

December 2009 and January 2010

THE WHITE CHURCH
BRIDGE



Dear Friends,

There are two things coming up that I am very excited about and I want you to get on your calendars. On Wednesday, December 23 (yes, the night before Christmas Eve, a date chosen very intentionally) we are hosting a community service entitled, "Barrington Unites." It is going to be a candle-lighting service in remembrance of loved ones who have died. Speakers will include the Police Chief, representatives of East Bay Mental Health, a Barrington High School graduate, and there will be a special BHS singing group.

The holidays are especially difficult for those who have lost a loved one whether they died young or old, as a result of an accident, disease, or through the trials of old age... all are welcome. I need some help: setting up coffee, people to be outside and around to welcome and give directions, and help taking down chairs afterwards. Please let me know if you can help.

The second is a special Lenten series on the arts. Featuring work by Jamie Wyeth entitled "The Seven Deadly Sins," a kick-off presentation by the Chief Curator at the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine, Mr. Michael Komanecky, and (I hope) an on-going art show by local artists, I think this will be an exciting event for our church family. Please mark Sunday, February 21 for a pot-luck luncheon. I also, frankly, am going out on a limb a bit to finance this series so if anyone would like to consider being a sponsor please let me know.

Meanwhile, may these holidays be warm, gentle, and joyful for you all.

Christmas peace to you,



For more information on the Barrington Unites service, see page 5.

Sunday Services in December & January

December 6	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion, Church School
December 13	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Special Music from the Vocal and Bell choirs, Church School
December 20	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages in Sanctuary, Nursery only
December 27	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages, Nursery only.
January 3	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion and Guest Preacher, The Rev. Chuck Barnes, (see page 6) Children's Communion in Library then Church School
January 10	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
January 17	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages with Bells, Nursery Care only
January 24	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
January 31	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School After Worship Annual Budget Meeting (see page 14)

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8

Nursery Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

Parents of young children are reminded that if they need to leave the service with their child, there is a Nursery Nook downstairs in the vestry where parents can sit with their child and still hear the service via loud speaker.

Christmas Eve Services

- 6:00 p.m.** Family Worship Service
(This will be a child oriented service)
- 10:00 p.m.** Service of Readings and Carols



From our Associate Minister



While in graduate school, I recall waiting in a long line outside Memorial Church in Harvard Yard to hear a well-known Buddhist teacher at an evening lecture event. Students had been talking about his visit for weeks prior and it was a rare opportunity to hear the highly-respected teacher reflect on the mindfulness practice to which he was devoted. As he began his talk and presentation, there was standing room only (and I imagine many waiting outside). However, something interesting happened not too long into the program. People started leaving the pews. I was shocked, first judging it, perhaps mistakenly as disrespect or dislike or distrust. Peers and I reflected afterwards, concluding that perhaps those who left may have been experiencing discomfort. He had asked everyone to sit for a time of meditation – stillness and silence. Still? Silent? Be? The audience was restless. The crowd that evening, myself included, spent so much of our time *thinking, thinking, thinking, and doing, doing, doing* that simply *being* becomes a far greater challenge than any course or exam or thesis.

Advent and Christmas are a lot like this for many of us. We get ready for weeks, eagerly looking forward to the holidays, talking about them, planning them, then when it comes time to celebrate them and experience them as part of our spiritual and religious practices, we're so tired, so busy thinking and doing, we experience discomfort, numb out, and miss any chance to actually BE Advent & LIVE Christmas. Thank goodness the many stories of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, along with countless traditions throughout Christian history offer us alternatives and invite us into what that Buddhist teacher Thich Nhat Hanh calls "being peace."

So my hope for each of us is that we experience the gift of simply being at peace, even if for brief fleeting moments this season. I do believe that we are called to go deeper into the dark, still, and silent time during Advent, so that we might actually bear witness to the light of Christmas here among us in the ways we choose to live out our faith in the New Year.

In wonder,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth".

DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Mary Lou Slicker (star deacon),
Van Edwards, Bill DeWitt, Cheryl Muth,
Helen Schall, and Sam Sylvester.

DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Chris Brady (star deacon),
Marshall Hoyler, Abby Randazzo, Francis
Seader, Susan Seader, and Achina Stein.

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



OFFICE CLOSINGS in December & January

The church office will be **closed** on Friday, December 25 and Friday, January 1.

The office will be **open** from **9 a.m. - Noon only** on Dec. 24 and Mon.-Thurs., Dec. 28-31.

The office will also be **closed** on January 18th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.

Church Cancellation Plans in Bad Weather



When the church service has to be cancelled due to bad weather, the information will appear on Channels 6 & 10 cancellation lists that scroll across the television screen. Cancellation information can also be accessed via www.turnto10.com. The church office answering machine will also include any cancellation announcements. (Note: all this is dependent upon there being power to use the technology!).



