

**Barrington Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
Barrington, Rhode Island**

# **2015 ANNUAL REPORT**



All church members are encouraged to attend the

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

in the Sanctuary immediately following worship

***Child care will be provided***

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**WARRANT**  
**for the ANNUAL MEETING**  
**of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC**  
Barrington, Rhode Island

The annual meeting of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, Barrington RI, is hereby called to take place on

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**  
in the Sanctuary **immediately after worship.**

The business to be transacted is as follows:

ARTICLE I: To call the meeting to order.

ARTICLE II: To receive and vote on the slate of nominees for officers, ministry teams and delegates.

ARTICLE III: To review and vote on the proposed church budget for July – December 2015.

ARTICLE IV: To consider any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

ARTICLE V: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Voigt, Clerk

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**MINUTES of the 2014 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**of the BARRINGTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC**  
**held SUNDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2014**

**Article I** – The meeting was called to order at 11:02AM

**Article II** – A motion was made by Lee Miller and seconded by Ann Wood, to vote on the slate of nominees for 2014-2015 as outlined in the Annual Report. After a plea from Pat Cordeiro for a church member to fill the open position of Clerk, the slate was unanimously approved.

**Article III** – Moderator Steve Peck asked Dick McWhirter to share the highlights of the proposed budget for fiscal 2014-2015. While pledge income has gone down, investment income has increased. The proposed budget also reflects a 30% increase in hours for the CE Coordinator and a 2% salary increase for the staff. There is a projected savings of \$6.3K as a result of the church's conversion from oil to gas. Dick emphasized that the goal of the proposed budget was to meet the vital needs of the church while also being fiscally responsible. He then made a motion, which was seconded by Jim McCartney, that the proposed budget be accepted. The floor was then opened for discussion, at which time Stephanie Edwards made a motion to amend the budget. The motion was "I move that our church finance committee begin any necessary planning to set aside enough funds to bring the Associate Minister from a part-time to a full-time

status starting no later than July 1, 2015. Whether the difference in salary will be drawn from our endowment or another budget line, I believe the Barrington Congregational Church will be in a stronger position to carry forward with its spiritual mission with two full-time ministers.”

A spirited discussion then followed. Dick McWhirter spoke to the various reasons as to why pledges were down and others expressed their concerns and hopes that, in the future, we might be able to raise our level of missions giving. It was brought to everyone’s attention that we could not vote on the budget and Stephanie Edwards’ proposed amendment at the same time. Therefore, the proposed budget, as originally presented, was passed with 5 opposing votes and no abstentions. Discussion then moved on to the proposed amendment. Comments and concerns expressed, chiefly revolved around the use of the Endowment Fund to help fund the estimated additional \$11K needed to make the Associate Minister’s position full-time. Jim McCartney asked that the question be moved. The amendment, as presented, was defeated by the majority, with 17 members voting in favor and 4 abstaining. A new motion was made and seconded, similar to the previous one, but with “Whether the difference in salary will be drawn from our endowment or another budget line” removed. The discussion continued and the new, revised amendment was passed with 8 members opposed and 7 abstaining.

**Article IV** – No new business

**Article V** – A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Barbara H. Wuth*, Clerk, pro-tem

**3**

**MINUTES of a SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC  
held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Steve Peck immediately following worship at 11:15. A quorum of over 45 members was present.

A motion was made by Lynne Lehman and seconded by Peter Weldy as follows: The search committee for an Associate Minister unanimously recommends that Brendan Curran be appointed as Associate Minister. The motion was approved unanimously by the congregation.

John Muth moved and Jim McCartney seconded a motion to dissolve the search committee with grateful thanks for their service; the motion was approved unanimously by the congregation.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pat Cordeiro*, clerk pro tem.

**SENIOR MINISTER**

**JEFF LARSEN**

What a year it has been! The energy and activity of this church community continues at a remarkable pace. Bringing Brendan on as our new Associate Minister was both a great joy and challenge for me personally as we all tried to figure out new roles and responsibilities and how to make use of his talents as our church charged into the future.

We have had a full year now living into our new By-Laws that realigned Ministry Teams; we began some new Christian Education programs; we lost some precious long-standing souls of our church to their new life with God; and we have been renewed by some new faces with fresh ideas and dreams. As the Senior Minister there has been little time to be in cruise control.

However...it has also been the year that Kathleen and I made the decision to retire and that has had significant impact on the last half of this year for us all. It is a time of saying good bye but also a time to look forward with excitement. We are excited about what the new life in retirement might open up for us, and I am very excited about what life under new leadership will mean for you.

I leave here feeling very good about our time together. My style of ministry has been more pastoral than prophetic with a preference for work behind the scenes rather than on the front page. I have been called by you “coach,” “camp counselor,” “head cheerleader.” You might choose a different style as you move ahead but I think during my nine years here this has served us all well.

One of the great challenges all mainline churches continue to face is the secularization of our society and the diminished role churches play in people’s lives. As I talk with my colleagues we all see attendance declining, stewardship stagnant – all while facilities age and expenses go up and the mission to serve God becomes more and more critical. I will be looking at these issues as a parishioner in a pew from here on but that won’t make it any easier. I keep you in my prayers as you face the future.

I thank you from the depths of my heart and soul for the honor it has been to serve with you here in ministry. To have this be my last career stop has been terrific. From me and from Kathleen – we have loved you and this time.

God’s peace and blessing be with you all.

