



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2010 #4

February 24, 2010

Editor: Renée Bucklin

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

SPRING AHEAD

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour for March 14th!!!!

MARCH 14

Mystery & Wonder
Rev. Barbara Fast

Our living tradition draws from many sources; this morning we will reflect on this one. The direct experience of that transcending mystery & wonder, affirmed in all culture, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit.

MARCH 21

"Remembering Margaret Fuller"

The Women of Westminster will share information and reflections celebrating the life of Margaret Fuller, a 19th century feminist, teacher, writer, and foreign correspondent.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

General Assembly is gearing up and you are invited to attend! This year's GA will take place Wednesday, June 23 through Sunday, June 27 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The opening ceremony and banner parade will feature UU singer, songwriter Peter Mayer whose songs speak to our interconnectedness and the human journey on this small planet.



While the agenda for the assembly continues to evolve, the workshops planned will feed your spirit and provide practical advice and support for church members and leadership. The Ware Lecture will be delivered by Winona Laduke, a Native American activist, environmentalist, economist, and writer. Former UUA President, Rev. Dr. William Schulz will lead a worship celebrating 20 years of international partnership, as well as participate in a panel discussion that explores Forrest Church's legacy universalist theology and how it can strengthen our own theological identity. Current UUA President, Peter Morales will preach at the closing worship service on "Our Greatest Challenge".

Four members of Westminster may attend as delegates, in addition to the Minister and one alternate delegate. Is this the year you will attend and carry our banner? Early registration started March 1. Registration may be completed on the UUA website.

Faithfully,
Jan Searles,
President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends

March 8, 2010

Sunday we sang these words from Hymn 404: *What gift can we bring...what words can convey it, the joy of this day? When grateful we come, remembering, rejoicing, what song can we offer in honor and praise?*

There are so many gifts! Spring is coming. The rains have stopped. The sun is blazing this morning. The birds are awakening us to the coming of a new season!

Your building committee is listening, refining. Your Board is moving forward with planning for next year. This past weekend Tony DiBella and I walked the neighborhood, to invite neighbors to a coffee here on March 21st, to discuss the proposed building.

Last week one of my most joyful times was going to the State House and finding the rotunda full of people supporting Marriage Equality! Banners were hung from the balconies. Westminster's was there! I think there were eleven of us from Westminster, aged 2 to 70! There were many UU's. The Bell Street Chapel led us in song. Legislators and candidates were there to support equality.

As I reflect on the season, I think the religious practices associated with Lent and Passover, and Ramadan as it moves around the yearly calendar, remind us and invite us to realize, that we are related to the whole of existence. Giving up meals, eating certain foods, are tangible ways to remind us that while we are not the source of all creation, we are related and interconnected with all, and that that spirit of life is within. Emerson put it this way. You can read the whole *Oversoul* at 531 in the Hymnal.

I am constrained at every moment to acknowledge a higher origin for events than the will I call mine...within us is the soul of the whole, the wise silence, the universal beauty, to which every part and particle s equally related, the eternal One.

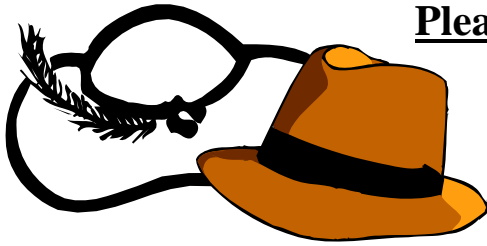
I think of these practices the way I do Buddhist meditation practices. Ways to encourage healthy habits, for body, mind and spirit. There are so many to choose from. What matters is consistency and practice.

The Wisdom study group is spending time meditating on the Psalms, like poetry, to see what within them lives within us (or that we reject). It is good to sit with the text at the same time of day, two or more times a week, to read and then meditate and see what comes up. It is good to practice, to create a daily habit. Don't worry about your progress. It took a while before we learned to brush our teeth every day. But once you have cultivated a habit, it serves your long term health and happiness. Maybe that is why Lent lasts 40 days? 40 days is time enough to create a new habit in a life.

