


March 2009

THE WHITE CHURCH

BRIDGE

Dear Friends,

Aside from the fact that it contains both my wife's birthday and St Patrick's Day (she is Irish, I just tag along) I really see little use for the month of March. It is muddy, cold, still too dark when I get up in the morning...and often about the busiest month of the year for ministers. It is psychologically a tough month for many because winter seems to have hung on so long and real spring is apparently still far away. Add to that the season of Lent, when often the music in church is in a minor key, mention is made of such things as penance, and the color on the altar is purple.

So it is really important that we make some fun out of this next month! There will be announcements throughout this issue of fun activities – look for the Pasta Dinner, Laity Sunday, the Regina Berenback Memorial Lecture and other things that should give great change of pace to our life together. But I was thinking of something more.

How about having a “Smile Month” for March? I am not talking about foolishness that doesn't take anything seriously...but about seeing how much you can share the warmth of your genuine smile with others. Can your friendliness bring a smile to another, friend or stranger, that will in turn bring a little warmth to the chilly air? In a world that too often laughs at people, can you do more smiling with people? Wear a silly pin or tie to church to loosen up those around you, return criticism with a compliment, smile at someone you don't know. Fight the long, cold winter with a warm heart in March!

Maybe spring will come early this year – wouldn't that be fun?!

Peace to you all,



Sunday Services in March



- | | | |
|----------|---------|---|
| March 1 | 10 a.m. | Worship Service with Communion
Children's Communion Service in Room 6, Church School |
| March 8 | 10 a.m. | Worship Service, Church School |
| March 15 | 10 a.m. | <i>Laity Sunday</i>
Worship Service led by the Laity with Bells, Church School |
| March 22 | 10 a.m. | Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir
Church School |
| March 29 | 10 a.m. | Worship Service, Church School |

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Child Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

Remember to turn your clocks **ahead** one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, March 7th - otherwise you'll be late for church the next day!



ASHES WEDNESDAY
SERVICE FOR HEALING

Wednesday, February 25th
at 7 p.m.

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

DEACONS FOR MARCH

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

*In the event of a pastoral emergency
after hours, if you cannot reach
Jeff (247-1787 home)
or Elizabeth (245-3467 home)
please call on one of the deacons.*

From our Associate Minister



Prayer is important to me. There are countless styles and forms of prayer. Some prayers are spoken aloud and repeated from one generation to the next. Other prayers are spontaneous and only come once. Some styles of prayer involve movement and voice; other styles involve stillness and silence. Some of my favorite styles of prayer include written prayer, movement, and silent meditation.

I'm grateful for the way prayer helps me get ready. It helps me get ready before eating a meal or before going on a trip. Prayer helps me get ready when I'm writing something for worship. At monthly ministry team meetings, the prayers offered by members help everyone get ready before a meeting.

The month of March brings a lot of *getting ready* here at church. The six Sundays of Lent, along with other special services, help get us ready for Easter. Every Sunday morning before entering a Godly Play classroom, the doorkeeper asks the children "are you ready?" and the storyteller asks them a second time if they are ready before s/he shares the story of the day. And the young people participating in the mission trip to Maine will also be getting ready during the weeks ahead.

Do you know the song *People Get Ready*? Curtis Mayfield composed the song in the 1960s, inspired by the March on Washington. While I wasn't born until the 1970s, I am aware of how the song has become part of the soundtrack accompanying social movements and times of crisis and celebration in this country – both secular and spiritual. The song makes its way into summer camp song books and countless musicians have covered it (I'm partial to the Eva Cassidy rendering). Here are some of the lyrics:

*People get ready, there's a train a comin'
You don't need no baggage, you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord*

As we journey together through Lent, remember that there is no special ticket required. You are welcome to come as you are – to worship, to the communion table, and to prayer.

Prayerfully,

P.S. If you are interested in learning about different styles of prayer and starting or deepening your own prayer life, see page 6 for more information about a Lenten prayer group.



Laity Sunday will be **Sunday, March 15th** and on that day the worship service will be led by members of the congregation.

A group from the deacons are looking for people to help lead worship who have not done so recently, or ever. They are looking for people of all ages, including youth.

