

THE WHITE CHURCH BRIDGE



March 2008

Dear Friends,

I am about to ask you to do something that most of us have a very hard time doing but the future of our church may very well depend on. I need you to start bringing people to church who might become new members here. So your sister visiting from Idaho, or your Catholic next door neighbors, while we love having them with us, don't officially count. For the growing vitality of our church we need new folks who are truly interested in becoming full-time members.

And we also do this because it was the command of Jesus to go out and spread the word.

There are a few things you might be interested in knowing that many studies have shown over and over again:

- At least 50% of the people in our local area have no church affiliation at all and many are receptive to at least considering it.
- People are not looking just for “friendly” churches (i.e. friendly at coffee hour, etc); people are looking to make friends. Most newcomers to Barrington will tell you that isn't an easy thing to do here – we have to dramatically improve in this area.
- Reaching new people is a contact sport – we can't rely on ads in newspapers or yellow pages although that should not be ignored because we have to be accessible on many levels. The real key to getting new people here is the personal invitation. We have to use the “elbow method” – if they don't come on your elbow they won't come. The human heart needs the human touch.

We have not convinced most of you to participate in “Bring a Friend to Church” Sundays. But I will try again by reminding you that over the next several months there are a number of Sundays that are naturals for you to actually ask a neighbor, a co-worker, a social friend to come:

- Easter Sunday, March 23: believe it or not, many WANT to be invited somewhere to worship – go do it!
- Confirmation Sunday, April 6: bring people to see our commitment to youth.
- Mission Trip Sunday, April 27: again a demonstration of the glory of our youth.

(Continued on page 2)

Sunday Services in March



- March 2 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion,
Children's Communion Service in Room 6, Church School
- March 9 10 a.m. Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir, Church School
- March 16 10 a.m. **PALM SUNDAY** (see page 4)
Worship Service with Bells, Church School

See pages 4-5 for a full listing of all the services and events during Holy Week

- March 23 **EASTER**
- 6:30 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, Osamequin Point
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service, Easter Activities for preK-3rd Grade (see p. 6)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care only
- March 30 *Laity Sunday*
- 10 a.m. Worship Service led by members of the congregation,
Church School

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Handicapped Accessible

Nursery Care Available

Parents of young children are reminded that if they need to leave the service with their child, the service can still be heard via loud speaker in the Vestry below the Sanctuary.

(Continued from page 1)

- Music Celebration Sunday, May 4
- Mother's Day, May 11

Call someone up, invite them, offer to pick them up, sit with them, make sure we get their name and address on the pew pad, bring them to coffee hour, tell them how nice it was to have them here.

Please.

Blessings to you all,

From our Associate Minister



Wow! Your kindness has been extraordinary: countless pounds of kitchen & household goods filling the parsonage, numerous welcome signs, warm smiles, enthusiastic greetings, and helpful suggestions as I orient myself to this region, town, and church. Thank you! I'm delighted to be here!

I'm a New Englander (originally from Connecticut) but Rhode Island is very new to me, especially after living in Melbourne, Australia for the last year. Although I left the Southern Hemisphere in the unrelenting heat of summer, Melbournians often said to me that "you can experience four seasons in one day in this city!" I'd respond by saying "we have a similar saying where I'm from - if you don't like the weather in New England, don't worry, it will change!" The rhythms of change of our weather patterns, no matter where on the planet, are similar to the rhythms of change in our lives of faith, no matter where we are on the journey. Sometimes change comes like clockwork, other times it comes in ways that are distinctly different from what we experienced the prior year. Sometimes we choose change with great excitement, other times change comes uninvited. And change certainly comes during Lent – because anytime we make more space for the sacred in our lives, anything can happen.

As poignant as change is for me this Lent, what is so utterly familiar is the opportunity that comes each time Easter awaits us on the horizon: the call to come alive. The educator, activist, and theologian Howard Thurman wrote "ask what makes you come alive because what the world needs most is people who have come alive." What makes you come alive? I'm curious. Dare to let each other know.

Come worship and learn with us this Lent and Easter.

With gratitude,

New this year.....

Ecumenical Good Friday Family Experience

Friday, March 21 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hall of BCCUCC

Families with children of all ages are invited to participate. See page 5 for more details.



Saturday night, March 8th

Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY— MARCH 16TH



Holy Week begins with the **Palm Sunday Service** at **10:00 a.m.** and palms will be distributed. Children will attend the beginning of the worship service as usual and leave for church school classes following the children's message.

2

HOLY WEEK MORNING REFLECTIONS MONDAY MARCH 17TH — FRIDAY, MARCH 21ST

Jeff Larsen will be in the **Sanctuary** from **7:00—7:20 a.m.** each morning during Holy Week. During that time he will give a reflection on the theme of the day, offer prayers, and provide his famous strong coffee! All are welcome to stop by on their way to work or school for some 'quiet time' at the start of their day.

