



# Westminster Chimes

Volume 2010 #3

February 10, 2010

Editor: Renée Bucklin

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT 9 AM & 11 AM  
Preschool through 8th Grade**

## **FEBRUARY 14**

**9AM Family Service & Reflection  
Love Makes A Family**

Rev. Barbara & DRE Renee Pierre

**11AM with Sermon**

It is Valentine's Day! Let's take a look at our family values as we celebrate our diverse Westminster families!

Rev. Barbara Fast

## **FEBRUARY 21**

**HEALING INTO LIFE AND DEATH -**

How can we best reconcile our lives in the face of recent or imminent death? A reflection on one of our great taboos.

Jerry Tisser

## **FEBRUARY 28**

**The Religious Impulse.**

In the introduction to his recent book, *The Faith Instinct*, New York Times science writer Nicholas Wade says, "The purpose of this book is to try to understand religious behavior from an evolutionary perspective." Religion emerged to enhance our survival, and it will endure.

Rev. Frank Hall

Sharing Locker  
Grand Opening  
Saturday February 20  
10 am – 2 pm

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

One interesting by-product of packing up and moving is the opportunity to get into the nooks and crannies of our church home – and we have LOTS of those. Last Sunday, Hal Marchant and I opened up the cast iron safe in the church basement to see what it held.



Stacked inside were leather-bound books of old records, dating back to the births, marriages and deaths recorded by Reverend Fred Farley, our first minister called in 1829. Nestled close by were other books of congregational life, including, religious education records of attendance and meetings, minutes of the Mathewson Street and Adelaide Avenue women's alliance, financial records and much more. I suspect these old leather bound books haven't seen the light of day in decades, but they are a clear reminder of the people who preceded us and a brief glimpse into their good work on behalf of the church. Although the safe may not be salvaged for the new Parish House – it will undoubtedly take a crane to get it out of the basement - the contents will be carefully preserved, along with our own records, so that a hundred years from now, the members of the Westminster congregation can appreciate the firm foundation on which their church was built.

The future is for us to create. With that said, George Johnson and his cheerful band of strategic planners will begin the semi-annual evaluation of our 5 year plan. Now is the time for each committee to take a few minutes to review the goals you set two years ago, identify your accomplishments and note any changes in priorities or expectations for the coming year. How will you continue to move your committee's agenda forward without the Parish House? What adjustments must you make? How will you remain connected to each other and to the larger congregation? Next year is an invitation for creativity and for finding new and interesting ways to be together.

Last week's East Greenwich Pendulum had a wonderful picture of The Sharing Locker crew and a brief article on the upcoming grand opening on February 20. Good work and good luck Natalie Aubin, Essjay Foulkrod, Donna Poland, Nancy Reiser, Sue Ross, Donna Schmader and Ingela Williamson. We are very proud of you and the ministry you bring to the East Greenwich community.

Faithfully,

Jan Searles,

President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends

February 9, 2010

So much good work is going on here at church, it helps me keep my faith. I am always impressed with the thoughtfulness of your congregational meetings, the dedication of so many of you who step up to do what is needed to sustain, grow and bring life to this community. Plans are taking shape on how best to prepare for and navigate through construction. I have faith that we will make this great effort a true success.

This past Sunday the Blood Drive was successful. Thank you, Carolin Goldman and all those who gave blood. You should also know that we have sent donations to the UU SC: \$804.51 for Guest at Your Table Boxes: and, \$1515 for the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. Thank you.

Valentine's Day is this Sunday. After services there will be a resource table available supporting Marriage Equality. After Valentine's day, Lent begins. As part of my workshop on Grateful Green Living, in conjunction with Interfaith Power and Light, I learned that Christian faith communities are promoting a Carbon Fast as a spiritual practice for Lent. I will have copies of the Lenten calendars for you Sunday if you want to make Carbon Fasting part of your practice.

