

October 2008

THE WHITE CHURCH



Dear Friends,

Has September been a whirlwind for you too? Lots of stuff, lots of different directions...energy overflowing. It is wonderful.

I just wanted to remind all you “old timers” (those who have been in our building 5 or more times) that we have a lot of new faces in our midst these days. We need to be on our best behavior and we all need to extend ourselves to new faces. People will only come to a church a second time if they feel really welcomed the first time.

It may be of interest to you that studies show that the minister has little to do with getting people to come to a church in the first place. People come to church, for the most part, when they are personally invited by a person already active in the church. They need to be invited, sometimes even brought with you, sit next to you in the service and walk with you to coffee hour.

Ministers play a much larger role in making positive, affirming impressions once a person is here – but you need to get them here. By the time you read this, “Bring a Friend to Church Sunday” (September 28th) probably is past – did you do your part? A whole culture of welcome must reside in the hearts of a church for it to grow in numbers as well as faith. Much is going on here, exciting opportunities for all ages – share the news. And, by the way, that was a command from Jesus, not me.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff".

Several people have expressed interest in learning how to make “Nantucket” baskets and asked if I would teach. Anyone seriously interested please let me know (email would be helpful to jeff@bccucc.org)

Sunday Services in October



- October 5 10 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and
Installation of New Deacons, Church School
- October 12 10 a.m. Worship Service,
Church School for PreK—Grade 2 only
- October 19 *Stewardship Sunday* (see page 5)
10 a.m. Worship Service with Guest Preacher, the Rev. Kelly
Thibeault, Church School
12:30 p.m. Installation Service for the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum (see p. 4)
- October 26 10 a.m. Worship Service with Bells and the Sing and Celebrate
Choir, Church School

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Nursery Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

Clergy Away

The Rev. Jeff Larsen will be on vacation October 9—15.

DEACONS FOR OCTOBER

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

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.

Nursery Nook

Do you have a child that's suddenly gotten fussy during worship? There is an area downstairs in the Vestry called the "Nursery Nook", with two comfortable chairs and a basket of books and toys. There is also a speaker down in the vestry so it's a good place to retreat with a crying baby or child and still be able to hear the service.



The deadline for submission of articles to be included in the November *Bridge* will be Friday, October 17th.

From our Associate Minister



On the first day of church school this September, I had the chance to teach in the 8th grade classroom. I had a great time. They were thoughtful, spirited, and curious. The halls and rooms were buzzing with young ones and all the logistics of first day implementation were tended to compassionately and diligently by Andrea Bullard and the teachers and helpers on hand. Many thanks are due to all the volunteers, the entire CEYM Team, parents, and church school children and youth who showed up ready to immerse themselves in new experiences. Let's keep the momentum and cooperation going! It is just the beginning of a year that promises to continue to be abundant with fun and faith.

As I write this, the end of September is just around the corner. There have been so many things happening in the life of this church. If you are anything like me, it can be a challenge sometimes to remember what is at the core of what we are doing in the midst of all the items on our long to-do lists and the busy pace of autumn. I often have to remember to ask myself, "What are we attempting to do for 40-50 minutes in the education building on Sunday mornings?" After I facilitated a Godly Play training session and taught that 8th grade class last weekend, I also asked myself why I felt re-connected to the practice of teaching. While in those rooms, I was reminded that we are attempting to cultivate circles of curiosity. (If you haven't noticed yet, I love alliterations and use them often! They help me brainstorm, organize, and remember ideas.) This is one of the many things that we try to do – in the sanctuary, in the education building, during ministry team meetings - we are a community of Christians doing our best to cultivate a culture of curiosity (and care! and compassion too! I could keep going with 'c' words!). It may sound 'cheesy' but it is certainly helping me wrap my head around the countless tasks necessary to create safe and meaningful experiences for the children of this church. This congregation is blessed to be called to such a purpose and I feel blessed to be among you.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Elizabeth".

P.S. Update on 'Elizabeth's E-Letter' : For now, my plan is to tailor and send my occasional E-Letters to church school families (& any and all CEYM enthusiasts!), as well as to volunteers (teachers & assistants, storytellers & doorkeepers, chaperones, etc...) with CEYM programs. If you'd like to be included on one of these email lists, please send a message to elizabeth@bccucc.org.



Blessing of the Animals

All kinds of people and creatures are welcome

Sunday, October 5 at 4 p.m.

Terrace and Fellowship Hall

As an offering please bring a bag or can of pet food
for creatures in need.

