (under 12) \$5 Family Maximum \$25

Advance ticket purchase is appreciated. Tickets also available at the door.

The Mission Trip group is hoping that everyone will join them for dinner on Sunday, February 10.....and bring their whole family, friends and neighbors for a repeat of last year's very successful event. The dinner is very casual and adults and children of all ages are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Pictures from last year's Pasta Dinner can be viewed at our website www.bccucc.org on the 'view recent photos' page.



The **Rev. Elizabeth Barnum**, our new Associate Minister, will be at the Pasta Dinner and she is looking forward to meeting many of you at that time.

Also at the Pasta Dinner, those who wish will have the opportunity to make Valentines for our homebound church members. The Deacons will have a table of supplies and invite you to take a few minutes to make a valentine card either before or after you eat.



*** For more information on the work of Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, see the article on page 9.**



Swing into Spring Sale *Craft and Variety Fair*

Saturday, March 8

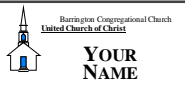
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

The Mission Trip group is sponsoring this event as a fundraiser. They have already sold numerous tables to crafters throughout the state, but there is still space for church members to rent tables for \$20 at which they may sell their own crafts or used items (but not junk!!!) such as porcelain, jewelry, scarves, hats, etc.

The fair will be a **family** event with refreshments for sale, **live jazz music**, and **face-painting**. There's a little something for everyone, so please come and enjoy yourselves!



To rent a table or with questions, contact Gabrielle Sclafani at LittleSclaf101@hotmail.com or by phone at 247-1620



Nametags Please!

With the arrival of our new Associate Minister, it's more important than ever to wear your **nametag** both in church and at coffee hour so that Elizabeth can get to know our names.

To encourage you to wear your nametag over to coffee hour, there are baskets at the back of Fellowship Hall and by the kitchen exit door for you to drop your nametag in when you leave coffee hour – it will then magically reappear on the rack in the vestry the next Sunday!

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

If you would like to donate either one or both bouquets on the altar some Sunday, please contact a member of the Chancel Team. They can be given for a celebration, as a memorial, or in honor of someone or something.

The flowers are delivered from our florist, and the donor pays for either one arrangement at \$25, or \$50 for both.

The Chancel Ministry team is:

Carolyn Faulhaber, Cheryl Muth,
Barbara Smith, Sue Terhune,
Carol Louttit & Stephanie Edwards.



NEWS OF BACK BAY MISSION—from their Winter Newsletter.

“Build houses and live in them...seek the welfare of the city...Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”-Jeremiah 29:5-7, NRSV

Driving home from the airport recently after several days out of town, a neon sign flashed a very welcome message: “Biloxi Bay Bridge Now Open”. Open! Tears came unexpectedly to my eyes. It had been two years, two months, and two days since the bridge connecting Biloxi and Ocean Springs had been open. The waters of Hurricane Katrina had left the former bridge in tatters, tons of concrete and steel stacked up like dominos across the bay. While residents suffered longer commutes and a psychological disconnect from their neighbors, politicians argued about the size and design of the bridge for months. But finally the project was carried to completion, one more sign of relative normalcy restored, one more symbol of our slow but sure recovery. In the ensuing days, as I happily traveled across the new bridge several times, I thought about all the things that had facilitated its progress...Political will. Hard work. Sufficient resources. And a persistent sense of urgency among everyone involved. If only we could apply the same combination of ingredients to a host of other challenges we face on the Mississippi Gulf Coast! Chief among those challenges is the lack of affordable housing. Wages and salaries have simply not risen at the same rate as escalating housing costs in the region, and the low- to moderate-income worker finds it increasingly difficult to get by. Those who seek to develop truly affordable housing are confronted endlessly by the practical impossibility of doing so on a cost basis and are constantly bombarded with the knee-jerk refrain: “Not In My Back Yard”.

