

THE WHITE CHURCH



BRIDGE

April 2009

Dear Friends,

April is always the month when a sudden turn in tone happens throughout the church. We go from the minor-key, winter-mood of Lent into Easter, Confirmation Sunday, Mission Trip happening, opening our doors to a completely renovated church library and lots of other things. We have the annual church clean-up day which symbolizes the coming of spring and warmer breezes for body and soul. I hope you get infected by the spirit!

As a kid growing up in Lexington, MA April always meant Patriot's Day, Paul Revere's arrival through town at noon and lots of parades and parties. After Kathleen and I got married and had our first little cottage on a lake April meant going up and turning the water back on, seeing if the pump would prime for one more year. And all my life the coming of April has meant we are closer to being able to get to Maine.

I always think April is a great time for yard sales – having them, not going to them. I swear we could have one every April with all the stuff we seem to collect the rest of the year. Even the office staff is becoming wary when I try to extend my spring cleaning to things around here. And then there is the ritual of trying to get the lawn mower to turn over and remembering all my good intentions of having it serviced during the winter instead of waiting until now.

So welcome to new life! May these next weeks awaken you from the doldrums. Listen not only for the singing of the birds returning, but for the crack of the bats on the baseball diamonds, the breaking of the waves for those who have been away from the beach all winter, and the complaints that will come soon about it being too hot.

All in a New England season. Thanks be to God for how blessed we are!



Sunday Services in April



April 5 10 a.m. **PALM SUNDAY** (see page 4)
New Member Sunday
Worship Service with Communion and Reception of New Members, Church School

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

April 12 **EASTER**
6 a.m. Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, Osamequin Point
9:15 a.m. Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Children's Choir,
Easter Activities for PreK-2nd Grade (see p. 6)
11 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care only

April 19 10 a.m. Worship Service with Bells, Church School

April 26 *Confirmation and Mission Trip Sunday*
10 a.m. Worship Service with Confirmation,
Church School for PreK-2nd Grade only.

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Handicapped Accessible

Nursery Care Available

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

CLERGY and STAFF AWAY

Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will be away on the Confirmation Retreat Fri & Sat, April 3 & 4, and will be away on the Mission Trip Mon., April 13—Sat., April 18.

Rev. Jeff Larsen will also be away on the Mission Trip Mon., April 13—Wed., April 15.

Christine Wallis will be away from April 1—11.

The church office will be closed on Mon., April 13.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

February 22 – 168

March 1 – 145

March 8 – 156

March 15 – 216

From our Associate Minister



A Sunday at BCCUCC... The organ played. Old friends greeted one another upon entry. We stood in song. New visitors raised their hands. The bell choir rang. Then I got to go next door! As much as I truly enjoy worship, I also feel very lucky when I get to spend a Sunday morning in the Education Building – whether for a recent Lenten-themed discussion on the topic of cheating with an insightful, thoughtful group of 6th and 7th graders or a Godly Play session. On this particular Sunday morning, I was assigned the role of storyteller in the PreK/K room. It was the third week in the Lenten series called *The Faces of Easter*. Three stories were told: (1) Jesus’ birth & growth, (2) Jesus is lost & found, and (3) Jesus’ baptism & blessing by God. Wood plaques with images of each story were placed alongside one another on a purple underlay. At the end of the story, the storyteller invites the children to look around the room and bring any other materials forward that help tell more of the story. The children, one-by-one, brought forward the cruet and baby doll from the baptism basket, the baby from the nativity set, then a white candle. Then we began the “wondering time.” We wondered if anyone in the room had ever been baptized. Next we wondered if anyone in the room had ever been lost and found (one child exclaimed that GPS helped their lost parents find their way home). Then we wondered if anyone in the room had ever been born. Each of us raised a hand or nodded, “yes.” Then one child exclaimed, “The whole world was born!”

Their “work time” began with a pair working on a puzzle together and a group of several children playing in the “desert box” with the “people of God.” They created quite the sandstorm so first they had to be led to go wash their hands. They gathered back in a circle for the “feast time” each saying an “Amen” before sharing juice and crackers. As one child slowly dunked each cracker into the juice before eating, the doorman noted, “It looks like he’s doing intinction.”

The morning continued on into coffee hour and I asked another teacher how class went. She responded, “We are on the path to enlightenment.” And another group had finished painting large boxes that they hope to fill with food for Tap-In and H.O.M.E. An adult education group gathered again for a DVD & discussion, while a group of dedicated parents were already starting to prepare in the kitchen for that evening’s pasta dinner fundraiser for the Mission Trip. There is a great group of young people and adult leaders preparing for a truly unique mission experience. We look forward to sharing about our journey upon return.

This is just one snapshot of what Sunday mornings are like here at church: a place that celebrates all ages, a place where the community is fed, where stories are shared, where “wondering” is encouraged, and where each step along the journey is valued.

This April, I hope that each of us, as seekers on the path, can exclaim the same words that young child did “the whole world *is* born!” I hear the Easter message in that exclamation – an enduring promise of rebirth.

What are some snapshots of your Sundays here at church? Any hints of Easter joy?

