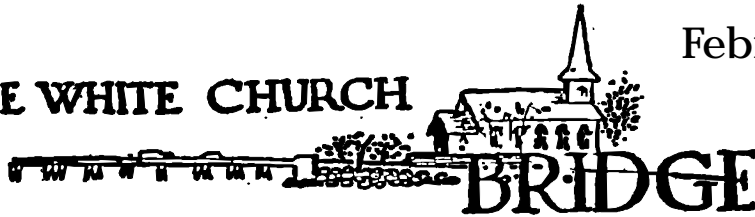


February 2012

THE WHITE CHURCH



Dear Friends,

From May 15 until Labor Day I will be away from the church on my Sabbatical. This time of renewal, study and reflection is given to our ministers after every 5 years of service. I am very excited about this upcoming opportunity and have been working with several Ministry Teams and Elizabeth planning, for me and for you.

I will be gone from Barrington and will not be checking email or phone messages. During this time Elizabeth will be responsible for all my usual duties. All the details of this have been reviewed and approved by the Pastor-Parish Relations Team, Deacons and Church Council. I wanted to share them now with you.

My study portion is entitled, “The Marian Exile in Switzerland and its impact on Barrington’s 300th Anniversary.” Brief background: Between 1553-1559, 800 English Protestants, many of them clergy, left England while it was under the rule of Catholic Queen Mary. Terrible persecutions against Protestants happened during these years so in large part it was an escape to safety. They went mostly to France, Germany and Switzerland. That brief six year period was a time of radicalization for these people as they lived beside, learned from, and debated with key leaders in the emerging Protestant movement known as the Reformation.

Three Swiss cities - Zurich, Geneva, and Basel – played key roles in developing the nucleus of ideas these Reformers would take back to England when Protestant Elizabeth I replaced Mary on the throne. Many of the 800 became leaders in the Puritan movement that significantly changed the English church and eventually lead to the “escape” by some to Holland and then to Plymouth, MA. Thus, the “Marian Exile” played an important role in developing the faith roots of Puritanism/Congregationalism - the historical foundation of our church here in Barrington.

I will be spending some time in Switzerland trying to understand why these 3 Swiss cities played the role they did and whether they give us clues about where the future might take our Barrington church. I also plan to spend time reading, studying and writing. Much of this time will be spent in Maine. When I return to Barrington I will give feedback to the congregation in ways that might include adult education sessions, sermon series, writings and/or presentations. The focus of these will be to make my study relevant to our church, especially in light of our current Long Range Planning process and the upcoming celebration of our 300th anniversary.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

I also believe that our church has a wonderful opportunity to experience the church in different ways during this time. This includes experiencing a different leadership style from Elizabeth and lay leaders. My experience during past sabbaticals was that the church learned a lot about themselves during this period. As one author wrote, “When a comfortable operating system is disturbed, God may just find a few more ears who are willing to listen for the stirring of the spirit.”

Important programs that happen in the spring and summer will still need to be done – evaluating the recently completed Stewardship campaign, management of weddings and funerals, hospital visitations, everything related to our Educational programs and, of course, worship.

I will spend approximately 1 month of travel/interviewing/research, 1 month of study/reading/writing, and 1 month of relaxation and family time. Kathleen is taking a leave from her job during this time so we can have this experience together. We will be gone from May 15 until Labor Day.

There are several components of a sabbatical that are important to talk frankly about. I have taken three others so I know some of the dangers to avoid. First of all, a three month sabbatical is a routine part of a minister’s contract throughout our denomination. I have done what our ByLaws require by having my plan approved by the Pastor-Parish Relations Team, the Deacons, and the Church Council at their Nov 28 meeting. Let me assure you all that I am very aware that most of you do not get such a gift in your contracts. I am very humbled by this opportunity and promise to use the time wisely.

Secondly, I am coming back and intend to stay in Barrington even longer than the one year required by my contract. Some have expressed this concern to me. Please know I will miss you and will be happy to return here after Labor Day!

Third, I will be away from my duties as one of your ministers. The power of a sabbatical time is the complete break given from the daily and weekly routine of ministry. You are in very good hands. Some things may happen here during my time away that I will be very sorry to miss but I trust your understanding and support.

