



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2009 #13

June 24, 2009

Editor: Renée Bucklin

JUNE 28 – 9:30AM

SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN MEETING IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

The Mad Farmer Walks Quietly Away John Eastman

Wendell Berry, the Mad Farmer, flying the flag of Rough Branch, secedes from the union of power and money, from the union of power and secrecy, from the union of government and science, from the union of government and art, from the union of science and money, from the union of ambition and ignorance, from the union of genius and war, from the union of outer space and inner vacuity.

JULY 5

The Poems of Emily Dickenson and Oneness Patrick Moises

JULY 12

Music and Poetry Thomas Green, Marion Anderson, Sharon Albert and Jennifer Sala

JULY 19

Life as a Quilt Amy Abel

What do we keep and what do we throw out?

JULY 26

Jazz Sunday Tom Stites, Howard and Bill Stone

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

At our June Board meeting we welcomed Jeff Crawford onto the Board. We are looking forward to his perspective on the issues that come before us, knowing that his personal and professional experiences will bring much to the discussion. Thank you, Jeff, for accepting the invitation to participate and for your commitment to Westminster.

In April, the Board received a proposal from Renee Pierre and the RE Committee outlining the initiatives undertaken over the past church school year that were goals of the Strategic Plan, and requesting additional hours for the RE Coordinator. One of the most important elements that centered around the church's goal of growth was to offer two church school experiences – a full RE program at 9 and a “one room school house experience” at 11, that would provide visitors' children with a unique religious education experience while their parents enjoyed church. The Board agreed that additional hours would provide more support to the program. As of mid-August until the end of December, Renee's hours will be increased from 17 to 20, at the same rate of pay. Additionally, we voted to change the title from RE Coordinator to RE Director and to move the Agreement anniversary date to January 1 of every year. This makes budget planning easier and brings the RE Director's Agreement into line with all other staff.

Updates on the property front include: 1) At a recent meeting regarding fire code compliance, houses of worship were granted another year extension - to January 1, 2010 - for installing fire alarm systems. This is very good news for us. 2) Our Parsonage tenant is interested in continuing to rent. Since our current lease ends July 1, the Board voted to enter into an 8 month agreement with our tenant, and a month to month lease thereafter, allowing us to put the house on the market March 1, 2010. Our tenant is happy with that agreement and understands the house can be sold at any time after March 1. We welcome the added income over the next few months and look forward to the market prices moving upward.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you wish to discuss church events or if you have a concern. Otherwise, I'll see you at summer services!

Faithfully,

Jan Searles, President

Dear Friends,

June 23, 2009

I want you to enjoy this from Emerson.

In this refulgent summer, it has been a luxury to draw the breath of life. The grass grows, the buds burst, the meadow is spotted with fire and gold in the tint of flowers. The air is full of birds, and sweet with the breath of the pine, the balm-of-Gilead, and the new hay.

Night brings no gloom to the heart with its welcome shade. Through the transparent darkness the stars pour their almost spiritual rays. Man under them seems a young child, and his huge globe a toy. The cool night bathes the world as with a river, and prepares his eyes again for the crimson dawn.

The mystery of nature was never displayed more happily. The corn and the wine have been freely dealt to all creatures, and the never-broken silence with which the old bounty goes forward, has not yielded yet one word of explanation. One is constrained to respect the perfection of this world... Harvard Divinity College, Cambridge, 1838

The summer is upon us and a less formal time arrives here at Westminster. Less formal. No less important. Summer invites to experience a Sabbath kind of leisure, some time for renewal, re-creation. It is a time to restrain ourselves so we can *respect the perfection of the world*.

It is a blessing for a minister to enjoy a summertime Sabbath, by which I mean that I am be blessed with some time to be with family near and far, to engage in prolonged periods of reading, to refresh some spiritual practices and also some time to reflect on the life of the whole ministry of the congregation as well as my work for next year.

A friend described how she and her freshly graduated daughter were going out to get albums, scrapbooks and frames to organize and display photos, certificates and artwork.

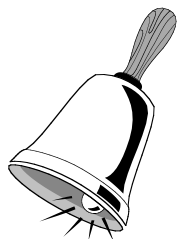
They were taking time not just to collect and compile but touching again what hands, heart and mind created, thus integrating their experience and preparing for their future.

In that soulful spirit look for the 2009 Strategic Plan Assessment. *Strategic plan* may sound dry and a bit soulless, but this report brings to vivid life your accomplishments for this past year. It is filled with the Spirit of Westminster! I invite you to read it at your leisure and catch your breathe in appreciation and satisfaction. Thank you to George Johnson, Cindy Reiser, Al Jeffries, Crystal Bradshaw, John Searles, and all committees not just for the work, but also for the good spirit in which you do the work. It is the spirit that makes it ministry.

I leave for the UUA General Assembly this week. You can find much of GA streaming live at UUA.org/GA. Check it out ! Experience the larger movement, great speakers and our process. FYI- Friday 8:45PM – 10PM (RI time) there will be discussion about proposed changes to Article 2 “Purposes & Principles”. During July, our Caring Circle is on call. Please call the office or my study for a referral if you have a pastoral need.