As the icy weather approaches it's even more important that those who are able remember to park in the commuter lot, leaving the spaces in front of the education building, including the handicapped spaces, for those who have difficulty walking — both on Sunday mornings and for evening meetings and rehearsals.

In addition, please remember to leave access for emergency vehicles if you park anywhere around the church building. Thank you.



BARRINGTON UNITES

A time to remember and heal

Wednesday, December 23rd, 2009 7 p.m.

Fellowship Hall of BCCUCC

A candlelight vigil for all Barrington community members who have lost a loved one.

Amid the holiday chaos, this is an opportunity to gather quietly to support each other while honoring those whom we grieve.

You are encouraged to bring a photo of your loved one.

The Grief Process: Fran Bradshaw and Heather Bonds-Harmon
of East Bay Clinical Services

Guided Meditation: Chief John LaCross

Music: Barrington High School students

Youth Speaker: Becca Miller BHS '09

Candle lighting: Candles will be lit in remembrance of loved ones

Moment of silence and closing: Rev. Jeff Larsen

Refreshments and resources available

Volunteers from BCCUCC are needed to help with setting up the coffee and beverages, welcoming and giving directions, and taking down the chairs afterwards. To volunteer, contact Jeff at jeff@bccucc.org or 246-0111. Thank you.

Would you like to participate in an Advent or Christmas Eve Service?

We are seeking individuals or families to light the **Advent Candles** at the worship services on December 6, 13, and 20 and also at the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. Christmas Eve services.



We also need **scripture readers** for the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service of readings and carols.

Anyone interested should contact Jeff (246-0111 or jeff@bccucc.org.)

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.



A SPECIAL ADVENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY.....

Riverside Congregational United Church of Christ
15 Oak Avenue, Riverside RI 02915

will hold a meditative **Taizé service with Holy Communion**
on **Thursday, December 10th at 7:00 PM.**

The Taizé style candlelight service will offer an evening of communal contemplative prayer. The service was developed by the Taizé Monastic community in the Burgundy region of France. This Protestant monastic community welcomes all Christians to common prayer and to the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The service is designed to create a meditative mood. The music, written by the monks of Taizé, includes short repetitive refrains. An invitation is extended to everyone in the community who may wish to join us in an evening of quiet prayer.

If you plan to attend, please email Rev. Elizabeth Barnum elizabeth@bccucc.org who will be attending & participating in the service.



Supporting the Slatersville church

During the month of October, Slatersville Congregational Church, U.C.C. experienced further vandalism on their church building that exhibited harm & hate. As a show of support and solidarity, Rev. Campbell Lovett of Newman Congregational Church UCC encouraged all U.C.C. churches of the Rhode Island Conference to send two of their members to worship at the Slatersville church on Sunday, October 25th.

Our church sent 13 people including Steve Venuti, Diane Wilkins, Helen Schall, Nancy Martin, Lois McCartney, and confirmands Rebecca Bendheim, Laina Ceasar, Daniel Roach, and Cameron Voigt. Adult chaperones for the confirmands included Ellen Brady, Doug Roach, Greg Voigt, and Elizabeth Barnum. The Slatersville Congregation was grateful for so much support from across the state. The worship service was abundant with warm welcomes, strength, honesty, forgiveness, compassion, and renewal. Amen!

Sunday, January 3, 2010

Guest Preacher

The Rev. Chuck Barnes
Conference Minister of
the RI Conference of the
United Church of Christ

**CHURCH
ATTENDANCE**

October 25 – 179
November 1 – 133
November 8 – 185
November 15 – 236
November 22 – 253

OPEN AND AFFIRMING

The planning study team has met to start organizing the process of exploring and educating the church community on the joys and concerns of becoming an Open and Affirming congregation. The study team's next meeting will be Sunday, December 6th after church.

Thoughts and opinions on this effort by our congregation are welcomed by the study team. Input from **all** is essential to the process.

We expect to start the educational process in early January — exact date pending.

Please contact the study team with your questions, thoughts or opinions. E-mail, snail mail, or drop off would be fine. The members of the planning study team are:

Leslie Strolla (Leslie_Strolla@brown.edu)

Jim McCartney (jrmcc@fullchannel.net)

Lois McCartney (lfmcc@fullchannel.net)

Bev Travers (bevtra@aol.com).

Adult Education Group

During Advent, the after-worship Adult Education group will take a break from the *Living the Questions* DVD series and will read *The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan (inspired by the Women's Faith Group choice!). Books have been ordered and will be available for purchase from the church office. Contact Elizabeth Barnum for more information. All are welcome to participate.

Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, 13th & 20th Advent Book Discussion: *The First Christmas*

Dec 27th No class

Living the Questions DVD & discussion series resumes:

Jan. 3rd Reclaiming the World

Jan. 10th A Kingdom Without Walls

Jan. 17th Social Justice: Realizing God's Vision

Jan. 24th, 31st & Feb 7th No Class

Feb. 14th Incarnation: Divinely Human

Feb. 21st Prayer: Intimacy with God

Feb. 28th Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry

March 7th Creative Transformation & Embracing Mystery



You are welcome to participate in as many or as few of the sessions as you like. Gather in the **Library** between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m. Sessions begins at **11:30 a.m.** and conclude at approx. 12:30 p.m.