Back Bay Mission has certainly not been immune to these difficulties. As we have worked to launch our own affordable housing developments, we have met with harsh resistance often rooted in ugly and unfounded stereotypes about those we intend to serve. Our case management and housing recovery programs are awash with the sad stories of those who have few or no housing options. And our search for significant resources to bridge the affordability gap has been a frustrating process that has met with little success. We are convinced: the need for truly affordable housing here *is urgent*, and progress on this issue depends on our community’s ability to acknowledge that fact. We must lend to this issue the same hard work, resources, and political will that built the bridge across the bay. We at Back Bay Mission are committed to being part of the solution. We continue to devote the time and talent of our staff and thousands of volunteers to recovering housing lost to Katrina, one household at a time. We are planning diligently to develop new affordable housing on a broader scale than we ever have before. But all this is not enough in our opinion, for at the core of the affordable housing challenge lies a fundamental need to change hearts and minds, to create a hospitable community where persons of every income level are welcome and may live with dignity. Herein lies the work of justice with which Back Bay Mission is so familiar. It’s part of what we do and who we are as an organization rooted in faith and led by a God who demands nothing less. And so we’re diving in, working to bridge the divide between those who so desperately need more housing options and those who can make a difference on this issue, if only they will. The need is urgent, the time is now. Join us with your prayers and your support!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission

★ Thank You! ★ ★ THANK YOU! ★

...to Carolyn Faulhaber for the considerable time she spent last December for tidying up the flower beds around the Christian Education building in preparation for the winter

...to Amy Gorman for all the work she did with the children preparing them for the Christmas Pageant, to Barbara Ward for her piano accompaniment, and to Duncan Maio for providing the flats for the scenery and helping the kids to paint them

...to Kristen Westmoreland, Kelly Servant, Sharon Sylvester, Andrea Bullard, Christine Wallis and Pat Stoddard for their help with the pageant

...to Jacob Servant for agreeing to play the role of “Joseph” on the morning of the pageant

...to all who purchased ‘Mission Trip’ ornaments—\$281 was raised for the Mission Trip Fund

...to all who brought in hats, gloves, scarves and mittens for our Mitten Tree

...to everyone who purchased a poinsettia at Christmas and to the Chancel Ministry Team for decorating the sanctuary so beautifully with them

...to the Deacons for delivering poinsettias to the homebound, sick and bereaved

...to the many people who served at the Christmas Eve services as readers, candle lighters, ushers, deacons, greeters, elevette operators etc.

...to Mary and Bill DeWitt, Francis Seader, Holly Ogden, Laurie Dubel, Kristen Westmoreland, Carolyn McGarry and Chris Brady for teaching our church school and FaithWorks children

...to Jasmine and Zachary Arnold for donating the “new” toys in the nursery

...to Ron and Louise House, Marty and Tom Kee, Lynne Lehman and Ann Wood for donating a desk, two chairs, keyboard, printer and computer for Andrea Bullard’s new office.

E-mail: Prayer Chain

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.



www.bccucc.org

Have You Made a Pledge for 2008?

Many thanks to everyone who made a pledge to financially support BCCUCC in 2008. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Even though the year has already begun, it's not too late to make a pledge and it can be for any amount, large or small. 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**

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2008 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

If you requested pledge envelopes please pick them up from the table in the narthex (where the greeters stand) - 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 at any time during the year. 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.

For questions or more information contact Pat Stoddard at 246-0111.

BUDGET MEETING REMINDER



The Annual Budget meeting will take place in the Sanctuary immediately following a slightly shortened worship service on **Sunday, January 27th**. All church members are encouraged to attend this important congregational meeting when the 2008 church budget will be discussed and voted on.

Childcare (with snack) will be provided from immediately after church school until 11:30 a.m. so that parents can remain in church for the meeting. Should the meeting run unexpectedly late, parents are asked to please pick up their child at 11:30 a.m.

The calendar for January 2008
as it appeared on page 12 and 13 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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as it appeared on page 12 and 13 of the newsletter
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the calendar page.

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

Making Your Home Green

with **Karina Lutz**,

Director of Development and Advocacy at People's Power and Light

Sunday, February 3rd at 11:30 a.m. in Room 9



Karina Lutz will join us for an after coffee hour discussion about **GreenStart**. *New England GreenStart* is a powerful electricity upgrade service that takes advantage of clean, safe, and endless sources of energy located right here in New England. By choosing *New England GreenStart*, a portion of your electric usage will be attributed to renewable sources including solar, wind, and small hydroelectric plants.