I remind myself that my faith is also found in the ordinary & everyday, and sometimes even in TV. In addition to comic relief, I find the spiritual in some programming, helped by a wonderful gizmo that allows me to fast forward through commercials. One of the shows I enjoy is "Bones", which is based on the life of a female forensic anthropologist. It is charming with just a touch of gristly. I enjoy the affection between the atheist scientist Bones and the believing FBI agent.

A recent case had "shaken" them, and over a late night cup of coffee at their favorite diner, they confess to doubt within each of their "faith" systems. She asks him, "How do you still believe in a kind God after a case like this?" He says he will go home and "question everything". He also has faith that "The sun will come up and tomorrow is a new day." And his faith will return. She admits that she knows how it feels to get your "faith back." He is surprised. She explains herself:

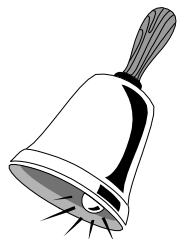
*"When my faith in reason and consequences is shaken", what happens then is that , "2 +2 equals 4. I put sugar in my coffee and it tastes sweet. The sun comes up because the world turns. These things are beautiful to me. There are mysteries I will never understand, but everywhere I look I see proof for every effect there is a corresponding cause, even if I cannot see it. I find that reassuring." "Life is good again. Life is very good."*

I get my faith back when I see people in opposing theological camps listen to one another and respect each other enough to realize that they share the same human need to understand and trust in this universe, to keep their faith. Even when it is just a story on TV, it was in the writer's heart and it moved mine. Tomorrow the sun will come up. Let us keep faith with each day. *Life is very good.* Blessings,

*In good faith and with love,*

*Rev. Barbara*

I want to let you know that Frank Hall, Senior Minister of the Westport Unitarian Church, colleague, mentor and friend will preach here Feb.28<sup>th</sup> & I will preach in Westport. Frank preached my Installation sermon. I encourage you to come and experience him.



# Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre  
Director of Religious Education

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-4 and by appointment

## UPCOMING RE CALENDAR:

**February 15-19:** Winter Vacation Week Open House (see announcement)

### February 21:

9 am RE Classes

11 am RE: Children PreK through grade 5 begin in the Sanctuary

### February 28:

9 am RE Classes; Visit from RI Chapter of the American Red Cross for grades 1&2

11 am RE: Children PreK through grade 5 begin in the Sanctuary

## CHECK OUT PHOTOS OF FUN RE

PROJECTS AT: <http://wuc-re.blogspot.com>

## PREPARING FOR A YEAR WITHOUT A

**BUILDING:** While we may not be having traditional RE Classes next year while the building is under construction, we will need to have access to books and RE supplies next year. Can you help us prepare for this? We are looking for volunteers to assist with the following projects:

- Organizing craft and room supplies for the remainder of this year and preparing for easy access to supplies for next year as needed.
- Organize the RE library for continued use this year and access for next year.
- Organizing items used for special holidays and supplements for curricula.

## AWESOME OPPORTUNITY FOR WINTER

**VACATION NEXT WEEK:** Some parents (and grandparents!) have expressed an interest in having an "open house" at church during school vacation next week. The Hedge Room and Fellowship Hall

will be open for parents and children of all ages next week from 10 am to 2 pm.

Each day there will be a different theme including: drama and stories with Grandma Rosie, creating art from recycled materials, fun and games day, movie day, and music day. Renee will provide the craft items, lists of games to play, suggestions for movies, and will coordinate with Rosie to come and have fun with the kids.

The final schedule is not complete yet, but **please contact Renee ASAP** if you are interested in one of these themed days. Depending on the interest we will make the days fit the folks who would like to come. Parents/grandparents/guardians must be present for the whole time. This is an opportunity for kids to get together during the winter break and have some fun. Be sure to bring lunch for yourself and your child(ren) and we will take time out for a meal together as well!

*Renee*

## SOUP TO WARM YOUR HEART - FEBRUARY 14, 2010



We will be hosting a homemade soup/bread luncheon on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a church fundraiser.

If anyone would like to help contribute by making soup, bread, serving, setting up or cleaning up, please contact Donna Poland. There will also be sign-up sheets posted on the Bulletin Board.