If you are interested or just want to learn more about what's involved, please contact Chris Brady at cbradyri@aol.com or 246-2702. It's a great way to get more involved without making a large ongoing commitment.

Communion Sunday,
March 1st



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

Worship Discussion Group

The Deacons invite you to the library following worship on the last Sunday of the month, beginning on March 29th, for an opportunity to reflect on that month's sermons.

Achina Stein will facilitate the first session. All are welcome.

Seminary Student "In Care"

At their February meeting the Deacons voted to endorse Ellen Brady for "In-Care" status with the RI Conference of the United Church of Christ. This is an official covenant between our church, Ellen, and the Conference to work together towards the completion of her seminary work and establishing her career in ministry. Ellen, a member with her family in this church for a long time, has been attending Andover Newton School of Theology. She has served in a number of capacities in this church and recently completed her field education work at the Wollaston Congregational Church, UCC.

"In-Care" status is one more formal step towards her graduation and, if she chooses, ordination. A date will be set for her to meet with the Church & Ministry Committee of the RI Conference. Jeff and a member of the Deacons will go with her. She will present her credentials and the paper on her spiritual journey that she presented to the Deacons.

This is a very exciting next step for Ellen – please give her a hug of support the next time you see her.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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

Then please join Jeff, Elizabeth and the Deacons at

“CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR CHURCH”

Sunday, March 22nd

11:20 a.m.—12:15 p.m. Room 6

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

The session will also serve as preparation for anyone who wants to officially become a member of this church on New Member Sunday, April 5th 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 office@bccucc.org. Child care will be provided if you let us know ahead of time that it is needed. The session will be very informal so older children are welcome to sit in if they wish.

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



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.

RESOURCE FOR GRACE AT MEALTIMES

An anonymous gift has been given to us by a parishioner as a resource to people for saying grace at meal times. A collection of grace cards entitled, “Table Blessings” is available for you to take (one per family please). They are available either from a basket on the vestry table or from a basket at coffee hour.



Lenten Prayer & Meditation Group Study
4 Wednesday Evenings during Lent

March 18	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Prayer of the Heart
March 25	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Centering Prayer
April 1	7:00 – 9:00* p.m.	Labyrinth as Prayer
	* extended session	Guest Facilitator: Kelly Thibeault
April 7	7:00 – 8:15 p.m.	Journaling as Prayer



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

Please email Elizabeth (elizabeth@bccucc.org) or call her at 246-0111 ext. 104 by March 15th to sign-up.



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

Sunday, March 8th & Sunday, March 15th

After worship (approx. 11:15 – 12:15) in Room 8

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

Topic for March 8th Lives of Jesus

Topic for March 15th A Passion for Christ: Paul the Apostle

Living the Questions is for seekers, doubters and believers alike. Providing a variety of flexible resources, *Living the Questions* can help people explore the future of Christianity and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world. The program is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers and instead strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity.

The entire program includes 21 sessions and we'll be offering these 2 sessions to determine if there is an interest in exploring more of the program in the future. Please contact Elizabeth Barnum if you have any questions.

All are welcome. You may attend one or both sessions. RSVP to Elizabeth Barnum (elizabeth@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x 104) by March 6th if you think you may attend so we can plan accordingly.

**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

Library Renovation Underway

Work has begun on the church library renovations so until further notice the space is unavailable for meetings etc.

On Sunday mornings the 6th and 7th grade "Simply Serving" class will now meet in Room 9.

The renovations are being paid for with the proceeds of the Church Auction held in Sept., 2008.

The potluck supper and performance by The Potluck Players on March 1st has been

CANCELED!



www.bccucc.org


**Tell Us
what
you
Think**

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.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM ANDREA BULLARD

I am sending out this extra special thank you to the members of the CEYM team. They recently made it possible for me to attend a three day Godly Play training session in Stamford, CT. The training was intense, enriching and enlightening. I came home knowing how the Godly Play approach teaches to the whole being; body, mind and spirit. It raises the children up and empowers them. CEYM has done a wonderful job of being open-minded and supportive of the integration of Godly Play into our church curriculum this year. I thank them on behalf of the children, Elizabeth and myself. With this program we are doing the right thing. And again thank you CEYM! Without your belief in me, I would not be the accredited Godly Play teacher I am today!