Peace,



PALM SUNDAY—APRIL 5TH



Holy Week begins with the **Palm Sunday Service** at **10:00 a.m.** and the green eco-palms—the same as used for the first time last year—will be distributed. This is also New Member Sunday so in addition to communion there will also be the reception of new members.

All Church School children are asked to meet in the Vestry below the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. to practice the prayer “You Feed My Soul” for that morning’s Children’s Time. They will then attend the beginning of the worship service for communion and leave for church school classes following the children’s message.

2

HOLY WEEK MORNING REFLECTIONS MONDAY APRIL 6TH — FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

7:00—7:15 a.m. each morning in the Sanctuary during Holy Week. During this time of reflection Jeff Larsen will give a word for the day, provide coffee, and will finish in time for you to head off to work or school. All are welcome to come for this ‘quiet time’ at the start of their day.

2

MAUNDY THURSDAY—APRIL 9TH

A **Tenebrae Service** will be held in the Sanctuary at **7:00 p.m.** The deacons and clergy will lead this worship service in which the story of Jesus’ passion and suffering will be read, with candles extinguished one by one. The service also includes communion and music. All are invited to deepen their experience of the resurrection by living through the passion and death of Christ in this contemplative service.



Please note that a Seder Meal will not be held this Maundy Thursday as all were invited to attend the Interfaith Model Seder at Temple Habonim on March 26.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 10TH

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



10:00—11:00 a.m: **An Ecumenical Good Friday Family Experience** will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, 49 Middle Highway, Barrington.

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

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



2

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES—APRIL 12TH



Easter Sunday begins with a **6:00 a.m. Sunrise Ecumenical Communion Service at Osamequin Point*** off the Wampanoag Trail, sponsored by several of the Barrington churches. All are invited.

*located 1.1 miles north of the church on the Wampanoag Trail (Route 114).

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

During the 9:15 a.m. service only, Easter activities will be provided for children in PreK—2nd Grade.

Nursery care will be provided at both services.

Parents—please see the article on the next page for further details.



What Parents Need to Know About Easter Sunday

9:15 a.m. service

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for children in PreK – 2nd grade. Children are invited to bring a small basket for collecting eggs. Weather permitting, this will be an outside event. Please have your child dress appropriately.

- Nursery care will be provided for 0 – 3 year olds.
- Pre K – 2nd grade go to the service with their parents, participate in the Children's message, and then leave with members of Junior PF for the egg hunt.
- All other children (except members of Junior PF) will remain in church with their parents.



11:00 a.m. service

- Nursery care only. There are no special activities for children.

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

Parents please note the following schedule changes for Church School in April....

Sunday, April 5th *Palm Sunday*

All Church School Children are invited to please meet in the vestry below the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. to practice the prayer "You Feed My Soul" for that morning's Children's Time. Please speak with Andrea or Elizabeth if you have any questions.

Sunday, April 12th *Easter Sunday* (see above)

Sunday, April 26th *Confirmation and Mission Trip Sunday*

Children in grades 3 – 8 are asked to remain with their parents in the sanctuary for the entire service. There will be Godly Play for children in Pre K – 2nd grade. Nursery care will be provided as usual.



The Chancel team is in need of some extra communion linens and is asking the congregation for donations of tea size linen squares for use on the communion table to cover the plates, and a small one to cover the chalice. Please contact Carol Louttit if you can help 245-2299 or chl2299@aol.com

Help Beautify Our Sanctuary for Easter



We invite you to make a donation to our new

Chancel Fund

Money donated to this fund will be used to help beautify the Sanctuary – including the purchase of spring flowers to decorate the church this Easter.

You are invited to make a donation in any amount, large or small.

Donations to the Chancel Fund may be made in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for, or celebration of, someone or something (a person, birthday, anniversary, etc). All dedications will be listed in a special insert to be included in the Easter bulletins.

Different from previous years, all of the Easter plants from the sanctuary will be taken down following the 11 a.m. service, and delivered to the homebound, sick, or recently bereaved from our congregation. Please note that, unlike in the past, plants will not be available to be taken home.

Please complete the donation form on the next page and return to the church office with your donation by **Monday, March 30th**. Alternatively, the completed form and donation can be put in the offering plate on Sundays or left with a member of the Chancel Ministry Team who will be at the piano in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour following Sunday services.

Thank you for your donation.

see next page for Donation Form

Chancel Fund Donation Form

Easter 2009

***Please read carefully all of the NEW INFORMATION on the previous page
before filling in the donation form below.***

I would like to donate \$ to the Chancel Fund.

Donations are welcome in any amount.

Please make checks payable to 'Barrington Congregational Church'
and mark the memo line "Chancel Fund".

Please put the following dedication in the Easter bulletin insert:

Given by
(please print clearly)

In memory of
.....

In thanksgiving for
.....

In celebration of
.....

Please complete & return with your donation by Monday, March 30th

Thank you for your donation.