## FEBRUARY MOVIE NIGHT

### *The Great Debaters*

Starring: Academy-Award Winners Denzel Washington & Forest Whitaker

Rated: PG-13

Running Time: 126 min.

February 27, 7 PM

This is the inspiring true story of the first All-Black college debate team. It was the mid-1930's (long before satellite & cable television) & an entire nation stayed glued to their radio sets as they followed four African-American college students, from Wiley College in Texas, which included the first EVER woman, take on Harvard University's All-White elite face-to-face. And boy, did they sure give those "good ol' boys" a run for their money! Please join us in celebrating Black History Month with the film that will leave you applauding & cheering for more...

## RECYCLED PAPER

Thanks to Judy Brown and Bill Sweet, Westminster is using all recycled paper products. If you received this Chimes issue by U.S. Mail, rest assured it's printed on recycled paper. So is the Sunday bulletin and order of service. And that paper towel you used to wipe your hands is also made of recycled paper.

The printer cartridges you donate in the box in the foyer help with this effort. They're returned to Staples, which issues discount coupons that Judy can use when ordering supplies from Staples. Judy even convinced our printer supplier to carry recycled paper so she can order from that company.

The Green Sanctuary Task Force thanks Bill and Judy for their help making Westminster a greener congregation.

## A CIRCLE SUPPER

is scheduled for March 20. Circle Suppers are a gathering of no more than 8 people interested in getting together on a mutually acceptable evening for each location. The host will supply the home, place settings, wine, coffee/tea. The participants will bring the main course, appetizer, vegetable, salad and bread, dessert. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall, call or e-mail Cele if you would like to participate in March or at a later time.



Date: Saturday, February 20

Time: 5-6:00 PM

Place: In the sanctuary

What: **JUST PLAIN FOLK**

Join Rob and Lew for a fun hour of sing-a-long.  
Bring the kids and your instruments.

## WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ALL WOMEN WELCOME



## FEBRUARY'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH - GEORGE WILEY CENTER FOR HEATING ASSISTANCE

We meet every Thursday evening.

Setup/Meeting: 7:00 to 7:15 PM  
Announcements: 7:15 to 7:30PM  
Program: 7:30 to 8:45 PM  
Place: Fellowship Hall

Our Mission/Statement of Purpose is to enhance and encourage:

- \* Spirituality
- \* Support of each other

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Margaret Fuller from “What Moves Us” Curriculum

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – URI Speaker – Sex Trafficking

Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum: *Voluntary Simplicity*, Chapter 1



### CHURCH INCLEMENT WEATHER/CLOSING POLICY

Your safety is our greatest concern. When snow or other conditions make it likely that travel will be difficult and unsafe, Rev. Barbara and Janet Searles, our Board Chair will consult to decide if it is in the best interests of the congregation to cancel Sunday Services. When services are cancelled we will notify you no later than 7AM in these ways:

1. CHIMES e mail list serve.
2. Local RI Radio and TV stations.
3. On the office answering machine.

Westminster shares unrestricted cash placed in our collection basket 50/50 with a different charity each month. With approval from our minister and Board of Trustees, the Share the Plate Committee selected *George Wiley Center* for the month of February.

The George Wiley Center believes in building a community that addresses human needs and redresses injustices. *Together We Have the Power* to demand an affordable energy plan and stop utility shut-offs. No one should have to choose whether to heat or eat!

GWC is actively committed to local community organizing for the purpose of creating social and economic justice through changes in public policy. Their efforts have led to the nation's strongest utility protections for children. Rhode Island's new law forbids utility shut-offs year-round for financial reasons in the households where children 24 months old or under reside.

Issues they are currently working on include: 1) An affordable energy plan for low-income, disabled and elderly Rhode Islanders; 2) Increasing protection from utility shut-offs to households with children under 6 years of age; and 3) Defending and ensuring the right of appeal for people who have had their utilities shut off.

#### Guidelines for Donations:

Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster.

If you wish to contribute directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check to the charity. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Unrestricted Cash will be split 50/50 between Westminster and the Charity.