Andrea



CONFIRMATION CLASSES IN MARCH

Sunday, March 8th 11:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Confirmation Class in Room 9

Sunday, March 22nd 5—7 p.m. Confirmation Class in Room 8

JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (JPF)

All youth in grades 6-8 are welcome to participate

Sunday, March 15th After church Dessert making for the Pasta Dinner

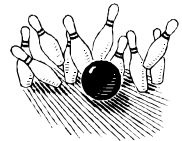
The Jr PF will be supplying desserts for the evening. They will go to Leslie Peck's home after church for lunch and then make desserts. Please RSVP to Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net if you would like to participate.



Saturday, March 28th 8-10 p.m. Rock 'n Bowl

at Dudek's Bowling Alley in Warren.

Bring a friend and test your bowling skills while the music rocks and the lights flash. The cost is \$12 per person, not including snack money. Please RSVP to Leslie Peck by March 25th. (245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net)



The next MISSION TRIP MEETING will be on
Sunday night March 22nd from 7:00—8:00 p.m. in Room 6.

All going on the Mission Trip should attend.



Pasta Dinner

Sunday, March 15th

5 — 7 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



*All proceeds benefit the Mission Trip
to Orland, Maine in April, 2009*

Tickets on sale at Coffee Hour on March 1, 8 & 15
or from the church office

Adult \$8

Child (under 12) \$5

Family Maximum \$25

Advance ticket purchase is appreciated

Tickets also available at the door



The next Battle of the Bands is being scheduled for late March/early April. Stay tuned for more details via word-of-mouth, email, the Sunday bulletin, and announcements!

This will be another fundraiser for the April 2009 Mission Trip to h.o.m.e. in Orland, Maine.



A LENTEN QUIZ

- How long is Lent and why that particular length?
 - Too long, because Jeff wants to drag it out
 - 40 days plus Sundays, representing the 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness.
 - 40 days representing the length of the flood and Noah on the ark.
- The official (“liturgical”) color of Lent is? Where will you see it in our church?
 - Pink, the color of Mardi Gras. You will see it in the bulletin each week.
 - Green – to represent the spring coming. It will be in the altar flowers.
 - Purple – representing penance and royalty. It will be on the backdrop of the altar.
- The last week of Lent is called?
 - “Finally Here”
 - “Holy Week”
 - “The Last Week of Jesus’ Life”
- Do I have to “give something up” during Lent?
 - No, you are invited to think and pray about your relationship with God. If “giving something up” helps you focus, then by all means do it. Or, if adding something to your life seems appropriate, feel free to do that.
 - Yes, that is what makes you feel the darkness of the season. The more expensive the item you are giving up the better.
 - Yes, chocolate.
- Why is it called “Good Friday” if Jesus died that day?
 - Because one definition of “good” used to be “holy.”
 - Because “Good” and “God” were often substituted.
 - Because the tragedy of it brought about the ultimate good on Easter morning.
 - All of the above.
- What happened on the very first Maundy Thursday (sometimes called “Holy Thursday”)?
 - Jesus and the disciples celebrated the Passover and then the first communion.
 - The first baseball game was played, at Arthur Maundy Field in Cooperstown, NY.
 - God created the mountains, but it took so long that God had to change it to 2 days – Monday and Thursday.
- Why do we have ashes on Ash Wednesday?
 - We don’t – only Catholic churches do.
 - They warn us that Lent usually comes in the winter months when people use their fireplaces a lot and we have to be very sure to open the flue.
 - Many churches use them to symbolize our mortality, mourning and penance during the solemn weeks of Lent.
- Do I have to go to the Easter sunrise service?
 - Yes, if Jeff and Elizabeth have to get up that early then everyone should have to.
 - Yes, or else all the weeks of Lent don’t count.
 - Yes, because Osamequin Point at sunrise is quite beautiful.

Answers: 1b, 2c, 3b, 4a, 5d, 6a, 7c, 8c

Passover Model Seder for the Interfaith Community

Thursday, March 26, 2009

at Temple Habonim, 165 New Meadow Road



Please arrive by **6:45 p.m.** The event is expected to end by 9 p.m.

Temple Habonim and the Barrington Clergy Association are co-sponsoring an **Interfaith Seder** for our membership and the community-at-large on Thursday, March 26. Please join us as people from many faith traditions come together to be part of the Jewish people's Passover Seder.

