



# Westminster Chimes

Volume 2009 #12

June 10, 2009

Editor: Renée Bucklin

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

### JUNE 14 – 10AM

#### **Standing on Holy Ground** Rev. Barbara Fast

Jacob wrestled with God alone all night and into the morning. Moses stood before a burning bush and was told to remove his shoes. How do we recognize the holy in our lives?

### JUNE 21 – 10AM

#### **Summer as Sabbath** Rev. Barbara Fast

Come celebrate our closing Sunday Service. Enjoy some of the choir's "greatest Hits" and reflections on renewing the spirit. Bring a flower for our Flower Communion.

### JUNE 28 – 9:30AM

#### **SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Well, you've done it again!! With the vision of your new Parish House before you, with Bill Stone's recap of events fresh in your mind, and with Bev Burgess' poignant words ringing true, you took a leap of faith by unanimously authorizing that a Capital Campaign be held this fall to raise \$1.8 - \$2 million dollars. There is work ahead of us and much information to be shared, but we have taken the first step necessary to realize our dream of a new Parish House. For those of you unable to attend the meeting, a copy of the resolution can be found on Page 7 of this Chimes.



Over the summer, co-chairs Bev Burgess and Abby Addington-May will be placing phone calls to each member and friend. They will help you decide where you would like to place your energies in the campaign. If you can write, or draw, or organize, if you can plan, or phone, or film, if you write poems, or skits, or add numbers, if you take pictures, or sing, or lick stamps, there will be many ways for you to participate. A successful campaign should, above all, be fun. It should provide us with multiple opportunities to gather together to talk about our shared vision for Westminster as we translate those visions into concrete gifts for building the future.

We know you have many questions as to how the campaign will work, how long in duration it will run, what kinds of giving options will there be, what specifically will be expected of each of you, and more. As the campaign unfolds, all the answers you need to make your decision will be provided to you and discussed with you. Fear not! We are on a joyous path.

Faithfully,  
Jan Searles, President

Dear Friends,

June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

What a wonderful month – year – it has been here at Westminster. You are building on the past and moving into the future. The leaders of the capital campaign are preparing now and they will need your help. I know that you will do your best to say “yes” when they call for help. It is an exciting time of recommitment and renewal here at Westminster.

We call the space where we worship during the “year” our sanctuary. What is it good for? Sanctuary for me is more than a place for comfort, caring and retreat from the world. It is where we renew, receive, reconnect, even resist. Fundamentally it is a place where we remind ourselves what truly matters. In doing so together, we encourage and empower ourselves and one another. When we renew our spirits we can help this world.

In that hopeful spirit, I went to the rally for Marriage Equality in Providence this past Saturday afternoon. It was a beautiful day and rally. I met colleagues of other faith traditions, congregants and UU's. Be encouraged! Please come and carpool with me to the interfaith service this Sunday in Providence at 3PM. I am leaving our parking lot at 2:00 PM. This service will be a “religious voice of affirmation, respect and inclusion” where we will recommit to GLBT civil rights with friends of many faiths.

I is with a spirit of sadness and outrage that I write about the murder of Dr. Tiller, a physician who provided abortions. To kill, in the name of life, is an evil absurdity. To come into the sanctuary of a Lutheran church in Wichita, is terrorism. There is so much I did not know about Dr. Tiller and now know and admire. He persisted in his courageous, compassionate and legal work, in the face of harassing and even life threatening tactics: he had been shot in both arms, his clinic and his staff have been harassed over many years. I am sure he found renewal, reconnection, peace, fortitude and strength in that sanctuary with his faith community.

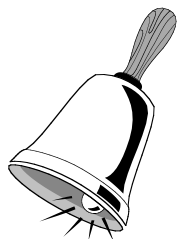
As a UU clergyperson I have served as an escort at a women's health clinic that performed abortions. I have experienced the hate that is projected upon those of us who would walk alongside women seeking health care that they are legally entitled to receive. I have held up large cardboard sheets in order to shield the face of the doctor as he raced from a car to the clinic entrance door. It is an emotionally exhausting tour of duty to protect a legal right of women. My contribution was minor, but I am proud of it. I admire beyond measure those who stood that ground twice a week, all year long, for years.

I needed then, as I do now, a steadfast community of faith. We do make a difference. Gathered we are stronger. I look forward to all that we will build in this world and within ourselves. We need to be persistent, hopeful and kind people. This sacred place helps us be those people.

*In good faith and with love,*

*Rev. Barbara*

I will be attending General Assembly at the end of June, on vacation the month of July and on call in August. During July, if you have a pastoral need, call the office, 884 5933 or my study 884 3561 or e mail our care committee.



## Religious Education News & Calendar

Renee Pierre

Religious Education Coordinator

401-884-5933 (W)

**SUNDAY JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>:** 10 am RE For All Ages: Children begin in the Sanctuary. Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will go back to Fellowship Hall for a program for all ages followed by Ice Cream Sunday Sundaes!

