

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

**Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Barrington, Rhode Island**

Connecting Our Faith

-with God, ourselves and others...



Sunday, May 21st, 2006

Fellowship Hall

5 p.m. Potluck

6 p.m. Annual Meeting

**Please bring your copy of the annual report to the meeting
so that you can refer to it if needed.**

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**Warrant for the ANNUAL MEETING of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC
Barrington, Rhode Island**

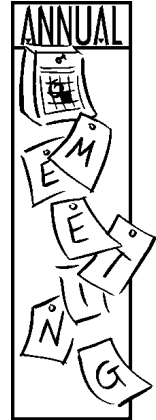
The annual meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC is hereby called to take place
on **Sunday, May 21st, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.** in **Fellowship Hall**

The business to be transacted is as follows:

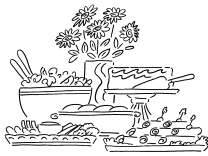
- ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.
- ARTICLE II: To receive annual reports of all officers and ministry teams.
- ARTICLE III: To elect officers, delegates, and ministry team members.
- ARTICLE IV: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.
- ARTICLE V: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Wuth
Clerk



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POTLUCK

The Annual Meeting will be preceded by a **POTLUCK SUPPER** at **5:00 p.m.**

*People with last names A-L are asked to bring a main dish,
and those with last names M-Z are asked to bring either a salad or dessert.*

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and clean-up – please call Helen MacDonald if you can help.

Although it is not necessary to attend the Potluck Supper in order to attend the Annual Meeting, it is hoped that as many church members as possible will attend the supper for a time of Fellowship before the meeting.

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CHILD CARE AND ACTIVITIES will be provided during the Annual Meeting.

The PF groups will provide childcare and craft activities for children in attendance, beginning after dinner while the meeting is in progress. So bring the family for some food and fellowship, and rest assured that your children will have a good time while you attend the meeting. *Please call the church office ahead of time at 246-0111 if your children will need childcare or craft activity time, so that suitable plans can be made.*



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MINISTRY TEAM MEETINGS

Following the Annual Meeting, the various Ministry Teams are asked to each hold a brief meeting to get acquainted and select their Team Leader.

**MINUTES of the 2005 ANNUAL MEETING
of Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
held May 22, 2005**

The moderator, Susan Seader, welcomed everyone. The clerk, Leslie Strolla, read the warrant and Delle led us in prayer. A quorum was present.

Article I: To call the meeting to order

Susan called the meeting to order.

Article II: To receive annual reports of all officers and committees.

Motion: To accept the 2005 Annual Report.

The motion was seconded and **approved**.

Article III: To elect officers, and board and committee members.

Susan introduced Helen MacDonald, representing the Nominating Committee Ministry Team. Helen thanked David Luther and Bethia Rosner for their ministry on Nominating. She made the following changes to the Ministry Teams slate put forth in the Annual Report booklet:

§ Add: Abigail Randazzo as Asst. Treasurer; Susan Terhune to Chancel; Lynn Hoy to Membership; Kathie Andrade to Missions, and Pat Rude to Nominating.

§ Replace Lisa Browning on Deacons with Lorraine Keeney.

§ Remove: Nancy Speed as Clerk. There is a replacement but Helen did not have the name. The congregation agreed to vote on faith.

Helen noted that the Stewardship group is an ad-hoc team and they are still working on a Stewardship Ministry Team.

Motion: A motion was made to elect the slate of officers and ministry team members as put forth by the nominating ministry team.

The motion was seconded and **approved**. Susan thanked the nominating ministry team for their hard work.

Article IV: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

There was no other business to be considered.

Article V: To adjourn the meeting.

In closing, Leo led the congregation in a verse of *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* and Susan adjourned the meeting.

Faithfully submitted,
Leslie Strolla, Clerk

**MINUTES of the ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, held January 22nd, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 A.M. in the Sanctuary. Leo led the members in prayer.

Tom Colby presented the budget. Income was up as there has been a slight increase in pledges and bequests. There is also the assumption that the Parsonage on Nathaniel Rd. will be rented in the not too distant future, representing a projected income of \$16,000.

Expenses continue to remain high with energy and fire code requirements being among some of the biggest items.

There was a motion made to accept the budget as proposed, and the floor was opened for discussion. Concerns were raised as to why certain segments of the budget were reduced. There was a move made to amend the proposed budget to "restore the reductions in the '06 Missions Budget to '05 levels". After much discussion, the request to amend was defeated and the budget was passed as originally proposed, subject to review in May 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara H. Wuth, Clerk

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**MINUTES of the SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
of Barrington Congregational Church, UCC,
held after worship on Sunday, April 30th, 2006.**

Susan Seader called the meeting to order and noted there was a quorum present.

Leslie Strolla, acting as clerk pro tem, read the warrant.

Tom Strolla, as chair of the Search Committee, spoke of the group's efforts and voiced the committee's unanimous and enthusiastic recommendation that the Reverend Doctor Jeffrey W. Larsen be called as the next Senior Minister of the Barrington Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. Susan Seader called for questions or comments from the congregation. There being none, the motion to accept the recommendation was made and seconded.

The congregation unanimously voted to accept the motion and called Reverend Larsen as the new Senior Minister.

Susan Seader thanked the Search Committee for their diligence and faithful efforts and motioned for the committee to be released from their charge and disbanded. The motion was seconded and approved by the congregation.

Jeff and Kathleen Larsen were enthusiastically welcomed into the sanctuary and they expressed their joy and enthusiasm for our shared future at BCC-UCC.

There being no further business, Susan Seader adjourned the meeting.

Faithfully submitted,
Leslie Strolla, Clerk pro tem

INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER

LEO HOURIHAN

It is difficult to write an annual report without seeming to toot your own horn. We tend to put our best foot forward, listing accomplishments for the last year. Now that you have been forewarned, I will try to give a fair assessment of what we have been about these last 12 months.