**ASSOCIATE MINISTER**

**BRENDAN CURRAN**

*“Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!” - Matthew 13:8-9*

As I write my first annual report and prepare for this year’s Jubilation Sunday, the parable of the sower seems to capture the moment and summarize the year! In my first year with you all I have felt as though I’ve fallen on good soil! As a supportive and caring church community I have

found we act as good soil for each other to grow in God's love and do God's work. Coming to the end of my first year with you all I feel now as I did when I first received my call to the church that I am blessed and honored to serve a church as warm, vibrant, active, and dynamic as BCCUCC.

It has been a full year since the warm welcome I received last June followed by my ordination in the fall. I dedicated time in the summer to learning the Godly Play and OWL curriculum as well as reaching out and getting to know all of you and the community better. Throughout the year I have enjoyed the opportunities I've had to preach, to share in worship leadership responsibilities, and all pastoral duties. Early fall was an exciting time of meeting the rest of the congregation returning from summer vacations, including most of the young people I would be teaching. Some highlights from the fall that I remember were organizing a church kayaking trip, beginning to teach confirmation classes and OWL, and also helping to plan and host a RI Conference youth event at the church. It has been a joy to explore faith in the Confirmation classes and teach OWL this year with bright, engaged, and committed groups of kids!

I've been amazed at how open this church is to creative projects and how eager people are to participate and work together! Jeff had expressed early in the year that it would be good to have an inter-generational pageant at Christmas time and with the help and support of the CEYM team I started planning and preparing for that throughout November. I began making giant puppets in preparation for the Christmas pageant! Some of our senior youth helped make the puppets, and the CEYM team helped make the script. I was amazed to see how many members of the congregation of all ages came forward to be in the pageant which seemed to be a fun and exciting experience for all who participated and one that the congregation enjoyed! This is just one example of that participatory, lively, and engaged spirit you all bring! You as a congregation have continued to inspire me throughout the year with your willingness to participate whenever there is an opportunity to serve and by showing what we can accomplish when we come together! I have found that our congregation loves opportunities to serve seeing how whenever we have a "mobile loaves and fishes" run, or a service project, or a giving opportunity, young and old alike offer time and resources!

Throughout the year, I have enjoyed being active with the Junior Youth group that thrives with the organizing efforts of Kim Zeleznik, Laurie Dubel, and Ginger Stabach. At the beginning of the year I had the goal of building up the Senior Youth Group. I learned over the course of the year that our senior youth are most inspired to come together around service opportunities. For the spring service project we had a large group of them become volunteer-leaders for Save the Bay. All of us together, with the help of parents and chaperones, were able to pick up 333 pounds of garbage! My goal in the coming year is to provide more service opportunities for our senior youth in response to their expressed interest!

I have had the privilege to work this year with a passionate and committed CEYM team and CE coordinator, Andrea Bullard. We have worked closely together this year implementing the diverse spectrum of programs offered by our church school. We also worked together this year to learn about alternative curriculum for the earlier grades which I made available to the team and that we have chosen to implement for next year. We will continue to have Godly Play for the K-1 age. In grades 2-4 we will be starting the "Holy Moly" curriculum in Fall 2015, which is the younger program of the "Connect" curriculum we started using for fifth and sixth grade this year.

I am excited to see how the new curriculum chosen by the CEYM team will allow for spontaneity, creativity, and dynamism in the classrooms that will further enrich our programs!

During Lent and Advent I enjoyed the opportunity to offer adult study programs and small group ministries. The “Lectio Divina” group during advent and the weekly centering prayer group during Lent provided space to deepen spiritual practice at these particular times. It has been such a blessing to provide and share in opportunities to enrich and develop our contemplative spiritual life together and expand our knowledge of scripture, faith, and spirituality.

It has been a great honor to have served with Rev. Jeff Larsen for this year. As a new minister, I have learned tremendously from his example and wish him and Kathleen a happy and blessed retirement. I feel so grateful and filled with joy every day to be the associate pastor of this wonderful congregation. I am fully committed to serving the church as we enter this time of transition. All of us together make the church and we will continue to be here for God and for each other. I know that our Love for God, our neighbors, and for God’s creation will continue to be the good soil for growing beloved community and for extending God’s Love to our corner of the world. I look forward to seeing how we grow in the coming year!

God’s peace to you all!

## **MODERATOR**

**STEVE PECK**

This year will be remembered as the beginning of a time of transition. Our fiscal year began with the addition of a new Associate Minister, Brendan Curran, but also saw the announcement of the retirement of our Senior Minister, Rev. Jeff Larsen. In addition, there was much activity in the many committees and teams that make up this vibrant community. Included in each of their annual reports is the record of service and dedication of all who contribute to the success and well-being of ministries for the whole congregation.

Brendan Curran’s arrival in June allowed him to spend the summer getting to know the congregation and dive headfirst into working with our youth and CEYM Team. It became a bittersweet time spent with Rev. Larsen, however. While we continued to enjoy his continued guidance, preaching and leadership, we did this with the knowledge through the second half of the year with the knowledge that Jeff and Kathleen would be moving into retirement in May. As is it the Deacon’s responsibility to choose an interim minister, a search committee was formed and an interim minister is being sought. We look next toward a time of discernment as we seek out our next settled Senior Minister.

Church Council continues to meet monthly to discuss the business of the church. Leaders of our ministry teams give so much of their time and I am greatly appreciative of their efforts and guidance to me in my first year as Moderator. Among the items decided throughout this year:

- It was decided that BCCUCC would sponsor Boy Scout Troop 2 in Barrington, following a letter sent to the national Boy Scout leadership detailing our disagreement with national policy regarding limitations to membership placed on gay individuals. This troop does

not discriminate in any way.