The Tree of Advent



I wonder... what are those dried branches doing in the sanctuary during Advent?

Thanks to the church school children, the trees of Advent will be decorated with scripture-based ornaments throughout the season of Advent as a way to prepare for Christmas. This worship experience during Children's Time each week is based on the tradition of a Jesse Tree. Here's some background for you:

Trees make stories come alive. In the Christian tradition, trees trace roots back to Creation and God's satisfied pronouncement that "it is good!" The burning bush issued a call from God to the trembling Moses. The oaks of Mamre provided shade as Abraham and Sarah offered hospitality to the presence of God. And the tree of Calvary continually casts a shadow of ultimate love and sacrifice across the years. The roots of a tree draw deeply from the past, and in the trees of Advent, the stories come from ancient wisdom, narratives of deliverance, and surprising prophecy. The rings of the trees count the years of God's ongoing love of human beings, a circle of forgiveness and freedom. The branches stretch to the future—sending us on the way of the prophets, in the footsteps of the Savior, and in the shade of the pilgrims who have gone before. The trees of Advent also tell a story of Jesus, based on the ancestry recorded in scripture and the symbols of ancient narratives. The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to medieval times, where examples in stained glass tell the story of the genealogy of Jesus. The name of the tree refers to the lineage of Jesse, mentioned in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." In creating a contemporary Jesse tree, one can use symbols from scriptural references and add others that have particular relevance for the local setting.

~excerpt written by Laura Loving, U.C.C. minister, from Waukesha, WI
from the U.C.C. Worship Ways resources

Beginning on November 22nd, church school children will make the Advent 1 ornament and are asked to bring it with them to worship on Sunday, November 29th to bring forward during children's time. Then on November 29th, children will be given a take-home bag for their next ornament to bring to worship on December 6th, and so on.

Here's the schedule of ornaments so your child can participate!

Nov. 22nd: During church school time, children will make their Advent 1 Ornament

Nov. 29th ~ Advent 1: **Bring your Planet Earth ornament to Children's Time in worship.**
Lectionary Scripture Source: Luke 21:25-36 (w/ Jeremiah 33:14-16)
Take home your Advent 2 ornament kit.

(Continued on page 9)

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

Friday, December 11th Join Heartworks Gingerbread House Making Family Event!
4-7 p.m. (drop-in) at St. John's Parish Hall. \$20 Early registration required.
Contact Leslie Peck for more information (245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net).
Proceeds benefit Catie's Wish Foundation, a non-profit organization with the mission of eradicating pediatric cancer through prayer and research.

Saturday, December 19th We're going to see *A Christmas Carol*, starring Jim Carrey, for a late afternoon movie, then off to *Papa Ginos* for pizza. Please plan on bringing two nonperishable food items for Tap In as part of admission to this event. Approximate cost for this activity will be \$17 per child to cover entrance to the movie and dinner afterward. Time of event to be announced as we get closer, as the time of the movie changes weekly. Anyone interested in attending can call Leslie Peck at 245-1820 or email PeckMarketing@cox.net.

Saturday, January 23rd Homeless Sleepout (see below)

Saturday, February 6th Ice Skating and Hot Chocolate in Newport—SAVE THE DATE!

More details forthcoming in JPF email. Stay tuned to your inbox!

Junior PF & Senior PF Service-Learning Special Event

HOMELESS SLEEPOUT

All 6th-12th graders are invited to join youth from Barrington Congregational U.C.C., Newman U.C.C. & Central Congregational U.C.C. for a special event **on Saturday night, January 23rd**.



Please contact Elizabeth Barnum for more information. Details & times TBA

Senior PF

- all 9th to 12th graders welcome!

Sunday, December 6 6:30—8 p.m.
Meet at church.

Saturday, January 23 Time tba
Homeless Sleepout (see above)

**Food Drive for the RI Food Bank
Barrington Veterinary Clinic**

In exchange for a donation of food, they will insert a microchip or provide a nail trim at no charge.

Call their office for details and/or to schedule an appointment (401) 245-9226.



I wonder... how did the adults that participated in the Godly Play workshop experience the session demonstration of Godly Play?
 These are the words participants shared when asked "What did this morning's Godly Play session feel like for you?"

relaxing * calming * visual * experiential * spiritual * productive *
 thought-provoking * fertile * well-prepared * fun * community * interesting *
 inspiring * creative * organized * multi-sensory * serious * tactile * safe-sharing * welcoming *
 appreciative * mysterious * "Awe" some * "Awe" filled * individual attention * creative freedom *
 accepting * inclusively independent * off the grid * long – story – journey *
 eucharistic symbolism * refreshing * captivating

Are you interested in learning more? Do you know a PreK – 5th-grader who might like to experience Godly Play? Please speak with Elizabeth Barnum or Andrea Bullard.