"For 3,000 years, the story of the Exodus has brought a message of hope and deliverance to oppressed people all over the world. That's the way it is with stories. Once they are told, no one can own them. They belong to the listener, to everyone. So even though Passover pointedly speaks of the national liberation of the Jews, others hear its message of freedom and take heart. The slaves of America sang of the Exodus. Liberation theology speaks of the Exodus. Whether someone is a political prisoner, a prisoner of addiction or a prisoner of his or her own fears, the story of the Exodus tells every listener, "Do not give up; there is yet hope. At the darkest of hours, in the dead of the night, with faith and fortitude, freedom can come."

The Tapestry of Jewish Time, by Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, p.145

We hope that you will decide to join us. Please know that there are a limited number of spaces available, so you will need to reserve your spot as soon as possible. (Please also cancel your reservation if you find yourself unable to come – even if it's at the last minute.)

RSVP by Monday, March 16th to the BCCUCC church office at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org

Also, please let Elizabeth Barnum know **if you would like to help our team** that will be contributing to the Seder (246-0111 or elizabeth@bccucc.org).

Your admission to the Seder is a donation of food for TAP-IN.

*Please note that because of this Interfaith opportunity,
BCCUCC will not be holding their annual Seder on Maundy Thursday this year.*

The calendar for March 2009
as it appeared on page 12 and 13 of the newsletter
can be found in a separate document
on the calendar page of the website.

In addition, the **church's on-line calendar** can also be
accessed either through the home page of the website
or from the calendar page.

The calendar for March 2009
as it appeared on page 12 and 13 of the newsletter
can be found in a separate document
on the calendar page of the website.

In addition, the **church's on-line calendar** can also be
accessed either through the home page of the website
or from the calendar page.

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

**Third Annual
Regina F. Berenback Memorial Lecture
for Social Action and Justice**

WHEN: Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 4:00 pm

WHERE: Fellowship Hall, Barrington Congregational Church, UCC

SPONSOR: Social Action and Justice Ministry Team of BCCUCC

TOPIC: "Whither America in the Post Bush/Cheney Era"

GUEST SPEAKER: The Honorable Lincoln Chafee, former United States Senator, State of Rhode Island.

Lincoln Chafee served as a Republican United States senator from Rhode Island from 1999 until 2006. Currently, he is a distinguished visiting fellow at the Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. Governor Lincoln Almond appointed Chafee to the US Senate in November 1999 to fill the unexpired Senate term of his late father, John Chafee. In November 2000, he was overwhelmingly elected to the seat. As senator, he served as a member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs. During that time, he emerged as a leader on environmental issues and foreign policy, and promoted sensible economic and energy policies.

His most recent book is *Against the Tide: How a Compliant Congress Empowered a Reckless President* (St. Martin's, 2008).

ADMISSION: This event is FREE and open to the community.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

Please support this church event with your attendance.

Collection for Holy Joe's Café during Lent

Once again this Lenten season we are going to be collecting monetary donations for the Holy Joe's Café run by UCC military chaplains. The chaplains invite soldiers in Iraq into a safe and informal place where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. Last year, BCCUCC collected \$258 for the program and sent 45 pounds of Equal Exchange Coffee to the military chaplains in Baghdad in support of their **Coffee House Ministry**.



Baskets for this donation will be found on the coffee tables during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall during the Lenten season (March 1—April 5). Please be generous and support this ministry. Our chaplains are a first line defense against the emotional and psychological issues faced by our troops.

The Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket

The 2009 schedule has BCCUCC providing the meal on the following dates: Mar. 21, May 16, July 11, Sep. 5, Oct. 31 & Dec. 26.

The guidelines for doing the soup kitchen have recently been revised (Feb 09) and they can be found on the 'Information for Church Members' page of our church website www.bccucc.org

Different Ministry Teams are responsible for doing the soup kitchen each time BCCUCC is scheduled, 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.
- Volunteers are expected **to arrive by 3 p.m. at Park Place Congregational UCC** (71 Park Place, Pawtucket) as set-up takes some time. Everything has to be in place for the meal to be served beginning at 4 p.m.



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.