Lenten Prayer & Meditation Group Study continues during Lent



March 25	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Centering Prayer
April 1	7:00 – 9:00* p.m. * extended session	Labyrinth as Prayer Guest Facilitator: Kelly Thibeault
April 8	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Journaling as Prayer

Sessions begin in Room 6 and will be facilitated by Elizabeth Barnum

There are several sessions remaining in this 4-week series and you are welcome to join in mid-way through, or come for just one session.

Please RSVP to elizabeth@bccucc.org or call her at 246-0111 ext. 104 by the Monday before each meeting so she can plan accordingly. Thank you!



The first two sessions of the *LIVING THE QUESTIONS* adult education program went well and we are continuing the series. Each session includes a 20-minute DVD segment that includes a variety of voices on each theme, then follows with discussion and concludes with prayer. Optional take-home readings are also available.

The program is divided into three sections:

(1) Invitation to Journey, (2) Reclaiming the World, and (3) Call to Covenant.

The first two sessions we participated in from section 1 were: “Lives of Jesus” and “A Passion for Christ: Paul”.

The next four sessions from Section 1 will include:

March 22nd: An Invitation to Journey & Taking the Bible Seriously

March 29th: Thinking Theologically

April 5th: Stories of Creation

Gather in **Room 8** between 11:15 and 11:30. Sessions begins at **11:30 a.m.** and conclude at approx. 12:30 p.m.

Please stay tuned to announcements in Wednesday email, weekly bulletin, and next Bridge for further dates and times. Facilitators will rotate between sessions. Speak with Elizabeth Barnum if you have any questions.

WELCOME TABLE



Be sure to stop by the Membership Team's new "Welcome Table" at coffee hour in the coming weeks to meet new friends and catch up on church events. If you are new to our church family we especially hope to see you there – a team member will be there to assist you, answer questions, or help with such things as getting a new nametag. Look for the "Welcome" banner.

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC Minutes of the Annual Budget Meeting held January 25, 2009

Article I: The meeting was called to order at 11:02AM. After Moderator Strolla offered a prayer, the Warrant was read.

Article II: After the Budget was presented, the meeting was opened up for discussion. The 2009 Budget is a deficit one, as was last year's. It was mentioned that pledging went up for 2009. A "100% pledge" campaign is underway specifically targeting members and friends who do not pledge. It is hoped that these people will at least be able to contribute towards the per capita support that our church sends to the RI Conference. Investment income is down and healthcare costs have gone up and the church is faced with addressing these factors. Many ideas were exchanged as to how we might trim the deficit. We need a more "formalized" Stewardship Team. Last year's drive was run mainly by the Senior Minister and this should not be the case in the future. At this point, many members volunteered to make follow up calls for the "100% campaign". The Financial Secretary recorded their names. The Church Council has recommended that our support of OCWM be reduced. There was a motion made to approve the budget, which was seconded. Then there was a motion made to amend the budget to restore \$3.5K of the \$7K that had been cut from OCWM. That motion was defeated and the budget was passed as presented with two dissenting votes.

Article III: There was motion made (and passed) to review the budget status prior to the May meeting and to place on the Agenda the possibility of restoring the \$7K cut from OCWM support. Voting on the new By-Laws will also be an agenda item for the May meeting.

Article IV: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and moved.

Respectfully submitted, *Barbara Wuth*, Clerk

***A Message from your new Stewardship Team Co-Chairs,
Lisa and Chuck Bohner . . .***

“Mom, how much does it cost to go to church?” - *Katie, age 7*

“The price is not measured in money.” - *Mom*

“But seriously...it must cost something?” - *Calvin, age 9*

A month before Tom Strolla asked us to join the Stewardship ministry team, our daughter Katie posed her question. It sparked a wonderful discussion about how it really doesn't cost anything to walk into the church on Sunday morning and find a seat, sing some songs, listen to the sermon, maybe talk to someone after church at coffee hour. We spoke about faith, being open to really listen, being present with everyone, praying together.

Then Calvin asked his question.

Ah, while you can't really put a price on “going” to church, you can put an exact amount on how much it costs to run our church: what is a “fair” amount; how do you calculate it; discussion of equality and need, locally and in our wider church community. They were quick to see how someone who needs the church the most (in any of its forms), may not be able to pay anything. They both thought it was neat to have everyone pay what they felt was right for them, even when I cautioned that when you give people that freedom, you don't always get enough to cover your costs. What do you do then?

100% Pledge Participation Challenge Update:

Great news! More members and friends have stepped forward to make a pledge, bringing our current participation to 57% of active households. Thank you to everyone willing to make a formal commitment of financial support to our church's operations. You recognize that during these challenging times our community relies on BCCUCC more than ever. You know that we are working hard to stretch our resources and further cuts are being considered. We hope that more of you will take the challenge - and it's not just for members. Make a bold statement that you too feel that funding the church is a priority; no amount is too small.

Did you know?

- It costs about \$1,057 annually per member to operate the Church.
- After salaries, our highest operating expense is heating oil, budgeted at \$17,000 for 2009.
- The church pays a per capita fee of \$18.50 per member, whether they have pledged or not.

If everyone who hasn't pledged yet were to make a pledge of \$7.00 (less than an adult movie ticket) per week we would eliminate our current \$46,609 budget deficit.