Of course, one of the major undertakings was the stewardship drive of 2005, under the gifted leadership of Lisa Browning. It was a massive, grass-roots effort, with some 70 people who agreed to do home visits. It met with moderate success. To be honest, I was hoping and praying for a substantial increase in the level of giving, but am grateful for the 7% increase, and the number of dedicated people who were willing to make visits to other members. That in itself was a great blessing.

Early in 2005, Christian Education seemed to be in some disarray, with the youth groups declining in attendance. Now, under the leadership of Rev. Cook and Kim Peretti, the numbers are on the rise again. Our church has hosted some additional youth events, both intra-conference and ecumenically, with much success.

Deacons and Church Council, in addition to their regular responsibilities, have focused on developing a behavioral covenant (holy manners) which could be adopted by all members. Since we are such a diverse faith community, there are times when sparks will fly. We need to remind ourselves regularly that despite our differences we are the body of Christ, and as such, must always respect, if not necessarily agree, that the other is one who also bears the image of God.

On an administrative level, the church receives high marks indeed. Christine and Pat continue to perform at high levels, with record outputs. Our meat and potatoes, i.e., the Bridge and the weekly bulletin, always look impeccable, and very professional. Apart from this, Christine is busy answering countless telephone calls, greeting visitors, workers, and business people. She also coordinates the church calendar and schedules so that there are no head-on collisions. Christine is a masterful administrator and conducts this symphony of work so that the church hums along. And Pat is involved so much as well that she fills in smoothly where needed, in addition to her regular duties. We are very fortunate to have them in the office.

The major concern I have with the administration is the volume of work. The job description has been so magnified that it requires significant overtime, for which there is no money. The staff, because of their love for the church, are more than willing to extend themselves. The overages are so great that there should either be additional compensation or significant cut-backs in the volume of work. This imbalance must be addressed, and soon.

For me, one of the high points of the year was your acceptance of The Rev. Jennifer S. Cook as Associate Interim Minister. Since November, we have gotten to know one another quite well. I really felt privileged when Jenny asked me to do her ordination sermon. Jenny brings to this church her special gifts of healing (an Advent series for those who struggle with the Christmas season), and liturgy (baptism dedication), and ecumenical outreach (Taizé and Christian education). With Jenny, there has been a wonderful balance of ministry, and an ease of working together. Sheila and I have BCC to thank for a new friendship.

On another level, I have a few concerns (see my May *Bridge* letter). Some of the ministry teams have been dragging. The Nominating team has had difficulty filling certain positions, particularly Stewardship. Burn-out is always an issue. I see this in most churches I

have served. The reasons are complex, of course, but nonetheless, we must keep doing our best to re-invigorate these teams, since they are the very backbone of the church.

With the advent of the new Senior Minister, one way to solve this problem is for each member to give the church priority for our attention over other groups and activities. Jesus always warned those who would be followers about the cost before they signed up. In other words, they would have to let something in their daily lives go if they wanted to be real workers in the vineyard. Our faith will always demand some choice, some selection, some prioritizing; it always has, and always will. When this attitude is adopted, then the church has something powerful with which to work. Without it, our mainline churches will continue to sag. As you turn to a new chapter in the life of this illustrious church, choose a life which always promises to become a deep joy and sense of purpose.

INTERIM ASSOCIATE MINISTER

JENNIFER COOK

Since I joined you in ministry last November, I thank God for the many blessings of ministry at BCCUCC. As a newcomer, I perhaps identify them more readily than those who are steeped in the life of our church. Before I was interviewed by the deacons, I visited a worship service. From that anonymous visit, I learned many things. In the parking lot that Sunday someone offered me their space and found another. When I approached the side door, someone opened it and smiled and greeted me. As I entered the sanctuary just as the service was starting, the usher greeted me with a smile and a bulletin and walked me to my seat at the appropriate time. As I approached the pew, a mother with small children moved over so I could sit with them. Then the bell choir played, the hymns that we sang were relevant and inclusive and were accompanied by an accomplished organist. The sound of the many voices swirled in the sanctuary. It was a service of departure honoring a well-served ministry. I recall words of thanks as well as forgiveness. I looked around the church and saw faces of all ages. I sensed a family. After the service, I asked questions of a few people about the church and the programs here. I was treated courteously and was thanked for visiting and was invited to return. Well, the rest is history. My first experience here speaks volumes about the ministry of hospitality, about the character of the people of this church who reach out with kindness and generosity to strangers, the importance of group integration and relationships, the value of ministry, investment and integrity in the worship experience, and the ability to love, forgive, and still love. This is the first impression for a visitor at our church. It is only the beginning. I gained a greater understanding of blessing after meeting with the deacons and was invited to join you in ministry. It has been a joy and an honor.

It has been a blessing to share the ministry of this church with the interim Senior Minister, Rev. Leo Hourihan. I know that my life, and I believe the life of this church, has been forever changed by his friendship and guidance. He is a gifted and articulate preacher who liberates us by taking our hands and walking with us into the uncharted water of worship experience and progressive Christianity. He is a mentor, a model of faithfulness and ministry, and a friend. Leo transforms lives in his wake.

The youth ministry of our church continues to bear strong and healthy fruit. It has been wonderful working with Kim Peretti as she continues to lead the Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship groups with love and compassion. I observe that Kim has a wonderful way with the youth of this church; she encourages them to strengthen their community as they reach out to

others. Since I have been here, there have been many youth outreach activities such as sending gift boxes at Christmas time to less fortunate children, honoring and thanking those who protect and serve our community with Chili kits just to name a few. Our youth groups have joined with youth from other churches for movies and discussion. Last February, Kim took chaperones and the senior PF group to San Antonio, Texas for a mission trip. She and others worked tirelessly making arrangements and raising funds for a service trip. Those who attended the mission trip will remember their time of service together for the rest of their lives. The youth of this church are its future. They are a gift from God.