- The council spent considerable time discussing a change to our fiscal year, going back to a year that coincides with the calendar year. This move was approved and necessitated a shortened stewardship drive with pledges covering July 1 through the end of 2015. We are also looking into the possibility of hiring a consultant to help with our next stewardship campaign, which would also include meetings with the congregation as we complete our church profile. As of this writing, a decision has not been made.
- The CEYM team has revised the Safe Church Policy.
- We added “Open and Affirming” signage to our main sign and purchased a banner welcoming all for use outside of the church.

Thank you to all of the members of this community who work so hard to continue the mission of our church and make this a lively and welcoming place. A time of transition is also a time of opportunity. I look forward to working together to move forward into the next phase of our church life.

See you in church.

## **DEACONS**

**CHERYL MUTH**

This year was a year to remember. We welcomed Abby and Larry Ashley, Chris Brady, and Sue Seader this past year and will soon welcome Joe Judge and Jon Stabach.

We welcomed Brendan Curran to his first Deacons retreat in November. This year a few deacons participated in the Christmas pageant which was a wonderful experience. Continuing a Deacon tradition, we delivered evergreens to 25 shut-ins and recently bereaved members of the church. February we sent out 34 valentines hand made by our congregation to college students away from home and shut-ins. Spring brings the annual Ash Wednesday service and the Tenebrae service which we lead. This Easter we delivered 26 prayer plants and peace lilies.

Pat Stoddard was selected by the Deacons to represent BCCUCC as the Honored Lay Woman of the Year. Funds were provided for the Mobile Loaves and Fishes truck in Nov., Feb. and May.

June finds us saying goodbye to Jeff as he retires, welcoming back Rev. Sharon Key as she provides pulpit supply in June while Brendan is on vacation. As of this writing we are in the final stages of calling an interim minister. We look forward to continuing to support Brendan during the summer and the new interim minister when she arrives. It has been my privilege and honor to lead the Deacons these past few years and as my term is ending, Pat Rude will now preside as chair.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM**

**KIM ZELEZNIK and ANDREA BULLARD**

We are now in the home stretch of another very busy year for CEYM. Beginning back in August with our annual potluck dinner, the team met along with Andrea and our new Associate Minister, Brendan Curran, to plan and organize our monthly calendar of events.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, we held Gathering Sunday, which included the dedication of church school volunteers during worship, followed by an all-church catered picnic.

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, Church School officially began and teachers were trained in the newly revised Safe Space Policy. A few changes to the program offerings and class configurations were made which resulted in Godly Play being taught in the Pre-K -1<sup>st</sup> grades and in Grades 2-4. To facilitate the Godly Play program Andrea Bullard completed a three-day Advanced Godly Play training, and Brendan Curran attended a Core Training.

Grades 5&6 adapted a new curriculum called “Connect” from Sparkhouse Publishing. For the first half of the year, Reverend Larsen helped shape a curriculum for these students entitled “Getting Down and Dirty with Jeff and the Bible,” connecting the same scriptures he used for his sermons. Once a month, the class would stay in church through the sermon and then go to class with Jeff. There were also planned service projects and field trips throughout the fall such as a visit to Tap-In and a soup kitchen.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum used the Nooma video series twice a month. Opposite these weeks, OWL (Our Whole Lives), a faith-based, holistic sexuality education program was offered again and a very energetic and dedicated group of fourteen (14) youth participated this year. We were so appreciative of the time and expertise that our four facilitators – Kristen Westmoreland, Andrea Bullard, Ray Zarlengo and Brendan Curran (who completed 25 hours of training during the summer) put into the program.

In addition to teaching OWL, Reverend Curran taught the Confirmation Class which consisted of 12 students. They met once a month on Sunday evenings from 6-8 pm. They also participated in the Day of Service event in Providence on November 8<sup>th</sup>, an overnight retreat at Craigville on the Cape in January and partnered with Save the Bay for an April shoreline clean up in Warwick.

September continued to be a very busy month as our church was the host site for the RICUCC Youth Event on September 21<sup>st</sup> which featured Hayley Reardon and the theme of “Finding Your Voice.” This event was offered to students in Grades 7-12 and approximately 90 youth and chaperones attended from many local churches.

CEYM hosted an Advent Craft fair at the end of November. Laurie Dubel and Andrea created some wonderful new ideas for the crafts, although the low turn-out was disappointing. Brendan was also very busy this month working on the puppets and script for the Christmas Pageant. This intergenerational pageant included many youth from the church and was a big success. Later in the year, CEYM held the Lenten Lollapalooza and its annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Children’s offerings were collected each week and used again to sponsor a child through the UCC Global Youth Ministries Sponsorship Program. We continue to support a young girl

named Rinchin Lhamu from India. CEYM also supported Mission and Justice's Lenten work on the One Egg Haiti project. Overall, the congregation raised \$2000 in funds for this mission.

Nursery care was provided throughout the year by two paid staff members along with two non-paid volunteers.

Our Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship groups changed their names to the Junior Youth Group (JYG) and Senior Youth Group (SYG.) The Junior Group was led again by Laurie Dubel, Ginger Stabach, and Kim Zeleznik. Highlights from our busy year together include serving at the Pawtucket soup kitchen, Skyzone, Christmas caroling with a Yankee Swap, snowtubing, laser tag, hosting the Native American speaker, Hawk Henries, a sleepover in the Sanctuary, a day of shoreline cleanup, painting Room 9 at the church, and finally visiting the Seekonk Grand Prix. A very consistent number of between 17-20 youth were involved with the group all year.

It was more challenging for Brendan to get the SYG members to meet so after a few failed attempts, we held combined youth events for any interested students and their friends.

