

December 2010 & January 2011



Dear Friends,

You will be receiving this newsletter at the beginning of Advent. Please consider making this Advent gentler and more peaceful than any you can remember. We cancel all possible evening meetings at the church during this season in hopes that people will have a little extra time for reflection.

In Sunday worship our theme is “Our Stories Lead Us To The Creche” and each week people will be given different crèche figures to bring forth as we watch our scene fill up in these weeks, preparing for the coming of the baby Jesus on Christmas Eve. It would be a wonderful time for you to drag out that old crèche set from your attic and set it up at home so you can reflect along with us on Sundays. If you would like to be one of the participants on Sunday carrying a piece forward at a point in the service please let me know. We also have a tradition of lighting an Advent Candle each week and invite volunteers to do that as well.

On Christmas Eve there will be our traditional two services: at 6:00 PM Elizabeth and I will lead a shorter service geared especially for children and families that will have some carols and an acting out of the Christmas story. At 10:00 PM we will have our service of carols and readings. This year we will each have a battery operated candle to hold. I know it isn't as good as “the old days” but at least we can symbolically share in the candle lighting as we sing “Silent Night.”

My prayers are with you in this holy season...that it may be a wonderful one for you. Please remember that for the most part you are in control of whether that happens or not so please be thoughtful.

Peace to you,

Sunday Services in December & January



December 5	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion and Sing and Celebrate Choir, Church School
December 12	10 a.m.	Worship Service with extra Bell music, Church School
December 19	10 a.m.	<i>Jazz Christmas Sunday</i> Worship Service with Seasonal Jazz music, Church School for PreK—Grade 6 only
December 26	10 a.m.	Worship Service for All Ages, NO Nursery
January 2	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Communion PreK– Grade 6 only: Children’s Communion in Library then Church School
January 9	10 a.m.	Worship Service, Church School
January 16	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Bells, Church School for PreK– Gd 6 only
January 23	10 a.m. After Worship	Worship Service, Church School Annual Budget Meeting (see page 18)
January 30	10 a.m.	Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir, Church School

Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8 unless otherwise indicated

Nursery Care Available

Handicapped Accessible

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



On December 19th, church school children will be hearing the Godly Play story of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (now southern Turkey). Nicholas was a young boy who always wanted to give a gift to Jesus but Jesus lived long before he was born. The story goes that “still he wondered if the Christ child was living in every child.” Because Santa (a.k.a. St. Nick via a very long winding road of histories!) gets a lot more press than Jesus this time of year, we thought it would be meaningful to spend some time learning more about the origins of the stories about Nicholas in the Godly Play way.

While ‘official’ saints and bishops aren’t a part of our Congregational heritage or U.C.C. practice, they are very much a part of many Christian traditions and our shared stories. The materials for this saint include a plaque with an image of a bishop’s miter, a simply wrapped gift, and a wooden baby in a manger. This saint story concludes by sharing that the practice of gift-giving “all began with the gifts of the poor bishop of Myra for the children of his town, because he saw the Christ child in every child. We remember Nicholas because he gave gifts for God.”

We’ve come a long way from the simple origins of this story to the rampant consumerism and over-consumption that surrounds us on a daily basis, holiday season or not, economic downturn or not. In my opinion, it takes a lot of intention to choose other ways of being and doing Christmas that claims our identity as people of faith more boldly than our identity as consumers. Perhaps the cultural and economic ‘call’ to shop until we drop might tell us more about our false messiahs than the one who comes to dwell among us.

There are so many other inspiring ways to think creatively about how to make the Advent season and Christmas celebrations meaningful – not in the amount of gifts given or received, but rather in the opportunity to walk the way of love and justice in the world.

The gifts of our Advent and Christmas traditions and stories are abundant - wonder, mystery, patience, perseverance, stillness, silence, embodiment, simplicity, hope, vision, and a turned-upside-down worldview that might call us to radical shifts in our relationships with community and creation. Like Nicholas, how might we see the Christ Child living in everyone and give from that place? I very much hope that such gifts seize each of us in unexpected moments this season. A peaceful Advent and a merry Christmas to you.