My experience with the Christian Education and Youth Ministries has been second to none. It is wonderful to serve on a ministry team that is so caring, competent, and intentional about their work in the church. The team moves forward under the gifted leadership of Bill DeWitt. The details of this team are in the CEYM entry in this report.

Sharing the love of God is integral to the life of our church. Within the last few months we offered to our family and the community, a time of respite from the holiday rush with soup and a time of quiet meditation and prayer for those who find the holidays difficult. During the season of Lent, we joined with Riverside Congregational Church, UCC and shared a Taizé style worship experience on Wednesday evenings. BCCUCC continues to hold services with Holy Communion at East Bay Manor. It is also a pleasure to meet with the Barrington Clergy association and participate in the special ecumenical services.

Barrington Congregational Church, UCC was the host church for the annual winter carnival sponsored by the Rhode Island Conference, United Church of Christ! The theme was “Peacemaking” and forty children from churches across the conference experienced storytelling, games, singing, crafts, and sacred dance. It was such a success that we have been invited to host it annually!

I attended the RICUCC retreat for initiating a Rhode Island Academy for those interested in continuing education and becoming certified in Christian Education. Kim Peretti and I attended a Christian Education day conference at Irons Homestead where we engaged with people involved in Christian Ed. from other churches in the conference. It was a wonderful time to share experiences, information, and resources.

Just after my ordination, I attended a Westar conference in Florida. It was a dream come true to hear the latest scholarly research on the Didache, parables, etc. It was an experience I will never forget. Attending these seminars and reading the books of some of these scholars is eye-opening, challenging, and liberating.

During May I will attend a “Circle-of-Life” facilitator training workshop. It is a wellness program that includes personal assessment, goal setting, plan of action, implementation, and accountability in the small group setting. I look forward to bringing this ministry to BCCUCC and sharing it with you.

I give thanks to God each day for my time with the BCCUCC family. For some of us this year, it has been the best of times. For others, it has been the worst of times. I thank you for inviting me into those moments of your lives.

We are a church of many blessings. Staff, members and friends share their time and talent to make our church a place for renewal and refreshment. Our church is a place that offers a cup of cool water to everyone and recognizes the holiness of all things. Our community is a

place for spiritual formation and where we gather to be together to experience God in our midst. I think that we do something really revolutionary at BCCUCC - we live our faith. May God continue to lavishly bless the ministries of this church.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

TOM STROLLA

The search committee for the senior minister had a very busy and rewarding year. We really got to know and enjoyed each other very much and also obtained a greater understanding of our church and the United Church of Christ. Through discussion, we also deepened our own personal faith.

Meeting as a committee for the first time in May, Rhode Island Conference Minister Chuck Barnes, told us what the search involved and that we would be spending a great deal of time with each other over the next 12 – 18 months. It was very informative and helpful to have Rev. Barnes guide us through the process.

Most of the summer was spent putting together the profile of our church. We sought and received valuable and relevant input from our fellow church members. By the end of October we had a final version of the profile and shared it with church members and friends. We had an open and lively discussion about the profile on a Sunday evening. We then received Church Council approval to make the profile available to prospective ministers.

What a response we received!! Within the first two weeks of the profile being released we received 37 ministers' profiles. We were a bit overwhelmed, but also very excited to get a positive reaction. While working our way through these we received another 15. We had much discussion over the profiles and we agreed to interview and visit the churches of seven candidates. The interview and visiting process was enriching and again our faith was deepened.

When we interviewed the Rev. Dr. Jeff Larsen we all had the same feeling that our work was done. We felt the presence of God and that God was calling us together. We see in Jeff Larsen the full range of qualities that we have been searching for in a senior pastor. He is energetic and enthusiastic, bringing to his love of the ministry the capabilities of making worship come alive and relevant for all and creating a religious education program that is a meaningful and fun experience for children and youth. He is a strong and experienced leader as well as a compassionate friend and teacher.

The weekend of April 29th and 30th was a very special one in the life of our church. On Saturday, April 29th the search committee hosted an informal gathering where people could meet their recommended candidate for senior minister, The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey W. Larsen and his family. It was very nice and well attended and was a great start to the weekend. On Sunday morning, Rev. Larsen preached a wonderful sermon and did a beautiful children's message. After the service there was a congregational meeting to vote on the recommendation of the search committee to call Jeff Larsen as our next senior minister. The congregation was thrilled and excited to accept our recommendation. This is a very exciting time in the life of our church and we look forward to September 1st when Jeff and Kathleen move into the parsonage and begin their ministry with us. He will lead worship for the first time on September 10th. We know our church will love and be loved by our new senior minister.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the chair of this search committee for our church. While it was a lot of work, it has been a tremendously rewarding and faith growing

experience for me. I would also like to thank the members of this search committee. They are a great group of people and they all worked very hard. Whether it was meeting two nights a week during the hot summer months, getting up early on a Sunday morning to visit a church, or suggesting a comma be placed in a sentence, they did everything asked of them and they did it with good humor and enthusiastically. We had many laughs, we all got to know each other well, and I feel I have made lifelong friends.

The search committee was: Tom Strolla (chair), Steve Berenback, Phyllis Buckley, Moyne Cabbage, Shannon Dennis (youth), Bill DeWitt, Mary Louise Gamache, Lynne Lehman, Helen Schall, and David Simpson (youth). We thank you for the tremendous support, encouragement, and prayers received during the search.

MODERATOR

SUSAN SEADER

I look back on this past year and realize that it was another year of good bye and hello. We began the year being ably led in our interim period by the Reverend Leo Hourihan and the Reverend Delle McCormick. In the fall, Delle was given the wonderful opportunity to lead an organization called "BorderLinks" in Tucson, Arizona. It was with sadness that we bid farewell to our friend and her leadership, caring and exciting ministry here with us. Her legacy is not lost though, as two of the groups she started with us, "Listening To The Sprit" and "Women in the Bible" continue to meet regularly. As we were saying good bye to Delle we were getting ready to welcome Jenny Cook as our new interim associate pastor. It was with great joy that we were able to join Jenny as she was ordained into Christian Ministry. Under Leo's leadership, he and Jenny continue to prepare us for settled pastoral leadership as we move through this interim period.