We have been given the gift of time, and how we use it is what matters. May you find your ways to use your gifts in ways that give you back the gift of health and the freedom of spirit to enjoy the day. It might even take your breathe away so no words are necessary to *express it, the joy of this day!*

*In good faith and with love,
Rev. Barbara*

PS: If you want to practice mindfulness for a day..Womensphere is sponsoring a day for women, with Joanne Friday, on March 26th from 9:30am through 3:00pm See the posted info in Fellowship Hall.



Please have all information submitted by April 15,
2010

MEMORY BOX CONTRIBUTIONS

We, the committee of four, would like you to contribute to the Parish House History Project (1957 to 2010) by writing your memories of activities taking place within the building during the years mentioned above.

The following format should be followed:

Title of memory:

Date of event:

Description:

Your name

The date you became involved with Westminster

Your signature

**PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOVE AND PLACE
IN THE BOX BENEATH THE BLACKSMITH WINDOW OR EMAIL
TO: John Eastman**

Thank you,

Ginny Eastman, Carolin Goldman, Alice Marchant, Bob Wiseman

Please have all information submitted by April 15, 2010

WESTMINSTER PHOTOGRAPHS OF PAST MEMORIES

We, the committee of four, would like you to contribute to the Parish House History Project (1957 to 2010) by donating pictures taken within the building involving activities held here throughout the years mentioned above.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THESE PICTURES WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO YOU.

The following information should be printed on the back of each photo:

Name of activity

Date

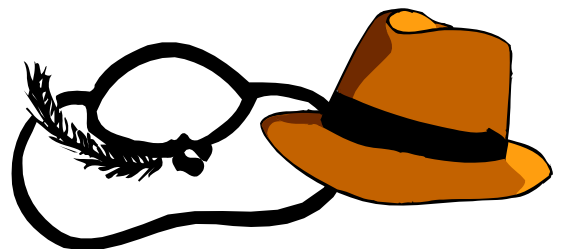
People in photo

IF YOU ARE SO INCLINED –

We would appreciate if you would take the time and do a write-up of the activity using the MEMORY BOX CONTRIBUTION form which can also be found in the Memory Box. You may place your completed form back in the box or email to: John Eastman

Thank you,

Ginny Eastman, Carolin Goldman, Alice Marchant, Bob Wiseman



Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre

Director of Religious Education

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

UPCOMING RE CALENDAR:

March 14:

9 am: Lesson 6 - Famous Unitarian Universalists

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

March 21:

9 am: Lesson 7 - Famous Unitarian Universalists

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

March 28:

9 am: Children begin in the Sanctuary & finish their morning in Fellowship Hall; Palm Sunday

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

CHECK OUT FUN STUFF AT: <http://wuc-re.blogspot.com>

OFFICE HOURS: On Thursday March 11th, I will be attending the Ballou Channing District DRE Gathering in Fairhaven, MA. I will be in the office from 2-4 pm following the meeting.

COMING OF AGE CLASS: Our next meeting for the COA students will be Friday, March 19th 6:30-8:00 pm. Our topic is: Values Clarification.

Contact Rev. Barbara or Renee Pierre if you have any questions.

YOUTH MINISTRY WORKSHOP: There will be a district workshop for adults seeking to work with youth in our congregation. The workshop is being held on Saturday, March 27th from 9 am to 3 pm in Fairhaven, MA. If you have an interest in working with our Senior High Youth Group in the 2010-2011 school year, please contact Renee ASAP so you may be registered to attend.

TEACHER ORIENTATION - SAVE THE DATE: Term 4 Teacher Orientation will take place on Saturday, April 3rd from 10 am to 12 noon. Two additional teachers are needed for this term. If you have not already signed up to teach and would be willing to co-lead a class with another teacher, please contact Renee ASAP. Our theme this term is: World Religions.

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

3rd Wednesday of the month - 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 in order to hear what, if any, wisdom these texts may contain for each of us. If you have a Bible, please bring it.

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**



MADE YOUR VACATION PLANS FOR THIS SUMMER YET?

There is a place for you at our own UU Camp and Conference Center; Ferry Beach in Saco, Maine. Ferry Beach is a spiritual home and beloved community for many who return year after year.



Summer programs include family, adult and professional/church development conferences as well as expanded youth camps. There's something for everyone - kids,

parents, grandparents; singles, gays and straight. Or you may choose to come as a vacationer for a few days as an option to a weeklong conference.

