



Westminster Chimes

Volume 2008 #5

February 27, 2008

Editor: Renée Bucklin

SERVICES AT 9:00 AND 11:00 AM
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT 9:00 AM
Preschool through 8th Grade
Nursery Care Available

MARCH 2ND

LOVE & JUSTICE
Rev. Barbara Fast

What does social action and advocacy have to do with faith?

2PM Joy Veaudry poetry reading

MARCH 9

OLD TURTLE AND THE BROKEN TRUTH

Rev. Barbara Fast and Friends

Intergenerational worship with a powerful story of faith and transformation. Performed by Rev. Barbara and friends.

Don't forget to set your clocks to SPRING AHEAD!

12:15 - 2PM New Members Meeting. For those interested in Westminster or considering membership. Sign up in Fellowship hall or call the office 884 -5933

MARCH 16

The Empty Room: Making Space for Whoever Shows Up

Rev. Barbara Fast

A service about pastoral ministry. We will also covenant with our Pastoral Caregivers.

MARCH 23

Easter Sunday

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Congratulations and well done!! Unanimously we adopted the Vision and Mission crafted by you, the members and friends of Westminster, during our Searching For The Future weekend. Together they provide us with a clear statement of who we are and a bold path forward.

Our top ten priorities, as determined by you, are as follows:

1. Make a decision about the Parish House and get on with the process;
2. A Welcoming Committee to integrate and mentor new members and mechanism for reaching out to those we haven't seen in a while;
3. Dynamic music program;
4. Increase membership, number of donor units and level of financial gifts;
5. Engaging, expanded Youth Program with strong adult support;

These five goals were clear and decisive priorities that focus on strengthening Westminster internally. The next five priorities were all of similar strength and show our desire to make a difference in the world.



6. Environmental issues: reduce carbon footprint, solar roof panels, community involvement and PR in environmental events, work with Aperion Institute on an Earth Day festival;
7. Work project with nearby congregations and other faith communities;
8. Increase participation in social responsibility activities;
9. Let the world know we exist: wayside pulpit, community festival, website as outreach;
- 10 Support our minister - pay her well, have strong lay members, identify people to help

If you are part of a committee, the Strategic Planning Committee of George Johnson, chair, Crystal Bradshaw, Al Jeffries, Cindy Reiser and John Searles will be contacting you to begin the process of laying out the specifics of a five year plan. Remember, this plan (YOUR PLAN) will work if the objectives and activities are clear, measurable, and realistic. Lastly, in the coming weeks, the Board will be holding Parish House chats to discuss the existing structure. Stay tuned.

Faithfully,

Jan Searles

Dear Friends

February 25, 2008

Hear the faint sound of melting snow, smell the moist soil, see the sky still sunlit, the long shadows cast upon the road. Tree branches thicken with incipient buds. Spring!

Much is in bud at Westminster. I just cannot stop singing your praise and giving thanks for your spirit. I am so glad to be sharing your hope and walking this path with you!

Let us give thank for the dreams that we share

Let us give thanks or people who care

Dreams guide our vision and love makes us whole

Let us give thanks deep down in our soul!

Adapted from Joyce Poley,

May This Light Shine Song Book

Much is taking shape. Your unanimous vote for Westminster's vision and mission moved us to a new place in our journey. That doesn't happen without lots of work, lots of respectful sharing, lots of conscientious communication. Over and over you bring your best selves to Westminster. Which is what George Johnson and our Strategic Planning Group wants us to keep doing the next few weeks. Bless them with your thanks and your insights into your struggles and hopes. This is so satisfying!

February Sundays have been long and fulfilling days. It was 6:30 PM, when Dan and Natalie Aubin and Cory were just about finished cleaning the kitchen with Jan Searles, Celia Humphreys, and Crystal Bradshaw. Bruce Cousineau had finally packed up all his A/V gear that he had provided for our Keeping Faith with Creation program.

Which was wonderful! People from four congregations came to hear Rabbi Amy Levin, Rev. Craig Burlington, Pastor Linda Forsberg and me share our faith based concerns for the environment. Came to share ideas for next steps we might take together. Howie Brown of RI Interfaith Power and Light presented ways to reduce our Carbon Footprint. Congregational representatives will meet again on March 30 to begin working together on local environmental issues. Imagine the possibilities. Let us give thanks!

Perhaps because of all this movement into the future, I am especially sad to think of those who cared so much for Westminster and who are no longer here to enjoy this time with us. Before Sunday's service, we gathered in the memorial garden for a Yahrzeit service for Jean Tisser. Yahrzeit literally means "time of [one] year".