Upcoming Confirmation Classes



- Sunday, December 13th** After worship 11:30-12:30
Class meets with Elizabeth in Room 6
- Sunday, January 10th** After worship 11:30-12:30
Class meets with Jeff in Room 6
- Saturday, January 23rd** Homeless Sleepout with Barrington, Newman & Central churches (see page 10). More information to follow
- Sunday, January 24th** Meeting information TBA
- Saturday, January 30th** Approx. 2:30 – 6:00
Confirmants assist CEYM Team with the Community Soup Kitchen

2010 Mission Trip April 17-24 (Sat—Sat)

The group will meet on **Sunday, December 20** from 6-8 p.m. at the Caesar's home, 3 Blount Circle, Barrington, to watch a film.
Parents are welcome to join them.



The group will also meet on **Sunday, January 31** from 6-8 p.m. in the library.
All youth and adults going on the Mission Trip are expected to attend.

Another successful **PASTA DINNER** was held on November 15th when approx. 160 people were served.

Thanks go to all the Mission Trippers and also to the adult volunteers in the kitchen for all of their hard work – especially Jean Arnold who led the efforts and also Lory McCoy, Charlie McCoy, Kathleen Larsen, Lynn Caesar, Stephanie Edwards, and Doug Roach. Thanks also to everyone who made the delicious desserts. And of course, a big thank you to everyone who attended or just purchased a ticket to help them in their fundraising effort for the 2010 Mission Trip to Appalachia.



Some of the volunteers and Mission Trippers in the kitchen at the Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

BATTLES OF THE BANDS WAS A SUCCESS!

Thanks are due to Scott Clemens for organizing the bands! And great to hear Courtney Selvage, Andrew Lennon, Nate Ward & Remy Steele all participate by offering their musical gifts.

Also thank you to the numerous adult volunteers: Van Edwards, Jean Arnold, Laura Ward, Debbi Summers, Tom Lennon, Laurie Lennon, Francis Seader, Susan Seader, Keith Strickland, Chris Brady, Ellen Brady, Lynda Cook, Charlie McCoy, Lory McCoy, Kim Godfrey, Susan Roach, Doug Roach, Katrina Swihart, Craig Selvage, Don Cook, James Steele, Sue Clemens and Steve Clemens. Thanks also to everyone who donated snacks.

Some Christmas Gift Ideas..... all proceeds go to the Mission Trip Fund

CHURCH COOKBOOKS

(published Spring 2006) are available for **just \$5** each (originally \$15). The cookbook contains favorite new recipes from church members as well as a few of the most popular recipes from the old yellow cookbook. Available for purchase from the church office.



Cat's Meow rendition of BCCUCC.

There are just a few of the Cat's Meow wooden replicas of our church left, and they are available for purchase at the sale price of **\$15 each** (originally \$20). They make great Christmas gifts and once they're sold out we won't be ordering any more. Please note that BCCUCC is the only place where this unique gift can be purchased. Stop by (or call) the church office to purchase your 'church'.



2010 Pledging Update



We are pleased to report that as of November 20, 2009:

\$299,808 of the \$370,000 we need has been pledged for 2010!

- 63 households increased their 2010 pledge (some as much as 100%)
- 47 households pledged an equal amount to 2009
- 5 households are decreasing their 2010 pledge
- 14 households are First Time Pledgers
- 129 total households (64% of 2009 pledgers) responded so far

Please get your pledge cards returned by December 14th, so we can have accurate pledging levels for the December 20th budget meeting. 179 households pledged in 2009 and we need everyone to renew in 2010.

Thank you to everyone who has made a formal financial commitment to support our church's operations in 2010. Encourage your friends to join you in investing in our people, our programs and community that provide so much to so many. God has given us so much, so please, give some back. If we all give a little, we will balance our budget and if we exceed our goals, we can reinstate proposed staff and salary cuts to current year (2009) levels.



In early December the Stewardship team will be calling those who have not yet returned their 2010 pledge card. Please return your pledge card today; all amounts are welcome.

Thank you for your generous support!

Please note that you may change your pledge at any time throughout the year, by calling our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard. All pledge information is confidential.

Help us be green and save money. Choose to read *The Bridge* on your computer rather than receive a hard copy in the mail. Contact the church office (office@bccucc.org) and we will send you *The Bridge* as a pdf, and let you know that it can also be read at www.bccucc.org



BUDGET CONVERSATION

After worship on **Sunday, January 24th** in the Vestry. All are welcome to come and learn more about the 2010 church budget and ask questions.

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ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 31st after Worship in the Sanctuary.

The budget meeting takes place immediately after the worship service has ended and all church members are encouraged to remain in the Sanctuary to attend this important meeting.