The final church activity for the year is Jubilation Sunday to be held on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Andrea, Brendan, and CEYM are hoping to hold this service outdoors with the theme of "Growing the Church" with the Parables of the Sower and the Mustard Seed as a backdrop.

Coffee Hour will be hosted by CEYM for the month of June.

## **MISSION AND JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM**

**ANN DORAN and STEPHANIE EDWARDS**

The M&J Team chose Child Welfare as the theme for the 2014-15 year. With such a broad topic and a plethora of great ideas, we had to settle on just a couple of signature events for this theme. We chose to showcase 1) Kindness--all the 'random acts' children exhibit on a daily basis, and 2) Bullying--a challenge faced by many children (and adults) that we need to understand and stop! We have a great team with everyone contributing as much as possible despite their very demanding schedules.

September and October were busy months in which the team members focused on identifying a good speaker and developing activities to showcase our theme. We began a search for a speaker on the subject of 'bullying', realizing we would have to schedule for January or February instead of in the fall. The TAP-IN Thanksgiving food drive was upon us, and Christmas events were already on the church calendar.

The **TAP-IN food drive** (October 19 to November 9) began with announcements (and reminders) for the congregation and church school children to bring the assigned donation items of brownie mix and instant mashed potatoes. Everyone rallied to the cause and more than 35 bags of food were delivered just in time for Thanksgiving.

December 1<sup>st</sup> we moved right into the Advent season with our annual setup of the **Mitten Tree**. The generosity of the congregation was displayed by a tree swathed in colorful yarn. Nearly 150

warm hats, scarves and mittens--many hand knit by members of the congregation--were delivered to Amos House by Stephanie Edwards before Christmas. The **Giving Tree**, always well-organized and manned weekly by Lory McCoy, raised more than \$1,000 in gift cards for groceries, drugstore items, gas, and clothing, as well as Christmas toys for the children. Lory decorated the tree with \$10-20-30 tags, which church members pick for donations. She then purchased and delivered the gift cards to the Women's Resource Center in Newport--she is skilled in the art of giving!

Our **2nd Story Theater** fundraiser in January is becoming a tradition at BCCUCC! Chris Brady organized another successful event by obtaining tickets to a provocative comedy called "Seminar". Members of the congregation along with friends and relatives enjoyed gathering for pre-performance drinks and fellowship. Tickets were sold at \$30 each with \$9 of every ticket donated to the Groden Center in Providence, which provides support and services for children, adolescents and adults with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome. 40 tickets were sold, and the total amount raised for the Groden Center was \$360.

We found our speaker on anti-bullying, Kevin Robinson, thanks to a referral from Adam Hecht. Through the efforts of Ann Doran, we brought this nationally-known motivational speaker to BCCUCC. On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Kevin, a 10-time X-Games champion and founder and president of the K-Rob Foundation in RI, came to show all of us how to "**Put the Brakes on Bullying**". His enthusiasm and ability to engage the kids (even some teens!) made for a thrilling presentation and lots of laughs. Andrea Bullard and Kim Zeleznik of CEYM helped get the word out to parents (thank you, ladies!), so we had about 35-40 people--a well-attended speaking event by our standards. Mission and Justice donated an honorarium of \$300 to the K-Rob Foundation.

Our February events began with the **Valentine's Kindness Fair**. Along with CEYM's Valentine's crafts and the Deacon's Valentine's Day card-making, Stephanie Edwards and Judy Miesner organized a very successful, lucrative and much-applauded bake sale. Members of the committee and congregation contributed a beautiful array of cakes, pies, breads, and candies--all made with love from the heart! All proceeds went toward the **One Egg Haiti** project. The Valentine's Fair also featured nest-building for the One Egg Haiti project. One Egg Haiti was our special event for the Lenten season, and Mission & Justice again coordinated with CEYM. Helen, Sharon and others suggested we offer empty plastic eggs in a large nest for children and families to take each Sunday, to be returned "filled" with coins, bills, or checks on the next Sunday. Both of these events were well-EGGxecuted and yielded \$350 from the bake sale and \$1650 from egg collections. EGGCELLENT!!

In March we had a continuation of One Egg Haiti as well as the **Holy Joe's Cafe** collection basket, and Book Baskets for donations of used or new books in honor of **Literacy Day**. The books collected were distributed primarily to Mathewson St. Church by Helen Schall, though a few will go to Camp St. Ministry.

In March we voted to donate funds to invite Hawk Henries, Native American storyteller and musician, to perform at the church on Friday evening, April 10<sup>th</sup>. The performance was a part of Brendan's Earth Day Youth Service Project, but the entire congregation was invited. It was a

wonderful presentation for all. The donation was an affirmation of our commitment to the care of God's Earth and a spotlight on the Native American culture of this region.

Although April 22<sup>nd</sup> was Earth Day, we celebrated at BCCUCC on Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>. Sharon Sylvester collected beautiful forsythia branches and other greens to decorate the sanctuary with additional help from Joy and Ann. It always looks so pretty; our spirits are lifted when the pews are garnished with nature's gifts!

May is our month to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen. Diane Todd is keeping us apprised of the details, and we will contribute food items and manpower to serve. May is also our month to 'man' the coffee hour onslaught.

