

November 2008

THE WHITE CHURCH BRIDGE

The logo for 'The White Church Bridge' features a stylized illustration of a church with a steeple and a bridge. The church is on the right, and the bridge extends to the left. The text 'THE WHITE CHURCH' is positioned above the bridge, and 'BRIDGE' is positioned below the church.

Dear Friends,

These are challenging times. Here we are on the verge of our major fund-raising time and the economy has gone belly-up. Many of you reading this are having things swept out from under you – retirement accounts, insurances, mortgages, even jobs. Gas prices are falling but we might not be able to buy a car or keep the one we have.

I have no more answers than anyone else does but I do have a couple of comments. I will go out on a limb here, but I believe that for the most part those reading this will not be suffering as much as many, many others. We still will “have” and will still be those who can give, and we must not lose sight of that. In many ways, the ministry of this church must expand just when the finances are going to lead many to recommend we contract. Never before in the life of most in this congregation, does the greater community (world) need the church to provide moral action, which is very different than simply moral guidance.

Maybe our facility needs to be used for job training courses, our library as a homeless sleeping site, our office staff and equipment for resume writing, computers for job placement seeking.

Disappointingly, but perhaps not surprisingly, neither Presidential candidate has had the guts to tell us honestly how they think they can cut the over-spending habits of this nation. Across the board things need to be changed in terms of our excessive material and service culture. But it is definitely not the time to duck our heads and souls into a cocoon too. Why aren't our food boxes for the local food pantry filled every week? Why did the Deacons' Fund for local emergency assistance this month have one of the lowest collections ever?

In this time of great fear and uncertainty we must put our trust in God. But that is only half of a Christian's responsibility – we must also put our faith into action. Get off the couch of self-pity, use your gifts in ways you have never stretched yourself before. The rainy day has arrived for many. Be thankful for how relatively dry you are and don't be afraid to go out and get wet.

See you in church,

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

Sunday Services



- November 2 10 a.m. *All Saints' Sunday* (see below)
Worship Service with Communion, Children's Communion
Service in Room 6 followed by Church School
- November 9 10 a.m. Worship Service, Church School
- November 16 10 a.m. *New Member Sunday* (see page 8)
Worship Service with Bells, Church School
- November 23 10 a.m. Worship Service for All Ages with Sing and Celebrate
Choir, No Church School, Nursery Care only
- November 30 10 a.m. Worship Service,
Godly Play for PreK-Grade 2, Faith & Fun for Grades 3-8

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Child Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

Remembering Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

During the worship service on **All Saints Sunday, November 2nd**, we will toll the bell and remember by name our loved ones who have died *since last All Saints' Day*.

The congregation is asked to please submit names *ahead of time* by contacting the church office at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org no later than **Thursday, October 30th**.



Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour when you go to bed on **Saturday, November 1st**.

The church office will be **CLOSED** on **Tuesday, November 11** for Veterans Day and on **Thursday and Friday, November 27 and 28** for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will be away from the office November 1-7 and 18-20, and Pat Stoddard will be out of the office November 3-7.

From our Associate Minister



I love autumn in New England. Yet along with beauty, autumn often comes with some hard lessons. Day shortens, night lengthens. A chill seeps into the air. During this turning of the seasons, I often feel a tension between nostalgia and change. One moment, we may hearken back in our minds to autumns past (“remember apple-picking that year when...” or “Thanksgiving that time we...”). The next moment, we realize we dwell in a distinctly different season than the previous one. In those moments, we can feel both the inevitability and the incredible promise of change as we witness the shifts in the colors of the leaves and the way they fall to the ground. The trees are my greatest teachers this time of year with their lessons about letting go. A few days ago while taking a walk, a favorite poem came to mind. Wendell Berry, a poet and farmer from Kentucky, describes trees as “apostles of the living light” and offers these words at the conclusion of one of his beloved poems:

*In fall their brightened leaves, released,
Fly down the wind, and we are pleased
To walk on radiance, amazed.
O light come down to earth, be praised!*

Wendell Berry

Deciduous trees have no choice this time of year but to embody their true nature – and they do so with incredible grace and capacity to let go. I wonder if we, like those trees, are drawn to the same purpose, daring to take on the possibility that as people of faith we are called to be “apostles of the living light.”