As always we are a busy and active church and as you read the annual reports of our ministry teams you will see all the efforts we make to be sure we continue to be an active and vibrant church. Between our successful auction, a new stewardship program, mission trips, Christian Education and mission and social action activities we continue to grow and thrive. We are fortunate to have dedicated staff members and volunteers who work behind the scenes to assure that all runs smoothly. For the varied ministries of the office staff, custodians and multitude of volunteers we are truly grateful and fortunate.

When I look forward I cannot help but be very excited. The Reverend Dr. Jeff Larsen, along with his wife Kathleen, will begin his tenure here in the fall and I know we are all looking forward to his leadership, enthusiasm and scholarship. I also am excited about the plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our Church building and 50th anniversary of the church school building. All of this should help us have a successful capital fund campaign as we raise funds to meet new fire safety regulations and make further improvements to our campus.

On a personal note I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be your moderator. These past four years have given me a deep appreciation for all that is needed to keep this church on an even keel. Your support, encouragement, friendship and openness will be treasured by me forever.

DEACONS

LOIS MCCARTNEY

It has been another year filled with change and challenge as well as sadness and joy for our church community. The Deacons have experienced and been part of that process.

We welcomed the new Deacons last May and summer after bidding a fond farewell to four outstanding Deacons. Duke Faubert, the last of the 8 year term Deacons, was one of those four Deacons. They will continue to serve as emeriti Deacons along with the many other emeriti who assist with Communion, Baptisms or when needed. We hope to reach out more to the emeriti Deacons to include their input and guidance.

The announcement by the Rev. Delle McCormick, Minister of Church Life and Leadership, of her departure to become Director of BorderLinks brought great sadness to many for the losses her departure would bring. It was mixed with joy for her in this call to which she was so clearly drawn along with appreciation for her many gifts. The small goodbye groups and her final reception in September were filled with warmth, gratitude, laughter and tears as we moved through a truly spiritual and healthy leaving process. Your Deacons worked with Delle to have this process be a good one as we faced another fall departure and significant loss. I believe the learning and spirituality that she brought to many does live on in our church and beyond.

This meant we again needed to search for an Interim Minister. The Rev. Chuck Barnes, UCC Conference Minister, was extremely helpful in guiding and assisting us as we determined that we would be best served by an Interim Associate Minister and in helping us find Jennifer Cook. She was welcomed on a busy Sunday morning in late November. It was a real highlight to have her ordination here in February, a truly moving and joyful occasion. We are very grateful for her gifts and presence among us

It was good to see the participation of so many from BCCUCC at the Autumnal meeting of the Rhode Island Conference of the UCC, and to experience the pleasure and pride in welcoming others to our community of faith and lovely church. More than that was the joy of meeting so many fellow members of UCC who yearn to work and move towards justice, fairness and openness to all. I would hope that we can learn more and grow more in our understanding and participation in the RIUCC.

The Deacons' annual retreat this year was as usual a special time of worship, learning and coming together. This year the Rev. Hourihan and Regina Berenback guided us through an introductory workshop focusing on the message of *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations* a book by Gilbert R. Rendele. The message focuses on the "disconnect" between the behavior of the uncivil culture we live in and the way our Christian faith guides us to relate to one another in and beyond our faith community, honoring and respecting differences.

It was at that opening retreat that we began to know Regina and appreciate her many gifts and deep spirituality. Her recent death is mourned by us all. It was a privilege to serve with her as a Deacon. She will be remembered.

After some reflection we decided to postpone more in depth study of the book and its message until the fall when our next Senior Minister, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Larsen will be arriving.

Prompted by having several new Deacons we decided to study the Deacons manual and review not only what our duties are but what our role and expectations of ourselves should be. It was a meaningful discussion for all of us. Some minor revisions were made to a few procedures.

As always visiting and bringing Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to those who are homebound, recently bereaved or dealing with illness is one of those Christian practices that most Deacons will tell you they get so much out of doing.

It has been a personal privilege as well as a growth experience to have served as Chair of the Deacons for the past two years as we have journeyed through this interim phase.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM

BILL DEWITT

CEYM enjoyed another productive year thanks to a wonderful Ministry Team and the support of Kim Peretti, Delle McCormick, Leo Hourihan and Jenny Cook. I would like to thank last year's chairwoman Kim Godfrey as well as Delle McCormick for all their efforts leading the team through last summer. They certainly left us in a great position.

I would also like to thank Katherine McMillan, Bev Travers and Susan Shoaf for their service to the committee and welcome Camilla Hemingway, Debbi Summers and Beth Comer. Their energy and enthusiasm for Christian Education has been a wonderful addition.

The 2004 - 2005 church school year ended with great fanfare in June with the Church School Sunday Theme of Heifer International. During the year, the children and youth were able to collect over \$420 and purchased 6 flocks of chicks, 3 trios of rabbits, one flock of geese, buzzing bees and tree seedlings. They learned how climates and regions affect where animals live and can be sent. They learned how ending poverty isn't just about today; it is about giving people the tools to be self-sustaining and solving it for the long term.

As students and teachers enjoyed their summer "off", the Ministry Team spent the summer sharpening our focus and planning activities for the 2006 school year. We submitted to Church Council a resolution to limit the focus of CEYM to youth education only and to rename the team the Christian Youth Education Ministry Team. While Church Council is waiting until an entire bylaw rewrite is initiated to act on that resolution, our efforts this year were based on that resolution and were thus youth focused.

We opened the 2005 - 2006 church school year with 138 students and 10 teachers, 11 aides, 23 FAITHWorks disciples, and 8 FAITHWorks shepherds. While this represents a reduction in the number of students, the reduction was traced to more students graduating from the older classes than enrolling in the younger classes. We anticipate with the impending arrival of a new settled Senior Minister and the eventual arrival of a new settled Associate Minister, that new membership will increase and with it new church school enrollees.

