

# BELL STREET COLUMNS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF BELL STREET CHAPEL



## WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10 AM

TODDLER CARE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL AVAILABLE

### 5 | JUNE

#### JUSTICE AND VENGEANCE

*Raymond Perreault*

How might justice and vengeance differ? What are their roles and the role of forgiveness in a time of unforgivable acts?

### 12 | JUNE

#### GOODBYE AND HELLO

*Rev. José Ballester*

The annual flower service, please bring a flower to share.

### 19 | JUNE

#### FATHER'S DAY

*Phillip Smith*

Come celebrate Father's Day at the first summer service to be held in the accessible Eddy Hall. Join us as we explore the heartache and joy experienced through fatherhood.

### 26 | JUNE

#### ART AND DIVINE PROVIDENCE

*Daniel Lawlor*

As we enjoy the summer, we invite you to reflect and experience with Providence art educators and students their values, practice, and creativity. Art opens minds to new ideas, and doors to opportunities. This is a chance for reflection and rejuvenation.

## FROM THE BOARD: BETTER ACCESSIBILITY

Hooray for Bell Street! We have made great progress toward the installation of the stairlift to our sanctuary. We had two events on May that together brought us to our monetary goal. The enthusiastic participants in the Step-a-thon raised \$1,146 and the fabulous recital by Sergey Schepkin raised \$1,460. That brings our stairlift account as of May 9 to \$8,863.05. Our Trustees will give us \$5,000 so the total is \$13,863.05. That is enough to have the stairlift installed! Together with the stairlift to Eddy Hall that was installed in January, we will be able to be inclusive of many more people.

We have been working on this project for a long time. Many people have given donations and supported it and we thank them all. Annette and Tom Briand got us off to a good start by sharing the gifts they received for their wedding. Former member Kelly LoGiudice organized a church yard sale. Stu and Ellen Smith brought in numerous delicious vegetables from their garden and donations were collected as people took the veggies home. Meredyth Waterman and Dave Whitty shared their engagement party gifts. Irina Tchantceva organized two wonderful concerts. I organized the Step-a-thon in memory of Joe Davis. He and many others, most recently Steve Barreto, Stu Smith and Rev. José Ballester, put in many hours researching possible solutions, waiting for vendors to come, evaluating proposals, meeting with fire inspectors and making decisions.

Thanks to everyone for making this project a priority and for supporting it in many different ways.

*~Kate Gillis for the Governing Board*

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

## BELL STREET CHAPEL

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PROVIDENCE, RI 02909  
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WWW.BELLSTREETCHAPEL.ORG  
(401) 273-5678

### MINISTERS

REV. JOSÉ BALLESTER

INTERIM MINISTER

*Rev. Ballester's office hours are by appointment.*

*To schedule an appointment contact him at*

*joseballester@mac.com or (781) 264-3511*

REV. MARY MARGARET EARL

COMMUNITY MINISTER

REV. BEN HALL

COMMUNITY MINISTER

### CHURCH STAFF

HEIDI GILKENSON, OFFICE MANAGER

Office Hours:

Monday, Friday – 7 a.m. to 11

Tuesday and Thursday – by appointment only

IRINA TCHANTCEVA, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NED FOSTER, SEXTON

IRENE ZABEK, CHILDCARE MANAGER

### GOVERNING BOARD

DAN GRECO, PRESIDENT

KATE GILLIS, PRESIDENT-ELECT

JIM GILLIS, TREASURER

RAY PERREAULT, AT-LARGE

PEG BOYLE, AT-LARGE

MEREDYTH WATERMAN, PAST PRESIDENT

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EVENTS, ELLEN KELLNER

FINANCE, GREG GRECO

HOUSE, STEVE BARRETO

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT,

JASMINE APPLEBERRY

MEMBERSHIP/CARING,

MEREDYTH WATERMAN

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, KATE GILLIS

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, CAROL CROWLEY

WORSHIP, AUDREY GREENE

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

EDITOR, MEREDYTH WATERMAN

COPY EDITOR, ELLEN SMITH

ORIGINAL DESIGN BY TERRY BARBOUNIS

## AMONG US

Congratulations to Jasmine Appleberry and her now-husband, Matt! Jasmine and Matt, married on May 21! Best wishes from all of Bell Street for a wonderful, happy and long lifetime together, Jasmine and Matt!

We're proud of Heron Greenesmith, Audrey Greene and Philip Smith's daughter who grew up in our church, who is now working as a lawyer with the Family Equality Council. She recently spent a week in New York canvassing for marriage equality. The New York vote is scheduled for early in June. If you'd like to read some great inspirational writing about a good cause, go to <http://www.equalfamily.org/blog/>. Scroll down until you see a close-up of Heron's smiling face to get to the first day of her trip.