Before we know it, it will be November 30th which is the first Sunday of Advent. And I imagine the last line of Berry’s poem as a prayer of anticipatory wonder as we turn once again into the next season of the church’s liturgical year. “O light come down to earth, be praised!”

Peace,

Elizabeth





Many thanks to everyone who helped to make my Installation Service so meaningful. I'm grateful for your support, flexibility, and willingness to be outside on a crisp autumn day to sing and pray together. Also, thank you for the generous donations for the purchase of church school materials for the Godly Play rooms. I'm delighted!

Elizabeth

Advent begins Sunday, November 30th

2008 Advent Calendar for Children and Families

Making Room at the Inn:
Children and Families on the Margins

This Family Ministry resource from the U.C.C. provides guided reflections for each day of Advent.

Please email Andrea Bullard at andrea@bccucc.org no later than November 16th if you would like to order one for your family. You can pick-up your calendar at church or at the Advent Workshop on November 30th.

Cost is \$5.00 per calendar and is due at pick-up. Thank you! Enjoy!

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

September 28 – 209

October 5 – 174

October 12 – 122

October 19 – 179

Elizabeth's Installation – 60

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.

Church School and CEYM events in November

Regular church school will take place each Sunday unless otherwise noted below

- November 2nd** Children will have their own Communion Service in Room 6 and then go to their Church School classrooms.
- November 9th** Teacher Tea 9:15 – 9:45AM with Elizabeth and Andrea in the Education Building.
- November 23rd** Worship for All Ages. There is no Church School. (There will be nursery care as always.)
- November 30th** Faith and Fun in Fellowship Hall for grades 3 – 8 during Church School time.
Godly Play Work and Feast Day for PreK – 2nd grade.
- November 30th** Advent Workshop & Dinner from 5:30 – 7PM 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 (474-4722 or andrea@bccucc.org) by Sunday, November 23rd if you are thinking of joining us.
Hosted by the CEYM Team.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN NOVEMBER



Sunday, November 9th 11:30 a.m. Church Library Confirmands should attend the video and discussion on Marriage Equality (see page 16 for details).

***Monday, November 24th 7:30 p.m. St. James' Lutheran Church** Confirmands should attend the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service (see page 19 for details).

* Note this is in place of the event on 11/22 on the original class schedule.



There will be a regional opportunity to learn about Godly Play for volunteers and parents. Please contact Elizabeth Barnum or Andrea Bullard if you are interested in attending.

Saturday, November 22, 2008

Introduction Emphasizing Role of Doorpersons (8:30AM to 12:00PM)

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, **Cohasset, Massachusetts**

Contact and Trainer: Nancy St. John Nsj10@comcast.net

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

Sunday, November 2 After church — 4 p.m. Autumn Hike



Jr PF will leave directly from church and attend a pizza party at the Zarlengo's in Exeter. The Zarlengos will provide pizza, and Jr PF will be asked to contribute juice, desserts, chips, etc. to go with it. After lunch they will go to Trustom Pond for a hike. Jr PF should bring water bottles and binoculars if they have them. They will be leaving from Trustom Pond to return to the church at approximately 4pm. Jr PF are reminded to please dress appropriately for that day's weather.

To sign up and for more information please contact Leslie Peck **by Wednesday, October 29** at 245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net.

Sunday, November 16 4 — 7 p.m. Games and Movie Night Room 8

SENIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (SPF)
All youth in grades 9-12 are invited to participate

Sunday, November 2 Meeting rescheduled to Nov 16

Sunday, November 16 7 — 8 p.m. Room 6 Mission Trip Meeting



All Senior PFers interested in going on the Mission Trip in April 2009 should let the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum know **by Monday, November 10** if they will be attending this meeting. Contact her at 246-0111 ext 104 or elizabeth@bccucc.org.

Information about the 2009 Mission Trip can be found on page 10 of the October 2008 *Bridge*, which is on line at www.bccucc.org.