All are invited to bring their pets and/or stuffed animals for a brief service of blessing and some playful games. You are also invited to dress up like your pet for the pet parade.

The event is hosted by the Junior PF.

JPFers are asked to please come at 3:45 p.m. to help with set up.

Installation Service for Rev. Elizabeth Barnum

Sunday, October 19, 2008

at Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.

10:00 a.m. BCCUCC Sanctuary

Worship Service with guest preacher, the Rev. Kelly Thibeault, Associate
Conference Minister

11:15 a.m.—12:15 p.m. BCCUCC Fellowship Hall & Outdoor Terrace

Coffee Hour, Light Luncheon Reception, and Harvest Activities for All Ages

12:30 p.m. BCCUCC Sanctuary or Terrace (weather and logistics permitting)

Service of Installation for the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum as Associate Minister

In addition to the BCCUCC congregation, all RICUCC Lay Members & Clergy are
invited and welcome to attend any & all activities.

Installation Gift for Elizabeth

In lieu of an installation gift, Elizabeth would like **Godly Play materials** donated to the
church school in her name. In particular she would like the materials for the "Faces of
Easter" story for the two Godly Play rooms. To make a donation toward their purchase,
please write a check payable to Barrington Congregational Church, with "Elizabeth's Gift"
on the memo line. Thank You.

A message from your Stewardship Team:

Hopefully you have all received your stewardship information packet in the mail and will have the opportunity to give it serious consideration. We are all aware of the economic challenges facing us this coming year...and the church is under serious challenge as well. But there are wonderful things going on in our church life - an infusion of energy in our educational programs, in Sunday morning attendance, in community outreach. It is important for us to do whatever we can to support our ministries in this time.

You are all invited to bring your pledge card to church on Stewardship Sunday, October 19 and bring it forward at the appropriate time so signify our common commitment to God's work in this place.



If you have any questions please contact a member of the Stewardship Team. If you did not receive a mailing please contact Christine at the church office (246-0111).

A message from the *Pastor Parish Relations Team*

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

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

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

Consider reading *The Bridge* on line

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

"E"NNOUNCEMENTS

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



More about Godly Play: Storytelling as Spiritual Formation

Teachers know that a good story makes listeners more receptive and inspires them to deeper and more personal learning. When the students are fully engaged in a lesson, teaching becomes a pleasure, rather than a challenge or a chore. In a Godly Play classroom, it is common to see all the children gathered in rapt attention as the storyteller invites them to enter into the story themselves. The storyteller uses handcrafted objects of great beauty and simplicity to focus attention on the central elements. In the process the story comes alive again in the children's experience, helping them to find meaning in their own living – in what happens at home, at school and in the larger world.

~by Kathleen Capcara from *The Complete Guide to Godly Play*

Godly Play happens on Sunday mornings in Rooms 5 & 7 for those in PreK, K, 1st and 2nd grades. To find out more about our church school programs, please speak with anyone on the CEYM Team or Andrea Bullard or Elizabeth Barnum after worship during coffee hour or contact one of them at the church office (246.0111).

CHURCH SCHOOL DISMISSAL PROCESS - NEW THIS YEAR!

When the children (pre-K through Grade 8) are invited to leave the sanctuary during the hymn after the Children's Time they should quietly assemble by class downstairs in the Vestry. They then go over to the Education Building as a class with their teachers.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Grade 9 & up



Confirmation marks the beginning of a journey toward adulthood in which an individual takes responsibility for shaping their own values and faith. They also discover how to express these values in daily life, affirming the vows of Baptism.

This year's Confirmation program is being co-facilitated by Jeff Larsen and Elizabeth Barnum, with support from parents & members.

The schedule of meetings for September and October is:

Sunday, September 28 th	11:30—12:30	This first meeting is for the 9th graders <u>and their parent(s)</u> and will be held in Room 6
Sunday, October 5th	11:30—1:00	A church history field trip led by Jeff Larsen
Sunday, October 26th	11:30—12:30	Confirmation Class in Room 6

If your child is a 9th grader and you haven't yet received an introductory letter and schedule of meetings, please contact Elizabeth Barnum at elizabeth@bccucc.org.

Teachers' Tea ~ Sunday, October 5th ~ 9:15 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.



All Church School Volunteers are invited to stop by the Education Building, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, meet with other teachers/volunteers, ask questions of Andrea and Elizabeth, share ideas, and gather resources. An informal & casual time to check-in with one another. Please join us.

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. Registration forms are available in church school classrooms, from the notice board outside Andrea's office, or from the church website www.bccucc.org



Help Wanted

Persons aged 18 or older to work in the Nursery on Sunday mornings.

