


December 2006 & January 2007

# THE WHITE CHURCH BRIDGE



Dear Friends,

There is a wonderful story of a little girl in the car with her parents coming home from church on a snowy Christmas morning and seeing fresh marks in the snow leading up their long driveway. There were animal footprints up the middle with what appeared to be sleigh tracks on either side. She imagined that Santa had really come – the tracks could only have been made by the sleigh and reindeer!

When they turned the corner to the house there sat a very sad-eyed and obviously lost dog on their doorstep – who had been pulling Christmas ribbons in his teeth, dragging on either side of him. He was shivering and hungry...and as they found out over the next week or so, abandoned. They provided him with a loving and joyful home. Santa had indeed come, just in a way they hadn't expected.

I hope this holiday season catches you by surprise from time to time. Please make an effort not to become so immersed in the activities and expectations of others that you forget the reason for the season. Notice the marks in the snow if we get some, let your imaginations run free, block out the background noise and make spaces for quiet peaceful prayer.

All of us on your church staff wish you a joyous month. We are blessed to work for you and with you.

Advent and Christmas peace to you all,



Note about my office door being open (or at least unlocked in the colder weather) – all are welcome, and sometimes you will find Murphy !



## Sunday Services in December & January

- December 3    10 a.m.    *New Member Sunday*  
Worship Service and Communion, Pageant Preparation
- December 10    10 a.m.    Worship Service with Bells, Pageant Preparation
- December 17    10 a.m.    Worship Service and Children's Christmas Pageant  
4 p.m.    Installation Service for Rev. Jeff Larsen
- December 24    10 a.m.    Advent Family Worship Service with Bells  
**Christmas Eve**  
5 p.m.    Family Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir  
11 p.m.    Service of Lessons and Carols with Adult Vocal Choir
- December 31    10 a.m.    Worship Service
- January 7        10 a.m.    Worship Service with Communion, Church School
- January 14      10 a.m.    Worship Service with Sing and Celebrate Choir,  
Church School
- January 21      10 a.m.    Worship Service with Bells, Church School
- January 28      10 a.m.    Worship Service, Church School  
After Worship    Annual Budget Meeting (see page 22)

*Church School for Pre-School through Grade 8\**

*Nursery Care Available\**

*Handicapped Accessible*

*\* See page 8 for information about Church School and Nursery Care in December*

## Christmas Eve Services

- 5:00 p.m.**    Family Worship Service with the Sing and Celebrate Children's Choir
- 11:00 p.m.**    Service of Lessons and Carols with the Adult Vocal Choir





The Rev. Jeff Larsen will be offering an Advent series on the three Thursday evenings in December, providing an opportunity for you to pause for reflection during the busy holiday season:

- **Thursday, December 7, 7:30-8:30 in the Library.** A Bible study looking at the 2 different versions of the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke—how and why are they different?
- **Thursday, December 14, 7:30-8:30 in the Library.** A look at the life of Rembrandt thru story and his art on this 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth.
- **Thursday, December 21, 7:30-8:30 in the Sanctuary.** A service of communion. We will not have communion at our 11 PM service on Christmas Eve so this contemporary service will allow us to make the connection between Easter and Christmas in a meaningful way.

### What is E-Prayer?

A group of folks who are willing to share their e-mail address with me and then receive from me the names of people in need of prayer. This is a confidential prayer list and I only share that which I have permission to do from the person asking for prayers. All I ask for in return is for you to keep these folks in your prayers as you carry on throughout your day.

If you are interested in joining the BCCUCC E-Prayer chain please leave your e-mail address in the church office or give it to Jeff or e-mail it to me at [KLarsenswc@hotmail.com](mailto:KLarsenswc@hotmail.com)

The power of prayer is a gift to those in need.

Blessings,  
Kathleen Larsen



### “Women in the Bible”

meets on alternate Thursdays

from **10:30 a.m.—Noon**

in **Room 6**

and will meet on

**December 7<sup>th</sup>\*, January 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>.**

*\*Following the meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup>, those who wish to will go out for lunch. Please let Helen MacDonald know by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend the lunch.*

This group is open to any woman who wants to learn more about the women in the Bible and hear how God speaks to us through these women's stories. You needn't be a member of this church to participate so feel free to invite friends. Please bring a bible.



All are invited to the BCC UCC....

## Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

3 p.m.

in the Sanctuary



Music by

Adult Vocal Choir

White Church Ringers

Sing and Celebrate Choir

The program will include.....

