



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2010 #11

July 14, 2010

Editor: Renée Bucklin

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

JULY 18

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Compassion & Caring - Rev. Oscar Kumah, past Senior Pastor of The Church of Pentecost / Christ Pentecost, past Chaplin at RI hospital, Hasbro and currently Hospice, will speak on the joys of Compassion and Caring.

AUGUST 1

Never Take No for an Answer - Nathan Desisto. So many times someone's advice has taken me off my path. Many times I knew I was being led in the wrong direction but let myself be strung along. When you know your path, who you are and where you want to go, you can't take no for an answer.

AUGUST 8

Hinduism - Raj Suryanaryan, will guide us in a lively discussion of Hinduism as a religion and way of life, as well as The Rigvedas, the oldest book in the world, the Hindu Trinity and his religion's relationship to Buddhism.

AUGUST 15

Writing with Joy - Julie Hassett presents a service about the experience and poems that came from writing weekly for two years with her friend, Joy Veaudry, who died of cancer

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thank you all for the warm and supportive welcome you have given me as President. I have so appreciated all of the cards, lunch dates, well wishes and expertise you have provided in your leadership roles.

It has been a busy start to the summer with the newly constituted Board. Past and present Board members have already met and are sharing ideas and brainstorming to make our congregation run smoothly and efficiently. We have much on our plate for the coming year and ministering to each other and to our larger congregation will make us that much stronger. Be present for one another in all that you do. Give thanks for the tremendous effort of those who helped move our spiritual home, who volunteered, who make a welcoming worship space for us each Sunday we are together. Give thanks for those who come each week, and let our spirits be with those who have yet to join us on our journey.

Larry Burgess and I met with Reverend Tricia this past Friday and talked of our coming year together. She is very excited to get started and call Westminster her home. In the coming months she hopes to meet all of you and share your dreams for Westminster.

I attended the last Building Committee meeting at the invitation of Bill Stone, during Jan's absence. Our Building Committee and our architects work beautifully together. And their confidence and respect for one another will bode very well for our Capital Building project. Please take a careful look at Bill Stone's report for more detail on the bidding process, noting especially that August 8th will be a Congregational Meeting, to approve a contractor. While it is summertime, your attendance at this meeting is greatly needed.

The Worship Service on August 8th is being led by my friend and neighbor Raj Suryanarayan. Some of you may remember Raj and his speaking with our neighboring faiths class this past year. Raj now shares his sermon and experience with Hinduism with the greater congregation. It should be well worth putting this date on your calendar for both reasons!



In the meantime, enjoy your summer and remember to collect water from your travels for our Homecoming Service in September. May your gardens be blessed with bounty as our congregation has been blessed with one another!

In Peace,
Abby Addington-May **President, Board of
Trustees**

Dear Friends,

July 11, 2010

Thank you thank you thank you. *Because I knew you I have been changed for good.*

I sang those words to you from my heart. Our last Sunday service together will be with me always. I am taking so much with me. What can be touched and seen- your gifts and letters and e mails. And what cannot be seen: Your spirits, your kindnesses, your lights. I am opening your cards and reading your notes slowly. They are part of a path that I am building to my new ministry in Danbury. What I have learned with you will do me and UUCD much good.

Thank you for being you, for helping me, and each other, end well. It has been a shared ministry of giving and receiving. Ending is a spiritual task. Thank you for understanding and for saying what needed saying with love, kindness and truth-telling. It has been a very good goodbye.

I want to offer a last thank you to those who serve you and serve with me: Judy Brown (who some of you may have seen for the first time on Sunday, June 20th) understands that it is people who create a congregation; Bill, who has many tasks to juggle on any Sunday, has been able to maintain one and now another building through the years; Nonetta, who created worship with me every Sunday; and, Renee who loves the RE ministry for our children.