2

MAUNDY THURSDAY—MARCH 20TH

There will be a **Seder Dinner** beginning **promptly at 6:00 p.m.** in **Fellowship Hall**, followed by a **Service of Tenebrae** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Sanctuary**.

A **Seder** is the traditional Jewish Passover week meal commemorating the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt. It is the Hebrew Thanksgiving, giving thanks to God for deliverance and redemption. The Last Supper, hosted by Jesus for His disciples, was a Seder meal. And it was at this Seder that Jesus asked all of us to *do this in remembrance of Him*.



The Haggadah is the order of service for the Seder dinner in which the story of the Exodus is recounted and reenacted through prayer and ritual, that includes the eating of special traditional foods, each with its own historical significance. Many Christian churches now hold Seders during Holy Week as a reminder of Jesus' Last Supper.



Afterward at the **Tenebrae Service**, the deacons and clergy will lead worship in which the story of Jesus' passion and suffering will be read, with candles extinguished one by one. The service will also include communion and music.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Both the Seder Dinner and the Tenebrae Service are wonderful events, and every year those who come are full of gratitude for the depth and joy of the evening. Deepen your experience of the resurrection this year by living through the passion and death of Christ. Children are encouraged to attend both events with their families.

2

GOOD FRIDAY—MARCH 21ST

There will be two offerings for our church family on Good Friday:

10:30—11:30 a.m.: An Ecumenical Good Friday Family Experience will be held in Fellowship Hall of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC.



Co-sponsored by BCCUCC and St. James Lutheran Church, this event will be an opportunity for children of all ages and their families to walk through different stages of Jesus' life in preparation for Easter Sunday. All families are invited and children must be accompanied by adults. The event is open to all. Please bring a canned item for TapIn when you come.

Noon: Ecumenical Good Friday Service at St. John's Episcopal Church, 191 County Road, Barrington. All are welcome to participate in this annual service sponsored by the Barrington Clergy Association.



2

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES—MARCH 23RD



Easter Sunday begins with a **6:30 a.m. Sunrise Ecumenical Communion Service** at **Osamequin Point** off the Wampanoag Trail, sponsored by several of the Barrington churches. All are invited.

At **9:15 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** there will be **Worship Services** in the sanctuary of BCCUCC, featuring preaching by the Rev. Jeffrey Larsen, a children's message, and music from the organ, brass and the church's adult choir at both services.

Easter activities will be provided for children age 3—3rd Grade during the 9:15 a.m. service only. Nursery care will be provided at both services. Parents—please see the article on page 6 for further details.



What Parents Need to Know About Easter Sunday

9:15 a.m. service

The Easter Activity during the service will be an Easter Egg hunt for children age 3-3rd grade. Children are invited to bring a small basket for collecting eggs. Weather permitting, some of this will be outside so please have your child dress appropriately.

- Nursery care is available.
- 3, 4 and 5 year olds go directly to their classroom at 9:15 and will also participate in the Easter egg hunt.
- 1st—3rd grade go to the service with their parents, participate in the children's message, and then leave the service, together with members of Junior PF, to go to Fellowship Hall for the Easter Egg hunt.
- 4th—8th grade go to the service with their parents, are welcome to participate in the children's message, and are asked to remain for the rest of the service—except for members of Jr. PF who are assisting with the Easter Egg Hunt.



11:00 a.m. service

- Nursery care only. No special activities for children during the 11:00 a.m. service.

Please note that all children, regardless of age, are welcome to be with their parents in church for the entire service. If a parent needs to leave the service with their child, the service can still be heard via loudspeaker in the vestry beneath the sanctuary.

Volunteers are needed to help with the **SEDER DINNER** to be held
on **Maundy Thursday, March 20th** at **6 p.m.** in **Fellowship Hall.**



We will once again be having a Seder dinner and volunteers are needed to help with the food preparation - Matzo ball soup and latkes (potato pancakes) - as well as volunteers to help with the clean up afterwards. If you would like to volunteer to cook, clean up, or you have questions about the dinner, please call Jeff at the church office 246-0111 or contact him via e-mail at jeffbuccucc@fullchannel.net. Recipes will be provided for those who need them.

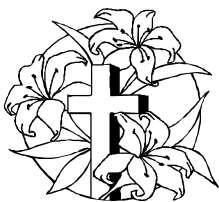


All are invited to attend the Seder meal.

NOT SURE WHAT A SEDER IS? See page 4 for an explanation.

