

THE JOURNEY INWARD

MOVIE NIGHT

■ JANUARY

■ 2008

BELL STREET COLUMNS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF BELL STREET CHAPEL



The Journey Inward: Returning to, and deepening, our individual spiritual journeys, together.

Dates: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays - Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25.

Class limit: 7

Facilitator: Rev. Mary Margaret Earl

Fee: None

To register: Contact Rev. Earl at mary-mearl@msn.com

Dag Hammarskjöld once said "The longest journey is the journey inward of he who chooses his own destiny." Many of us have felt at times that we are following that inner journey, and life's busy-ness and demands distract, de-rail, and slow our searching. In this three-part series, we will re-connect with what we hold sacred, and reaffirm our commitment to our spiritual path. Elements of the class may include music, artwork, poetry, guided meditation and building an altar.

Friday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall

For the past year, Bell Street Chapel, a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation, has been proud to sponsor a series of discussions about gender identity. We base each of these discussions on a film that has for its theme some aspect of gender identity. We view the film (always mainstream, artistically significant and often award-winning) while we share a potluck dinner and then follow up with a discussion over dessert. So far we have enjoyed films, both dramatic and documentary, that ranged from heartbreaking to hysterically funny; most of them, like life, evoked a combination of emotions. The characters we have encountered in these films have been unforgettable. Fortunately, there seems to be no end to great films with this theme.

These evenings occur on the second Friday of each month; the next one is Jan. 11 at 6:30 in Eddy Hall. Thanks to our talented audiovisual technician, these films are shown on a large screen with excellent acoustics. We invite you to join us. Bring food or non-alcoholic beverages to share – and bring your friends to Bell Street Chapel's Movie Night!

What could be better? Good food, good company, good movie, and good discussion, all on one night!



The Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909
Phone (401) 273-5678 | contact@bellstreetchapel.org

**“Love is the spirit of our church
and service is its law**

**This is our great covenant:
To dwell together in peace,
To seek the truth in love,
And to help one another.”**



WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10 A.M.

TODDLER CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AVAILABLE

6 | JANUARY CELEBRATION OF WINTER

Renae and Joe Chaves and Annette Briand

13 | JANUARY INTELLIGENT DESIGN

Rev. Bill Robinson

20 | JANUARY DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Ray Perreault

27 | JANUARY LIVING NON-VIOLENTLY

Rev. Bill Robinson

IN THE INTERIM: HARMONY

The Jan. 1 ritual at our house for at least the last two decades has been to listen to the New Year's Day concert from Vienna, annually broadcast at 11 a.m. on 'GBH radio. Each year I look forward to hearing the Austrian announcer introduce the concert first in German and then in English, French, Spanish, and Italian, which gives an indication of how widely around the world this concert is broadcast. The greater part of the program always features music composed by members of the Strauss family, father and sons. That means we are about to be treated to two hours of sprightly waltzes.

For me this traditional concert represents a gentle and melodic way to celebrate the new year. With large mug of hot tea in hand I sit at my desk and listen to the glorious sounds of orchestra members playing together in pure, sweet harmony. Every year as I listen I am staggered by the fact that millions of people throughout Europe and North America are listening right along with me. We are all sitting in the same concert hall, enjoying the same musical performance at the same time. We are all part of the same community.

This, in turn, brings to mind an essential characteristic about community: we not only have opportunities to share the good times but we also have opportunities to share the not-so-good times. Members of a community may forget this, or perhaps never have realized it, but that's really what a community is all about. It's the sharing.

For the Bell Street community it's celebrating together on Sunday mornings. It's financially supporting the organization and its activities. It's sharing your ideas and efforts with everybody else and it's supporting the ideas and efforts of others. It's a whole blending of good and not-so-good.

Like a well-executed Strauss waltz, good community happens when members play harmoniously in support of each other and the larger enterprise.

Even though we may not see each other every week, we need to keep in mind that we are together in spirit, and like the worldwide listeners of the New Year's Day concert from Vienna we are all sitting in the same concert hall.

