

# BELL STREET COLUMNS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF BELL STREET CHAPEL



## MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, Dec. 14, 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 heart-breaking 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 on Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Eddy Hall.

So bring some food or nonalcoholic drinks to share, bring your friends, and join us. What could be better? Good food, good company, good movie, and good discussion, all on one night!



Bell Street Chapel members and friends are invited to the annual Bell Street Chapel Holiday Party at the home of Carol Crowley, 305 Brook St., Providence, on Saturday, Dec. 8. The holiday party is a wonderful community-building event with good food, the singing of holiday songs, and just being together outside of church. The more the merrier. For questions or directions, please e-mail Carol at [ccrowley8@cox.net](mailto:ccrowley8@cox.net).



### The Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel

5 Bell Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909  
Phone (401) 273-5678 | [contact@bellstreetchapel.org](mailto: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 10:00AM

TODDLER CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AVAILABLE

#### 2 | DECEMBER

##### THEOLOGY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

*David Gleicher*

We will be joined by the Rev. Judith Dowling, the UUA's Ministerial Settlement Representative for the Ballou Channing District. She will host a question and answer session as part of the service.

#### 9 | DECEMBER

##### OTHER STORIES ABOUT JESUS

*Rev. Bill Robinson*

#### 16 | DECEMBER

##### THE BLESSINGS OF IMPERFECTION

*Audrey Greene*

The perfect Thanksgiving turkey, the absolutely apt gift, the New Year's resolution that will finally work; bah, humbug!

#### 23 | DECEMBER

##### LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING

*Rev. Bill Robinson*

#### 24 | DECEMBER

##### CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE AT 7PM

*Rev. Bill Robinson*

#### 30 | DECEMBER

##### FIRE COMMUNION

*Ray Perreault and Kate Gillis*

### IN THE INTERIM: THE MESSIAH

I have always liked Christmas. I like the decorations on the trees, the food, the lights in the windows, the stories and myths, and the joyful (yes, joyful! Harried but joyful!) spirit that most people have at this time of the year. When I was a child, I even liked visiting the relatives (although there were a couple of cousins I was not too wild about.) But mostly I like the music.

For many years, Gretchen and I sang in community choruses formed for the sole purpose of presenting Handel's *Messiah* at Christmas-time. Performances were sponsored by one of the region's Council of Churches and rehearsed and presented at one of the local houses of worship. The council would hire the four soloists but the rest of us, choristers all, were volunteers.

In late October calls would go out to church choirs in the area and 60 or 70 people would eventually attend the five or six rehearsals leading up to a Sunday afternoon performance in mid-December. Because we had done it for so many years, many of us knew the piece by heart. We were *Messiah* "groupies." Others who had never sung the piece before hoped that the choir director would go over the notes. No such luck: "We've all done this before, people, so I hope our rehearsals won't be held up by wasting time going over notes that you already know." By that time, the newbies (first-time choristers who didn't know the piece) would be terrified. They could be seen moving surreptitiously toward the door with coat in hand trying to sneak out. But one of us "groupies" would lean over to one of the terror-struck newbies and whisper, "stand between us and don't sing too loud until you get it." And so each "newbie" would interleave themselves between people who knew the piece, listening very carefully, and singing very quietly.

Historically that is how hymns and classical vocal pieces had always been learned. Paper was expensive and very few people could read the notes anyway. They learned it from the choir director if he was so inclined to teach, or from other choristers.

To share our knowledge was extra rewarding at this time of the year. After all, we were there to deliver the wonderful message of peace, to gather in community, and to enjoy ourselves. At these rehearsals there was always room for one more, even if she or he had to stand with one foot off the platform, even if he or she had never before sung a note. It was illustrative of what the message of Christmas is all about: building community and helping each other.

It may be a little early, but I wish you a Merry Christmas that overflows with the music of the season.

~ Rev. Bill



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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](mailto:revbillrobinson@msn.com) or at (508) 226-2910.

**REV. MARY MARGARET EARL**  
 COMMUNITY MINISTER

**REV. BEN HALL**  
 COMMUNITY MINISTER

**CHURCH STAFF**

**HEIDI GILKINSON, OFFICE MANAGER**  
**IRINA TCHANTCEVA, MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
**NED FOSTER, SEXTON**  
**IRENE ZABEK, CHILDCARE MANAGER**

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**MEREDYTH WATERMAN, SECRETARY**  
**TARA ANDERSON, AT-LARGE**  
**GREG GRECO, AT-LARGE**  
**ELLEN KELLNER, AT-LARGE**

**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



## NO ONE SHOULD FALL BETWEEN THE CRACKS - A TRUE STORY

As many of you know, I am a clinical therapist. One afternoon I was talking with a client about the concept of work. He and my husband both work on the same complex and are masters of their trades. I proceeded to tell the client that he and my husband were very lucky in that their work provides them with an immediate sense of accomplishment. They see the fruits of their labor.