Save money and the environment—read the *Bridge* on line

Please let us know if you're willing to read the monthly newsletter on-line at our website www.bccucc.org rather than receive a hard copy in the mail. It will save us the cost of producing and mailing your copy, as well as saving the paper it's printed on. We will then notify you by e-mail each month when the new edition of the *Bridge* is posted on the website for you to read—which is usually before it reaches any homes by snail mail! Contact us at (401) 246-0111 or at bccucc@fullchannel.net.



Easter Flowers 2008

You are invited to purchase an Easter plant in memory of a loved one, or 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 Easter bulletins.

The plants that you purchase will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Easter, or will be delivered by a deacon, prior to Easter, to our homebound, sick or recently bereaved.

Please complete the order form on the back of this insert and return to the church office with payment

by Tuesday, March 11th.

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.

The cost of an Easter plant is the same as in the past several years at just \$14 per plant.

A small portion of the cost of each plant is used to help pay for the additional plants needed by the deacons.

Please see the next page for an order form. Thank you.





Eco-Palms

Our congregation will be using eco-palms on Palm Sunday thanks to the generosity of Helen Schall. Eco-Palms are harvested in a sustainable manner and harvesters are trained to gather only quality palm fronds in a way that allows the plant to keep growing. The palms are then brought to a community processing building, where the palms are processed and packaged for export.

By contrast, in conventional harvesting, workers are paid based on volume. The more fronds they cut, the more income they generate, encouraging over-harvesting and threatening the rain forest. Middlemen then transport the palms out of the communities for processing, where more than 50% of the palms are discarded because of poor quality.

Eco-palm communities process the palms themselves, capturing more of the profits, improving local communities' standard of living, and ensuring that the money paid for the palms benefit those who labor. By purchasing the eco-palms we are helping protect forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in the harvesting communities of Mexico and Guatemala.

Eco-palms cost over twice as much as the palms we've previously purchased, but Helen Schall of our Social Action and Justice Ministry Team felt strongly enough about the issue to pay the difference so that we could order the eco-palms for use this Palm Sunday. To learn more, visit www.lwr.org/palms.

Wanted — Palm Plants to decorate the Sanctuary

Do you have either a real or fake palm plant, at least 6 foot tall, that you'd be willing to loan to the church for use on Palm Sunday, March 16th. Jeff would like to use several for decorating the sanctuary on that day. Please contact the church office at 246-0111 or bccucc@fullchannel.net if you can help. Jeff will even come to your house to pick-up and drop-off the plant if needed. Thanks.



WANTED — Magazines and Carpet Squares

We need family-friendly magazines for the Good Friday Family Experience taking place here at BCCUCC. Deadline for receipt is March 14. A collection box is in Fellowship Hall.

We are also seeking carpet squares for use on Good Friday (and in the future). Anyone with carpet squares or access to some should contact Andrea Bullard a.s.a.p. at 474-4722 or at.bullard@verizon.net. Thanks!

We're still collecting the colored comic pages from Sunday newspapers for the Mission Trip fundraising project. Please leave them in the collection box in Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday, March 9th.

Interested in learning more about our church, or maybe even thinking about becoming a member?

Please join Jeff and the Deacons at our

“CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR CHURCH ”

after church on **Sunday, March 30th**

from **11:20 a.m.—12:15 p.m.** in the **library**.



This informational session is open to all who are new to our church family (as well as to anyone who may have been coming for some time but would like to learn more) – to help you understand a little more about our history, why we do things the way we do, and why we would really like you to be part of this community. It is a wonderful chance to meet other new faces. Please come!

The session will also serve as preparation for anyone who wants to officially become a member of this church on New Member Sunday, April 27th at our 10 a.m. service. *Please note that attendance at the “Conversations” in no way commits you to becoming a member, although we’d love it if you did choose to officially become a part of our church family.*

Please let the church office know if you plan to attend by calling or e-mailing us at 246-0111 or bccucc@fullchannel.net. Child care will be provided. The session will be very informal so older children are welcome to sit in if they wish.

So whether you’re just interested in learning more about us or you know that you’d like to become a member of our church, we invite you to attend this session.



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. Both experienced worship leaders as well as those who’ve never done it before are welcome to participate — no experience is necessary!

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

The Women's Faith Group will meet on **Thursdays, March 6th and 20th**
from **10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.** in **Room 6**



They continue to read **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.



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY on *Coming face to face with Jesus*

Each session, led by Jeff Larsen, examines the upcoming Sunday's scripture passage, and all are welcome to participate in either or both of the remaining sessions.