“Where is your Treasure?”

sharing resources

changing lives

Our congregation will join with other churches and denominations throughout the United States in receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering in March. Thanks to the combined efforts of the UCC Church World Service and eight other denominations, literally millions of dollars are raised and disbursed to needy people throughout the world.

This fund touches the lives of refugees, disaster victims, politically suppressed societies, those suffering from human rights injustices, as well as many who suffer from chronic hunger and poverty.

The 2009 theme is “Where is your Treasure?” inspired by Matthew 6:21 “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” OGHS leaflets about this year’s campaign will be included in the Sunday worship bulletins on March 15 and 22, and OGHS envelopes will be included on **March 22**. However, you don’t need an OGHS envelope to make a donation. Checks should be made payable to Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, and please mark the memo line “OGHS”. Thank you.



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.



Habitat for Humanity

Beyond Our Walls (BOW) sends volunteers to Habitat for Humanity on the **4th Saturday of every month**.

So whether you’re a novice 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. If you are interested in participating please contact Rich Simpson of BCCUCC (247-1005 or rts.ri@cox.net) or David Renner of BOW at daverenner@cox.net. For more information about Habitat Providence, visit their web site at <http://www.habitatprov.org>

Super Bowl Challenge



Results

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the Super Bowl Challenge on Sunday, February 1st and donated either food or money for our local food pantry, Tap-In. **We collected 935 pounds of food and \$282.** However, our opposition in this challenge—the South Dartmouth Congregational Church—collected \$1200 worth of food (they calculated the value of the donated food rather than weigh it) and \$1600 in donations for their local food pantry!!! However both congregations are considered winners as they were able to make sizeable donations to their local food pantries and everyone who participated had lots of fun at the tailgating parties.

Check out the pictures of the Tailgating Party on the church website at www.bccucc.org.

CHILI COMPETITION WINNERS

Many thanks to everyone who brought in a pot of their favorite chili to the Tailgating Party after worship on February 1st. Special thanks go to Heather Sugg for coming up with the idea and organizing it. Everyone was invited to taste each of them and then vote for the one they liked best. With lots of wonderful chilis to choose from it wasn't easy picking a favorite! And the winners were (drum roll please).....

1st place-Susan Seader 2nd place-Kathleen Larsen 3rd place-Judy Miesner

SUSAN'S WINNING CHILI RECIPE

- Brown: 1 to 1 ½ lbs lean ground beef
1 minced garlic clove
1 onion – diced
1 green pepper – diced (optional — Susan didn't use one)
- Add: 1 6 oz. can Tomato Paste
1 can Red Kidney Beans, include liquid
1 14.5 oz. can diced Tomatoes, include liquid
3-4 Tbs. Chili Power



Stir and simmer until thick (30 minutes usually does it)
Serve with shredded cheese, sour cream and of course corn bread.



If you had fun with the chili competition, then save the date of Sunday, May 31st when we will have a **Pie Contest** at the All Church Picnic following the Jubilation Sunday Worship Service. Start practicing your pies and please note that all pies must be made from scratch to be eligible to compete!! More details to follow.

NUTRITION, HEALTH AND YOU

Discussion with Lisa Browning, Registered Dietitian

Monday, March 23rd Room 6

7—8 PM followed by questions and answers.

Admission: Non-perishables for TAP-IN.

All are welcome.



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 Thursday mornings from **10—11:30 a.m. in Room 6.**

On **March 5 and 19** they will begin a 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.

Watch the announcement sheet in the Sunday bulletin for news of the Dine Out group's plans for March.



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

Friday, March 20th
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 deadline for submission of articles to be included in the April *Bridge* will be

Friday, March 13th.

Book Group

next meets on

Tuesday, March 17th

at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot

501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Ann Hutchinson, the Woman who Defied the Puritans
by Eve LaPlante

LaPlante, an 11th generation granddaughter of Hutchinson, provides a fast-paced and elegant account of Hutchinson's life and work, including the reasons that Hutchinson's teachings threatened the fabric of Puritan theology.