For information about this summer's programs check out the Ferry Beach website at: www.ferrybeach.org or check the bulletin board for helpful literature OR contact **John Eastman**, Ferry Beach booster.

You also may be looking for a summer job for your teen or yourself. What better way to work, get paid, AND have fun? Join the Ferry Beach Crew.



MARCH MOVIE NIGHT

The Boys and Girl from County Clare

Starring: Bernard Hill (*Lord of the Rings, Titanic*), Colm Meany (*Star Trek: The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, Into the West*), Patrick Bergin (*Robin Hood, Sleeping with the Enemy, Ella Enchanted*) and Andrea Corr (of the International hit musical group, The Corrs)

Rated: R (for a wee bit of language, brief partial nudity & sexual content)

Running Time: 100 min.

Date: Saturday, March 13th

Time: 7pm

It was the late 60's and the British Invasion had swept the world. Young girls everywhere screamed and swooned for the Beatles. The Liverpool Sound topped the charts in every country, except...in Ireland, where traditional Irish music still reigned supreme. But...could the unthinkable happen?

Could an upstart Irish band from Liverpool win the Ceili competition in the All Irish Music Championship for the first time in history?

Transplanted Irishman, Jimmy MacMahon, and his motley English crew have got their hearts set on it.

Meanwhile, back in County Clare, Ireland, Jimmy's stalwart older brother, John Joe, and his feisty local band are determined to win the trophy for a third year in a row. Both brothers are determined to sabotage one another. But what will happen when their long-lost other brother, Padjo, returns from his missionary work in Africa? And amidst the life-long rivalries and squabbles, a budding romance emerges between young Anne, County Clare's star fiddler and Teddy, Liverpool's leading flute player.

Weaving timeless themes of discord—star-crossed lovers, feuding brothers, narrow-minded parents and rebellious children—the characters in this highly entertaining romantic comedy share with audiences a compelling passion for the music they play and the high stakes of the competition. Amidst a backdrop of amber-lit pubs, narrow streets and sandy shores, the visuals keep pace with a lively soundtrack, reflecting the time-honored musical traditions of an age-old and tough-as-nails culture, passed down from generation to generation, still revered by those today & still enjoyable for generations yet to come. 'Tis a story of a people who have known & experienced hardships for Millenia, yet still possess the heart to play & sing through it all.

Please join us in celebrating St. Patrick's Day with the film that will leave you clapping and toe-tapping in your seats...

I shall be bringing some snacks and beverages, but I am on a limited budget. So, if you are planning to attend & would be willing to donate anything of that nature, it would be GREATLY appreciated. Please feel free to contact me about it.

For further info, please contact Meryn Flynn.

JUST PLAIN FOLK

Join Rob and Lew for the next singalong on March 20 from 5 to 6 PM. We'd really like to make this event even more participatory, so if you've got anything that toots, jingles, blows or strums, heck, bring it along. How about some spoon players, washboard scrapers, or kazoo virtuosos? And kids... more kids. And song-leaders are much cherished and held in high regard.

Sharing Locker

Item of March

is Bathroom Tissue



SHARING LOCKER OPENING!

IT WAS A SUCCESS! Even though we only had ten clients, six women and four men, we were thankful we could assist them with items from our locker. Each of them was most grateful and anxious to “spread the word” about the service we’re providing.

Volunteers showed up at 9 am and immediately began setting up tables and chairs, carrying boxes of items from our 2nd floor storage into fellowship hall, posting signs, picking up coffee and donuts (generously donated by Dunkin’ Donuts), re-packaging pet food, etc. We had children from the RE program and youth group, parents, our DRE, Caring Circle members and volunteers from our congregation.

Just before our 10 am opening Rev. Barbara gathered us into a circle and offered a prayer and words of inspiration. Then we opened the doors not knowing whether anyone would come or we’d be overwhelmed. Well, ten people did come and we were grateful we could serve them.

Paper towels, toilet paper and laundry detergent were the most requested items. What came as a surprise to us was the number of clients with pets - six cats and three dogs. Thanks to generous donations from members of our congregation we had ample pet food to distribute, both dry and canned. However, it’s clear we’ll need to work hard to insure a full supply of pet food as the number of clients increases.