Since our church buildings are already powered through GreenStart, we will receive a \$10.00 refund for each member family who also joins through NationalGrid. This helps to pay for the increase in the church's cost of electricity. As a home owner, your increase in cost for electricity may be tax deductible.

Join the Social Action and Justice Team to learn how you can help the environment and encourage the creation of renewable energy sources.

Update on the "100,00 for Peace" Campaign

written by J.Bennett Guest for the UCC website

With four days to spare before its goal date, the UCC's "100,000 for Peace" campaign has exceeded its hope of raising \$100,000 before January 6 to support Iraq War refugees.

As of January 2, \$105,505 had been collected in less than six weeks to provide humanitarian assistance to some of the 4 million Iraqis that have been displaced by the war. During the last two days of 2007, more than \$21,000 in year-end gifts were contributed electronically at ucc.org/100kforpeace in order to push the campaign over its stated goal.

In late November, as part of a next phase effort of the church's 100,000 for Peace anti-war initiative, the UCC's Collegium of Officers set the January 6 fundraising goal date because of its symbolism. January 6 is the day celebrated as Christmas Eve by Iraq's largely Orthodox Christian community. For western Christians, January 6 is the day of Epiphany.

Gifts to the fund will be used to provide food, water, health care and education for war-affected Iraqi families displaced in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. The UCC/Disciples' Global Ministries is working with international partners in the region, such as Action by Churches Together and the Middle East Council of Churches, to aid those impacted first-hand by war violence. Every dollar contributed will go directly to supporting refugees.

The Rev. John H. Thomas, the UCC's general minister and president, said he was grateful for the church's generous and speedy response to the appeal, but urged even more support.

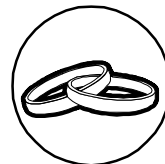
For more information, go to www.ucc.org

The Social Action and Justice Ministry Team of BCCUCC is sponsoring a.....

Forum on Marriage Equality

Thursday, January 31st

7:00 p.m. BCCUCC Library



The forum will include an open discussion led by representatives of
**Rhode Island Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality,
Marriage Equality RI and East Bay PFLAG.**

The forum will be in three parts; a behavioral science construct, a religious position, and a life experience perspective. Each part will be a personal thoughtful sharing of insights that have led the person to understand that marriage equality is a reasonable conclusion. The religious construct will include a reflection on the resolution passed by the 25th General Synod of the United Church of Christ and will be presented by Rev. Richard H. Taylor, Pastor Emeritus, Beneficent Congregational UCC. The behavioral science construct will be presented by Rev. Gene Dyszlewski, Chair, RI Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality. Ed and Ann Bonetti, from Marriage Equality RI will provide personal insight. Discussion will be encouraged.

The rationale behind this format is that the issue itself is personal, secular and religious. Most people think about sexual orientation using the varied languages of our lives. We all speak the language of science, the language of culture, the language of politics and the language of religion. There is tremendous overlap.

It is hoped that the format will shed some light on the issue of same-gender marriage. Sexual orientation is a naturally occurring characteristic of the individual, which naturally ranges along a continuum from exclusively heterosexual to exclusively homosexual. Thus, gay and lesbian individuals are present in every walk of life, every religion, nationality and racial group. A better understanding of human sexuality has encouraged churches and communities to recognize and respect the stable long-term relationships that gay and lesbian individuals have formed. This forum is designed to offer clarification on the issues and to encourage discussion. *All are welcome to attend.*

The Barrington Clergy Association has decided not to offer an Interfaith Adult Education Series this February. Jeff Larsen will offer a Lenten Bible Study here at BCCUCC beginning Feb 19th (see page 4).

SAVE THE DATE !

EVENT: The Second Annual Regina F. Berenback Memorial Lecture
for Social Action and Justice

WHEN: Sunday, April 27, 2008 at 4:00pm

WHERE: Fellowship Hall, Barrington Congregational Church, UCC

SPONSOR: The Social Action and Justice Ministry Team

GUEST SPEAKER: will be announced shortly

ADMISSION: Free and open to the public

Last year's event was a great success. It featured food and drink and Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts as the speaker. Attendance was terrific as almost one hundred people came out. Please come out this year to support the event as we expect this lecture to become an annual event in the life of the church.