Abby Addington-May wrote this to me. *We choose our friends because of something we need to learn in life. Westminster will be learning something new from whomever graces our pulpit in the future.* Trisha Brennan will grace your pulpit and your lives in this interim time. I know that you will bless her ministry with your open minds, helping hands and loving hearts.

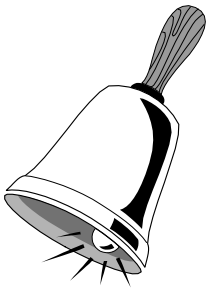
I sang, *Because I knew you...I have been changed for good.* Because we knew one another, we have been changed for good and that *good* will carry us into our future lives. Each day, as we make our way in our lives, may we begin and end in gratitude. You have blessed me and my family. You are a blessing for this world.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Love and thanks,

Reverend Barbara

I will be away from July 11- August 4th. If you have a serious pastoral need, call my study phone – 401.822.3401- for a referral to Rev. Ben Hall (July 10-July 24) or Rev. Jan Knost(July 25-Aug.4) Their phone numbers will be on my study answering machine. Please don't leave a message on the voice mail during this time. You can also get those referrals from our wonderful Chair of the Caring Circle, Nancy Rieser. I am back on call until August 14th.



Religious Education Program

Renee Pierre
Director of Religious Education

Summer RE: There will be no Summer RE Program this year at Westminster West. .

RE Office: I am available by email over the summer at westminsterdre@gmail.com if anyone has any questions, but I will not return to the office until Wednesday September 1st.

WATERCOLOR PAINTING SERIES

Paola Mangiacapra's watercolor painting series entitled "South County Treasures" will be hanging in a show at the Lightworks Yoga Studio, River's Edge Plaza, 440 Main St., Wakefield during the month of July. Viewing is available on **Friday July 16th, 23rd, and 30th** from 6-9PM.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DATE: AUGUST 8, 2010
TIME 11:15a.m.
PLACE: Westminster West

To review the bids and the Building Committee's recommendation and, hopefully, to vote to move forward with the project and the award of the contract to one of the bidders.

SUMMER CHARITIES OF THE MONTH

For **July**, the Sharing Locker will be the Share the Plate charity.

With approval from our minister and Board of Trustees, the Share the Plate Committee has selected *Ocean State Action Fund* for the month of **August**.

The *Ocean State Action Fund* is a non-profit organization that is promoting education and voter registration in low-income areas of RI. UU's fifth principle states that we affirm and promote "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Supporting the *Ocean State Action Fund* is a great way to practice this principle and help our fellow RI'ers get involved in the democratic process.

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.

BE INFORMED

Make sure you keep up-to-date over the summer! Check our website (<http://www.westminsteruu.org/>) weekly to see the upcoming services and social events!

The Summer Schedule is also printed at the end of this Chimes.

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD.”

Did you help with the move from East Greenwich to Coventry? It took our church community working together to make the move happen. There are so many people to thank for the move and success of the day.

Much gratitude goes to the very young and to the young at heart who had helping hands and loving hearts as we began our new journey. Westminster is very loved.

The Property Committee volunteers came forward to pack, paint, clean, move and set-up. Many trips were made over a three-week period from East Greenwich to Coventry, Westminster West. The planning and implementation of the move was a major undertaking that could not have been accomplished without the donation of trucks, vans, people and many days & hours of volunteer time. Our staff – Judy Brown, Bill Sweet, Renee Pierre stepped up to the plate with many hours/weeks of packing and moving with volunteer help. The Sharing Locker moved and set up their new space. Facilitating the move were Abby Addington-May, Bev Burgess, Jan Searles, Sandy Hopkins (sign), Cele Mark, Dan Aubin, Tom Townsend (making repairs), along with many others. With apologies to those not mentioned.

