



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2010 #8

May 19, 2010

Editor: Renée Bucklin

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Preschool through 8th Grade

**Worship Services at 10:00 a.m. unless
otherwise noted**

SATURDAY MAY 22

5:30 PM Celebration Service - The Healing
Power of Friendship

6:30 PM: Welcome to New Members Pot
Luck. If you are a new member, are
thinking about becoming a member, or are
already a member come join us.

MAY 23:

9:00a.m. – Youth-led Worship

11:00a.m. – Coming of Age

MAY 30:

**“Shower The People you Love With
Love”**

Rev. Barbara Fast & Naomi Schick

A Rock & Roll & Religion Service
Music and spirituality through the songs
sung by James Taylor.

JUNE 6:

**The Climate Project
Paul Beaudette ***

Rev. Barbara heard Paul Beaudette speak at
the rally to reduce carbon emissions to
350ppm this past Fall. He currently teaches
The Climate Project to community groups
throughout New England.

*Annual Meeting to Follow the Service

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

This past Sunday, Reverend Beth Graham,
Associate VP for Stewardship and
Development at the UUA, was the guest
minister – and what a wonderful service it
was. Rev. Beth spoke so positively about Westminster,
affirming our commitment to this church and our long-
standing commitment to the UUA and our faith tradition
through the annual fair share giving. It was less about
money, and much more about our love for each other and
this church. She applauded our hard work here at
Westminster and the many decisions we have made over the
past few years. One of the poems she read, “The Millennium
Song” by Rita Dove, I found particularly poignant for us as
we embark on this new adventure, with all its promise and
hope.



*How do we measure
this journey - in miles
or in moments, mistakes
or monuments? Push off,
light out, set sail -
what a festival!
What fanfare and cheer,
what a chorus of smiles!
And there, on the lip
of the sky, at the tip
of the world - what is it
that flutters so wildly
a flag or a bird?
Can you see it? Look,
look how it calls...*

So, to all of you, my good friends at Westminster, let’s set
sail together. Pack up your bags and boxes, bring your
blankies and teddy bears, hopes and dreams. “Look, look
how it calls..”

Faithfully,
Jan Searles,
President, Board of Trustee

Dear Friends

May 17, 2010

Westminster sustains our spiritual lives. We support and sustain Westminster. There is always much to do in our community and our world.

At Westminster there is a great deal of good news to report. You are a strong and blessed congregation and well on your journey into your new life! In the midst of planning our final worship services for the year we are packing and preparing to move and you are preparing to welcome your new interim minister, Tricia Brennan. I look forward to working with Tricia to create a healthy transition.

This is a full weekend! First there are the Lobster Rolls! Come and be a part of the assembly line on Friday. And then enjoy your own lobster rolls. I have ordered 6!

Saturday evening, we will have a celebration service and then welcome this year's New Members at our Saturday Sampling pot luck. Whether you are a new member, are thinking about becoming a member, or are already a member come join us for a celebration service at 5:30 in the church followed by fun, fellowship and great food at 6:30 pm.

Sunday morning we celebrate worship led by our youth. At 9am the Youth Group will lead the service. Our Coming of Agers will lead worship at 11am. Come to one or both! Our young people are an important part of our faith community and a core reason we support this faith.

Renee and I led the Coming of Age trip to Boston a week ago, and at some point during our walking around Boston, Renee exclaimed, "This is the best trip ever!" I think she was right. As a highlight of this trip, we were invited up into the Bell Tower at the Arlington Street Church in downtown Boston, where we pulled the ropes that play the bells! When we went to Kings Chapel, the oldest continuously worshipping congregation in America (!) we were invited down into the Crypt. I will let the students describe what they saw.

The first stop this trip was to the offices of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Boston. You know them through the Guest At Your Table Boxes. There we learned about their mission and the work they have been doing in New Orleans and around the world. Much is happening in the world that is disturbing. I find my spirit frustrated, angry and discouraged. It helps me to know that I support work that is being done to empower those who have so much less, that is intended to grow justice in this world.

The environmental news has been discouraging to say the least, so I am happy to tell you about Paul Beaudette. I met Paul at the 350.org rally this Fall. He and I were speaking to the issue of climate change and need to reduce our carbon emissions. He will be our guest preacher Sunday June 6. Paul resides in East Greenwich. He is on the Board of the National Wildlife Federation and presents on The Climate Project. He will bring his passion and expertise to our pulpit Sunday June 6th and encourage us to do our part.

We have much to do to support this community that supports us. And we have much to do to insure that the world is a decent and sustaining place for the future, for the children.