Friday, November 21 7 — 9 p.m. tba



**Have you registered your child
for Church School?**

New registration forms must be filled out each year in order to comply with our Safe Church policy (see next page). Registration forms are available in church school classrooms, from the notice board outside Andrea's office, or from the church website www.bccucc.org



www.bccucc.org

Safe Church Updates

- Special thanks to all parents and volunteers who have submitted updated registration forms and volunteer application forms. We're in the process of updating all forms and reviewing guidelines. We thank you for your continued cooperation. We also thank Barbara Wuth for providing notary services to church school teachers on October 5th. Thanks Barbara!
- We often celebrate the many joyful church activities by posting photographs on the church website for members, friends, and visitors to view. Please note that all photos posted on the website in the photo section do not include names of children or adults for privacy reasons. Additionally, any parent that requested that their child or children not have their photos shared in these formats have noted so on their church school registration forms and we're in the process of making sure that we are in compliance with those requests. If there are additional individuals who do not wish to have photos posted in this way, please notify the church office in writing. Thank you!
- Save the date. Saturday morning, February 7th, 2009: The Barrington Congregational Church will be hosting a **Safe Church workshop** led by the Rhode Island Conference U.C.C. and open to all churches in the RI Conference. Stay tuned for more information.

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

...to Ann Wood, Amy Gorman, Kristin Westmoreland, Camilla Hemingway, Mary Louise Gamache, Greg Voigt, Carol Strakosch, Mary Dewitt, Holly Ogden, Elizabeth Barnum, Laura Ward, Lynn Caesar, Leslie Strolla, 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 all of the volunteers who have helped with the directory photo sessions—Tom Strolla, Phyllis Buckley, Pat Cordeiro, Helen MacDonald, Pat Stoddard, Lauren Pollard, Leslie Strolla, Kathleen Larsen, Lynne Lehman, and Jay Buckley

...to the children of Albert Allen—namely Lisa Lipscomb, Jeffrey Allen, Richard Allen, Lawrence Allen and Marcie Lindsay—who made a very generous donation to the Deacons Fund in memory of their father who recently passed away

...to everyone who helped in the preparation for or participated in Elizabeth's Installation service on October 19. It was a blustery, cold afternoon but the Holy Spirit moved among us as Elizabeth was installed as our new Associate Pastor out on the terrace behind Fellowship Hall. Thanks to everyone who braved the cold to be a part of this special occasion

...and to our anonymous benefactor who paid to have new plantings at the front entrance of the church as the old bushes had become very overgrown. The area has looked lovely this fall —especially with the addition of the bright yellow mums!



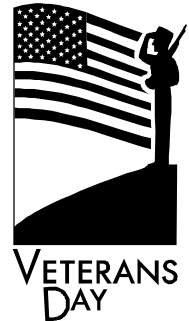
CALLING ALL VETERANS

On **Sunday, November 9th**, Jeff would like veterans from the various branches of the military to be the greeters for the worship service. Any veteran interested in doing this should call the church office at 246-0111.

VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Tuesday, November 11 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall

So often the date of November 11 passes by with few noticing. Many people no longer even take it is a holiday – exchanging it instead for the day after Thanksgiving as if it was a baseball card to trade. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 an armistice was signed effectively ending the “war that was to end all wars” World War I. A year later President Wilson declared it “Armistice Day” and it was marked with businesses closing and parades.



Many times people have tried to change the holiday to a Monday so we could vacation even more but in 1975 President Ford signed a bill that firmly established the day of honor to its original day – November 11.

I extend to you, your family and friends, an invitation to come to the church on the evening of Tuesday, November 11 and share some stories together. Bring pictures and stories of loved ones who have served in the American military and we will have a very informal time together. I will set up some tables and bring some cider and maybe some of you will volunteer some cookies. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM and end about an hour later. Come casual...and let us together remember.

Jeff Larsen

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Please join us on **Sunday, November 16th** at the **10:00 a.m. service** when we look forward to receiving new members into our church.

If you're a newcomer or if you've been coming for years but never officially joined, you are invited to do so at this time. In preparation you are asked to attend the “Conversations about our Church” on November 2 (see next page for details).

Interested in learning more about our church, or maybe even thinking about becoming a member? Then please join Jeff and the Deacons at our

“CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR CHURCH ”

Sunday, November 2nd 11:20 a.m.—12:15 p.m. 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, Nov. 16th 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 if you let us know ahead of time that it is needed. 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.