In wonder,

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

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

P.S. Here are two of my favorite websites this time of year that list numerous alternative ways to celebrate Christmas:

www.buynothingchristmas.org/alternatives A great website from our neighbors in the Mennonite tradition in Canada – wonderful, meaningful ideas!

www.simpleliving.org “Equipping people of faith to challenge consumerism, live justly and create meaningful celebrations.”



Advent Worship Volunteers needed

Jeff is looking for additional people who would like to participate in the Advent and Christmas Eve services either by doing one of the Advent Candle lightings, or reading scripture, or perhaps participating in some sort of Pageant at the 6 PM service on Christmas Eve.

If you would like to volunteer, either individually or with friends or family, please let Jeff know (jeff@bccucc.org or 246-0111). No experience necessary!

Music Plans for Advent and Christmas



- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Sun., Dec. 5 th | The Sing & Celebrate Choir will participate in worship. |
| Sun., Dec. 12 th | The White Church Ringers will provide additional music for this service. |
| Sun., Dec. 19 th | The vocal choir will present a “Jazz Christmas Sunday”, with a bass player and contributions from the bell choir. |
| Christmas Eve | The vocal choir will sing and the bell choir play at the 10 p.m. service. |



Start Advent with a time of **BIBLE STUDY WITH JEFF**

Monday, November 29th 7-8:30 PM Library.

We will be looking at a general overview of the Gospel of Matthew with its emphasis and themes. Matthew will be the primary gospel source of our lessons for the next year. All are welcome – the less Bible knowledge the better!

2011 Pledging Update

The Stewardship Team is pleased to report that as of November 22, 2010: \$324,519 of the approximately \$400,000 we need has been pledged for 2011!



- 59 households increased their pledge for 2011
- 63 households pledged an equal amount to 2010
- 16 households are decreasing their 2011 pledge
- 8 households are new pledgers this year
- 146 total households (80% of 2010 pledgers) have responded so far; the total they have pledged is 4.4% higher than the amount they pledged for 2010.

Thank you to everyone who has made a formal financial commitment to support our church's operations in 2011. Encourage your friends to join you in investing in our people, our programs and community that provide so much to so many. We're making progress on improving our financial health, but to provide our staff with a much delayed salary increase in 2011, we'll need to increase our total pledges by a little over 3%.



Follow-up calls and visits are currently underway to those who have not yet returned their 2011 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 contacting our financial secretary, Pat Stoddard (pat@bccucc.org, 246-0111, x. 102). All pledge information is confidential.

We are very pleased to announce that our church has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from The Champlain Foundations to replace the storm windows in our historic church building. The current storm windows are in bad shape and the money will enable us to replace them with new ones that will reduce heat loss and save energy.

Special thanks go to John Loerke for all of his hard work on the application process, and to all who assisted him.



CHURCH ATTENDANCE

October 24 – 187
October 31 – 207
November 7 – 192
November 14 – 211
November 21 – 221



While safety concerns prevent the congregation from holding real candles at the Christmas Eve services, we are pleased to announce that battery operated candles will be used this year during both of the Christmas Eve services. Thank you to Cheryl and Catherine Muth for making this happen. The candles are being purchased with money from the Chancel Fund.

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 Barbara Smith at 245-2580 (h) or 486-2292 (c) or 415-1900 (w) or barbara.smith@fmglobal.com.

ADULT EDUCATION GROUP

meets Sundays in the Library after worship
approx. 11:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME.



ADULT EDUCATION

During December & January, individuals are invited to read either “Jesus for the Non-Religious” (Spong)* or “The Third Jesus” (Chopra) or other Jesus book of their choice as we have Advent/Christmas-oriented discussions about the life and stories of Jesus and how it might matter for us today. Rotation of facilitators to be announced.