We are also looking for youth in grades 9 - 12 to assist in all of the church school classrooms.



Anyone interested should contact Andrea Bullard at andrea@bccucc.org or 474 4722 to get a Volunteer Application Form.

I wonder...

Where did the resources go from the Resource Room ?

Since the renovation of office space, the many wonderful resources once in the Resource Room are now located in either the C.E. Assistant or Associate Minister's offices, the C.E. Closet, or in the relevant church school classroom. So please ask us if you are in search of something you found helpful previously from that room or if you are looking for a resource to help inspire you. We are here to help you find what you need.

Also, the furniture from the Resource Room has been relocated to Room 8. Please don't forget Room 8 when scheduling with the office staff an alternative space for a meeting. It is a lovely spot!

ATTENTION ALL CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS:

All volunteers working with our children (including all teachers and assistants) are asked to fill out and update the **BCCUCC Volunteer Application Form** to adhere to our Safe Church Policies. These are available from Andrea Bullard at the church office and are also available for downloading from the home page or CEYM page of the church website at www.bccucc.org.

Update on Church School Volunteers for 08-09 Program Year

The following individuals have volunteered to help with Church School programs in the upcoming year. Thank you so much!

Amy Gorman	Greg Voigt	Lynn Blanchard-Caesar
Andrew Lennon	Helen Schall	Mary DeWitt
Ann Wood	Holly Ogden	MaryLouise Gamache
Bev Travers	Kelsey Hoyt	Megan Hoyt
Bill DeWitt	Kerstin Caesar	Sandy Miniati
Camilla Hemingway	Kim Godfrey	Sara Clemens
Carol Strakosch	Kristen Westmoreland	Scott Clemens
Cheryl Muth	Laura Cook	Sharon Sylvester
Chris Brady	Laura Ward	Susan Rotblat-Walker
Debbi Summers	Lauren Browning	Susan Short
Emily Caesar	Laurie Dubel	Terrin Strickland
Francis Seader	Leslie Peck	Tom Odjakjian
Fred MacDonald	Leslie Strolla	Van Edwards
Gabi Sclafani	Lisa Browning	Zach Luther

& YOUR NAME HERE!!!!

We still need more helping hands to make Church School happen and accommodate teaching schedules.

Please contact Andrea Bullard (474-4722 or andrea@bccucc.org) or Elizabeth Barnum (246-0111 or elizabeth@bccucc.org) to be part of this teaching and learning community on Sunday mornings. You can volunteer for 1 or 2 or 3 months out of the year or decide to help out 1 or 2 or 3 Sundays a month. We're hopeful we can work around schedules but still provide meaningful programming for our children and youth. You can either be a core teacher or assistant or try both. Expect to learn and have fun.



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

Sun., October 5	3:45 p.m.	Blessing of the Animals (see page 4 for details)
Mon., October 13	Time TBD	JPF participates in Great Day of Service Contact Leslie Peck for more information
Sun., October 19	Afternoon Exact Time TBD	JPF Trip to Corn Maze
Sun., November 2	After church Time TBD	Autumn Hike and Picnic
Sun., November 16	4-6 p.m.	Games Night, Fellowship Hall
Sun., December 2	4-6 p.m.	Advent/Christmas-theme Service Project Details TBD

For more information on JPF activities, please contact Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net



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

Sunday, October 5th Meet at the church at **4:30 p.m.** after the Blessing of the Animals service and depart for Lazergate, Fall River, MA. Required: RSVP by Oct. 1, Permission Slip, and \$11.00 to play 2 games. We'll return to church by **8:00 p.m.** Email Elizabeth Barnum (elizabeth@bccucc.org) to confirm attendance & obtain permission slip. And for more information contact Kim Godfrey or Zach Arnold.

Friday, October 17th **7:00-9:00 p.m.** Movie & Discussion, Rooms 8 & 9

Stay tuned for information about November events - an evening of bowling and a Battle of the Bands are two events in the works!

For more information on SPF activities, please contact Kim Godfrey (Kim.Godfrey@cjca.net or 245-3924) or Elizabeth Barnum (Elizabeth@bccucc.org or 246-0111).



SHAW'S RECEIPT REWARDS PROGRAM

A fundraiser for our Christian Education & Youth programs.

How many of us shop at Shaw's Supermarket and throw away the receipt when we get home? Now, there's a way to use that receipt to make money for our Christian Education and Youth Ministries programs. We have enrolled in the Shaw's Receipt Rewards program and as a non-profit organization, we can submit Shaw's receipts to them, and they will send us 1% of the receipts value back to us! How easy is that!! 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 in advance for your participation.