I went on to say that it is not so for everyone. Take myself for example. During my years as a wildlife rehabilitator, I have raised countless baby squirrels and baby birds. None has ever come back the following year to introduce me to his or her offspring. Did my role as the surrogate mom who helped give them another chance at life really make a difference? During my many years as a clinical therapist, a few clients have dropped me a note about how they are doing years after completing therapy. But for the most part, once their therapy ends, I never hear from them again. Did I really make a difference with any of them?

The question haunted me for the rest of the day. How would I know if anything I've ever done has made a difference? I finally turned the question over to the Universe, unanswered.

I met with several more clients that afternoon. My last scheduled client for the evening was a new referral, a man in his fifties. As he began to tell me about his life, he described the many losses incurred by someone who had struggled with alcoholism.

"When they paroled me from the ACI, they sent me to Zambarano Hospital-longterm care because I was such a sick, chronic alcoholic they didn't think I would be able to make it out

## BOARD BITS

From the November Governing Board Meeting

- We are excited that 25 people participated in the Nov. 10 Exploring Our Purpose congregational workshop, and it showed us that we really need to work on developing a vision for our future. We hope to hold more two more workshops on vision and conflict transformation.
- We met with Steve Kagan, chairman of the Membership Committee about ways we can strengthen our membership and promote our congregation and Unitarian Universalism, such as handing out fliers in Providence about our church and our Christmas Eve service.
- Alas, there are copyright issues with our Movie Night. While we are probably not going to get in trouble for just showing the movie to ourselves, if we advertise the title, even just in the newsletter or on our Web Site, we could. We will be looking into a license agreement available to churches that allows us to show movies from a list of participating major studios for a flat annual fee of \$199. Even then, we will not be allowed to advertise the title of the film or name its stars. (You'll notice in this newsletter we have our first vague, titleless Movie Night article. Ask Carol Crowley or Genevieve Peri if you want to know what we're watching.)
- We discussed the possibility of moving to staggered terms for Governing Board members to provide more stability on the board. We're going to ask for info from other churches that use staggered terms and continue looking into this idea.
- We appointed Arline Davis and Daniel Greco to Rev. Bill Robinson's Committee on Ministry, and Betty and Tom Lamora to Rev. Mary Margaret Earl's Committee on Ministry. (John Tarrats was appointed some time ago to it and remains on it.)
- We are working with Terry Barbounis on redesigning and updating the Bell Street Chapel Web site.

## DECEMBER | 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
2 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Coffee Hour (EH) 11:30 am sandwiches (EH)	3 5-10 pm AIDS Quilt (EH) 6 pm Archivists (PH)	4 6:30 pm Worship Committee (PH)	5 6 pm Order of Service deadline	6	7 7-8:30 pm Sojourner House World AIDS Day (EH)	1 8 am Sitting Meditation 8 8 am Sitting Meditation (EH)
9 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Coffee Hour 6 pm Christmas caroling (MPL)	10 7 pm Finance Committee (PH)	11 7:30 pm Governing Board (PH)	12 6 pm Order of Service deadline	13	14 6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)	15
16 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Coffee Hour	17	18 7:15 pm House Committee (PH) 6 pm Parish & Social Concerns (EH)	19 6 pm Order of Service deadline	20 7 pm Bible Study (PH)	21	22
23 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour (EH) 8 pm newsletter deadline	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service (S)	25 Christmas	26 6 pm Order of Service deadline 6:30 pm Leadership Development (PH)	27	28	29
30 9 am newsletter fold (EH) 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am coffee hour (EH)	31					

## FINANCE COMMITTEE OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

We are four months into our fiscal year and doing well financially. We have paid off all of our outstanding bills! The Top to Bottom Cleaning service had been paid in full and we have no outstanding bills owed. We are up to date financially.

Income continues to be higher than budgeted and we are spending less. Our finances are in good shape.

Our Annual Goods and Services Auction ran smoothly this year. We raised \$1,312. There are only a few uncollected winning bids for services and goods that we expect to have collected by the end of the month. Thanks to everybody who offered goods or services and to all the bidders and an extra thanks to the volunteers that helped the Finance Committee run the auction more smoothly.