Dec. 5, 12 & 19 Book Share Discussion

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 No meeting

Jan. 9 No meeting, Budget Conversations (open to all), Library

Jan. 16 Book Share Discussion

Jan. 23 No meeting, Annual Budget meeting (open to all), Sanctuary

Jan. 30 Book Share Discussion

Please speak with the Rev. Elizabeth Barnum for more information about this group.

*** Copies of “Jesus for the Non-Religious” by Spong are available for purchase from the church office at the discounted price of \$12.**

The Women's Faith Group

The group will not meet in December. They next meet on

Thursdays, January 6th and 20th from 10—11:30 a.m. in Room 6

when they will begin their discussion of the book

Stones for Schools by Greg Mortenson

Copies of the book will be available from the church office in December.

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



We will no longer be SILENT about the NOT SO SILENT Auction

Plans are already underway for the 2011 Silent/Live Auction sponsored by the BCCUCC church. We will return to **Stanley's Boat Yard** and the date will be **Saturday, September 17th, 2011**.

A committee has been formed and we are about to have our second meeting. **We would love to have you join us**, remember "many hands, make light work." Our meetings are busy and fun, this commitment is only for 10 months and then you are done.

Currently we are in need of a **name** and **theme** for this event.

Please also keep in mind that instead of returning that unwanted Christmas gift, consider **re-gifting** it to the Auction Committee for our event.

Please contact one of the people listed below if you have any questions, ideas for a name and/or theme, or any immediate items to donate. Thank you.

Sue Simpson: bcc_auction@cox.net

Sue Seader: seader@cox.net

Kathleen Larsen: Klarsenswc@hotmail.com

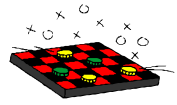


Watch the new UCC Stillspeaking Online Ad "Uniquely UCC" at <http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/ads/>

We're a church of continuing testament, extravagant welcome, and changed lives. We listen to a Stillspeaking God. We're not perfect, but we know who we are. Take a look at 'Uniquely UCC' and share the message with your family and friends.



Sharing Our Toys



Most of our children are fortunate and receive lots of presents at Christmas but 36,000 children in Rhode Island aren't so lucky. They live in poverty and their holiday season doesn't look so bright!

Kathleen Larsen is organizing a toy donation program for the holidays and is asking for donations of gently used toys, stuffed animals, games, riding toys, bikes, helmets, etc. All donations will be given to a local Providence agency called *Children's Friend* which is located next to Crossroads.

CHILDREN — do you have some toys that you are willing to give to a child who may not be getting presents this Christmas?

PARENTS — your help and support is needed. Can you talk about this with your child at dinner etc. and then help them choose something to give away?



There will be a large box in the narthex as you go into church for the collection of toys through December 19th.

If you have any questions or have larger items to donate, please contact Kathleen Larsen at 247-1787 or klarsenswc@hotmail.com.



Toys for all ages are needed. Thank you for your help.

Help the Islamic School of Rhode Island win a new computer lab

NBC TV has a new show called *School Pride* that is on every Friday at 8 p.m, in which they go across the USA helping schools get back up and running. The Islamic School of Rhode Island (ISRI) entered their "School Pride Web Competition" to win 25 computers and \$2,250 towards a computer lab from Microsoft. Students and teachers from around the country submitted amazing stories about their schools and how a new computer lab could make a big difference, and ISRI was chosen as one of 5 finalists. (Their school was badly damaged in the RI floods this past spring.)

They need your votes to help them win! To vote go to <http://www.nbc.com/school-pride/partners/microsoft/> and follow the directions. Voting ends at 2:59 p.m. on November 29th.



JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (JPF)

All youth in grades 6-8 are welcome to participate

Saturday, December 4th Ice Skating. JPF will be joining the Barrington Methodist Church youth group for this activity. Contact Elizabeth Barnum for more information (246-0111 or Elizabeth@bccucc.org)



Wednesday, December 8th and Friday, December 10th Help construct Gingerbread Houses for the Heartworks Cancer Fundraiser. Contact Leslie Peck for more information (245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net)



Sunday, December 19th 6-8 p.m. JPF Holiday Party/Craft Making Night at church

Stay tuned for information on laser tag and bowling during the winter months!