Tuesday, March 4 7 — 8 p.m. Resource Room
Matthew 27: 1-2, 11-26 Jesus is face to face with Pontius Pilate

Tuesday, March 11 7 — 8 p.m. Room 6
Matthew 21: 1-11 Jesus is face to face with the crowds on Palm Sunday

The themes for Church School and FaithWorks in March are:

The Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42)
The Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)
The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Communion Sunday,
March 2nd



Children will have their own special communion service in Room 6 at 10 a.m. followed by church school.

From your Deacons:

Adopt a



Grandparent

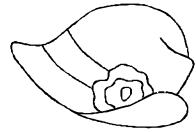
An idea is being floated about having an "Adopt a Grandparent" program for our church family. There are children in our gathering whose grandparents are many miles away or no longer with us and it might be nice to establish a bonding relationship – nice for all ages. If this is something you might be 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.

BONNETS FOR BILOXI

DO wear an Easter Bonnet to Church on Easter Sunday

DO NOT buy it at Kohl's, Target or Nordstrom's

DO let a Mission Tripper custom design a bonnet just for you at coffee hour on Palm Sunday, March 16th.



Support the youth of our church on their Mission Trip to Biloxi and purchase a hand made Easter Bonnet. Be the first in our town to have one of these delightful creations. You will not see these sold anywhere else. These bonnets will be available for sale at coffee hour on Palm Sunday (March 16th).

Buy one pre-made or design your own. Come join us for a little fun as we continue to raise monies for this very important trip.

Cost of each Bonnet will be \$20.00

Schedule for 2008 Mission Trip Participants

Sunday night, March 2	7-8:30 p.m. Regular meeting
Saturday, March 8	Swing Into Spring Craft and Variety Fair – you all have assignments
Saturday, March 15	10:30 a.m.-Noon Preparations for fund raising project, Fellowship Hall
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!	



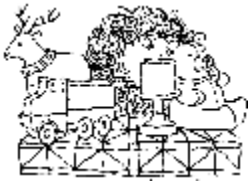
Confirmation Class Update



Next meeting is **Sunday, March 9** 11:20 a.m.-12:10 p.m. in Room 9.

This is a very important planning meeting so be sure to attend.

Confirmation Sunday is April 6.



Swing into Spring Sale *Craft and Variety Fair*

Saturday, March 8 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Fellowship Hall and Classrooms

Items for sale from many local Crafters and Artisans - Baked Goods - Light Lunch - Quality Used Items - Face Painting - Children's Crafts - Narcissus Plants for Sale - Live Jazz Music in the afternoon

The response from crafters, artisans and others has been great and over 30 tables have been rented with a wide variety of different crafts and items to be sold. There's a little something for everyone, so please come and enjoy yourselves! The fair is suitable for families as there will be face painting and crafts for the children.



ADMISSION is FREE and all are encouraged to attend and support the Mission Trippers in their fund raising efforts.

Proceeds to benefit the Mission Trip in April to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS



Bake Sale items needed

The Junior PF will be overseeing the bake sale table at the Variety Fair on March 8th and they are seeking donations of baked goods, preferably wrapped for individual sale.

Please call Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or email PeckMarketing@cox.net if you can contribute. Proceeds from the bake sale will go to the Warren Animal Shelter and to the Mission Trip.

Mission Trip Donations

Perhaps you're not interested in purchasing crafts, or baked goods, and you weren't able to attend the Pasta Dinner—but you still want to support the Mission Trip. Monetary donations are much needed and always very welcome. Checks can be made out to the church with "Mission Trip donation" in the memo line. Many thanks to everyone who has already made such a donation. The Mission Trippers are very appreciative.

The calendar for March 2008
as it appeared on page 14 and 15 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
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**PUTTING
OUR FAITH**



**INTO
AUCTION**

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

for the silent and live auction to be held
on Saturday, September 13th at Stanley's Boat Yard
(be sure you have it marked in your calendar)

Please visit the DONATIONS table in Fellowship Hall at coffee hour to pick up or drop off a donations form, or to speak to someone on the Donations committee about a gift you are considering.

Alternatively, you can contact the Donations Committee Chair, Bernie Hawes, at 437-1860, or bhawes1@cox.net with questions or information about an item you'd like to donate.

We encourage you to make a thoughtful donation to this night of silent & live auction, fine food, fellowship and fun. Ambience included! Previous auctions have been very successful, and we hope to make our 2008 Auction even more of a success —and with your help we can do it!

Success!!

After all our requests and pleas, the Handbell Choir has a new ringer! Much to our delight, Carolyn Gammell has joined us, and a very enthusiastic ringer she is. A resident of Bristol, she is new to our church and to handbells. She plays the piano, reads music, and enjoys handbell sounds – wonderful! She rang with us in church for the first time in January after only 2 rehearsals (and one introductory session). She is learning our art very quickly and we are happy to have her in the group.