Mission Trip 2009

April 14 -19, 2009

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

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

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

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

Please express interest of participation in the mission trip to elizabeth@bccucc.org

Registration information, cost of trip to participants, and exact dates to be announced as details develop.

Stay tuned for information about fundraisers – Battle of the Bands, Super Bowl Sunday, Pasta Dinner, and more!



Picture taking has begun.

Have you made your appointment yet?

We are using a different company - *Back2Back Photography*. They are shooting a less formal directory with the hope being to take many pictures outside by the terrace. 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

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.

The following dates and times are remaining for pictures to be taken:

Wed., Oct. 15 th	from 5:00 p.m.	to 9:00 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 18 th	from 9:00 a.m.	to 5:45 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 19 th	from 11:15 a.m.	to 5:45 p.m.

You will need to make an appointment and sign ups continue at coffee hour. You can also sign up at the church office by stopping by or calling 246-0111, or by e-mailing the church office at office@bccucc.org with your preferred time(s) and they will see what is still available. Sign up in 15 minute increments i.e. 11:15, 11:30, 11:45 etc.

We hope you will have your picture taken to be included in our new photo directory so that it will be a comprehensive reflection of our church membership.

Elevette Operators Needed



There are a number of people in our congregation who are unable to negotiate the stairs up to the Sanctuary on a Sunday morning. Instead, they use the elevette located at the back of the parlor to get from the vestry level up to the sanctuary level—and then use it to go back down again after the service. The elevette is operated from the outside and so volunteers are scheduled every Sunday morning to run the elevette for those who need it.

If you are interested in learning how to operate the elevette, so that you can be a part of this important ministry, please contact George Bolton at 245-3464. Currently, volunteers are scheduled about 5 Sundays a year. Thank you.



Extra Singers Needed for Cantata

On Sunday, December 7th, during worship, the adult choir will be presenting a special Cantata. We hope that many of you will join our regular choir members to make this an extra special event.

Beginning on October 1, the Wednesday evening, 7:30 PM, rehearsals will dedicate time at the beginning of their rehearsals for this piece – ANYONE is welcome to come and sing. No experience necessary!

The **Third Friday Bridge Group** will meet on **Friday, October 17th** 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.

At the time of writing, no information was available for the Dine Out group for October.



The Book Group

next meets on

Tuesday, October 21st at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot

501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

Running in the family

by **Michael Ondaatje.**

The Canadian poet and novelist recalls the checkered history of his family in Ceylon during the final heyday of Dutch and British colonialism.

2

The following month they will meet on **November 18th** to 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.



The Women's Faith Group...

...meets on Thursdays, October 2nd and 16th to begin their study of

The Dance of the Dissident Daughter by Sue Monk Kidd.

A couple of copies of the book are still available from the church office at the discounted price of \$11.20 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.

ATTENTION LADIES !

Please save the date of **Sunday afternoon November 16th** for a **Women's Event** at our church. We will read together and discuss 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.

Please plan to bring a friend or two and that could certainly include your Mom or your daughters. You can buy this book 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.

Kathleen Larsen will begin signups for this event in October at coffee hour.

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



Please make every effort to keep your 2008 pledge payments up to date.

Not sure where you stand?
Statements will be sent out in October.

Our church is self supporting and relies totally on your pledges and gifts, plus a small amount of endowment income, to support its mission and ministries, as well as pay its bills and its staff!



www.bccucc.org

The calendar for October 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
accessed either through the home page of the website or from
the calendar page.

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**4th Annual
Great Day of Service**
will take place
Monday, October 13
(Columbus Day)

You and I CAN change the world!

The Great Day of Service, sponsored by the Barrington interfaith organization Beyond Our Walls, is gearing up for its 4th annual Great Day of Service which will take place on **Columbus Day, Monday, October 13, 2008**. The day will provide an opportunity for people to come together to work side-by-side, assisting agencies and organizations in need of community service through a work project.

Last year over 500 volunteers participated at more than 20 different work sites, mostly in the East Bay area. From painting kennels at the SPCA to making and delivering pizzas to group homes; from sandwich making for the homeless to cleaning up trash at beaches and parks; and MUCH, MUCH MORE: that's what a Great Day of Service is all about.

This year's Great Day of Service is expanding into the Greater Providence area in addition to dozens of East Bay area sites. Providence work sites will include: the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity and Crossroads RI.