In good faith and with love,

Reverend Barbara



Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre
Director of Religious Education

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays
10-2 and by appointment

UPCOMING RE CALENDAR:

- May 30:** RE Classes at 10 am: Lesson 7
- June 6:** RE Classes at 10 am: Gift-making
- June 13:** Celebration Service at 10 am followed by RE Sunday Sundaes!

SAVE THE DATE! RE Sunday will be at 10 am on Sunday June 13th. Each class will be making gifts for the younger class the Sunday before and they will also be creating gifts for the teachers. Everyone is invited to this service of celebration and gratitude. Don't miss RE's tribute to Rev. Barbara at this service!

PACKING, PACKING, PACKING: Help!

The RE Committee needs **four more volunteers** to lend a hand organizing and packing RE supplies to move to our new location. Can you lend a hand on **Saturday June 5th from 1 to 4 pm**? Please contact Renee AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and let her know you can help. Kids are welcome!

Sharing Locker

Item for May

Paper Towels

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedroom, 2 bath house located in Center Sandwich, NH available weeks of July 3, 10 or 17. Short walk to pristine Bearcamp Pond. Call Nancy Rieser if interested for more details.

YARD SALE REPORT

Thanks to lots of help from lots of folks, the May 7-8 Green Sanctuary Yard Sale was an unmitigated success. We brought in \$1,680.50 in total sales (donations). That doesn't count the \$25 already donated prior to the sale or another payment still due for donated equipment. That means we'll have over \$1700 to be split evenly between the Green Sanctuary pass-through account and a new pass-through account being set up to help pay for new furniture for our new parish house.

This sale and its success would not have been possible without the help of many people: Dan Aubin, Natalie Aubin, Pam Bazar, Marilyn Bell, Crystal Bradshaw, Judy Brown, Steve Conlon, Ginny Eastman, Essjay Foulkrod, Carolin Goldman, Celia Humphreys, Grazina Kulawas, Cele Mark, Carolyn Marshall, Ruth McIntosh, Allen Mongeau, Kristen Morelli, Rose Pavlow, Renee Pierre, Donna Poland, Jan Searles, Joe Souza, Maureen Souza, Bill Sweet, Molly Thoman, Laurie Tyce, and Ingela Williamson. If I've left anyone out, please accept my apologies.

My deepest thanks to all who helped, all who donated, all who shopped, and all who sent us good wishes and good luck.

Celia Humphreys, Co-chairperson
Green Sanctuary Task Force

AMONG OURSELVES

Paola Mangiacapra's painting "Crosby's Rigging Shed" was awarded 1st Place in the Watercolor category at the Newport Art Museum's Annual Members' Show. Her portrait entitled "Jay" took 2nd place prize at the Rhode Island Watercolor Society's Annual Members' Show.

**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

May 20 – Bags for Lobster Roll



LOBSTER ROLL IS HERE!!!

THIS Friday, May 21st. 100% lobster meat rolls will be \$9.00 each.

Forgot to order There is still time or take your chances and walk in!

CLEAR BULLETIN BOARDS

Please clear off anything that you wish to save on the bulletin boards in the Parish House by June 1. The bulletin boards will be taken down, cleared and stored in the Sanctuary after June 13. If there is anything else belonging to individuals in the Parish House please remove them by June 1.

Thank you for your help.

Cele Mark, Property Coordinator

(See related article at end of Chimes)

**MAY 22 SATURDAY SAMPLING
“MEET THE NEW FOLKS” POTLUCK**



Come meet new and old friends on Saturday, May 22, at 6:30 PM at the Saturday Sampling potluck in Fellowship Hall. Before the potluck, Nathan DeSisto and friends will present a Celebration Service in the Sanctuary at 5:30 PM.

While we celebrate our new friends, we can bid a fond farewell to Fellowship Hall. For 2010-2011, Saturday Samplings will be held at St. Matthias church in Coventry (Westminster Unitarian West?). With any luck we'll be back at Westminster in East Greenwich for 2011-2012 Saturday Samplings.

A sign-up sheet has been posted in Fellowship Hall where folks may sign up for the potluck. You may indicate what dish you'll be bringing for the potluck if you wish. If you are able to help with set-up or clean-up before or after the potluck, please indicate that on the sign-up sheet. Childcare will be provided

If you have any questions about the potluck, or you can volunteer to help, please contact Celia Humphreys or Cecile Mark. If you have questions about the Celebration Service, please contact Nathan DeSisto.