Special Cantata Service on December 7th

Extra Singers Still Welcome

It’s not too late to join the vocal choir as they prepare to present a special Cantata during the Advent worship service on December 7th. The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM in the Vestry, and they work on the Cantata at the beginning of rehearsal each week. The piece, called *And This Shall Be a Sign*, is a modern work with music and narration that illustrate the various signs that God gave the people about the impending arrival of the Messiah (Jesus). It will include accompaniment from trumpet, flute, bass and piano. Musically, it is a light, lovely arrangement that will appeal to all ages. The composer and lyricists have cleverly integrated their original pieces with some familiar Christmas carols – a bit of the old blended with the new, and it works beautifully! Prepare yourself to be moved by this fresh approach to a very old story. For more information, contact Marina Zabinski, 726-5118.

Why we need you to make a pledge



Many thanks to the 92 households (at the time of writing) who have already made a pledge to financially support this church in 2009. We have over 300 households on our mailing list so we're hoping to receive many more pledges very soon. Our church is totally self-supporting—your pledges pay for the various programs and ministries here at BCCUCC, missions both locally and nationally, as well as the running and maintenance of the church buildings, and staff salaries. A per capita fee also goes to support our local RI Conference and the National UCC.

As Jeff so eloquently wrote in his opening letter on page one of this newsletter, our church needs to be more active than ever in the current economic climate when so many people are hurting and fearful. So please prayerfully consider how much you are able to pledge to financially support your church in 2009 so that our work together can continue and grow.

Our budget for 2009 will be based on the total amount pledged by the congregation, so please make your pledge as soon as possible so that the budget process can continue to move forward. Pledge cards should be filled out and returned either in the offering plate on a Sunday or directly to the church office.

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

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).



Did you have your picture taken?

If not, you have another chance.....

A number of people were unable to make the photo sessions so the photographers are offering two more opportunities to have your picture taken:

- Wednesday, November 12th 5—9 p.m. In studio photo session at the Back2Back photography studio in Somerset. There will be a seasonal backdrop for this session. This is by appointment only and can be booked by calling Laurie or Caroline at (508) 837-8427 after Nov. 4th.
- Sunday, November 16th 11:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m. Photo session at church. Call the church office to make an appointment (246-0111).

There is no sitting fee for the pictures to be taken, but you will have the option of purchasing pictures which will be available in time for the holidays.

If you'd like to see some of back2back's work, there's a poster up at church or go to their website at back2backphotography.com

We hope that our new photo directory will be a comprehensive reflection of our church membership so ask that as many people as possible get their picture taken. Thank you.



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

Calling all Artists!

Our current sketches of the front of the church are out-of date (we have a new sign and the area is more open now with fewer bushes). Is there an artist out there who'd like to do a new black and white sketch of the church (from any angle) that could be used as clip art? If so, please contact Christine in the church office. Thanks.



The calendar for November 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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The Women's Faith Group meets on Thursdays, **October 30th** (this was moved from November 6) and **November 20th** to finish their study of *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter* by Sue Monk Kidd and begin their study of *The Shack* by William P. Young.

Copies of *The Shack* have been ordered and will be available for purchase from the church office at the discounted price of \$12 each.

The group welcomes all women from BCCUCC as well as from other churches and faith traditions. For more information contact Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or chl2299@aol.com.



Those going to the Haitian Hoopla on **Friday, November 7th** invite the **Dine-Out Group** to join them.

See page 18 for details.

Call Helen Schall if you're interested 245-4724.

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In December the Dine Out group will eat at

Leo's Restaurant,
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.



The **Third Friday Bridge Group** will meet on

Friday, November 21st

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.

The Book Group

next meets on

Tuesday, November 18th
at **7:30 p.m.**

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

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book
The Quality of Life Report
by **Meghan Daum**

In this debut novel, Lucinda Trout moves from Manhattan to her new home in the Midwest, and what transpires is much more than a typical fish-out-of-water story. Real life turns out to be complicated, and Daum raises big questions in her bracing, funny novel.

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

All women are invited to a

WOMEN'S EVENT ON FRIENDSHIP

on Sunday November 16th
from 1—3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
cost \$10 per person



The event will include discussion of the book

“She Taught Me To Eat Artichokes” by Mary Kay Shanley

It is a delightful story about friendship. Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will lead us in discussion and Kathleen Larsen will lead us in discovering a very special treat.

It is suggested that participants read the book ahead of time. It can be purchased on line - Kathleen had great success getting a few used copies at a discount rate. Buy the book and share it with your friends, you will not be disappointed.

You are invited to bring a friend or two - and that could certainly include your Mom or your daughters.