We had another surprise recently when Diane Henderson, after ringing off and on (mostly on) for many years, volunteered to ring our bass bells. We missed her last fall and it's great to have her back. And it's great to hear those low bass tones again.

We're still looking for substitutes for an occasional Tuesday night rehearsal. Anyone who can read music can learn quickly. If you don't read music, we can teach you, but it will take a little longer. You only have to ring two bells. If you are looking for a musical change of pace, please contact Barbara Ward, 245-7183 or Pat Stoddard, 245-7449.

Save the Day — Sunday, April 20th

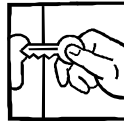
Our former teaching minister, the **Rev. Dr. Charles McCollough**, will be visiting Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, on Sunday, April 20th and will give a sermon entitled “Caring for Creation”.

Charles is an accomplished sculptor and he will present an exhibit of his works after the service during coffee hour. Dr. McCollough’s latest book, “The Art of Parables” will also be available that day.

Please mark your calendar and plan to come to church on Sunday, April 20th to meet Charles McCollough and his wife, Carole and see some of his wonderful sculptures.

For further information contact Jeanne Fulford (501/678-3881) or Dorothy Muth (246-0545).

Are you willing to occasionally help out in the church office? Anyone willing to learn how to run the duplicator would be especially welcome, but volunteers to help with other tasks are also welcome to call Christine at 246-0111.



Please note that if you use a key to enter either the church building or the education building near the offices, it will leave the doors unlocked. Please be aware of this so that you don’t inadvertently leave either building unlocked. Thank you.

IF YOU’RE 40 AND THEY’RE 70, IT’S TIME TO TALK

A free public workshop on how to discuss sensitive issues with senior family members.

Thursday, April 3 7:00—8:00 p.m. Barrington Library Auditorium.

The event is sponsored by Home Instead of Senior Care® a group that Pastor Jim Davis of Barrington Baptist Church has worked with for many years.

The evening will include a discussion facilitated by Valerie Topp, eldercare educator, on how to begin a dialogue with an aging parent about sensitive life topics and the choices available. A question and answer session will follow. Other resources on advance directives, caring for a loved one, safety in the home, and life’s transitions and choices will also be provided.



If you are unable to attend but would like a free 40/70 booklet, please call Julie at 401 667-2923.

Greening Our Church

The Social Action and Justice Team Ministry is in the process of joining Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light. RI-IPL was organized in January 2007 and represents congregations from all major faiths in Rhode Island. It is a state chapter of the national Interfaith Power and Light (through which we were able to show An *Inconvenient Truth* in 2006). RI-IPL has a simple goal: to encourage faith-based stewardship of Creation by promoting energy conservation, energy efficiency, and clean, renewable energy production. This ministry intends to protect the earth's atmosphere and its ecosystems, safeguard public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable and affordable energy for all.



Greenstart: If you have signed up for Greenstart through Nationalgrid, please let SA&JTM know so that we can make sure the church is receiving a \$10.00 rebate from People's Power and Light. If you haven't signed up yet, there are cards available outside the office door and on the table in the church building.

Holy Joe's Café

United Church of Christ military chaplains have found an old way to invite soldiers in Iraq into a safe and informal place where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. Congregations and individuals can support the **Coffee House Ministry** by sending Equal Exchange Coffee to the military chaplains in Baghdad.

Baskets for this donation will be found on the coffee tables during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall during the Lenten season. Please be generous and support our troops. Our chaplains are a first line defense against the emotional and psychological issues faced by our troops.



Marriage Equality

Last month some of you joined the Social Action and Justice Team in a discussion about Marriage Equality. At our meeting in March we will be considering how to continue this discussion. We will be looking at material provided by the national UCC and also by our conference ONA committee, which works with Marriage Equality Rhode Island. We feel it is important to continue this dialogue as we prayerfully consider the "Equal Marriage Rights for All" resolution passed at the 25th General Synod in Atlanta, Georgia in 2005. We will keep you updated on our progress.



Back Bay Mission Videos

In the past months we've been reprinting articles from the Back Bay Mission newsletter. But, how about a video for a change? Type in YouTube Back Bay Mission in Google or another search engine and look at what our mission trippers will be seeing in April. Give it a try!

Our Social Action and Justice Ministry Team would like you to support the **Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act** (S. 1651) and urges you to communicate to your elected official that you are very concerned about the well-being of US troops and of the people (especially the Christians) of Iraq every day the war is prolonged. For more details see the flier on the vestry table or on the board outside the church office or go to <http://ga3.org/campaign/iraqsept2107> to Take Action!



Habitat workdays are coordinated through Beyond Our Walls (BOW) who have arranged for volunteers from a number of different Barrington churches to volunteer on the **4th Saturday of every month**. So whether you're a

novice wanting to learn handyman (or handywoman) basics 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.