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

On the first Thursday evening of every month 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 group will meet:

March 5th at the home of **Helen Schall**, 5 Driscoll Lane, Barrington

April 2nd at the home of **Kathleen Larsen**, 7 Fireside Drive, Barrington

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

UCC WOMEN OF RHODE ISLAND RETREAT



The Moosup Valley Congregational Christian Church has invited the UCC Women of RI to join their Annual Women's Retreat! The retreat will take place

Saturday, April 18th 9 am – Sunday, April 19th 4 pm

at Whispering Pines Conference Center

on the URI Alton Jones Campus, Route 102 West Greenwich, RI.

The retreat will be a Spirit filled, Bible Based program for women.

You'll leave calmer and more enthusiastic for your life and your role as a woman!

You can participate in the entire program or just portions of it. Registration forms with details of the options are available from the Vestry table or by e-mail from Patricia Safstrom at pmsafa@msn.com.

The registration deadline for the day program and dinner is March 17, 2009. Note that the original deadline listed in the February *Bridge* has been extended and only applied to overnight reservations. Questions? Contact Rev. Constance Young (860) 774-6529 or Patricia Safstrom (401) 397-5884.



UCC Women from all of New England will gather in Burlington, Vermont on March 12 - 14, 2010 for their 8th Celebration. The theme will be "TOGETHER BUILDING BRIDGES....a time to break down and a time to build up..." Ecclesiastes 3:3.

Save the date and watch for further announcements in the upcoming months.

Thank You! THANK YOU!

...to everyone who donated H.U.G.S. (hats, underwear, gloves and socks) for Project Hope. (Barrington teens gave the items to the homeless in Providence and also cooked them breakfast and lunch on Presidents' Day.)

...to everyone who made Valentine's cards for sending to our homebound, sick and other church members who needed cheering up; and to the Deacons for providing all of the materials and organizing the activity

...to Andrew Dennis, Scott Clemens and Zack Luther for their part in organizing the Battle of the Bands held January 23, and to all of the adult volunteers who helped: Elizabeth Barnum, Laurie and Tom Lennon, Phyllis and Jay Buckley, Katrina Swihart, Sue and Steve Clemens, Van Edwards, Kathleen and Jeff Larsen, Kim Godfrey, Camilla Hemmingway, Duncan Maio and Kristen Westmoreland, Susan Roach, James Steele, Jean Arnold, Lynda Cook, Eileen and Paul Dennis, Laura Ward, and Lisa and Rick Browning. Special thanks to Lisa Browning who stepped in at the last minute to be the "adult in charge" when Elizabeth was unable to do it

...to those BCCUCC volunteers who attended the Safe Church Workshop held here on February 7th. We also extend thanks to the Rhode Island Conference of the U.C.C. for hosting Massachusetts Associate Conference Minister Sue Dickerman. Thanks to Sue for leading an informative and important event!

...to Ann Wood, Amy Gorman, Francis Seader, Laura Ward, Holly Ogden, Kristen Westmoreland, Sara Clemens, Laura Jo Cook, Greg Voigt, Susan Rotblat-Walker, Helen Schall, and Van Edwards for volunteering in Church School

...to Debbi Summers for donating the Parable of the Good Shepherd, to Carol Strakosch for making the Parables of the Good Samaritan and the Great Pearl, to Kristen Westmoreland for making the Parable of the Sower, and to Amy Gorman for making the Parable of the Mustard Seed. The Godly Playrooms are richer because of your efforts!

...and to everyone who participated in the Super Bowl Sunday worship service and/or tailgating party making it such a fun day! (See page 17 for more 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

A CHANGE TO THE SHAW'S REWARDS PROGRAM



The Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program is changing to the Shaw's Neighborhood Rewards. As a result ***we are NO LONGER collecting receipts.*** Instead you are asked to register your Shaw's Reward Card on line, and then your purchases will automatically be tallied. Now every time you shop **on Tuesday Wednesday or Thursday** and use your Rewards Card, Shaw's will contribute 1% of the value of your purchases to BCCUCC. It's that simple!

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 they can register your card for you. Or stop by the church office with your card.

As this issue of *The Bridge* goes to press the congregation has submitted over \$66,000.00 in Shaw's receipts! Thank you for supporting CEYM and if you have any questions please contact Andrea Bullard (andrea@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x107)



May We Help You?

Our Sanctuary is handicapped accessible by using the elevette to get upstairs. An elevette operator is on duty every Sunday morning to assist.