Kathleen is selling tickets for this event at coffee hour for \$10 per person. ***Deadline for sign up will be Sunday, November 9th.*** If insufficient people sign up the event will not be able to take place.

If you have any questions please feel free to call or e-mail Kathleen at 247-1787 or KLarsenswc@hotmail.com

Calling all Knitters!!!

There seems to be some interest in revisiting Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you like to knit and would like to spend some winter evenings doing that with some friends from the church or community, please join Kathleen Larsen for an informational meeting on



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Thursday night November 13th at 7:00 PM
in the BCCUCC church library.

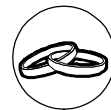
At that time we will see if there is any interest and set a good time, date and place to knit. Hope to see you there.

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

The Social Action and Justice Ministry Team invites the congregation, including our confirmands and their families, to attend the showing of a DVD and a discussion on the subject of

MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN RHODE ISLAND

Sunday, November 9th 11:30 a.m. Library



This is part of the sacred conversation that the United Church of Christ has challenged all churches to engage in around the UCC Resolution in Support of Equal Marriage Rights for All, that was adopted at General Synod 25 in Atlanta in 2005.

We will first watch a short film made by the UCC covering the biblical and historical background of the resolution, as well as the reaction of UCC members with a variety of beliefs. Our former pastor Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton makes an appearance. The film will be followed by a 30 minute discussion led by Helen Schall and other members of the team.

Chili and cornbread will be served. Please come join us and share in our journey of understanding.

Take Action on Climate Change

As Christians, we are called to be faithful stewards and caretakers of God's creation, and to pursue justice for our neighbors. The changing climate threatens to diminish the diversity of creation and further impoverish those already living in poverty. As the Presidential election approaches, we must tell Senators McCain and Obama what our priorities are in the struggle to limit the future impacts of climate change on God's Creation. The time to act to limit the impacts of climate change is running out. It is imperative for the next President of the United States to be a leader on this issue.

The National Council of Churches Eco-justice Program has put together an open letter to be delivered to the Presidential candidates shortly before the November 4th election. Their goal is to have 4,000 individuals sign on to the letter which can be found on-line at <http://www.nccecojustice.org/presidentialletter.html>

The open letter calls the next President of the United States to address the need for:

- strong emissions reductions to prevent the worst impacts of climate change
- financial assistance to low-income and working families to protect them from the rising cost of energy
- international adaptation assistance to help vulnerable nations and communities cope with the impacts of global warming.

Food Drive for TAP IN
October 26—November 23



The Social Action & Justice Ministry Team is sponsoring a food drive for the local food pantry at TAP-IN. There will be donation baskets in the Church School classrooms as well as a basket in the sanctuary. Please remember to deposit non-perishable food items and have your child do so as well.

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.

Your response to this food drive is more important than ever in these difficult economic times! TAP-IN has seen a huge increase in clients seeking help from them in the past year and the numbers are only expected to increase.

Additionally, TAP-IN is very low on king and queen sized bed sheets, cutlery, pots, and pans at the present moment. You are welcome to leave such items in the baskets as well.

The **AUTUMNAL MEETING** of the **RI Conference of the United Church of Christ**
will be held at

Seekonk Congregational UCC, 600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk
on **Saturday, November 15th**

“IMMERSED IN THE CULTURE”

Keynote speaker - Elizabeth C. Nordbeck

Moses Brown Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Andover Newton Theological School

Registration begins at 8 a.m. (a correction from the info in the RI Newsletter)

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and will end by 3 p.m.



To be “green” the Conference will not be mailing out to the churches and delegates the Official Call to the meeting with the registration forms and meeting information. Instead, it is up to those going to get the necessary information and registration form which was included in the “News in Rhode Island” section of the United Church News – or it will be on-line at the Conference website at www.ricucc.org. Registration forms are also available from the vestry table or the church office.

Registration is required. ***Deadline for registration is November 4th, 2008.***

Cost: \$18 per person (\$23 after November 4)

Visitors are also very welcome, but they also need to register ahead of time.

RIC-UCC Haitian Task Force presents

Haitian Hoopla III

*Raisin' a Little Cain
for Clinics and Schools in Haiti*

A Caribbean Evening of Cocktails & Entertainment!