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-OCT ACTUAL	JUL-OCT BUDGET	VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>				
- PLEDGES	\$17,942.00	\$18,333.00	(\$392.00)	\$55,000.00
- SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	\$4,620.00	\$2,491.00	\$2,129.00	\$7,472.00
- INTERESTS AND INVESTMENTS	\$17,075.00	\$15,992.00	\$1,083.00	\$47,975.00
- RENTALS	\$5,700.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,200.00	\$13,500.00
- EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING	\$600.00	\$2,083.00	(\$1,483.00)	\$6,250.00
- OTHER INCOME	\$142.00	\$0.00	\$142.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$46,078.00</b>	<b>\$43,399.00</b>	<b>\$2,679.00</b>	<b>\$130,197.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
- SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$20,053.00	\$25,651.00	(\$5,599.00)	\$76,954.00
- ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$7,079.00	\$6,631.00	\$448.00	\$19,893.00
- BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$1,370.00	\$6,333.00	(\$4,964.00)	\$19,000.00
- DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS	\$0.00	\$983.00	(\$983.00)	\$2,950.00
- OTHER EXPENSES	\$100.00	\$3,800.00	(\$3,700.00)	\$11,400.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$28,601.00</b>	<b>\$43,399.00</b>	<b>(\$14,798.00)</b>	<b>\$130,197.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME GAIN/LOSS</b>	<b>\$17,477.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$17,477.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



## FROM THE BOARD

On Saturday, Nov. 10, 25 members of Bell Street Chapel met to begin a conversation about who we are and where we are going. Rev. Bill Robinson, our Interim Minister, facilitated a lively and thought-provoking discussion. We talked about why we are here, what keeps us coming back, and where we would like to be in five years. We also began to look at how the congregation deals with conflict.

Although these past few years have been challenging for us, this workshop reminded me of one of the reasons that I keep coming back—the people who make up this congregation. Members of this congregation gave up a Saturday morning to begin the process of looking at ourselves, our hopes, our challenges, and our strengths. This is a community that is committed to moving forward.

So with that in mind, where do we go from here? How do we move from words to action? At its November meeting, the Governing Board talked about the need for the congregation to develop and articulate a vision for itself. As a group, this congregation has many talents and great ideas. We seek spiritual growth, we try to help one another, and we work to heal the world. But what is the vision that ties all of us together? What do we value? Where do we see ourselves in five years? To begin looking at these issues, there will be a Visioning Workshop in the early spring. The goal of this workshop will be to develop a vision statement for the chapel, which will guide the work of the Governing Board and our committees as we move forward. Details will follow in the new year.

As part of the process of developing a vision, there will inevitably be disagreements about goals and priorities. Such conflict is a normal part of growth, and it is important that we be able to manage and learn from it. Therefore, in advance of the Visioning Workshop, we will

## 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, IN, 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 and would like to talk more about it with others who also are interested, join us after church on Sunday, Dec. 16, at coffee hour. If you would like to talk about it before then, please give me a call at (401) 247-3004.

~ Joanne DeVoe

## HOLIDAY CAROLING

We had so much fun caroling last year, we've decided to do it again. Anyone who would like to join their fellow Bell Streeters for a short evening of spreading holiday cheer in the Bell Street neighborhood is asked to gather in the chapel parking lot at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9. Dress warm, and perhaps festively. Songbooks will be provided, and everyone is welcome, whether or not you can hold a tune. When we're done, we'll pop into Eddy Hall for a few minutes to warm up with some cider and cocoa. This year we'll also hand out fliers about our chapel and our Christmas Eve service to anyone who wants them as we go along. Why not spread information about our terrific community as well as holiday cheer? For more info or to sign up for this event, please see Meredyth Waterman or e-mail her at [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto:MeredythW@aol.com).

FROM THE BOARD - CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

be holding a Conflict Transformation Workshop in February. Carol Crowley, our vice president, attended a week-long training on conflict transformation last summer, and will facilitate the workshop for us. This workshop will prepare us for the upcoming work on developing a vision statement, as well as help us as we move forward in the search process.

I would like to thank everyone for their participation in the workshop on Nov. 10, and for their ongoing commitment to the chapel. We do face many challenges, but our commitment to each other and to the church will help us to move forward and to grow, not just in numbers, but in depth and connection as a community.

## COFFEE CREW

Thank you to the Coffee Crew!

Each Sunday during the past five months our coffee hour has been hosted by a dedicated crew of individuals and by several committees of our church. Our thanks goes out to: Tom Mack, Meredyth Waterman, Judy Taylor, Arline and Joe Davis, Allyson Goose, Ellen Gallagher, Steve Kagan, Annette Briand, Dee Allain, Peg Boyle and the Governing, Finance and Search committees.