Food Collection for Tap-In and h.o.m.e.

*Lend your joy to all our giving, Let it light our pilgrim way;
From the night of anxious keeping, Loose us into generous day.*

~ From the New Century Hymnal "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

On so many Sunday mornings, what a sight it is to see so many carry in canned goods and non-perishable food items to share with others. The Super Bowl Sunday collection is just one indication of the very generous spirit of this community of faith. We have the same opportunity throughout the end of Lent & Easter.

The JPF youth group and the Simply Serving church school class are asking the congregation to help them collect canned goods & non-perishable food items. You'll see two very large painted boxes in the foyer of the education building in which to place your donations.

The donations will be shared with Tap-In here in town and also with h.o.m.e. in Orland, Maine (see page 13). The Mission Trip group will take some of your food donations with them to give to h.o.m.e. as a food offering upon arrival to help restock their pantry.

Thank you for sharing! ***Please bring your food donation by Sunday, April 12th.***

Our Whole Lives is a series of **sexuality education programs** for four age groups across the lifespan. Written by professional sexuality educators, the programs provide accurate information for parents, teachers and pastors to use with children and young people to help them learn about sexuality in the affirming and supportive setting of our churches. *Sexuality and Our Faith*, written by United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist Association members, is the accompanying resource used for each of the grade groups in the church setting. Each of the grade level resources has separate sections devoted to UCC and UUA faith traditions. By using *Sexuality and Our Faith*, leaders integrate worship, prayer and discussion of United Church of Christ faith values and principles into the programs for each age group.



Please speak with Jeff Larsen or Elizabeth Barnum if you have an interest in seeing this program offered in our church and/or if you are interested in being a trainer. There is a possibility that the Rhode Island Conference U.C.C. will be hosting a 3-day training later this year but we need to first discern if there is an interest within this congregation.

4-20

Do you know the significance of these numbers? Check out the Parenting for Prevention Tip #7 posted outside the church office and in the foyer of the education building. The answer may surprise you!



**Mission Trip 2009
to h.o.m.e. in Orland, Maine
April 13- 18, 2009**

"If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together." -Lilla Watson

"Come On In And Be Yourself at H.O.M.E."

h.o.m.e. is a cooperative community dedicated to economic and social reconstruction. It began in 1970 in rural Maine as an outlet for home workers crafts. h.o.m.e. has expanded to include a free health clinic, soup kitchen, food bank, homeless shelters, a learning center with daycare, literacy and GED tutoring, house construction, alternative high school and college-level programs; job and craft training; pottery, leather, wood, and weaving shops; recovery barn, greenhouses and farmers' market; sawmill and shingle mill. ~ from the h.o.m.e. website

A group of ten youth participants and five adults will be traveling to Orland, Maine for a week in April to serve, learn, and share with the community of h.o.m.e. We are very excited! Our work will vary and we're told to be ready for anything from shingling a house, clearing brush, mucking out stalls, working on the farm, or helping at the soup kitchen or food bank. We hope to host a community dinner during our time there. We're also hoping to plan an afternoon mid-week trip to Acadia National Park. We ask that the BCCUCC community keep us in your prayers during April and we thank you for your fundraising support throughout the year. We'll be eager to share our experiences upon our return.

Mission Trip Meeting - Sunday, April 5th 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Room 6

Parents are asked to join us & we'll be having another guest join us to speak about their experience at h.o.m.e. All participants and parents: please refer to previous emails and postal mailings for all the details about the trip.

PLEASE CAN YOU LEND US SOME TOOLS?

Do you have any of these items in your toolbox or garage that the Mission Trippers could borrow for a week (April 13-18)? We need several of each. Please contact Elizabeth Barnum at elizabeth@bccucc.org or 246.0111. We need these items *by Easter Sunday, April 12th*.



12-25 foot metal tape measures hard hats (5-6 total)
hammer holsters
extra pairs of strong work gloves (not garden gloves)



The calendar for April 2009
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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JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (JPF)

All youth in grades 6-8 are invited to participate

Friday, April 10th (Good Friday): JPF meets from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. for afternoon snack and preparation of Easter Egg Hunt. Meet in Room 6.

Sunday, April 12th (Easter): 9:15 a.m. Service. JPF helps hide Easter Eggs.

Saturday morning, April 26th: Celebrate Earth Day by participating in the Church Clean- Up Day (see page 22). Watch your e-mail for details. RSVP by April 20th

If an RSVP is requested, please do so to Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net. Please note that if insufficient RSVP's are received by the deadline, the activity may be cancelled!

Make a note in your calendars of these upcoming JPF activities.....

Friday, May 8th: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. JPF Dinner & Program (prepare something special for Mother's Day). Meet in Room 6. RSVP by May 4th

Sunday, May 17th: Mini golf and ice cream. RSVP by May 11th.

Sunday, June 7th: After church: JPF Picnic & Hike. Details TBA.



Another Name Change for the Shaw's Reward Program!