More information about a Great Day of Service, **online registration**, and a listing of all the volunteer sites can be found at www.greatdayofservice.com.

Register today and come help make a difference!

If you're not available to volunteer on October 13th, there are still ways you can participate:

1. **Bake cookies** Choose from Snickerdoodles, Shortbread Wedges or Blondies/ Congo Bars — recipes for these can be found on the vestry table. The baked cookies should be dropped off to the kitchen of St. John's Church on **Sunday, October 12th** between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All cookies will be delivered locally to public servants and a group home, or will be shipped to service men and women who are serving overseas.
2. **CARE for our Troops**. Donate much needed items to our troops serving overseas. A list of items follows. Donations must be received by Sunday,

October 12th and can be placed in the specially labeled box at the back of Fellowship Hall.

ITEMS FOR COLLECTION

Individual packets of crystal lite for single glassfuls

Coffee syrup [plastic bottles only]

Dunkin donut vacuum sealed coffee bricks [called samples] –brews 1 pot, may be purchased at retail stores

Individual snack bags of: nuts, trail mix, pretzels, cookies; also candy, beef jerky, gum, granola bars.

PLEASE NO TOILETRIES OR CLEANING PRODUCTS [LAUNDRY DETERGENT, ETC]

All are encouraged to submit names and current addresses of service men & women serving overseas in a war zone to BOW, PO Box 567, Barrington, RI 02806 or email to bryteyes5758@aol.com no later than Oct 10th.

4. **Make a donation toward the cost of shipping packages.** Checks should be made payable to BOW, Memo: Postage. Checks can be mailed to BOW, PO Box 567, Barrington RI 20806

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

...to Sue Simpson who did an awesome job of chairing the Auction Committee that made the event such a great success (see page 24 for an update and more thank yous)

...to Sheila Hutton who volunteered in response to the request in last month's Bridge and spent time updating our United Church News mailing list

...to the elevette operators—George Bolton, Dick Fairfield, Duke Faubert, John Faulhaber, Harold Gallant, Ron House, Bob Kaloostian, Carol Louttit, Helen MacDonald, Jan and Stew Morrison, and Bethia Rosner. Every Sunday one of them is always there to run the elevette for those who need assistance getting to the Sanctuary

...to the members of the Christian Education and Youth Ministries team for hosting Teacher Treats and the All Church Picnic on Rally Sunday.

...to all of the September church school volunteers—too numerous to mention in this space!

...to the entire congregation for their support, energy and patience as new curriculum is implemented throughout the entire Church School

...and to our anonymous benefactor who paid for the improvements to the area by the front entrance to the church (see page 22 for details).

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

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

Hurricane Katrina 3 Years Later

The following is an excerpt from a letter sent out recently from Rev. Shari Prestemon, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission

Back Bay Mission has worked hard to leave the refrain of Hurricane Katrina behind and embrace the future, in our language and in the spirit of our ministries. We have not been an organization that has dwelled on what we've lost. From the beginning, we have leaped forward in faith, trusting that God would show us the way, that God had a purpose and a path for Back Bay Mission still. We have been creative in our thinking, collaborative in our work, and committed to the cause of justice. We have expanded our capacity to serve and thus met the needs of thousands. We have restored and rebuilt homes. We have labored with nearly 5000 United Church of Christ volunteers to make a visible, transformative difference. And we have led the way on countless advocacy issues effecting the most vulnerable among us. I pray -- and I believe -- that we have been faithful.

Recovery Facts & Figures Three Years Later (Mississippi only)

- 27000 households still in FEMA trailers
- 3000 households in Katrina "cottages"
- 345 households live in hotel rooms
- 96% of pre-Katrina population is currently the census figure on MS Gulf Coast
- 13% of disaster funds have benefited lower-income storm victims
- 42% increase in average cost of a home on MS Gulf Coast from 2004 to June 2008
- March 2009 – date when all temporary housing programs will terminate

Our Faith Our Vote

As people of faith we are called to be engaged in the public arena we know as politics. For us, public policy decision-making is never merely politics. It is a way of living out the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves, because politics affects whether justice and opportunity are embedded into the institutions and laws that shape our society. When we doubt our place in the political process, we need only recall the words of Jesus that appeal to people to care for the common good and the well-being of our neighbor.

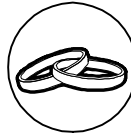
During the next weeks, the Social Action and Justice Team Ministry will have materials from the denomination's Justice and Witness Ministries available to the congregation to assist us in discovering ways to be involved in the political process while remaining non-partisan. We hope that you will look at them and see what works for you.