Preparing coffee, laying a welcoming table and cleaning up our fellowship hall are all valuable components in what it means to be a spiritual community. Thank you to all those who have prepared a place for our congregation to share a cup of coffee and to drink in the support and companionship that sustains us.

## AN INVITATION

The Ballou Channing District Board requests your presence at one of its regional information meetings on Cedar Hill.

AN INVITATION - CONTINUED

As the board recently communicated, it has received an outline or "road map" from a neighbor for placing a conservation restriction on the land, with financial consideration to the district for this action.

In planning its response, the board is considering the terms and conditions of the conservation restriction, financial remuneration, and the terms of ownership and use of Cedar Hill. The board is interested in getting maximum input for these negotiations and would appreciate feedback from BCD member congregations at one of the following sessions :

Monday, Dec. 3  
Westminster Unitarian Church  
119 Kenyon Ave, East Greenwich, RI

Tuesday, Dec. 4  
First Parish Church, Brewster  
1969 Main Street, Brewster, MA

Wednesday, Dec. 12  
First Parish Plymouth 19 Town Square  
Plymouth, MA

Wednesday, Dec. 12  
First Unitarian Church, New Bedford  
71 Eight Street, New Bedford, MA

All meetings will start at 7 p.m.

Guest at Your Table - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

day in January. When you turn in your box, please count the money and replace it with a check made out to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. UUSC membership begins at \$40 (or \$20 for seniors, and just \$10 for students and youth). Gifts of \$100 or more from a family or individual are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar through a matching grant. For more information visit the UUSC web site [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org). Welcome a Guest at Your Table!

~ Kate Gillis



NO ONE SHOULD FALL BETWEEN THE CRACKS - A TRUE STORY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

in the world on my own," he said. "That was 2001- six years ago. I started going to meetings and I met my sponsor, Ray A. He owns an apartment building and he encourages people that live there to lead a sober lifestyle." I said, "I know Ray A. He owns the Stadium apartments in Woonsocket, right?"

He replied, "Yes. I moved in there when I left Zambarano and I've got to tell you about something amazing that happened to me there. It was a few weeks before Christmas. I was staying sober but I was feeling really down. There was no one who wanted to bother with me this Christmas. My friends and family were all disgusted with me- I had let them down so many times. I just felt very alone. A few days before Christmas, I walked into my apartment and there was this big bag of presents and a big stocking next to it. I thought that there must have been some kind of mistake and it got put in the wrong apartment, but when I looked at the stocking, it had my name on it in glitter. I dumped the stocking out onto the floor and it was full of candy and apples and oranges and stuff like that. Then I started opening the presents. Each one was wrapped with ribbons and bows. They had bought me a navy blue hooded sweatshirt. They even got the size right. I had a warm pair of socks that I still wear today. They gave me an inspirational book, too."

This client went on to describe every present that had been in the bag. These gifts had been given to him six years earlier and he still remembered every one.

He went on to say, "I still have that stocking with my name on it in glitter. I take it out every Christmas and hang it up to remind me that in my darkest moments, when I thought no one cared, someone did!"

As you can imagine, silent tears were now streaming down my face as he said, "There

was a card in the bag from a man named Tom and his wife Annette. The man had lived in the building at one time and was now doing really well in his life."

As the client said the words "his wife, Annette," realization dawned on his face. "Are you Annette?" he asked.

"Yes" I replied.

"Why did you do that for me?" he asked. "Because no one should be without a gift during the holiday season." I replied.

This is the third year that we are inviting the Bell Street community to participate with the "No One Falls Between The Cracks" project. During the holiday season many of us are inspired to share our blessings with others. Often, families with children are targeted to receive gifts by many different social service agencies. Several years ago, Tom and I became keenly aware that some people tend to fall between the cracks during this time. The reasons are myriad but the bottom line is the same- they go through the holidays alone and unnoticed.

Tom and I decided to do what we could about this situation a few years ago. Instead of buying Christmas presents for each other we "adopted" an apartment building in Woonsocket. Up to 25 single people live there in one-room apartments, sharing bathrooms with others on the same floor. We obtain the first names and sizes of all of these people and then we go shopping! Performing this service to others enriches our lives and helps us to connect with the sacred during this time of year. If any of you feel moved to help with this project please contact us at (401) 419-3588. We'll be wrapping all the gifts at coffee hour on Dec. 16 and delivering them that week. Many hands make light the work!

*Sincerely,*

*~ Tom and Annette Briand*

## PARISH / SOCIAL CONCERNS

Needed: Donations of tuna, cookies and juice boxes in order to continue with the monthly lunch program for Crossroads. Due to our committee's finite budget for materials, we have to rely on the generosity of others to help supply items to continue this project. The next time that you go to the store, please remember to buy supplies if you are able so that this very valuable project to feed the homeless can continue.

