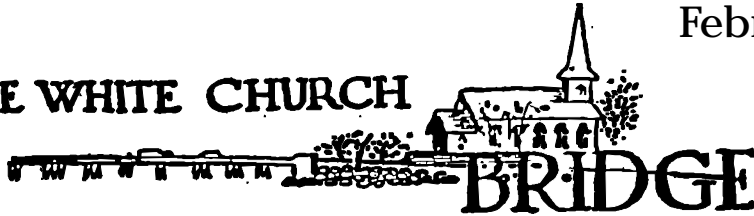


February 2010

THE WHITE CHURCH



Dear Friends,

I saw a man today, a very old man, with his walker cane as a weapon, attack the four steps down, holding the flag firmly in the other. His son kept a respectable yet worried distance at his side. The son had heard the words of:

“It must not hit the ground. Keep the grommets on top, in your left hand so your right can hold the line. It’s called a line you know, not a rope.”

The words hadn’t changed much over the years. They stood as firm as the memories of why this Vet hung his flag every non-stormy day of the year, even on cold ones like this. This sacred act. Barely able to negotiate the five steps to the pole, made twelve by the frailty of the years, the left hand took the grommets at the top while the right lowered the line and attached the clips. Then with the perfected precision, yet the spirit of Iwo Jima’s initial rise, the arms cadenced the climb up the pole. The back straightened with each pull. The years fell off the man as the flag rose. He never looked to see if it was straight or if it was there yet. He knew.

The lines were tied off and there was a brief pause...as if to let the mind remember other risings of the many years, with honor not regret. Then back to assault the stairs again and go inside.

I had just witnessed as great a victory as any war had ever seen. I saw a man today.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jeff'.

A Special Offering will be taken during worship on Sunday, January 24th for **HAITI DISASTER RELIEF**. Checks should be made payable to ‘Barrington Congregational Church’ and mark the memo line ‘Haiti’. Our contributions will go through the United Church of Christ which has people on the ground and has had a long and direct relationship with people and churches in that country. The need is great and will be ongoing, so donations will continue to be accepted at any time. Thank you.



From our Associate Minister



I've just returned from five days away at a workshop in New York City with a community of peers, colleagues, and teachers of which I've been a part for 10 years. We gather once each year to 'refresh' and 'reflect' on the ways in which our spiritual practice informs our work in the world. While I often describe the work as a dance & movement practice, it is actually much more about simply learning how to be more human. It sounds elementary, but it is actually quite a challenge when the obstacles of life appear at each turn daring to disrupt our faith and limiting our capacity for joy.

Two of the sessions were spent in groups of three doing deep work on how to have difficult conversations. It was a brilliant experiment. And while I've had the chance to do dialogue work of various forms in the past, I found it a fruitful reminder of what it means to share honestly, listen deeply, and witness compassionately. If you are curious to hear more, ask me about it! Most of us, myself included, find such conversations something we'd rather avoid and often feel clumsy when we muddle our way through them. However, the teachers of our faith tradition across the ages call us to equip ourselves with the tools and resources upon which we can call when the going gets tough with children, partners, siblings, parents, colleagues, and friends.

In a similar vein, I share this thought for the month that I spotted on a card in a market last week.

"I would rather have a mind opened by wonder than one closed by belief."

This is the core of what we hope to teach the children (and adults!) of this church in the Godly Play program and the core of what it means to be a person of faith committed to the way of love.

What if Lent were more about having your mind opened by wonder rather than being closed by belief this year? What if we entered difficult conversations in our lives with curiosity and vulnerability rather than defensiveness and a fixed agenda? I wish you a Lenten season of wonder and the courage to embark on those conversations that grace our lives with the tasks of learning & sharing, healing & forgiving, growing & loving.

Peace & prayers,

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

P.S. February marks the beginning of my third year among you as your Associate Minister. How time flies! And how gratitude and wonder increases with each passing day! Let's keep on keepin' on!

All this snowy weather has given Jeff Larsen a bit of cabin fever! He has decided to work it off with a little bit of competition to spice up these winter months. So he's organizing our

SECOND ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUNDAY SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE and TAILGATE PARTY!

On **Super Bowl Sunday, February 7th**, Jeff has challenged our sisters and brothers at Newman Congregational UCC in Rumford and Central Congregational UCC in Providence to see which of the three churches can raise the most support for their local food pantry. Last year we were beaten by the South Dartmouth, MA church but Jeff knows that we can turn things around this year! Will you help out?



**Super Bowl
Challenge**

Here's the deal:

- Wear to church the colors of your favorite team.
- Our worship that day will be divided into 4 quarters.
- There will be a special half-time presentation.
- Worship will be followed by a tailgate party in Fellowship Hall – hotdogs, sausages, chili and anything else people are willing to bring to share.
- In the Hall will be large baskets to be filled with non-perishable food items. Completely unbiased referees will add up all that is collected.
- The same thing will be happening at Newman and Central Churches and our total amount of food items will be weighed and a Super Bowl winner declared!