For questions about sharing the plate, please contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee, Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, Celia Humphreys, or Nathan DeSisto. To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in our mailbox.

# THANK YOU

Thank you to **Dan Aubin** for noting that trees need trimming on the perimeter and arranging for a team of people to come in and cut trees.

Thank you to **Mary Ann Connor** for donating the first batch of Rainbow magnets with the 7 principles for a fundraiser. Cele will have the magnets for sale at coffee hour for \$2.00. Proceeds to be donated to Westminster.

## THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

The Caring Circle would like to thank you for your generous support of our Sharing Locker project. Our supply closet is in good shape, thanks to your Share the Plate contributions, which totaled \$395.16. We're also appreciative of the items you've donated to our "Item of the Month" box.

Looks like we're all set for our Feb.20<sup>th</sup> opening. We've figured out the set-up in Fellowship Hall, role-played to work out any kinks in the process, and are ready to go.

It's gratifying seeing this project come to fruition. Our hope is that Westminster will become more visible in our community and that our covenant to help one another becomes a reality in yet another way. As we grow, we'll be calling on you to help us. This is a concrete way you, too, can make a difference. Be sure to read the Chimes for our progress reports.

With gratitude,

Your Caring Circle members

Sharing Locker

Item of the Month for February

Stick Deodorant  
(Men's & Women's)

## THE BOOKS OF WISDOM: PROVERBS, SONG OF SOLOMON AND JOB

3rd Wednesday of the month - February 17, March 17, April 21 and May 19; 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join **Rev. Barbara Fast** and facilitator **Cindy Reiser** for this workshop. It will be some education, some contemplation, and some sharing on order to hear what, if any, wisdom these texts may contain for each of us. If you have a Bible, please bring it.

## PARISH HOUSE HISTORY

Since the church building will soon be a memory, the Parish House History committee wants to collect written memories and pictures from members and friends. Two history boxes will be under the Blacksmith Window in the Fellowship Hall to receive these recollections and pictures. These boxes will be under the watchful eye of the Blacksmith from February 14 to April 14.

We ask that anyone who would like to write down a memory of an activity, event, or a person, put written or typed recollections in the History Box labelled "Memories." The only limit will be that of the writer and his or her memories and the wish to share. Paper and directions will be in that box. We do hope that the writer will sign and date the memory recorded.

Another History Box will be labelled for pictures. On the back of the submitted pictures, please list the date, the event, and the people shown. Be sure to make copies of these pictures as we cannot return them to you. Directions will be in the Box.

Various suggested events are also being considered. Ideas about celebrating our Church house and its history are being sought from members and friends. Let us know what you suggest to include in the honoring of this building which has been our "home" for many years. And "thanks for the memories!"

Ginny Eastman, Carolin Goldman, Alice Marchant,  
Bob Wiseman

## PROVIDENCE SINGERS

Mozart *Requiem*  
Britten *Cantata Misericordium*  
March 6, 2010; 8:00 pm

### Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Providence

Hector Berlioz, Giuseppe Verdi and Benjamin Britten all wrote powerful Requiems that owe much to Mozart's, which --even in its unfinished form-- may be the most influential of all. You'll be able to hear why. Britten's *Cantata Misericordium*, while not a requiem, was composed immediately after his monumental War Requiem (1962), arguably the most significant work for chorus and orchestra by a 20<sup>th</sup>-century composer. It is a wonderfully dramatic musical treatment of the good Samaritan story by England's finest opera composer since Handel. Commissioned for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Red Cross and centered on themes of compassion and mercy, it is in many ways a smaller-scale appendix to the War Requiem. It is also a fitting tribute to the values of this humanitarian relief agency on which so many continue to depend to this day.

The ensemble is joined by the Rhode Island Children's Chorus for two shorter works.

Ticket prices: \$22, \$32, \$42, \$52, \$62, and \$12 for children/students.

Group discounts: save \$6 per adult ticket for groups of 6 or more (not available for \$62 mezzanine tickets). Ticket prices include the \$2 VMA facility's fee.