### New Book Club

Starting in January, the Parish and Social Concerns Committee will be sponsoring a monthly book discussion program that will help explore the Peacemaking Congregational Study/Action Issue adopted at the 2006 General Assembly. Each month we will read and then discuss a peacemaking-related book. The book for January will be "Peace is Every Step" by Thich Nhat Hanh. A place and time for January's book discussion will be decided soon. Please contact Clara Hardy at [clarapvd@gmail.com](mailto:clarapvd@gmail.com) or (401) 231-9226 if you are interested in joining this group.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

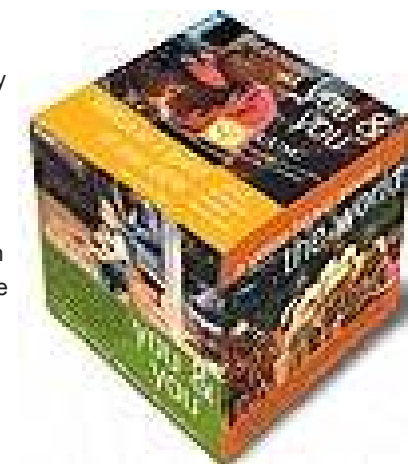
Were you outbid at the Goods and Services Auction? Fret not, you may still be able to hear "The Zen of Coen Brothers Films" or "Throw Away Your TV and Attain Nirvana" or the service topic of your particular dreams addressed from the pulpit. Just contact someone on the Worship Committee and we'll give it our consideration. The chances of your favorite topic being addressed will be much greater if you volunteer to help coordinate the service or do a reading or reflection. The Worship Committee is Kate Gillis, Annette Briand, Tom Briand, Renae Chaves, Brian Kovacs, Ray Perreault, Linda Skibski, and me, Audrey Greene.

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE & IMPORTANT NEW INFO

The January newsletter deadline is Dec.23 at 8 p.m., firm. From now on, please limit your submissions to 500 words. It's very hard to squeeze anything much longer into this small publication. Also, please send your submissions as a Word attachment – not in the body of the e-mail – otherwise it causes formatting problems. Please e-mail them to Meredyth Waterman at [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto: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 contributions are very much appreciated, and can help keep our community informed and make our events and activities successful.

## GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

Bell Street Chapel is participating in the Guest at Your Table program sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee again this year. The UU Service Committee with its program partners works to strengthen workers' rights; to protect the right to safe, affordable water; to defend civil liberties and democratic processes; and to preserve the rights of vulnerable people after disasters. If you wish to join this project, you are invited to pick up a cardboard Guest at Your Table box at Bell Street and keep it on your table during the holiday season. As often as you can, insert coins or bills in the box. The boxes will be collected at the Christmas Eve service and on Martin Luther King Sun-



## MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE - UPDATE

On Nov. 11, a group of members gathered after the service and voted unanimously that the search extend for two years, such that a new settled minister will be called in the spring-summer of 2009. This vote met the requirements of our bylaws and hopefully answered some questions. But we understand that many questions remain, and that many more helpful comments are yet to be expressed. We recognize that we are mirrors for your thoughts, feelings, and hopes, and we strive to represent and reflect your input as clearly as possible.

The process of gathering your ideas will be ongoing, and will include a number of ways for listening. More information will be forthcoming in future articles, including more concrete details, such as a more specific timeline.

First and foremost, we want to emphasize our availability to all congregants. In the spirit of respecting the wisdom we have within our own walls, we want to hear your ideas. There will be many opportunities for formal gatherings and for the use of written and verbal tools to formulate our goals in the coming months. In addition, we are all directly available for one-on-one input. Please feel free to contact any of us in

Coffee Hour, at other church events, or by phone or e-mail. Our contact information is as follows:

Stanley Kuziel: 944-7920, [stanleykuziel@aol.com](mailto:stanleykuziel@aol.com)

Ray Perreault: 575-0709, [ceviz58@yahoo.com](mailto:ceviz58@yahoo.com)

Brian Kovacs: 270-6666, [kovacspr@aol.com](mailto:kovacspr@aol.com)

Carey Taylor-Noble: 662-5468, [ctaylor@aol.com](mailto:ctaylor@aol.com)

Jasmine Appleberry: 225-2044, [jazzberry@cox.net](mailto:jazzberry@cox.net)

We look forward to this opportunity for defining, processing, and sharing who we are as a congregation.

*~ Jasmine Appleberry*