We need some things (in addition to the food pantry donations):

- People to bring food items to share at the Tailgate Party—including chili, salads, dessert etc. We will have the grill on if folks want to bring hot dogs, sausages or hamburgers. *For those bringing chili, we'll have a competition to judge the best pot of chili J*
- Tents to put up around Fellowship Hall to resemble a real parking lot tailgate party
- An empty keg – for the punch
- Volunteers to be referees
- Cheerleader costumes for the Deacons
- Football Banners



Please share with Jeff your ideas, questions, and let him know what you will be bringing (jeff@bccucc.org or 246-0111 ext 103). Bring your friends – let's just have a good time while helping others in the middle of a cold winter.

On Sunday, February 7th after worship those who wish will have the opportunity to make Valentines for our homebound church members. The Deacons will have a table of supplies at the tailgate party and invite you to take a few minutes to make a valentine card that will be sent in time for Valentine's Day. Thank you.



Jeff is looking for bios

Jeff Larsen is working on a collection of biographies of former ministers of our church. Did you know that our first one was hired 300 years ago next year but died before he actually served? His wife then married our second minister.

Our records are quite accurate regarding names and dates of those who served as Senior Ministers and Associate Ministers but are a little skimpy on Interims, especially prior to 1989. If you have recollections of any of those who served in that position before that date please notify the church office so we can update our records. Thank you.



A member of our church family, Lee Randazzo, is producing a PR piece for our church as his senior project at New England Tech. He will be filming a number of church activities, including Sunday worship, for 3-4 weeks beginning mid January.

Jeff asks for your patience and understanding as we support Lee in this project and look to have a nice CD product to help introduce our church to newcomers. Thank you.

We will be adhering to all Safe-Church policies as to filming young people.



Are you interested in serving as an usher? Additional ushers are needed for Sunday services in the winter/spring session beginning February 7th. There are three teams of four ushers each, so volunteers are asked to serve once every three weeks. Anyone interested in this important welcoming ministry is invited to find out more by contacting either Bob Kaloostian at 463-3664 or Dave Gregory at 246-1294 or pgreg7@aol.com. This is an equal opportunity ministry — both men and women are welcome to serve as ushers!

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!).

Office Closings

Christine Wallis will be on vacation January 25-February 1, during which time the church office may not always be open for its normal hours. Call ahead if you want to be sure that someone is there assist you.

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 15 for Presidents' Day.

EASTER COMMUNION

After much deliberation it has been decided by the Deacons that we will not be serving communion on the first Sunday of April as is our tradition. This also happens to be Easter Sunday and it was felt that communion would not be necessary.

Communion will be available at the Sunrise service and will also be served at the Maundy Thursday service that will be held on April 1st in the sanctuary.

As is always the case if you feel a strong desire to receive communion, Jeff and Elizabeth will be happy to accommodate your individual needs.

THANK YOU

The Deacons would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to an anonymous donor to the Deacons' Fund. Their very generous gift will be used for people that have dire need for assistance. In these dark economic times the fund continues to help all in need and this donation will only extend our ability to continue this important work of our church. Thank you and God Bless.

Deacons' Fund envelopes for your use are included in the bulletin on the first Sunday of every month. Donations may also be sent directly to the church with 'Deacons Fund' on the memo line. Thank you.



The Deacons are continuing to update 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).



Please remember to wear your nametag for both the worship service and coffee hour. You can place your nametag in one of the baskets as you leave Fellowship Hall and it will be returned to the rack in the vestry in time for you to wear it the following Sunday.

Be sure to let the office know if you need a nametag or a replacement— and also which type—pin, clip or hanging. If you request a new nametag, once it is made, it will be placed in the nametag rack in the vestry hallway for you to find and use.

Volunteer Needed

Have you ever wondered who is responsible for returning all of the nametags to the rack each week. Almost since we started this system, Louise House has been coming in each week and doing this task. Now that she has her new position as Director of the Barrington Senior Center (Congratulations, Louise), we are looking for a new volunteer(s) who would be willing to do this on a regular basis, at their convenience. If interested, please contact the church office 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org. Thanks



Adult Education — *Living the Questions*

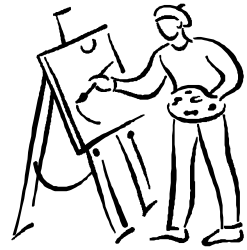
The *Living the Questions* DVD & discussion series continues and all are invited to participate in as many or as few of the sessions as they like. Gather in the **Library** between 11:15 and 11:30 a.m. Sessions begin by 11:30 a.m. and conclude at approx. 12:30 p.m. The revised schedule is:



Jan. 24 th , 31 st & Feb 7 th	No Sessions (due to Budget Conversation, Meeting & Tailgate Party)
Feb. 14 th	Incarnation: Divinely Human <i>Facilitator: Nancy Martin</i>
Feb. 21 st	No Session (due to Luncheon and Speaker - see page 8)
Feb. 28 th	Prayer: Intimacy with God <i>Facilitator: TBA</i>
March 7 th & 14 th	No Sessions (due to special Lenten programs after worship—see p. 8)
March 21 st	Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry <i>Facilitator: Dick McWhirter</i>
March 28 th	No Session (due to Easter Bonnet making and special Lenten activities for children)
April 4th	EASTER
April 11th	Creative Transformation & Embracing Mystery <i>Facilitator: TBA</i>

SPECIAL LENTEN ART PROGRAMS

We have been given permission by the artist to use for our Lenten theme this year the “Seven Deadly Sins” series painted by Jamie Wyeth. This very powerful set of images will be used on our weekly bulletin covers and will be on display in Fellowship Hall. A series of events has been created around this season and all are invited. Perhaps you have friends who would be interested?



Lenten Series: “The Seven Deadly Sins”

Wednesday, February 17 – Ash Wednesday

7 p.m. Service for healing with readings and the imposition of ashes

Sunday, February 21 – theme: “Envy”

Following coffee time, at 11:45 there will be a soup luncheon with Michael Komanecky, Chief Curator of the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine

Sunday, February 28 – theme: “Gluttony”

From 11:00 – 12:00 following worship there will be an art show of parishioner’s works in Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, March 7 – theme: “Anger”

There will be a children’s art show at coffee hour

Sunday, March 14 – theme: “Sloth”

Choral excerpts from John Rutter’s *Requiem* during worship
Showing of the 10 minute film “Inferno” with Jamie Wyeth after worship.

Sunday, March 21 – theme: “Inferno”

Sunday, March 28 – Palm Sunday, theme: “Greed”

After worship Easter bonnets will be made as a fundraiser for the Mission Trip. There will also be Lenten activities for children.

Sunday, April 4 – Easter, theme: “Pride” at 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM services

Good Grief Group



Using the book *Tear Soup* and its companion DVD, we'll journey together through a 3-week series on healing after a loss, whether due to death, diagnosis, job loss, divorce, or other situations that provoke profound feelings of loss. You may be the one experiencing the loss, whether recent or from long ago, or witnessing someone close to you experience a loss and seeking ways to best support others.

When: Three Wednesday evenings during Lent - **February 24th**, **March 3rd**, and **March 10th**
6:00—6:30 p.m. Time to Gather & Light Soup Dinner
6:30—7:30 p.m. Program
(Please note that if you are unable to make it for the soup dinner at 6 p.m., you are still welcome to come at 6:30 p.m. for the program.)

Where: Church Library

Who: All are welcome but spaces are limited so please contact Elizabeth Barnum to reserve your spot no later than Feb. 17th (elizabeth@bccucc.org or 246-0111 x104)

Materials Needed: *Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss* by Pat Schwiebert & Chuck DeKlyen. The books will be available for purchase at the first session on February 24th at the discount price of \$16.

Additional Contribution: Two different recipes of soup will be served at each evening session and participants are asked to sign-up to bring either soup, bread, cheese, or beverage.

Holy Week Evening Reflections

When: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Mon, Tues. & Wed., March 29, 30 & 31 in the Library

Facilitated by Rev. Elizabeth Barnum, these sessions will include a time to gather, discussion, and closing time for prayer.

Reading: **'The Last Week'** by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan
Copies will be available for purchase (\$11.20 each) from the church office so participants may read at their leisure prior to the reflection evenings.

Monday, March 29th Discussion of chapters 1, 2 & 3

Tuesday, March 30th Discussion of chapters 4 & 5

Wednesday, March 31st Discussion of chapters 6, 7, & 8

Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 p.m. Join us for the Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

FROM THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING STUDY TEAM

“What does it mean to be Open and Affirming?”

To say our congregation is open and affirming means we welcome everyone but, according to the UCC, to be "Open and Affirming" means that we publicly declare that people of all sexual and gender orientations, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered (LGBT), are welcome in the full life and ministry of our church. This includes membership, leadership, employment and any other role in the life and ministry of our congregation. It publicly expresses a spirit of hospitality and our willingness to live out that welcome in meaningful ways. To be open and affirming makes no pronouncement on a lifestyle, it just asserts that all who want to worship God are welcome and safe in our spiritual community. When a congregation votes to become open and affirming and displays the "ONA" designation, it lets the world know that we are a safe place for anyone to worship God, minister to one another, work for justice and peace, and render loving service to God's world. (Sound familiar? If not, read the BCCUCC mission statement!)