JUNE/JULY CHARITY OF THE MONTH – WESTMINSTER SHARING LOCKER

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 *Westminster Sharing Locker* for the months of June and July.

In February 2010, the Caring Circle's Sharing Locker opened to the East Greenwich community. Needy individuals can obtain food from the East Greenwich food pantry. But personal care items, laundry detergent, cleaning solutions, paper products and pet food, etc. are not available from food pantries. The Sharing Locker helps fill a need for these items, and most of the items provided are not covered by food stamps.

Here is a report from our Sharing Locker's first month. "We had ten clients, six women and four men. 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."

And here is another quote from one of the Sharing Locker volunteers, "It is an outlet for sharing. I am blessed by all that I have and feel lacking in opportunities to give so I am glad to be here helping!"

For questions about Sharing the Plate, please contact a member of the 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, and available on our website.



WESTMINSTER WELCOMES REVEREND TRICIA BRENNAN AS NEW INTERIM MINISTER

The Interim Search Committee is pleased to announce that they have selected Reverend Tricia Brennan as Westminster's Interim Minister for the coming church year.

Reverend Tricia is currently serving at the Unitarian Church of Sharon, Massachusetts. Tricia has steered the Sharon congregation through the loss of their beloved minister of twelve years and has helped direct them through the congregation's recent rebuilding and renovation project to their Parish Meetinghouse. This project created a new, handicapped accessible building; much needed square footage and cost 1.3 million dollars to complete.

Reverend Tricia lives in Boston's neighborhood of Jamaica Plains. She is married to Chuck Collins and they have a 14 year old daughter Nora. Chuck is a writer and activist focusing on issues of economic inequality.

Tricia's early professional life was as a community organizer and social worker. She worked as an organizer on the south side of Providence, RI, and founded two shelters for homeless families in Framingham, MA. In 2005-2006, she and her family lived in Oaxaca, Mexico for a year, an experience for which they will always be grateful. She brings to her ministry an appreciation for the importance and complexity of economic and class issues, and a commitment to listen, learn and share.

Her call to ministry came "early and often." While in her teens and twenties, she was the leader in Christian Encounter, a weekend retreat program for high school and college students. In her late twenties she considered Divinity school while contemplating Graduate education. Tricia settled on a career in Social Work because she "could not imagine herself as a woman in professional Ministry in the Catholic church." A persistent call to Ministry would not leave her and she entered Divinity School at age thirty-nine.

Reverend Tricia states, "Though my identity as a Christian is strong, I have never believed it is the only path to God nor the best way to live religiously. One of the reasons I entered ministry is my strong interest in people's spiritual lives, however they define it."

Reverend Tricia has served not only in Sharon, Mass. but in Kings Chapel in Boston; First Parish, Arlington; and First Parish in Waltham, Mass. as a consultant to the Lay Minister's Program.

Three gifts that Reverend Tricia cherishes are faith, hospitality and joy. She states her faith is one of the most defining aspects of who she is and something she engages with mind, heart and soul. She does not wish to miss all that is good and delightful because she was not paying attention. "So I notice and smile or laugh and feel at peace."

We look forward to the coming year with Reverend Tricia Brennan.

-The Interim Search Committee
-Jerry Tisser, Cindy Reiser and Bev Burgess

THE MOVE TO WESTMINSTER “WEST” OR WUC AT COVENTRY (“WUCC”) OR TCFKASM (THE CHURCH FORMERLY KNOWN AS ST. MATTHIAS) OR

Timeline:

A “provisional” schedule for moving out of the current Parish House and over to our temporary home in Coventry has been put together. If this schedule creates conflicts for your group, or you have questions about the move, please contact me as soon as possible and I’m sure we can work out accommodations.

| | |
|---|--|
| May 16 th – May 31 st | Dig up plants in construction zone for temporary homes |
| Saturday, May 22 nd | <u>Deadline to REMOVE any personally owned items from house.</u> |
| Sunday, May 23 rd | Library books are packed under supervision of Ingela Williamson |
| Wed., May 26 th | Coventry walk-thru - identify rooms for furniture & goods |
| Wed., May 26 th | Chimes article will list fixtures in Parish House available to Congregation for purchase |
| Saturday, June 12 th | All Furnishings moved out of Parish House (except coffee setup) |
| Sunday, June 13 th | Box up the hymnals; Pack up Sanctuary items to move |
| Monday, June 14 th | <u>Deadline to have all bulletin boards empty</u> ; move nursery to Coventry |
| June 13 th – 19 th | Move boxes, smaller items to Coventry; move storage items to Sanctuary |
| June 13 th – 19 th | Set up Nursery, Sanctuary, Coffee service at Coventry |
| June 13 th – 19 th | Pack/Move Office; Minister’s Office; |
| June 18 th | Phones switched to Coventry (Verizon) |
| June 20 th – July 1 | Unpack/Set up Coventry; move garden furniture; move S (???) |
| June 22 (about) | Walk through bidding for fixtures in Parish House (by auctioneer) |
| July 1 st | Ready for Demolition (but look to Building Committee for actual demo date) |