We will also assist in helping people get to the polls on Election Day. If you need a ride or other assistance, please call Ann Wood at 247-2325.

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.



On **Sunday, November 9,**
following worship,

your Social Action & Justice Team invites you to attend the showing of a DVD and a discussion on the subject of

“Marriage Equality in Rhode Island.”

This is part of the sacred conversation that the United Church of Christ has challenged all churches to engage in. Come and share in our journey of understanding.

“Fighting Poverty With Faith” Initiative

Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition members and partners, of which the Rhode Island Conferences is a member, have joined the coalition “Fighting Poverty with Faith” initiative. Drawing from our shared scriptures, we are working with over 30 local and state faith-based and community groups as well as 20 national faith-based organizations to combat poverty in America.

At the center of this effort is a simple question to be asked of individuals running for public office, *“What will you, as an elected official, do in your first 100 days in office to address poverty in America?”*

In a letter to candidates the group asks of them, *“We want to know your specific plans and policies. And, we want to know if you will commit to a specific goal; to cut poverty in half in the next 10 years. We are asking for your commitment because it expresses the importance and urgency of action. It also provides a standard against which we, as constituents, can measure progress. We are asking you to commit to this goal because an America in which poverty is cut in half is an America with more opportunity, a healthier population, less crime, more economic growth, a greater competitive edge, and more vibrant communities. We are asking you because as people of faith, we believe that confronting poverty in America is a moral imperative.”*

Candidates are asked to respond by September 25th and the results will be shared publicly in early October. Betsy Garland represents the RI Conference of the UCC in this effort.

Latest Information from the Community Soup Kitchen

The zoning issues have been resolved and the Community Soup Kitchen has moved back to Park Place Congregational UCC, 71 Park Place, Pawtucket.

Please note that volunteers are expected to **arrive by 3 p.m. at Park Place** as set-up takes longer than at the previous location. Everything has to be in place for the meal to be served beginning at 4 p.m.

We are also pleased to announce that **Diane Todd** and her son, **Drew Todd**, have volunteered to be the new Soup Kitchen Coordinators for BCCUCC (contact info. below).

BCCUCC is next scheduled to serve at the Community Soup Kitchen on **Saturday, October 18th**. The Membership and Nominating teams are responsible for providing the meal, but they welcome assistance from other members of the congregation. There are a variety of ways in which you can help:

- Provide a healthy 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 vegetable salads and dressing.
- Donate fresh fruit—bananas, oranges & apples are all popular.
- Provide granola bars or dessert.
- Serve at the soup kitchen—located at the Park Place Congregational UCC in Pawtucket. Volunteers carpool from BCCUCC at 2:30 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 2:15 and 2:30 p.m. All main dishes should be delivered to the church hot.



Congregation members willing to do any of the above should contact Diane or Drew Todd at (401) 245-4681 or you can e-mail Diane at diane.todd@verizonbusiness.com or Drew at todda09@bpsmail.org. Thank you.



ONGOING COLLECTIONS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Men's Clothing for *The George Hunt Help Center*, in Providence.

Men's shirts, jeans, trousers, jackets, hats, sweaters, shoes, sneakers, and belts are always popular—but all clean men's clothing in good condition is accepted—especially winter clothing. **Toiletries** are also always needed. *Collection box in the Vestry Hallway.*

Canned food items for *Tap In* located here in Barrington.

Collection bins in the Narthex (where the greeters stand). Alternatively, items can be dropped off directly to TapIn located in the basement of the library building on County Road. They are open 9 am—Noon, Mon—Fri.





One Mile Walk

Sunday, October 5, 2008

1 p.m. Registration 2 p.m. Walk Rain or Shine!

Colt State Park, Bristol RI

Question: What do Jews, Muslims, and all manner of Christians have in common?

Answer: They all think it's a good idea to help people in need.

Faith Walk for Charity exists in order to accentuate this common value. Started in 2006, Faith Walk for Charity each year selects a charitable cause and beneficiary to support here in Rhode Island. In 2006, the cause was homelessness in Rhode Island and all monies donated went to Crossroads, RI. In 2007, the cause was the hungry in RI; all donations were given to the RI Community Food Bank. This year, the cause is children who have been victims of domestic violence. All donations will be given to the RI Coalition Against Domestic Violence (to learn more go to www.ricadv.org).

For more information on how you can be involved, see the fliers on the vestry table or go to www.faithwalkforcharity.org.