“We're already open to everyone, why do we have to go through this process?”

Many people think we are already open and affirming. While we (inside the church) know we are open to all, those in the community may not – and because the church is for those in the community, it is critical that the community know here is a place of welcome and inclusion for all. Too many LGBT people and their families live with the pain of having believed that "everyone" meant them, only to discover otherwise. No one should have to guess about the boundaries of inclusion of a congregation or other ministry. A clear welcome matters to LGBT adults who, seeking to share their faith and gifts with the church, often wonder if they will meet with silence or condemnation if they are "out" in church. It matters to LGBT youth who need the guidance of faith communities as they question and establish their understandings of sexuality, spirituality, and relationships, but fear the same disapproval. It matters to families, which too often hide the fact that they have LGBT children or other relatives. Fearing the indifference or rejection of their church, they are cut off from support and sharing which would enrich them and their congregation. It matters to LGBT clergy who often feel that to serve the church they must hide their true selves and lives. It matters to all Christians who believe that God's affirmation of the gifts of loving relationships and sexuality are not restricted to those who are heterosexual, and who look to their church to witness to God's inclusive love and

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

help them to better understand and live it.

Over the course of the next year or so, we plan to study the pros and cons of becoming an official Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation in the United Church of Christ. There will be panel discussions, meetings and other opportunities to learn more about the process and designation. We urge all people of the congregation to join in the discussion and voice their opinions and/or concerns.

If you would like to know more or share your thoughts, please contact any member of the study team, Jeff or Elizabeth. Study Team members are:

Bev Travers (bevtra@aol.com); Leslie Strolla (Leslie_Strolla@brown.edu);

Jim McCartney (jrmcc@fullchannel.net); Lois McCartney (lrmcc@fullchannel.net)



It's not too late to sign up for the....

UCC Women Leaders of New England CELEBRATION VIII.

“Together Building Bridges”

The event will be held **March 12 – 14, 2010**, headquartered at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, VT. Go on line at <http://www.uccwomenscelebration.org> for more information as well as to register and sign up for your choice of workshops. 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 or speak to Susan Rotblat-Walker in our congregation 253-8969 or Susan.Walker@ride.ri.gov



www.bccucc.org

The East Bay Chapter of PFLAG South Central RI now meets the **2nd Thursday** of each month from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at **Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.**

All are welcome.
(This is a change from the 3rd Thursday)

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



We did it!

\$371,187 has been pledged for church operations in 2010.

*24 NEW pledging households
159 returning pledge households
4.9% increase in pledge dollars from 2009*



As the campaign comes to a close we would like to acknowledge all those who made this possible:

- * Everyone who made a pledge to support our church's mission in 2010.
- * Sue Black and Mary Lou Slicker for their time, materials, and creativity in constructing our *Growing our World through Faith* banner.
- * Rich Simpson, Gabi Sclafani, Lynne Lehman, Paul Dennis, Helen Schall, Susan Seader, Amanda Colby, Will Short, Calvin Bohner and Katie Bohner for speaking to the congregation about our programs and operations.
- * Christine Wallis, Louise House and her late husband Ron, Lisa Browning, Greg Voigt, and Susan Rotblat-Walker for their stewardship knowledge, encouragement and making phone calls.
- * Tom Colby, Tom Strolla, Lee Miller and the rest of the Church Council members for their patience, support and enthusiasm.
- * Team members Todd and Judy Harff for their writing expertise, new member perspective, and making and managing all the follow-up phone calls.
- * Jeff Larsen and Elizabeth Barnum for their gentle guidance, energy, and creative ideas around stewardship and excellent communication skills.
- * Pat Stoddard for managing all pledges, contact, reporting requirements and moral support throughout the year.
- * Dick McWhirter, architect of the balanced budget proposal, for his institutional knowledge, analytical expertise and dedication to the preservation of the church.

On behalf of the Stewardship team and the BCCUCC community, our sincerest thanks.

Chuck and Lisa Bohner

Stewardship Chairs

Editors note: A huge thank you also goes out to Lisa and Chuck Bohner for heading up the Stewardship Campaign, and for the countless hours of work they put in to make it such a success.

Have you picked up your

2010 PLEDGE ENVELOPES ?



The 2010 pledge envelopes are available on the Narthex table (where the greeters stand) - or you can stop by the church office to pick up your set.

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. And you don't have to wait for the start of a new year to use Pledge Pay - you can switch to using it at any time.

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).

DON'T FORGET.....**Budget Conversation** after Worship in the Library on **Sun., Jan. 24th**
and **Annual Budget Meeting** after Worship in the Sanctuary on **Sun., Jan. 31st**.



Church members are encouraged to attend these important meetings.
Child care will be provided for the January 31st meeting.

DID YOU RECEIVE THE E-MAIL ABOUT OUR 2010 FINANCES?