Finally, many different people do many different things on Sabbatical. My previous three included living in England for 3 months studying the life of a certain Archbishop of Canterbury, finishing my doctorate, and studying Native Americans in Maine. It is my nature to love learning new things and exploring new places. I do plan play times with my family and friends, some quiet times of rowing my skiff in Saco Bay, and reading plenty of good novels. But there will be lots of spiritual renewal and professional edification as well – this is not additional vacation time. Nor should it be for you.

I welcome all questions. Peace to you,



From our Associate Minister



Have you filled out your yellow “Crossing the River” card yet - the one that was in the bulletin and pew rack in front of you in recent weeks? Mine is sitting here at my desk to my left. Your Stewardship Ministry Team has asked each of us to list three reasons why we give to the church. Here are the first three that come to my mind.

- (1) I give to the church because I believe in the power of community to transform lives – in small, subtle ways and in big, bold ways.
- (2) I give to the church because I want to support the meaningful work of Godly Play and the CEYM Team.
- (3) I give to the church because I’m proud to be part of a denomination that dares to be a voice of continuing testament and extravagant welcome – in other words, a voice of inclusive & expansive love and social justice in the world.

Rumi, the 13th century Sufi mystic and Muslim theologian, wrote “let the beauty of what you love be what you do. There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground.” There are at least a thousand ways to pray. There are at least a thousand ways to let the beauty of what you love be what you do. There are at least a thousand reasons to give to the church and at least a thousand ways to do so. The challenge is to find your particular and unique way in which you kneel and kiss the ground, pray, love what you do, and give to the church. We are a community not only of disciples, but also seekers – seeking ways to be our most true selves and to contribute our part to the greater whole. Such statements aren’t merely cliché but rather incredibly crucial in a world where choices can be overwhelming, where a human economy trumps God’s economy, and where screen time can be more persuasive than passing the peace in the pews and beyond.

February marks the beginning of my fifth year as the associate minister here. We have done a lot together during these four years – and there’s still more to do! I also give to the church, quite simply, because I’m grateful – grateful to be one of your ministers, grateful for the ways that I get to share some of what I love with this congregation, grateful to be a human being, and grateful to God.

With gratitude,

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



Crossing the River “All Hands on Deck!”

Outlined below is what Church Members and Friends can expect from this year’s Stewardship Focus designed to raise the operating funds for our church year July 2012 – June 2013:

- 1) Between March 4th and March 16th, you will receive a personalized sealed pledge card to be filled in by you. This card will be delivered to you by one of your neighbors who is also a member or friend of the church. The card will come to you as an attachment to a sailcloth satchel.
- 2) Your job is to fill in the pledge card, place the pledge card in an enclosed envelope, then place the envelope in the sailcloth satchel.
- 3) Once your envelope and completed pledge card is in the satchel, you will deliver the satchel to a church-going neighbor to whom you have been assigned delivery.
- 4) Lastly, you will be asked to call a “Zone Captain” who will monitor the progress of the satchel from neighbor to neighbor. Ultimately, the “Zone Captain” will deliver the satchel with all its completed pledge cards back to the church before March 18th.

Church Leaders are confident that the entire church population can work as a team to accomplish this task in a timely manner. Together, we WILL cross the river! There is bounty and blessing awaiting us.

DEACONS FOR FEBRUARY

Barbara Smith (star deacon), Marshall Hoyler,
Steve Peck, Pat Rude, and Francis Seader.

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



Come make
Valentines for our
Homebound on
Sunday,
February 5th

at coffee hour. The Deacons
will provide all the materials—
you supply the creativity!

The Women's Faith Group will meet on
Thursdays, February 2nd and 16th from 1:30—3 p.m. in the library.

They will discuss the book *The Third Jesus: The Christ We Cannot Ignore* by Deepak Chopra. Copies of the book are available for purchase from the church office at the discounted price of \$12.



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

The Adult Education Group will resume meeting on Sunday, February 26th after worship in the Library. All are welcome to join them.

The MEDITATION & SPIRITUAL INQUIRY GROUP are no longer meeting.



THE WHITE CHURCH



BRIDGE

...HAS GONE ELECTRONIC!

Beginning with this February edition of *The Bridge*, distribution will primarily be done electronically by e-mail. Paper copies will still be produced to be mailed to our homebound and to those who have requested it because they cannot receive it electronically. Copies will also be available for pick up from the vestry table or from the rack outside the church office.

It is important to us that you continue to receive our newsletter so we ask that you contact the church office at office@bccucc.org or 246-0111 to

a) give us your e-mail address if you didn't receive this copy electronically

OR b) to let us know that you cannot receive it electronically but would like us to either mail you a copy each month, or that you will pick one up from church.