Work parties for the remainder of 2008 have been scheduled for the following dates:



March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, November 22 and December 27, 2008. *Mark these dates on your calendar.*

A typical work party starts on site at 8:30 a.m. and usually finishes up mid-afternoon. If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Rich Simpson of BCCUCC (247-1005 or rts.ri@cox.net) or David Renner of BOW at daverenner@cox.net. There are limits to how many people Habitat can accommodate, so if you are interested, please be sure to sign up as soon as possible. If you want more information about Habitat Providence, visit their web site at <http://www.habitatprov.org>

HELP NEEDED FOR SOUP KITCHEN

BCCUCC is next scheduled to serve at the Community Soup Kitchen on **Saturday, April 5th**. 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—currently located at the Hispanic Evangelical UCC church in Pawtucket but soon to move to Park Place Congregational UCC a few blocks away. 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 Mary Lou Slicker at 245-0085 or rislick@fullchannel.net.

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: Social Action and Justice Ministry Team

TOPIC: Breaking Down the Barriers: Why Women Can and Must Run for Office

GUEST SPEAKER: Jennifer Lawless, assistant professor of political science at Brown University, with a courtesy appointment at the Taubman Center for Public Policy. She is the lead author of *It Takes A Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and a public policy report used by EMILY's List, Emerge, and the Women's Campaign School at Yale to help promote and recruit women candidates.

Dr. Lawless has become a recognized speaker on the subject of electoral politics, frequently discussing these issues on national and local television and radio outlets. In 2006, she sought the Democratic nomination for the U.S. House of Representatives in Rhode Island's second congressional district. Although she lost the race, she is very active in Rhode Island politics.

ADMISSION: This event is free and open to the community. Refreshments served



Our congregation will join with other churches and denominations throughout the United States in receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering in March. Thanks to the combined efforts of the UCC Church World Service and eight other denominations, literally millions of dollars are raised and disbursed to needy people throughout the world. This fund touches the lives of refugees, disaster victims, politically suppressed societies, those suffering from human rights injustices, as well as many who suffer from chronic hunger and poverty. OGHS leaflets about this year's campaign will be included in the Sunday worship bulletins on March 2 & 9, and OGHS envelopes will be included on March 9. However, you don't need an OGHS envelope to make a donation. Checks should be made payable to Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, and please mark the memo line "OGHS". Thank you.

Project HOPE

The Town of Barrington has undertaken a major community youth project in an effort to raise awareness for the plight of the homeless and hungry in our state. Entitled Project HOPE, this initiative invites high school students who live, attend school, or worship in the community to come together to simulate a night in the life of the homeless.

Conceived and developed by Beyond Our Walls (BOW), a non-profit interfaith organization that serves as a catalyst for social change, Project HOPE has taken a three-pronged approach to bring attention to and create understanding for the homeless and their related issues.

They include:

Monday, March 17 – Friday, March 28 Barrington High School

Barrington High School collection of personal care items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, mouthwash and soap) for the homeless

Wednesday, March 19, 7:00 p.m. at Barrington High School

Performance of “But for the Grace,” a one-man play written by David Eliet and performed by Bob Jaffe, was created from over 70 interviews with food pantry clients, staff and volunteers. The stories told in the play are as varied as the circumstances that led each character to seek food assistance. Through the theater experience, the audience will begin to understand the pain, fear, humiliation and injustice of hunger, as well as the resiliency of the human spirit and the importance of ending hunger. The play is free and open to the public. **Donations of canned goods and/or monetary gifts for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank will be accepted as the entry fee.**

March 29-30, beginning with check in @ 4 p.m. on Saturday evening; ending Sunday morning at Barrington High School Varsity Soccer Field

Homeless Awareness Sleep Out - Project HOPE will culminate with a sleep out for high school students on the BHS Varsity Soccer Field that will simulate the plight of homelessness. Students will be given cardboard boxes to assemble and use as their shelter for the evening. Students will also prepare bagged lunches that will be delivered to Crossroads in Providence for distribution to the homeless. **Donations of food and clothing will be accepted from the community over the course of the sleep out; all donations will be delivered to the RI Community Food Bank and other local charities.**

Pre-registration is necessary for sleep out participants. Register online at www.bowri.org beginning March 1st.

For more information contact:

Liz Crawley (BOW member) at lizcrawley@cox.net or 245-3537
or Paula Ferrato (BOW member) at paula.ferrato@verizon.net or 247-7177



NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Check out the new RI Conference website at www.ricucc.org

Make plans now to attend....

The Spring Meeting of the Rhode Island Conference

Saturday, May 3, 2008

at Hope Congregational UCC

120 Wampanoag Trail, East Providence

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Nick Carter,
President of Andover Newton
Theological School.