It was a year ago that Jean died. This Jewish custom honors the memory of the beloved one and reminds those of us still deeply grieving that life is *the* gift and that we the living are called to live fully each day we have been given. These were the words I wrote in closing.

Jean made her sweet peace during her passing. Her peace was a clear kind of peace. A cool pool deep kind of peace. A free water flow under snow kind of peace. She is at peace. Sweet peace is what she gave you. Sweet peace be with you

Let us give thanks deep down in our souls. Blessed be and Amen.

Love.

Barbara

MARCH'S CHARITY OF THE MONTH – *CROSSROADS RI*

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 Directors, the Share the Plate Committee selected *Crossroads RI* for the month of March.

Crossroads Rhode Island, formerly Travelers Aid of 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

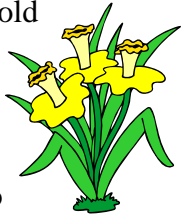
Checks and Cash Envelopes written out to WESTMINSTER will go 100% to Westminster. If you wish to contribute directly to the charity, please write a SEPARATE check to the charity. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Unrestricted Cash will be split 50/50 between Westminster and the Charity.

For questions about sharing the plate, please contact a member of the Share the Plate Committee, Kristen Morelli, Bill Stone, or Wendy Schwartz. To make a charitable organization suggestion, please fill out a Nomination Form located in Fellowship Hall.

EASTER/SPRING FLOWERS

Plants for the Easter Services will be sold to the congregations over the next two weeks (March 2/9). We usually have Daffodils, Tulips & Hyacinths in 6 inch pots. Please see Doug Jones between services in fellowship Hall to place orders.



POETRY READING



On Sunday, March 2 in Fellowship Hall at 2 pm. Joy Veaudry will read selected poems from her new book, "A Clear Path Home."

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE TO MEET 3/16

Please join us for a meeting of Westminster's Social Responsibility Committee on Sunday, March 16 at 10:15am in the Woodbury Room (between services.) This will be a great opportunity for existing members to reconnect, for new folks to join in, and for all to contribute to the future direction of this important group within Westminster. For those unable to attend the Annual Meeting of Rhode Island Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (RIUUSJ) on 3/2, this will be a great opportunity to learn about the group's legislative agenda for the 2008 session of the RI General Assembly, and how Westminster can participate in the good work of this group.

OUR SOUP FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

Soup to Warm Your Heart raised \$337.80 for Westminster. It couldn't have happened without our wonderful soup makers: Natalie Aubin, Pam Bazar, Terry Conlon, Celia Humphreys, Carolyn Marshall, Laurie Tyce. And our breadmakers: Carolyn Marshall and Crystal Bradshaw. And those who helped set up, clean up and serve: Celia Humphreys, Doug Jones, Julie Kennedy, Garrie Leitner, Carolyn Marshall, Mary Paolino, Bill Sweet, and Charlann Walker.

Thank you one and all. It was a very lovely luncheon.
Donna Poland

Religious Education News

Lauren Kalian

Religious Education Coordinator
401-884-5933 (W)



Sometimes this time of the year can be depressing. Winter seems to drag on and Spring seems very far away. I invite you to look at the ground and you'll see flowers peeking up!

I am always amazed at the spirit of Westminster's people. I have been in a few difficult situations where I needed teachers at the last minute, or some type of help, and I have always had someone who offers their help willingly and cheerfully. So, thank you, thank you, thank you! If I need signs of Spring, I just need to go to church!

Spring Session: It is hard to believe, but we have begun Spring Session in our Sunday School! I would like to thank all the Winter Session teachers: Terry Conlon, Jen Wolfe, Danielle Salisbury, Vikki Paul, Jamie LaSalle, Marc Fain, Wendy Schwartz, Stephen Barreto, Bill Stone, Bo Pickard, Laura Evans, and Cory Baker. We are so lucky to have such dedicated volunteers, and I am truly grateful.

Here are some times and dates for March:

March 2: All RE students will be in Fellowship Hall.

March 9: Intergenerational Service: NO RE! We will be sharing the story Old Turtle and the Broken Truth. There are 2 services.

March 16: All RE students will be in Fellowship Hall.

March 23: Easter: Students in Preschool through Grade 5 are invited to Fellowship Hall for an Egg Hunt and other activities!

March 30: All RE students will be in Fellowship Hall.