Contemporary and Traditional Anthems

Carols of the Season

Piano and Organ Music

Congregational Singing

A Freewill Offering will be taken

Our choirs work hard preparing for this concert so all are encouraged to attend. We invite you to bring a friend to share in the enjoyment of the sounds of the season!

Like Gospel Music? Then you'll love the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

I'll Be Home for Christmas

GOSPEL CONCERT

on **Saturday, December 2**

at the **Columbus Theater**,  
270 Broadway, Providence

starting at **7:00 p.m.**



Tickets are \$15, available in advance by calling 453-3220 or at the door, and proceeds benefit FaithWorks, a financial and homeownership literacy program offered at seven inner-city Providence churches by the non-profit West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation.

For more information about the concert or FaithWorks, call Richard Staples at 245-7667

We're still looking .....

for that special person who would like to join the White Church Ringers.

We have an open spot just for you! Please speak to any member of the Bell Choir if you are interested in enhancing worship through bell ringing.



*All are cordially invited to the*

*Service of Installation*

*for The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen*

*Sunday, December 17, 2006 at 4 PM*

*at Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.*

*A Reception will follow in Fellowship Hall*

## Volunteers Needed

### to help with the Reception following Jeff Larsen's Installation

The Rev Jeff Larsen's formal installation as our Senior Minister will be held at 4 PM on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** with a reception to follow. This will be a special event in the life of our church.

If you would be willing to *help with the reception* there are several opportunities for you to do so. Since it is a late afternoon reception we would like to serve appetizer hors d'oeuvre type food and sweets such as cookies, small cakes etc. to go with punch ,coffee and tea.

It would be helpful if you could sign up by the following categories:

**Set up:** Fellowship Hall - before service - exact time TBD

**Food:** Deliver food to kitchen before service  
- Appetizer, hors d'oeuvre  
- Sweets –cookies, finger cakes

**Servers:** Help keep food tables supplied, serve as needed

**Clean up:** Stay after reception ends to clean up

To sign up please contact Lois McCartney [lfmcc@fullchannel.net](mailto:lfmcc@fullchannel.net) or 245-3288. Early responses would be much appreciated.

We hope you can participate in this joyful occasion when we welcome fellow UCC Conference churches as well as Jeff's family and friends.

## A chance to say "thank you"

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

Thank you ahead of time, Jeff

## Nametags at Coffee Hour

Please remember to use your nametags on Sunday. Many in our congregation, both old timers and newcomers, are appreciative.

It has come to our attention that many do not wear their nametags to coffee hour. To encourage you to do so, there will be baskets near the exits from Fellowship Hall for you to drop your nametag in when you leave coffee hour – it will then magically reappear on the rack in the vestry the next Sunday! Thanks.



## Pastor/Staff Parish Relations Team

You may have noticed the announcements in the bulletins that the Pastor Parish Relations Team (PPRT) is available to the congregation for the purpose of fostering good relations between the congregation, the staff, and the minister. It exists to improve and maintain these relationships and enhance their mutual ministry. While PPRT may help in resolving unfruitful conflicts, it also exists to facilitate communication and mutual understanding. Should you desire that your voice be heard we invite you to call

Phyllis Buckley	245-1098
Moyne Cabbage	245-4641
Lynne Lehman	289-0101
Helen MacDonald	437-0254
Jim McCartney	245-3288

## Library Cart at coffee hour

During the Sundays in December Jeff will be putting a library cart at coffee hour with some books from his library. If you are looking for something different to read during the Advent season please feel free to check one out by simply signing the card and leaving it on the cart.



**CHRISTMAS**



**OPEN HOUSE**

**Open House at the Parsonage**

7 Fireside Drive

**Sunday, December 3**

**3 - 5 PM.**

All are welcome to come and see the renovations made to the house and have a social visit with their pew-mates.

**College Student e-mails please!**

Jeff and Kathleen Larsen are trying to come up with a list of our college-age young people for a possible get-together over the holidays. If you have one of those connected to your family could you please get their name and email address to Jeff at the office? Thanks.

**NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**

On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the 10:00 a.m. service we will receive new members into this church.

Interested in becoming a member of our church?

Please contact Jeff Larsen at the church office (246-0111) to be included on December 3.



If you are a returning member who perhaps had been put on our "Inactive List" during your time away, we would welcome "Re-activating" you immediately. Call Christine at the church office.