We continue to use the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum for grades 1 - 3 and FAITHWorks for grades 4 - 7. Though some discussion was had to re-evaluate the current curriculum, that has been put on hold until the settled Senior Minister is in place. But we are, however, exploring ways to take the current curriculum and add a little more rigor.

In October, Marylouise Gamache led the 4th Grade Bible Class and morphed it from the traditional five week long abbreviated look at the bible to a school year long investigation into the deeper meaning of both testaments. We are looking to continue this class next year with the help of new volunteers. Thank you Marylouise for getting this important ball rolling.

A variety of other events were sponsored by the team to instill both fellowship and further Christian education including: the Church School Open House, the Advent Craft Fair, the

Christmas Pageant and the Lenten Craft Fair. While it was not an “official” CE event, members of the CEYM and Christian Fellowship teams organized a wonderful family event in April that was attended by over 150 people. As this is written we are preparing for the end of Church School and the June celebration.

This spring 15 members of Pilgrim Fellowship and 5 chaperones (Susan and Francis Seader, Leo Hourihan, Lynn Hoy and Kim Peretti) took a mission trip to San Antonio. On this, their second trip to San Antonio, the group split up into three smaller groups to perform their daily tasks. Francis & Susan swung hammers and pounded nails with Brett Comer, Elyse Comer, Toby Comer, Andrew Dennis, Alli Jean, Zachary Luther & Ben White on the RAMP project and built four ramps in four days for people who were in need of assistance getting into and out of their homes. Leo & Lynn along with Rebecca Driscoll, Meagan Gamache & John White helped Ms. Winnie Martin at MANNA, Meals Available for the Nutritional Needs of All, which is part of the Church and Community Ministry of the First Baptist Church of San Antonio. They also were able to lend a hand at the local food bank in the afternoon. Kim Peretti and Jasmine Arnold, Cassie Dana, Alex Hoy, Caitlin McCormick and Helen Ward went to St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen, the largest soup kitchen in San Antonio. They assisted the staff in cooking and serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, and did other tasks such as cleaning out refrigerators and sorting donations. In the four days they were there, they helped to prepare over 2,240 meals. Upon their return, the youth and chaperones shared their experiences with the congregation in an uplifting and touching service. It was evident that the mission trip and the individuals that they met will have an impact on their daily lives.

On behalf of the Ministry Team I would like to thank Kim Peretti for her endless energy and enthusiasm as well as all of the other members of the congregation who have helped make this year a great success. Thank you.

MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM

Missions lacked a team leader this past year and no report was submitted.

SOCIAL ACTION & JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM

MOYNE CUBBAGE and HELEN SCHALL

The activities of the Social Action and Justice Ministry Team have been many and varied this year.

We started off in the fall by supporting the efforts of Beyond Our Walls (BOW), the new Barrington interfaith group dedicated to mission and advocacy. In September that group, along with the Barrington Clergy Association sponsored a Community Peace Day at the time of the anniversary of 9/11. The SA&J Team and CEYM teamed together to create Tibetan Prayer Flags that were displayed at St. John’s Church for the ceremony (they are now hanging in Fellowship Hall). Later in the Fall, we also joined with BOW for A Great Day of Service, the signature event of BOW which provided opportunities for volunteering at various sites throughout town, including Tap-In and cookie making at BCCUCC.

The fall activities continued with programs on two resolutions passed at the General Synod held in Atlanta last July. On November 1st, Derek Duncan, a member of the Global Education and Advocacy team of Common Global Ministries, gave the sermon in church and led a discussion after church on Palestinian-Israeli conflict and issues of Christian-Muslim relations. He answered questions regarding the General Synod Resolution on the use of economic leverage in promoting peace in the Middle East.

In November, the SA&J Team with Leo prepared a worship service responding to the resolution in support of equal marriage rights for all. This was followed by a discussion led by the Rev. Ann B. Day, the regional coordinator for the UCC's Open and Affirming Program.

In addition to General Synod resolutions, we also sponsored a Peace Tax Action Potluck in conjunction with the Rhode Island Campaign for Conscience and provided opportunities through our relationship with Bread for the World for church members to educate themselves and take action to end hunger in God's world.

We began 2006 by holding an after church meeting with a representative of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) to promote awareness of this opportunity to help abused and neglected children find their way through the Rhode Island Child Welfare and Family Court systems.

We have been working through Church Council to promote the use of renewable energy sources by making a commitment for the church and church buildings to switch to GreenStart through People's Power and Light. We are excited that Church Council has come to that consensus and is leading the way for the other faith communities in Barrington.

Through the *Bridge*, we have sought to inform congregational members and friends of a number of issues in which they could become involved. These have included the UCC Justice Peace Action Network (www.ucctakeaction.org); Buy Nothing Day, sponsored by the RI State Council of Churches; One Rhode Island (www.oneri.org); and border issues (www.nomoredeaths.org and www.BorderLinks.com).

We have also made available films of interest, "The WalMart Movie" and "Witness in Palestine."

This May, we will sponsor a visit by two UCC-related Ursinus College students who are traveling across the United States. "Experience the Journey" is the culmination of ongoing experiences Kari Sears and Sarah Keck have had that have created a passion for talking to communities about global hunger. We are looking forward to the inspiration they can bring to us and to the wider community in our efforts to look at the causes for world-wide hunger and the challenge of solving it.

It has indeed been a very busy and fulfilling year. We look forward to continuing our work to inform and educate ourselves and the congregation, and to advocate for God's justice and peace for God's world and people.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM

RICH SIMPSON

This year has been a challenging one for Building and Grounds. We have continued to make progress on fire code related issues including installation of a new alarm system and electrical upgrades. We have met with the Fire Safety Code Board regarding our request for

variances and are still awaiting their response. We have also been working with architects to develop plans for the replacement of the fire escapes from the Sanctuary. We are working with Finance and other groups in the church to identify funding for this work.