PICK UP STICKS: The Parsonage needs the yard cleaned up, and Cecile Mark has asked the children and Youth Groups for their help. We will be having

a "Pick Up Sticks" yard party on March 30, 10:30-12:00 to clean up the yard of the Parsonage. Please consider helping. It's a great community service project, and the children can



have a direct impact on their own church community! Whatever time you can spare would be a HUGH help! If it rains, we will have the party the following weekend, April 6th. Thank you!

Blessed Be!
Lauren

VOLUNTEERING TO BE ASKED



The Caring Circle needs volunteers willing to be asked to help.

How will this work? Let's say a need arises for someone to run an errand and you volunteered to be called for possibly running errands.

A Caring Circle member may call you and ask if you're able to run this errand. If you're able to, we have a match and the need can be fulfilled. If you're unable to run this errand, we'll thank you and contact another person on the list.

On Sunday, March 16, the Caring Circle will have a volunteer table set up during coffee hours where you can add your name to the list of folks willing to volunteer to be called. Look for more information in the next Chimes issue and in the Sunday bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Caring Circle.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS



I am no longer able to run Friday Night Flicks. If you're interested in taking over, please contact me for information on what's required.

Celia Humphreys

BOOK SALE

Westminster annual Book Sale is fast approaching. Dates for the sale are March 28th and 29th. Set up is Thursday March 27th. If you can help any of these days, please call Pam Bazar. (See your printed Chimes.)

The Adult Programs Committee, in cooperation with our local chapter of Interweave Continental, announces

THE BISEXUALITY CURRICULUM

Bisexuality today, widely misunderstood and wrongly characterized, is an authentic sexual orientation for a broad variety of individuals, both men and women, who may be straight or gay/lesbian but who are likely to share one thing in common: their sexual identity remains closeted and as a group they are still oppressed.

Westminster Unitarian Church has obtained the new Bisexuality Curriculum, developed by Interweave Continental, the organization of Unitarian Universalists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns. It's designed to provide a deeper understanding of how our sexual orientations, whatever they may be, affect our lives and the lives of those around us. Since the UUA's General Assembly first passed a resolution concerning equal rights for persons of nonstraight sexual orientations in 1970, bisexuals within our denomination have continued to work for acceptance and understanding. This new curriculum, generously paid for by the Unitarian Universalist Funding Panel, is an outgrowth of that work.

The Bisexuality Curriculum is an extension of the principles of the UUA-developed Welcoming Congregation workshop program, a 10-session course that WUC conducted twice, in each of two succeeding years in the early 1990's. Because of the Welcoming Congregation curriculum and same sex marriage work being done in UU congregations, the issues of bisexuals and bisexuality have come into the forefront. Interweave Continental, the Unitarian Universalist organization for bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender concerns, put together a team of bisexuals to create this four-session curriculum utilizing discussions, activities, games, and reflection. Just as we wish to be hospitable to everyone who walks through our doors, we know that it is especially important to be welcoming to those who may be oppressed in our larger society, those who are looking for peace and spiritual refreshment as part of the life of a religious community.

Join us in continuing the process, started at Westminster Unitarian Church over 15 years ago in the workshops of the Welcoming Congregation program, by signing up for the new Bisexuality Curriculum. The series of workshops will be run on the Sunday afternoons of April 20, April 27, May 4, and a final date to be announced, following the second coffee hour from 12:30 to 3:00 PM. Tentative plans call for brown-bag-and-soup lunches, to be arranged after consulting with participants. A signup sheet will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

For the Adult Programs Committee:
Conrad Kulawas, Essjay Foulkrod;
Carolyn Goldman, Chair

RIUUSJ TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 2

The Annual Meeting of Rhode Island Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (RIUUSJ) will be held on Sunday, March 2 at First Unitarian Church in Providence from 2pm-4:15pm.

RIUUSJ's mission is to make a measurable difference in the lives of Rhode Islanders by serving as an organized vehicle through which Unitarian Universalists across congregations can work together for social and economic justice in Rhode Island through our democratic process.

Please join us and help lend a UU voice to the social and economic concerns of this legislative session. For more information, please contact Carolyn Mark. ([See your printed Chimes.](#))

SUMMER RENTAL

MT. DESERT ISLAND, MAINE; 3 bedroom cottage for rent by the week July-August. Access & view of ocean. Near Acadia National Park, Bar Harbor. For details call Bruce Foresman: 294-2249.



