

BELL STREET COLUMNS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF BELL STREET CHAPEL



TO THE COFFEE HOUR CREW:

SAVE THE DATE

July 2007

15 | "Conscious Eating" Potluck

August 2007

19 | Newsletter Deadline (8PM)

September 2007

15 | Marsh Cleanup

I haven't forgotten about your generous offers to help with our coffee hour, however during June, July and August, I am being a bit informal about organizing our schedule. In September I will develop a fancy calendar so that everyone will have plenty of notice about their given Sunday. We had a good response from volunteers and will likely only be taking a turn every three or four months.

~ Peg Boyle

POTLUCK

The July 15 service on "Conscious Eating" will be followed by a local food potluck. Bring a salad from your garden, a bread from your favorite local bakery, or anything made with ingredients you picked up at the farmer's market. Come share and celebrate conscious eating. We will eat outdoors in the park immediately following the service, or indoors if weather dictates.

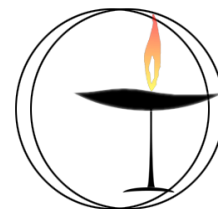
~ Philip Smith and Heron Greenesmith



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 it's 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

1 | JULY

RISE UP SINGING

Audrey Greene and Heron Greenesmith

This is our annual all-singing service. Come and experience the transformative power of voices raised in song.

8 | JULY

RECLAIMING WORDS

Greg Greco

15 | JULY

MINDFUL EATING

Heron Greenesmith and Philip Smith

29 | JULY

TBD

Lay Led Service

5 | AUGUST

LESSONS OF CATHOLICISM

Meredyth Waterman

Many UUs are former Catholics, and rather than flee from our roots, we should consider the lessons the Catholic tradition can offer us.

12 | AUGUST

HUMOR

Greg and Dan Greco

19 | AUGUST

TBD

Lay Led Service

26 | AUGUST

INNOCENCE

Betty Lamora

FROM THE GOVERNING BOARD

As I write this, Bell Street Chapel is entering a period of transition. The ministry of Rev. Stephen Landale is coming to an end. We thank him for all he has given us over the past six years and wish him well in his next ministry. The process of searching for a new settled minister has begun with the hiring of Rev. Willard (Bill) Robinson as our Interim Minister. Rev. Robinson is an Accredited Interim Minister in Training and is currently the Interim Minister in Salem, Massachusetts. His Interim Ministry will begin in August. We look forward to working with and learning from him.

We are also in the process of hiring an Office Manager. The absence of an Office Manager has been a strain for all of us, and I would like to say a special "Thank You!" to everyone who has chipped in to make sure that office functions have been accomplished. The position has been posted, and the Governing Board and Rev. Robinson have begun interviewing candidates. We hope to be able to hire a qualified individual within the next several weeks.

The more I think about this transition process, the more I feel excited and hopeful about the future of Bell Street Chapel. The past few years have been challenging in many ways.

Membership has declined. Finances have been difficult. Individual members have dealt with many personal challenges and changes. Yet, we continue to come together to create a spiritual community that nourishes us and works to make the world a better place. All change gives us the opportunity to learn and to grow. I look forward to this next stage of our journey together.

*In faith,
Don Laliberte
President*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for submission of articles for the September edition of *Bell Street Columns* is Sunday, August 19 at 8 p.m. **This deadline is firm.** Please attach a copy of your article in Word format via e-mail addressed to Meredyth Waterman at MeredythW@aol.com.

A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

The Worship Committee is on high alert these days as we plan and coordinate the upcoming lay-led Sunday services for the year. We are a dedicated group who perceives Bell Street's worship services as the heart of our community experience. At our monthly meetings, we search for ways to improve worship, and we search for community members to participate. During this time of Bell Street's transition, we will depend on volunteers for Sunday services more than ever. The opportunities are endless!

You are invited to share your spiritual journey, your stories, your discoveries, your gifts, your time, your ideas and your inspirations. Please consider taking part in a service or offering your suggestions to any of the Worship Committee members.

BELL STREET CHAPEL

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MINISTERS

REV. WILLARD ROBINSON, *INTERIM PARISH MINISTER*
REV. MARY MARGARET EARL, *COMMUNITY MINISTER*
REV. BEN HALL, *COMMUNITY MINISTER*

CHURCH STAFF

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

GOVERNING BOARD

DON LALIBERTE, *PRESIDENT*
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MEREDYTH WATERMAN, *SECRETARY*
JENNIFER SHIMKUS, *TREASURER*
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, *CHRISTINE CONSTANEAU/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



BITS FROM THE BOARD

Here are the highlights from business taken up by the Governing Board in June. For more detailed information, check out Donald's column. If you have any comments or would like more information about anything the board is doing, please ask a board member.

■ We voted to hire Willard Robinson as our Interim Minister! We met with him on June 14 and talked about what a part-time interim minister will do.

■ We voted to offer the Office Manager position to a candidate, but she had already taken another job. We hope to have a new Office Manager soon.