We continue to work on maintaining and enhancing the quality of the building and grounds. We have increased the number of hours for our senior custodian to allow him to devote more time to coordinating work with the other custodians and with external contractors. Some of the significant tasks undertaken this year include drilling a new well so that we can cut down on our town water use, replacing the doors to the patio with handicapped accessible doors and continued maintenance on the steam heating system. We continue to look for ways to manage our oil costs by replacing our thermostats with ones that can be more readily programmed.

The Building and Grounds Ministry Team has managed a wide range of maintenance and repair projects this past year both at the church and the parsonages. Thanks not only to the team members but to the custodial staff and to church volunteers who give so generously of their time to help enhance our worship space.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

MARILYN PACKARD-LUTHER

"...for I was a stranger and you welcomed me," Matthew 25:35

Our mission is to assist in making our church a welcoming and friendly place to worship. Our goal is to help create a church where all people feel free to participate in the life of the church. We continue to welcome visitors with a flower, support new members, organize greeters for each Sunday service, and provide information to members at coffee hour. All church members are encouraged to wear their nametags and to search out visitors and new members at coffee hour. We all can extend hospitality, for "God is still speaking through you and me."

Our team is also involved in aiding the ministers with new member classes, new member potluck suppers, and supporting companions for new members. We prepare a breakfast reception on New Member Sundays, take photographs to be displayed, and write short biographies for the *Bridge* so that the new members become known and recognized. During the period of this report, however, no new members joined the church.

During the spring/summer of 2005, we published a new pictorial directory. Our team organized appointments, hosted and helped members on the day of photography, and requested additional candid pictures. We then designed the layout and went to press. Our new directories were distributed in the fall of 2005. This is a helpful tool for all of us to build community and in the near future to help our new senior minister get to know us. Copies are still available through the church office or our team members.

In June, our team will welcome new confirmands by hosting a breakfast for them and their families. We offer corsages, photographs, potted plants for each family, hearty food, good conversation, and a warm welcome. We will also assist in a special coffee hour reception for these new members.

As with other teams, our members take time to serve at coffee hour, participate in the Hispanic Soup Kitchen, and send a representative to Church Council meetings.

MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

PATRICIA STODDARD

The Music program at BCCUCC continues to grow and explore the role of music in our spiritual lives and in the worship service. Marina Zabinski and Barbara Ward lead us with thoughtful expertise, and we are grateful for their presence here.

Our musical year includes participation in weekly worship services by the Adult Vocal Choir from September through early June, as well as monthly participation by the White Church Ringers and by the Sing and Celebrate Choir. Small groups and individuals also participate during the year, especially during summer worship services. Greg Voigt's brass ensemble continues to change and grow under his guidance; what a nice celebratory touch they add to worship and concerts!

High points of the year include Music Celebration Sunday in May and the Annual Christmas Concert held in December. These are times where our choirs can really shine and share their love of music with others. In lieu of admission to the concert, a free will offering is taken and used to support a local charity – another way to reach out to others while doing something we enjoy. The Music Team also coordinates annual Christmas Caroling to church members and friends in local nursing homes and the homebound. We welcome family participation in this meaningful musical outreach.

Our vocal choir continued its connection with the Allen AME Church in Providence by participating in and attending a Unity Day Concert at Classical High School in Providence in November 2005; the event was a fundraiser for the Allen AME Church. The Vocal Choir also participated in the R. I. Conference Autumnal Meeting Worship Service in October 2005 and Rev. Jennifer Cook's Ordination Service in February 2006. The White Church Ringers attended the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers Festival and Conference in June of 2005 at the University of New Hampshire. The festival includes 3 days of workshops and rehearsals, culminating in a public concert with almost 1000 ringers performing – what a joy to be there!

The youth also offer their musical gifts during worship. Highlights of their year include the Christmas Pageant and Church School Sunday. Last year's pageant, *The Christmas Story Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts*, was performed with great enthusiasm under the direction of Amy Gorman, with musical direction and accompaniment from Barbara Ward. The Youth Choir continues to thrive under Barbara's direction with the assistance of Betsy Restituyo.

The music life of this church was blessed last year with a generous bequest from the estate of Bob Swenson, longtime church member and choir member, who passed away in 2004. We are carefully planning for the maintenance and use of this bequest.

All of the choirs invite new members to join them anytime; come and be a part of the musical life of this church!

USHERING MINISTRY COORDINATOR

ROBERT KALOOSTIAN

Our main effort is to prepare and organize the Sanctuary before and after the church service. Our ushers do a great job in seating our congregation in a friendly and timely manner. This past year we prepared a Medical Emergency Plan for the ushers to follow. In May, we look forward to serving coffee hour to our congregation. Our goal next year will be to try to finalize our new safety efforts in case of fire emergencies.

CHANCEL MINISTRY TEAM

CAROLYN FAULHABER

The Chancel Ministry Team made calls, mostly to previous donors, requesting donations to pay for the two flower arrangements that are on the altar each week throughout the year. Some donors paid for one floral arrangement, others paid for them both. These arrangements were created and delivered to the church by Ferrazzano Florists in Warren. The price was \$20 for each bouquet and was paid directly to the church office by the donors. After the worship services, we delivered the altar flowers to church members who had a celebration, a bereavement, family health concerns, or as “thank you’s,”- provided the donors did not wish to take them home themselves.

At Christmas, we arranged with Ferrazano’s to deliver 100 poinsettias of mixed colors. By ordering this number in advance, we were able to get a better price from the florist and were pleased to get an increased response from the congregation in terms of the number ordered. Of these, the Deacons delivered 35 to the homebound and others before Christmas and the rest were used to decorate the altar and windowsills for the Christmas services.

At Easter, we again ordered 100 plants, a mix of white lilies and mixed colors of tulips. Again, the Deacons delivered 35 of them before Easter and the rest were used to decorate the sanctuary. We again had a good response from the congregation in donating these.