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATES



Sunday, December 5th 11:30 am-12:30 pm Room 6 Regular class

Saturday, December 11th 2:30-5:30 pm Serve at Soup Kitchen, Pawtucket
Please contact Elizabeth to sign-up to donate food, serve, and drive.

Sunday, December 12th 11:30 am-12:30 pm Room 6 Regular class

Sunday, January 9th 11:30 am-12:30 pm Room 8 Regular class

Sunday, January 23th 11:30 am-12:30 pm Room 6 Regular class

Save the dates!

March 25-26 (Fri. 5 pm – Sat. 5 pm) Confirmation Winter Retreat at Irons Homestead

May 2 – Confirmation Sunday

Congratulations to Duncan Brady, Alexa Bullard, Cody Hidalgo, Colin Peck, Markus Stein, and Maggie Zarlengo for participating and completing the Nonviolence Training program for youth at Irons Homestead from October 29-30.

Special thanks to Janet Durfee-Hidalgo & Andrea Bullard for being volunteer drivers to/from Irons Homestead for the this event. Thanks also to Elizabeth Barnum who accompanied the youth at the training.



April 17-22, 2011

Pittsburgh & Urban Plunge Service-Learning Experience

Two more adult volunteers are still needed to chaperone the trip. Please contact Elizabeth Barnum for more information.

Mission Trip Meetings & Activities:

Sundays, November 28th, December 5th, and December 12th Take pie orders after worship.

Sunday, December 12th from 5-8 p.m. and/or Friday, December 17th from 5-8 p.m. (depending on the number of orders). Make pies.

Sunday, December 19th from 8-11 a.m. Final pie-making & distribution preparation

Sunday, January 23th from 7-8 pm in the Library. Meeting.

Mission Trip Fundraiser — Christmas Pie Sale

Made in the church kitchen with love by the 2011 Mission Trippers, frozen for you with ready-bake instructions.

Prices range from \$12-\$20 depending on choice of pie. Details on order form.

Orders may be placed with our Mission Trippers in Fellowship Hall after worship on Nov. 28th, Dec. 5th, & Dec. 12th

Pie pick-up after worship on Sunday, Dec. 19th.



Battle of the Bands

Saturday, January 22nd

7—10 p.m. BCCUCC Fellowship Hall

This is a fundraiser for the April 2011 Mission Trip to Pittsburgh.

Cost: \$5 per ticket/ballot to vote for your favorite band.

Adult Volunteers needed—contact Elizabeth Barnum (246-0111 ext 104 or Elizabeth@bccucc.org).

Possible Bands—please contact Scott Clemens [scottclemens@verizon.net].



Godly Play Story Schedule



December

- Dec . 5 Advent 1 & 2
- Dec. 12 Advent 3 & 4
- Dec. 19 PK-6th St. Nicholas & Christmas crafts
No Church School for 7th & 8th grades
- Dec. 26 No Church School or Nursery care

January

- Jan. 2 Mystery of Christmas
- Jan. 9 Baptism
- Jan. 16 Work & Feast
- Jan. 23 Parable of the Good Shepherd
- Jan. 30 Parable of the Good Samaritan

Spirits of the Season

The holidays are a time for family celebrations. They are also a stressful time.

- à Youth can experience anxiety from watching parents overindulge at the holidays
- à Provide opportunities for your children to confide in you about any concerns they may have
- à Ensure a safe way home from your celebrations
- à Include nondrinking activities in your celebrations

Holidays can be stressful.

Make time for family fun during this busy season.

Parenting *is* prevention



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'.





SAVE THE DATE!
Souper Supper
Sunday, February 13, 2010
5-7 p.m.

Join your church community for a warm meal of soup, bread and salad AND raise funds for the 2011 Mission Trippers.

Look for more information in the January announcements & February *Bridge*.

You are invited to join the Dine-Out Group who will meet at 6:30 p.m.

at Di Parma's Italian Table
 at the Ramada Inn in Seekonk
 on Friday, December 3rd



If you would like to go, please sign up by December 1st with Helen Schall at 245-4724.