Perhaps in this new year, we will all find just the right sequence of notes to help us harmonize oh so agreeably with each other.

I wish for all of you a happy, peaceful, gentle, and optimistic New Year.

~ Rev. Bill

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The February newsletter deadline is Jan. 20 at 8 p.m., firm. Please submit your articles as a Word attachment – not in the body of the e-mail – to Meredyth Waterman at MeredythW@aol.com. If you are sending photos, please save them as a .jpg, and if you can, save them at a high resolution, but not a gigantic size. (200 dpi, 5 by 7 inches is good.) Your cooperation and contributions are very much appreciated.

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MINISTERS

REV. WILLARD ROBINSON
 INTERIM PARISH MINISTER
Rev. Robinson's office hours are by appointment.
 To schedule an appointment contact him at revbillrobinson@msn.com or at (508) 226-2910.

REV. MARY MARGARET EARL
 COMMUNITY MINISTER

REV. BEN HALL
 COMMUNITY MINISTER

CHURCH STAFF

HEIDI GILKENSON, OFFICE MANAGER
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IRENE ZABEK, CHILDCARE MANAGER

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STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS
 EVENTS, OPEN

FINANCE, JOHN SIMMONDS
 HOUSE, FRANK FALTUS
 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, PEG BOYLE
 MEMBERSHIP/CARING, STEVE KAGAN
 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, KATE GILLIS
 PARISH/SOCIAL CONCERNS, CLARA HARDY
 WORSHIP, AUDREY GREENE

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

MEREDYTH WATERMAN, EDITOR
 TERRY BARBOUNIS, LAYOUT/DESIGN

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



JANUARY | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PH=PARISH HOUSE | S=SANTUARY | EH=EDDY HALL | MPL=MEET IN PARKING LOT | MO=MINISTER'S OFFICE | OS=OFFSITE | L=LIBRARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 8 am Sitting meditation (EH)
6 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour (EH) 11:30 am sandwiches (EH)	7 6:30 pm Finance Committee (PH)	8 7:30 pm Governing Board (PH)	9 6 pm Order of Service deadline	10	11 6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)	12
13 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11:30 pm Cleaning Blitz (S)	14	15 7:15 pm House Committee (PH)	16 6 pm Order of Service deadline	17 7 pm Bible Study (PH)	18 Parish and Social Concerns Film Night (EH)	19
20 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 8 pm newsletter deadline	21 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	22 6 pm Parish & Social Concerns (EH) 7 pm Membership (PH)	23 6 pm Order of Service deadline 6:30 pm Leadership Development (PH)	24	25	26
27 9 am newsletter fold (EH) 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour 11:30 Midyear meeting	28	29	30 6 pm Order of Service deadline	31		

GREENING YOUR CONGREGATION

Rhode Island Interfaith Power & Light presents "Greening Your Congregation" The first interfaith conference on developing a religious community response to Climate Change in Rhode Island. A conference for clergy, lay leaders, parents, educators, business people and other interested individuals.

Thursday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
 Bishop Hendricken High School
 2615 Warwick Ave, Warwick

Keynote Speaker 7 p.m.

Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas
 "Seizing Hope in a Season of Despair: The Call to Climate Action"
 Margaret Bullitt-Jonas is an Episcopal priest, writer, and retreat leader. In recent years her retreats and speaking engagements have primarily focused on reclaiming the sacredness of God's creation and placing care for the Earth at the center of our moral and spiritual concern. She is principal author of "To Serve Christ in All Creation: A Pastoral Letter from the Episcopal Bishops of New England." She is a member of the Leadership Council of Religious Witness for the Earth.

Refreshments and Exhibits 8 to 8:30 p.m.

Concurrent Workshops 8:30 p.m. to 9:25 p.m.

Interfaith closing: 9:25 p.m.

Registration and information: You may register online at <http://www.riipl.org/register.htm>. For more information or registration by phone, please call (401)338-3916.

Suggested donation: \$10 at the door
 Thanks to sponsors People's Power and Light (Benefactor) and RISE Engineering (Supporter).