The Riverside Cleansers continue to clean the altar linens for us at no cost, for which we are very appreciative.

LAY VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM

NANCY MARTIN

The Lay Visitation Ministry Team calls on those in our congregation living with the challenges of loss from illness, surgery, diminished physical function, altered lifestyle or the death of a loved one. We know the importance of our church extending the message of care through flowers, cards, phone calls and pastoral visits. Additionally we know the importance of personal presence in an accepting, confidential, and non-judgmental meeting where those who are stressed can share their experience and feel the comfort of being heard, and hearing from someone in our caregiving community. Feeling our connection strengthens us individually and collectively.

All who feel called to participate in this ministry in any way are most welcome.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

CHERYL MUTH

This ministry shows that God is still speaking through the written word. As we send out cards filled with compassion for the members and friends of this congregation during all of our life events from birth to death and everything in between. Our members have a personal commitment for the writing of the cards for a 1-2 month period then it is passed to the next member.

This past year we teamed up with the Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team and sponsored a Family Fun night that was a great success. Our goal is to continue to have more fellowship activities in the future.

PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM

**JIM MCCARTNEY
and HELEN MACDONALD**

The Pastor Parish Relations Team has met quarterly this past year. We are prepared to be of use in the future for any concerns from the Reverend Larsen or from the congregation – should such develop.

PERSONNEL TEAM

STEVE BERENBACK

The Personnel Team becomes most active in the late Summer and Fall. At that time it goes into active mode to request annual personnel reviews and to recommend compensation changes for the upcoming year to the Finance Team. This year, Personnel also aided the Deacons by working on the details of the call to Jenny Cook. In the upcoming year, Personnel will work on organizing historical records and files and transferring them from the chairperson's house to the Church Office, on reviewing job descriptions for all staff, and helping with the call of our new settled minister. Also, the Employee Handbook will be updated.

STEWARDSHIP AD HOC COMMITTEE

LISA BROWNING

The 2006 Stewardship Program “**ConnectingOurFaith** –*with God, ourselves and others...*” was a great success. We visited a majority of the congregation, renewed old acquaintances, made new friends and celebrated our connectedness *with God, ourselves and others*. Pledges were up over 7%. This is a measure of our success, not our primary objective and I am convinced this is why the program succeeded, thanks to so many faith-filled people in our church:

- Leo Hourihan, who was the inspiration to do a home visitation stewardship program and who so aptly communicated the program through the pulpit.
- The Stewardship Ad Hoc Team who put this program into motion.
- The Faith Ambassadors who were the catalyst to this faith-based giving program, making the ever so important connection, giving their time and sharing their faith with the people they visited.
- The Christian Fellowship, Christian Education, and Missions Ministry Teams for hosting the fellowship events on Sundays after church during the month of Stewardship.
- Marina Zabinski and the Choir for providing beautifully orchestrated music, designed especially for stewardship events.
- Dick McWhirter for his expert accounting and record keeping throughout the program.
- Christine Wallis and Pat Stoddard for essential logistical support.
- *All the people who pledged so generously, understanding that even though we do not have a “settled” ministerial staff, that we all are the ministers and stewards of our wonderful church.*

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

TOM COLBY

In looking back over last year, we had some successes. One was setting a schedule for the budget process. This allowed all the pieces to come together in a more timely and predicable manner.

In an effort to build on last year, we will be working on developing a more detailed schedule of the entire financial cycle, not just the budget. We will continue to work with Buildings and Grounds to address Fire Code issues, and are hopeful that an ad-hoc team can develop and implement a plan to raise the funds needed to support all the fire code improvements. We will also be looking ahead at what may be required to support the ministers and staff.

Last, but by no means least, thanks to Susan Roach for her efforts and support in training Abby Randazzo as our financial secretary and to Abby for joining the team. Thanks also to the “counters” who so generously donate their time to tally the weekly plate collections.

ENDOWMENT MINISTRY TEAM

LEE MILLER

The stock market improved in 2005 (S&P up 3%) but the bond market lost ground. Our funds did well with a gain of nearly 5%. This number also reflects costs involved with the management of part of the fund.

The portfolio had a market value at year-end of \$442,325. There were three significant gifts during the year: a present gift and three from the estates and trusts of 1717 Society members. These gifts totaled \$67,055.

Income paid to the church was \$15,702, which is \$1,548 (10%) more than in 2004.

The Endowment Ministry Team also oversees the Rosner Fund of \$6,071 for the benefit of Christian Education, and the Fodor Fund of \$6,849 which provides scholarships for church students.

There are 33 members of the 1717 Society. This organization welcomes members and friends who have made Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, a beneficiary of a lifetime or estate planning gift.

In 2006 an effort will be made to demonstrate advantages in making gifts to the church from a current income and tax point of view.



Our Mission Statement

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.

TREASURER'S REPORT

SAM SYLVESTER

**Barrington Congregational Church, UCC
Statement of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2005**

	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Capital Improvements</u>	<u>Endowment</u> <i>Note A</i>	<u>Total</u>
Revenues:				
Pledges	340,980			340,980
Offerings & Gifts	19,156	24,000	116,407	159,563
Missions-Dedicated Gifts	20,857			20,857
Non-Missions-Dedicated Gifts	26,240			26,240
Investments	17,220 <i>Note B</i>	1,007	25,068	43,295
Rentals	22,134			22,134
Other	1,006	(250)		756
Total Revenues	447,592	24,757	141,475	613,825
Expenses:				
Staff	265,429			265,429
Church Life	16,312			16,312
Missions	62,129		19,360	81,490
Buildings & Grounds	67,913			67,913
Capital Improvement	24,000	32,835		56,835
Office	14,685			14,685
Total Expenses	450,469	32,835	19,360	502,664
Change in Net Assets	(2,876)	(8,078)	122,115	111,161
Net Assets 12/31/04	57,283	59,238	330,616	447,137
Net Assets 12/31/05	54,407	51,160 <i>Note C</i>	452,731	558,298

