



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2009 #24

December 30, 2009

Editor: Renée Bucklin

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

JANUARY 3RD

Rev. Barbara Fast

NEW YEAR'S RESOLVE:

JANUARY 10TH

**The BOOK of JOB
Rev. Barbara Fast**

Reflections on suffering .

JANUARY 17TH

**The Time is Always Ripe to Do Right
Rev. Barbara Fast**

Thoughts on Dr. King's message and this
american life.

Date: Saturday, January 16
Time: 5-6:30 PM
Place: In the sanctuary

What **JUST PLAIN FOLK:**

A monthly Sing Along for all ages
Lew Triestman on guitar, Rob DeLong on
Banjo & Harmonica and Naomi Schick to
help lead the singing. Bring your friends
too.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy New Year Everyone! Here we are on the threshold of a brand new year. The perfect time to express my gratitude for all of your hard work. Each of you has found a niche - a way that fits your personality, your strengths and the time you have to share that helps to build and support this church. Your presence enriches our times together and makes coming to and participating in Westminster work just plain fun.



A few Board items to share:

- We have written a letter to the Fire Safety Board asking for an exemption from installing alarms on the second floor since we will be demolishing this building in the near future. We hope to hear back shortly.
- The Building Committee has sent out requests for bids for necessary survey work and hopes to receive bids and make a decision shortly. The Board will approve this expenditure.
- The 2010 proposed budget, and any changes necessary to present a balanced budget, will be going before the Board for review at the January meeting. The congregational meeting to pass that budget will take place the last Sunday in January – the 31st.
- Cleaning up, clearing out is the order of the day. If you belong to a committee and have anything stored anywhere in the building, please begin now to evaluate what you wish to keep, what could be boxed now and what should be tossed.
- The Board has discussed – and likes - the possibility of using the Parsonage (now rented) for storage and for office space while we build. Other than utilities, this would be a no-cost, low-cost option to renting space. Our current renter has a lease through March, with month-to-month rental afterwards. This arrangement fits perfectly into our timeframe.

There are lots of exciting opportunities for your involvement as we move forward. Hello 2010!! Here we come!

Faithfully,
Jan Searles,
President of the Board of Trustees

Dear Friends,

December 28, 2009

Tonight is a silent night here at church as I walk an empty fellowship hall. The trees of Christmas are dark. We are nearing the start of a new year. I am still savoring our Christmas Eve. The spirit of Christmas is a very human creative process. We were fully engaged in that miracle of calling up the love and hope within this season and ourselves!

The pageant was a true Christmas miracle! Especially since we had lost a big rehearsal because of the snow. Last minute costumes were created as if by magic hands! Attending parents happily solved every need. The backstage crew led by Taylor was superb amidst the bustling confusion of our only group rehearsal. We have so many angels and shepherds! Our lead singers were all in wonderful voice. Our two archangels, Jane and Soleil presided regally from high in the pulpit. The newest addition to the prop pageantry was the great star that descended from our sanctuary cupola (with a little help from Renee Pierre!) and shown brightly over the final scene. I rejoiced, as the text says, to see so many participating this year. Thank you all!

Our later services were also wonderful! Nonetta's musical direction, our soloist Noelle and our Choir (so many voices heavenly voices!) transported us in ways that only the beauty of vocal music can. I also want to thank the unseen and faithful holiday and every Sunday ushers who welcome, watch over the lights, the mikes, the candles and the collection during these complicated services. As the world grows dark, our lights from the candles always break my heart as we sing, Silent Night. You are so beautiful.

2010 fast approaches. I know that there is much to accomplish as we enter 2010. Primary among them is the happy task of building our new building. I know we will continue to be guided by our values, our hopes and our resolve. What has been outstanding at every step is your leadership, your faithfulness to process and your good faith.

I will close with the words of Howard Thurman.

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock
The work of Christmas begins:*

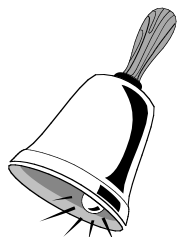
*To find the lost, heal the broken, feed the hungry
To release the prisoners, rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among the brothers and sisters
And to make music in the heart.*

Let me end the year as I began the year, with thanks: Thank you Judy, Renee, Nonetta & Bill for a great year! Thank you all!