In addition to funds collected for specific projects, we are in the process of allocating our 2014-15 budget of \$1000. So far, we plan to continue contributions to Pawtucket Soup Kitchen \$250, Interfaith Power & Light \$50, Mobile Loaves & Fishes, Bread for the World, etc. Stephanie Edwards proposed making a special donation this year to the East Bay Coalition for the Homeless in memory of Stewart Morrison, one of the original founders and board members, who passed away in February. Since we discovered an additional \$510 (unspent) from previous years' budgets, Chris Brady proposed that M&J sponsor scholarships for future Mission trips by using this amount as seed money. The team will vote on specific contributions at the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Team membership for 2015/16 - New member Ginger Stabach will join us in September 2015. Chris Brady will step away from co-chair duties but remain on the team. A new co-chair is being sought. Continuing members include Stephanie Edwards, Sharon Sylvester, Joy Hearn, Judy Miesner, Lory Snady-McCoy, Ann Doran, Chris Brady, and Helen Schall as Ex-Officio.

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM**

**PAUL DENNIS**

The Buildings and Grounds team oversaw several projects this year including some important repairs.

In the fall, the garden at the library chimney was replanted. When the work is done a Kousa Dogwood tree and rose bushes will provide an attractive entrance to our property.

We exceeded our snow plowing budget due to record snowfall this past winter. On the plus side, we have seen substantial savings in heating costs because of the switch last year from oil to gas.

In April the boiler for the Education Building started leaking. Temporary repairs were promptly made (thank you Sunshine Oil) and the boiler will be replaced this summer. As a result of the boiler leak, water damaged electrical wiring in conduits buried in the boiler room floor and caused a power outage for the southern half of the building lasting several weeks. Fortunately, repairs were not as expensive as anticipated (thank you Eveready Electric).

Both of the Boy Scout troops that use our building helped out this year - Troop 4 painted room 6 and Troop 6 participated in our spring cleanup. An Eagle Scout project created a beautiful new retaining wall around the garden at the library chimney.

Custodians Jack and Jim Salvaggio both retired this spring after many years on the job. They will be missed. We appreciate the efforts of our custodians, office staff and church members to help keep our facilities in good shape.

## **MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**JANE TONN**

*"...for I was a stranger and you welcomed me,"  
Matthew 25:35*

We continue to welcome visitors to worship with gifts and hospitality, organize greeters for each Sunday service, and provide information at coffee hour about the church's programs and activities. As with other ministry teams, our members serve at coffee hour, participate in the Soup Kitchen, and send a representative to Church Council meetings.

Membership Team members continued to wear neon green nametags to be easily identified to visitors and be available to answer questions. We also check to make sure that coffee mugs or CDs and Welcome Brochures are available for ushers to give out to visitors new to the church during worship. The Welcome Center, which serves as a place where folks can sign up to greet, order nametags, and obtain information about church events and activities continues to be set up during coffee in the Fellowship Hall at various times throughout the year.

The team is involved in hosting new members as they join the church family. In conjunction with the Deacons and the Ministers, members of the Membership Team meet for info sessions with folks interested in joining the church. We meet with new members before the service, assist with the signing of the church membership book, give corsages, take photographs to be displayed at the entrance to Fellowship Hall, and provide a cake at New Member Sunday coffee hour. Brief bios of new members are submitted for publication in *The Bridge*. In April 2015 we welcomed 7 new members into the congregation. In May 2015 our team welcomed 12 confirmands by hosting a continental breakfast for them and their families before worship.

We took photos of the confirmands and gave them corsages. They also received river rocks gathered from the shore behind the church as tokens of their commitment to being confirmed and joining BCCUCC.

In November 2014 Membership sponsored a luncheon attended by over 70 senior members and friends of the church. After a lunch of soup generously donated by Blount Soups and salad, Jeff gave a talk and slide presentation on the fall trip he and Kathleen led to Turkey. In May 2015 we joined with the Women of Faith group to sponsor for the third year a "Senior Ladies Lunch," for members and friends of BCCUCC.

Due to the 2014 By-Laws changes, this year was the first year Membership was charged with nominating tasks for church officers and ministry team members. With Jeff's retirement and departure many officers and ministry team members agreed to continue in their roles for at least another year. This decision by officers and team members greatly simplified the process of creating a slate for approval at the June 2015 annual meeting.

Several years ago Membership was involved with an AD HOC group who sponsored our church vote to be an open and affirming congregation. This winter Membership, with graphic resources from the UCC webpages, designed and ordered from FAST SIGNS a Welcome banner which was displayed on front of the education building. With the image of multicolored, joyful figures and the words "COME AS YOU ARE YOU ARE WELCOME HERE AN OPENING & AFFIRMING CHURCH" we intended to further the Membership Ministry Team's mission of "reaching out to all persons who may be interested in attending or uniting with the church."

### **MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM**

**PATRICIA STODDARD**

The Music Ministry enjoyed presenting varied musical offerings throughout the year. The vocal choir continues to enhance the worship experience through song. Their highlight was singing Mascagni's powerful yet sublime *Easter Hymn* for the two Easter Sunday worship services. This was an ambitious undertaking for a choir of their size and took several months of preparation. A number of Guest Musicians provided special music this year: Country Music Sunday (Michelle Lavin & John Wemple), the Alfresco Flutes (Gianna Sullivan and Shirley Hardison), the Greenwich Bay Brass (including church members Bob Marshall & Greg Voigt), and Jazz String Bass player Dennis Pratt. The Sing and Celebrate Choir, under the able direction of Kate Colby, participated in worship services throughout the year and provided another meaningful musical perspective. Organist and Choir Director Marina Zabinski continues to amaze and delight us with her gifts that she so freely and expressively shares. We also appreciate the many church members who shared their musical gifts with the congregation throughout the year.

