



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2010 #6

April 21, 2010

Editor: Renée Bucklin

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

APRIL 25: One Service: 10AM

“Welcome the Traveler Home”
Reverend Barbara Fast

We leave and we return and we are changed.

MAY 2: One Service: 10AM

All about Joy! Joy! Joy!
Rev. Barbara Fast & Renee Pierre, DRE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & VOTE ON THE NEW BUILDING TO FOLLOW

MAY 9: One Service: 10AM
Do One Thing Everyday That Scares You
Rory Smith

“The freedom to dream, the freedom to fail, and the freedom to be yourself are some of life’s greatest blessings. Blessings are given. And blessings are received.” Reverend Barbara will be leading worship this Mother’s Day Sunday with Rory.

MAY 16: One Service: 10AM
Where Our Gladness Meets What’s Needed
Rev. Beth Graham

MAY 23:
9:00a.m. – Youth-led Worship
11:00a.m. – Coming of Age

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK



This past Sunday, following a very inspiring church service by the Green Sanctuary committee who really made you feel that you, too, could make a difference, we had an opportunity to review the settled search process and schedule with our Ballou Channing Ministerial Service Representative, Rev. Dr. Judy Campbell. It was heartening to know that we will be given all the assistance and support we need by the UUA and the district as we move forward. And, what was especially nice to hear was that we really have a great reputation within the district and are viewed as a strong, vital church, with a bright future.

In looking ahead to the selection of the search committee members, I encourage each of you to consider the possibility of participating. There will be 7 members selected by the Nominating Committee, to be voted upon by the congregation at the **JUNE 6 (note new date) Annual Meeting**. Members selected will be representative of the congregation – newer, long time members, male/female, with/without kids, and from a variety of church interests. Probably the most important characteristics are a readiness to work collaboratively and a willingness to look honestly and fairly at all candidates rather than through a particular lens.

Nominations should be completed and sent to Doug Jones, Nominating Chair, c/o the church by SUNDAY, MAY 16. This will give the committee time to review, decide, and give proper notice to the congregation. The application and instructions may be picked up at church, mailed to you by calling the church office, or downloaded from the attachment to this Chimes.

The parsonage will be put on the market within the next month, as soon as a few repairs are completed. With Tom Townsend’s preliminary investigation, it is possible that Habitat for Humanity South County will be able to provide the labor for the repair work. Thank you, Tom, for suggesting this possibility. The parsonage is rented through August, with a month-to-month lease following that, but our intent is to sell as soon as possible. Proceeds will be placed in the capital campaign fund except for a small amount to help defray the cost of renting St. Matthias.

Church services from now to the end of the year will be one 10 am service each Sunday, EXCEPT for May 23rd. The **congregational meeting to vote on the building has been moved to 11:15 am May 2nd**. Please be sure to come.

Faithfully,
Jan Searles, President, Board of Trustees

Dear Friends

April 19, 2010

I have been away from you for nine days and it feels like a very long time. Now I am back in Rhode Island and spring has come on full bloom. It is breathtaking. It is good to be back.

I should tell you that I have accepted the call of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Danbury. Saying that does make the leave-taking more real. I want to tell you that it brought me such joy to tell those folks at UUCD how terrific you are! I have nothing but good things to say about you to anyone I meet, and I mean everything I say.

Thank you also for your kind supportive e-mails during this past week. It was humbling to be the recipient of your encouragement and understanding as I found my way through the many meals and meetings.

Between this day and my final day of ministry with you and to you, there is time to do all that we need to do. I want to especially mention that I know that you understand the personal reasons of why I am leaving, and I appreciate your understanding. I also know that there may be some feelings that you want to personally share with me. You can call me. I am still your minister.

I want to share this poem with you. I have kept it in every calendar; I tried to hold its wisdom before me to guide my work. It is time to share it:

Go to the people
Learn from them
Love them;
Start with what they know,
Build on what they have.

But the best leaders,
When their task is accomplished,
Their work done,
The people will remark:
“We have done it – ourselves.”

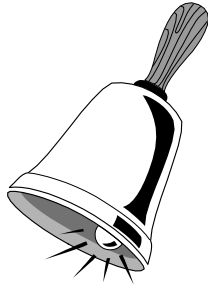
2,000 year-old Chinese poem

I am still learning from you. I love you. You are doing the “it” that healthy congregational life requires of human beings. So much is in bloom at Westminster, it takes my breath away almost as much as the daffodils, forsythia and cherry blossoms.