Breast Cancer Walk

Sarah (Steger) Blair, daughter of Cindy Steger, is walking in the three-day Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walk in Atlanta, Georgia in October.

Anyone interested in supporting this important endeavor may do so online at: www.The3Day.org and going to "Donate Now" Search for Sarah Blair in Georgia.

Many thanks in advance for your support! *Cindy Steger*



Beyond Our Walls (BOW) sends volunteers from a number of different Barrington churches to volunteer at Habitat for Humanity 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 October 25, November 22 and December 27, 2008.

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. If you want more information about Habitat Providence, visit their web site at <http://www.habitatprov.org>

The Passion Play - Oberammergau, Germany - 2010

INFORMATIONAL MEETING



Since 1634 the citizenry of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany, have presented the Passion Play every ten years in gratitude for God protecting them from the plague. It has been a major point of pilgrimage travel and now Lynne Githens of Liberty Travel is organizing a trip for summer 2010, the next production. Jeff heartily recommends this as a very meaningful faith experience.

Three possibilities are being offered for your consideration:

- ten days that include time in Switzerland, Bavaria, and Austria (Sept 4-13, 2010);
- ten days that include city tours to Prague, Vienna and Budapest (May 20-29, 2010);
- twelve days that include the Dalmatian Coast, Medjugorje and Slovenia (May 26-June 6, 2010)

There will be a **slide show presentation** on **Tuesday, October 7th at 7:00 PM in Room 6** that is open to all interested people (the meeting and trip are open to the public).

For more information contact Lynne Githens at: 245-0800.

Update on the Front of the Church

The brick paved area in front of the church was recently increased in size. A very generous church member made this possible by paying to have the boxwood bushes moved and the new brick paving done (which included redoing some of the original paving). Opening up the area makes access into and especially out of the church a lot less congested. The donor wishes to remain anonymous but we thank them greatly and are very appreciative of their generosity.

Over the summer the Buildings and Grounds team has been working on the main entrance to the church. They will soon be installing new decking on the front steps and having new handrails installed. We thank them for all of their hard work on this project.

Contact us by e-mail

Church Office:
office@bccucc.org

Senior Minister
Jeff Larsen:
jeff@bccucc.org

Associate Minister
Elizabeth Barnum:
elizabeth@bccucc.org

Office Administrator
Christine Wallis:
christine@bccucc.org

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

Christian Education Assistant
Andrea Bullard:
andrea@bccucc.org

The Deacons' Fund

As Treasurer of the Deacons' Fund, I was pleased to see that not only did donations not drop off as much as I expected this summer, but it was reassuring to see a healthy increase in receipts from our first Communion Sunday of the new church year. The Deacons are concerned, however, that we are looking forward to a long, cold winter and that there may be more calls than ever for assistance in the coming months. As a result we decided to include Deacons' Fund envelopes in this month's *Bridge* not only as an extra opportunity to contribute to the Deacons' Fund, but also to increase your support for this important mission of our Church.

One final point – I am surprised that so few of you donate by means of a check. I raise this point only because donations to the Deacons' Fund are fully tax-deductible and a cancelled check should provide you with the proper documentation to help yourself out at tax season. That doesn't mean that we do not appreciate the loose bills and change that make up the overwhelming majority of donations to the Deacons' Fund – we most certainly do – and they are needed now more than ever.

Van Edwards, Treasurer, BCCUCC Deacons

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 ” after church on **Sunday, November 2nd**

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. 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.



**PUTTING
OUR FAITH**



**INTO
AUCTION**
**was a
big success**

Putting Our Faith into Auction 2008

Putting Our Faith into A(u)ction is now just a memory but what a great memory it is! With help from dozens of people, the event was a tremendous success. Over a year ago, when a small group of us agreed to help plan the auction, we had one primary goal. That was to have a great time together filled with fun and fellowship. While working on the auction, new friendships were formed, old friendships strengthened, and a great party was enjoyed by over 250 people. And along the way, we raised a lot of money!