Several children of our church are celebrating their birthdays this month. Owen Goulis will celebrate his sixth birthday on June 1. Sophie Barreto will turn 11 on June 9. And Lily Campanile-Boyle (Peg Boyle's daughter, now in college) will celebrate a birthday on June 8. And some of our slightly older kids are celebrating all at once at the month. Rev. Ben Hall's birthday is June 26, twins Greg and Dan Greco celebrate June 27, and Richard Corso celebrates (a big one! Let's just say 21.) on June 28. Happy birthday to you all!

If anyone has any birthdays, anniversaries, or other dates you'd like us to add to our list for well-wishes throughout the year, or other items of interest for inclusion in this column, please contact Meredyth Waterman, Membership and Caring Committee co-chairwoman, at [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto:MeredythW@aol.com) or (401) 451-2322.

~In love,  
The Membership and Caring Committee

## WISH LIST

Wanted for our church:

- One legal-sized filing cabinet for sheet music storage.
- Two small cabinets, one for each bathroom, in which we can store a few rolls of extra toilet paper. This will prevent anyone from falling victim the unfortunate no-TP situation!
- Cloth tablecloths for Eddy Hall. We don't know where they've been going, but we're running out. And frankly, the ones we have are in rough shape. Preferably matching ones. Alternatively, if you have time and some sewing skills, we have a large bolt of cloth, and would love for someone to turn it into tablecloths.

If you have one of these things and are willing to give it to Bell Street, please contact Meredyth Waterman at (401) 451-2322 or [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto:MeredythW@aol.com)

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

## PRIDE

Pride Saturday is June 18 this year and will be held along the east side of the Providence River near South Water Street, with entry across from the Cable Car and behind Hemenway's. Set-up begins at 10:30 a.m. and break-down is at 6 p.m. The parade forms up at 7:30 p.m. near the



Biltmore along Fountain Street and steps off at 8 p.m. Bell Street will have a booth again this year and a unit in the parade.

Needed: set-up and break-down crews, staff for the booth (2-1/2 hour shifts),

decorations for the booth, things to display that represent who we are and what we stand for and participants in our parade unit. A sign-up sheets will circulate at coffee hour.

Reasons to participate in Pride:

Get out the word about Bell Street

Stand up for what we believe in

Being in the sun

Support people who need our presence

Rainbow Fish

The Boa Count-Down (will it happen again this year?)

Meeting people at their first Pride

Being applauded for being Bell Street

Always being there

Meeting new people

Eating funky fair food

Being Bell Street

Having a great time

Contact: Brian Kovacs [kovacspride@aol.com](mailto:kovacspride@aol.com)

401 270-6666

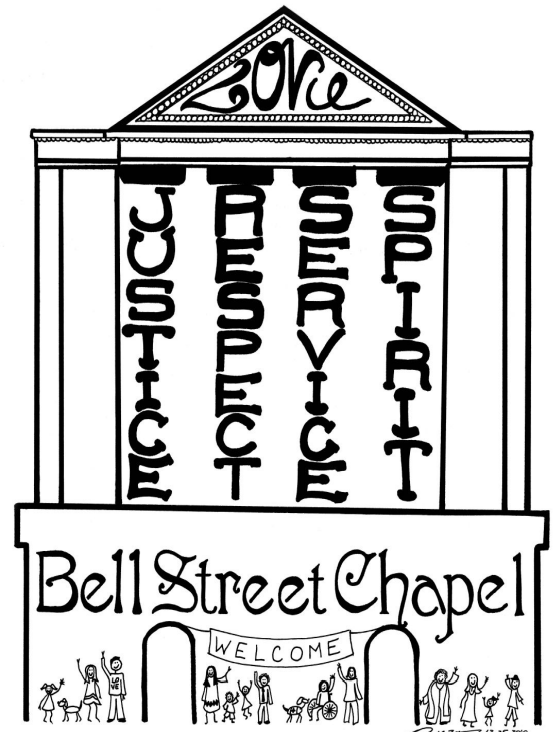
## BELL STREET T-SHIRTS AND MORE

Visit [www.cafepress.com/bellstreetchapel](http://www.cafepress.com/bellstreetchapel) and get your own Bell Street Chapel T-shirts, sweatshirts, canvass bags, mugs, bibs, doggy shirts and lots of other stuff!

David Whitty, fiancé of Board member and Membership Committee Co-chairperson Meredyth Waterman, created the original design at left, which is now available on all kinds of things through our Cafepress.com shop . (Look carefully at the people in the design. You may recognize some!)

And just to make a good thing even better, 10 percent of each sale comes back to Bell Street Chapel.

Wear your Bell Street pride and help spread the word about our great church community!



# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS

## ON THE ROAD TO PROVIDENCE: CELEBRATION!

On June 12 the Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel will celebrate its annual Flower Service, and I will lead my last Sunday Service as your interim minister. When I first visited Bell Street Chapel, the Rev. Mitchell Howard was the pastor and I was serving our sister congregation, the First Universalist Church of Woonsocket, as their interim minister. Twenty-four years later I began my tenure as your consulting minister.