I am certain that we will find our way this spring. I have faith that you and I will do what we need to do to spend this time of our shared ministry in good works and with good will. We will make this a truly good time in the ongoing life of that community of traveling souls called The Westminster Unitarian Church.

Blessed be.

Reverend Barbara



Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre
Director of Religious Education

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

UPCOMING RE CALENDAR:

Sunday April 25: 10 am RE; children begin in their classes.

Sunday May 2: 10 am Multigenerational Service in the Sanctuary with Renee Pierre and Rev. Barbara

Sunday May 9: 10 am RE; children begin in their classes

CHECK OUT FUN UU RE STUFF AT:

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

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YARD SALE

The Green Sanctuary/Property yard sale will be Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, and the proceeds will go 50% to Westminster's general fund and 50% to the Green Sanctuary pass-through account. Westminster committees have been setting aside items in good condition for the yard sale.

Beginning Saturday, May 1, Westminster members are invited to donate goods to the yard sale. Please make sure everything is in good shape and, if applicable, in running order. Please don't donate anything that needs repair or is missing parts. Also, no TVs or computer monitors as they don't sell well and can be recycled at RIRRC or, in many towns, at the local transfer stations.

We need volunteers to help:

- Set up and price items Thursday afternoon (May 6) and Friday morning (May 7)
- Sell items Friday afternoon (May 7) and Saturday morning (May 8)
- Clean up Saturday afternoon (May 8)

Also, if you know of any organization or individual who would pick up yard sale leftovers after the sale, please let us know. (We did not have very good luck with Big Sisters after the last yard sale.) For information about the yard sale or to volunteer, please contact Celia Humphreys, Cecile Mark or Natalie Aubin.

AMONG US

LOST: gold bird pin, Bermuda Longtail, great sentimental value. Please call Jayne Lindo at 741-3960

Sharing Locker

Item for April

Animal Food



CLOTHING SALE UPDATE

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

April 22 – *Voluntary Simplicity*, Chapter 4

April 29 – May Day Ritual

May 6 – *Voluntary Simplicity*, Chapter 5

GRIEF MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Speaker: Brian Wilkins, Bereavement Coordinator
Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 4:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Are you grieving the loss of a family member or loved one?

Would you like to know how better to comfort or communicate with someone who has lost a loved one?

The Caring Circle at Westminster has coordinated this one hour presentation to help caregivers, family members and friends better deal with the loss or death of a loved one. Brian brings the expertise and experience of the Hospice organization to help manage the feelings ensuing from personal loss. A question and answer period will follow the presentation.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

If you are in need of a motorized scooter, or know someone who is, please call **Sue Ross**.

The clothing sale went very well. We made \$550.00. Thanks to the everyone who brought in clothes and all the people that helped with set up, selling and packing the clothes up. We had fun, as always.

Molly Thoman and Pam Bazar

MAY'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH – NEUROFIBROMATOSIS, INC., NE

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 has selected *Neurofibromatosis, Inc., NE* for the month of May, NF Awareness Month.

Neurofibromatosis, Inc., NE is a non profit 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to finding a treatment and the cure for neurofibromatosis by promoting scientific research, creating awareness, and supporting those who are affected by NF.

NF is a genetic disorder of the nervous system that causes tumors to form on the nerves anywhere in or on the body at any time. NF affects all races, all ethnic groups and both sexes equally. NF affects more people than Cystic Fibrosis and Muscular Dystrophy combined!

A number of **Tony DiBella's** family members are affected by Neurofibromatosis. Tony would be happy to answer questions. Thank you for supporting NF Awareness Month.

Guidelines for Donations:

Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster. Unrestricted Cash will be split 50/50 between Westminster and the Charity.

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check.

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.

HEALTH AND CHOCOLATE ALERT

from Equal Exchange

As you probably know, very dark chocolate is very good for you. But, it must be very dark chocolate with few or no dairy products or sweeteners added. The resulting cocoa flavor is rather strong.

Fresh strawberries, when dipped in a dark chocolate based sauce, make a simple and delicious dessert. Incredible to think that it is so nourishing too.

You can make a chocolate sauce using Equal Exchange's 100% organic extra dark chocolate bar (Cacao 80%). Make the sauce by heating the chocolate with oil or water until it is runny. It will firm up as it cools. Bring out the fresh strawberries, and voila, a scrumptious dessert!