Childcare (with snack) will be provided for any child in the Education Building until 11:30 a.m. so that parents can remain in the sanctuary for the budget meeting. Please plan to pick up your child at that time. Thank you.

Warrant for the ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island

Sunday, January 31, 2010

The annual budget meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC is hereby called to take place in the sanctuary following the regular 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, January 31, 2010**. The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To review and vote on the proposed church budget for fiscal year 2010.
- ARTICLE III: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE IV: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Patricia Stoddard Clerk



YEAR END ALERT Re: 2009 Reimbursable Expenses.

The end of the year is rapidly approaching. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out vouchers (*which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team*) and send them to the church office, with receipts attached, as soon as possible. Vouchers are available from the folder at the front of Pat's desk in the church office. ***Any expenses turned in after December 10th, 2009, will be charged to the 2010 budgets !***



2010 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2010 pledge envelopes will be available on the Narthex table (where the greeters stand) in late December - or you can stop by the church office to pick them up.

If you haven't been assigned a set but would like some, please contact the church office (office@bccucc.org or 246-0111) and we will be happy to assign some to you.

SIGN UP FOR PLEDGEPAY

Convenient — Reliable — Secure

Pledge Pay is a convenient way for you to make monthly pledge payments to the church by direct withdrawal from your checking or savings account. We are happy to offer this hassle-free way to pay your 2010 pledge and hope to save you time in the process. Enrollment forms are available from the vestry table, outside the church office or via e-mail from Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org) or call the church office (246-0111).

If you used PledgePay in 2009, you will need to submit a new form for 2010 **only** if you make any changes in your plan (account, amount etc).

Please fulfill your 2009 pledge

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, passes a budget at the beginning of each year at its Annual Budget Meeting, based upon the amount the congregation has pledged. The church relies on the income from those pledges in order to pay its bills, fund programs, give money to missions, and pay the staff. We respectfully request that if at all possible, you fulfill your 2009 financial pledge to the church before December 31st.

We are aware that circumstances change and that you may no longer be able to meet your commitment, in which case we ask that you please either call the church office and speak with our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard, or speak with the minister to let us know. Thank you.

Free Fitness Machine

A parishioner is downsizing and needs to get rid of (free) a large fitness system – a slightly used model H300t Hoist Fitness System originally purchased for \$1800. If interested see Jeff for pictures and details.

New Shut-In Service

Can't get to the Library because of an accident or chronic medical condition? Live in Barrington? Your Library can help! Beginning in



December, on the first Thursday of the month, a new service will begin where up to 15 items can be delivered to your home once a month. Visit or call the Reference Desk at 247-1920 ext 302 to enquire about this free service.

*The December 2009 calendar as found on pages 16-17,
and the January 2010 calendar as found on pages 18-19,
can be found on the Calendar page of the church website
www.bccucc.org*

In December the Dine Out group invites you to join them when they will eat at

The Old Grist Mill
390 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk MA
02771



on **Friday, December 11th** at **6:30 p.m.**

To make a reservation, RSVP to Abby Randazzo preferably by e-mail to randazzoam@yahoo.com (or call 247-1030) by *Tuesday, December 8th*.

Max number of people is 26.

All are welcome — both singles and couples.

DOES YOUR *BRIDGE* NEWSLETTER ARRIVE LATE EACH MONTH?

If so there are ways that you can get to read *The Bridge* in a much more timely manner:

1. **Read *The Bridge* on-line and/or have it e-mailed to you as a pdf.**

We would no longer mail you a hard copy, but instead would send you an e-mail to let you know that the most recent *Bridge* could be read at our church website. We also attach the *Bridge* as a pdf file to the e-mail so you could access it even more quickly.

2. **Pick up a copy of *The Bridge* at church the Sunday after it is printed.**

Extra copies are always available either from the rack in the vestry hallway or outside the church office. We would no longer mail you a hard copy as you'd pick up a copy instead.

If you would like to try either of these options, please contact the church office at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org. Thank you.



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

Thursday, January 14th.

Book Group

next meets on

Tuesday, December 8th

at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot
501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

Faceless Killers
by Henning Mankell

In his first appearance in English, Swedish bestselling author Mankell combines thriller-quality entertainment with a depiction of anti-foreigner prejudice in Sweden, painted here as a very chilly place indeed.

January's book and meeting date have yet to be decided.

For more information, contact Helen Schall at 245-4724 or helenschall@hotmail.com

The Women's Faith Group

The group will not meet in December. Please plan to read the book:

The First Christmas; What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Birth
by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

in preparation for their next meetings on **January 7th** and **21st** from **10—11:30 a.m.** in **Room 6**. If anyone still needs a copy of the book, please contact the church office as additional copies have been ordered.

The group welcomes all women from BCCUCC as well as from other churches and faith traditions. For more information contact Carol Louttit at 245-2299 or chl2299@aol.com, or Nancy Martin at 273-1078 or nancy.martin3@verizon.net



The **Knitting (and Crocheting) for Others** group will meet in the **church library** from **7-9 p.m.** on **Thursdays, December 3 and January 7**. All knitters and crotcheters are welcome.