Featuring a Live Haitian Band & Silent Auction

Enjoy Wine, Food Stations & Passed Hors d'Oeuvres

French Cuisine as prepared by **Jacques Sorci**
The Maitre Cuisinier de France at the Ritz Carlton NY

Friday, November 7th ~ 7-11 PM

Providence Marriott

Tickets: \$60

Checks should be made payable to 'UCC' and mailed to
United Congregational Church, Attn Janet Igo
524 Valley Road, Middletown RI 02842.

***Reservations with payment must be received by
Friday, October 31st.***

Questions? Call the conference office at (401) 724-7700

A group is going from BCCUCC. If you are interested in
joining them please contact Helen Schall at 245-4724.

A GREATER GIFT

Once again we will have an opportunity to purchase items from A Greater Gift. Through these purchases we are directly creating employment and training for artisans and farmers in 36 countries around the world. This income enables them to work their way out of poverty and to build better lives.

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

All orders need to be in to Helen by the end of November.



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).
- Once we've collected \$5,000 worth of receipts, we can submit them to Shaw's and receive 1% back for all eligible purchases!
- Keep bringing in your receipts. There's no limit to how many \$5000 bundles we can submit! The sky's the limit!!

Thanks to all who have brought in receipts—we've almost reached our first \$5000 bundle!



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 ***BUT FOR THE GRACE...***
by David Eliet; performed by Bob Jaffe.

In August 2005, on a commission from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, David Eliet conducted nearly 100 interviews with clients, volunteers and staff at food pantries across the state of Rhode Island. Some of these interviews took place in the state's more affluent communities where hunger can be as much of a problem as it is in the inner cities, especially among the elderly living on fixed incomes at a time when prices for everything from home heating oil to life sustaining medications are rising sharply.

Working with material gathered from these interviews, David wrote the script, *But for the Grace...*, which premiered September, 2007 to critical and popular success at Trinity Rep's Pell Chafee Performing Arts Center. Bob Jaffe, who portrays eleven different characters, was acclaimed for his fully realized and highly nuanced performance. On December 18th, selected scenes from the play were presented in a special half-hour broadcast on the NBC Southern New England affiliate WJAR. Additionally, the play has been touring throughout Rhode Island, and, most recently, at the New York International Fringe Festival.

On November 24th at 7:30p.m. at St. James Lutheran Church in Barrington, RI, as part of the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Bob Jaffe will be performing selected characters from *But for the Grace...* Rev. Liz Eide, pastor of St. James, said, "The Barrington Clergy Association is thrilled that Bob was available to bring this moving performance to our service. It's easy to get caught up in the "thanks" portion of the holiday and forget that we have been given so much *so that* we can share what we have – our very selves - and be a blessing to others. In difficult economic times we need to be community for each other in a deeper and more meaningful way. Relationships, especially those built within faith communities, have always been what sustained people in uncertain times. So we wanted to push ourselves to ponder the "giving" portion of the holiday this year, as that is where community is built, and Bob does that beautifully."

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

**Please bring a canned good so that we can fill the shelves of Tap-In in Barrington
before the hunger of the holidays sets in.**



Deadline for the December/January *Bridge*

The combined December and January *Bridge* will be mailed out before Thanksgiving. All material for inclusion will need to be in the church office by **Friday, November 14**. Information will need to be submitted for events happening in both December and January by that date. Thank you.

COTTAGE MEETING UPDATE

by Jeff Larsen

During January to March of 2007 our church family participated in a series of 12 official and several unofficial “Cottage Meetings” – small group discussions on the hopes and dreams of where our church might focus its energies in the coming years. Over 140 people took part in these conversations and a list of priority items evolved that has given direction to many of our Ministry Teams.

Your Deacons felt it was important to remind you of this process and bring us all up to date with actions taken as a result of this careful listening process. On the next page is the chart of prioritized items that we have been working with. The number of points any one item received was based on how many cottage meetings listed it as a priority and how high up the priority list(s) it appeared.

As you can see, the hiring of Elizabeth as our Associate Minister with primary responsibility in Christian Education and Youth Ministry, has been a huge step forward in meeting needs near the top of the list. Your Membership Team has been working hard at drawing in new members, making them feel welcome/valued. Building and Grounds has very intentionally been working on bringing our building up to new fire codes and our entire facility to excellent condition. The Deacons have been experimenting with alternative worship, supporting our Lay Ministry program, visitations and exploring ways of increasing our tolerance in views towards others – the latter along with our Social Action and Justice team.