We worked out some of the “kinks” in our procedures and will spend some time at our Caring Circle meeting in March to assess how our process worked and what we can do better. We’ll also look at ways to get the word out to more people. We’re learning as we go along but I felt we were well prepared on opening day.

My sincerest thanks to all our volunteers (who outnumbered the clients!) for their help, dedication and enthusiasm. I was deeply moved when I looked around and noted how many had given up several hours of their Saturday to reach out to members of their community. We are indeed a unique community of connected individuals who grasped the opportunity to reach beyond the walls of our church to help others.

Thank you all...Nancy Rieser

PARISH HOUSE HISTORY

Since the church house 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 labeled 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 Goldmab, Alice Marchant,
Bob Wiseman

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER ALL WOMEN WELCOME

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

Mar. 11th – Plan/Practice for Lay Service
Mar. 18 – Spring Equinox
Mar. 21 – WOW Lay Service
Mar. 25 – Cool Congregations Workshop –
Reducing Household CO₂ Footprints

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Building Committee has been hard at work with the architects Brewster Thornton to refine the design of the building and we're seeing some very exciting improvements. The architects are making some beautiful refinements to the exterior design of the building and are making important improvements to the interior footprint. Without adding to the overall external footprint of the building, they have dramatically increased the space for storage and have added a room on the second floor; the second floor can now accommodate six classrooms or a combination of classrooms and office space.

We will be posting updates to the design on the Westminster website, www.westminsteruu.org, so keep a lookout. Your comments are always welcomed. Please direct your comments or questions to Warren Addington-May, who is acting as Ombudsman - the main intermediary between the Building Committee and the Congregation as a whole. The Building Committee also has a mailbox at the Church office, where you can leave written comments. Also, don't forget that you can email us at westminsterbuild@gmail.com.

BOOK SALE IS MARCH 26 & 27



Please get all your unwanted books together for the book sale. All books, CDS, Videos, and books-on-tape are wanted and needed.

You can bring them in 2 weeks before the sale. Please don't bring any magazines, dictionaries or condensed books. I also need people to help with set up and selling. If you can help, please let me know via email or phone. Thanks, Pam Bazar

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.



HOLOCAUST THROUGH THE ARTS 2010

Showcase Cinema, 1200 Quaker Lane, E. Greenwich, RI. "SECRETS OF THE DEAD: ESCAPE FROM AUSCHWITZ"- A PBS Film. This movie is free and open to the public. *Date: Sunday, March 21, 2010 10:00 AM.* Reservations are necessary. To make reservations please call: 401-453-7860 or email: mzeidman@hercri.org

BOOK SIGNING

Mort White will have a signing for his books on March 27 from 4-8 PM and Saturday 10-3PM at Fellowship Hall at the book sale.





MARCH'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH – FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF RHODE ISLAND

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 *Funeral Consumers Alliance of RI* for the month of March.

The Funeral Consumers Alliance protects consumers' rights to choose meaningful and affordable funerals. They are an educational organization dedicated to helping consumers through:

- Group presentations
- Funeral Home General Price List Surveys
- FCA-RI newsletter and other printed material
- Individual consultations

They are non-profit, run solely by volunteers, and have no attachments to the funeral industry or any religious group. For more information, feel free to contact Westminster members who also serve on the Alliance: Sue Graefe (President), Renee Pierre (Secretary), and Renée Bucklin.

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.

From Humanity's Team:

“Thank you so much for sending the additional money from the Share the Plate Program. Together we are making a difference.

Gratitude & Blessings,
Nannette Kennedy”

From the UUSC – two letters:

“Please thank the members of your congregation for supporting the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee with the Guest at Your Table gifts of \$804.51...(and) with the UUSC/UUA Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund (cash donation of \$445...which we received on February 16, 2010).

Since 1939, supporters like you have helped UUSC become a leading voice in advancing human rights worldwide. We pledge to honor your commitment to us through our efforts to defend the human right to water, to restore and protect our civic liberties, to ensure workers' rights, and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters.

You can learn more about our work, our courageous program partners, and ways you can become involved in the struggle for human rights at www.uusc.org.

Thank you again for your generous contribution to our work promoting human rights and social justice. Your support will make a real difference in the lives of people in the United States and around the world.

Sincerely,

Constance F. Kane
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer.”