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

The group gets together to knit (or crochet) items for donation to others. For example these could be hats for newborns; hats, gloves or scarves for our mitten tree; 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.



As part of Laity Sunday on November 15th, a number of items made by parishioners were displayed and blessed (see photo above). Six of the prayer shawls have since been delivered by the ministers to church members who are struggling with illness, injury, or have been recently bereaved.

The group has some donated yarn as well as a couple of patterns for knitting hats for the mitten tree, and a pattern for a prayer shawl. Contact Kathleen Larsen (see above) or Christine Wallis in the church office if interested in either yarn or patterns. Donations of worsted or sportweight yarn are also most welcome.

From Your Justice and Witness Ministry Team.....



The Justice and Witness Ministry Team will be setting up a "Giving Tree" again this year, with envelopes for donations of various amounts to apply to gifts cards to supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, utilities, toy stores, Wal-Mart, shopping malls, etc. to help needy families afford the necessities and also allow them to have money for gifts for their families and themselves. Donations will be taken each Sunday through December 13.

The gift cards purchased will be donated to the Women's Resource Center for Newport and Bristol Counties.

The Justice and Witness Ministry Team will once again be sponsoring a Mitten Tree. You are asked to please fill the Christmas tree in the narthex of the church with **new hats, mittens and gloves of all sizes - for children, teenagers and adults.** The items will be donated to various local agencies for distribution to those in need. Handmade and purchased items are both most welcome.

A warm thank you to everyone who can help.



SERRV

Anyone wishing to order items from the SERRV catalog is reminded that orders need to be in to Helen Schall by November 29th.

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



Please continue to bring in used (or new) **men's clothing** for the **George Hunt Help Center** in Providence. Warm clothing of all types is especially essential during the winter months for those living on the streets. There is also an urgent need for **men's winter boots.** Donations may be placed in the box in the vestry hallway.



We continue to accept canned goods for **TapIn** and these donations may be placed in the bins in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS FUND

As we approach the advent season 2009 we find ourselves living through one of the longest protracted recessions in anyone's memory.

The proceeds from *The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund* are used to provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all stages of their lives and ministries to and through the UCC. The availability of these funds is critical to the ability of the Board for Ministerial Assistance to help ensure a sustainable quality of life for those who ultimately receive the gifts.

During 2009 the Pension Boards have received an average of 3 to 4 new requests for assistance, each week! Response to those requests is possible because of dollars given to the Christmas Fund. The gifts go directly to those who serve or have served the church, in their moments of critical need. Currently, nearly 1,500 families have received either a one-time grant or are receiving continued assistance through your gifts to the Christmas Fund Offering.

Your generous contributions through BCCUCC's participation in the *The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund* can and do make a difference in the lives of many.

Please make checks payable to "Barrington Congregational Church" and mark the memo line "Christmas Fund". *Christmas Fund* envelopes will be included in the Sunday bulletins on December 13 and 20 for your use. Donations may also be sent directly to the church office. Thank you.



Every 9 weeks we provide the Saturday meal at the Community Soup Kitchen at Park Place Congregational UCC in Pawtucket. We are next scheduled for January 30th.

Our ministry teams do this on a rotating basis but often need additional help from members of the congregation. You can help by either going to the soup kitchen to help serve and/or you can help by providing a main dish, fruit or dessert—to be delivered to BCCUCC by 2:30 p.m.

To volunteer please contact our soup kitchen coordinators Diane or Cate Todd at (401) 245-4681 or you can e-mail Diane at diane.todd@verizonbusiness.com or Cate at Toddc11@bpsmail.org.



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>



This is just a reminder not to miss early registration for the
UCC Women Leaders of New England CELEBRATION VIII.

The theme is **Together Building Bridges.**

The early registration fee deadline is December 31, 2009.

The event will be held **March 12 – 14, 2010**, headquartered at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, VT. Sign up now to get your first workshop choices. You may go on line at <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org> for more information as well as to do your registration. It's fun and easy.

Don't forget to also make reservations at The Sheraton, The Holiday Inn, or The Best Western. Ask for the New England Women's Celebration VIII special rate.

Got questions? Call Coordinator, Susan Waldron 860-923-2887 swaldron01@snet.net.

2

Christmas is coming! Consider giving your wife, daughter, your female clergy and clergy's wife a gift of registration to Celebration VIII. Please invite your daughters, granddaughters (14 and older), and friends for our inter-generational participatory workshop, "CONNECTIONS". We hope to see **YOU** there!



Sewers Needed



Celebration VIII needs several "sewers" to put together the stoles for Celebration. The fabric will be ready sometime in December and the work needs to be finished by the middle of January. Contact Susan Rotblat-Walker (253-8969) for more information.

Making Meals for Our Church Community

The Deacons are updating their list of those who are willing to prepare meals for church members when there is a need. If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry, please contact Susan Seader (seader@cox.net or 245-5679).