A letter about our church's 2010 finances was **e-mailed** to the congregation on January 19th—with a link to the draft 2010 church budget for discussion. If you didn't receive this e-mail and you have an e-mail address, please let the church office know so that we can enter it into our data base. Then you'll be sure to receive future mass e-mails from the church (office@bccucc.org)

If you don't have e-mail, hard copies of the letter and draft 2010 budget will be available at the Budget Discussion meeting on January 24th, or stop by the church office to pick up a copy.

A New Look for Church E-mails

In the next month or so we are going to be switching over to using *Constant Contact* when sending out multiple e-mails from the church. As a result, the Wednesday Enouncements and Jeff's Weekly may look a little different, but the content will be just as good as before—if not better!

If you haven't been receiving either of these and would like to (either or both) be sure to let the church office know at office@bccucc.org. We'll be happy to add you to the appropriate e-mailing list.

*The February 2010 calendar as found on pages 14-15,
can be found on the Calendar page of the church website
www.bccucc.org*

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GODLY PLAY is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture and has its roots in the thinking and work of Maria Montessori. Godly Play uses symbols and objects as well as words and values, process, openness and discovery. It encourages people to make meaning for themselves and can be used in a variety of settings with a variety of ages - churches, schools, hospitals, prisons, care homes for the elderly.

The heart of Godly Play includes the four processes of:

- (1) Creating sacred space
- (2) Building and working in community
- (3) Learning religious language
- (4) Using religious language to make meaning



A Godly Play session includes a time to:

- (1) Enter a prepared space and be greeted
- (2) Get ready
- (3) Tell a story using objects and artifacts
- (4) Explore the story more with open questions and discussion
- (5) Respond with a free choice using a variety of materials - art... silence... play...writing...
- (6) Enjoy a simple feast and sharing
- (7) Be blessed and leave the space.

You are invited to come learn more about Godly Play at the...

GODLY PLAY WINTER INFO SESSIONS

for Teachers, Parents, and Interested Members

led by Rev. Elizabeth Barnum & C.E. Coordinator Andrea Bullard

"I wonder..." Come to one of these sessions to learn more about this religious education program that takes place on Sunday mornings for our PreKs through 5th graders. We'll share a sample lesson from the winter schedule, explain the room set-up, provide materials for those who will be teaching, and share with parents and interested members about this meaningful teaching and learning experience. Join us!

Saturday, Jan. 30th from 9:00-10:15 a.m. OR Tuesday, Feb. 2nd from 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

These sessions are identical so you may choose the one that better fits your schedule. The sessions will take place in our Godly Play Rooms (Rooms 5 and 7).

Please let Andrea know if you'll be attending one of these sessions and also if you'll need childcare. Andrea can be reached at andrea@bccucc.org or 474-4722. Thanks.

February Godly Play Story Schedule. Are you wondering what stories the children are hearing in the Godly Play rooms this month?

Jan. 31: Parable of the Great Pearl

Feb. 7: Work & Feast Day (PreK-Gr.2)

Feb. 14: Parable of the Sower

Feb. 21: Parable of the Leaven

Feb. 28: Mystery of Easter

GODLY PLAY WINTER WISH LIST

We're growing Godly Play and we hope to stock our Art & Response Shelves with more choices for the children of the church. Godly Play recently sent out these suggestions. If you'd like to make a contribution of one of these items, please speak with Andrea Bullard or Elizabeth Barnum.

Modeling Beeswax
Stained glass gel gems
Pastel chalks
Model Magic (Crayola)
Doll pins (clothespins)
Netting
Oven-baked clay
Calligraphy Sets

Gold inkpads and intricate stamps
Charcoal pencils
Tissue Paper
Copper foil paper
Tiles & Mosaics
Magnetic poetry kits (Biblical)
Scrapbooking Pages or Wallpaper Samples



"Responses? What in the world are the children responding to in this part of the Godly Play Process? They will respond to many things, trivial and profound, but the goal is for the children to begin to cope with their existential limits through expressive art or personal work with the lesson materials."

Jerome Berryman,

'Teaching Godly Play: How to Mentor the Spiritual Development of Children'



This is a special shout out to CEYM to thank them for sending me to the Parable Workshop in Mystic, CT. When given opportunities like that not only are my Godly Play skills improved, but my enthusiasm is recharged. Workshops are also opportunities to hear what is going on at other churches, and not surprisingly other churches are having the same "good" problem we are: children are making their parents bring them to church. The problem is that there are not enough volunteers to help with the expanding church school population! With that in mind I invite all of you to attend a Godly Play info session or talk with Elizabeth or me and we will "fill you in" on what Godly Play is all about. There is no obligation or pressure to volunteer. Just check it out. Who knows, the Holy Spirit may move you!!