Order thru Providence Singers website ([www.providencesingers.org](http://www.providencesingers.org)) or Veterans Memorial Auditorium (VMA) box office. Directions to VMA on PS website. Download order form from PS website and mail with check to PS office to avoid handling fees that will apply to credit card orders.

## GET A WAY RENTAL



MT. DESERT ISLAND, MAINE: 3 bedroom cottage for rent by the week - July thru Sept. Access and view of ocean; near Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor. For availability and rates, call Bruce Foresman

## JOIN US

For a winter potluck dinner at the **Marchant's** on Saturday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 8:00p.m. Let Alice know what you would like to bring.

## AUTHOR, AUTHOR!!

**Mort White** will be at the RI Flower Show at Booth #523 (The Magic Garden) on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be books available for signing.

## MEMBERSHIP

A Newcomers' meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 10:15 upstairs in the front room. All recent visitors invited.

Cele Mark & Laurie Tyce

## DID YOU KNOW?

At Sunday's (Feb 7<sup>th</sup>) Blood Drive they collected 16 pints!! Even though that seems like not a lot it can save 48 lives!

Thank you! Thank you!

## WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

2/11 7:00 PM WOW (FH)  
2/13 9:00 AM Ethical Eating (W)  
2/14 9/11 AM Worship  
2/14 9/11 AM RE  
2/14 10-1 PM Soup & Bread Sale (FH)  
2/15 6:00 PM STAR (FH)  
2/16 5:00 PM Shape Up Team (FH)  
2/16 6:30 PM Green Sanctuary TF (W)  
2/16 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)  
2/16 7:00 PM COM  
2/17 6:00 PM Shawl Ministry (W)  
2/17 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)  
2/17 7:15 PM Choir (CH)  
2/18 7:00 PM Men's Group (W)  
2/18 7:00 PM WOW (FH)  
2/20 8:00 AM Sharing Locker Set-up  
2/20 10:00 AM Sharing Locker  
2/20 5:00 PM Just Plain Folk (CH)  
2/20 7:00 PM Young Adult Movie Night (FH)  
2/21 9/11 AM Worship  
2/21 9/11 AM RE  
2/21 10:15AM Social Resp. Comm. (W)  
2/21 6:30 PM Sr. Youth Group (W)(FH)(K)  
2/23 6:00 PM Canvass Committee (H)  
2/23 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)  
2/23 7:00 PM RE Committee (W)  
2/24 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)  
2/24 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)  
2/24 7:15 PM Choir (CH)

### The Caring Circle is Here to Help You

If you have experienced a setback that has left you or a family member ill, or in need of meals, visits, rides or other help, please contact Nancy Rieser or Rev. Barbara Fast (phone 401-884-3561).

## CHIMES DEADLINES

DEADLINE: February 18<sup>th</sup>

MAILING: February 24<sup>th</sup>



## WESTMINSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

*Westminster Unitarian Church welcomes all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge, sexual orientation, age, or national origin.*

Church Office: 401-884-5933  
Fax Number: 401-885-2710  
Minister: Barbara Fast  
minister's study: 401-884-3561  
Religious Ed Coordinator: Renee Pierre  
Music Director: Nonetta Shatakhtsian  
Office Administrator: Judy Brown  
E-mail: [westminsteruu@verizon.net](mailto:westminsteruu@verizon.net)  
Website: [www.westminsteruu.org](http://www.westminsteruu.org)  
Office Hours: 9AM to 1 PM Monday - Friday

## WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### February 14

Ushers: 9:00 AM Carolyn Cure  
11:00 AM Esjay Foulkrod  
Flowers: Cele & Arthur Mark

### February 21

Ushers: 9:00 AM  
11:00 AM Nick\Donna Schmader  
Flowers: Carolyn Mark & Bill Stone

To volunteer, write your name on the schedule in Fellowship Hall, or contact Judy Brown, the Office Administrator.

If you prefer to have the Chimes e-mailed to you, please contact Judy Brown in the Church office weekdays between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.