In mid May, look for the Equal Exchange table at coffee hour and get your extra dark chocolate bars. Depending on the weather, our local strawberries will reach their peak in June.

Isabelle Conrad

MEET THE NEW FOLKS POTLUCK

The last Saturday Sampling in our old Church House will be Saturday, May 22, at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Here's a chance for everyone to meet and greet new Westminster folks. This is the same evening as a Saturday Celebration Service, and Nathan DeSisto says he will schedule the service to begin at 5:30 so that the Celebration Service Folks can join the potluck. We'll post a sign-up sheet for the potluck in Fellowship Hall by May 9.

Look for more details in the next Chimes and in the Sunday Bulletin as time draws near. If you have any questions or can volunteer to help with setup or cleanup, please contact Celia Humphreys or Cecile Mark.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

It's been a busy, busy time for the Building Committee! The building design is coming along nicely and we are very excited about the great work our architects, Brewster Thornton, are doing. While continuing to tweak the floor plan, we are also beginning to look at lighting designs, flooring options, color schemes, windows and lot of other fun details. Many thanks to those of you who have submitted thoughtful questions and comments on the design. We really appreciate the feedback, seriously consider ALL your suggestions and have made several design adjustments because of them.

Please note the following dates. April 27th, 7:00 pm– There will be a public hearing to consider our zoning application for the project at East Greenwich Town Hall. While we don't need to pack the house, if you live nearby and can come show your support, please do.

May 2– There will be an all-Congregation meeting after the Service to review the Building Design and to vote to move forward with the development of construction and bidding documents based on the proposed design.

Note also that you might start seeing some dirt patches around the property. We will be doing some soil sampling and test boring to give our civil engineers a subterranean view of our property. All holes will be filled in for safety, but you may see a few pock marks.

As always, please feel free to get in touch with us with questions or comments:
westminsterbuild@gmail.com.

LOBSTER ROLL IS COMING!!!

Save the date – Friday, May 21st. 100% lobster meat rolls will be \$9.00 each. More information coming soon!

“THANK YOU

From Providence Book Through Bars. Without your help, we could not reach the many prisoners we do, throughout the United States. We are an all volunteer organization trying to make a small difference, and you are helping us to do just that.

Kind regards, Carol Wiseman”

A personal story is posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

TO: SUPPORTERS OF THE EAST GREENWICH ECUMENICAL EMERGENCY FOOD CUPBOARD

As a reminder, the EGEEFC, staffed by volunteers from participating congregations, is located in St Luke’s parish house on Pierce Street and is open each Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 10:30-12:00. Please make those in need aware of this community service which has been provided by the faith communities for over 30 years.

The Food Cupboard is always looking for donations of food or cash to support this ministry. Specific donations that are needed include: canned meats and fish, cereals, peanut butter, dried pasta and foods such as macaroni and cheese, juices, powdered milk, etc.

As you can see, the need for this service in East Greenwich is great.

2010 Summary of Activity (year to date totals)

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total pickups | 165 |
| Total individuals served | 408 |
| Males | 152 |
| Females | 130 |
| Children | 125 |
| Over 60 | 78 |
| New Families | 21 |
| Repeaters | 26 |
| Total items distributed | 3,758 |
| Total items received | 4,288 |
| | (2,233 bought & 2,055 donated) |

Best regards.
Chris and Steve Bartlett

CAPE COD “CROP WALK”

Cape Cod will have an anti-hunger fundraising walk on Sunday afternoon, May 2nd. . . This CROP Walk is sponsored by the Falmouth Clergy Association and the Church World Service organization. We will be raising money to help support the Falmouth Service Center's community food pantry and the CWS overseas programs. We invite all congregations and community groups that are concerned about food issues to join us for this springtime event. We hope that it becomes an annual event.

The May 2nd CROP Walk registration will be on the Falmouth village green, starting at 1:00 PM. The village green is located on Main Street close to St. Barnabas Church and the First Congregational Church. The fundraising walk is about 3 miles long. We will walk rain or shine. Parking is available at St. Barnabas Church.

There will be a display event that will provide information about community gardening, emergency food assistance, and other food related concerns. We want all people, in all nations, to enjoy a healthy and sustainable diet. The May 2nd walk recognizes the Earth Day season and healthy eating.

For additional information about the CROP Walk, please contact Church World Service at 888-297-2767 or visit www.cropwalk.org.