Peace,

Andrea Bullard, Christian Education Coordinator

Church School in February

February 7

PreK-Gd 2 leave
after communion
for Church School
Gds 3 & up stay in
church

February 14

PreK—Gd 5 have
Church School
Grades 6-8 stay in
church

February 21 and 28

PreK—Gd 8 have
Church School

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

Saturday, February 6th The Jr PF group will go **ice skating** at the Newport Yachting Center then stop for lunch on the way home. Meet at the church at **10:30 a.m.**, to get there for the 11 a.m. rink time. They'll leave at approximately 1p.m., stop for lunch somewhere in Middletown (at a Papa Gino's or similar) and be back at the church at **3 p.m.** Leslie Peck has arranged for FREE skating for our youth group (thank you, Leslie), so you only need to bring money for lunch.

Chaperones and drivers are needed to help with this trip.

Contact Leslie Peck if you plan to go or can help chaperone or drive (245-1820 or PeckMarketing@cox.net). If the weather is bad, we'll postpone to later in February.

Saturday, March 13th will be the annual **Jr PF Bowling Extravaganza** at Dudek's in Warren for Rock 'n Bowl. Nothing says fellowship like throwing hard balls down wooden floors while the rock 'n roll blares and the lights strobe....definitely a good time for middle school kids. Please mark your calendar - more details available closer to the time.

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

A Special Note on Children's Offering
from CEYM Team

Beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, February 21st, children are invited to bring their morning offering with them to the first part of worship in the sanctuary. Children's Offering Envelopes will be available in the Narthex (where the greeters stand) each week or from the CE Coordinator's office for you to keep at home. At the beginning of Children's Time, children are invited to bring their offering with them and place it in the special children's offering basket. This offering is separate from pledges and the budget and goes directly to an organization of the church school's choosing each year.



If you have any questions, please speak with Andrea Bullard, Elizabeth Barnum, or Lynne Lehman.

CHURCH
ATTENDANCE

November 29 – 187

December 6 – 269

December 13 – 242

December 20 – 0

Church canceled—blizzard

December 24 – 408

Christmas Eve

December 27 – 111

January 3 – 117

January 10 – 201

January 17 – 202

Upcoming Confirmation Classes



Saturday, January 30th Confirmands assist CEYM with Soup Kitchen

Sunday, February 7th Confirmands assist with Tailgate party

Watch your e-mail for more details. And please make sure that your calendars are marked for Confirmation Sunday, May 2nd.



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

The group will meet on **Sundays, January 31 and February 28** from 6-8 p.m. in the church library.

All youth and adults going on the Mission Trip are expected to attend.

Pasta Dinner

Sunday, March 7th

5 — 7 p.m. Fellowship Hall



*All proceeds benefit the Mission Trip
to Brenton, West Virginia in April, 2010*

Tickets on sale at Coffee Hour

or from the church office beginning in February

Adult \$8

Child (under 12) \$5

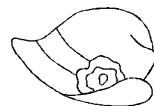
Family Maximum \$25

Advance ticket purchase is appreciated

Tickets also available at the door

Back by popular demand... "Very Funny Easter Bonnets"

Your help is needed in order to create these lovely hats.



All of your comic pages from the Sunday papers will be needed from now until the end of March

.....as well as any extra ribbons, bows, flowers etc. to decorate the brims.

Funny pages and decorations can be put in the specially labeled boxes at the back of Fellowship Hall or dropped off at the church office and marked Mission Trip.

Once again, milliner extraordinaire Kathleen Larsen is in charge of this fun project that is also a fundraiser for the Mission Trip Fund. She thanks you in advance for providing the materials required.

Be P.E.S.T.S.

Sending inappropriate photos and threatening messages are just two ways some teens in Barrington are using the Internet.



It's never too early to talk to your children about computer safety.

- **P**rotect your kids - encourage communication about computer use
- **E**stablish guidelines - set limits as you would TV, discuss acceptable/unacceptable sites
- **S**ecure all personal information - tell children to never give out personal information/photos online and never communicate with someone they have not met personally
- **T**olerate no excuses - being online feels safe to your child. Let your child know that computer rules are not up for negotiation
- **S**noop every once in a while - let your child know you will check online activity to ensure your child's safety

Check out these websites for more information on Internet safety: netsmartz.com, isafe.org

Parenting for Prevention Tip #17 — kindly offered by the BAY Team
Barrington's community coalition to prevent substance abuse www.thebayteam.org

Are all the doors locked? Is the heat turned down? Are the lights off?

Everyone using the building after hours is responsible for making sure these things are done when they leave. Don't assume that someone else will do it! (The coffee hour hosts are responsible for them on Sundays.) Note: if you unlock a door to get in **it may remain unlocked**—so please check that you don't inadvertently leave a door unlocked. Thank you.