If you have been coming to church for a long time but just never took the step of joining - this is a great time to do it! Talk with Jeff.



**Confirmation Class Update**

The next class session is

**Sunday, December 3 11:20 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Room 6.**

By that class each student should have completed the 3 assignments:

- interview a church member about how they feel our church responds to problems in the world;
- attended another place of worship to see how others do it differently;
- come up with a list of five things our church can do better to make the world a better place.

Mark your calendar for....

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**  
when the children in Grades K-5 will present their  
**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
during the 10 a.m. Worship Service *in Fellowship Hall.*



All rehearsals will take place in Fellowship Hall and the rehearsal schedule will be:

**Sunday, December 3** 10—11 a.m. (during worship)  
**Thursday, December 7** 6—7 p.m.  
**Sunday, December 10** 10—11 a.m. (during worship)  
**Tuesday, December 12** 6—7 p.m.  
**Saturday, December 16** 9—11 a.m. Mandatory Dress Rehearsal

Questions? Call Amy Gorman at 246-7858.  
Adult volunteers willing to help are also asked to call Amy.

### What's happening with Church School in December?

There will be some changes to church school & FAITHWorks during the month of December:

**Sundays, December 3 and 10.** Children in Grades K-5 will spend the entire worship time (from 10 a.m. until the worship service ends) rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant. Youth in grades 6 and up, and any K-5 child not participating in the pageant, will be expected to attend the worship service with their families. There will be a PreK class and Nursery Care.

**Sunday, December 17.** The 10 a.m. Worship Service will take place in Fellowship Hall and the Christmas Pageant will be performed during the service. There will be Nursery Care, but no classes for children in PreK—Grade 8.

**Sunday, December 24.** The 10 a.m. worship service will be a child-friendly service for Advent. There will be no church school for any age or nursery care.

**Sunday, December 31.** There will be Nursery care and class for PreK children. No church school classes for Kindergarten - Grade 8.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Bill DeWitt at 245-3352  
or contact any member of the CEYM team.

If you have a meeting in the education building after office hours, you **must** make sure that the building is locked when you leave—even if there are other groups still in the building. The building has been found unlocked overnight on several recent occasions.

# youth Group



**Junior PF**, open to all 6-8 graders and their friends, meets on the first Sunday of each month. The group this year is being coordinated by Camilla Hemingway with parents taking responsibility for each month's programs. Please spread the word and join us for any of these events! Questions about Junior PF or to volunteer to help? Contact Camilla Hemingway at 245-0300.

December 3



*Operation Christmas Child*. 5 p.m.

Both Jr and Sr PF will meet at church, go shopping for gifts, then return to church to wrap them. Contact people: Mary Louise Gamache (245-9914) and Kim Godfrey (245-3924).

January 7, 2007

*Celebrate the New Year* with Pizza and Movie Night. 4 p.m.  
Contact person: Camilla Hemingway (245-0300).

February 4

*Let's Go Tubing*. Outing to Yawgoo for an afternoon of tubing.  
Time tba. Contact person: Sandy Miniati (247-9337).

**Senior PF**, open to all high school students and their friends, will be meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month under the direction of Kim Godfrey (245-3924) and Ali Jean (246-0864)

December 3

*Operation Christmas Child* (see above).

December 17

Sr. PF will participate in Jeff's Installation. Meet at 3:30 p.m. to prepare and attend.

January 7 and 21 TBA



## FAITHWorks

No FAITHWorks in December.

**Our FAITHWorks topic for January is Fulfill Prophecy.**

**January Disciples will be:**

**Heaven's Hash: Susan Roach**

**Thou Art: Susan Rotblat Walker**

**Creative Christianity: Fred MacDonald**

**Godly Games: Leslie and Steve Peck**



Coming soon to a Christmas stocking near you!!!

**A Cat's Meow rendition of  
The Barrington Congregational Church, UCC.**

As a fundraiser for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barrington Congregational Church we have ordered 100 of these wooden models. They will go on sale as soon as they arrive for \$20.00 a piece. These will make great stocking stuffers and gifts for folks of all ages. There is so much history inside this building with so many of you or your family members raised here. Put this little wooden replica on the shelf and let your mind wander to the memories of baptisms, weddings, choral concerts and bells. BCCUCC will be the only place that one of these can be purchased.



Please see Kathleen Larsen if you have any questions.