APPLICATION FOR WESTMINSTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

Thank you for considering participation on Westminster's Search Committee. A commitment to participating in the process and to selecting a ministerial candidate is perhaps the most important task any member of the congregation can undertake that directly impacts its future. The Search Committee will consist of 7 members, who are representative of the diversity of the church community and its programs. The names will be placed in nomination by the Nominating Committee and will be voted, up or down, as a group at the church's Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 23, 2010. The primary role of this committee is to find the candidate that will best serve the needs of the whole church. The Nominating Committee will be focusing on bringing people together who they feel will be open-minded to the process and to each of the candidates who will be considered.

Participation as a Search Committee member requires the following duties which often occur simultaneously:

- A year-long commitment, starting this summer, when members will begin the process of putting the church packet together and/or prepare an online packet that highlights the achievements of Westminster and the qualities identified as important in a settled minister.
- Complete church application on UUA Website. (Fall of 2010)
- Commit to keeping the candidate's names and neutral pulpits strictly confidential.
- Committee will work out a calendar of events, including 5 or 6 potential pre-candidating weekends (Feb and March) and potential neutral pulpits.
- Committee will work with our congregation to set up the final selected minister's candidating week (generally mid-April) to meet congregation and committees. Work with the chosen candidate to plan the two church services that begin and end candidating week, followed by the congregations' vote after the second service.
- Committee meetings to review, potentially 30 or more, pre-candidating ministers' applications on UUA website. Narrow the field through discussion, sharing of packets and phone interviews to approximately 12 initial candidates. (Begins in January.)
- Further narrow the field through interviews, review of packets and discussion to approximately 5 or 6 potential candidates who will be your weekend guests/candidates.
- Set up neutral pulpits for those candidates, and arrange for their weekend visits/hotel stay/interview time/church service at the neutral church.
- Attend each minister's pre-candidating weekend, beginning with dinner and interview time on Friday evening, full day of activities/site-seeing EG area, followed by lunch and afternoon interview session, dinner and evening interview. Sunday, attend church service, followed by lunch and review of pre-candidate.
- Perform interviews with references on top 3 or 4 pre-candidates.
- Make final selection by vote. Notify the candidate. Publicize the candidating week events to generate enthusiasm and attendance.
- Work out contract details and have Board vote/approve the financial package.
- Communicate regularly with the congregation through the Chimes and regular announcements at church services so they feel included and aware of the process.

Feel free to discuss the process with any member of the past search committee: Tony DiBella, Doris Duarte, Dee Lovecky, Carolyn Marshall, Janet Searles, Rory Smith, Joe Souza, Jerry Tisser

APPLICATION FOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

How long have you been a UU? How long have you been a member of Westminster?

What committees, projects or events have you participated in at this church, or other UU churches, and at what capacity? What were the dates of service on these committees or events? (ex. RE Committee, 2007 and 2008; Lobster roll coordinator, 2005)

What unique skills would you share with the committee?

What unique perspectives do you think you would bring to the evaluation and selection process?

Why do you want to participate?

Once the committee is selected, it is extremely important that it continue together until a candidate is selected. Are you willing to accept the responsibilities and time commitment from beginning to end?

Please feel free to expand on a second page. Mail your completed questionnaire to:

Westminster Unitarian Church, 119 Kenyon Avenue, E Greenwich, RI 02818

Attention: Doug Jones, Nominating Committee Chair

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

4/22 7:00 PM WOW (W)
4/24 7:00 PM Celebration Service (CH)
4/25 10:00 AM Worship
4/25 10:00 AM RE
4/25 11:30 AM Cool Congregation (FH)
4/27 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
4/27 7:00 PM RE Committee (W)
4/28 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)
4/28 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
4/28 7:15 PM Choir (CH)
4/29 7:00 PM Building Committee (H)
4/29 7:00 PM Men's Group (W)
4/29 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
5/2 10:00 AM Worship May Day Service(CH)
5/2 10:00 AM RE
5/2 11:30 AM Congregational Meeting (FH)
5/2 6:30 PM Sr. Youth Group (W)(FH)(K)
5/4 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
5/4 7:00 PM Program Council (W)

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: April 29th

MAILING: May 5th

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

April 25

Ushers: 10:00 AM Esjay Folkrod
Nancy Rieser

Flowers: **Need Volunteer**

May 2

Ushers: 10:00 AM Mike & Lilyanne Werle

Flowers: **Need Volunteer**

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.