Statement of Financial Position for the Year ended December 31, 2005

Assets:				
Cash and Investments	179,101	39,160	452,731	670,991
Receivables and Other Assets	1,218	12,000		13,218
Total Assets	180,318	51,160	452,731	684,209
Deferred Income & Liabilities:				
Prepaid Pledges	43,979			43,979
Accrued Expenses	27,646			27,646
Funds--for designated purposes	54,286			54,286
Total Liabilities	125,911			125,911
Net Assets	54,407	51,160	452,731	558,297

Notes A, B and C are on the next page

Notes to the Financial Statements

- Note A. The Endowment account balance is held in various funds, the terms of which significantly restrict the Church's use of the principal balance
- Note B. Includes receipts from Endowment Funds of \$13,857.
- Note C. The Capital Improvement Fund has advanced \$32,479 for Fire Code improvements to be reimbursed by the proceeds of a fund-raising program.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

RICHARD MCWHIRTER

I have examined the Statement of Activities and the Statement of Financial Position for the year ended December 31, 2005. Because certain supporting documentation was not made available as of the date of this report I am unable to make a conclusion as to the reasonableness of the financial statements. In addition, because a significant number of adjusting entries to the books were prepared by the Auditor in order to complete the financial statements, the Auditor's independence was compromised. Several recommendations were made to financial management to improve the system of control and the accuracy of the financial statements, which should be addressed in 2006.



2006 OPERATIONS BUDGET *

Revenue:	
Pledges	353,070
Offerings & Gifts	35,440
Investments	19,000
Rentals	30,460
Total	<u>437,970</u>
Expenses:	
Staff	274,439
Building & Grounds	71,175
Capital Improvements	24,000
Missions	43,150
Church Life	15,315
Office	11,800
Total	<u>439,879</u>
Change in net assets	<u><u>-1,909</u></u>

* This budget was approved at the Annual Budget Meeting held on January 29th, 2006. For the minutes of the meeting, see page 3.

*The current list of church officers and ministry team members can be found in a separate document posted on the church website.
Click on the link for Church Officers and Ministry Team Members.*

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The following individuals from Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, served during the past year in the capacity indicated:

**BCC UCC, REPRESENTATION AT THE
RI CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (RICUCC)**

Susan Rotblat-Walker	President of the Board of Directors; Executive Committee; Personnel Cmte
James Elder	Investment Committee
Lee Miller	Investment Committee
James McCartney	Church and Ministry Committee
Helen Schall	Women of the RI Conference, UCC

BCC UCC REPRESENTATION AT THE NATIONAL UCC LEVEL

Caroline Halliwell	UCC Pension Boards
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FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

BARBARA WUTH, CLERK

May 1st, 2005 - April 30th, 2006

This report covers the 12-month period from the beginning of May 2005. The categories shown are also requested each December for the United Church of Christ Yearbook Report (see page 27).

NEW MEMBERS (0)

CONFIRMATIONS (7)

Jasmine Arnold
Scott Cipoletti
Andrew Dennis
Kelly Movsesian

Helen Ward
Andrea Weber
Benjamin White

DEATHS

Members (9)

Jeanie Bolton
Frances Clough
Donald Bolton
Virginia Swan
Keith Neyhart
Geraldine Van Twisk
Regina Berenback
Herbert Wuth
Richard Dale

Others (8)

Richard Leach
Frederick Richard Aldrich
Lillian D'Orlando
Doris Rosenholm
Acton Bruce Fisher
Edmund (Buck) Arnold
Geraldine Bert
Caroline Kee

LETTERS OF TRANSFER RECEIVED FROM OTHER CHURCHES (0)

TRANSFER OF ACTIVE MEMBERS - OUT (4)

Joe Antonio
Katharine O'Connell

Joyce Peipert
Delle McCormick

TRANSFER OF INACTIVE MEMBERS - OUT (1)

This membership had been listed as 'Inactive' in prior statistical records.

Corey Sanderson

BAPTISMS

Infants and Children (8)

Lauren Nicole Calabro
Wesley Schall Corona
Kathleen Rose Dubel
Violet Van Blarcom Jenkins

Kimberly Helen Colby
Luca Gordon Marino
Evan Christopher Waite
Aimee June Louttit

Adults (13 and over) (0)

MARRIAGES (3)

Susan McCrory Shoaf and William J. Baxter
Stephen Northrup and Carolyn Anne Speed
Sean Evan Hourihan and Andrea Cristina Borges

ORDINATION (1)

Jennifer S. Cook

2

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 30, 2005: 457

Between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006 the following changes occurred:

Additions to Active Membership (7)
7 - Confirmation
0 - New Members

Losses to Active Membership (33)
9 - Death
4 - Transfer Out
20 - other reasons (moved away,
were inactive, etc)

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 30, 2006: $457 + 7 - 33 = 431$

(see next page for further explanation)

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

*reflecting changes in the membership that occurred
between January 1st and December 31st, 2005.*

The membership statistics are collected at the end of each calendar year and reflect the changes that took place during that year. They are then submitted to the National Office of the United Church of Christ in the form of the Yearbook Report, and appear in the UCC Yearbook.

Active Membership as of 12/31/2005 was 436 (see table below for breakdown).

<i>From the Yearbook Report Form:</i>	
Statistics for January 1 – December 31, 2005	
Active Membership as of 12/31/2004	465
Additions during year:	
Confirmation	7
Confession of Faith	0
Letters of Transfer	0
Reaffirmation of Faith	0
Losses during year:	
Death	7
Transfer	15
Other removals	14
Active Membership as of 12/31/2005	436

Note: The information listed on pages 25 and 26 reflect those changes that took place between May 1, 2005 and April 30, 2006, as opposed to the information above, which is for changes between January and December 2005.

Between January 1, 2006 and April 30, 2006 there were the following changes in ACTIVE membership:

0	New Members
5	Deaths of Active Members
0	Active Members transferred out

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 30, 2006 is $436 - 5 = 431$