A huge thank you is owed to many people who worked tirelessly to make the auction a huge success. Barbara Smith ably aided by Maureen Jean found a great caterer as evidenced by the delicious food served on Saturday night. What a great spread that was! Bernie Hawes was our Donation Chair extraordinaire! A huge and wonderful variety of donations was available for bidding. She wrote most of the descriptions for the terrific catalog that was put together by Bev Travers. The hospitality of Sue and Steve Terhune to give us the use of their boatyard for the evening was terrific. What a perfect place for so many of us to gather. Kathleen Larsen and Sue Seader were always willing to write yet another article for the Bridge or make one more announcement on a Sunday morning. Our three auctioneers, Peter Weldy, Zoe Woodruff, and Caroline Halliwell, entertained the crowd while entertaining great bids. Pat Stoddard and Christine Wallis were appreciated for their help in the office taking our reservations and offering suggestions along the way. Thanks also to Abby Randazzo, Lois McCartney, Carolyn Faulhaber, Carol Louttit, Jay Buckley, Keith Strickland, Susan Black, Helen MacDonald, Jean Arnold, Susan Roach, Kate Colby, Tom Strolla and so many, many more of you who helped in ways too numerous to mention! And, as always, we value the continued encouragement from both Jeff and Elizabeth.

Most importantly, I want to thank each of you who made a donation to the auction, worked on one of our many sub-committees, or came to the auction! We hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did. We don't have a full tally yet of how much we earned as we are still doing some final counting but we expect that our net amount will be over \$17000!

Thanks to all!
Sue Simpson, Auction Chairperson

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





All are invited to the

Leadership Training Day hosted by the RI Conference, UCC

Saturday, October 18 9:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Woodridge Congregational Church, 546 Budlong Road, Cranston

The event is FREE - just bring a bag lunch and plan for a day of learning and sharing.

There will be special programs for:

Moderators—an exploration of the role of moderators and pastors and how they relate to one another; techniques to make meetings run more smoothly; and issues that may arise.

Treasurers—updates on Conference programs to assist local churches; new and revised tax regulations; liability and insurance issues; and fire code issues.

Deacons—what it means to be a deacon; and how differently churches approach the duties of the diaconate.

Christian Educators—will begin the day with a Safe Church 101 Workshop* and end the day with an “Advent Planning Party”. So be sure to bring your ideas for the Advent season to share with one another.

**Note: All volunteers who work with children at BCCUCC are encouraged to attend a Safe Church Workshop this program year. If you haven't attended a Safe Church workshop recently and are unable to attend this one, another is being scheduled for later in the winter.*

Registration forms for this event are available on the vestry table, outside the church office or you can register online at www.ricucc.org

Mark your calendar...

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**

(this is a couple of weeks later than usual)

Keynote speaker - Elizabeth C. Nordbeck
Moses Brown Professor of Ecclesiastical History
at Andover Newton Theological School

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, is a “**5 for 5 Congregation**” of the United Church or Christ which means that we support

1. Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support

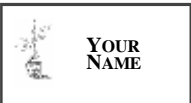
as well as the following Special Mission Offerings of the UCC

2. Neighbors in Need

3. One Great Hour of Sharing

4. Christmas Fund

5. Strengthen the Church



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

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

Book Exchange Cart in Fellowship Hall

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



Help keep us informed



If you or a church member you know is ill, in the hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit of any kind, please let us know. You can call the church office at 246-0111 or contact Jeff or Elizabeth directly at 246-0111 (ext 103-Jeff or ext 104-Elizabeth) to leave a confidential voice message, or e-mail them at jeff@bccucc.org or elizabeth@bccucc.org.

Are You in Need of a Handyman?

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

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



Can't make it to church?

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

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

- August 31 – 57
- September 7 – 199
Rally Day
- September 14 – 199
- September 21 – 176

WORTH REPEATING!

It really is possible to be allergic to church! 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.

Goodbye

We recently said goodbye to another long time church member, Lillian Awde, who has been a member here since 1964. She is moving to be closer to her daughter. We wish her every happiness in her new home at:

207 Linden Ponds Way,
Apt. # PC 520
Hingham MA 02043

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 be sure to let the church office know of meetings or events that you schedule so that they can be included on the church calendar.

Family Footnotes



Congratulations to . .

**Annie Colella and James Everson
married September 20, 2008**



BIRTHS

Connor Michael Kaloostian

born August 30, 2008
to Michael and Leslie Kaloostian
Grandparents: Bob and Sally Kaloostian

Christopher John (CJ) DiPierro, Jr

born September 16, 2008
to Chris and Jill DiPierro
Grandparents: Gail and John DiPierro
Great-grandparents: Dick and Flo Fairfield



May Smith, Vera Eaton, Dottie Butler,
and Sandra Blacketor (May Smith's
daughter and Bob Mason's sister).

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



Lisa Lipscomb on the death of her father,
Albert Allen.

IN MEMORIAM

A bench on the East Bay Bike Path was recently dedicated by the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum in memory of Paul Kneeland who died earlier this year. Paul was the husband of Janet Gausland.

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

*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.*

October
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