And if you've been issued a new Shaw's card you will need to sign up again (sorry about that L)

The program has changed its name—yet again!—and is now **Shaw's Community Rewards**. In addition, the Barrington Shaw's has been issuing new shoppers cards to everyone so if you signed up with your old card you are going to need to sign on again with your new card!!! The procedure is just the same as described in the March *Bridge*: To register your card go on line to shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards and follow the prompts. When you get to "sign me up", enter the BCCUCC's Neighborhood rewards number (**49001019287**). Finish following the prompts and then click on the "exit" sign. You are registered!

If you do not have computer access, the office will register your card. Just let them know your 12 digit Shaw's card number (below the bar code on the back) and your 10 digit phone number and they can register your card for you. Or stop by the church office with your card.

And remember—Shaw's only contributes 1% of the value of your purchases to BCCUCC when you shop on **Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday**—so do your shopping mid-week!



TEN BEST WAYS FOR PARENTS

of children in the Godly Play program here at BCCUCC

adapted from the *Complete Guide to Godly Play*

1. Godly Play sessions take place during most Sunday mornings after the Children's Time in worship.
2. Please help your children be on time to Sunday mornings at church. They won't want to miss a minute! After Children's Time in Worship, they'll gather in the vestry downstairs and the doorman and other volunteers will help children move to the Education Building.
3. The Godly Play circle is built slowly and lovingly, to welcome each child, one at a time. When children arrive, they wait outside the door while the teacher helps them get ready to join the circle.
4. Please say your goodbyes at the door; and know that the teachers (the storyteller & doorman) are ready to make the session a safe and welcoming time for every child.
5. When you pick up your child at 11:10, keep in mind that young children will not always be able to tell you what they learned, because what they learned was *how* to learn about the powerful language of the Christian people.
6. Always keep in mind that children will not always be able to show you a physical product for their "work" that day, because some of what they learned cannot be put into words even by adults. In Godly Play, we focus on our relationship with God and the depths of relationship in the community of children.
7. Please don't come into the room during class because we want the Godly Play room to be a special place for the community of children. Even the teachers keep their profiles low during a Godly Play session! We also appreciate adults being mindful of not disturbing the class by peering into the windows or entering the room while the session is being brought to a close.
8. We would be happy to welcome you on a visit to the Godly Play rooms outside of session time. Call us at 246.0111 to arrange a visit or to ask any questions you might have about the program.
9. We welcome volunteers to support the teachers and the community of children by providing & preparing the weekly "feast," by taking care of the classrooms and materials and by making materials for the teachers to use. Call for more information.
10. We hope you will attend an information session when they are offered again in the future. We'll also be having a special retreat day of Godly Play for adults in October 2009 (see page 18). These are chances to experience the Godly Play environment and process together with other adults.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE FOR APRIL



Friday, April 3rd to Saturday, April 4th at Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod. Please be at church by 4:30 p.m. on Friday 3rd. Confirmands and parents should refer to the e-mail and postal mailing for all the relevant information.

Sunday, April 5th 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class in the Library.

Sunday, April 26th Confirmation Sunday.

Special breakfast for Confirmands and their families before the service
(those involved will be receiving an invitation with all the details)

Volunteers needed!!!

Jubilation Sunday is May 31st and we need help!

On May 3rd, 10th & 17th we will be preparing a special presentation that the congregation will experience on May 31st. This is an exciting event and we need lots of help. Please contact Andrea at andrea@bccucc.org if you have any questions or would like to help out.

Gentle Reminders

Church School ends at 11:10 a.m. Please don't interrupt your child's class before this time .

Also please remember to pick up your child promptly at 11:10. Our teachers are volunteers who also like to enjoy coffee hour.

And, finally, during coffee hour parents are responsible for the supervision of their children.

Thank you for your help and understanding.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 24th, 2009 at BCCUCC

A Special *Godly Play* Day-Long Retreat for all adults, parents, teachers, storytellers & doorpersons. An opportunity not to be missed!

We've included our church's **Safe Church Policy** (adopted in 2002) on the next couple of pages as a reminder to long-standing members and to inform new members and friends of the policy. The CEYM Team & programs strive to follow & support these guidelines & practices, in addition to requesting Church School Registration Forms, Volunteer Application Forms, running Background Checks, and updating further procedures and guidelines when necessary, or recommended by the Conference. Thank you for your cooperation in helping make this church a safe place for all.

SAFE CHURCH POLICY
Guidelines for the Care of Children, Youth, and Adults
Barrington Congregational Church, UCC

1. The Two Adult Rule
 - All children and youth in the Church School shall be under the care and supervision of two adults, one of whom may be a high school aide who is at least 5 years older than the children in the class.
 - Further, no teacher, advisor, or aide or anyone else working with our children or youth should place him/herself in a compromising situation by being alone with a child or children.
 - If a minister needs to be alone with a child for counseling purposes, permission must be given by the child's parent(s).
 - No teacher, advisor, or aide shall be alone with a child in the bathroom with the door closed for any reason whatsoever.
2. Parental Consent

Those working with children and youth shall have the signed, written consent of a parent or guardian before a child participates in any planned activity or program away from the Church. Trips that are 30 miles or more from the church require a completed insurance form.
3. Reporting Responsibilities