### **USHERING MINISTRY**

**BETHIA ROSNER**

The Ushering Ministry currently has 15 full time volunteers with 4 substitutes. More would be most welcome. Ushers are the folks who prepare the sanctuary before each service and restore order afterwards. The ushers greet and seat the congregation upon arrival at the sanctuary, provide microphones for Announcements and for Joys and Concerns. The ushers also collect the offering and present it at the altar.

### **CHANCEL MINISTRY TEAM**

**AUDREY ROGERS and CAROL LOUITT**

The Chancel Team is responsible for maintaining the sanctuary by scheduling weekly flower arrangements for the altar, distributing those arrangements to the housebound, recently bereaved or for people who may be celebrating a special occasion. Chancel is a sub-group of the Deacons and is expected to report to the Deacons.

Carol Louttit and Audrey Rogers are Co-Chairs assisted by Cheryl Muth and Bethia Rosner. The team is responsible for scheduling two weekly flower arrangements from donors who are recognized each week in the Sunday bulletin. The donors are responsible for providing the office with \$30/bouquet a week before the scheduled arrangement. The Greenery in Warren provides the altar flowers on a weekly basis and the contact person is Bridget.

The Chancel Fund is supported by donations before two major holidays – Christmas and Easter. The donors’ names are listed in the Sunday bulletin during those particular holidays with whatever message the donor would like. There is no set amount for the donation and the altar flowers during those holidays are not designated for individual people. The Chancel Fund also provides plants for the Deacons to distribute to the homebound, sick or recently bereaved. The fund is also used to enhance the worship service as seen fit by the Chancel Team and depends on available money. The past year the Fund provided a contribution towards the Buildings and Grounds Team for the brass rails on either side of the altar. In the past it has provided contributions towards the new recording system and provided new flags in the Sanctuary, and other things as requested.

We also will be providing assistance to the Deacons for their coffee hour responsibilities as well as participating in the soup kitchen.

#### **LAY VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM**

**NANCY MARTIN**

What is Lay Visitation? It has to do with people in our BCCUCC family, not belonging to a given profession, who do care about giving their presence to help another in sensitive situations. The basic meaning of ‘care’ is to grieve, to experience sorrow, to cry out with. We meet in an equal field—each having experienced those emotions, though different circumstances—and connecting through our vulnerabilities. We are willing to be present to the other’s difficult journey—listening, empathizing and knowing our role is not to fix or change the situation. We accept we cannot run from the pain and even though we don’t understand and don’t know what to do, our being there makes a difference.

This is a giving and receiving ministry for the team, enriched by consciousness of others and ourselves as we share with each other--not in giving advice but compassion--and we protect what is confidential. We call on the homebound, those dealing with illness, loss, and grief for the death of an immediate family member. Our visits are flexible and arranged when it is mutually convenient.

Membership is open to all who feel called. We meet on the first Monday of the month September through June (except for holiday changes) at 3:30 PM in the library. Please contact Nancy Martin (273-1078) with your questions and interest.

#### **PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM**

No report was submitted.

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**STEVE FODOR**

This year Stewardship’s theme is “Be the Church”. The description of that includes “share earthly & spiritual resources”. When we give, we share of our financial blessings as God calls us to do. Believing includes giving.

BCCUCC has decided to return to a calendar year fiscal period. As such this spring’s pledge campaign only covers the period from July 2015 through December 2015.

This year again, we conducted a mailed pledge campaign, including telephone and e-mail follow up with those who did not respond. Results so far are:

	\$
*Fiscal 2015 pledges (167)	370,545
Pro-rated for one half year	185,273
**Fall 2015 campaign	
New pledges (5)	2,360
Lost pledges (4)	2,762
Returning pledges (131)	171,199
<b>Fall 2015 total pledges as of 5/28/15 (136)</b>	<b>173,559</b>

*Important Note: The team is reaching out to 32 folks that pledged for fiscal 2015 that have not yet made a pledge for the Fall 2015 campaign. Their total half year value is \$15,838.*

\*Fiscal 2015 = July 2014- June 2015      \*\*Fall 2015 = July 2015- Dec 2015

P.S: We are looking for some help on this team next year and always.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**JOHN LOERKE and FRED MACDONALD**

Year-to-date financial results are broadly consistent with attaining our balanced-budget goal for the June 2015 fiscal year. Pledge income is trending in line with expectations and substantial energy cost savings have been realized in the conversion from oil to natural gas heat.

**FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM**

**DICK MCWHIRTER**

Biggest and best news is there was no finance related crisis this year. A balanced budget was approved by the congregation last June for fiscal year 2015. It's too early to know for sure but we feel a balanced outcome for the year is well within reach. Thanks to all who provided financial support to BCCUCC this year.

As this is written in late April a plan is in place to prepare a 6-month budget for the last half of 2015. Our goal is to present a solid budget that meets the vital needs of the church at the Annual Meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the first step in the change to a calendar year budget for 2016.

Finally we are pleased that all members of the Finance Team have agreed to stay on the team and provide continuity through the transition to a new Senior Minister. A goal for next year is to recruit a couple of new team members—a few years younger than some of us.

**ENDOWMENT MINISTRY TEAM**

**ADAM HECHT**

The Endowment Team met with each of our money managers individually in 2014 to evaluate their process and see if it has changed since Barrington Congregational Church first hired them. We reviewed their allocations, fees, performance and investment selections to make sure it is still in line with the church and our analysis will culminate later this year. The team put on an annual educational seminar this fall that included the Rhode Island Foundation and plans to do another one with a different manager in the fall of 2015.

The endowment funds had a muted performance in 2014 as the market took a breather from record gains the previous year. The funds paid to the church 5% of the last three year average year end values and still had an increase from 2013.