All are welcome—singles and couples.

The Knitting (and Crocheting) for Others

group will meet on
Wednesday, December 1
 and
Thursday, January 6
 from 7-9 p.m.
 in the **Church Library.**



ALL ARE WELCOME.

The group knit a variety of different items to be given away. Why not join them?

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

Book Group

meets at The Coffee Depot
 501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



Thursday, December 16th
 at 7:30 p.m.

The Moon and Sixpence
 by Somerset Maugham

In "Moon and Sixpence," Somerset Maugham takes a fascinating look into the life of Charles Strickland, a man who gives up his comfortable life as a stock broker, breaks the social contract, abandons his family, and takes up painting.

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Thursday, January 20th
 at 7:30 p.m.

Traveling with Pomegranates:
a Mother Daughter Story
 by Sue Monk Kidd
 and Ann Kidd Taylor

Best-selling author Kidd travels in 1998 throughout Greece and France with twentysomething daughter Ann to (re)define their life changes as Kidd contemplates middle age and her daughter approaches marriage.

OFFICE CLOSINGS in December & January

The church office will be **closed** on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31.

The office will be **open** from **9 a.m. - Noon only** on Mon.-Thurs., December 27-30:

The office will also be **closed** on January 17th for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.

Welcome to Our Newest Member of Staff

We are pleased to welcome Paul Dzedzic (pronounced 'Dee-zic') to our custodial staff. He will be working part time along with Jack, Ken and Jim. Paul is a former East Providence firefighter and also works for the Barrington School District as a crossing guard and bus monitor. Paul lives in Barrington with his wife and two teenage sons.



DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Abby Randazzo (star deacon),
Marshall Hoyler, Francis Seader,
Susan Seader, and Barbara Smith.

DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Sam Sylvester (star deacon),
Van Edwards, Cheryl Muth, Helen Schall,
Liz White and Greg Voigt.

*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.*

Clergy Away

Rev. Elizabeth Barnum will be
away from the office
January 5—8 and
January 28—February 6.

Rev. Jeff Larsen will be away
January 12—15.



www.bccucc.org



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!).

*The December 2010 and January 2011 calendars
as found on pages 14– 17 of the printed version
can be found on the Calendar page of the church website www.bccucc.org*

Cancel *The Bridge*?

If you are reading this on your computer, and you still receive a hard copy by snail mail, please consider 'canceling' your mailed copy. It will not only save resources (the cost of the paper, ink, postage etc) but will also save the time and labor it takes to run it off and put it together.

To 'cancel' your hard copy, just e-mail office@bccucc.org and we'll use your e-mail address to send you *The Bridge* electronically.

As an added bonus of reading it on-line, you'll receive *The Bridge* much more quickly - before it has even had time to be sorted at the post office!

Thank you to everyone who already reads *The Bridge* on-line.

BCCUCC's Affirmation of Welcome



We believe that all people are blessed and loved equally by God. Following the teachings of Jesus we heartily welcome everyone into God's covenantal community. Whatever your race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic or marital status, variety of thoughts and beliefs, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression--whoever you are and wherever you come from you are welcome into the full life and ministry of our church.



BUDGET CONVERSATION

After worship on **Sunday, January 9th** in the Library. All are welcome to come and learn more about the 2011 church budget and ask questions.

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ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

Sunday, January 23rd 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 23, 2011

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 23, 2011**. 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 2011.
- ARTICLE III: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE IV: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Lorraine Keeney Clerk



YEAR END ALERT Re: 2010 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, 2010, will be charged to the 2011 budgets !**



2011 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

2011 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 2011 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 2010, there is no need to submit a new form for 2011 **unless** you make any changes in your plan (account, amount etc).

Please fulfill your 2010 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 2010 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.

Please note that if you wish to have any contribution recorded as being received by the church in 2010, it must be in the hands of the office by December 31st (or postmarked by that date).



The deadline for submission of articles to be included in the February *Bridge* will be Saturday, January 15th.