If you are wheelchair bound or have difficulty walking and would like assistance getting to coffee hour, please notify an usher. He or she will then make arrangements for you to be transported to Fellowship Hall.

Large print copies of the bulletin and hymns are available every Sunday morning from the ushers. Hearing assists are also available at every worship service for those who need them. Be sure to ask an usher if you need either.



Please let us know of any other way in which we may be of assistance to you.

Those hosting coffee hour are reminded that they are responsible for securing the Education building after everyone leaves on Sunday mornings. Please make sure that all of the doors into the building are locked, lights turned off, heat turned down and doors closed to all of the rooms. Thank you.

100% PLEDGE PARTICIPATION CHALLENGE UPDATE

In January we sent a letter to the 50% of active households in our church that did not make a pledge for 2009, asking that they make some sort of financial commitment (small, large or anywhere in between!) to our church for 2009.

So far in response to the letter, we have received 11 pledges for 2009—of which 6 were new pledgers! Remember, it's never too late to make a pledge. Some are hesitant to make a pledge in the event that they cannot meet it; if you experience a change in your life situation, please remember that you can modify your pledge at any time by contacting our Financial Secretary, Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org, 246-0111).

A deficit budget for 2009 was approved at the Annual Budget meeting, as we continue to discuss and address the financial challenges we face as a church.

What is a pledge? Why do I need to pledge?

A pledge is a promise to financially support your church by giving a particular dollar amount over the course of the year (you decide how much). This allows the church to plan the staffing and programs for the year as the church's annual budget is based on the amount of money that church members and friends have pledged (promised) to pay. While many may give gifts (for which we are very grateful) rather than make a pledge to the church, the amount of these gifts cannot be known in advance and so does not help us with our planning.

So if you haven't done so already, please make a pledge to BCCUCC for 2009 by filling out a pledge card or contacting our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard at (246-0111 or pat@bccucc.org).

Deficit Budget Approved

At the Annual Budget Meeting held on January 25, 2009, the church membership reluctantly approved a deficit budget for 2009. The church leadership will re-examine our financial situation prior to our Annual Meeting in May, and make relevant proposals at that time as needed.

Letters from our mailbox



May Smith called and asked that we extend to the congregation her appreciation for all of the cards and flowers that she has received. She is very grateful and particularly wanted to thank everyone for the lovely Valentine's card that the church sent to her.

Dear Church Family,

What a pleasant surprise to open the Valentine card - hand made with love and signed, Katie.

Thank you so much,
Ozzie Rosenholm



Congratulations to **Emma Edwards**, church member and sophomore at Barrington High School, for being the RI high school winner of the nationwide 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Emma's winning essay was about her experiences on last year's BCCUCC Mission Trip to Biloxi, MI. The essay emphasized how much community support went into the trip, and what it meant to her to work so hard doing unfamiliar work and to see how much it was needed. She remembers being encouraged by the others in the group and she loved being the one to encourage others. Emma's prize includes an all expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. in May where she will get together with the honorees from all the other states. For more about the award and a summary of Emma's winning essay go to www.spirit.prudential.com and follow the links.

News of Richard Benefield
—former organist and choir director.

Richard and his partner, John Kunowski, are now living in San Francisco. Richard is the Executive Director of The Walt Disney Family Museum, due to open in the fall of 2009. In his own words "this is quite a change for me, but I'm having the time of my life!" His new contact information is 1800 Broadway, Apt 506, San Francisco CA 94109-2228 (415) 674-6905 rbenefield@wdfmuseum.org

**CHURCH
ATTENDANCE**

January 25 – 197
February 1 – 193
February 8 – 228
February 15 – 141

Family Footnotes

Owen Matthew Porter

born January 26, 2009
to Becky and Andrew Porter



Kaisin Alan Crisman

born January 20, 2009
great grandson to Barbara Ward



Dottie Butler; Eleanor Chisholm; Vera Eaton;
Maddie Loos; Bob Louttit; Nancy Martin; Lee Miller;
David Speed; Helen and Fred MacDonald's grandson;
Pat Stoddard's mother-in-law, Marguerite;
Abby Randazzo's parents;
Esther Rotblat and Frances Walker (mothers of Susan and Howard Rotblat-Walker)

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.*