In 1984 the congregation numbered less than two dozen adults and the membership had been in decline for some years. By 2008 the congregation had grown far beyond the expectations of the district, but not beyond the dreams of the congregation. Admittedly this congregation had seen some decline in recent years, but there is an indomitable spirit that drives this congregation. I sensed it in 1984, again in 2008 and it is still here.

As an interim minister I have one rule: I do not champion lost causes. If I doubt the willingness of a congregation to succeed, I do not agree to work with that congregation. Last year, as this congregation voted to restart the search process, I requested to have my status changed from consulting minister to interim minister and promised that the congregation would call its next pastor within this church year. I made that promise because I had confidence in you and in your spirit.

Now that you have called the Rev. CJ McGregor my promise is fulfilled, it is time for this traveler to move on. When I began my ministry at Bell Street Chapel, I gave the congregational leadership my walking stick. It is festooned with seven ribbons representing the seven congregations I have served. When the congregational leadership returns my walking stick I hope it will have a new ribbon.

My parting words to the Religious Society of Bell Street Chapel are to have fun in life. As a congregation find ways to be together and enjoy yourselves. Be kind to each other; remember you are human and prone to mistakes, so forgive each other. Be gentle with CJ, he is trying to learn about you as you are trying to learn about him. Remember when two people first try to dance together, they will make missteps and will have expectations borne from prior dance partners. Give it time, let the music lead you and find the new rhythms.

And finally, one of my favorite singers is Lee Ann Womack who wishes:

*I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance  
Never settle for the path of least resistance  
Livin' might mean takin' chances, but they're worth takin'  
Lovin' might be a mistake but it's worth makin'  
Don't let some hell bent heart leave you bitter  
When you come close to selling out, reconsider  
Give the heavens above more than just a passing glance*

*And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance,  
I hope you dance.*

Shalom, Salaam, Namaste, Blessed Be, and Amen.

~Rev. José Ballester, Interim Minister

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The summer issue of *Bell Street Columns* is not far away! In the summer, we publish just one issue that covers both July and August. Please think ahead and remember to submit anything that you need to publicize between now and the beginning of September. The deadline is June 12 at 8 p.m. Please submit your articles as a regular Word attachment (.doc) to Meredyth Waterman at [MeredythW@aol.com](mailto:MeredythW@aol.com). Our newsletter is one of the most effective means of communicating with our members and friends, so don't miss out on this opportunity. And remember — it's not just for announcing events. If you have information like what your committee is working on, or other church-related information of interest that you'd like to share with the Bell Street community, please send it in.

~Meredyth Waterman

# CONGREGATIONAL AFFAIRS



## JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PH=PARISH HOUSE | S=SANTUARY | EH=EDDY HALL | MPL=MEET IN PARKING LOT | OS=OFFSITE | RE=RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ROOM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 6 pm Order of Service deadline	<b>2</b> 7 p.m. Outside Group (PH)	<b>3</b> 6 pm Daydream event (EH)	<b>4</b> 8 am meditation (EH) 6 pm Daydream event (EH)
<b>5</b> 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Annual meeting 11:30 am Cross-roads (S)	<b>6</b> 6 pm Empire Review (S) 6:30 pm Finance Committee (PH)	<b>7</b> 6:30 Worship Committee (PH)	<b>8</b> 6 pm Order of Service deadline	<b>9</b> 7 pm Membership Committee (PH)	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm Movie Night (EH)	<b>11</b> 8 am meditation (EH)
<b>12</b> 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Coffee Hour 11:30 Discussion Group (PH) 8pm newsletter	<b>13</b> 6 pm Empire Review (S)	Flag Day <b>14</b> 6:45 pm Governing Board (PH)	<b>15</b> 6 pm Order of Service deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7 pm Drum Circle (EH)	<b>18</b> 8 am meditation (EH) RI Pride Fest 10:30 am (OS) 5 pm Community MusicWorks concert
Father's Day <b>19</b> 9 am Choir (S) 10 am Service (S) 11 am Coffee Hour	<b>20</b> 6 pm Empire Review (S)	<b>21</b> 7:15 pm House Committee (PH)	<b>22</b> 6 pm Order of Service deadline	<b>23</b> 6:30 p.m. Book Club (PH)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8 am meditation (EH)
<b>26</b> 9 am choir 9 am newsletter folding EH 10 am Service (S) 11 am Coffee Hour	<b>27</b> 6 pm Empire Review (S)	<b>28</b> 6 pm Peace & Social Justice (PH)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

# ANNUAL MEETING

All members are asked to attend the society's annual meeting June 6 after service. Please bring a potluck lunch item to share. The meeting will be right after service in Eddy Hall, and all members are asked to attend and should have received a meeting packet in the mail. Votes will be taken on the annual budget and the leadership slate, and the meeting is not expected to be long.



## 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.”**