We will be making music Saturday January 16th with our new program, Just Plain Folk!

In good faith and with love,

Rev. Barbara



Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre
Director of Religious Education

Office Hours Week of January 4: Tuesday & Wednesday 9-3 and by appt

UPCOMING RE CALENDAR:

January 3: K&1 OWL Classes at 9 am;
Children's Chapel for grades PreK-6 at 9 and 11 am.

January 10: K&1 OWL Classes at 9 am;
Children's Chapel for grades PreK-6 at 9 and 11 am.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS: Wow! What a beautiful Christmas Eve Pageant we shared. From the soloists to the shepherds and cherubic angels, from Rev. Barbara's lovely story to the lighting director and technical helpers, it was just terrific. It certainly could not have been done without the behind-the-scenes parents helping out – Jen Galt, Matt Salisbury, Tracey Wysor, and Bev Burgess. Many thanks to each of you!

NEIGHBORING FAITHS CLASS: The students in grades 7 & 8 need your help! They are learning about different faith traditions and planning to visit several places of worship in the upcoming weeks, but we need co-leaders for this class. If you are interested in learning about another faith tradition yourself, or can share the faith tradition you grew up with, please contact Patti Cousineau or Deb LaSalle ASAP! We need your help!

THANKS TO ONE AND ALL! This fall, I was able to attend the Liberal Religious Educators Association Conference held in Rhode Island and I was also able to attend a continuing education class for Curriculum mapping and writing for Unitarian Universalist Religious Education programs. Each program required over 15 hours of my time, but with the support of Rev. Barbara and the RE Committee I was able to fit this into my schedule. I am so very grateful for the support from everyone at Westminster and look forward to continued

programs to help me in my role as Director of Religious Education.

CONGRATULATIONS! It's official! Judy Adourian has received a generous grant from the Unitarian Sunday School Society to continue her work with "Teaching as a Spiritual Practice – A Unitarian Universalist Curriculum for Grades K-6". We are so proud of the work she has put into this curriculum, blessed that she is part of our Westminster family and grateful for the opportunity to put her curriculum into practice. Congratulations Judy and thank you for all you do for our community!

Renee

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

Dec. 31 – New Year's Eve (no meeting)
Jan. 3rd 7th Annual Holiday Brunch at Donna Polands house. (after 2nd service)



JUNIOR CHOIR NEWS

Junior Choir will start rehearsals after the holidays in January. If your child was unable to participate, but would like to do so now, please contact me. Thank you!!

Lauren Kalian

JANUARY'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH – CROSSROADS

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 *Crossroads RI* for the month of January.

Crossroads Rhode Island is the largest homeless services organization in the state. They provide assistance 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for a broad spectrum of Rhode Islanders. They work to solve both the immediate and long-term needs of people in desperate situations, and they are committed to preserving individual dignity and respect for all people, at all times.

Underlying all actions, policies, plans, procedures and decisions are the following values:

- Safety - providing an environment free from physical and emotional harm and ensuring a feeling of security and comfort to all.
- Respect - acknowledging the intrinsic worth of every person.
- Effectiveness - delivering services and managing the organization with efficiency, professionalism, innovation and timeliness.

Guidelines for Donations

1. Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster.
2. If you wish to contribute directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check to the charity. Your contribution is tax deductible.
3. Unrestricted Cash will be split 50/50 between Westminster and the Charity.

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.

NAME TAGS

Name Tags have returned to the racks in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to find your name tag please sign up for a new white name tag on the board next to the rack. If you would like an individually designed wood name tag, see Laurie Tyce. The \$5.00 cost of one wood name tag will be donated to the Building Fund.

You are encouraged to wear your name tag so visitors and new members can get to know you.