HELP BARRINGTON TEENS HELP THE HOMELESS

Project Hope 2010 is a teen-driven local community service project that focuses on the issues and challenges of homelessness. Over the last three years, the project has evolved from just raising awareness to serving the Providence community. Participating students from our community will be going to Providence to service the needs of the homeless on President's Day Weekend, a time when some soup kitchens are not open.

Not only will these local teens prepare and serve a meal but they also plan to distribute **H.U.G.S.** (hats, underwear, gloves, and socks) that they are collecting in the weeks leading up to the event.

Bins for the collection of these items have been placed in various locations around town, including one here at BCCUCC. Since we recently collected hats and gloves, we thought that we would focus our collection this time on **NEW underwear and socks** for both **adults and children**. However, any gently used (or new) hats and gloves are also most welcome. All items should be placed in the bin at the back of Fellowship Hall **by February 13**.



All donated items will be given to the homeless in Providence. For more information, please visit the BOW website at www.bowri.org.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS FOR THOSE IN NEED



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

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

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

Collection bins in the Narthex (where the greeters stand).



Every 9 weeks we provide the Saturday meal at the Community Soup Kitchen at Park Place Congregational UCC in Pawtucket. We are next scheduled on January 30th & April 3rd.

Our ministry teams do this on a rotating basis but often need additional help from members of the congregation. To volunteer or find out more contact our soup kitchen coordinators Diane or Cate Todd at (401) 245-4681 or 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. Interested in participating? 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>



Help keep us informed

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

WORTH REPEATING!

It really is possible to be allergic to church! There are a number of people who have a very difficult time coming to church, or staying in church, due to allergies to perfumes, colognes, flowers, etc. You are asked to be as considerate as you can be when preparing to make yourself beautiful and handsome for our time together. Thank you.

Can't make it to church?

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



May We Help You?

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

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

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



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



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



The **Dine-Out Group** invites you to join them for some “Traditional Portuguese cuisine in the heart of New England” on

Friday, February 5th

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

Madeira Restaurant

288 Warren Avenue, East Providence.

Entrees run from \$12.95 to \$28.95 and all dinners are cooked to order. Copies of Madeira’s menu will be available during Coffee Hour or can be e-mailed to you upon request.

Please join us on a cold winter’s night for a leisurely evening, warmed by friends and good conversation.

The cutoff date is *Tuesday, February 2nd*, so reserve your spot by contacting either Lorraine Kenney (likeeney@gmail.com, phone: 486-3042) or Barbara Wuth (bwuth@corpbrothers.com, phone: 245-7291). *All are welcome.*

CALLING CHURCH KNITTERS



Carolyn Gammell has kindly invited us to her warm, cosy condo for our February ‘knitting for others’ night. The night has been changed for February to

Wednesday, February 3 at 7 p.m.

Please call the church office for directions and gate number.

New knitters (and crocheters) are always welcome. If interested, please call Kathleen Larsen 401 247-1787 or e-mail klarsenswc@hotmail.com who can also give you instructions and needle size (for prayer shawls).

We look forward to seeing you there.



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

Friday, February 19th.

Book Group

next meets on

MONDAY*, February 8th

at 7:30 p.m.

at **The Coffee Depot**

501 Main Street, Warren.

*Note the change in day!



They will talk about the books they’ve read and make a list to read for 2010.

All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, March 21, 2010

BILL HARLEY

will perform

a Benefit Concert

for Tot’s Preschool

at Kickemuit Middle School,

Warren

Thank You! THANK YOU!

...to the members of Junior PF who helped with the November soup kitchen

...to Amy Gorman, Kristen Westmoreland, Duncan Maio and all of the Church School Children for the awesome Advent art

...to Louise House, Kristen Westmoreland and Terrin Strickland for putting together the Advent ornament kits

...to Laurie Dubel, Francis Seader, Lauren Browning, Terrin Strickland, Ann Wood, Cathleen Joachim, and Greg Knight for helping with Church School

...to CEYM for sending Andrea Bullard to the Parable workshop

...to the Adult Education group volunteers who met with the Confirmation Class on Dec. 13th after worship: Fred MacDonald, Dick McWhirter, Doug Roach, Cheryl Muth, Susan Rotblat-Walker, Diane Wilkin, Steve Venuti, Nancy Martin, Helen MacDonald; and to the Confirmands present: Cameron Voigt, Michael Miniati, Austin Cater, Daniel Roach, Hale Summers, Rebecca Bendheim, April Harff and Erin Gamache

...to all who purchased items from SERRV. Your purchases supported the work of artisans around the world in a fair trade manner, and the \$428 that was raised was given to our own Mission Trip Fund. Thanks to Helen Schall for once again organizing the SERRV sale.