BOARD BITS

From the December Governing Board Meeting

■ The board voted to give its support to the statewide Rhode Island UUs for Social Justice group as it refocuses and changes its name to the Rhode Island State Legislative Ministry. We as church leaders agreed to participate in the organization's efforts to advocate for and win passage of legislation that reflects our UU values.

■ We met with the Finance Committee and discussed the significant loss of church income that will come from VHB, the engineering firm that has up to now been renting spaces in our parking lot, but is moving. We will await year-end reports on pledge payments before the Finance Committee considers any major budget changes, but for now it looks like we'll once again have to hold off on hiring a cleaning company.

■ We also discussed our upcoming canvass, and agreed that we must do our best to have a successful canvass this year because it will determine whether we will be looking for a part-time or a full-time minister.

■ We authorized the expense of \$199 to purchase a special license that allows churches to show movies from most of the major studios, so we can avoid potential lawsuits that could stem from advertising our monthly movie night.

■ We discussed a proposed bylaws amendment that would create staggered terms for Governing Board members and would replace the vice president with a "president elect" who would become president after one year, and then "past president," a non-voting, advisory position, the year after that. The point of the amendment is to create more continuity on the board and to create a training and advisory system for presidents so the job is easier to learn and less overwhelming.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

FINANCE COMMITTEE OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

Happy New Year and welcome to 2008. Financially, we are doing well. All of our bills are current and our income is keeping pace with our expenses. However, there are a couple items of concern.

We raised \$1,300 from the Goods and Services Auction but that was \$1,200 less than the budgeted amount of \$2,500.

In January we will be losing income from VHB – the engineering firm that has been renting parking spaces at Bell Street. Its departure will result in a reduced income of \$5,500 during the third and fourth quarters of our fiscal year, and \$11,000 during the next fiscal year 2008-2009. This is a significant loss in income.

We are being proactive. At the December Governing Board meeting, we identified areas where spending should be controlled. During our committee meeting, we reviewed the approved budget and identified line items that may need to be adjusted if there is a negative income trend. We also discussed other ways for increasing income.

We are also starting our 2008 Canvass campaign planning. We have been working with the Leadership Development Committee to recruit 4 to 5 members for this important committee. Our goal is to have the Canvass Committee in place in January and to begin to strategize on the type of campaign we want to have.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Finance Committee should you have any questions, concerns or need detailed financial information and thank you for making and honoring your pledge commitment.

~ The Finance Committee

(Joe Chaves, Jen Shimkus, John Simmonds, Phil Smith, Lyn Stein)

	JUL-NOV ACTUAL	JUL-NOV BUDGET	VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME				
- PLEDGES	\$20,729.00	\$22,917.00	(\$2,188.00)	\$55,000.00
- SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	\$5,372.00	\$3,113.00	\$2,259.00	\$7,472.00
- INTERESTS AND INVESTMENTS	\$20,490.00	\$19,990.00	\$500.00	\$47,975.00
- RENTALS	\$5,700.00	\$5,625.00	\$75.00	\$13,500.00
- EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING	\$2,246.00	\$2,604.00	(\$358.00)	\$6,250.00
- OTHER INCOME	\$3,142.00	\$0.00	\$3,142.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$57,679.00	\$54,249.00	\$3,430.00	\$130,197.00
EXPENSES				
- SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$30,647.00	\$32,064.00	(\$1,417.00)	\$76,954.00
- ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$9,168.00	\$8,289.00	\$880.00	\$19,893.00
- BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$4,554.00	\$7,917.00	(\$3,362.00)	\$19,000.00
- DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS	\$0.00	\$1,229.00	(\$1,229.00)	\$2,950.00
- OTHER EXPENSES	\$950.00	\$4,750.00	(\$3,800.00)	\$11,400.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,320.00	\$54,249.00	(\$8,928.00)	\$130,197.00
NET INCOME GAIN/LOSS	\$12,359.00	\$0.00	\$12,359.00	\$0.00

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



FROM THE BOARD

Conflict Transformation Workshop
Saturday, Feb. 23

CONFLICT. The word generally brings to mind very negative thoughts and images. Most of us would prefer to avoid conflict. Some people have such a lack of tolerance for it that they just run away, and, in so doing, often sacrifice potentially good and satisfying relationships.