**SUNDAY JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup>:** Intergenerational Service at 10 am. No RE Classes. Nursery Care for ages 3 and younger.

**SUNDAY JUNE 28<sup>TH</sup>:** 9:30 am Summer RE Program, coordinated by Natalie Aubin, begins.

**TEACHING TEAM REGISTRATIONS HAVE BEGUN!** Teacher sign-ups began on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. There are still several slots available for our teaching teams. As our RE program is a cooperative church school, each family must volunteer in some capacity in our program. Our greatest team of volunteers is our teaching team! Next year's program will be a little different as we will be offering shorter terms and will have four terms instead of three. Please sign up on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> during coffee hour or if you would like to request a particular grade or term, please contact Renee.

**LAST DAY IN THE OFFICE:** My last day in the RE office will be June 15<sup>th</sup>. I expect to return on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure you have returned any curricula, library books, or items borrowed from the RE office prior to the 15<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me if you have any.

**BEAUTIFUL RE SUNDAY:** Thank you all for a wonderful RE Sunday Celebration at 9 am. It felt so good to be with our children and parents to celebrate a terrific year of RE. Our community is such a gift and I am grateful to be a part of it. Also, I would like to congratulate the four members of the Coming of Age Class who were recognized at the 11 am service: Natalia Congdon, Christina Lusi, Kimberly Meilun, and Marjorie

Pickard. They created a beautiful service to share with their families, friends and the entire Westminster community. Congratulations!

## CHILDREN'S SUMMER R.E. PROGRAM

During the summer months, the children at Westminster will be learning about the earth - the home we share with all living things, and how we can behave in caring ways for our world. We are planning many interesting lessons, hands-on activities and some earth-centered songs. These activities are appropriate for children ages 4 to 12.

We have a core group of volunteers to co-lead these classes, but are looking for a few more who can share their love of the earth with our children. No teaching experience is required. A co-leader orientation will be held in early June for all volunteers.



If you are interested in having your child participate in the program, or can co-lead a class, please contact Natalie Aubin.

## MOVIE NIGHT: JUNE 12TH AT 7PM WHAT THE BLEEP: DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

The extended Director's Cut of the international hit What the BLEEP Do We Know!? includes new scientific findings that supplement the original movie, and goes more deeply into the concepts explored. New interviews with sixteen of the world's top physicists, engineers, physicians, biologists, researchers, journalists and mystics, who talk about consciousness, psi research, physics, biology, emotion and addictions..

Featuring never before seen footage exploring the links between quantum mechanics, neurobiology, human consciousness and day-to-day reality.

For more info contact Nathan.

## INVITING ALL WOMEN

### COME CELEBRATE START OF SUMMER

The Caring Circle still needs blank cards, get well cards, "thinking of you" cards and sympathy cards. You can leave donations of these types of cards at the caring circle boxes in the church house vestibule. When we send out our monthly cards and our weekly joys and sorrows cards, we really appreciate your donations, which help us keep in touch with members of our Westminster family.

Speaking of cards, we have received donations of special occasion cards (such as thank you, birthday, friendship and others) and we are not able to use them. So, we're making these cards available to anyone who can use them. Look for a box of these cards at the kiosk in Fellowship Hall. If you need special occasion cards, please feel free to take them.

If you have any questions about cards or any other Caring Circle services, please contact any member of the Caring Circle

### 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
- \* Social Justice
- \* Personal Empowerment

June 11 Book: "Urgent Message from Mother" by Jean Shanoda Bolen  
June 18 Summer Solstice Celebration  
June 25 Potluck/Planning at 6:30p.m.

All women are invited to the Women of Westminster meeting on Thursday, June 18, as we celebrate the summer solstice – the astronomical event that tells us we're beginning the summer season.

For our celebration, all women are invited to share memories of summers past, hopes for summers present and future, or short poems or other readings. We'll sing some songs, share our hopes and memories, and indulge in tasty summer food. If you have a favorite sea shell, summer photo, flower or other item you'd like to share, please bring it along.

We will meet in Fellowship Hall. The evening starts at 7 PM with set-up. Then at 7:15 we'll have a few moments for socializing and, at 7:30, we'll have announcements and begin our celebration. We'll supply tea and lemonade. Please feel free to bring any other summer food to share. We hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, please contact Celia Humphreys.

### "A TASTE OF RHODE ISLAND"

Summer Camp: Children in grades 4 through 12 are invited to attend Summer Camp with the Pierre Girls. We are day-tripping around Rhode Island checking out beaches, historical sites, museums, nature programs, volunteering, biking, and reflecting. In the "doing" we will also be mindful of the "why" as we visit these locations and see what meaning they hold in our lives. Each Friday, we will celebrate our travels and honor our time spent together. Weekly rate is \$225 per child. Please contact Renee Pierre for a link to the online brochure.