■ We discussed the June 2 Council of Chairs meeting, at which leaders indicated that better accountability and a willingness to hold one another accountable would improve leaders' satisfaction.

■ We'd like to work on using the newsletter better to communicate not just events, but how things work in our church.

■ We'll be considering completing the creation of policies for when sex offenders wish to attend our church.

~ Meredyth Waterman
Secretary



AUGUST | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9am - Choir practice @... 10am - Service @ Sanct... 11am - Social hour @ E...	30	31	1 6pm - Bulletin Submissi...	2	3	4 8am - Sitting Meditation
5 9am - Choir practice @... 10am - Service @ Sanct... 11am - Social hour @ E... 11:30am - Crossroads P...	6	7 6:30pm - Worship Com...	8 6pm - Bulletin Submissi...	9	10	11 8am - Sitting Meditation
12 9am - Choir practice @... 10am - Service @ Sanct... 11am - Social hour @ E...	13 7pm - Finance Committee	14 7:30pm - Gov Board @ P...	15 6pm - Bulletin Submissi...	16 7pm - Bible Study @ Par...	17	18 8am - Walking Meditation
19 9am - Choir practice @... 10am - Service @ Sanct... 11am - Social hour @ E... 6pm - Newsletter Deadl...	20	21 7:15pm - House Commi...	22 6pm - Bulletin Submissi... 6:30pm - Leadership Dev	23	24	25
26 9am - Choir practice @... 9am - Newsletter Fold @... 10am - Service @ Sanct... 11am - Social hour @ E...	27	28 6pm - P&SC @ Eddy Hall, 7pm - Membership Co...	29 6pm - Bulletin Submissi...	30	31	1 8am - Sitting Meditation

FINANCE COMMITTEE OUR FINANCIAL HEALTH

Our net income gain through the end of May is \$7,914. This net income gain shows that with all of your help we can bring in the income necessary to support our new budget and pay off our few remaining outstanding bills.

By the time you read this article, fiscal year 2007 will have ended and the new fiscal year 2008 will have begun. If you completed your pledge last year we all thank you. Now is our time to start anew with the new fiscal year. We have a new budget in place and your new pledges will support it.

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

	JULY-MAY ACTUAL	JULY-MAY BUDGET	VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME				
- PLEDGES	\$52,245.00	\$51,569.00	\$676.00	\$56,257.00
- SUNDAY COLLECTIONS	\$25,895.00	\$6,967.00	\$18,929.00	\$7,600.00
- INTERESTS AND INVESTMENTS	\$37,565.00	\$37,565.00	\$0.00	\$40,980.00
- RENTALS	\$10,800.00	\$13,567.00	(\$2,767.00)	\$14,800.00
- EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING	\$4,646.00	\$6,417.00	(\$1,771.00)	\$7,000.00
- OTHER INCOME	\$7,820.00	\$12,051.00	(\$4,230.00)	\$13,146.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$138,971.00	\$128,134.00	\$10,836.00	\$139,783.00
EXPENSES				
- SALARY AND BENEFITS	\$90,584.00	\$96,718.00	(\$6,134.00)	\$105,511.00
- ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$13,808.00	\$13,146.00	\$662.00	\$14,341.00
- BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$13,876.00	\$11,848.00	\$2028.00	\$12,925.00
- DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS	\$0.00	\$275.00	(\$275.00)	\$300.00
- OTHER EXPENSES	\$12,788.00	\$6,147.00	\$6,641.00	\$6,706.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$131,056.00	\$128,134.00	\$2923.00	\$139,783.00
NET INCOME GAIN/LOSS	\$7,914.00	\$0.00	\$7,914.00	\$0.00

CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



AMONGST US

“ LET US BE JOINED IN SEEKING THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE HEART. LET US BE JOINED IN GIVING VOICE TO THOSE MELODIES WHICH CAN HEAL THE WOUNDED SOUL. LET US BE JOINED IN SPEAKING THE WORDS WHICH SET US FREE“

CALVIN O. DAME

In this column we celebrate milestones and other life events, request healing thoughts for those in need, and remember departed loved ones. If you have information you would like to share in this column, please contact Christine Constantineau at sweetsangel@msn.com or (401) 349-0767. If you or another member you know needs assistance, please contact Steve Kagan at 331-2712 or skri1@cox.net.

July

We have quite a few Bell Streeters celebrating special events in July. Big birthday wishes go out to Wendy Schwartz, Jesse Whitsitt-Lynch, Lisa Basiliere, Norma Nelson and Jennifer Shimkus.

Happy anniversary celebrations to Irina Tchantceva and Greg Balagian, Tom and Betty Lamora, Chris Campanile and Peg Boyle, and Ben Hall and Stacy Cristo. Congratulations to all!!

Stuart Smith, congratulations on your retirement from your job as a supervisor at DCYF.

Supportive thoughts also go to everyone, especially those who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings.