Conflict is inevitable in all significant human interactions in our democratic, Western culture. But conflict between people who respect each other and the institutions they are working for can actually be resolved in a way that changes the situation for the better for all parties. The challenge is to master the skills that enable one to resolve the conflict in ways that strengthen, rather than harm, the relationships and institutions.

Bell Street Chapel is undergoing a period of transition. Transitions are fraught with conflict. We must make decisions about the future of the chapel and call a new minister. Differences of opinion are inevitable. The question is whether we can work through our differences and emerge in a better place with a larger, more committed membership.

The good news is that we are not the first congregation to go through such a transition and there is much to be learned from the experience of others. There are ways in which we can prepare ourselves to manage the inevitable conflict creatively and successfully. Conflict transformation can be a spiritual practice. And even better news is that the techniques we learn can be applied, not only at church, but also at home and work.

We hope that you will join us in a workshop on conflict transformation. One purpose will be to understand how our own personalities predispose us to deal with interpersonal

SPARKLE PROJECT

Chapel cleaning blitz Jan. 13

Good things come to those who wait. So, boy, it sure will seem like a treasure when we can once again hire a cleaning service for the chapel.

It looked for all the world like that day would be coming very soon, and we had even once again started interviewing potential bidders for the job. But unfortunately, in December we received notice from the company that rents parking spaces from us during the week that it would be moving and we would no longer have that income. That's a \$5,500 loss for the remainder of this fiscal year, and \$11,000 in the coming year if we don't find someone else to rent the spaces. And that loss means we are once again in the position of not being able to hire a cleaning service, at least for now.

With this in mind, it's high time to renew our commitment to the Sparkle Project, our coordinated volunteer effort to keep our chapel clean. Some of the people who were originally in charge of certain tasks are no longer able to do them, and admittedly, many of us have grown tired of doing them after more than a year. So I'm announcing a new approach: Beginning in January, we will start doing one cleaning blitz in the chapel and the Parish House once a month, beginning at the end of coffee hour. We'll try the second Sunday of each month and see how that goes. That means the first one will be Jan. 13. Many hands make the work light, so I hope you'll consider helping out, whether it's regularly or occasionally.

For those of you who have been faithfully cleaning an area of the church for the past year and a half or so, I give you my heartfelt thanks. And if you would like to continue doing your particular cleaning job instead of having it become part of our monthly blitz, please let me know. If you have questions or

concerns or want to talk about your role in keeping our spiritual home clean, please contact me at MeredythW@aol.com or (401) 451-2322.

~ Yours in conquering the dust bunnies,
Meredyth Waterman
Cleaning Czarina

FROM THE BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

differences. Are you a "my way or the highway" type or an overly accommodating "okay, have it your way" type? Neither of those approaches is very successful in transforming the situation for the better. We will also learn useful principles and skills. The workshop will be on Saturday, Feb. 23, and will be led by Rev. Bill Robinson and Carol Crowley. Save the date. Details will follow.

DISCUSSION GROUP

I am interested in organizing a discussion group at Bell Street Chapel that would meet once a month on Sunday after church. It would be small, with four to eight people who would agree to come monthly, January through May, 2008. We would take turns choosing the subject and leading the discussion, after having circulated to all something to read in advance about the subject. We would also decide on some basic rules for the discussions, such as not interrupting, sticking to the subject, sharing the air time equitably, etc. I was part of such a group, first at the UU church in Bloomington, Ind., and then at the UU church in Baltimore. I enjoyed this way of getting to know other church members and sharing what each person cared about. If you are interested in this discussion idea, please give me a call at (401) 247-3004.