*Another Christmas Gift Idea.....*

Copies of the **NEW CHURCH COOKBOOK** - containing favorite recipes from church members - are still available for purchase at \$15 each. They make a great Christmas gift and all proceeds will go toward funding future Senior PF Mission trips.



2006 Global Ministries  
**Alternative Christmas**

Check out their web site at [www.globalministries.org/index.php](http://www.globalministries.org/index.php) and click on the link to find ideas of how you can participate in the UCC's Global Ministries Alternative Christmas by giving gifts that help others around the world.

**The Seekonk Congregational Church, U.C.C.**

600 Fall River Avenue, Seekonk  
508-336-9355 [www.scc-ucc.com](http://www.scc-ucc.com)

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR  
and GIFT FESTIVAL**



**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9:00AM – 3:00PM**

Gift Baskets, Baked goods, Crafts,  
Live Wreaths, Live Centerpieces  
and much more...

**Providence Singers 'Joyful Gifts'**

A bright and festive concert brings new sounds to the holiday season – selections from Poulenc's *Gloria*, a *Hallelujah Chorus* for all to sing, and the Rhode Island premiere of Dan Locklair's *En natus est emanuel* – plus carols and traditional holiday favorites. The Rhode Island Children's Chorus and organist Andrew Galuska join The Singers in one of Rhode Island's wonderful holiday traditions.

**Saturday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.,  
Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, Providence**

**Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006, 3 p.m.,  
St. Mary's Church, Bristol**

Tickets \$20 in advance, \$24 at the door, \$5 children and students. Ticket order forms available from Christine.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> in a series of our church's history

## **Our Second Meeting House**

by Van Edwards

We know a little more about our second meeting house, but the story is not without uncertainty. For some reason, the process of building the new meeting house stretched out over several years. If serious work on the church began in 1737, 5 years later the town was just getting around to appropriating funds for galleries and stairways. Meanwhile, Peleg Heath, our minister, who seemed to spend much of his time in law suits, was dismissed and in 1742, our church installed a new minister, Solomon Townsend.

We have some idea of what this building looked like. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Allin Bicknell, who had worshipped in our church near the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (when Townsend was still minister!!) described the second meeting house to his grandson, Thomas Bicknell, the historian of our town. A copy of Bicknell's reconstruction is attached to the wall of our vestry. Essentially the second meeting house was a simple box, with two sets of windows on each side; there were galleries and a huge board that hung over the pulpit to deflect the preacher's voice towards the congregation.

After some 50 years, the meeting house appeared to need drastic repair. In 1798 the state of Rhode Island approved a lottery "for the purposes of repairing their house of public worship." In 1800 the sale of tickets began and the prize drawing was promised for the following year. We really don't know how this lottery turned out – no renovation of the building seems to have been undertaken at this time. Instead Mother Nature stepped in and in October of 1804 a hurricane visited Barrington and damaged the second meeting house so much as to require a complete rebuilding of the Church.

Barrington experienced many difficulties during this period. In 1746 the town was awarded to Rhode Island and merged with Brooks Pasture to form the new town of Warren. Twenty-four years later, our town regained its independence by an act of the Provincial legislature of Rhode Island. The years of the American Revolution were difficult and the town experienced little population growth during this period. The amazing fact is that during this period our church had only two ministers, with Solomon Townsend serving from 1742-1796. Samuel Watson, a native of Barrington, succeeded him and served until his death in 1821. What we know of Solomon Townsend's ministry reveals a constant struggle to serve God and his church in conditions of abject poverty. One story from Townsend's ministry concerns the eminent scientist and educator, Ezra Stiles, who was the minister of the Congregational Church in Newport before becoming President of Yale. One night, Townsend's housekeeper was cooking a bucket of clams, freshly harvested from the Barrington River, when Doctor Stiles rode up. The housekeeper did not know what to do, until Solomon explained that "clams that are good enough for me are good enough for Dr. Stiles" – and so one of the most distinguished scientists of our country dined on a Barrington delicacy.



The Social Action and Justice Ministry Team will once again be sponsoring a Mitten Tree.

You are asked to please fill the Christmas tree in the narthex of the church with new hats, mittens and gloves of all sizes - for children (not forgetting the teenagers) and adults. The items will be donated to various local agencies for distribution to those in need. Thank you.