...to the deacons for delivering poinsettias to the homebound, sick and bereaved

...to all who donated hats, gloves, scarves and mittens for our mitten tree

...to all who gave to the 'Giving Tree'. \$775 was raised of which \$260 went to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund and \$515 to the Women's Resource Center in the form of gift cards

...to all who donated to the UCC Christmas Fund, to the Chancel Fund, and to the Staff Christmas Bonus

...to all of the people who participated in the Christmas Eve services - choir members, ushers, greeters, candle lighters and readers

...to Lorraine Keeney and Van Edwards for leading the children's communion service in the library on January 3

.. and finally special thanks to Louise House as she retires from putting the name tags back on the rack in the vestry hallway each week. Thanks for doing it so faithfully for so long.

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

It is with grateful hearts that we, the lay staff of your church, thank you, the congregation, for your very generous donations to this year's Staff Christmas Bonus. Once again we are humbled by your generosity and are extremely appreciative. We are fortunate to work here and to have the opportunity to get to know so many of you during the course of our work.



With many thanks,
Christine, Pat, Andrea, Marina, Jack, Ken and Jim

The Women's Faith Group



They will meet **February 4th** and **18th** from **10—11:30 a.m.** in **Room 6** to begin study of *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles. Copies of the book will be available for purchase from the church office.

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

FED UP OF RECEIVING *THE BRIDGE* LATE ?

Then don't wait for the mailman to deliver your copy of the *Bridge* each month (especially if you live outside of Barrington). Instead, choose to pick up a copy when you come to church on Sunday. (Additional copies are always available from the vestry hallway or outside the church office as soon as they've been printed). Or better yet—choose to read the *Bridge* electronically.

Not only do you get to read the newsletter in a more timely manner, but both options would save the church money. The first option saves the cost of mailing, and the second option saves both the cost of mailing and the cost and resources used to print it (paper, ink and labor).

If you would like to try either of these options, please contact the church office at 246-0111 or office@bccucc.org so that we can stop mailing *The Bridge* to you. For those who chose to read it electronically, we will send you an e-mail with the newsletter attached as a pdf file, and also let you know that it can be read at our church website at www.bccucc.org.

Not sure if you'll like reading it electronically? Why not try it for a month, and if you don't like it, let us know and we'll be happy to resume mailing you a copy.



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.

PPRT

If you have a concern, you are invited to contact a member of the **Pastor Parish Relations Team**. They meet regularly and deal with the concerns of the ministers, the staff and the congregation — so feel free to contact any of their members:

Jim McCartney (245-3288)

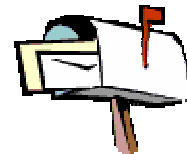
Phyllis Buckley (245-1098)

Sharon Sylvester (247-4532)

Marshall Hoyler (245-1118)

Laurie Lennon (694-0715)

Letters from our mailbox



December 27, 2009

To our church family,

Just wanted to thank Helen Schall, representing the deacons, for delivering a beautiful poinsettia to our home for the holiday. It cheered the house up with its beautiful red color and warmed our hearts during this difficult time.

Thanks again,
Louise and Bryan (House)

December 29, 2006

I thank you for the gorgeous altar bouquet. It brightened up my otherwise Christmas decorations. We do have lovely altar flowers.

Soon I hope to be more active and doing my usual activities.

Mary Kutcher

November 26, 2009

To Kathleen for her lovely bud vase of flowers delivered by Jeff.

To Jeff for his visit and chatting and prayer and taking time out of the meatball cooking.

To Holly and her “soccer man” for bringing the altar flowers.

To all of the caring people of Barrington Congregational Church.

Thanks to all of you!

My fractures are healing slowly and it is a joy to be home for Thanksgiving.

Marjorie Puschin

Goodbye

We recently said good bye to **Joyce Mabey** who has been a church member here since 1946. We wish her every happiness in her new home at:

Meredith Bay Colony Club,
21 Mile Point Drive # 103,
Meredith NH 03253



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

Family Footnotes



Thomas Bradford Materne, Jr.

born November 9, 2009

to Micaela and Tom Materne

Grandparents: Doug and Carolyn Materne

Great grandmother: Bette Reid

We recently learned of the death of **Gayle Grossman**. For the past several years she had been living with her daughter, Sally, in Holliston, MA. Gayle and her husband (together with their four children) joined BCCUCC in 1960. Gayle was an active member for many years—being very involved with the church school in the 60's, and volunteering in the church office in later years. Gayle had been a widow since the untimely death of her husband, Walter, in 1975.



Emily Caesar, Jenny Cook, Karen Crisman,

Bette Reid, Betsy Staples, May Smith,

Amanda Robidoux, Paul Welch,

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

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

Pat and Charlie Stoddard on the death of Charlie's mother,
Marguerite Stoddard;

and to the families of Janet Getek; Robert Lee, Sr.;
and Raymond DeWall.



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	



*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.*