Switching to a primarily electronic newsletter will not only cut costs, but also bring us 'up to date' with modern communication methods.

The format for *The Bridge* will also be undergoing some changes over the next few months..... so stay tuned and let us know what you think!

On Dec. 6th we welcomed 6 new members when they joined our church.

Erik and Joanne Ela recently moved here from Massachusetts. Before moving to Barrington, Joanne was a costumer for local theater groups. She also enjoys quilting, sewing and crafts in general. Erik works at HASBRO as a game designer. He likes to sing and has joined the choir. He also likes to cook and build things. Erik and Joanne have 3 grown daughters and two grand children.



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

Stiles and Wendy Bennet live in Barrington with their son and daughter. Besides spending time with their family, they both like to ski and travel. Stiles enjoys cooking and playing paddle tennis and he is a Beatles and Red Sox fan. Wendy likes to read and take walks and is also an animal lover.

Heather Williamson and Libardo De La Torre also joined BCCUCC on the 6th.

We urge all members to warmly welcome these folks with their many gifts and talents that they bring to our church.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS. The next **CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR CHURCH** will be held on **March 4th and 11th** after worship. These informational sessions are provided for folks new to our church. Those who intend to become members are requested to attend both sessions.

More information to come in the weekly announcements and March *Bridge*.



The Usher Team is urgently seeking folks that would like to **usher during the February thru June time period**. This is a wonderful way to meet your fellow church members and be a welcoming presence to them. You would be scheduled every 3 weeks. Training is provided. Please contact David Gregory (246-1294) or Bethia Rosner (246-0131) if you are interested.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR YOUTH SERVICE TRIP

The Youth Service Trip (previously known as the Mission Trip) will be heading to Tucson, Arizona during April school vacation to work with an organization called Borderlinks along the Mexican border. In addition to the various fundraisers, we are also developing a scholarship fund to assist some of the youth as this is a more-than-usually expensive trip this year. If you are able to contribute please contact Jeff (jeff@bccucc.org). Thank you to those who have already made a donation.

BCCUCC and Temple Habonim are pleased
to welcome

The Keystone State Boychoir IN CONCERT

Saturday, February 18, 2012

7:00 p.m.



Barrington Congregational Church, UCC

Donation of \$5 per person requested, max \$20 per family

Money raised will support the Youth Service Trip to Tucson in April



Keystone State Boychoir (KSB) consists of more than 150 young men between the ages of 8 and 18 who sing an enthralling repertoire from the classical to the contemporary. Today, KSB is counted among the finest, most successful community-based boychoir choral programs in the country.

KSB has made history as the first choir to have sung on every continent.

Temple Habonim and BCCUCC are hosting them when they come to Rhode Island – their last stop before they perform at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday February 19th. Approximately 60 of their members are on this tour. You can learn more about the choir and hear samples of their music at www.keystonestateboychoir.org

In addition to the concert at BCCUCC on Saturday night, the Keystone State Boychoir will also sing at the Temple Shabbat Service on Friday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Habonim. It is hoped that all members of the Temple Habonim and Barrington Congregational Church, UCC communities will come to enjoy their beautiful music!

HOUSING IS NEEDED FOR THE BOYS

We are looking for 14 families each from the Temple and Church to host the boys in their homes. There must be at least 2 boys per house and each boy must have his own bed.

Hosts need to:

- **Friday:** pick up at bus, give dinner and transportation to/from Temple, overnight.
- **Saturday:** Breakfast, bag lunch, drive to bus, pick up for dinner, to/from church, overnight.
- **Sunday:** Breakfast, bag lunch, take to bus.

Contact Jeff Larsen at church office (246-0111) if you are able to help.



EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRY
AT BCCUCC

Study on the Impact of Godly Play on the Spiritual Well-Being of Children

Early January, I received a letter from Rev. Cheryl Minor, a Godly Play teacher trainer asking for our help in her doctoral research on Godly Play which includes an empirical study of Godly Play accounting for numerous variables. She writes, *“With the help of the Godly Play Foundation and my own knowledge of the program, I identified Barrington Congregational Church as a site known for its excellence in the implementation of the method and with the potential for having participants in my desired demographic”*. We are looking forward to participating in this study!