Use of E-mail addresses

Please remember that email addresses from our church directory may not be used for solicitation purposes. We ask that you kindly respect this. Thank you.

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 from November 28 through December 19.

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 asked to submit their orders to Helen Schall by December 5th.

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 men's clothing of all types and also **men's winter boots** are essential during the winter months for those living on the streets. A collection hamper is in the vestry.

We continue to accept canned goods for **TapIn** and these donations may be placed in the bins in the narthex. TapIn currently has a great need for **gently used children's clothing** sizes 5-14. The collection box for these is in Fellowship Hall. Thank you.

All Church Missions Project: CWS Hygiene Kits



On Sunday, January 30th, the Justice and Witness Ministry Team invites you to join them during coffee hour to assemble hygiene kits for Church World Service. The J&W team will supply the items needed for the kits.

As many of you know, CWS collects many service kits on an ongoing basis. These might be school kits, baby kits or hygiene kits. They are stored in their warehouses until needed. In the face of natural disasters, violence, or grinding poverty, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families.

The gifts of your hands and hearts will be appreciated. We will also be accepting any monetary donation that you wish to offer to Church World Service.



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 December 11th.

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>

A Holiday Concert to raise funds for *Project Haiti* will take place on Wednesday, December 8th at 7 p.m. at Slatersville Congregational Church, UCC, Church on the Common, Green Street, Slatersville, RI 02876. Admission: Pay what you can to help our kids in Haiti
Put on by One Voice Studio, the performance will include everyone's favorite holiday songs.

CHRISTMAS FUND

For 108 years, the Christmas Fund Offering for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund has been a means by which we, as members of the United Church of Christ and its predecessor bodies, live out the mandate to be Christ's Body in the world. The Christmas Fund, one of four Special Mission Offerings received annually in the United Church of Christ, is a ministry of compassion and care to those who serve our church. Your generous giving to the 2009 Offering enabled the Pension Boards' Ministerial Assistance program, on behalf of the whole church, to provide \$1,504,420 to individuals and families in need.

Lower-income retirees continue to feel most keenly the financial stress brought about by the current economic climate. Because of that, we ask you to prayerfully consider your response to the 2010 Christmas Fund Offering and give to the best of your ability. Reflect upon the ways in which your life has been touched by a retired pastor, a former youth leader, a Christian Education director, a church secretary, a custodian, or a minister of music, and honor their ministries in a way that will help them and others like them in these challenging times. Nearly 1,600 clergy and lay individuals and families received some form of Ministerial Assistance since the last Christmas Fund Offering, thanks to your generosity.

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 12 and 19 for your use. Donations may also be sent directly to the church office. Thank you.



Thank You for Thanksgiving Food Donations

I want to thank everyone who brought in food for TAPIN this month. We brought 56 bags to the TAPIN food room this past Sunday, and it was very satisfying to do so. Your generosity will help to make a Thanksgiving dinner possible for many of our less fortunate families in the East Bay. Believe me, it is appreciated!

I wish to especially thank Kate Loos and her daughter Madison for their special red box collection for TAPIN. What a nice idea! They collected a sizable sum of cash and gift cards to give to TAPIN.

As you may know, TAPIN is entirely staffed by volunteers, so any donations go directly toward the mission to help others. The need is great now, so thank you for helping.

Yours in Faith,

Ann Wood, Chair, Justice and Witness



Need a nametag?
Sign up for one on the sheet under the nametag rack in the vestry hallway, or at the membership table at coffee hour. Once made, you will find it on the nametag rack for you to pick up and wear.

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 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 13th**. 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 2010

***Please read carefully all of the 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 13th

Thank you for your donation.

Thank You to Our Staff

During the first 3 weeks of December (Dec 5, 12 & 19) 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 eight different people; Christine and Pat in the office, Andrea our CE Director, Marina at our organ, and Jack, Kenny, Jimmy and Paul on the custodial staff, percentage-wise according to the number of hours they work.