AMONGST US CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

August

Believe that to meet the challenge of our times, human beings will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. Each of us must learn to work not just for his or her own self, family or nation, but for the benefit of all mankind. -Dali Lama

We have quite a few Bell Streeters celebrating special events in August. Big birthday wishes go out to Jasmine Appleberry, Noah Barreto, Cecily Goulis and Don Laliberte. Happy anniversary celebrations to Ellen and Stuart Smith. Congratulations to all!!

Supportive thoughts also go to everyone, especially those who are unable to join us on Sunday mornings.

From the Caring & Membership Committee (Christine Constantineau, Steve Kagan, Clara Hardy, Marydale Stevens and Jasmine Appleberry).



MARSH CLEANUP

A small but dedicated crew of Bell Streeters visited our adopted Marsh on Oxford Street on the Providence waterfront to do our twice-annual sprucing up on June 2. We were pleased to find that our work might, in fact, be working, since the place wasn't as messy as usual when we got there. Perhaps the police are patrolling there more, or perhaps some of the folks who have dumped trash there in the past have noticed that somebody is taking care of it and have felt moved to put their trash someplace more appropriate. At any rate, it was nice to see the place looking good (ish), and of course looked even better when we were through.

This cleanup featured the first Bell Street Marsh Cleanup Biohazard contest, won by the eagle-eyed Tom Mack, who blew away the competition by finding four hypodermic needles – the only needles we found at all this time -- in one little area. He took home the coveted prize of antibacterial hand soap.

Many thanks to the Bell Street folks who participated (see us all smiling in our nice clean marsh in the picture, taken by Carol Crowley's husband James, who came in second in the biohazard contest), and to Save the Bay, which provided gloves and trash bags and arranged for the city to pick up the trash. We seem to be making a difference!

~ Meredyth Waterman



CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



JULY | CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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8 9am - Choir practice @... 10am - Service @ Sanct... 11am - Social hour @ E...	9 7pm - Finance Committee	10 7:30pm - Gov Board @ P...	11 6pm - Bulletin Submissi...	12 7pm - Bible Study @ Par...	13	14 8am - Sitting Meditation
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EVENTS COMMITTEE

Ellen Kellner wishes to thank the members of the Events Committee for working so hard in the last two months to plan and execute some amazing events. The May 20 concert was a unique program, ascetically satisfying, and a financial success for our General Fund. Our superb acoustics and afternoon light streaming in the chapel's beautiful windows provided the quartet an elegant setting for an unusual performance with two additional string players reinforcing the powerful Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence*. Tom Mack who is friends with PSQ cellist Heath Marlow, first suggested this event in 2006, and was willing to organize ticket printing (special thanks to Terry Barbounis for designing those nice tickets). Tom also designed the fliers to post around town, and designed, wrote, and printed the program notes for the concert. Other Events Committee members set up the refreshments which induced the audience to stay awhile and meet some of the musicians. PSQ likes the venue and we will work with them next year to host another concert.



Thanks also to Jasmine Appleberry and Judy Taylor for planning the June 17 picnic and farewell for Steve Landale. We muddled through some complications with the original June 9 Goddard Park picnic date, but with the downpour on that day, the new date worked well following Steve's last sermon in the chapel. Special thanks are in order for Christine Constantineau and Sharon Abrams for lugging their substantial grill to the site and taking charge of the cook-out.

Looking ahead for summer events, we know there are Paw Sox games scheduled on Sun-

park, prior to heading off for McCoy Field. Let us know if you want to go.

On Sunday June 24, Renae Chaves led a beautiful summer solstice service with reminiscences of outdoor concerts. Some of you are already familiar with the Blackstone River Theatre in Cumberland and the fine artists they bring to our state for outstanding performances. This is the first year they are sponsoring a Celtic Festival on Saturday, July 21, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Diamond Hill Park on Route 114 in Cumberland. There will be four stages: two for music, one for dance and one for children. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors, children \$5 and under 5 are free. For more information check out www.riverfolk.org or call Blackstone River Theatre at 725-9272.

Save the date Sept. 23, 3 p.m. for our next musical event. A young talented Japanese musician, Sakiko, will be performing a piano concert at Bell Street Chapel. If any of you would like to help us plan and promote this event, we are happy to include you.

With Ellen serving on the Board this year, we are looking for a new Chair.

Until then we sign off in good faith, fun, and friendship: Ellen Kellner, Jasmine Appleberry, Tom Mack and Judy Taylor.



MEMBERSHIP AND CARING COMMITTEE

The Membership & Caring Committee is looking for new members. As a committee we work together to provide information about Bell Street Chapel and Unitarian Universalist to newcomers and new members. We explore ways to reach out to the community and raise awareness of what Bell Street Chapel has to offer; also we serve as greeters to the congregation on Sundays, welcome newcomers and assist in making Bell Street Chapel a welcoming environment for all.

If you have ideas on how to get the word out about Bell Street Chapel or would like to help greet, the Membership / Caring committee would be a great place for you. You are welcomed to join our next meeting at Christine's house for a cookout on 7/26/07 @ 6:30pm or contact a member of the committee (Steve Kagan, Jasmine Appleberry, Clara Hardy, Mary Dale Stevens, and Christine Constantineau) for more information.