On **February 26th** & **March 4th** immediately following church school and worship, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 7th graders will have the opportunity to take a 10-minute questionnaire tailored to their age group. Additionally, their parents will also be taking a 10-minute parenting styles questionnaire. Families with children in these age groups will be contacted directly about participation and location of the study. Families need only participate in ONE of the two times we offer the survey. Please contact me or Andrea Bullard if you have any questions.

Elizabeth Barnum

* * *

Our Whole Lives

Some of you may remember the many announcements of the possibility of another study of the Our Whole Lives sexuality education curriculum here at BCCUCC also. Unfortunately, after being chosen to participate in the project, there was a delay in implementation initially by the research group and it was subsequently postponed indefinitely. While we were disappointed not to have this opportunity (it would have funded out trainings!), CEYM remains committed to offering the program to our youth beginning in Fall 2012. In addition to Elizabeth Barnum already being a trained facilitator, Phyllis Buckley and Kristen Westmoreland will also be trained in the coming months with hopes of offering O.W.L. to youth in the church during the 2012-2013 program year. Stay tuned for more information!



Church School Schedule for February

Godly Play Stories (PreK-6th grade)

Feb. 5	PreK-Gd 6	<i>Good Shepherd and World Communion</i>
Feb 12	PreK-Gd 6	<i>The Parable of the Great Pearl</i>
Feb. 19	Worship for All Ages. No Church School. Nursery Care only	
Feb. 26	PreK-Gd 4	<i>The Parable of the Sower</i>
	Gds 5-6	Attend Worship Service



The Seekers (7th & 8th grades)

The Seekers will begin exploring the religion of Islam.



If any church school volunteers or parents are interested in attending a 3-day CORE Training for Godly Play in Mystic, CT March 9-11, please contact Elizabeth Barnum or Andrea Bullard for more information.

Lenten Calendars will be available for pick-up after worship during coffee hour on Feb. 12th and Feb. 19th. Similar to last year's Pennies for Peace calendar and the Advent Activity Kit, CEYM will provide a simple calendar for you and/or your family to mark each day of Lent with a special activity, thought, or reminder for the day as you journey through the Lenten Season.

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CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

The Confirmation class will meet on the following dates:

Sunday, Feb. 12th 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Confirmation Class, Room 6
(All paperwork and final payment for retreat due today)

Sunday, Feb. 25th (changed back to original date) **2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.**
Mission Experience – Cooking & Serving at Soup Kitchen, Pawtucket

Friday, March 2nd (4:30 p.m.) to Saturday, March 3 (6:45 p.m.)
Confirmation Retreat at Craigville Conference Center on Cape Cod.



JUNIOR PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP (JPF)

All youth in grades 6-8 are invited to participate. Bring your friends!

The next JPF Gathering (Middle School Youth Group) will be...

Friday, March 2nd (note change in date) **JPF Laser Tag**

Meet at BCCUCC at **5:10 p.m.** (and depart 5:20 p.m.)

Return to BCCUCC approx. **8:30 p.m.**

Two laser tag games, pizza and soft drinks. \$16 per person.

RSVP to Leslie Peck by Monday, February 6th at PeckMarketing@cox.net or 245-1820.



An enormous **THANK YOU** to all the youth, children, and adults who joined JPF for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 11th. Their voices and smiles brought great joy to the residents of several nursing homes that we visited! Special thanks to Kate Colby, Katrina Swihart, Susan Short, John Karl, Kari Banas, Kim Zeleznik, Elizabeth Barnum, and Leslie Peck for leading the group in spirit and song. And thanks to Steve Peck for greeting us with hot chocolate upon our return to church!

Youth Service Trip 2012

There is a meeting for those going on the trip on:

- **Sunday, February 12**, 7-8:30 p.m. at Temple Habonim.

In addition there are two fundraisers in February:

- **Saturday, February 11**, 7-10 p.m. Band Jam Concert in Fellowship Hall of BCCUCC (*see page 14 for details*)
- **Saturday, February 18**, 7 p.m. Concert by the Keystone Boys Choir in the Sanctuary of BCCUCC (*see page 8 for details*)



Have you ordered your Florida Citrus yet?

All orders for Florida grapefruit and oranges need to be in no later than Tuesday, January 31st. Information and order forms are available at coffee hour on January 29th or can be found in the Dec/Jan Bridge, or on the church website. This is a fundraiser for the Youth Service Trip to Tucson.