## TAP-IN CHRISTMAS PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP

Each year, Tap-In (Touch a Person in Need) provides new toys and gifts for over 200 needy families in the East Bay area. The program runs primarily on **donations of money, new toys and gift certificates** (movies, Dunkin Donuts, McDonalds, etc.) from local residents. Tap-In creatively bags the toys and gifts for the families and will distribute them to the parents on December 16<sup>th</sup>. On distribution day Tap-In is festively decorated and the volunteer elves hand out the gaily wrapped bags of toys. The most challenging age group to provide for is the 11-14 year old age group, so keep them in mind—gift cards are very popular with this age group! Tap-In is also accepting **Shaws and Stop and Shop Gift Cards** to give out as well. If possible, please make your donation by Dec 11<sup>th</sup> so that it can be handed out on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. Tap-In is open for drop offs Mon-Fri from 9 a.m.—Noon. For more information call 247-1444.



Interested in helping “Adopt-a-Family” this Christmas? Watch for information in the weekly announcements or talk with someone from the Social Action and Justice Ministry Team.

### Swing a hammer for Habitat for Humanity!

If you are a novice wanting to learn handyman (or handywoman) basics or an expert willing to share your skills, Habitat gives you the chance to help others out of sub-standard housing and the chance to swing a hammer or wield a paintbrush. We will be sending work parties to the Providence Habitat affiliate next year on the following dates:

January 27, February 24, April 28, June 23, August 25,  
October 27, and December 22. Mark these dates on your calendar.

In addition, we are setting up an email list of people who are possibly interested in helping out. If you are interested in being on the list, please email Rich Simpson at [rts.ri@cox.net](mailto:rts.ri@cox.net). More information about the current projects can be found at: <http://www.habitatprov.org/>.





## 2006 Christmas Fund

Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and distant neighbors.

The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross), one of four Special Mission Offerings of the UCC, is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The Offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension Boards on behalf of the UCC is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retirees, emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas Gift checks to hundreds of annuitants.

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

Christmas Fund Gifts provided...

- Some form of Ministerial Assistance to approx. 1,400 persons during calendar year 2006
- Christmas Gift checks, which are scheduled to be given to 828 persons in 2006. Of those who will receive checks, 24 are over 100 years of age. The 828 gifts will total \$228,250.
- Monthly Pension Supplementation to 578 persons, totaling \$100,079 per month. A significant part of this total comes from the Christmas Fund.
- Quarterly Health Premium Supplementation to 306 persons, totaling \$154,298 per quarter.
- Emergency Grants to 42 individuals/families, which totaled \$59,560 in the first six months of 2006. It is estimated that 60-70 persons will receive an Emergency Grant by year-end.

Your generous contributions do make a difference. Please make checks payable to "Barrington Congregational Church" and mark the memo line "Christmas Fund". Your donation can be placed in the attached envelope and either put in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you.

Several families have expressed interest in a family retreat at Lake Winnepesaukee. However, it will now not take place until the fall of 2007. If you have an interest in participating, please contact Jeff Larsen at [jeffbccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:jeffbccucc@fullchannel.net) or 246-0111. See October *Bridge* for details (available on line at [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org)).



## Calendar Page 1

Please go to the calendar page of the website to see the calendars for December 2006 and January 2007.

## Calendar Page 2

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## Calendar Page 3

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## Calendar Page 4

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**Tired of receiving your *Bridge* late?  
We have some solutions!**



Because of the much reduced cost, the monthly newsletter is mailed out “bulk rate”. However, this can result in those living out of town receiving their newsletter as long as two weeks later than those living in Barrington. While we have always had extra copies available from the vestry table or the rack outside the church office, we are pleased to offer two new alternatives for getting the *Bridge* sooner:

- The *Bridge* can be read on line at our church website [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org).
- We will mail out the *Bridge* “First Class” to those living out of town willing to make a small donation to cover the additional cost of mailing. This is estimated to be approx. \$5 for the year. If you wish to use this service, please send in your name and payment to the church office *by January 15<sup>th</sup>* so that we can start with the mailing of the February *Bridge*.

**An Invitation to our Computer Savvy Readers.....**

**Get your *Bridge* at [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org)**

As the *Bridge* is now available online there may be some people who would be willing—or even prefer—to read the newsletter on line rather than receive a hard copy in the mail each month.

By doing so you would save the church some money — not only the cost of mailing the newsletter to you, but also the cost of the paper and ink used to produce it. As the number of copies run off diminishes, so would the production time—taking less time to run off, label and collate—another advantage. Plus we’d be helping the environment by saving trees!

So if you’re a computer savvy household, we ask that you consider removing your household’s name from the mailing list for the *Bridge*, and instead read it on line.