Any inappropriate conduct or relationship between an adult worker and a child or youth shall be promptly reported to a member of the Ordained Clergy, Moderator, or Chair of the Christian Education and Youth Ministries Committee. If the inappropriate behavior involves any form of sexual or physical abuse, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families shall be contacted immediately. (1-800-RI-CHILD). Incident report forms are available from the office and must be completed for any abuse reported.
4. Overnight Rule
 - Any and all adult chaperones supervising overnight stays of Church children or youth shall have been cleared to do so by a minister. At least two males will dorm with boys and two females with girls.
 - A signed parental consent form is required for all overnight events.
5. Bathroom Supervision of Church School Children
 - Bathroom doors are to remain latched OPEN at all times.
 - Normally teachers, advisors, or aides who accompany a child to the bathroom should remain outside the bathroom while the child is inside.
 - Diapering of infants and toddlers may be done in the classroom if two people are present, one of whom is an adult. As an alternative a parent should be called to the nursery to do the changing.

(Continued on page 20)

6. Discipline

- The purpose of discipline with children and youth is to maintain order in a manner consistent with the teaching of Christian responsibility, respect, and cooperation.
- No child shall be disciplined by the use of spanking, hitting, slapping, or any form of physical punishment.
- Verbal reprimands shall not include destructive criticism, insult, profanity, or shouting.
- Teachers, advisors, aides, and others helping in the classroom are encouraged to listen to the child, communicate expectations of appropriate behavior, use time-outs, or give alternative choices.
- If a child is disruptive, a teacher or aide from the class or a neighboring class may be sent to locate the Christian Education Assistant. If she is unavailable, a parent should be contacted and brought to the room.

7. Youth (ages 12-18) Activities

Physical contact such as wrestling, horseplay, sardines, or other high contact games are not appropriate recreational activity. No adult leader, staff or volunteer, should initiate or encourage physical or intimate contact with children or youth. Setting boundaries is the responsibility of the adults. The Ministerial Staff and the Christian Education and Youth Ministries Team are responsible for implementing and enforcing appropriate boundaries through education and training for youth, parents, and adult leadership.

8. Group

The Youth Group is a group ministry. All participants are expected to remain with the group throughout the times listed in church publications. No pairing or otherwise separating off from the group to other parts of the building or grounds is permitted without the permission of an adult.

9. Youth Members of Ministry Teams

No Youth Member of a Ministry Team or Task Force, shall be in attendance at a meeting with less than two adult members present, or the youth's parent.

10. Leaving and locking

When children or youth are involved, the last three people, including the staff person locking the door, will leave the church together. We avoid situations where one adult and one youth or child is left at the church door waiting to be picked up by parents at the end of an evening activity. Parents need to respect concluding times.

11. Drugs, tobacco, alcohol

The use of any drugs, tobacco, inhalants, or alcoholic products on or in church facilities or at church sponsored youth events is not permitted.

12. Transportation

Staff and adult leaders or teachers cannot transport children or youth between church and home. Transportation for field trips, to activities, or for events is by groups and takes place to and from the church. Any exceptions require written or verbal permission from the child's parent.



We are grateful for those in our congregation who have been able to contribute to our Deacons Fund which allows us to respond to people in the community who turn to us for help. In these tough economic times, it is gratifying to see members of our congregation continue to reach out to help others in need. Thank you to all who have contributed—both large and

Knitting for Others (Crocheters are also most welcome!!)

On the **first Thursday evening** of every month (during the cooler months) **from 7-9 p.m.** we get together to knit/crochet items for others. These could be hats for newborns, children's hats, prayer shawls, blankets for seriously ill children or a simple scarf to give to the homeless. If you like to knit (or crochet) we invite you to join us. You are welcome to come and knit anything you like—as long as you are willing to pass it along to someone in need when done.



The location of April's meeting has changed. The group will now meet:

April 2nd at the home of **Lois McCartney**, 4 Appletree Lane, Barrington

Please note that this will be our last gathering before taking a break for the summer. The group hopes to start back up again in the fall.

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



Literacy Volunteers of East Bay
an Affiliate of ProLiteracy America

invites you to their

2nd Annual Spring Scrabble® Scrimmage

on **May 9, 2009** from **5-8:00 P.M.**

at the Kickemuit Middle School.

Create a team of four, play for fun and support a worthy cause. Pizza and refreshments are included.

For more information contact LVEB at 401-247-2177 or visit www.lvebastbay.org. Register today.

The Rev. Bill Howden (interim senior pastor 1994-95) has released a CD of spoken meditations in which he and musician Geri Piper invite the listener to linger in the mysteries of that first Easter morning.

The Dawning CD is available from Soul Windows Ministries. For more information, sample audio tracks, and order forms, please visit www.soulwindows.org.



The Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team is looking for help with several maintenance and clean-up projects on their

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, April 25th

Please contact Paul Dennis (245-6296) or any other B&G member to sign up, or leave a message in the church office (246-0111).

Volunteers — both skilled and unskilled — are welcome, so please consider volunteering an hour or so of your time on April 25th to help with some much needed work around the church. Thank you.



THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

- Recycle caps with Aveda. This company has found that the majority of bottle caps are not recycled so they wind up on beaches, or migrate to our rivers and oceans. Often birds and other creatures mistake them for food and that creates a devastating problem to our wildlife. Aveda is collecting caps and using them to make new caps for their products. You can bring your collected caps to Tiffany's Salon (21 West Street, Barrington) or anywhere else that sells Aveda products. Or you can place them in a specially marked bin which we will place in Fellowship Hall for coffee hour each week. Caps should be the hard type that are on water and soda and detergent bottles. They may have a number 5 on the recycling symbol. Caps must be the rigid type. Please do not include metal caps, or those with sprayers.
- Buy more locally produced food. This reduces emissions caused from transportation of imported or distantly produced food.
- Use alternative transportation to work.
- Eat less meat. Reducing your consumption of meat, even for one meal a week can make a difference in your carbon footprint.
- Turn down the thermostat. Grab a blanket or add a sweater. Even one degree of change can make a big energy savings.
- Try a media fast. Take one evening and shut off the TV, computers and radios and try a board game instead.
- Go to bed an hour earlier. Shut off the lights and enjoy the quiet. You will feel better in the morning too.



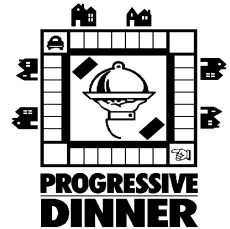
EARTH DAY
April 22, 2009

These ideas are submitted by your Social Action and Justice Team. Most of them were taken from a website of the Interfaith Power and Light. More ideas can be found on their site www.theregenerationproject.org

The Social Action and Justice Ministry Team invites you to help “keep the church green” by participating in a

Progressive Dinner

on Saturday, April 25th



As many of you know, the church has chosen to use electricity from New England GreenStart, which allows us to purchase cleaner, healthier electricity right on our regular utility bill and is available through National Grid. It is a blend of 100% renewal energy sources all located in New England. This, however, does add a small additional cost to the electricity bills for the church and parsonages. Proceeds from the progressive dinner will be used to offset this cost.

So, come out for a fun night of fellowship and food, knowing that you are helping to support new sources of alternative, sustainable energy at the same time.



Call the church office 246-0111 to make reservations and also to sign up as a host for the main course part of the evening. Times and locations for the dinner will be announced later.

Cost is \$25 per person. **Deadline for reservations is Easter Sunday, April 12th.**

THANK YOU to everyone who reads *The Bridge* at the church’s website each month. It saves resources and money! Let the office know if you’re willing to read it on line—we’ll even send you an e-mail reminder to tell you when the next edition has been posted to the website!

PASTA DINNER THANK YOUS



- * Special thanks to Jean Arnold, Camilla Hemingway, and Laura Ward for all of their time and effort organizing the Pasta Dinner Fundraiser.
- * Thanks also to Laurie Lennon, Carol Strakosch, Bill Ward, Bev Travers, Greg Voigt and Steve Clemens for their assistance with set-up, serving and clean-up—as well as to all of the Mission Trippers who helped.
- * Thanks to Shaw’s for the \$25 gift certificate used to purchase bread for the pasta dinner.
- * Thanks to everybody who donated desserts, especially Leslie Peck and the Junior PF.
- * Thanks to Christine Wallis for making the tickets and posters, and to Pat Stoddard for all of her accounting expertise keeping track of the money.
- * And finally, many thanks to everyone who supported this fundraising effort by purchasing tickets for the event. Approximately \$1100 was raised for the upcoming Mission Trip.

★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU! ★

...to the following for volunteering in Church School: Ann Wood, Jan Cornish, Terrin Strickland, Laura Ward, Amy Gorman, Francis Seader, Holly Ogden, Kristen Westmoreland, Laurie Dubel, Lauren Browning, Elizabeth Barnum, Sandy Miniati, Zach Luther, Mary and Bill Dewitt, Carol Strakosch, Betsy Restituyo, Cheryl Muth, Sara and Scott Clemens.

...to Paul and Eileen Dennis for crafting the materials needed to tell the Mystery of Easter in the Godly Play rooms. It's beautiful!

...to Bill DeWitt, Zach Luther and the CEYM team for preparing pancakes with pizzazz for the pancake palooza on Shrove Tuesday!

...to all involved in making the Pasta Dinner such a success (see page 23 for the full list of thank yous).

...to Helen Schall for organizing the SERV gift orders during the holiday season and to all who ordered from the catalog. The Mission Trip is grateful for the donation of the profits to the Mission Trip Fund.

...and to the anonymous couple who generously offered to pay for the eco palms that the congregation will have on Palm Sunday.



Participate in General Synod without leaving Rhode Island!

Every local church represented by a delegate or visitor at General Synod 2009 (to be held in June in Grand Rapids, MI) can be involved in a special Covenant of Prayer Partnership opportunity. By preparing a prayer and a quilted fabric candle cloth (approx. 14-20" square) the local church will share them with everyone at General Synod and, in particular, with another local UCC church. Prayer partnerships will occur between the various local church families as the prayers and candle cloths are exchanged before General Synod ends.