EASTER FLOWERS

Tulips, hycienths, & daffodils for easter services will be offered for sale Sundays March 14 & 21 between services in Fellowship hall

The 6 inch potted bulbs may be taken home after your service the cost in \$7.00 per pot

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

- 3/11 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
- 3/13 7:00 PM Movie Night (FH)
- 3/14 9/11 AM Worship
- 3/14 9/11 AM RE
- 3/14 10:15 AM Newcomers' Meeting
- 3/15 7:00 PM Nominating Committee (W)
- 3/16 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
- 3/16 6:30 PM Green Sanctuary Task Force (W)
- 3/16 7:00 PM COM
- 3/17 6:00 PM Shawl Ministry (W)
- 3/17 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
- 3/17 7:15 PM Choir (CH)
- 3/18 7:00 PM Men's Group (W)
- 3/18 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
- 3/19 6:30 PM COA (W)
- 3/20 8:00 AM Sharing Locker Set up (FH)
- 3/20 10-2 PM Sharing Locker Open (FH)
- 3/20 5:00 PM Just Plain Folk (CH)
- 3/21 9/11 AM Worship
- 3/21 9/11 AM RE
- 3/21 10:15 AM Social Responsibility Com. (W)
- 3/21 6:30 PM Sr. Youth Group (W)(FH)(K)
- 3/23 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
- 3/24 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)
- 3/24 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
- 3/24 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: March 18th

MAILING: March 24th

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
 Website: www.westminsteruu.org

Office Hours: 9AM to 1 PM Monday - Friday

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

March 14

Ushers: 9:00 AM Katrina Pillay
 11:00 AM Cecila & Arthur Mark
 Flowers: **Volunteer Needed**

March 21

Ushers: 9:00 AM **Volunteer Needed**
 11:00 AM Mort White
 Flowers: Renée Bucklin

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.

PASSOVER SEDER 2010



WHEN: Tuesday, March 30, at 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Gather between 5:45 and 6:15. (**NOTE:** This is earlier than usual start because folks have school and work Wednesday.) Jerry Tisser and Laurie Tyce will be co-leaders.

SIGN-UP SHEET is in Fellowship Hall. You should sign up so we can plan for seating, nursery care, and provisions. Since this is a cooperative event, we need your help with set-up and clean-up. Please indicate your availability when you sign up. There are **2** sheets: one for attendance, one to indicate what you will be bringing. Please complete both sheets!

CONTRIBUTION: \$3/adults, \$1.50/kids - \$5/family limit.

CEREMONY: Recognizing the wide diversity of people who attend this event, we attempt to balance the traditional ceremonies of Passover with a liberal mix of education and fun. The service is in English, lasts 45-60 minutes, and is followed by songs, dinner, and dessert.

DINNER is “organized” potluck. Aside from sign-up items, please be aware that certain foods should **NOT** be brought: ham, baked goods, like cakes or brownies. If you have a family Passover specialty, we’d love for you to share it with us!

SOUP: Once again, we hope to have matzo ball soup. If you can make enough for about 20 people, please contact Donna Poland at 884-8992 (email dmpoland@verizon.net).

If you are still confused or would like some advice, please call or email Jerry or Laurie!

To make the occasion more festive (and clean up easier!):

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN HOLIDAY PLATES AND SILVERWARE

Many people bring a paper bag and bring their dishes home for washing. **WE WILL PROVIDE:** tablecloths, napkins, wine goblets, and paper cups, as well as wine and grape juice. Those with young children will want to bring high chairs/booster seats.

GUESTS: Your friends or family are welcome to join us. It's a nice way to introduce someone to the church! Please sign them up and tell them which food to bring. The cost is the same.

SEATING: We can seat 80-90 people. Seating is first come/first serve, so come early if you have a group wanting to sit together. Each table seats 9.

NURSERY CARE: Nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers during the service prior to the meal. You must reclaim your child for the meal. We need to know if you are in need of nursery care, so please indicate that on the sign-up sheet.

OTHER CHILDREN: Out of respect for the holiday, please plan to supervise your children for the entire evening.

DRESS for the holidays, as you feel appropriate.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS: Call Jerry Tisser or Laurie Tyce

Hope to see you there --- sign up soon!