Thank you ahead of time, Jeff and Elizabeth

★ Thank You! ★ THANK YOU!

...to Amy Gorman, Cara Priolo, Betsy Restituyo, Laurie Smith, Elizabeth Barnum, Tom Odjakjian, Jane Knight, Leslie Strolla, Francis Seader, Greg Knight, Louis House, Van Edwards, and Kristen Westmoreland for volunteering in Church School.

...to Mary Lou Slicker for her donation of “work” materials needed in the Godly Play rooms, and also for helping Reed Bullard with his Halloween costume!

...to Ellen Brady, Helen Schall, Jennifer Geary, Elizabeth Barnum, and Susan Rotblat-Walker for being representatives of BCCUCC at the recent Autumnal Meeting of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, held in Westerly.

...and an abundance of thanks to all who donated school materials to the Islamic School of RI in Cranston as they continue their post-flood recovery efforts. They are SO grateful! You can help them win a new computer lab by voting on line (see article on page 8).

THANKSGIVING

In the season of offering thanks for our blessings, the Nominating Ministry Team of Two (Bernie Hawes and MaryLouise Gamache) would like to thank the following people for their efforts in helping serve and clean up during Coffee Hour following the worship service on November 7. All these folks quietly stepped up, and the many hands made a large task much easier. Some offered to make treats for the following Sunday and pitched in to help that day as well.

Thank you to the following people for all for your kindness (we hope we didn't leave off any names)...

Tom Colby, Dave & Pat Gregory, Dave & Audrey Rogers, Lee Miller, Janet Gausland, Bud Geary, Kate Bonneau, Heather Sugg, The Fodors, Louise House, Jane Knight, and Kathleen Larsen.



JAZZ CONCERT AT BCCUCC

On Saturday, December 11 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.



Tot's Co-operative
Preschool
Wreath & Bake Sale
BCCUCC Parking Lot
Saturday, December 4
9 a.m.— 1 p.m.



Come make Valentines for our
Homebound on
Sunday, January 30th
at coffee hour. The Deacons
will provide all the materials—
you supply the creativity! Thank you.

Letters from our mailbox



Dear Church Family,

Thank you everyone for your concern, kind and helpful words, cards, notes, flowers and phone calls.

My family and Dick's daughters appreciated those who shared the memorial service for Dick with us.

Just a side note, my grandson Sage from Arizona who is nine kept asking "Is Grampy D's spirit going up to heaven now? Is he there yet?"

God Bless us all -
Love,
Jan Cornish

Dear everyone at BCCUCC,

We are most appreciative and have enjoyed so much the gorgeous autumnal flower arrangement which came our way a few Sundays ago.

Many thanks from that twosome (now retired) who, on their scheduled Sunday mornings, have been going 'up and down' with their passengers for lo—these many years.

Stew and Janet Morrison

Janet Cornish - a member of BCCUCC for over 32 years - recently moved from Bristol and is now living closer to her daughter. Her contact information is:

103 Camden Court, Wakefield RI 02879

(401) 284-2476

racquetgal6732@aol.com

Her move went well but she misses the church already. We wish Jan all the best in her new home.



John Kelley, Claire and Grace

74 Blanding Avenue

Barrington RI 02806

(401) 246-0475

E-mail Prayer Chain



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

Family Footnotes

If you or someone you know is in need of a pastoral visit, please contact the church office 246-0111, Jeff (ext 103) or Elizabeth (ext 104) or via e-mail.



Marilyn Darling;

Harold Gallant;

Paula Rooks; Marjorie Puschin; Sue Terhune;

Eleanor Chisholm; and Lory McCoy.



We welcome the following new members who joined our church on November 21st, 2010

Janet Durfee-Hidalgo

Kristen & Gus Kreuzkamp

Clare & Dwight McMillan

Kim & Bob Zeleznik



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

Natalie Perry on the death of her husband, Mal;

Carol Louttit on the death of her husband, Bob;

and to Lory McCoy on the death of her father, Harry Snady.

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, Paul Dzedzic	



December 2010
&
January 2011

*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.*