WANTED serviceable Used Men's Clothing... (and toiletries)...

...for **The George Hunt Help Center** - an inner city drop in center for the homeless in Providence. Items such as **men's** shirts, jeans, trousers, jackets, hats, sweaters, shoes, sneakers and belts are always popular. However, they will accept all clothing that is in good condition and clean. There is also always a need for toiletries. If you can help, please bring your items for donation and *leave them in the collection box in the Vestry*. Thank you.

Help needed for Soup Kitchen

BCCUCC is next scheduled to serve at the Community Soup Kitchen on **Saturday, February 16th**. There are a variety of ways in which you can help:

- Provide a main dish (either make one—you will be given a simple recipe to use—or purchase something such as a large lasagna from Sam's Club).
- Provide a dessert (brownies, cookies or other finger dessert)
- Donate fruit
- Serve at the soup kitchen—located at the Hispanic Evangelical UCC church in Pawtucket. Volunteers carpool from BCCUCC at 3:15 p.m. and return by 6 p.m.
- Cooks that aren't going to the soup kitchen should drop off their items at the church between 3:00 and 3:15 PM. All main dishes should be delivered to the church hot.



Congregation members willing to do any of the above should contact Caroline Halliwell at 787-4223 or cchalliwell@gmail.com.

From your Deacons:



An idea is being floated about having an “Adopt a Grandparent” program for our church family. There are children in our gathering whose grandparents are many miles away or no longer with us and it might be nice to establish a bonding relationship – nice for all ages. If this is something you might be interested in participating in, as grandparents or as a young family, please let Jeff know – make a note in the pew pad on Sunday or call the church office (246-0111). Thank you.

The **By-Laws Review Team** has started its work. If you have any comments or concerns with the current By-laws you are asked to please put them in writing a.s.a.p. and drop them off at the Church office. They can also be e-mailed to bccucc@fullchannel.net or to Lee Miller at trustlemi@aol.com. Team leaders are reminded to please review what is in the current By-Laws as it pertains to their team, and contact Lee Miller by e-mail as soon as possible with suggestions you may have for revision.

*Church By-Laws
Review*



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.

**Blood
DRIVE**

Monday, January 28th from 2 – 7 p.m.
at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road, Barrington
Sponsor Code 1566

AND

Monday, February 11th from 3 - 7 p.m.
The Donor Coach will be at Curves, 286 Maple Avenue, Barrington,
Sponsor Code 1841

To make an appointment online, go to www.ribc.org, click on the eDonor link, log into your account and set up an appointment using the sponsor code listed for each event.

New blood donors are always needed.

Give the gift of life – give blood

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

*Roses are Red, Violets are Blue
The BCC Auction will have a treat for you
Even though it is not until September
We are now accepting all donations
Even if you are not a member*

**PUTTING
OUR FAITH**



**INTO
AUCTION**

February will kick off our donations drive for the
September 13th Silent Auction, Live Auction, Dinner event
at Stanley's Boatyard.

Look for our banner in Fellowship Hall. Tap into your talent bank and consider donating to this fun night. It's such a fun way to be creative with giving. Donations to date include a weekend at a vacation home, a watercolor, a Nantucket basket and dinner for four cooked in your home, a plane ride and a sunset boat ride. Let's see if we can double and triple the number of donations that we have had in the past. See us for a list of suggestions, there are so many ways that you can give. You may also contact Bernie Hawes directly at 437-1860 or bhawes1@cox.net

E-mail: Prayer Chain



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.

WHAT EXTRA HELP MIGHT YOU NEED IN AN EMERGENCY?

The **State of Rhode Island** is creating a **Special Needs Emergency Registry** for RI residents with disabilities, chronic conditions, and special health care needs. . By filling out the necessary forms, a resident will permit the RI Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and the RI Dept. of Health to share your information with local and state emergency responders, such as your town/city police or fire department. The information that you provide may help emergency responders meet your needs during an emergency.