Preparing for our first service & major social event on June 20, 2010 in our Westminster West “home away from home” was led by Rev. Barbara, Tracy Wysor, Mary-Ann Connor and Ruth McIntosh of the Worship Committee, Maureen Souza of the Reception/Brunch committee, and the work of the many who stepped forward to help in countless ways. The Worship and Music Committees together presented a memorable service including Westminster’s Living Tradition, adult & children’s affirmation, lighting of rainbow candles, reception of new members, and the Rev. Barbara’s final sermon – “Changed for Good”.

The Farewell and Reception/Brunch Committee was led by Maureen Souza, Pam Bazar, Bev Burgess and Jan Searles. It took pretty much all of the Westminster family who volunteered to shop, set-up, clean up; offer monetary donations to help meet expenses; prepare floral arrangements; design, edit and produce a printed keepsake program; took

photographs; wrote edited and produced CHIMES, OOS and CHURCH DB announcement; presented lovely gifts donated and produced by members of the WUC family; spoke directly to Rev Barbara, offering personal testimony that echoed our heartfelt thank-you’s and best wishes; emceed; provided vocal and instrumental music; prepared 50+ brunch table food and beverage selections. Let’s not forget all those who volunteered to be there. We “Gathered here in one strong body” in a packed house that was both bittersweet and joyful as we said our goodbye to our beloved Barbara. There were few dry eyes in our congregation. We will truly miss our Rev. Barbara.

It took all who volunteered to make this a memorable happening and a successful transition.

Thank you, thank you, thank you one and all.

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF MAILING ADDRESS

Effective immediately, please be sure you mail all your payments (pledges for annual operating budget or your Capital Campaign commitment) to our NEW COVENTRY ADDRESS:

1395 Nooseneck Hill Rd
Coventry, RI 02816

There will be two new phone numbers:

401-822-3400

401-822-3401 Pastor’s Study

The 401-884-5933 number will still be available; this will involve call forwarding, which costs every time a call is forwarded. Please try to use the 822-3400 or 822-3401 numbers.

Sharing Locker

Item for July

Toilet Paper

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

Building Committee Report

Well, the official "Church Year" may be over, but things are really heating up for the New Building Committee. We've been considering a list of potential contractors for the job, making ongoing and final decisions on the building design that will be put out to bid and working closely with the architects on a plan to move our exciting project forward.

We are going to invite 5 contractors to bid the job. All are well-qualified, and we have received outstanding references on all of them. They will be able to access the drawings and bidding documents electronically as of July 2. Here is the anticipated timeline from there:

July 14: Bidders' conference at Westminster. This is a time when all the contractors will get to see and walk through the property and ask questions about the job.

July 23: Bids due

Aug 8: Westminster Congregational Meeting to review the bids and the Building Committee's recommendation and, hopefully, to vote to move forward with the project and the award of the contract to one of the bidders.

Aug 8/9: Bid awarded, subject to Congregational vote in favor

We will tell all bidders, and our contract will stipulate, that the building is to be substantially complete by July 22, 2011.

Everyone, please keep thinking good thoughts and keep your fingers crossed for good results and strong, affordable bids, as we move into this next crucial phase.

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

Your Building Committee

UU CONGREGATION OF SOUTH COUNTY

SUMMER SERVICES 2010

July 18 - 11:00 AM

Listening as a Form of Love

Marie Younkin Waldman

After the service, we'll have a picnic, waterfront weather permitting. Please bring food to share and a folding chair.

July 25

Empathy: its Roots and Fruits

Jaime Dice

August 1

CU2C2 - UU Camps and Conferences

Linda Hull

August 8

Words and Music: the Environment in Poetry and Hymns

Steve Harrison and Helene Gersuny

August 15

Pain and Shame

Henry O'Reilly

August 22

It's Never Too Late

Erin Barrette Goodman

August 29

A Rousing Unitarian Universalist Celebration--- General Assembly 2010

Rev. Betty Kornitzer

Background:

The Rev. Betty Kornitzer leads worship services Sundays at 10 AM at Lily Pads, 23 North Road, Peace Dale. The congregation is a nondogmatic, noncreedal religious group that draws inspiration from all the great religions of the world.