~ Joanne DeVoe

LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY

On Dec. 11 Bell Street Chapel's Governing Board endorsed "Rhode Island UUs for Social Justice" as the church's "Legislative Ministry for Rhode Island."

Ours is the first UU church in Rhode Island to take this step, another "first" in our actions for social justice. We were also the first UU congregation to vote to:

- oppose the war in Iraq
- support the annual legislative program of "One Rhode Island" for economic justice
- support legislation for marriage equality in Rhode Island

The Unitarian Universalist Association and the UU Service Committee are now supporting the organization of such ministries. Their objective is to re-energize the historical activism of UUs in working for justice in our communities. Our UU principles - our denomination's religious values - will direct our efforts.

The objective of our Legislative Ministry is to encourage and organize the 1,000 or so UUs in Rhode Island in support of a legislative agenda established each year at a meeting to be held early in the legislative process. This year, the meeting will be held on Sunday, March 2, and is open to all who are interested in the Legislative Ministry. We see the product of this meeting as the shared agenda of our member churches, working as a denomination to influence the political process. In no way is it intended to substitute for the individual agendas of each church or its own actions for social justice.

We expect to focus our legislative efforts on such objectives as:

- the reduction/elimination of poverty

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



LEGISLATIVE MINISTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

- opposing discrimination based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or any other target of hate
- protection of our constitutional rights, a critical need to protect our ability to make our communities more just
- protecting our environment, greening Rhode Island.

We intend to organize a local meeting in each of our churches— in the church or a member's home – with members of the legislature who represent most members of the congregation, and to follow up on their support of our legislative program. There will be letter/phone/e-mail advocacy organized to have the greatest effect.

When needed, educational efforts will be organized drawing on staff resources from the various specialized agencies of advocacy we work with, for example, those dealing with affordable housing, immigration etc.

We will work in each church toward the goal of 100 percent voting on city, state and federal levels of government.

In addition, we shall act in some areas not regularly involving state legislatures, for example, the peace movement in Rhode Island.

There will be a workshop on the legislative ministry before our meeting on March 2 and sign-up sheets will be available for all interested in this exciting initiative.

Please look in the February newsletter for more details.

~ David Gleicher

MEDITATION GROUP

Dear Friends,

The meditation group, facilitated by Robert Rosa, which has been meeting at the Bell Street Chapel, has decided to become a Sangha (community of practice) in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Zen master, peace activist and poet who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have been asked to be the guiding teacher, as I have received Lamp Transmission (authority to teach) from Thich Nhat Hanh. He has been my teacher for 16 years. I am very grateful to be invited to be a part of the Bell Street Community.

Thich Nhat Hanh has spent most of his life looking deeply into the causes of war and found that in order to create peace on earth we need to transform the anger and conflict in ourselves and be peace. Ours is an engaged practice. Along with sitting and walking meditation, we try to use the practices in everything we do. The Buddha told us to not take anyone's word for anything...not even his. We must trust our experience. He gave us many practices to help us transform our suffering into joy. So we use the practices to develop our capacities of mindfulness, concentration and insight and then we trust our own experience.

Over a lifetime, we all develop habits of mind. Some exacerbate our unhappiness. We can't control many of the things that happen to us. However, we can learn to retrain our minds, so that we can respond, rather than react to whatever happens. We use mindfulness practices to raise our awareness of the habits of mind we have developed and replace the destructive ones with habits that serve us well. When we can choose where to place our minds, and transform our unskillful states of mind, we respond more skillfully to life and

experience more joy in every moment.

Everyone is welcome to join us. These practices are not in conflict with any faith tradition. If someone has a strong connection with a root tradition, we hope that they will be able to use the practices to strengthen their connection to their root tradition.

We are presently meeting on the first and second Saturday mornings of each month at 8 a.m. In the midst of our fast paced lives, it's wonderful to be able to stop and cultivate our ability to enjoy the present moment. I hope that you will be able to join us.