The form is brief and simple to fill in and just asks for basic information about your mobility, any vision, hearing, speech or other disabilities, plus if you need life support systems such as oxygen, dialysis, insulin etc. To find out more about the registry or to get the necessary form, call (401) 946-9996 or go on line to www.health.ri.gov/emregistry

Are you interested in being a BCCUCC representative for B.O.W. ?

Beyond Our Walls (B.O.W.) is now entering its 4th year and has enjoyed a great deal of success in serving the needs of others as well as building an organization that brings together people from the various faith communities in town to work on a common cause.

Ideally, BOW would like to have at least one representative from each of the houses of worship in Barrington as part of their team and currently lacks one from our church. The representative(s) would be expected to attend their meetings (held 4 times a year) as well as become involved in planning their annual Great Day of Service.

The BCCUCC representative(s) would then be the person(s) to promote the work of B.O.W. here at our church. Anyone interested in volunteering or just learning more about what would be involved is invited to contact Paula Ferrato of B.O.W. at Paula.Ferrato@verizon.net or 247-7177.



X

Currently B.O.W. is involved with the following volunteer opportunities. *To find out more about any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the person listed.*

Great Day of Service. Community wide service by hundreds of volunteers on Columbus Day each year.

Providence Habitat for Humanity. B.O.W. has a team of volunteers that meet in Providence at a job site on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact persons are Herman deCoe from Providence Habitat (831-5424) or Dave Renner from B.O.W. (245-7337) or Rich Simpson (247-1005) from BCCUCC.

Literacy Volunteers of East Bay. Contact person is Fred MacDonald from Literacy Volunteers (437-0254).

Rhode Island Food Bank. Contact person is Liz Crawley from B.O.W. (245-3537).

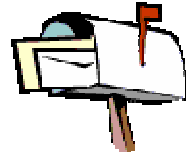
Mentoring at Kickemuit Middle School. Contact persons are Laura Callahan from Mosaico CDC (418-0579) or Marilynn Renner from B.O.W. (245-7337).

CASA—Court Appointed Special Advocate. Contact person is Shawn Isherwood (245-2515).

George Hunt HELP Center involves collecting men's clothes to support the homeless. Contact person is Peter Kanarian (245-6257) or Joyce Marabella from B.O.W. (245-0688). See page 16 to see how you can help.

Annual Bake Sale for Hunger in February each year. Contact person is Paula Ferrato of B.O.W. (247-7177).

Letters from our mailbox



To everyone at BCCUCC,

Thank you to all for your prayers, warm wishes, flowers and incredible moral support. I am still healing, but I am doing better and with all the amazing help I have received from the members, I will heal quickly.

Thank you,
Abby Randazzo

Dear Friends,

The poinsettia is lovely. Thank you very much for your remembrance and thoughtfulness. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Virginia Williamson



Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, cards, calls and visits during my recent surgery. I am also enjoying the flowers from Sunday's church service. I seem to be recovering well and I thank God for all my friends at BCCUCC.

Steve Fodor

Dear Barrington Congregational Church,

Thank you for your generous holiday gifts of 10 bags of Thanksgiving food and \$142 in funding, donated in November and December, 2007. Your donations helped TAP-IN assist several hundred local individuals, as well as families with children during the recent 2007 holiday season.

Once again this Thanksgiving, numerous food baskets were prepared and distributed to our clients: each bag containing traditional Thanksgiving food items, a large disposable roasting pan, dessert, coffee, and a supermarket gift card to help with the purchase of a turkey.

In December, clients who participated in our holiday event were offered food, a small gift for adult individuals, assorted new winter clothing, supermarket (food) gift cards, and families with children were gifted with Christmas toys or teen items appropriate for each age group.

Again, thank you for your kindness and support during 2007.

Best wishes, TAP-IN Staff

My thanks to all who participated in Bob's memorial service--choir members, ushers and those who helped with the reception. I'm especially appreciative of all the sympathy cards and gestures of kindness that have followed us to North Smithfield. Your caring means so much.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Darling

Dear Jeff,

My mother-in-law, Vera Eaton, wishes to thank you all for the prayers for both her and my father-in-law, Frank. He is back at Haven Health with Hospice Care included. Also, Mom loved the altar flowers brought by Sue Terhune.