The minister's office at Lily Pads, Suite B, is open Wednesdays from 3 to 6 PM and Thursdays and Fridays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

The website, UUSouthCountyRI.org has an extensive collection of sermons and current and past activities.

Westminster West
2010 Summer Service Schedule
10 AM Services

**RHODE ISLAND INTERFAITH POWER
& LIGHT**

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August 15 Writing with Joy - Julie Hassett presents a service about the experience and poems that came from writing weekly for two years with her friend, Joy Veaudry, who died of cancer.

August 22 Pat Hastings, author of the award winning book "Simply a Woman of Faith", Inspirational Speaker and Spiritual Coach will share her story about how she moved from fear to faith and the 7 Miraculous Tips When Fear Grips. Pat's powerful message has helped hundreds of people find peace and reconnect with the Divine within. Her story can help you get unstuck and live from of

August 29 Jazz Sunday Back by popular demand! **Tom Sites**, previous editor of *UU World Magazine* and founder of *Jazz Magazine*, accompanied by **The Howard and Bill Stone Family and Friends Band**, present a glorious jazz celebration to close our summer service season.

A three-year-old, nonprofit, grassroots organization working with faith communities that are seeking to better care for Creation. We care deeply about stewardship of the environment and how our daily use of energy affects the earth and its inhabitants here in Rhode Island, throughout New England, across the country and around the world.

For each of the past three years we have held informational conferences for the faith community, which have attracted some four hundred clergy and lay leaders and have exposed faith leaders to the decision makers that determine energy policy in Rhode Island. The conferences have had a second benefit of introducing faith leaders to energy-industry vendors able to address their energy concerns.

We work closely with Rhode Island congregations to help them respond faithfully to concerns about climate change through the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy. With the help of EPA Energy Star/Congregations we help congregations save energy and operating costs within the house of worship. Our Cool Congregations program operates at the household level to educate, motivate and support individuals and families to make structural and lifestyle changes in energy use and conservation, focusing on lowering the impact of carbon emissions on our environment.

At the State House and in Washington, we speak out on behalf of the religious community, advocating to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all. Based on what we learned at our Cool Congregations workshops we were successful in initiating "Right to Dry" legislation which will remove restrictive covenants that have prevented many Rhode Islanders from installing renewable energy at home, ranging from clotheslines to solar panels.

For more information on RI Interfaith Power & Light's work in outreach, education and advocacy, and to learn how you and your faith community can benefit from our programs, please contact us at info@riipl.org. Or check out our website at www.riipl.org. We'd be happy to meet and discuss how we can support your desire to care for creation in a more focused, active and faithful way.

Kathy Black, CEC
Coaching & Consulting
(401)286-5259
kathyblackonline@cox.net
www.kathyblackonline.com

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

7/15 7:00 PM WOW
7/16 10-12 AM Sharing Locker @ 1st Baptist EG
7/17 10:00 2:00 Sharing Locker @ Westminster
7/20 10:00 AM Worship
7/22 7:00 PM WOW
7/24 7:00 PM Building Committee
7/22 7:00 PM WOW
7/27 10:00 AM Summer Worship
7/27 7:00 PM RE Committee
7/29 7:00 PM WOW
8/1 10:00 AM Worship
8/3 7:00 Board of Trustees
8/5 7:00 PM WOW
8/8 9:00 AM Summer Worship
8/12 7:00 PM WOW
8/12 Chimes deadline
8/15 10:00 AM Summer Worship

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 401-822-3401).



DEADLINE: August 12th

MAILING: August 18th

WESTMINSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Westminster Unitarian Church welcomes all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge, sexual orientation, age, or national origin.

Church Office 401-822-3400
Minister: Barbara Fast
minister's study: 401-822-3401
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 1PM Monday - Friday
July & August: Once a week

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

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.

CHIMES DEADLINES