With much gratitude and the deep joy of being a part of your mindful community,

~ Joanne Friday
Dharmacharya
Tiep Hien Order

NIAGARA FALLS

Hear the roar! Feel the mist! See the mighty Falls! July 20-23, 2008

Come experience the wonder of Niagara Falls including some great educational opportunities while being taken care of like royalty. The UU Church of Niagara is conducting a four-day UU Niagara Experience which is the opportunity of a lifetime to encounter the Falls up close from every perspective, even safely riding beneath a tethered balloon. Spend four days exploring the rich historical and natural wonders around the Falls. For information visit this Web site : <http://www.uunex.net/>. You may also e-mail uunex@yahoo.com or call (716) 745-7149 or (716) 791-4453.

MID-YEAR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Jan. 27, 11 a.m.(after service)
Eddy Hall

Please save the date for our midyear congregational meeting after service on Jan. 27. We will be discussing important church business such as the progress of our search for a new minister and a proposed bylaws amendment to restructure our congregation's Governing Board to improve transitions and continuity by staggering terms and replacing the vice president with a "president-elect" who would serve one year, serve as president the following year and then serve as in an advisory role as "past president" for one year. This is an important conversation for our church, and we need your input and participation. The board is making a particular effort to make this meeting both fulfilling and fun, and we hope you'll make every effort to be a part of it, whether you are a member or a friend of Bell Street Chapel. Please watch your mail for meeting materials in the coming weeks, and listen up for announcements about details of the meeting at upcoming services.

~ Meredyth Waterman
Secretary

PARISH AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The peace-making book club that has been developed to help explore the Peacemaking Congregational Study/Action Issue adopted at the 2006 General Assembly will have its first meeting on Thursday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Parish House. Copies of the book "Peace is Every Step" are available upon request by contacting Clara Hardy at clarapvd@gmail.com or (401) 231-9226.

CONTINUED TOP OF NEXT COLUMN

A showing of the film "American Blackout" will be held at the church on Friday, Jan. 18 at 6:30 p.m. The film is a winner of six independent film awards in 2006 for its coverage of the electronic and voting shenanigan disenfranchisement of the African-American vote. Live documentary coverage of Cynthia McKinney's congressional investigation into the felon list purging of the voting rolls in Florida 2000 election; her discreditation by the press (later recanted) over the 9-11 investigations; Republican tactics to drive her from office; election booth shortages in Ohio in 2004, interviews with the Congressional Black Caucus and clips of civil rights movement for Voting Rights Act 1964 with commentary by John Lewis. The film is 1 ½ hours long.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Ministerial Search Committee is progressing through the early stages of our process. This winter and spring, we will be including the congregation more and more in that process, making our journey more visible and more inclusive of your comments.

A visual model of the search will be appearing soon in Eddy Hall as a way to share with others some of the elements that will be important. As always, the committee is available at Social Hour, at events, and through phone and e-mail communications.

But the largest next step, about which we are very excited, will be to distribute and collect the first of two surveys. We feel these surveys will be useful in many ways, including: our knowing better our fellow congregants' thoughts; continuing to encourage dialogue; and, allowing future ministerial candidates to understand our church better. This first survey, to be sent out by early February, will be distributed to members and constituents alike, as we recognize that all are part of our community; everyone's voices are valuable. The

surveys will be strictly confidential and anonymous. We look forward to sharing the aggregate results with everyone at Bell Street Chapel.

Our committee will also be participating in a retreat at Attleboro Unitarian Universalist church on Jan. 5. We anticipate the chance to become a more effective team through a workshop led by Robert Sarly, who holds experience in working with such committees.

As a follow-up to these and other activities, as well as an effort to share our learned ideas and group perspectives, our committee will be leading a worship service this spring.

We are pleased to see that meaningful discussion has already begun in various ways amongst the congregation; we hope to draw on that positive, lively energy of ideas through this period of transition, self-evaluation, sharing, seeking and finding.

BOARD BITS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

This amendment will be up for discussion and a vote at the mid-year meeting on Jan. 27.

- We reviewed the board covenant we signed at the beginning of the year and discussed how we are doing in following it.

~ Meredyth Waterman
Secretary