Installation of the Rev. Kelly Thibeault
as Associate Conference Minister will
take place during the afternoon worship.

“It Really Is All About Me”

The Women of the Rhode Island Conference will present a **one day retreat**

at Irons Homestead

with the **Reverend Connie Young**

on **Saturday, April 19th**

from **8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

The day will include fellowship, lunch and communion as well as reflection on scripture found in Philippians 2.

Bring your favorite bible and comfortable shoes. Registration is \$10.00 and can be made by calling the Conference Office at 724-7700.

Have you heard about the National Youth Event??

The UCC National Youth Event, held every four years, provides an opportunity for over 3000 youth (ages 13 to 18) to gather for worship, workshops, faith, fun and fellowship. The next NYE will be held at the **University of Tennessee in Knoxville** from **July 24 – 28, 2008**.



NYE will welcome **Julia Butterfly Hill** as a Keynote Speaker. Julia brought international attention to the plight of the world's last remaining ancient forests when she climbed 180 feet into the branches of a threatened 1000 year-old redwood tree and refused to come down. Her historic protest to the environmental destruction caused by the clear-cutting of ancient redwoods culminated after 738 days with an agreement that provided permanent protection for the tree known as Luna and a 3 acre buffer-zone around it. Julia is an activist, a best-selling writer and poet and has spoken to standing-room-only audiences across the country.

Does NYE sound fun? We hope you'll be part of a delegation from the RI Conference!! We are estimating the cost to be from \$600 to \$700 per person, depending on numbers and transportation costs. RICUCC will bring more information to you as it comes available. Any youth interested in attending should contact the Conference office at 724-7700 or ricucc@ricucc.org. Also check for more details on the conference website www.ricucc.org.

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC
Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting
January 27, 2008

Article I: After it was determined that there was a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 11:10AM

Article II: Tom Colby offered a review of the budget. There is a surplus of approximately fifty three thousand dollars expected in the 2007 Budget. There has been \$346K pledged for 2008, but the Total Pledges figure is expected to be somewhat smaller. Staff expenses will be going up due to salary increases and other factors out of our control.

A motion was made to approve the Budget and the floor was opened up for further discussion. At the present time, the Christian Education Assistant's position is budgeted for 15 hrs/wk for 45 wks.

Upon conclusion of the discussion, the motion to approve the budget was seconded and the Budget was approved unanimously.

Article III: There was a discussion regarding the status of our Capital Reserve Fund. It is not at a level with which the Buildings and Grounds Team is comfortable. Due to increased expenses it is at less than half of what the Team feels it should be. The Congregation was asked to move \$14K of the expected surplus from 2007 to replenish the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

It was also mentioned that the Fire Code improvements were separate from the Capital Fund and the Fire Code project is presently \$25K short.

The Congregation requested that they receive a report as to the steps that will be taken in the attempt to reduce the projected \$37K deficit in the 2008 Budget.

Moderator Tom Strolla reminded the congregation that pledges tend to fall off in the summer and that members might want to consider using the Pledge-Pay program. He also said the Stewardship Team would be formed shortly.

A member asked what the status was regarding the By-Laws review. It remains that team's goal to present the revised By-Laws at the Annual Meeting in May. A representative of the Nominating Team expressed concern that this could present a problem, as their slate of nominees is presented at the May meeting. It could be difficult to fill vacancies if there are proposed term length changes on some teams.

Article IV: There was a motion made to adjourn, which was seconded and passed at 11:30AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Wuth, Clerk

★ Thank You! ★ ★ THANK YOU! ★

...to everyone involved with preparing for and welcoming our new associate minister, Elizabeth Barnum. Thanks to the members of the Search Committee for all that they did including stocking the parsonage refrigerator; to the Buildings and Grounds team who worked on the parsonage to get it ready for her arrival; to the “unloading” crew who moved Elizabeth’s furniture and belongings into the parsonage; to CEYM for organizing the “pounding” and to all the congregation members who donated items for it. Special thanks to Fred MacDonald for all of his work behind the scenes to make sure everything was ready and for personally driving the rental truck from Connecticut to Rhode Island containing Elizabeth’s stuff

...to Greg Voigt, Ben White, Mary Louise Gamache, Sandy Miniati, Kelsey Hoyt, Kristin Westmoreland, Mary and Bill DeWitt, and Francis Seader for teaching our church school and FaithWorks children

...to all who helped with the Lenten Craft Fair especially Lynne Lehman, Carol Strakosch and her family, and Debbi Summers and her friend for teaching how to make palm crosses

...to everyone in the congregation and community who attended the pasta dinner fundraiser on February 10th. Over \$1200 was raised for the Mission trip in April

...to Liz White, Laura Ward and Jean Arnold for their organization of the pasta dinner and to all of the mission trippers who worked so hard to make it such a success

...to everyone who made a Valentine to be sent to our homebound and others in need of a little “pick-me-up” at this time, and to the deacons for organizing this activity.

Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6



Do you know your alphabet? Then we could use your help!

Volunteers are needed to return the nametags to the racks in the vestry hallway each week. If you know your alphabet, then you’re qualified for the task! Now that everyone has a new nametag and more people are wearing them, the task of replacing them all in the racks has expanded. Pat and Christine have been doing it, but they would appreciate it if there were some church members willing to take over the task. To volunteer please contact the church office at 246-0111 or bccucc@fullchannel.net. Thanks.



All are welcome to join the **Dine-Out Group** for dinner at **6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 7th**

when they will eat at

REDLEFSEN'S Rotisserie & Grill
444 Thames Street, Bristol.

For reservations please contact Steve or Marion Fodor by Wednesday, March 5th at 245-2003 or smfodor@cox.net.

All are welcome — singles and couples.



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

Thursday, March 13th.

The **Third Friday Bridge** Group will not meet in March. They next meet April 18th.



DEACONS FOR MARCH

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

If in a pastoral emergency you cannot reach Jeff (247-1787) or Elizabeth (245-3567) please call on one of the deacons.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

January 27 – 179
February 3 – 178
February 6 – 29
Ash Wednesday
February 10 – 239
February 17 – 147

Church Directory—on your computer

An electronic version of the new church directory can be e-mailed to you (provided your name appears in the directory). E-mail the church office at bccucc@fullchannel.net and write "Electronic Directory" in the memo line if you would like to receive a copy.

Adult Reading Circle

next meets on

Tuesday, March 18th
at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot
501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

A Spot of Bother
by Mark Haddon

Recent retiree George Hall, convinced that his eczema is cancer, goes into a tailspin in Haddon's laugh-out-loud slice of British domestic life.

NEW NAMETAGS



New nametags have been made for everyone whose name appears in our new church directory. If you haven't yet picked up your new nametag, the box of the printed inserts is in the vestry—you just need to find yours then choose which holder you want—string, clip or pin—and help yourself. If a nametag hasn't been made for you, please fill out the sheet on the table or call the church office at 246-0111 to request one.

Please get into the habit of wearing your nametag every week both to church and to coffee hour. Not only does it help our new Associate Minister, Elizabeth Barnum get to know everyone, but it also helps the congregation get to know each other and makes us a more welcoming church to visitors.

To further assist everyone, the nametags also indicate if the person is a church officer or is serving on a ministry team.



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.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2008 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

The following people have not yet picked up their pledge envelopes:

Shirley Adams-Howes
James and Susan Black
Glenn and Bonnie Britland
Kate and Ian Burgess
Frank and Joy Hearn
Mary Jacobs
Maureen Jean
Melanie and Sean Lane
David Murray and Lorraine Nik
Paul and Paula Movsesian
Larry and Amy Norton
Jamie and Dennis Priolo
Romesh and Aruna Rajaratnam
Paula and Bill Rooks
Debbi Summers
Paul and Peg Welch
Marion Willey

If pledge envelopes were assigned to you in error, please call the church office (246-0111) and let us know.

The envelopes can be picked up on Sundays from the table in the Narthex (where the greeters stand) or stop by the church office during the week.

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.



Please make the following corrections to your new church directory:

Elizabeth Kingsley should be listed as 'Elizabeth' not 'Betty'.

Mark and Lori Mason are now married and live at
22 Western Avenue, Barrington RI 02806
(401) 559-8223 masonfitnes@aol.com

May Smith is moving apartments at Bay Spring Village and will now be in Apt. 233.

Nancy Dale has moved to
14 Bagy Wrinkle Cove, Warren RI 02885

Please notify the church office of other changes to be made.

Clergy Days Off

Please note that Jeff's day off is Friday and Elizabeth's day off is Thursday.



www.bccucc.org

Family Footnotes



Congratulations to . . . **Mark Mason and Lori Iakobucci**
married January 18th, 2008



Vera Eaton; John Faulhaber; Nancy Martin;
Ellen Brady's sister, Susan; Chris Brady;
Lynn Blanchard-Caesar's father, Donald;
and Jennifer Cook's father, Howard Smith;



BIRTHS

Isabella Leeanne Champion

born January 28, 2008
to Jessi and Vinny Champion



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

Rich Staples on the death of his father, Richard Staples;
to Leslie Peck on the death of her cousin, Suzie Schmidtz;
and to the family of Nathan Broomhead.

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



2008

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

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.