In good faith and with love,

Rev. Barbara



Religious Education News & Calendar

Renee Pierre
Religious Education Coordinator
401-884-5933 (W)

June 25

Potluck/Planning at 6:30p.m.

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.

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

CARING CIRCLE NEEDS CARDS

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

"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 &
JULY'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.

**TV PROGRAM FEATURES
PATRICIA VINCI**

From June 28 through July 7, the *Senior Journal* cable television program will feature an interview with Patricia Vinci. The show is titled “Volunteer Guardianship.” Patricia explains the RI Volunteer Guardianship Program of which she is the Director. Find out about the services the RI Volunteer Guardianship Program provides to our growing elderly population and the need for more volunteers. Starting on Sunday, June 28, the show will air Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Mondays at 7:00 p.m., and Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. on COX statewide interconnect Channel 13 and on Verizon’s Channel 32.

AMONG OURSELVES

On June 20th in Westminster Church, Rev. Barbara married Dr. Sarah Lilyanne Xavier, daughter of **Michael & Lilyanne Werle**, to Timothy Prata of Warwick. Sarah attended church school at Westminster for many years & even endured, Sarah smiles, the AYS class, (About Your Sexuality) taught by her parents [:-)] at Westminster.

An Open Letter to Westminster:

Today, Wednesday June 17th, is nearly 3 weeks after my accident. I am doing very well, but I need to "follow orders" for a while yet!

A thousand thanks for all your cards, calls, visits, loaned books, prayers and strawberries. My hope is that Don and I will be in East Greenwich soon.

Sylvia Hampton

SHARE THE PLATE LOOKING FOR MONTHLY SPONSORS

Are you on a committee with a month that's especially meaningful to you? Would you want to "adopt" a month to sponsor the Share the Plate charity?

In keeping with April as the month in which Earth Day occurs, the Green Sanctuary Task Force has been sponsoring the April Share the Plate for three years (Apieron Institute in 2007, The Nature Conservancy's Narragansett Bay studies in 2008, and Save the Bay's bay restoration efforts in 2009). This has worked so well that the Share the Plate committee is looking for other Westminster committees or groups that are interested in "staking out" their own month to sponsor a charity.

If you are on a committee that's interested in adopting a Share the Plate month, please contact any member of the Share the Plate Committee (Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, Celia Humphreys or Nathan DeSisto).

As a reminder of how Share the Plate works, Westminster shares unrestricted cash placed in our collection basket 50/50 with a different charity, approved by the Committee and the Board of Trustees, each month.

The Share the Plate Committee is also interested in recommendations for individual charities. To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in our mailbox, and available on Westminster's website (www.westminsteruu.org). For questions about Sharing the Plate, please contact any member of the Committee.

ESCAPE TO VERMONT

OCTOBER 9-11, 2009

Fifteenth Annual B&B Weekend offered by the UU Church of Rutland, VT. Enjoy the beauty of Vermont, UU hospitality, and a choice of guided activities: hiking, nature walk, kayaking, bicycling, antiques/arts, cider making historic tour, soaring tour, touring historic sites and quaint towns, and much more. Registration by August 15, \$275 (single) and \$475 (double). After August 15, \$325 (single bed) and \$525 (double bed).

For more information contact uufoliagevermont@yahoo.com or (802) 353-7969. For brochure/registration, go to <http://fallweekend.wordpress.com/> or the UU Church of Rutland website: www.rutlanduu.org

VOLUNTEER AND BECOME A WESTBAY CAREGIVER FOR A KENT COUNTY SENIOR CITIZEN!

What is a Westbay Caregiver? A caregiver is a person willing to assist others in order for those served to maintain their independence, dignity, and quality of life. Caregivers drive folks to doctor appointments, run errands, shop for groceries, chat on the telephone, visit over a cup of tea and help with home tasks such as check writing and other household chores. Most services are provided within Keny County, but some Caregivers travel to Providence to assist clients with transportation to doctor appointments.

Want to help? The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of the Westbay Community Action Program is looking for volunteers to join Westbay Caregivers. Training is provided and staff assist Caregivers with finding a match that suits the volunteer as well as the client. Please call Susan Lewis at 401-732-4666 x154 for more information on volunteering or if you or someone you know may benefit from a Caregiver.

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

6/25 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
6/28 9:30 AM Summer Worship (FH)
6/30 6:30 PM Yoga (FH)
6/30 6:00 PM RE Committee (H)
7/2 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
7/5 9:30 AM Worship (FH)
7/8 6:00 PM Buddhist Meditation (FH)
7/9 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
7/10 7:00 PM Young Adult Movie (FH)
7/12 9:30 AM Worship (FH)
7/16 7:00 PM WOW (FH)
7/19 9:30 PM Worship (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
Website: www.westminsteruu.org
Summer Office Hours No regular days-
phone messages and
mail checked twice weekly.

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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

CHIMES DEADLINES



DEADLINE: July 16th
MAILING: July 22th

DEADLINE: August 13th
MAILING: August 19th

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.