Instructions and prayer rituals will be available upon registering for this project at <http://www.ucc.org/synod/general-synod-candle-cloth.html> and the registration deadline is April 1st.

Anyone interested in making a candle cloth from BCCUCC is asked to contact Helen Schall (after March 25) at helenschall@hotmail.com or 245-4724, or Susan Rotblat Walker at 253-8969 or susan.walker@ride.ri.gov





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

Friday, April 3rd

at **6:30 p.m.** when they will eat at

Café Paragon, 234 Thayer Street, Providence

Reservations need to be made *by Tuesday, March 31st* to Abby Randazzo, preferably by e-mail to randazzoam@yahoo.com. Or you can call her at 247-1030.

The restaurant is providing a private room that can accommodate up to 40 people so *all are welcome!!*

Check out the restaurant's website for directions and menus at www.paragonandviva.com.

The **Third Friday Bridge Group** will

meet on **Friday, April 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.



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

On **April 2 and 16** they will continue their study of *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson.

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



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

Book Group

next meets on

Tuesday, April 21st

at **7:30 p.m.**

at The Coffee Depot

501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book **Little Heathens: Hard Times and High Spirits on an Iowa Farm During the Great Depression**

by Mildred Armstrong Kalish

Kalish's memoir of her Iowa childhood, set against the backdrop of the Depression, captures a vanished way of traditional living and a specific moment in American history in a story both illuminating and memorable.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, April 5th at the 10:00 a.m. service we look forward to receiving new members into this church.

Please join us and welcome those who become members.



DEACONS FOR APRIL

Bill DeWitt (star deacon),
Chris Brady, Marshall Hoyler,
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 on one of the deacons.

A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS

- hosting Boy Scouts
- serving at a soup kitchen
- volunteering for Habitat for Humanity
- knitting for others
- the Deacon's Fund
- coffee for troops
- mission trips
- food drives for TAP-IN
- men's clothing collection
- hosting community conversations
- People's Power and Light
- Haiti trip and collection of medicine
- hurricane relief
- tooth brushes and paste for Zimbabwe
- Heifer International support
- Border Links support
- supporting SERVE
- support Fair Trade Coffee
- participating in ecumenical services.....

Surprised? Don't be, these are just some of the ways we are making a difference in our community and world. If you have a passion that you would like to share or additional ideas please share them with us and we will do all we can to facility your talents.

Over the last few months the Deacons have been looking at ways we can bring the full church community into conversations about current issues confronting all of us. These include being an Open and Affirming Church, economic justice, and environmental issues - to name just a few. We have been struggling with how we can bring these concerns forward in a constructive and meaningful way. After all, if the solutions to these issues existed, we would not have to be having these conversations at all. We then realized that this church is doing much for our wider community and we should be proud of all we do.

What are your talents? Where do your interests lie? Let us know, let us help you find your own way to bring God to our struggling world!



Tot's are having their **Annual Yard Sale** in the church parking lot on Saturday, May 2nd from 8 a.m.—2 p.m. (Rain date May 9th). Anyone with items they would be willing to donate to the Yard Sale can contact Allyson Hansen at 245-2708. Anyone interested in renting space to sell their own stuff at the Tot's yard sale may also contact Allyson. Please support them in their fundraising efforts.

Letter from our mailbox

Dear Friends,

Our church is full of special people and to all of you I send by heartfelt thanks.

Cheryl Muth presented me with the beautiful altar flowers in advance of my surgery. I had more than a week to enjoy them as I prepared myself for a hip replacement.

Warm thanks,
Zoe Woodruff.



Betsy Restituyo, Will and Grecia
now live at

509 Middle Highway
Barrington RI 02806

Tel: (401) 536-6551

Family Footnotes



BIRTHS

Caleb Elijah Crisman

born March 6, 2009
great grandson to Barbara Ward

Caroline Anne

born March 4, 2009
granddaughter to Cindy Steger

Dottie Butler;

Vera Eaton;

Bob Louttit; Mark Mason; Zoe Woodruff;

Barb McWhirter; Phyllis Buckley's father;

and Steve Terhune's mother.



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

Steve Fodor on the death of his father;

and Kari Banas on the death of her
grandmother, Elizabeth Wenzel.

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.

Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.
461 County Road, Barrington, RI 02806

Telephone: (401) 246-0111

Fax: (401) 246-7825

E-mail: office@bccucc.org

Website: www.bccucc.org

Senior Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen	jeff@bccucc.org
Associate Minister:	The Rev. Elizabeth D. Barnum	elizabeth@bccucc.org
Organist/Choir Director:	Marina Zabinski	
Office Administrator:	Christine Wallis	office@bccucc.org
Office Assistant:	Patricia Stoddard	pat@bccucc.org
Financial Secretary:	Patricia Stoddard	pat@bccucc.org
Christian Education Assistant:	Andrea Bullard	andrea@bccucc.org
Custodians:	Jack Salvaggio, Frank Wyrstek, Ken York, Jim Salvaggio	



*The Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ,
is a Christian community that worships God, embraces all people,
ministers to one another, works for justice and peace,
and renders loving service to God's world.*