**JUNE'S  
CHARITY OF  
THE MONTH –  
OIKOCREDIT**

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 *Oikocredit* for the month of June.

“At Oikocredit, we believe the world’s poor can build better lives for themselves – if only given the chance. And our experience proves this. By no choice of their own, 1.5 billion people in the world live in poverty. They don’t lack ability. They lack opportunity.

“We provide that opportunity. Through financing, the poor gain vital access to credit. With it, they are able to generate income, support their families and sustain their communities. It is a formula that has been proven time and time again.

“At Oikocredit, the loans we provide to around 500 microfinance institutions have touched hundreds of thousands of families in some 70 countries all around the world. That’s a difference you can count on.

“Discover how you can help make a real difference – one life at a time.”

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.

**YOU ARE INVITED....**

to the RI Interfaith Pride Service, to be held on Sunday, June 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Beneficent Congregational United Church of Christ, 300 Weybosset St. Providence.

This service creates a moment for a religious voice of affirmation, respect and inclusion to sound in our community. We can drown out the din of religious condemnation that so many have heard for too long. At this service the religious leaders and people of faith will recommit to GLBT civil rights. Join us in fellowship, prayer and song. Let our religious voice be heard.

Rev. Gene Dyszlewski  
Chair, RI Religious Coalition for Marriage  
Equality

Rev. Bill Zelazny  
District Executive, Ballou Channing District

**FIGHTING POVERTY IN RI**

On Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition held a successful press conference at the State House. The purpose of the conference was to advocate for a 12 month extension of the *Rhode Island Works* cash assistance program for 3,000 families who will lose this benefit in June. During the conference, the coalition promised that our legislators would be hearing from the faith-based community. Please help us keep the promise.

The faith-based community is a strong voice in the community. Your voice can help 3,000 families in our community who are in need of the cash assistance program. Please help.

The flyer which explains how you can help and a Fact Sheet from the Poverty Institute at the Rhode Island College School of Social Work are posted in Fellowship Hall.

If you have any concerns or questions please call Marty Cooper, Community Relations Director, Jewish Federation of RI, at 421-4111 x171 or send an email to [mcooper@jfri.org](mailto:mcooper@jfri.org).

## WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

6/11 5:30 PM Worship Committee  
6/11 7:00 PM WOW (FH)  
6/11 7:00 PM Men's Group (W)  
6/12 7:00 PM Young Adult Movie  
6/14 10:00 AM Worship  
6/15 7:00 PM Youth Group  
6/16 2:00 PM SGM With John Eastman (W)  
6/16 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)  
6/17 6:00 PM Shawl Ministry (W)  
6/17 6:00 PM Green Sanctuary (FH)  
6/17 7:15 PM Choir (CH)  
6/18 7:00 PM WOW (FH)  
6/21 10:00 AM Worship  
6/21 12:30 PM Social Responsibility (H)  
6/22 7:00 PM SGM with Sue Bollens (W)  
6/23 6:00 PM SG Facilitators (W)  
6/23 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)  
6/24 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)

## 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 9-1 Monday - Friday

## WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

### June 14

Ushers: 10:00 AM Jayne Lindo  
Donna Poland

Flowers: Natalie Aubin

### June 21

Ushers: 10:00 AM Amy & Jeff Crawford

Flowers: Volunteer Needed

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

### **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 or Rev. Barbara Fast (phone 401-884-3561).

## CHIMES DEADLINES



DEADLINE: June 18<sup>th</sup>  
MAILING: June 24<sup>th</sup>

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.

**Proposed Resolution for Adoption by the Congregation of  
Westminster Unitarian Church at its Special Meeting to be Held on May 31, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the Congregation having determined that to fulfill its mission and to carry on the activities of the Church, it is desirable to construct a new Parish House; and

**WHEREAS**, the Building Committee has presented preliminary plans for a new Parish House; and

**WHEREAS**, to construct a new Parish House, substantial funds must be raised from the members of the Congregation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees recommends that the Church conduct a capital campaign, commencing in the fall of 2009 to raise the funds to construct the Parish House and recommends that the capital campaign be co-chaired by Abigail Addington-May and Beverly Burgess; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has, subject to Congregation approval of a capital campaign, contracted with Jon Soule of Inspired Giving to act as capital campaign consultant; it is, therefore,

**RESOLVED**, that a Capital Campaign, with a campaign goal of \$1.8 million to 2 million, be conducted in the fall of 2009;

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Capital Campaign be conducted by a committee to be co-chaired by Abigail Addington-May and Beverly Burgess, with the assistance of Jon Soule of Inspired Giving acting as Campaign Consultant, pursuant to a contract to be negotiated and executed with approval of the Board of Trustees.