As I look at the list I see that diversifying our music program and reclaiming the role of missions are areas still in great need. I invite you to examine the list and give feedback – specific suggestions are most especially welcome as to how we can continue to grow as a Christian presence in our community and world. Thanks for considering these things.

Priorities from Cottage Meetings	total points
Youth Programs, Education	34
Growing membership, especially younger demographic	21
Education for all - kids and adults	17
Participation - getting people involved	12
Ministry by congregation to each other, visits, outreach	8
Social Action, Justice	8
Review of Music Program, grow, diversify	7
Fellowship - small group activities and special events	7
Relevant sermons - address current events	6
Missions	6
Sense of Community - more welcoming	5
Christian Education/formation	4
Professional Christian Educator	4
Spiritual nourishment for adults	4
Increase community presence	4
Alternative service times and formats	3
Finances	2
Church Grounds and Facility	2
Missions	2
Staffing	2
Active programs for youth and adults	2
Good nursery program	2
Fire Code	2
Adult activities	2
Finding one's ministry	2
Accommodating hectic lifestyles	1
Volunteer Coordinator	1
Tolerance in views towards others	1
Fundraisers that build sense of community	1
More joyfulness	1
Build Endowment	1
More quiet, led, prayer time in worship	1
Open and Affirming Church	1
Improve Email Communications	1
Review process for funding Missions	1

A Message from Your Endowment Ministry Team

The recent severe drop in the stock market has caused many investors to question the wisdom of investing in stocks. The majority of the Endowment funds have been invested in CDs pending an investment policy and allocation of assets. While we know that we cannot time the market we are working to establish an investment plan that will benefit the Church with an increase in invested values and income.

In the early 1970s and 1980s stocks dropped close to 50% from their then highs. A trend line from 1929 to date shows that stocks have provided an increase in value with peaks and valleys along the way. Our funds have done well in this adverse market and we will continue to monitor the investments.

DEACONS FOR NOVEMBER

Mary Lou Slicker
(star deacon),
Van Edwards,
Lorraine Keeney,
Doug Roach,
Helen Schall,
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.

Letters from our mailbox



Dear BCCUCC members,

Thank you so much for contributing to our new classroom and resource library. Our 7th grade honors class made this card* for you as a thank you on behalf of the whole school.

This project exceeded all expectations and the community has been touched by the generosity of Americans.

Thanks again!

Love Kelsey

**The card and a photo of the class are posted on the board outside the church office. Kelsey Dennis is serving in the Peace Corps in Kyrgyzstan. The church held a Silpada jewelry sale to raise money to help fund her project there. More photos can be seen on Kelsey's blog at www.kyrgyzkels.blogspot.com*



Thank you for your continued prayers and support.
May Smith

Celebrating a new ministry...

The church has received an invitation to the ordination of Lynne McQuown to be held Sunday, November 9 in Albion, Michigan. Lynne is the wife of our former interim associate minister, the Rev. Dan McQuown. If anyone is interested in attending they should RSVP to (517) 629-6963. Cards may be sent to Lynne at 829 Hall Street, Albion, MI 49224

...and 50 years of ministry

Former pastor of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC (1972—1981) the Rev. James H. O'Brien will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a UCC minister on Sunday, November 9th, 2008 at 9:55 a.m. at Christ Church UCC, Brockton, MA.

We send our congratulations to both Lynne and Jim.

Congratulations...

...to **Gabi Sclafani** who received an honorable mention in the national "Letters About Literature" contest. She was awarded \$1000 from Target to donate to the library of her choice, which is Windmill School in Providence. Her letter is posted on the "Letter About Literature" website and can be accessed from www.ribook.org

... and to **Sara Clemens** for being named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Dick Fairfield has a new e-mail address:

rfairfield@fullchannel.net

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

Family Footnotes



May Smith, Vera Eaton, Dottie Butler, Bob Louttit, Diane Todd, Jane Cloutier, Larry Shaw, and Helen Schall's sister, Wynne Tripp.

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

Nancy Voigt on the death of her father, Arthur Verrier;
and to Gene Morrissette on the death of his wife, Edna.



Barrington Congregational Church
United Church of Christ.
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Fax: (401) 246-7825
e-mail address: office@bccucc.org
website: www.bccucc.org

November



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

Our Mission Statement

*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.*