To stop receiving the *Bridge* in the mail, please contact Christine at the church office at [bccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:bccucc@fullchannel.net) or 246-0111 with your request.

Should you find at a later date that you prefer to read a hard copy, we’ll happily start mailing it out to you again. Thank you.



## *Christmas Poinsettias*

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant to decorate the sanctuary this Christmas, or for delivery by a deacon to our homebound, please complete this order form and return to the church office with payment **by Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006**.

Alternatively, the completed form and payment can be left with a member of the Chancel Ministry Team who will be at the piano in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour following Sunday services.

In addition to plants being given in memory of a loved one, plants may also be given in thanksgiving for, or celebration of, someone or something (a person, birthday, anniversary, etc). *Please be sure to complete the correct portion of the form with your dedication.* All dedications will be listed in a special insert to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Every year our deacons deliver poinsettias to our homebound, sick and recently bereaved. If you would be willing to have your poinsettia used for delivery by the deacons prior to Christmas, rather than to decorate the sanctuary, please be sure to check the appropriate box on the order form. A small portion of the cost of each poinsettia is used for the purchase of some of the additional poinsettias that are delivered by the deacons.

Those who purchase poinsettias are given the option of taking them home following the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Those that remain will continue to decorate the sanctuary during the Christmas Season. *We respectfully request that no plants be removed from the Sanctuary before the end of the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service.*

The money collected will be used to purchase red poinsettias for delivery by the deacons, and a variety of red and white poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas. The sanctuary will be decorated a little earlier this year, in time for Jeff's Installation service on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

*See next page for order form.*



Please read the information on the previous page before filling in the order form below.

Plants are **\$14 each** *(same price as last year!)* Please make checks payable to 'Barrington Congregational Church' and mark the memo line "Poinsettia".

I would like to purchase ..... poinsettias at \$14 each = \$ .....  
indicate number of plants

.. I would like to have my poinsettia(s) delivered to a homebound, sick or recently bereaved person from the church

.. I would like to take my poinsettia(s) home once the 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service is over

Given by .....

*(please print clearly)*

In memory of .....

.....

In thanksgiving for .....

.....

In celebration of .....

.....

Please complete and return with payment by Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

The Dine-Out Group invites you to join them on

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

when they will eat at

**The Sakonnet Fish Company**

657 Park Avenue, Portsmouth.

at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Helen Schall at 245-4724 by Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> to reserve your spot or to make carpooling arrangements

*All are welcome.*

Watch the weekly announcement sheet for January's gastronomic venue!



The Third Friday Bridge Group will next meet on

Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30 PM in the Vestry

(They will not meet in December).

Come enjoy an evening of cards, fellowship, refreshments and prizes. All bridge players are invited, and need not have a partner to enjoy this fun evening. For further information contact Sheila Hutton at 245-4941.



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

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## Adult Reading Circle

will meet on

Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

and

Tuesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

at 7:30 p.m.

at The Coffee Depot  
501 Main Street, Warren.



**All are welcome!**

December: **One of Ours**  
by Willa Cather

In her Pulitzer Prize-winning narrative of the making of a young American soldier, Cather explores the destiny of a grandchild of the pioneers, a young Nebraskan whose yearnings impel him toward a frontier bloodier and more distant than the one that vanished before his birth. In doing so, she creates a canny and extraordinarily vital portrait of an American psyche at once skeptical and romantic, restless and heroic.

3

January: **Abide with Me**  
by Elizabeth Stout.

Stout's quiet, graceful second novel is much like its hero, minister Tyler Caskey: earnest, introspective, and prone to occasional outbursts of deeply felt emotion. Set in the small town of West Annett, Maine, in the 1950s, the novel focuses on the two years after the death of Tyler's vibrant, charismatic wife, Lauren.

## Have You Made a Pledge for 2007?

Opening  
Ourselves  
to God

**Thank you** to everyone who has pledged financial support to BCCUCC for 2007. Your generosity is much appreciated.

If you haven't yet done so, it's not too late to make a pledge for 2007. It can be for any amount, large or small, and will be used to support the work of the church (see article below). Additional pledge forms are available from the vestry table, the rack outside the church office, or call the office at 246-0111 and ask for one to be mailed to you. Thank you.



## Please fulfill your 2006 pledge

ConnectingOurFaith

-with God, ourselves and others...



Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, passes a balanced budget at the beginning of each year at its Annual Budget Meeting, based upon the amount the congregation has pledged. The church relies on the income from those pledges in order to pay its bills, fund programs, give money to missions, and pay the staff. We respectfully request that if at all possible, you fulfill your financial pledge to the church before December 31<sup>st</sup> so that we don't end up with a deficit.

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

## Warrant for the ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

**Barrington Congregational Church, Barrington, Rhode Island**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2007**

The annual budget meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC is hereby called to take place in the sanctuary following the regular 10:00 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, January 28, 2007**. The business to be transacted is as follows:

- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To review and vote on the proposed church budget for fiscal year 2007.
- ARTICLE III: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE IV: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Barbara Wuth Clerk



## Year End Alert

Re: 2006 Reimbursable Expenses.

Just a reminder that **Year End** is rapidly approaching. If you have any invoices or expenses that you need to be reimbursed for, please fill out vouchers (*which must be signed by the leader of your ministry team*) and send them to the church office, with receipts attached, as soon as possible. Vouchers are available from the folder at the front of the desk in the church office.

*Any expenses turned in after December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006, will be charged to the 2007 budgets!*

Never get behind with your pledge payments again. Sign up for...

## PledgePay

***Convenient – Reliable - Secure***

**PledgePay** is a way for you to make monthly pledge payments to the church through direct withdrawals from your checking or savings account, starting January 2007. We are happy to offer this hassle-free way to pay your pledge and hope to save you time in the process. PledgePay forms are available from the vestry table or the rack outside the church office. For questions or more information contact Pat Stoddard at 246-0111.

## 2007 PLEDGE ENVELOPES

Because of the high cost involved pledge envelopes are not mailed out. Instead we are asking that those who requested pledge envelopes **please pick them up from the table in the narthex** (where the greeters stand) beginning later in December - or stop by the church office to pick them up. Pledge envelopes have only been assigned to those people who requested them on their pledge form.

If you did not request envelopes but would like a set, please call the church office (246-0111) and we will be happy to assign some to you.



Jeff Larsen

[jeffbccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:jeffbccucc@fullchannel.net)

Church Office

[bccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:bccucc@fullchannel.net)

Financial Secretary (Pat Stoddard)

[financebccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:financebccucc@fullchannel.net)

Christine Wallis (Office Administrator)

[christinebccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:christinebccucc@fullchannel.net)

Pat Stoddard (Office Assistant)

[patbccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:patbccucc@fullchannel.net)

*Please do not send e-mail to our old junco address.*

Do we have YOUR e-mail address?

Please e-mail it to us at

[bccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:bccucc@fullchannel.net)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY....

...to Cindy Cioe who furnished ALL of the loaves of bread needed for the RICUCC Anniversary service at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet

...to Greg Voigt who had the front wheels on our wheelchair repaired recently after one of them broke

...to Mary Louise Gamache and the 4th grade class who supplied "Food from the Bible" at coffee hour on October 22

...to Nancy Martin, Bernadette Hawes, Marilyn Packard-Luther, Marilyn Darling, Mary Lou Slicker, Marcy Goss and Helen MacDonald for their work on the reception held for Jenny Cook on her last Sunday at BCCUCC

...to everyone who "brought a friend" to church on November 12. We hope that you will invite them to come again!

...to Ben White, Kim Godfrey and Tom Lennon for sharing their love for our church during the Stewardship Moments at November services

...and to everyone who brought food for the TapIn food drive.



ANNUAL BUDGET  
MEETING

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**

after Worship in the Sanctuary.

*All church members are  
encouraged to attend.*

Child care will be  
provided.



**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](http://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!).

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL SERVICE**

*sponsored by the Barrington Clergy Association*



The annual Barrington Community Martin Luther King, Jr. Service of Remembrance and Celebration is on

**Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at BCCUCC at 7:30 p.m.**

BOW (Beyond Our Walls) will sponsor an essay writing contest for students in Grades 4-12 — more details to follow.

## DEACONS FOR DECEMBER

Lorraine Keeney (star deacon),  
Van Edwards, Jim McCartney, Lois McCartney,  
Doug Roach, and Mary Lou Slicker.

## DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Achina Stein (star deacon),  
Chris Brady, Marshall Hoyler, John Muth,  
Susan Seader, and Beverly Travers

*If in a pastoral emergency you cannot reach Jeff  
Larsen (247-1787), please call on one of the deacons.*

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

October 22 – 262

October 29 – 219

At BCCUCC Service 184

At RICUCC Ann. Service 35

November 5 – 230

November 12 – 241

November 19 – 235

## Missing Silver Bread Plate

The Deacons have discovered that the small silver plate on which the loaf of bread to be broken for communion is missing from the Sacristy cabinets. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please let the Deacons know about it.



My second request is that if anyone has a small silver plate (about 6" - 8") that they would be willing to donate to the church, please let me know.

Mary Lou Slicker, Chair of the Deacons  
245-0085 or [rislick@fullchannel.net](mailto:rislick@fullchannel.net)



## Cottage Meetings

Cottage meetings  
will begin in January — watch  
the announcements for further  
details.

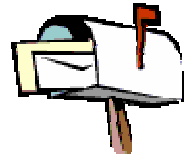
Anyone willing to host,  
facilitate or be a scribe for a  
meeting should contact Helen  
Schall (245-4724).

## Celebrating a Birthday?

Each week the bulletin announcements list 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.



# Letters from our mailbox



Hello Friends at BCCUCC!

I am sorry to have been out of touch for so long. It seems that with one thing or another and having two children I rarely have the time for correspondence that I would like. Please know that you are frequently in our thoughts and prayers. Dan and I have fond memories of our time spent with so many of you.

I am also writing to let you know that Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> I passed my Ecclesiastical Council in the United Church of Christ. What that means is that I am now "ordained pending a call." Once I find a call -- or a job in more practical terms -- I can plan the ordination service. Of course, you will receive an invitation.

I want to let you know that BCCUCC played a significant role in getting me to this place. It was at Barrington that I officially became a member of the United Church of Christ, that Dan was ordained, and where Haley was baptized. I want you to know that as I stood before the council, I knew you stood with me, having been instrumental in getting me to this place.

Please accept my heartfelt thank you!

Grace and Peace to you all,  
Lynne Burmeister McQuown

*Editor's Note: Dan McQuown was a part-time Interim Associate Minister at BCCUCC for ten months from October 1999. He and his wife, Lynne, currently live in Michigan with their daughters, Haley and Sophia, where Dan is the Chaplain at Albion College. Their current address is 200 S. Monroe St #25, Albion MI 49224*

Dear Friends,

My heart is full of gratitude. Thank you so much for the beautiful reception that was full of surprises, wonderful food, kind words, loving company, generous gifts, and music of the angels. I will always remember the ministry we shared.

During this beautiful season, hold on in hope, reach out in love, and hold fast in commitment to be people of peace.

Merry Christmas,  
Jenny (Cook)



## News of a former organist

Some of you may remember **Anna Fiore-Smith** who was our organist from 1963 to 1979. She is now a resident at Adams House,

1168 Highland Avenue,  
Fall River, MA. 02720.

Her room number is 221.



## OFFICE CLOSINGS in December & January

The church office will be **closed** on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
and Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

The office will be **open** from **9 a.m. - Noon only** on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>,  
and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**X**

The office will also be closed on January 15<sup>th</sup> for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday.

**Rev. Larsen will be away** from Christmas Day to New Year's Day. Pastoral duties will be covered during that time – in an emergency please call the church office at 246-0111 for information about how to reach a minister.

### Are You in Need of a Handyman?

We have a church member willing to donate his services to other church members by doing odd jobs around their house or yard. A number of church members have taken him up on his kind offer and been very grateful for his assistance.



If you are a church member that is in need, either financially or physically, and would be interested in his help, you are welcome to call the church office at 246-0111 for more information.

### 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.

## Family Footnotes



Dottie Butler  
and Marjorie Stumpff

Please let Jeff or the church office know of other members of the congregation who should be on this list.



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

Paul Movsesian on the death of his father,  
Paul Movsesian Sr.;

Diane Henderson on the death of her father,  
Travis C. Ridgway.

Barrington Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ.  
461 County Road  
Barrington, RI 02806  
Telephone: (401) 246-0111  
Fax: (401) 246-7825  
e-mail address: [bccucc@fullchannel.net](mailto:bccucc@fullchannel.net)  
website: [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org)

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## **December 2006 and January 2007**

Senior Minister:	The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen
Organist/Choir Director:	Marina Zabinski
Office Administrator:	Christine Wallis
Office Assistant:	Patricia Stoddard
Financial Secretary:	Patricia Stoddard
Custodians:	Jack Salvaggio, Frank Wyrostek, Ken York, Jim Salvaggio