The February 2012 calendar

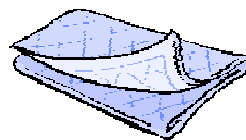
(as found on pages 12-13 of the printed version).

can be found on the Calendar page of the church website at

www.bccucc.org

Warm Bedding and Volunteer Drivers Needed for TapIn.

The cold weather has brought many more requests at TapIn for warm bedding. There are nearly no blankets or comforters, particularly in large sizes, for needy East Bay residents and their children. There are also numerous requests for toasters, toaster ovens, slow cookers and large cooking pots for soup etc.



Children's clothing, infant through size 14, also disappears quickly. Due to lack of space, only seasonal clothing can be accepted. Items must be clean and in good condition. New socks and underwear are appreciated.



Many of the agency's volunteer drivers head south for the winter, making it difficult to fill needs for rides to medical appointments. Drivers can choose how often and how far they can drive, and many have formed nice relationships with clients over the years. Call 247-1444 during regular office hours to learn more about the program.

TapIn is open from **9 a.m. to Noon Monday to Friday**
in the lower lever of the library building at 281 County Road.

Thank you to everyone who is remembering to wear their nametag on Sundays, both for worship and for coffee hour. Remember—you can drop your nametag in the baskets near the exits from Fellowship Hall and they will be returned to the racks in the vestry for the next Sunday.

If you need a nametag, please use the sign-up sheet on the vestry table or contact the church office and we'll be happy to make one for you.



An Annual 3-Day Ecumenical Conference for Lay and Clergy

April 26-29, 2012

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke, UCC
Holyoke, Massachusetts

Keynote Speaker: **Marcus Borg**

Information at www.awakeningsconference.com

Jeff's Weekly

The Rev. Jeff Larsen writes an e-mail most Thursdays called 'Jeff's Weekly' that is usually related to his upcoming Sunday sermon. If you would like to be on the list of those who receive 'Jeff's Weekly' please e-mail the church office at office@bccucc.org. We'll be happy to add your name to that list.

Note: Jeff's Weekly is only e-mailed to those who have requested to receive it.

Unsubscribing from e-mails sent from the church

Please note that if you 'unsubscribe' to any e-mail that you receive from BCCUCC that was sent using Constant Contact, then you will no longer receive any e-mails from us that we send out using Constant Contact. It is not possible to 'unsubscribe' to a single list.



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.



Band Jam Concert



Saturday, February 11, 2012 7—10 p.m.

Fellowship Hall of BCCUCC

\$5 per person

This is a fundraiser for the 2012 Youth Service Trip to Arizona.

Bands: Contact Colin Peck or Wyatt Bullard via Facebook or in person.

Volunteers: Contact Elizabeth Barnum elizabeth@bccucc.org or 246.0111 x104.

Special thanks to the many adults who have already volunteered to help. More are still needed, including donations of snacks for the snack table.



Follow up from the Pittsburgh Project

Sometimes participants & congregations may wonder what happens at work sites long after the Mission Trip is over. We recently received this email from Donnie Friel, Homeowner Care Coordinator at the Pittsburgh Project, updating us on one of the low-income homeowners with whom we worked during April 2011. - Elizabeth

“I just thought I would give you an update on Walter, my neighbor. Walter and his home have both come a long way. He has a working garage door now and his yard has been significantly cleaned up. He eventually opened up his home and allowed us to tackle a few large projects in there. He even came to our neighborhood block party. I was even able to connect him with a long lost cousin who has since been checking in on him regularly.

Your group opened the door to a lot of great things. He told me about 2 months ago that he was very thankful for God and what He has done for him. He told me that for the past few years he has been praying that God would help him with the house. **He said “I always thought that God would help me by something like winning the Powerball, I never thought it would be a group of teenagers from Rhode Island.”**

I am thankful for you and your group and the compassion and love of Christ that you displayed to Walt.”