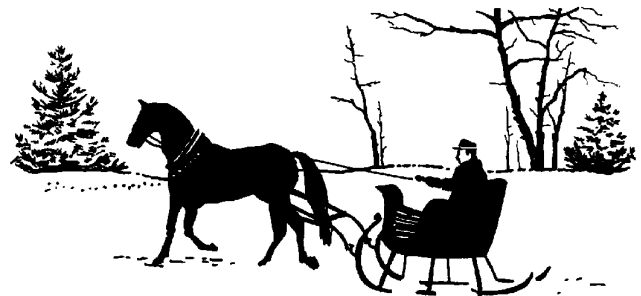
Cele Mark, Membership co-coordinator



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.



PET LOVERS NEEDED

I have volunteered to take on the pet food portion of the Sharing Pantry project. As a person who has dearly loved my pets, it upsets me greatly to see people in economic distress have to get rid of their pets because they can't afford to feed them. I am hoping to find several other church people who might help me find sources for pet food donations and develop a repackaging plan to get it in manageable quantities for distribution. If you are



interested in helping, please call or email me. Thanks everybody!

Sandy Hopkins



AMONG OURSELVES

Robert M. Breen, the husband of **Ellen Belconis**, made his transition on Saturday, December 19th at Hawaiian sunset time. Aloha!

Laurie Tyce's brother passer away last evening December 26th in South Carolina.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

I want thank everyone that bought an entertainment book or renewed their BJ's membership. We made \$185.00 on the entertainment books and \$40.00 on the BJ's fundraiser. It doesn't seem like a lot but it sure was an easy way to \$225.00 and many of you will save too.

Thanks and happy New Year,

Pam Bazar

IMPROVING OUR STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

WHERE ARE THE RESOURCES WE NEED?

La SALLE ACADEMY
612 Academy Ave, Providence, RI
Thursday, February 11, 2010
4:30 pm - 9:20 pm

A conference for clergy, lay leaders, parents, educators, business people, students and other interested persons.

Informative workshops including Interfaith Community Gardens, This Old House of Worship, Climate Change Impacts and Implications for the Ocean State, A Grateful Way of Living, Permaculture for Sustainability, Environmental Education

A KEYNOTE PANEL directing you to RESOURCES and PROGRAMS to become more energy efficient, including US STIMULUS FUNDS

Panelists: *Ken Payne*, Executive Consultant, RI Office of Energy Resources; *Thomas Coughlin*, National Grid Program Manager, Energy Efficiency and Distributed Resources; *Karina Lutz*, Deputy Director, Peoples Power and Light; *Bob Chew*, President, Alteris Inc.; *Bonnie Sekeres*, Executive Director, Shalom Apartments; *Fr. John Codega*, Pastor, Christ the King Church, West Warwick

Panel Moderator: *Rabbi Amy Levin*, Temple Torat-Yisrael, Cranston.

Guest at your Table boxes

Due No Later Than Sunday January 17, 2010

Bring boxes (with checks made to UUSC-Guest at our table rather than change) to the sanctuary between now and then

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

12/31 WOW NO Meeting
1/1 Happy New Year
1/3 9:11 AM Religious Education
1/3 9:11 AM Worship
1/3 6:30 PM RE Youth Group (FH)
1/5 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
1/5 7:00 PM Program Council (W)
1/6 5:30 PM Caring Circle (W)
1/6 6:15 PM Jr Choir (CH)
1/6 7:15 PM Sr. Choir (CH)
1/7 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
1/7 7:00 PM Men's Group
1/7 Chimes Deadline
1/8 5:30 PM Youth Con Begins
1/9 9:00 AM Ethical Eating (CH)
1/10 8:30 AM Youth Con Ends
1/10 9:11 AM Worship
1/10 9:11 AM RE
1/11 7:00 PM SGM with Sue Bollens (W)
1/12 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
1/13 9:30 AM Chimes Mailing (RR)
1/13 6:15 PM Jr. Choir (CH)
1/13 7:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)
1/13 7:15 PM Sr. 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: January 7th
MAILING: January 13th

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

January 3

Ushers: 9:00 AM Renee Bucklin
11:00 AM Essjay Foulkrod
Bill Pett

Flowers: Volunteer needed

January 10

Ushers: 9:00 AM Ruth McIntosh
11:00 AM Mary Paolino

Flowers: Volunteer needed

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.