The East Bay Chapter of PFLAG South Central RI meets the **3rd Thursday** of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at **Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ**. All are welcome.

Learn more at
www.infopflagscri.org
or call the
East Bay Chapter
(401) 952-6720



ZERO FATALITIES PROGRAM INVITATION

The Zero Fatalities Project (ZFP) is a public safety initiative aimed at raising awareness of the devastating consequences of underage drinking and other forms of reckless driving. The initiative involves busing students to the Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) to attend panel sessions of inmates doing long sentences for DUI and reckless driving-related offenses.

Inmates speak candidly about their crimes, the effects of their poor choices, and their incarceration. A victim family member speaks about the tragic effects of these crashes. Dan Converse, a Barrington resident who lost his son in a drunk driving crash, will be speaking at both sessions.

We are inviting parents to attend **one** of the following two sessions:

DATES: Wednesday, December 2nd OR Wednesday, December 23rd

VENUE: Medium Security Facility -Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI)

TIME: 9 am. (sessions last about two hours)

RSVP: Space is limited. To register, contact Kathy Sullivan at ksullivan@barrington.ri.gov or 247-1900 x 316.



As a community, we **can** make a difference and prevent the crime of drunk driving. The way to start is to have passion about making change. Hearing firsthand why drinking and driving is unacceptable is one way to fire that passion. With this passion, we can educate others to prevent the heartache that far too many families experience when adults and teens kill others after drinking and getting behind the wheel of a car.

Celebrate Life!

The holidays are a great time to reconnect with friends and family.

Remember to model appropriate behavior:

- Use or be a designated driver
- Use prescription drugs only as directed by a physician



Got the holiday blues?

Reach out to friends or family rather than turning to substances

This Parenting for Prevention Tip is kindly offered by the BAY Team
Barrington's community coalition to prevent substance abuse www.thebayteam.org

JAZZ CONCERT AT BCCUCC



On Friday, December 4 at 7:30 p.m. The Barrington High School Jazz Ensemble will present a Winter Jazz Concert in our sanctuary. The concert is sponsored by the Barrington Preservation Society and will be followed by a reception in the Vestry with refreshments. There will be an admission charge of \$5 (except for relatives of the Jazz Ensemble and Barrington Preservation Society members), but Van Edwards (245-9719) will have some free tickets for church members. The Jazz Ensemble has been nationally recognized for its excellence. Their repertoire ranges from Big Band music of the 30's to Duke Ellington favorites. This will be a lively and entertaining concert. All are invited.

**The Providence Singers
with the Rhode Island
Philharmonic
present
Handel's
MESSIAH**

**Saturday, December 19
8 p.m.**

**Veterans Memorial Auditorium
Providence**

**Tickets \$22—\$62
\$12 children and students**

**(401) 421-ARTS
www.ProvidenceSingers.org**



Tot's Co-operative Preschool
Wreath Sale and Bake Sale
BCCUCC Parking Lot
Saturday, December 5
10 a.m.—2 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 21, 2010

BILL HARLEY

will perform
a Benefit Concert for Tot's Preschool
at Kickemuit Middle School, Warren

Robbie Burns Supper ~ Sat., February 6th, 2010 ~ Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet

English cut prime rib 5 course dinner, pipe band, Haggis, dance band.

If interested in attending, please talk to
Heather Sugg (433-4842) or Bethia Rosner (246-0131)

Every year, Heather finds several church members who would like to have gone to the dinner but they didn't know about it till too late.....so she asked that we include this brief announcement.



Help Beautify Our Sanctuary for Christmas



We invite you to make a donation to the

Chancel Fund

Money donated to this fund will be used to help beautify the Sanctuary – including the purchase of poinsettias to decorate the church this Christmas. Some of the donations will also be used to purchase the poinsettias that will be delivered by the deacons before Christmas to our homebound, sick or recently bereaved in our congregation. Please note that, unlike in the past, plants will not be available to be taken home.

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 Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please complete the donation form on the next page and return to the church office with your donation by Monday, December 14th. 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

Christmas 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 Christmas bulletin insert:

Given by
(please print clearly)

In memory of
.....

In thanksgiving for
.....

In celebration of
.....

Please complete & return with your donation by Monday, December 14th

Thank you for your donation.

★ Thank You! ★ ★ THANK YOU! ★

...to RICUCC Associate Conference Minister Kelly Thibeault for the use of her cloth Labyrinth for the Deacons' Retreat and the 6th-8th grade church school class

...to Godly Play Teacher Trainer Jennifer Sanborn from Amesbury, MA for coming to lead a wonderful workshop on Godly Play. Thanks also to the CEYM Team and to Bagels Etc for making the day a great success!