United Church of Christ National Youth Event

For youth ages 13-18

July 9-14, 2012

Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana

This gathering is held every four years, and provides an opportunity for about 3,000 (yes – 3,000!!!) youth to gather for four days of worship, workshops, service projects, faith, and fun. A diverse group of young people vision & plan this incredible event! Students who have attended in the past have described it as an experience that transformed their lives forever. Read more about NYE at <http://www.ucc.org/youth/nye/>

There will be a group of approx. 50 youth from churches in the RI Conference and 150 others from the New England Conferences traveling together to this event. The total cost of the trip is approximately \$600 per student for the Express Trip. With local church and conference-wide fundraising, the expected cost per youth from Barrington Congregational UCC to attend the Express Trip (July 9-14) is \$150-\$180. If your youth would like to participate, please contact Elizabeth Barnum ASAP & she'll send you more information (elizabeth@bccucc.org, 246-0111). *The new registration deadline is 3/1/12.*

Donations
Appreciated

Additionally, with your help, many students will be able to participate who could not otherwise. Visit this online donation page <http://www.centralchurch.us/givenye/> to donate to the RI Conference of the United Church of Christ for the 2012 National Youth Event. All donations are tax deductible and go directly to students in need.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Sunday, April 29th, 2012

2:00 p.m. (1:30 p.m. registration)

East Bay/Barrington CROP Hunger Walk

Walk starts & ends at Barrington Presbyterian Church

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world.

Visit <http://www.cropwalk.org/> to learn more and become part of the movement

The BCCUCC Confirmation Class & JPF will be participating.

Questions? Want to participate? Contact Elizabeth Barnum, Ann Wood, or Helen Schall for more information.



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

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN RECYCLE...



- ...Polypropylene (#5) plastics (all types): Preserve's Gimme 5 program accepts all types of clean #5 plastics which are turned into Preserve personal care and kitchen products. Drop them off in the "Gimme 5" container available at select Whole Foods and food co-ops. [Click here](#) for recycling locations.
- ...Brita pitcher filters are also part of the "Gimme 5" program. Take them to Whole Foods.
- ...Tennis balls: ReBounces restores old tennis balls that have lost their bounce. www.ReBounces.com/recycle.

These tips have been reprinted from *Green America*.
Look for more in the next *Bridge* or go to www.greenamerica.org



The 5th Annual Rhode Island Interfaith Conference

ETHICS IN CLIMATE CHANGE

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 4:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Open Table of Christ Methodist Church

1520 Broad Street, Providence, RI

Registration: \$15.00.

Keynote Address will be presented by **Dr. Roger S. Gottlieb**, philosopher and prolific writer on religion and environmental ethics.

For more information or to register go to the website, www.riipl.org.

Sign up to participate in the

2012 Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast

Go to www.macucc.org/carbonfast for more information or [sign up at this link](#) to receive daily email messages about how you can reduce your carbon footprint. The e-mails begin on Ash Wednesday, February 22 and continue thru Easter Sunday, April 8, 2012.

SAVE THE DATE!

6th Annual Regina F. Berenback
Memorial Lecture

for Social Action & Justice

Sunday, March 25th at 2 p.m.

BCCUC Fellowship Hall

Speaker tba

Rescheduled from the fall....

The Justice and Witness Ministry Team invites you to help 'keep the church green' and also help support Amos House by participating in a

**Progressive Dinner
on Saturday, March 3rd**



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

Catering will be by MORE THAN A MEAL CATERING which is a social enterprise of Amos House. Graduates of the Amos Culinary Education program prepare and serve quality custom catering offerings. By using More Than a Meal Catering we are supporting Amos House services.

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

Cost is \$25 per person and RESERVATIONS are required.

To make a reservation, contact the church office (246-0111 or office@bccucc.org) or speak with a member of J&W who will be at the piano during coffee hour.

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, February 26th

People willing to host the main course part of the evening at their home should let the office know when they make their reservation. Times and locations for the dinner will be announced later.



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!)



Collection for Holy Joe's Café during Lent

Once again this Lenten season we are going to be collecting monetary donations for the Holy Joe's Café run by UCC military chaplains. The chaplains invite soldiers in war zones into a safe and informal place where they can receive spiritual care and good coffee. Thanks to the support from many different UCC churches, more than 125 chaplains are now able to participate in this **Coffee House Ministry**. Go to <http://holyjoescafe.blogspot.com> to read one Chaplain's moving story of 'War and Caffeine: Holy Joe's In A Combat Zone'.

Baskets for your monetary donations will be found on the coffee tables during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall during the Lenten season. Please be generous and support this ministry. Our chaplains are a first line defense against the emotional and psychological issues faced by our troops.

The Community Soup Kitchen in Pawtucket

Different Ministry Teams are responsible for doing the soup kitchen each time BCCUCC is scheduled (every 9 weeks) but they welcome assistance from other members of the congregation.



Three groups from church are scheduled to provide and serve the meal on **Saturday, February 25th**. They are the Finance Team, the Buildings and Grounds Team, and the Confirmands.