Helpers Needed As Follows:

Sunday, May 23rd Between Services: Adults or older children to pack a box of library books under Ingela’s supervision. Books need to be labeled by subject/category. Meet in Round Room during coffee.

Saturday, June 12th All Day. **Drivers with trucks/vans** to move the large items. Adults and older teens with Strong Backs needed to move furniture into/out of trucks. Please let Abby (addmayri@cox.net) or Cele (celemark@cox.net) know if you have a truck or can do some of the heavy lifting)

June 13 – 19th When Volunteers are Available: Drivers with trucks, adults and older teens to move boxes and smaller furnishings to Coventry. To be scheduled based on availability of trucks/drivers. Please let Abby (addmayri@cox.net) or Cele (celemark@cox.net) know if you have a truck or can do some of the heavy lifting)

Silent Auction of Parish House fixtures:

We are considering using an Auction house recommended to us to sell remaining fixtures in the Parish House after it is empty. A list of items that might be of interest (although a bid could be placed on anything as far as we know) will be published in the next Chimes. Items will include things like the door handles with plates, mantles, wood moldings, some sconces, claw foot tub, stainless steel sink etc. Whoever bids will be responsible for dismantling and removing the items.

Needed – “Foster Parents” for Plants in Construction Zone:

The plants in the women's garden and the men's garden (those on either side of the eastern end of the driveway), and those plants around the perimeter and directly adjacent to the Parish House can be dug up and transplanted to “foster homes” for the duration of the construction, with the intent that they can be returned for replanting at the direction of the Building Committee when the area is ready for landscaping. Alternatively, the “foster parent” could donate a new, similar plant to replace the one taken from the construction zone. See Ginny Eastman with any questions about the transplanting operation.

SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE! SAVE THE DATE!

*You are cordially invited to attend a
Farewell/Thank-you Reception Brunch
In Honor of Reverend Barbara Fast*

Date: Sunday, June 20, 2010

*Time: Following the 10am Service
(11am - 12:30pm)*

Place: St Matthias Church, Coentry, RF

*This will be an opportunity for us to thank Reverend Barbara,
to enjoy her company, to share a light repast, to say goodbye.
This will be Reverend Barbara's last official service and our first service at St.
Matthias, and Reverend Barbara is very much looking forward to bringing us
into this, our temporary spiritual home, as we await the rebuilding of our
Westminster Parish House in East Greenwich.*

R.S.V.P. to

Maureen Souza

*(Maureen will make note of the food
item you would like to bring to the
brunch table.)*

Pam Bazar

*(Pam will take your name for Set-up
or Clean-up if you are available to
help.)*

*Please Note: Sunday, June 20 is Father's Day, but we would love for you to
be able to join the congregation as we say goodbye.*

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

5/20 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
5/21 6-1 PM Lobster Roll Day
5/21 6:00 PM COA(W)
5/22 5:00 PM Saturday Sampling Set Up (FH)
5/22 6:30 PM Meet the new members (FH)
5/22 5:30 PM Celebration Service (FH)
5/23 9/11:00 AM Worship
5/23 9/11:00 AM RE
5/23 1:00 PM Sabitini baby dedication (CH)
5/25 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
5/25 7:00 PM RE Committee (W)
5/26 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)
5/26 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
5/26 7:15 PM Choir (CH)
5/27 7:00 PM Building Committee (H)
5/27 7:00 PM Men's Group (W)
5/27 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
5/30 10:00 AM Worship
5/30 10:00 AM RE
6/1 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
6/1 7:00 PM Program Council (W)
6/2 5:30 PM Caring Committee
6/2 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
6/2 6:15 PM Music Committee (H)
6/2 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: May 27th

MAILING: June 2nd



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

May 23

Ushers: 9:00 AM Dan Aubin , Stephen Paull
Ushers: 11:00 AM Youth Group

Flowers: **Volunteer Needed**

May 30

Ushers: 10:00 AM Esjay Foulkrod

Flowers: Judith Abbott

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.