Sincerely,
Dianne Eaton

Dear Ms. Arena and church members,

On behalf of the families that were part of our 2007 Adopt-a-Family Program, I would like to thank you for your support and generosity this past Holiday Season. The gifts and gift certificates helped these families out in ways you could not imagine.

Many of our single parent families face incredible challenges throughout the year to meet their basic needs. When the Holiday Season arrives, many of these families question where they will find the means to give their children a decent Christmas. As donors, you did not just give these single parents gifts for themselves and their children, but you also helped alleviate the stress these parents feel and gave them a Christmas that they will not forget. Their children did not have to think that Santa didn't come to their house this year because they were "bad" little boys and girls. Even though times may be difficult for these families now, you gave them the gift of hope!

Enclosed* you will find copies of the thank you cards from some of the families you have helped. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and compassion. As you can see, your support and kindness have not gone unnoticed. We truly appreciate you choosing our Adopt-a-family program to donate to this past Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Women's Resource Center of Newport and Bristol Counties

* A couple of the letters are copied below

To all who helped to be a secret Santa to me and my family, many thanks from the bottom of my heart. It meant a lot to me. I will hope to be able to be at the other end in a few years. Thank you, God Bless.

Thank you so much for all your generous Christmas gifts. My children and I appreciate your thoughtfulness very much. The clothes all fit great! The jewelry is beautiful. My son enjoys the "smiling M&M P.J.'s" It was good to see a smile on his face. My daughter loved the new jeans and her soft pink P.J.'s Again, thank you for the gift cards. I did buy some shoes and some tops for myself. My children appreciate all that you have done to make our Christmas special during these hard times. May God bless you all.

Please accept our sincere thanks for your generosity in giving us a Christmas bonus. We are blessed to work with you during the course of the year, and look forward to sharing another exciting year in the life of this church with all of you!



Christine, Pat, Andrea, Marina, Jack, Frank, Ken & Jim

DEACONS FOR FEBRUARY

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

If in a pastoral emergency you cannot reach Jeff
(247-1787) please contact a deacon.



The deadline for submission
of articles to be included in
the October *Bridge* will be
Thursday, February 21st.

The **Dine-Out Group** invites you to join
them for Chinese food on

Friday, February 1st
at **6:30 p.m.**



when they will eat at the restaurant

Chinese Iron Wok

1165 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk
(Located in the shopping plaza next to Blockbuster on
Route 6)

Seating is limited so please get your reservation in
soon to Abby Randazzo at 247-1030 or
randazzoam@yahoo.com or talk to her after church.
Deadline for reservations is Sunday, January 27th.

All are welcome — singles and couples.

Adult Reading Circle

next meets on

Tuesday, February 19th
at **7:30 p.m.**

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

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

Fun Home:
a Family Tragicomic
by **Alison Bechdel**

A powerful graphic novel-
memoir, **Fun Home**
documents Bechdel's
childhood experiences and
coming-of-age as a woman
and lesbian.

The **Third Friday Bridge** Group will next meet
on **Friday, February 15th**
at **7 PM** in the **Vestry**.



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.

Family Footnotes

NEW MEMBERS

Joined December 2, 2007

Arthur Edgette

Holly Ogden



Congratulations to

Meagan Gamache

for winning the Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest. The contest was sponsored by Beyond Our Walls and was awarded to Meagan at the MLK Interfaith Community Service held on Monday, January 21st at St. James' Lutheran Church.



Vera Eaton; Steve Fodor;

Lynn Blanchard-Caesar's father;

Rich Staples' father;

Lisa Holby's father; and

Nancy Martin's sister, Jean Murray.



Mailee Grace McQuown

born December 11th, 2007
to Dan and Lynne McQuown

Donovan Lylburn Park

born January 8th, 2008
to Jeanette Downing Park and Joel Park



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

Maureen Jean on the death of her brother;

Ellen Brady on the death of her father;

Rich Simpson on the death of his father;

Mary DeWitt on the death of her brother-in-law, Stanton Lyslo;

Ann Wood on the death of her father, Merrill Lanoue;

Carol Louttit on the death of her step-mother, Margaret Wiedenmayer;

and Vera Eaton on the death of her husband, Frank Eaton.