If you would like to assist either this time or in the future — maybe by providing a main dish or salad or fresh fruit or granola bars or going to help serve at the kitchen — please contact our Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Diane Todd at (401) 245-4681 or diane.todd@verizon.com. Thank you.



Honored Lay Men's Breakfast March 10, 2012 8:45 a.m.

Central Congregational Church, UCC \$15.00 per person

The breakfast is open to everyone and this year Lay Men from the different RICUCC churches will be honored at the breakfast.

Please make reservations by Monday, March 5th, by sending checks payable to RICUCC (note LMB in memo line) to Central Congregational Church, UCC, 296 Angell Street, Providence, RI 02906 or calling them at 331-1960.



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

Friday, February 3rd

when they will eat at

Backroad Grill, 549 Metacom Avenue, Warren.

For reservations call Helen or Fred MacDonald (401) 437 0254 by January 31st if possible.

All are welcome.

Knitting (and Crocheting) for Others



The group will next meet on

Thursday, February 2nd

from 7 - 9 p.m.

at the home of Carol Louttit,
28 Melrose Avenue, Barrington.

Group members are working on a variety of different projects for different causes including prayer shawls, helmet liners for soldiers, and hats for newborns. Patterns are available. New ideas for knitting projects are always welcome and so are new knitters (or crocheters).

Contact Mary Lou Slicker (245-0085 or rislick@fullchannel.net), or Christine Wallis at the church office (246-0111 or office@bccucc.org) with any questions.

For more information about knitting (or crocheting) for various causes as well as free patterns, check out

- *Project Linus* blankets for children who are seriously ill at www.projectlinus.org
- *Prayer Shawls* at www.shawlministry.com



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

Wednesday, February 15th

Book Group

next meets on

Thursday, February 16th

at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot
501 Main Street, Warren.

All are welcome!



They will discuss the book

Frangipani
by Célestine Vaite

In lilting language rife with many a charming Tahitian saying, Vaite presents an archetypal story of mother-daughter conflict.

Ongoing Collections For Those In Need.

We continue to collect Men's Clothing, Boots, Shoes and Toiletries for the George Hunt Help Center in Providence - a drop-in center for the homeless. A collection hamper is in the vestry. Non perishable food items for TapIn can be placed in the collection bins in the Narthex on the way into church.

Thank You! THANK YOU!

.....to all who donated to the Giving Tree, the Mitten Tree, or the Toy Collection. Your donations helped make Christmas a little brighter for those less fortunate. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the UCC Christmas Fund

.....to all who donated to the Chancel Fund, and to the Deacons for delivering Christmas Plants (purchased from the fund) to our homebound, sick and bereaved

.....to Ginger Stabach for donating alcohol-free hand sanitizer to the church school classrooms

.....to CEYM, Amy Harff, Sean Lennon, Nick McGarry, and Katie Odjakjian for hosting and facilitating the Advent Craft Fair

.....to Amy Gorman, Anita DiMatteo, Greg Knight, Kate Loos, Elizabeth Barnum, Kristen Westmoreland, Betsy Restituyo, Ginger Stabach, Jane Knight, MaryLouise Gamache, Sharon Sylvester, Francis Seader, Kathy Sullivan, Carol Strakosch, Louise House, Lynne Lehman, Kate Bonneau, Laurie Dubel, Leslie Strolla, Nina Robertson, Greg Knight, Ellen Brady, and Cathleen Joachim for volunteering in Church School

.....to everyone who generously donated food or time for the December 31st soup kitchen. Special thanks go to Diane and Andrew Todd for all their ongoing work with the soup kitchen

...to Jim McCartney and Cheryl Muth for sharing why they are part of BCCUCC at the January RI Conference Board Meeting in our church library

...to Sheila Hutton who faithfully returns the nametags to the racks in the vestry hallway each week

.....and to Deb Clarke for coming in on Friday afternoons to stuff the bulletins.

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

COFFEE HOUR HOST SCHEDULE

February: Stewardship (*Greg Voigt*)

We invite you to say hello to the coffee servers and speak with them if you would like to assist by baking or serving, or to learn more about the work of the team. You can also contact the person listed above.



2012 Pledge Envelopes are available for pick up from the Narthex table. If you have been assigned a set and do not want them, please let our Financial Secretary Pat Stoddard know (246-0111 x 102 or pat@bccucc.org).