CLOTHING SALE

Clean out those closets, why? The spring clothing sale is coming in April. The dates are April 25 and April 26. If you can help us we would appreciate it.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER & FRIENDS

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

We meet every Thursday evening.

Setup/Meeting: 7:00 to 7:15 PM
Announcements: 7:15 to 7:30 PM
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

Feb. 28 – Women in Religion Ritual Cloth

Mar. 2 – Joy Veaudry reads her poems

Mar. 6 – Retirement Ritual for Donna Schmader and other retirees

Mar. 13 – Plan/Practice for Lay Service

WESTMINSTER'S OWN TO PERFORM IN V-DAY FESTIVAL!

From February 29 - March 8, 2008, there will be a week-long festival entitled *Until the Violence STOPS: Providence*. Events will be held all around the city that will raise funds and awareness about violence against women & girls, with the goal to make Providence the safest place on earth for women & girls.

Westminster's own, Carolyn Mark, will be performing in two productions:

"Any One of Us" - Friday, March 7 at 7pm at the Met School Black Box Theatre (325 Public Street).

This production includes writings compiled from women in prisons around the United States, addressing the issue of social justice behind bars. After the readings, a panel discussion with Mie Lewis from the national ACLU, Sheila Capece from the RI Nonviolence Institute, and Sol Rodriguez from the RI Family Life Center will talk about issues facing women in Rhode Island prisons. Tickets are \$10 and proceeds benefit the YWCA of Northern RI women's programs.

"The Vagina Monologues" - Saturday, March 8 at 1pm at the Biltmore Hotel.

Join 15 Rhode Island women as they raise their voices and the roof at the Biltmore, in Eve Ensler's groundbreaking play about everything female. Gather the girlfriends (and guy friends too!) for an afternoon out! Includes a yummy dessert buffet and cash bar, with lots of vendors and information tables. Tickets are \$35. Proceeds benefit the RI Crisis Assistance Center.

For more information, a complete listing of events, and for tickets, go to www.peaceprovidence.com, or call Carolyn. (See your printed Chimes.)

THE PROVIDENCE SINGERS FASCINATING RHYTHM – A SALUTE TO GEORGE GERSHWIN

Musical icon of America's Jazz Age, giant on Broadway, master of Hollywood, international celebrity composer and pianist, George Gershwin was both famous and (rarity of rarities for composers of any period) fabulously wealthy well before he turned 30. His death from a brain tumor at 38 still leaves us wondering what might have been. Andrew Clark leads the Providence Singers, with soloists and pianist Patrice Newman, in a rich sampling of Gershwin's music from Broadway, Tin Pan Alley and Hollywood to the folk opera *Porgy and Bess*. Four performances in March:

Woonsocket: 8 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 2008, in the Stadium Theatre

Providence: 8 p.m. Friday, March 28, 2008, in Sayles Hall, Brown University

Westerly: 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29, 2008, in George Kent Performance Hall

Portsmouth: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 30, 2008, at The Pennfield School

Adult tickets \$22 advance, \$26 at door, students always \$5. Order on line at www.providencesingers.org, or by phone at (401) 751-7500. For mail-in order forms to reduce or avoid handling fees, see or contact David Parker (dlparker@cox.net, [401] 885-3039).

TRAPP FAMILY TIMESHARE 3/25/08 - 3/28/08 FOR AUCTION

As Westminster members may recall, the Sharpes, in the last three years, have put up a portion of their week-long timeshare at the Trapp Family Guest Houses at Stowe, VT, for auction to members of the church.

We would be glad to offer this to the church again in 2008.

We would offer a four-night stay to church members starting on Tuesday afternoon, March 25th through Friday night, March 28th, at \$50 a raffle ticket. Check-out time is by 10:00am on Saturday morning, March 29th.

We think that four nights there could be valued at \$1,500, so we would hope to raise at least \$400 from the raffle of \$50 tickets as a donation to the church. In 2005, the Evans family enjoyed their stay there, as did Essjay Foulkrod and Pam Brightman, as well as Donna Poland and Charlann Walker in 2006, and Natalie and Dan Aubin in 2007.

The unit has a small kitchen, a large living room with a fireplace, TV, dining table and a fold-out double bed, as well as two bathrooms and two bedrooms, one with a double bed, one with twin beds – plus a beautiful southwest, sunny view of the Worcester Range. Wonderful cross-country skiing is available right from the front door, and there's also a beautiful swimming pool, swirling large outdoor hot tub, and various fine dining arrangements only steps away. And don't forget nearby Mt. Mansfield for New England's finest downhill skiing! See <http://www.trappfamily.com/> for more.