Ocean State Fund	\$622,289.00	Up 9.24%
RI Foundation	\$279,082.00	Up 3.90%
RIC UCC	\$164,073.00	Up 4.17%
Total	\$1,065,444	

In addition the ministry is responsible for five designated funds totaling \$98,854 which are managed through RIC UCC.

Our goal in the coming year is to continue to make the church endowment more visible to the congregation and simplify the amount of funds we monitor.

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

A report has not yet been submitted.

**2015 – 2016 SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR OFFICERS, MINISTRY TEAMS etc**

The slate of nominees to fill the various positions on the ministry teams and to serve as church officers is presented below.

\* indicates a vacancy yet to be filled.

Year# indicates which year the person will be serving: 1 = first year, 2 = second year etc. (For officer or ministry team positions - with the exception of deacons - there is a limit of 4 years serving in the same position).

Please note that under the 2014 By-Laws:

- Officers and delegates are elected annually and cannot serve more than 4 consecutive years in the same capacity.
- Members at Large and Ministry Team members serve for a one or two year term (except for Deacons) and cannot serve in the same capacity for more than 4 consecutive years.
- The Deacons serve for a three year renewable term.
- Those who serve on Deacons, Finance, Endowment, and Pastor Parish Relations Teams and all ministry team chairs are to be active or associate members of this church.
- Those who serve on Buildings and Grounds, Christian Education and Youth Ministries, Mission and Justice, Membership, and Stewardship ministry teams are to be active participants in the life of this church.
- The number that appears in parentheses after a ministry team’s name indicates the number of members in the group according to the 2014 By-Laws.

**3**

<i>Office</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Year#</i>
<b>MODERATOR</b>		
Steve Peck	2016	2
<b>CLERK</b>		
*		
<b>CO-TREASURERS</b>		
John Loerke	2016	4
Fred MacDonald	2016	4
<b>HISTORIAN</b>		
John Faulhaber	2016	6

<i>Office</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Year#</i>
<b>AUDITOR</b>		
Anne Black	2016	2
<b>CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AT LARGE (2)</b>		
Helen Schall	2016	2
Pat Cordeiro	2016	1
<b>DELEGATES TO RI CONFERENCE (3 + one youth)</b>		
Susan Rotblat-Walker	2016	2
Laura Ward	2016	2
*		
*	(youth)	

**MINISTRY TEAMS (listed alphabetically)**

	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Year#</i>
<b>BUILDINGS &amp; GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM (8)</b>		
Paul Dennis	2016	2
Steve Cipoletti	2016	2
Louise House	2016	2
Jay Buckley	2016	2
Sue Terhune	2016	2
Chris Morton	2017	1
Paula Rooks	2017	1
Art Edgette	2017	1

<b>CHANCEL MINISTRY TEAM (4)</b>		
Carol Louttit	2016	2
Audrey Rogers	2016	2
Bethia Rosner	2016	2
Cheryl Muth	2016	2

<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION &amp; YOUTH MINISTRIES TEAM (6 + one youth)</b>		
Cathleen Joachim	2016	2
Betsy Resituyo	2016	2
Carol Strakosch	2016	2
Francis Seader	2017	1
Duncan Maio	2017	1
Ellen Brady	2017	1
Amy Harff (youth)		
AJ Maio (youth)		

**DEACONS (10 - 12)**

*The deacons serve 3 year terms and can serve for 2 terms (a max of 6 years)*

Liz White	2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
Greg Voigt	2016	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
Stephanie Edwards	2016	
Pat Rude	2017	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
Chris Brady	2017	
Susan Seader	2017	
Abby Ashley	2017	
Larry Ashley	2017	
Susan Rotblat-Walker	2018	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term
Joe Judge	2018	
*	2018	
*	2018	

	<i>Term Expires</i>	<i>Year#</i>
<b>ENDOWMENT MINISTRY TEAM (4-6)</b>		
Helen MacDonald	2016	2
Paul Movsesian	2016	2
Dick McWhirter	2016	2
Bob Mason	2016	2
Adam Hecht	2016	2
Bill Rooks	2017	1

<b>FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM (4-6)</b>		
Rob Black	2016	2
Tom Colby	2016	2
Dick McWhirter	2016	2
Lynne Lehman	2016	2

**LAY VISITATION MINISTRY TEAM**  
*This is a non-elected group of people.*

Kathy Block  
George Bolton  
Rose Marie Bolton  
Nancy Martin  
Joan Miller  
Janet Morrison  
Cheryl Muth  
Paula Rooks  
Helen Schall  
Clyde Slicker  
Marjorie Stumpff

<b>MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM (8)</b>		
Beth Buckley	2016	2
Joanne Ela	2016	2
Moyne Cabbage	2016	2
Paula Rooks	2016	2
Trish Sylvester	2016	2
Holly Ogden	2017	1
Tom Wegner	2017	1
Gabi Sclafani	2017	1

*Term Expires Year#*

*Term Expires Year#*

**MISSION and JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM (4)**

Lory McCoy	2016	2
Chris Brady	2016	2
Sharon Sylvester	2016	2
Joy Hearn	2016	2
Stephanie Edwards	2016	2
Ann Doran	2016	2
Judy Miesner	2017	1
Ginger Stabach	2017	1
Helen Schall	ex gratia	
Judy Harff	ex gratia	

**MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM (2)**

Heather Williamson	2016	2
Pat Stoddard	2017	2

**PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (5)**

*This team is selected by the Moderator, ministers, and Deacons*

Marion Fodor	2016	2
John Muth	2016	2
Steve Peck	2016	2
Jane Tonn	2016	1
Kim Zeleznik	2016	1

**STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM (5)**

Steve Fodor	2016	2
Susan Rotblat-Walker	2016	2
Ann Wood	2016	2
Kristen Westmoreland	2016	1
*		

**USHERING MINISTRY TEAM (2)**

Bethia Rosner	2016	2
Tom Colby	2016	1

3

**REPRESENTATION AT RI CONFERENCE and NATIONAL UCC**

The following individuals from Barrington Congregational Church, UCC, are currently serving in the capacity indicated:

**RI CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (RICUCC)**

Rev. Ellen Brady	Women of the RI Conference
Steve Fodor	Church and Ministry Committee
Nancy Martin	Women of the RI Conference
Lois McCartney	Women of the RI Conference
Lee Miller	Investment Committee
Susan Rotblat-Walker	VP of Stewardship Development, Women of the RI Conference
Helen Schall	Member at Large, Personnel Committee, Hispanic Support Committee, Women of the RI Conference (Chair), Outdoor Ministries



**FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS**

May 21, 2014 – May 15, 2015

This report covers the 12+ month period from mid-May 2014 through mid-May, 2015. The categories shown are also requested each December for the United Church of Christ Yearbook Report (see page 21).

**NEW MEMBERS (8)**

1/11/15

Rev. Brendan Curran

3/29/15

Diane Wilkin  
Amy Barkat  
Timothy Milisauskas  
Joanne Judge  
Joe Judge  
Chris Morton  
Tom Wegner

**CONFIRMATIONS (12)**

5/3/15

Lauren Bendheim  
Matthew Block  
Andrew Cooke  
Anthony 'AJ' Maio  
Robley McGarry  
Lucy McMillan

Corey Miesner  
Christian Odjakjian  
Hope Robertson  
Olivia Solanot  
Axel Weber  
Matthew Zeleznik

**MARRIAGES (5)**

Michael Collins and Jennifer Silva  
Cristen Coppolino and Adam Smith  
Kellie Lynn McBratney and Anthony Luis Bernardini  
Benjamin Clarke White and Kirsten Elizabeth McKenzie  
Christopher J. DiPierro and Elizabeth Ouimet D'Entremont

**BAPTISMS**

**Infants and Children (8)**

Adeline Jennings Horvet  
Michael Virgilio Yongi Forzano  
Wade Robert Finkle  
Victor Michael Fernandez  
Lucy Marie Joachim DelPoio  
Walter Louis Joachim DelPoio  
Ruby Poppy Joachim DelPoio  
Ainsley Ann Brougham

**Adult (0)**

**DEATHS**

**Members (6)**

Barbara Ward  
Nelson Hawkins  
John Hess  
J. Stewart Morrison  
Marie McGlory  
May Smith

**Inactive Members (3)**

Marian Best  
Lurline Morris  
Natalie Perry

**2**

**Others (2)**

Claire Lynch  
Eric Cabral

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 20, 2014: 398**

Between May 21, 2014 and May 15, 2015 the following changes occurred:

Additions to Active Membership (24)

12 - Confirmation  
8- New Members  
4 - Moved back to Active Membership

Losses to Active Membership (13)

6 - Death  
0 - Transfer Out  
7- other reasons (moved away,  
were inactive, etc)

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 15, 2015:  $398 + 24 - 13 = 409$**

*(see next page for further explanation)*

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

*reflecting changes in the membership that occurred  
between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015*

The membership statistics are collected at the end of each calendar year and reflect the changes that took place during that year. They are then submitted to the National Office of the United Church of Christ in the form of the Yearbook Report, and appear in the UCC Yearbook.

Active Membership as of 12/31/2014 was 394 (see following table for breakdown).

<i>From the Yearbook Report Form:</i>	
<b>Statistics for January 1 – December 31, 2014</b>	
Active Membership as of 12/31/2013	389
Additions during year:	
Confirmation	6
Confession of Faith	0
Letters of Transfer	0
Reaffirmation of Faith	7
Losses during year:	
Death	3
Transfer	0
Other removals	5
Active Membership as of 12/31/2014	394

*Note: The information listed on pages 19 and 20 reflect those changes that took place between May 21, 2014 and May 15, 2015, as opposed to the information above, which is for changes between January 1 and December 31, 2014.*

Between January 1, 2015 and May 15, 2015 there were the following changes in ACTIVE membership:

- + 8 New Members
- + 12 New Members (by Confirmation)
- + 1 Reinstatement to Active Membership
- 4 Death of Active Member
- 2 Removals

**ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 15, 2015 is  $394 + 8 + 12 + 1 - 4 - 2 = 409$**



All are invited to attend the  
**Annual Meeting**

of the Barrington Congregational Church, UCC on  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2015**

immediately following worship in the Sanctuary.

As always, church members are encouraged to make every effort  
to attend this very important church meeting.

*Child care will be provided.*

Coffee hour will take place in Fellowship Hall after the Annual Meeting.

**Barrington Congregational Church**

**United Church of Christ**

461 County Road,

Barrington, RI 02806

Telephone: (401) 246-0111

e-mail address: [office@bccucc.org](mailto:office@bccucc.org)

website: [www.bccucc.org](http://www.bccucc.org)

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/bccucc](http://www.facebook.com/bccucc)

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**Interim Minister:**

**Associate Minister**    **The Rev. Brendan Curran**

**Organist/Choir Director:**    **Marina Zabinski**

**Office Administrator:**    **Christine Wallis**

**Financial Secretary:**    **Patricia Stoddard**

**Christian Education Coordinator:**    **Andrea Bullard**

**Custodians:**    **Paul Dzedzic, John Cordeiro**