If you would like a set of envelopes, contact Pat who will be happy to give you some.



Thanks from the Staff

We, the staff of BCCUCC, would like to express our sincere thanks to the congregation for their generous donations to our Christmas Bonus. We are both honored and grateful to receive this expression of appreciation from the many church members and friends who donated.

We will continue to serve the church to the best of our ability and feel blessed to be working with two wonderful clergy, Jeff and Elizabeth, and for such a great congregation.

With all best wishes for 2012,

Christine, Pat, Andrea, Marina, Jack, Paul and Jimmy

Welcome to Our Newest Member of Staff

We are pleased to welcome John Cordeiro to our custodial staff. He will be working part time along with Jack, Jimmy and Paul. John is a skilled carpenter and has done work for the church in the past, so we are very pleased to have him join our staff.



Goodbye



We say goodbye and send good wishes to longtime church member Peg Welch. She recently sold her house in Warren and will be closing on a house in Amherst, MA in late March which she will be sharing with her son Jonathan, wife Heather, and children Connor and Grace. In the meantime Peg is staying with her daughter Cathy in New Jersey for a couple of months. Peg has promised to send us her new address in Amherst but in the meantime she can be reached by e-mail at mtwelch56@gmail.com. Peg is looking forward to living with Jonathan and his family and also being close to Leo and Sheila Hourihan (who are Heather's parents).

Peg's daughter Martha Foster and her family - who also lived on the property in Warren - have purchased a house in Bristol.

Bette Reid has moved and has a new address:

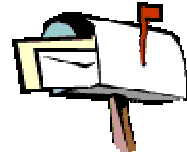
90 Bay Spring Avenue, Apt 111,
Barrington RI 02806
(401) 310-0372



Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/bccucc
(and be sure to 'Like' us)

or on the web at
www.bccucc.org

Letters from our mailbox



To the Deacons,

What a lovely surprise to have Barbara Smith deliver to me a small decorated Norfolk Pine. By following the directions for care I hope to have a bigger Norfolk Pine next Christmas.

Thank you and all the congregation for your prayers and loving care and messages. I plan to be back in church very soon.

A Joyous New Year,
Barbara McWhirter

Thank you so much for the Norfolk Island Pine delivered by Santa Seader. I will tend it vigorously and it may become our future Christmas Tree.

Liz and Ozzie Rosenholm

Thank you to everyone at BCCUCC for all of your prayers and kind words during my father's illness, and for the many cards that I have received since his death. Knowing that so many of you were thinking and praying for me and my family meant a lot and has been a blessing during this difficult time. I am very grateful to you all - my 'other' church family.

With many thanks,
Christine Wallis



Dear Friends,

What an amazing gift you gave once again this Christmas season when you filled our toy box week after week with used toys for Children's Friend. We also know that there were many behind the scenes elves shopping and placing new items in the box as well.

I can only imagine the joy on the faces of the children and families who have so little, to see all the gifts surrounding their tree on Christmas morning. Jeff and I continue to be amazed by the folks that surround us here at the Barrington Congregational Church. Your continued outpouring of love and support for the true meaning of the 'mission' of our church is a gift and we thank you for continuing support of this program. Happy New Year to you all.

Many thanks and much love,
Kathleen Larsen



NEW BIRTH?

The church will be delighted to place a rose on the altar to celebrate the birth of a new baby born to a member of the church family – all you have to do is call the church with the birth information.

Family Footnotes



Emma Rose Gaines

born October 23, 2011 to Sarah and Jeff Gaines



We welcome the following new members who joined our church on December 6, 2011

Erik and Joanne Ela

Stiles and Wendy Bennet

*Heather Williamson and
Libardo De La Torre*



Janet Durfee-Hidalgo, Rick Browning,
Loran Fairfield, Mark Rosenholm,
Beth Buckley, Alex Danzberger,
and Jane Larsen (Jeff Larsen's mother).



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

Heather Sugg on the death of her brother, Bill MacQuattie;

Christine Wallis on the death of her father, George Fildes;

Rev. Jenny Cook on the death of her father, Howard Smith;

Helen Elder on the death of her husband, James;

and to the families of Richard Smith, Robert Osborne and John Aronson.

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

Telephone: (401) 246-0111

E-mail: office@bccucc.org

Website: www.bccucc.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bccucc

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, Jim Salvaggio, Paul Dzedzic, John Cordeiro	



*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.*