We have just returned from a four-day stay last week, and it was beautiful! There is lots of snow there now, so we hope it will still be good skiing there in late March too.

Let Judy Brown know at the church ASAP (Westminsteruu@verizon.net or 884-5933) if you want to submit a bid! And have Fun!

The Sharpes

Crossroads RI (March's Charity of the Month) Needs Your Help

1) We desperately need to replenish our supply of warm men's gloves and winter-weight socks to keep up with the requests from the hundreds of homeless individuals who find their way to our doors every week during these cold months. (Women can wear the men's sizes and they have enough scarves and hats). If you would like to donate gloves or socks please **call Sara Perry at 277-4325.**

2) The Governor has proposed drastic cuts to housing programs for Rhode Island's most vulnerable low-income and homeless residents...the very people we serve to support, who need our help to move forward in their own journey towards a better life -- a life that they deserve and want to provide so desperately for themselves and their children.

The state budget proposal risks worsening the state housing crisis – pulling the rug out from under families at risk.

- The zeroing out of the NOP program, a \$7.5 million cut, eliminates funding for more than 71 units of housing currently being developed for families, the elderly and those with disabilities.
- The budget proposal to cut \$26 million from Rhode Island Housing hurts first time home buyers and families at risk of foreclosure.
- The cuts to the historic tax credit mean fewer rehabbed houses and mills turned into housing working families can afford.

The proposed budget cuts ignore the will of Rhode Island citizens, who have made housing a priority.

Contact your state representative to let them know that you will not support these cuts. Go to <http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/House/> and select *find your legislator* to find your district info, then select *Member Contacts* menu for list of reps contact info listed by district.

WESTMINSTER CALENDAR

2/28	7:00 PM	Men's Group (H)
2/28	7:00 PM	Women of Westminster (FH)
3/2	9/11 AM	Worship (CH)
3/2	9:00 AM	RE
3/2	10-1 PM	Sandwich Sale Youth(FH)
3/2	2:00 AM	Poetry Reading (FH)
3/3	7:00 PM	Youth Group (FH)
3/4	7:00 PM	Program Council (W)
3/5	5:30 PM	Caring Circle (W)
3/5	7:00 PM	Choir (CH)
3/6	5:30 PM	Worship Committee (RR)
3/6	5:00 PM	Emerson Discussion (H)
3/6	6:30 PM	RIUUSJ (W)
3/6	7:00 PM	Women of Westminster (FH)
3/9	9/11 AM	Worship
3/9	9:00 AM	RE
3/9	12:15 PM	New Member Orientation(W)
3/10	7:00 PM	PFLAG (FH)
3/11	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees (H)
3/12	6:00 PM	Buddhist Meditation (FH)
3/12	6:00 PM	Music Committee
3/12	7:00 PM	Choir (CH)

WESTMINSTER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

March 2

Ushers: 9:00 AM	Cele & Arthur Mark
11:00 AM	Deb LaSalle
	Donna Poland
Flowers:	Judith Abbott
Coffee: 10:00 AM	Terri Mrozak\Julie Hassett
11:00 AM	Self Service

March 9

Ushers 9:00 AM	Danielle Salisbury
11:00 AM	Lindo Family
Flowers:	Danielle Salisbury
Coffee: 9:00 AM	Natalie & Dan Aubin
11:00 AM	Self Service

March 16

Ushers: 9:00 AM	Renée Bucklin
11:00 AM	Volunteer needed
Flowers:	Volunteer needed
Coffee: 9:00 AM	Volunteer needed
11:00 AM	Self Service

WESTMINSTER CONTACT INFORMATION

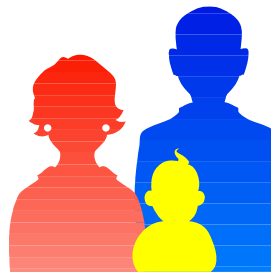
Westminster Unitarian Church welcomes all individuals without regard to race, color, physical challenge, sexual orientation, age, or national origin.

Church Office:	401-884-5933
Fax Number:	401-885-2710
Minister:	Barbara Fast
minister's study	401-884-3561
Religious Ed Coordinator	Lauren Kalian
Music Director:	Nonetta Shatakhtsian
Office Administrator:	<u>Judy Brown</u>

E-mail: westminsteruu@verizon.net

Website: www.westminsteruu.org

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



CHIMES DEADLINES



DEADLINE: March 6th
MAILING: March 12th