...to everyone who participated in Reverse-Trick-or-Treating by picking-up Equal Exchange chocolates and pamphlets

...to Bill Dewitt & Liza Dewitt for helping with Children's Communion in the Library on November 1

...to Holly Ogden, Jane and Greg Knight, Amy Gorman, Michelle Koles, Susan Short, Francis Seader, Elizabeth Barnum, Lauren Browning, Terrin Strickland, Hannah Lennon, Brianna Shoaf, Emma Edwards, Laina Caesar, and Rebecca Bendheim for volunteering in Church School

...to Greg Voigt and Ellen Brady for being volunteer drivers to the afternoon Confirmation Retreat at Irons Homestead

...to Leslie Peck, Steve Peck, Ray Zarlengo, and Ellen Brady for being volunteer chaperones at LaserTag for a great group of 6th-8th graders

...to Helen Schall, Ellen Brady, and Bev Travers for representing BCCUCC at the RICUCC Autumnal Meeting at Four Corners Community Chapel in Cumberland, RI

...to all the volunteers who made the Battle of the Bands and the Pasta Dinner so successful (see page 12 for details)

...to all who were involved in preparing and leading worship on Laity Sunday - John Kelley, Steve Peck, Laina Caesar, Rebecca Bendheim, Abby Randazzo, Jane Knight, Chris Brady, Helen Schall, Kathleen Larsen, and Cheryl Muth

...to all the knitters and crocheters who made the shawls, hats, scarves, bandages etc that were blessed at the Laity Sunday service. Thanks also to Beth Zarlengo for delivering the premie baby hats to the NICU at Women's and Infants

...to all who went to the service at Slatersville Congregational UCC (see page 6)

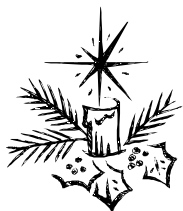
...to all who made monetary or food donations to our recent TAP-IN food drive

...to all who brought in hangers for the coat racks in the foyer—we should now have enough for everyone's winter coats!

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

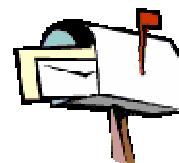
A chance to say "thank you" to the Staff

During the first 3 weeks of Advent (Nov. 29, Dec 6 and 13) you will find in the pews an envelope marked "Staff Christmas Bonus." We are blessed to have wonderful people working here who give more hours to our church than expected or than compensated for. We invite you to join with us in giving them a gift during these holidays. Please be generous. Your gifts will be divided up among seven different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Director, Marina at our organ, and Jack, Kenny and Jimmy on the custodial staff, percentage-wise according to the number of hours they work.



Thank you ahead of time, Jeff and Elizabeth

Letters from our mailbox



Dear Members,

On behalf of TAP-IN and the people it serves, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued support of our organization. Your many food donations made to our neighborhood pantry are truly appreciated. Each collection/donation helps TAP-IN and its volunteers to meet the challenge of increasing need in our community. We also thank you for the recent donation of store vouchers that were included with holiday foods you donated last week; they will be most appreciated by our clients this Thanksgiving.

Again, thank you for your kindness. We wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Debbie Abbate, Corresponding Secretary for TAP-IN

Dear members of the congregation:

Thank you for your prayers, cards, visits and meals. We truly appreciate the support. It's so nice to be part of this church family.

Thanks again!
Achina Stein

Anna Fiore Smith (aged 91) died peacefully on November 11, 2009 at Adams House in Fall River. Anna was organist and choir director at Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C. from 1963 to 1979. She was a very talented musician and amongst her many accomplishments was her work in restoring the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Organ Society. Her work there was so appreciated that the membership named a scholarship in her honor. A memorial service was held November 18 in Swansea.

Family Footnotes



We welcome the following new members who joined our church on
November 22nd, 2009

*Anne Danzberger Kate Bonneau Jack and Meredith Huse
Greg and Jane Knight Claudia and Fred Pierce
Barnara Simpson Laurie and Paul Smith*

Congratulations to
The Rev. Skip Waterbury
who is celebrating the
35th Anniversary of his Ordination.

Skip was at Barrington
Congregational Church, UCC,
from 1982-1988.



BIRTHS

Lily May Passafaro

born October 1, 2009
to Julie (Kaloostian) and Kevin Passafaro
granddaughter to Bob and Sally Kaloostian



Karen Crisman, Betsy Staples, Jan Getek, Jane Brell,
May Smith, Paul Welch, Amanda Robidoux,
Betsy Restituyo, Marjorie Puschin, Doug Roach,

Steve Fodor, Sue Terhune, Marjorie Stumpff, Achina Stein, Barbara Cornwell,

Bob Sugg, Marguerite Stoddard (Pat Stoddard's mother-in-law),

Dick Haas (Kate Colby's father), & Barbara Harrington (MaryLouise Gamache's mother).

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

Bonnie Britland on the death of her mother;

Stephanie Edwards on the death of her uncle, Eugene Welch;

to the family and friends of Ada Mahler,

and to the family of Anna Fiore Smith.



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, Ken York, Jim Salvaggio	



December 2009
and
January 2010

*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.*